

# The Watauga Democrat.

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## IMMEDIATE SPECIAL SESSION OF LEGISLATURE IS THREATENED

An immediate special session of the legislature is seriously threatened by an enactment of the last regular session, discovered today, that directs the transfer of all revenues of the state prison to the general fund of the treasury, but which makes no appropriation whatsoever for its maintenance.

Under this law, effective July 1, the prison authorities are required to turn over to the state treasury every dollar collected from the prison's various sources of revenue, but authority is lacking to draw out enough money to buy a can of pork and beans. State officials seemed positive tonight that the only way to keep the prison open would be to defy law or enact remedial legislation at a special session. Governor Morrison, Treasurer Ben R. Lacy, Auditor Baxter Durham and Prison Superintendent George Ross Pou were concerned over the situation tonight, and the governor declared he could see no way out except through a special session.

### Prison Without Funds.

Heretofore, the prison has supported itself from its own earnings. The maintenance cost approximates \$500,000 a year. In the last session a bill went through that became chapter 156 of the public law of 1922, which provided that all receipts of the prison should be deposited in the treasury and that the prison should be placed under an appropriation. But no appropriation was made, and not one penny is available for feeding the prisoners, paying the guards or meeting the other expenses. The bill, a regular "bone", is reported to have been introduced as a part of the prison reform program of the state department of public welfare and the citizens committee of one hundred, which it created.

Superintendent Pou denied tonight any responsibility for the bill or any knowledge of its introduction in the last general assembly. Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, commissioner of public welfare, is out of the city. The measure was introduced by Representative Clem Wright, of Greensboro, who handled much of the legislative program of the welfare department.

The law under which the department works empowers it to make recommendations to the governor as to needed legislation, but Governor Morrison said no one had consulted him about the bill during the last session, and that the first he knew of its existence was this afternoon, when Auditor Durham presented the statute. The governor and council of state will consider the situation tomorrow.

Something will have to be done immediately, as the prison is altogether without authority to disburse money it realizes from its own sources of revenue or to draw upon the treasurer for necessary financial support.

"I have now about \$40,000 worth of vouchers at the prison," Mr. Pou said tonight, "which the auditor will not honor. We are just suspended. We are directed to pay over to the general fund all the monies we collect and no provision has been made for our maintenance."—By Brock Barkley, in Charlotte Observer.

## "CYCLONE MACK" ON EVOLUTION

Preaching in Greensboro Friday Rev. B. F. McLendon paid his respects to evolutionists, as follows:

"In the beginning the amoeba begat earth-worms; earth-worms begat skull-less animals; these animals begat other kinds of animals; these other kind of animals begat some kind of fish away back in the dateless date; and these fish away beyond the gates of morning begat some kind of gilled amphibians that lived away back when ages were but drift of foam on the mighty sea of time; and these begat primeval aniota; and these begat mammals; and these begat kangaroos; and kangaroos begat apes; and apes begat gorillas; and gorillas, thank God, begat pin-whiskered, top-heavy college professors who draw their breath and salary and use great, big jaw-breaking words and talk about the Bible being allegorical, figurative, probable, inferential and hypothetical.—Landmark.

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## ENGINEERS SEEK SITE FOR TUNNEL

Coming over the Blue Ridge from Jefferson, the preliminary survey of the state railroad to redeem the "lost provinces" was seen. Engineer Fox of Greensboro, chief assistant to Engineer Miller, being in charge of the surveying party doing the work at this point.

It is expected that it will be possible to connect North Wilkesboro and West Jefferson with steel rails in an approximate distance of only a little over 30 miles.

From information gained in the work, thus far it is believed a practicable grade can be made through the mountains to this place. The greatest difficulty, however, it is said will be the work of locating a site to tunnel through the Blue Ridge and find a proper grade on the top side. Several places have been inspected, but a decision will not be reached for some time yet, it was said.

Mr. Fox and his party have been at work for the past month, and, considering the handicaps of the job, have been making fine progress. They have been making headquarters at West Jefferson and are surveying this way. As soon as the camp equipment is complete they will move to Obids, just over the line in Ashe. They will complete their work from that point. Every aid possible is being extended to the surveyors and their stay in the mountains is being made as pleasant for them as the nature of their work will permit.

Engineer Fox stated that it would be only a short time until crews are put on the other two proposed lines. One of them will be located near Doughton, on the line between Elkin and Sparta.

The work will be pushed, he stated as fast as possible, and it is hoped to have the three surveys completed by the time winter closes down on the mountain country.—By W. S. Hampton, in Winston-Salem Journal.

## NORTH CAROLINA MAKES BEST WHEAT CROP IN RECENT YEARS

North Carolina made the best wheat crop this year the state has made for some time, it being 1,077,000 bushels more than last year's crop, Frank Parker, statistician of the bureau of agricultural economics announced tonight.

