

A Newspaper in all that the Word Implies and Devoted to the Best Interests of the People it Subverses.

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GAFFNEY CITY, S. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1896.

\$1.00 A YEAR.

WILLING TO TAKE THE JOB.

TWO CONTRACTORS THINK THE SUM SUFFICIENT.

Contractor Propst, of Concord, N. C., and Contractor Baker, of Gaffney, Will Build Court House and Jail for \$15,000.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.)

GAFFNEY, S. C., Oct. 29.

EDITOR LEDGER—Dear Sir: I have read every article published in THE LEDGER, Headlight and Herald in regard to the new county, including the able and truthful letters of Hon. Geo. D. Tillman, also, a report from Comptroller-General Norton, making a statement of the amount of taxes paid by the old and new counties.

Every man has a right and ought to change his mind when facts are presented that are so overwhelmingly against him. How can any sane man deny the benefits that will come to him by the establishment of new counties, described in such plain and forceful language as that of the Hon. Geo. D. Tillman?

I hope every citizen in this proposed new county who has an interest in the upbuilding of his country and who, without prejudice or sentiment, will not only read the articles carefully but keep them and study them. They will do great good to them and their posterity. The Hon. Geo. D. Tillman has been sneered at as a back number, a sorehead, etc., but nevertheless his utterances on this subject are truths, plain and unvarnished, and that is more than some would-be leaders of the opposition can say for many of their assertions.

Legions of patriots and statesmen of other days may be called back numbers and old fogies, but many of their letters and speeches will be living monuments of their good sense and sound judgment long after these same self-seeking, self-constituted sorehead leaders of to-day are forgotten.

This is a day of progress and education; our farmers are not such dummies and numskulls as some people intimate, but they keep well posted as to what is for their best interests nor can they be dictated to or be driven to act against their own judgment, but will act with the large number of their real friends, who do not intend to be dominated over by any one having no other motive except personal aggrandizement and personal profit.

We as a people in the proposed new county are banded together as a family and acting in harmony for what we conceive to be for the best interests of our community and foster ourselves that we are intelligent enough to know our own needs and when we comply with the law and move in a matter that benefits us solely. We call it presumption, to say the least, to have others outside of our union to meddle with our affairs. What can be their motive? Can it be anything else but selfishness? What great interest can an outsider have in our affairs?

A statement in THE LEDGER of today from Comptroller-General Norton, showing the comparative taxes of old and new counties, shows beyond the shadow of a doubt that the taxes in new counties are much less than in old ones, even when the new counties build their own court houses and jails. Are we so much more ignorant that we cannot make even a better showing than they? When the people of Gaffney have given a certified bond to build a court house and jail and pay all other expenses in the formation of a new county and are really doing so now and in addition have executed a lease almost, seat free, for as handsome and roomy a building as there is in the up country. Does this look like fraud?

The bond for \$15,000 is sneered at and belittled by some but this is not all the cost to the people of Gaffney by considerable, and by reference to the town clerk's books you will see the sum will be far in excess of the little \$15,000.

Mr. Editor, I am a practical mechanic and contractor. I made an estimate on the courthouse at Yorkville, also on the town hall in Gaffney, now nearly finished; almost every person in the proposed new county knows me personally, for I am in daily contact with the farmers and laborers in the community; I make my living by the sweat of my brow the same as they do. Their interests are my interests and I hope I am sensible enough to know that my interests and theirs are identical. I do not make my living by wind or by trying to arraign country against town or town against country. I have worked with them, voted with them and suffered with them. Now I make this proposition: I will enter into

contract and give an approved bond to build a court house and jail superior to any in our up country, except Spartanburg, which we helped to pay for, in consideration of the little \$15,000, and will guarantee to have the building completed within six instead of twelve years, and as I know the bond given by the town to be gilt edged, I will take their personal notes bearing legal interest due in twelve years. Some have said: "Suppose the signers to the bond die before the twelve years expire?" If they should be so unfortunate as to shuffle off this mortal coil before enjoying any of the benefits of the new county, which the people are going to have, the opinions and predictions of outsiders to the contrary notwithstanding, their heirs are likewise obligated and bound to fulfill the agreement.

The above proposition is not made for electioneering purposes, but simply as a business proposition and I stand ready to fulfill it at any time and I leave it to my friends in the country and in town whether I generally carry out my contracts in good faith or not.

