

TAXPAYERS COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT

Statement of Work Undertaken And Accomplished
---Wasteful Expenditures---Politicians
Prevent Reforms

To the Taxpayers of Cecil County:

At the public meeting of the Taxpayers in January, 1933, Your Committee were given definite instruction which we have endeavored to carry into effect. This has required numerous Committee meetings, a great many sessions with the County Commissioners and a number of visits to the General Assembly at Annapolis. Our efforts have been partially successful although faced with almost complete lack of cooperation on the part of the officials through whom these economies must be effected. We have met with some opposition, confined almost entirely to the politicians whose offices we contended were unnecessary or overpaid and of course we have been vilified and slandered by those who have been the direct recipients of the various gratuities from the hands of our officials at the expense of the taxpayers. For the most part we have ignored these personal attacks and would not permit ourselves to be drawn from the object of our endeavors, namely, the elimination of waste with its resultant reduction in taxes.

SHERIFF

A Bill was prepared by Your Committee and our delegates secured the passage thereof at the last regular Session of the Legislature and placing the Sheriff upon a salary basis. This system has worked very satisfactorily in other Counties and should result in a substantial saving to the taxpayers of this County.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT

At the instance of Your Committee a Bill was introduced and passed at the last session of the Legislature reducing the salary of County Commissioner from \$2,000 to \$1,000. Being relieved of supervision of the County roads the new salary will be compensatory and the taxpayers are saving \$3,000 each year.

Our delegates were presented with the Bill limiting the salaries in the Treasurer's office to \$4,500, which also provided the Assistant Treasurer should be appointed instead of elected, but this was not introduced.

COUNTY ROADS AND BRIDGES

Our representatives gave their assistance to the measures whereby the State took over the supervision of the County roads for a limited period, the expense of operation to be secured from the special fund for the elimination of grade crossings. The enactment of this measure relieves the County of an appropriation of approximately \$78,000 each year.

Your Committee is opposed to the building of bridges by the County other than by competitive bid and then only upon contract. This should be further qualified by stating it should be done only when imperative necessary. A striking example that brings about this recommendation is Scotchman's Creek Bridge. This proposition has been founded in the very best intentions yet it stands as a monument of gross extravagance and waste of public money.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Your Committee believes that economies could be effected in the management of the public schools, the elimination of unnecessary courses, the abolition or at least the curtailment of the offices of supervising teachers and the like, the adjustment of salaries of those in charge of our schools, etc. Our schools are so important we believe the entire subject should be investigated by men specially qualified, as selected by the School Board and the Taxpayers of Cecil County.

Our criticism is not that we spend too much to educate our children but that we waste too much in special courses, supervision, etc., which do not contribute to the education of the child. Possibly all of these objectionable items have some merit, yet it seems to us now is the time to relieve ourselves of these luxuries and to make our sacrifices for those that are necessary.

In our judgment a reduction in the salary of teachers could not be justified. These fine intelligent young men and women are charged with the grave responsibility, not only of educating our boys and girls in the three R's, but also with shaping their morals. Their tremendous influence on the lives of our young people is well recognized. In our opinion, however, there should be a substantial reduction in the salary of County Superintendent of Schools (\$3,500), the State Superintendent of Schools (\$10,000) and his Assistant (\$6,000).

We believe a change is due and should be made in the present method of operating our school system. The State Superintendent of Education practically an appointee of Governor Ritchie, in conjunction and with the assistance of the local School Board, who are also appointed by the Governor, prepare a budget of the school requirements for the coming year. This budget is presented to our County Commissioners who have no alternative but to deduct this sum from our tax receipts, regardless of how unnecessary or objectionable some of the items comprising the same may be, except, the schools cannot have appropriated for their use over 47 per cent of the total. In other words they can receive forty-seven cents out of every dollar of County budget requirements, and they always do. There is no way the people of Cecil County can protect themselves against waste and improper management of the schools, even though the taxpayers own the schools and provide the money for their operation. Such a situation taints of autocracy and something should be done to correct it.

