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## A Palace For Paupers Or Hospital For Helpers

Which Shall it Be, One Both or Neither, is What Dr. Laughinghouse Asks

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

In an Address Before That Body at a Special Meeting Held Yesterday, in Which He Cites a Better Plan for Caring for Pauper

The following is the address in part delivered yesterday by Dr. Chas. O.H. Laughinghouse to the Board of Commissioners of Pitt County.

Honorable Board of Commissioners of Pitt County: Your County Home at present so your home superintendent says, is caring for fifteen inmates. Three of these are white men two of whom Zeno and Richard Campbell were practically born there over fifty years ago. They have been County charges ever since. The other is a paralytic from apoplexy, and is about 20 years of age. You have six white women, one of whom, Emily Campbell, was born in the institution, one Lucy Warren was admitted when a weak bit of a child, one an epileptic who rightfully belongs in the State Epileptic Asylum. Three of these women are well and strong, but old. Not one of these people can read or write and not one of them or their people have ever been more comfortable than they are today.

The average age of the white people is 62.2 years. You also have six negro women one a deaf mute, that belongs rightfully to the State. One blind that belongs to the State, one feeble minded, one a Paralytic. Two are there because of age. This takes the fifteen, all are ignorant, a majority of these have spent so many years there that they will prefer remaining where they are. Moving them into the new home will appeal to the emotionalism of a few—who are guided by sentiment rather than reason, but it will not add to the happiness of those whom you are trying to help. Be that as it may, you are about to construct a County Home. Before doing so let's see what it will cost.

Your County home last year so your home superintendent says cost you \$300 a month for its main anance which is 6 per cent interest on \$60,000. Surely your new home, your \$40,000 plant, with its steam heat, electric lights, sewerage, hot and cold water, coal to burn instead of wood, with its laundry, its refectory, its infirmary, its tuberculosis ward, its pest house, its work shop, its places for amusement and recreation, and its sun parlors, all of which, by the way will remain practically empty, will cost you in maintenance not less than \$600 per month or \$7,200 a year or the interest on \$120,000.

Your home as you have planned it will cost complete furnished and ready for occupancy not less than 40,000. Let's sum it up. You are spending \$40,000 the interest on which is 2,400 a year, add to this \$7,200 a year for maintenance and you have \$9,600 add to this the \$62.50 a month or \$750.00 per year the amount that you are paying your superintendent of health: who does nothing but care for your Convicts and county home. He is doing nothing in the way of Preventive medicine, nothing to aid the development of your school children, on whom you are spending thousands to educate, nothing to prevent ty-

phoid fever, malaria, hookworm disease nothing to teach midwives. His duty is to look after your county charges therefore, his salary should be charged to your County Home. The salary is \$750.00 per year. Add this to the \$9,600 already accounted for you get the modest amount of \$10,450 which you will have to pay annually to maintain your county home. If you would put in State institutions those of your paupers that rightfully belong there, you would not have over ten paupers to open up your new institution with. Ten paupers at the average age of 61.1 years,—who can not read or write, some of whom are idiots, half of the number are paralyzed, and for their maintenance you are about to give consent to a plan the cost of which is \$10,450 a year, more than \$1,000 a year a piece it is worth something to be a pauper here in "Good old Pitt." Is it not? Well I would answer my question by saying no, for even though you will be spending \$10,450 a year, or more than \$1,000 a piece on your paupers, you are giving them nothing but new surroundings.

You have, when you open this place, a beautiful constructed black smith shop without a forge anvil or hammer. Why do I say this? I say it because you cannot get a superintendent who can give what your plant demands, without spending too much money to keep his job, unless your place is a hollow mockery. We will need trained nurses. You can't afford them. You will need many things you cannot afford. Your number of paupers is too small and as the years go by you will find it growing smaller. Christianity, sociology, education, business intelligence in the management of public affairs, and putting brains before sentiment in the solution of public charity is charging the world. We have out grown the old county home plan, just as surely as we have out grown the inefficient and old fashioned plan of keeping up the public roads. To have the things you are building for, will be as impractical and no more profitable than an electric car line running in passenger cars from Pictou to Black Jack every fifteen minutes.

Let's reason this proposition out, let's tear it to pieces, let's study it part by part, and put it together again. You have had the sentimental side put up to you by those who with heart's bleeding with sympathy are anxious to do something for our paupers. I myself have the same desire you have the same desire, the public at large has the same desire, there is nobody who would put anything in the way of their betterment, their comfort or happiness. I contend however, that your present plan in order to bring about what you aspire to must be changed. In building your county home you are building for the future. I predict and with undeniable grounds that your county home will be closed in less than ten years. The world is changing, education, telegraph, telephone, machinery, labor saving schemes, business organization, public economics and community, and state cooperation makes this a different world from yesterday. Your fathers and mine came to town in carts, today you come in Cadillacs. I was taught at home by a private teacher, the best that could be had, children of farther's tenants have better school facilities than I had. Grimesland today has better public schools than Raleigh had twenty years ago. What does it mean? It means that our people are growing in

intelligence, it means that they have more time. The country man's mail comes to his door today and without expense to him. He can phone for what he wants and parcel post lays it in his lap. Coming events cast their shadows before them. You will notice by studying each individual in your county home that not one of them can read or write. Take your poor house list for the past fifty years and you will find that not one tenth of one per cent of the had any education whatever. The man or woman with even the rudiments of an education has not applied to your home for admittance in the past. If education has kept them out in the past, why won't it do it in the future?

