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and

The Highlands Maconian

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Election Aftermath

THE question of issuing water and sewer improvement bonds has been answered with an emphatic "NO" by the voters of Franklin, but the problems which evoked the question are still clamoring for solution.

There is no gainsaying that the community's water and sewerage facilities are inadequate for present demands, to say nothing of future needs. What is to be done to correct this situation? We can get by with present sewage disposal means for a few years perhaps, but action should be taken immediately to increase the water supply. For upon this will depend not only public assurance or an ample year round supply of that most necessary element, water, but also this community's chances of obtaining a large cannery and cooperative marketing organization which should mean an increase of many thousands of dollars in the income of both the county and town. Officials of the Tennessee Valley Associated Cooperatives have declared that they must be assured of a plentiful water supply before they can locate the cannery in Franklin. They have estimated the cannery will need forty to fifty thousand gallons of water a day.

Franklin cannot afford to miss this opportunity of obtaining an industry which not only would furnish employment to upwards of a hundred persons but would also supply an outlet for produce raised on the farms of the county. We hope the town board will see fit to guarantee a sufficient amount of water for the cannery even though it should be necessary at times to curtail other requirements.

Various suggestions have been made as to how the water supply can be increased without a heavy capital outlay as proposed in connection with the defeated bond issue. Some have suggested that a new well be drilled, while others have expressed the opinion that the flow of the two wells now being used might be increased by drilling deeper or by exploding charges of dynamite in the wells. We do not know what course would be the best to pursue, but in any event we hope the town authorities will investigate all possible means immediately and then take some action to obtain more water.

Last summer was a wet season in this section and there was no serious shortage of water, although the storage supply did run so low on several occasions that automobile service stations were instructed not to draw town water for washing automobiles. Should we experience a drought next summer, we might not fare so well. Furthermore, an ample water reserve should be kept on hand at all times as a safeguard against a disastrous fire.

A Fine Service

NOW the folks back home can keep track of what the boys are doing in the Legislature. No longer need they be uneasy lest some legislation not to their liking be enacted without them knowing anything about it until the Assembly has adjourned and the law books have been printed.

Hawk-eyed newspaper correspondents have usually kept the public well posted on important statewide legislative measures, but they haven't had time enough between drinks, to say nothing of sufficient space in their papers, to tell about all the thousand and one local measures which, perhaps, interest us most. So the folks back home, especially county and town officials, have always worried more or less when the Assembly was in session for fear something might or might not happen and they would not know of it until it was too late to do anything about it.

But now—thanks to a legislative reporting service inaugurated by the Institute of Government—we can keep informed on even the most trivial local bill. The Institute, fostered by the state University, is sending to local public officials and newspapers a weekly letter recording the course of local laws, and a semi-weekly letter reporting the progress of all state-wide measures affecting counties, cities and towns.

It is a fine service the Institute of Government has undertaken. In a democratic government the people should know how their elected officials, especially their legislative representatives, are discharging their duties. And it has been our observation that most public officials will be more interested in their constituencies and more diligent in their duties if they know that the people know what they are doing.

By the work one knows the workman.—La Fontaine.

Two more store robberies in Franklin this week. Wouldn't it be a fine time for a burglar alarm salesman to come along.

Cause and Effect

by A. B. Chapin



THROUGH CAPITAL KEYHOLES

BY BESS HINTON SILVER

THREATENING—

If former Lieutenant Governor R. T. Fountain, of Rocky Mount, doesn't seek to snatch the toga now sported by Senator Josiah W. Bailey, Raleigh, next year, a lot of people who help support pillars around the State Capitol will be very much surprised. Mr. Fountain's actions have been interpreted as those of a candidate for a year or more but in Raleigh recently he was asked directly if he intended to run for nomination to the Eastern Senate seat. "I am seriously considering it," Fountain replied and that is considered something in the nature of a direct reply from a man who never has been prone to tell other people what he intends to do.

WISE EGG—

Lieutenant Governor A. H. Graham is reputed to know his way around in the world of politics and his Senate committee appointments seem to justify that estimate. Examination of senate appointments will reveal that every member of the Upper House has berths on several important committees and the new members seem particularly pleased. If Mr. Graham really intends to run for the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1936, it is a safe bet that his committee assignments have not hurt his chances.

