

## HOW TO REDUCE TAXES IN MADISON AND COUNTIES OF LIKE CLASS

The following article from Mr. John Hendricks, of Marshall appeared in the News and Observer and other papers, Feb. 14, 1926:

### THE SCHOOL TAX SYSTEM IN NORTH CAROLINA SHOULD BE REVISED

To the Editor: It is conceded by all intelligent people that the school age generation of North Carolina should be educated. It is undisputed that to educate the children of the State is for the betterment of the whole State. Under our present system of school taxation some of the State are educating the children and offering the best school facilities at a low rate of taxes, while other sections and localities in the State are being taxed almost beyond the limit of some people who pay the taxes required to support the public schools.

In the Legislature of 1921 when the State Highway System was proposed many thought that the county should be the unit and that the State-wide system controlled by the State at large would not work and would be unfair to wealthier parts of the State. The Legislature finally settled down to the State-wide system and now the State constructs and maintains highways regardless of county or district lines, and I think it is generally conceded that we have about the best highway system in this country. I am of the opinion that our public school system should be run on somewhat the same system that the State highways are built and maintained. For instance, the rate of tax for the county of Forsyth is about 50 cents all told. The rate of taxes for the county of Madison is \$1.75. The public school tax for the county of Madison is 72 cents. I do not know what the rate of school tax is for the county of Forsyth and other wealthy counties of the same class, but it must be less than 20 cents. The county of Forsyth is only an example of many other counties and sections of North Carolina of the same class. Everybody proclaims that education is a good thing. I believe there should be a uniform tax for the State for public school purposes and that the public school proposition should be handled by the State as the State highway system is handled. Of course, the detail would have to be worked out. Notwithstanding, Madison County and other counties of the same class pay more than three times as much tax to maintain six-months school as Forsyth and other counties of that class, yet the school facilities with the low rate of taxes in Forsyth, Mecklenburg, Guilford, Buncombe, Durham and many other large counties are much better than the school facilities in the poorer counties. It may be argued that it would be unfair to raise the tax rate in the wealthy counties to help

educate the children in the poor counties. It is just as important to have a good road to drive over through Madison and other poor counties as it is in Forsyth and other wealthy counties. It is just as important to the State of North Carolina that the children in the back districts of Madison County and other smaller counties be educated as it is to educate the children in the cities and in the wealthy counties.

I know that we have what is called the equalization fund, and from the discrepancy in the rate of taxation for schools in the wealthy counties and in the poor counties shows that the equalization fund does not equalize. Let the State fix a general rate of taxes for the whole State that will raise a sufficient amount of money to maintain six months school in each county, and then where the people desire a longer term of school let them have it by voting special taxes for that purpose.

In Madison county where eight months schools are maintained the special taxes added to the regular school taxes equals on an average rate of about \$1.05, some of the special tax districts \$1.22, and this I take it is true of the majority of the counties in North Carolina.

We are glad to know that we have in North Carolina sections where capital has concentrated and has caused the accumulation of great wealth. This is necessary for the prosperity of the State, but we maintain it is absolutely fair for wealth to be taxed wherever it may be located in the State for the benefit of the education of the children of the whole State. There may also be reforms made in placing a tax for school purposes on certain outstanding luxuries in the (Carried to fifth page)

and Mrs. J. Foster Barnes sang beautifully a few of the old Southern melodies, one number being "Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms."

Dr. Reeves also delighted the audience with "Nellie Gray" and "Sometimes I'm Glad, Sometimes I'm Sad."

Judge Cameron MacRae delivered a splendid address on "Jefferson Davis, President of Southern Confederacy." He spoke of the ones left at home during the war "to carry on" and praised the faithful old slave "darky" who stayed on the plantation and worked while his master went to war. Mrs. D. E. Sevier and Miss Elizabeth Woodfin Holland awarded the Crosses of Honor to Confederate veterans and the Sons of Confederate Veterans who were heroes in the World War, Col. Joseph Hyde Pratt being one of the latter.

Miss Holland is a granddaughter of Col. Nicholas Woodfin and is Adjutant of the Zebulon Vance Camp. The exercises came to a close by everyone joining in singing Dixie and the veterans giving the once famous "Rebel Yell" led by Maj. F. R. Young,

who was Chaplain General of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade of Confederate veterans. He is 83 years "young" and is a retired Baptist minister.

