

SHERIFF WILL NOT BE TAX COLLECTOR

Representative Lawrence Will Not Attempt Any Change In Method Of Collection

VOTERS TO ELECT THEIR CANDIDATES

There will be no change in the method of tax collection in Hertford County. The request made by the commissioners that Representative Lawrence enact legislation transferring the duties of tax collecting to the sheriff, and abolishing the six tax collectors in the county will not be favorably considered by the legislator.

Mr. Lawrence in a communication to the HERALD says he will attempt to change in the manner of collecting taxes. However, he adds further that he will provide for election of the tax collectors in each township by the voters of the township.

His letter to this paper says: "The questionnaires that I mailed out overwhelmingly settled two things, viz: (1) that the people wish to have taxes collected by a collector in each township, and (2) that they desire these collectors elected by the people. I shall endeavor to follow these instructions."

For several years the tax collectors have been elected by the voters in their respective townships, until last year when they were appointed by the commissioners. Petitions were presented for appointment at that time, and there was apparent dissatisfaction at the petition method. The habit of signing petitions is so strong with some of the voters that they persisted in signing petitions for every aspirant that comes along, and it was this practice that made the selection by petition a rather hazardous job for the commissioner.

Usually there is little interest in elections in the county, and the selection of tax collectors was about the only job that created any interest in the primary, nomination being equivalent to election. With the return to election of collectors the interest in bi-annual primaries in the county will be heightened.

The action of the commissioners in requesting the county legislator to make a change in the system of collecting taxes had begun to warm up the discussion on the probable candidates for sheriff at the next election. The present incumbent had it all figured out that the job of being sheriff would have been a liability rather than asset. The cost of securing an official bond, large enough to cover the collection of taxes, the paying of a deputy to assist in collecting taxes, and the upkeep of automobiles for the sheriff and his deputy would have eaten up all of the \$3,500 salary, Scull thought.

AHOSKIE CHAMBER WITHOUT SECRETARY

Chester O. Harris, who has served as secretary of the Ahoskie Chamber of Commerce for the past ten weeks, has resigned his position. At a special meeting of the board of directors held in the Farmers-Atlantic Bank building last Monday night, action was taken that left the organization here without the services of a working secretary.

Plans will immediately go forward for securing another man to take over the work here. There are several projects now in process of development that need some sort of dynamic force behind them to make things move. The work of the organization will not admit of inaction, and strings are out now for a successor to Mr. Harris.

The retiring secretary was a bundle of energy, and knew the business of putting "pep" into the organization. He worked hard while here, and made many friends who regret his departure. He and Mrs. Harris left here Wednesday afternoon.

BREAKS WATER FOUNTAIN

The spigot to the public water fountain on Railroad street was again wrecked last Monday morning. A wagon "tongue" did the damage. Water spouted on at a free clip for about an hour, sprinkling the street

OBSERVATION WORK IN GROUP CENTER SCHOOLS

Large Per Cent Of Hertford County Teachers Are Taking Interest In Work

The schools of Hertford county have been divided into six groups with the following schools as group centers—Ahoskie, Harrellsville, Como, Murfreesboro, Menola and Winton. These group center schools have been selected with reference: (a) to their accessibility to the teachers who are to meet there for their group meetings; (b) to the number of teachers that is to constitute the group, and (c) to the possibilities of that particular school becoming an absorption center of the surrounding schools. All the teachers of the group are expected to observe the work of the group center school two days during the school term.

We have had group meetings at each group center school. The visiting teachers assembled with the teachers and pupils of the group center school at 8:45 and enjoyed the opening exercises. Then model lessons in first grade reading, fourth grade reading, arithmetic, history and geography were observed. Teachers and pupils are certainly to be congratulated for the splendid way this work was presented. In the afternoon we had discussions of the work observed in the morning and the Teachers' Reading Circle lessons.

On account of the school work in Murfreesboro being done in three buildings in different parts of town the observation work of the morning was omitted but every teacher in the group met promptly in the afternoon and had quite a helpful discussion of school problems and the Reading Circle lesson. We are looking forward to the spring when we can observe the work of this school in the new school building.

Only five of the seventy-two teachers in the county were absent from these meetings. We need the help of each teacher in the group to make this day a success and hope we will have 100 per cent of the teachers present at our next series of meetings.

MARY WILLIAMS, Rural Supervisor.

