

PLEMMONS PLANS INCREASE CO. COMMISSIONERS TO FIVE

RESIGNATION OF GEORGE BROUGHT ABOUT CHANGE SENATOR SAYS

RALEIGH, Jan. 29.—Senator Ira Plemmons, of Madison County, will introduce a bill to increase the board of county commissioners of his county from three to five members, he announced here tonight. Senator Plemmons is of the opinion that "this is the only way to save money and protect the interests of the tax payers." He has not yet decided who he will name in the bill that he is preparing. "It appears to me that many thousands of dollars will be saved to the tax payers of Madison county if I should introduce and have passed a bill appointing two new commissioners for the county," he said tonight in discussing the matter.

"Since Mr. W. L. George found it necessary to resign and a new commissioner was appointed to fill the vacancy, the condition has completely changed and the will of the voters has been thwarted. It appears to me that the board as now constituted is a tool of the ring and is keeping in its employ and spending the tax payers' money for very questionable service."

"I cannot see any other way to protect the interests of our tax payers for the next two years except to appoint two new county commissioners, which will cost the tax payers a great deal less for the salaries than is being wasted by the new board since Mr. George resigned."

"I am thinking about introducing this bill in about ten days and will be glad to hear from as many of the people in Madison county as possible."

The present board is composed of T. A. Silver, Claud Wilds and John Ammons.

—Asheville Citizen.

POLICE ELECTION BILL KILLED

The house elections committee Tuesday voted to give an unfavorable report to the bill of Representative Hutchins, Republican of Madison, to repeal the city election for the office of chief of police of Marshall and allow the aldermen of the town to appoint the officer.

OPPOSITION TO HUTCHINS' BILLS IN RALEIGH

The Asheville Citizen's report from the legislature Thursday printed the following:

Madison county held the spotlight in the committee halls today when Representative J. H. Hutchins' bill to

abolish the county's sixty special prohibition officers, named two years ago by N. H. McDevitt, member of the House from Madison at that time, was reported unfavorably.

Dr. Hutchins presented information in an effort to show that the prohibition officers were appointed by Mr. McDevitt in an attempt to form the nucleus of a political organization to control the county. He charged that these officers had not taken steps to suppress liquor handling and offered affidavits from the sheriff and clerk of court to prove his point.

McDEVITT PRESENT

Mr. McDevitt was present at the committee meeting and told the committee that he was named in a petition signed by 24 township Democratic executive committeemen to represent Madison county at this session. He brought with him eleven Madison county citizens, four of whom were prohibition agents under the bill and all backed him in his statements. The committee, which was composed at the sitting today, entirely of Democrats, voted five to four to return the bill unfavorably. The minority group, however, is preparing a minority report and the bill is slated to come up on the floor of the House where it is anticipated that a lively fight will follow.

Those who appeared to back Mr. McDevitt in his stand were G. C. Redmon, Enoch Rector, T. A. Silver, Jim Rice, Jim Payne, Fred Holcombe, Morgan Ramsey, John Merrill, Floyd Henderson, Fred Roberts, and Gar Ponder.

HOSPITAL RECEIPTS TO EXCEED EXPENDITURES

WAYNESVILLE, N. C., Jan. 21.—The following is information obtained from the office of the Haywood County Auditor:

In ten days Haywood County Hospital will have a certified auditor of the Duke Foundation Company in Waynesville to audit the books for the first hospital year. The following statement as to financial status of the hospital was obtained from the Chairman of Hospital Board and bears his signature (Rufus Tiler):

Operating Expenses of Hospital \$19,299.00
 Received from patients 17,970.00
 Accounts on books 3,131.00
 Estimated Duke Endowment aid to be paid after the audit 2,000.00

Patients admitted 620
 Major operations 148
 Minor operations 244
 Deaths 13
 Surgical deaths 3

Signed: RUFUS TILER,
 Chm., Hosp. Board.

The following is a statement from the County Auditor, W. H. Noland, bearing his signature:
 Hospital cost since June

30th, 1928	\$14,672.56
Balance left over from 1927	7,745.38
Receipts paid in up to Jan. 25, 1929	21,456.05
Subtracting Balance of 1927	7,745.38
Net Cash Receipts	18,710.67
Expected Duke Aid to exceed	2,000.00

Receipts since June 30, 1928 15,710.27
 Signed: W. H. NOLAND,
 County Auditor.

The location of Haywood County hospital is very fortunate. It commands a good view of surrounding country, is located in approximately the geographic center of Haywood County, and is well away from city noise and smoke nuisance. It is in any position to be endangered by high water. It is easily accessible to all the people of the county on account of the good roads.

