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### The Question of Issuing Bonds

The accompanying communication was offered to the board of audit and finance at its regular meeting yesterday by H. A. DeCover, a member of said board. They declined to accept it at this meeting or have it referred to the clerk of the board. Mr. DeCover stated that he was authorized to sign the personal name of the party submitting it, if they so desired. Had it been so referred the taxpayers would have had an opportunity of expressing themselves and bringing up the question before the proper body at their next regular meeting, when they say they will consider it.

The communication was as follows:

“Wilmington, February 7, 1899.

“To Our City Tax Payers:

“Is not modern civilized freedom slavery? About fifty years ago our city officials began bonding the corporation property; first \$100,000, then \$200,000, \$45,000, \$150,000, \$100,000, \$30,000, and then \$40,000—present bond indebtedness amounting to about \$750,000; at times some of these bonds were drawing 8 per cent. Now we are asked to add \$50,000 in more bonds to this amount.

“During this time the city has paid about \$9,300,000, computing compound interest, and not one cent of the principal has ever been paid, except the \$30,000 market house bonds.

“What has the city to show for this unbearable burden it has been carrying for the past fifty years? A market house and a city hall, worth all told about \$60,000.

“The good book says, slaves shall enjoy a year of jubilee and freedom every seven years. Are modern chains of slavery made stronger and less yielding?

“The corporation limits have been extended time and again—yes, have crossed rivers to take in property, that it could be forced to help carry this burden of our bonded debt, which it is known, a large part of it is questionable as to its legality.

“Does not the United States and North Carolina state laws, in the name of justice say, if you are everburdened surrender all you have to your creditors and after they are satisfied, return the balance to you? Then start a free man, into a new life, and join others in building manufactures and let our city take on a new life and keep step with our sister cities and towns.

“Should we not re-adjust the bonded strain upon those who have so little to show for said bonds of oppression, as this burden on our ‘City by the Sea,’ which burden has no parallel in North Carolina?

“Will the tax payers of our city express themselves upon this subject by directing personal communications to the clerk of the board of audit and finance with a view of giving an expression, to continue or adjust the debt, in keeping to our ability and in justice to those who will be here when we are gone?

“This is not intended for foreign bond owners or those representing bonds against our city, or to be answered by bondholders in paying for printer’s ink.

“Gentlemen of the board of audit and finance of the city of Wilmington, are you willing to hear from the tax payers on this subject?

“I respectfully ask that these few broken suggestions be referred to the clerk of the board of audit and finance, requesting him to refer all communications received on this subject to this board at their next regular meeting.

“Respectfully submitted,  
“TAX PAYER & MANUFACTURER.”

### No Disagreement Between Our Representatives

Raleigh, N. C., February 7, 1899.

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