BILLS AGAINST THE COUNTY

There was nothing we were requested by the taxpayers to do that involved more sacrifice of time than to protest the accounts which to our notion should not be paid. When the bills filed against the County were published we immediately and conclusively demonstrated to us that we were wasting time and stationery. Every protest meant that we would become involved in an argument with

the politicians and some of the office holders, incidentally they always presented a united front, and while probably a percentage of our protests were not well founded it is hardly conceivable we were wrong in every instance. Suffice to say the County Commissioners decided against Your Committee on every occasion.

Charges of office rent, telephone, electric light, fees in excess of the schedule of fees provided by the Court, printing bills hundreds of dollars in excess of the amount authorized by law, fees of witnesses, constables and Sheriff, services rendered individuals and charged to the County by public officials, to say nothing of the ferry service we maintain across the Susquehanna River, just a few of the items we complained against. These protests are on file in the Treasurer's office and may be examined by any citizen of the County.

ELECTIONS

A classification of the incomplete election costs reveal the following:

Rental of property	\$ 913.00
Printing	2400.00
Salary and Expense	481.00
Qualifying	276.00
Making Returns	270.00
Returning Books	270.00
Posting Notices	405.00
Overtime	1508.50
Suspected Persons	95.00
Election and Registration	1732.00
Moving Books	55.00
Delivery Ballot Boxes	25.20
Doorkeepers	239.17
Carpenter	239.17

The books of the Treasurer of Cecil County show the cost of the last general election to be \$9,112.53. When you consider it cost the taxpayers of this County \$30 for each vote cast at this election it is apparent to the man who pays these bills that something should be done.

The first item of \$913.00 we believe could be almost entirely eliminated. For instance we paid \$100 rental for a property that is assessed for \$400, in two other instances we paid \$100, in another \$100, in another \$126 and in still another \$174. These charges in our opinion are unconscionable yet unless affirmative action is taken by the taxpayers we will continue to make donations to certain property owners.

Our contention in this matter has been made known to the Board of Election Supervisors who contend our suggestion that elections be held in the school buildings is not practical. As a consequence, thus have refused to adopt the plan although it could be done under existing law. We own the schools, or at least we have paid for them, and in our judgment elections could be held therein without damaging the properties in any way.

The next item, printing \$2400, is also out of reason. To correct this situation and prevent its recurrence a measure was prepared and given our Representatives in the Legislature providing, "the estimated requirements be submitted to the bid of the newspapers in Cecil County and that the contract be awarded the lowest bidder." This Bill never made its exit from Committee.

The next item, salary \$481, could be reduced and still compensate officials for their service. To this end a Bill was prepared and given our Representatives providing for the rate of compensation to election officials remain as at present except that "no salary should be paid them in the years in which no elections are held." It is not quite clear to Your Committee why Election Supervisors, Attorneys, Clerks, etc., should be paid salaries in those years in which they have no duties to perform. This Bill failed to make its exit from Committee.

The next items, qualifying \$276, making returns \$270, returning books \$270, in the opinion of Your Committee are absurd. Why an election official who sacrifices but a few minutes of his time to qualify, make returns or return books should be paid in each instance the sum of \$6.00 on the theory he had sacrificed a day is not made excusable by the fact that it is the taxpayers money being spent. There probably is reason for a charge of this kind by officials living in remote districts as it probably takes them the best part of a day. Our experience with election officials throughout the County leads us to the conclusion they desire to be paid only for the service rendered and this is borne out by the bills presented to the Board of Election Supervisors. In a great many instances bills presented for \$1.80, \$2.40 and for other amounts less than \$6.00. These amounts were changed by the Board of Election Supervisors to \$6.00 and when explanation was requested they stated this was done to place them on a uniform basis. Your Committee wonders if they would change an officials charge from \$3.00 to \$6.00 for the sake of uniformity if they were spending their own money.

The next item, posting notices \$405, is ridiculous. The taxpayers are familiar with the nature of the notice and the places posted. We paid sixty-six cents for each notice. In the opinion of Your Committee this is a most extravagant waste of the taxpayers money.