The law prohibits the sale of laudanum, cocaine and morphine. Public sentiment is so strong against it that no druggist or doctor with character will dare break this law. The observance of the law will eliminate your drug fiends. Prohibition has come to stay. Liquor is gradually getting further away. Even Virginia is going dry. The damage done by alcohol is being taught daily in all our schools. Every child is learning it, for education is compulsory now, children of this day and generation know that positions of trust are not given to men who drink, they are taught the damage it does to body, mind, character, morals and souls, and this teaching is showing itself in a public sentiment that is discountenancing drunkenness. The alcoholic rooms in your County Home will be vacant for education is going to greatly diminish this class. Syphilis, commonly known as Pox that disease that kills the manliness in a man, that drives him to hopelessness, that one great horror to the student of charity the one disease that makes more paupers than any other six diseases, because it is contagious and puts prostitutes on the pauper list. This dread thing is curable now, as three or four injections of Eriicks cure it as promptly as quinine cures malaria and in so doing makes spare rooms in your county home. County Homes in past had to take care of foundling children and orphans, of the deaf and dumb, the blind, the feeble minded, the tuberculous, the epileptic, the insane North Carolina has adopted facilities in the way of orphan asylums and reformatories to make it a crime to permit children being reared in a county home. She has asylums for the blind, deaf, dumb, epileptic, and feeble minded and insane. She has a sanatorium for tuberculosis that is as good as the best in the world and each legislature is adding to them from year to year making them more adequate. They can, and will, in fact they are caring now for this class of our paupers better than you can even hope to do, if you had money to burn.

This county home question though sorrowful though stimulating sympathy and sentiment has got two sides. Like all charity it can be handled well only by reason. It is all right to let sentiment and sympathy prompt, but let reason and judgement decide. This is a matter of business, let's handle it in a business way. I suggest that we go away that we get out in the world and see what other people are doing. Let's go to Virginia here you will find a state with more county homes than any other state in the South. County homes that are constructed in a modern manner. Virginia says that the old county home plan is a failure. You can see that it is a failure, civilization is changing the world medical and surgical progress with education is lessening pauperism to such an extent that Virginia realizes that the only economical and efficient way to solve the county home problem is to have district alms houses. We will come to that; we are progressing fast not to come to it; co-

operation systemized public service, modern methods, economy and common sense will drive us to it. She too has state institutions for the deaf, dumb, blind, epileptic feeble minded and insane that relieved her poor houses to such an extent that her last General Assembly made an effort to abolish the county almshouses and create instead district almshouses, one for each congressional district. This idea is spreading through the whole South. It is planned that these district homes for the aged and infirm should be located on a farm, with a hospital and trained nurses for the sick, comforts, amusements and pleasures for the aged, institutional care and work shops for its whisky and drug fiends, correct apartments and attendants for the idiots and feeble minded, a tubercular hospital for the consumptive and above all an educated competent trained superintendent with a trained force of helpers. Your responsibility gentlemen is a very serious one, so serious that I am coming to you to help you to solve this problem. No matter how it all turns out; I for one shall feel that you have done your duty as best it can be done with the lights before you. I am not here to criticize but to help, and if I have said anything that appears as a harsh criticism I beg that you will not construe it that way.

Just indulge me a moment more for the expression of or more thought. Can we spend this money for a county home and spend in addition money for a health officer for his whole time, a health officer who can inspect school children and put them in position to make men and women physically strong, a health officer who can teach sanitation in all the public schools, a health officer that will constantly sow seed that will go to make a country without paupers. If we can't have both, which had we best give up? Think of this gentlemen, think of the children of the men and women who are paying for the care of the pauper. A successful farmer makes the statement that no cattle over 3 years of age can be profitably raised for less than \$80.00, because the time and food required to bring a calf to maturity is worth that much. No enterprising man can afford to invest his interest in a calf for less than that amount. Now you will agree that it takes more time and more costly surroundings are required to develop children than to develop cattle. It's conservative to say that the actual cost of raising an infant to adult age is \$4,000. You could not hire it done for that amount. Add to this, one child's share in the public schools and you have another thousand dollars making \$5,000 to raise an infant boy or girl to a grown man or woman. Would you train a crippled colt? No, well, are you going to train crippled children? If your colt was worth \$500 you would have his deformity corrected if possible. That is what medical inspection of school children means. There is an adage that "there are those who give and strive and do without and those who get and spend." If you can't care for both of Pitt county citizenship in the name of God don't neglect the children.

