

# STATE SCHOOLS TO SHARE IN FUND

INSTITUTIONS URGED TO STUDY SMITH-HUGHES ACT—PICKED NIGHT WATCHMEN.

## DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People, Gathered Around the State Capital.

Raleigh.

The federal authorities have accepted the plan submitted by the North Carolina state board for vocational education for the use of the federal appropriation to this state under the Smith-Hughes act and the North Carolina board is now calling for the various educational institutions in the state to show their qualification under the regulations if they would share in the distribution of the fund, which will increase from year to year until 1925. The coming year the fund will be \$19,105 and increase periodically until it reaches \$114,900 in 1925 and thereafter with corresponding state funds there will be available for this work \$229,800 annually.

Dr. J. Y. Joyner, state superintendent of public instruction, is urging school authorities all over the state, wherever there was failure to observe North Carolina Day December 14 because of severe weather conditions, either to have the day adequately observed on some other convenient day.

Insistence that night watchmen in big manufacturing and other plants should be "picked men, not derelicts" is the burden of a special folder that Commissioner of Insurance James R. Young is sending out.

The batch of 10 Christmas pardons announced by the governor with an intimation that there may be a few more before Christmas day are as follows: H. C. Williams, Mecklenburg county, served since 1914 on an eight-year sentence for manslaughter. A typical case of too much liquor, the governor says, the killing having been in a drunken quarrel. He has a wife and five children and has made a good prison record.

J. Adam Hartsell, Stanly county, serving since 1915 on a 10 years' sentence for second degree murder. Mitigating circumstances about the killing and poor health and good prison record of the prisoner along with advanced age are cited.

Tommie Carr, Wake county, serving since 1910 on a 10 years' sentence for manslaughter; was 15 years old when sentenced and was discovered by the governor recently while hunting rabbits on the state farm where he had gone for a visit and inspection.

Henry Pope, Franklin county, serving since 1909 on a 12 years' sentence for manslaughter. Was 19 years old when sentenced, and has made a model prisoner, the killing being in an ordinary fight over a crap game.

Charles Logan, Buncombe county, served since 1914 on a five years' sentence to the roads for housebreaking and larceny. Pardon urged by all county officers and others on fine prison record.

Ben Hazel, Guilford county, served since 1910 on a 30 years' sentence for murder. He is a 70-year-old negro with a good prison record. Pardon was urged by a great many people familiar with the case.

Enoch and Frank Pope, Sampson county, served since 1909 on 10 and 12 year sentences for manslaughter. Pardoned at the urgent request of many citizens familiar with the case.

Louise Moorling, Robeson county, serving since 1911 on a 12 years' sentence for manslaughter. Court officers and others urge the pardon and that the killing was in a heated passion under great provocation and with mitigating circumstances.

Bob Alexander, Cabarrus county, serving since 1913 on a six years' sentence for manslaughter. Pardoned on recommendation of court and county officers, particularly for the fine prison record of the prisoner.

John Thomas, Durham county, serving since 1907 on a 15 years' sentence for assault with intent to commit crime. Excellent prison record and chief of police and others urge that there is doubt if the crime was really committed as charged in the trial and conviction.

The other pardon is for William Lassiter, Northampton county, serving since 1915 on a four years' sentence for robbery. A reasonable doubt that the prisoner was really the one who committed the crime through evidence that has developed since the trial constrains the governor to grant the pardon.

Governor Bickett announced two additional Christmas pardons. The most notable is that for Matthew McBane, serving since 1911 on an 11-year sentence to the roads in Wilson county since 1911. His crime was carrying concealed weapon, assault with deadly weapon, and robbery. He wrote the governor an appealing letter that the governor declares had a "genuine ring," and the sheriff of the county wrote the governor that after reading the letter and knowing the man he would grant the pardon "as quickly as he could write his name."

### North Carolina Crop Report.

Raleigh, N. C.—The North Carolina office of the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture has made public the following figures pertaining to the crop for this state. The figures compiled by this office, are based on those announced by the Federal office at Washington for December 1 conditions.

#### The Wheat Crop.

The forecast for North Carolina of fall sown wheat is estimated by the Washington office at 1,180,000 acres, compared with 1,025,000 acres last year. This is 15 per cent increase. The crop's condition is 91 per cent of a full (normal) crop, compared with 89 a year ago, and 91 the ten year average.

