

## SUPT. DILLARD REPLIES TO McDEVITT'S ARTICLE LAST WEEK

### THE MARSHALL SCHOOL SITUATION. A REPLY TO MR. McDEVITT

In view of an article in last week's issue of the Record written by Mr. N. B. McDevitt, a member of the County Board of Education, relative to the school project that the board has undertaken at Marshall, I feel that something ought to be said to correct the erroneous statement made by him. I dislike newspaper controversy, as seldom any good comes of it, but in justice to the Board of Education, to myself, and the County Board of Commissioners this article is written.

In the first place, I shall state that Mr. McDevitt is a member of the County Board of Education, and that as such it is his duty to attend the meetings of the Board to consider the interests of the public school system. For the past eight months, Mr. McDevitt has attended no meeting of the County Board of Education. Matters of vital importance have been brought before the board for its consideration, but at all times he has evaded the meetings, seeking to avoid responsibility, and hoping to be able to attach blame to any of its acts, whenever possible.

During these months, through the papers the matter of the building in the Island has been discussed. An election was ordered by the board to enlarge the district, and to provide additional funds to secure a new building. During none of these months did he attend a meeting of the board. Not one time did he raise a voice as a member of the Board against said action. I feel sure that if he had been active in his work as a member of the board as he has in attempting to defeat the proposition, that a satisfactory program for all concerned could have been worked out.

Now let's see as to the basis of his argument against the school. In the article named above he states that he has asked the court, through his attorneys, "to pass on the schoolhouse or Island question for Marshall and Madison County."

In the complaint lodged against the Board of Education, under the sworn statement of Mr. McDevitt, he states that the reason for bringing this action is that the building of said wall "would result in the ruin and destruction of the property, real and personal, of the plaintiff."

Now, if he is bringing action against the board of education to protect his property, why does he not so state in his article? If he is bringing the action to restrain the building why does he not do so in his restraining order against the Board? If he is honest for bringing suit against the board to protect his property, why does he not so state in his article? If he wishes only to stop the building because of the alleged inability of the school to finance it, why does he not restrain the building on that ground?

In the article named above, Mr. McDevitt takes the position and attempts to prove that Marshall is asking special favors of the County Board of Education other than that which the other districts of the county have received—especially Walnut, Mars Hill

and Hot Springs.

Now let's see as to the facts in these cases. On April 5th, 1920, the County Board of Education passed an order in which the Board exchanged property with S. R. Freeborn, giving him the old school property, and \$5000, one thousand payable cash, and the other in four equal annual payments. This amount was not paid out of the Walnut Special Tax Funds, but out of the general school funds, levied on the property of the county as a whole. In addition to this, the Board of Education from time to time has expended quite a sum of money on the Walnut building out of the general county funds. This year six or seven hundred dollars was spent in giving the Walnut school two extra rooms, painting, covering, etc.

Now as to Mars Hill. On September 3, 1923, a petition from No. 5 and No. 15 Townships was presented to the Board of Education calling for a special tax election in those townships. Mr. McDevitt was a member of the Board of Education at this time. The purpose of this election was to provide funds to supplement the six months term and to pay interest and principal on a building for a high school at Mars Hill. The total valuation of these townships as given by the Register of Deeds is \$740,524.00. A fifty cent rate on this valuation, gives \$370,262.00.

On March 4th, 1924, the County Board of Education, loaned to Mars Hill \$25,000.00 for the purpose of building a new building there. The first payment on this loan was \$2375.00. The salary schedule for teachers for that first year was for two months \$1876.64. This gives a total of \$4251.64 or leaving a deficit of \$549.02. If Mr. McDevitt was so anxious to see that no district got more money than it could pay back why did he let Mars Hill get more than it could pay back? This year the school budget was made up before I came to the County. Mr. McDevitt as a member of the Board of Education passed on this budget. In it we find that there was apportioned to the Mars Hill District out of the general school levy of the county \$3750.00, outside of \$330.00 payment on the State Literary Fund, making a grand total of \$4080.00 in order to run an eight months' term. Of this amount \$1250. was apportioned to pay the Principal on the Special Building Fund used in erecting the Mars Hill building, and the other for equipment such as desks, chairs, and other equipment that Marshall is proposing to pay out of its regular Special Building Fund. If Mr. McDevitt was so anxious to see that each district paid its full part of the building debt, as he is that Marshall pay hers, then Mars Hill would have had no building today.

I am not criticizing Mars Hill or Walnut for this. I think that the Board of Education did the right thing in caring for these schools as it has. The purpose of a board of education, is not to save taxpayers money, but to provide school facilities for all the children of the county.

