

## Governor McLean to the General Assembly

Recommends \$30,000,000 for Highways and Asks for Million Increase in School Equalization Fund

### PRAISES EXECUTIVE BUDGET

Biennial Message Contains Many Recommendations

Governor A. W. McLean delivered his biennial message to the general assembly on last Wednesday night. It was the governor's second and last general legislative message, and its contents covered an epoch in North Carolina history. He reviewed the first two years of his administration and made recommendations for the last two. He recommended a bond issue of \$30,000,000 for roads, urged expansion of the public school system and institutions of higher learning, and stressed the importance of continuation of the executive budget.

### Text of Message

The message in part is as follows: Mr. President, Mr. Speaker and Members of the General Assembly:

The constitution of North Carolina provides that the governor shall, upon the convening of each session of the general assembly, communicate to it, in the form of a message, information concerning the affairs of the state, together with such recommendations as, in his judgment, are necessary and expedient. This mandate of our constitution has been strictly adhered to by my predecessors in office and it now affords me a sense of pleasure entirely without affectation to appear before this honorable body of able and patriotic representatives fresh from the people of North Carolina. Also, I feel a deep sense of obligation.

With the convening of this general assembly, one-half of my term as governor has expired. I come to give an account of my stewardship to you and, through you, to the real and only sovereigns in a free state—the people themselves. To them, as the chief executive officer of North Carolina, am directly responsible, even as you, constituting another co-ordinate branch of our government, are also responsible. Together, we owe them a double responsibility. I as their chosen spokesman, elected to recommend for their best consideration what I conceive to be best for them, and you as the body that enacts these recommendations into laws and statutes for their governance or that repeals them, as the case may be. My powers are only recommendatory. Action is not one of the prerogatives of the governor of North Carolina, nor would I have it such.

So, in the midst of my term of office, having faithfully endeavored to put into impartial and unselfish practice the policies enacted into law by your predecessors, two years ago, I come to give an account of what has been done and to make recommendations for the future. I ask you to pass judgment on behalf of the people that elected us and be governed by your deliberation. By the verdict you shall reach when you shall have weighed the results I shall endeavor to place before you on this occasion.

In the performance of the tasks that have been imposed upon me, my faith has at no time been dimmed. There have been handicaps, of course, but these have only served to strengthen my determination to do the best I could for our people who, when they elected me, elected your predecessors to receive whatever recommendations I should make. Practically all of the measures I asked for during the session of the general assembly of 1925 had been discussed by me in my campaign. Of course, emergencies that arose during the session prompted some recommendations that did not directly constitute a part of my platform when seeking office. Yet, these fitted in, as I saw it, with the general policies I had advocated.

I have striven to hold fast to the vision—of a still greater state, peopled by happy and prosperous citizens. Spiritual values must never be minimized. They must always be brought into co-ordination with progress and never divorced from it. Idealism without practicability is a vain thing. But in our practices we must always hold an ideal in view. It is my earnest prayer that the kind Providence that has permitted us to become a great state will deliver us from selfishness and keep us far from the path of mercenary materialism.

Gentlemen—and I take this occasion to recognize the member of the opposite sex who sits in your midst—you are at the threshold of a most important session. The results of your deliberations when finally translated into action should contribute in large measure to the advancement, general welfare and happiness of the people of our beloved commonwealth. I have faith in you, that you will interpret into legislation the present needs of the state, as they shall come to your attention; that you will thoughtfully and tactfully shape such policies for the next biennium as will make for the great well-being of North Carolina.

I shall not at this time attempt to discuss fully the fiscal affairs of the state. These will be presented to you later in the session, also some special matters not discussed in this message.

The general assembly of 1925 made a great record of constructive

## GOVERNOR SUBMITS BUDGET MESSAGE TO LEGISLATURE

Recommends Appropriations Totalling \$29,810,164 for Operation of Government and Institutions

Recommendation that the general assembly appropriate a total of \$29,810,164 for all the operations of the state government and institutions during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1927 and ending June 30, 1929, was made by Governor McLean in his budget message presented to the legislature last Friday.

The total is an increase of slightly more than \$5,000,000 over the expenditures of the biennium of 1925-1927. The total for the biennium ending next June is \$24,720,490, including actual expenditures for the fiscal year ending last June 30 and estimates for the current fiscal year.

