

## POLITICS AND TAXES, HERE AND THERE!

(By IRA FLEMMONS)

I have read with a good deal of interest the answer to my questions to the legislative candidates of our County from the gentleman from Buncombe.

If the candidates want to be bound by his answer I do not have the slightest objection. If Mr. Rector has been employed to answer for them I do not deny him the right as their attorney to do so. But let our candidates say whether or not Mr. Rector is speaking for them.

My friend, Mr. J. F. Bryan, has a perfect right to express his views as to the office of Farm Demonstrator and I respect those rights and am glad to have his views; on the other hand, he seems to charge me with selfishness. For his information, beg to say that I do some farming and am more than interested in the welfare of every farmer of the county. If it's for the best interests of the farmers to have a demonstrator, then they should have him, if the taxpayers can afford to pay the bills. If our candidates will come out and say how they feel about all these questions the voters will settle these matters at the polls.

For the information of one Mr. Frank A. Daly, of Buncombe, will say that our farm demonstrator needs no defense in his hands; we know him and know about his work. If Mr. Daly will help with Buncombe's graveyard deals and the Sweeten Creek road deals he will perhaps have less time to give to the affairs of Madison County. I really believe that our citizenship is competent to handle their own matters and will do so. If Mr. Daly were an attorney, I should think he and Mr. Rector were appearing together for our candidates, and yet I do not think our candidates need someone to guide them in their views as all of them are gentlemen and think for themselves, and I believe they will be willing to express themselves on the many vital questions that our people are now facing.

The total tax increase from 1920 to 1926 was \$21,013,894, an increase of 437.5 per cent, while for the last few years the prices of all the farm and farmers' products have declined and farm values are still on the decline. The question is, can we afford all the things we should like to have? Can the taxpayers bear any more, or even the present, tax burdens that are upon them? I think that we must have some relief if we are to stay at home and call that home our own. If farm products remained constant in value and money did the same we would have a better chance to find out just what is best for us. But farm values do not remain constant in value, while the tax burdens climb higher and higher each year. I really do not believe that there is one-fourth of our farmers and business men that made last year two per cent net profit, and yet some men who own business property earn six per cent on \$35,000 and list the same property for the small sum of \$7,000 for taxation. If someone wants the specifications I shall be glad to furnish them.

A gentleman came into my office a few days ago and asked me to sell a piece of his land so he could pay his taxes; he could not pay them last year, and his property was sold—and now another year's taxes are to be paid. This man must sacrifice a very important part of his home property to pay. Does this man resent this condition? Yes, and he has a right to resent them. Is it the wish of this man to create more offices, bond for more money and further increase his burdens and those of his wife and children? I think not. This case is not the only one—there are hundreds of others—and yet some would raise the salaries and create more offices. Is it possible that we have men that are so selfish and greedy as to squeeze that blood, and tear the bodies of little children for money? That money collected under the guise of the law. I will do without many and all of what is termed public conveniences before I can be a party to things of that kind. If some child is under-fed and under-clothed, by reason of the tax burden, and loses its life on that account, are not the powers that be guilty of a crime of capital importance? And yet the culprits are protected under the guise of law, and their acts are called lawful.

In all these discussions, I am not pleading my own cause any more than others. I can perhaps get along a while longer, but many that I know are facing dire distress, and that distress could be relieved in proportion to what extra taxes they have to pay to their reasonable ability to pay, and that difference, I believe, will help a very great percentage of our people.

Where are we driving in this debt business? Is it to such poverty that reputation must take place? I hope not, and if we stop where we are, we can pay, and will, but if this burden of taxation is carried much further, one of the two things must certainly happen. Of course, that fellow that can get of the public money sufficient to pay his bills will turn up his nose at this suggestion, because his bed is of down and a cover of silk and velvet, but how about those people that are furnishing the tax money for this

comfort? Are some public officials wearing children's clothes and eating their food? By reason of the tax situation men who have money will not invest it. They are not building, and therefore the poorer classes have no work. If the tax situation were such that men who have money could spend it with the assurance that they could make a very nominal profit, I believe that we would hear the ring of the hammer and saw everywhere.

Capital is being kept away from the State for no other reason than that the burden of taxation is too heavy. No finer country can be found than our good State, everything inviting except the public burden. The State would function as it does now on about one-half the officers, and many of the counties have lots more officers than they need. Do away with the unnecessary offices and get full value out of every dollar of the tax money and we would get nearly the same service on two-thirds of the taxes now paid.

What say our candidates for the legislative offices? What do you stand for?

