

THE STATE PORT PILOT Southport, N. C.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Entered as second-class matter April 26, 1928, at the Post Office at Southport, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates table with columns for ONE YEAR, SIX MONTHS, and THREE MONTHS, and corresponding prices.



Wednesday, March 13, 1941

By-Products

There are certain by-products of a possible national defense development here for which, if we could get, we would gladly settle.

One is a hotel. There is little doubt but that the influx of workers for a defense project, or officer personnel for an army, navy or marine camp would bring about an immediate crisis in the way of adequate respectable housing accommodations.

Another is to pave the river road. To outline again the strategy of this road in the matter of national defense, or in connection with aiding development of the Cape Fear River front is to be redundant.

One quarrel with locating a major project in or near a small town is its inability to immediately make room for new inhabitants. Our town affords very little elasticity for new-comers who might desire comfortable living conditions, and one way in which we could begin now to prepare for the future is to arrange modern apartments, repair and remodel extra rooms, etc., in private homes and in renting property.

The beauty of this program, you see, is that we'll be ready for things if they do happen suddenly; and if they don't we will have broken down the three principal barriers that have retarded the fullest development of Southport as a paradise for tourists and vacationists.

No Lay Days

Elsewhere today is an article in which Representative J. W. Ruark of Brunswick county is quoted as saying that Brunswick and Columbus counties will be exempted from the lay day bill introduced recently by Representative Bridger of Bladen, allowing quail hunting on only three days per week next season.

The men in this county who do the quail hunting are our authority for the fact that this bill was not needed. They say that there were more birds in this county this season than at any other time in 10 years. These hunters, many of whom went through this season without going out very much, said that next year they planned to start out the season and hunt every open day; but with this changed law they'd likely do more hunting than ever before simply because their attention was being called to it by law.

Another point that was made by the hunters in objecting to the law is that, in permitting hunting every other day, it would be possible for men and dogs to cover the same territory over and over again, every open day, until all the birds had been wiped out. Between each lay day there would be a lay day in which the scattered covies could get back together. Under the old plan, and the plan that will still be in effect, this is not possible.

We are mighty glad that our county has not been included in this plan. We believe in the conservation of game, but we believe that this particular effort was destined to defeat the very purpose for which it was intended.

The Weakness Of Democracy

To their irksome impatience and diminishing indulgence the American people have seen Senator Burton K. Wheeler, of Montana, effectively wield the one weapon at his command to forestall and delay action on the Lease-Lend bill now pending before Congress. That weapon is his inalienable right of unlimited debate, or if carried on in the extreme, commonly known as filibuster.

The Charlotte Observer in a timely

and apt editorial comment, sizes up the situation precisely:

"It is the strength of the democratic process that it permits every citizen to speak anywhere and on any issue of controversy.

"It is the weakness of the same democratic process that it has no way of stopping him, even when the public interest is endangered by the grant of such generous rights to an individual.

"The principle is illustrated in the case of Senator Wheeler.

"In the Senate, during the lend-lease bill discussion, he has enjoyed unbridled, unlimited opportunity to speak, as was his undeniable right as a sovereign American citizen and representative of the people of his State in the Senate.

"He has resented any intimations from any source that he should put a limitation upon his remarks.

"Indeed, he has openly declared that in his judgment a filibuster would be justified.

"In other words, the same process of democracy that gives him the right to expose his views would, in his interpretation, give him also the right, singlehandedly, if physically possible, to defeat the views of others equally invested with the same right of opinion and speech.

"A filibuster which Wheeler justifies is not a hand-maiden of this democratic process. It is the negation of it.

"A filibuster is a dictatorship of the minority, the questionable method permitted by the democratic technique to enable a minority to have its will as against that of the majority, even though the minority be one and the majority one hundred.

"There is an element of absurdity about that.

"Conceivably, Senator Wheeler as a possible filibusterer could become much more than a Senator from a small and relatively unimportant state: he could make himself a Supreme Court: he could turn himself into the absolute boss of the Senate: he could even dictate the terms of the nation's foreign policy if his dilatory tactics could be prolonged to the point of designed achievement.

"In the immediate case, Senator Wheeler has been succeeding in defeating not only action by the majority of the members of the Senate, but obstructing the clear will of the vast preponderance of the American people.

"That's more power than he should be allowed to exercise, considering all of the circumstances.

"It means that this one man, representing a voting population in Montana in the November election of only 247,000, only a majority of which he received, has been able, under this democratic process, to block the will of tens of millions of the American people whom the other Senators represent.

