

: A Few Facts by N. B. McDevitt :

Representing Madison County should be considered some honor, but it is not a very paying job—just enough to pay for a room in a first class hotel in Raleigh. It has never been my intention to worry the voters of the county about electing me except to state a few facts and leave my case in the hands of the tax payers and voters. I believe the people should rule—so if you will keep what I say, if I should be elected, you will have all my promises right before you.

IN FAVOR OF ROADS

If elected I will stand by and support a State Highway System of roads in order that Madison County may have the benefit of state and county roads built and maintained by the state. And I say to the taxpayers of Madison County that I will stand for such roads in the east, in the south, in the west, north, middle or sides of Madison County. I say ALL and ANY roads that we are able to get from the state. I say that any road in the county, or all roads in the county that there is any possible prospect of getting if I am elected. I will go one better—I will vote for state bonds right up to the limit so that Madison County's part of the money will be sufficient to complete and maintain a first class system of roads in all parts of our county. I say to each and every township in the county: If you have a prospect of getting the state or the state and government, or the state and government and individual aid to open up and maintain you a road I will help you any time to the best of my ability, elected or defeated. If this is not plain to all the folks call on me in person and I will try to convince you that I am for roads. I figure that this is the only way we will ever have roads in Madison County. Ours is a poor hilly, rocky county and we shall never be able to build the roads except by a State Highway System. We need the aid of the state and richer counties.

I Oppose County Bonds Unless Voted by the Voters

Leave it to the state. The Legislature will furnish the funds. I think after the next Legislature meets the state will have funds to proceed with roads in Madison. And if elected I shall stand for legislation that will prohibit county or township bonds unless they are voted by the people. When the state completes a system of roads in Madison County I believe we will have main lines opening up all parts of the county. Then our road tax should be ample to take care of the side roads. I shall look with keen interest to seeing that the side roads have an equal division of our road tax spent on them, so that all the farmers will have the advantage of the road tax.

We have state maintained roads from Forks of Ivy to Yancey County line, from Ivy to Mars Hill, Mars Hill to Upper Laurel, Mars Hill to Marshall, Buncombe County via Marshall to Tennessee, up Laurel to Tennessee, Spring Creek—we should be able to make better side roads as the state takes over more roads to maintain. We pay lots of road tax to distribute on roads over the County.

FOR SCHOOLS AND FREE SCHOOL BOOKS

I favor each and every county in the state of North Carolina paying the same school tax sufficient to run an eight months free school and furnish free books. This should reduce Madison County's enormous 95c rate for 6 months schools in the neighborhood of half. I heartily endorse the policies of State Superintendent Allen & the recommendation of the Western Teachers' Assembly. I will stand by State Superintendent Allen if elected. My record for schools is known by the folks. I was on the Board of Education when the first three high schools started in Madison Co. and went on the map. I went on the Board when there were no funds to pay the teachers.

You little farmers' way back in the bushes on the head springs of some little creek, I know your feelings about your taxes, educating your children, and wading the mud shoe mouth deep. I've tried it, but my father did the best he could for me and I appreciate it. If I get to the Legislature I will do my best for you.

The population of Madison County in the last five years has decreased 20 to 25 per cent while it has increased in the adjoining counties. There is something wrong—BAD WRONG. We are leaders when it comes to high taxes. Lots of our folks are excited over values of real estate, but when we try selling very often we fail, just as it happened on Main Street in Marshall last week. We must educate our children, but our little boys need a shirt, a pair of overalls, and something to stick in their mouths and we must pay our taxes or die trying. If elected I shall use all possible power that I can muster to reduce the taxes in Madison County.

I favor Governor A. W. McLean's State Budget System for Madison County and if elected I have the evidence that I will have the support of the Governor. If elected, I will endeavor to get legislation providing that the County Commissioners and Board of Education be compelled to publish their budgets fully itemized and in detail 30 days before the final adoption of them and give the tax payers a hearing if they so desire. If this had been done before the last Educational Budget was passed on, I doubt seriously if the enormous salary, etc., of the County Superintendent would have been asked for, much less paid. I'd just like for the taxpayers to know about the Superintendent's salary that has been kept out of print.

If elected to represent Madison County I will try to pass a law compelling every Board and every county official that pays out or collects money to publish in the County Newspaper just after each first Monday a complete statement of the amount received and every item paid out and what it was paid for. It is the tax payer's money and the folks ought to know where it goes and what it goes for. Then they will be satisfied, or if dissatisfied they will know why.

