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Cost Of Macon Schools

MUCH TALK—and a whole lot of blame—has come forth and is coming forth by the "opposition" in regard to the cost of schools in Macon county. Just by way of getting the record straight and also to help some from getting any further astray on the subject, The Press has secured the following official figures on the actual school costs to this county. If there are any questions that any one wishes to ask regarding these figures, or if any one doubts the accuracy of them, The Press stands ready to answer the former and to verify the latter. Here they are:

MACON COUNTY

County Valuation	\$ 7,315,848
Equalized Valuation	6,225,848
Budget for 6 months school term, 1929-30, according to State Standard	\$ 72,185.01
Budget for all districts having Extension Term	10,642.64
Received from Equalizing Fund, 1928-29	\$ 44,495.29
Received from Equalizing Fund, 1929-30	\$ 46,408.87
(or 64.29% of 6 Months Budget)	
Received from Tax Reduction Fund, 1929-30	6,841.93
(or 64.29% of Extended Term Budget)	
Received from Gasoline Tax, 1929-30	23,370.00
Total State Aid Received, 1929-30	\$ 76,620.80
(an increase over 1928-29 of \$32,125.51)	
County pays into State Treasury—	
Income, License, Franchise, etc.	\$ 3,557.00
Amount received from State in excess of that paid from above sources	73,043.80
Tax Rate for 6 Months School Term	1928-29—\$.70—1929-30—\$.54
Tax Rate for All County Purposes	1928-29—1.58—1929-30—1.64
Total County Tax Rate would have been \$2.73 had no State Aid been received.	
Amount of State Aid for Schools Expressed in Tax Rate	\$.77
Amount of State Aid for Roads Expressed in Tax Rate32
Total Amount of State Aid Expressed in Tax Rate	\$ 1.09

The aid to school districts having extended terms and the amount received expressed in terms of tax rate is as follows:

District	Tax Reduc. Fund	Tax Reduc. Exp. in T. Rate
Franklin	\$ 3,753.91	.19
Iotla	382.70	.15
Union	123.71	.07
Higdonville	275.78	.27
Highlands	1,161.14	.15
Hickory Knoll	98.46	.14
Academy	292.00	.28
Otto	94.91	.09
Slagle	406.84	.22
Aquone	137.07	.05
Holly Springs	115.41	.07

Others' Comments

MOUNTAIN WEEKLIES

FOR SEVERAL years past at least two far-western counties—Transylvania and Macon—have profited through publication of progressive weekly papers. At Brevard, Jim Barrett has been publishing The News, and at Franklin, The Press has been kept going by Lyles Harris, previously doing work as county farm agent. Both these papers specialize in resourceful publicity activities and in promotion of agricultural interests. They have been diligent in telling of the resources of their respective counties and in bringing chicken farms, cattle ranges, dairy barns and orchards into evidence. Haywood county now comes forward with the revised Waynesville Mountaineer, under charge of Thomas Seawell,

of both town and county to enlist on its subscription books.—Charlotte Observer.

BLOWING ROCK AND THE EDITORS

EDITOR HARRIS, of The Franklin Press, and Editor Barrett, of The Brevard News, from their perches on the mountain tops, are bewailing the circumstance that, the Press Association having elected to hold its next meeting at Blowing Rock, members, tired of the talk in the convention hall, will have no opportunity to stroll out and go into some building where they may sniff the odor of printer's ink and hear the rumble of the press, because Blowing Rock has no printing office. If that is their only objection, they may as well pack their grips in joyous anticipation, for the hustling town of Boone is only 20 minutes from Blowing Rock, and there the visiting editors may be taken through one of the most uniquely arranged printing shops in the State. It is the home of The Watauga Democrat, edited by Bob Rivers and hand-bossed by him. Architecturally, The Democrat office has form and shape of a family residence. It is located four feet below the level of the pavement, the steps leading down into a grassy park, narrow, to be sure, but shaded by the sort of trees the village blacksmith boasted of. Inside there is an arrangement of machinery, desks, tables, stones and presses which display the hand of a genius, while, during a lull in the talk, is heard the rippling voice of a mountain stream that gushes up at the corner of the building and goes tumbling on its way to join the New, and ultimately to mingle in the waters of the Gulf. Work in The Democrat office goes along to the song of tumbling water. The Press convention was held in this same town of Blowing Rock a dozen years ago, and it is remembered by those who attended as one of the best on record.—Charlotte Observer.

OUR TAX BILLS

SPEAKING of taxes—who and who is not?—the tax collector now demands from each of us one day's labor out of each week. All of us, men, women and children, earn yearly around 80 billion dollars. Our tax bill is nearly 13 billion—one-sixth of our total earning capacity.

