

# The Story of the Constitution

by CALEB JOHNSON

## Thirteen Free and Independent Nations

When we start to study anything we must begin at the beginning. The Constitution of the United States begins with a Preamble. A Preamble is intended to explain the purpose of what follows. The Preamble to our Constitution does that in 52 words.

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this CONSTITUTION for the United States of America."

That explains what the Constitution was expected to do. It does not, however, explain why it was necessary to draw up a Constitution, 11 years after the English Colonies of America had declared their independence of Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. The Constitution was adopted in 1787. Before we can understand the why of the Constitution, we must understand what kind of a government we had in America before there was any Constitution.

The very first phrase of the Constitution raises questions. "We, the people of the United States." How were the States united before there was any Constitution? What had kept them together throughout the War of the Revolution? What had held them together after the Revolution and before they adopted the Constitution? For, as they expressly stated in the Declaration of Independence, they were not only free states, but independent states.

For that matter, what did they mean by the word "states," in the Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution itself? When the Founding Fathers of the Republic said "state" they meant exactly what we mean today when we say "nation." In the 18th century the

word "nation" was seldom used; the word "state" was always understood as meaning a nation. The Declaration of Independence, after declaring that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States," continues: "and that all political connection between them and the STATE of Great Britain is, and ought to be, dissolved." "United States," then, meant "United Nations."

Thirteen independent nations, seeking to free themselves from the domination of another nation, fought the War of the Revolution. They called their union a "Confederation of States." Exactly the same meaning would have been conveyed if they had called it a "League of Nations."

In the beginning, this union of independent states was nothing more than a mutual alliance to carry on the war. It was almost exactly the same sort of "union" as that between the allied but independent nations of Europe, for the conduct of the World War from 1914 to 1919. The American States had the common background of having all been subject to the same domination by another nation. But the utmost their leaders had in mind in the way of a union, at the beginning of the Revolution, was an alliance of independent nations in what they explicitly termed a "League of Friendship."

The only central government that existed in America for the first five years of the war with Great Britain was the Continental Congress, composed of delegates from the thirteen states. It had so little power or authority that it could hardly be called a government at all. The Continental Congress could borrow money, if anyone would lend it, but could not levy taxes to repay such loans. It would issue requisitions to the separate states for supplies and troops, but it could not make its acts effective.

Next Installment: The Seed From Which Grew The Constitution.

## Birth Day Celebration

August 11, 1935, there will be a birthday celebration at the old Angell home-place about two and one-half miles southwest of Boonville, in honor of Mrs. Lumbie Angell Davis on her eighty-first birthday anniversary. All members of the Angell and Davis families and their relatives and friends are requested to attend and bring a basket dinner.

## RETURN FROM VACATION

Los Angeles, July 28.—Wiley Post, accompanied by his wife and the actor-humorist, Will Rogers, landed at Union air terminal today at 1:35 p. m., (Pacific standard time) after a flight from Durango, Colo., where they ended a New-Mexico-Colorado outing.

Post said his plans for a projected flight to Moscow were still uncertain.

## SUMMARY OF LAWS AFFECTING YADKIN

### Institute of Government Refreshes Acts of Last Legislature

Continuing a practice inaugurated in 1933 The Institute of Government presents herewith, for the convenience of local officials and the press, a summary of local laws affecting Yadkin County, its cities, towns, subdivisions and citizens. Of course, many general laws also affect the County, but space does not permit them to be summarized here. A summary of these general, state-wide laws will be found in the May-June issue of Popular Government, The Institute's magazine. In this summary for the County, only local laws and general laws from which the County or some part of the County is specifically exempted, are mentioned. No attempt is made to cover bills which were introduced but never became law.

### I. LAWS AFFECTING THE COUNTY.

1. Taxes and Related Matters. Chapter 116, Public-Local Laws, applying to Yadkin and the municipalities therein, extends the time to November 1, 1935 during which suits on tax sale certificates for the years 1928-1932, inclusive, may be begun.

