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POLITICAL REFORM AND THE GENERAL UPBUILDING OF MADISON COUNTY.

VOL. III.

MARSHALL, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1902.

NO. 5.

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To reduce present stock we will give 5.00 off the price on all Nissen Wagons, including all special grade made in our order, low wheels, thick tires, ironed bottoms and standards, and special mountain brakes. This offer only for present stock.

**T. S. MORRISON,** ASHEVILLE, N. C.

**THE RECORD**

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY THE RECORD PRINTING CO.

W. W. ZACHARY, EDITOR.  
J. R. SWANN, BUSINESS MANAGER.

OFFICE IN THE FLOOR REDMON BRICK BLD'G

We extend you a cordial invitation to visit our office whenever you are in town.

**WE CHALLENGE the Eagle the official organ of the Court-House Ring and the claim speculators of the county, to point out a single instance in which we have made a mis-statement of facts, or have mis-quoted the records of the county.**



**Notice to Candidates**

The Record will print your announcement from now until conventions are held for \$3.00. This will carry with it the privilege of your friends writing short letters in your behalf.

We would like to ask the Eagle, the official organ of the Court House Ring and the claim speculators of the county, if it is not a fact that about the time the Legislature of 1901 met, there was a conference held in the office of Pritchard and Hollins, between Senator Pritchard, T. S. Rollins, Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of the district and County Attorney, I. N. Ebbs Representative from Madison county, John A. Hendricks Chairman Republican Executive Committee of the county, the Board of County Commissioners of Madison county, together with some claim holders against the county, in reference to formulating a petition to the General Assembly asking for special taxes of 1.20 on each poll and 4c. on 1.00 worth of property?

And if it is not a fact that T. S. Rollins, attorney for the Board of Commissioners did not have drawn up on his typewriter, a petition to the General Assembly asking for such tax, which W. M. English and W. S. Rice, who make a majority of the Board of County Commissioners adopted in open session, copies of which petition was forwarded to the representative of Madison county and the senators of this district?

And if it is not a fact that a bill was prepared in almost the exact terms of the petition and if a copy of the same was not introduced in the Lower House by the representative of Madison county, which afterwards became a law?

The Eagle, in its last issue, had the following to say in reference to the above question, which has been asked time and again:

"To the first inquiry we answer emphatically No! At no time was there any conference between any republicans in regard to the matter mentioned in inquiry No. 1.

"As to inquiry No. 2 we also say No! (Then it goes on and makes some comments in reference to what was done in the year 1899 which has nothing to do with the question now being discussed.)

"Inquiry No. 3 is also untrue. The bill passed by the legislature is not in accordance with the suggestions of the county commissioners."

Now let us see if the Eagle has answered truthfully: The first witness that we will call on the stand will be Mr. I. N. Ebbs, the representative of Madison county, who made a statement of the facts in reference to the above matters, in the Enterprise of August 1, 1901, but on account of the length of the article we will not give it unless it becomes necessary in the future.

The next witness that we will call is Mr. J. M. Gudge, jr., who was at that time Senator of this district.

The next witness that we will call is Mr. George H. Smathers, Receiver of the Western Carolina Bank. The next witness will be Mr. John A. Hendricks, chairman of the republican executive committee of the county. The next witness will be Mr. Thomas S. Rollins, chairman of the republican executive committee of the ninth congressional district. The next witness will be County Commissioners English and Rice.

And had these witnesses are not sufficient to show that the Eagle is wrong about the matter, we will call others and if necessary we can put our evidence in the form of affidavits.

Now let the above witnesses speak or any one of them and say how the matter is. Let them say

whether they had a conference with reference to getting legislation through the last legislature or not and whether that conference was in the office of Pritchard and Hollins or not. And as to whether the law was passed in accordance with the recommendation of the commissioners, we give below, in full, that recommendation of the commissioners:

State of North Carolina,  
Madison County,

To the Honorable, the General Assembly of North Carolina:

The Board of Commissioners of Madison County, North Carolina, being in regular session, on the 1st Monday in January, 1901, beg leave to submit the following statement as to the financial condition of this County, to your Honorable body:

1st. That the County is indebted to various and sundry persons, represented by judgments, claims, etc., said indebtedness being contracted and incurred by the County for the necessary expenses thereof, amounting in all to about \$55,000, which said judgments, claims, etc., bear 6 per cent interest per annum.