## FOUR STILLS ARE CAPTURED

The persistent 24-hour activity of Sheriff R. R. Ramsey and members of his department in combating the manufacturing of whiskey in the mountain sections of this county, is proving rather detrimental to the prospects of the operators of the "mountain dew plants." The capture of four outfits raring in capacity from 40 to 75 gallons was reported here Saturday morning by Sheriff Ramsey. Two were taken from the Little Pine Creek section, one from the Sandy Mush section, and the fourth came from the Dog branch community near Sandy Bottoms, several miles west of here.

Ab. Stines, of the Little Pine Creek section, was arrested and is at liberty under bond of \$500. Three other men were chased into the mountains where they are hiding. However, Sheriff Ramsey stated that information as to identification and whereabouts of the trio was in his possession.

A total of 14 outfits, eight men arrested, and eight other violators in hiding from the arm of the law are the results of the past several days' clean-up campaign in Madison. A loaded docket at the next term of court is expected to result, and the efforts of the officers are being highly commended by the citizens.

—Asheville Citizen.

## CHINESE OPERETTA AT SCHOOL

Acclaimed by an audience of close to 1200 citizens and students, who packed the Marshall high school auditorium Friday night to witness its presentation, as one of the most entertaining and interesting features on the 1928 commencement program, so far, the Chinese operetta, "The Legend of the Willow Plate," was given by a large cast of grammar grade students under the personal direction of Miss Ethel Redmon.

Those participating in the operetta were as follows: Teddy Robinson, Edd Calloway, Fields Holcombe, Bernard Payne, Hugh Rector, Harold Eads, Edward Rector, Otto Henderson, John Gage, Martha Lee Deaver, Paul Payne, Carrie Godfrey, Katy Sams, Harry Jones, J. P. Pritchard, Wendell McDevitt, J. C. Dodson, Lee Bryant, Harry Lee Giezantanner, Monroe Ramsey, S. B. Roberts, Jr., Ted Rector, Adolphus Fox.

## DATES FIXED BY THE DEMOCRATS

Resolutions fixing dates for Precinct Meetings, County Conventions and State Convention of Democratic Party.

Be it resolved by the State Democratic Executive Committee in session, this March 6, 1928:

(1) That the precinct meetings for the selection of delegates to Democratic county conventions shall be held at the polling places in all the precincts of the State at 2 o'clock P. M., on Saturday, the 26th day of May, 1928.

(2) That county conventions for the election of delegates to the State convention shall be held in all the counties of the State in the county seat at 11 o'clock A. M., on Saturday, the 9th day of June, 1928.

(3) That the State Democratic Convention shall be held in the City of Raleigh at 12 o'clock M., on Tuesday, the 12th day of June, 1928.

DENNIS G. BRUMMITT, State Chairman  
W. C. Coughenhour, Secretary.

"Did you hear what happened to Jones?"  
"No, do tell."  
"He got drunk in Venice and tried to lie down in the gutter."

## Songs of Plain Folks

By James Lewis Hays

### The Attic

Mother, beware the attic!  
You'll find a sadness there—  
Your slender, jolly school dress,  
Or a dusty little chair.  
And, Oh, how they come thronging—  
The glad, forgotten years!  
Never go to the attic,  
For it may give you tears.

Dad's track shoes in the attic  
Tell him of races run  
When pennant challenged pennant  
And life was royal fun.  
And then, though it is pleasure  
To muse on battles bold,  
He feels the galloping minutes  
Making him gray and old.

Never go to the attic  
Unless you are very young—  
Old books are bound in memories  
And have a wistful tongue;  
Old clothes fit hopes forgotten,  
Old playthings seem to say,  
"The minutes, the flying minutes  
Are carrying Youth away!"



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## BIG FIRE IN MARSHALL

McDEVITT WHOLESALE GROCERY STORE SUFFERS LOSS

Considerable excitement prevailed in Marshall last Saturday night when a fire broke out at the wholesale store of N. B. McDevitt in flames.

Three possible causes of the fire have been advanced but nothing is sure. Matches stored on second floor, a short circuit in elevator wire, or thieves breaking at back door have been given as possible causes. The damage is estimated at from \$3000 to \$5000 on the building, while Mr. McDevitt says that he estimates about \$3000 of his \$25,000 stock will be saved. Mr. McDevitt says the loss is about half covered by insurance. The building is owned by Mr. Roy Gudger and Mr. Caney Ramsey.

## BANQUET OF BANK STOCKHOLDERS

A banquet for the stockholders of the Citizens Bank at Marshall and Hot Springs will be held at the Masonic Hall at 7 P. M., Thursday, May 3rd. The wives of the stockholders are also invited and it is expected about fifty plates will be prepared. The ladies of the Eastern Star chapter will prepare the supper. Special music will be furnished by Madison County talent. An enjoyable event is anticipated.

