

OUR RALEIGH LETTER

By M. L. Shipman

Raleigh, Jan. 16.—The second week of the new year brought no outstanding developments in the capital city either political or otherwise, except the announcement from Washington that Johnson J. Hayes ran the gauntlet of the United States Senate and is now a full fledged Judge of the Federal Court of the Middle District of North Carolina and that E. L. Gavin becomes District Attorney by the same route, along with the confirmation of J. J. Jenkins as United States Marshal. The opposition to Judge Hayes, the only one of the three on which a fight was made, fell down completely and the trio of waiting republicans passed muster by a unanimous vote in the Senate. Thomas J. Harkins, of Asheville, was also confirmed as attorney for the far west district of the State, leaving Frank Lluvey in the role of a statesman out of a job.

News reaching Raleigh from out in the State indicates that at least a few members of the last Legislature would not mind coming back next time. Judge Francis D. Winston, who has represented the county of Bertie off and on in the House of Representatives since 1899 and served four years as Lieutenant Governor, lets it be known that he will be a candidate to succeed himself as the "veteran barrister from Windsor," while Senator Lloyd J. Lawrence, of Hertford county, is in the notion to come back from the First Senatorial District. The Commissioner of Labor and Printing, Frank Grist, is the only State official who has announced his candidacy for re-election, but all other incumbents are expected to make an effort to retain their positions for another four years.

The Commissioner of Pardons, Edwin B. Bridges, says he will have had quite enough of the worries of that position at the end of the McLean administration and according to present indications is likely to step down and out-leaving the field clear for the recognition of some good Gardner man. Mr. Bridges has been delving into the records of State departments to the extent of suggesting the appointment of an efficiency expert to make a survey of salary lists for the Salary and Wage Commission with a view to a reduction of the personnel in the interest of economy. He finds an increase of 173 employees last year over that of 1924 and in the matter of compensation for the same period around \$17,000. At a recent meeting of the Salary and Wage Commission it was decided to reduce the personnel of departments wherever possible without serious injury to administration operations and the decapitation process may soon be put into practice "whether or no." New departments and commissions have added a big sum to the State's payroll the past few years.

In the operation of the State's prison farms last year Superintendent George Ross Pou has demonstrated his ability as a successful "man of the hoe," reporting profits realized from the various crops grown on the Caledonia and Cary estates valued at \$54,151.80 worth in cash \$350,000. The Caledonia farm yielded profits estimated at \$35,720.80, while the profits from the Cary farm are placed on the new high level of \$17,431. The crops consisted of cotton, corn, peanuts, wheat, peas, potatoes, oats, sorghum, alfalfa and garden truck, with a sufficiency of corn, sorghum and potatoes to supply all other State camps for the year. 800 hogs, enough meat to feed the prisoners, were killed during the year and 1,600 bales of cotton go to the money side of the ledger. With only two pardons and 167 paroles last year the prison population is not likely to diminish to any noticeable extent, for every month shows an increase in admissions at the Central Prison for assignments to various camps over the State. 1,186 applications for clemency were received during 1927 but only a little more than 200 were given favorable consideration by the Governor. Eighteen paroles were revoked and there were five electrocutions during the year.

Tonight William A. Graham, North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture and president of the National Association of Commissioners and Secretaries of Agriculture, will experience the high distinction of having an address he is to deliver at Columbia, Missouri, broadcasted over Station WOS through Jefferson City. The Commissioner is well armed with the facts and figures on agricultural conditions in his home State where the value of all crops exceeds 1926 by five and three-quarter million dollars, the total value of 25 of them being \$333,460,469, the cotton crop alone having an estimated value of \$120,744,000. Tobacco, \$120,000,000; corn \$48,799,660; winter wheat \$7,493,600; oats, \$4,127,600; sweet potatoes, \$3,116,300; Irish potatoes \$1,052,000, and hay \$15,210,000. A rather nice "dish" to set before radio audiences throughout the country along with the many "firsts" to which North Carolina unhesitatingly lays claim.

Within the period of twenty-four hours during the week a total of 1,122 cases of contagious diseases, the largest number recorded in any one day within the past four years, were reported to the State Board of Health and exactly 1,004 were cases of measles, the number for 1927 being 33,623 in the State. The number of cases of all diseases of communicative character last year is given as 72,483, with measles and whoopingcough taking the lead by good majorities. The State Board is scheduled to meet here on January 23 to elect a president to succeed Doctor Way, deceased.