I pay very little attention to false, silly rumors like this: that I have promised 75 miles of road in the county; that I am going to move Walnut School to Marshall; that I am trying to change Registrars and Judges of the election.

I desire to publicly thank Mr. Edney for his offer to join him in debate, but I was not interested as I felt that Mr. Edney is voluntarily or involuntarily in the hands of Hon. Jasper Ebbs and Supt. Dillard. And if Mr. Edney is elected it will just be another Cook case. Buncombe County will hand us our legislation in defeated candidates, higher taxes, doubled-up Superintendent's salaries, etc.

Edney is possibly a good boy and thinks he knows his stuff, but North Carolina's Democratic House and Buncombe's Senator would work him in the shafts with a blind bride without a crupper. Sometimes they say, "McDevitt can't do anything if elected." Too bad they say it—but what is the matter with Brother Ebbs, Brother Dillard, and their following? It is "Vote for Edney and get roads; vote for Edney, he can't do anything." Better just vote for a man who is with the majority, right with the Governor, CAN be responsible, and WILL be responsible for Madison County's legislation. If I am elected I will "lay off" little Grasshopper, Tom Cat, and Jay Birds bills and try to serve the people.

Our taxes must be reduced. Our burdened tax payers are paying among the few excessively high tax rates in the state. Taxes are almost prohibitive in our county. Taxes must be reduced in the county and I pledge to the people that if I am elected I will do everything in my power to reduce taxes in our county in keeping with adjoining counties.

Last April Brother Dillard told the folks about my being disgruntled and I replied with a few modest words April 16th. He then laid down the bat to take it up Oct. 15th behind the Marshall School Committee in the News-Record. First the Register of Deeds certifies as to his record, which shows that Marshall school district at 95c pays so much, but that is a county fund and should be eliminated from the statement, at 30c so much, and that the Railroad Company pays so much. Please note that the register of deeds is not certifying to corrections, of non-partisan article, just his records. Now, the remaining figures come from Mr. Dillard's records. The "Non-Partisan" article is not in line with the policies of North Carolina. The state provides that every school district in the state must have a six months school and if the county is unable to pay for it the state puts down the balance. In Madison's case the state is putting down \$25,512.58 for our six months schools.

The Marshall School Committee that signed the "Non-Partisan" article are not quoting from any records they keep. They are all good men, fine business men, moneyed men, men of power and influence. I say that it is possible that they just signed the statement on the dotted line. I don't think they would knowingly try to mislead the people by making them think the \$24,492.22 derived from a 95c levy to run six months schools in Madison County is a district fund as it is not. Don't try to fool the folks.

Taking "Non-Partisan" figures—here it is! Marshall's special tax at 30c on \$100.00, \$7,978.70. This is what Marshall has to run its school after six months, pay its principal, teachers, etc. Expense "Non-Partisan" article: Incidentals and building, \$2,672.25. Teachers' salaries 9 months, \$9,145.92. Teachers' salaries 3 months, \$3,048.94. Newbuilding, \$8,943.00. Coal and janitor, \$600.00.

"Non-Partisan" left out what the district owes on the old building on the hill. WHO, OH, WHO IS GOING TO GET THAT \$45,000.00 SCHOOL HOUSE THAT WE DISCARDED? Here are the state figures for this year; you can see the letter—\$3,894.25. Total amount to be paid out—\$19,158.44 and we have the \$7,978.70 with which to pay. Our Marshall OVERDRAFT—\$11,179.74.

This reminds me of a six-page bill that J. W. Nelson was asked to pass, (I have the original bill referred to), when he represented Madison County in the Legislature to incorporate Marshall School and give us all the funds away from the remainder of the county.

I did not want to spend the people's money in the river, but Honorable Jasper Ebbs did. He had the power! If it ever washes away you county folks must build another one and help pay for this one. G. L. McKinney, and Wm. V. Farmer were ousted off the Marshall School Committee and E. N. Holcombe dropped by Uncle Jasper to make room for the "Deep-River School House Committee," A. W. Whitehurst, E. R. Tweed, and S. B. Roberts. You ought to come to town and hear A. W. Whitehurst, Uncle Jasper and Supt. Dillard on "Edney." I just want to say to Brother Whitehurst that I am not going to say one word against his bank.

Mars Hill, Walnut, and Hot Springs High School buildings were built on the same principles I have suggested—viz: for the districts to pay for them out of their special tax and run their schools after six months. But the burdened tax payers are tried to be fooled and I am made out as a liar again.