LIFE AND LIMB—

The mounting toll of death and injury resulting from automobile accidents has resulted in introduction of almost 57 varieties of bills to license auto drivers and provide other means of highway safety. These bills probably will go through the melting pot of roads committees and come out in the form of committee substitutes embodying what members of the two roads committees consider their best features. From all indications the present General Assembly is going to pass some sort of law to license all gas wagon drivers.

BOWS TO ENEMY—

In the appointment of A. A. F. Seawell as Attorney General to succeed the late Dennis G. Brummitt, Governor Ehringhaus considers that he is brushing aside politics to recognize the service of an able public servant. Mr. Brummitt was not always friendly to the administration and Mr. Seawell often sided with his chief. The Governor might have given this exceedingly fat

plum to some man more partisan to his own cause but he chose the Assistant Attorney General for the post. It is considered gracious here, to say the least.

BOOZE—

Liquor bills may come and liquor bills may go but if one passes the present session of the Legislature a lot of the old time prognosticators will be discredited. Some members of the General Assembly, including some former "Drys" are all hot and bothered about liberalizing the Turlington "bonedry" Act. But if the boys who claim to have questioned the membership can be depended upon, there is but little chance of legal liquor following this session. Stronger beer has better chances.

MONEY—MONEY—

Various and sundry factions have announced intention of seeking to get the General Assembly to use money collected from gasoline and auto license taxes to support their favorite activities. On the other hand, the folks back home want their roads repaired and are making their opinions known in no uncertain terms. As one North Carolina editor puts it, "the battle is on between schools and roads." It's going to be a lively scrap with the farmer on the bumpy road standing a good chance to lose his repairs.

WANT SPEED—

Finance and appropriations committees of the House and Senate are agreed that speed is essential in consideration of the two money bills. But as the groups got started on deliberations, much difference of opinion was manifest and indications are that the seas may not run smooth throughout the entire session. Dr. Ralph McDonald, Representative from Forsyth, Franklin county, W. L. Lumpkin and Senator J. T. Burruss, of Guilford, are not the only members opposed to the sales tax recommended for reenactment by the administration to meet the needs of public schools. The boys are yet a considerable distance from port.

UNCERTAIN—

While Congressman R. L. Doughton holds his peace on his decision "to run or not to run" for Governor in 1936, the grapevine brings varying reports from the national capitol and Sparta, the Congressman's home. Friends of the other two potential candidates, Lieutenant Governor A. H. Graham and Clyde R. Hoey, say that their final decision will not be influenced by Mr. Doughton's course.

GOOD SPIRIT—

While it is entirely possible that this General Assembly may upset records for duration established two and four years ago, indications now

are that the session will be much shorter. Factional divisions are not so manifest as in the two former sessions and the members seem to be of a common will to finish their jobs and get back home.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—

Under terms of a bill introduced in the House by former Congressman Charles A. Jonas, Republican member from Lincoln, Superior Judges would be empowered to impose life imprisonment sentences in first degree convictions of capital crimes instead of the present mandatory death sentence. This power would be limited to cases where the jury recommends mercy. There is considerable judicial and legal opinion that mandatory sentences of any sort do not tend to further the ends of justice in the long-run.

GUARDS GAME—

Senator Carl L. Bailey, of Washington county, was named chairman of the committee on Conservation and Development at the insistence of conservationists. He fought for uniform game laws in 1933 and so far this session has been the watchdog to rout out innocent looking bills which in effect would give individual counties their own hunting seasons.

Public Opinion

DESERVED APPRECIATION FOR BYARD ANGEL

Dear Editor:

The Press came this morning and I started my usual weekly perusal of its pages, reading the locals and bits of news here and there. Shortly I ran across the article "A Lost Vision" by my friend Mr. B. M. Angel. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this. It fairly breathes the atmosphere of that section some years ago. Things have changed though now. What sixteen year old girl today would hesitate to walk alone past a group of workers wrecking a building?

Without any reflection whatsoever upon you or any other writer or contributor to The Press, but rather with kindest feelings to all, let me say I would rather read that article by Byard Angel than any contribution I have seen in The Press in several years.

I always enjoy Mr. Angel's articles. I am far from agreeing with everything he has written. But the keenness of his intellect and the charm of his wit makes him an interesting writer on most any subject. Would like to see him a more regular contributor to The Press on similar subjects.

Respectfully yours,
R. M. PEEK,

2113 Commonwealth Ave.,
Charlotte, N. C.
Jan. 19, 1935.