

## LEGISLATURE PASSES FIRST OF 1931 LAWS

Appropriate \$50,000.00 For  
An Inland Waterway  
Right of Way  
GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

Governor Recommends Constitutional Convention, But Strong Opposition Is Expected

The appropriation of \$50,000 for an inland waterway right-of-way was enacted as the first public law of the 1931 legislature last night when the measure was passed in the house. Today, committee appointments are being made, and it is predicted that the law makers will be down to work in earnest before the week ends.

Following caucuses held last Tuesday night, Lieutenant Governor Fountain put the upper house in action, and Willis Smith, the new speaker, took the first in the lower house. The first fire was kindled by H. S. Ward when he opposed an appropriation of \$50,000 to furnish right of way for an inland waterway. Mr. Ward threw all of his wind against the bill and won his own and two other votes against the measure.

The usual time was taken in trying to set up machinery for operation, and awaiting the Governor's message which was delivered on Friday. Good government for less money was the gist of the message and plans were advanced for economy as follows:

The change in our road laws, turning all roads over to the State. The consolidation of several of the State departments. The tax question was the big side of the message which asked for an increase in gasoline tax from 5 to 6 cents and a reduction of tax on real estate.

The Governor recommends a constitutional convention. However, the proposal is expected to meet with much opposition. It is opposed by big income tax payers. Our present constitution limits the income tax rate to a low figure, and it is likely that the rate would be increased should a convention be held.

One of the biggest things so far as its appeal to the public sentiment was the 10 per cent salary reduction recommendation which is estimated to reduce taxes \$4,000,000.

The budget recommendations submitted to the Legislature by the Governor will cut the State's expenditures about \$4,000,000 from last year and affect practically all branches of government, including the General Assembly, about \$10,000; judicial about \$20,000; executive, about \$23,000. Administrative recommendations call for an increase of about \$1,500,000 practically all of which would go to the county schools in the equalization fund.

The higher educational institutions will receive about \$220,000 less.

The charitable and correctional institutions would suffer a decrease of only \$60,000 and Confederate pensions \$100,000, the last amount representing the decrease caused mainly by the deaths of old soldiers and widows.

The lawmakers are scheduled to consider a law extending the time for the revaluation of all properties this week.

## The Unusual in Sales Is Announced at Hamilton

The unusual in mercantile sales in this section was announced today by the Messrs. Salisbury, Johnson Company and the Slade Rhodes Company, Hamilton, the two firms doing business in that town, agreeing to advertise a sale jointly. Ordinarily, the merchant planning a sale guards his plans very closely, but this time two come out together with their announcement.

Slade, Rhodes Company and Salisbury, Johnson Company, leading merchants of Hamilton, are planning for a big sale, beginning Friday of this week. They are offering unusual bargains in every department, and have decreased the prices even on gasoline, another item that goes on special sale for the first time in this section, as far as it could be learned here.

## 100 People Unemployed In Robersonville District

According to a report filed in the office of the county superintendent, Mr. R. A. Pope, here by the head of the Robersonville schools, there are 100 white people in that district unemployed. Of the number, 10 people, classed as unskilled laborers, and 10 others classed as domestic, were placed or given work.

The report, carrying little information other than the number of people unemployed in the district, was made following a meeting of the Martin County teachers' association held here last Saturday. It was pointed out in the report that 55 people had been helped in the district through charity.

## Charity Situation Grave As Number of Cases Increases

### A SHORTAGE IN FUNDS LIMITS RELIEF WORK

Appealing Stories Are Told  
By Unfortunates During  
Past Few Days

### MANY HUNGRY ONES

Washington County Raises \$271.75  
Monthly For Handling Welfare Work There

Appealing cries coming from hungry mouths right here in Williamston and vicinity are fast diminishing the small reserve maintained here for charity relief, it was learned yesterday when the number of needy cases were increased by a substantial percent. Orders already out for food will deplete the small sum now in the treasury, and unless succor is given at once, no one knows to what source the hungry mouths will turn for a mouthful of food.