The governor, however, recommended no increase in taxes, with the exception of slight boosts in the franchise and privilege levies. These increases were recommended for the purpose of increasing the school equalization fund from \$1,500,000 to \$2,500,000 a year and the Confederate pension fund from \$1,000,000 to \$1,200,000.

The governor recommended in the budget message that the maintenance fund for the Appalachian State Normal be increased from \$47,500 to \$58,000 for 1927-28 and \$68,000 for 28-29 and \$100,000 for permanent improvements. The Normal had requested an appropriation of \$80,000 annually for maintenance.

## THERMOMETER REACHED ZERO TUESDAY NIGHT

Watauga has gotten her part of the snow storm, to a depth of at least ten inches, is now on the ground. Snow began falling Monday and continued through Tuesday. Tuesday night the temperature took a plunge downward to zero or below, but today (Wednesday) is clear and the snow is beginning to melt in places.

The snow storm was general in North Carolina, ranging from a depth of 12 inches at Greensboro, to a light fall at Gastonia, and the white mantle extends in spots from Virginia as far south as Waycross, Ga., on the wings of the coldest weather of the winter for some places. Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee also were visited by the flaky precipitation, with the ten-inch fall at Bristol.

Florida did not entirely escape the cold spell, subnormal temperatures being at Jacksonville, Miami and Tampa. Asheville was the coldest spot in the south Monday with a temperature of 20 degrees.

The weather bureau this morning forecasts a rising temperature with probable rains the latter part of the week.

## LITTLE SMITH McCONNELL DIED FRIDAY MORNING

Little Smith, the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McConnell, after an illness of more than two weeks with pneumonia, died at 6 o'clock Friday morning. The funeral was conducted from the Baptist church Saturday afternoon, Rev. M. B. Woolley conducting the services. The little body was laid to rest in the city cemetery, beneath a wealth of flowers. The parents have the deepest sympathy of all in their great bereavement.

## LECTURE AT NORMAL SCHOOL SATURDAY P. M.

H. N. Wheeler will deliver an illustrated lecture on the conservation of forests and wild life at the Normal school on Saturday night, January 15, at 8 o'clock. The lecture will be free to the students and the public who care to attend.

Mr. Wheeler has toured the United States giving his lectures on conservation, and the lecture is said to be very interesting. He comes here under the auspices of the North Carolina state forest service.

## TRIVETT REPLIES

Editor Democrat:

In last week's paper E. Y. Edminston made it appear that I had written a falsehood in regard to our school. Now, I ask that all who are concerned investigate the matter for themselves. Not by asking me nor Edminston, but by visiting our district and talking with our best citizens. Also bear in mind that a good number of patrons did not and would not sign his article in last week's paper.

I made my correction for what I had written because I did not intend to hurt anyone by telling the truth, and felt that I should have kept silent.

M. P. TRIVETT.  
Rominger, N. C.

Fiancées are required by law to return the ring when they break the engagement, under a ruling of the Virginia court of appeals.

## The "Hiker Hikes"

Last week-end another "sergeant" in the World War, blew into town with his "frau" and took lodging at a local hotel, the pair taking their meals at a nearby cafe. To The Democrat he represented himself as having been a sergeant in the 221st infantry, 42nd (Rainbow) division, and was so severely wounded by an explosion of a shell at Verdun that he was confined in a hospital a raving maniac for seven months, and was now drawing a bonus of \$125 per month from the government as a slight remuneration for the fearful injuries he received while fighting in a foreign land for his beloved country.

This was all paving the way for soliciting some much-needed printing that was to be used in a coast-to-coast hike that was to be made in

thirty months, Lenoir being the starting point and last Monday was the date. The job of printing was done in good shape and it still remains undelivered, for Monday morning they "lit a rag" not to Lenoir but for North Wilkesboro, leaving our people to wonder just what manner of folks they were.

This is the third "sergeant" that has hit our town, and to a man they have been disappointments. Other towns would do well to look after this couple. They were looked upon with quite a good deal of suspicion in Boone. Possibly they are all right, but their visit here has caused quite a good deal of talk.

The man's motto is to "live without begging or working" which, within itself, leaves room for suspicion, especially when he is accompanied by a woman.

