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## The Colfax Chronicle.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1913.

### Mr. Richardson Opposes 5-Mills Tax.

We print an article this week from Mr. R. W. Richardson, president of the police jury, "Opposed to the Five Mill Tax," in which he is disposed to skin the Chronicle editor a little bit. He endorses the 2 1/2 mills tax proposed for ward one, but, in his support of this proposition, he appears to have made several errors, because he begins with a false premise, and of course reaches a wrong conclusion.

The editor has a thick skin, and don't mind a little flaying from his friends when they so far forget their argument as to go into the skinning business. If it pleases them it does not hurt us, and we can afford to pass it by without any attempt at personal vindication. But the ideas that our correspondent advances as alleged reasons or arguments against the 5 mill tax are fallacious, and, for the reason that his misconceptions may mislead a few persons, deserve some consideration.

First—He says he is not opposed to taxation to run our schools, but he opposes the proposed 5 mills tax for this purpose, and he proposes in its stead a tax of 2 1/2 mills, when he must know that ward one, (district one), is about the only district in the parish that could hope to come anywhere near paying its debts and run its schools with 2 1/2 mills. In fact, it is doubtful if 2 1/2 mills would be sufficient to do this in ward one, even with all of its boasted wealth.

Second—In a total fund of \$36,665 he figures out a total overdraft of \$11,051, that a cash balance of \$6,264 cannot satisfy by \$4,786. He asks what these amounts represent, utterly ignoring the annual appropriations coming to the school fund from the State and the parish, which when apportioned to the districts will enable them to pay this \$4,786 several times over. Of course these overdrafts will have to be paid out of what is coming to the districts, and it will bankrupt those districts that are in debt to pay, unless they are

helped out by carrying the proposed 5 mills tax. This is the very reason for the 5 mills tax. A 2 1/2 mills tax will not suffice, therefore the 5 mills tax is proposed.

Third—He talks about bad bookkeeping and juggling of funds. The school board, out of its plethoric balances, has on several occasions loaned the police jury \$5000 or \$6000, without interest, to tide the parish over the dull months of summer, and when the taxes came in it was paid back in the fall. We suppose that was all right; no dreaming or juggling about it; but it is a difficult matter now for Mr. Richardson to understand how the same kind of loans can be made to those districts in need of money to carry on their schools, to be paid back in the same way.

Fourth—There has been no consolidation of the districts, as Mr. Richardson assumes. The districts in need of money have simply been associated or grouped together for the purpose of holding a single election to vote on the question of tax or no tax. This is distinctly stated in the ordinance. It saves the cost of holding about 25 different elections in the various districts, at a big cost to each district, if the elections were held separately. The grouping is only for the temporary purpose of the election. After the election, whether the tax carries or is defeated, District 32 will be dissolved, and the grouping together is at an end. The various districts will all remain exactly as they have been heretofore. Those that have money to their credit will keep it, and those that are in debt will have to pay their debts before they can have any schools. If the tax is carried it will be levied, collected, and virtually expended where collected—in each district. The petition of the people asking for the election requests this, and the ordinance to levy and collect the tax must so provide, or it would be a nullity. No amount of specious arguing in a circle by Mr. Richardson can get over this plain common sense provision of the ordinance and law, under which the tax is to be distributed. Read the ordinance on our fourth page. It specifically provides that the proceeds of the tax "shall be annually pro rated to the several school districts." What districts? Section 1 of the ordinance enumerates every one of them by number.

Fifth—Mr. Richardson intimates by inference that the cross road or 3 R schools of the parish are robbed in order to maintain the high schools. This is an unworthy aspersion for a man of his intelligence to make. If he really believes this to be true, he ought in all

fairness to himself and the public have the grand jury to investigate the matter, or else make a special effort to communicate his belief to the traveling State auditor. It is certainly within the knowledge of Mr. Richardson that the private citizens of Colfax, Verda and Pollock have contributed a thousand dollars or more for the benefit of each of these high schools, besides which they have received several hundred dollars a year from the State and other sources, simply because they were high schools and maintained a prescribed curriculum.

