

CALENDAR . . . another year

We are starting a New Year. Everybody gets more or less of a kick out of the idea that we have put a milestone of time behind us. We approach the New Year full of fresh hopes and good resolutions. But why should we feel that way in mid-winter? It has always seemed to me that the beginning of spring was the right time to celebrate the coming of the New Year.

Curiously enough, up to less than two hundred years ago in England and America and only about 350 years ago everywhere else, the New Year began on the 21st of March, following the custom that came down from the earliest tribal traditions of humanity. The New Year began when the leaves began to bud and vegetation sprouted.

Pope Gregory XIII introduced the present calendar in 1582. All of the Catholic countries, including Scotland, immediately adopted it, and began to calculate the year from January 1st. But it was 1752 before it was adopted by England and her colonies. That was the year that September had only 19 days, for to catch up with the rest of the world England had to drop eleven days out of the year.

CHANGE . . . four parts

It begins to look now as if, beginning with January 1, 1935, we would have another new calendar. The great Protestant church bodies of the whole world, the Church of England, the Pope and most of the important national and international business organizations have agreed with the calendar committee of the League of Nations for a new international calendar, in which the year will be divided into four equal quarters, each containing two months of 30 days and one of 31 days, with an extra holiday, or "Year Day" between December 31 and January 1, and in Leap Year another inter-calary day between June and July.

Easter would always fall on April 8, and every month would always begin on the same day of the week, every year. New Year's Day would always be Sunday, the Fourth of July always on Wednesday.

FORECASTS . . . on business

Nothing is easier than to make predictions; nothing is harder than to make predictions come true. I have seen a great variety of forecasts for 1935, but most of them seem to me to be inspired by "wishful thinking."

Sensible men are more cautious than ever in attempting to predict the course of events. That is why so many of the published forecasts sound pessimistic. Nobody likes to be blamed for having made a rosy prediction that didn't come true, especially if it may have encouraged somebody to take unnecessary financial risk.

Col. Leonard Ayres of Cleveland, who has the highest score of all financial forecasters over a period of years, doesn't think there will be much improvement in business conditions in 1935. Making all due allowance for his "playing safe" state of mind, I am still inclined to agree with the Colonel.

Business isn't going to get any better until there is a clearer definition of the Government's policies that affect business.

COTTON . . . the vote

Walter Lippman, who runs a column in daily newspapers under the same heading as this one of mine, stuck a pin into the Secretary of Agriculture's toy balloon the other day. Washington officials have been jubilant over the 9-to-1 vote of cotton growers in favor of restricting production for higher prices, and keeping newcomers from starting to grow cotton.

"What else was expected?" asks Mr. Lippman, in effect. "Put the same question up to makers of typewriters or ladies' underwear or anything else, and wouldn't there be an overwhelming majority for monopoly and high prices?"

The only kind of a majority that should have a right to vote on any subject which affects the pocket-books of the entire people, is a majority of the entire people.

JOBS . . . still important

A thousand workers in a woolen mill in my home state of Massachusetts were thrown permanently out of jobs a week or two ago, when the owners of the mill decided to go out of business rather than be bothered with strikes accompanied by violence.

It seems to me that the mill-owners did the only sensible thing, so long as they could afford to quit. I am sorry for the workers, who were foolish enough to attempt to intimidate the employers and only forced themselves out of their jobs. But it seems to me the height of folly, in these times of distress, is for folk who have good jobs to quarrel with them.

Miss Pauline Blingham, who has charge of the mathematics department at Dobson High School, spent the holidays with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. R. K. Bingham, in East Boone.

1935 Beauty Winner



Paris, France.—Miss Andree Lorin (above), displays her victory smile after winning highest beauty honors and being crowned "Miss Paris of 1935."

FARM AGENT PLEA TO ENGAGE BOARD

Final Action in the Employment of Demonstration Agent Is Expected at February Meeting of Watauga County Commissioners.

