

THE MONROE JOURNAL

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MONROE, N. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1912.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

Let's Talk It Over.

There is one thing that The Journal is delighted to observe in connection with the discussion now going on regarding the election to be held on the 23rd to determine whether or not the county shall issue bonds for road improvement—that is the good will manifested, and the absence of acrimonious or unkind discussion. While the people are very much divided on the subject, no one, so far as we know, is trying to make personal or political capital out of it, and neither side is accusing the other of ulterior motives or selfish purposes. This is as it should be. Union county stands too high now in the estimation of the State as a progressive and intelligent county, to allow a question like this, in which we are all interested, and on which men will and should differ in their judgments, to tear up our people or to create hard feelings. Let us stay on this high plane to the end, and whether the bonds carry or fail, the discussion will have done good, not only in furthering good road sentiment, but in spreading that feeling of generosity, good will and fairness that should always characterize a people who believe in common honesty, integrity of purpose, schools, churches, and all the things that make to a common welfare. Take The Journal, for instance. The paper has been very outspoken on the measure, as it intends to be on every question that concerns the general welfare. We know that a great many of our subscribers do not agree with us, yet if we have lost one reader by it we don't know it, and if one has said an unkind word about the paper we have not heard of it. We appreciate this very deeply, for we hold that a newspaper should always express its opinions candidly on all questions of large importance, treat the opposition fairly, and let the matter rest on the judgment of the public. We hold that the public would really have little respect for the paper if it did otherwise, and we are sure that we could not value very highly any subscriber who demanded as the price of his support that the paper should always either agree with his views or keep its own concealed. Again we invite freely a discussion of both sides of the question.

County Commissioners T. J. Gordon and W. G. Long, Mr. McNeely, editor of The Waxhaw Enterprise, and the editor of The Journal took a trip to Gaston county last Thursday for the purpose of looking over the road work in that county. These gentlemen went as private citizens merely for the purpose of seeing for themselves if any suggestions or facts could be secured there that might be helpful in framing opinions regarding our own situation. Each one paid his own expenses, and while it was expected that a large number would go, several on both sides of the question having been asked, for one reason or another, the party numbered only those mentioned above. Commissioner Laney came to Monroe to go but owing to the bad condition of the roads, he missed the train.

The party was received very courteously by the Gaston people with whom it came in contact, and especially by Hon. John F. Leeper, chairman of the board of county commissioners, who took great care to give all the information possible and to drive over the roads. The Gaston people are proud of their roads and take a real pleasure in showing them, explaining their mistakes, and pointing out their advantages. They have, of course, made some slight mistakes, as everybody does who undertakes to do anything. But by and large they are highly pleased and are going right along without a halt. They are laboring under one disadvantage that Union county would not have to contend with. That is, they have about fifteen towns in the county, widely scattered, on different lines of railroad, and these being market towns, require roads, even though some are situated on the outskirts of the county. Now Union's towns are all on one line, they are few, and roads from one to the other would serve all equally well and fairly. Like every other county that undertakes the work should do, the Gaston people have tried to spend their money where it would be of greatest service to the people. They have built some \$5 or 100 miles, mostly Macadam, and some sand clay. The macadam cost from \$3,000 to \$4,000 per mile, the sand clay or surface roads costing \$500 to \$1,000 per mile, and seem to be as good and as permanent. The principal thing is to get them located right and graded, drained and crowned. They hire the grading done and the chain gang does the rocking. The roads are not made straight, but located to best advantage for drainage and permanency. Another big advantage that Union county has is that not