The above requirements would of necessity be the paramount issues in selecting a location for Madison County's proposed hospital. Every hospital site must be approved by Representative W. S. Rankin of the Duke Foundation Co. before the company will donate any funds. The necessary requirements must be fulfilled.

R. C. Holt of Wake County reports an income of \$200 a month from a flock of 1,000 leghorn hens.

IRA PLEMMONS WRITES ABOUT HOSPITAL

Jan. 25, 1929.

News-Record: For some time I have been thinking about the proposed Hospital election and what it would mean to Madison County.

I have tried to make very careful inquiry from the Representatives of the different counties that have a hospital of the kind proposed for our county. In every case the same thing very nearly has been said to me, and that is that it is breaking the county up to maintain it. The cost of hospital bills is about the same as in other hospitals and usually the service is of the poorest character or certainly not as good as would be had in larger hospitals. This seems to be for the reasons that specialists cannot afford to be kept in the ordinary County hospital. That being true both in doctors and nurses. As time passes it seems the cost increases for the maintenance, the upkeep grows and the tax payers groan.

The very small amount that we would receive from the Duke foundation is negligible when it comes to building and maintenance cost as compared with what is to follow after the hospital is built and equipped. Some people are always ready to accept anything that appears to be given to them, but lots of times it is better not to accept gifts, especially if the gift will cost more to maintain than the services derived, and that is exactly what I think will happen in the event we should vote more bonds on us to meet the conditions under which we could get the gift in this instance. For these reasons and many more I see how we would not be benefitted to vote more bonds on our people. Heaven knows that we are now burdened with taxation to the very point of ruin. We have the very best hospitals within thirty minutes of the place where this hospital is to be built. In 30 minutes any patient can be at either hospital in Asheville where the very best medical skill can be had and not cost any more than it would in a County hospital in Marshall. Our doctors are nice gentlemen and good in their profession, but have had very little hospital experience. They might be just as good as can be found anywhere, and then again they might not.

I am convinced that in the end our county will have to sell their interest in the proposed hospital should the folk vote to BOND and build it, too, I think I know who would be the buyer.

I have no fuss to pick with the fellow who sees things different to what I do but I do feel that some special interests are to be served by the proposed Hospital. I do not think, I know who is going to do the paying over the sum given, and that is the tax payers of Madison County.

I must advise the tax payers to register and see to it that every man and woman who does not want to be taxed more go to the polls and vote against the hospital measure. Some say, why, your part will only be a few cents a year. That may be true, but the few cents per year on so many things has raised the taxes to where they are now, almost to the point where none of us can pay them, and if we do we have not a cent to go to the benefit of our families.

I am here in Raleigh doing all I can to lighten the load of taxation on my people, and I believe it will be accomplished. If I succeed, then why will more be put on to overcome or at least add some to whatever might be taken off by whatever legislation may be passed at this session of the General Assembly. I was almost discouraged when I saw that an election had been called for the purpose of further bonding Madison County. I cannot believe that the thinking people who are now groaning under the burden of taxation will go and further vote bonds, which means just another mortgage on their homes. Too, when at the most the difference in time to get to a good hospital will not mean more than 30 minutes to Asheville, and not make any difference in time, since we have at Marshall a splendid hospital that is giving satisfactory service and at no cost whatever to the tax payers.

We have exactly the same doctors now giving their services in the hospital that is now at Marshall, that we would have if we should Bond and build a new one.

The new place might be a bit finer but the patient would not get well perhaps a minute sooner, and the cost would be very nearly the same, if anything, would perhaps be higher in the new Bonded one.

Let me urge the tax payers to think long and carefully before you vote more bonds on yourselves. We have lots of just such little taxes added on until we are now overburdened, and in debt that we can never pay, that is those of us that live now.

I am studying every means that I can think of to reduce the tax burden, so as not to cripple the very necessary things that we must have, and I believe next year your taxes will be less.

Again let me urge the voters to register and vote against Bonds, BOND, and vote, we are not now burdened heavily with taxes.

