The Transcript.

SATURDAY, FEB. 19, 1910.

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—BY—

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R. H. COLLINS, T. D. BOWERS

EDITORS.

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SHERIFF ANDREW MEDDERS is circulating a petition to increase the board of prisoners in the county jail from 35 cents per day to 50 cents.

TO DO a thing simply because we have the power to do it, regardless of the interests and welfare of the people who conferred that power, is the basest sort of ingratitude.

THE appointment of Mr. A. Parks Rasin as supervisor of election is a good one. He is a young man of energy and courage, and will look after the interests of the people at large faithfully and well we are sure.

WHO ARE the representative citizens who have asked Senator Slay to introduce a road bill giving the Governor the power to appoint the road engineer, thus destroying the force and effect of the Caroline Road Law? It is only fair to the tax-payers to publish their names, and let us see who are the people that would force such a law upon Kent county. Publish the names. Don't be afraid to show your colors.

382 TAX-PAYERS of Kent county, with more to follow, have petitioned the representatives in the Legislature to adopt the *Caroline County Road Law* for Kent, and these petitioners are members of both factions of the Democratic party and the Republican party. They have asked for no law that gives the Governor the power to appoint and remove the road engineer, nor which gives no right of appeal from the Governor's decision in the matter. What are our representatives going to do in the matter, force something upon the people they don't want, or give the Caroline Road Law, such as over 400 petitioners have already asked for, and whose petitions have been sent to Annapolis?

WE HAVE been surprised to learn this week that Caroline county has 625 miles of road, while Kent county *has only 401 miles*. We had thought that there are the same number of miles in each county. This makes the situation in Kent all the worse. Caroline last year, having to build a new bridge over the Tuckahoe river at a cost of $4 477, and other bridges at a cost of $2,000, spent $18,000 on their roads and bridges. Kent county with only 401 miles of road spent $43,000, according to the levy, and nobody actually knows how much more, and $35,000 was spent from June 5 last to Dec. 1st, 1909, and the significant fact of the business is that Caroline county's roads are in five times better condition to-day than are Kent county's roads. If the roads of this county were properly and in a business-like manner worked, such as they are under the Caroline county law, would there be the slightest necessity for the unusual and excessive tax rate of $1.25? We could adopt the Caroline law and run the entire county on a 95-cent tax rate and get 100 per cent. better results than we are getting to-day.

IF THE representatives from Kent county in the Maryland Legislature would act prudently and in the interest of the tax-payers of the county, they will not force upon them a road engineer appointed by the Governor. There is absolutely no demand for such a law from the tax-payers in Kent, and if the Organization element of the party insists upon forcing such an officer upon the people they must shoulder the responsibility for making the roads of this county a political asset, such as they have been for years. The tax-payers of this county want the Caroline Road Law, which gives the County Commissioners the power to appoint and to have absolute control of the road engineer, and if they don't get the relief they are seeking they will know just exactly where to place the blame when the Legislature adjourns. A road engineer not under the control of the County Commissioners would be the most dangerous experiment in the world for the tax-payers of the county. He would be his own boss, and do as he pleases with the people's money, and not a soul in Kent county would have power to remove him from office. It is the worst political move against the tax-payers that has been made in this county for years, and our delegates in the Legislature should think long and earnestly before forcing such a law upon the people.

Purchased St. Mary's Farm.—Mr. Frank Crew, of Worton, last week purchased of the Coppage estate in St. Mary,s county, the Coppage homestead on little Miles river, containing about 600 acres. Mr. Crew and Mr. A. S. Turner visited the estate this week and were pleased with their trip.

ROAD ENGINEER.