## BOONE TO HAVE UP-TO-DATE MEAT MARKET

Dixon & Tatum to Occupy New Quarters and Propose to Install Modern Bakery

According to Mr. Lydia Tatum, manager of the City Market, that business is soon to expand to proportions which will insure for Boone a market second to none in any small city. Different and more commodious quarters have been secured, a small cold storage plant together with refrigerator display cases have been purchased, and vegetables and other foodstuffs may be had fresh at all times.

In connection with the market, full equipment has been ordered for the operation of a modern bakery, consisting of an oven with a capacity of more than two hundred loaves of bread, dough mixers, automatic bread wrappers and all the latest machinery.

Mr. Tatum says the new place of business will be open to the public within the next few weeks. He purchased the City Market, located in Messrs. Dixon and Tatum recently the rear of the Cash Store, from L. H. Holler.

## HOTBED MAKES POSSIBLE EARLY GARDEN VEGETABLES

The seed catalogues are out in all their glory which means that the time for planning the year-round garden has come.

One of the first essentials in beginning the early garden is to have a hotbed.

"January and February are the months to prepare the hotbed," says Robert Schmidt, vegetable specialist at State College. "The hotbed does best located in a sheltered place with a southern exposure where it is protected from cold winds and receives plenty of sunlight. Convenience to both house and garden is another factor and the soil in and around the frame must be well drained."

For the average garden, a hotbed six feet long by six feet wide will be ample and may be constructed without much cost. The standard glass sash for the hotbed is three feet by six feet and may be either purchased or built at home, states Mr. Schmidt. The heat heating material is fresh horse or mule manure containing about one-third straw. This manure is piled under shelter until it begins to heat and is then turned two or three times until the whole mass is heating uniformly. Then it may be placed in the pit. The pit should be about 24 inches deep for western North Carolina.

Fill the pit to within four inches of the top. Pack the manure thoroughly and then build the frame of one-inch boards so as to give the regulation slope. Put four or five inches of loamy soil over the manure and when the temperature of the manure has dropped to about 85 degrees, the seeds may be planted. It is well to remember that moisture is needed for germination and growth. Too much moisture will cause damping off of the seedlings.

Charlotte, Jan. 10.—To send prisoners to the chaingangs only to fall down and worship them in a wave of molluscoid sentimentality is against the rule of the common sense and is a feat that must fade before the power of cold reason, Judge T. E. Finley, of North Wilkesboro, declared at the opening of Mecklenburg superior court here today when he charged the new grand jury. Judge Finley's plea was that prisoners be subject to proper treatment in the light of common sense, not harsh nor sentimental. References by the judge to undue sentimentality as to prisoners was made in connection with a declaration that American forces of law and order are struggling with a wave of crime and violence such as the country has never before seen. He urged that the jury and all good citizens lend their influence to all movements tending to restore respect for law.

## MANY CHILDREN DIE IN MONTREAL THEATER FIRE

Rush For Exits Caused Jam and Deaths Resulted From Suffocation

Montreal, Quebec, Jan. 9.—More than 75 lives was the toll exacted today by a fire panic in the Laurier Palace movie theater in the east end. Most of the victims were children who had made up the bulk of the Sunday matinee audience. Few were injured by the comparatively trivial fire but caught in fear-stricken jams about the exits, many were suffocated.

So tightly wedged were the bodies that rescue squads of firemen were unable to gain entrance.

The fire started under the floor of the balcony and the cry of a boy who noticed it caused a stampede at the doors. The theater has a seating capacity of 1,100 persons and it was filled with the usual large Sunday afternoon audience. The fire itself did little damage and was soon under control.

Each little victim was examined and those who showed signs of life were carried into nearby stores, private dwellings and the police and fire stations. The majority of the victims were found to have died of suffocation. All ambulances were summoned from the hospitals and many private practitioners worked on the sufferers in the freezing cold without coats or hats.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

The Friday Afternoon Club was delightfully entertained on January 7th by Mrs. O. L. Hardin, at her home on Water street. Bright lights at the windows suggested the ringing in of the new year. After a pleasant time of sewing, the following short program, prepared by the hostess, was rendered:

Two piano solos, "Plantation Melodies" and "Star of the East," by Mrs. F. A. Linney.

Vocal duet, "Love's Old Sweet Song," Miss Annie Stanbury and Mrs. A. E. South.

Reading, "The New Year," Mrs. J. D. Rankin.

The president, Mrs. Rankin, read a letter of thanks from the Grandfather Orphanage for the box of Christmas gifts sent to that institution by club members.

