

THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST
PAPER

By Mail — \$2. Yearly — In Advance
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA
THE LARGEST NEWSPAPER IN HALIFAX COUNTY
Member North Carolina Press Association

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.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES
ADVERTISING - PRINTING - EMBOSSEING

EDITORIAL

THE ONLY STATE IN THE U. S.

● ● It appears the present legislature, as Gaul was, is divided into three parts: 1, Those who want to repeal the absentee ballot law entirely and abolish all markers; 2, Those who want to compromise and make some changes but not as drastic as those of the absolute repealers; and 3, Those who want to leave things just like they are and have been.

It was interesting to us to note the tart remarks in the editorial column of the Raleigh News & Observer Tuesday of this week in which was quoted the prediction of Major MacLendon, former chairman of the State Board of Elections. The Major, an administration man and a staunch Democrat of a lifetime, predicted that unless this Democratic legislature made drastic changes in the present election laws it would spell misery to and possible doom of the Democratic Party in this State. This prediction was supported by the News & Observer and it has a mighty familiar ring to it. This writer, when making a similar prediction several months ago, was assailed as turning Republican. Today, we find our position substantiated by many who realize how serious the problem has become, including some of the leading Democrats and Democratic newspapers of the State.

These warnings should put the legislature on final notice. They are not partisan in their nature, coming from Democrats who have no axes to grind, whose personal interests have been submerged because of their interest in their party and State.

We still contend, and daily more Democrats agree with us, that the use of markers in primary elections is just as great an evil and presents just as much opportunity for corruption as does the abused absentee ballot. There are a few arguments in favor of a very limited absentee ballot.

There is absolutely no excuse for the use of markers. It has developed that North Carolina is the only state in the Union which still permits the use of markers. The other 47 states have done away with markers and assistants in marking ballots, leaving North Carolina in a position where she must blush with shame as the lone state where ignorance or corruption demand that a voter must have somebody help him mark his ballot.

To those members of the legislature in groups 1 and 2; those who want to do something constructive in changing and simplifying the elections laws, thus placing elections in North Carolina on a higher and more decent plane where the will of the majority may be more honestly ascertained, we say: Do what you will with the absentee ballot to make it less abused; do away with it altogether, if that be the only way; But whatever you do, abolish completely this marker system in primary elections and general elections and put North



Carolina level with every other State which has recognized that herein lies the real evil of election fraud and corruption.

To those members of the legislature in the 3rd class, who want to do nothing about the election laws, who want to let these evils continue unabated, we have only this to say: those who watch your activities and vote on this legislation cannot help but come to the conclusion that such an attitude must be due to the fact that you personally profited by the rottenness and corruption of the present system and would like to continue to profit thereby.

START PROPER PARKING NOW

● ● Now that the three blocks on Tenth Street are completed, paved and curbed, and open to traffic, there must be some regulations made as to the method of parking.

Tenth Street is 36 feet wide. There was a movement on foot to have this width increased in order to have more room for parking and traffic, but an investigation showed that it would be impossible to widen the street enough to answer the purpose of angle parking on both sides, or even of angle parking on one side and parallel parking on the other.

Those who are parking in the blocks between Hamilton and the Avenue and Jackson and the Avenue have automatically begun the system of parallel parking on both sides, which is the only way parking can be done on both sides and still permit two-way traffic.

But on the block between Jackson and Madison, with a row of business houses on the North side of the street, an effort is being made to angle park on the North side and parallel park on the South side. This does not permit the passage of but one line of traffic so that cars must wait, either at Jackson or Madison, until the single lane is clear before passing. When big trucks are angle parked on one side and a car on the other side, there is hardly room for a single car to pass.

There are only two solutions: either parallel parking on both sides of the street or angle parking on the North side and No Parking on the South side. It makes little difference which is adopted but one or the other should be and at once while the idea is new, the street just opened and before the habit of doing the wrong thing becomes too fixed.

There is no use of waiting until folks have be-

come accustomed to one way and then cause a lot of trouble by changing it. Tenth is the most travelled side street in the city and it is important that a definite plan be adopted at once, signs put up and the driving public educated to proper parking there. The same applies to all other paved streets in the city except Roanoke Avenue, which is wide enough for angle parking on both sides.

There may be those who think the 36 feet in width of Tenth Street is very narrow for a city street. However, this happens to be the width of the main street in Weldon, which is also a Federal highway. There they park parallel on both sides of the street.

In order to make uniform parking on all streets in Roanoke Rapids except the Avenue, parallel parking on both sides would be the simplest solution. However, if the majority of those in that one block on Tenth between Jackson and Madison prefer angle parking on the North side, it means No Parking on the South side. Which would be all right for that block if preferred by those who use it most for parking.

LABOR AND THE SALES TAX

● Business of agreeing with the Raleigh News and Observer, when it says anent the action of the American Federation of Labor here on sales tax:

"The North Carolina State Federation of Labor acted in wisdom when it unanimously condemned the general sales tax and called for its repeal. Undoubtedly the delegates knew that ridding this State of this tax, which was put into the revenue laws as an "emergency" measure, will not be easy. But they also know that it is an inequitable, unjust and unfair tax. Once Revenue Commissioner A. J. Maxwell described it as a tax on poverty. It remains that. Time does not cure it. And labor acts intelligently in re-emphasizing its opposition to this levy on the subsistence of the poorest people in the State."

The sales tax is indeed a tax on poverty, and when written into the statutes as an "emergency" few thinking citizens had the slightest idea that it would be repealed when the emergency passed. Emergencies of this type have a way of enduring for generations.

It may be argued that the schools benefit, and that without it, our schools would suffer.

Our schools, for the most part, are already suffering.

If, however, it is a matter of finances, one suspects there are at least a score of office holders around Raleigh, whose salaries could be saved, and we doubt that (Continued on Page 11, Section A)