A road engineer appointed by the Governor, who can only be removed by complaint to the Governor, and who is responsible *only* to the Governor for his acts, would be the greatest political blunder that ever happened in this county. The Board of County Commissioners would have absolutely no control over the engineer's actions, and they would be compelled to do what he (the engineer) dictates, because the engineer is responsible only to the person who appoints him. This is keeping the roads of the county in politics with a vengeance, and makes absolutely useless the Board of County Commissioners who would have no authority over the engineer or any man he may choose to work the roads. The tax-payers will never stand for a bill of this kind, the only purpose of which is to keep the roads in politics and make the expense of working them just as great a burden to the tax-payers as ever. Such a provision destroys the force of any good roads bill, practically legislates the Board of County Commissioners out of office and places the entire scheme of working the roads of the county in the hands of one man, who is responsible to no local authority whatever, and may treat the Board of Commissioners with absolute indifference if he see proper to do so. The Board of Commissioners and the people are at the mercy of the road engineer. Under the Caroline law the commissioners appoint the engineer and he is responsible to the commissioners for his acts. We simply call the attention of the people of the county to this phase of the bill which was published last Saturday and which it was reported a number of *representative citizens* had asked Senator Slay to introduce in the Senate. If such a bill as the one published becomes a law, a bill which by giving the Governor of the State the power to appoint the engineer without him being in anywise responsible for his actions to *any one in Kent county*, the tax-payers of the county can expect no relief from the burden of being forced to pay tribute for political preferment, and the TRANSCRIPT and its friends in Kent county washes its hands of all responsibility for such a bill. The only motive which prompts the framers of the bill published last Saturday to give the power to appoint a road engineer to the Governor of the State instead of with the County Commissioners, is a determination to keep control of the roads of this county, and to prevent the Board of County Commissioners, who are the duly elected agents of the people to have supervision of the roads and bridges, from exercising their legal and just rights, and practically to legislate out of office the Board of County Commissioners. The Caroline Road Law lodges all authority with the commissioners. They appoint the engineer, not at a fine salary of $1800 and the use of a typewriter and a stenogorpher, mind you, but at a salary of from $1000 to $1500, such as he is paid to-day in Caroline, and this engineer is responsible to the County Commissioners for every act and for every bill he makes. He is simply the servant of the County Commissioners in placing the working of the roads of the county upon a systematic and business-like basis, and he may be removed by an appeal of ten tax-payers to the County Commissioners. On the other hand, if the Governor appoints the engineer the County Commissioners nor any tax-payer in Kent county will have no more authority over him than a Fiji Islander. He is his own boss, can do as he pleases, and can make the County Commissioners spend as much money as he pleases, and hence the great danger to the tax-payers of the county. We do not know who the representative citizens are who have asked Senator Slay to pass such a bill as this, which purports *to be somewhat after the Caroline bill*. It might be a good thing to publish a list of the names of these *representative* citizens in order that the tax-payers may know who it is that is urging Senator Slay to introduce such a bill. We are very glad to state that Mr. Harris, who is a member of the Still Pond Farmers' Club, the County .Grange, and who knows as much about the needs of the tax-payers as any man in the county, after a thorough study of the merits of the Caroline law, has decided that it is the best and most practical method for working the roads and has introduced the bill in the House and will use his best efforts for its passage.

Warfield Says Danger.

In a letter to the State Comptroller ex-Governor Edwin Warfield says the State Treasury is in a serious condition.

There is a shortage in special trust funds of $275,832.12 he declares, and he adds that the Treasurer is compelled to use trust funds for the payment of current expenses.

The former Governor suggests the sale of the State's mortagage on the Northern Central Railway should be made.

The last three Legislatures, he says, have wasted for extra employes alone $255,000, and he expects this sum to reach $300,000 at the end of the present session.

Computing that the present Legislature was in session only 16 hours and 46 minutes in January, ex-Governor Warfield figures that the cost of employes alone was $21,579.48, or $1,288 an hour.—Baltimore Sun.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN.

