

WOULD STANDARDIZE THE STATE'S FINANCES

Chairman Ruark, of This City, Drafting Comprehensive Bill.

Next Legislature Will Consider Measures Prepared by Committee for Enactment That Will Bring About Modern Methods.

Modern methods of financing, including annual budgets of incomes and expenditures, will prevail in North-Carolina municipalities and counties if the measures are enacted into law which are being drafted by the committee on Finance and Municipal Government which was appointed by the president of the State Bar Association to assist the State Legislature in drawing up comprehensive bills on these subjects.

Robert Ruark, Esq., of this city, is chairman of this committee, and to him and Col. John W. Hinsdale, of Raleigh, has been assigned the task of drafting a bill and recommending remedies for the varied and tangled finances of communities in different sections of the State.

The newly drafted measures, Mr. Ruark has completed to Council, will probably be acted upon by the end of the present week. These measures, it is believed, will be important steps in standardizing the methods by which annual expenditures of the cities and counties are estimated and apportioned to income, and towards the issue and paying off of bond indebtedness.

It is believed that the financing of such communities can be put on a more business-like basis, by hard and fast sinking fund requirements for all bonds which have been incurred in the past or which may be incurred.

Bonds Unmarketable. Capt. Thos. D. Meares, city clerk and treasurer, recently accompanied Mr. Ruark to New York with a view to discussing with bond and banking institutions, handling municipal bonds, the kind that prove most acceptable and marketable.

In the past, Captain Meares states, it has been the practice to issue bonds at the time they are to be marketed. It turned out that the acts under which they were issued were lacking in explicit statements covering the essentials relating to security of principal and interest, and the issues could not be readily sold as investments.

Municipal and county bonds are one of the oldest forms of investment in America, but even after more than 100 years of such transactions, there are many bond issues put out annually by amateur financiers, serving on county boards, sewer and water boards, and city councils which fail to explain fully to the prospective investor just what he may expect with reference to security of principal and interest.

Measures Proposed. While the committee, which has charge of the drafting of the proposed legislation, has not yet announced the details of the proposed bills, Chairman Meares has stated that he will urge that a provision be made that cities and counties shall not be allowed to incur debts for a longer period than the prospective life of the improvement to be paid out of the proceeds of the money borrowed. That is, if it is proposed to borrow money for such an improvement as a macadam road, Mr. Ruark regards it as unsound financing to issue long term bonds when at best the improvement can only last a few years.

It is also understood that the new measures will regulate the terms under which loans in anticipation of taxes are to be made and the recourse to be had upon delinquent taxpayers to take care of such loans when due. These and other provisions of like nature, it is hoped, will clear up a vast tangle of small community financing and force the collection of large sums in tax arrears.

TAR HEEL SOLDIER BOYS ENJOYED CHRISTMAS DINNER

Menu Arranged by Lieut. Monroe Was a Real Feed for Guardsmen.

The North Carolina militiamen on the border, and especially those belonging to the headquarters company of the Second Regiment, enjoyed a bounteous Christmas dinner, judging from the list of good things enumerated in the handsomely designed souvenir card which The Star received from a soldier friend yesterday.

The card is attractively designed, bearing on the cover a colored engraving of Old Glory, surmounted by the American eagle. In addition to the dinner menu and the company roster, the card contains a toast to the Old North State, and the famous ditty that every military man attiques to be the refrain of mess calls. The menu was arranged by Lieut. W. P. Monroe, of Wilmington, who is connected with the machine gun company of the Second Regiment.

Among the many toothsome dainties that are listed on the mess sheet are: Roast North Carolina, roast Texas, turkey, rasin cake, pound cake, vanilla ice cream, and various other things that would tickle the palate of a confirmed epicure.

Wilmington was prominent in the day's activities, Lieut. Monroe being officer of the day, and Lieut. Col. John VanB. Metts being in command of the Regiment.

CITY COUNCIL POSTPONES CONFERENCE UNTIL TONIGHT

Will Consider What Local Legislation Is Desired—Meeting Not Public.

Owing to the absence from the city of several Councilmen, the conference scheduled for last night to consider what local legislation is desired was held at the City Hall at 8 o'clock. The public has not been invited to attend as the conference is designed to give the members of Council a chance to express their individual opinions in order to determine whether any legislation is desired at the approaching term of the General Assembly.