"The total production of \$6,585,000 bushels represents an average of approximately 10 bushels per acre," Mr. Parker stated. "The average condition for North Carolina is 90 per cent as compared to 82 per cent for the 10-year period and 73 per cent a year ago. The price is \$1.52 this year, or three cents per bushel more than a year ago. The per cent of last year's crop remaining on farms in this state is five per cent or two per cent more than was estimated a year ago.

### Average in the Nation.

"For the United States the winter wheat showed an average condition of 76.8 per cent and spring wheat 82.4 per cent, or a combined condition of 78.3 per cent, forecasting on a four and one-half per cent reduced average 821,000,000 bushels, or 41,000,000 less than last year's crop. The average price for the United States is 95.1c compared with \$1.03 a year ago. The national average of 14.1 bushels compares with North Carolina's 10 bushels to the acre.

"Corn is North Carolina's principal crop, since it occupies 37 per cent of the cultivated acreage, while cotton occupies but 28 per cent. The one crop in this state that stays nearest the same acreage is corn. This year's acreage shows the usual 100 per cent compared with last year and with the usual, with a condition of 67 per cent of a normal of full crop prospect. The eastern and southern counties have shown the greatest increase, where it is replaced some cotton acreage. This information is the result of over 500 experienced reporters estimates from all counties of the state. The poorest condition is found from Sampson to Orange counties. Another area of poor condition is found from Polk county along the border to Anson. The crop is fairly good this year, especially in the mountain counties from Iredell southeasterly to the southern coast, also in the central coastal counties.

According to the official crop report from the co-operative crop reporting service of the state and federal departments of agriculture, it is found that corn in the United States

## DEVELOPMENT WORK BEGUN ON THE JUDGE COUNCIL PROPERTY

Developments have begun on the Judge Council property. Crews of men are working every day clearing away fences, buildings and anything that might detract from the attractiveness of the property. Mr. H. H. Halliday of Greensboro, N. C., one of the parties who purchased the tract is in charge of the work.

Mr. Halliday says it is their purpose to develop this property into business and residence lots right up to the last word. Wide Boulevards will be laid out, graded up, and it will make perhaps, the finest subdivision in this section of North Carolina. The entire subdivision, when all developments are completed, will be sold at auction about the middle of August, and opens up the last and only property in the heart of Boone. This tract of land has hindered somewhat the progress of Boone for a number of years, and now that it is available, it may be expected that the

buyers will almost stampede in their efforts to get in on the ground floor.

According to Mr. Halliday, a large number of outside people, coming mostly from the larger cities and towns will be present for the purpose of buying sites for summer homes and lots for business locations. By reason of this, it is expected that the sale of this magnificent property will far eclipse anything of the kind attempted in the northwestern region, for at last the outsiders have their eyes open to the desirability of Watauga's metropolis, and they are going to buy. The men in possession know the auction business, are spending hundreds and thousands of dollars in preliminary work, and it is the general consensus of opinion that the day of this sale will mean the beginning of a new era of growth and prosperity for Boone, the high light of the Lost Province section.

## BARACA PHILATHEA WATERMELON DAY AT U. S. VETERANS HOSPITAL AT OTEEN

Thursday, July 26th, will be observed as Watermelon Day at the U. S. War Veterans Hospital at Oteen and every Baraca and Philathea in orch Carolina, along with friends, are offered this opportunity to help give the patients at the hospital a real good time.

Baracas and Philatheas were among the first to begin work among the soldiers as they came back from the war sick and needing our help and encouragement, and it is very fitting that we should honor these gallant heroes who are now making an even more gallant fight to win back the health and strength lost in the world war.

Remember they were our substitutes, they went for us; they fought and suffered that we might live in peace and happiness and the least that we can do is to honor them and express our appreciation in some effective manner. What's better for a real good time than WATERMELONS? PLENTY OF WATERMELONS.

Please send your check or P. O. Money Order for this purpose to Mrs. N. Puckner, Asheville, N. C., who is planning an appropriate program and will serve watermelons, more watermelons, ice cold Georgia watermelons.

Money is preferred as we can purchase the melons at wholesale prices and make your gift go farther, but cake, candy, fruit or flowers will be gladly accepted.

Remember July 26th is the day. Please send your message of appreciation to Oteen Heroes as soon as possible so we can go forward with our proposed plans.

Yours to "Do Things" for Christ in North Carolina,  
MRS. N. BUCKNER,  
General Secretary.

averages 85.2 per cent of normal, with the acreage at about one per cent increase. Of this condition the national crop for this year will be about the same as for last year, or 2,877,000,000 bushels. This would give an average of 28 bushels to the acre, which is also the five-year average. The average prices range about 87c for the entire country, as compared with 62 cents a year ago. The forecast for North Carolina is 50,457,000 bushels, which is the same as last year's production and 4,000,000 bushels less than the five-year average. Our farm price is \$1.20 compared with 89 cents a year ago.