Look at taxes in another way: One person out of 11 who are gainfully employed is a public employee. Not so long ago we required only one person out of each 22 to perform the services which we demanded of government. A few more of our demands, and it will be one out of ten; then one out of nine, and so on and on. When will we stop saying, "The Government ought to do this, and that, and the other thing?"

Most people think the corporations and the rich pay the taxes. This fallacy, more than any other single thing, is responsible for our increasing tax burden. I once observed how skillfully one million dollars was extracted from a state legislature by the argument that most of the money would be paid by the railroads, anyway. The state, the argument ran, would be getting a dollar's worth of university buildings for 50 cents.

But the naked truth is that every man and woman who ate a meal in that state, who bought a suit of clothes, or who lived in a house, helped to pay the dollars which the legislators thought they were taking out of the hide of the railroads.

The railroads simply collected it from the people who shipped freight or bought goods which some one else had shipped.

Another fallacy is that everything from the Government is free. Free seeds, it used to be; now free publications, free advice, free help, free this and that. Such a ghastly joke! There is no such thing as free government, any more than there is free rent, free clothing, or free groceries. Government costs real money. Every self-supporting citizen shares his income with the million-odd men and women now on government pay rolls.

A gentleman, visiting Washington, hired an old darkey to drive him around to see the sights. The darkey grew enthusiastic. He waved his arm at the Botanical Gardens, the museums, the parks and monuments, and said to my friend, "Jest think. It's all free. It don't cost nobody nothin'. The Gov'mint pays for it."

Taxes are hidden in everything we buy. The landlord passes on part of his taxes in the bill for our rent; the baker wraps them up with the bread he sells us. The insurance company includes them in its premiums. Bills from butcher and milkman include a tax as surely as if the postman brought a notice from the tax office.

Business is interested in reducing taxes, not alone selfishly, because business, after all, simply collects taxes from the consumers of things. Business sees money wasted which might be used by individuals to get those things which would give greater happiness and contentment—house furnishings, or a trip to Europe, a new carpet sweeper, or a set of books. Business sees clearly that it is the consumer of things who pays, and because that

services. If each man who signs a petition or writes a letter to a congressman or state legislator, urging a public expenditure, were required by law to enclose his check for his part of the expense, there would be sharper scrutiny of such proposed activities.—Merle Thorpe in Nation's Business.

Letters

WANTS PICNIC AND INDIAN BALL GAME

Hendersonville, N. C., May 5, 1930.

Mr. Lyles Harris,

Franklin, N. C.

Dear Mr. Harris:

Somebody said yesterday they wished they had a good place to go the fourth of July, and I asked them how they would like to go on the top of a big mountain for a picnic dinner, and also see an Indian ball game.

What I had in mind, of course, was Wayah Bald and I thought you all would have no trouble in getting the Indians for a game most any time. I think these features would start a good crowd your way. You might try the suggestion if you wish and see what the response is.

It might be possible to get the farmers to make up the baskets, and sell one or five thousand tickets for a dollar each and use the funds for necessary purposes.

I feel quite sure if you could have an Indian ball game and a picnic dinner you will draw a large crowd.

Sincerely,

W. L. REYNOLDS.

PAYS TO USE PRESS

Editor, Franklin Press,

Franklin, N. C.

Dear Editor:

As there is a campaign on to get more subscribers to The Press I feel it the duty of every citizen in the county to help along by speaking a good word, or in any other way. There is no single enterprise that will up build the county more than The Press. The better it is the more good it will do, and the more subscribers the better the paper can be.

Every one that has something to sell or buy, let the public know it through The Press. In that way you can help the paper and yourself, too. I know by experience that such ads bring results. I had a want ad in one issue of The Press for pasture to hire for cattle and got 5 yearlings from a neighbor who lives less than a mile and a half of home who probably would have sent them to Hamburg or Buck Creek in a few days.

People living in other counties or states that have relations here are sure to read the locals from the section where these friends live and will enjoy them similar to a letter from home. And we, by reading the locals, can find out what other sections of the county are doing. So I say do your duty and subscribe for The Press and by so doing help yourself and county.

Yours truly,

D. J. MOSES.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By FRED HOLMES, Washington Correspondent of The Franklin Press

WASHINGTON.—The fight against the confirmation of Judge John J. Parker, of North Carolina, as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court continues to occupy the center of the Washington stage this week, not only monopolizing a spot-light, but a whole battery of spot-lights. This, in spite of the assertion by a staff correspondent of the New York World that "prohibition overcasts the political heavens this year as it never has before."

