

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 26, 1896.

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THE BENIGHTED HEATHENS

ARE QUITE ABLE TO TAKE CARE
OF THEMSELVES.

A Correspondent Handles the Editor
of the Headlight Roughly and Tells
Him Something About the
New County Inhabitants.

If Mr. Gantt really thinks that we are a benighted, heathenish set of people, clamoring for a thing of which we know nothing about, I think it would do him a great deal of good to come up into the "benighted" tail ends of Spartanburg, Union and York, and gain a little knowledge of which he shows a wonderful lack. It is somewhat singular, but nevertheless it is a fact, that our knee-pants boys can advance a better argument for the new county than the Headlight does against it. Of course everybody knows that Mr. Gantt is not, nor cannot be, sincere in his obstinate fight against the new county for two reasons.

1st. He has not, as every sane man knows, a solid foundation to stand on, nor a just principle to support him, in his unholy attack on the rights and privileges of a free and independent people.

2nd. In his desperate attempt to frustrate the new county movement, he masquerades himself with good intent, and falls to the level of those who use only vituperation and deception in an argument. We all know, that in no period of the state's history have the people been better qualified to grasp a public issue and digest it with that degree of perfection desirable, than they are at the present time. And, for any man to insult their pride and manhood, by calling them "heathens," and a benighted people, irrevocably loses their respect and patronage.

If Mr. Gantt could be at some of the debates that the hardy sons of toil are having in the little school house in the country, he would be utterly amazed at the fair and intelligent language they use in behalf of their cause.

You may say what you will and think what you may, but, ever rest assured, that when the good honest people of the country work hard all day, then at night lose their hard-earned repose by strolling off to an isolated school house to battle for their country's welfare, that there is no foolishness in their motives. In time of peace, as in war, the hardened muscles and callous hands, are found in the forefront of the thickest of the battle for the advancement of their country and the honor of their fellowman.

The people in the Eastern portion of Spartanburg have long since known that they possess the oasis of the county, and therefore pay into the county's exchequer more than they get back.

The people of Northern Union know that they spend all their spare money in Gaffney, which money helps to build up that place and by so doing puts more money in Spartanburg's treasury, while they pay their taxes into Union's treasury, twenty-seven miles away and get very little benefit. While in the "cut-off" of York, those people know that if they do not vote themselves into the proposed new county that their loss will be great in the near future from the fact that Rock Hill, the wealthiest portion of York, will at once proceed to secure to herself a county, leaving the remainder of York to pay a higher tax than at present. Rock Hill is bent on having a court house. If Limestone county carries, she will eventually move Yorkville court house down there in spite of thunder, for those people in Rock Hill are ever on the alert, an energetic and persevering people. They know a good thing when they see it. That is why they went a court house. They are going to do all they can to defeat Limestone county, not for any love of upper York, but for the sole benefit of Rock Hill. They seek to hold those people in the "cut-off" of York in old ruts as a means to give them a boost up the ladder of progress. So you see very clearly that it is to the individual and collective interest of the three proposed sections to create a new county for themselves, because we are door neighbors, our interests are identical, then let us join hands and build up a hitherto neglected portion of country that has paid out hard earned dollars to build up other portions entirely out of our reach.

Those who are opposed to the linking together of our common interest, endeavor to scare us by telling (not proving) that our taxes will advance to an unheard of burden. They resort to this means because they know

that to be the "hands off" place of a man. We know that this is not so for the simple reason that the people in the three sections are not only going to unite themselves, but bring with them the same territory, the same personal property, that has heretofore been supporting them in the old counties. Now if this property has been amply sufficient to support us in the three old counties, with big salaried offices, why in the name of common sense will they not support us in a new county with small salaried offices?

Mr. Gantt would have us to believe that we would have to pay an enormous sum of taxes to liquidate the indebtedness of the three old counties. Certainly we will have to pay our portion of the indebtedness of the old counties just as we have always been doing, but mind you, it is not like Mr. Gantt would have you to infer.

While we are compelled by the basic law of the state to help pay the old indebtedness of the three old counties, they are by the same law forced to give up three pretty large chunks of territory with which to pay the old debt. They may wish the devil around the stump as much as they like, but these are facts they cannot budge. Facts of which our people are thoroughly conversant. And, even our children point to their foreheads and smile when Mr. Gantt makes the assertion that our road tax will be doubled, etc.

