

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

A Non-Partisan Newspaper, Devoted to the Best Interests of Northwest North Carolina

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1930

\$1.50 PER YEAR

Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK F. STOCKBRIDGE

Sousa

An old man stood on the White House steps the other day and waved his hat while the President of the United States stood by his side and drank in the music which John Philip Sousa drew from the band which he had made famous years ago.

It used to be said of America that she were not a musical nation. Nobody can say that today. Sousa came along at a time when musical taste was at its lowest ebb in the United States and wrote the stirring marches that will never die, with which his name and the fame of the Marine Band will forever be associated. The nation hailed him as its greatest composer. That was never true, but he was the greatest popularizer of music, back in the 1880's and 1890's, and he was, without doubt, the greatest hand leader the world had ever seen up to then.

India

Maubana Muhammad Ali reminded the British Government the other day that if England had listened to Edmund Burke, she never would have had America, and warned the reactionaries of the British Empire that unless they listened to him and his associates they would lose India.

For the first time in history, all castes, religions and factions of the complex civilization of India united to demand, without mincing words, that their country shall have the same right of self-government, the same status as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, as Canada, Australia, South Africa and the rest of the former colonies now enjoy.

Representatives of India and of the Empire are sitting in London "round table" conferences in London, trying to decide India's fate. The reports of this gathering read as if the pages of history had been turned back a hundred and fifty years, to the time when delegates from this side of the Atlantic informed the ministers of King George III of the temper of the American colonists. The ministers of George V are more likely to listen than did those of his great-great-grandfather.

Inheritance

The estate of Thos. Fortune Ryan III may \$17,372,301 to the State of New York and \$4,882,052 to the Federal Government. There will still be left somewhat more than a hundred million dollars, which is enough for several legs to struggle along on.

No tax can be fairer than the tax on large inherited estates. All states exempt small estates from this tax. When a man dies his property has no owner. In the absence of heirs it all belongs to the State. The right to pass it on by will is a privilege granted by the State, and not an inalienable right. Most states prescribe what a man may do by will. The heirs are entitled, by custom, to reasonable participation, but have no right to complain if the State steps in and takes a large share out first for the benefit of all the people. For no great fortune is accumulated except by the participation, directly or indirectly, of all the people.

Ships

The keel was laid the other day for the largest passenger ship ever constructed in the United States. It will be 795 feet long and will carry 1,000 passengers across the Atlantic in less than six days. It is to be replaced by another ship of the same size.

These new ships will not be the largest passenger craft carrying the American flag. Nor will our new first-class liners compare with the new ships which Germany, France and Great Britain have just built or are building.

It is a short-sighted policy which lets our Government be contented to build less magnificently than do our rivals on the sea. For these new craft, like those of other nations, are built with Government subsidies. Perhaps the Shipping Board and the officials at Washington thought they would not have public support if they spent too much money on the new ships. In that, as in almost everything else the Shipping Board has done, they are wrong. The American people will back any really magnificent expenditure with prideful enthusiasm, but it has never been interested in economy or in second-rate achievements.

PROGRAM AT OAK GROVE

The students of Oak Grove School will render a program December 23 at 1 o'clock, consisting of humorous dialogues and plays, negro minstrel acts and plenty of good string music. The public is cordially invited and there will be no admission charges.

SENATOR OVERMAN DIES; EX-GOVERNOR MORRISON NAMED

Aged Legislator Passes at Washington. Funeral Held at Salisbury. Ten Senators and Ten Congressmen Attend Last Rites. Morrison Will Take Office Soon. Said to Be Well Qualified for Post.

Salisbury, N. C.—Lee Slater Overman, suddenly summoned to die in his life's December, returned for all time to the soil of the State that nurtured him on last Saturday afternoon.

The 76 and more years of his ripe, full life closed abruptly early Friday. A half-century of them he had allotted to public life. Twenty-eight years he had served in the United States Senate.