COOPERATIVE WAREHOUSE WILL CLOSE

Despite Increases In Tobacco Production, Prices Have Shown Advance For 1922 Crop

Announcement is made from the headquarters office at Raleigh that the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association warehouse at Ahoskie will close its doors to the reception of tobacco of the 1922 crop, Friday, Feb. 2. This market will close down at the same time many of the other smaller eastern Carolina markets are scheduled to cease operation.

The directors of the association are urging all of the members of the Association to make deliveries before that time. Members have had much longer time in which to sell their tobacco at Ahoskie than did the farmers who sold on the auction floors here. The open market at Ahoskie closed in November.

More than \$27,000,000 increase in the value of the North Carolina crop is due chiefly to cooperative marketing, according to George A. Norwood of Goldsboro, president of the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association.

President Norwood while in Raleigh recently pointed out that in spite of the enormous increase of 54,000,000 pounds in this year's state production tobacco has risen in price. Practically every other farm crop except the two great organized crops of cotton and tobacco have shown decided slumps in price wherever a surplus was dumped upon the market this year, according to the latest bulletin of the North Carolina Crop Reporting Service.

MR WOOTEN IMPROVING

Mr. E. M. Wooten, Ahoskie's popular hotel man, is showing signs of rapid improvement, after undergoing an operation at St. Vincent's Hospital, Norfolk. The operation was performed last week. He hopes to be able to return to Ahoskie within another week. Many of his friends have paid him visits while in the hospital.

BANK OF AHOSKIE HAS A GOOD YEAR

Stockholders Failed To Settle On Question Of Building A New Home

OLD DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS ELECTED

In their annual stockholders meeting held in the Woodmen Hall last Friday, owners of stock in the Bank of Ahoskie heard the report of the 1922 business of the institution. Figures produced at the meeting showed last year to have been the most profitable during the last three years. There has been steady growth within the year, and the transactions have been of a stable, safe and sane nature, with little or no speculative tendencies.

For the first time in two years, the Bank of Ahoskie declared a dividend of 4 8-10 per cent. Cashier James I Crawford has been busy this week mailing the dividend checks to the stockholders. This is the sixteenth dividend declared by this banking institution, which is Ahoskie's oldest bank. For several years it was the town's only banking home.

Definite action on building a new home for the bank has been deferred for a future meeting, to be called at the instance of the directors. The building proposition was debated in the meeting, and sentiment for immediate action was divided among the stockholders present, although there seemed to be a majority for the erection of a more modern home for the bank. The stockholders voted to delegate the directors with the power to secure plans and specifications for a new building, and, when all arrangements were made, to call a special meeting of the stockholders to finally pass upon the building program.

The bank is now housed in the same building in which it has transacted business since 1905, when it was first established. It has long ago outgrown its quarters, and has seen practically all other business houses of its day torn down to give way for larger and more commodious buildings.

There was no change made in the personnel of the directors or the officers of the bank. The officers of the bank, who were unanimously re-elected, are: President, C. C. Hoggard; Vice-President, Luther S. Savage; Cashier, James I. Crawford; Assistant Cashier, Paul E. Dukes.

The following men comprise the board of Directors: C. C. Hoggard, L. S. Savage, A. M. Browne, T. W. Sears, H. J. Browne, C. A. Perry, Dr. J. B. Ruffin, W. L. Curtis, J. A. Williams, J. R. Garrett, J. N. Vann, J. A. Copeland, J. E. R. Perry, M. L. Rayner, W. A. Thomas, P. L. Rayner, A. S. Wiggins, Benjamin Brown, H. O. Rayner, H. S. Basnight, D. R. Evans.

COTTON YIELD WAS LARGER LAST YEAR

Cotton farmers in this county have reaped a much larger harvest from the 1922 crop than from the crop of 1921, according to reports of cotton ginned up to January 1. In 1922, there were 4,750 bales of cotton ginned in Hertford County as against 3,817 bales ginned from the crop of the previous year.

The increase is proportionately larger than that of either Bertie or Gates counties, although in both of these there was a larger yield in 1922 than there was in 1921. The figures are: Bertie, 14,985 in 1922, 13,088 in 1921; Gates, 4,066 in 1922, 3,993 in 1921. Northampton county shows the largest increase of either of the four counties. In 1922, 22,404 bales of cotton were ginned in that county prior to January 1, 1923; in 1921, 16,223 bales were ginned.

With the staple product now selling at the highest figure in many months, farmers who have not sold, merchants who have cotton on storage in the cotton centers, and speculators who bought at lower figures will reap a nice profit out of the 1922 crop. Prices have been advancing for several days, and the Norfolk market is now ranging around twenty-eight cents per pound.