### An Oat Producing State

"Although North Carolina is not a big oat producing state it is of economic importance in our crop production. With the condition of 90 per cent of a normal crop estimated by 405 growers we have the prospect of a good crop. Both wheat and oats have shown improvement during the past three months. This crop showed a slight decrease in acreage.

"For the United States the July 1 condition is 83.5 per cent, or practically the same as the 10-year condition. The national production of 1,283,717,000 bushels, having an average farm value of 42.5 cents which is 5 cents a bushel more than a year ago.

The recent favorable seasons in most parts of the state following the unusually dry June conditions have

## FIRPO READY TO MEET ANYBODY AT ANY TIME

By Associated Press

Luis Firpo, titleless battler of the Argentine, who added ponderous and prodigious Willard to his victims last night before a record crowd at Boyle's Thirty acres today was looking for more pugilistic worlds to conquer.

A series of conferees, however, during the day failed to bring any definite prospect, title and Jack Dempsey and indications that he would still be looking in the near future for more resting matches before he gets a shot at the title.

As a matter of fact Firpo, in the course of a long talk with Tex Rickard at Madison Square Garden, expressed a desire to fight Harry Wills, New Orleans negro, who has stood out as a title challenger for more than a year, before meeting Dempsey. The sombre South American, bearing no outward marks of the conflict in which he crushed the come-back hopes of the former champion last night, ironically added he was ready to "fight anybody at any time, any place."

Rickard also conferred at some length with Jack Kearns, Dempsey's pilot, but said he had no definite match in sight right now, though he hopes to put on another heavyweight show, either as a further elimination or for the title, around labor day at Boyle's Thirty acres.

Rickard has Firpo under an iron-clad contract for a title match with Dempsey but under its terms a bout with the champion may be arranged any time before March 1924, or later, if the agreement is extended. This contract was signed when Rickard brought Firpo back from the Argentine last winter to Box Bill Brennan.

## TRADE CHILDREN FOR COW CALF AND HORSE

Alleged to have traded his two daughters and a son for a horse, a cow and a calf, Clark Thornton, of Iruxton, N. Y., was convicted Friday of improper guardianship before Judge Champlin in Children's Court.

George Shaw, of Truxton, with whom it was charged, the batter was consummated, recently was released by \$1,000 bail on a charge of attacking the younger daughter.

The latter and her brother will be committed to the county home. The court ordered that the father be compelled to pay for their care. The elder daughter, Mamie Thornton, 26, found in the Shaw home, was detained for mental examination. It came to light in investigation that the children had never seen a railroad train until recently and had been closely confined.

helped almost all crops considerably. There are still some very dry areas, which are suffering severely. These extend along through certain parts of the eastern piedmont. June was one of the driest months North Carolina has on record.

"That the farmers are continuing to get a raw deal is evidenced by the two per cent decreased price during June of the principal crops. Ordinarily the decline is less than one per cent. It is gratifying however, to find that the index figure of prices is about 17 per cent higher than a year ago and 31 per cent higher than two years, but 17.6 per cent lower than the average for the past 10 years."

## ONE HUNDRED ALAMANCE FARMERS TO VISIT WATAUGA

County Agent Steele has received communication from the County Agent in Alamance County, stating that one hundred farmers from that County will arrive in Boone Thursday, July 19 and spend Friday looking over the things of interest in the County. Mr. Steele plans to escort them over the County Friday and the Chamber of Commerce is planning to give them a warm reception on the court house lawn Friday evening at seven o'clock. These farmers are spending this week touring parts of North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee and expect to go direct from here to their home in Alamance County.

The communication states that they have some good fiddlers along and if we have any such in Watauga they would be glad to meet them and find out who is best with the bow.

On Friday evening we are planning to have something to eat and something to drink for the visitors, some speeches of welcome and entertainment and quite a variety of music. It is hoped that a large number of farmers and business men will meet the visitors on the court house lawn and make them know that we are glad to have them in our midst.

Mrs. Hazel Carrieger will have charge of the refreshments and all those who wish to help in this work will please get in touch with her.

## A. T. S. NOTES

The First Summer Term of the Appalachian Training School closed on July 14th with examinations in all departments. The attendance in this term was the largest in the history of the school, there being 376 enrolled and six states and Canada being represented. Students came from all parts of North Carolina representing 57 counties. The class of students too was of high order with scarcely an exception having high school training, a large number being high school graduates among them. The Faculty were unusually well fitted for the work in hand and splendid work was done. The Credit Cards go out to Raleigh on Monday, and but for illness in the family of one member of the Faculty they would have been sent out on Saturday 14th.

