

MARSHALL AND MADISON COUNTY SHOULD ACT

ROAD 20 SHOULD BE BUILT RIGHT THROUGH MARSHALL

According to officials of the State Highway Commission, the worst piece of road the entire length of Road 20 is at the lower end of Marshall. They are bottled up, so to speak, not having space between the mountain and the railway and river to get out of Marshall with a decent grade without removing some residences, water line, etc. The State is willing to do its part, but it is not willing to furnish the right of way. It is now up to the Town and County to furnish the State this right of way. We are glad to have the State highway pass through the business section of our town and they are ready to begin work on the lower end in a few days. They propose to construct and pave a street from the lower end up to where the pavement begins at the printing office. The County and Town should act at once and see that the State is not forced to put up a job at this point that the Town and County will regret in the future. While it is being done, this permanent improvement should be done right.

—The Publisher.

THE PUBLISHER SURPRISED

The publisher of the News-Record is surprised at Mr. Ira Plemmons of Hot Springs for announcing his candidacy for the Senate. In our issue of November 25, 1927, the publisher of The News-Record said:

Several articles have appeared in the columns of The News-Record in the last three or four months written by Mr. Ira Plemmons of Hot Springs, which articles are criticism of the various taxing agencies of the National, State, and County governments. He discusses the possible elimination of certain duplicating and unnecessary offices and the substitution of more modern methods and equipment for accomplishing the same results at less expense and a saving of taxes. As this publisher sees it, a discussion along this line, looking to a more economical method of running governmental affairs, provided the desired results can be obtained, is not objectionable, but on the other hand, is quite desirable provided the criticism is really constructive rather than destructive. If the purpose of the discussion is to give vent to personal animosities or to ride over prejudices into office or self-exploitation, the publisher of this paper does not wish to become a partner in it. On the other hand, if the discussion is to point out in a friendly or brotherly way, the mistakes of present or past officers or methods, in order to bring about more efficiency or economy in government, such a discussion is welcome.

Some have considered the tax articles of Mr. Plemmons to be of one class, while others have considered them of the other class. The future will doubtless reveal definitely to which class they belong. After due consideration and after having been assured by Mr. Plemmons that his articles are not being published through personal motive or animosity and that he has no intention of running for office and that his purpose is merely to point out the mistakes of our officers and to put them on guard as to a repetition of such mistakes, we are resuming the discussion until such a time as his articles shall appear in our judgment, to be objectionable. The purpose of The News-Record is to serve the entire County in a constructive and uplifting and entertaining way. The publisher is

absolutely free from the domination of any party, faction, or fraternity. From the above it can be seen that we had been led by Mr. Plemmons to believe that he would not run for office. Now that he has broken his word, we feel it our duty to let our readers know that we have been deceived into seeming to support Mr. Plemmons against any other candidate who might announce. This paper has tried to steer clear of partisan politics, especially in local affairs and it was not our purpose to give Mr. Plemmons or Mr. Anybody Else any unfair advantage by giving him space in these columns for nearly a year. We had no objection to Mr. Plemmons' running for the Senate or for any other office. He had a perfect right to run until he said he would not.

JETER P. RAMSEY ANSWERS DR. HUTCHINS

LET THE PEOPLE SAY WHAT THEY WANT DONE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Having been born and reared on the farm I love the farming class of citizens. I love the man who works and makes his living by the sweat of his face. For years and years the common people have been servants to the wealthy and upper classes. They have had little to do or say in law-making and taxation. It has usually been left up to a few individuals who put themselves up as leaders under the cover of the most popular party in order to gain some financial benefit. For years the tax rate of our people has been steadily increasing until we now have a \$2.05 levy, a rate entirely too heavy and burdensome on the common and poor people of Madison County. Is this to continue? 508 farms were sold for taxes last year and I believe more will be sold this year. Someone did pay last year's tax or owing for it, because they either borrowed the money from the bank or a friend to pay their tax. What is the trouble? We have been and are living too high for our pocketbooks. We are poor people in Madison County and we should live as such. I say, WE MUST CALL A HALT or I cannot see what our people are going to do.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

We can make out with as small amount as possible. We can eliminate all unnecessary public expenditures. We can pay up what we owe and keep from making any more debts. Three members on the board of education can do the work as well as five. "The Wish of the People is My Wish" If I am elected I shall cause each township to have a meeting and elect delegates to meet with the delegates from other townships in the court house, to draft such laws and repeals as they want in Madison County. Then when I go before that body at Raleigh I can say that these are the laws the people placed in my hands to enact. This would give the common people who are to live under the law a chance to help straighten out the affairs of Madison. What I want is the best thing for the common people, or what the common people want. I shall not be satisfied with any law or laws that the common people do not want. I ask the people to lay aside friendship or enmity toward any of the candidates and vote for the best man. It is time to wake up and see what is best for our people. Men and women, please think before you vote, this time as never before. Don't vote for any candidate until you study him carefully and the principles on which he stands.