Saturday morning his worn body was brought back to his native Salisbury. On that afternoon that body was given into a flower-heaped grave in Chestnut Hill Cemetery, while ten of his fellows in the Senate, as many members of the House of Representatives, the great of North Carolina and the humble who called his neighbor looked on in sorrow.

There was no pomp, no outpouring of eulogies to mar the simplicity of Lee Overman's return to dust.

Arriving on a six-car special train from Washington, where Friday night the Senate gathered to do him final honor, the steel-gray casket, banked with yellow carnations and red roses, and shrouded with America's flag, was escorted by American Legionnaires to the rambling, unpretentious house he called home.

For six hours the throngs that knew, admired and loved him filed by to gaze a last time upon the benign face, the silvery hair, the tall form that gave Lee Overman his distinction and his title, "The Noblest Roman of them all." Worn, wasted, broken, they said he was, by the trials of this last year and the illness that led so inevitably to his death.

In the afternoon the Legionnaires, who fought America's battles in France even as he fought them in the Senate's Chamber, bore his body to the first Methodist Church here, lifting it through an arch of the Allies' flags. Following an impressive service, the cortege moved to the graveyard, where all that was mortal of the great Southern statesman was lowered to its final resting place.

From Washington there came Saturday Senators, Moses, New Hampshire, president pro tem of the body; McKellar, Tennessee; Bratton, New Mexico; George, Georgia; Smith of South Carolina; Brock, Tennessee; Black, Alabama; Shottredge, California; and Frazier, North Dakota. The House sent Representatives Howard, Nebraska; Hare, South Carolina; Williams, Texas; Jones, Kerr, Pritchard, James, Doughton and Clark, of North Carolina. Illness kept Senator Simmons, Overman's college mate, lifelong friend and colleague of 28 years in the Senate, from attendance.

Negro members of the Senator's household staff, who linked him with that old South to which they looked back fondly, were last to file by his coffin before it was taken to the church. Other negroes lined the streets, and some came into the gallery of the church. The State's love for Lee Overman knew no bounds of race or color.

Born in Salisbury January 3, 1854, Mr. Overman was graduated from Trinity College in 1874, taught school two years and then became private secretary to Governor Zeb Vance. He remained with Governor Thomas Jarvis, Vance's successor, one year, resigning to practice law in Salisbury. He served five times in the State's legislature, was chosen Democratic candidate for the Senate in 1895, defeated, but was victorious in 1903 and had been four times re-elected. He had two years of his term left to serve and had intended seeking reelection in 1932. During the World War he was of invaluable assistance to President Woodrow Wilson in pushing through emergency war measures.

MORRISON APPOINTED

Raleigh, N. C.—Governor O. Max Gardner, by virtue of the authority with which the 1929 North Carolina General Assembly invested him, Saturday appointed Cameron Morrison, the man who defeated him for Governor in 1920, to fill the United States Senate seat Lee S. Overman's death left vacant.

"I intend to take the oath of office just as quick as I can," Mr. Morrison said. He expects to bear his commission to Washington today. Governor Gardner announced his decision to Mr. Morrison and the press at the home of Walter H. Woodson in Salisbury, where he and Mrs. Gardner spent the week-end, shortly after the interment of Senator Overman.

Of Morrison, Mr. Gardner said, "I felt there was in North Carolina no one better qualified for the position."

NORTH CAROLINA'S NEW SENATOR



CAMERON MORRISON, appointed Saturday by Governor Gardner to fill out unexpired term of Senator Lee S. Overman, who succumbed on Friday. Mr. Morrison is a resident of Charlotte, and is said to be amply qualified for the high position. He will take the oath of office soon.

DRIVE GETS UNDER WAY TO RAISE FUND FOR CHARITY; BOX SUPPER THURSDAY

The local Community Chest committee, with Mr. W. H. Gragg acting in the capacity of chairman, is staging an old-time box supper in the courthouse auditorium on Thursday evening, the proceeds from the event to be used to distribute Christmas cheer to those families in this community, which otherwise would be destitute during the holidays.