Mr. Gantt also says that those two cotton mills in Gaffney do not pay any tax that is of any consequence to the county, but pays a town tax. This is a mistake. They pay an enormous county tax, but, none to the town.

Then again, Mr. Gantt handles the truth carelessly and facts roughly, when he says that it will be impossible for a farmer to get an office in the new county—that Gaffney and Blacksburg will be the dictators.

Then in the next breath he appeals to the farmer not to vote for the new county. Well does he know that if the farmer does not vote this new county in, that the towns are helpless. Mr. Gantt knows that the farmers will have a monopoly on the offices, since the ratio between the two classes in the new county are by far greater in favor of the farmer than it is in either of the old counties. If the farmer ever wants an office, he had better work with might and main for the new county, for three fourths of the voting population in the new county are farmers.

As long as Mr. Gantt is suffered by the farmers to bamboozle them by claiming to be their only friend, just so long will they be officeless. In the proposed "cut-off" of Spartanburg, we know this to be a fact because whenever an election year rolls around he gets up his slate of pets and the farmer is entirely ignored. Was this caper not cut by him this year? Certainly it was. We had a farmer candidate from this section for one of the county offices, and notwithstanding Mr. Gantt's boasted friendship for the farmer, he gave him the Brutus dagger. From every quarter, we hear the farmers, almost to a man, say that Mr. Gantt gave our Alliance fraternity a sledge hammer blow by becoming so ungratefully that his excommunication became imperative. And now, to our sorrow, we find that he has greatly injured our Reform cause by constantly kicking up a rucus about nothing and appealing to the blinded prejudice and the baser part of the human mind to array the farmers against the merchants, class against class, and would, if he could, crack the sacred bond 'twix father and son. The farmer, merchant, and in fact every body else, have for some time had scruples as to Mr. Gantt's sincerity in his voluminous vauntings of friendship to the farmer, and now, since his unreasonable attack on the people for desiring the thing of which the Reform doctrines have taught and shown them the supreme necessity, he has torn down the last curtain of simulation, and now stands in his true light before the people. No, Mr. Gantt, you have no love for the farmer of which you love to prate about, except when he rides twenty or thirty miles to plunk down his dear dollar for your paper.

But Mr. Gantt gets very angry indeed when he hears that Tillman, "the great Caesar of Reform" is going to speak to the "heathens" in the "benighted" new county. I suppose he is scared. Tillman might poke a little sense into the "heathens," and Larry does not, by any means want that done. Larry does not like Tillman because Tillman regards him as a small potato, and doesn't give any heed to his mandates. We remember how Larry commanded and gave out orders for Tillman to locate the Winthrop Normal Training School at Spartanburg. But Tillman pursued his course as though Larry were not disturbing the air.

The people contend that Tillman has the greatest right of any man in the state to discuss this subject before the public. Why? Because he is the father of it.

When Tillman left his farm, Cincinnati like, and put on the political robe, he began his fight for a reformation of the county government

by advocating smaller counties. He has fought and won the battle, then why should he not be the first man to discuss the subject, not only here, but anywhere in the state, especially when the people call on him?

Then on the other hand, we think that Mr. Gantt is the first man to oppose the new county argument since he fought the calling of a constitutional convention with all the vigor and vehemence in him. So Larry, if you want to cripple the cause of our new county you had better play a different card, for your little game of abuse last week turned up scores of new county trumps.

If you are really hard up for a wind battle, just come down Dec. 5th, face the people whom you seek to injure, try your hand a little with Benjamin, and the people will cry in unison, "Lay on McDuff, and dambled he be who first cries enough."

V. M.

WHAT CAN THEY DO WITH THIS

The Auditor of Florence County Nails a Falacy.

An opponent of the new county asked THE LEDGER if it was not true that the tax levy in new counties was smaller than that of old counties because the assessors have assessed the property at a higher valuation. We had to admit that we did not know whether or not that was true, but at the same time we promised to find out; so, with that end in view, we wrote to the auditor of Florence county and asked him these two questions:

"Will you please inform us if the property in your county is assessed at a higher rate than it was before the new county was formed, and also state if the rate is now higher than in the old counties from which it was taken?"

"Do your people desire to go back into the old counties?"