We are indebted to Maj. Young for the names of some of the best families here in the mountains who sent their men and boys to uphold the Stars and Bars. Among them our much honored Gen. Zebulon B. Vance, Col. R. B. Vance, Col. Nicholas W. Woodfin, Maj. Robert Gage, who was on the private staff of Robert E. Lee, Major Charles M. Roberts, Col. John McElroy, Capt. Melvin E. Carter, Col. L. M. Allen, Capt. John Woodfin, the Gudgers, Weavers, Bairds, Chamberses, Pattons, Eeveses, Samses, Browns, Ramseys, Holcombes, Murrays, Joneses, Ammons, Keiths, Baileys, Carvins, Rays, Ledfords, Buckners, Jarvis, and many, many others who wore the Gray.

Most of our gallant soldiers in the 30<sup>th</sup> division were descendants of the Confederacy and did honor to their ancestors in the World War, especially the North Carolina troops who broke the Hindenburg Line.

## DELIGHTFUL BANQUET AT MARS HILL LAST NIGHT

Business and Professional Men of Neighboring Towns Have Loyal Love-Feast

The Civic Club of Mars Hill was host last evening to the business and professional men of Marshall. Men from other sections of the County were invited but only Marshall and Mars Hill men attended, a letter from Mr. W. R. Ellerson of Hot Springs being read, expressing his regrets at not being able to attend. A similar letter from Mr. Herschell Sprinkle of Marshall, now in Florida, was also read. In all, about fifty people attended the banquet which was given in the dining room of the girls' dormitory. The table was served by some of Mars Hill's fine women. Rev. Mr. Elliott of the College faculty was toastmaster and fitting remarks were made by the secretary of the club, Prof. Carr. The speech of welcome was made by Prof. R. L. Moore, who previously had returned thanks.

If the students of the College enjoy such "ests" as were put before those fifty hungry men, no wonder they are such a fine looking body of young people. On entering the hall the men were served elegant lemonade. On the table an elegantly prepared chicken supper with fruit salad and other accessories, including the

finest hot rolls and coffee, made a feast to satisfy the appetite of anybody. This was followed by ice cream and cake.

From the time the first course was about finished until nearly ten o'clock, speeches were made by so many of the men that we will not attempt to name them. The finest spirit of fellowship and good will between the two communities was manifest, the aims and purposes one—that of bringing the best to Madison County in such matters as good roads, education and so forth. The speeches were of a high order and furnished a feast for thought as the delightful banquet had furnished a feast for the body.

### BRAMBLETT SELLS TO AMMONS AND CROWDER AT MARS HILL

Ammons and Crowder is the name of a new firm starting in business at Mars Hill. Mr. J. F. Ammons of Mars Hill and Mr. C. O. Crowder of Marshall are the partners, and they will handle groceries, hardware and field seeds. These departments of the T. L. Bramblett Co. have been sold to these enterprising men and their store will adjoin the dry goods establishment of the T. L. Bramblett Co. Other Mars Hill News on third page

## CEREMONIES AT MARSHALL AND HOT SPRINGS PLANNED FOR MAY 20

Dedicate Mose Lee Markers in W. N. C. Soon

Following the dedication of two memorial markers to Robert E. Lee on the Dixie Highway at Pack Spare and Calvary Baptist will, Fletcher, similar memorials will be placed at nearly a dozen places along the highway by midsummer, it was learned today.

Markers at Marshall and Hot Springs are to be dedicated on May 20 with Former Governor Alf Taylor, of Tennessee, as the chief speaker at both ceremonies.

The marker movement was started by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in North Carolina and when culminated will result in memorial markers from Michigan to Miami. Plans are already under way for

the erection of similar markers at Biltmore, Hendersonville, Arden, and Tuxedo and the movement to erect such markers at points in South Carolina, and in Florida, along the Dixie route is gaining headway, it is said. Leaders of the movement believe that other states will follow the lead set by North Carolina.

The bronze tablets, mounted on large granite boulders, are about 20 by 32 inches. They contain the figure of General Lee seated upon his beloved and famous horse, "Traveler." Beneath is the inscription.