The amount expended for roads and bridges from June 5th to December 1st, 1909, as heretofore published in the TRANSCRIPT :

Amount in First District, C. B. Dudley, commissioner	$ 8,196.39
Amount in Second District, Harry Davis, commissioner	1,086 35
Amount in Third and part of Sixth Districts, John E. Morris, commissioner	13,889.22
Amount in Fourth District, A. C. Loud, commissioner	3,196.09
Amount in Fifth District, Wm. Wagner, commissioner	2,923.04
Amount for Chestertown streets	5,949.95
Total levied in county and town for roads and bridges	$35,441.08

TO THE EDITORS OF THE CHESTERTOWN TRANSCRIPT—GENTLEMEN :

Demands have been made upon our County Treasurer for the payment of interest on the county bonds for $375; for amount due hospitals for $417.32; for amount due Rock Hall, $700; for election expenses which had not been included in levy, $3,850, and various other demands for money due and which our County Treasurer has been unable to meet. All these demands were for money due January 1st, 1910.

Why could not Kent county pay these debts? Because our late Board of County Commissioners did not provide sufficient funds to meet the obligations of the county. Kent county has defaulted in the payment of these debts and for the interest on these bonds. The county is in a position of a debtor unable to pay its debts. This is a fact which is humiliating, and one which should be known to, and discussed by, our people, in order that wanton squandering of the people's money may in the future be avoided and prevented. The question presents itself, "How was this condition brought about?" If the tax-payers will take the trouble to look at the Cash Levy List for the year 1908 and compare it with the Cash Levy List for the year 1909, the answer comes from this simple inspection. In 1908 there was levied the following items:

Galena	$300.00
Millington	600.00
Rock Hall	700.00
Still Pond	300.00
Schools	30,000.00
Registration and Election	2000.00
Hospitals	1500 00
Betterton	300.00

In the levy list of 1909 there was levied as follows:

Galena	150.00
Millington	300.00
Rock Hall	350.00
Still Pond	150.00
Schools	24,000 00
Registration and Election	1000 00
Hospitals	1000.00
Betterton	150.00

By this it will be seen that the County Commissioners in striking the levy on June 1st, 1909, *two days after the primary*, instead of levying for the Public Schools $35,000, they levied $24,000. Instead of levying to the Hospitals, to the Towns in the county, for Elections, etc., the amounts which they had previously levied, they cut these levies in half.

I say $35,000 for the Public Schools, because the County Commissioners last summer expressly agreed with Mr. Melvin and the School Board, to give them $35,000. Relying upon this assurance the school work has been conducted upon the theory that this sum of $35,000 would be available. In spite of this the commissioners levied only $24,000, and where will the other $11,000 come from? Why, the present board will have to provide for this sum, which alone would have made the rate in June last $1 35 and not $1 25. Do you understand this? Do you also now understand by what means the rate was *apparently* lowered in June last?

Why was this done? Did they not know that the Towns would claim the same which was levied to them in 1908? Did they not know by doing this that *the rate* of the levy which they declared for 1909 would be less? That if they put in the full amounts for these hospitals, towns, elections, etc., and for the schools, which were previously allowed them, the rate would have exceeded the $1.25 they struck?

I have already shown to the tax-payers how the annual levy to Chestertown has increased over the annual $2,000 by $5,949 95. But did you dream they had done the same thing in Betterton's case? The bill made out for the town of Betterton shows how on November 9th, nearly five months after the levy was struck, the late board allowed to Betterton $586.53. It is plain to see that this amount, $586.53, was levied by the old board for the year 1910, *before it was due*:—and on the principal of $552.10, the sum of $34.43 of the tax-payers money was allowed as interest. Below is the copy of this singular bill :

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO TOWN OF BETTERTON, NOV. 9TH, 1909.

To amount due as per Act of Legislature of 1908		$560.00
Dr. To amount paid by the Commissioners for Kent county as per levy 1908 to Betterton		300.00
		$260.00
1909.		
Nov. 9th, to amount due for the year 1910, Jan. 1st, as per Act of Legislature 1908	$592.11	
Dr. To amount provided in cash levy 1909	300.00	292.10
		$552.00

On the back of this bill is the following endorsement : "Kent County Commissioners to town of Betterton.

