

THE PRESS AND BANNER

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Editor

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TO OUR READERS.

Next week we will address you on the terms of the Act under which it is proposed to issue three hundred thousand dollars of bonds of this county to build dirt roads. We promise to give you something to think about.

We will also undertake to give you some figures on taxes in Abbeville county and show up the figures of some other figurers. We can "figure" some ourselves.

We will also talk about experts and, maybe, streets and sidewalks.

SAID SIDEWALK.

Just now when some of our enthusiastic citizens are raising money and spending it in an effort to educate the people of the country districts up to the point of voting a bond issue for a few miles of dirt roads, thereby presumably asserting that our friends, left to themselves, are too ignorant to comprehend the questions which the bond advocates themselves saw fit to submit to these voters, we beg to ask the kind indulgence of the audience, for a few minutes in order that we may address a remark, here and there, to the faculty of the Voting College concerning said sidewalk on Greenville street.

And, in the beginning, as it has been asserted that our friends in the country do not understand the questions upon which they are to pass, in order to properly educate them upon the subject, we would like for them to know that in the building of the proposed good roads, it will be necessary in many places to relocate roads, opening them up through whatever field of corn or cotton the expert may select. It will be necessary, in order to properly dress down these roads, and give them the proper city appearance, that a considerable amount of the best top soil to be had in the adjoining fields be appropriated for the purpose stated. Now, if any of these ignorant country voters should come forward and say that for all such licenses and liberties, the good roads commission should pay a just recompense, we would have to warn them in advance that in so doing they place themselves squarely against "progress," and that in other counties such ignorant country voters, making such demands, have been quietly informed, as it has come to us, that unless the people in the country districts want the roads bad enough to give the necessary land and top soil, there are people in other districts who are waiting to get the roads. We cannot deny that there is some little ground for argument on both sides of this question.

For, gentle reader, we would remind you that one of the objects of these good roads is the betterment of the schools in the cities and town and outlying country districts, and that the children who attend these schools can not reach the school houses with that convenience and comfort which is befitting the mind of public benefactors unless they have wide roads, suitably dressed, laid out in the country districts across your lands and fixed up in the latest style with your top soil. But friends, do not imagine that all of this holds good in the city of Abbeville.

The school authorities in the city of Abbeville have located the High School, attended by our boys and girls, upon that street of quality, known as Greenville Street. The boys and girls of Abbeville, in order to reach the High School, are forced to pass along this street. For some reason the City Council has allowed the street to remain so narrow during all these years that it is with the greatest difficulty that vehicles may pass each other upon it. A sidewalk upon one side of the street is the sole means of the pedestrians reaching the Public Square, not much more than a hundred yards distant from the beginning of the street. We managed to get along very well with these poor accommodations until the proper authorities saw fit to erect the High School at the end of this street. Now, during the school season, all the children from the fifth grade up must be accommodated by this one narrow sidewalk, with the result that pedestrians going in an opposite direction, at the time the children are upon the sidewalk, are forced to get out into the middle of the street in order to allow the children to pass in an orderly manner, and the children upon the streets, and especially the girls of our city, are often embarrassed and annoyed in passing up and down this narrow sidewalk by being forced to rub up against the negro men and women who use this thoroughfare, and all because a new sidewalk has not been opened upon the other side of this street.

Now, our friends in the country will be surprised to hear, we know, and we regret to tell them, that one of the leading members of the faculty of the new college for promoting good voting in Abbeville, in fact we believe the president emerities of the institution, stands in the way of the opening of this sidewalk. We have plead with him, besought him, and cajoled him in an effort to get him to help the poor schools in Abbeville, and to make them better by giving us a better street and a better sidewalk, whereby the children might reach the High School, but we have been told that he does not live on Greenville Street, and that he is looking the other way.