Charity work has been carried on by the Woman's club welfare department with a willingness that few know about, but even their efforts have been limited by a poor response on the part of local people. The report shows that much has been given, that a few have deprived themselves that others might be helped, but in coping with the situation, efforts this year are falling far short as compared with those put forward last year just because the donors are more limited in number.

That the conditions have been over-painted in this community during the past few weeks, real facts uncovered in this office would brand the statement as unfounded. Thirty cases, representing nearly 100 people, both white and colored, have humbly asked for food during the past few days, indicating that the situation is not over-painted, but that it is even more serious than any of us would think.

### Two Cases

Two of the thirty cases coming under direct observation, one last Saturday and a second one yesterday are fair examples. The brief history of each, follows:

An old colored woman from out of the township came in last Saturday. At first she hesitated to tell all of her story, but she started disclosing the facts, and the further she went with her story, the more pathetic it became. She had been without food for quite a spell, was living in an old house alone, and her age, 75 years she said, prevented her from working. Very poorly clad, she limited her appeal to food.

Case number two, was a bit different but the story told was accompanied with saddening tears. A colored citizen and a hardworker for years, he had been caught by depression. Last Thursday was when he last sat down to a meal. Since that time he and the members of his family have nibbled on peanuts and the very coarsest of foods.

These stories are not near complete, for it would be possible to go on tell how they welcome big hominy, pork and the cheapest in beans.

Down in Washington county, according to a story appearing in the Roanoke Beacon, a paper published in Plymouth, \$271.75 are raised monthly to care for the needy cases in that county. Pledges ranging from \$25 to 25 cents monthly were made. The amount raised there in one month is more than the amount raised here in 18 months, not including clothes.

## Goldsboro Motor Company Destroyed By Early Fire

The Goldsboro Motor Company building, Goldsboro, and many old and new model Fords were destroyed by fire there early last night, it was learned here this morning. The firm was owned and operated by Mr. J. D. Woodard, formerly of this place. The new owner, for several years connected with the Williamston Motor Company here, just recently took over the business there.

Very few details could be had here this morning, but it is understood that the building and its contents were totally destroyed, that the owners would incur some loss.

## School Professors To Meet At Bear Grass Thursday

The Schoolmasters' club, with the male teachers in the various county schools making up its personnel, will hold its first meeting of the new year and fourth of the 1930-31 term Thursday evening at 6:30 o'clock at Bear Grass, Professor S. M. Lee, principal of the Bear Grass School, will act as the host.

No formal program has been prepared, but it is understood that several subjects for discussion will be placed before the gathering.

## INSURANCE MEN HOLD MEETING

1930 Losses Were Small,  
Secretary Reports At  
Meeting Saturday

The Martin County Branch of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association held its annual meeting in the courthouse here last Saturday morning, one of the largest representation of members ever recorded attending.

Rendering his report, the secretary-treasurer, stated that the losses for the year were very small, that the condition of the organization was in excellent shape. With one exception, the same officers will continue at the head of the local branch, as follows: W. C. Manning, president; J. L. Coltrane, secretary-treasurer; Sylvester Peel, vice president; Henry C. Green, W. B. Harrington and Samuel Everett, directors. The township supervisors were also re-elected for the new year.

Following the report of the executive committee, it was agreed to have the books of the association audited once each year.

## EXAMS BEGIN IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Principal Watson Reports  
Students Taking Much  
Interest in Studies

Beginning tomorrow afternoon, mid-term examinations will feature the work in the local schools, Principal Wm. R. Watson stated yesterday. From the fourth grade through the eleventh, the pupils will be quizzed on the studies carried on since the opening of the 1930-31.

The examinations, Mr. Watson explained, are not final, but they do have an important bearing on promotion next spring. It is possible for a student failing an examination this week to improve his work during the remainder of the term and pass the course. A successful examination now does not mean a successful ending in the spring, the principal stated. "The procedure serves several purposes, giving the student some idea as to his standing and furnishing the teacher with information necessary in class work and in promoting the pupil," the school man continued.