so much grading would have to be done. We have never seen men any more earnest in their endeavor to find the truth, so willing to get information or more fair minded in their judgments than Messrs. Long and Gordon. They are close observers, level headed, and earnest, and are never swept off their feet by what they see. While they did not go in any official capacity, but as private citizens footing their own bills, they were as careful in their observations and deductions as if they were charged with the task of "spying out the land" as an official obligation. There are no two men we would more readily rely on in any mission they would undertake. They ask us to say to their friends for them that after seeing Gaston and Mecklenburg, as well as many other counties at other times, they are prouder than ever of their own county, appreciate its progress and opportunities greater than ever, and are more firmly convinced that we shall in time have the roads that our progress along other lines entitles us to. Our schools, our homes, our farms, our people they have not found surpassed anywhere, and they believe that whether the people vote for this present measure or not, as they think best, they are convinced that Union will not long fail to come to the front in road improvement. It is the one thing lacking now to put our county fully ahead and to add immeasurably to the material and social progress of our people. Messrs. Long and Gordon (Mr. McNeely will no doubt give his views in his own paper), agree with the editor of The Journal, that Union county can have good roads without trying to macadamize all but the more heavily travelled ones near the markets where the traffic converges, but by properly locating, grading, draining and dragging the roads made of surface material. By properly locating the main lines of road, and preparing them with surface material, well drained, and then have a business-like and efficient system of dragging, we can have good roads. And this money would doubtless be sufficient, with the work of the chain gang, to so treat the main lines of roads traversing every section of the county. They feel that it is necessary to make a beginning, and whether the people see fit to settle on this plan or some similar one, they will be found cheerfully doing what they can to follow the will of the public in finding the best way.

The Journal wishes to say, on its own account, that the various matters of detail must by any plan, be left to the wisdom of the men the people elect to do the work. The law itself, if adopted, guarantees that every part of the county shall have a square deal, and certainly no men are apt to be elected to office in Union county who would wish to do anything else. The tax would not be a burden to any one, and this amount of money expended upon the roads of our county would certainly be worth many times over its value to our people. Let all get together, vote the money, and expend it in such way as seems most likely to be of greatest advantage to all the people.

A Strong Presentation of the Question.

Are you in favor of the bond question? If not, then let us reason together for a few moments. If I am wrong then I hope some of my friends will set me right, but if I am right, then I hope to be able to help you see the bond proposition as I see it. I know that some of our best people are opposed to it, but I think it is because they do not fully understand it. Some are opposed to it because, they say, the idea originated in Monroe. This is no argument at all. I know that we country people are somewhat inclined to believe that the towns are antagonistic to the interests of the country, but we must not allow our prejudice to outweigh our judgment. Can there any good thing come out of Monroe? Certainly. One of old asked, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" And yet Jesus Christ came from that despised place. So if Monroe originates a good thing we should not reject it just because it had its origin there.

Others say they are opposed to it because going in debt is bad policy. We admit that going in debt is bad policy, but we do not know that our most successful business men and farmers go in debt when they see that it is to their interest to do so. Suppose you borrow \$1000 and invest it in property so situated that within two or three years its value is more than doubled—didn't it pay you to go in debt? So if we can build better roads, decrease the wear and tear of our stock and vehicles, get rid of the six days free labor and enhance the value of our property by going in debt a little, will it not pay us to do so? Another says he is opposed to the bond issue because it will entail a hardship on the next generation. If you will examine the bill carefully, you will find that there is absolutely no truth in that statement, because the bill provides for the annual payment of interest on bonds so there can be no compound interest; and it also provides for a sinking fund which being placed on interest, will pay every cent of the bond issue when they become due without any increase in taxation for that purpose. Still another says that all the money will be used on a few of the principle roads, especially around Monroe. If you will read the bill

providing for the bond issue, you will find that it states positively that each township shall have its proportional part of the money according to the ratio of the amount of property listed for taxation in the county. Isn't this right? Could you ask anything more?

Again they say that the bond issue would necessitate an increase in taxes. If you will stop and make a calculation you will find that Union county already pays over \$17,000 road tax, besides the six days labor, more than enough to pay the interest on the bonds as it becomes due and to create a sinking fund which placed on interest would be amply sufficient to pay every cent of the bond issue. So there need be no increase in road tax until the \$200,000 worth of bonds are expended. However, the county commissioners may, whenever they deem it necessary for further improving the roads, levy a road tax not exceeding 25 cents on the hundred dollars worth of property and 75 cents on the poll. This is the limit and under no circumstances can the road tax for all purposes, go beyond this amount, which is just ten cents more on the hundred dollars worth of property and 30 cents on the poll than we are now paying. And besides you forever get rid of the six days free labor which is becoming so worthless and so repugnant to the better class of people.