Good work was done in the County Summer School held in one of the Training School buildings during the same time and enrolled about one hundred, coming from various parts of the State, but the number in the County School is not included in the number above. The Second term of the Training School opens on Tuesday July 17th.

Boone is fast becoming a very popular rendezvous for large numbers of people from various parts of the State, many coming especially for the weekend. The road from Boone to Blowing Rock being now under construction is a hindrance to visitors from the southern part of the State, but many come from that section in spite of that fact. When this road is complete, Boone being a school town, with its wonderful summer climate will attract still larger numbers of people. Many coming to Boone for the first time are greatly surprised at the hustle of the little town, the remarkably fine climate, and the wondrous beauty of the scenery, and repeated visits are almost certain.

## J. M. DOWNUM

## A GOOD PROPOSITION

Narrow-minded individuals are inclined to fight the organization of labor banks and co-operative undertakings. This is wrong. These institutions should be encouraged, for the more laboring men go into business, the more will they understand some of the problems faced by an employer in the financing, operation and management of industrial and banking enterprises.

The laboring man who has his capital tied up in a bank, a sawmill, a gold mine, a shoe factory or a public utility plant, will be pretty sure to take an interest in maintaining safe and sound conditions in both state and nation, in order that the property may pay a fair rate of return on his money invested, which to him, the same as to any other investor, represents years of toil and saving.

One safeguard of the nation lies in educating our workmen to take a greater interest in, and become owners of the securities of our various industrial undertakings.

## MASONIC PICNIC THIS YEAR IS TO BE THE BEST EVER

The Masonic Picnic for the lodges of Watauga County which has been neglected for the past several years will be revived this year on Saturday August 11.

Watauga Lodge No. 273, Snow, Asher and Blowing Rock Lodges are the participants in the affair and lodges of neighboring counties are also invited to take part.

No very definite plans are ready and the program for the day is not complete, however it is the purpose of the various lodges and subordinate committees appointed for the several purposes to make this picnic the biggest event of the sort ever pulled off in this section. The entire net proceeds will go to the Oxford Graham Asylum, and the fraternity will no doubt receive the very liberal support of all in their efforts to raise some money for these orphaned children. Remember that the inmates of the Orphanage are not confined to sons or daughters of Masons, but includes those in every walk of life.

There will be speeches by noted men, probably band music, a big dinner and an all around good time. We hope to be able to give a complete program of the activities planned for the day in our next issue.

## ANOTHER JITNEY LINE TO BOONE

Following the improvement on the road between the State line and Staunton, Tenn., Messrs. E. L. and Harry Madron, of Mr. City and Trade, have put on a daily transfer jitney line between Mr. City and Boone. The first trip is being made today. They will also operate a line between Trade and West Jefferson. Their schedules have not yet been thoroughly worked out, but it is their intention to reach Boone in time for passengers coming over their line to make connection with the North Wilkesboro Jitney, making it possible for them to go straight to Winston-Salem the same day.

They are putting on good machines and nothing but trusty, polite and safe drivers will be employed. Their schedule will appear in these columns when it is definitely worked out.

## MR. THOMAS DAY PASSES

Mr. Thomas Day, one of Watauga's prominent citizens, died at his home in the Blue Ridge section Monday evening after a very prolonged illness, his trouble being Bright's disease, with other complications. He was a man in the broad sense of the term. For some time he served on the Board of County Commissioners, and in a most acceptable manner. He was always found on the right side whenever anything affecting the welfare of his beloved county or people, was to be decided. Always ready to help the unfortunate, a good neighbor, a kind friend, a loving father and husband, a typical gentleman always. And above all, a meek and lowly follower of the Master under whose banner he has fought for many years. He was a friend to every man, and, we suppose, he died without an enemy. The news of his death will bring sadness to many hearts.

## CONSERVE THE "JUICE"

The New River Light and Power Co., is doing its best to provide lights for just as many families as possible, with its present limited supply of "juice". If the people would join together in conserving the electricity by cutting out irons, washing machines, etc., and only use what lights are necessary in their homes and shops, it would go far towards relieving the present situation. Another and larger power plant is now in course of construction, which when completed, will be entirely adequate to the needs of the school and town for many years to come. But, in the mean time let us do all we can to help save power until that happy day arrives.

## MINNESOTA SENDS JOHNSON TO SENATE

Mangus Johnson has been elected to the United States Senate from Minnesota over the Republican administration man, Governor J. A. O. Prens, to succeed the late Knute Nelson, a strong adherent of President Harding.

Dr. J. C. Farthing and family, of Butler, Tenn., were weekend visitors in Boone.