To the two inquiries the auditor wrote as follows:

W. L. HARRELL, Auditor.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE, FLORENCE COUNTY,

FLORENCE, S. C., Nov. 18, 1896.

MR. ED H. DE CAMP:

DEAR SIR—Your favor of 17th inst. to hand. In answer as to rate of assessment for Florence county now and when in old counties, would give you the following statement, to-wit: 1893-94 assessed:

Marion, at about \$3.98 per acre, on an average.

Darlington, at about \$4.31 per acre, on an average.

Florence, at about \$3.22 per acre, on an average.

The above shows the two counties from which Florence was principally cut, there being only two other townships out of about fifteen, one from Williamsburg, the other from Clarendon.

The people of Florence county are all well satisfied and have no desire to return to the old counties. Respectfully,

W. L. HARRELL,

Auditor F. C.

As will be seen from the above the new county of Florence has the advantage of 76 cents over the old county of Marion and the advantage of \$1.09 over the old county of Darlington in the matter of the assessments of lands. Florence's levy of 12½ mills includes a tax for past indebtedness, and they build their own court house and jail as well. Cannot our people run on a less tax than Florence when they will have no court house and jail to build? We will have the privilege of making our own tax rates if we go into the new county, while as it is we don't have any say so in the matter. THE LEDGER has promised there will be no increase in taxes, and that on the other hand there will be a reduction, and we serve notice here that the man, or set of men, who succeed in getting the offices of this new county must not and shall not attempt to have a high tax rate. On the other hand, they must be lower.

Notice.

A public speaking will be held at Maud, S. C., on Saturday Nov. 28th, to discuss the new county movement. All are invited to attend, the patrons of the Headlight especially. REFORMERS.

Eureka! Eureka!

Why longer hunt for a name? Why lose the new county because we can't get a suitable name for it? Call it Gantchawillipscomb.

N.H.H.

FLAW PICKER ON THE STUMP

HE SPEAKS FOR NEW COUNTY
AT DRAYTONVILLE.

Only Three Oppose It Between Here
and Asbury—Ravenna is the Hon-
or's Nest of the Oppo-
sition—Notes.

DRAYTONVILLE, Nov. 23.—In all this whole round, created world, you'll find opposition to any git-up.

If I was drawing a ten thousand dollar salary a year and spendin' and circulatin' every bit of it in and all over this county somebody would kick about it. If I had the power to, and would invent some kind of a flyin' contraption to carry people to Heaven in I wouldn't git many loads hauled off till somebody would be wantin' to mob me, even if I hauled them free of charge. If I would propose to create a new county and build a hundred thousand dollar court house and jail and pay every man's taxes and furnish him a turn-out each court week to ride to court and back, and give the people Uncle Sam as security somebody would oppose it; now, aint that so? We have got one man, I am sorry to say, right down here in the coalin' ground, in our midst, who says he don't want the new county because he don't want it—that's all—haint got no more reason for his opposition than a man has for deliberately stickin' his finger in the fire. I proffered to send him some new county literature until after the election free of charge so he could weigh both sides of the question and be prepared to vote intelligently on Dec. 8th, and be loyal to his country, but no sir, narry time would he accept it. Such fellers as that is a clog to the wheel of enterprise and prosperity and a burden to his community; not because he is opposed to the new county, but because he is not willing to weigh both sides of a question to find which is best.

But withal I am proud of the coalin' ground and her patriotic inhabitants. About 30 or 50 of her voters assembled at the school house Saturday night to weigh both sides of the new county question and be prepared to vote intelligently for the best interests of their country. For the first time (outside of dreams) was ole Flaw on the stump—to change, and swap, and receive, and give, and mingle views relative to new or no new county. The parson was there, and the people in general turned out. The sentiment was about 16 to 1 in favor of the new county. Honestly, a new county man had to git up and make an anti-new county speech in order to git material for the debaters to work on. The most opposition we had was one man said he was in favor of the new county providin' they put it in the center and if, not; and in answer another feller said: "Who ever hearn tell of a court house and jail bein' built in an ole field. We might want some peanuts to crack on indurin' court time, and if we got 'em we'll haf to go to Gaffney after 'em and before we got back we'd be ruled out."

