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1825

MAYOR ROBERTS' ADDRESS AT THE U. D. C. MEETING

AT ASHEVILLE, MAY 10, 1928

This is Memorial Day for the Confederate dead, when the Southern people with one heart and one mind bring wreaths to twine around the memory of those who died for the lost cause and for what millions of people thought was right.

On occasions like this, we who are now living, may catch the inspiration of the past and drink from the fountains of patriotism that stirred our people more than half a century ago. In this busy age, it is well for us all to look back and view again the struggles of our forefathers.

The stars shine upon no greater people than those who live right here in the Southern Appalachians. It has been well said that the strength of a nation is not in its army and navy, but in the number of happy and contented homes throughout the land.

Let us visualize for a few moments the wonderful events of our history. More than four hundred years ago arises the figure of the Genoese sailor, Columbus, on his voyage of discovery.

His tiny bark baffling with the waves of the stormy Atlantic, his courage and indomitable spirit finally landed him upon the sands of the new world. We recall that when his sailors came frightened at the trackless deep, and finally threatened, if he did not turn back, to throw him overboard, the intrepid discoverer said, "Sail on, sail on, sail on, and on, and on!"

And wouldn't it be well for us on occasions like this to remember the early settlements of Jamestown and Plymouth Rock, and other settlements all along the Atlantic coast. These were days that tried men's souls.

Today we can almost hear Patrick Henry denouncing the tyranny of the mother country in the Virginia Assembly in the Continental Congress, and then across our memories sweep the figure of Washington and his little army suffering in the snow of Valley Forge. And when we remember how his strategy won the battle of Trenton and Princeton, we feel like jumping to our feet and applauding.

Today we would not forget the great Revolutionary leader, General Nathaniel Green, who by his strategy conducted that great retreat through the South and saved his army from defeat. This retreat by General Green contributed powerfully toward the ultimate defeat of the British, and led directly to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. And again, we would not forget the great patriot, not so often spoken of in history, Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox" of the South. This intrepid soldier rendered gallant and conspicuous service for his country during the darkest days of the Revolution.

After these stirring events have flashed through our minds, we are filled with patriotism when we almost hear the old Liberty Bell peal out the birth of liberty in the Western hemisphere, and hear the entire world applaud the Declaration of Independence as written by the immortal Thomas Jefferson.

Then again, we see in our minds eye, General Washington, busily engaged in and around Mount Vernon, his beloved home, preparing to depart for New York to take up the reins of the New Republic, and we see him as he passes on his way being received with shouts of joy by men, women and children at every crossroad every town and village until he reaches New York, and there the people turned out en-masse to greet the great Revolutionary leader and the first President of the United States.

The new Republic was destined to enjoy peace for only a few years. The war of 1812, was a victory of the New Republic. In this war more than forty naval engagements were fought, and in almost every instance, we were successful.

It was during this struggle that Andrew Jackson, "Old Hickory" led the Southern troops to victory at New Orleans. Jackson was a stern, courageous and honorable man, and afterwards, President of the United States, and the idol of the Democratic party today.

Before the battle of New Orleans, General Packenham, in command of the British troops, before the City, wrote General Jackson a note in which he said: "If you do not surrender, I shall destroy your breast-works and eat breakfast in New Orleans, Sunday morning." General Jackson replied: "If you do, you will eat your supper in Hell Sunday night."

History reveals how the thirteen original Colonies stretching along the Atlantic coast expanded. Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois sprang into existence, and the great Jefferson purchased from Napoleon the territory west of the Mississippi river, and out of this came the great states of the Southwest. And a little later, in 1819, the great domain of Florida was purchased. Our history really reads like a romance.

Then came the struggle between Mexico and the United States. In this war our country never suffered a single defeat, and the United States again expanded by the addition of all that vast domain between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean.

The South gave largely the Statesmanship of the first half-century of our government. We owe more to

Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, than we realize. After these great men had passed from the field of action, came Clay, Calhoun, Jackson, Webster and Hayne. Madison had had the wisdom and foresight to see that we must have a strong national government.

Andrew Jackson, on coming to the presidency, quickly showed that he was a disciple of the teachings of Madison.

In almost every part of the country, the doctrine of State sovereignty had been preached. In Massachusetts and also in Connecticut the people strongly asserted it during the war of 1812, and threatened to withdraw from the Union. The people of Kentucky loudly proclaimed against the alien and sedition laws. Ohio attempted to resort to it in utter defiance of the Supreme Court of the United States, and even Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, who afterwards so roundly abused the South for secession defended State rights in resisting the enforcement of the fugitive Slave Law.

