

News Items From Raleigh And The State At Large

By M. R. DUNNAGAN
(Special Writer for The Democrat)

Raleigh.—Urging national legislation to protect merchants and State treasuries of sales tax states against advantages for non-sales tax states, Governor Ehringhaus has written to Senator Bailey and Reynolds and the eleven North Carolina Congressmen to support a bill drawn by Director Harry McMullen and adopted by the National Association of State Tax Administrators in Indianapolis this week, to support the measure at this session of Congress.

"The bill, as you will observe, applies the principle of the Wilson and Webb-Kenyon bills to sales by outside merchants of merchandise for use in North Carolina by making them subject to sales taxation adopted by the General Assembly exactly as intra-state transactions are liable," Governor Ehringhaus wrote. "Its merits, it seems to me, will appeal both to those States having at present a sales tax as well as those which do not have it but which of necessity must face the possibility of such a tax at all times. In your own State I believe that both advocates of and objectors to the sales tax will approve, for the bill, if adopted, will obviate the disadvantages now most seriously urged by objectors."

A copy of Mr. McMullen's address to the tax administrators and a study and discussion of the principles involved in the bill by a member of the faculty of the University law school, which "covers every possible legal phase of the situation," were enclosed with the letter to the State's delegation. Aware of the difficulty of getting legislation through at this session, Governor Ehringhaus suggested that it might be added to some pending legislation. He lauds the State's legislators, mentioning high places on important committees, and feels that as one reason why they may be able to get it through. Approval by the administrators of all states gives it a nation-wide support, he states.

Governor Ehringhaus makes the appeal in the interest of North Carolina merchants and the North Carolina treasury, "believing that this measure, conceived as it is to secure an equality of opportunity and formulated in accord with sound legislative precedent, is a measure of relief which the federal government can and should afford immediately." He states that it is a measure giving to each state the chance to deal equally with all who sell for consumption within its borders and protects against outside advantage.

Support of the bill involves neither approval nor disapproval of sales tax imposition; it simply guarantees each State and its merchant citizens again outside advantage and provides that equality between the states which it was the purpose of the Constitution framers to promote and preserve," Governor Ehringhaus concluded his letter. The bill, he notes, is now in the hands of Congressman Lindsay G. Warren.

State Tax Plan Lauded

North Carolina's plan of shifting the burden of taxes from land and at the same time carrying on more extensive functions, including schools, and with all of its balancing the budget, has been heralded through the nation, evidence this time being the request of Congressman Brooks Fletcher, of the eighth Ohio district to Governor Ehringhaus that he tell how it is done.

"I am informed that your State, North Carolina, is the only state that has completely overhauled its system of taxation, lifting the inequitable burden from land, centralizing responsibility and cost of education, economizing drastically, but saving the public schools," Representative Fletcher writes the Governor.

"Next week we are beginning a series of hearings before our education committee in Congress, and being a member of this committee I am anxious to have all the information available or just what you did in changing your taxing system so as to save your public schools in the present crisis.

"Also, I will appreciate any suggestions you care to make concerning the best method of reducing taxation costs.

"We are considering legislation for the purpose of Federal aid to education and many of us feel that before we authorize the appropriation of much money for education, we should make a careful check-up of the possibility of much of it being wasted in financing educational non-essentials."

Seek Federal School Funds

Dr. A. T. Allen, State superintendent of public schools, and Jule Warren, secretary of the North Carolina Education Association, have been in Washington with educational forces relative to appropriation of Federal funds for public schools, both as a relief measure and as a permanent policy. Dr. Allen thinks the State has a good case, but is not sure of the results.

North Carolina apparently occupies the peculiar position of having done too much for education by taking over and guaranteeing an eight months school, in the light of later developments, to benefit greatly from

A Spring Coiffure



NEW YORK.—An inspiring Spring season ahead, bringing with it many new bonnets which include those off-the-face models, causes feminine thoughts to turn to attractive coiffures. The beautiful Elizabeth Allen, screen favorite, is now sponsoring this entrancing wind blown wave.

emergency funds. The present plan is to use federal money to continue schools locally for a given period when such schools are forced to close for lack of funds from other sources. This State will have no such schools, since the State conducts them for eight months.

