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CIRCULATION-1975

MR. DILLARD NOT TO BLAME FOR DEFICIT IN MADISON

Some days ago The Citizen published a special from Marshall about an alleged deficit in the public school funds. It develops that this deficit was purely technical and was reported by the retiring superintendent, Prof. O. S. Dillard against whom no sort of blame attaches. In justice to Prof. Dillard The Citizen publishes the following communication which gives the facts in the case and explains in detail the matter of the alleged deficit:

Asheville, N. C.
Aug. 13, 1927

Editor Asheville Citizen,
Asheville, N. C.

Dear Sir:

In your issue of Aug. 4th you carried an article on the front page of your paper in which was alleged that there had been discovered a shortage of \$40,000 in the public school funds of Madison county, in which I had been serving as County Superintendent for the past two years. In this statement it was alleged that my records were "inadequate and incomplete" and that "the only explanation as to what disposition was made of the sum was a verbal one and not recorded in the books in his office," and, further, "that an audit had been ordered by the board to discover the alleged shortage."

Since this article has been broadcast I ask that the same prominence be given to the contents of this article as to the one which appeared in your paper of Aug. 4th. First, I wish to state that my records and reports had been checked by Dr. W. E. Finley and were left with the proper authorities at Marshall upon my retirement from office July 1. Since that time they have been rechecked and verified and found absolutely correct. I, herewith, present an affidavit signed by Superintendent C. M. Blankenship and also a statement given out by Dr. W. E. Finley, Special Auditor and J. N. White, County Auditor substantiating my statement.

State of North Carolina
Madison County
C. M. Blankenship, County Superintendent of Schools of Madison county being duly sworn deposes and says: That the said deponent is County Superintendent of Schools of Madison county, and that he assumed said office on the first day of July, 1927, succeeding O. S. Dillard to that position.

That on the assumption of said office all records, etc., of said office were left in his care or in the safe of the county auditor.

And further that on the morning of Aug. 4th, 1927, that there was published in the Asheville Citizen a daily paper published in the City of Asheville, an article headed "Deficit \$40,000.00 Found in Madison School Funds; that the article named above was a purported interview by the correspondent of the Asheville Citizen with the said Deponent, Carl M. Blankenship.

The said deponent further swears that the matter of a deficit aggregating from \$30,000 to \$40,000 has been known by the Board of Education for several months, that a certified public accountant in conjunction with the county superintendent of schools at that time made an estimate of the deficit that would exist in the school funds as of July 1, and that said report of said auditor was published in the News-Record, under the signature of the chairman of the Board of Education, Wiley M. Roberts shortly after the incoming of the present administration.

The deponent further swears that he did not state to the Correspondent of the Citizen that the records of Superintendent Dillard were "inadequate" and "incomplete," and that the only explanation of said deficit was a "verbal one," and further that no statement was given to the correspondent that the expenditures were not recorded or were not recorded properly.

The deponent further swears that a financial report of the receipts and disbursements of superintendent Dillard were left with the authorities before his going away, and that the audit just completed by Dr. W. E. Finley, shows that the expenditures and receipts as reported in said report of Superintendent Dillard agree to the penny with what his audit shows, and that there is no evidence of any money misappropriated.

Further the said deponent swears that:

(Signed) C. M. BLANKENSHIP
Co. Supt. Schools,
Madison County
Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 6th day of Aug. 1927.
(Signed) C. M. GAGE,
Justice of the Peace

The following statement taken from report of W. E. Finley, Special Auditor, and J. N. White, County Auditor, as published in the News-Record of August 12th:

We wish to say that there is a voucher for every cent spent during the year and that the books of county

superintendent are a true copy of these vouchers and when checked and audited, show that not a cent was spent except for legitimate expense and by order of the County Board of Education. These vouchers are in the County Auditor's possession.

"Until the present time, the County Auditor has had nothing to do with these accounts and therefore signs this statement. From now on he will have charge under the new accounting system.

"Not the least stigma can be placed against the name of Mr. Dillard, as he accounts by voucher for every cent, and shows exactly where it was spent.

"Every item of expense was allowed by the County Board of Education in open session and all teachers salaries were paid by order of local committee.

"We do say that the County Board of Education has spent more than the budget each year and now has to make the reckoning."

Trusting that you will give this same prominence in your paper as you did the other article, I am,
Yours very truly,
O. S. DILLARD.