The leadership in National affairs rested with the South until the question of Slavery became acute, and this institution was doomed long before the beginning of the war between the States. History reveals that Washington and Jefferson had prophesied its extinction. It should not be forgotten as a matter of history that slave importation was prohibited after 1808.

In making a research recently, I learned that out of all the people in the South, 350,000 only were slave owners, and of this number 68,000 owned two slaves each, and 105,000 owned between one and five. All the balance of the slaves were owned by less than 150,000 people out of a total white population of 6,125,000. From these facts, it is easy to see that the institution was not to last.

From 1852 to 1860, the very atmosphere was surcharged with debate, dissension and strife. Every intelligent person could see that the nation was drifting toward disaster, unless the best minds could get together and smooth out what seemed to be insurmountable differences.

To the student of history, it is tragic to read the history of the Charleston Convention in 1860. When the convention split—all was lost. Within less than a year after the Charleston Convention, the war burst upon the country with all its fury. The men of the South and the North sprang to arms, both feeling that they were doing their duty. The battle fronts crashed in hundreds of bloody conflicts, and out of all this wreck and carnage arose two world-renowned military figures, General Robert E. Lee, and General U. S. Grant. When these two great leaders met at Appomattox, they grasped each other's hands and said, "Let us have peace."

For thirty-three years after the Civil War our country enjoyed peace and wonderful growth. Our people were happy and contented, but just to the South of us were a people longing for freedom, and imploring us to come to their rescue. These people had been living under a terrible despotism for four hundred years, but it was not until one of our battleships, loaded with precious human freight (more than 200 American soldiers) had been sent to the bottom of the sea in the muddy waters of Havana harbor that this republic turned loose the dogs of war. This struggle was of short duration. It is interesting to recall that General Joseph Wheeler, who only a few years before wore the Confederate gray, was now wearing the Union blue.

The World War is still a nightmare to the people of the world. It is hard for us to realize that we witnessed such a conflict, a conflict in which twenty-six nations of this earth were engaged, and every inch of the whole earth was affected, that our nation sent more than four million fighting men across the seas and into the training camps to stop the mercenary Hun; that more than 100,000 sons of America now sleep the sleep of death beneath the waves of the Atlantic and on foreign shores.

Were all these wars fought in vain? We think not. Educated and disciplined amid such scars and memories, is it any wonder that the soldiers love their country? The love we cherish for our soldiers both living and dead, is not a selfish love, but it is one of the highest forms of patriotism, and the young people of our land who witness these expressions of our gratitude will become inspired with a new love and veneration for our noble institutions. When they are then reminded that for them those men fought and many are now sleeping their last sleep.

Looking over the world today, we surely realize that we need more patriotism. Not merely devotion to our country's flag, but that patriotism which loves its history and institutions. Today we approach the graves of our noble dead with subdued hearts, and softened affections.

The soldiers and sailors who fell in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the great Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the World War, established for themselves a monument that the coming centuries will not obliterate and destroy.

Our country, situated here between the seas, stands as a giant today among the nations, and we believe that the time will come when the world shall see the fulfillment of the prophecy:

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations shall not lift up sword against nations, neither shall they have war any more."

A MESSAGE FROM DR. J. H. HUTCHINS TO THE VOTERS OF MADISON COUNTY

BETTER MANAGEMENT OF COUNTY SUGGESTED AS BEST WAY IN WHICH TO MEET PRESENT SITUATION

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At this time, as a candidate on the Republican ticket for Representative, I feel that I would like to make a statement to all of you. Naturally we are all interested in some plan whereby the taxes of our County can be materially reduced, and thus make things easier, especially for the farmers and the working classes to whom the paying of any unnecessary taxes is a burden. For some time, we have had this question before us, and despite the numerous statements of those who oppose the present tax rate that a reduction can be obtained through mere legislating brought about in Raleigh by the passing of measures cutting the rate, the situation is one that must be met at home; right here in Madison County. After conditions have been remedied here, the County's representative can enact the essential measure or measures for bringing about a reduction of the rate we are paying.

