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1750

M'DEVITT SAYS

He Made An Effort To Reduce Commissioners' Salary To \$2. Per Day

The following bill of N. B. McDevitt's was tabled in the upper house of the last general assembly, after being ratified by the house and passed three readings in the senate. McDevitt promised to publish the bill in the News-Record. If this bill had passed your tax rate last year this would have been \$1.75 on the hundred where it was \$2.05 last year and \$2.23 this year.

The ring crowd met in Marshall March the 6th, 1927 and sent Supt. Dillard roaring on his way to Raleigh with their blessing, power, and influence and the bill was lost as was Dillard later. The trouble was the tax rate of \$1.75 on the hundred, and the same crowd fought the tax rate in court and also the road low. They said they were fighting McDevitt, but they were fighting the taxpayers of Madison County, so that spending money would be available. My distinguished friend and opponent, Dr. Hutchins, at that time was on the Board of Education, and when Dillard returned from Raleigh where he had succeeded in having my bill defeated at the expense of the tax payers it appears and is a fact that a voucher was excused in Dillard's favor for the sum of \$54.45 for expense to Raleigh, and said voucher was signed by Chairman Ebbs and Supt. Dillard as Clerk to the Board. It does not appear to me that Bro. Hutchins was at that time so interested in the welfare of the taxpayers if he knew about this deal being pulled on the sore backed tax payers. True bills lost and not passed, etc. at the expense of the farmers of Madison County.

Here is a carbon copy of defeated bill referred to above:

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact

Section 1. Whereas, the Auditor's Office of Madison County is not and has not been an all time office, and the act creating said office in Madison County provides that said Auditor shall only receive three dollars per day for the actual time necessary in performing the duties of said office. It is provided and directed that in the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners they may annually employ an expert accountant at a fixed reasonable salary to audit all the books and records of all the county boards of Madison County and all other officials of the said County, and after the work of the expert accountant or auditor has been completed, said Commissioners are directed to pay said auditor: Provided, further that the County Auditor shall, on the first Monday in April, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven furnish a bond in the sum of Five Thousand dollars for the faithful performance of his duties, said bond to be approved by the County Commissioners and the said Commissioners may from time to time require the County Auditor to furnish additional bond, if they deem it necessary.

Section 2. That the tax payers of Madison County, and the County of Madison may be more fully protected and represented and the financial affairs of the County may have more attention and that the wishes of all the tax payers may have consideration from said Board of Commissioners, the following named persons are hereby appointed County Commissioners of Madison County; to-wit: Fred Freeman, Bryan Teague, T. A. Silver, Lon Carter, and their terms of office shall begin immediately upon the ratification of this act, after their qualification and their said terms of office shall expire on the first Monday in December, one thousand nine hundred and thirty. That at the first meeting of the said Board of Commissioners held after the qualification of the four additional members herein named, the said Board shall re-organize and shall elect Garrett Buckner Chairman for the remainder of the

year, or the remainder of time that he was elected chairman when the old board first organized, and the Chairman of the Board shall draw the same salary and mileage as is now provided by law for said Chairman to draw, and the Chairman shall perform the duties of his said office and (CONTINUED ON 8TH PAGE)

BLANKENSHIP ANSWERS HUTCHINS

On or about Oct. 20, Dr. J. H. Hutchins and his band of "Ringsters" had a circular printed and circulated on the Board of Education, alleging that certain things had been done in the public school system of Madison County to foster the corruptness that has been existing for years.

The gentlemen seem to howl about Madison County boys and girls not being permitted to teach in their native county. For the benefit of the fair-minded people, I wish to say that more native boys and girls are teaching in the county schools than ever before in the history of the county. The following figures show how many county boys and girls have taught in the county for the past three years:

1926	84
1927	109
1928	120

These figures show how false and erroneous the howl of the "Ring" is. We have tried to use as many local teachers as possible. However, it is impossible to give each one a job in the big schools on account of their certificate qualifications.

The "Ring" says that the "Board of Education and County Superintendent should be retired to private life" and a new board appointed. Have they forgotten the fact that Dr. Hutchins was a member of the old board that had a deficit of \$51,780.37? Why did he stand for this if he is so interested in saving the taxpayers money? It will take the farmers ten or fifteen years to get over this shock.