Sixth—We support the 5 mill tax because we believe the existence of the cross road 3 R schools depend upon the tax. It is the very best thing we can do to maintain them in their useful and most necessary places in the sparsely settled regions of the parish.

Seventh—There are two or three other items in Mr. Richardson's letter we might discuss, but believe they have been covered sufficiently by some of our correspondents, without taking up our time and space to consider them.

So far as a discussion of school finances is concerned, we feel sure that Supt. Warner, as custodian of the school money, is amply able to unravel any and all intricacies that may puzzle Mr. Richardson and others who may desire to look into the matter.

We are with Mr. Richardson in his interest about the roads and the necessity for keeping up our march of progress. As he well says, our people all know if they have the good things of life they must "pay the freight," and we believe that they are ready and willing to pay their part of the taxes necessary to pay the freight for good schools and good roads. Especially is this the case at the present time, when they know that by levying a tax of 5 mills they will get from 85 to 90 cents from the non resident mill men, timber owners and railroads, for every 10 or 15 cents the resident citizens pay into the treasury.

Yes, friend Richardson, as you well say, let us get together; and the way to do it is to vote the 5 mill tax for our schools.

The people have acted wisely and economically in grouping the school districts of the parish together to vote on the proposed 5 mills tax. It saves the taxpayers of Grant parish more than a thousand dollars. If an election had been ordered in 25 districts, the cost would have been \$60 or \$70 for each district. As it is, the cost will be limited to less than three hundred dollars, by holding only one election for all the districts.

### Uncle George Favors the School Tax.

Editor Colfax Chronicle:

I wish you would allow me space in your paper to say a little more to the voters of Grant parish in regard to the school tax to be voted for or against on August 19. I am surprised to find that there are some men of small means with a good bunch of children who are in doubt as to whether they ought to vote this tax or not, and occasionally one is opposed to it. He can't give reasons for his opposition more than "taxes are too high already. If taxes are allowed to keep on increasing this way all business will be suspended, mills shut down, railroad companies 'busted,' and everything killed by taxes." I don't think we need worry about the hardships this little tax will work on these big corporations and land owners, but rather let us think of the benefits it will be to them and to us. It will certainly help to create a market for lands, increase the business of the railroads, and be of benefit in many ways. All the wealthy non residents will help us in this way to build up our country; and it seems to me we ought to see that they do it. Some of us have a small property and no children to educate. Now would we, could we, be so indifferent to the welfare of our friends that we would refuse to help them rise in the scale of enlightenment when it requires so little of our means? This writer has no child to educate, but if by casting my vote I can help in compelling some soulless corporation to help the poor man who has such a struggle to provide for and educate his children, I will gladly cast my vote and pay my pro rata of the tax.

Some districts, as we know, are already paying a 5 mill tax, which is paid back to these districts alone. For instance, Pollock district voted a tax three years ago of 5 mills for 5 years. This leaves two years of special tax yet unpaid, which will be paid in and used for this district alone. Now, if we of Pollock district vote for the present 5 mill tax, this will create a special fund, and is to be divided 95 per cent to the white and 5 per cent to the colored children, all over the parish.

I am reliably informed that some districts in the parish have been able to keep up their schools without a special tax. This is because of the small number of white children in those districts in proportion to the negroes, and the method of distributing the funds. If we vote this parish wide tax these wealthy districts will pay into the treasury considerably more than they will draw out. However, no one should be so selfish as to oppose the tax from that standpoint. The question now is, how are you to finance your schools for the forthcoming season otherwise than to vote a special tax? Of course I am excepting certain districts which have funds on hand to maintain their schools, and are paying a five mills tax already.

It seems to me that as the matter stands there is one of three things that must be done, vote the tax, stop the schools, or run them as private schools. The choice is left to the voters. I hope when you read this you will look into this matter and see that this parish wide tax is not a trick to skin you, but is for the benefit of the white child all over the parish, and it is an opportunity to get help from the big corporations to educate your children.