NOT IN FAVOR OF HIGH TAXES

I am absolutely opposed to anything which would tend to increase the rate we are paying. The issuance and sale of bonds and note issues without giving the taxpayers and citizens an opportunity to vote on the question I consider unfair. We now have a law prohibiting any further bond issues other than those which may be brought about by a majority vote of the taxpayers and I heartily endorse its enforcement.

THE SITUATION

To get to the point, we, the taxpayers of Madison County, have certain obligations to meet in the form of various issues of securities during the past whereby funds for various purposes were obtained. The action of incurring such obligations cannot be recalled from the past. The obligations are recorded against Madison County and must be met. We have borrowed and we must repay. To begin complaining about the situation and thus dismissing from our minds the planning of some practical method through which these obligations can be met, is a very unwise policy. None of us find being in debt a very pleasant matter, but if, when we find ourselves obligated to others, we begin complaining and making public property of our troubles, instead of trying to improvise some plan for disposing of the obligations against us, then we are headed for disaster.

HOW TO MEET THE SITUATION

It seems that the greatest and most perplexing problem facing our County is the lack of a sufficient income; that is, we have no payroll from industry other than through agriculture and incidental pursuits, and it is this lack of a generally distributed income in our County that has for years served to retard our prosperity. We should encourage the introduction of industry because it is to our best interests to do so, yet the policy of our County is such that we have not done so. When a new industry is trying to "get on its feet," and at the same time furnish employment to our citizens, we should endeavor to render assistance. For instance, why not enact a law whereby any new industry can be established in our County for a certain period exempt from the payment of taxes, say from three to five years, or whatever period is the most reasonable and practical? We have abundant water power, splendid highway and railway connections, and people who are industrious and willing to work. The introduction of new industry would give our County an income, and mean that we could go forward, and at the same time meet our obligations. At the end of the specified period when the established industry began paying taxes on property which will have grown and expanded through the assistance of the County, at the same time giving profitable employment to our people, the County will receive compensation in full, and even more.

Speaking of agriculture, the line of endeavor in which the greater part of our County's citizenship is engaged, we should try to attain greater prosperity on the farms of Madison. When we make money, we are prosperous; it is only when we are without an income that we find our obligations difficult to take care of.

Why not get some large concern to establish a dairy and a canning plant in our County with the provision that their industry should be exempt from taxes until they got a start? Wouldn't we appreciate a profitable market for our farm products such as cream, vegetables, fruits, etc., along with the furnishing of employment for a part of our citizenship? Sure we would.

FACTS

Summed-up, the situation must be met. The actions of the past cannot be retracted. We owe money which we must repay. Our County schools, roads, and other conveniences and essential things must be taken into consideration, and to do this, the levying and collecting of taxes is necessary.

The paying of high taxes is hard on the farmers of our County and those who have met with reverses in their particular lines of endeavor as many farmers and others have done in recent years. Our policy in the future should and must be the elimination of this burden, yet the problem must be dealt with in a sensible manner. We

can't pass a law at Raleigh cutting the tax rate and dismiss our obligations from our mind with a casual motion of our hands. It is impossible. We have gone to where we are, and must face the situation.

We need more money in the County and we must have it. When we bring industry into our midst, then we can begin to benefit from an income, something which we need.

WHERE I STAND

In making the race for Representative, I feel that should I be honored with the office which I seek by the people of the County, I am assuming a heavy and very serious responsibility. It is my purpose to represent all the people in the very best way I can and to take care of the interests of the farmer, the business man, the common laborer; in fact, the interests of the entire County to the very best of my ability. My policy is a clean campaign without trying to blacken the character of any of my opponents or the other candidates. To make a clean, fair race, in all good feeling, regardless of whether or not the people should elect me, is MY AIM, and I shall carry it out.

NO FACTION

No faction in Marshall or anywhere else is backing or sponsoring my candidacy. I say that with all seriousness, and I mean it. If I can't be elected for my own qualities and on my own merits, I do not care for the office. We must manage some way to meet our obligations and eliminate the excessive taxation burden. Legislation won't do it, but the proper management right here at home will accomplish this.

To all the citizens of the County, farmers, business men, everybody, I wish to say that your support will be greatly appreciated and if elected I shall endeavor, by my actions, to hold in trust and honor the confidence which you will have imposed in me. Thanking you all, and soliciting your support, I am,

Yours, in the best interests of Madison County,
DR. JAMES H. HUTCHINS,
Candidate for Representative.