Account for amount as per Act of Legislature of 1908, in Third District		$552.10
Interest		34.43
		$586.53

Examined and approved by John E. Morris,
Commissioner in charge of said district.

Nov. 9th, 1909, ordered that the amount of within account be provided for by the levy of 1910 and certified.

ALFRED C. LOUD, President.

Sworn to before Charles L. Dodd."

I have taken only these few instances to show our people how Kent county came to be a defaulter in the payment of the interest on its bonds, on what is due to hospitals, the public schools, Rock Hall and other towns in the county.

The most superficial examination of the condition of the affairs of our county on June 14th, in the light of the subsequent action of the late Board of County Commissioners up to Dec. 1st, 1909, shows that the rate should have been not one cent less than $1.50 instead of $1.25. The gentlemen who prepared and fixed the tax levy for 1909 knew, at the time they prepared and fixed it, that the difference between the amount due the School Board, hospitals, towns, etc., should have been allowed in full as was done in previous years. Why did they then deliberately fix the rate at $1.25, when, at the time, they knew it should have been much higher?

Who of us ever dreamed this condition existed? The county will indeed be fortunate if it escapes a levy of $1.60 in June next. Only by the closest economy can this be avoided.

My investigations lead me to believe that it is due to the people of the county as well as to the present Board of Commissioners, as the TRANSCRIPT has well suggested, that an Expert Accountant be requested to examine the county's finances, and report exactly what money, to the penny, was spent by the former Board of Commissioners prior to its leaving office Dec. 1, 1909, so that the people of Kent county may know what is spent by the present board. Thus we can tell how far it should be held responsible for the amount which will necessarily have to be levied in June next. We can then tell how economical the present board is, and what economy is practiced by the succeeding boards.

If these letters, which have been written for the sole purpose of enabling our tax-payers to understand the present condition of the finances of the county even a little more clearly than they did before, accomplish this purpose, I shall be amply repaid for the time and labor expended in their preparation.

Very repectfully yours,

HOPE H. BARROLL.

—The Town Commissioners have been scraping the Washington avenue road this week. That is one of the best pieces of road in the county, made so by good drainage and a top dressing of sand and gravel. This is what should be done to High street, every spring and fall, and there would soon be a road bed as hard as a plank floor, and it would not cost $5,000 a mile to make it so, either.

—The Rich Neck Farmers' Club was very pleasantly entertained at the home of Mr. Thomas Smith, in Queen Annes, on Thursday. A splendid supper was given.

—Mr. Max Alexander, of the hustling firm of A. Alexander & Son, Rock Hall, contemplates in the near future, the erection of a cozy home on the lot now used as a coal yard.

WILLIAM W BECK. PRESTON R. IVENS.

BECK & IVENS,

Real Estate BROKERS

Desirable Residence, Building Lots and Store Properties in Chestertown at Private Sale.

If you wish to dispose of your farm or town property we assure you that it will be to your interest to list with us—AN AGENCY that has the best facilities for placing property before prospective buyers—AN AGENCY that has won a reputation—and AN AGENCY that can assure you of quick sales and satisfactory results.

It is a matter of great importance that you consult us—AN AGENCY that has practically all the desirable property that is for sale—before making a purchase.

We will list your property and advertise it extensively without one cent of cost whatever to you, unless sale is made. Just send us description of your property and your lowest cash price. We have customers waiting to see it.

SALT WATER FARMS.

No. 44—In Kent county, on Lankford's bay, 200 acres of good land, 15 acres in valuable oak and chestnut timber, 15 acres in fruit, nice meadow; 9-room house, every room papered and winding stairway from first floor to garret; outbuildings and fencing in good condition, 10-stall stable, granary, dairy, meat house, poultry house, ice house. This farm is very nicely located on the water, fish and oysters being plentiful; produce can be loaded on boat 400 yards from house, good shore. Price $7,500. Easy terms if desired.

