

## DEBT MAY CHECK NAZIS

Berlin, April 4—An official reminder that Germany's indebtedness stood at 25,109,800,000 marks (\$11,243,920,000) on January 31 was given today while many Germans watched Polish-British negotiations in London to try to get some inkling of what the future may bring.

The controlled press bitterly attacked Great Britain, but there were growing indications that the average German does not want war. Some observers believed that months of peace seemed assured unless Polish Foreign Minister Joseph Beck definitely signs up with Great Britain in a manner that places Poland in a distinct anti-German camp.

## NOMINATION IS CONFIRMED BY SENATE

Washington, April 4—The nomination of William O. Douglas, 40-year-old chairman of the securities commission, to be a Supreme court justice was confirmed by the senate today, 62 to 4.

Before the vote, the senate heard a lengthy criticism of Douglas by Senator Frazier, Republican, North Dakota, and answering speeches by Senator O'Mahoney, Democrat, Wyoming, and others.

## FOUR DIE IN PLANE CRASH

Quincy, Mass., April 4—A collision in flight of two naval planes sent four reservists plunging to death today during the launching of the giant aircraft carrier Wasp, newest addition to the nation's sea power.

Few who watched the Wasp glide majestically down the ways were aware of the tragedy, which struck almost at the moment Mrs. Charles Edson, wife of the assistant navy secretary, broke a traditional bottle of champagne against the warship's knife-like bow.

## FRENCH PROTEST TO JAPAN

Paris, April 4—The French government today dispatched a formal protest to Japan against her assumption of control over the Spratly Islands in the South China sea, announced in Tokyo last Friday.

The protest was decided upon by the cabinet and sent to the Japanese government through the Tokyo embassy.

The Spratly Islands, seven coral reefs important principally as a possible base for seaplanes, submarines and a small naval craft, had been claimed by France in 1933.

## TAX LISTING IS UNDERWAY

J. L. Hall Named As Assistant to W. J. Snow in Elkin Township

OFFICE ON WEST MAIN

J. L. Hall has been named as assistant list taker for Elkin township by B. F. Folger, Surry county tax supervisor. Mr. Hall is aiding W. J. Snow at his office on West Main street.

Tax listing is now under way, having started Tuesday. Every male person between 21 and 50 must list for poll tax, and all property on hand April 1, either real or personal, is subject to taxation and must also be listed.

In addition, lists must include all real estate, buildings and improvements, machinery, fixtures, merchandise and goods in process of manufacture. Other items to be included are farm machinery, household furniture, office furniture, jewelry, automobiles and livestock. Dogs must also be listed.

Everyone is urged to list their taxes early and avoid the last minute rush.

## TOWN COMMISSIONERS HOLD MEETING MONDAY

The Elkin board of commissioners met Monday evening at the city tax office. Only business of a routine nature was transacted, it was said.

## PRESENT MAYOR AND BOARD ARE RE-NOMINATED

Mass Meeting Held Last Thursday

NO OPPOSITION NOTED

Resolution Is Passed Requesting That Town Tax Rate Be Reduced to \$1.40

DR. E. G. CLICK PRESIDES

Elkin citizens, meeting at the elementary school auditorium last Thursday evening, nominated J. R. Poindexter to succeed himself as mayor, and placed the present board of town commissioners on the ticket to succeed themselves in office.

Dr. E. G. Click acted as chairman of the meeting with J. L. Lillard serving as secretary.

Mr. Poindexter was nominated by H. P. Graham and the nomination was carried by acclamation. R. G. Smith made the motion that the present board be nominated to succeed themselves in office. The vote was also by acclamation. No other nominations were made.

Members of the board are C. C. Poindexter, C. C. Myers, C. C. Pulp, H. P. Graham and R. C. Freeman.

Harry H. Barker introduced a resolution requesting that the mayor and board pledge themselves to lower the Elkin tax rate by 15 cents on the hundred dollar valuation. This resolution was passed after it had been amended to ask a 10 cent reduction.

## WM. V. AYERS DIES TUESDAY

Aged Elkin Man Had Suffered Paralytic Stroke Short Time Before Death

WRITES THIS MORNING

William V. Ayers, 77, died about noon Tuesday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Harvey Wray, on Elk Spur street. Mr. Ayers suffered a paralytic stroke only a short time before his passing, from which he never regained consciousness.

The deceased was a native of Wilkes county and a member of the East Elkin Baptist church. His wife, Mrs. Sallie Bradley Ayers, preceded him in death several years ago.

The survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Wray, with whom he made his home; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and one sister, Mrs. Daniel Hamby, of Ronda.

Funeral services will be held this morning at 11 o'clock from the Bethel Baptist church. The service will be in charge of Rev. M. R. Richard and Rev. L. J. Pardue. Burial will follow in the Bethel cemetery.

## Pleasant Hill Baptists Seeking Funds for Church

A group of 30 workers at Pleasant Hill Baptist church has been equally divided and designated as the "reds" and "blues." The two sections will canvass for funds to complete the church, which is under construction, at Pleasant Hill. The "reds" are under the leadership of Arthur Collins and Joseph Darnell will direct the affairs of the "blues."

At the close of the contest, which will continue for five weeks, the team that leads in collections will be feted by the losing side.

The brick walls of the building are completed but the funds are too low to begin the roof and the drive is for the roofing fund. The church, when completed, will have a main auditorium and 20 Sunday school rooms.

Pleasant Hill has the largest membership, both in church and Sunday school, of any rural church in this section.

Miss Barbara Weir, a member of the Wadesboro school faculty, will arrive today to spend the Easter holidays with her mother, Mrs. Lulu Weir, at her home on Surry avenue.

## AS WAR THREATENS

On a lonely field outside the Hungarian city of Szeged, the territories of Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia meet as shown in the picture at left below. Before the World War all this territory was part of Hungary. Now the left part is Hungary, the right Rumania and the foreground section Yugoslavia, while over all hovers the sinister shadow of Adolf Hitler. Meanwhile, in the U. S., a squadron of the 17th Attack Group execute an echelon formation of elements during a 350-mile combat training flight, a part of the rigid training the Army Air Corps pilots are now receiving as the nation plans for a much larger air defense.



## COMER AGAIN NAMED SUPT.

Succeeds Self as Head of County School System; Has Done Good Job

COMMITTEEMEN NAMED

Meeting Monday at Dobson, members of the Surry county board elected John W. Comer to succeed himself as county superintendent of education, a post he has held for the past six years. Mr. Comer, who has served the county well during his term in office, was elected for two additional years. No other name for the job was submitted.

Appointment of local school boards or committeemen were also named.

Committeemen named, the majority to succeed themselves, were as follows: Dobson district, R. L. Folger, chairman; R. A. Freeman, R. R. Folger, F. F. Riggs, W. L. Taylor.

Little Richmond, Manlius Whitaker, Gilmer Corder, successor to Barker.

Zephyr, Emmett Smith, Joe Cockerham, successor to Gilmer Dobbins; Harold Parks.

Elkin, J. G. Abernethy, C. A. McNeill, F. M. Norman, J. D. Brendle, W. C. Cox.

North Elkin, Patterson Nixon, C. S. Foster, A. F. Yarborough. Mountain Park, Kyle Thompson, P. D. Wood, Ford Cockerham.

Lowgap, W. L. Jackson, W. L. Schuyler, D. C. Lowe.

McMickle, Floyd Mayes, C. R. Blevins, William Mayes.

Beulah, Walter C. Sparger, Goldie Payne, Sam Cooke to succeed Rufus Vernon.

Franklin, Robert Jones, E. L. Patterson, Guy Sparger.

Green Hill, Arthur Jones, L. T. Rhodaker, Harris Brown.

White Plains, C. G. Robertson, E. M. Stone, Elmer Key.

Flat Rock, R. L. Reeves, J. A. Sparger, R. B. Midkiff, also Bill Baughn who was added because of the illness in a hospital of R. B. Midkiff.

Holly Springs, J. M. Hunter, D. C. Haymore, Sam Joyce as successor to Phil Banner.

Shelton, Powell Snoddy, Ashby Hiatt, Ramey Shelton.

Westfield, P. H. Jessup, Glenn Payne, Vance Dearman.

Cooke, Arthur Cooke, J. A. Tilley, Palmer Flippin.

Pilot Mountain, W. R. Badgett, Dr. S. R. Tillotson, Oscar Johnson, Christopher Henly, S. F. Fulk.

## British Leader Says Guns Ready As Pact With Poland Is Cemented

### School Children Are to Present Easter Operetta

An operetta, "The First Easter Eggs," will be presented by a cast of approximately 125 children of the primary grades of the elementary school here this evening (Thursday) at 8:00 o'clock in the school auditorium. The operetta will be staged in a woodland setting and the children will represent animals of the forest.