THE WORK OF THE DEMONSTRATION AGENTS

(Editorial by H. L. STORY)

We see that Senator Plemmons has introduced into the legislature a bill to abolish the offices of Farm and Home Demonstration agents in Madison County. What will be the fate of the bill remains to be seen. It may never pass the committee, or it may pass the legislature and become a law abolishing these offices in Madison County. We believe we understand Senator Plemmons in this matter—he has nothing personal against the present incumbents, rather likes them personally, but is not in sympathy with the existence of these offices, not only in Madison County, but in general. He and those who agree with him take the stand that while the county pays a part of the salary of these officers, the other parts of the salary are borne by the state and nation as a whole, which means that the people pay the expense after all. As we see it, that is true, and if we do not have these agents in Madison County, we people in Madison are helping to pay the salaries of similar agents in other counties and states and are getting no direct benefit. But if we have these agents in Madison County, we get the benefit of having other counties and states help pay the salaries. Granting for the sake of argument that these offices are worth to the county what they cost, a county would be much in its own light not to have the direct benefit when, in a sense, it must bear the larger portion of the expense whether it has these officers or not. What we mean is this: suppose every county in the United States had these offices at an expense of \$6000 a year, and suppose every county was bearing one-third the expense, the state one-third and the nation one-third. If property values in every county were the same and the tax rate the same, the cost to every county would be the same as if the people in every county voted a special tax to raise \$6000 to run these offices. Then suppose that under the system of the state, nation and county, paying one-third each, one county should decide to abolish these offices. That county would save \$2000, but it would still be paying \$4000 to help support these offices in other counties. In this hypothetical case, the one county without these offices, would still be indirectly benefitted by observing improved methods in adjoining counties, but the benefits would not be commensurate with the possible benefit which would result from having the offices filled in the county. All this argument is based on the assumption that the offices are worth to a county in general what they cost. If they are not, then we say that they should be abolished not only in Madison County, but in every county in the United States. Certainly they should not exist only for the purpose of giving somebody a job. Such was not the purpose or intention in creating these offices. They were intended and created with a view to helping our farmers, to give them new ideas and improved methods of farming, to improve living conditions in and about the home; in other words, to make people, especially in the rural districts, more prosperous and happy. If they are succeeding in doing this, or show promise of accomplishing these results, they should be retained. Are they?

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

Frankly the facts are hard to get. Ask any number of people and some will tell you one thing and some another. Some people in Madison County will declare that the office of Farm Demonstration Agent in Madison County is worth many times what it costs the county, the state, and nation as a whole. Among these are some of the best business men of the county, including bankers, merchants, professional men, and others. The bankers have no interest except to see the farmers prosper, knowing that the more prosperous the farmers, the better their banking business, the better the mercantile business, the professional business, and every other business. Some of these business and professional men have farms and some of them will declare that their farms are better money producers because of the direct benefit derived by the county having its farm demonstration agent. Praises come not only from business and professional men, but they come from some of the more prosperous farmers in the remote parts of the county. A number of farmers in Madison County will declare today that they have learned directly or indirectly from the farm demonstration agent things that mean dollars to them every year, when their part of the expense of retaining the demonstrator is negligible. If the office were abolished, they would consider themselves directly damaged.

On the other hand, there are many people in Madison County who would claim that the office of farm demonstration agent is not worth a nickel. (We are not discussing the office of Home Demonstration here, for the reason that Madison County has been without this office for a number of years until recently.)

And we understand that Senator Plemmons is among the number. Whether Senator Plemmons owns a farm or not we are not able to say. We do know he is a business man in his home town, owning a mercantile business, a hotel business, and perhaps other interests. Whether he personally had any business in which the farm demonstration agent could have helped if asked, we do not know. But personal matters of this kind should not figure when it comes to legislating for a county or state. And we are sure Senator Plemmons is too broad-minded to be influenced in legislating by his own personal or private interests. But he may be conscientiously even against his own personal interests and those of the county at large, if he is moved by a portion of the facts and not by all the facts, which we admit are hard to get. For instance, Mr. Plemmons is openly and above board opposed to this office. The people of the county know it, for he has made his position known through the columns of this paper more than once. Consequently the people who agree with him on this question will flock to him and lend their encouragement. A few of those on the other side may have the courage to speak their minds, but the average person would prefer to keep out of argument, hence keep silent on the subject, which silence he may consider consent. We cannot deny the fact, however, that Senator Plemmons was elected by the people of the County, the people knowing how he stood on this question. That may seem conclusive, but it may or may not be. The one BIG IDEA in Senator Plemmons' primary publicity was that TAXES HERE AND THERE are too high and should be reduced. That is a popular stand to take, for none of us specially love to pay taxes, and the average person would agree to support a man who promised to reduce taxes before ever stopping to consider whether the reduction of taxes would be beneficial or not. Money properly spent is not an expense but an investment. Some people would kick like a mule if forced by tax to pay a dime even if it could be shown that the expenditure of the dime would benefit them a dollar's worth. Lots of people are prejudiced against anything called TAXES.