I concede that in case a new county is established that this town will be more benefited than some parts in the country. From the fact of its being a county seat its property will increase more in value than property more isolated and in that case will we not have to pay more taxes than others in addition to the obligation already given?

I also know that not only will we be benefited, but every single individual in the new district will be benefited in proportion to the amount he owns or controls. Why is it that nearly all the largest land owners in the proposed new county are in favor of the enterprise? Is it not because they know their taxes will be less? Common sense and precedent have taught them this, and if their taxes are less, naturally will not the poorer man's be less also?

It is all buncombe to cry out about a great burden of taxation if the measure carries. The real tax payers are not fools; they know what is best for themselves, and as a consequence are in favor of the new county almost to a man except a few nearest the old county seats.

We naturally expect opposition from the old county seats. They have, through their attorneys, made the law as hard to comply with as possible, and why? It is useless to ask. The answer is patent to almost every one. They want to hold us simply for revenue. It is natural when they have a good thing they should want to hold fast to it. Nor can we on that score blame them much, but as neighbors and friends we do think they ought to be liberal and accord to us the same blessings and privileges they are so loth to part with.

We are willing to meet any and all fair and truthful arguments that can be brought to bear against us, but when it comes to mere speculation and unsubstantiated assertion to mislead our people, we can only tell the truth and leave it to the intelligence of our citizens to follow as their judgment and interests may direct. They ought to know whether it is best to go with the majority of their friends in this purely local matter, in line with the best information given out by the most progressive statesmen in our republic, or whether they should be led astray by those whose interest are purely selfish. The poor farmer! What do they care for the poor farmer or the poor laborer, poor mechanic, or any one else, only to get their money? What a farce to hold up a burdensome tax bugaboo! That old dodge is as old as the hills and about as bare as some of them. But our people know their own interests better than these outsiders can tell them.

A geographical center for the location of the court house, and the people's voice in locating it, is another lame argument to try to prejudice country people against the measure. In the first place the town of Gaffney is, so far as population is concerned, as near the center as can be, it has the advantage of a railroad, cotton market, telegraph and telephone, is a point at which a great many farmers naturally do their trading, a good market for all they have to sell and is within less than half a day's travel from the farthest point in the proposed new county; it has first-class schools and churches, and it also agrees to pay the cost of public buildings, etc., in addition to bearing their share of any other necessary taxes.

What other geographical center can and will supply these necessities? If there is any other that will do so we are willing, if we can not get it, to let them have it and will cheerfully aid them all in our power. Our people want representation in the affairs of our state, consequently, a new county is a first step in that direction. Our people all have a voice in locating the county seat and in naming it, and we submit our offer of erecting the necessary buildings and bearing other expenses as an inducement to locate the seat in this town. If the people think our offer is better

than any other submitted they can so testify at the election.

We are for a new county under any circumstances—even if the courthouse is erected on top of Draytonville or in the valley of Thickety. Very respectfully, L. BAKER.

GAFFNEY CITY, S. C., Oct. 30.

EDITOR LEDGER—Dear Sir: In so far as the proposition of L. Baker, of Gaffney City, is concerned as to building the proposed new court house and jail, I am willing to join him in the proposition or will take the contract myself and complete the buildings mentioned for the consideration of \$15,000. Very respectfully,

A. H. PROBST, Contractor and Builder, Concord, N. C., now building the new Town Hall in Gaffney City, S. C.

NEW vs. OLD COUNTIES.

The Tax List as Furnished By Comptroller Norton.

The following tax rate of counties is furnished THE LEDGER by Comptroller General Norton of Columbia. It is official. We ask you to read and study it, as it will do you good. In addition to the 11 mills in York county there is a tax of one mill in Cherokee Township which would make the total for York 12 mills. Spartanburg (old county) . . . 14 mills. Union (old county) . . . 17 1/2 "

York (old county) . . . 11 " Saluda (new county) . . . 12 1/2 " Florence (new county) . . . 12 1/2 "

The tax of 12 1/2 mills in Saluda and Florence includes a tax for the purpose of building court house and jail and surveying the county and paying past indebtedness of old county. In Limestone there will be no tax for court house and jail and surveying.

We predict that the tax in Limestone county will not be over 11 1/2 mills as follows: For state purposes 4 1/2 mills which is the uniform tax all over the state; school tax 3 mills; for ordinary county purposes 2 mills; past indebtedness 1 mill; jurors and witnesses 3 mill; roads, bridges, etc. 3 mill.