Queen of the spring is Barbara Ann Benson; Elfin, Nathaniel Lovelace; Violet, Alice Blake Dobson; Old Hen, Josephine Laffoon; White Rabbit, A. L. Brown II; Robins, Margaret Ann Click; Gene Nicks; Red Fox, Ray Freeman; Bears, Charles Brewer and Jimmy Harris; Libby Royall will lead the toy orchestra and others in the cast are elves, flower fairies and white rabbits.

A small admission fee will be charged. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## SOFT BALL IS DOGGY AFFAIR

T.C.U. Club Sponsors Tournament Between Teams of Various Departments

BULL, CUR DOGS WIN

The soft ball tournament between teams made up of the various shifts of the Chatham Manufacturing Co., and sponsored by the recently organized T. C. U. Club, got under way at Chatham athletic field Tuesday afternoon with doggy contests between the Lap Dogs and the Bull Dogs, which the Bull Dogs won 13-8, and the Cur Dogs and the Hot Dogs, which was won by the Curs 26 to 14. A third game scheduled in the Cat league between the Tom Cats and the Bob Cats, was not played.

Ten teams have been organized, the Dog league being made up of six teams from A and C shifts. The Cat league features four teams from B shift.

Names of the various teams in the Dog league, and the departments they represent, are: Bull Dogs, office and card room; Hound Dogs, Spinning; Hot Dogs, weave room; Lap Dogs, shop, warp and burling; Bird Dogs, Old Mill; Cur Dogs, wool room, picker and dye house.

The Cat league teams represent the following: Tom Cats, card room; Alley Cats, spinning and shop; Bob Cats, weave, warp and deadhead; Wild Cats, wool picker and dye house.

Games have been scheduled throughout April and through May 5 as the first half of the tournament schedule.

## COMMISSIONERS O K E Y SCHOOL APPROPRIATION

An appropriation for an addition to Franklin school, a WPA project, was approved and changes were made in a proposed appropriation for the Beulah school project, at the meeting of the Surry county board of commissioners at Dobson Monday.

The commissioners spent a busy day with other matters of routine nature.

## Stores Here to Take Holiday Easter Monday

All local stores, with the exception of hardware stores and drug stores, will remain closed Easter Monday, it has been announced by Mrs. Franklin Folger, secretary of the Elkin Merchants association. Barber shops will remain open Monday morning but will close at noon, Mrs. Folger said. Cafes will remain open as usual.

## COMMENCEMENT IS UNDER WAY

Ronda Exercises Start with Junior-Senior Banquet Wednesday Evening

OPERETTA ON APRIL 13

Commencement festivities at the Ronda school began on Wednesday with the junior-senior banquet. The elementary school will present an operetta on the evening of April 13. The commencement proper will begin on April 16, with the baccalaureate sermon at the Ronda Baptist church on Sunday afternoon at 2:45 by Rev. Eugene Oliver, pastor of the North Wilkesboro Baptist church.

On April 18 a play, "Let's All Get Rich," will be given and the seventh grade diplomas will be awarded all schools in the district at a program at the gymnasium on the evening of April 20 at 8 o'clock.

The graduating exercises will be held April 21, with the address to the graduates by Dr. Chapel Wilson of Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone.

The public is extended a cordial invitation to attend.

## Elkin Negatives Win, Affirmatives Lose in Debate

In the triangular debate Friday afternoon between the high schools of Elkin, Mt. Airy and Wilkesboro, Wilkesboro emerged victorious. Elkin's negative, debating with Mt. Airy's affirmative, won by a two to one decision at North Wilkesboro. Miss Louise Laffoon and Roy Johnson composed the winning half of Elkin's team. Miss Edith Fox and Sam Gambill, Elkin's affirmative team, lost to North Wilkesboro at Mt. Airy.

The winning quartette from Wilkesboro, J. B. Brookshire, Baxter Davis, Joel Bentley and Flake Steelman, will compete with other winning schools of the state at Chapel Hill on April 21 and 22 for the Aycock Memorial Cup.

Monday morning the Elkin group sent the following telegram of congratulation to the Wilkesboro victors: "Let us propose a toast to Wilkesboro debaters; may they win the Aycock Cup."

## England Is Awaiting Next Move of Adolf Hitler; First Report Denied

EXCITEMENT CREATED

The British fleet is ready for any emergency, it was learned Wednesday afternoon via radio press dispatches, as England awaits the next move in Europe by Adolf Hitler.

It was also announced that the pact with Poland, which makes strong military pledges, had been cemented with the Polish Foreign Minister Joseph Beck.

The first announcement concerning the readiness for "anything that might happen" on the part of the navy was denied by Prime Minister Chamberlain. However, the second announcement substantiated the report.