And it is not the policy of the state or county to force each district to provide its own buildings; the same is distinctly a county proposition. The point that I wish to emphasize is, that as a member of the Board of Education, Mr. McDevitt was extremely negligent of his duty as a member of the board if he permitted these to go by with his sanction, or that he is playing to political and sectional prejudice. I shall leave it to the people of the county to pass upon the facts.

Under the audit prepared by Dr. W. E. Finley, the school property of the county is valued at \$243,000. I think that this is an excessive valuation. I think, possibly, \$75,000 or \$100,000 too high. But the point is this that all this property with the exception of \$25,000.00 on the Mars Hill building, and \$17,000.00 on the Walnut building, or \$42,000.00 has been paid out of the general school funds of the county. This leaves a valuation of \$201,000, that has been paid out of the general school funds of the county. All that we insist is that the facts be put before the people of the county, and let them pass upon the facts.

Mr. McDevitt states that the director of finances stated that this district has to pay back next year approximately \$9923.00. The director of finances does not make any such statement. Notice his wording, "has had the funds." But the director of Finances does not say that Marshall district has to pay these back or that

(Continued on last page)

Notwithstanding the fact that there has been some lively discussion of the school matter in and around the court house this week, the County Commissioners have wired the State authorities that they favor the Marshall school building project. Their resolution as wired reads as follows:

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ENDORSE MARSHALL SCHOOL BUILDING AND WORK ON BUILDING AND WALL PROCEEDS

#### OUTCOME OF INJUNCTION AWAITED WITH INTEREST

From the amount of work going on in the Island preparatory to the erection of the new school and the wall to protect it from occasional high water, one would judge that nothing had happened to hinder the work in the least. The State Engineer, Mr. Simpson, was here Tuesday and pronounced the excavations sufficient to begin pouring cement for the foundation of the walls of the building. The excavations for the protecting wall have also been rapidly pushed forward and Marshall people are looking upon the future of the Island with renewed interest.

Commissioners Favor High School for Marshall

The County Commissioners in session this week, passed the following resolution:

We favor a high school at Marshall, North Carolina, so long as it is given no preference over other high schools in Madison County.  
W. R. ELLERSON, Chairman  
G. B. BROWN  
W. G. BUCKNER  
A. R. McDEVITT  
L. H. TWEED

### MRS. FARIDO PLEMMONS OF HOT SPRINGS STILL MISSING

#### BELIEVED HER BODY IS IN FRENCH BROAD RIVER

Mrs. Farido Plemons of Hot Springs, who mysteriously disappeared last Friday night, has not yet been found, although the River has been diligently dredged. No trace of the woman can be found. Mrs. Plemons was a young woman, hardly thirty, and left three children—one baby 10 months old. Mr. and Mrs. Plemons were formerly from Spring Creek and Mr. Plemons was a mechanic in a garage at Hot Springs.

It seems that Mrs. Plemons was homesick, or wanted to move back to Spring Creek. Usually her husband stayed with her at night, but last Friday night he wished to go fox hunting and she readily consented. When he returned to his home about midnight, he found Mrs. Plemons gone and his baby lying in the floor almost frozen. The husband's first thought was that she had gone to Spring Creek. So he, with Mr. John Gentry, went to Spring Creek. The people there had not seen her and knew nothing about it. Returning again home, Mr. Plemons

found a note stuck up near her coat which read something like this: "I am going to a lone grave. Be good to husband and children, that no blame was on them." Bloodhounds were secured, which traced her to the edge of the river. The report that blood and a knife had been found about the premises is said by those in position to know to be absolutely without foundation. The blood on the step was from a dog's ear, which had been bleeding. The people on Spring Creek and in Hot Springs give these people a good name. No reason can be given for such an act, except that the woman was temporarily insane. Mrs. Plemons was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wexler Haynie, of Spring Creek, and is survived by her parents and one sister, Mrs. Ridder, of Henderson County, and brothers, Messrs. Berlin and Troy Haynie of Spring Creek.

Sunshine is a great protector and healer and the child that is gradually and carefully exposed to the direct rays of the sun will benefit in health, say home demonstration workers.