"Night of Love" A Romantic Spectacle

With hand to hand fighting between dazed Spanish grandees and courageous outlaws; with a Moorish Bacchanalian orgy featuring beautiful women dancing to the cracking music of a Spanish bull whip; with fights and duels and a marvelously impressive "miracle"; tender love scenes and a dozen spectacles rolled into one, the George Fitzmaurice production of "The Night of Love," which comes to the PRINCESS THEATRE at Marshall, N. C. should please everybody.

In a big scene of the picture Ronald Colman faces death at the stake with the lighted fagots already flaming around his knees. In one of the opening scenes, the beautiful Vilma Banky huris herself over a 500-foot cliff, rather than suffer at the hands of the bandit.

The picture is replete with thrills enough for a dozen productions. It opens with a gypsy wedding ceremony staged in the style, beauty and color of four hundred years ago. The first thrill comes when the bandit-outlaws under the leadership of Ronald Colman, storm the castle of the duke and kidnap their duchess (Vilma Banky) on her wedding night. There is hand-to-hand fighting on the steps of the huge castle with bandits and Spanish noblemen hurled through seventy-five feet of space as they are shoved over the edge of the ramparts.

In one of the most unusual scenes ever staged for any production, Ronald Colman serves dinner to the duke and duchess whom he has kidnapped on their wedding night and taken to his outlaw stronghold. The situation becomes tense and dramatic as they are made by such skilled artists as Mr. Colman, Miss Banky and Montagu Love.

A GREAT PICTURE—DON'T MISS THIS ONE.

WOMAN IS HURT

Mrs. E. E. Smith Of Hot Springs In A Serious Condition

Mrs. E. E. Smith, wife of E. E. Smith, merchant and bakery operator of Hot Springs, is in a serious condition in a Newport, Tennessee hospital where she was carried Saturday, after having suffered a severe blow on the head sometime, probably late, Saturday night.

It seems that Mr. and Mrs. Smith had attended a party at the home of Mrs. Ricker at Paint Rock Saturday night and were returning to their home at Hot Springs, when, according to Mr. Smith, his wife leaped from the car and was injured. According to a deputy sheriff, the man gave no other explanation as to how his wife was injured. She was carried to her home, but has been in an unconscious condition since, it was said.

There is some mystery about the affair and it is very probable that an investigation will be made.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are well known in Hot Springs. Whether or not anyone was with them at the time Mrs. Smith is alleged to have leaped from the car, is not known.

FIRE SIREN TOWER BUILT

The construction of a tower on top of the City Hall here, on which the large fire alarm siren, which was ordered by the Board of Aldermen several days ago, will be placed, is now underway. The siren cost \$400, it is said, and can be heard for several miles. Both the siren and the new fire truck costing more than \$3,000 are expected to arrive soon.

No friendship will stand the test that stands on sordid interest, and mean self-loved erected.—Corcoran

PERKINS GIVEN PRELIMINARY TRIAL FOR ROBBERY

John Perkins, whose home is said to be in or near Asheville, was given a preliminary hearing before Justice of the Peace, Clarence M. Gage, at his office here Saturday, on a charge of assisting in the robbery of the store of J. S. Brown, prominent merchant of Waverly, some time ago. He was bound over to the August term of court.

His two alleged accomplices, a man named Johnson, an another, who gave his name as Reagan, are already serving sentences for criminal offenses, one of them on the Buncombe County chain gang, and the other for three years in State prison, although the State prison man is said to have escaped a few days ago. However, the Buncombe County chain gang prisoner was brought here at the hearing. The trio removed a quantity of merchandise such as overalls and candy from the Waverly store, and also took about 26 cents from the postoffice located in the same building, according to Mr. Gage.

THE ALLENSTAD ROAD WORK

Mr. F. W. Webster, Division Engineer of the State Highway Department at Knoxville, Tenn. Department writes Mr. A. W. Whitehurst the following in regard to the Greenville-Allenstand road. The letter explains itself to our readers:

Mr. A. W. Whitehurst, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Marshall, N. C.
Dear Sir:—

In reply to your letter of August 11th, I wish to advise that the condition of the road referred to in your letter between Greenville and Allenstand is so bad that I do not believe anything would be gained by immediate work on the mountain. In order for this road to be of any real service, my judgment is that the whole length of the road will have to be reconstructed, and it is our plan to do this. It is our plan to use every means in our power to expedite this work. We believe that we will have the work practically completed before winter so that the route will be open, but this we cannot guarantee because of possible uncertain weather conditions. I can only say that we expect to endeavor to the best of our ability to complete the whole work. The condition of our organization with respect to equipment is such that we are not able at this time to move another force on the mountain as requested, but we do expect to use every endeavor in our power to expedite the work with a view of trying to finish up the whole length of this road at least sufficiently to provide reasonably fair traffic service this winter.

