

The Franklin Press

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In Passing

The neighboring town of Clayton, Georgia, is to be congratulated on the very informative booklet that has just recently been gotten out by her Chamber of Commerce. They have a way of doing things in that thriving little town.

The million dollar rain that has recently fallen in Macon county is the best dispeller of the so-called hard time gloom that has persisted for so long.

There is room in the Press for a few more names of candidates for office. First come first served.

There seems to a dearth of offerings for the office of county commissioner. There are to be three commissioners this time and a county manager—if the "will of the people" is considered at all.

Of all the preposterous efforts that have been perpetrated on an unsuspecting public, the present effort on the local jail is the worst that has come up for some time.

That reminds us. Numerous people were howling that "they" should be enjoined from wasting money on the jail. That "they" ought to enjoin "them." But, like Mark Twain's weather, no one did anything about it. How nice it would be if there was some one to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for us.

The tax relief howlers should study well and long the school board's report showing to what extent the state has already reduced Macon county taxes.

And after they have studied this report and if any of the significance of what the figures portray soaks into and finds a thinking spot some where in the concrete cranium of said howler, he should then turn himself to looking at himself and asking himself what is he himself doing to make the best of and show his appreciation for what is being done.

It must, indeed, be a cause for pity—and cause for laughter too, if it were not so pitiful—for a group of public-spirited citizens to work out such a plan of financing our schools as has been worked out, and then for so many to cry for more for all the world like a spoiled child—and a spoiled child that is not blessed with too much native intelligence at that.

A little appreciation from those that are benefited goes further than anything else toward getting the "more" that the spoiled child cries for.

Whenever all men that run for public office are big enough to come right out in the open and say, "Boys, these are my policies and the things that I deem right to be done, take it or leave it," then will we have governing bodies that will demand and the respect of every citizen of the land. For nothing but the highest motives and actions will long withstand the limelight of publicity.

Forest Fires

LOOMY pictures have been painted by callers at Nantahala Forest headquarters during the last few days. The recent fire season is pointed to as an indication that people will burn—you can't change 'em. We'll always have fires. The only way to remedy the evil of spring burning with its terrific losses of growing timber is to burn the leaves and grass in the winter—substitute a lesser evil for a greater.

Will people always burn? Do they all burn

at the present time? Is woods burning a necessary evil? Emphatically no! Take a look at the "fire map" in Supervisor Wood's office some day this week. On it he has shown the location of all fires on the Nantahala National Forest since January 1. Look at Macon county in the watersheds of Tellico, Burningtown, Wayah, Cartoogechaye, Coweta, Tennesee and Middle Creeks and Cullasaja River south of Ellijay. Here is the most populous section of the forest. Here are farms and woodlands and tie cutters and small sawmills and pole men and acidwooders—more than in any other section of the forest. More people, heavier use, should mean more fire; but does it? It does not. There were less fires in the thousands of acres of National Forest and adjoining private lands in these drainages than anywhere else on the forest. The fire spotted map looks actually clean in these settlements compared to other sections. Why? Because these people know that uncontrolled fire is dangerous, wasteful. They are afraid of it. Comparatively few of them burn at any time. Almost none of them put fire out into other people's woodlands. They are examples that fire is unnecessary, that it can be kept out of the woods in the dryest time if the people in any locality wish it kept out.

What Kind of Mirror?

SINCE taking over the management of The Franklin Press last August, we have spared no pains or expense to make it a paper that would be a credit to the county and the town. To what extent we have succeeded we have no way of knowing absolutely. We do know, however, that we have gone as far—in fact farther than—our present local support will justify from a business point of view. We were glad to do this and did it with our eyes open, for we wanted to show by deeds that we meant to give full value received and as much more as the conditions would warrant. We think that we have done this.

Now we are putting this proposition squarely up to our readers and all others that are not readers, do you want a paper of the standard that we have set, and a paper that will continue to grow and improve and keep up with the times or would you be content to have us drop back to a smaller paper with fewer headlines, less news, no features, etc., just a plain statement of the everyday affairs? That is a question that can only be answered one way or the other with subscriptions. If you want a paper of the best type that is possible send your subscription in now. We are making plans for the next year's run and are going to run—of necessity—just as the will of our reading public dictates.

Every one knows that the local paper is the mirror in which is seen the reflection of the community in which the paper is published. The actual paper that the news is printed on costs more than the yearly subscription price. Then there are numerous costs that come into the reckoning, such as ink, labor, power, wear and tear of machinery, etc.