And as we employed all our efforts in this behalf, and we should have had the magnificent support of that great, some times good roads advocate, our esteemed neighbor, The Abbeville Medium, which is so solicitous that the children in the country districts have good roads to go to school, you can imagine our surprise when "unsprung," our sometimes good roads advocate began to kick with a mighty kick, saying that the children did not need any more sidewalks on Greenville Street, and that nobody had any sight to ask your "Uncle Jim" to either give, sell or exchange any of the precious inches of land which he has for the betterment of the Public Schools and for the accommodation and convenience of the dear children who are attending the public schools.

And where has our estimable friend, the loquacious member of the faculty, who adorns the office of the Mayor of the City of Abbeville, been during this discussion? He would put an oyster to shame when it came to dumbness in the fight for a better way to school at home. It is true that there has been enough money in the public treasury of the City of Abbeville to widen other streets and to improve sidewalks on other streets. We would mention the fact that a short street leading from the Public Square directly towards the residence of our worthy friend, is at this very minute, and has been, according to our information, for the last ten weeks in the

gentle hands of the street force, and that a way is being prepared whereby the hack drivers may, with more convenience and safety, reach the depot of the Seaboard Air Line railway, and that as a result of this street-building the Mayor is able to watch occurrences uptown better than before.

Now, we do not condemn this improvement, but we ask if there is money in the city treasury to widen this short street, which accommodates very few people, why is there not enough money in the public treasury to condemn enough land upon Greenville Street and to open a sidewalk upon which the children of the city may travel, going to, and coming from school, with some degree of comfort, and without putting other pedestrians to the trouble of taking the middle of the road, and without all the while running the risk of precipitating a serious breach of the peace in the city on account of some child being jostled by some of the colored brethren.

Charity begins at home, we are told, and we appeal to these great philanthropists who would help the country schools and help the children in the country by taxing everybody to give them ways to reach the schools, to open up their hearts and do for the children of the City of Abbeville what they are asking the people of the country to do for the children in the country. We ask them if they will not, before going out into the country districts and asking the benighted citizens of these "furrin'" parts to contribute of their real estate to the public good, if they will not give a few inches of their valuable real estate to help the people and the children, and the schools in their own city. In the language of our distinguished friend, Col. Lark Wilson, "We pause for a reply."

The medicine, gentlemen, which you have prepared for the ignorant voters in the country tastes a little bitter when you are called upon to swallow it yourself, but by holding your noses and throwing your heads far back, you will be able to do the job.

BETTER SCHOOLS

They tell us, that is, the advocates of the road bond issue tell us, that better roads mean better schools in the country; that the children will be able to attend the schools from greater distances, and with more comfort and convenience.

We presume that by the same line of reasoning we may say that poorer roads mean poorer schools, and that the children will attend schools where there are poor roads with less comfort and convenience.

If that much is admitted, what will it benefit the county of Abbeville to issue the road bonds? The supervisor now informs us that there are at least fifteen hundred miles, and probably more, of public roads in Abbeville county. Not over one hundred and fifty miles of roads of the sand-clay sort can be built from the proposed bond issue and we will thus have thirteen hundred and fifty miles of the common clay or sand roads, which we now have.

Therefore the building of ten per cent. of the present mileage of roads, according to the above reasoning, means that ten per cent. of the schools will be improved, and that ten per cent. of the children of Abbeville county will be given better advantages, and more comfort and convenience in the matter of attending schools.

But what about the other ninety per cent? What do they propose to do for the other ninety per cent? We can only know from what their spokesmen say. The Medium, in its issue of Friday, July 6th, tells us this: "The levy of the county this year is six mills. Practically two mills of this is used to pay salaries, leaving four mills to spend on the roads. Of course some of this money is used for widening and cutting down grades, filling in the valleys, &c. After the bond money is spent for good roads none of this will be necessary as all of this kind of work will be done with the money received from the bond issue AND THUS TWO MILLS AT LEAST WILL BE SAVED, &c."