A trying contest was next heartily entered into, each writing a verse using the words New Year. The following verse composed by Mrs. B. J. Council, was voted the best and a dainty calendar was presented to her by the hostess:

Now is the time to be happy and gay,  
Ever be ready for work or for play.  
While the year is new,  
You should try to be, too.  
Every day you should apply,  
As if it were a joy to try.  
Rich with pleasures for our friends,  
Safe and happy to the end.

The guests were invited into the dining room, where the tables were lovely with red candles and flowers.

The places were found by clever cards bearing resolutions, which each guest read aloud. Mrs. Hardin served a tempting two-course luncheon.

Those other than club members enjoying Mrs. Hardin's hospitality were Mrs. James Rivers, of Winston-Salem, and Mrs. Wilson of New York, guest of Mrs. Harry Wilson.

The next meeting will be held with Mrs. F. A. Linney on January 21st.

Raleigh, Jan. 10.—Violent deaths in North Carolina continue to decline. There were only 16 fatalities in the state during the past week as compared with the usual 25 reported for an average week of 1926. Half of these fatalities—seven—was caused by automobiles. Five were listed as homicides. Two engineers were killed in a railroad accident near Winston-Salem. One woman was burned to death and a man was killed at a sawmill.

## 21 PERSONS REPORTED KILLED IN CATHOLIC-MEXICAN CLASH

Mexico City, Jan. 11.—Special dispatches from Guadalajara state that 21 persons have been killed and 10 wounded in a clash between Catholics and the municipal authorities in the town of Cocula in the state of Jalisco.

The mayor of Cocula and the local deputy, Sostenes Castillo, were among those killed.

## REPRESENTATIVE THOS. H. COFFEY WARMLY RECEIVED

First Democrat to General Assembly in 16 Years Warmly Received at Raleigh

(L. J. Hampton in Winston-Salem Journal.)

Representative Tom Coffey, of Watauga county, the first Democrat elected from there in the past 16 years, was given the glad hand of welcome by members of the majority party in the lower house of the North Carolina legislature.

Representative Coffey is a Blowing Rock man and a Democrat of influence in his section of the state. He defeated a kinsman, former Representative Blaine Coffey, by a majority of 244 votes.

Representative Coffey has the distinction of being an "original McLean man" and he says Governor McLean is making the best chief executive the state has ever had. "He is just the man we needed," said Representative Coffey, "and his administration has been of such a character so far to make me prouder than ever that I was one of his original supporters."

Representative Coffey doesn't hesitate to say that he is pleased with the message delivered by Governor McLean Wednesday and that he can be counted as among the administration's unwavering supporters. The Watauga solon is a good roads enthusiast and is also well tickled with the state fisheries commission's work of establishing a fish hatchery in Watauga county.

"Game laws for the sport of our own citizens and for the tourists who are flocking to our Blue Ridge country in increasing numbers, are our greatest asset," Representative Coffey said, "and in my opinion the state fisheries board did a wise thing in establishing fish hatcheries there for the propagation of fish." Mr. Coffey pointed out the fact that in all of the mountain citizenship there is only general approval of the move and not one voice raised in criticism.

The Watauga solon is keeping his bills in his pocket for the present, if he has any to throw into the legislative hopper, but he is keenly alive to the issues of schools, taxes, roads, etc. and may be expected to express his sentiments by his vote when the time comes. He is not a stranger in Raleigh nor to many in the lower house either, so his stay here for 60 days is going to be like a visit among old friends.

## BROOKSIDE DOTS

Brooks Co., Jan. 12.—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Z. Watson and two children spent the holidays with home folks at Brookside. Mr. Watson served four years in the 22nd infantry, machine gun company Canal Zone, Panama. For the past four years he has been employed with the Dodge Motor Company, Detroit, Mich., but is now on compulsory furlough in this city.

and Mrs. Joe Blackburn, of Chicago, spent the holidays with Mr. Blackburn's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Blackburn.

Mrs. Walter G. Cook, of Todd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Blackburn, has for a number of years been suffering with a serious attack of inflammatory rheumatism. Her condition is considered hopeless by her attending physician.

Russell Norris, son of E. C. Norris, was hurt one day last week by a flying strip of lumber at a sawmill. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Z. T. Watson closed a writing school at Deep Gap last Thursday, and began a term of ten days at Mt. Ephraim consolidated school on Monday, January 10.