Miss Mary Williams, County Supervisor, spent Tuesday in Ahoskie. She was an observer in the local school during the day.

FIRE DAMAGES STOCK OF GOODS TUESDAY NIGHT

Army & Navy Sales Store Suffers Loss Of \$2,000 Or \$3,000; Had Insurance

Damage to stock estimated at from \$2,000 to \$3,000 was caused by a fire in the Army & Navy Sales Store at Ahoskie Tuesday night between 10:30 and 11:30 o'clock. Practically all the stock of men's and boy's suits, and a large number of shoes were completely destroyed, and all of the other stock of men's furnishings was gutted with water.

The smell of smoke was the first indication of a fire. Mr. J. A. Copeland, who operates a store two fronts distant on the same street, had been trying for some time to locate the fire but it was left to two or three young men walking down the street to find out the exact spot. Smelling smoke while walking down the sidewalk, they began an investigation, and soon saw a blaze in the rear of the Army & Navy store.

An alarm was sent up to Copeland's Drug store, and several lusty throats began yelling fire, as they hurried to the little house in which the fire hose was stored. Another gave the alarm to the light plant, and the fire whistle sounded for several minutes.

Volunteer firemen handling the water hose broke into the front door, and played a stream of water upon the burning clothing in the rear, soon smothering the flames. A heavy smoke continued to be emitted from the front door, and it required another thorough application of water to squelch the smoldering fire. No damage was done to the building, which has been the scene of two fires within the past three years. Only the front glass door was shattered.

Mr. Samuel Bord of Portsmouth, proprietor of the store, says he carried a stock valued at \$9,000, and had insurance to the amount of \$5,000. The fire is thought to have started from the stove or flue, which is in the rear of the building.

LOCAL MARINE ON BATTLESHIP MARYLAND

Washington, Jan. 18.—Starting on a period of sea duty with the prospect of visiting strange ports in distant lands, Howard Talmage, brother of Mr. Clarence E. Phelps of Ahoskie, is now a member of the U. S. Marines guard on the U. S. S. Maryland, the flagship of the Atlantic Fleet. The official records at Marine Corps Headquarters here show that he is attached to that vessel. Phelps joined the Marines at Norfolk, Va., June 7, 1922, and for several months was stationed at Quantico, Va. Later he was assigned to duty on the U. S. S. Maryland. Marines on battleships perform guard duties, and trained to man the secondary batteries and anti-aircraft guns. When landing operations are necessary they are first ashore when trouble threatens. The U. S. S. Maryland was recently reported riding at anchor in the navy yard at New York City, but it is expected the vessel will soon leave for the West Indies, where it is customary for most of the Atlantic Fleet to go each winter for target practice. Doubtless the local marine will have many interesting experiences to recount of his life on a battleship when he returns home.

GONE TO OKLAHOMA

Mr. Claude Greene left here Tuesday afternoon for Muskogee, Oklahoma. He was accompanied by Mr. Otis Modlin of this city. They will spend six or seven weeks there before returning to Ahoskie.

ATTENDING GRAND LODGE

Among those from Ahoskie and surrounding territory who are attending the annual meeting of the North Carolina Grand Lodge of Masons at Raleigh this week are: Messrs. L. C. Williams, Herbert Copeland, J. E. Garrett, Lee Sessions of Powellsville, and B. Scull of Harrellsville. Mr. Williams will also spend a few days at his old home in Alamance County before returning to Ahoskie.

Hertford Representative Gives Summary Of Bills

HIGHWAY AND SHIPPING BILLS ARE INTRODUCED

Representative Lawrence Has Been Named On House Education Committee

State legislators at Raleigh have been marking time for several days, adjourning in honor of J. Bryan Grimes, former Secretary of State, and later cutting the sessions short in order that members might spend the week-end at their homes. However, beginning Tuesday the lawmakers have gone to work in earnest, and many minor bills have already been passed, while others are being speeded along the regular channels.

The more important state-wide bills, including the Governor's shipping line bill, new road act appropriating \$15,000,000 additional for state highways, and the bill to create six additional judicial districts in the State are now in the committee rooms, and will probably stay there for several days before coming on the floor of either the House or Senate.

Although opposition has sprung up against the bill introduced in the legislature and designed to unmask the Ku Klux Klansmen, the committee handling this bill has reported it favorably, and will probably be debated on the floor of the House, Representative Burgwyn of Northampton will report the bill for the committee.