2nd. That the Board of Commissioners have continuously, for many years, levied a tax up to the Constitutional limitation, but have not been able to reduce the indebtedness, or even pay interest on the indebtedness of the County:

It is therefore requested by the Board, that your Honorable body pass some legislation which will enable the Board of Commissioners of this county to pay off and discharge said indebtedness and put the County on a cash basis, as may seem just and proper;

And the Board respectfully request that the Senators from this district and member of the House from Madison County, to take the proper steps to accomplish the ends above mentioned.

The Board would suggest: floating the indebtedness of the County at a reduced rate of interest, for such length of time as would not be burdensome to the tax payers of the County.

The Board is of the opinion that a tax levied at the rate and for the following purposes, would give the relief required:

1st. That a special act be passed authorizing them to levy a jury tax of ten cents on the \$100 worth of property and thirty cents on the poll.

2nd. A special act, authorizing them to levy a tax of three cents on the \$100 worth of property and nine cents on the poll, to complete bridge at Palmer's ford.

4th. A special act, authorizing them to levy a special tax of 20 cents on the \$100 worth of property, and 80 cents on the poll, to be applied pro rata on the indebtedness of the County.

(Signed) W. M. ENGLISH, Ch'm.  
W. S. RICE.

It is ordered by the Board that the foregoing be spread upon the minutes and a copy of the same forwarded to our Senators and Representative in the Legislature.

If our readers will refer to chapter 822 of the Public Laws of 1901 they will see that the special act of the legislature levied among other things, the following taxes: 20c on the one hundred dollars worth of property and 80 cents on the poll for the purpose of paying on the old debts of the county, eight cents on the hundred dollars worth of property and twenty four cents on the poll to pay jurors, also three cents on the hundred dollars worth of property and nine cents on the poll to pay on bridge at Palmer's.

The strange thing to us is why the Eagle waited month after month when it could have answered it at once by a simple denial, if the denial was true. But we will see whether it is true or not.

The Gudge influence at the late Democratic Judicial convention seemed to be potent.—Eagle, 17th.

Mr. Gudge would have us believe that he was hands off in this matter, but we presume the Eagle speaks authoritatively and is a dead give away of the whole scheme. See?

Now since McLaurin declined that judgeship we surmise that the matter will rest until after the election, then Teddy will transfer Judge Boyd to the McLaurin vacancy and appoint Jeter as federal court judge to heal up his senatorial defeat.

Beware of the fellow that goes around telling you something on the other fellow, ask him to explain his own merits to you, if he has any, and if he has none himself he is in poor business talking about the other fellow.

That speaking at Frog Level Monday night was said to be a whopper. There was present the Hon. J. Will, J. Tad, Bill and candidate J. Will for sheriff.

The Gastonia Gazette thinks it likely that Pritchard will be a candidate for congress in the 9th district. You are way of Bro. Marshall, Jeter prefers to be defeated for senator and then be "taken care of" by the president. Capt. Chas. Price will be the nominee, provided that he has been over at Charlotte long enough to become eligible. Pritchard is playing for the railroad influence which is very strong as indicated by the recent opposition (?) to Judge Clark for chief justice.

**Hendricks on the Tax Question.**

EDITOR RECORD:—I saw in your last issue, for the first time, what purports to be an inquiry to the effect, "If there was not in January 1901 a conference or caucus in Senator Pritchard's office by Senator Pritchard, I. N. Ebbs, T. S. Rollins, John A. Hendricks and the county commissioners for the purpose of recommending to the Legislature, the Act which was passed by the General Assembly at its last session in regard to the indebtedness of Madison county?"