If we are now spending only four mills on all the roads, and two mills of this is to be taken off by building one hundred and fifty miles of road, does this not mean that the bond issue advocates propose in the future to spend only 2 mills on the remaining thirteen hundred and fifty, or more, miles of road? If the logic of the bond issue advocates about schools and roads going hand in hand holds does this not mean that ninety per cent. of the schools are to be poorer than they now are, and that ninety per cent. of the children are to suffer for the benefit of ten per cent?

Was this government organized for the benefit of a few people, or should we seek to serve the interest of the whole people?

MORE LITTLE GRAVES

Our venerable friend, former citizen, and entirely complacent country-saver, Col. Thomas P. Cothran, of Greenville, made an address to the "scholars" and teachers in our whirlwind school on bond issues on the occasion of the visit to Greenville last Friday, and in the course of his interesting remarks, he took occasion to violently assault some of our editorial utterances with a bludgeon fashioned out of his ancient humor. The Colonel seems not to have much opinion of our old friend, Mathusaleh, because, as he puts the case, after the gentleman had lived a thousand years we know nothing of him except that he died.

We fear that the Colonel will not live a thousand years, though we could hope that he might, so that the country would have a chance to catch up with his progressive ideas, but we suggest to him that if, after he has been dead so long as the other gentleman named, he is remembered at all, we could hope that the people would say nothing worse against him than that he died.

We also have some appreciation, after last summer's primary in Greenville county, of the horror with which the Colonel looks on the expression, "He died."

We hope now that Mathusaleh knew when he was dead.

MORE LITTLE GRAVES.

The esteemed Abbeville Medium, a great tribune of the people and of the people's rights, is afraid now that if the present election carries against the bond issue, the county so far as its legislative delegation is concerned, will fall into the hands of the corporation lawyers. The Medium need not be afraid. No such good luck awaits the county we think. But if it does happen these lawyers will have their commissions from the hands of the people by whom they are elected. So why worry? And when the corporation lawyers draw a bond issue bill, laymen will not be able to shoot holes in it with pop-guns, as is the case with the present bill. For specifications, see our next issue.

The remarks of our neighbor, however, are interesting in that it is the first acknowledgment that some of the present delegation in the legislature from this county have seen the handwriting on the wall.

ANOTHER EXPERT.

We are informed that Col. W. W. Bradley is seeking a professorship in the new college to promote good voting. In order to show his fitness for the job he seeks, Col. Bradley says he can "figure out" where good roads will not only pay for themselves, but pay everybody a good dividend. We knew if there was anybody who could do the job, it was the figuring Colonel.

He figured out some years ago where we were all going to make a fortune out of his gold mine on his lower place.

He also figured that there was a "gold pocket" down on the Watson place near his lower place, and he and Col. Charley Lyon figured themselves out of several hundred dollars trying to slip their hands in the "pocket."

In fact figuring is the Colonel's long suit, and we suggest now that if the roads will pay for themselves, the authors of the present bill are a long way behind modern methods. The people should certainly vote against the present scheme which calls for so much high taxes and at the next session of the General Assembly, get Col. Bradley to "figure up" a bill to build these roads, and let them pay for themselves.

We believe in roads which will "stand alone." Selah!

SHE'S TALKING AGAIN.

Our amiable lady friend, The Medium, undertakes to tell its readers some of the things The Press and Banner says about the bond issue, and high taxes. The ability of the Medium to get facts mixed is so proverbial that we always excuse it. As the people, and especially the Medium readers should know just what The Press and Banner is saying now about taxes and bond issues, we suggest that all who have not already done so should subscribe to a real good paper and keep informed on what is going on.

As a sample of the ability of our friend, The Medium, to fail to read and know the facts about matters, we copy the following from The Greenville News:

"It would seem that Germany's ruler is as hard headed as his cabinet leaders. The German cabinet is called Reichstag, and the war minister, Von Tirpitz, could not agree with Emperor Wilhelm, so he followed Garrison.—The Abbeville Medium. Outside of the fact that the Reichstag is the German parliament, not cabinet, and Von Tirpitz was navy minister, not war minister, the above paragraph is correct."