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YOUR income is the only support of your family. What would you do, if it should be stopped by sickness or some other trouble? Well, you are reasonably sure that it will stop some time. Did you ever think what you would do then? Why not begin preparation for the day when the income may stop by saving just a little from what you have now?

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G. E. FOY'S CLEAR STATEMENT ON CO. FINANCES

New Bern, N. C., December 17, 1910.

Mr. Editor— Although I dislike so much a newspaper controversy, I guess I shall have to, under the circumstances, make some reply to Mr. Ernest M. Green's letter which he wrote to the New Bern Sun a few days ago as it is calculated to mislead some who might not clearly understand the situation. Mr. S. H. Fowler, Register of Deeds, brought the county's financial statement to me before publishing the same. Upon this statement he had a list of vouchers issued from Dec. 1, 1909, to the first Monday in Dec. 1910 inclusive, showing the name of the party to whom each voucher was issued, what it was for, together with the amount of the same. This embraced a complete list of every item and correctly stated. He also had in a consolidated form the amount of vouchers issued for each of the various departments of the county and the receipts and disbursements of the sheriff's account. He also had an item of unpaid vouchers of five thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars. I asked him if his method of obtaining this item was absolutely correct. (As I remembered a few years ago when the Register of Deeds made a similar statement, he put down an item of outstanding vouchers of around twenty-nine thousand dollars, when in fact I was informed that some twenty thousand dollars worth of those vouchers were at that time paid and in the hands of the Treasurer, and cancelled on the Treasurer's book.) I said to him unless you know that the five thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars is correct, it ought not to be published. I agreed that a statement of the county's financial condition ought to give all information so that any one could read and understand, but unfortunately the system and method of county book keeping is a very crude affair and should be reformed. It turns out upon examination that the figures which Mr. Fowler had of \$5750.00 were not correct and I still think they ought not to have been published for information unless they were correct. I do not know that the figures used by Mr. Green are correct, saying that the outstanding and unpaid vouchers amount to seven thousand three hundred and fifty-two dollars and fifty-nine cents. In fact I have read his letter. I have examined the claim book and according to the figures which I took from that book I find the unpaid vouchers seven thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven cents, going back three years to November 1907, all vouchers three years old or more are cancelled by the nature of limitation. In the unpaid vouchers there are four thousand two hundred and sixty-two dollars and fifty-eight cents which were paid and cancelled, and are signed by the head of the department bills, etc., that were presented, and allowed by the board of county commissioners on the first Monday in December. This of course was for items which were due or before that date and if unpaid vouchers are to be calculated, they should be and are included in my figures. The greater part of the balance of the unpaid vouchers are No. 8 township road orders, which perhaps amount to around fifteen hundred dollars. I was satisfied that a number of these road vouchers were out, from the fact that for the past several years the road tax levy has not been sufficient to properly take care of that expense. I have each year brought this matter to the attention of the board of magistrates when the road tax was levied, insisting that the road tax should be more than ten cents on the hundred dollars at their last meeting. In June 1910, the magistrates made a levy of fifteen cents on the hundred dollars, which will yield for operating expenses for the road work during the coming year around nine thousand dollars, instead of six thousand dollars as was yielded by the tax last year. This will give the county funds to take care of this work much better than it ever has been able to do heretofore. It will also have something to retire the unpaid road vouchers.