Who is this little crowd of money kings who are fighting me day and night? Is this the same gang that took down Hon. John Hendricks and trotted out Hon. W. A. West?

"McDevitt must be defeated if it costs \$10,000.00." Don't be excited, boys—"The die is cast" and the schoolhouse is built in the river. The argument is closed until some brother wants to take another shot at me. There is nothing to be done about it. Don't get it into your head that I am going to legislate on it—"It can't be did." Lots of folks have told me that if I am elected Uncle Jasper is going to resign—if I am defeated I guess he will be on the Board at the Judgment.

The three men who are nominated for Commissioners to be elected and take the oath of office in December have indicated to me that they stand for economy and a reduction in taxes. If this is right, and the folks will know, if I am elected the Board of Commissioners will be in perfect order with me. On the other hand, if the Commissioners who are running tell you that they want to bond Madison County to the limit, raise the taxes, and oppress the tax payers, then I tell you that I am with the tax payers. Less officers and economy is what we need, if we can get economy.

A few years ago when I went on the Board of Education, the task we had to devote our time to was getting enough money to pay the teachers and keep the schools running and pay back borrowed money.

I want to see all the folks have good school buildings and I have never opposed any new buildings, except I opposed the location of the Marshall building in the French Broad River.

I positively will not appoint any Highway Commissioner or Road Board for Madison County—and have not promised to create any new offices or appoint any of my relations or supporters to office. Would be glad if Mr. Edney and Mr. Whitehurst would consult me to find out if the things they are telling I am going to do—are true.

You will find my name on the ticket for Representative. If you feel that I can serve you best, I will appreciate your vote. If you elect me without money I'll thank you and do my best for you.

N. B. McDEVITT.

After the copy of what I stand for was set up by the News-Record Printing Co., I was called to Mars Hill and in the presence of four responsible men I received one of Mr. Edney's circulars. To show the people of Madison County Mr. Edney's style of making a campaign, and the style of the crowd of money kings that is fighting me in Marshall and telling anything on me that they can think of, I am paying my good money to the News-Record to reproduce an exact copy of Mr. Edney's circular that he is putting out at the last minute to defeat me, all of which is false and malicious. Here is Mr. Edney's circular:

PEOPLE OF MADISON

ARE WE FACING ANOTHER BIG BOND ISSUE?

A BOND ISSUE OF \$500,000 TO \$750,000 WOULD ABOUT

the expense of the taxpayers, and perhaps that is why some are working so hard for him. He is ambitious. He is wealthy. He is a big merchant, and in his zeal to win he seems to forget that the poor people who make their living by the sweat of their brow at hard work, will have to pay these new commissioners salaries. But these salaries are not all the people will have to pay. Why should these Highway Commissioners be appointed if there is not a job for them? The only job for a Highway Commission is to build highways. It is alleged that Mr. McDevitt has promised highways in almost every community in order to get each particular community vote for him. A total of all the new roads that it is alleged he has promised to build is between 50 and 75 miles. That much road would cost, to be graded and surfaced, at least three-quarters of a million dollars (\$750,000.00). People, can you stand this? Are you going to let somebody "sweet talk" you into higher taxes, and make salaried party officers? I don't believe the people are going to let the same old line that fooled them twice before, fool them again. If they do they will have to "pay the adder."

we, the people of Madison, stand another Big Bond Issue just to satisfy Mr. McDevitt's supporters? I don't think we should have to do this. I am in favor of, and will use my utmost influence to get the state to build hard surfaced roads in Madison County. We have not had our share of state roads, and the state should help our people more because we are poor. But we can't afford, with wheat only \$1.20 per bushel, corn 90c, oats 40c, with no lumbering, no public works to issue bonds to the amount of \$500,000.00 to \$750,000.00 and tax the poor people that work out their taxes by hard labor, just to satisfy Mr. McDevitt's ambition to pay his political supporters. We deserve more roads and need longer schools, but we should not bankrupt the whole county in an attempt to build roads up every little creek. We should build our county roads in such a way as the taxpayer can stand the taxes.

This is not a last minute false report. It is the truth and can be proved that Mr. McDevitt has said he would create a Highway Commission and I have been begging him personally and through the paper to come out before the public and show what he has in mind, but he won't come out in the open.

Mr. McDevitt has promised, and said that if he is elected as Representative he will appoint more Commissioners. Or that he will appoint a Highway Commission. Mr. McDevitt seems to want to reward his political workers and political friends by making high salaried jobs for them at just about reached his limit of paying high taxes. How can

This is published for Mr. Edney and his supporters by

N. B. McDEVITT.