I desire to say that there never was any such conference and I never heard of such a thing until I saw it in your paper. About the time mentioned I saw a paper in the handwriting of State Senator J. M. Gudge, jr., which, in effect, embodied the provisions of the Act referred to. I remember I saw Mr. Gudge in person and argued with him that his plan was not a good one. He said it was and refused to agree to any other. I thought then that the plan was not good and I am still of the same opinion. I fought it with all my might.

As to Senator Pritchard I will state what I know of his attitude in the matter. I had a plan of my own which would have settled the indebtedness of the county at a reduced rate of interest, with a saving to the county in the way of interest, of about \$1,000 per year; would have insured to the benefit of the small claim holder as well as the large one, would have stopped speculation in county paper and would, I believe, have put the county upon a cash basis and, too, without being burdensome to the people. I went to Senator Pritchard and asked him to use his influence in behalf of my plan. He told me that he owned a portion of the indebtedness of the county and that, while he, personally, was inclined to favor my plan, he positively would not have anything to do with recommending any legislation in regard to the county indebtedness. He expressed himself to me as being personally opposed to Mr. Gudge's plan, which was afterwards enacted into law.

I saw I. N. Ebbs during the session of the Legislature and he told me he was opposed to the Gudge plan and would not vote for it.

Two of the county commissioners did recommend that the General Assembly pass some legislation to settle the indebtedness of the county at a reduced rate of interest and to put the county on a cash basis, at such rate of taxation as would not be burdensome to the people. The law, as it now stands, in regard to the county indebtedness was conceived by democrats, advocated by democrats and enacted by democrats. It is a good law the democrats are entitled to the credit for it; it is a bad law they deserve the condemnation of the people for passing it.

I did not, at the time in question and have not since owned a dollar of the county indebtedness. I was, however, attorney for a widow woman who owns about \$4,000 of the indebtedness of the county, which indebtedness the county incurred through democratic county commissioners for food and clothing for prisoners and other necessaries and cash advanced to meet the running expenses of the county. My client needed her money on

which to raise and educate her children. Although the taxes under the law herein referred to, seem rather burdensome to the people, yet, under the law as it now stands, the marble which will mark the resting place of my client will be covered with moss and her great grand children dead and forgotten long before her claim against the county will be paid off. Claimants and non-claimant taxpayers, democrats and republicans, should get together and agree on some plan which will be just and fair to all concerned.

Respectfully,  
**JOHN A. HENDRICKS,**  
Marshall, N. C., July 30, 1902.

**Hendricks as a Dodger**

Mr. John A. Hendricks attempts to explain out of the high tax issue but we fail to see where he gets out. Mr. Hendricks as well as Representative I. N. Ebbs admits that there were some bills drawn at some time and its a matter of record that Commissioners English and Rice signed the order asking for it. Each fellow says that his bill was not introduced and none of them want to dady the bill that was passed.

Hendricks statement that bill was conceived and passed by Democrats is a wild shot indeed, for we have never heard of but one man who claimed to be a Democrat that has been in any way connected with the matter at that man was J. M. Gudge jr. Whom Mr. Hendricks tried to unload the bill upon but according to recent events Mr. Gudge is in better standing with the Court House Ring than he is with the democratic party in Madison County at least.

**County Superintendent's Annual Report.**

The following annual report was made by Superintendent James to the Board of Education and received and approved by them:

Number of white children in the county between the ages of 6 and 21 years—males, 4154; females, 8938; total, 8092.

Number of colored children—males, 101; females, 109; total, 210

Number of pupils enrolled in the public schools—males, white 2654, females, 2682; total, 5336; average attendance, 2811; colored enrollment—males, 84; females, 37; total, 121; average attendance, 36.

Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write—white, males, 185; females, 103; colored—males, 18; females, 15.

One institute held, white males attending, 40; females, 52 (Col.) males, 2; females, 1.

Average length of school term, white, 16 weeks.