Very truly yours,
F. W. WEBSTER,
Division Engineer.

SOUTHERN EXTENDS USE OF TRAIN STOP DEVICE OVER NEW ORLEANS LINE

Cincinnati, Ohio, August 18—The entire line of the Southern Railway System between Cincinnati and New Orleans, 835 miles, is now protected by the automatic train control system as well as by automatic electric block signals, the installation of train control having been completed and the apparatus put in service August 3, on the line between Meridian, Miss., and New Orleans, 202 miles. Train control was put in service on the line between Chattanooga and Meridian, 297 miles, on July 5.

The line between Cincinnati and New Orleans is the longest continuous line of railway in the United States equipped with automatic train control with the single exception of the Southern's line between Cincinnati and Jacksonville, 840 miles.

The Southern now has automatic train control in service on 2,507 miles of track and is equipping 897 additional miles which will give it a grand total of 3,374 miles protected by this modern safety device.

AIM

One ship drives east another west. With the self-same winds that blow; 'Tis the set of the sails And not the gales, Which decides the way to go. Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate.

Allie—"Why! We are going to live on real estate."
Miss Moore—"Oh, I didn't know you was a farmer!"

The American Soybean Association meets at Washington, North Carolina, on August 9.

The early molting hens should be culled and sold. Keep the late molters for breeding.

TAXES, HERE AND THERE!

Written by Ina Piemmons.

In the year 1925 the federal taxes were reduced three hundred and thirty six millions of dollars, and from the year 1923 to 1923 real estate values increased two hundred and sixty-nine per cent, according to the investigation of the U. S. Agriculture department, this increase was on farm lands. Thus it is seen that the Federal Government is reducing the tax burdens on the big corporations, while the State and counties are increasing the burden on the farmers and smaller taxpayers.

The last legislature provided a commission for the study of taxation in North Carolina, and the Governor appointed this commission and when the farmers waked up they found that not one single farmer was appointed on that board. I do not quite understand what and how this commission is to make their study, but I rather think that it is for the purpose to find out if there is any way to put more taxes on the smaller taxpayers. This remains to be seen, but our tax receipts will in a year or so reflect the purpose of that board. To say the least of it, it's rather difficult to understand why no farmer was put on this board.

The year 1925-26 the state school expenditures were the enormous sum of \$32,443,426.07. Total current expenditures for the same period was \$22,812,833.65—the pages 13 and 14, tables two and three, State Supt. Report. The total number of teachers employed was 23,128 and the total number of pupils enrolled was 818,793. It is to be noted that the average expenditure for each child per year is 39.62. It would seem from Mr. Allen's report that the school system is floating along very cheaply, but if Mr. J. F. Spainhour is to be believed, these figures do not tell all the story. Mr. Spainhour in a letter in the people's forum in the News and Observer of July 27 this year states that "It takes more than \$14,000 a day to run Allen's office." He also says that "Everybody can see that \$20,000.00 could be saved each year, and the schools improved, by letting the summer school faculties issue the teachers' certificates." I have never seen any denial on the part of State Supt. Allen to the charges made, and if there is no denial on his part we are inclined to accept Mr. Spainhour's statement as true. If these conditions are true it's high time something was done.

I cannot get it through my head that the State Supt. office requires \$14,000.00 per day to keep it going to give the public the proper service. For the present at least I do not want to say anything about the deficit in the school funds of our own County—before I do I want to know the facts. Some time ago I wrote the County Chairman for the facts and so far have not had a word from him. The papers claim that there is something like \$40,000.00 deficit. The audit will be out before this article is published and we will have the report for study.