The point we are trying to make is that Senator Plemmons' election may have been partly due to his stand on the question of farm demonstration agent, or he may have been elected by an equally large majority if he had been openly in favor of the farm demonstration agent, and at the same time had promised relief from burdensome taxes in other ways.

But even admitting that the majority of the people of the county would vote against the office of farm demonstration agent. Would that fact alone prove that the office should be abolished? This writer submits in silence to the vote of the majority, but he refuses absolutely to believe that the majority is always right. Majorities are often wrong for the reason that they are misinformed, are not in possession of all the facts, have not weighed the facts on each side carefully and arrived at an unbiased conclusion. But we have to submit whether right or wrong. To use Biblical illustrations, the majority was opposed to Children of Israel entering the promised land of Canaan. Only two of the twelve were in favor of it, but who would dare say that the two were not right and the ten wrong? The mob, the majority, crucified Christ, but who would say they were right? Even in our own day, assemblies will reverse themselves after hearing the other side. This writer has often found that he was wrong after hearing the other side. We have known many men who would oppose bitterly an improvement in a town, but after the improvement had been made, its opponent would become its strongest supporter. The point we make is that the result of the recent election does not prove that the office of farm demonstration agent should be abolished.

If you are a farmer, and if you have tried conscientiously and persistently to get some benefit from the farm demonstration agent, both by reading his articles in this paper and by calling at his office and discussing your problems with him, and by inviting him out to your farm to look over your situation, we say that if you have done all this and have had no benefit, we believe you have a right to a kick. But if you have not done these things, how could you expect to be benefitted? The sun shines for your benefit, but you have the privilege of hiding in a cave if you wish, where you could die for want of sunshine.

Mr. Brintnall is a splendid writer, and if he did not do anything but write and the people would read his articles, some of our most intelligent citizens believe that just that alone would be worth more than his cost to the county. His articles are conceded to be among the best. Here is what Mr. F. H. Jeter, Agricultural Editor of the State College, says of his writing:

Both Mr. Brigham and I, and others connected with agricultural work of the State, have studied your column a number of times. I tell you frankly, I think it is one of the best in the State and I believe it is one of the most valuable. You have as good a column, take it week after week, as there is published in North Carolina.

CONCERNING A COUNTY HOSPITAL

By Jack V. Joyce

The taxpayers at a near date are to vote whether or not a County Hospital shall be built. This is an interesting question which should be faced by the citizens of Madison County without bias, without prejudice. This we are told is to be a county hospital. The taxpayers are being asked to take upon themselves a bond issue which will raise their taxes maybe only a little. Some citizens feel their taxes are as high as they can stand now. In talking to several people from different parts of the county, I find a mighty few people who are against a hospital, but I also find a host against the proposed bond issue. Why? Because they know nothing about the facts and I don't blame them at all. We are being kept ignorant of the facts, and when we dare ask questions about the proposed hospital, we are snubbed and accused of trying to stir up confusion.

Only a few days ago a taxpayer dared to assert his rights by asking: "Where is the hospital to be built?" A prominent citizen of the city of Marshall standing by said, "There you go trying to stir up confusion. Let's get the hospital and then decide where to build it later." This citizen is one of the promoters of the hospital, as I understand, and I am no prophet nor son of a prophet, but if that is the spirit and view held by the promoters, I predict an overwhelming defeat of the Hospital Bond Issue election, and it will verily be a victory for the people.

But if the people are publicly informed about the matter, told something, where it is to be built, and shown definitely it is to their advantage, I believe my fellow citizens of Madison County are progressive enough to carry it. We citizens of this county are not going blind a higher rate of taxes on ourselves blindly, but are willing to take hold of something that will benefit us.

In the petition presented to the Commissioners asking them to call an election, I believe one clause was that this hospital was to be built in the corporate limits of the city of Marshall. Tell us where you are going to build it in Marshall. Why not build it somewhere away from the shrieks of the locomotive or the dangers of the ravages of the mighty river.

One citizen was heard to say the other day: "If they build the hospital in Marshall, if she was to get sick she would rather die at home as to go to Marshall and be in danger of dying from the sickness or being killed by the noise of trains or being drowned by the French Broad River."

I am not committing myself by this article for or against the hospital, I am only asking for information. I am only a very small part of the citizenship of the county, not big enough to be noticed; my vote only counts one vote and will not decide any election, but I am interested in Madison county and its citizens.

Let's know where you are going to build the hospital, then let's decide whether we want it or not.

Send in the news from your community to The News-Record.