

As the World Turns

A Brief Survey of Current Events in State, Nation and Abroad—the Facts Boiled Down to a Few Pithy Lines.

SALES TAX IS ACCEPTED
The North Carolina Merchants association, through its secretary, Willard Dowell, on Saturday issued a letter to the general assembly stating the merchants will probably abandon announced plans to test the constitutionality of the sales tax enacted by the general assembly.

THE ASSEMBLY ADJOURNS
After 132 days of sitting, the general assembly of 1933 adjourned sine die Monday at noon. The morning saw final approval given the school machinery bill regulating the state's eight-months term.

SEEK PAYROLL BANDITS
Wide search is underway for two unmasked bandits, using a car stolen in High Point, who held up the treasurer of the Knitwell mill at Durham on Saturday and took a \$1,100 payroll at point of pistols.

RALEIGH LOSES CREDIT UNION
The agricultural credit corporation bank at Raleigh will be moved to Columbia on May 27, if the federal agricultural department goes through with plans to center all farm credit functions in cities where federal land banks are located. It is an economy move.

AL SMITH REFUSES
Al Smith on Sunday definitely refused to become a fusion candidate for mayor of New York city. Groups of Democrats, Republicans and Independents had tried to draft him as a candidate.

PRESENT INDUSTRY BILL
President Roosevelt on Monday placed before congress his bill designed to stimulate industry, and including an industrial sales tax to secure funds for underwriting a \$3,300,000 public works program to promote employment.

BONUS MARCHERS WONT WORK
The advance guard of the bonus army has reached Washington and was greeted last week by the president's offer to give employment to the veterans in the reforestation camps throughout the national forests. The bonus marchers met the proposal with disfavor.

FARM HOLIDAY IS OFF
The national farm strike, called by middle west leaders to open at midnight Friday, was ordered postponed by Milo Reno, president of the holiday association, to permit the Roosevelt administration opportunity to try the effectiveness of its recently enacted relief measures.

CANNON LOSES FIGHT
The circuit court of appeals in the District of Columbia on Monday ruled that Bishop James Cannon, Jr., must stand trial for violating the corrupt practices act in failure to report the use of funds in the 1928 election in which he bitterly fought Al Smith, the Democratic nominee. Cannon will appeal the decision to the Supreme court.

PROBE MELLON'S INCOME TAX
As an aftermath of charges by Representative McFadden, Pennsylvania, the federal department of justice has begun a scrutiny of the income tax records of Andrew W. Mellon, former secretary of the treasury and one of the world's richest men. McFadden charged Mellon with income tax evasions of several millions.

3 PER CENT SALES TAX LAW
Final approval of the general assembly was given last week to the revenue measure including a 3 per cent tax on all sales except those of essential foods. It is estimated the tax will produce \$8,000,000 in revenue.

Pink Myers Recovering After Auto Accident
Struck by an automobile Saturday afternoon at the east end of the Franklin bridge crossing the Little Tennessee river, Pink Myers, farmer who lives on highway No. 28 east of Franklin, was badly bruised and sustained injuries to his hip.
Claude Jones, of Clyde, was reported to have been driving the car. Mr. Jones and Thomas Greene, Waynesville postmaster who was riding with him, and two other occupants of the car took Mr. Myers to Angel Brothers' hospital for treatment. Yesterday Mr. Myers was reported to be recovering.
The accident was unavoidable on the part of the driver, bystanders said.

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FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1933

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RAILROAD PROSPECTS GOOD Power Plant Turned Over To Town

Circulation of Abstinence Pledges Contemplated by Macon Temperance League

A campaign "to secure a pledge of total abstinence from every boy and girl in the county" is contemplated by the Macon County Temperance League, according to the organization's constitution, made public this week by its president, the Rev. G. N. Dulin, pastor of the Franklin Methodist church.

The constitution says nothing about the new 32 per cent beer, but leaders in the league frankly view it as an alcoholic beverage and, therefore, an intoxicant from which all persons who sign membership pledges should abstain.

Besides Mr. Dulin, officers of the league, which was organized just prior to the advent of legal lager in North Carolina, are the Rev. Eugene R. Eller, vice president; Miss Elizabeth Slagle, secretary and treasurer. Members of the executive committee are the Rev. J. A. Flanagan, the Rev. J. B. Taber, George Stiles, Dr. W. E. Furr and Roy C. Dady.

A county-wide mass meeting in the interest of prohibition has been called by the league for 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon in the court-house. Mr. Dulin said the league plans to establish auxiliary organizations in every community in the county.

The objects of the league as outlined in the constitution are:

"First, to educate people of all ages as to the evils of strong drink.