The question as to whether a county farm demonstration agent will be employed by and for Watauga County, is expected to be definitely settled at the February meeting of the Board of Commissioners, it was revealed to The Democrat by Wade E. Brown of the County Agricultural Board. Farmers of the county, it is said, who have indicated a preponderance of opinion in favor of the agent, think that it is likely the position will be created within a reasonable length of time.

Mr. Brown conferred with Dean Schaub of State College last week, and was given a list of capable men, either of whom might secure the position if made. Dean Schaub further indicated that it might be possible to take an agent from another county, in the event neither of those unemployed proved acceptable. At any rate, it was said, no difficulty would be experienced in filling the position with the right sort of official.

SWIFT FORESEES SHORT SESSION

Watauga Representative Believes that Legislature May Not Be in Session More than 70 Days, Sees Sales One of the Leading Issues.

Representative Dean Swift, who left Monday for Raleigh, believes that there is a likelihood of the momentous legislative session ending within 70 or 75 days, as against the predictions of others of the solons that the last two record-breaking sessions may find duplication this year.

Mr. Swift sees the sales tax, the proposal to divert certain of the funds of the State Highway Commission, and the call for increased pay for the school teachers as the principle issues this time, and does not believe that the prohibition question will figure prominently in the deliberations of the Assembly.

COMING SPORTS EVENTS AT APPALACHIAN STATE COLLEGE

Couch Eugene Garbee of State Teachers College announces the following calendar of sports activities at the local gymnasium:

On Thursday night, the 10th, the varsity cage team will engage the fast quintet of High Point College.

Friday, Jan. 11, the Freshman basketballers will play Lansing High.

On Monday night, Jan. 14, the girls' cage team will play Mitchell College.

On Wednesday night, the 16th, Coach Watkins' wrestling team will tangle with a tough aggregation from the Draper Y. M. C. A.

FORMER WATAUGAN A VISITOR

Rev. J. J. Matney, Methodist minister of Clyde, N. C., is visiting his sister, Mrs. Clarence McGhee, on R. F. D. 1. Mr. Matney was reared in Watauga, a son of the late John Matney, and has spent over twenty-five of the past thirty years in Western States, principally Washington. He may buy property and locate permanently in this section.

The Hodges Tire Company announces today a contest in which ten dollars will be offered to some high school student in the county for writing a five hundred-word essay on Goodyear Tires, and why more people ride on them. The full details of the contest, which is expected to draw unusual interest, appears on page 8 of The Democrat today.

N. C. LEGISLATURE BEGINS ITS WORK THURS. OR FRIDAY

Caucuses Held Tuesday Night. Both Houses Organize Wednesday Noon. Governor's Message to Be Heard on Thursday or Friday. Superintendent Erwin Will Ask for \$22,000,000 Educational Budget.

By M. R. DUNNAGAN (Special Correspondent)

Raleigh, N. C.—The North Carolina General Assembly for 1935 is about ready to swing into definite action and get ready this week to get down to serious business, with indications that little would be accomplished before the 170 men get together next week, probably Monday night.

The schedule for the first few days of the session is about as follows:

Tuesday night—Caucuses of Senate and House members, Democratic and

JOHNSON NAMED SPEAKER

Robert Grady Johnson of Pender County was selected as Speaker of the House of Representatives in Democratic caucus Tuesday evening, winning easily over Laurie McEachern of Hoke and Willie Lee Lumpkin of Franklin. Johnson had 67 votes, McEachern 19, and Lumpkin 17. At the same time Senator Paul D. Grady of Johnson County was selected as president pro-tem of the Senate.

Republican, for nominations of officials, speaker in the House, president pro-tem in the Senate, and chief enrolling and reading clerks and sergeants-at-arms for both houses.

Wednesday noon—Both houses convene and sites of officers named at the caucuses the night before will be nominated, and the Democratic candidates elected. The two houses will thus be organized and will notify Governor Ehringhaus that they are ready for business.