Inspectors of the Automobile License Bureau have been busy the past week rounding up delinquents and scores were given the choice of paying heavy fines or procuring necessary license plates. A temporary rush was experienced by the license

bureau, but hundreds of machines are parked until a more convenient season to move presents itself. Recent reports indicate a falling off in the number of motor cars purchased during last year, the new car registrations being 40,261 as against 95,285 new cars licensed in 1926. Of the new cars purchased 13,716 were Chevrolets, 9,455 Fords, 3,032 Buicks, 2,799 Essex, 2,116 Chryslers, 1,989 Dodges and 1,890 Pontiacs, alone with higher priced cars fewer in number.

In the Wake Superior Court over which he is presiding Judge E. H. Cranmer recently declared that the laws governing the operation of motor vehicles on the highways of the State are not being enforced anything like as vigorously as they should be and that the disregard of drivers for the lives and property of others should be closely investigated. The Judge attributes ninety-eight percent of the deaths in motor accidents to carelessness and whiskey in calling attention to 77 deaths by automobile during one month last summer. Less booze and more horse sense would go a long way to lessen the dangers of highway traffic, thinks Judge Cranmer, and he admonishes grand juries everywhere to go to the bottom of charges against speed demons on the highways of the commonwealth.

The Department of Conservation and Development has compiled figures showing the development of the mineral resources of the State that are highly interesting, estimating that a sum aggregating between ten and eleven million dollars will be expended during the present year in North Carolina on the construction of plants and the purchase of mining equipment. The Department is also aiding the Federal Government in taking the biennial census of manufacturers, having made available a list of 4,200 manufacturers of the State to whom questionnaires are being sent for the collection of data to be used in State and Federal computations. Fred W. Coll, special agent and expert of the Federal Bureau of Census, is to assist in the work down here. A similar arrangement was made with the Census Bureau in the collection of data on North Carolina industries by the Department of Labor and Printing some years ago and the information appeared in the industrial directory issued by the department, this part of its activities having lately been transferred to the Department of Conservation and Development which, also, functions in a large measure for the Geological Survey.

'Round About the Capital
It is said that the State has abandoned the fight to debar Dr. Robert S. Carroll from the practice of medicine and that the Asheville physician, who is owner of Highland Hospital there, will be able to continue his practice unmolested by legal authorities, although his hospital may yet be required to free itself from the charges of immoral practices by patients under the care of Doctor Carroll.

Attorneys for the widow of former Judge George H. Brown have filed application with the Supreme Court for a rehearing in the will case which will be approved or denied by Chief Justice Stacey on the re-convening of the Court.

A bridge to cost the State around \$300,000 is to span the Tar River at Washington, contract for the construction to be awarded by the State Highway Commission on January 26.

The State Forestry Service has warned farmers planning the burning of tobacco beds of regulations requiring that notice to adjoining landowners be given and that violations will be followed with prosecutions.

The State Board of Dental Examiners faced a small class of applicants for license to practice dentistry during the week, there being only eight men, four of whom were colored.

The New York Title and Mortgage Company, with reported assets of \$50,264,000, has established North Carolina headquarters in Raleigh.

A. B. Andrews, Raleigh was recently elected president of the General Alumni Association of the University of North Carolina.

Heavy traffic is noted between Morehead City and Beaufort since the completion of the \$750,000 bridge a few months ago.

Federal Judge Meekins is holding court in New York City on special assignment, but spends every Saturday in his Raleigh office for the transaction of general business.

A new union depot and a new State Fair are the objects sought by capital city enthusiasts and it is proposed to press these matters to a successful conclusion.

With property valued at \$3,331,000 the State leads the South in work of Y. M. C. A. organizations according to J. Wilson Smith, Charlotte, secretary of the State Association, who spoke to a booster meeting of the organization here a few days ago.

State Insurance Commissioner Dan C. Boney counsels against dealing with unlicensed companies attempting to do business in the State by mail or otherwise, pointing out that his department has no jurisdiction over them and could not enforce collections from them.

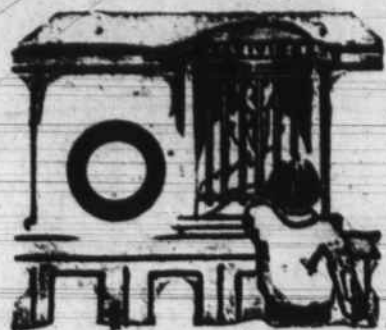
Raleigh is to have a new \$600,000 hotel corner Dawson and Hargett streets near the Union station before the end of the present year.

The Governor would expedite the hearing of the Newsome case before the Supreme Court so that the Wayne county rapist might meet his fate without further delay.

The problem of the right of negroes to ride in public service busses with the whites is troubling the State Corporation Commission which may soon be forced to take a definite position in the matter.

Governor McLean and State Treasurer E. R. Lacy were in New York recently to sign the \$3,500,000 in bonds on which the syndicate headed by the First National Bank of New York lately exercised an option, an option on an additional \$4,500,000 having been extended to March 31st, next.

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