If your county paper pleases you, tell others; if it does not, tell us and we will make any possible change so that it will please. Hand your subscription to which ever of the various candidates that you wish to see win out in the contest or hand it in direct to The Press office, and let's all get behind our community and make it shine. Like the Texan said of Hell in regard to its need of people and water—all Macon county needs is for each and all of us to make a long pull and a strong pull together. You may rest assured that, given an opportunity, every one connected with The Press will do all that is in his power to do just twice as much as the next best man or group to help along all good causes.

Others' Comments

WATER AND COPPER

THE MOUNTAIN BREEZES have freshened up over all that section of the State embracing the Georgia-Tennessee corners, above which the Great Smoky Mountain range stands sentinel. The old Murphy division of the Southern Railway company, long built, and highways of recent construction have to be relocated in many sections to make way for water reservoirs and power plants, and tractors are hauling long strings of copper ores from the mines to railroad transportation from Sylva to the smelting plants in Tennessee, pending the erection of smelting plants convenient to the newly-developed mines in Jackson, Macon, Haywood and Swain counties. These reservoirs and power plants are under development by the American Aluminum company, and the extent of this particular industry may be grasped in the statement that an investment of \$100,000,000 will be necessary to carry the projects to completion.

As a matter of course this investment of \$100,000,000 in damming the rivers is not intended for the mere purpose of forming dams. These waters thus caught up are to be utilized in running the wheels of industrial plants. An enormous pay roll is in the making over a territory that will take in Transylvania, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Clay, Cherokee, Graham and Swain counties, in which circumstance the people can readily see the dawning of a new day for that part of the State.

In the days "before the war" considerable pecking around was done in Jackson, Macon, Swain and Haywood counties for copper. Veins worked in a crude way, produced ores heavy in copper. But there were no smelters and no transportation, and only the tradition of these mines remained. A few months ago the big copper interests of Ducktown, and the United States Smelting and Refining company came along investigating. What they discovered set them to digging. Tuesday last the Observer saw a shipment of 17 car loads of ores from mines on Highway 285, between Sylva and Franklin, showing values of around 35 per cent in lead, 17 per cent in zinc and 8 to 10 per cent in copper. Near by on the same highway, the copper miners are working in a creek bottom a thousand feet below. The developments have encouraged the copper people to the hope of establishing the industry on a profitable basis, and that necessarily means construction of smelter plants to save transportation costs. A force of 60 hands is now working in the Cullowhee mine in Jackson county. It was suggested to one of the operators that if news of discovery of copper ores as rich as those now being worked in Jackson and adjacent counties should have come from the West there would have been a rush there similar to the gold rush of the 49's. And that, it was agreed, is exactly what would have happened. It is a very good prospect that this copper mining in the western part of this State is going to bring additional fame to North Carolina.

Letters

ROAD EXPENSE

Franklin, N. C., May 1, 1930.

Mr. Lyles Harris,
Editor of Franklin Press.

You will allow me as few lines in regard to the roads of this county. I saw in your paper that the supervisor had saved the county or tax payers very much money. Yes, the tax payer furnished money, and where did it go? It is gone from him for good. The roads, or a few, were left to the highest bidder and others that bid were raised by the supervisor. Does that look like saving money?

How many roads in this county were not worked at all? But your money was worked at about \$2400 a year, and how much expense? The law provides for an account of all in the county news paper.

Will close,

JACK BERRY.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Highlands, N. C., May 12, 1930.

To the Editor Franklin Press.

Dear Sir:

In regard to the school board: The 1929 Consolidated School Law says that members of the county school board shall be elected by the people.

In your next issue of The Press please let the voters know how many vacancies there will be. Thanking you for your trouble.

Very truly,

MISS CHARLOTTE B. ELIOTT.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By FRED HOLMES, Washington Correspondent of The Franklin Press

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Well, the greatest deliberative body in the world did just what was expected of it, and declined to confirm the nomination of Judge John J. Parker to be Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The vote was close—so close, in fact, that a last-minute change of heart of a single opposing Senator would have resulted in a tie, with the ultimate decision up to Vice-President Curtis.

For a time there was much speculation as to what President Hoover would do about it. It was suggested that he might rename Judge Parker, but this suggestion was generally discredited. There was a growing conviction that the President would nominate Owen J. Roberts, of Philadelphia, who was special government counsel in the oil scandal prosecutions, which would give Pennsylvania representation on the court bench which the Keystone State has lacked. And the Senate now has before it the nomination of Mr. Roberts.