While the conference tonight is not public, it is understood that whatever measures are considered worthy of being introduced before the General Assembly will in addition to being submitted to Representative L. Clayton Grant and Senator E. H. Cranmer be placed before the public for discussion.

SCARCITY OF EGGS STILL FAVORS VOCATIONAL COURSES IN SCHOOL

Boycott Declared by Housewives Falls to Bring Relief Desired—Hens Seem to Have Struck.

Notwithstanding that there is a boycott on in Wilmington against eggs and has been for several weeks, the city is facing an egg famine unless something is done to bring relief, declare those in close touch with the situation. While some of the grocery stores have eggs for 40 cents a dozen, one of the largest concerns in the city last night didn't have an egg and couldn't get any.

The hens have either gone on a strike for better and more food or else those ordinarily selling eggs here are sending them to other markets. Some of the dealers state that the latter is the case and that the boycott is responsible for the scarcity. They declare that eggs formerly shipped to Wilmington are now going to Richmond and other points North. However, Richmond has a boycott on also but without effect on the prices is not known here.

There are very few cold storage eggs to be had for the simple reason that ordinarily after the Christmas holidays there is always an influx of fresh eggs which is sufficient to supply local needs. The local branches of Armour & Co. and of Swift & Co., report that they have but few eggs for sale now, having disposed of most of the large stock they had before Christmas and they do not plan to order others unless the scarcity continues.

The price for cold storage eggs at the present time is practically the same as for fresh eggs. This has been the case in the past, although ordinarily the cold storage variety sells for several cents less a dozen.

Those backing the boycott movement state that the cutting down of the demand had the effect of lowering the price several cents a dozen. They are entirely satisfied that the course pursued resulted in lower prices to the consumer during the holidays and believe that with the coming of the New Year the hens will begin laying again and that soon Wilmington will have a sufficient supply to meet local needs.

ELECT OFFICERS FOR BANK

Permanent Organization of New Hanover Farm Loan Association Perfected Yesterday.

A permanent organization of the New Hanover Farm Loan Association was effected at an enthusiastic meeting of the applicants for loans in the county court house yesterday afternoon when officers were elected and steps taken to obtain a charter. A temporary organization was formed at a meeting several months ago and since that time applications for loans to the amount of more than \$60,000 have been received. Several new applications were received yesterday.

The meeting yesterday afternoon was called to order by Mr. J. P. Herring and Mr. Z. W. Whitehead, editor of the Carolina Fruit and Truckers' Journal, was elected as temporary secretary. Representative L. Clayton Grant attended the meeting and explained the new Federal law under which the associations are being formed in a very complete and comprehensive manner. A board of directors was elected composed of Messrs. Adolph G. Ahrens, E. I. Tingo, Henry Horne, L. C. Sutton and J. O. Grimes.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Mr. J. P. Herring; vice-president, Mr. Adolph G. Ahrens; secretary and treasurer, Mr. H. A. Rau. A board of appraisers to pass on the valuation of all lands was named which is composed of Messrs. George H. Huttable, Addison Hewlett and W. D. Rhoads.

The charter for the local association will be issued by the farm loan bank which will be located at Columbia, S. C. As the location for the bank has already been determined and the machinery for its operation should be perfect, within 30 days, it should not be more than 60 or 90 days before applicants for loans should be able to get the money with which to start improvements on their property.

The local association will be ready for business just as soon as the charter is issued, as the Federal statute provide that the officers and directors shall be chosen before the charter is issued.

BIG SCREEN PRODUCTION

"Joseph and His Brethren" at Victoria Under Auspices of Luther League.

Under the auspices of the Luther League of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church, the Victoria theatre this afternoon and tonight will present that great Biblical motion picture production, "Joseph and His Brethren," a six-reel production, together with instrumental solos, including a cornet solo, "Scintilla," by Mr. Jack Thompson, of Peabody Institute, Baltimore. Members of the League have had tickets for sale for the past two weeks and have succeeded in disposing of several hundred, and as only two performances will be given, at 8:30 and 8:30 P. M., the prospects are that capacity crowds will witness it. The show is for the benefit of the Salem Orphan's Home, at Salem, Va. Mr. Carl E. Rehder, advertising manager for the Howard-Wells Amusement Company, it is announced, is to have charge of the Victoria theatre under its new policy of presenting big motion picture productions, and he has co-operated with the Luther League in the presentation of this benefit.

LOCAL DOTS.

Mary Wright, a colored woman living in Schutte's alley, was shot at by George James, also colored, Wednesday night. The woman, however, refused to swear out a warrant against her assailant.