THE ELECTION.

Indications Point Toward the Man From Ohio.

The latest returns up to our going to press indicate McKinley's election to the Presidency of the United States. It seems that McKinley has carried a majority of the doubtful states. We will look for better news, however, to-day and to-morrow, as then the farmer vote will be in, and we believe that will be in Bryan's favor.

ETTA JANE ETCHINGS.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.)

ETTA JANE, Nov. 2.—Capt. J. N. King will finish his work on the Thomson's mill bridge in about ten more days.

Rev. W. R. Owings preached at Salem yesterday. Owing to the Presbytery having rescinded its action for him to take the field as an Evangelist his pastoral relation with this church was not dissolved as was expected.

The chills are subsiding somewhat. The low price of cotton coupled the short crop is somewhat discouraging to our farmers, but they will plant it next year as usual.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Estes have a new comer at their house—a boy. "Sambo" went to Gaffney last week to sell his cotton. He is an out and out new county man.

Some of our neighbors say that R. W. Davis is greatly mistaken in his estimate of the strength of the opposition to the new county at Sarratt's box and that he will find out more fully on the 8th of December.

Your correspondent had the pleasure of attending the South Carolina Synod at Orangeburg last week. That historic town threw open its doors to the representatives of that body and gave them a hearty welcome. Our home was with that genial, whole souled gentlemanly young man, Mr. O. Dantzer, Esq., who, with his excellent young wife, did all in their power to make our stay pleasant and comfortable. J. L. S.

Hill-Glover.

Mr. J. T. Hill and Miss Vina Glover were married on the 29th of October at the home of M. M. Glover in the presence of a number of friends, W. T. Thompson, notary public, performing the ceremony. The dinner was elegant and the hours were pleasantly passed. Everybody was in favor of a new county.

A cough which persists day after day, should not be neglected any longer. It means something more than a mere local irritation, and the sooner it is relieved the better. Take Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. It is prompt to act and sure to cure.

A SLANDER IS REFUTED.

THE PROMISE OF OFFICE IS DENIED.

A Signed Statement by Men Prominent Who Are Interested in the New County Movement.

EDITOR LEDGER: We notice in the Spartanburg Daily Herald of the 29th inst. under caption "Curbstone Chat" where some person has been talking through his hat to the reporter of that paper about the proposed County of Limestone. We recognize the right of all people to discuss this matter, and we are glad when those in the territory of the proposed new County, or those without, say anything if they will be just and fair and not try to mislead the people, and when this gentleman in the Herald said "they (the new county people) had promised the county offices to various sections to induce votes, and these forces are expected to show up well in the election," he either misled the reporter or else had been misled by some one. As some of the promoters of the enterprise, who have been at all the meetings in furtherance of this enterprise, we ask you to give this place in your columns. We have no right to speak for any one and would not assume that right, except for ourselves, but if any such proposition has ever been suggested we know nothing of it and do not believe any such scheme has been formulated. Will this gentleman or anyone tell us how a few people can divide out the offices for any county and bind the people to support any one for any office? Who has the power to compel people to vote for anyone? People in this proposed county are free men as well as in other sections of the "Iron District" and about this matter they would resent any such an insolent suggestion, as they proposed to resent outside interference in a purely local matter. We ask this "gentleman" to bring forward his proof of his statement if he can, and stop making statements as wide as the one above referred to. We are working for a new county and not for anyone, or set of men for any office, believing the people will select whom they please for the various offices as they always have done without consulting anyone, by a majority vote. We ask this "gentleman" to bring forward his proof—put up or shut up. We are endeavoring to be fair and do not have not resorted to questionable methods to aid us in our enterprise, and if outsiders or those inside the proposed new county will say anything, we ask them to be fair and honest and never make a statement they cannot verify. And further, as to where the court house shall be located, we would say, the people, the voters, decide where the court house shall be located and the name of the county at the same time they vote on the formation of the county—a wise provision of the constitution. The Gaffney people simply offer inducements to locate the county seat here, the people can by vote put it where they please.

R. A. JONES, A. N. WOOD, THOS. B. BUTLER, J. A. CARROLL, T. DAVENPORT, L. BAKER, J. N. LIPSCOMB.

Gaffney, S. C. October 30.