Hatchery in Boone Continued

A State game and fish warden was not elected by the State Board of Conservation and Development at its meeting last Friday, but a special committee of four was named to study qualifications of applicants and report to the board at its later meeting. Col. J. W. Harrelson, Bruce Etheridge, Josh Horne and J. J. Stone compose the committee. Meanwhile, Charles H. England, game warden for five years, is expected to continue under the plan by which Mr. Etheridge was authorized by the board to employ a man to handle the work until a warden is named.

The board reconsidered earlier action and decided to continue the fish hatchery at Boone at which improvement as CWA projects are now expected. The board conferred with Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, State CWA administrator, seeking to have oyster planting, much already done, continued as CWA projects.

Violate Crop Reduction Rules

Violation of the letter and the spirit of crop reduction contracts, especially that for tobacco, is apparently being violated in some North Carolina counties, specifically by landlords cutting off tenant farmers they apparently will not need as a result of the reduction of acreage for next year, Capus Waynick, federal reemployment director for the State announces.

An earlier statement of that nature by Mr. Waynick brought a protest and a denial, so Mr. Waynick asked a few of his county directors to send him names of any such droppings they might be familiar with. One county director sent him a list of about 50 names of tenant farmers and landlords where such had happened in the one county. Landlords are permitted to fire one tenant farmer and hire another, and some of these may be of that nature, Mr. Waynick said. He pointed out the money paid by the government for crop reduction contemplates using the full number of tenant farmers on the reduced acreage, and that it is so stated in the contract. This plan seeks to prevent a flood of unemployed tenant farmers, Mr. Waynick pointed out.

Hatcherymen Organized

A hatcherymen's association was organized at Marion last week composed of hatcherymen from Burke, Yancey, Watauga, Mitchell, Rutherford, Cleveland, Polk, Caldwell, Henderson, Avery, Buncombe and McDowell. S. L. Cline, Burke County, was elected president and representatives from Cleveland, Avery, Caldwell and McDowell are on the board of directors. This regional association will handle all matters dealing with the new code for hatcherymen in that area.

Sale of Motor Vehicles Large

The spurt in motor vehicles made in the last quarter of 1933 is reflected in the figures which show that on December 31, 1933, licenses issued in North Carolina reached 405,269, as compared with 374,604 three months earlier, October 31, and a fair increase over the number issued a year before, 393,730, to December 31, 1932, it is shown by the records in the office of L. S. Harris, director of the motor vehicle bureau.

Passenger cars increased in number from 324,666 at the end of 1932 to 327,816, or about 3,000, at the end of 1933, but the increase at the end of the year over the 305,613 registered October 31, three months earlier, was 22,203, which reflects the last quarter spurt. The same is true

HIGHWAY DEPT. IS VIOLATING LAWS ASSEMBLY PASSED

Public Works Commission Deliberately Ignores Statute in Order to Get Its Part of Federal Fund. Will Spend Quarter of a Million Dollars in Construction Work. Many Projects Contracted.

Raleigh, N. C.—The North Carolina Highway and Public Works Commission is knowingly and deliberately violating the express work and spirit of a statute enacted by the 1933 General Assembly to prevent it from doing exactly what it is doing—spending money for construction of highways in the State.

But the commission is spending probably a quarter of a million dollars in order to secure about \$10,522,000 in Federal funds, \$3,522,000 of it from the NRA funds and about \$1,000,000 in regular Federal aid. And it is not considered likely that anyone will bring it to account for this violation. The commission must spend three or four per cent of the total expenditures in order to survey roads and make other preliminary preparations before the Federal money can be secured and spent, and this is classed as "construction" costs.