No. 39—TWO LARGE BAY SHORE FARMS in Kent county, 8 miles from Chestertown, 666 acres good land, 100 acres in oak and chestnut timber, 2500 peach trees, 1150 Kieffer pear trees, 1000 Bartlett pear trees, 200 sickle pear trees and 75 apple trees, mostly all young, healthy trees and in good bearing; 2 acres in gosseberries. Two residences, both 3-story, 14 and 8 rooms, large porches, in good condition; necessary outbuildings, including stable, room for 30 horses, granary, etc.; wire fencing in good condition, 3 wells of good water. Price $22,500. If you are looking for a salt water farm, come see us.

No. 38—On Lankford's bay, 45 acres good land, 5 acres in valuable timber; 7-room frame dwelling and 3-stall table just completed, very nicely finished out of the best material. This farm is very nicely located on Lankford's bay, only a short distance from Chestertown. Price $4,000. Worth investigating.

BECK & IVENS,

REAL ESTATE BROKERS,

CHESTERTOWN, - - - MARYLAND.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

—OF—

The Water Department

from January 1st, 1909, to the close of business December 31st, 1909.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand January 1st, 1909	$ 413 84	
Received from W. B. Usilton, supt.	3,885 01	
From T. S. Bordely, clerk, for permanent improvements	56 99	
Total		$4,356 34

EXPENSES.

John Ringgold, engineer, salary	$520 00	
W. B. Usilton, supt. salary	500 00	
Arthur Joiner, machine work	3 25	
Eugene Clough moving old engine house	50 00	
P. B. & W. Ry. Co. Frt. on pump	16 77	
A. P. Matthews, oils, etc.	8 33	
Commissioners of Chestertown, interest on water bonds	750 00	
Thomsen Meter Co. repairs	7 42	
Davis & Satterfield, materials and work	29 70	
Jos Guest, machine oil	7 88	
W. S. & A. W. Culp, materials	50	
Commissioners of Chestertown Taxes on lots	1 10	
Coatesville Boiler works, tubes and grates	75 83	
Edgar Shackelford; tube cutter	16 00	
George P. Thomas, hoes, etc. for pump house	20 00	
M. T. Davidson & Co., repair for small pump	19 00	
Central Foundry Co., pipe and fittings	39 41	
Elwood Whaley, work	1 75	
Diamond State Telephone Co., rent and calls	28 23	
W. C Sutton, material and work	109 88	
Extra labor at pump house, etc	57 49	
Standard Oil Co., oils	16 17	
J. D. Bacchus, coal, lime, etc	1,502 42	
Postage, freight, hauling and miscellaneous expenses	61 25	
Deane Pump Co., repairs	72 41	
Crane Co., pipe, etc	75 30	
Lofland & Culp, supplies	1 70	
Transcript Pub. Co., printing and advertising	19 00	
Enterprise Pub. Co., printing and advertising	18 50	
H. R. Graham & Bro., supplies	5 44	
W. B. Usilton's Sons, printing and advertising	28 25	
W. B. Usilton's Sons, office rent	25 00	
Usilton & Bacchus, warehouse rent	5 00	
M. Pitman, hauling and freight	4 55	
W. S. Carroll, material and work	14 50	
Thos. Gale, Treasurer, taxes	3 52	
Garlock Packing Co., supplies	23 92	
Carey Mechy & Supply Co., supplies	37 40	
Balance	178 47	$4,355 34
Cash on hand January 1, 1910	$ 178 47	
Unpaid Water rents Jan. 1, 1910	1,400 47	
		$1,578 94
Deduct from this Interest on Bonds which was paid Jan. 1, 1910	$ 750 00	
Net revenue of plant for 1909	$ 828 94	
$1,200 of the amount of unpaid water rents shown due January 1, 1910, have been paid, leaving a balance due of $200, all of which is collectable. Total receipts, as shown by this report	$5,585 01	
Delinquents	1,400 47	
Total		$5,285 48

CHAS. N. SATTERFIELD, TREAS.

