

I do not think there has been any very great change of sentiment upon this question among our people within the past two years, and a large preponderancy of our tax paying people are still opposed to this measure.

The present court house, a massive and substantial structure, is ample for the accommodation of all the public business of the county, and the preservation of all records relating thereto.

The public sentiment of the county having been thus shown by repeated and unmistakable manifestations to be strongly adverse to this measure, I deem it unnecessary and inopportune to force this matter upon our people.

The only hope of the promoters of this measure, as I believe, in submitting this question to the people at this time is that (through the decided partisan shape which the measure in its recent history has assumed) the non-tax-paying colored voters of the county may be induced to vote as a practical unit in its favor. These people have by the force of habit, ever since they have exercised the right of franchise, become strongly predisposed to unite in voting, and all the indications point to their adopting the same course in voting upon this question.

There is another consideration which cannot properly be omitted from this report. It is this: There is another station on the B. & P. Railroad, known as Bel Alton, which has equal advantages to those of La Plata and has its advocates, if the county seat is to be removed from its present site, and who propose to offer inducements for its removal to said place when a majority of the tax-payers signify their desire for its removal.

No allusion was made to this vexed question in the campaign of last fall, and it seems to me that it would be a wrong to our people under all the circumstances to pass this bill.

F. J. MADDOX,

Member of Special Committee.

Which was read, and ordered spread on the Journal.