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Baffling Problems Facing Session Of The 76th Congress

Defense, Trade Agreements, Labor Laws, Farm Subsidies To Get Attention

The second session of the 76th National Congress opens in Washington tomorrow with a multitude of complicated problems awaiting attention. To aggravate the baffling situation another presidential election is at hand. So far the election issue has been held in suspense by Roosevelt, but when the bag is formally opened there'll be a great deal of hullabaloo. Garner, Dewey and McNutt combined have created hardly a ripple on the election front with their talk. Attention continues to center around the plans of the President himself.

With taxes and the budget, the army and the navy, peace and war, trade treaties, labor problems, farm subsidies and other problems facing it the Congress is apparently in for a tough session.

The outlook for a continuation of farm subsidies is not very encouraging. The Secretary of the Treasury has suggested that the best way to solve the problem of financing the subsidies is to eliminate the subsidies. Henry Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, wants the subsidies and taxes to pay for them.

The farm vote is still recognized, but war and demands for defense are about to push the farmer out of the picture. Observers point out that no material increase in taxes is expected, meaning that any defense program will be financed by decreased appropriations to other departments. And the eyes of the hungry defense wolves are glued on farm subsidies and relief funds. So it is quite apparent now that the farmer or the poverty stricken in other walks of life will finance the construction of some more top-heavy ships.

Possibly anticipating a demand for more defense money, Wallace turned to the "certificate plan" of processing taxes on wheat, cotton, tobacco and rice to finance the parity payments. A strong opposition to the plan is indicated, but a showdown is not expected before April.

No material change in the neutrality law is expected, and it is very likely that the Congress will spend all of its time working on national problems. It is thought however, that some plan to aid Finland will be advanced.

A. J. Maxwell Announces Candidacy For Governor

Allen J. Maxwell, Commissioner of Revenue, announced his candidacy for governor yesterday. He is the third candidate to announce, W. P. Horton and J. M. Broughton having tossed their hats into the ring before the holidays.

Tax List-Takers Fix Schedule of Values

Listing Work Gets Underway In Two of Ten Districts Today

With No Extension Likely This Year, Supervisor Urges Early Listing

Determining a schedule of values for personal property and handling preparatory details at a meeting held in the commissioners room last Friday, Martin County tax list-takers are now at work handling the unpleasant but highly important task of putting everything and nearly everybody on the books for taxation this year. Work is already off to a start, a slow one to be sure, in two of the ten townships, other list-takers announcing they will be ready to receive the lists within a few days.

The schedule of values fixed for the current year is virtually the same as that for 1939 with two or three exceptions where the trend had a noticeable upward swing.

Values this year remain unchanged from last as they affect corn, hay, sheep, goats, mules, meat and lard and sweet potatoes, the supervisor pointing out that no change whatever is slated for real listings except in those cases where values were altered by new construction, improvements or by loss through fire or other elements.

The list of values that will be observed this year follows: corn, \$2.50 a barrel; hay, 20 cents a bale; sheep, \$2; goats, \$1; mules, \$250 and down; meat and lard, ten cents a pound; sweet potatoes, fifty cents a bushel. The value of gross hogs was advanced from three to four cents a pound.

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Town Commissioners in Short Session Here Last Evening

Williamston's town commissioners established a new record for brevity last evening when they convened, cleared the business calendar and adjourned within five minutes. There was little business to claim the attention of the board, and discussions were limited.

For the first time in nearly two years, the board received a water bill complaint. No rebate was allowed, the commissioner suggesting that the owner check his pipes and make certain there were no leaks.

Inquiring after the proposed Works Progress Administration improvement program, the commissioners were advised that no report had been received following the filing

of the application several weeks ago. "We are expecting to hear from the applications shortly," R. E. Manning, superintendent of the water and street departments, advised the board. Prospects continue bright for paving several sidewalks and streets here, it was pointed out.

Unofficially the town had no tax list-taker when the work got underway yesterday morning, but by a general understanding Mr. H. M. Burras will handle the work again this year. The amount of the salary was not mentioned.