UNCLE GEORGE.

### Unfounded Charges of Corruption.

It is quite the fashion among hot headed and intemperate speakers to make charges of corruption and graft, when at the same time they are not willing to go before a grand jury and present their charges for investigation at the hands of the court. A noted example of wrong of this kind, which has ended in conviction and punishment, is the case in which E. O. Brunner and Jas. E. Halligan figured. They charged that Prof. W. R. Dodson had padded and added to the accounts of the cost of operating the laboratory of the experiment stations at Baton Rouge and other points. The professor called on them to prove their charges, and—going into court they were so convinced of their utter falsity, that each one signed a statement admitting their guilt of slander. Judge Brunot fined each \$200.00 and costs and sixty days in jail, with fifteen days additional imprisonment if they did not pay the fine.

### "Many a Little Makes a Muckle."

Every voter who pays taxes should vote for the five mills tax, no matter how small his taxes. Every little counts, and in the end a large number of small properties will amount to a great deal. Nothing is truer than the old Scotch adage that "Many a little makes a muckle," and it is just as true piling up votes as it is when piling up money.

The La. & Ark. railway has pushed the work of construction building from Jena toward Vidalia and the Mississippi river, and will soon be able to cross Black river over its own bridge at Jonesville. From there it is thought they will temporarily use the tracks of the Natchez and Western railway into Vidalia, at which point it will cross the Mississippi river. The people of La-Salle parish are greatly interested in this road, which will be a great convenience for them as well as for all of this section of Louisiana in reaching eastern and southern points.

### Three Persons Drowned in Cane River.

Three persons were drowned in Cane river last Sunday at noon while attempting to cross the river in a defective boat. They were Levi Moreau and his wife, and a little boy, the brother of Mrs. Moreau. The accident occurred near Marco, and two other men are said to have been in the boat at the time.

"Uncle George" and "Nephew Bob Richardson" in this issue of the Chronicle clash together in their ideas about the special tax. Read their articles elsewhere.

### How About Fire Escapes?

Before the beginning of the next term of the Colfax high school, and for the second time, the Chronicle calls attention to the fact that there are no fire escapes from the second story of the school building. If a fire was to break out on or under the single awkward stairway that leads into the auditorium, a lot of children could be caught like rats in a trap. The stairway really should be torn out entirely, and placed on the south side of the building, and balcony galleries built for it and the accommodation of the children upstairs and downstairs. The ugly cluttering up of two recitation rooms and the big hole in the auditorium floor can then be done away with, and some valuable space utilized that is now wasted.

### Shreveporters Should Know About Ebenezer.

During the late camp meeting at Ebenezer the L. R. & N. Co. ran a couple of Sunday excursion trains out of Shreveport, charging the remarkably low rate of one dollar for the round trip to Kadeshi; but they only carried sixty or seventy persons out of Shreveport each day. If the people of Shreveport were made aware of the fact that for one dollar they could make the round trip of nearly two hundred miles, and spend about seven hours on the beautiful shady Ebenezer camp ground, with its six or seven cool springs of clear crystal water, all situated in a hundred yards of a creek, and making the finest camp ground in the State, we believe that several hundred persons would be glad to take advantage of the trip.

### Robbery at Bentley.

Last Wednesday night some person or persons broke into the Hart commissary, Dr. Kent's drug store and Wiley Walker's store at Bentley, securing small booty for the trouble. The postoffice at Bentley is located in the Hart commissary, and 35c of postoffice funds was taken, together with some provisions and canned goods from the commissary. A gun was taken from the Kent drug store and some overalls and shoes from Wiley Walker's store. The sheriff's office was notified and Deputy Clinton went to Bentley on Thursday to investigate the robbery. No clue to the perpetrators was found, but Chas. Youngblood, a young white man, was arrested on suspicion of being implicated and is being held pending further investigation.

### No Services at Methodist Church.

Owing to the revival meeting that is in progress at the Baptist church at Colfax, there will be no preaching services at the M. E. church South on Sunday, only Sunday school at 9:30 a. m.