When I assumed the Superintendency of Madison County, there was a budget filed with the Board of Education for \$181,000. The Board would not approve this budget and asked me to see if we could not reduce it. We finally reduce it to \$160,000, decreasing the tax rate approximately twenty cents. We lived within our budget and had a surplus of \$5,581.77. This year we reduced our budget \$5,204.88 and yet the Ring shouts from every street corner, "The Board of Education has caused the tax rates to go up."

Can any sensible man or organization put up the argument that 6000 children in Madison County can be educated for the amount that it takes to run the offices of the Sheriff, Register of Deeds, and Clerk? This idea would have been progressive one hundred years ago, but today it seems like "The Slow Train Through Arkansas"

The old "ringsters" howl because we rejected the bids on certain school buildings and hired them built by day labor. The law gives the Board the right to reject any and all bids if they so desire. On the two buildings that they have in mind the two lowest bids combined were \$9,765.53. We rejected these bids because we thought they were too high. These two jobs cost us \$9,006.06 saving the county \$759.47. Can any loyal, patriotic citizen criticize this Board or any other for saving the County's money? The fellows that are howling are accustomed to getting their fingers the "Gravy," but we are out of "gravy" and they are sore about it.

We have no apologies to make in regard to the way we have built the school houses. We have saved the County's money and that is what we were working for. Our books are open for inspection to any citizen in the county. Come in any time and I shall be glad to show the things that the fellows are howling about or any other transaction we have made for the County.

The Board of Education is not in politics, but since Dr. Hutchins and his campaign managers have directed their campaign against the Board rather than Mr. McDevitt, we felt that it was our duty to let the people know why they are distributing circulars against us in a sneaking, under-mining way trying to deceive the good people of this County.

C. M. BLANKENSHIP.

RESOLUTIONS SENT STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Hon. J. G. Stikeleather, State Highway Commissioner, Asheville, North Carolina.
 My dear Mr. Stikeleather:

Somebody asked Brownlow, representative Johnson City District in Congress, how he got so much patronage for his District and he said he got it by asking "hard." They tell it in Madison County that the reason we haven't more State Highways in Madison County is because we haven't asked "hard" enough and persistently enough. I want to assure you however, that we very greatly appreciate what the State Highway Commission, through you, has done for us in the way of Highway construction. I am herewith sending you resolutions adopted by the County Commissioners at their regular meeting, which explains itself. I believe when you figure up the mileage you will find that the actual mileage in Madison County is no greater than it was prior to 1927 and that we have not had the 20 per cent increase as provided in the 1927 Act. The people who reside in the sections of the country where both of the roads mentioned are located are vigorously urging that some action be taken to induce the Highway Commission to take over and maintain these roads. The people on California Creek and Upper Laurel, as soon as the rainy weather sets in, are almost cut off from the outside world, the fact is, the condition on that road has been extremely bad all this summer and the same conditions have existed on the Sandy Mush road. I hope that you may see your way clear to make the greatest effort possible to try to take over these roads. I am sending you this resolution, and writing this letter in behalf of the Commissioners of Madison County and a large portion of the best population of the people of Madison County. We shall greatly appreciate if you may be able to give us some encouragement about taking over and maintaining the roads in question, at least write me and tell me what you think the prospects are. The people in question are so handicapped on account of the bad roads that their voices will not be downed and they keep clamoring. They say the County has borrowed money and loaned to the State to build highways in other localities and that they have been taxed to pay interest on these loans and that they are among the best taxpayers of the county and they argue and I think justly so that they should have some relief. I beg of you in their behalf to do the very best you can on this proposition and do it now.

With very best wishes,
 Yours very truly,
 JOHN A. HENDRICKS.

RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

North Carolina—Madison County. Regular meeting, Board of Commissioners, Madison County, held in the Court House at Marshall, October 1, 1928. Present at said meeting, W. G. Buckner, Chairman; J. C. Chandler and C. J. Wild, Members, being the full Board: The following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted: "WHEREAS, Chapter 200, Public Laws of North Carolina, Session 1927 provides that the State Highway Commission is authorized and empowered, and it shall be their duty to take over for State maintenance additional roads heretofore maintained by the several counties, amount of additional roads so taken over for State maintenance shall not exceed 20 per cent of the present mileage as is now designated and maintained as State highways, and

"WHEREAS it appears that while the State Highway Commission has re-constructed certain roads in Madison County, and has built some new roads that certain other highways formerly maintained by the State was discontinued as State maintained roads, and it appears that the County of Madison has practically the same amount of mileage now as it had before the passage of Chapter 200 above mentioned, and