Only three members of the board, Messrs. G. H. Harrison, clerk; Luther Peel and, V. D. Godwin, and Mayor John L. Hassell, were present for the session.

FIRST LISTINGS

Tax listing in this township was off to a fairly good start yesterday when list-taker H. M. Burras recorded the values for quite a number of property owners. The list-taker is holding forth in the county commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Property Owner H. M. Clark was the first to list his values.

Report First Wreck Of Year On Monday

Before the New Year was a day old, Highway Patrolman Whit Saunders started recording road accidents in his book. No one was hurt and very little damage resulted in a minor automobile accident in front of the county home yesterday afternoon about five o'clock, but the wreck starts off the count and the first official record will show one wreck, no injuries, no one killed, but a property damage estimated at \$40.

Failing to see a signal for a left-hand turn, Sidney E. Gallup, 816 E. Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk, crashed into the side of Mr. John Bland's car in front of the county home. No one was hurt and the parties to the wreck effected an immediate settlement. Mr. Gallup, accompanied by his wife, continued on his way after minor repairs were made to his car, a Studebaker sedan.

Recruiting Sergeant To Visit Martin County Next Saturday

The United States Marine Corps Recruiting Service announces that a recruiting sergeant will visit Williamston Saturday of this week to interview young men desiring information regarding enlistment in the U. S. Marine Corps. The sergeant will be in the lobby of the U. S. Post Office building between the hours of 3:45 and 5 p. m.

CHANGE HOURS

After observing Wednesday afternoon of each week as a holiday with the exception of brief periods at Christmas time, the local postoffice will shift its holiday hours to each Saturday afternoon beginning this week. Postmaster L. T. Fowden states that all class postoffices observe Saturday afternoon as a holiday, and that while he preferred to close the office Wednesday afternoon and hold it open all day Saturday, the department has ordered him to adhere to the national schedule except during baseball time.

New Year Comes In Without Incident

Comparative quietness marked the final hours of the old year here, the new calendar period being marked by no accident or unusual incident in the county. A few mill-whistles were heard and the bells sounded the passing of the old year. Williamstonians were early to bed after the New Year made its official appearance with the exception of a few cases where brazen automobile horn blowers nursed the 1940 baby through the night. An occasional firecracker was heard, and there was a bit of late visiting that followed in the course of habit more than as a means of seeing the old year pass and a new one make its appearance. Cares and woes, for the most part, were pushed into the background, and local people turned to the new edition of time with a bright hope and a determination to go forward along life's way doing better in the sight of God and all mankind.

December Issuance Marriage Licenses Smallest In Years

Health Laws Governing Issuance of Marriage Licenses Has Telling Effect

The new health laws governing the issuance of marriage licenses greatly reduced the number of marriages in this county last year, the issuance for December reaching the lowest point for any December since that big depression year, 1931. The records for the past nine months, the period the law has been in effect, show that couples went into other states to marry or that the marrying business experienced a telling set-back. While it is apparent that the new law has effected a decrease in marriages within the county and in the state, the value of the new regulations remains undisputed.

Last month there were 28 licenses issued in the county, 16 to white and 12 to colored couples, as compared with 35 to white and 28 colored couples a year ago. Last year there was a total of 159 licenses issued as against a total of 293 for 1938. Not since 1932 when a total of 155 licenses were issued has the number of marriages remained at such a low point in this county. The record low, however, was recorded in the great depression year of 1931 when only 126 couples, 62 white and 64 colored couples, entered into the bonds of matrimony.

In six out of the past nine years, the number of licenses issued to colored couples has been larger than the number issued to white couples, but last year the number of white marriages in the county exceeded the number of colored marriages by a slight margin or by a count of 81 and 78.

No official record of the count is available but it is understood that numbers of applicants were refused licenses in the county last year because they could not meet the health requirements.

Last month licenses were issued by Martin County Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger to the following couples:

White

Carl Henry Cowan and Ruby Mildred Hoggard, both of Bertie County.