LIMESTONE'S RESOURCES.

What the New County will have Within Its Borders.

The proposed new county of Limestone embraces a portion of York, Union and Spartanburg counties. It will take in many historic spots. The battle field of Cowpens, Whig Hill with its revolutionary history, the murder of the original Nuckolls over on Broad River below Cherokee Falls and the camp of General Morgan at Grindall Shoals are all in this territory. Daniel Morgan retreated from Grindall Shoals and passed up on the West side of Thickety, perhaps, following the Green River road and went into camp at Cowpens. Tradition says that name was originally "Hanna's Cowpens," for a man by the name of Hanna, prior to the Revolution, kept cattle for people living farther South. The wild peavine, cane and fine grass were abundant in that region. He took care of cattle during the summer. Colonel Tarleton, who commanded the British at Cowpens, retreated by way of Gaffney, Cherokee Ford and Hamilton's Ford. Not far from the junction of Gousser Creek and Thickety Ford, built as protection against Indians. There sixty or seventy Tories were captured by some of Sumter's troops during the war. The British officers claimed that the surrender was made too easily, and that there was a very feeble effort to defend it. The body of Colonel Will-

iams, who was mortally wounded at King's Mountain, was laid to rest in the upper part of York county not far from Blacksburg. The citizens of that flourishing town ought to mark his grave, if they can identify the place. So much for the Revolutionary history of the new county.

How the people lived and prospered for the first thirty years after the surrender at Yorktown, history is silent. Struggles for a living, the taking up of lands, the building of log houses, the quarrels between Whig and Tory families, the thousand incidents common to pioneer life are all buried in oblivion. The old story tellers, who, fifty years ago, gave the early traditions to eager listeners, have all passed away and their stories were never recorded. Early in this century, or perhaps before the close of the last one, Michael Gaffney came to that section. He married a Miss Smith near Smith's Ford and settled at what was afterwards known as Gaffney's Cross Roads and then as Gaffney's Old Field, and now Gaffney. He was a thrifty man and soon started a store. In 1812 he raised a company for the war but they never got farther than Charleston. We hope to publish the names of his company very soon.

It was, perhaps in the twenties, or even before that, the first furnace for the manufacture of iron was built at Cherokee Ford, afterwards called Coopersville. If any one knows the history of iron making at that place he will please give it. Wilson Nesbitt was perhaps one of the leading men who organized a company to make iron. On the other side of the river the King's Mountain iron works started up. The Blacks, we believe, were the men who started that enterprise. Dr. Black, an intelligent citizen of Blacksburg, will please give us a short sketch of old King's Mountain Iron Works and the Jake Moore gold mine. That all belongs to the new county. The Cowpens furnace also started up but more under the control of the Hurricane shoals Rolling mill than Cherokee Ford. At one time there was a small furnace on Thickety, we believe, not far above Hugh Moore's farm. Limestone Springs first attracted attention between 1825 and 1830. Wilson Nesbitt, generally called Nesbitt in the old days, built the first house, which is now standing near the Northeast corner of Cooper-Limestone Institute. That was originally a double log cabin, used as his summer home, for Cherokee Ford was considered a great place for chills in these days. A joint stock company was formed in 1830 to 1832 to build a large hotel. That was a political project. For several years, prior to that time the low country and our country began their sharp contention. Then the great nullification excitement culminated in 1832. That separated our people and arrayed neighbor against neighbor. Some conservative patriotic men thought a large watering place in the up country would draw representatives men from all parts of the State and that by eating at the same table, playing billiards together and drinking out of the same gourd at the big spring they would heal up the old wounds and restore harmony. For two or three years it flourished as a hotel. Crowds came from the lower counties. Of course all came in private conveyances and brought their servants with them. The famous race tracks at Gaffney grew out of the Limestone hotel organization. In 1845 Dr. Thomas Curtis, and his son, Rev. Wm. Curtis, bought the property and established their famous school, the first female college in the State, except the school of Dr. Marks near Columbia.

When the Washington Monument who going up, each State was requested to send one stone. South Carolina contributed a block of colored marble from Limestone Springs. That was about 1851. It was sent in the rough and had to be hauled in a wagon to Chester or Charlotte. Any ascending the monument may see it, if he will take the trouble.