Don't strive and neglect the hope of the future in order to lionize and coddle the hopelessness and shiftlessness and failures of the past. Neglect of the children in the public schools of the past made the wrecks that are filling county homes today.

One more thought please indulge me and I am done. Of the 40,000 people in your county there is never a minute but that some one is writhing in pain, wrestling with the pangs and ravages of disease. There is never a week but that some death takes place that could be avoided by proper medical and surgical treatment. There is enough money spent in railroad fares

by the citizens of Pitt County taking some loved ones to hospitals away from home, to maintain a county hospital. Can you build and maintain a county home and also build and maintain a county hospital? If you can, will you build both? If you can't which is the more important, a county home for six useless negro women and nine white paupers who will die in a few years or an adequate county hospital to prevent future paupers? Which do the people need most, which do they want most, which is the most economical, which will do most good, which is most christ like, which is most human.

A hospital will go a long way toward maintaining itself. It can also maintain your paupers. It will comfort prolong and save the life of more people in a month than your county home will care for in a year. Let's compare the two County home, every thing going out nothing coming in. A county hospital a good deal going out but a good deal coming in. County home caring for a few who are waiting to die. County hospital caring for many, giving life, comfort, and health. County home admitting only the pauper. County hospital admitting the pauper and those that care for and maintain the pauper. County home says on its door, nothing but paupers admitted here. Abandon hope come in if you are a pauper, still, do nothing just hurry up and die. County hospital says come into me all ye that are sick, pauper as well as plutocrat. I will give you all that can be given to restore you to health.

Gentlemen which will you give? will you give both?

## NEGRO TRIES TO ESCAPE FOR SECOND TIME

Squire Graffaree Makes Two Attempts in Ten Days

### HAD BROKEN CELL LOCK

Negro Carries a Bad Reputation And is Being Held For The Burglary of Several Places Near Grimes- and Elsewhere.

Squire Graffaree, the negro that has for some time carried a bad reputation through this section of Eastern Carolina, and who is now confined in the county jail, seems determined to keep his word as to remaining in the local institution for criminals.

Several weeks ago it will be remembered Graffaree made his escape with several other negro prisoners from the jail but later was arrested in Suffolk, Va., and brought back here and once more placed behind the bars. At that time the negro remarked that the officers would not be able to keep him within the prison walls, and last week Sheriff Dudley discovered that the cell door in which Graffaree was confined had been forced open. He was taken out and placed in another thought to be more secure, and this morning a gentleman living probably a hundred yards from the jail informed the sheriff that he was awakened last night by a noise that sounded like some one was tearing down the jail building, and upon investigation the sheriff discovered that Graffaree had succeeded almost in making his escape for the second

## PARTY ANXIOUS TO PURCHASE THE LAND FROM COUNTY

Should Commissioners Change Their Plans as to New County Home

### HOSPITAL SITE IS OFFERED

Greenville Citizens Express a Willingness to Donate The Ground for County Home and Hospital Combined. Much Comment

It was learned today that in the event that the County commissioners changed their plans as to building the new County Home on the site recently purchased for that purpose, that there was a ready buyer that was willing to take the property off their hands at the figures they paid for it, which no doubt would be quite an inducement to the Commissioners at this particular time.

It was furthermore rumored that the party that bought the old County Home site when it was offered for sale at public auction some months ago agrees to turn it over to the county at same figures it was sold for when he purchased same.

On top of all this, should the County Commissioners abolish the idea of the new County Home, and instead a county home and hospital combined, comes the glad news that some Greenville citizens have offered to donate to the county an adequate site for such an institution.

This is news that very probably will be well received by many of the citizens of the county as it seems a majority are in favor of abolishing the idea of the building of the new County Home at such as submitted to the commissioners in the recent plans.

Further investigation revealed that he had placed a small block of wood against the combination lock of the cell door that prevented its closing all the way, though it could not have been detected by one when closing and locking the door. He had jerked the door backward and forward with such force that a combination on the runners above the door had been sprung, and he had been able to open the door about four or five inches, and it was at this position when discovered by Sheriff Dudley this morning.

William Pitt, a negro trusty, that has been allowed to work around the courthouse since he was sentenced to the jail for a period of several months, is thought to be instigated in Graffaree's last attempt to make his escape, as several bolts that could not have been taken off except from the outside had been removed, and Pitt being the only one that could be guilty of this act was again locked up.

Graffaree hails from Lenoir county near Kinston, and is charged with the burglary of several places in and around Grimesland. Since his arrest the first time he has cost Pitt county in the neighborhood of one hundred dollars, making repairs to the jail.

With all his threats that he will not stay in jail, Sheriff Dudley stated this morning that he was going to put into force every possible means for the keeping of the desperado until the next term of criminal court disposes of him.