One opposer's reason was, that the people in the fork of Broad and Pacolet rivers had to come too far to attend court about eighteen miles. He don't seem to realize that four times as many people as live in that little fork now haf to go clear from Broad river to Spartanburg, about twenty-five miles; and from the North Carolina line near Broad river to Yorkville, about twenty-eight miles; and from the Spartanburg line near Broad river to Union, about thirty miles.

Gentlemen, be patriotic and vote for the interests of the masses and not for a personal whim. To have the court house and jail in the geographical centre of the proposed new county would be like having your dwelling house in the center of your farm and the kitchen and dining room at one edge. How would you like to git up in the morning and walk two or three miles for breakfast? How would you like to drive three, four or five miles after court adjourns to town, do your tradin' and then back home?

Who ever hearn tell of a court house and jail bein' built out in an ole field, away from a store, away from a restaurant, away from a hotel, away from a postoffice, and above all, away from a depot or railroad? If that aint a bright idea I'll give it up. But you say, "we'll git all these things after we build the court house and jail there." O, yes, I had'n't thought of that. You mean to tax the people to build the court house and jail and tax 'em to git this railroad and depot and naturally the other things will be added unto you, is that it? Well if you do all these things then it is that Mr. Gantt's booger boos will come upon you and

you'll remain payin' your 17½ mills if not more. Honestly I don't think there's a man in the proposed new county lines that, after looking this question square in the face, would think of having the courthouse and jail in the geographical centre. If he would I would be for self-interest and not from a patriotic standpoint.

Now, this is what Flaw has to say. If it's not right I'm open to conviction.

LATER.

RAVENNA, S. C., Nov. 24.—Geeminy whiz! I've got into the honor's nest of the whole plantation, the "little foxes" that gobble the grapes, the Aarons that build the golden gods and impede progress in the land of milk and honey.

Yesterday (Monday) I met two men who declared their opposition to the new county, and heard of one more. This includes the entire Union road from Gaffney to Asbury. One feller says he is against it because a drunk man in Gaffney called him a d—d fool.

I tell, and prove to them, that out of all the counties (36) in the state, only seven pay 14 mills and over and yet they contend that our taxes will be raised. Gentlemen, if twenty-nine counties out of thirty-six can be run for less than 14 mills, why in the name of reason can't the new county be run on less than 14 mills? Gentlemen, look this square in the face with an unprejudiced eye; it is solid facts. Saluda is paying on court house and jail and all her taxes put together are only 12½ mills.

But what I started to say in the outset: This Ravenna settlement—a handful in the ocean, as it were—is tooth and toenail against the new county, in spite of all solid proofs offered. Their main objections are, that the handful of houses this side of the river at Trough was left out. The factory operatives live in them, and a majority of them move so often that it would be impossible to collect much tax from them, so you see the new county didn't lose much tax by leaving them out, but it is a great bugaboo in this immediate section, though there are some strong new countyites here, I find, and one lives right on the line.

The biggest objection I find in Ravenna settlement is because of leaving out at Trough Shoals this side of the river, a number of operatives' houses. I just want to say right here that the tax on the property would have been paid into the Spartanburg county treasury even if they had made the river the line all the way up, and the new county would have had to keep up the roads.

You say: "The poll on the operatives would have been a big thing." If you had the experience ole Flaw has about cotton mill tax payers you would readily say that not more than one-half of them pay taxes as a general thing; the majority move so often from one county to another that their taxes would not amount to a drop in the bucket. Now, honestly, aint that a fact? I don't believe their taxes would have paid to keep up those rough roads between the river and Brown's branch.

FLAW PICKER.

Tell Us Why, Will You?

Will some one tell us why it is that certain office holders and newspapers in this and adjoining counties are so intensely interested in the defeat of the new county on purely patriotic lines and at the same time have not a word to say about the move to create a half dozen other new counties in different portions of the State? We never hear them say a word about Greenwood, Salem, Edisto, Dorchester and Calhoun counties, all of whom are to hold elections on December 8th, the same day we do, but they are eternally harping on Limestone and Gaffney. Tell us, will you, why they are so interested in us and have no interest in these other elections if they oppose it from a patriotic standpoint?

No, gentlemen, the answer is easy. They are working for self. If we get this new county, which we firmly believe we will, those newspapers will lose some official patronage and subscribers and these officials will lose some fees. That's the whole thing in a nut-shell.

A Cards of Thanks.