Albert Wade, of South Hill, Va., and Mamie Queen, of Saxe, Va.

Joseph Henry Lilley, of Williamston, and Ethel Mae Barber, of Jamesville.

Rudolph E. Brinkley, of Martin, and Clydia Mae Douglas, of Hyde County.

James Asa Roberson, of Griffins Township, and Mrs. Minnie Mizelle of Beaufort County.

William Olive Powell and Ruth Mae White, both of Martin County. James Henry Stator and Vondora Spain, both of Pitt County.

William M. Roberson, of Pitt County, and Doris Elizabeth Martin, of Martin County.

Perlie L. Rodgers and Josephine Gurganus, both of this county. Joseph Mizelle and Vera Modlin, both of Jamesville.

Raymond Hermit Heath and Patricia C. Wells, both of Martin County. Eustice Lee Jones and Iola Ruby Dell Griffin, both of this county.

Arthur Bailey Gurganus and Mildred F. Modlin, both of Martin County.

C. B. Hardison, of Williamston, and Anne Marriner, of Williamston. Elbert Jasper Roberson and Mary Virginia Revels, both of Martin County.

Colored

Jeremiah Wallace and Sadie Ruth Jones, both of Martin County.

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Native Of County Passes In Hospital

Mrs. Wiley S. Woolard, a native of this county, died in a Richmond hospital early last Saturday morning, death resulting from pneumonia following an attack of influenza.

The daughter of the late Sidney Harrison and Nicholas Rawls, Mrs. Woolard was born in the Bear Grass community of this county 53 years ago. In early womanhood she was married to Mr. Woolard, prominent Beaufort County farmer, and since that time and until her recent illness made her home near Washington.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday in a Washington funeral home at 2:30 and interment followed in the Oakdale Cemetery there. She was Miss Agnes Rawls before her marriage. Mrs. Woolard was a member of the Old Ford Christian Church. She was highly regarded in her community and was one of its most useful citizens. She is survived by her husband, five daughters, Mrs. Lindsey Woolard and Mrs. Ralph Sheppard, of Washington; Mrs. Eddie Roy and Mrs. John Bagley, of Raleigh; and Mrs. Benie Gurkin, of Belgrade, Fla., and one adopted son, Clyde Nance Woolard, of Kearney, N. J.; one brother, O. B. Rawls and four sisters, Mrs. M. G. Rogers, Mrs. Claude Beacham and Miss Mitt Rawls, of near Washington, and Mrs. Charles Beacham, of near Williamston.

Dr. John W. Williams To Head Health Work

Named by Board to Succeed Dr. Frank E. Wilson, Resigned

Native of Beaufort County, New Health Officer Glad To Be Back in Section

Unanimously elected by the Martin County Board of Health in special session last Friday night, Dr. John W. Williams, a native of Beaufort County, entered upon his work as head of the Martin health department this morning. He succeeds Dr. Frank E. Wilson, who resigned to head the Edgecombe-Greene district health department.

Expressing a keen pleasure in being back in this section of North Carolina, Dr. Williams stated this morning he planned no marked changes in the county's health program. "I want to find out the health problems in this county, make a careful study and help solve them," Dr. Williams said this morning as he entered upon his new work. With the two county health nurses, all the new department head begins his work under a marked handicap, but he expressed the hope that they would be able to return to work shortly and that a normal operating program could be continued without any great delay.

Dr. Williams highly praised the work carried on by the department under both Dr. E. W. Furgurson and Dr. Frank E. Wilson. "It is gratifying to step into a smooth-operating and an effective organization," the new department head said, adding that he would make every effort to carry on the work to an even greater advantage to the people of Martin County. No change in the department personnel is being considered, according to the new health officer.

A native of Washington, Dr. Williams was graduated from Hopkins, soon after completing his course of training, he located in Everetts and ably served the people of that territory for about ten years. Keenly aware of the need for preventative medicine through public health programs, he entered the service in Beaufort County in the early twenties. Promotion followed a few years later and he went to Monroe, Louisiana, where during a stay of eight years he developed one of the largest and most effective health units in that state. He resigned his post there to accept a call to Asheville where he did an outstanding work until an opening was created in his native section of the State the middle of last month.