Mr. Mc. J. Smith, "The Grape Man," of Swen Springs, N. C., arrived in the city last night and will spend today and tomorrow displaying his grape vines to customers who have placed orders. He will be on Market street.

Among the North Carolina arrivals at the Hotel Wilmington yesterday were G. T. Chandler, Broadway; W. N. Johnson, J. B. Journey, Raleigh; R. N. Rackley, Mt. Olive.

FAVORS VOCATIONAL COURSES IN SCHOOL

Board of Education Head Wants More Practical Subjects.

Chairman Woodus Kellum Says Establishment of Agricultural and Trade Courses May Enable County to Receive Aid.

Chairman Woodus Kellum, of the Board of Education, declared yesterday that he was very much in favor of the establishment of agricultural and industrial courses in the Wilmington High School at an early date in order that the city and county public schools may receive Federal aid as provided in the vocational education bill which now seems assured of being enacted into law at the present session of Congress.

Mr. Kellum added that he was merely voicing his own opinion and would not attempt to state the views of the board. He regards the establishment of such courses in the schools to be the best interest of the great majority of the children who attend the high school, whether they live in the city or in the rural districts.

At present the High School has no teachers and offers no courses in agricultural or industrial subjects. This aid from the Federal government, Mr. Kellum points out, will be distributed practically along the same lines as is done in the case of county farm demonstrators, who receive part of their pay from the county and part from the Federal government. If the local school system is to share in the benefits of this legislation, arrangements must be made for the teaching of these vocational subjects in the schools of the county.

Supt. Blair's Views. Superintendent of Schools J. J. Blair, in a recent interview with a Star man, also declared he was deeply interested in the early establishment of adequate vocational courses. Although he did not care to go into details, Superintendent Blair made it plain that the incorporation of such courses in the curriculum of the High School would enable it to offer the pupils of the rural districts the advantages of a more practical education.

At a recent meeting of the school committeemen of both the city and county at which the proposed \$250,000 bond issue for the construction of additional school buildings in the county was endorsed, Superintendent Blair declared that in order to make the High School more effectively serve the rural districts some arrangement would ultimately have to be made for motor trucks or other vehicles to make the rounds of the country, districts and transport the pupils who live at a distance to and from the High School.

He pointed out that to gather up the students in rural areas is a county with such good roads and so limited in area as New Hanover would be an entirely practicable undertaking, and one which he was sure would enlist the sympathy and support of the residents of sections who find it difficult under the present system to give their children the benefits of advanced education.

Federal Aid. The Federal aid bill proposes Federal aid in two spheres—the salaries of teachers of agricultural subjects and teachers of trade and industrial subjects; and appropriation for training of teachers of the foregoing subjects. Appropriations for the salaries of teachers of agricultural subjects are planned to be in proportion to their rural population according to the last preceding United States census. Appropriations for salaries of teachers of trade and industrial subjects is to be in proportion to the rural population of the county. The committee decided that since the appropriation for the training of teachers is to be used for the preparation of instructors of home economics as well as for agricultural and trades and industries it should be allotted to the states in proportion to their total population. The bill allows nine years to put the system in full operation, the time required for the maximum appropriation to be reached.

North Carolina Grants. This plan will allow the following national grants to North Carolina: 1917, \$36,150; 1918, \$51,750; 1919, \$67,400; 1920, \$83,250; 1921, \$99,700; 1922, \$116,750; 1923, \$134,500; 1924, \$152,500; 1925 and 1926 each, \$161,400. This is a total of \$1,009,700.

The amount for North Carolina for salaries of teachers, supervisors and directors of agricultural subjects will be based on a rural population of 1,887,813. This would be an allotment for 1916-17 of \$19,150. The rural population of South Carolina is 1,290,568, which would allow \$18,100. The amount for North Carolina for salaries of teachers of trade and industrial subjects, based on an urban population of 218,000 would be \$3,750 for 1916-17; for South Carolina, with an urban population of \$24,832 it would be \$2,650.

"Vocational education as defined in this bill," says Representative Hughes, of Georgia, its author, "refers to that kind of practical education which is designed to prepare boys and girls for the useful employments and occupations. It is especially designed to prepare workers for the common occupations in which the great mass of our people find useful employment. It means that form of education whose controlling purpose is to give training of a secondary grade to persons over 14 years of age for increased efficiency in useful employment in the trades and industries, in agriculture, in commerce, and commercial pursuits and in callings based upon a knowledge of home economics."

