

ESTABLISHED 1844

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ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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REFORM No. 1.

One of the reforms, we hope, that is coming after the war is a change for the better in the management of our county affairs. There will be no doubt, as time progresses and the people get tired of the ever recurring excitement of politics, that the people will want the business of the government managed as other business matters are managed.

It is true that in the matter of the representation of the people in law-making bodies we shall for a long time yet elect by one method or another, in popular elections, the representatives of the people. But this is no reason why the purely business affairs of the people in the county offices, and in the matters of county government, should not be managed in a business way, by men specially qualified to transact the business of the several departments.

A county's business should be handled as the business of a large bank is managed. We say that it should be so managed for the reason that these corporations are as a rule properly managed and the business is carried on with as little expense as possible, by men skilled in their several lines, and not by men who have the ear of the multitude in matters political. Men who can transact business better than others are sought by these institutions, while a county selects those men to handle its business who know how to shake hands the better, who draw the most money and yet boast of being poor, who can tell the best jokes, and who attend the most "gatherings", including funerals.

Now, if the county should adopt the business methods of a bank, we should say that it would be proper to have the tax-payers, who are the real stock-holders of the county-corporation, so to speak, select by election or in mass meeting nine directors or commissioners for the county, who like the directors in most banks, should serve without pay, guaranteeing that those who accepted the position would do so because they were sought, and from patriotic motives. They should be retired, three each year, so that we should at all times have experienced men handling the ship.

Just as the directors of a bank select the president and vice-president of that institution so these directors or commissioners should select a manager, or president of the county, a cashier, and such other officers as might be necessary. We think a general manager and a cashier or treasurer to handle the money and keep the books would be the only officers necessary at the seat of government. These officers, the manager in his department, and the cashier in his, should employ a number of experienced stenographers, typists, etc., who would perform most of the duties now performed in a clerical way in the various offices, the duties in an official way of the office of the Clerk of Court, Judge of Probate, Superintendent of Education, etc., devolving on the county manager.

In addition to the officers named for the business of government at the seat of the government it would be necessary to have a Superintendent of Roads and Bridges, who should be an employee of the directors, or commissioners, and who would be selected on account of the fact that he would know the business of road-building, road-repairing, grading, and other like work. It would not be necessary for this man

to be running for office all the while, as his position would depend, as does the position of the cashier of a bank, on his fitness for the job, the success with which he met, and the results which he produced.

In this way many thousand dollars of money would be saved to tax-payers in the average county. The duties now performed by elective officers would be carried on with system and dispatch. The departments would be co-ordinated and the machinery of county government would be run by one driving force instead of having, as it now does, so many different heads, none of which are responsible to any other, and all of which are responsible only to the people who elect, and then in only a very indifferent way.

We say this, not so much with respect to our own county officers, because we but speak the truth when we say that, with some exceptions, we have as efficient a set of officers as will be found in the average county, and, with no exceptions, as gentlemanly a set of men as could be found anywhere. We speak rather of what is necessary for the orderly dispatch of the business of a county which should be managed as a business, and in the interest of divorcing that business from the contaminating influence of elections, wire-pulling, vote-seeking, vote-trading, and the other ills which so long have beset us.

The people are slow to adopt reforms in the management of public business. They are slow, themselves, to adopt new methods for carrying on their own business. But prosperity is coming to the south, and with it an educational awakening, and an economic awakening. The people will not be content always to carry on business by antiquated methods any more than they will to make cotton with a home-made plowstock, drawn by a bull, driven by a free negro. The people will in time, and very soon, we believe, seek better ways of doing things, more satisfactory ways, more business-like methods, and with this seeking will come a business administration for the business affairs of a county, city, or township, freed from politics and political factions, crimonations and re-criminations—a purely bank-like way of carrying on the affairs of a county, which will result in good for the county and good-will amongst the people.

For all of which we will be thankful after it has arrived.

ATTENTION, SUBSCRIBERS!

The paper mills are being overcrowded with orders. They need coal in order to operate. The War Industries Board has agreed to give coal on condition that they adopt suitable regulations to curtail its use. One of these regulations is that they shall require those newspapers which buy their paper to subscribe to certain requirements to prevent waste.

The most wasteful habit the newspapers can have, according to the War Industries Board, is to send their papers to subscribers who do not pay. They can see no good purpose to be served in conducting this kind of business, and are unwilling to furnish coal to run plants to make paper for these patriots.