Misses Gladys and Geraldine Fry, Mabel and Thelma Johnson spent the holidays with home folks, returning last week to their school at Konnarock, Va.

## SENATOR McNEILL OFFERS AUSTRALIAN BALLOT BILL

Senator P. T. McNeill on Tuesday introduced a state-wide Australian ballot bill. The bill, a very voluminous one, goes in detailed manner into the Australian system of voting. It would throw around the voting booths the well known advantages of privacy for voters. It would set up a ballot system, which would mean the printing of all tickets on the same sheet and allow for voting the straight ticket or the process of scratching.

## News of a Week At Blowing Rock

### Insurance Man Visits Town Relative to Revising Insurance Rates Because of New Water System

### SCHOOL BUILDING CONTRACT Not Likely to Be Let Before Legislature Adjourns; Site Has Been Selected

By RUPERT GILLET

Blowing Rock, Jan. 12.—R. A. Myers, representing the Southeastern Underwriters' Association at Atlanta, Ga., was in Blowing Rock Wednesday of last week conferring with Mayor George Sudderth and examining the new water system and fire truck with a view to revising the insurance rates of the town.

Blowing Rock is now in the fourth class, but it is hoped that as a result of Mr. Myers' report it will be placed in a higher class.

Mr. Myers made a survey of all the water lines, reservoirs and wells in the new system, tested the valves and pressures and examined the fire truck. He declined to say what his report would be, but it is believed that it will be favorable.

### Fire Alarm Equipment Received

The apparatus for the Blowing Rock fire alarm system arrived Friday. As the siren tower is already erected, it is expected that the alarm system can be installed by the time the new fire station is completed.

Work on the new station is progressing rapidly. The walls of the second floor are erected, and the siren sheeting is being put on them.

### No Contract Now for New School

It is probable that the contract for the Blowing Rock-Sandy Flat-Silver Lake consolidated school building will not be let before the legislature adjourns, said Smith Haggaman, county superintendent of education, last week. Only a little money remains in the county building fund, Mr. Haggaman explained. It was at first thought that the money for the building could be raised by a special tax on the consolidated district, but there seems to be some legal obstacle to the procedure, which only the legislature can remove.

The site for the building as agreed on by committees from the three districts last week will be the grounds of the present Blowing Rock school, with the addition of a tract given by the town and another donated by Councilman N. C. Greene. This will make between four and five acres for the school grounds, it is said. First plans called for a building costing \$35,000 but in view of the legal trouble, this may be revised.

### Water Shoots into the Air

After 275 pounds of dynamite were exploded in the Green Hill well Saturday, a column of water was thrown nearly a thousand feet into the air. Immediately after the blast, water could be heard running into the well in large volume. The well is 401 feet deep and is the third in the city's chain of wells to supply the water system.

Town Bids in Property Sold for Taxes

Nobody wants land of which the owners think so little as to neglect to pay the taxes on it. Monday, A. M. Critcher offered for sale a number of pieces of property to satisfy unpaid taxes and costs totaling \$124.90. Not one bid did he receive. And to he bid the property in for the town.

### To Extend City Limits

Cyrus C. Babb, consulting engineer has completed the survey of the new town limits for presentation to the general assembly in connection with the bill for the annexation of Green Park and Mayview Park. If the bill is passed, it will add nearly a square mile to the town limits, Mr. Babb said, and \$800,000 to its tax valuations, according to the town tax collector, A. M. Critcher.

Death of Mrs. Martha Greene

Through an oversight, the correspondent failed to report the death last month of Mrs. Martha Greene, who died at an advanced age at her home here.

As Mrs. Green has many relatives who subscribe to The Democrat who have not yet learned of her death, it is regretted that this oversight occurred.

### Esthetes of Blowing Rock

now sleep easily. Just as they were bewailing the town's lack of artistic sensibilities in erecting an unsightly standpipe on one of the town's most beautiful hills, it was suggested that pines be planted around the standpipe to hide it. But esthetes are hard to please. Pines, they say, grow slowly, and meanwhile the hill is crowned with a black cylinder visible for miles.

### Snow which started falling early Sunday night covered the western part of the state with a heavy white blanket. Snow is also reported to have fallen as far east as Wilson. This is the first real snowfall of the winter throughout the mountain section.