In conclusion, let me say that I do not intend to have a second primary because this would cause unnecessary expense to our taxpayers.

The common people's friend,
JETER P. RAMSEY

NOTICE!

There will be a Democratic meeting at the several precincts of Madison County, May 26th, 1928, at 2:00 P. M., to elect delegates to the County Convention and elect precinct committees.

N. B. McDEVITT, Chairman
JOHN H. McELROY, Sec'y.

TAXES NECESSARY

Taxes is an age-old subject. The Jews were complaining of high taxes eighteen hundred years ago. At that time the government and those in charge of public affairs were a class separate and apart from another class of citizens, who had no power to levy taxes but were required to pay them.

Representatives of both of these classes came to the Master seeking to entrap him in answering in favor of against paying taxes, and his answer, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's, was so just that it has never been questioned.

But now there are not two classes, one to levy taxes and the other to pay them, but one class who through their representatives levy taxes, and all pay them according to what they are worth.

So in this enlightened age no one is expected to complain against paying his fair and reasonable part of the taxes necessary to run the government under which he lives, and to make necessary and permanent improvements, educate the children of the country and maintain the poor and unfortunate.

Taxes in Madison County, as well as other counties, are high, but we are confronted with the condition and not a theory: We have borrowed money, established and improved highways, built school houses and made other permanent improvements, and owe for these useful improvements, and no one can deny but that we are in a much better and satisfactory condition than we would have been without these improvements.

It is now incumbent upon the people of the county to levy a sufficient tax to pay current expenses, run the public schools, pay interest on bonds and create a sinking fund to pay off the bonded indebtedness, as it becomes due, and to do that we must put an assessed value on all of our property and then levy a rate on that valuation which will raise sufficient funds to meet the expenses above mentioned.

If we have a low valuation of property, the rate must be higher, and if we have a high valuation on property then we can have a lower rate.

It took a levy last year of 90 cents on one hundred dollars to run the schools, 95 cents to pay interest on bonds, create a sinking fund and pay off what bonds were due and payable, 7 cents for General county purposes for one half year, 10 cents for roads, 3 cents for bridges, making a total of \$2.05 on one hundred dollars valuation of property, and in many of the school districts a special tax was levied to lengthen the term of school.

There is no way to avoid the responsibility of levying sufficient taxes to meet the requirements as above enumerated. It cannot be done by a statute limiting the rate for in that case the valuation would have to be raised.

The laws of the state make it a crime for a county to fail to levy a sufficient amount of taxes to meet the running expenses and obligations of the county, and if we could do so it would be repeating an old folly, we once indulged in.

In the '80's and '90's the Magistrates of the county levied the taxes

from year to year, and under pressure from grumbling tax payers, they failed to levy sufficient amount of taxes to meet the current expenses, and the county paper was purchased by speculators from 10 to 30 cents on the dollar, from those who had dearly earned it, and in a few years the taxpayers of the county awoke to the fact that they were indebted for current expenses which had accumulated from year to year to the amount of about \$70,000.00 and the speculators applied to the legislature and the county was bonded to pay off said indebtedness, and the taxpayers were forced to pay off those bonds with interest and cost.

The remedy now is to send strong men to the General Assembly, who are in favor of a policy of joining other small counties and passing a law requiring the state to take over the educational system of the state and of levying a uniform tax on all the property of the state to educate all the children of the state and not require poor counties like ours, and others, to levy an excessive tax to maintain the schools of the counties.

This process would reduce our levy for taxes at least fifty cents on the hundred dollars.