## CULLOWHEE STATE NORMAL SPRING ENROLLMENT

The Cullowhee State Normal has gone beyond all expectations in its spring enrollment. At the beginning of the spring quarter, the total enrollment of the session had reached 296 normal students. There are no high school students included in this number. The registration for the special six weeks of the spring quarter has just ended, adding 53 more names to the list, bringing the grand total attendance for the session to 349. This represents an increase of 79 per cent over the attendance of normal students in 1926-'27. It is an increase of 57 per cent over the previous year, even if one includes the senior class of the high school, which was carried by the Normal last year. To have eliminated the high school, and at the same time increased the total attendance by 127 in one year is cause for jubilation among the faculty and students. A similar increase another year would bring the total attendance for 1928-29 to near 500.

"Did you hear 'bout the trick that some-one put over on old Hank?"  
"No."  
"Some-one left one of dem them birth-control pamphlets in the hen-house and he sirt had no eggs for a month."—Columbia Jester.

## TALKS BY BION H. BUTLER

BION H. BUTLER

I have doubt if many people in North Carolina have any idea what the State College costs the state annually on the other hand what it is doing for the state is return. One of the chief institutions of Raleigh, on a street that brings a steady stream of traffic in from the outside country where travelers see the buildings day after day, with boys from all over the state in attendance, the college is probably looked upon as a big school, and a concern that is chiefly a matter for the parents of the boys attending it to think about if anybody wants to think about it all.

But this institution spends a lot of state money. To carry it on takes close to half a million dollars a year, while a new work of construction, adds yearly another large amount, which, with interest on debt and the payment of bonds issued from time to time to pay for the accumulated four million dollars' worth of property owned and occupied by the college, adds more to the annual cost. But as the plant is an established asset it is perhaps as well to consider simply that carrying on cost of the school.

The proportionate share for each inhabitant of the state is slightly under 15 cents a year. The students all pay their fees at the school, but at the rate charged they do not pay enough to carry on the institution, and to each of us in the state, provided we all paid it and each paid an equal amount, the cost is something over the fourteen cents a year.

This is not just the time to show that much of this fourteen cents, or of the small number of cents I have been figuring as the cost of the State institutions, is not paid by the most of us at all, for a lot of us pay so small a sum in taxes that we can hardly count it. I specify the figures to show that all together the total is small compared with the population. Later I will go into the matter of taxes as a state proposition, and that will bring some surprises, and agreeable ones at that. But now I am telling about State college. It costs us an average of around fourteen cents a year, and what we get in return for it is enough to make your hair curl. It is one of the remarkable romances of American development and progress. I doubt if there is anything under the sun to compare with this fabulous story of what State colleges, along with some other similar agencies, is doing for the advancement of mankind.

This came to my notice when Frank Page commenced to build good roads in the state. You can't build roads or anything else without two resources. These are men and money. The state appeared able to provide the money, but Mr. Page in looking around was not sure he could find the men. He went over to State College and discovered that the engineering department of that institution was

training engineers, and Frank Page began to file claims on them. In going over his payroll you find bridge engineers, transit men, draughtsmen, maintenance of way men, district engineers, inspectors, cement experts, assistant to the chairman, civil engineers in the various departments, draughtsmen in the bridge department, in the shops, in every place in that big army of men that the road force employs, and they have been largely instruments in building for North Carolina a highway system that is one of the outstanding features of transportation of the whole world. State college has furnished a big proportion of the men who have done this job. Without the contribution from State we would have been obliged to rake the rest of the United States to find the men, and would have been the victim of what we would find.

While nosing around among Frank Page's crowd it transpired that the Southern Power Company, the Carolina Light and Power Company, and a lot of other power concerns in North Carolina have been reaching out to State for trained men, and I find that civil engineers, electrical engineers, superintendents, officers, construction engineers, draughtsmen, and all the same line of employees is to be found in the big power concerns and with the consumers of power. That opens another door which gives a view of the textile plants which are big users of power and there is another long list of State fellows overseeing spinning, weaving, dyeing and other textile institutions, holding places of the highest importance, and many of them. Then the railroads come to State to pick up young fellows to be added to the engineering department, and there is another group of men climbing up from the start they gained at the college, and taking a responsible part in building and operating North Carolina industry.

At the same time a little army of young men are going back home from the college to take places with the progressive farms, and to assume places with the demonstration work of the counties, with the agricultural department of the schools, and with other lines that are allied to agriculture.