Now let us turn to some of the injustices of our own County system. If a justice of the peace tries a case and fines the defendant, that fine must be sent in within thirty days—no objection to that, but if the same justice of the peace binds over the defendant and he is found guilty, the cost is charged up together with the fine and all of it paid to the clerk of the court. There are several witnesses that have coming to them cost of a dollar or so. Now the clerk does not send out checks to pay these witnesses or the justice's costs, but waits until they go to his office and sign the books. Many times the cost required for the Justice and the witnesses to go to the county seat is more than the amount due them, so they just forget it and the money that justly belongs to them remains in the hands of the clerk, and after two years it goes into the general County funds. To my mind this is not right.

Men are summoned to the courts and must attend, and it's right that the clerk be given the authority to send out their fees for the attendance when it's paid into his hands. As I understand the clerk has no authority to do this but it's perhaps within the power of the County commissioners to direct him to do it.

These are small matters but right wrongs no one, and the retention of these fees is only another way of taxing the fellow because it costs more to collect than the account is worth. We should render unto every man that, that is his by right.

What is the year 1927 going to bring to us? A county-wide valuation of \$10,484,655.00 at a tax rate of \$2.05. The County equalization board raised the valuation \$285,955.00 so we can have very little if any less taxes than we had last year. And should it come out that the deficit in the school funds amounts to \$40,000.00 then I can see how either this or next year the taxpayers are going to furnish about that amount of good greenback paint to cover. True we are to have from the State equalization fund about \$40,000.00 but it's spent and gone even before we receive it. I can understand why the

richer counties of the State are getting tired of dividing with us when money is so carelessly or recklessly spent.

If a State highway happens to run by a farmer's home, the tax assessors at once increase the valuation of the farm, when the same farm will not produce one more blade of grass than it did before, and in most cases not one cent of damage is allowed to the farmer even if some of his buildings are removed. The system increases the overhead but leaves the income the same or less. Is it right?

MILLION POUNDS OF TOBACCO SOLD

Crop Is Perhaps Greatest Ever Grown in Southeastern N. C.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Aug. 15. Tobacco growers of three counties in the Southeastern section of the State bordering on South Carolina went into the first full week of the 1927 season today by selling close to a million pounds of the golden weed for an average price of about \$22 per hundred.

While there was a lot of upstake tobacco offered, which brought handsome prices there were thousands of baskets of primings or first leaves holding what would otherwise have been a record-breaking average for the second week to less than \$25 per hundred pounds.

Despite threatening clouds and occasional showers the proud owners of possibly the greatest tobacco crop ever grown in this section of the State went to their respective markets and received in return profits which occasioned no dissatisfaction, according to those visiting the majority of the farms.

Whiteville reporting officially for the first time shows 198,574 pounds sold for an average of \$21.50 per hundred. This mart giving official figures for the first four days of the season sold 788,427 pounds for an average of \$19.60 per hundred.

Clarkton sold 56,524 pounds for \$12,374.48 or an average of \$21.59 per hundred. This mart one of the fastest growing in the belt is showing marked improvement over last year while the older markets are also breaking their own records.

From Fairmont comes the official statement of 286,272 pounds for a total of \$66,771 an average of \$23.32. The majority of the weed offered was primings with 32 per cent, of the second and third topping and three per cent fourth topplings. That the companies are looking for better grades and are prepared to bid briskly on the up-stalk is indicated by the sale of several baskets at prices ranging from \$30 to \$51 per hundred pounds.

Lumberton likewise shows an increase in price, figures giving that market an average of \$21.71 for the break of 210,767 or a total of \$45,774.11. Robeson's capital market is going strong this year according to information from that town and record-breaking sales are being made.

Markets reporting officially today are as follows:

Location	Pounds	Average
Lumberton	210,767	\$21.71
Fairmont	286,272	23.32
Clarkton	56,524	21.59
Whiteville	198,574	21.59

Markets not reporting officially in the border counties were Tabor, Chadbourn and Fair Bluff.

WHY SHORTAGE NOT PUBLISHED

Editor News-Record,
Marshall, N. C.
Dear Sir:—

I notice a letter to you published in the News-Record from Mr. J. D. Hensley, of Hot Springs, N. C., asking why the shortage in the school funds had not been published before Prof. Blankenship went in as Superintendent.