So far as the rejection of Judge Parker is concerned, now that it's all over we can look back upon the fracas with a degree of equanimity not possible when the smoke of battle hung over us. It was more than once remarked in the course of the Senate debate on the nomination of Judge Parker that his personality was purely incidental to the great controversy. His private character and his judicial integrity were impeached by no one. Perhaps no man named for the Supreme Court ever had a more imposing list of endorers. They included two United States Circuit Judges, ten United States District Judges, many State Judges, the President and five former Presidents of the American Bar Association, twenty-two Presidents of State and County Bar Associations, with hundreds of lawyers and other prominent citizens. In to the refusal of the Senate to confirm an appointment backed by such credentials, powerful reasons must have entered.

There are many who continue to insist that the rejection of Judge Parker was a mistake,

but even they seem inclined to admit that Judge wrapping his robes about himself in the contest must have influenced the decision against him. He showed himself too anxious, it is said, and too small-minded. He fairly rained letters and telegrams upon the Senate. His attitude was very far from that of a Judge wrapping his robes about himself in simple dignity, and ignoring the strife of tongue and the ignoble clash of arguments over his nomination. Judge Parker neither held himself austere aloof nor meddled with propriety and effect. There can be no doubt that his activities, too much like those of a candidate for the office of sheriff, lowered the prestige both of the office which he sought and the office which he held.

In any circumstances, President Hoover did not permit his disappointment at the rejection of Judge Parker by the Senate to delay him in making another appointment. In the selection of Mr. Roberts he has disregarded the geographical consideration which led him to look to the South for a successor to the late Justice Sanford. Nor did he choose a man with judicial experience. What the Senate did to a man who had served on the bench was perhaps an inducement to the President to name an eminent lawyer who had no decisions as a judge behind him for the Senate to go over with a fine tooth comb. Mr. Roberts had a high reputation at the bar for learning and ability long before he was made special counsel for the government in the prosecution of the naval oil leases, tainted with fraud.

It would be rash to predict what the Senate will do in any given case of an appointment to the Supreme Court. It may be horrified, or profess to be, by the discovery that Mr. Roberts has been counsel for large corporations which paid him rich fees. Some case may be dug up in which he has appeared to argue as strenuously in behalf of the rights of capital as Mr. Hughes was accused of doing in a way to bar his confirmation as Chief Justice of the United States. Such things are possible.

While all signs point to confirmation of the government's prosecutor in the oil cases, the incipient opposition makes it certain that the Senate will turn the searchlight upon Roberts' legal career before approving him. If this opposition develops into a fight such as that which led to the rejection of Judge John J. Parker, it will be based upon Roberts' attitude toward prohibition, labor and great corporations.

But the more probable result is that the Senate will now be tired of opposing the President, will feel that it has got glory enough from the defeat of Judge Parker, and will be inclined to let the nomination of Mr. Roberts go through with only the most perfunctory inquiry or contest. If that proves to be true, it will be a source of gratification to Mr. Hoover, and should be also to the country. The President will have shown that he was able to keep to himself his resentment at the treatment accorded both himself and Judge Parker by the Senate, and was enough of a philosopher to turn quickly to the next best practical solution of the problem before him.

Another factor in the rejection of Judge Parker is the growing determination of the Senate to assert its power, even to the point of arrogance, in all large matters of public policy and government. It is resolved to make the President keep his place. He must consult the real source of political power—the United States Senate—before venturing to make any large plans or to resolve upon any important appointments to office. This Senatorial spirit would erect the "advice and consent" of which the Constitution speaks into an active and continuous dictatorship over the Executive. The case of Judge Parker is truly an "incident" in the old and persistent antagonism between the Senate and the White House.

The nature and extent of the protests of nearly thirty countries against what they regard as discriminatory rates in the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Bill give definite evidence that Congress may expect vigorous reactions, particularly in Canada, before the measure is enacted.

Thus far the Republican leadership, bent on pushing through its general upward revision of duties, has succeeded in minimizing the portent of these foreign protests. With the argument that such communications are the expected development in all periods of tariff legislation, Congress has been prevented from realizing their real significance.

The political situation in Canada, however, disclosed by the announcement of Premier MacKenzie King that a general election will be held in Canada this year, has turned attention to the gathering resentment across the border with its "reprisal" threats, and open opposition of the Canadian Conservatives to what they are characterizing as the "waiting" policy of Mr. King's Liberals to the American tariff developments.

Although no actual Canadian protest in the real sense of the term has been received by the State Department for transmission to Congress, and the Canadian memoranda on file with the Senate Finance Committee merely explain the consequences of the wall the bill is building against trade between the two countries. Canada already has given a notice which foreshadows tariff hostilities.