

WATAUGA TO SAVE MANY THOUSANDS BY NEW TAX LAWS

Assessed Valuation of \$5,678,621 Bore a Levy of 37 cents for Expenses of Schools During Past Year. Proposed Levy of 15 Cents Would Reduce County's Expenditure for Education \$19,093.

Raleigh, N. C.—Tax reductions of nearly \$10,000,000, or \$9,667,186, to be exact, will result to the landowners of North Carolina for each of the years of 1931-32 and 1932-23 under the revenue bill which is about through the General Assembly, according to a table of figures prepared by the State Tax Commission.

This table shows that on the assessed valuation of \$2,978,716,226 for the year 1929 in the whole State, the 100 counties had a total tax levy of \$13,106,241 for current expenses of schools. On the same assessed valuation at the proposed 15-cent tax rate the total levy will be \$1,488,058, by which it is seen that the levy for the next two years will be \$2,567,186 less than in 1929.

Watauga County, the report shows, had an assessed valuation in 1930 of \$8,678,621, on which the tax rate was 37 cents for current expenses for the six months school term, which made the tax levy for this county \$32,111. The proposed 15-cent levy on the same valuation basis will mean \$13,018 in taxes in 1931 and 1932, or a reduction for this county of \$19,093.

This amount, it is pointed out, will be reflected appreciably in the tax bill of the individual taxpayer in every county in the State.

Two Are Saved From Burning Lenoir Hotel

Lenoir, N. C.—Firemen rescued Russell Pressnell and Bill Ingram from one of the worst business district fires in the history of Lenoir as the blaze, which started at the Gateway Hotel and badly damaged the Gateway Cafe at 2:30 o'clock Friday morning. The damage is estimated at \$10,000.

Pressnell, owner of the hotel and cafe, and Ingram, employee of the cafe, were trapped in the second story. Firemen placed a ladder for the two men to make their escape.

The cause of the fire remained unexplained. The blaze was discovered by Night Policeman Walsh, who started in the alarm. The fire gained considerable headway and threatened to wreck the entire business block before firemen, fighting for five hours, completely subdued it.

A second alarm occurred at 4:30 o'clock when the vacillating rains flared up for the second time.

Plans for rebuilding the hotel were announced by Pressnell, owner of the building.

New Kiwanis Head



William G. Harris, Los Angeles banker and executive of the National Thrift Corporation, gains additional honor.

22 MANUFACTURING PLANTS IN COUNTY

Turn Out Product Valued at \$204,928. 111 Wage Earners Are Employed. Forsyth Leads the State in Industry.

Raleigh, N. C.—Watauga County had a total of 22 manufacturing establishments, which turned out \$204,928 in value of manufactured products during the year 1929, according to a table just issued by the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development.

The average number of wage earners employed for the year in these plants was 111 and the total wages paid amounted to \$75,911. The cost of materials and fuel and the purchased current used was \$90,679 and the plants of the county used 152 horsepower of electricity during the year, the report showed.

Forsyth led the State in value of manufacturing products, more than doubling its nearest competitor, Durham, while Rockingham was third, all engaged in the manufacture of tobacco products. Guilford led in number of wage earners. Gaston was second and Forsyth third.

CHASE NATIONAL BANK REDUCES INTEREST RATE

New York.—The world's largest bank, Chase National of New York, announced Friday that effective on June 1, it would reduce the interest paid on compound interest, or savings, accounts, to 2 per cent annually from the present rate of 3 per cent, compounded monthly.

This step followed Thursday's announcement that New York clearing house banks were reducing rates allowing on commercial and bank deposits by half of one per cent to the lowest levels on record, and was regarded as part of the campaign to deflect surplus funds from banks which already find it difficult to employ money at current low interest rates.

Manual savings banks in New York City are now paying from 1 to 1.2 per cent. The rise in savings deposits in New York State so far this year has been larger than the increase for all of 1930.

