

Hertford County Herald

THIRD NEWSIEST WEEKLY PAPER IN THE STATE

A PAPER WORTH WHILE

BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN EASTERN CAROLINA

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PAYMENT IS MADE ON TOWN SYSTEMS

Draft Mailed Thursday Morning, December 14th, Covering Bond Payment

AUDITOR'S REPORT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A New York sight draft for \$5,000, covering a payment of \$2,000 on water and sewer bonds and \$3,000 interest on the \$100,000 issue was mailed to the Hanover National Bank of New York City Thursday morning. The bonds and interest coupons became due at the New York bank on Friday, December 15, and Ahoskie's check for the amount will be a check for the amount was on hand in time to meet the payment.

The Town Council met in special session Wednesday night and arranged to secure the funds to meet the payments and thus keep inviolate the town's credit. Total tax collections for 1922 amounted to about \$4,500, out of which more than one thousand dollars had been paid for coal and other expenses of the light plant. On account of the absence of H. A. Yert, plant superintendent, no collections for lights had been made for November and it was necessary to advance expense money from the tax collections. When a count was taken Wednesday night, \$1,350 was still lacking with which to meet the bond payment. One of the local banks came to the rescue with a loan of that amount.

Taxpayers have not been as responsive as the council had expected, in the light of the action that gave them fifteen extra days in which to secure a one per cent discount. During the rest of December collections will be pushed, and will be payable at par. On January 1, 1923, collector Britton will begin levying on town property, and 1922 taxes will be closed up as soon as possible, in order that the town may meet some of its bills, and undertake other town work badly needed.

Another action of the council Wednesday night was to order the publication of the report of the town's finances during 1921—a report that was mailed to the State Corporation. This report was published in the last issue of the HERALD. In this connection, it was also voted to make available to the townspeople the auditor's report of the town's finances. The report is now open to public inspection in the office of Mayor L. C. Williams, second floor Farmer-Atlantic Bank.

A quarterly statement of the town's receipts and disbursements will hereafter be published in the HERALD, according to the same motion. This action was taken to give the taxpayer's a full opportunity to see what is becoming of their money, and to assuage some of the criticism heretofore made for keeping the public in the dark about the actions of their officers.

CONGRESSMAN WARD COMMITTEE MEMBER

Highly Gratified With Program That Has Been Marked Out By Progressives

Hallett S. Ward, congressman from this district, has recently been appointed a member of the steering committee of the Progressive non-partisan bloc in Congress. He joined the bloc, when it was first organized. Its purpose is to promote legislation (non-partisan) in the interests of the farmers and laboring man. There is a similar organization in the United States Senate.

Three of the farm members of the steering committee of the bloc are democrats, Senator Sheppard of Texas, Congressman Huddleston of Alabama, and Congressman Ward of North Carolina, the only republican on the committee being Congressman Frear of Wisconsin.

In addition to being on the steering committee Congressman Ward has also been made a member of the agricultural committee of the bloc.

The harm a scrub bull does lives after him. He brings down the price of cattle and decreases the milk flow in North Carolina. He should be replaced with pure bred sires, says extension workers.

HERTFORD COUNTY IS NOT A SELF FEEDER

Although the first business of a farm is to feed the farm family and the farm animal, Hertford County farmers lack almost fifty per cent doing that very thing. Statistics have recently been compiled at the State University for the year 1919, and they show that Hertford County farmers are producing just a little more than half of the feed on their own farms, or to be exact, they are buying 48.1 per cent of the feed for home consumption. Bertie buys 29.7 per cent of its feed; Gates, 37 per cent; Northampton 38.1 per cent; and Halifax 38.8 per cent.

These figures are further arguments for the production of more food and feed crops on own farms, and keep at home the vast sums of money that go to outside producers each year. In 1919 North Carolina farmers spent for feed for livestock \$12,291,850.

Have You Bought Red Cross Seals?

Letters going out from Ahoskie during the holiday season should be profusely decorated with Red Cross Christmas Seals, and all packages containing Christmas gifts should be well covered with these same little life savers, if we people want to climb out of the position of second place in the tuberculosis death rate among North Carolina counties. Many of the stamps have been placed in the hands of local people, many of whom have sent their checks to the State Sanatorium. Others probably have not yet sent checks, and may be contemplating sending the seals back to Dr. McBrayer.

When it is thoroughly known throughout Hertford that only one other county in the State, namely, Durham has a larger death rate from tuberculosis, the reason for buying these stamps is apparent. Three fourths of the money received from the sales of stamps is kept in this county for a fight against tuberculosis.