Thursday or Friday—Governor Ehringhaus will present his biennial message to a joint session, including in general his recommendations for legislation for the next two years. The budget report will be laid on the desks of the legislators, along with the recommended revenue and appropriations bills.

Also, during the latter part of the week, Lieutenant Governor A. H. (Sandy) Graham, president of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, elected Wednesday, are expected to name the Senate and House committees, about 55 in each house, to one of which all bills introduced will be referred for consideration and report.

Due to the short week and the preliminary work to be done during the first few days, little of real activity is expected, although many bills will probably be introduced and referred to the proper committees.

Prophets are saying 75 to 90 days will be all the time needed, and this is probably a good guess. The two main bills, appropriations and revenue, are not expected to give as much trouble as usual, due to belief that those prepared and to be introduced early will not be materially changed. But they sometimes are. Social legislation, including old-age pensions, unemployment insurance, relief and compensation insurance, will have to be considered. The sales tax is expected to be re-enacted, without the exemptions, but even this may go awry.

STATE HOLDS BANK RECORD

North Carolina has another "first," an important one. Every bank in the State now open and doing business and licensed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is classed by that organization as a No. 1 bank, and there is no other of the 48 states in which that is true. And, again, all of the banks in the State are members of the FDIC, thus insuring their deposits, except one commercial, and eight industrial banks, and they are in excellent shape also.

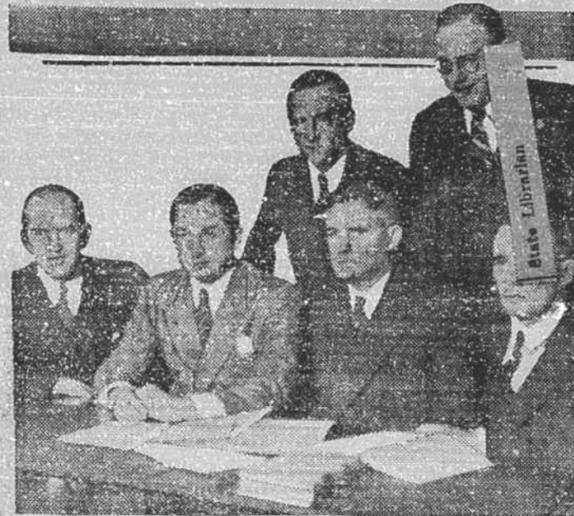
Information that the State leads the nation in condition of its banks was brought to Raleigh by W. Kenneth Hayes, special assistant to Leo T. Crowley, chairman of the board of the FDIC, who conferred with Governor Ehringhaus and Commissioner of Banks Gurney P. Hood last week. They were elated over it.

RELIEF EXPENDITURES

The NERA distributed \$1,692,808.96 in relief in North Carolina during November, of which \$1,404,226.10 was spent through the slightly more than 100 units, counties and cities.

Watauga County had 490 families on relief, a total of 512 cases and a total of 2,933 individuals, which is 19.3 per cent of the county's population, and an increase of 10.6 per cent over those on relief in October. In this county the average contribution per family was \$5.53, and the total relief distributed in the county in November was \$4,593.38.

Brilliant Staff of New Jersey Attorneys Are Prosecuting Accused Kidnaper of Lindy's Baby



Members of the legal fraternity of New Jersey who are engaged in the prosecution of Richard Bruno Hauptmann, German carpenter who is charged with the murder of the Lindbergh baby, following the most sensational kidnaping case of American history. The trial which has been going on for a week has featured the testimony of Charles Lindbergh, aviator-father of the slain child, its mother, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Betty Gow, the baby's nurse, and others.

The voice of Hauptmann as the same he heard as he and Dr. Condon transferred the ransom money in a Bronx cemetery; a taxi driver identified Hauptmann as the man who gave him a ransom note, and Wednesday Dr. Condon himself said the voice of the man with whom he negotiated was that of Hauptmann. Practically all evidence so far has been damaging to the defense, which is expected to begin giving testimony today. Hauptmann himself may take the witness stand.