Attest—
J. D. BACCHUS, President.
THOMAS D. BOWERS, Secretary. f12-3t

FOR TOWN COMMISSIONER.

TO THE TAX-PAYERS OF CHESTERTOWN :

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Commissioner of Chestertown at the next town election. I am the candidate of no faction and ask the votes of all citizens having the welfare of the town at heart.

MERRICK CLEMENTS.

j1-tf.

IT WILL PAY YOU TO READ ALL THIS ADVERTISEMENT.

To read every description of property offered in this advertisement because the failure to read even one description may mean that you will miss a profitable investment or a desirable home. Just for an illustration, in the Third District of Kent county in 1907, I made a number of sales. Since then the purchasers have sold, and in every instance realized a profit. It is natural for me to promise you an advantageous purchase and in the face of the complete satisfaction of buyers through my agency it is natural and wise for you to consider carefully the properties **I NOW OFFER**, and let me have a personal talk with you about same.

FOR SALE:

NO. **520**—In Rock Hall, Kent county, 3 to 4 acres, 7-room frame dwelling, near the water, stable 16x20. poultry house. This property is in nice shape, and at $1,500 is a bargain.

NO. **443**—Six Acres, near Smithville, Kent county; fine, level, rich soil; 4-room house, new stable, fruit, conveniently located. Price $750.

NO. **453**—In Betterton, Kent county, Md.; 6-room house, lot 115x210, nicely located and plenty of shade. Betterton is daily improving and property is enhancing there. Price $950.

NO. **339**—75x300 foot lot in Rock Hall, near Adventist Church. Only $225. A bargain that cannot be equaled.

NO. **385**—Seven-room Frame Dwelling, fine repair, at Lankford, Kent county; now owned by Mr. Stoops. WILL SELL AT A SACRIFICE.

NO. **490**—38 Acres, Piney Neck, Kent county; 6-room frame dwelling, new (not entirely completed) land boarders on water; fish, oysters. Excellent neighborhood. Price $2,250.

NO. **510**—Store and Dwelling, Broad Neck, Kent county, Md. Building worth easily $800, 1½ acre of land, fruit, stable, near river, stock of goods at $200. This can be bought at $650.

NO. **517**—A farm which cannot be equaled for the money. 140 acres, 5 fields of 25 acres each, 8 acres of oak and hickory; some apple and pear trees, only 6 miles from Chestertown, handy to wharf. Frame house, 6 rooms, halls, bath, porches, cellar, attic. Barn, 28x30; stable, nearly new, brick foundation. Wind mill forces water all over farm, fine running stream and meadow, well fenced. Worth $10,000, but will sell for $8,000.

NO. **1507**—2 Acres, Queenstown, Queen Annes county, beautifully situated on water. 10-room frame house, two large porches. House alone is worth $2,000, well of fine water, stable, etc. Only $1,750.

NO. **1515**—60 Acres, Queen Annes county, 5 acres of woodland, 3-room dwelling, loam soil, 5 minutes walk to wharf, 5 miles from railroad station, desirable neighbors, easy terms. Only $1,200.

NO. **1521**—3 Acres, Queen Annes county, 8-room dwelling, hall and pantry. Substantial stable, nicely located in pleasant village. Only $1,000.

NO. **499**—One-half Acre, in Sassafras, Md.; 5-room frame dwelling, hall, 2 porches, stable, carriage house, all in good shape. Suitable for physician. Price $800.

NO. **516**—A splendid 248 Acre Farm, near Massey, Kent county, Md.; some woodland, frame dwelling, usual outbuildings; this tract is an excellent investment and an immediate investigation will pay you. Price $7,500.

NO. **484**—76 Acres, 5 miles from Chestertown, on creek; good building, nice land, shade, fruit, 1½ miles to wharf. Only $2,700.

J. Waters Russell,

Real Estate Broker,

Chestertown, : : : Maryland.

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