"Second, to inculcate temperance and sobriety in the minds of the parents of the children of this county.

"Third, to labor in season and out of season for the maintenance and enforcement of all laws that have been enacted to prohibit the manufacture, transportation and sale of intoxicants.

"Fourth, to secure a pledge of total abstinence from every boy and girl in the county.

"Fifth, to foster similar organizations throughout the county."

Senior members of the organization, men and women of majority age, will be required to sign the following pledge:

"Believing that the use of intoxicants is detrimental to the individual mentally, morally and physically, and that it is a great curse to the community, I, therefore, promise to labor in season and out of season to prohibit the use, manufacture, transportation and sale of same, and to abstain from use of same."

The pledge for junior members, boys and girls from 15 to 20 years of age, is worded slightly differently, but to the same purpose:

"Because I believe that the use of alcoholic liquors is detrimental to body, mind and spirit, I, therefore, promise, with God's help, to abstain from the use of them myself and to use my influence to get others to abstain from their use."

TRANSFER MADE AT CONFERENCE

Agreement Is Reached With Northwest Carolina Utilities, Inc. EMPLOYEES NAMED
George Dean Reappointed Clerk; John Jones at Power House

The Town of Franklin has taken over operation of the municipal hydro-electric power plant, surrendered through forfeiture by the Northwest Carolina Utilities, Inc., which defaulted on a bond payment of \$8,100 due April 1.

Arrangements for turning the plant back to the town were completed last Thursday at a conference between the new board of aldermen and officials of the Utilities company.

George B. Patton, former mayor, was retained by the board to take proper legal steps in superior court to clear the town's title to the property. The forfeiture was automatic upon default in the bond payments, under terms of the town's sale contract; but it was decided that legal action should be taken to remove any possible doubt concerning title so that the town would be in position to sell the plant at any time the opportunity should arise.

The utilities company was represented at the conference by O. G. Martino, of Richmond, vice president of the company, and Clarence W. Miles, general counsel and assistant secretary.

An Open Letter

TO PUBLIC AND PATRONS OF THE TALLULAH FALLS RAILWAY:—

At a mass meeting held in Cornelia, Ga., on May 4, a committee composed of F. M. Reeves of Cornelia, Ga., Dr. J. C. Dover, of Clayton, Ga., and G. L. Houk, of Franklin, was appointed to handle the case for the public and patrons in the matter of the abandonment of the Tallulah Falls Railway at a hearing before the Georgia Public Service Commission in Atlanta May 10.

On that date this committee, with the assistance of certain other interested citizens, appeared before the Georgia Public Service Commission and conducted the case for the public at this hearing. At this hearing it became apparent that the receiver of the Tallulah Falls Railway and the officials of the Southern Railway are making a strenuous effort to abandon the Tallulah Falls railroad, and that they made a strenuous attempt to show that this railroad was losing money, and that the public was not giving it adequate support. These charges and allegations were strenuously denied and successfully controverted by evidence introduced for the public and patrons.

While the outcome of this hearing cannot now be determined, it is the belief of this committee that the final outcome will be largely determined by the traffic volume handled by this line. The receiver and officials of the Southern Railway attempted to show that there did not exist in the area tributary to the Tallulah Falls Railroad sufficient resources to adequately support a railroad. This evidence was controverted by testimony introduced by the patrons, and it was definitely proven that there are ample resources along the line of the Tallulah Falls Railway to afford a sufficient volume of traffic for its successful and profitable operation. The future of the Tallulah Falls Railway, therefore, lies in the keeping of those who should patronize it, and regardless of the immediate outcome of the petition of the receiver for abandonment, it is the civic duty of every shipper and receiver of merchandise along the line of this railroad to continue to patronize the line, and to increase the volume of shipment at every possible opportunity.

If this committee is to be able to continue the fight for the railroad, it must be backed up by the shippers and patrons of the line. We must have 100 per cent support of the railroad. The people in the area traversed by the railroad must continue to support this line if the line is to continue to serve them. We, therefore, appeal to every shipper, every merchant and every business man to bend every effort toward complete support of the Tallulah Falls Railway, and ask that the united efforts of the citizenship served by this line be directed to this end.

(Signed)
Committee
G. L. Houk, Franklin, N. C.
J. C. Dover, Clayton, Ga.
F. M. Reeves, Cornelia, Ga.

STRONG FIGHT MADE FOR LINE

Delegation of Nearly 200 Attends Hearing In Atlanta
LEADERS OPTIMISTIC
Public's Case Presented Under Leadership of Guy L. Houk

Leaders in the fight against junking of the Tallulah Falls railway are optimistic over the outlook for continued operation of the line as a result of the hearing before the Georgia Public Service Commission in Atlanta Wednesday of last week.