Last year with the funds raised by taxes and the sinking fund we had on hand we were able to run the current expenses and to pay off \$92,000.00 of the bonded indebtedness, and the State of North Carolina paid back to the county \$345,100.00 which the Highway Commission had borrowed to build roads in the county, removing the obligation of the county of paying interest on that amount, and these matters together will materially lessen our bonded indebtedness and reduce the amount of the indebtedness that we were compelled to pay interest on, and our taxes next year will be reduced materially.

What we now most need is not some agitator to appeal to the prejudice of the taxpayers, but some one who has constructive ability to suggest ways and means of reducing the taxes from year to year, and to render our citizens more able to pay taxes by aiding them to adopt more improved methods of farming and to improve their real estate which will ultimately lessen the burden of tax payers.

I heartily endorse the policies of Honorable John A. Hendricks and the methods he has suggested and advocated to better the condition of the taxpayers of Madison County.

Respectfully,
C. B. MASHBURN

Rev. J. A. Martin Speaks

The Rev. J. A. Martin, well known Free Will Baptist minister of near Marshall preached at the Mountain View Free Will church in Buncombe county last Sunday morning. In the afternoon Rev. Martin conducted services at the French Broad Free Will church near Alexander.

S. S. Group Meetings

The 1928 S. S. progressive campaign with a series of Sunday School group meetings to be held in the months of June and July at various churches in the Association. See the program in last week's News-Record.

FOR STATE SENATOR

In entering the race for the State Senate, I feel that I am doing so at the demand of very many of the good citizens of this County.

I cannot make any campaign, since my father is a very sick man and I owe to him the duty of being near him, and with him, to do all I can for him.

I think it is very well known what I stand for, and in the event the voters nominate me, I shall do all within my power to give the taxpayers some relief.

If my friend, Mr. Hendricks, gets a majority of the votes in this County, then he will be the nominee of the party, since it is Madison County's time to name the State Senator for this district.

I take it that if I shall have a majority in this County, then the nomination will come to me.

I urge the voters to carefully consider which of us represents the best interests of the taxpayers and vote accordingly.

I further urge every voter to go to the polls and vote.

I thank you for the confidence you may have in me.

IRA PLEMMONS

HENDRICKS, REPUBLICAN CONVENTION NOMINEE FOR STATE SENATOR EXPLAINS HIS POSITION

NATIONAL HOSPITAL DAY OBSERVED AT LAUREL HOSPITAL

National Hospital Day was observed by several communities at Laurel Hospital on May 12th. Plays and readings were rendered by the Allentand and Revere children. Dr. Eva M. Locke gave a health talk and Devotional services were conducted by Dr. W. E. Finley. The children of White Rock gave a pageant, "Laurel Hospital Twenty Years From Now." At the close of the program Dr. Harry Ditmore of Marshall gave a brief but interesting talk during which he told of some of the work which the Marshall Hospital had done and of some of the conveniences with which it was equipped to meet emergencies. After the program guests were shown through the hospital. The visitors list included people from Hot Springs, Marshall and Carmax.

DEMOCRATIC PRECINCT MEETING SATURDAY

At two o'clock Saturday, May 26, 1928, the Democratic precinct meetings will be held throughout the County. Don't forget the time.

DR. HUTCHINS WRITES AGAIN

LADIES & GENTLEMEN:— In last week's paper I tried to lay before you some of my views, as to what our County needs. I think the voters of Madison County will agree with me that if possible something should be done to relieve our present situation; however, it can't be done in a day, nor can it be done by lamenting about it, and lying down on the job.

Personally I feel that I have the laboring man's burdens at heart when I ask that you, by your vote, send me down to Raleigh to represent your county.

I realize that if I do go, it will be a sacrifice on my part. If I considered money near the top, in a list of things that are worth while, then I probably would not ask to go.

As most of you know, my past record will prove that I consider many things in this life as coming before the Almighty Dollar.

For some time now I have been getting reports as to my inability to serve you in this capacity. I haven't the time nor the inclination to answer them in these lines, but if any of them have you stuck, then I will be more than glad to answer them to you. Otherwise, I ask you to disregard them, and consider the source from which they have come.

Again I ask you for your vote on my own ability to serve you, and I promise you that there are no personal or political strings tied to me.

Faithfully yours,
DR. J. H. HUTCHINS.

MARTIN GAHAGAN KILLED IN HARLAN, KENTUCKY

A message from Orville Gahagan, of Harlan, Ky., to Christley Gahagan, well-known farmer of the Little Pine Creek section of this county, received by Policeman Cloyd L. Henderson today, stated that Martin Gahagan, son of Mr. Gahagan, had been killed in Harlan.