Indications are that the most of the ladies of the community will prepare boxes for the occasion and that the men of the city will cooperate to the fullest extent in the worthy move. Varied entertainment will be provided and those coming will have an evening of rare enjoyment, and be happier still in the anticipation of greater joys to come to the more unfortunate as a result of the event.

The committee insists that every box possible be prepared and that the citizenship turn out en masse on this occasion. While there are a good many families unable to provide themselves with the necessities incident to the wintry weather, and a great many kiddies with the pitiable prospect of any empty stocking beside a chilly hearthstone, warmth and comfort and food may be brought to the more unfortunate, and the children may laugh with glee as their well-worn stockings bulge with the beneficence of the good St. Nicholas, and the hearth may be warm from the

glow of the friendly embers. The cost would be trivial in this section compared with the satisfaction that would be derived by knowing that joy and happiness reign supreme in even the most humble home on the highest mountain or the most unpretentious cabin in the deepest valley.

Come to the box supper, have a good time and help the needy ones. If for any reason you cannot come send in your part, but no one, regardless of station in life or handicaps, who has bright prospects for a comfortable yuletide, should fail to contribute a full share to this noble work.

The committee decided to desist from making house-to-house solicitations this year, and feels that the proceeds from the box supper will be made to meet the most pressing needs. Let's have a community chest bulging with Christmas cheer, without a lock or key, and throw out our beneficence in Christian unity for the relief of our distressed.

It is far better to make the mistake of giving to two who need no aid, rather than to miss one family who will meet Christmas morn with hunger and cold and misery. Let's take no chance whatever on anyone in this community being destitute while our own yule logs burn brightly, and plenty smiles upon our children. Let's give and if necessary fill it hurts.

Ferd Wilson Arrested On Serious Charges

Ferd Wilson, son of Roby Wilson, a resident of North Fork Township, was arrested last Thursday by Detectives Hagan and Mast, the warrant charging that Wilson on several different occasions fired a gun into the home of J. M. May, former Register of Deeds, who resides near the Wilson farm. Other charges allege that during the past year the defendant has frequently harassed and intimidated the May family.

A preliminary hearing was given young Wilson Monday morning before Justice Hahn, and he was bound over to the Spring Term of Superior Court under a two-thousand-dollar bond. A peccore bond of \$1,000 was also demanded by the court. The defendant was represented by Attorneys John E. Brown and T. C. Bowie, and Mr. May's charges were defended by W. R. Lovill and Birmingham and Linney.

DEMOCRAT FORCE PLANNING BRIEF REST DURING HOLIDAYS

The Democrat will be issued on Monday of next week in the most abbreviated form possible, in order that those responsible for its publication may be able to enjoy a day or two of rest after a hard year's work. No solicitations are anticipated and those who have matters of a nature making publication imperative will have to present the same no later than Saturday. Failure to observe this request will result in disappointment, as only enough pages will be printed to take care of the matter, which can't wait.

Deep Gap Detour is Causing Trouble

(Wilkes Journal)

Captain Currier, who is supervising the work on the Boone Trail Highway, states that a great many motorists are deliberately bringing down trouble and inconvenience on their heads by ignoring instructions as to the route to be taken to reach Boone.

He says that while the work on No. 60 has practically been completed to Deep Gap, from that point on the surfacing is under way, and during the wet weather it is next to impossible to get by. During the past week the contractor has extended many courtesies, by pulling motorists out of the mud, notwithstanding the fact that prominent signs are displayed warning against proceeding on this route.

Captain Currier says that this constant demand for help is retarding work on the road and he has issued orders that until the work is completed, when an automobile is stuck on the detour, it will be pulled out and headed back toward the Wilkesboro. He points out that there are two good all-weather roads to Boone that should be used by travelers from the east, and they will be saving themselves about forty miles of driving by taking these routes to begin with.