The doctor is genuinely happy to return to this section of the State. "I had rather have one acre of ground in Martin County than large holdings anywhere else," he said this morning. "And I earnestly hope we can advance a cooperative work that will prove beneficial to the health of every person in the county," he added.

Dr. Williams married a Williamston girl, Miss Bertie Gardner, and she with one daughter, Miss Lucy Elizabeth, will move here just as soon as they can find a home. He has two other sons, Fred Morgan, who is in business with his uncle in Washington, and Dr. John Williams, Jr., who is prominently connected with a hospital in New Orleans.

Dr. Williams' old friends here and over the county are glad to have him back. "It's been quite a while since I was in the county and there are so many strangers that it will be difficult for me to readily recognize them, but I hope to renew old acquaintances and make many new ones as time passes," he said.

Plan Unusual Test For Mercury Cars

The Ford Motor Company started today a nation-wide test for the Mercury, Mr. N. C. Green, of the Williamston Motor Company, dealer, announcing that the Mercury 8 Economy Run would be routed through Williamston tomorrow morning. The Mercury Economy Test Car is scheduled to reach here at 11 a. m. from Elizabeth City and continue to Washington at 1 p. m. tomorrow.

The Norfolk Branch of the company is launching a 1,500 test run through two states. "Mercury owners say they average 20 miles to the gallon. The test is being made with the assistance of disinterested parties to prove the statement," Mr. Green said.

In connection with the test, the company is also conducting a unique contest. Those competing in the contest will be awarded valuable prizes for driving one of the cars the greatest distance on one-tenth of a gallon of gasoline.

The public is invited to study the log of the test car here tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock, Mr. Green adding that practical souvenirs will be distributed at that time.

NEW TAGS

Convinced that the State Revenue Department means business when it says that owners operating cars with old licenses will be arrested, motorists in this section either adorned their machines with the new shiny plates or parked their vehicles, reports from enforcement headquarters stating that not a single owner had been carried into court for alleged violation of the license law.

Approximately 4,000 of the new tags have been sold at the local bureau, the sale being slightly in excess of that a year ago.

School Attendance Is Below Normal

Incomplete reports received here today state that most of the schools reopened the 1939-40 term yesterday with an attendance slightly below normal. One or two schools reported average attendance records, the unfavorable weather failing to hold back the little tots as they renewed their search for an education following the glorious holiday season.

Moving is not so pronounced in the county at this time according to reports on the school registers. Principal D. N. Hix said only three or four children had moved out of the Williamston district and no new ones had taken their places, as yet. Out in Bear Grass, Principal Hickman said yesterday the school there had lost eight pupils and gained only one. The professor doubted if replacements would be sufficient to offset the losses.

With an expected decrease in tobacco plantings this year, it is believed that quite a few farm families will shift to new locations, and it is possible that quite a number of families will locate in and around the several towns where they will depend upon odd jobs for a livelihood. Several tenant families have already been advised that they will not be needed another year in their old locations since the tobacco crop will undergo a marked decrease this season.

Committeemen Working On Martin Tobacco Allotments

Community committeemen are making a second review of 1940 tobacco allotments for farmers in this county. The quotas are to be announced within the near future.

Mrs. C. A. Harrison Appointed Treasurer

FIRM MARKET

Although an estimated ninety-five per cent of the crop has been sold, peanut prices continue to hold firm at 3 1-2 cents at this point with no sign that the market will weaken. A few farmers are holding for a higher figure. Few of the goobers are moving just now.

The sweet potato market is showing new life, and a slightly upward price trend is anticipated by some within the next few days. While fairly steady, deliveries have hardly been up to normal during the past three or four days.

Former Resident Of County Passes

J. F. Hopewell, retired farmer and for a number of years a resident of this county, died at the home of a son in Rocky Mount Sunday at noon following an illness of several years' duration. He had been in declining health following a stroke of paralysis several years ago, the end coming gradually.