London, April 4—A flurry was created in London tonight by a speech the first lord of the admiralty, Earl Stanhope, made in Portsmouth saying that anti-aircraft guns of the British fleet were being manned "so as to be ready for anything that might happen."

This was met immediately by a statement from No. 10 Downing street—the official residence of Prime Minister Chamberlain—that Stanhope's words were not correct.

Reliable sources said, however, that Great Britain appreciated the far-reaching potentialities of her pledge last Friday to back Polish independence with armed night and had "her eyes open" when she made the commitment.

Lord Stanhope, speaking in the hangar on the aircraft carrier Ark Royal, explained the absence of some officers from a naval function as due to the fact they had been called to anti-aircraft duty.

An admiralty spokesman in London, however, declared the absences were because half the fleet's personnel was on Easter leave. The spokesman said "the fleet is always ready and no extra precautions have been taken."

"Shortly before I left the admiralty, it became necessary to give orders to man the anti-aircraft guns of the fleet so as to be ready for anything that might happen," Stanhope declared.

News of Lord Stanhope's speech reached London shortly before 10 p.m., between the normal edition times of London newspapers. Of three midnight editions, one published the speech accompanied by the statement from the prime minister's residence and the admiralty spokesman's words.

## WORK ON NEW BUILDING HERE GETS UNDER WAY

Construction of a large store building on East Main street just east of the Hugh Chatham bridge has begun here with the wrecking of the small filling station which recently housed the office of H. P. Graham, local distributor of Sinclair products.

Although facts are not available, it is said the building, which will be erected by N. B. Smithy, of North Wilkesboro, to house a Smithy store, will be 100 by 80 feet, and will be of modern construction.

Palm trees were so named because their leaves resemble human hands.

## HALT CALLED TO NEW EXPANSION BY LEGISLATURE

Body Adjourns 2:30 O'clock Tuesday A. M.

MAY BE CLOSE OF ERA

Further Governmental Centralization Frowned Upon by General Assembly

CONTINUAL TAX HUNT

Raleigh, April 4—The gavel of presiding officers thumped simultaneously in the legislative halls today, sounding the sine die adjournment of the 1939 general assembly, and perhaps, the close of an era of state governmental expansion in North Carolina.

Adjournment came at 2:30 o'clock this morning, ending a 90-day session.

The last decade, in many respects, has been one of the most significant in the state's political history. It has seen the functions of government double and triple, with the centralization of powers in Raleigh.

The 1939 general assembly, in effect, said: The state has assumed enough obligations for the time being. We must consolidate our gains.

Since 1929, the state has taken over the operation of schools and prisons, and the maintenance of highways. It has provided free textbooks for elementary public schools. It has taken part in virtually every phase of the federal social security program.

Budget figures give a vivid picture of state expansion. General fund expenses for the 1927-28 biennium were approximately \$30,000,000. General fund expenses for the 1939-41 biennium are estimated at \$84,000,000, and the entire two-year spending program—including highway and agriculture allotments—are estimated at more than \$155,000,000.

Because the state took over new responsibilities nearly every biennium, a continual tax hunt was under way during the decade, and an entirely new revenue bill was drafted and passed every two years.

Among the new taxes were a three per cent levy on almost all retail sales; wine, beer and liquor taxes enacted as soon as those beverages were legalized; new taxes on estates and gifts; a state intangibles tax with counties sharing in the receipts; and increases in income tax rates under a constitutional amendment raising the top limit from six to ten per cent. One cent was added to the gasoline levy raising it to six cents, in 1931, when the state took over county roads and prisons.

The 1939 assembly balked at any new major taxes or substantial tax boosts. Various allotments were raised, but not a single major undertaking was authorized.

## FINAL MEETING OF CLUB HELD

Stacey Weaver Addresses Yadkin County School Masters' Group

IS HELD AT BOONVILLE

Boonville, March 30—The Yadkin School Master's Club, composed of all men teachers of the county, held their final meeting of the year here last night in the home economics department of the school. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. at which time a banquet supper was served by the home economics classes of the Boonville school with Mrs. Anita Reece, instructor, in charge.

After the dinner the speaker of the evening, Prof. Stacey Weaver, was introduced by the chairman of the program committee, Rufus Crater. Prof. Weaver made a very appropriate talk for the occasion on "Some Habits of Character."

Mr. Weaver, who for many years has been close to the school child from the standpoint of high school and college teacher, made his talk purely from the observations that he has been able to gather while dealing with children of various age classes. For the past several years Mr. Weaver has been principal of Jones

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