We have no hard feelings toward those who oppose the bond issue, but we are bound to support it until some one is able to show it up in a different light to what we now see it. Surely it cannot give us perfect roads, but it will certainly give us better roads. Certainly we shall not be able to macadamize all the roads in Union county any time soon, but we can grade them, put in permanent bridges and judiciously work the worst places. In fact, even if the bond issue should fail to give us any better roads than we now have, it is far preferable to the present system of working the public roads. The free labor system is especially objectionable for several reasons. First, involuntary free labor, except as a punishment for crime, is repugnant to any free people, and it is a question as to whether it is constitutional. In the next place free labor on the public roads is becoming more and more inefficient. The road hands will not work to any advantage and are continually getting up quarrels and hard feelings.

But perhaps the most objectionable feature of all is that which takes the boys under twenty-one years of age out of school to work the public roads. The State taxes her people for the purpose of maintaining public schools to educate her boys and then takes them out of school to work the public roads and to become contaminated with the vulgarity so prevalent on such occasions. Is there any sense or justice in such a law? The bond issue does away with all this—therefore I must vote for the bond issue.

It is true we might work our roads altogether by taxation without any bond issue, but that would incur a hardship on the taxpayers especially within the next few years, as the road tax would have to be greatly increased in order to raise enough money to help the roads much any time soon. After we expend the bond issue and get them in a fairly good condition, it will not cost a great deal to keep them up.

I can see why a man past road age and who has accumulated a considerable amount of property might oppose the bond issue from purely selfish motives, but how any young man of limited means can oppose it, I am unable to understand. Suppose he is worth \$1000. Under the present system he gives six days free labor which at the very lowest estimate is worth \$4.50. He also pays 45 cents poll tax for road purposes and \$1.50 road tax on his property. So he pays a poll and property tax of \$1.95, which added to his free labor makes a total of \$6.45. Suppose the bond issue fit to go to the limit of road tax, which is 75 cents on the poll and 25 cents on the \$1000.00 worth of property—what would his road tax be? Add \$2.50 property tax to 75 cents poll tax and you have a total of \$3.25. Subtract this from \$6.45 which you now pay and you have saved \$3.20 annually by the bond issue. Will it pay you to vote for bonds?

For bonds, we leave the question with you, hoping that you will consider it carefully and vote as your judgment may direct. But let me suggest that you study the question carefully for yourself and don't be prejudiced through the influence of a few so-called leaders who study but one side of the question and have decided that the present system of working the public roads is good enough for them.

T. J. HUGGINS.

"I am in favor of the bond issue for two reasons," said Mr. Henry Godfrey of Sandy Ridge. "One is because we need the roads so bad. The other is that it will do away with free labor. I don't believe it is right for a man who owns no vehicles and doesn't use the road to work it for those who do. We can never have better roads till we get a different system, therefore I will vote for a change."

At the Pastime tonight, The Soldier's Return, a fine war drama, and Curing a Reckless Student.

CAREER OF SHERIFF HINSON.

Sheriff of Richmond County who Died Tuesday Once Lived Here, Native of Chesterfield.

Mr. M. L. Hinson, sheriff of Richmond county, who died of heart failure last Tuesday morning, was a native of Chesterfield county. Years ago he lived awhile in Monroe, going from here to Rockingham. The Rockingham Post says: "About four o'clock that morning, in answer to his direct question, the physicians told him there was little chance for his recovery. He at once went about making preparations for the end as calmly and deliberately and with the same good business judgment for which he has always been noted as he was going to take an ordinary trip. In the short 120 minutes of life left to him, he summoned his three executors, Messrs. John L. Everett, A. W. Porter and Carl Shores, to his bedside and made a will of one of the largest estates ever accumulated in the county, had it read to him, expressed his satisfaction with the same, and with his mind clear and composed to the very last, passed off quietly and peacefully within 30 minutes.