So far as we know only two men in this territory ever went to Congress. The first was William Nuckolls, with whom, it is reported, that Calhoun considered it a privilege to talk for a few hours. He was well informed on all national questions and his conversation was full of suggestions and information. The other representative came from the York side and some of the older people remember him. He was James Black, a brother of W. C. Black, who represented York county many years in the General Assembly. In mineral resources this new county is rich. Limestone and marble abound. A fine quality of granite may be found on Cherokee creek. It has never been developed but from our recollection of the surface rock it lies near the Clark place above Gaffney. A fair quality of soapstone is found below Gaffney in great abundance. That section is rich in monazite. Iron ore is very abundant. The magnetic ore is there found in perfection. Plumbago has been found in small quantities, and also lead. Gold is found in many places and years ago a "pocket," not far below Limestone Springs, yielded \$2,000 in a few days. The water power of this section is

most abundant. From the mouth of King's Creek to the North Carolina line Broad River affords power enough to run 200,000 spindles with an adequate number of looms.—Carolina Spartan.

AN OLD CAMPAIGNER COMES.

Bulges for the Bull's Eye and Gets There.

EDITOR THE LEDGER: Much has been said of late about the new county, and a great many good arguments have been advanced in favor of it but there is one I would like to call to the attention of the voters, especially the Reform voters, and that is this, which so many are overlooking. New counties were not heard of scarcely until the Reform moment began, and clearly new counties are the children of that moment. Who, I ask, has been agitating the formation of new counties? Who has fought for new counties in the field and on the floor of the Constitutional Convention, which convention was called by the Reformers? No less a personage than the great leader of the people, Gov. B. R. Tillman, aided by his brother, Congressman Jasper W. Talbert and Congressman John L. McLaurin, who now is working for a new county at Dillon, in Marion county would have by letting the farmers and a part of Marion has already gone to establish the county of Florence, whose tax levy is as small as any county in the state, and much smaller than Spartanburg, Union or York from which the new county is proposed to be taken. Did you ever hear of a new county until the farmers got in the saddle? Then is not this a Reform measure, and don't you know if Senator Tillman was living here he would take the stump for the proposed new county. Would he put an additional tax on the people? Hasn't he been trying to reduce our taxes and hasn't he been our friend ever since he came to the front by our votes? If we vote against it would not we be saying "Governor you do not know what you are talking about?" Did he not lead the fight for the new county of Saluda in the Constitutional Convention? And do you believe he would willingly put a tax on the people of his own country, for Saluda was cut off from Edgefield, the county that he first saw light in, and where he first saw the benefits that the farmers get control of this, their government? Then by voicing against the county are we not giving the lie to his teachings? This, my fellow Reformers, is a Reform measure that our leaders have fought for since the beginning of our fight.

Let us rally to the support of our principles and for the convictions that our leaders have said we will enjoy if we get the county. Another great argument that is in favor of the new county is that none of the new counties that have been established by the Reformers, are crying against new counties and begging to get back. They are satisfied, or else they would be trying to get back in the old county they came from, and under the late constitution they can vote themselves back if they are overburdened with taxes. Think of these things and ask yourself if Ben Tillman would tell us to create new counties if he thought it would increase our taxes. Let us lay aside our prejudices and go to the polls on the 8th of December and vote "yes" and have our court house and tax collector near us. I could mention other things that could be said in favor of the county but I am not accustomed to writing articles for the papers, and there is lot in this for the tax payers to think on.

ALWAYS A REFORMER.

LOOK OUT FOR A STORM.

The Opponents of a New County May Get in a Trap.

THE LEDGER anticipates that the opponents of a new county will bring forth the argument that the taxes of Saluda county are higher than Edgefield, the county from which it was taken. We had not overlooked that part. The taxes of Edgefield are 10 1/2 mills, with an additional tax in Cooper township of 11-12 mills. Leaving off the 11-12 mill tax in Cooper township and taking the 10 1/2 mills of the county as a basis we find that Saluda county, if it were relieved of the 1 1/2 mill tax for building court house and the 1/2 mill tax for surveying the county—the tax that Gaffney proposes to bear alone—would have a tax of but 10 1/2 mills.

Add the 11-12 mills that Cooper township pays in Edgefield county to the 10 1/2 mills and you have a total tax of 11 10-12, or a fraction more than one mill than Saluda would pay if that county were relieved of the tax for the court house and jail the expense of surveying the county.

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