P. S. It is being talked that the people don't want to stay in the County as a "dentist," and I sure appreciate this, but, if I am elected, my plans are to have a dentist take care of my practice for the 60 days that I probably would be away. Take this privilege to ask you for your personal support, even though I do not get to take you by the hand and ask it in person.

I remain,
Faithfully yours,
Dr. J. H. H.

RAMSEY ANSWERS PLEMMONS

At the request of my many friends I have decided to answer in short the questions set forth some time ago by Ira Plemmons.

1. I am opposed to bonding the County for any purpose. When the farmers have to let their farms go for taxes because they cannot pay, it is time to stop public expenditures and catch up. I believe we have gone too far with public expenditures.

2. I am favoring anything to reduce our taxes without injury to the farmers and common people.

3. I am in favor of letting the people say what laws they wish to make or repeal at a meeting held for that purpose at the court house.

4. I shall introduce a bill that any company may establish a factory in Madison County without a county tax for 20 years. This would bring money into Madison County and it would offer employment to many of our people.

5. I expect to do right for the common people as nearly as possible. I have nothing concealed from the public and I shall always talk heartily and freely to anyone who may wish to find my views in regard to all questions.

The common people's friend,
JETER P. RAMSEY.

From my statements mentioned above anyone may be able to answer the questions asked by Mr. Plemmons. Anyone can easily see my views.

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 action of the Republican Primary, June 2nd.

I shall appreciate the support of all the voters, and if elected will discharge my duty to the best of my ability.

Willard C. Rector.

LOCAL CHAPTER OF I. W. LEAGUE IS ORGANIZED

At a meeting in the office of John H. McElroy, Marshall attorney, the Izaak Walton League of America movement was launched here with the organization of the Marshall Chapter of the nationally-known organization for sportsmen, and those who are interested in the conservation and preservation of wild life in America.

Mr. Everett R. Tweed of Marshall was elected President, and Mr. Geo. L. McKinney was elected secretary-treasurer, both officers being elected unanimously.

A total of eleven members were enrolled as follows: Mr. McElroy, W. B. Tweed, R. R. Ozmer, Clarence M. Gage, J. C. Walton, Lanford L. Story, Charles Davis, S. B. Ferguson, Everett R. Tweed, Mr. McKinney, and Glenn W. Naves.

Application by the secretary for a charter from the national headquarters of the organization in Chicago, Ill., will be made soon, while plans for the further recruiting of members for the local chapter are under way.

Mr. and Mrs. Ebbs' Anniversary

The celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Ebbs, of the Spring Creek section of this county, at their home Sunday, brought together some of the most prominent citizens of both Buncombe and Madison counties. Held on Mother's Day, the celebration of the very important event in the lives of two of the County's best known residents brought to them the congratulations and best wishes of people from many sections of Western N. C.

A picnic dinner, spread on the grounds at the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. Ebbs, was the crowning event of the day, and in addition, a number of talks were made by a son, State Senator Plato Ebbs, of Asheville; Arthur W. Whitehurst, cashier of the Citizens Bank, Marshall; S. E. Plemmons, of Spring Creek; the elder Mr. Ebbs, and others.

Among the children of Mr. and Mrs. Ebbs present were Senator Plato Ebbs, Canley and D. V. Ebbs, of Asheville; Mrs. W. A. Lewis, of Hot Springs; and Mrs. John Gardner, of Spring Creek.

Others present were Mrs. A. W. Whitehurst and daughter, Miss Lillian; Miss Stella Carver, of Marshall; Mr. Troy Ramsey and Mr. and Mrs. H. Gardner of Asheville.

Special School Tax Election Carries

The special school tax election held in No. 8 Township in the Spring Creek section of the county was carried by a good majority, according to reports.

The new building will cost approximately \$45,000 and will be of modern construction and operated on a standard high school basis with a full force of grammar grade and high school teachers.

Mrs. Coward Bound Over To Higher Court

Mrs. Shuford R. Coward, charged with the slaying of her husband, waived preliminary hearing when arraigned before Justice C. M. Gage Monday afternoon. She was bound over to the August term of Madison Superior Court. Mrs. Coward was represented by John H. McElroy and J. Coleman Ramsey, of Marshall.

At this hearing the courtroom was crowded almost to capacity, and much interest is being shown throughout the County in this case.