The item of overtime, \$1508.50, is one of considerable importance. The law of this State provides that overtime shall be paid at the rate of \$3.00 per hour, yet this item is composed entirely of overtime at the rate of \$6.00 per hour. Your Committee is composed of men who have had more or less experience about polling places and have a fair idea of the work involved. We do not attempt to say that \$3.00 is a compensatory rate but we have no hesitation in stating that under the Act of Assembly, above referred to, the Board of Election Supervisors and the County Commissioners had no right to pay in excess of that amount.

It seems to us, from a practical standpoint, that the manner in which elections are conducted in this State could be changed, resulting in the expediting of returns and eliminating entirely the item of overtime. Under

the present system there are more officials during the day than actually needed in order that the strain of counting ballots, etc., at night may be divided among many, yet at the closing of the polls all the men are near exhaustion, particularly since so many are men of advanced years.

Would it not be possible and practical, also economical, to divide the force at the polls, those reporting with the opening to carry through until the closing of the polls, others to report at 1 P. M. to begin the counting of the ballots or to replace those on duty and have them report at the closing of the polls? If the former complete returns would be available an hour or two after the closing of the polls and all officials would have completed their labors within the regulation day.

Your Committee prepared a Bill that the States Attorney should be the legal adviser without compensation. This Bill failed also. In our opinion the passage of this measure would have resulted in economy to the taxpayer without adding a burden to the States Attorney.

COUNTY AGENT

We have made known to the County Commissioners the sentiment of Your Committee and the taxpayers generally in regard to this office, appropriations for which exceed \$2,500 each year. This office may have merit in prosperous times, this is subject to considerable doubt, but in the struggle for existence that is taking place at present there can be no justification for it. However, the County Commissioners continue to appropriate, this item being included in their budget for the present year.

ORPHANS' COURT CLERK

We have also urged the County Commissioners not to appropriate for this utterly unnecessary and useless position. The issue of salary is very large but large or small if the office is not necessary the cost of maintaining should be saved to the taxpayers. In this the Commissioners do not agree with Your Committee and the office, with its cost, will be continued.

SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS

Your Committee prepared and had introduced at the last regular session of the Legislature a Bill eliminating the office of Supervisor of Assessments in this County. Your representatives were not successful in having this enacted into law, the measure having failed to make its exit from committee.

Since the creation of this office in 1914, the taxpayers of Cecil County have been contributing to the cost of \$25,000. We have no personal knowledge of any benefit to the taxpayers from this office and the records failed to disclose any justification for it. It seems to Your Committee it is high time this wholly unnecessary office be abolished, with the resultant saving to the taxpayers of this County.

OUTSIDE INSANE

At the previous meeting of the taxpayers it was recommended a change be made in the law relative to the commitment of the insane, making it mandatory that one of the examining physicians be connected with the Board of Health who should perform this service without additional compensation. The duty of this physician would be to examine the insane, to ascertain the financial condition of the person to be committed and to report his findings to the County Commissioners. This resolution called for some very dramatic oratory on the part of one of the members of the Bar and due to the lateness of the hour and the comparative unimportance of the matter it was not pressed by Your Committee.

Investigation discloses that we have in our insane institution sixty-five persons, sixty-two of whom are direct charges upon the County. In every instance it cost the County (\$25) dollars for the medical examining with an average Sheriff expense of Twenty-Five (\$25) dollars. The resolution above referred to would save one half the medical fee and the recent Act of the Legislature, placing the Sheriff upon salary, eliminates this expense entirely.

The County records disclose that we are charged for these sixty-two patients at the rate of One Hundred and Twenty-Five (\$125) dollars per year. Of this number seven have estates ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000, an indeterminate number have property and several are not citizens of the County at the time of their commitment, so we are informed.

STATE ROADS

We favor the widening, improving and beautifying of Routes One and Forty in Cecil County and are opposed to the building of a new highway that would eliminate these two routes. That the Administration contemplates doing so is evidence by the failure of the Governor to carry out the provisions of the Act of Assembly approved on April 12, 1933, which had the improvement of these thoroughfares as its purpose, and the maneuvering of the Governor and his forces at the Special Session of the Legislature. What happened at this Session of the Legislature and its effect on the property owners and citizens of Harford County is now a matter of history.

