

The Watauga Democrat.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY

ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN WATAUGA COUNTY

ESTABLISHED IN 1888

VOLUME XXXIII

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 1922

NUMBER 16

CONSTRUCTION OF 14 SHIPS STOPPED

STEP WAS TAKEN IN ANTICIPATION OF NAVAL TREATY RATIFICATION.

APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

Building Operations Suspended Have Cost the Government Approximately \$5,000,000 a Month.

Washington.—Construction work on fourteen capital ships was suspended by order of Secretary Denby under direction of President Harding. The step was taken in anticipation of ratification of the naval limitation treaty which resulted from the Washington conference and under which only three of the vessels involved will be completed as war craft. The other 11 will be scrapped or converted into merchant ships under the treaty provisions.

Secretary Denby acted after Assistant Secretary Roosevelt had discussed with President Harding the terms of the treaty affecting the new ships. Mr. Harding approved the suggestion that work be brought to a standstill immediately on the eight superdreadnaughts and six battle cruisers, pending final action on the treaty. In round figures the building operations thus halted have cost the government approximately \$5,000,000 a month.

Following ratification of the treaty contracts for the new ships will be cancelled. The ultimate cost to the government of this cancellation cannot be determined in advance but naval officers believe that a considerable saving will be made through the action.

Only one capital ship under construction was exempted from suspension order. She is the Colorado, more than 90 per cent complete and which will be retained in the permanent fleet.

Ships on which work was stopped included eight first-class battleships: the Washington, at the New York shipbuilding corporation; the West Virginia, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company; the South Dakota, New York navy yard; the Indiana, New York navy yard; the Montana, Mare Island navy yard; the North Carolina, Norfolk navy yard; the Iowa, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company, and the Massachusetts, Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation, Fore River, Mass.

Work was also ordered suspended on six battle cruisers, as follows: Lexington, Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation; Constellation, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company; Saratoga, New York Shipbuilding corporation; Ranger, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company; Constitution and United States, Philadelphia navy yard.

Steamer Swept by Raging Fire. New York.—The former transport Northern Pacific, which last claimed headlines in 1919, when she crashed onto a sand bar off Fire Island, with 8,000 American soldiers she was bringing back from France, was destroyed by fire 40 miles off Cape May, N. J.

A crackle of the radio brought word that fire had broken out aboard the swift steamer and that she was a mass of flames.

Later messages reported that she had been abandoned by Captain Wm. Lusti, and her skeleton crew, who were taking her to dry dock in Chester, Pa.

Rescue of all her crew by steamships which had rushed to the scene next was recorded.

The latest message stated that the vessel, blowing fiercely and listing hard to starboard, was drifting south-eastward.

Treaties to Senate.

Washington.—Submission to the senate by President Harding of the treaties resulting from the arms conference probably will be delayed until next week, it was indicated after a meeting of the American delegation devoted to drafting of the report to be presented to the President.

Eight Men Killed in Mine.

Huntington, W. Va.—Eight men were killed, two badly injured and one is missing as the result of an explosion which wrecked a mine of the Marietta Coal company on Pond creek, Pinson Fort, Ky., according to information received here.

A dust explosion is reported to have caused the accident in the plant. Only eleven men were said to have been in the mine at the time, eight of whom rescue parties found dead, two injured and one missing.

FORD CONTRACT IS BEING DISCUSSED

TALK OF REDUCING THE TIME CLAUSE FROM 100 TO FIFTY YEARS.

SECRETARY WEEKS IS HEARD

Advisability is Questioned by Major General Beach, Army Engineer; Williams Heard.

Washington.—The advisability of reducing the time clause in Henry Ford's offer for the lease of the Muscle Shoals, Ala., government owned lands, from 100 to 50 years was questioned indirectly by Major General Lansing H. Beach, chief of army engineers, in testimony before the house military committee.

Referring to the general policy of the government not to lease its properties for a period exceeding 50 years, General Beach in his testimony at the second day of the hearing of the committee on the Ford proposal said that "it is not always advisable to apply one general rule to things big and small."

Secretary Weeks, who was heard by the committee, declared repeatedly that in his opinion it would be unwise to permit the lease of public lands or properties to private interests for so long a period as one hundred years. General Beach, however, said that it was "a question in as big and important a matter as this whether the 50 years rule would not work a hardship."

It was his belief, the general continued, that in the disposition of the properties at Muscle Shoals, the paramount consideration should be the effect upon the nation's defense rather than the manufacture of fertilizer. The country, he said, should not be "caught again" without an adequate nitrate supply.

The disadvantages of installing power plants in Alabama and establishing a market for their output were dwelt upon at length by the engineer chief. He said it would be comparatively easy to install a plant at Niagara Falls, with a market close by, but it was quite another feat, from the standpoint of time, to do so in a sparsely settled region like that about Muscle Shoals, with only four cities within reasonable distance.