He was born in Lenoir County 68 years ago. In 1920 he moved to this county, farming for short periods near Williamston and Hassell. He later located near Jamesville where he lived until a short time ago when he went to live with his son in Rocky Mount.

Funeral services were conducted in the Riddicks Grove Baptist church in Williams Township yesterday afternoon at 2:30 by Rev. W. B. Harrison. Interment was in the family plot in the church-yard cemetery.

Besides his widow he leaves five children, Roy and Miss Carrie Hopewell, of Rocky Mount; Coy Hopewell, of Virginia, and George Agbert Hopewell, of Jamesville.

Authorities Hear More About Bad Roads In County

Citizens Appeal To Regular Board Meeting For Relief

Pointing out the bad condition of the "later ridge roads in some sections of Martin County, several Martin citizens appears before the regular meeting of the commissioners here yesterday and urged them to appeal to the powers that be for badly needed relief. Representing hundreds of good citizens out in Griffins Township, Rev. W. B. Harrington pointed out the bad condition of the roads leading into that district. Mr. W. W. Griffin, of Williams Township, appealed to the board in behalf of a number of good citizens over in that district. Probably there would have been other complaints, but the citizens were unable to move with safety over the small ridges and could not get out to complain.

Considerable time was spent in the regular meeting in naming a successor to the position of county treasurer which was made vacant by the death of Mr. C. A. Harrison in Richmond last Thursday.

Reports from the various department heads were received and approved.

The badly needed door between the register of deeds office and the commissioners' room finally received attention by the board. On numerous occasions during the past several years, the Martin County grand jury had recommended that a door be cut through the wall to connect the two rooms.

LeRoy Bonner, Cross Roads colored man, was relieved of the payment of poll taxes on account of a physical disability.

A reevaluation of 40 acres of James land in Goose Nest Township was ordered when it was pointed out by E. L. Glover that the listing had been in error. The value was dropped from \$1,800 to \$1,250.

The meeting of the board was unusually short, the commissioners handling the varied business and adjourning at noon. All the board members, Messrs. J. E. Pope, chairman; C. C. Fleming, R. L. Perry, C. Abram Roberson and R. A. Haislip, were present for the session.

Mrs. Elmer James Succeeds Mrs. Gaylord At Everetts

Appointed a few days ago to fill the term made vacant by the resignation of Mrs. W. B. Gaylord, Jr., Mrs. Elmer James entered upon her duties as a member of the Everetts school faculty yesterday. Mrs. James formerly taught in the schools there.

Mrs. Gaylord resigned to join her husband in Whiteville where he is connected with the health department of Columbus County.

Group Of Citizens Suggest That Bank Be Made Treasurer

Mrs. Harrison's Appointment Gets Unanimous Vote of County Board

Mrs. Lottie A. Harrison, well-known Williamston woman, was appointed treasurer of Martin County by the board of commissioners in regular session here yesterday to fill the unexpired term of her late husband, C. A. Harrison, who died last week in a Richmond hospital. The appointment was made by unanimous vote of the commissioners, the action, according to numerous reports, meeting with general approval. Mr. Harrison had completed nine years of faithful service as treasurer of the county, and the action of the board of commissioners was recognized as endorsing that record of service. Mrs. Harrison is the sixth woman to serve as a county treasurer in the State, incomplete reports showing that the counties of Cabarrus, Cleveland, Lenoir, Pender and Rutherford have women treasurers.

Subject to the wishes of Mrs. Harrison, several aspirants for the office unofficially applied for the office. Each of them was reported to have held his candidacy in abeyance pending an expression of Mrs. Harrison's wishes. Messrs. J. E. Pope, W. H. Coburn, Clarence Griffin and W. H. Biggs, were said to have considered announcing their candidacies.

While only the candidacy of Mrs. Harrison was considered, the board did receive a delegation which suggested that a bank be made treasurer. Finding they could not lawfully appoint a bank to handle the job at

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