In their answer to the petition of J. F. Gray, receiver, seeking authority for abandonment of the entire line, the committee representing the public in the case asked for an extension of time, or a trial period, of two years. Although no decision in the case has been announced and will not likely be announced until after June 1, there was a general feeling among those who attended the hearing that the public had put up such a strong fight that immediate abandonment was very improbable.

Predicts Extension
F. M. Reeves, Cornelia banker who headed the committee representing the public, ventured the opinion that at least a six-months extension would be granted, possibly a year. In such an event, he predicted that with general improvement of business conditions traffic over the "T. F." would improve to such an extent the railroad would be self-sustaining. With economies which have been effected in the past six months and increases in car-loadings which almost now is operating with only a small loss.

The hearing in Atlanta was conducted by the Georgia Public Service Commission, but this body will not have direct authority in the case. It acted as a representative of the Interstate Commerce Commission in compiling the record but may submit recommendations along with the official record, a copy of which, containing 223 pages, has been received here.

200 at Hearing
A special train carried nearly 200 residents of the territory served by the "T. F." to the hearing. Eighty-one men, by actual count, boarded the train at Franklin. The crowd took up nearly every seat in the assembly chamber of the Georgia capitol, making an impressive appearance before the commission.

Houk Conducts Case
Brunt of the examination and cross-questioning of witnesses for the public fell on Guy L. Houk, principal of the Franklin schools, who with the assistance of R. S. Jones and R. D. Sisk, Franklin attorneys; Joseph T. Davis, Clayton attorney, and Mr. Reeves, conducted a masterful fight against an array of expert railroad counsel and traffic men sent to Atlanta by the Southern railroad to help "Judge" Gray.

Mr. Houk succeeded in making a monkey out of an expert witness for the railroad who testified on the industrial development and natural resources of the Tallulah Falls railway's tributary area. The railroad witness, who based his testimony on opinionated information he obtained on a cursory examination of the territory, tried to make North Georgia and Macon county look like the Sahara desert, almost destitute of merchantable timber and with little hope of ever amounting to anything.

His testimony was definitely refuted by official figures of the Nantahala National Forest as testified to by Don Young, ranger.

Vast Resources Revealed
One of the highlights of the hearing was the introduction of a letter from Philip S. Hoyt, president of the Industrial Minerals (Continued on page four)

Franklin Residents Urge Reappointment of Jeffress

Efforts are being made by certain political interest to oust E. B. Jeffress as chairman of the State Highway commission, according to authoritative information obtained by The Press.

The political Mrs. Grundy has it that the faction opposing Mr. Jeffress is trying to have George Ross, superintendent of State's Prison, assigned to his job. Now that the legislature is over, Governor Ehringhaus is expected to announce his appointment at almost any time.

When the report reached Franklin of the fight on Mr. Jeffress, a number of prominent citizens rose up in protest, sending telegrams to the governor expressing the earnest hope he would see fit to reappoint the Greensboro publisher, who, it is felt here, has given western North Carolina its long-awaited "square deal" in highway matters.

The strange thing about this political tangle is that the faction attempting to unseat Mr. Jeffress is understood to have worked against Mr. Ehringhaus in last year's primaries, although it attempted to appear to be on his side.

Power Cut-Off Is Threatened
A circular letter has been sent to delinquent customers of the Northwest Carolina Utilities, Inc., warning that unless past due accounts are paid in full by Wednesday, May 24, or satisfactory arrangements made for payment, current will be cut off.

At the town office it was explained that the town is to receive one-third of the billings sent out last month. Meter readings are made the tenth of each month and the town is entitled to payment for current consumed from April 1 to April 10.

Quince Hodgins Taken To State's Prison

Quince Hodgins, a member of the notorious Coweta gang, was taken to State's Prison at Raleigh Sunday by Sheriff A. B. Slagle and Deputy George Mallonee to serve six years for breaking and entering the R. M. Ritter-Lumber company's camp store last winter.

Bonds Forfeited

The power company in surrendering the plant also forfeited any claims it might have on a contract bond of approximately \$73,000. Fifty thousand dollars of this is tied up in a closed bank in Cleveland, O., and litigation has been started to recover it either from the bank or a bonding house which underwrote it but which also is defunct. The remainder of this contract bond was deposited in the form of government bonds with the Central Hanover Bank and Trust company of New York, which after deducting the \$8,100 payment due April 1, forwarded the rest of the bonds to the town clerk.