I wish to say in answer to Mr. Hensley's question that up until the present time that the Auditor of the County has had absolutely nothing whatever to do with the finances of the Board of Education and knew nothing whatever about the deficit in the School Funds, nor anyone else except the Board of Education until the last session of the Legislature at which time they passed a state-wide law requiring the County Auditor to audit the School Books as well as all other books in the different departments of the county, showing just how the county stands financially. That is what I have done and if Mr. Hensley will read the News-Record of August 12th, 1927 he will see a complete statement showing the condition of the county.

Respectfully,
J. N. WHITE, Auditor.

TALC MILL MOVES

The plant of the Georgia Talc Company, of Asheville, located near the Southern railway to the east end of town, is being dismantled, and will be removed to another location at an early date. Already the electric wiring and a greater part of the machinery has been removed.

JOSEPHUS DANIELS WILL SPEAK AT CULLOWHEE

Madison County Girl Will Be One on The Program At The Same Time.

Hon. Josephus Daniels, Editor of the News and Observer, and Secretary of the Navy during Wilson's administration, will be the August commencement speaker at the Cullowhee State Normal School, according to information made public by President H. T. Hunter today. Mr. Daniels will deliver an address—the subject of which has not yet been announced—on the evening of August 30th, at which time the summer quarter graduates of the Normal department will receive their diplomas. At that time, the largest graduating class in the history of the institution will have completed their Normal Course. The class numbers 27. The school, according to President Hunter, feels indeed fortunate in being able to secure Mr. Daniels for this occasion. An appropriate musical program will complete the evening's exercises.

Class day exercises will be held on Tuesday morning. They will be of a different nature from the usual ceremonies held on class days. The August Seniors have chosen to have an inspirational essay read which will present North Carolina's need for more supervisors. This essay, written and read by Miss Rachel Eaton, of Cana, will serve, it is hoped, to present an incentive for the graduating students to continue their education in other institutions of learning.

Other features of the morning program will be the reading of the class poem, by Miss Mae Thelma Roberts of Marshall, class poet; presentation of the class gift to the school, Morgan Cooper; reading, Miss Harriette Brendle, of Franklin; group of songs, Mrs. H. F. Burley, Ravensford; folk dances by class groups; chorus, by the class.

Class officers are as follows: Miss Tennie Privette, Statesville, President; Mrs. H. F. Burley, Ravensford, Vice-President; Miss Harriette Brindle, Franklin, Secretary-Treasurer; Miss Emma Cox, Graham, Reporter; Professor W. E. Bird, Sponsor; Sara Ann Bird, daughter of Professor Bird, Mascot. The class flower is the goldenrod, which grows so profusely in this section; the class colors are yellow and white.

The Seniors represent 18 counties. Haywood county leads with four students; those having two representatives are Jackson, Alamance, Buncombe, Union, Cleveland, and Pitt Counties. The following are represented by one graduate; Macon, Transylvania, Currituck.

MADISON TEACHERS CULLOWHEE GRADUATES

A number of the teachers, who, according to an announcement in the Asheville Citizen, have been employed to serve in the Madison County Schools, during the following year are well remembered as former students at Cullowhee State Normal School. Mr. Homer Henry, who will be principal of the Marshall school is an alumnus of Cullowhee. Other Marshall teachers who attended this institute are Miss Maggie Ward and R. R. Cole, who will teach first and seventh grades respectively. Bonnie Ammons, and Bex Ramsey, and Palma Carter have been students at Cullowhee. Mrs. Fred Sams, Miss Bonnie Ammons, and Bex Ramsey, who are to teach at Mars Hill high school, are former students. Misses Jennie Chandler and Ada Whittington, of Hot Springs school were trained at Cullowhee.

RECORD SALES OF CIGARETTES

In 1852 was grown the first crop of the so-called "bright" tobacco, the tobacco out of which 80 per cent of all cigarettes is made, at least in part. And recent figures show that the cigarette growth has been phenomenal. While a negligible number were manufactured seventy-five years ago, the statistics for 1926 show a sale of 85 billion.

Within a few years of the growing of the first crop of the "bright" came the cigarette machine. This combination—the tobacco that proved itself best for cigarette use and the machine that cut cost and increased cleanliness—had an immediate effect on the market, as shown in figures of a few years following. In 1869, more than two billion cigarettes were smoked in Europe and America. One year later the figures of the United States alone were nearly fourteen million and by 1890 had gone beyond the two billion mark.

Tom Tarheel says he has culled out all the old hen and layers from his flock so that he will not have to feed them this winter.