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UNION, S. C., MAY 23, 1902.

CAN THE TAXPAYERS STAND IT?

\$100 per year for Wardens, \$350 per year for an Attorney, \$500 for Clerk and Treasurer, \$600 for Mayor. We think the last two items reasonable and probably if we understood the amount of legal business now required of the attorney we might pass this item, but for men who were elected with the understanding that they were to receive their taxes free in full for their services to vote themselves \$100 per year, is unreasonable and unworkable. What good reason can be given for paying Wardens \$100 when they were elected for the honor and abatement of their individual taxes? It might be urged that their taxes are unequal, but they were elected on that basis and should have accepted it or asked the people or the legislature to change it. It certainly comes with bad grace to change it themselves—without notice. Such a precedent established would warrant the next board in paying themselves \$500 or \$1,000 if they should do some extra good turn for the town and think they were worth it.

The precedent is wrong and should be corrected at once, and every candidate offering for election next month should be made to express himself if he proposes to serve for the old stipend or vote himself a salary.

Everybody who owns property is complaining of high taxes and while the item criticised may appear small we protest at the beginning to prevent a precedent being established. All salaries should be fixed by the legislature. A few years ago the Mayor received \$300 now \$500, the Attorney \$50 now \$350, the Wardens part of last year at rate of \$100. How much next year? or the next? Can the taxpayers allow such a precedent to be established?

We do not know of another town in the State paying wardens salary. Why this one? Years ago when the Council had to meet and try cases as a body there might have been some excuse in asking the people to pay the wardens a salary for such disagreeable work, but now that labor has been put on the Mayor, and most of the work now of the Wardens is to meet once or twice a month, attend to routine business, pass some ordinance or order their salaries paid.

A TRIP TO TEXAS.

(Continued from page 1.)

right underneath the railroad. The line had not yet been put in operation as the new power plant which is being built some miles from Fort Worth to operate it has not yet been finished. The combined electric current from Dallas and Fort Worth, however, is sufficient to operate one car slowly and I noticed one running as we passed. The car line is no doubt in operation by the time you read this. It is a great thing for the two cities and ties them together as if were. A fast schedule will be put on and a number of cars will be run on the line. The fare for the round trip will be fifty cents. The line will, no doubt, receive a liberal patronage, as the cheapest round trip fare on the railroad is \$1.

There is quite a rivalry between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, and while Dallas is the oldest and larger of the two cities, Fort Worth is a formidable rival, and is coming with seven league strides. This city seems to be favored by the great trunk lines of Texas. There are thirteen railroads running into Fort Worth and I noticed a new grade near by, which I was told was another new road coming into the city. It appears to be only a matter of time when Dallas will have to look well to her laurels or have them captured by Fort Worth.

It is astonishing to see the number of mammoth industries established all along the railroad at little way stations, some of them apparently not larger than Santee or Carlisle, these little towns seem to have sprung into existence, following the establishment of some industry, rather than the industries following the building of the town. All this is naturally enhancing the value of the lands all along the railroad. The land is exceptionally fine farming land and while twenty years ago it was a grand expanse of prairie, and the pick of it could be had for a mere song, it now brings from twenty to sixty dollars per acre.

About 12 miles from Dallas we entered the famous belt of timber, known as the Cross Timber of Texas. This timber belt averages about eight miles in width, while it extends entirely across the state, from the Indian Territory to the Gulf of Mexico. The land in this belt is of an entirely different quality and is exceptionally fine for the production of vegetables, fruits and melons. Dr. Russey informed me that he one day saw 400 wagon loads of melons on the streets of Fort Worth, hauled in for shipment. This is the only belt of timber to be found in this great State.

Our attention was called to a very large orchard in this timber belt on the right of the road. This orchard contained 100 acres and the trees had been set out in the most precise manner, and were full grown, presenting a most beautiful sight. This was an experiment by some capitalists. Every variety of fruit imaginable that could be grown in that fertile country were to be found there, but strange to say it had proved a failure, because there was a hill or ridge on the North side of it. Our astonishment found expression in our face when this declaration was made, as we thought the very fact of the planting of the trees to the South of the ridge to protect them from the North winds would assure the success of the experiment, and we said as much, that is the very trouble, explained the doctor, the protection from the North wind allowed them not only to grow rapidly but caused them to put forth fruit too early and the consequence was the fruit was killed every time. The promoters have determined to transplant this great orchard to the North of the ridge. This will entail an enormous outlay of capital but if the new experiment proves successful, which it no doubt will do, it will pay a large dividend, on the outlay in no great while. The vegetables for both Fort Worth and Dallas are grown in this timber belt.

One of the new towns half way between Dallas and Fort Worth, "Arlington," with a population of between five and six thousand is settled almost exclusively by citizens of Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi. I heard it said that there were as many Alabamians in Texas as there were in Alabama. I do not know how true this is. It seems to be an exaggerated statement. The roads are worked by the convicts and are beauties every one of them.