next fifteen minutes and at that moment we could not possibly take that item up, but we would pass an order requesting that his account be referred to the special auditing committee which the board had employed to audit his account, consisting of Messrs. M. H. Edwards and H. M. Groves, of this city. If there are any errors in this account they can easily be adjusted and I see no reason for any special agitation about this matter. Regarding the amount of two cents on the hundred dollars collected for the pension of the old Confederate soldiers. The Sheriff collects all taxes and pays them to the proper fund. If he has made any mistake and paid to one fund more than he should, this is a matter which he handles and it can be easily adjusted. I see no reason for any special agitation about this item. Mr. Green puts down as the amount turned over by the former Treasurer one thousand three hundred twenty-seven dollars and ninety-seven cents, the Auditor-Comptroller find that the former Treasurer owed the county one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven dollars and seventy-eight cents and if he has not paid that amount, I presume the board will collect it in the near future as that is the sum which he owed the county on the date of the last audit report Dec. 5th, 1910. According to the report of the Sheriff on December 5th, he had on hand on that date one thousand eight hundred six dollars and fifty-seven cents in cash. The trustee of the sinking fund has on hand \$1072.81 in cash. The dividend of the A. & N. C. R. R. will be paid in January and July amounting to \$3,800.00. The Sheriff holds a tax list amounting to perhaps more than sixty odd thousand dollars, none of which Mr. Green makes mention when he refers to the true and exact bank statement of the county's financial condition. If the county's annual statement is to show its exact condition as a bank statement, then it would be proper for every item of its affairs to be taken into consideration and clearly stated. Assets as well as liabilities. Mr. Green further states that the old board had ten thousand dollars of tax money collected from Miss Ann Donnell's estate, when in fact this money was collected in June 1909 and was accounted for in the previous year. \$10,000.00 was the amount paid to the board of commissioners and handed to the Sheriff. The Sheriff's commission on this sum was \$250.00 and the Treasurer's commission was \$250.00 and \$500.00 was paid out for attorney's fees, leaving a net income to the county from Miss Ann Donnell's estate of nine thousand dollars instead of ten as stated by Mr. Green. I do not see that there is any special sensation in this matter. During the past two years there has been several items that do not usually occur which have been paid from the general fund without any extra levy. It might be mentioned in part the construction of the long bridge through the Neuse river swamp on a concrete foundation which is in fact an approach to the new steel bridge at Maple Cypress. I think this bridge is one eighteen hundred to two thousand feet long and enables in that community to cross the river at that point at all stages of the water. There is also the new bridge built across Clay Root Swamp, eight hundred feet long, the dividing line between Pitt and Craven which was built jointly by the two counties. The new bridge on upper Bachelor Creek 300 feet long. The new bridge across Bryan Mill Race, and the new bridge across Bear Branch. The new stables at the jail yard together with certain materials which have been purchased for the new reinforced concrete bridge at Deep Gully. The appropriation for the New Bern Bi-Centennial together with several other items that I cannot enumerate which would be considered extraordinary items, run up into considerable money. I do not remember what the liabilities of the county were when the "Old Board" entered upon its duties; they were considerable. I think the bonded indebtedness was around one hundred thousand dollars, while the floating debt I do not recall. This has all been paid, both bonded and floating debt and some improvements have been made and the tax levy has been reduced. The county is in a most excellent financial condition. The new board goes into office under most favorable circumstances. I am satisfied the county is in the best condition that it has been within the past forty years. The new board in my opinion is simply capable and well qualified to take care of its affairs and as far as I know there is not the slightest friction between any member of the old and new board, and if there has been any unfair treatment among any of the gentlemen on either board I am not aware of it. Certainly there is no necessity for it, or in Mr. Green's suggestion of unfair treatment or in his trying to make any sensation along this line.

REBELS ROUT FEDERALS

Diaz's Troops in Full Retreat in Northern Mexico. Dead Placed at 200.

Eagle Pass, Texas, Dec. 20.—Reports from the Chihuahua district of Mexico declare that the Federal troops are in retreat following a second decisive victory of the revolutionists. Efforts to determine the loss on either side have failed to confirm a report that fully 200 Federalists were slain.

Belated reports from Lajunta are that the rebel victory of Friday was more pronounced than first reported. Fully 1,000 Federal soldiers perished in the engagement, while the rebel losses were comparatively small, according to advices.

Washington, Dec. 20.—After January 20, 1911, Pullman sleeping car rates throughout the country will be \$2 for a lower berth, and \$1.60 for upper berths for a 12 hour ride. This decision was handed down today by the interstate commerce commission. The traveling public, it is estimated, will save \$1,500,000 annually by this decision. The Pullman Company has agreed to the reduction.

Monday, Dec. 26th, being a legal holiday, the three banks in town will be closed. All paper maturing that day will be due and payable the day following.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 20.—The government today instituted proceedings in United States court here against the Southern States for operating a car with defective couplings, and forfeiture of \$100 is claimed against the New York Philadelphia and Norfolk, Philadelphia and Norfolk, Philadelphia and Norfolk for like violation. Forfeiture of \$100 is claimed against the Atlantic Coast Line for the alleged use of a car without a "grab iron" at hand hold.

Pocket Knives in Individual Christmas Boxes—M. E. Whitehurst & Co.