The message marked in care of Officer Henderson gave no details as to how the young man met his death. Sheriff R. E. Ramsey forwarded the message to his father, who left Wednesday night for Kentucky to get the remains of his son.

The little moths are never gay. They do not dance or shout. What do they do when they attend Those balls we read about?

Also, where there's a will there's a half-dozen lawyers.

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.

Editor, News-Record:— For the last several months there have appeared in your paper articles from time to time, by Mr. Ira Plemmons, entitled "Taxes, Here and There!" It is a fact that there are taxes here and there are taxes at other places, and we all realize that we would like to have our taxes reduced to the lowest amount possible. It is an easy matter to remind people of how much taxes they pay and that the taxes are burdensome. We all realize this when we go to pay our taxes. So far as I have observed, in all of Mr. Plemmons' lengthy articles, appealing to people about high taxes, he has never offered any plan or system by which to reduce the taxes. The County owes certain indebtedness and regardless who are Commissioners, or who are legislators, taxes must be levied to pay this indebtedness and the interest thereon and any County Commissioner who refuses to vote for a sufficient levy to do this is subject to heavy fine and imprisonment, in fact for not complying with certain of the tax laws, the Commissioners are subject to \$10,000 fine each and twenty years imprisonment. The Constitution provides that there shall be at least a six months' public school for every school district in the county or State. Many districts have supplemented the six months term by voting special tax.

If the Commissioners fail to levy a sufficient tax to meet this requirement the matter is submitted to the Superior Court Judge and under the law he compels the Commissioners to levy the tax. The 15c on the \$100.00 for County purposes and under a special act for Madison County, 5% is deducted from all tax collected to supplement the County fund, which makes a total of 20c on the \$100.00 for all County purposes, exclusive of the special road tax of 20c on the \$100.00.

In the Special School districts the people pay at least \$1.20 school tax in Madison County. The tax levied for 1927 all told was \$2.05 on the \$100.00. The County borrowed \$550,000 and loaned to the State Highway Commission for road purposes in Madison County. The State Highway Commission paid back to the County, some time last fall \$230,000 of this amount and the State has recently allocated to Madison County, to be applied on road notes, \$115,100.00. It is believed that the State will pay the balance of these notes sometime next year or possibly this fall, which will help to reduce the taxes in Madison County.

HOW TAXES MAY BE REDUCED IN MADISON COUNTY.

I believe in a State-wide public school system, and that every county in the state should pay the same rate of taxes and the children of all the counties should have the same public school advantages. As stated above, in most of the school districts of Madison County the people are paying at least \$1.20 on the \$100.00 school tax. In some of the large counties like Forsythe the school tax is about 25c on the \$100.00 and at that they have much more school money per capita than we have in Madison County and other small counties. They have much better school houses and equipment, they have better teachers as a rule, for they have more money to pay teachers and all told they have better schools, by paying about 25c on the \$100.00 school tax, while we pay \$1.20 on the \$100.00.

To have a state-wide school system as herein specified would reduce the school tax to every taxpayer in Madison County 50c or 60c on the \$100.00 and would thus equalize the school tax and the expense of running the schools in the State, and while we would pay 50c or 60c less on the \$100.00 tax we would have better schools and better equipment. This is my plan to reduce the taxes and help the schools.

STATE HIGHWAY LAW SHOULD BE AMENDED

Under the present system of the State Highway Law, the money is apportioned on the basis of mileage, area and population. The result is that the large counties have had plenty of money with which to grade and hard-surface their roads. On an average it takes as much to grade one mile of road in Madison County as it takes to grade four or five miles in the central counties of the State. Besides the present system gives the large counties a great deal more money in proportion than Counties like Madison get. I am in favor of amending the State Highway Law on a basis of mileage and the cost of grading so that Madison County and the other mountain counties and extreme eastern counties may have money enough to complete the State Highway System and that Madison County, under such an amendment would have as good system of hard-surface roads as the rich counties in the central part of the State, and this is the only way we will ever have it.

PEOPLE WHO RESIDE ON PRIVATE ROADS SHOULD HAVE A PART OF THEIR ROAD TIME TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN ROADS. The man who lives off the highway and has got no road into it is in a pretty bad fix. I am in favor of the citizen who lives off the highway or

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