Reports from the State Health Department are gratifying, especially in its statement that deaths from tuberculosis have been cut in half within the past eight years. But for the lagging counties, chief among which is Hertford, an even better percentage could have been shown.

Counties surrounding Hertford also show a correspondingly high death rate, although in none is there such a high percentage as in our own. Bertie has a death rate of 123.4; Gates, 121.7; and Northampton, 93.6. Hertford's rate is 169.6; that is, figured on a basis of 100,000 population. Durham County is the only other county higher than Hertford (except those in which are located sanatoriums where deaths are recorded in that county) in percentage of deaths from tuberculosis, having a percentage of 182.3. The State rate is 101.

As the HERALD has pointed out in previous issues, Hertford County lacks much being the healthy county some have been led to believe. There is evidently plenty of work for health work in this county; and the sooner the people recognize the position this County holds in respect with other counties of the State, the popular mind will revolt against any idea of submerging human health to other forms of county work.

HAS CONFERENCE

Dan. P. Boyette, a member of the Town Council, spent Monday in Norfolk, in conference with the owner of the Columbian Peanut Company's plant here. The town is seeking to acquire sufficient land across which to build a siding to the light plant.

Calls Upon Commissioners To Do A Little Thinking About Health Officer

Since last first Monday I have talked with many citizens from every township in the county except Harrellsville. I have yet to see a single citizen that does not condemn the activities of the new board of County Commissioners and its chairman on that day.

1. The Chairman acted contrary to all precedence and all parliamentary law and usage in voting as a member to tie a question and then vote to untie what he had already tied. I respectfully refer the Chairman to Roberts Revised rules of order. The county will do well to buy one and keep it on file in the Register's office for his use.

If such procedure was lawful certainly it would not be morally right or just. If such actions are allowed to continue it will require four members of the board voting in the affirmative out of the six to carry any question over the Chairman's head, thereby almost clothing him with the power of a czar.

2. The act of withdrawing the appropriation of 50 per cent or go fifty-fifty with the State of the cost of an all-time health officer for this County is looked upon with condemnation by all citizens including the doctors whom I have talked with who are at all informed as to the real cost that would be taxed against the property of the poor people of the county say \$3,500.00 per year.

Figures will tell the truth if quoted correctly and I propose to quote them correctly and defy any man or set of men to dispute the accuracy of what I shall say.

For the benefit of my readers and the poor (so-called) tax payers of my county, I herewith submit some figures which will show to them what they have lost or would lose in the absence of an all-time health officer—let's see.

The total valuation of property listed in the county this year is \$10,7693.86, 15 cents county tax on the above valuation will produce \$16,151.08; to this add the poll tax for the county \$1,341.50, you have a county fund of \$17,495.58. Get your pencil now and see if I am not correct. You will find that 16 cents and a small fraction to the \$1,000.00 worth of property at the above valuation would produce \$1,750.00 or 50 per cent of the cost of an all-time health officer. In other words the amount of taxes against a man listing \$1,000.00 worth of property to be applied to the payment of 50 per cent of a whole-time health officer at \$3,500.00 per year or County's part, \$1,750.00 would be the very insignificant sum of 16 cents or 1 cent and 6-10 to the \$1,000.00 worth of property listed. How about that Mr. Taxpayer, would that break you? The above is the debit side of the ledger.

Now let's turn to the credit side and see something about what you would gain and something about the duties of an all-time health officer.

1. Take into consideration the value of your health and the worth of a dollar spent towards the preservation of health. I think you will agree with me that it is inestimable and that you would be willing to go down into your pockets and pull out 16 cents a year to save one single life a year in your county from the prey of contagious diseases so prevalent in your county to say nothing about the suffering and time lost that could be prevented in many cases by taking the proper precautions.

Now as to the duties of an all-time health officer let me say that his duties are many and varied and come in such a way that it is impossible to mention all. The most prominent are:

1. County quarantine officer, the quarantining of all contagious diseases as required by law.
2. Investigating all epidemics of diseases and applying means for their control.
3. Visiting schools, examining school children for physical defects and instructing them in public health matters in general.
4. Vaccination against typhoid fever, small-pox, whooping cough and diphtheria.
5. Visits and instruction to homes where there is tuberculosis.
6. Origination of clinics for examining people suspected of having tuberculosis.