"He has rung the changes on the 'dangers to democracy' inherent in the lend-lease bill. Is there anything more dangerous to democracy than such abuse of its privileges as he has perpetrated?

"He is afraid of making Roosevelt a dictator, but he seems to gloat in his own power to make one of himself."

Shears And Paste

FOR BANKS OR STUDENTS?

(Raleigh News and Observer) In effect opponents of the bill to turn abandoned bank accounts over to the Greater University under the escheats provision of the Constitution propose that the banks be given the money to which they have no claims.

The bill was drawn merely to effectuate the long-standing constitutional provision that escheats go to the University. No depositor can possibly be harmed. He may be benefited, because if the money stays in the bank it may be reduced or dissipated by service charges. If the University receives it any owner or heir may reclaim the money at any time.

The bill was drafted at the request of the University trustees and has the approval of the State Commissioner of Banks and of the legislative committee of the North Carolina Bankers' Association. It is so drawn as to apply to both state and national banks. It is being opposed by individual bankers, who have sought to influence legislators by letters and telegrams.

On President Graham's recommendation, the funds which escheat to the University are used for student loan funds at State College in Raleigh, Woman's College in Greensboro, and the University at Chapel Hill.

The real issue, in practical results, is whether the money shall be held in perpetuity for the real owners by the University, and at the same time be used as loan funds for needy students, or whether it shall become potentially the property of the banks against the intent of the Constitution of North Carolina.

The Legislature A Brief Review Of What Is Going On In Raleigh At The Present Time.

The eighth legislative week, interrupted by a junket to Elizabeth City on February 26, came and went with the Appropriations bill still in committee, and saw most hopes of adjournment by March 8th go glimmering; but the legislative hopper was kept busy by the introduction of 204 bills, a new high for the session.

Of especial interest to local governmental units are bills which would allow the governing body of any city or town of 10,000 or more population by the last census to extend or decrease its corporate units by ordinance annexing or detaching territory; permit municipalities to own and operate parking lots within the city limits; authorize municipalities to furnish fire protection to areas within twelve miles of the city limits; require motor freight carriers to use state highways or truck lanes through cities and towns; exempt from taxation and listing requirements for four years realty acquired by counties, cities, townships and school districts in foreclosure of tax liens; authorize county commissioners to defer revaluations of realty until 1943; modify the law relating to issuance of school district funding and refunding bonds; renew the power of counties, cities and other municipalities to issue revenue bonds to acquire, construct and operate revenue-producing undertakings; make the expenses of the board of viewers in setting up drainage districts a lien, second only to state and county taxes, on the lands assessed; restrict debt service apportionment between counties and cities in certain particulars.

Most important item on the education front seems to be the proposed amendments to the 1939 School Machinery Act, which includes several changes in the present practice relating to election of teachers, principals and superintendents, and the hiring of teachers. Other bills would authorize \$50,000 improvements in Appalachian Teachers' College power plant; extend free tuition in state educational institutions to children of fathers who died from World War injuries, regardless of the time of the father's death; and make certain changes in the supervision of business schools and in the custody of funds for vocational education.

Latest administrative reorganization is that proposed by a bill to abolish the office of utilities commissioner and set up a utilities commission of three full-time members, with staggered terms. The members would be appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate.

Highways, motor vehicles and related problems were not forgotten. Bills were proposed to enlarge the motor fuel tax definition and to levy a road use tax on persons operating vehicles propelled by products not within the present definition of motor fuels; to reduce the license fees for private vehicles; to exempt vehicle operators from liability to guests for death or injury except when caused by the operator's gross negligence; and to remove the present gross weight limitations of 10 tons for 2-axled vehicles and 20 tons for vehicles with 3 or more axles.

Of interest to farmers and middlemen is a bill to authorize a "Tar Heel" trade-mark to be used under regulations of the Department of Agriculture, to identify standardized North Carolina farm products. Other bills would revise the present methods of preparing agricultural statistics and increase the powers of the Commissioner of Agriculture to prevent violations of the laws relating to sales of stock and poultry tonics. A standard, optional form of agricultural lien and chattel mortgage is proposed, while two other bills would increase the tonnage tax and alter the marking, grading and inspection requirements for fertilizer, and regulate the manufacture, sale and distribution of agricultural limes and land plaster. Irish potato farmers would benefit by passage of a bill to require vendors of seed potatoes, fertilizer or other supplies to give growers a written guarantee of at least \$5.00 return per bag of seed potatoes planted.