We know of no blow the Administration could level at the people of Cecil County that would be as injurious to the citizens generally or demoralize business conditions to a greater extent than the virtual abolition of Routes One and Forty by the building of a new highway. Property along the two routes would be depreciated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, the life savings and entire business investment of many that are dependent upon the traveling public would be destroyed, and the business of many small towns along the routes would be stagnated. Nothing could justify this terrific loss.

We own roads in Cecil County and, assuming we contribute our share to State government, we will pay for these improvements, no matter of what they consist. Common sense tells us, since we live in the United States, we should dictate where, when and in what manner they should be improved, etc., but under the system organized under our present Executive, so far as roads are concerned, we are at the virtual mercy of the public. He, through his appointee the State Roads Commission, states where the highways shall be and it is unfortunate if the citizens do not agree with him. His Excellency, advocate of the doctrine of "State's Right" denies the political subdivisions of the State the principles he enunciates.

MISCELLANEOUS

We deplore the idea that seems to prevail in the minds of our public officials that more desirable positions can be secured from distant points. This is illustrated in the appointment

WOODLAWN

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Montgomery, Ruth and Stanley, of Coatesville, Pa., spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. William E. Rea.

Mr. Eugene Hite spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Glackin, Felton, Md.

The stork visited Mr. and Mrs. Glenn McGrady, leaving a baby boy, Glenn, Jr., to brighten their home.

Mr. and Mrs. William Feather and son, of Collingswood, N. J., spent Wednesday, the 17th, with Mr. and Mrs. George Tyson.

Mr. William Lair visited his wife at the home of their daughter, in Chester, Sunday. Mrs. Lair has been quite ill for two months.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sweeney and Mr. Forrest Miller, of New Brunswick, N. J., spent the week-end with their sister, Mrs. S. Rowland Tome and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKay and Elsie Lou spent the week-end with his parents at Kennett Square. His brother Norman, who spent the past five months with them, has returned home.

The Ladies Aid Society held a Covered Dish Luncheon in the Church House, Friday the 26th, with 75 present. The chairman, Mrs. Geo. W. McCullough, arranged the program, an instrumental solo, Miss Ruth Williams. Humorous reading, Mrs. R. G. Terry; Solo, Mr. Geo. McCullough "Home on the Range"; Mr. Carroll Tyson, "Pal of My Dreams"; Duet, "There's an Old Spinning Wheel in the Parlor," Mrs. Harold Tyson and Mrs. McCullough.

In the absence of Mrs. Carroll Tyson, Miss Virginia Abrahams read an original article written by Mrs. Tyson in honor of her parents', Mr. and Mrs. Martin Thompson's fifty-third wedding anniversary, which was that day. A puzzle contest was held in charge of Mrs. Terry.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bell, of Glenolden, Pa., were Tuesday guests of her parents.

Mr. Charles F. Bryde, of Drexel Hill, Pa., visited his brother David, Sunday.

regularly of persons residing in other parts of the State and in some instances from other states. These positions should be filled by citizens of our own County as in our opinion only in exceptional cases is the employment of persons from other counties and States justified. An examination of the lists in all departments of our County government, and in those branches of State government pertaining directly to Cecil County, will disclose many such persons employed, while our citizens who are qualified for these positions endure an enforced idleness.

A Bill was prepared for our delegates providing for the payment of State and County taxes in installments. This measure failed of passage.

Your Committee is most anxious to know why electric current, generated within our border, should cost residents of this County ten cents per kilowatt when the same current, after being transported seventy miles or so, costs residents at that point but four cents per kilowatt. Obviously this should be reversed. Insufficient data at our disposal prevents us from making a recommendation other than our officials and representatives should investigate. It is apparent the residents if this County are being overcharged.