7. Home and office conferences with expectant mothers.

8. Instruction of mid-wives whereby the mid-wives of the county are instructed how to manage a normal case of labor.

9. Origination of clinics for removing diseased tonsils and adenoids, treating children for dental defects, and assisting in having other physical defects in school children remedied.

10. Examination and treatment for hook worm diseases.

11. Visiting jail, county home and convict camps, and giving medical treatment to the people therein.

12. Consultations with the practicing physicians.

13. Examination for applicants for marriage.

14. Examinations of school teachers.

15. Examination of food handlers.

16. Examinations for admission to any state or county institution.

17. Examination of crazy people.

18. Examination of dead bodies as required of county physicians.

19. Attend coroner's inquests.

20. Make physical examination of all adults in the county who want it.

21. Make throat swabs to final diphtheria carriers.

22. Examination of public and private water supplies.

23. Construction and maintenance of sanitary privies.

24. Abatement of nuisances.

Any other circumstances or diseases that may arrive placing the public health of the county in jeopardy.

These are most of the direct duties of an all-time health officer which I judge will suffice to give reasons why any county needs a health officer and to justify the appropriating of sufficient funds to maintain one and that instead of being a burden to the county he would be an asset.

How about it taxpayers? Can't you see wherein the pitiful little sum of 16 cents to the \$1,000.00 worth of property listed which the three members of the board of County Commissioners have saved you by their action in casting four votes in favor of withdrawing the appropriation for an all-time health officer, would have been the very best investment that you have ever made? In my judgment they strained at a gnat and swallowed a camel or as my father used to define such actions as "penny wise and pound foolish," throwing away dollars to save a cent.

Now in contrast to what I have said about an all-time health officer for the county, his duties, etc. Let's see something about the present so-called health officer, which office the commissioners propose to continue, his cost and his duties or duties which he actually performs.

The present year we have paid out to the health officer \$480.50, to other physicians in the anti-typhoid vaccination \$1,026.99 making a total of \$1,507.49, the make-shift of county health officer has cost us. Someone will say we only have typhoid vaccination once in three years. Alright, divide the \$1,026.99 by three you will have \$342.33. Add that to the \$480.50 paid the health officer you have \$822.33, which is an average cost of the health officer we have, practically half the cost of an all-time man. So you see Mr. taxpayer, you have been paying 8 cents or half of the tremendous sum of 16 cents the all-time man would have cost and in turn not receive one tenth the benefit the all-time man would be.

Now as to the duties which are imposed upon him, they amount to very little. He is required to visit the county home, and jail only in case of sickness. He is quarantine officer for which the law says we must pay \$300.00 and makes the office compulsory, but is not required to visit and diagnose the cases which he quarantines, so leave it to the judgment of the attending physician and mails the quarantine papers. He will vaccinate you when he thinks it necessary and you go to his office, but will charge you for it. He is not required to hunt up contagious diseases and administer medical aid, in fact he is required to do less in return for the amount paid him than any officer I know of. I cannot see where his duties hinder his private practice at all.

The present health officer is worth

TOBACCO MARKET MAKES A GOOD RECORD IN 1922

One And Three Quarter Million Pounds Sold Here In Season Of 1922

The Ahoskie tobacco market lacked less than 9,000 pounds selling one and three-quarter million pounds of tobacco during the season of 1922, the warehouses here closing during November. In November 239,900 pounds were sold at the two auction warehouses. The average price paid was \$22.16 per hundred pounds. In 1921 the average price paid was \$20.60 per hundred.

Williamston, Ahoskie's nearest rival market, sold 26,354 pounds during the month of November, at an average price of \$20, nine cents per pound less than the 1921 average on that market. The season's total for Williamston was 1,396,885 pounds, or about a half million pounds less than the Ahoskie total.

The sales at Ahoskie do not take into account that marketed here in the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association. Figures for this warehouse are not available, although a count will probably bring the total sales here to two million pounds. This total is one of the highest in recent years on the local market.

Comments made by the North Carolina Crop Reporting Service upon the open warehouse markets of the State are as follows:

"The independent tobacco markets operating in North Carolina this year, have reported 165,600,589 pounds of producers' tobacco sold to December 1st. Last season the producers' sales, to the same date, were 179,601,628 pounds, when all the farmers' tobacco was being disposed of at the sales warehouses.

"The average price of all sales for the season, to date, is \$27.66 per hundred. Last season, all sales for the year averaged \$24.57 per hundred, or 3 cents per pound less than this season.