This movement had its inception in a proposal made by Mrs. J. M. Gudger, Jr., of Asheville, to the state meeting of the Daughters in 1922. Mrs. Gudger is state chairman of the U. D. C. committee sponsoring the placement of these markers, and she will officiate in the dedication of each of them.

## MR. J. A. HENDRICKS SETS HIMSELF STRAIGHT ON CERTAIN MATTERS

I am in favor of reducing the burden of taxes if it can possibly be done. There is very small hope to do this as a county proposition. Under the Constitution, we are compelled to have at least six months public school, and the County Commissioners are compelled under the law to levy a tax to meet this expense. We are forced to pay our debts and keep up county expenses. I believe, however, the tax in counties like Madison may be reduced by having a State wide school system and a uniform state tax for schools. If I go to the Legislature I shall do all in my power to have such a law adopted. I also favor a state tax on cigarettes and other luxuries to supplement the state school fund, and this kind of tax on luxuries would raise a large amount of the money necessary for public schools. If this can be done, and I believe it can, it will reduce our school tax in Madison and other counties of like class at least one half, from seventy-five to eighty cents on the hundred dollars to thirty or thirty-five cents on the one hundred dollars. I have received on this proposition great encouragement from different parts of the State. This is our only hope for tax reduction. I have been advocating this measure for the last two years. It appears that our present system of nominating candidates is conducive of slander and false reports. I hear of a number of reports being circulated about me that are wickedly false. I do not know who start them, but it is an old saying that a lie will travel faster than the truth. I hear that it is being circulated that if I go to the Legislature that I will bond the County for \$425,000.00.

This is a lie out of the whole cloth. I shall not stand to bond the County for any amount. It is also reported that I will have a law passed to levy a tax on Madison County to run the Marshall school. Of course, this is false. I would not do such a thing if I could, and I could not under the law if I had such an inclination. I hear complaint is made against me because as County Attorney, I advised the Commissioners that, under the law, they were not compelled to build the road across Freeland Mountain from the head of Little Pine to Spring Creek. Article II, Section 29, Constitution of North Carolina provided among other things that the Legislature shall pass no law, "authorizing the laying out, opening, altering, maintaining, or discontinuing of highways, streets, or alleys" or establishing or changing the lines of school districts." The County Commissioners built the road from the French Broad river at Redmon to the foot of Freeland Mountain, head of Little Pine Creek, at a cost of \$40,000.00 or \$50,000.00. They said they would not build the road across the mountain, which they said would cost about \$150,000.00, unless they were compelled to do so under the law, and asked the legal opinion of me as their attorney. I advised them they were not compelled to build the road, that the act of the Legislature commanding them to do so is not valid under the Constitution. They also asked my opinion as to the Cook Road bill, which provided for laying out certain roads and bonding the County for \$175,000.00. I advised that the bill under the Constitution (Carried to seventh page)

## FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

After being requested by so many of my friends from different sections of the County, I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Commissioner subject to the Republican primary to be held June 5th, 1926. If nominated and elected I will endeavor, to the very best of my ability to serve the people of all sections of the County.

I have had four years' experience as County Commissioner and 2 years of that time as Chairman. I believe that I understand the details of the office and know how the business of the office should be handled.

Thanking you all for your support in the past and asking for your vote and influence in the coming Primary,

I am,  
Yours to serve,

JONAS C. CHANDLER

## FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Ladies and Gentlemen: I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the action of the Republican Primary of June 5, 1926.

GARRETT BUCKNER

# 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

## PROPOSAL TO THE VOTERS OF MADISON COUNTY, AS A CANDIDATE FOR TAX COLLECTOR

Referring to Mrs. White's and Mr. G. C. Redmon's statement, I am in favor of the high man or lady being the nominee, thereby saving the county the expense of a second primary.

Yours to serve,  
J. H. SPRINKLE.

## PROPOSAL TO THE VOTERS OF MADISON COUNTY AND THE CANDIDATES FOR TAX COLLECTOR

As a candidate for the office of Tax Collector, I accept the suggestion made by my opponent, (Mr. Grover C. Redmon) that the high man or lady be the Nominee.

I am glad to do this, thereby saving the County extra expense.

Yours to serve,  
MRS. ANNIE MAY WHITE

# 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 5, 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