Up to February 15 the State had placed under contract enough highway work to utilize \$5,069,296.53 of that ten and a half million dollars, \$4,452,016.22 of it NRA funds and \$587,280.30 from regular federal aid funds. Another letting set for February 28 still utilize close to \$445,000 more of the total fund, making the total through February \$5,514,000, or some more than 50 per cent of the total Federal allotment to this State. Hope is expressed that contracts will be let to utilize the entire amount in two or three months.

The emergency money is divided into three classes, to be used on primary, secondary and municipal highways. Belief is that probably 80 per cent of the primary and secondary funds allotted have been utilized while probably not more than 30 per cent of the municipal funds have taken up. This is due to two things first, that the commission wished to get as many people to work as early as possible and the municipal projects are subject to too many delays, and second, that these delays have arisen on the projects contemplated.

Of the \$2,300,000 allotted for municipal work in this State at least a million dollars of it is tied up in larger cities, six or eight of them because street car tracks, telephone poles, sewer and water lines, and other troubles that have to be adjusted, John D. Waldrop, chief engineer, states. These are being ironed out rapidly now, however, and the municipal projects, many of them in small towns, and for small amounts, will be under way soon, he said.

FALL OAT CROP SERIOUSLY DAMAGED BY THE FREEZE

The recent cold weather has caused severe injury to the oat crop, considerable damage to barley and some damage to the wheat crop.

Indications are that farmers who depend upon oats or oat hay for feeding their work stock during the summer will probably be short of hay," says P. H. Kime, associate agronomist at State College. "The extent of the injury cannot be determined as yet and it is not advisable to plow up the oats and reseed them for the present. It may be that many fields will recover. It is advisable, however, to plant an additional acreage at once."

Mr. Kime recommends seeding the Puigheim variety. Three or four bushels of seed to the acre should be used, he says, since spring oats do not tiller to the extent that fall-sown ones do. The quicker the spring oats are planted, the better the yields will be. When lespedeza is planted over the oats, sow the seed after the oats are drilled or harrowed in.

D. H. Osborn of Canton was recently elected president of the North Carolina Guernsey Breeders Association. Reid Mendenhall of High Point was elected vice-president and T. H. Antim of Durham was re-elected as secretary-treasurer.

Of trucks, which jumped from 68,974 at the end of 1932 to 77,453 at the end of 1933. The number of trucks registered at the end of the third quarter of 1933 was 68,991, just 18 more than were registered during the entire year of 1932.

Guilford led in numbers of passenger cars at the end of 1933, with 22,775 which was about 400 less than the number at the end of 1932. Mecklenburg had 20,050 at the end of 1933 which was also 1225 less than that county had a year before. Forsyth had 15,480, 200 less than a year ago; Wake had 13,400, or 850 more than a year ago, and Buncombe had 12,900, just fifty more than a year before.

Watauga County had 750 passenger cars and 465 trucks at the end of 1933, as compared with 700 passenger cars and 500 trucks a year before and 700 passenger cars and 450 trucks three months before, October 31.

These figures are obtained by measuring and calculating in inches the numbers of registration cards on file in the office and are within half a dozen of the actual numbers of cars registered.

Directing Army Flying of the Mail



WASHINGTON.—Above are the flight officers making up the General Staff in command of the Army's job of carrying the air-mail under the order of Postmaster General Farley. They took over the job on Feb. 19th. No. 1, Brig. Gen. Oscar Westover, in charge of Army Corps mail operations with headquarters here; No. 2, Maj. Byron Q. Jones, Eastern division, Newark, N. J.; No. 3, Col. Horace M. Hickman, Central division, Chicago; No. 4, Lieut.-Col. Henry M. Arnold, Pacific division, Salt Lake City. Insert, Army plane taking on mail at Newark.

The Week in Washington

Washington.—As the year 1934 wears on toward the general election next November, at which every member of the House of Representatives must go before the voters again, and one-third of the Senators find themselves facing the same urgent necessity, politics in its more practical aspects becomes more and more engrossing.