#### The Rye Crop.

The estimate for the state is 91,000 acres, compared with 86,000 acres last year. The condition December 1 was 93 per cent of a normal (full) crop growth, compared with 91 a year ago and 92 the ten year average. Less than one-fourth of all rye acreage is harvested for grain, and the percentage grown for grain is increased due to high priced seed and food crops.

#### Apples.

The proportion of this year's apple crop shipped from the apple producing counties is estimated at 29 per cent of the total crop produced in the counties west of line from Mecklenburg to Stokes. East of the Blue Ridge Mountains the crop was fairly good, but westward it was quite short. The prices received caused a greater percentage to be shipped than usual.

#### Firewood.

The estimate of the average amount of firewood burned per farm in this state in a year is 18 cords. This includes the quantity used by an average farmer and one tenant family. The value of this wood is averaged at \$2.80 per cord, which is supposed to be the value to the farmer, allowing for stumpage, cutting and hauling. The value varies according to locality, from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per cord.

#### The Soy Bean Crop.

The state acreage of soy beans was greatly increased since last year, especially in the Piedmont counties. The crop made only 70 per cent of a full growth and yield per acre. The Coastal counties showed lowest conditions.

#### The Peanut Crop.

The Eastern Carolina peanut acreage was less than last year, partly due to the decreased plantings of Spanish varieties. It is estimated that 84 per cent of the crop in the commercial producing counties, was threshed.

#### The Pecan Crop.

There are few commercial orchards of pecans in this state. Most of the trees planted are scattered in groups of from 2 to 20 trees. Four-fifths of all trees are seedlings. There is less than 30 per cent of a full crop of nuts.

#### The Cotton Crop.

The December 1 forecast yield of seed cotton for the state was 559 pounds per acre, compared with 640 last year. That of lint cotton was 191 pounds per acre, and last year it was 215 pounds. The estimated production for the state is 570,000 bales, last year it was 646,000 bales (U. S.—is 10,949,000 bales).

#### November Weather Conditions.

The November weather conditions were the coldest and driest since 1910. Only one-third of the usual precipitation occurred and amounts were light throughout the state. The temperature average 3 degrees below normal. The sunshine was about normal.

#### Safety for Old and Young.

A warning for the safety of old people and little children is contained in a statement issued by Insurance Commissioner James R. Young.

"I believe it is timely," the commissioner says, "to warn the citizens of the State of the necessity for special care, during the severe cold weather, in looking out for the safety of those who are unable to properly take care of themselves. During very cold weather little children are generally kept closely in the house. Where there are open fires they are constantly in danger when every means of protection is not provided. Where stoves and heaters are used, when the extreme cold calls for very hot fires, a child's dress against a stove red hot may cost the child's life. A fire screen costs only a few dimes and may save untold suffering and sorrow. The screen is the safest plan but where screen are not available strict care should be taken to see that a child is never left alone in a room with an unprotected fire. Infants sleeping in carriages or cribs have been burned to death by a coal popping from a fire. A screen would prevent this.

"Old people frequently fall into an open fire or against a hot stove with fatal results. Every winter numbers of cases are recorded of deaths of old people from this cause. A fire screen will prevent a report like this coming from your home. A little forethought and care is all that is needed. 'Safety First is Man's Humanity to Man.'"

The farmer with a good wood lot can serve his country and his pocketbook as well this winter by cutting and selling wood as he can next summer by growing foodstuffs.

Employers of labor may well give consideration to Henry Page's suggestion that men be fired out from all inside jobs which can be filled by women. As the draft progresses there must be a readjustment of labor and the sooner it is begun the better it will be for the country and for the labor, too.

**"30 BUSHELS OF DATES"**

Amount Oldest Mortgage in World; Banking in Ancient Babylon

By S. W. STRAUS  
(Prominent New York and Chicago Banker)

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How many people realize that the familiar mortgage of today has been handed down to us from generation to generation in practically unchanged form since the time of ancient Babylon?

Yes this is a fact. The mortgage is one of those few things which has survived through the long centuries—meeting the needs of Bel Bullitsu and Sha Nabu Shu, Babylonian agriculturists, and John Jones, the modern American farmer.