Funeral Conducted For Miss Wilma Fox

Funeral service for Miss Wilma Fox, twenty years of age, who passed away at the home of her mother, Mrs. Everette Fox, of near Marshall, at 2:30 o'clock Monday morning, following a serious illness of three weeks, was conducted at the Long Branch Baptist church, of which she was a member at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, with the Rev. J. M. Pickens, pastor, officiating.

Miss Fox had been in ill health for about a year. Despite her illness, she remained cheerful, and through her kind, friendly personality, won the friendship of great numbers. She was a member of the Class of 1925 at Marshall High School, and had taught one year in the County, ill health having forced her to discontinue her work last year. She was a consistent Christian and active in church and B. Y. P. U. work.

Surviving are her mother, Mrs. Everette Fox; one brother, Hubert Fox, and six sisters: Mrs. Fuller Stynes, Mrs. Hermon Crowder, and Misses Genell and Avis Fox, all of Marshall; Mrs. Ernest Hunter, of Virginia, and Mrs. Connelly Buckner, of Alexander, N. C.

\$36,000 SUIT FILED AGAINST MADISON

Removal Of Plant Of Georgia Talc Co. Is Basis For Action.

In a suit filed against the County of Madison by the Georgia Talc Company, of Asheville, damages in the amount of \$36,000 are asked for by the plaintiff as reimbursement for damages which the latter contends was sustained by and through the removal of a talc plant, owned and operated by it near the Southern depot, at the east end of Main street here, it was announced Friday. The case is listed for the most important on the civil calendar at the May term, and is probably dar.

John A. Hendricks, prominent Marshall attorney and legal representative for Madison County, stated Saturday that the case had grown out of the condemnation of the plant in 1927 by the county, which was furnishing the North Carolina Highway Commission a right-of-way for State Highway No. 20 leading into Marshall from Asheville. According to Mr. Hendricks, the property was condemned by the defendant as a part of the preparations for the right-of-way, and torn down and removed. A jury was selected to make an assessment of the damages and returned a verdict awarding the Asheville concern damages in the amount of \$3,000. However, the offer was rejected and the plaintiff appealed to the Superior Court of Madison County.

Beautiful Music At Confederate Memorial

Prof. Carl Behr, a noted musician, played several beautiful selections on the zither at the Confederate Memorial last Thursday. Two especially interesting ones, were "A Prayer" and "Violets," composed by himself. "A Prayer" was dedicated to Robert E. Lee, and was very fitting one that day as he explained we were honoring the wife. He said most men thought of dead. "Violets" was dedicated to his wives as a flower and he always thought of his own wife as a violet. The music was highly enjoyed by everyone as were the songs led by Mrs. Bartlett. The Memorial services were held in Asheville.

State-Wide School System Stressed

In a statement here Saturday, John A. Hendricks, Marshall attorney and the endorsed candidate of the Madison County Republican Convention and the 30th Senatorial District for State Senate, representing Madison, Mitchell, Avery and Yancey counties, for the State Senate, stressed the great importance of a State-wide school system as one of the essential progressive movements which should be made by North Carolina.

Tobacco Expert To Visit Madison

The preparation of 11 tobacco demonstration plots containing one-half acre each which are located in various sections of Madison County, will receive the attention of E. Y. Floyd, tobacco extension specialist of State College, Raleigh, who will visit the County Monday. Mr. Floyd, who has visited here several times in the past two years, will be assisted in the work by County Agent Earl Brintall, and the tobacco expert is showing much interest in the tobacco growing situation in this section.

A CORRECTION

In Trust news last week an error appeared in the type. One little letter "e" dropped in where it should not be making it read Mrs. B. T. Davis and Mr. Paul Ellison went fox hunting Saturday night. This should have been Mrs. B. T. Davis. Of course any reasonable reader would know this was an error, but we regret that it occurred in the News-Record.

AT HOT SPRINGS

Sunday, May 20, 8 P. M.—Baccalaureate sermon by Dr. Doyle in the High School Auditorium.

Thursday, May 24, 8 P. M.—High School Play—Admission 15c and 25c.

Friday, May 25, 10 A. M.—Reading Contest and Recital by Music Class.

DINNER ON THE GROUND
1:30—Class Day Exercise.
2:30—Ball Game.
8:00—Graduation Exercises.

Address:
Awarding of Diplomas, Certificates, and Prizes.

Iszy—"What is the difference between ammonia and pneumonia?"
Dizzy—"Search me."
Iszy—"Why, ammonia comes in bottles and pneumonia comes in chests."