Fifteen cars of sweet potatoes have been sold co-operatively by Beaufort County growers this spring to net them one dollar a bushel above the package costs.

Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK P. STOCKBRIDGE

Wheat

Ray Long, editor of Cosmopolitan Magazine, who has just returned from Russia, in a speech the other day predicted that we would never see wheat again at as high as a dollar a bushel.

Wheat's importance in the economic scheme of things is due to the fact that it is cheaply stored and shipped and can be kept over from season to season. When the United States was still a pioneer nation and the great wheat areas of Russia, South America and Australia were still undeveloped, wheat was a profitable crop in this country. Today it is far from being our most important crop. Minnesota, the greatest flour milling state, and once the foremost wheat producer, raised \$21,000,000 worth of wheat in 1929, a fairly normal year, but sold \$125,000,000 worth of butter.

The demand for dairy, hog and poultry products is growing; that for wheat is diminishing. If I were a wheat farmer I would put my land into some other kind of crop or sell it and pocket the loss.

Movies

All of the protests against the representations of crime and vice in the movies seem to have had no appreciable effect.

"Two Gun" Crowley, New York's latest "cop killer," an undersized, undeveloped boy of twenty, has admitted that he got the idea of being a "bad man" from the movies.

"Gangster" films are worse than crime stories in the newspapers, because they reach the immature mind that does not read the papers. Children cannot discriminate between right and wrong, and the gunman, even though shown as a criminal meeting a bad end, seems like a hero

to many of them.

Electrification

One of my former neighbors in the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts, Major Heath Smith, of Great Barrington, is making a test of all the possibilities of electrifying his farm.

Major Smith's hens work as long hours in winter as they do in summer, because the hen-houses are heated by electricity. Now he has installed electric sun lamps in the concrete barn where his prize rooster, Hubertus, is housed, in order to give the fowl the benefit of the ultra violet rays in the winter, as well as in the summer.

It may take several years of experience before the exact value of farm electrification is determined, but it is Major Smith's belief that electric power is not only cheaper than man power, but more efficient, and that the use of electric lights of various types makes his hens lay better, his cows produce more milk and keeps his livestock in better health.

Graft

According to the trade paper Highway Engineer and Contractor, millions of dollars are expended annually by highway companies manufacturing highway machinery and materials to influence county commissioners and others having control of highway work to select certain types of roads and pavements for construction or maintenance machinery and materials.

Such payments to public officials are regarded in some business circles as "lawful graft." They are dishonest because such bribes are added to the cost of the job and come out of the pockets of the taxpayers, and also because they may and often do result in a poor job, which will soon have to be done over again—again at the taxpayers' expense.

It would be interesting if some live newspaper in every county in the United States would send an investigator to how much "lawful graft" its local officials have received from paving contractors.

Molasses

When I was a boy in New England it was still the custom in almost all rural families, and probably in the cities as well, to dose all the children for days every spring with liberal tablespoonfuls of a mixture of sulphur and molasses.

For a generation or so medical men have laughed at the old "spring tonic" idea. Now medical science has discovered that this is another of the so-called folk myths that has a solid basis of truth back of it. Our grandparents were wrong in thinking that sulphur was the essential part of the mixture, but they were right in the idea that "brimstone and treacle" had a tonic effect. It was the iron in the molasses that did it, according to Dr. Walter H. Faby.

Now we keep our children out-of-doors in the sunshine as much as possible, winter and summer, and those who can afford to expose them to ultraviolet rays generated by artificial means, so that the need of a spring tonic is not as great as it was. And we have developed pleasant ways of getting iron into the system when we do need it.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES HAVE HEAVY SNOWFALL

Denver, Colo.—Snow ranging from a trace to nearly two feet in depth blanketed parts of the mountain states last Thursday.

Rain and snow which began falling Tuesday in most of Wyoming, Colorado and Montana and parts of New Mexico was expected to bring an immediate benefit to crops in the ground and eliminate the necessity for early irrigation.

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