Among the familiar bills that have been introduced and are now in the hands of the committees are those providing for election by the people of county boards of education, repeal of the exemptions placed on corporation stock. Another bill introduced this week would require every candidate for marriage to file with the Register of Deeds a notice 15 days in advance of the intended marriage showing that marriage was scheduled.

Among the early bills that have received adverse reports from the committee rooms are: bill to abolish capital punishment, resolution to investigate department of printing and labor, and resolution calling upon Congress to accept Henry Ford's Muscle Shoals proposition.

Other new bills introduced of state-wide interest include one by Representative Fountain of Edgecombe providing for a training school for incorrigible boys to be located in eastern North Carolina; a bill to remove judges from the primary; bill to furnish textbooks to children at cost; to create pardon board; bill designed to change date of state primary from June to August; and another to pay National Guardsmen an amount equal to that now paid by the federal government.

Two more legislative investigations are also scheduled for this week or some time during the present session, Representative Broughton of Wake County has intimated that he will ask for a thorough investigation of the affairs of the State Sanatorium. Asheville persons are also calling for an investigation of the methods and practices of the State Geological and Economic Survey headed by Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt.

Representative Lawrence of Hertford County has introduced only one new piece of legislation during the week. It was a bill introduced by request and providing that woman's unsupported testimony in seduction cases be sufficient for conviction. The bill did not get a single vote in the committee room and will not reach the floor of the house. Representative Lawrence, Pruden of Chowan, Nowell of Bertie, and Simpson of Currituck have introduced jointly a bill to regulate fishing in Currituck sound and river.

Mr. Lawrence has also been added to the committee on Education by Speaker Dawson of the House.

NEW METHODIST PREACHER

Rev. J. M. Bryant arrived last week and took charge of the work on Ahoskie Circuit. He preached last Sunday morning and night at the Methodist church and in the afternoon at the Methodist church in Powellsville. He comes to this charge from South Carolina. He is extended the glad hand.

Several Of Bills Are Of State-Wide Interest, And Indicate Aggressiveness Of Local Legislator

Working On Local Measures

Would Require All Vehicles To Stop At Railroad Crossings In The State

Responding to inquiries from the HERALD Hon. Lloyd J. Lawrence, representative from Hertford County, has issued the following summary of bills which he has introduced into the present session of the General Assembly. The bill dissolving the Chowan Motor Company has passed final reading, and is now effective. Other bills introduced by him are still before the House.

Several of the proposed legislative acts are of state-wide importance and, whether passed or not, indicates the aggressiveness of Hertford County's representative. He began early in the session to get his bills before the legislature. Other bills affecting local affairs will be worked out by him and introduced some time during the session.

On account of illness Mr. Lawrence has not been able to handle his duties with the despatch usually shown by him. He has been a victim of influenza, but during the past few days, he has been improving. He is now expecting to redouble his efforts in the lawmaking body.

The following is the summary of bills, as written out by Mr. Lawrence, with comments upon each one:

House Bill No. 8: To Amend The Banking Laws

This bill requires banks not only to report to the corporation commission Representative Lawrence CONTINUE the amount of loans carried by the bank to its officers and employees, but also requires a publication of amount of loans (1st) to its officers, and (2nd) to its employees.

This bill has the approval of the corporation commission.

House Bill No. 9: To require motor vehicles to come to a full stop before passing over railroad rights of ways

The title of this bill explains itself. It is intended to save human life.

House Bill No. 10: To regulate Travel by ferries

The bill requires the owners or operators of all ferries to equip the same with detachable chains, and to have the same in use when a car approaches upon a ferry, and attached at each end after the voyage is commenced until completed.

It leaves to the several boards of county commissioners, in every county in which a ferry is operated, to fix upon a standard size chain for such use.

This bill is also intended to save human life.

House Resolution No. 17: To memorialize Congress to propose an amendment to the U. S. Constitution, requiring a vote of the people on all proposed changes in the constitution

The purpose of this measure is explained in the title, and is simply an effort to bring the government closer to the people.

House Bill N. 54: To validate certain acts of Paul S. Jordan, a Notary Public

Mr. Jordan is assistant cashier of the Merchant & Farmers Bank. He is also a notary public, and in that capacity took some acknowledgments on papers in which the bank had an interest.

An officer of a bank is not permitted to do this, and the bill is intended to cure the defect.

House Bill No. 55: To dissolve Chowan Motor Company

The company went out of business in 1918. It has since had no corporate property, and yet each year, the corporation commission and the interstate commerce commission asks for a report.

The purpose of the bill is to wipe the corporate name of the company out of existence, so that it may not be yearly annoyed with the request

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