"Sheriff Hinson was in his forty-eighth year, and had started life as a poor boy, with little advantage in the way of an education. He came to Rockingham when 20 years old, from Monroe, and began work at a livery stable for \$4 per month. By his industry, close attention to business and rare business judgment he accumulated property conservatively estimated at about \$200,000. He was a life-long Democrat, and had a genius for politics and a strong hold upon the affections and esteem of the people.

"He was elected sheriff of the county in 1904 and was re-elected three times since without opposition. He made one of the finest officers in the State, and it is safe to say that he could have been the officer as long as he desired it. He was impartial in his execution of the law, having a strong sense of duty and was a terror to the blind tigers and blockaders of the county.

"Sheriff Hinson was one of the largest planters in this section of the State, raising from 1,500 to 1,800 bales of cotton a year. In addition he owned a great deal of valuable town property, several mercantile enterprises and one of the handsomest business blocks here, built less than two years ago. Sheriff Hinson was big and broad of heart as well as of body. He was a man of generous impulses and many charities. He never closed his ears or shut his purse to any appeal for contribution for any good cause, church, school, good roads, public spirited enterprises, the relief of suffering or the uplift of humanity. He will be sadly missed in a community from which death has already taken heavy toll in the past year in the passing of Capt. W. I. Everett, A. S. Dockery, Robert A. Johnson and Col. H. C. Dockery.

Cases Tried in Court.

Judge Whedbee, who was holding a two weeks' term of court for the trial of civil cases, adjourned last Thursday, having finished the work. Mr. C. E. Houston, Clerk of the Court, says there were never more cases disposed of at a term of court, Judge Whedbee being a hustler. After the last report in The Journal the following cases were tried:

Marshville Lumber Co. against the Gatlin Lumber Co. Suit over an account for \$368.30. Plaintiff won.

W. A. Hasty against the Tampa Distilling Co. Suit over a note for \$700. Plaintiff won.

B. D. Hasty and J. W. Thomas, partners, against the Tampa Distilling Co. This was a suit over an account of \$1,163.75. Plaintiffs won.

Ed. Benton against Monroe Manufacturing Co. Suit for damages for loss of eye while the plaintiff was at work for the defendant company. The plaintiff recovered \$300.

Dora Chapman against W. G. Chapman. Suit for divorce which was granted.

Fowler & Lee against Bart C. Crawford. Suit over an account. The plaintiffs recovered \$256.

W. C. Tadlock, Adm'r. of Virgie Tadlock, deceased, against Dr. G. B. Nance and Dr. M. P. Blair. This was a suit for damages alleged to have been sustained by the treatment of a case by the defendants. In this case the plaintiff failed to make a bond for the prosecution of his case and a nonsuit was entered and the plaintiff appealed to the Supreme Court.

A. C. Collins against John Griffith, sheriff, and Fowler & Lee Co. This suit was over an account and an attachment of personal property. The plaintiff won.

J. Gordon Hancock against the United States Health and Accident Insurance Company. This was a suit over insurance money. Compromised.

J. W. Houston and wife against S. A. L. Railway Co. Suit for damages for land being burned over. Plaintiffs recovered \$300.

Lillie Tennant against Curvin Bush. Suit for divorce which was granted.

In the case of Chloe Sanders against R. M. Sanders the affair was settled out of court, a consent judgment being rendered which has not yet been put on the docket.

Illustrated song by Mr. Henry Fairley at Dixie No. 2 to-night.

Send It In.

Whenever you have a live news item send on first mail, and if possible it will go into the paper even at the last moment. But the point is, don't hold back letters until the last day. They usually have to go over and are sometimes out of date by next issue. And mark this: If you hear of a marriage, death, accident, or any sort of a live news item, write a postal card by first mail or use the phone. Don't hold that live item until it ceases to be news to get some other items to go with it. Write when you have news. If the items are not perishable matter—news that will cease to be news if held a day or two—it is all right to wait until you have enough to make up a letter. But if the item is a live one, such as indicated above, send it while it is fresh, if it is only a few lines. Don't hold it until it loses its freshness.