Handley is the station where the power plant for the electric railway was building. It is eight miles from Fort Worth, and will no doubt soon be an

important town. There is a fine lake at this point; a club house is to be built by the Fort Worth Club, also a summer theatre and pavilion, and a boat house with pleasure boats for the lake. The street car company have bought every foot of land that they could half a mile on either side of the track, consequently land has advanced along its track from \$50 an acre three months ago to \$200 an acre now.

Approaching Fort Worth one cannot help noticing the Polytechnic College to the left, situated on a beautiful site overlooking the city. It is a magnificent and imposing structure, and was built by the Methodist Conference.

Further on we see the beautiful Home for Masonic Widows and Orphans, with its spacious and attractive grounds surrounding it. This great institution was built by the Masonic Fraternity of the State of Texas, at a cost of \$230,000. The people of Fort Worth are very proud of this fine institution, and they have reason to be. I made up my mind to pay a visit to this institution while at Fort Worth, but I was unfortunately deprived of this pleasure as I will explain later. The Home is about 4 miles out of the city. Visitors can take a car to the Polytechnic College, and from there they are taken to the Home by the Tallaho belonging to the Home.

Arriving in Fort Worth we were ushered into one of the finest depots I have ever been in, and it is said there is only one finer in the United States. It is useless to attempt a description of this magnificent depot, suffice it to say it is strictly up-to-date in every particular with every modern convenience attached. Sleeping apartments are about all that are necessary to convert it into a veritable palace.

Gathering me by the arm our irresistible doctor said come along I want to show you a town, you have not seen Texas till you see Fort Worth. When you have taken in this town you can go home satisfied and tell your people you have seen Texas, not before. So catching a street car we made a long run through town to the suburbs on the other side where the great packing houses of Armour and Swift are building enormous packeries, each of which is to cost \$5,000,000. On the way the doctor was nudging me to look at this, and this, and this, on first one side of the track then the other, while he rattled off the names, the date of erection, the cost of same, the owner's names, their previous conditions, their present allience, etc., etc., and kept me rubber-necking until I began to get enough of it and felt a threatening of a crick in the neck. The passengers stared at us like they might have thought it was Prince Henry that the gib-tongued doctor had in tow, and that he was negotiating a sale of the whole town. This thing was kept up until we became a little more conspicuous than was comfortable, and I suggested that we go out on the front platform which we did, and here it was no better, for in an instant he roared in the motorcar to back up his assertions and I finally conceded myself by a nod of assent to this dabbled bombardment, giving them to understand that any old thing they chose to state went, until we finally arrived at the packing works. But all in all the doctor was a fine talker. He is thoroughly posted, has traveled all over the State and seemingly knows it by heart. He is the best advertiser and town booster we ever ran up against, and if the city does not pay him a salary it should do so. He is a worker for Fort Worth from way back and that "ain't" no lie.

One of the first things that the visitor notices upon coming out of the depot is the monument of Al Henry, who was buried to death at the burning of the Cotton Palace, while rescuing women and children.

Among the handsome buildings we passed on the way out, I noticed the handsome post office building, with the cathedral in front; the city hall is another fine building. The Carnegie library is another \$200,000 building, Carnegie having given \$100,000 towards its construction. The Martin Brown building is a handsome structure and has a nice summer garden on top, building cost \$450,000. Next comes the Masonic temple, a fine four story brick building, Hotel Worth, the leading hotel of the city, cost \$250,000. The White building, 8 stories, cost \$100,000. Hotel Delaware cost \$100,000. The Government building cost \$125,000. The court house at head of Main street, a magnificent structure costing over \$400,000, built entirely of Texas marble and stone, some of which is very fine, and equal to the famous Tennessee marble. The Scott building, cost \$75,000, occupied by the largest clothing establishment in the city. The Dunda building cost \$200,000. Winfield Scott owns several other

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fine buildings in the city. He is a large cattle dealer and made his money at this business. The Santee depot cost \$75,000. The Texas Pacific depot cost \$175,000—this is the fine one.

We crossed Trinity river just back of the court house. The electric power plant is located on the opposite bank, while far over to the left of the car line can be seen Arlington Heights, where the stand pipe is situated. We then passed Herman Park, the property of a Dutchman, who arrived at Fort Worth not many years ago a poor man. He is loaded down with the filthy here now.

On the right is the big cattle pasture of Dan Decker, who has sold in this pasture 100,000 head of horses to the English army for their Boer campaign.

(To be continued.)

Alphonso, the boy King of Spain, attained his majority last Sunday 16 years of age, and became King in fact as well as in name. An attempt was made by anarchists to assassinate him, but it was nipped in the bud and a number of arrests were made. The plan was to throw dynamite cartridges at the royal carriage as it passed in the parade.

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