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OUR RALEIGH LETTER

By M. L. Shipman

Raleigh, Jan. 23.—The annual meeting of the Masonic Grand Lodge of North Carolina, a conference of institutional heads with the State Advisory Budget Commission in the Governor's office, the election of officers of the Atlantic Joint Stock Land Bank and the resignation of Col. John D. Langston as chairman of the State Board of Elections, presumably to become a candidate for the democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor, constitute the more important items of public significance in Raleigh during the week, in the early part of which the Governor and State Treasurer returned from New York whither they had gone to affix their signatures to \$3,500,000 of State bonds and for other purposes of an official character.

At the annual stockholders session here of the Atlantic Joint Stock Land Bank Governor A. W. McLean was re-elected president, S. Wade Marr, secretary-treasurer and Will H. May of Burlington, given a place on the board of directors which remains in tact, there being no other change. On Wednesday Governor McLean left for Charlotte to help celebrate the opening of the branch bank there of the Federal Reserve system and welcome on behalf of the State the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, Honorable Andrew Mellon, who favored the Queen City boosters with his presence. Before taking leave of the capitol the Governor had crowded the business of two days into one in order to make the grade, which is nothing new with Mr. McLean who does not mind work the least bit. He had received and conferred with twenty-five members of the Buncombe county adult community schools, been closeted for hours with the Advisory Budget Commission and the heads of the State charitable and correctional institutions, listened to a number of appeals for pardons, paroles and commutations and talked to many who called on official business. On his return Governor McLean accepted the resignation of Col. John D. Langston, of Goldsboro, as chairman of the State Board of Elections and issued extradition papers for Mrs. Margaret Bryant, of Philadelphia, charged with kidnapping her two children in a warrant sworn out by her husband in Asheville, who is demanding the return of the mother and children to North Carolina. To succeed Colonel Langston Governor McLean appointed Senator Charles A. Hines, Greensboro lawyer and politician, the Senator from Guilford in the last General Assembly.

It is being talked around the capitol that four counties, Buncombe, Forsyth, Guilford and Mecklenburg paid more than half the State taxes collected from individual incomes earned during 1926 and paid into the treasury the year following, the amount received from the counties named being \$909,412.

During the week end period recently eight deaths were caused in automobile accidents and according to report of the bureau of vital statistics of the Board of Health, 511 people in the State were killed in motor vehicle accident last year, the record being two per day during the past month. In 1927 the people of the State invested \$38,000,000 in new and used cars exclusive of trucks and motorcycles, ten millions of this amount going for second-hand machines and with good prices for money crops the automobile business is expected to be more profitable this year than last all of which means that more people will ride and an increased number meet death on wheels. 8,000 more used than new ones were sold in the State in 1927 the new car sales being reported slightly in excess of 40,000.

Dreaded pellagra, a disease the doctors tell us is caused largely by an unbalanced diet, claimed 659 victims in the State last year, two hundred more than the year previous, and the State Board of Health has become visibly concerned over the prevalence of the creeping malady amongst the people. Dr. G. M. Cooper, educational director of the Board, maintains that the disease is not contagious and that it may be prevented by the use of proper diet composed of an abundance of milk and lean meat, such as chicken, fish, pork, mutton or beef, plenty of eggs, liberal portions of garden vegetables and fruit. An increase of the death rate from this cause of 40 per cent last year is considered sufficient warning to begin an earnest fight against further encroachments by this enemy of the race and Doctor Cooper says the time to begin is right now. 3,689 cases of measles last week indicates that the state-wide epidemic which started a little while back is not yet under control. There were 210 deaths from this cause in 1927 and unless the spread of it is checked the mortality will be greater this year.

The Corporation Commission is wrestling with the question of whether North Carolina should join Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and other Southern states in adopting freight rates within the State to correspond with the new South-eastern interstate rates which do away with group classifications and are based on mileage. It is contended by some that the contemplated change would lose to North Carolina some of the advantages gained in a long fight for lower freight rates from Virginia cities and the railroads have filed petitions asking that the change be made. No date for hearing has been fixed, but the question is considered of the utmost importance and is receiving serious consideration by the Commission.

The North Carolina Grand Lodge of Masons met here in annual session during the week, heard and passed upon reports of grand officers and committees, elected officers for the year and decided to erect a new 500,000 dollar temple on Hillsboro street opposite St. Mary's School. It is not

(Continued on Page Three)

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