FINANCES OF THE STATE Receipts for Past Year Something Over Six Million. Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 20.—After a week spent in auditing and comparing vouchers and records in the State treasury, the auditor's office and the office of the commissioners of agriculture so receipts and disbursements of State funds, the legislative committee announced the following status of the State's finances for the year: General fund, \$5,437,944.34; disbursements \$5,437,944.34. Of the receipts \$112,911.00 was balance on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year (December 1909), and \$5,325,033.34 was receipts for the year ending December 31, 1910. The official fund shows a balance on hand December 31, 1910, \$10,017.45; receipts for the year, \$78,284.20; total receipts for the year, \$88,301.65; disbursements, \$78,284.20; leaving a balance on hand of \$10,017.45.

The Peoples Bank NEW BERN, N. C. 4% PAID ON SAVINGS STRONG COURTEOUS PROGRESSIVE HAPPINESS AT CHRISTMAS TIME often depends, in a large measure, upon the degree in which friends manifest towards each other their regard, wishes of welfare and good will. The custom of giving bank books as tokens of remembrance at this season is a most delightful one because it evidences that you have given careful thought to the selection of the gift. You can open accounts in this bank with \$1.00 or as much more as you wish to give. The bank books will be issued in the names you designate, (enclosed in special holiday envelopes) and mailed with your card so they will reach the persons for whom they are intended Christmas morning. 4 Per Cent Interest on Savings. WM DUNN C. D. BRADHAM T. A. UZZELL PRES. VICE PRES. CASHIER

THE BEST GIFT FOR THE MAN Three pairs of half hose, Pure Silk, in all the popular shades in a Christmas box, \$1.00 the box. The famous Ways Knit Mufflers, 25c and 50c. We have an enormous stock of nifty neck fixings. FOUR MORE DAYS TO DO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING THE STORE OF USEFUL GIFTS. J. J. BAXTER DEPT. STORE ELKS TEMPLE

BIG AND LITTLE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS are to be filled this year and the best place to find the Christmas offerings and gifts to supply them is at Barrington's. We have just received direct from the manufacturer the nicest line of Ladies Silk Hose at five you ever saw, also a better quality at \$1.00. These are best values, we have a fine line of three for a dollar, in black which comes three pairs in a nice Christmas box, a nice present for your mother or sister. Don't forget our line of all Leather Bags, they are wonders. Now in the line of Handkerchiefs, we just simply defy competition. We sell you Linen Handkerchiefs at 5 and 10c, but we sell you a better all pure linen one for 15c that you can't duplicate for less than 25c elsewhere. We have other things you can get cheaper and if you do not come to see it will be your fault. We buy this space to tell you about these bargains and will be glad to show them to you. Have you seen that elegant line of Muslin Underwear, after it is all gone and your friends tell you about it, you will wish you had. A full line of ladies and childrens Kid Gloves. WATCH THIS SPACE Barrington Dry Goods Co.

JUST TIME ENOUGH NOW TO GET YOUR ENGRAVED VISITING CARDS BEFORE CHRISTMAS WE HAVE YOUR PLATE ENNETT'S BOOK STORE

FIRE WORKS! WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. LARGEST AND FRESHEST STOCK IN THE CITY. Full stock of Loaded Shells, Guns, Pistols, Rifles, Cartridges, Hunting Clothing, Razors, Pocket Knives, Foot Balls, Punching Bags, Boxing Gloves, Roller Skates, Edison Phonographs Records, Bicycles, Etc. WILLIAM T. HILL "THE SPORTING GOODS MAN" Phone 253 31 Middle Street

A CHRISTMAS CALL BY SANTA CLAUS. If he has some first-class coal, his pack will be welcomed beyond words by many a family. The creature comforts of a good fire and a good night's sleep are things that you don't want to be known in the matter just leave an order and the price for a ton or two with us the name and address of the family you want supplied. Your wishes will be respected and carried out. Ellis' Coal and Wood Yard Phone 47

CARLOAD BUCK'S STOVES RANGES. J. S. BASNIGHT HARDWARE CO. NEW BERN, N. C.

THE CHRISTMAS RUSH for our confections has been fully anticipated and we are prepared to supply all demands made for assorted chocolates. Call and see what we have in specially prepared and decorated boxed boxes, etc., making most beautiful Xmas and Holiday gifts. Edward Clark For Mrs. Elks Temple New Bern, N. C.