The outlook for splendid examinations is the brightest since his arrival, Mr. Watson declared yesterday, adding that the pupils are more serious in their efforts to master their studies. Progress has been more marked this year in the operation of the school, and the principal was confident that a comparison would show better results this week than were recorded for the same period last year and the year before.

## JIMMY BROWN HURT IN GAME

Suffers Fractured Skull In  
Game Played Friday  
at Jacksonville

Jimmy Brown, formerly of Jamestown but of recent months connected with a department store in Jacksonville, Fla., was seriously hurt while playing basketball in that city last Friday night. According to reports received here the young athlete suffered a fractured skull, and although his condition is critical, he is expected to recover. He was playing on one of the city teams when he fell and hurt himself, it was stated.

Young Brown, a student in the Jamestown School for a number of years and an able basketball player, was a favorite among fans throughout the county. He was also with the State College varsity five for a year and was recognized there as one of the stars on the team.

## Local Parents and Teachers To Meet Next Thursday

The regular meeting of the local parent-teacher association will be held in the grammar grade building Thursday afternoon at 3:45 o'clock. All parents are urged to attend. This will be a very important meeting and the president is very anxious for a good attendance.

Leave for Louisiana  
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Taylor and two little daughters left yesterday for Louisiana where they will make their home.

Prohibition Man Here  
Mr. P. M. Caudle, deputy prohibition agent of Wilson, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Morton, was here yesterday.

## TEACHERS HOLD 4TH MEET HERE

Proposed Salary Decrease  
Not Mentioned By  
Teachers

The fourth of six scheduled meetings of the Martin County Teachers' association was held here last Saturday the Martin County Teacher's association was held here last Saturday afternoon, a very short assembly program featuring the gathering. Approximately 80 of the white teachers were present.

Rev. C. T. Rogers of the local Methodist church, opening the meeting with a short devotional service, discussed the relationship of the school to the Church and the Church to the school. In his 15-minute talk, the minister stressed the importance of character training in the school, stating that the school had a five-fold opportunity to teach character training as compared with the Sunday school and its limited time.

Addressing the assembly, Superintendent R. A. Pope went into the unemployment situation as it exists in the several school communities. Blanks, prepared by the State and having to do with unemployment, were distributed, the superintendent asking the various teachers and principals to make a study of unemployment conditions in their respective communities and report their findings to his office. Only one of the blanks, giving the number (estimated) in the community without work, the number placed, and the number dependent upon charity, had been returned late yesterday.

While these reports, it was stated by Mr. Pope, will not complete details relative to unemployment in Martin County, they will furnish much valuable information. Other blanks having to do with available work have been received since the meeting and it is believed that much good will result following the combined handling of the two forms.

The proposed salary decrease of 10 per cent in all State, County and town employee salaries was not mentioned, the body apparently leaving their fate entirely with the law makers who are expected to stage a warm debate when the bill is carried before them.

## SUGGESTS UNIT CONSOLIDATION

State School Head Would  
Consolidate All Small  
Charter Schools

Raleigh, Jan. 12.—"Are the administrative costs too high in North Carolina," asks Supt. A. T. Allen in that part of his biennial report recommending economy in school administration and suggesting the consolidation of units.

"In this State," he says, "there are 195 separate and independent school units, 100 county systems and 95 charter systems within the counties, besides a great number of special tax districts which have many independent privileges. The counties vary in size from 17,150 pupils enrolled in Johnston County to 1,446 in Dare County. Charlotte represents the largest unit among the cities with an enrollment of 16,387. The smallest school is Dobbsville with 88 pupils."

There are, according to this report, 22 units, county and charter, having more than 10,000 pupils, 17 having from 8,000 to 10,000 pupils, 19 having from 6,000 to 8,000 pupils, 27 having from 4,000 to 6,000 pupils, 37 having from 2,000 to 4,000 pupils, and 73 units having fewer than 2,000 pupils.