CONCLUSION

Your Committee has confined its attention almost entirely to waste and our criticism of various public officials is from an impersonal standpoint. We believe this criticism to be just and merited by the facts and have no hesitation in stating from an examination of the matters herein referred to if waste were eliminated and changes made in the law with a view of economy, our County tax rate could be reduced to 75 cents, without impairing the efficiency or financial integrity of our local government.

We favor expenditures that will harmonize with the policy of President Roosevelt, yet we do not understand him to advocate waste. Our County government last year cost \$18 for every man, woman and child, a total of almost one half million dollars, and this year it will cost \$14 for every man, woman and child in the County or a total well in excess of one third of a million dollars. The reduction, almost in its entirety, was brought about by the Acts of Assembly at its last regular session. Our citizens are in financial distress, our farms mortgaged to the hilt, our homes threatened for non-payment of taxes, yet our public servants do not seem to be conscious of that fact.

The expense connected with the prosecution of the matters hereinbefore recited have been absorbed by the Committee, having received no donations, directly or indirectly, from anyone. Our services, such as they have been, we gladly contribute and we hope our efforts will be productive of results beneficial to the citizens of this County.

In conclusion, we pledge ourselves, individually, to an unremitting war on waste and to the abolition of those offices that are unnecessary to our welfare. Having completed our labors to the best of our ability, we respectfully beg to be discharged.

For the Committee

Harold E. Coburn,
Chairman.

West Nottingham Presbyterian Church

Rev. A. H. Hibshman
Ph. D. Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 A. M.
Worship 11:00 A. M.
Young People's Meeting 7:30 P. M.
these services.

Dr. Hibshman's subject for next Sunday will be "Why the World Should be Made Christian."

DEATHS

SAMUEL M. WELSH

The funeral of Samuel M. Welsh, age 90, a former resident of Bay View, this county, and a Union veteran of Civil War, who died Jan. 22, at the home of his nephew in Camden, N. J., was held Friday afternoon from Ebenezer Church, near Greenhurst, this county. Interment was in the adjoining cemetery. The deceased was the last surviving member of North East Post, G. A. R. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. C. M. Gorman, of Glenolden, Pa., and a son, John E. Welsh, of Philadelphia.

HENRY C. DEARNLEY

Henry C. Dearnley, aged 44 years, formerly of Philadelphia, died suddenly at the Veterans' Administration Facility, Perry Point, on January 18, 1934. He had been a member of the 28th Training Battalion of the 79th Division.

A military funeral for the veteran was conducted by Joseph L. Davis Post No. 47, The American Legion, on Sunday, January 21, 1934, and the remains were interred in Mount Erin Cemetery, Havre de Grace. Plans were sounded by Frederick McClintock, Jr., a member of the Junior Drum and Bugle Corps. Rev. William Canning and the Post Chaplain officiated.

HOSEA R. SMITH

Hosea R. Smith, aged 81 years, died Wednesday at his home near Appleton, Cecil county. His first wife died in Newark, Del., about twenty years ago. He married again fifteen years ago and is survived by his second wife and an adopted daughter. His son, by his first wife, was the late Prof. Edw. Lawrence Smith, head of modern language department of Delaware College, Newark, for a number of years, died some years ago.

Mr. Smith spent most of his life in Newark and as a farmer near Appleton.

The funeral was held Friday afternoon, with interment in Head of Christiana cemetery.

MRS. MARY E. DEAN

Mrs. Mary E. Dean, widow of John B. Dean, formerly of Elkton, but for some years past residing with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Hanly, died Jan. 19, at their home at Hillcrest, Del., aged 82 years. Before marriage she was Miss Mary Enos, and most of her married life was spent in Elkton. She is survived by five children—Nona, wife of Fred H. Leffler, of Elkton; Alma, wife of J. Lee Moore, of Holmes, Pa.; Miss Eva S. Dean, of Philadelphia; Alice, wife of W. M. Hanly, of Hillcrest, and Jacob B. Dean, of Colbert, Wash.; also eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Interment was made at the Elkton cemetery.