Average length (col) 11 1/2 weeks.

Salary, white teachers, male, \$20.40; females, \$28.93; colored, males, 17.25; females, 20.00.

Total amount apportioned to whites, \$10674.63; colored, \$400.00

White polls returned for taxation, 2940; colored, 50.

Insolvent white, 501; insolvent colored, 18.

Rev. Austin Convicted.  
The Rev. J. F. Austin, of Weaverville, who has been preach-

er, hotel keeper and labor agitator in the last few years has run amuck at Asheville, N. C. A year or so ago, while the parson was flying high as a labor leader, he saw fit to use a newspaper for a platform for criticizing his actions and motives. The newspaper people were acquitted and then they took a turn at the Rev. Austin and have succeeded in convicting the ex-parson of perjury and he has been sentenced to five years' hard labor on the roads. Judge Henry B. Stevens, of Asheville, represented Mr. Austin and has given notice of an appeal.

**Final at Rector's Chapel.**

About two hundred people from Walnut Springs and the Marshall Presbyterian Sunday schools gathered at Rector's chapel last Friday about on enjoying to the full the pleasures afforded by the picnic day. Nor were they disappointed, kind nature smiled upon the occasion with a perfect day and from start to finish everyone enjoyed a good time.

The grand view, the enticing shade and cool breezes invited rest and quiet sociability for the older part of the company, while the younger element found amusement in various games from quiet croquet to hard fought races. The contest of the base ball game, as evidenced by the score of 7 to 0.

Of those who helped make the occasion a pleasant one mention should be made of Uncle Pat Campbell, the girl's friend, who lost only ten seconds by actual count in keeping the swing in motion for the young folks, and Mr. Cling Clark and Mr. Robinson by whose untiring efforts the thirsty throng kept from a water famine. The company began to break up at 4 o'clock, each carrying away memories of a day well and pleasantly spent.

**Van Henderson Kills Belt Jackson**

The peace and quietude of our village was suddenly disturbed on Wednesday afternoon about 7 o'clock by the report of three or four pistol shots in rapid succession and when the smoke cleared away it was found that Van Henderson shot and killed a negro, Belt Jackson, about 21 years of age. Very little is known of the cause of the trouble, more than that it is said that the two had some words in the morning and when they met again in the afternoon the shooting occurred with but few words.

**A Good Citizen Gone.**

We have just learned of the death of Mr. John M. Brown, of the firm of J. M. Brown & Son, at Waverly, N. C., which occurred on the 22nd inst. Mr. Brown was about 67 years of age and was a successful farmer and merchant. In his death the county loses one of her best citizens. The family and friends have the sympathy of the Record in their sad loss.

F. L. Ramsey who moved from No 16 township to Coalgate, I. T., has ordered The Record sent to his address.

**HAVE YOU SEEN JACK?**

If not you have lost money. He is still selling everything in stock at wholesale cost.

**TO QUIT THE GOODS BUSINESS.**

Not a few catch penny items to catch the unsuspecting, but every item **CUT TO FIRST COST!**

Shoes—		Dress Goods—	
2.00 shoes for	1.50	75c Serge at	50c
1.75 " "	1.25	60c Novelty at	40c
1.50 " "	1.15	35c Cashmeres at	25c
1.25 " "	1.05	30c Cashmeres at	20c
1.00 " "	.75 & 80c	20c Cashmeres at	15c
		15c Cashmeres at	10c
		Calicoes at	3/4 to 1/2
		Hose	7c

A few Lawns at 4, 5 and 7 1/2 cents per yard, worth from 6 to 12 1/2c! Fancy Negligee Shirts, 38c; Good Jeans Pants, 95c; Folding and Woven Wire Bed Springs, 1 75 and 2 00; Groceries, Ware, 7 1/2-c per gal; Best Coffee in town, 9 lbs for 1 00; A real good one at 12 lbs for 1 00

**J. R. Swann**  
THE PEOPLE'S FRIEND.