This interesting discovery was made when the Archaeological expedition of the University of Pennsylvania dug up, in the ruins of the ancient city of Nippur, Babylon, a mortgage dated 430 B. C., more than 2,300 years ago.

The following is an accurate translation of the inscription on the brick made by a noted Assyriologist of Chicago:

"Thirty bushels of dates are due to Bel Nadin Shun, son of Marashu, by Bel Bullitsu and Sha Nabu Shu, sons of Kirebt, and their tenants. In the month of Tashri (month of harvest) of the 34th year of King Artaxerxes I, they shall pay the dates, thirty bushels, according to the measure of Bel Nadin Shun, in the town of Bit Balistu. Their field, cultivated and uncultivated, the estate is held as a pledge for the dates; namely, thirty bushels, by Bel Nadin Shun. Another creditor shall not have power over it."

The mortgage is the most ancient form of investment, the first known mortgage having been used by the Babylonians about 2,000 years B. C.

It will be noted that the document, which is trust deed and note in one, is a first mortgage, as shown by the final sentence, "Another creditor shall not have power over it."

It will be noticed, also, that a specific place, as well as time, for payment

**FROM SLAVE TO BANKER**

Pastor Rose to Greatest Banker in Greece; How Greek and Roman Banking Was Carried On

By S. W. STRAUS  
(Prominent New York and Chicago Banker)

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The ancient world, too, had its "captains of industry and finance," and the story of their struggles for success is every bit as inspiring as modern "business romances." Then, as now, difficulties of humble birth and caste meant nothing to the determined, able man.

There was a slave in ancient Greece who rose to be the greatest banker of his time. His name, Pastion, is constantly mentioned in documents and other records. While the extent of his business was then considered enormous, today we dismiss it as inconsequential. Pastion is said to have held \$13,405 on deposit from customers, to have loaned \$60,935 and to have owned land worth \$24,375. His income was \$2,000 a year.

His deposits and loans appear small in comparison with modern figures, but the rate of interest customarily charged does not—36 per cent.

Banking in Greece originally consisted of changing money for foreigners. Later, the Greeks commenced allowing interest on deposits. Demosthenes is said to have kept a banking account.

Greek bankers were also notaries and witnessed contracts between others. They were familiar with letters of credit and invented a form of endorsement. As an example of this, we read that one Iceratus drew, in Athens, a bill on his father in Pontus, which was guaranteed by Pastion and then purchased by Stratocles. In Greece the banks were located in the temples and the latter were often used as national treasuries.

They had an instrument corresponding to our check. They started the practice of "discounts"—that is, deducting the interest at the time of making the loan.

The Greeks appear to have introduced banking in Italy. The Roman bankers soon became very important and Roman comedies contain many allusions to them. These were not always of a complimentary nature, but it is a fact that banking in Rome stood high as a profession. All money transactions among Romans were carried on through bankers and account books of customers were kept.

In 352 B. C. the senate appointed persons to lend a portion of public funds, on security, to the Plebians. The Romans were even more prone than the Greeks to charge high interest rates. They sometimes reached 50 per cent.

Later the rate was fixed by law and in Cicero's time the legal amount was 12 per cent. In the law passed under Emperor Justinian, 528 A. D., the rate was fixed at 4 per cent for notables,

of the debt is provided, just as our modern mortgages or mortgage bonds state that principal and interest are "payable at the Tenth Trust Co." or some other bank.

The amount of interest is not stated, but on all documents of this sort a legal rate of interest was customary, which ranged in times of peace from 12 to 20 per cent and in times of war to almost any amount.

The note matured in the month of harvest, exactly as American farmers, getting loans from their banks, have their notes mature in October and November.

Notice the words "son of Marashu" in the above document. Marashu Sons were a great firm of bankers in the Babylonian city of Nippur. They made loans of all kinds and often were called upon to help the King of Babylon with money.

This mortgage, together with many other records of the firm of Marashu Sons, was discovered in 1893. The story of its discovery is one of great interest.