COLORA

A new truck belonging to Charles Boyd, Colora, was destroyed by fire one day last week near Lancaster. Stewart Pierce will farm this season for Fred Taylor. It is said Mr. Taylor and family will reside in this town.

A goodly number attended the Parent-Teachers meeting here in the school building, last Friday evening.

Mrs. Harry Plummer, of Avonlake, visited relatives here.

William T. Jenness has been spending some time in Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Riley and daughter Miss Mary, West Nottingham, were Wilmington visitors Saturday.

Mrs. Alberta J. Brown, of Baltimore, who has been visiting her cousin Miss Bertha M. Tyson, is now spending some time with her brother Elmer Janney, who is quite sick at his home at Cherry Hill.

David Price, Harry Price and Thomas Price, attended the funeral of their uncle Robert Richardson, in West Chester, last Friday.

Dr. A. H. Hibshman preached at Aberdeen last Sunday and was the dinner guest of Misses Nellie and Miriam Rowland.

The Tuxis Club meets in West Nottingham Chapel this Saturday, at 2 p. m.

Mrs. A. H. Hibshman will entertain the Westminster Guild Saturday afternoon, at the Manse.

Mrs. William T. Jenness is improving from an operation last week at the Maryland General Hospital, Baltimore.

A daughter, who has been named Harriett Ann, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Jenness, Elkton, last Thursday morning. The babe is a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Jenness, Colora.

Mr. and Mrs. Berkely V. Hastings, of Milton, Pa., are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son, Berkeley Penn, born January 10. The mother will be remembered as Miss Frances Steel, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Steel, Colora.



YOUR Holiday Gifts
I should be adequately

protected with insurance. We'll be glad to advise you of your needs.

CHAS. S. PYLE
Insurance
RISING SUN, MARYLAND

PUBLIC SALE

Real Estate and Personal Property

at Calvert, Md.,
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1934
at 1:30 p. m.

Two story, 8 room house in good condition. Front and back porches. Excellent well of water on back porch. Good cellar.

Barn and poultry house, both in good condition. One acre of ground, good trucking soil.

This property is nicely located, with lovely view of surrounding country. Close to stores, churches, main highway past the property.

Also at the same time the household goods belonging to this home, consisting of Living and Dining room Furniture, Rockers, Beds, stands, Carpets, Tables, Radio and many other articles will be included in this sale. Terms, Cash.

Terms on property will be made known on day of sale.

SARAH P. BROWN,

Fisher, Auctioneer.

MRS. JENNIE TAYLOR

Licensed Funeral Director
Gentleman Embalmer Licensed for Maryland and Pennsylvania.
Dignified service given all calls night or day.
Phone 122 Rising Sun, Md.
Cor. N. Queen & Wal. Sts.

RALPH M. REED

Funeral Director & Embalmer
Graduate of Eckels College of Embalming
Special attention given modern embalming and plastic surgery
Funeral Home, Queen St.
Phone—Rising Sun 141

LATHE WORK EXECUTED

I have installed a lathe and other equipment and am prepared to execute woodwork that requires a machine of this description.

If you have broken chair rungs, table legs, or anything of this sort, can duplicate on the lathe and renew your furniture.

Candle sticks and other pieces artistically executed.
Call and see specimens of handiwork and bring pieces you wish duplicated.

EVERETT F. JOHNSON

Rising Sun, Md.
Haines Ave. Phone 42-B

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD
CHURCHES OF CHRIST,
SCIENTIFIC
Baltimore, Md.

ANNOUNCE A FREE LECTURE ON
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

by John Randall Dunn, C. S. B., of Boston, Mass., member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ Scientist, in Boston, Mass.

At The Lyric Theatre

SUN. AFTERNOON, FEB. 4, 1934
at 3 p. m.

The public is cordially invited to attend. This lecture will be radio cast over station WFBR, 1270 kilocycles. Seats will be reserved until 2:45 for those who have not attended a Christian Science lecture, or who may need special consideration. Cards of admission to reserved section may be obtained from the Librarian of the Christian Science Reading Rooms in Baltimore.