Mr. Shepherd, branch manager of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Charlotte division, and Mr. Everett, salesman of Winston-Salem, were visitors Tuesday with the Central Tire Company, local Goodyear dealers.

Boone Merchants Have Fine Holiday Business

The business houses of the city are enjoying an unusually good business for the holidays, considering the general depression, according to information given The Democrat by various of the merchants, and indications point to a heavy rush during the remaining shopping days. Stocks are more complete than in previous years and the displays which have been effected contribute to highly satisfactory filling of gift lists with the minimum of delay.

The advertisements in this issue of The Democrat will be found an invaluable aid to holiday shoppers, especially those who do not visit the stores until ready to make their purchases. The merchants have made a definite bid for your business and deserve your support. The advertising columns aid you in making up your list in advance and save you time as well as money. Patronize your home merchants and read the messages they are bringing you. The following are asking you for business and your attention is respectfully directed to their advertising which appears throughout the succeeding pages:

The Hand That Helps, Peoples Bank; Gifts of Jewelry, Will C. Walker; Back to Pre-War Prices, Daniel Boone Shoe Shop; Christmas Greetings, Boone Hardware; Toyland Ornaments, Farmers Hardware; Specials, Hubert Norris; Letter from Father, Building and Loan; Christmas Sale, Harris Brothers; Santa on Way, F. C. Miller & Company; Give Hollingsworth's, Boone Drug Company; Merry Christmas, Carolina Store; Christmas Savings, Watauga County Bank; Give a Radio, Central Tire Company; Christmas Clearance at Spahn's; Gifts for Men, Boone Clothing Store; White Christmas, Boone Steam Laundry; Quality and Price, Cash Feed Company; Down to Rock-Bottom, City Shoe Shop; The Christmas Store, Hodges Drug Company.

American Legion Post Will Aid Poor of County

Charles Younce, commander of Watauga Post, American Legion, is sending out a letter to ex-service men in Watauga, urging them to make contributions to a fund being formed for the purpose of bringing Christmas cheer into the homes of veterans' families who are unable to provide for themselves. The letter, in part, follows:

"The American Legion is not a charity organization, but an organization of World War veterans who fought that you and this great nation might live free."

"The Legion's purpose is to serve its community, State and nation. It upholds the Constitution of the United States of America, and maintains the principles of justice."

"The Legion is sponsoring a Christmas campaign, to give to the poor and needy World War veterans, children, other needy children, aged men and women and our beloved Civil War veterans of Watauga County. We are securing the names of such people, their ages, addresses, whether or not they own homes, etc. This information is being secured from the teachers throughout the county."

"Contributions, such as money, old clothing, fruits, vegetables, candies and other useful items will be appreciated; however, we are not making a direct appeal to you; the matter is optional."

"Your kindness to the American Legion and the poor, needy children and others throughout Watauga County who probably will not know Christmas other than by receiving a gift, though small it may be, shall never be forgotten."

The committee in charge of this benevolent work is composed of L. S. Isaacs, V. C. Howell and B. K. Osborne. Contributions of money and other gifts will be received at the Isaacs Department Store.

FIFTEEN INCHES OF SNOW FALLS IN WATAUGA COUNTY

This (Wednesday) morning the ground is covered with snow to a depth of fourteen inches and prospects are that more will fall before night. Mercury hung around 15 degrees above zero, and the falling flakes were carried briskly along by a bitter east wind. Reports from the east state that more than thirty inches fell during the night in the Piedmont section. Mail service was paralyzed by the storm, no mail from Lenoir or the Wilkesboro having arrived at the noon hour. Highway section forces have been busy during the morning and county roads are said to be open.