The Administration is lending a helping hand to its Democratic supporters in the Lower House. Naturally, Mr. Roosevelt doesn't want to have any of his legislation defeated in the House. But likewise he does not want to throw any stumbling blocks in the way of loyal Democratic members who feel that to vote with the Administration might endanger their chances of re-election in their home districts. So the word has been passed out that all members are free to vote as they please on any measure, so long as they see to it that not enough of them vote in opposition to put the President in a hole.

Letting Down the Bars

"Vote the way that will do you the most good with your constituents next fall," is the message they have all received. This is expected to result in an apparently strong sentiment among representatives for more favorable action in regard to the soldiers' bonus, for example. Members from districts where the veterans' vote is well organized will feel free to vote for more liberal treatment of the ex-service men, first cautiously making certain that there are enough votes that will be cast on the other side so that their apparent defection will not result in anything the President doesn't like being done.

That is merely one phase of practical politics, as it is played in Washington. It doesn't mean a thing except that the gentlemen in Congress want to stay in Congress, and if they can get re-elected by making every class of voters in their respective districts think they have their interests at heart, they will go the limit to put that idea over.

To be sure, there are other considerations that actuate a high proportion of members of Congress, and the inference should not be drawn that they are working for their own pocket books all the time, and considerable percentage of them.

New Party Proposed

On the other side of the political fence there are beginning to be heard more rumblings of an approaching storm which may put the old Republican party completely out of the picture and lay the foundation for a new line-up. One of the most astute of Washington's political observers has come out boldly for the formation of a new party which he would call "Constitutional Democrats," as opposed to the present Democratic party, which he terms Socialist Democrats.

Probably neither the name nor the scheme will get far, and nobody thinks that Mr. Lawrence expects his plan to be adopted. But the attention that is being paid to the idea itself, of trying to line up those who still believe in the rights of the individual as superior to the rights of the State, in some form of effective opposition to the tendency to regulate and control all human activities by a paternal government, indicates the possibility that a new "bloc" if not a new party may be built around a nucleus of forward-looking Republicans and conservative Democrats.

Cleveland and Bryan

Those with long political memories are recalling what happened to the Democratic party in 1896, when it was hopelessly split over Free Silver and other Populist issues; so completely split that a powerful faction, headed by none other than President Cleveland, refused to follow the party's candidate, Mr. Bryan, and put their own "Gold Democrat" candidate in the field to contest for the Presidency. That marked the end of the old party control, and a high per-

men had the say in the party's affairs. Any new political line-up must leave the "Old Guard" out completely, in the position that the Gold Democrats were in forty years ago come next Presidential election.

The opposition to the revolutionary program of the Administration, to be effective, must be built on new lines that will admit anyone, whether he has previously called himself a Democrat, a Republican or a progressive independent. The name "Republican" will have to be discarded, these folks say.

Looking to Mid-West

Those who feel that way and among them are some who are always factors to be reckoned with in national politics, are looking away from the two coasts for leadership and trying to find a figure in the middle west, somewhere between Pittsburgh and Denver, who can be put forward as a symbol around which to rally those who dislike the present drift of things. Some of the names suggested and seriously discussed are those of Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin and his brother, Governor LaFollette of the same State; Senator Gerald Nye of North Dakota, and Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska. To those who object to those names as having rather too radical a connotation, the names of Senator Borah of Idaho and Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas are offered.

So far this is mostly talk, but out of it may come conclusions as to just what sort of leadership the people who prize the rights of the individual above the rights of the Government might be willing to accept, and what sort of a program or statement of policy could be framed that would appeal to enough of that sort of people to start something moving toward the formation of a new political party.

The oat crop of Caldwell County is reported killed and the wheat crop badly damaged by the recent freezes.

I DIDN'T LIKE FUN AND PARTIES. WAS ALWAYS IRRITABLE AND NERVOUS. MY FIANCÉ GUESSED MY TROUBLE. INSISTED THAT I TAKE UP CAMELS. I ADORE THEIR TASTE. MY "NERVES" ALL GONE!



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