The Babylonians were the Americans of antiquity. They were a nation of business men. Their mortgages, notes, deeds, wills and other documents were drawn with great care and along the same principles as the similar instruments we use today. Lawyers did a flourishing business in Babylon, as these people were fond of going to law and made all transfers of property a matter of record. Not only did they invent mortgages, but leases also.

One interesting lease demised a field and fish pond for the term of a year. The lessee made a first payment of one talent of silver and in addition, as ground rent, agreed to furnish the lessor with a mess of fish for his family table every day.

Another lease transferred a piece of improved property for sixty days, the ground rent being paid in advance and the tenant being guaranteed against all claims of whatever nature.

All these documents were inscribed on bricks made of clay by means of a wedge-shaped instrument, the various combinations of wedges making up the alphabet. These wedges have given the name to this particular style of writing, which is called "cuneiform," from the Latin word "cuneus," a wedge.

I suppose if the Babylonians had safety deposit vaults they would not have considered it necessary to insure the preservation of their records thus.

6 per cent on commercial loans and 8 per cent for loans not under the first two classifications.

Perhaps the high rate of interest mentioned previously was justified when it is considered that the law gave every advantage to debtors. Losses to bankers were frequent and the high rate charged was more as a measure of protection. Pompey, Brutus and Cato all lent money at 50 per cent.

It is often assumed that the rate of interest depends upon the abundance of gold or silver. This is not the case, as in California and Australia the rate of interest was extremely high during the height of the gold activity. In Mohammedan countries interest is forbidden in the Koran. But this has not succeeded in keeping down rates, as in these countries interest is three or four times greater than in Europe. In some parts of the Orient rates have gone as far as 100 per cent.

Several centuries before the Christian era a bank of deposit existed in Byzantium. In 900 A. D. a bank of deposit was established in China, although some form of banking existed in that country many centuries before. About 1200 A. D. a bank of deposit was established in Damascus; in 1345 one was founded in Geneva; in 1401 Barcelona started its first banking depository; the bank of Amsterdam was founded in 1608; bank of St. George in 1407 and the bank of Stockholm in 1608.

One of the earliest banking firms of which we have any account is said to be Egibi & Co. It was in ancient Babylon. Evidence of its existence were discovered in an earthenware jar, in the neighborhood of Hillah, a few miles from Babylon. These documents, recorded on tablets, are now in the British museum. Egibi & Co. are believed to have acted as the national bank of Babylon, and the founder probably lived in the reign of Sennacherib, about 700 B. C. Below is a translation of one of the tablets:

"Loan of five manas of silver of Nabu-zer-iddin, chief of the dagger-bearers (rab-nas-patru), to Belnasir. The money to be repaid in installments of a shekel and a half, beginning in Nisan.

"15th day of Tebet, 34th year of Nebuchadnezzar."

Records of this kind were deposited in the government office.

#### The Broader Thrift.

Laying aside a few dollars each week does not necessarily make one a thrifty person. Thrift means so much more than merely saving money—it means personal efficiency—it means foresight—it means self-control—it means sane and legitimate self-confidence—it means all that makes for character. It is as much removed from miserliness on the one hand as it is from extravagance on the other. As we build the ideals of thrift, we build character.

One person out of every ten who dies today in our large cities is buried in a Potter's field.

If the American people cannot learn to be thrifty, they cannot remain a great nation.

**THE KITCHEN CABINET**

They can conquer who believe they can. Courage consists in equality to the problem before us.—Emerson.

It is right to be contented with what we have; never with what we are.—James Mackintosh.

**HELPFUL HINTS.**

Save all vegetable liquors in which vegetables are cooked to add to various foods. Potato water may be used in yeast, bread, gravies and griddle cakes. As the mineral salts are largely dissolved in the water while cooking the vegetables it is economy to save every bit and use it in the food in some way. A tablespoonful of condensed milk added to a bowl of cream that has been whipped, stirring it in well, adds to its flavor and increases the amount that much.

A small flashlight is a great convenience around closets or cupboards that are dark. They are useful also in looking into cupboards and drawers.

When food scorches and spoils a good dish, do not scrape it, but add a tablespoonful of soda and enough cold water to cover the bottom of the dish, boil up and then set it back to soften.

A glassful of hot milk will help many to remedy sleeplessness, taken in sips just before retiring.

