

# The ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina  
 HALIFAX COUNTY'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER  
 North Carolina's Only TABloid NEWSpaper



CARROLL WILSON, Owner and Editor

Entered as Second Class matter April 3rd, 1914, at the post office at Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, under Act of March 3rd, 1879.

PRINTING - EMBOSsing - ENGRAVING

## EDITORIAL

### THE LAST RESORT

The most unpopular thing in North Carolina today is the sales tax. It is a nuisance in every sense of the word. Yet it is a necessary nuisance, for the present.

Without it, the State of North Carolina would be in default, probably bankrupt. Without it, the State would not have been able to renew its notes or to borrow money with which to continue operation.

Without it, the State of North Carolina would not have been in a position to secure Federal aid, which will be forthcoming soon. The order has gone out in Washington to aid those States which have taken proper steps to help themselves. The Federal government may help save the credit of insolvent States, but there will be no public works program or relief appropriations for indolent States which took no drastic steps (as North Carolina did do) to better themselves.

It will be recalled that the 1931 legislature, which can lay no claim to fame, after the longest session in State history, adjourned without providing necessary funds to carry on the State government. The result was that the 1933 legislature faced a huge deficit with the credit of the State dangerously impaired.

Turning down every other means of raising enough revenue to balance the huge budget and in session almost as long as the previous legislature, the 1933 assembly, at the urgent demand of the Governor, passed the sales tax. It was the last desperate resort. Every member of the legislature realized that, realized also its unpopularity. It took real moral courage to vote for it.

Now come reports that several legislators who did not have that courage to put their name on record, and voted against the sales tax, actually worked for its passage on the sly. Such legislators are doing the taxpayer a much graver injustice than the most rabid accuser could charge to one who voted for the sales tax. Such legislators are guilty of double-crossing and cheating the taxpayer. They are trying to gain votes under false pretenses and all records should be studied carefully for such trickery.

We don't like the sales tax any better than anyone else, merchant or public. We think it a terrible nuisance and should be repealed as soon as possible. It was an emergency measure and may be with us two years. If we had our way, it could be repealed in less than two years.

But we refuse to follow the lead of the professional politicians who voted against the sales

Regardless—We're all on David's Side

By Albert T. Reid



tax just because it was popular to do so and who would condemn those who voted for it when that act saved the credit of the State and made it possible for North Carolina to participate in every phase of the National Recovery Act.

#### REPEAL THE SALES TAX

We are for the repeal of the State Sales Tax. And it can be done six months from now.

Sales tax repeal, however, is contingent on (1) Repeal of the 18th Amendment (2) Repeal of the Turlington Act.

Now, let's see how sincere are the sales tax foes. If they mean what they say they will work day and night for repeal of the Turlington Act. Repeal of the 18th Amendment is merely a matter of time. The 36th State will have voted for it by January.

We then insist that the Governor call a special session of the Legislature to (1) Repeal the Turlington Act (2) Set up a State controlled and State taxed liquor system (3) Repeal the Sales tax.

One step follows the other in logical order. Enough revenue can be secured from the sale of liquors to do away with the sales tax.

Other states nearby are going to do it. We should profit by the position Virginia finds itself in now on the 3.2 beer and even as we did with legalization of beer, take the lead in proper legalization of liquor.

By so doing in special session the first of 1934, we can forge a full year ahead of neighboring States and can immediately repeal that present necessary nuisance, the State sales tax.

#### THE NEW DEAL IN ROANOKE RAPIDS

Roanoke Rapids, like every other community in the country, will soon feel the wholesome effects of the New Deal promised by the President and the Democratic administration.

Monday of this week, a ten per cent raise in wages at Roanoke Mills Co., and Patterson Mills Co., went into effect. This Saturday will see more pay in the envelopes than in many years. Business is on the upgrade for the first time in four years.

Another phase of the new deal was evident here Monday night at the monthly meeting of the Roanoke Rapids Building and Loan Association when final application for \$20,000 was made under the new Home Loan Act.

This extra money will be available within the next two weeks and makes it possible for those on the waiting list who plan new homes, repairs to present dwellings or payment of mortgages, to get their money immediately instead of the usual wait of a year or more.

We can, therefore look forward to a nice building and repair program in Roanoke Rapids in the early Fall.

#### ONLY 30 PER CENT

Three months ago, North Carolina farmers were gloomily predicting five cent cotton. They were ready to throw up their hands and quit.

Then came the administration efforts to help them. By cutting down the production, by paying to cut down the production, thus using up much of the surplus, prices could be raised.

When the plan was adopted, cotton prices rose to new highs. The government was doing its share.

Then came time for the farmers to do their share. Washington requested the curtailment of the crop.

But with prices going up, many farmers have been dilatory about cooperating. Only 30 per cent of the North Carolina quota has been reached, despite repeated pleas of the government.

This leaves the government two alternatives: (1) To beat the price of cotton back down to 5 or 6 cents—when farmers will only too gladly cooperate. (2) To use the big stick and force unwilling farmers to do the bidding of the government.

Either way, the farmer loses. If he wishes to win this game, he had better play ball with the rest of the team and forget the temporary grandstand prices.

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—And—

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