### MADISON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE MET MONDAY

#### ENJOY LUNCH GIVEN BY BUSINESS MEN OF MARSHALL

Mr. Arey Stresses Dairying for Madison County. Mr. Sams Urges Pastures

As advertised in this paper before, the Madison County Agricultural Committee met in Marshall Monday. After attending to some business in Mr. Brintnall's office, this committee, together with the Board of County Commissioners and the County Board of Education and some of the business and professional men of Marshall were given a lunch at the New Cafe, the lunch having been provided by the business men of Marshall. At the lunch, Mr. Guy V. Roberts was toastmaster and three or four responded to toasts, the principal speeches being made by Mr. J. A. Arey, in charge of dairy extension work at the State College, Mr. F. R. Farnhour, of Asheville, Mr. Earle Brintnall and Mr. Guy V. Roberts. The lunch proved to be an enjoyable get-together affair, which is always conducive to good fellowship and a better understanding of one another.

Mr. William Spencer Rice, of Big Laurel, entertained the crowd with one of his jokes.

At 2 o'clock about forty farmers met in the court house and heard quite an able discussion of dairying by Mr. Arey. Following the address, an open discussion among the farmers present proved quite interesting.

Some points made by Mr. Arey—After being introduced by Mr. Brintnall, Mr. Arey spoke along the following lines—he had been 15 years in the dairy extension work mostly in the Piedmont section of the state and that conditions here in the mountains were as good as in the Piedmont section. In the eastern part of the state the farmers have not only tobacco, but cotton and peanuts as well. He

stressed the importance of having more than one source of income to depend on and that dairying and poultry raising can both be well done in the mountains. He made the startling statement that from fifteen to seventeen million pounds of creamery butter are shipped into North Carolina every year. He said North Carolina stands high (about 10th) in crop production while in per capita wealth it takes 41st place.

He then discussed a creamery for this county, saying that when we get to shipping out as much as 6000 or 7000 lbs. of butter fat, we could then well establish a creamery. Quality butter is what is needed. He says that Grove Park Inn, in Asheville, is now trying to make arrangements to get butter from Denmark, in an effort to get quality. He spoke of the advantage of our farmers in having so many cool springs in which to keep the milk or cream. In North Carolina the average is two cows to every farm while in Iowa there is an average of fourteen cows to every farm. He said that 500 cows would be a sufficient number for a creamery.

#### Mr. J. R. Sams Speaks

Following the speech by Mr. Arey and the open discussion, Mr. J. R. Sams, County Agent at Large, who happened to be in the audience, was called on and spoke very interestingly on the subject of permanent pastures. He made very emphatic the importance and practicability of blue grass for a permanent pasture. He said it requires several years to get started, but that it will grow anywhere on a rich soil and once it gets a good start, it is permanent. He mentioned visiting a pasture near Morganton, N. C., which had been a fine pasture and had not been plowed up in 150 years.

### REPUBLICAN COUNTY CONVENTION WAS HELD LAST SATURDAY

The Republican Convention of Madison County was held at the Court house in Marshall last Saturday. The chairman, Mr. S. B. Roberts, called the meeting together at 1:30 o'clock and stated the object of the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. B. W. Gahagan, that Mr. S. B. Roberts be elected as county chairman to succeed himself. The motion was unanimously carried. On a motion made by Mr. J. Will Roberts, Mr. C. R. Edney was elected secretary. A full delegation of 16 was elected to attend

the State Convention in Durham on the 8th. These delegates were sent un-instructed as to State Chairman and the new place of organization. They were instructed to vote the full strength of the county pro rata as to the number attending.

The Senior Class of Marshall High School will give:

### SING CONVENTION "AND HOME CAME TED"

#### SINGING CONVENTION TO BE IN MARSHALL FOURTH SUNDAY IN APRIL

Mr. W. A. Treadway has asked us to publish that the usual Madison County Singing Convention will be held in Marshall the fourth Sunday in April.

at  
The Pastime Theatre,  
Friday, April 23rd, at  
8:00 P. M. Admission  
—25 and 35 cents.

## FOR SHERIFF TO THE VOTERS OF MADISON COUNTY:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Madison County, subject to the Republican primary to be held June 5th, 1926. If nominated and elected I will endeavor, by the help and cooperation of the good people of the county, to enforce the laws and execute the duties of this office in a fair and impartial manner. Thanking you for your support in the past and asking for your vote and influence in the coming Primary.

**WILLARD C. RECTOR**

### To the Voters of Madison County and the Candidates for Tax Collector:

#### PROPOSAL

As a Candidate for the office of Tax Collector, I suggest to my opponents let the high man or lady be the Nominee. This saves the County the extra expense of holding a second primary. Are you both willing?

Your friend,  
**GROVER C. REDMON**

## FOR TAX COLLECTOR

TO THE VOTERS OF  
MADISON COUNTY

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Tax Collector, subject to the action of the Republican Primary of June 5, 1926.

**GROVER C. REDMON**