### How the Trouble Starts.

Constipation is the cause of many ailments and disorders that make life miserable. Take Chamberlain's Tablets, keep your bowels regular and you will avoid these diseases. For sale by all dealers.—Adv.

### Subscriptions to Chronicle Received.

It is several weeks since we acknowledged subscriptions received, and in this time we have received eleven new subscribers, as follows: E. L. Graves, W. H. Henderson, W. T. Hale, Susie Hickman, W. H. Hinton, A. Mixon, Frank Hamilton, C. H. Butler, W. R. Jones, Hyams Pen Co. and A. W. Faircloth.

Also renewals of subscriptions have been received from the following: C. O. Sharp, Mrs. Mollie Leach, S. W. Johnston, Thos. Futrell, Mrs. P. L. Clark, R. M. Dunn, W. H. Jordan, Rev. I. M. Brian, T. C. Lincecum, W. P. Ayer, H. R. Williams, J. S. Liggins, G. N. Givens, Mrs. J. S. Payne, H. B. Falardo, S. L. Honeycutt, Rev. P. W. Lofton, S. T. Williams, J. F. Drewett, Mrs. L. E. Torry, N. M. Cox, S. N. Thomas, H. H. Horn, D. Walters, E. S. Murrell, Mrs. S. O. Bumpas, S. W. Johnston, B. Turner, W. J. Cockfield, E. H. Blackwood, Dr. W. A. Jones, W. D. Flanagan, E. C. Gates, Mrs. W. D. Irwin, A. R. Sandifer, J. H. Williams, F. M. Bostick, S. R. Looper, Florien Giauque, T. M. Wells, J. H. McNeely, T. H. McNeely, Mrs. N. R. Wright, D. N. Pugh, Isom Eisey, Jos. Ferrier, Howard McNeely, G. W. Christian, J. M. Anthony, J. H. Ellis, Big Pine Lumber Co., Mrs. Hy. Denton, Jos. Taylor, P. M. Usery, H. C. Tullos, J. L. Holmes, W. J. Wyatt, K. Stephens, C. R. Nugent, F. C. Lacour, G. S. Hart, Jackson Tadem, Luther Corbit, C. G. Jones, R. L. Lowe, W. F. Buckner, Rachel Fredieu, Mrs. T. M. Smith, Richard Vaughn, Albert Brown, F. P. Bullitt, S. Mitchell, F. B. Cole, Dr. J. V. Bonnette, J. C. McKnight, Tumminello Bros., J. L. Johnson, J. B. Tucker, B. E. Woods, W. A. Gatlin, C. J. Hutchinson, L. E. DeLoach, J. P. Lewis, J. M. Lang, J. Q. Long, W. W. Gentry, Mrs. Ella Vinson, Mrs. J. N. Bourg, C. C. Chapman, T. H. Leonard, M. E. Swafford, Wardlow Bros., W. L. Dowty.

### Immigrants for Red River Valley.

The Scannals Bluff plantation, a body of 1800 acres of land southeast of Shreveport, has been bought by the La. Land and Immigration Co., making the third big plantation this company has bought near Shreveport. They paid approximately \$28 per acre for the river land and \$5 per acre for the improved hill lands, and will cut their lands up into 40, 60 and 80 acre farms for their northern and western customers. Mr. W. A. Jones, general manager for the company, states that they have no trouble finding good substantial farmers who will move to this country but have had great difficulty in finding suitable small tracts improved and ready for them. This company carries an advertisement in the Chronicle, and they expect to develop a big business in the cutover and bottom lands of Grant parish.

A lecture on "Fraternalism" was delivered at the court house in Colfax on Wednesday night, Aug. 6, by J. W. Elliott, who was accompanied by J. D. State, manager of the Columbian Woodmen, of Atlanta, Ga.

### Readers of this paper will be pleased to learn

if there is at least one dreadful disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is hemorrhoids. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh is a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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