Re-enactment of the substance of the 1937 law setting up a commission to license and regulate real estate brokers (held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court as it was formerly drawn) headed the list of bills to regulate various commercial activities. Three bills would: (a) require jewelry and silverware auctioneers to prove their citizenship by affidavits from certain county officials; (b) provide for revocation of their licenses by the Insurance Commissioner on specified grounds; (c) regulate auctions of articles with "latent values". Another bill would require proper tagging and branding of second-hand watches. Other bills would reduce the fees for renewal licenses of plumbing and heating contractors, allow mutual associations to pay a \$10 privilege

WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, March 11—Millions of citizens were sharply reminded this week that the national defense program is no abstract matter, but a vital factor in their lives. Talk in Congress about billions for this and that was brought into focus by the 10 percent defense tax item in personal income tax returns. While the levy is small, it is generally recognized that next year the rate will probably be boosted considerably and extended to lower incomes to provide necessary government revenue. The Treasury's latest drive to sell defense bonds will be a whooping affair to highlight the government's need for money.

Piled on the docks and in warehouses are enormous quantities of war supplies awaiting the enactment of the lease-lend bill. It is predicted that one of the first moves of the Administration will be to make shipping facilities available. The report persists that the government will take over some of the shipping now laid up at anchorage in our ports and owned by countries conquered by Germany. What financial arrangement will be invoked to take these foreign-registered boats over is not definitely known. The urgency is such that observers believe the President will find a way to utilize these water-carriers under the new powers pending legislation will confer on him. Some shipping experts anticipate that American vessels will be used, at first, to carry essential materials from Latin American countries to Canadian ports on the Atlantic for easy transshipment to British vessels. Of course, if Congress provides a blank check which permits convoys with American warships, these delays in loading and unloading at transfer points will be eliminated.

The fact that Mr. Roosevelt devoted the entire time of his last press conference to the subject of labor settlements is taken as a hopeful sign that something will be done in this direction. The government's methods of dealing with labor disputes will shortly be stressed. John L. Lewis, the militant leader, comes out of relative obscurity this week to participate in negotiations for new wage agreements between the soft coal operators and the miners' union. Mr. Lewis has been ill and had plenty of time to meditate on his course of action. What he has to say during the next few weeks will claim the attention of the politicians and industrial leaders alike. Failure of the miners to work out a deal with their employers would precipitate a nation-wide strike at a time when factories engaged on defense orders demanding fuel. In addition, the railroads are already hard-pressed to move munitions with a normal coal supply for their locomotives. An interruption in the form of a strike might paralyze the transportation systems. With Federal agencies blowing hot and cold on labor policies, Congress may soon take a hand.

To all appearances the Senate is completely absorbed in debating the war aid bill. On the contrary, Senators are going about their routine duties, particularly in the morning when committee meetings require their attention. Many huge appropriation bills, which in other times would be subjected to oratorical attacks in the Senate chamber, are passed

license tax in lieu of a corporate franchise tax, and re-define and limit the powers of the Building Code Council. The powers of the Southport Port Commission would be materially increased by a proposed act, and ticket-scalping at athletic contests would be rendered profitable by a bill to prevent re-sale of any athletic ticket at a price in excess of the price written or printed on the ticket. Much-needed reforms in the law of adoption in North Carolina are promised by a bill to simplify the process of adoption and to make it more binding on the parties concerned. Other welfare measures proposed would liberalize the rules as to eligibility for old age assistance and aid to dependent children, and authorize the Board of Charities and Welfare to set up a merit system. Several public health measures were introduced. Among these were bills to prohibit the manufacture and sale of filled milk, to require certain reports to the Department of Agriculture by milk distributors and processors, to provide for filing of delayed birth reports, and to include radiology, with certain limitations, as a part of the "practice of medicine."

Bills affecting labor would preserve unemployment benefit rights for employees called into military service; prohibit employment of any person for longer than six consecutive hours without at least half an hour for lunch, and require that persons on an hourly basis of wages be paid twice a month. "Certain Irresponsible Persons" would be severely penalized by a bill to prevent setting free poisonous snakes or reptiles before audiences or bringing them into dwelling houses when other people are present. The offender would be chargeable with murder if such a snake bites and kills any person in such a situation.

NOT EXACTLY NEWS

Robert Marlowe, who has been in the grocery business here for the last two years moves to Wilmington this week to go to work with a hardware concern. Robert often writes articles for the paper and his writings are always timely and well expressed. We're losing one of our most popular young men when he leaves and it's Wilmington's gain. Backed up by a good brain and plenty of ambition, he looks like a cinch.