Now a good many people have been taking The Press and Banner for a long time. They commenced to take the paper when people paid their accounts at the end of the year, and the plan, so far as they are concerned, has not been changed. We have no desire, on our own part, to change it now, but in order not to discriminate against any of the George Washingtons in the whole country, Uncle Sam has decided not to take anybody's word about his subscription, and therefore he requires all subscriptions to be paid in advance, on pain and penalty of this valuable sheet being stopped. The people, or some of them, have been saying for several years that all the newspapers are liars, and it is evident from this requirement that Uncle Sam thinks they have taught some of their readers how to lie, especially about the time they are to pay for their papers.

In compliance with the request of the War Industries Board, which is Uncle Sam's nickname, and in order to keep those people reading who like to pay, we are going to a strictly paid in advance basis on October 1st. Therefore, if you have been

receiving the paper and happen not to get it after that date, it will be because your subscription has expired, and you have forgotten to remit. And do not blame us. We are in the draft age and are learning how to obey orders. That is the first duty of a soldier.

On the first day of every month succeeding October 1st, we will mail a statement to every subscriber whose subscription expires within the month, giving him a statement of the amount necessary to be paid in order to secure a continuation of such subscription. At the end of the month the names of those who have not paid will be dropped.

Then, too, we have been giving the readers of this paper something for nothing. They have been receiving a two dollar paper, and perhaps the rise of it, for one dollar and a half per year. That is another evidence of waste, and we do not want to be guilty of that charge again. Accordingly, we shall charge for this paper, on and after November 1st, the sum of two dollars for a year's subscription instead of one dollar and fifty cents, and it is cheap at that.

BUT,—If you want to prevent waste, we have decided to give you a chance. We have decided to accept new subscriptions until the date mentioned, and to allow old subscribers to renew for not exceeding one year from the date of their present expirations, at the old price, provided they renew before November first.

Putting off getting on the band wagon in this matter will not help win the war. Do it now, and then forget it.

BETHIA NEWS.

Bethia, Sept. 6.—The dry weather has sure cut off the crops but hope the price will help us in the time to come.

Bethia is having some fine preaching by Mr. Clotfelter of Lowndesville.

Mrs. Mary Horne of Troy, is spending a while with her daughter, Mrs. M. E. Beauford.

Julie Bill Beauford has been spending several days with Miss Maggie Woodhurst attending to her preaching.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. Annie Hester, a daughter, the 24th.

Mrs. M. E. Beauford and Miss Addie Woodhurst went to Abbeville shopping yesterday.

Some more of our dear boys left Monday for the camp. Luther Dansby, David Young, and John Spence. Hope them good luck all the way through and may they return home safe and sound.

Mr. Marsh Wilson from Verdery, was in Bethia one day last week on business.

Sorry to say that Mrs. Pettigrew is sick, but hope how soon she will be all right.

Mr. Bill Beauford and daughter from above town spent the week-end with relatives in and around Bethia.

ABUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWANCES

Columbia, Sept. 6.—Reports have reached the State Council of Defense from several parts of the State of abuse of government allowances, which in some instances are being received by persons who are not entitled to such allowances. Under the law, allowances are paid only to legal dependents of men in the military or naval service. Any persons receiving such government aid, under false pretences, are liable to prosecution.

The Defense Council is instructing the county chairmen throughout the State to investigate into this important matter, and calls upon its membership and the public to aid in this work.

It is urged that all cases of abuse as may be detected be reported promptly to the county chairman of the Council of Defense in the county in which the person receiving an allowance to which he or she is not entitled resides. The county chairman will then report the case to the State Council, and action will be taken through proper channels, to correct this evil.

Engraved Cards and Invitations—The Press and Banner Co.

An Unusual Recital to be Held at the Opera House

An evening of good music means relaxation and relief from the strain of these wearing times. A delightful program will be presented at

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Violinist, who as an artist of considerable reputation, has toured the country several seasons.

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Our Boys Suits, Extra Trousers, Rain Coats, Shirts, Caps, &c. are coming in nicely now, and you'll find a splendid stock to select from. Yes, Boys Clothing, like everything else, is a little higher in price this fall than usual,

but we've tried to put the price as low as possible to give you good merchandise, and that's what you'll find in our stock.—Strong,

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