"WHEREAS there are certain roads in Madison County which appear to this Board to be very necessary under the law to be maintained by the State.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Highway Commission

be and it is hereby requested by the Board of Commissioners of Madison County to take over and maintain the road formerly maintained by the State Highway Commission and discontinued by the State Highway Commission, known as the California Creek Road, situate in No. 15, 5 and 11 Townships, leading to what is known as the Sams Gap. This road accommodates a large population and is one of the most important roads in the County.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Madison County again request as it formerly has done that the State Highway Commission take over and maintain the road leading from Marshall by way of the Freeman Gap to the Forks of Sandy Mush, thereby making a direct connection between Marshall, the County Seat of Madison County, and Waynesville, the County Seat of Haywood County, and to this end the Commissioners of Madison County most urgently request the State Highway Commission to take over and maintain the two above mentioned highways and the Board of Commissioners stand ready and are anxious and willing to cooperate to the fullest extent to have these highways maintained by the State and it appears to the Board that under the law that Madison County is entitled to this additional mileage."

I, J. Will Roberts, Register of Deeds and ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Madison County do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of resolutions passed and unanimously adopted by the Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held October 1, 1928.

Given under my hand and official seal, this the 16th day of October, 1928.

J. WILL ROBERTS,
 Clerk Board of Commissioners.

BIG REPUBLICAN RALLY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31st
 AT 2:00 O'CLOCK, P. M.

AT THE COURTHOUSE

Herbert F. Seawell

Republican Candidate For Governor

Jake F. Newell

Prominent Attorney, of Charlotte, N. C. and one of the best orators in the State

And

Hon. Chas. A. Jonas

Republican Candidate for Congress

Everybody interested in the public welfare of our County, State and Nation, should be here and hear these orators of the day.

Hot Dogs and Coffee Served Free

10-piece Band Will Furnish Music.

MADISON NEWS SPOTLIGHT

By GLENN W. NAVES

FIELD DAY, FARMERS' PICNIC PLANNED

The combination of the program for the County-wide school field day meet scheduled to be held here October 27, with that of the farmers' picnic to be held here the 30th, has been announced. It was decided to combine the two events and present a joint program, following a conference by County Agent Earle Brintnall, County Superintendent of Schools, Carl M. Blankenship, and Grant McDarris, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements for the Field Day event, and Mr. McDarris and his Committee have expressed themselves as being very favorable to the new plan.

The gathering is expected to bring to Marshall for the all-day program on Blannabasset Island several thousand farmers, school teachers and pupils, in addition to business and professional men who are interested in the event. The morning will be given to an athletic meet, followed by a County-wide spelling contest, each school being allowed two contestants, except in relay races where four entrants for each institution, will be allowed.

The noon hour will bring the picnic, followed by the appearance on the program of two of North Carolina's and the South's most prominent agricultural leaders—Dr. Clarence Poe, of Raleigh, Editor of the Progressive Farmer, and F. H. Jeter, Agricultural Editor of State College, Raleigh. Later in the afternoon, a football game between two unnamed teams will mark the first grid. con-

test ever staged on an Island in Madison County, if not in the State. It is probable that the Mars Hill High and Chums elevens will clash in the game, since negotiations between Coach Kuykendall, of Mars Hill and the manager of the Asheville elevens are under way.

The awarding of prizes in the various classes of the athletic meet and the oral spelling contest, together with the other attractive features on the program, is expected to attract County-wide interest.

FLOYD CONNOR INJURED

Floyd Connor, well-known farmer of the Spring Creek section, is reported as resting well at the Marshall Community hospital, following a recent operation, after he was rushed to the hospital suffering from a fractured skull and other injuries received when he was struck by flying stones scattered by an explosion while engaged in blasting near his home. Mr. Connor, it is said, had lighted the fuse and retired to what he considered a safe distance, when

(Continued to page Five.)

A BIG DEMOCRATIC RALLY!

Hon. John G. Davis, former Chairman of the Democratic Party of North Carolina, will address the voters of Madison County, at 1:00 o'clock, P. M., Saturday, October 27th at the Court House in Marshall, N. C. All persons, regardless of political affiliations are invited to be present. Expect to have a band for the occasion. Be here without fail.

GUY V. ROBERTS, Member State Executive Committee.
 JOHN H. McELROY, Secretary Democratic County Committee.