Chapter 362, Public-Local Laws, prohibits the issuance or sale of any bonds of the County unless they are approved by the voters in an election called by the Commissioners.

Chapter 98, Public-Local Laws, permits the ex-sheriff (C. E. Moxley) or his agent, bondmen or personal representative to continue to collect taxes for 1919-1929, inclusive. This authority will end January 1, 1937.

Chapter 12, Public-Local Laws, allows officers (restricted by the title to non-salaried officers) making arrests and securing the evidence to convict of prohibition offenses the following fees: Manufacturing, \$10; sale, \$10, and capture of a vehicle used in transporting, \$25 (to be added to the costs of seizure and deducted from the proceeds of the sale of the vehicle.) None of these fees are to be paid if the amount of whiskey seized is less than one gallon. If these fees are paid by the county, in such cases, the amount of these fees are to be determined and paid by the county commissioners. The law also provides that a fee of \$2.50 will be allowed for serving a felony warrant to be taxed against the defendant.

Chapter 47, Public-Local Laws, fixes the per diem of the County Commissioners at \$3.50 and allows mileage at 5c or less per mile going to and from the place of meeting.

Chapter 149, Public-Local Laws, enacted a complete fee bill for the Clerk of the Superior Court of the County, listing 73 items alphabetically. Among these items changed the items involving the largest amounts are: Recording certificate of incorporation, \$5; issuing summons, \$1.25; probate of will with letters, \$2; letters of administration with bond, \$2; judgment by confession, \$3; entering caveat to will, \$1.50; and appeal to the Supreme Court, \$2. Other fees range from 5c to \$1.50.

3. Game. House Bill 613 puts a two year closed season on deer, wild turkey, and ring-necked pheasants in Alleghany, Wilkes, Surry and Yadkin Counties, and prescribes a penalty of \$100 to \$1000 or 60 days to two years for violation. The law also fixes the penalty of \$5 to \$25 or not over 30 days for allowing dogs to chase deer or other game in the Roaring Gap and Mitchell River Reservations.

Chapter 295, Public Laws, appointed the following Justices of the Peace for six year terms unless otherwise indicated:

East Bend Township: T. A. Poin-dexter, W. W. Martin, R. C. Styres, E. W. Hobson, R. R. Kirkman, E. E. Harrell (for two years), G. G. Davis (for two years).

Buck Shoals Township: J. S. Thomasson, D. T. Totten, H. C. Myers, Leroy Sales, Homer Allen, Hugh Bell, E. G. Myers (for two years), A. M. Johnson (for two years).

Forbush Township: Tom Harding (for two years), W. H. Dull (for two years).

Knobs Township: J. Mont Myers, S. S. Wagner, R. C. Pardue, W. R. G. Martin, O. E. Boles.

South Liberty Township: N. C. Cranfield, Ike White.

Boonville Township: W. W. Reece, C. R. Transou, Tom Chipman (for two years), S. A. Spain-hour (for two years).

South Buck Shoal Township: Erastus Crater (for two years).

South Knobs Township: Ed Brown (for two years).

Chapter 296, Public Laws, appointed the following to the County Board of Education for two year terms from the first Monday in May, 1935: M. V. Fleming, J. H. Speas, Lloyd Craver.

You and I are going to get real tired one of these days of feeding those who refuse to work.

## Escape Injury When Automobile Wrecks

Late Sunday afternoon a group of local men composed of Thomas Shugart, Paul Reece, Cola Fulp and Max Boyles, miraculously escaped injury when the right rear tire of the Shugart car blew out and the car somersaulted three times. The accident occurred near Fairview in this county. The party was returning from the ball game at Mount Airy. The car was badly damaged.

Another odd thing about the whole business is how they can wallop the taxpayers for four billion dollars at a whack and call it relief.