PLANS TO ASSIST POTATO GROWERS

Governor Promises Aid in Establishing Market for Surplus Crop Possibility of Making Deal Through Federal Relief Channels.

Governor Ehringhaus expressed himself as being intensely interested in the welfare of the mountain potato growers last week when Attorney Wade E. Brown of this city, sought his aid in establishing a market for the Watauga-grown tubers. The Governor stated that he would do everything in his power to aid the farmers, but of course was mindful of the fact that production control and subsequent advanced market prices would have to be fruits of the national Congress.

Governor Ehringhaus stated further, however, that he was using his influence in the establishment of a market through the channels of the Emergency Relief Administration and believed there was yet hope of disposing of a large part of the surplus in this manner.

Leading farmers of Watauga estimate that from two to four hundred thousand bushels of potatoes remain in the county with little or no market for them even at 40 cents per bushel.

Highway Commissioner To Seek Larger Fund

Highway funds of \$33,381,596 for the year 1935-36 and \$29,087,023 for 1936-37 are sought for maintenance, new construction and debt service, an amount which can be secured from license and gasoline fees if they are not reduced and none of the funds diverted. Chairman Capus M. Waynick, of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, asks in a letter to the Legislature.

Saying that it will take \$6,152,000 to put the highways in the shape they should be in now, and would be but for maintenance restrictions of the 1933 General Assembly, Mr. Waynick asks for \$3,000,000 for an emergency program to rehabilitate roads and bridges during the next six months, to be deducted from the amount asked for the next biennium. This is to halt deterioration and put highways and bridges back in the condition they would be but for the cuts.

The budget proposal states that \$12,938,000 is needed for new construction, the \$2,938,000 of it to match Federal funds that must be matched 50-50 to be secured, and \$10,000,000 more; \$8,944,895 is required for debt service, and the balance, about \$11,500,000 for maintenance, for the year 1935-36. For the next year, when \$29,087,523 is sought, \$8,809,333 is required for debt service and about \$20,000,000 for maintenance and construction.

In the request is included a twenty per cent increase in salaries and wages of highway employees, some of whom get less than \$35 a month.

President Andrew Johnson was a tailor for seven years before he learned the alphabet.

FARMERS ASKED TO REPORT ON POTATOES HELD

Mr. E. M. Haie, field supervisor of the Production Credit Association, and S. C. Eggers, secretary to the organization, have issued a joint request to the farmers asking that they report by Tuesday, the 15th, the number of potatoes they are holding for the market, specifically of the number one

Messrs. Haie and Eggers are hopeful that they may be able to find a market for 100,000 bushels of the Watauga surplus, but at this time only want a report on the spuds, as no deal has been closed.

A number of inquiries have reached these gentlemen as to Watauga potatoes, and many are wanting to buy, but have protested that local growers do not grade and clean according to U. S. Standard No. 1.

Growers may notify Mr. Eggers' office by mail or in person as to the number of bushels of "ones" they could furnish. In the event a sale is put through potatoes must be machine graded and placed in new bags. It is emphatically stated, however, that under no condition must potatoes be brought to Boone until the market is finally established—just a report made.

Finley P. Moore Passes At Home in Caldwell

Finley P. Moore, well-known to scores of Watauga people, died at his home in the Globe on Wednesday last week, after a lengthy illness. Funeral services were conducted on Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from Globe Baptist Church and interment was made in a nearby cemetery. Dr. B. B. Dougherty of Appalachian State Teachers College and Rev. Shores were in charge of the rites.

Mr. Moore was 77 years of age, and was the last surviving child of the late Carroll Moore of Caldwell County. For fifty-five years he had owned and operated a store at Globe. He was the original owner of the Moore Cotton Mill in Lenoir and resided at that place for many years.

Born and reared on the farm where he died, Mr. Moore came to be one of Caldwell's most progressive citizens and leading business men. He received his education at the old Globe Academy was married many years ago to Miss Caroline Todd, of Boone, a daughter of the late Col. Joe Todd, and a sister of W. G. Todd of Perkinsville. He was a devout member of the Baptist Church and since young manhood had been closely connected with all its activities.