For tired and aching feet a tablespoonful of formaldehyde in a bowl of hot water, allowing the feet to soak 10 or 15 minutes, will greatly relieve them. To rub them with alcohol or vinegar, will be found soothing.

Add a cupful of cooked rice to a meat loaf. It will make the meat go much farther.

A Turkish towel wrung out of hot water and applied to the back of the neck will often relieve a sick headache.

Lubricate your meat chopper with glycerine. It will not flavor the food or become rancid.

A teaspoonful of glycerine added to grape jelly will keep the crystals from forming in it, which are so objectionable.

If a little cold water is added to butter and sugar when creaming it will cream twice as quickly.

Do no season steak until it is ready to put upon the platter.

When putting a cake into the tin, push the batter up on the sides if a layer tin, or from the center if a loaf. It will bake with a more even surface, avoiding the hump in the middle which is so unsightly.

Sliced bananas with sugar and whipped cream heaped into a baked shell, is another delicious pie.

If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.—Longfellow.

#### HELPFUL HINTS AND ECONOMIES

A most tasty fat for various uses may be made by trying out suet and mixing it while still hot with an equal portion of lard, stir until well mixed, and it will always stay soft enough to be mixed into any food.

When giving a baby medicine, place the tip of the spoon against the roof of the baby's mouth; in this way it is impossible for the child to choke or object to the contents of the spoon by sputtering. When teaching a baby to eat from a spoon the same method will prove useful.

An old cook claims that all fish are better if allowed to lie two hours or more before they are cooked.

A medicine dropper which refuses to function will be made active again by dropping it into hot water. The heat softens the rubber and expands it.

A thick slice of ham parboiled in a little water, then covered with sweet milk and a little brown sugar, and baked slowly, makes a most delicious meat dish.

A piano tuner advises the use of a small dish of water in the back part of the instrument to counteract the dryness of the room due to furnace heat. This will keep the piano in tune.

The old batteries which are useless and discarded from the auto may be burned in the grate after a wood fire has been started, making the most beautiful colors, especially delightful for a fireside party.

A tablespoonful of olive oil with a few drops of vinegar will ease a midnight cough when all else fails.

Half of a wooden clothes pin will keep a wind-rattled window quiet through the sleeping hours. A clothes pin or two will be found convenient to carry in one's suit case for various emergencies besides noisy windows.

A large market basket kept in the kitchen and used to carry down fruit, will save many steps, canned fruit, jelly and vegetables may be carried up in it. Such a basket will be found useful for carrying things upstairs and down.

A weighted window that sticks may be loosened by taking the cords in each hand and pulling them out until the weights are at the top, letting go suddenly, they will drop back with such force that it will start the window open, when no amount of pushing will do it.

*Nellie Maxwell*

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#### GERMANS RESENT NAME HUN

Kaiser's Government Sentences Member of Royal Flying Corps to Prison for Applying the Insult.

How bitterly the German resents the appellation, "Hun" is illustrated by the news that Flight Sergeant Alexander Boyd of the Royal Flying Corps has been sentenced by his German captors to one year imprisonment for applying this "insult" to his guards.

The Cologne Gazette learns from its Berlin correspondent that this aviator was shot down in the North sea by a German torpedo boat and forced to sit idly in his riddled but floating machine while the Prussian rowboat came to take him off. He sought to dispatch a carrier pigeon from his plane, hearing the message, "Shot down at 6:42 Picked up by the Huns."

The Germans captured the pigeon before it could escape and read the message. Boyd was immediately charged with insulting the German character and given one year to repent.

#### BOSCHEE'S GERMAN SYRUP

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#### A Slight Mistake.

Freeman had just returned from the eighth visit to the punch bowl.

"Take a look across the room, my dear. Did you ever see a homelier man?"

"Don't disgrace yourself, Henry. That's a mirror," returned his wife, in a tragic whisper.

#### Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, that famous old remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* in Use for Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

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**Do Your Cows Fail to Clean?**

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Dr. David Roberts' Cow Cleaner

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gives quick relief. Keep it on hand and prevent the ruin of your cow. Read the Practical Home Veterinarian. Send for free booklet on "Calfed in Gens." If no dealer in your town, write Dr. David Roberts' Vet. Co., 100 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, Wis.

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