NO PAROLES DURING HOLIDAYS

Raleigh.—Executive Counsel O. M. Mullen has issued a statement that Governor Gardner will extend no general clemency to prisoners because of the holidays and, as he will be engaged in budget matters from now until the first of the year, he will not consider applications for clemency after Tuesday, December 15, until January 1, 1931.

WATAUGA REAL ESTATE VALUED AT \$7,597,000.00

Average Value of Farm Lands is \$23.43 an Acre. Town Lots Valued at \$1,058.84. Total Valuation of State's Real Estate is \$2,090,414,000, According to State Board of Assessment.

(Special to The Democrat)

Raleigh, N. C.—North Carolina's total valuation of real estate in 1929 was \$2,090,414,000, divided into land acreage valued at \$934,829,000 and town and city lots valued at \$1,020,077,000, according to the last reports of the State Board of Assessment, just issued.

The average valuation of land per acre is \$31.81, the highest being in Garton County, \$216.81, and the lowest in Dare, \$6.97, while the town lots average the highest price in Caldwell County \$3,372.09, and the lowest in Jones County, \$342.51. The State average for town lots is \$1,020.18.

Mecklenburg leads in total value of town lots, with \$123,947,398, while Currituck is listed as having no town lots. Guilford has the highest total value of land acreage, with \$26,138,370, while Tyrrell has the lowest, \$1,547,987.

Watauga County, the report shows, had a total real estate valuation of \$7,597,000 of which \$5,850,000 was in land, valued at an average of \$23.43 an acre and \$1,747,000 in town lots, average value of which was \$1,058.84 a lot. The county had nothing listed in manufacturing establishments outside of city and town corporation limits and \$13,000 in value of mineral, timber or water power sites in the county.

Senator Edward Butler Dies at Mountain City

Funeral services were conducted at Mountain City Monday afternoon for E. E. Butler, 66, mayor of that town and for many years a member of the Tennessee State Senate. The services were in charge of Rev. J. T. Byrd at the M. E. Church, and during the hour business houses of the city were closed. Practically the entire citizenship of the community was in attendance, and many went from Watauga and other adjacent counties, scores of legal dignitaries from over the State of Tennessee being included. Graveside rites were conducted by the Masonic fraternity of which body deceased has long been a member.

Surviving are the widow, who before her marriage was Miss Ella Baker of Ashe County, and two children, Roderick Butler of Mountain City and Mrs. Foster C. Brown of Knoxville.

On Saturday afternoon Mayor Butler was feeling better than usual, although he had been in declining health for some months. At the same time he felt apprehensive, and became suddenly ill at six o'clock with a recurring heart trouble and died an hour later.

Mr. Butler was mayor of Mountain City at the time of his death, president of the Merchants and Traders Bank, a successful member of the State bar, State Senator for ten years, preceding which he was floral representative in the State Legislature for three successive terms. He was well known throughout Watauga County, where the news of his death has caused wide sorrow. He was the moving spirit in the building of the highway from Mountain City connecting with No. 60 at the North Carolina line.

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Livestock Association To Meet Next Monday

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Livestock Association of Watauga County has been called for Monday, December 22, 10 a. m., at the courthouse in Boone. It is the purpose of this meeting to discuss various phases of the agricultural situation in Watauga County for the coming year.

It is exceedingly important that extensive plans be made in time to give every possible advantage to the farmers and stockmen of the county. There will be some new and important matters to be considered. The meeting is open to any one desiring to attend.

The executive committee is composed of the following men: Clyde Perry, J. S. Snyder, J. B. Horton, John Greer, Edgar Edmisten, Henry Hosenman, John Fox, W. W. Mast, Lee Carrender, J. L. Triplett, Watt Gragg, Sam Atkins, A. N. Thomas, Marion Thomas, Harrison Baker, Alex. Tugman, A. G. Miller, Clement McNeil, Charlie Triplett, J. G. Story, G. J. Keller, R. T. Greer, Rodney Greene, W. N. Howell and J. L. Miller.