The Sage of Three Rivers declares that woman can never claim equality with man until she wears shoes that don't hurt her feet.

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
Under and by virtue of the power of sale in a certain deed of trust, dated February 25, 1921, executed by Tazwell Pilson to the undersigned Trustee, recorded in Book of Deeds of Trust 79, at page 67, rec-

ords of Surry county, default having been made in the payment of the note secured thereby, at the request of the holder of the said note, the said undersigned Trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the Court House Door, in Dobson, North Carolina, on the 26th day of August, 1935, at 2 o'clock P. M., the following real estate described in the said deed of trust, to-wit:

Beginning in the middle of the path near a marked small red oak a short distance Eastwardly of Tazwell Pilson's house, runs North 50 degrees West with the path 6 chains to a stone on the South side of the path in Turner Pilson's line; thence West with said Pilson's line 2 chains to a stake or stone; thence South 41 1-2 degrees East 6 chains and 28 links to a sourwood; thence North 72 degrees East 2 chains 76 links to the beginning, containing 1 2-5 acres, more or less.

**SECOND TRACT:** Beginning on a white oak, R. T. Pilson's corner, running due South to the road from R. T. Pilson's corner to the public road leading from Rockford to Mt. Airy; then running North-west with the road leading to R. T. Pilson's to a red oak in R. T. Pilson's line; thence due East to the beginning, containing 2 acres, more or less.

This the 25th day of July, 1935.  
8-22 W. M. JACKSON, Trustee.

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You Get Beauty, Service, Luxury in

## WOOL-GORA

A blanket that's the pride of our lives!

\$4.98



Pure virgin American wool blended with virgin angora and silk—soft as kitten's fur. Light as a feather and very warm. Silk binding. Handsome enough for a hope chest, practical, too! Beautiful, reversible color combinations. Single. Size 70 x 80 in. Solid pastels

WATCH OUR WINDOWS!

Friday Morning for the

## BLANKET MYSTERY

Which Will Be Frozen In a Block of Ice!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR POPULAR Lay-Away Plan

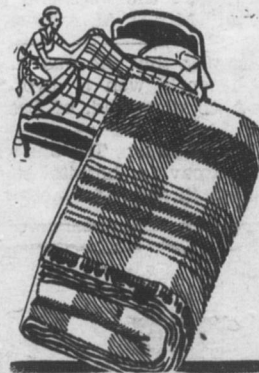
ASK FOR DETAILS

Outstanding value! Part Wool

## BLANKET

Extra size, 72 x 84 inches

\$2.98 pair



A heavy, serviceable, 4 lb. blanket with not less than 5% wool. Full double bed size with lots of tuck-in at sides and bottom. Deep warm nap that stays soft and fluffy. Lustrous 4-in. sateen binding adds a nice finish. The kind of value that has made us famous.

A large selection of quality BLANKETS

that we know we cannot duplicate for only

\$1.98 pair



Here's a grand buy . . . only \$1.98 for this pair of blankets which was featured at a much higher price last year. Contains not less than 5% wool. Is soft and long-wearing. Edges are bound with lustrous sateen. Size 70 x 80 inches. Come early for best selection!

THE BIGGEST

98c VALUE

IN OUR HISTORY

Not less than 5 per cent pure virgin wool—1 7-8 pounds of good blanket.

Fine clear weave and even nap—fresh, new wool and cotton, inter-woven for strength and warmth. Size 70x80.

PENNEY'S

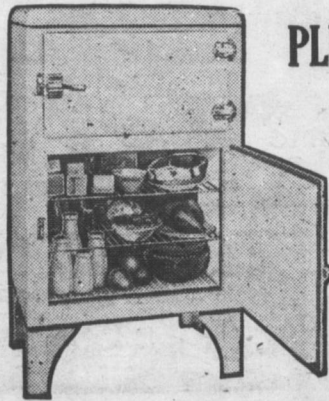
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