After two months of incessant squabbling the ASCAP and BMI have been ordered by the courts to settle their dispute and the courts have also ruled that no person or persons and no corporation may legally contract any composers music in such a way as to prevent public performance. Compromises are being made now, tho it may be a month or more before the music under discussion will be heard over the airwaves again. The new agreement will be a pay-in-proportion proposition. The radio concerns will pay only for the music they use and not for the right to use all whenever they please. This looks like we'll be able to hear our favorites again and this will probably be the last news of the affair. At least we hope so. . . . Jimmy Johnson, an occasional visitor to Southport, has written a song that has been not only published but also plugged by the famous Bob Crosby orchestra. The title is "Wistful Interlude." . . . The phonograph record business here is looking up. Lots of people have lately acquired record players and are in the market for records. The collections of Lib Watson and Lois Jane are very good . . .

Elmer Davis, colored fisherman, has opened a Cafe and we can bear witness that his cooking is swell. . . . MOVIES: The Marx Brothers make their first appearance here in some time (but make up for their long absence in "WEST.") Anyone who can sit through it without hilarious laughter will earn the reputation of "sour puss."

Don Bestor and his band play Friday in Wilmington, and if the boys are one-half as good as they were the last time we heard them on the radio they'll afford the best entertainment feature we've had access to this season. . . . Visitors were amazed at the size of that little pond ox Goldie Lewis had in his pick-up truck here Monday, but they missed the real Goldie unloaded the gentleman for a demonstration, and when he got ready to load again the animal stepped up into the back of his pick-up truck just as nonchalantly as if it were a step out of a stall.

The daffodil crop at Orton is later this year than in recent seasons, but prices being paid for early shipments are very good. They're still shipping camellias, and (Free Adv. Dept.) a camellia corsage from Orton is a very good number on the Northern market for Easter, judging from early demands. . . . The old time country doctor had nothing on Dr. R. P. Huffman, Wilmington veterinarian, when it comes to overcoming difficulties of travel. Thursday the good doctor chartered a boat and made a high-tide trip to Bald Head Island to attend a sick cow.

within a few minutes. Not so in the House where the representatives thresh out the various items. They consider themselves closer to the people than the Senators. The Agriculture Department Appropriation bill carrying authorizations for \$890,000,000, a few days ago had a stormy passage. Attempts to increase the parity payments on five basic farm crops were defeated. It is likely that only a handful of Senators will harangue about this measure when it comes before their body.

Believe it or not, there are now crowded conditions on the farms. A few days ago the Farm Security Administration reported that the location of defense plants in some rural areas is pushing the farmers out. Some displaced rural workers are finding employment in construction projects. This Federal agency stated "other tenant farmers in the surrounding territory are being forced to move because workers are offering to pay higher rent for farm-houses within commuting distance of the plant than owners

formerly received for the entire farm. This condition is common to all rural defense areas." It is the hope of the F. S. A. that they can relocate farm families losing their homes by defense pressure. Near a proving grounds in Missouri, for instance, there is some possibility of acquiring family-size farms and no possibility of optioning large tracts of land for subdivision. The government says, "more than 80 percent of all farm leases are nothing more than an oral agreement." The effect is "such slipshod, unbusinesslike arrangements often lead to disagreements, mutual distrust, and frequent shifting of tenants from one farm to another." Meanwhile, other localities are plagued as the migratory movement is felt in farm areas.

COST OF HOME-MADE LAMP BROODER IS LOW Poultry is a good "defense-period" farm enterprise due to increased demand for chickens and eggs. C. F. Parrish, Extension poultry specialist of N. C. State College, says that the farm family who formerly raised a few chicks with hens will find a home-made lamp brooder an economical device for expanding poultry production. The approximate cost of building a home-made lamp brooder varies from \$5.00 to \$7.50 and will accommodate 50 to 60 chicks. It is of simple construction, easy to operate, and is heated by one to three lamps, depending upon the severity of the weather. Parrish invites farm people to write to the Extension Poultry Office at N. C. State College, Raleigh, for a copy of Blue Print No. 46, which gives detailed directions for building a lamp brooder. Most county farm and home agents of the Extension Service also have copies of the blueprint on file in their offices. The blueprints are free from either source. Two thousand children of Rand in South Africa were taken in special trains to vantage points to view the eclipse of the sun October.

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