Bonds outstanding against the plant total \$288,000, with \$14,140 due in interest and principal payments this year.

3 Bound over in Store Larceny Case

At a hearing in the courthouse Saturday before Magistrate Samuel J. Murray, three young men charged with breaking and entering the store at Rainbow Springs last Monday night, were bound over to the August term of superior court for Macon county under bond of \$500 each.

The three are: James Martin, Mathew Cole, and Marshall Swanson, all of Rainbow Springs. A fourth defendant, a juvenile who escaped from the Stonewall Jackson Training school, was given three years at the school. This is to run concurrent with the two-year sentence which he had already at the school.

Marshall Swanson was captured at Morganton and Deputy Sheriff George Mallonee brought the prisoner to Franklin.

Home Weddings Encouraged By New Marriage Statutes

Fewer couples are expected to go to Georgia to get married as the result of enactment by the North Carolina legislature, which adjourned Monday, of two new laws pertaining to the issuance of marriage licenses.

Since the passage in 1921 of the law requiring certificates of good health from physicians for both bride and groom many couples in Macon county have been going to Clayton and Clarksville, Ga., to get married. This law was repealed by the 1933 legislature and new regulations substituted designed to stop the matrimonial hegira across the state's borders.

Under the new law the register of deeds must require the groom to file with him an affidavit to the effect that he does not have active tuberculosis or any venereal disease and has not had either for two years prior to filing application for a marriage license. However, if the applicant wishes, he may file a certificate of health

Trial of Coweta Gangsters Cost Macon County \$3,351

Trial of the Coweta gang for its various crimes, ranging from store-breaking to homicide, cost Macon county \$3,351.35, according to official figures compiled at the courthouse. This includes hospital bills totalling \$965, submitted by Angel Brothers' hospital for the treatment of two prisoners and a wounded deputy.

The hospital bill for Fred Cabe, special deputy who was wounded in the arm in a gunfight between a sheriff's posse and three members of the gang, was itemized as follows: Operation, \$100; 2 X-ray pictures, \$10; 10 days in hospital, \$30; total of \$160.

The bill for Mel Holden, a member of the gang who died four days after being taken to the hospital with his abdomen riddled with bullets, was: Operation, \$150; X-ray picture, \$10; four days in hospital, \$20; total of \$180.

Quince Hodgins proved the most expensive member of the gang, his bill amounting to \$615, itemized as follows: (Continued on page four)

Home Weddings Encouraged By New Marriage Statutes

The bride is not required either to stand physical examination or to file an affidavit of good health.

The second new law pertaining to matrimony also is aimed at inducing more North Carolina couples to wed at home. It provides that "all couples resident of the State of North Carolina who marry in another state must file a copy of their marriage certificate in the office of the register of deeds of the home county of the groom within thirty days from the date of their return to the state, as residents, which certificate shall be indexed on the marriage license record of the office of the register of deeds and filed with marriage licenses in his office; that the fee for the filing and indexing said certificate shall be fifty cents; provided, the failure to file said certificate shall not invalidate the marriage."

Valuable Book Collection Given to Franklin Library

A gift of the new edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica and 64 volumes of fiction, containing many selections of the Book-of-the-Month club, has been made to the Franklin Library association by Miss Mary C. Bissell, beloved Franklin woman. Miss Bissell also made the library a cash donation of \$5, the largest it has received since its reorganization early in the spring.

The gift of books is conditioned on continued operation of the library, as the donor desired to insure their circulation and use. Miss Bissell has been following the happy custom of allowing scores of friends to make use of her library, rich with many volumes of classic and modern literature; but she felt in turning over many of the books to the Franklin library she would make them available to a wider circle of readers.

The library, located in the Maconic hall, is open each Saturday afternoon from 3 to 5 o'clock under the direction of Mrs. J. A. Ordway. It is planned later to provide more open days. A nominal fee is charged for membership. The Rev. N. C. Duncan is president of the association; Mrs. Lattie Kelly Cunningham, vice president; John W. Edwards, secretary, and Blackburn W. Johnson, treasurer.

Miss Bissell's donation fills a sore need in the library for, although it contained about 4,000 volumes, it was sadly lacking in modern reference books and recent fiction. As a result of the gift the association expects to receive many new applications for membership.

The new books are being carefully catalogued by Mrs. Ordway.

Forest Supervisor Reported Improved

John B. Byrne, supervisor of the Nantahala National Forest, who was taken to Myrtle Beach, S. C., several weeks ago for his health, was reported to be greatly improved in a card received this week from Mrs. Byrne by Mrs. John Wasilik, Jr.