When our forefathers decided that nominations by the President were to be subject to confirmation by the Senate, they certainly did not have in mind that the Senate was to be nothing more than a rubber stamp of approval. Therefore, no one can question the Senate's right to question the wisdom of an appointment or the fitness of a nominee, nor can anyone justly criticize Senators for prolonging consideration of and ultimately rejecting the President's selection, provided their investigations are made in good faith, free from any suspicion of selfish interests or personal aggrandizement. It is inconceivable that our forefathers intended that a presidential nomination should become a political shuttlecock to be lobbed around by senatorial battledores to run up individual scores.

Among the surprises of the fight against Judge Parker was the vehemence of Senator Borah in his denunciation of the appointment. After long study of the case and hours of argument the Idaho Senator concluded his speech, but with all his research and all his art of oratory, he failed to present a single valid reason why Judge Parker should not be confirmed.

The attempt to bring out facts which would disqualify Judge Parker has been a failure.

brought out to show that he conscientious, industrious, intelligent, well qualified in character and able to serve on the Supreme Court. It seems that Senator Borah is in its true light when he would oppose Judge Parker just the same, even if that jurist did follow the decisions of the United States Supreme Court.

The attack upon Charles E. Hughes would seem to have clearly revealed the purpose of the politicians who are trying to make capital for themselves by endeavoring to intimidate the Nation's highest court. Fortunately the Senate refused to sanction this attack, and confirmed Mr. Hughes by a two-to-one vote. Irrespective of partisanship, the country applauded the elevation of Mr. Hughes to the seat of Chief Justice of the United States. Now the so-called "liberals" renew the assault, taking as their opportunity the first appointment following that of Chief Justice Hughes. The appointee happens to be Judge Parker, of North Carolina. Undoubtedly the attack would have been made no matter who had been nominated.

In all probability the Senate's ultimatum in the matter will be known before these lines are in print, but it is hoped here that Senators worthy of their place will not be intimidated by the demand that a single class, or two classes, shall have the right to dictate the personnel of the Supreme Court. The time has not come when the "labor vote" or the "colored vote" or any other special "vote" must first give its advice and consent before the President and Senate can place a justice upon the bench of the Supreme Court. This is not a party or sectional question. It is a question of preserving the integrity and independence of the judiciary, upon which depend the rights of every citizen. If anyone is on trial in this case, it's the Senate and not Judge Parker.

Claudius H. Huston, Republican national chairman, has broken the silence he has maintained since the Caraway committee of the Senate revealed his activities in connection with the Muscle Shoals lobby. He has issued a brief statement denying reports that he had threatened the expose political transactions in connection with the nomination and election of President Hoover "which were in the slightest degree reprehensible or violative of any law."

It had been widely reported that Mr. Huston had refused flatly to resign his chairmanship while under fire; that he felt he should not be "sacrificed" to partisan clamor; that he would get out now only if personally requested by the President and that if so requested, instead of issuing the usual face-saving statement about his health or his private business demands, he would tell the country exactly why he felt impelled to withdraw.

No denial is made of the essential facts and circumstances recounted in these new stories, but Mr. Huston wishes it understood that having no knowledge of anything reprehensible or unlawful in the conduct of the Hoover campaign that in no event would there be anything to expose "on the part of the Republican party leaders or organizations."

Your correspondent believes that he may quote most opportunely at this time a paragraph from his weekly letter dated almost eight months ago:

"For years the public has been vaguely conscious of the fact—and Congress well aware of it—that Federal penitentiary facilities were inadequate and the conditions at our penal institutions abominable. It required disastrous riots and the needless sacrifice of human lives to wring a howl of disapproval out of the public, with the usual resultant echo from Capital Hill. Congress woke up and had a spasm or two, but the public relapsed into its usual state of apathy and Congress promptly rolled over and went back to sleep. Maybe during the course of a decade or two another epidemic or wholesale murder and arson will inspire the public to again hammer Congress into a state of temporary consciousness on this subject."

Well, it hasn't been a "decade or two," but the State of Ohio, at a cost of 320 human lives, staged another object lesson with reverberations so far-reaching that federal officialdom again has to sit up and take notice. It is now announced that the Hoover Administration is preparing a mass offensive against criminal rings whose activities centre around prohibition violations in the large cities. The administration is also aware (as it should have been all of the time) that the prison outbreaks, chiefly due to overcrowding, within the last year, make it imperative that the government's own prison facilities must be enlarged as soon as humanly possible.

The prison situation is regarded as fairly desperate. There has been an enormous increase in the number of Federal prisoners within the last six months, and the government penitentiaries are crowded to a degree regarded by officials as perilous.

As a result, the government is greatly concerned, and, feeling that it is its duty to set an example in the treatment of prisoners, is most anxious that relief be afforded. The strongest pressure will be brought to bear to have the Senate act promptly on the \$7,500,000 three-year prison program approved by the House and favorably reported by a Senate committee.