Surviving are the widow; two sons, Joe Moore of Illinois and Dr. J. Claud Moore of Clintwood, Va.; and the following grandchildren: Mrs. B. C. Williams of Rutherfordton, Mrs. Victor Abernethy of Lenoir, Prof. Earnest Moore, of the department of psychology at North Carolina State College, Finley and Frank Moore, students at A. S. T. C. here, and Bob Moore of Clintwood, Va.

TVA ANNOUNCES 3 MEETINGS FOR LOCAL FARMERS

Contracts Will Be Let for Growing of Crops to Be Used by Cannery at Cranberry. Seed Will Be Furnished by Association and Paid Back Out of First Sales. One Hundred Acres of Beans Visualized.

Three meetings of the farmers of Watauga County have been announced by Van Masters, general manager of the Carolina Mountain Mutual Associations, a sub-organization to the Tennessee Valley Authority, the purpose of the meetings being to arrange for the production of certain commodities to be preserved by the Government cannery at Cranberry during the coming season.

The first of these meetings will be held at Deep Gap schoolhouse January 17th at 7:30 p. m.; the second at the Cove Creek School, January 18th at 7:30 p. m., and the third at Boone courthouse on January 19 at 7:30 p. m.

All those who are interested in growing crops for the cannery are urged to attend, and it is stated that contracts to the growers will be let out at these meetings. The seed will be furnished by the association and paid for when the farmer brings in his first crop. Contracts are also being let to the farmers for the fresh vegetable market.

The commodities grown for the cannery, it is understood, will include a maximum of 100 bushels of snap beans, and beets, carrots and corn will likely be undertaken should those crops take well with the farmers of this section. It is explained that the commodities contracted for this venture have their market guaranteed, and considerable interest is being manifested by farmers in certain sections.

MEETING OF FARM LOAN BODY TUES.

Annual Stockholders Meeting of Sugar Grove Association Elects Eggers as President; \$10,000 Loaned During the Past Year.

S. C. Eggers was named president of the Sugar Grove National Farm Loan Association last Tuesday when the stockholders of the organization met in regular annual session. John Ward was named vice-president while G. P. Hagaman is the new secretary and treasurer. A board of directors was named, consisting of the following: John Ward, S. C. Eggers, S. O. Stanbury, Solomon Eggers and A. E. South.

The local loan association receives applications for loans from the Federal Land Bank, and it is said that more than \$100,000 has been loaned to farmers of Watauga County within the past twelve months. This money it is pointed out, was used to displace other indebtedness, and there has been no increase in the local debt as a result of the loans. Longer periods of time for payment are allowed and the interest rate is more favorable. A great many farms and homes have been saved for their owners through the operation of the farm loan agency, it is said.

MRS. MARY MORETZ FFTED ON 85RD BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

On January 6th Mrs. Mary E. Moretz, with her nine children, thirty-five grandchildren and a number of near friends, celebrated her eighty-third birthday anniversary at her home on Boone Route 2. There were ninety persons present.

The group enjoyed a bountiful meal served in the living room of the Moretz home.

Despite her age, Mrs. Moretz is very active and does most of her house work. She was one of the gayest of the group and added much to the conversation during the day.

A pleasing feature of the day was a number of sacred selections sung by Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson and family of Boone.

Friend of the venerable lady hope that she may live to enjoy many more happy birthdays.

NO TAX ON BANK CHECKS

Officials at the Watauga County Bank have called attention of depositors to the fact that the two-cent Federal tax on bank checks went out on January 1st. Many had doubtless forgotten that the excises lasted only through 1934, and inaccuracies in the keeping of check book stubs are sure to result. The abolition of the tax furnishes a further encouragement for the use of checking accounts.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Gragg and children of Trinway, Ohio, arrived in the county during the holidays and will reside here for the next two months, returning to their Ohio home about the first of March.