"The government estimates the total crop produced in this state, this year (1922) at about 306,940,000 pounds. The farmers' tobacco sold to December 1 is 51 per cent of this amount. Reports from the warehouses indicate the majority of the crop has been marketed. They report the quality of the November sales as about an average. Common grades have sold a little better during November, while the better grades dropped off slightly."

RECEIVE TOBACCO CHECKS

Members of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association in Hertford County received their second payment Wednesday. The checks issued here were slightly larger than those of the first advance, and came at a propitious time.

FOR CHRISTMAS TREE

C. O. Harris, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, will gladly receive any donations in helping provide Santa Claus for the poor children of the town. A big Christmas tree will be set up in the tobacco warehouse Christmas afternoon, and stockings will be on there for the little boys and girls who are alighted by Santa Claus. The Chamber of Commerce is depending upon a hearty response from those able to help provide Santa Claus.

but little more to the county than no office at all. I long to see the day when our county officials will place the proper valuation on health and human life. When they will let proper thought precede action, being considerate in all things.

I refuse to believe that the three gentlemen of the Board of Commissioners who cast four votes against the employment of an all-time health officer for the county had given the matter proper forethought, that such a vital subject deserves.

I do believe that ignorance of facts and lack of foresight is responsible for the existing circumstances. It is poor business to economize at the expense of human health and life.

I trust that at their next meeting they will be as prompt in rescinding their action at their last meeting as they were in withdrawing the appropriation made by the former board.

JNO. C. TAYLOR

LIQUOR AND GUNS BRING A DISASTER

J. O. Bradley, Colored, Suffers Wound in Jaw; Three Are Arrested

FIREARMS FATAL; HALL IS EXONERATED

Moonshine liquor, pistols, and shot-guns have completely changed the facial expression of J. O. Bradley, who lives in the Ahoskie colored settlement. He is now wearing a nice big hole in the side of his jaw, and is suffering with a badly bunged up mouth all because one Harvey Little, another colored man, accidentally shot him with a gun early last Sunday night. The shooting took place in Little's house.

Justice J. R. Garrett's sanctum was the scene of a complete airing of the incidents in connection with the shooting. At Tuesday's trial, Harvey Little was bound over under bond of \$150; Stanley Weaver and "Red" Lewis, two other colored men, were bound over under \$100 bond each for carrying concealed weapons; and George Hall, colored went free.

A pistol belonging to Little became the storm center of the argument that began on the Wellington & Powellsville Railroad track Sunday night. According to the testimony the quintet had a bottle of liquor in "cahouts", and were feeling pretty well "lit up". Little took the pistol out of his pocket, and placed it in an umbrella, where its peace was soon disturbed by another member of the gang. The argument then began over who was to have the gun, while in the meantime, the bunch went over to Little's house.

Threats were made after the crowd gathered in the house; Stanley Weaver went home after his shotgun, and "Red" Lewis also produced firearms. In a scuffle that followed, in which the object was to gain possession of Little's gun, the trigger was pulled, and the ball got Bradley right in the mouth.

Who actually pulled the trigger was one of those mysteries, none of the crowd wanted to put it on the other, George Hall, the fifth man in the crowd, was first accused of the shooting, but was exonerated in a trial that immediately followed the shooting Sunday night. Other members of the party had shaken Ahoskie dust from their feet, and it was thought they had left for parts unknown. However, they returned to Ahoskie for trial Tuesday. Attorney Roswell C. Bridger of Winton represented the accused negroes.

Bonds have been furnished for all these and they will stand trial at February term of Superior Court.

LOOK OUT FOR THESE FELLOWS

Ingenuity is born within the soul of the despised German. Right at the time when Americans were forgetting some of the bitterness against the "Hun", here come some their tradesmen slapping prohibition right square in the face, and dicker with American liquor drinkers, for a share of their business.

The latest inroad made by Germans into American business is that of liquor extracts—a something that may bring them some nice business from the open prohibitionist (privately a lover of drinks.) Circulars have been received by persons in this country telling of extracts capable of being regenerated into forbidden beverages. A dollar gets it; and every purchaser is cautioned to use only U. S. currency in making remittances.

There are many such firms broadcasting circulars in the United States, according to a recent warning sent out from the department at Washington. They are fakirs, say the government officials.

The HERALD does not have the name of the firm who can furnish the Christmas spirits at such a low cost. This explanation is made to hedge off any thirsty brother who wants the name and address.

If you consider your time, money and land worth anything, don't waste it by using poor seed next spring.