I beg to express my gratitude and thanks to the people of Wright neighborhood for their assistance in aiding me to save my house and barns from being burned up Friday night. But for their prompt response, and manly efforts, great damage would sure have resulted to me.

Respectfully,

J. L. SPAKE.

My family and I wish hereby to express our thanks to the many friends who were so kind to us during our recent affliction and bereavement. May the unfailing love of our Father richly reward you.

Yours truly,

MRS. ADDIE TILLOTSON.

"I escaped being a confirmed dyspeptic by taking Ayer's Pills in time." This is the experience of many. Ayer's Pills, whether as an after-dinner pill or as a remedy for liver complaint, indigestion, flatulency, water brush, and nausea, are invaluable.

THIS IS QUITE FAIR.

Mr. Hardin Invites the Opposition to
Point Out Flaws.

BLACKSBURG, S. C., Nov. 18.—Ed. H. DE CAMP, Gaffney, S. C.: I am informed that some people who oppose the formation of the new county, with Gaffney as the county seat, intimate that the bond given to the trustees by the people of Gaffney, to secure the erection of the court house, jail and other public buildings, is deficient. No one can question the solvency of the bond, then the defect must be in form. No one but a lawyer would be a competent judge as to this; the bond is recorded in Spartanburg, and if any of our friends of the bar will be so kind as to point out the defect—and in justice they should do so to protect their friends that they advise—I assure them that the people of Gaffney will make the defect, if any, good. I believe that the people of Gaffney are honest in this matter. I drew the bond, taking great pains with it, and I know of no defect. I am told again that the new county government will be more expensive than the old county government we have.

If so, it will be as we make it. If the election carries in favor of the new county—and I am satisfied now that it will—I am in favor of each township forming the new county electing five delegates, on a notice of ten days, to meet at Gaffney, and that these delegates make or draft the act that is to be passed by the legislature incorporating the new county. By this means the whole people of the new county will have a voice in the formation and practically make the law forming the same, fixing the salary of the various officers, etc. Mr. Editor, you will notice as a rule that those who oppose the new county are men who hold some office in the old counties, are friends of some office holder, or some one at the court has a lien upon them. Where one acts as a freeman, untrammelled and for the best interest of himself, his children and the people's good, he is in favor of the new county.

N. W. HARDIN,

Chairman Board Trustees.

Only Four Out of Thirty-Five Oppose
New County.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.)

DRAYTONVILLE, Nov. 24.—This scribe was in the upper end of York county last Saturday and attended a sale of land, corn, fodder and wheat. The sale was largely attended. I found nearly everybody present in favor of the new county. In fact out of a about thirty-five I only found three or four opposed to it, and I don't think they will be opposed to it very long. I then attended services at Buffalo Church and had the pleasure of listening to a very able sermon by the Rev. Gower, of Lincoln, N. C. I met a number of old friends, acquaintances and relatives, all of whom I was very glad to meet. I had the pleasure of taking quite a number of new subscribers for THE LEDGER while there, which was very agreeable to me, and I trust it will prove a source of pleasure and profit to those who subscribe as well as myself.

Hurray for Limestone county, that's the place for me. For within her happy borders roam the fair, the brave and true.

RAMBLER.

Taking a Deep Interest.

COWPENS, S. C., Nov. 24, 1896.
MR. EDITOR: I am taking a deep interest in our new county movement. I see many advantages in it. I honestly believe that our taxes will be less and the money that will be saved to the people of Spartanburg, York and Union—who now go so far to attend to their legal cases—cannot be computed, while cases in court can then be tried with dispatch. It will be best for us all. You are a hustler—pile in your licks and count me in the fight "while the lamp holds out to burn."

J. S. OGLESBY.

Yes Too Big.

The Carolina Spartan of last week week says: "The county criminal court is getting to be a big thing. The grand jury remains in session longer than a week and they have not been fooling away their time. Then the docket had over a hundred cases, the settlement of which imposes a heavy burden on the county."

Now create smaller counties suited to the necessities of the rapidly increasing population of this county—divide the business, it will cost the counties and individual both less.

A cup of muddy coffee is not wholesome, neither is a bottle of muddy medicine. One way to know a reliable and skillfully-prepared blood-purifier is by its freedom from sediment. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is always bright and sparkling, because it is an extract and not a decoction.