The Journal appreciates the work of its correspondents. They help to make a live paper and without their help The Journal would suffer. In addition to the news items, put in a paragraph occasionally about the feeling of your community as to public matters, if you know what that feeling is. The Journal would be glad for its constituents to occasionally express their sentiments about public matters.

The Journal wants a live correspondent in every community. If your community is not represented, let some one volunteer. It is a material help to any community to be represented in a newspaper, as well as a material help to the paper. Write the office if you want to act as correspondent; and whether you want to become a regular correspondent or not if you hear an item of news, write, phone or send word.

Writes Letters in Behalf of Prisoner.

Tom Davis, the young negro now serving a sentence of 18 months on the chain gang for robbing the medical depository, has some friends on the outside who is writing letters in his behalf. He addresses his epistles to Superintendent B. T. Fletcher and throws them in the latter's yard. So far he has written three letters, the burden of which are that it's a pity to be working a "poor innocent negro like Tom" who don't know nothing about it." The writer of the letters also avers that he is the fellow who committed the crime, that he ain't no nigger, neither, and he can write a lot better than he is doing, but doesn't want to do so for fear Laney will get on his track. Capt. Fletcher has an idea that some of Tom's friends are anxious to get him made a trusty so he will have a chance to skip.

Real Estate Transfers.

E. W. Thomas to W. E. McIlwaine, 210 acres on Providence road adjoining R. A. Hudson and others, \$5,250.

J. C. Marsh & Co. to W. M. Davis, tract in Marshville, adjoining J. E. Bailey mill tract, \$2000.

W. B. Robinson to J. L. Rodman, 30 acres adjoining Bryant Williams land in Monroe township, \$860.

Price, Hemby Co., to James T. Hargett, lot at Stout, \$250.

M. A. Walters to E. B. Lee, 61 acres on Landsford road, \$1220.

T. F. Helms to M. L. Baker, one acre on Lanes Creek, \$15.

H. M. Baucom to E. H. Baucom, 61 acres on Gourdvine creek, \$500.

Death of Chesterfield Citizen.

Chesterfield Advertiser. Mr. Henry Lee of the Zoar church section died last Saturday after an illness of several days, advanced in years and good works. Mr. Lee is survived by one son, Mr. T. A. Lee. He was a consecrated christian gentleman, and was loved and esteemed by a host of friends. The funeral services were conducted at Zoar Monday morning by Rev. L. L. Beatty.

J. B. Sweat, a mulatto living on the farm of Mr. Graham McKinnon near Rowland, shot at his fleeing wife last Saturday and wounded the babe in the arms of the mother so that it died. The woman was not injured. The coroner's verdict was in accordance with above facts. Sweat escaped.

Colored Child Burned to Death.

Mr. R. F. Krimminger, who was in town yesterday, reports that a child of Babe Alsbrooks, colored, who lives on Mr. J. C. Huggins' place in Lanes Creek, was burned to death last Thursday morning. She was about nine years old, and was at the home with her little brother, the mother having gone to Mr. Huggins' house. The girl's dress caught fire and she tried to wrap herself in bedding and put out the flames, but failed, and ran in the yard, where every rag of her clothing was burned off and she soon died in great agony.

Don't, don't leave children alone around a fire. This is a lesson that colored people especially should try to learn.

At the Pastime soon: "Cinderella." Watch for the date. This is Selig's sublime masterpiece, played by the world's greatest moving picture star, Miss Mabel Taliaferro. This beautiful picture has been pronounced by press and critic as the crowning triumph of moving pictures. Over three thousand feet of film, three reels, 99 beautiful scenes. The story is beyond doubt the sweetest ever told and is ever dear to the hearts of all, old and young alike. Watch for it.

DEATH OF MR. E. J. HEATH.

Passed Away at His Home Yesterday Morning After a Long Illness—A Well Known Man.