"The combined enrollment in the 15 city systems with from 1,000 to 1,500 pupils is 18,039. They pay a total of \$48,320 for the salaries of superintendents, or an average of \$2.68 for each pupil enrolled. The average cost of administration in county units is less than 50 cents a pupil. If all of these 15 city units were combined, they would make a system about the size of Robeson County."

Supt. Allen recommends that all charter systems having fewer than 2,000 pupils enrolled be consolidated with the county system. "If the schools with fewer than 2,000 pupils now operating under special charters," he says, "should come into the several county systems, there would remain only 129 systems of schools in the State as opposed to the 195 at present. This enlargement of administrative units, in my opinion, would add greatly to the efficiency of the public school system, and make it possible to do the administrative work with the expenditure of many fewer dollars."

## County Boy Makes State University Honor Roll

Clyde Griffin, young son of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Griffin of this place, averaged 95 on his studies and had his name appear on the University of North Carolina honor roll for the fall quarter ending just before the Christmas holidays. Young Griffin was graduated from the local high school last spring.

## Property Revaluation Work Halted Throughout the State

### New Mail Schedule Will Go Into Effect Here Next Friday

### BABCOCK LINE EXTENDED TO ROCKY MOUNT

Mail Will Arrive Here at  
11:20 A. M. From the  
Northern Cities

### EFFECTIVE JAN. 16TH

Bus Lines Enter Into An Agreement  
Removing Restrictions On  
Passenger Traffic

A remedy to the poor mail service offered postal patrons in this section since early in December has been effected, and beginning Friday of this week the schedules will be advanced several hours. A contract was yesterday to the Babcock, or Bethel-Columbia Bus Line for handling mail between Rocky Mount and Plymouth.

Under the new contract, mail from northern points will be loaded on the bus at Rocky Mount and delivered to Plymouth and intermediate points. Leaving Rocky Mount at 9 in the morning, or upon the arrival of train 75, the bus is scheduled to reach here at 11:20 a. m., and Plymouth at 12:15. The return trip will be operated on the same schedule now in effect, bringing mail here shortly before 4 p. m. The bus will continue on into Rocky Mount, reaching there at 6 o'clock p. m.

Following a change in train schedules on the main lines of the Atlantic Coast Line, mail arrived in Tarboro too late for connection with the bus, and since the early part of December the bus has handled only that mail originating in Tarboro and points along the route. The extension of the bus line from Tarboro to Rocky Mount will return a similar service enjoyed prior to the change in train schedules.

In announcing the new mail schedule, Mr. A. B. Babcock, owner of the Bethel-Columbia line, stated that an agreement had been entered into between his line and the Carolina Coach Company, where the two lines would operate between Williamston and Rocky Mount with no restrictions on either. Heretofore passenger service between Bethel and this point has been more or less limited to the Babcock busses, while from Bethel to Rocky Mount passenger service was limited to the Carolina Coach Company. The Carolina Coach Company did, however, pick up passengers between Bethel and Williamston who wished to travel beyond either point, it was stated by Mr. Babcock. Beginning next Friday, either line will pick up passengers at any point between here and Rocky Mount without restrictions. "No agreement between the Coastal Coach Lines and the Babcock line was reached, Mr. Babcock stated, and according to his statement made here yesterday, busses of that company will not have the right to service towns between here and Bethel.

## FORMER COUNTY RESIDENT PASSES

Mrs. Edith Fishers Dies In  
Norfolk; Once Lived  
at Dymond City

Mrs. Edith Elizabeth Fisher, aged 80, died at her home in Norfolk, last Friday following an illness of more than six months durations.

Mrs. Fisher, a native of Dublin, Ireland lived in this county several years while her husband was accountant for the old Washington and Jamesville railroad. They made their home at Dymond City, and made many friendships during their stay there. It was years ago that the family lived in this county, Mr. Fisher resigning to accept a position with the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Norfolk. He is still active in spite of his 85 years of age.