The Theory. This proposed legislation is based upon the theory that every occupation may be so filled as to reflect intelligent guidance. The activities are: less. In the trades and industries the work of the carpenter, the mason, the baker, the stonemason, the electrician, the plumber, the machinist, the tool-maker, the engineer, the miner, the painter, the typesetter, the linotype operator, the tailor, the weaver, the glovemaking.

In agriculture the work of general farming, orcharding, dairying, poultry raising, truck farming, horticulture, bee culture and stock raising. In home economics the work of the dietitian, cook, housemaid, institution manager and household decorator. In commerce the work of book-

BANKS DECLARE DIVIDENDS

Four Wilmington Financial Institutions Will Distribute \$35,000—Total for Year of \$125,000.

Four Wilmington banks will distribute among their stockholders on January 1st the tidy little sum of \$34,450 in the form of dividends to stockholders, making a total for the year of more than \$125,000. This does not include two of the younger institutions which have not as yet declared dividends.

All of the banks have added large surpluses to their working capital during the year. The high price of cotton and other farm produce, the increased trade by local merchants, the thriving condition of the manufacturing enterprises here, have all combined to make it a good year for the banks. The Murchison National Bank will declare its usual quarterly dividend of 2 per cent, with all taxes paid for the year on its capital stock of a million dollars. The Wilmington Savings & Trust Co., will declare its usual quarterly dividend of 3 per cent and in addition an extra dividend of 2 per cent on its capital stock of \$100,000 while the Peoples Savings Bank will pay its regular quarterly dividend of 3 per cent on a capital of \$65,000. The American Bank & Trust Company will pay its customary semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent on a capital of \$250,000. The Home Savings Bank and the Citizens' Bank have not declared a dividend but have had a prosperous year and have made large earnings for their stockholders.

The record of dividends for the four banks is as follows: Murchison—Capital \$1,000,000; dividend 2 per cent quarterly; distribution \$20,000. American—Capital \$250,000; semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent, January 1, \$7,500. Wilmington Savings & Trust—Capital \$100,000; quarterly dividend of 3 per cent and extra dividend of 2 per cent, January 1, \$5,000. Peoples Savings—Capital \$65,000; quarterly dividend of 3 per cent, January 1, \$1,950.

NOTORIOUS NEGRO IS HELD

Son Darling Alias Harry Gose Wanted Here For Highway Robbery Is Being Held in Philadelphia.

Harry Gose, alias Son Darling, alias Gangare, a notorious Wilmington negro, who is wanted here on a charge of highway robbery, is in the toils of the law in Philadelphia on a charge of assault and battery, according to letters and Bertillon measurements received by Chief of Police N. J. Williams and Sheriff George C. Jackson yesterday, from the Quaker City Department of Public Safety.

Gose is the negro who entered a house where several other colored men were gathered about six weeks ago, and relieved them of all their valuables at the point of a revolver. According to records obtainable at police headquarters yesterday afternoon, Gose has served one five year term on the New Hanover chain gang, two terms of 60 days and several of 30 days. He has been convicted of various crimes and misdemeanors ranging from drunk and disorderly conduct and assault and battery to highway robbery.

Sheriff Jackson yesterday sent the following telegram to Joseph Tate, captain of detectives, at Philadelphia: "Harry Gose, known here as Son Darling, is wanted in Wilmington for highway robbery. Will you deliver him if we send for him?" "GEORGE C. JACKSON," "Sheriff New Hanover County."

SCHOONER NEARS COMPLETION

Last Rib Will Be Added to Vessel on Eagles Island This Week.

The last rib in the frame work of one of the two big four masted schooners now being constructed at the plant of the Wilmington Iron Works on Eagles Island, is expected to be completed this week, according to a statement made by Capt. Edward P. Bailey, president of the Iron Works, yesterday.

The work of ceiling the vessel will be begun early next week and it is planned to launch the big schooner during the early spring. The other boat, which was started later than the one now nearing completion, will also soon be ready for her christening. It is highly probable that the two vessels will be put into service as soon as they are completed, as there is a great demand for vessels of this class in the merchant marine service just now.

WILMINGTON MAN WANTED

Alleged to be a Straggler From the U. S. S. Hartford.