Mr. E. J. Heath died at his home in Matthews at six o'clock yesterday morning. Our readers are familiar with the fact that he had long suffered with cancer of the face, and that, after trying many prominent specialists and hospitals in vain for relief, had bravely resigned himself to the inevitable and waited the end without a murmur. The remains were buried in Charlotte to-day. He is survived by three brothers, Messrs. B. D. O. P. and Dr. Chapman Heath, and by his wife who was Miss Anna H. McLaughlin, daughter of the late Mr. Joseph McLaughlin, who was one of the leading business men of Charlotte for many years. The children of the deceased are: Mrs. Dr. B. C. Redfern, of Monroe, Mrs. J. C. Bivens of Matthews, Misses Etta Norma and Annie Everett Heath, and Messrs. Henry, Paul and E. J. Heath, Jr., all of Matthews.

Mr. Heath was 61 years of age at the time of his death. He was born in Lancaster county, South Carolina, later coming to North Carolina, where he entered business and in a short time became one of the most prominent business men of this section. Mr. Heath made his home in Matthews for some years, holding large property interests in that town, besides conducting an extensive general merchandise business, and handling cotton extensively. In all of his business relations Mr. Heath was known for his integrity and fairness and he held the confidence of the entire business world.

Take Pity on the Dumb Animals.

Should the horse, mule and ox have a paved way to walk on?

Men, that is for you to determine. Are you willing to remove the stones, fill up the holes and mire places that cause these animals to stumble and make the roads level so that they can carry their loads in safety and not stumble?

Why should they have good roads and their burdens made lighter?

Because these animals belong to God—not to man. Man is the user. God made them; they are servants. God made man also. He is a servant; he too belongs to God, as do other animals do.

Now I have shown you that the horse, mule, ox and man are all servants together; one as low as another; one as high as the other; God rules over them all.

Why did not God put the ox to rule over the mule, horse and man? Why did not God give the ox man's voice so he could rule over man, horses and mules as man rules over them? Why did not God give the horse, mule and ox arms and fingers that they might beat man with a stick as he has beaten them; that they might gouge man's eyes out, leave him blind as man has left them, that they could overload a frail man to pull that heavy load as he has trailed them, drive man over briars and thorns as he has driven them, that they might put man in cruel hands as he had put them, that they might drive man all day long till over in the night, give him nothing to eat or to drink as he had done them, that they might hitch crippled man up to a plow, beat him to pull his load, even if his life is a burden to him, that God rule for an ox? Who knoweth whether the soul of man goeth upward and the soul of beasts downward? Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth on the corn. In due time you shall reap that which you have sown.

Man, have you given these animals their part of their labor that is their portion, as you would have them do unto you. Have you ruled over them as you would have them rule over you?

If you have cared for them as you would have them care for you, if you have been merciful to your beast as you would have him be to you, if you have done these things, well and good. If not, sin lies at your door, and in due time you will reap what you have sown.

J. D. MEDLIN.

A Surprise Marriage.

The many friends of Miss Lillie Tillman of this place and Mr. James W. Austin of Scotland Neck were agreeably surprised to learn on last Saturday that they were to be married that afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. The marriage ceremony was performed at the Methodist parsonage by Rev. C. F. Sherrill, in the presence of only a few friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin left immediately, mid showers of rice, on the 5:21 train for a trip to Portsmouth and Norfolk, after which they will be at home at Scotland Neck, where Mr. Austin is chief clerk in the A. C. L. offices.—Waxhaw Enterprise.

To Contest for Medal.

A large and appreciative audience assembled in the auditorium of the Wesley Chapel High School on the evening of Feb. 24th, the occasion being a contest given by the High School students to decide who should be entitled to represent the school at Elon College, April 5th, 1912, in the medal contest to be given by that school. All of the pupils acquitted themselves well. In the contest the judges awarded the first place to Miss Nannie Palmer, the second to Mr. Hampton Price.

New Car Load.

Just received a fresh car load of horses and mules. Come and see them. FOWLER & LEE CO.