Mrs. Fisher was a charter member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Besides her husband, she is survived by one daughter, Miss Mabel Fisher; two sons, Arnold A. Fisher, of Norfolk and Cecil H. Fisher, of Wilmington, Del.; four grandchildren Mrs. J. Wesley Jordan, Edith Sue, and Arnold J. Fisher, Jr., of Norfolk, and Harry Mayo Fisher, of Wilmington, Del.; five brothers, Leonard Acheson, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Harold Acheson, of Bradenton, Fla.; Walter Acheson, of Chandler, Ariz.; Victor Acheson, of San Diego, Cal.; and Edwin Acheson, of St. Louis, and one sister, Mrs. C. Meissner, of Glenside, Pa.

### POSTPONMENT IS FAVORED BY THE GOVERNOR

Supervisor T. B. Slade and  
His Assistants Had Not  
Started Work Here

### AWAITING OUTCOME

One of Two Bills Proposing  
Postponement of Property  
Revaluation Assured

Work on the quadrennial property revaluation of property throughout the State has been halted pending the outcome of a proposal in the legislature to postpone the re-assessment until 1933. Re-assessment workers in many counties had already started operations, but activities were stopped last Saturday morning to await the outcome of the two bills that have been introduced in the house and senate.

Tax Supervisor T. B. Slade stated last Saturday that re-assessment activities in this county had been limited to the perfecting of an organization for handling the re-valuation, that no actual filed work had been done. "In fact, we have not received any blanks so far, and it is very probable that nothing will be done relative to the re-valuation of all properties in this county until more definite information comes from Raleigh."

Postponement of the quadrennial revaluation has been advanced in the Governor's address and in bills submitted to both the house and the senate.

The first bill introduced in the house was that offered by Representative W. W. Neal of McDowell, to defer the quadrennial revaluation until two years from now. Friday, as soon as the joint session of the senate and house had recessed and the two houses convened separately again, Senator Rivers D. Johnson introduced a bill in the senate to follow out the recommendation made by Governor Gardner to defer the revaluation until 1933. The bill was set on the calendar as the first matter of business to be taken up when the senate convenes at 8 o'clock Monday night.

There is little doubt but that one or the other of these bills will be speedily passed, since the recommendation by Governor Gardner to defer this revaluation was one of the four recommendations that were applauded by the members of the general assembly Tuesday. There had been a growing sentiment in favor of this action since Representative Neal first introduced his measure. But when this action was recommended by Governor Gardner in his message, its enactment was virtually assured.

Impetus toward this step was added Thursday, when Charles M. Johnson, executive secretary of the County Government Advisory Commission advised the postponement of the revaluation on the grounds that this postponement would save the counties approximately \$1,000,000, or what the revaluation would cost and also because it would be difficult to get a fair valuation of property at this time because of the general depression.

Hence the enactment of one or the other of these bills is regarded as virtually assured when they come before the two houses.

## Federal Agents Capture 19 Stills Since January First

Federal Agents Coats, Crumpler, and Roebuck, conducting raids in this and surrounding counties, have captured 19 liquor stills so far during the new year, and they were off to a late start at that. The personnel of the moonshiners remains practically unchanged, for only one man, a filling station operator, was arrested during the first few days the agents were active in this year.

Their largest still, a 150-gallon capacity one, was brought in from Bear Grass. Much beer was destroyed during the period, and a small quantity of liquor was poured out.

## Skewarkey Lodge Meeting Here This Evening at 7:30

Skewarkey Lodge, No. 90, will hold tonight its first regular communication of the new year, and the first since celebrating the 105th anniversary of the local unit recently. The meeting will open at 7:30 o'clock. Second degree work is scheduled, and all Masons are urged to be present.

## Judge Winston Holds His Court Despite Broken Arm

Windsor, Jan. 8.—Judge Francis D. Winston convened the regular term of the general county court on time although he was nursing a broken arm, and several head injuries.