Then the younger department of chemical engineering is producing a crop of men in this line, who are taking hold of a new series of constructive problems in North Carolina and advancing chemical development in the same manner.

When I had gone this far into the work these young fellows are doing in North Carolina for the purpose of setting North Carolina forward I was interested in comparing this State at the present time with what it was when I first knew State College and the State of North Carolina. My first glimpse of the college was in the early nineties. It was a small and insignificant institution then, for its first building was completed in 1889, and it started its work with eight teachers 72 students, and a mighty limited idea of what was to be done with those boys. The number of teachers now is about twice what the number of students was then, and the students are twenty times as many, and pursuing definite and well grounded courses of instruction training young men for 35 major vocations in the State's industry.

In the period of time that the college has been getting young men ready to do the work to be done, North Carolina has made this advance. In 1890, the year the State completed its first session in the college, North Carolina's manufactures reach the total of \$40,375,000, and its agriculture by doing a little better, totaled \$50,050,000. Farm and factory operation could not together produce the value of a hundred millions. In agriculture North Carolina ranked 23rd among the states, and in manufactures 31st. Our manufactures and our farm products together totaled about \$56 a year for each person. We were sixteenth in population among the states. Our record in production was lower than that of any other state except the miserable travesty of Nevada. Now we produce ten times as much to each inhabitant as then, and more to the inhabitant than any state in the union did then.

Now I don't propose to say that State College has been the whole force that has changed conditions, but State College has been training young men to do things in the last forty years, and the transformation that has taken place in this State is without a parallel any place that I know

of. From 23rd rank in agriculture we have been standing around 4th, 5th and 6th in the last few years, and our agricultural products have climbed up as high as half a million dollars or ten times as much as when State College opened its doors. Our manufactured products have swept upward from forty millions a year to over a thousand millions a year, and the total from farm and factory has reached a billion and a half dollars for a year. What is still more significant North Carolina is pounding ahead now when many of the other states see me to be rather quiet, and in this State the advance is such that all other states are looking on and noticing and marveling.

It is not to be imagined that State College has been the sole thing in this incomparable advance. Nature has done a tremendous lot in providing the resources, and was ready when the men and means came to take advantage of what is to be had. But when the movement forward commenced State College had made ready to provide the men, and now in every line of production and construction State College men are numerous, and they are doing the job. In chemical lines as well as in industry and engineering State men are many. This State is building one of the best sanitary organizations among the newer states to advance into the field of sanitary engineering, water purification, health precautions and general sanitary uplift. In that work State College men are numerous. Here and there the towns have been establishing modern water systems, and where this is done it is a chance that a State College man is the engineer or the chemist in charge. Max Gardner, a State man, will probably be the next Governor. George R. Ross, another State man, is head of the division of markets. With the railroads are many of them, in various positions of responsibilities. Many others are engineers on their own hook, and others are city and county engineers.

From State College many men have gone out who are teaching technical subjects in the high schools and colleges, both in this State and elsewhere. And in other occupations many of the State graduates have gone to other states, for they by no means all stay in North Carolina. This might be looked on at first thought as a loss, but it is not. For when State men go to General Electric, Westinghouse, Duponts, and other big concerns over the country, they become part of the big interests that are making things that come to North Carolina to meet the steadily increasing need of this State for supplies. North Carolina is one of the best markets in the world for electrical and chemical supplies. Here is one of the states that lead in the development of electrical power, and that sends up a call to the four corners of the earth for supplies. So North Carolina boys from State are

## Railroad Safety Shown By Southern's Record

Safety of passenger travel by train is shown by the record of the Southern Railway System which during the year, 1927, transported 10,067,265 passengers an average of 107.53 miles without a fatality among passengers as the result of a train accident.

To handle this volume of travel, Southern passenger locomotives ran 21,080,488 miles while the total mileage traveled by the passengers who used the Southern's trains reached the almost incomprehensible figure of 1,083,110,041 miles, more than eleven times the distance from the earth to the sun.

"Careful driving by Southern engineers under the direction of a highly trained dispatching force, over a roadway maintained to the highest standards and protected by the most modern safety devices yet perfected by American electrical and mechanical genius, as well as the human protectino of trains by an alert body of trainmen, trackmen, signalmen and repairmen and close inspection of equipment by experienced shopmen, all contributed to this accomplishment," says a statement issued by the Southern.

Farmer—If I were as lazy as you, I'd go hang myself in my barn."  
Hobo—No, you wouldn't. If you were as lazy as me you wouldn't have no barn.

But sir, why do you write so much? I am an author—I write novels. Fancy taking all that trouble when you can buy a novel for sixpence.