The police were notified yesterday that the Navy Department would pay \$25 for the apprehension of Emil Krahnke, a first class fireman, alleged to be a straggler from the U. S. S. Hartford. Krahnke formerly lived in Wilmington, where he was employed as a tailor. The circular bears the startling information that he is seven feet, six and one half inches tall, and weighs a trifle over 133 pounds. Local acquaintances of Krahnke, however, are firm in their belief that he is at least 15 inches shorter than Uncle Sam's frets would lead them to believe.

IN THE RECORDER'S COURT

Only Three Defendants Faced the Recorder Yesterday Morning.

Only three defendants, all colored, faced Recorder George Harris at yesterday morning's session of the court. The charge of trespass against E. Hannah Wilson was adjudged malicious and frivolous, and the prosecutrix, Martha Hall, was taxed with the costs. The case against Henry Baldwin for receiving stolen goods was not pressed, and that against Joe Walker for abandonment was continued until today.

keeper, the clerk, the stenographer, the typist, the auditor, and the accountant.

"The American people have hardly begun the work of providing for the practical education of the millions of wagemakers," said Mr. Hughes. In this whole country there are fewer trade schools than are to be found in the little German kingdom of Bavaria, with a population not much greater than that of New York City.

ANNOUNCING Our Next Regular Interest Quarter January 2nd Your Deposit, made with this bank on or before the above date will have the advantage of drawing interest from the New Year—the first of January—and will receive credit for a full quarter's interest three months from date. Begin the New Year and success with the "People's." OLD AND STRONG THE PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK COR. FRONT AND PRINCESS STS.

Now For the New Year! Start it Right. Open an account with the Oldest and Largest North Carolina Savings Bank, and determine to save regularly a substantial portion of your income. 4% interest, compounded every three months, will materially increase your deposits. ALL DEPOSITS MADE WITH US ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 2ND will bear interest from January 1st. NOW IS THE TIME TO BEGIN. The Wilmington Savings & Trust Company 110 Princess Street C. E. TAYLOR, President J. L. WILLIAMS, Cashier H. WALTERS, Vice-President W. HULL MOORE, Assistant Cashier J. W. NORWOOD, Vice-President J. G. THORNTON, Teller

PREPARING FOR BIG CROWD Large Attendance Expected at Wilmington Baptist Union Meeting at Shiloh Tomorrow. According to reports received in the city yesterday, abundant preparations are being made by the people of Shiloh church and community, six miles from Atkinson, for entertaining the Union meeting of the Wilmington Baptist Association, which meets with that church tomorrow and Sunday. Quite a crowd from Wilmington is expected, according to reports. It is even rumored that some of the people have put off having their Christmas dainties and the many good things to eat for which the section is noted, in order that there may be a superabundance to feed the crowds which are expected Saturday and Sunday. Quite an attractive programme has been arranged. Among the speakers are Dr. John J. Hurt, Rev. L. B. Bonney, Rev. J. A. Sullivan, Messrs. G. E. Leftwich, C. C. Cashwell, L. W. Moore, O. B. Hinnett and Rev. A. D. Carter, of Wilmington. The church is situated in a prosperous section of Pender county and is counted among the average churches of the association. It is one of the two churches in the association which have been awarded a diploma by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for having an A-1 Sunday school, which means that it has reached the ten standards set down by the board. Preparations have been made to meet those who go by railroad, at Atkinson with autos, in order that the trip may be more pleasant. METHODIST BODIES SEEKING UNION MEET IN BALTIMORE Baltimore, Dec. 28.—The two commissions on corporate union of the North-

Pickles CAN Be So Delicious If you want to taste them at their best, just bite into a piece of Old Homestead Pickle. Years of experience have put into them every ingredient approved by the old-timers, and nothing more. You will like them because of their purity and fine flavor. Ask your grocer for Old Homestead Pickles made by OLD HOMESTEAD MFG. CO., Richmond, Va.

Only Two More Days There's only two days more in which to select the choice Suits, Coats and Dresses featured in our Final Clearance of Ready-to-Wear. If you are at all interested in any of these garments, we advise you to come in early today. Our Stock Is Still Fairly Complete Both in Colors and Sizes, although we've only a few left. SUITS PRICES, JUST 1/2 OF ORIGINAL. COAT PRICES REDUCED 33 1/2 %. DRESS PRICES REDUCED 33 1/2 %. FURS PRICES REDUCED 33 1/2 %. MILLINERY PRICES REDUCED 50 %. BELK-WILLIAMS COMP'Y