The engineer officer was preceded on the witness stand by Major General Williams, chief of ordnance, who occupied the greater part of the day's sessions explaining valuations of properties involved in the Ford offer. He estimated that the Warrior power plant and transmission line could be salvaged for \$3,000,000 or more, and declared under examination by committee members that figure was three-fifths of all that Mr. Ford had offered for the nitrate plants and other properties. These properties, it was estimated, had a scrap value to the government of \$8,120,000 and would be worth \$16,272,000 if made partially operative and the remainder salvaged.

Number of Blind Persons Decreases.

Washington.—The number of blind persons in the United States decreased from 57,272 in 1910 to 52,617 in 1920, according to figures for the last census announced by the census bureau. The decrease was attributed in part to advanced methods for treatment of blindness and also to education of the public in the prevention of blindness.

Rescued Men Land in Newport News.

Newport News, Va.—Refreshed by a few hours' sleep, and apparently little concerned about their experience in being rescued from their burning ship, members of the crew of the steamship Northern Pacific described the fire and the rescue but remained silent when questioned as to the possible cause of the disaster. Meantime, Capt. William Lusti, the master of the Northern Pacific, prepared a detailed report for the shipping board and left for Norfolk.

Navy Yards Lay Off Thousands.

Washington.—The first effects of the armament conference on the employment situation were felt when several thousand mechanics and artificers in navy yards were temporarily laid off after Secretary Denby had ordered suspended all ordnance work designed for the naval vessels slated for "scrapping" under the naval limitation treaty. The instructions were issued in line with President Harding's order suspending work on the vessels under construction affected by the treaty.

AUSTIN TO HEAD COTTON FARMERS

DIRECTORS TAKE STEPS TO TRANSFER ORGANIZATION TO PERMANENT OFFICERS.

OTHER OFFICERS ARE ELECTED

Matter of Financing the Association Will be Left With the Executive Committee.

Raleigh.—W. H. Austin, of Smithfield, is president, and B. O. Townsend, of Dunn, is secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Co-operative Association. The election of officers took place at the first meeting of directors which was held here in the offices of the department of agriculture.

Aaron Sapiro, of California, who was advising with the directors in the various steps for the transfer of the temporary organization over to the permanent officers explained in detail the various features of the articles of incorporation and the by-laws. Several minor changes were found to be necessary because of local conditions.

The matter of financing the association on probably a ten-million-dollar basis will be left with the executive committee, together with the employment of assistants.

In addition to W. H. Austin, president, and B. O. Townsend, secretary-treasurer, the directors elected R. W. Christian, of Manchester, vice-president, and Dr. G. M. Pate, Rayham, member of the executive committee, other members of which are the officers.

The directors attending the meeting were:

First District—W. H. Joyner, Garysburg; second district, W. W. Eagles, Tarboro; third district, H. B. Staton, Bethel; fourth district not represented; fifth district, W. H. Austin, Smithfield; sixth district, B. O. Townsend, Dunn; seventh district, R. W. Christian, Manchester; eighth district, Dr. G. M. Pate, Rayham; ninth district, A. A. McEachern, Red Springs; tenth district, L. D. Robinson, Wadesboro.

At the meeting of the organization committee of the cotton association, D. W. Patrick, of Greene county, Snow Hill, was adjudged director from the fourth district. The action of the committee settled a contest over the election between Mr. Patrick and H. E. Moseley, both of whom are prominent farmers and business men of the district.

More Income Tax Forms Available.

Announcement of availability of forms for federal income tax payers was made by Gilliam Grissom, collector of internal revenue.

The collector's statement follows: "There is available and ready for release the following forms for federal income taxpayers on application:

"Form 1041, Fiduciary returns of income for the calendar year 1921.

"Forms 1099 and 1096 to make an information return, (direct to the commissioner of internal revenue at Washington, D. C.), showing the payment of \$1,000 or more as salaries, wages, rent, interest or other fixed or determinable gains, profits and income by an individual, business enterprise, fiduciary or institution during the calendar year 1921.

"Forms 1099 and 1096 must be in Washington by March 5, except as to those coming under the general extension explained below.

"A general extension is granted in which to file fiduciary returns, Form 1041, and also partnership and personal service corporation returns, form 1065, and information returns in connection therewith, forms 1099 and 1096, until May 15, 1922, for the calendar year 1921, or for any fiscal year ending in the year 1921 of the above returns.

"Those making fiscal year returns, not coming under the above general extension, are required to make their information returns on forms 1099 and 1096 by March 15, 1922, showing the amounts in excess of the \$1,000 paid during the calendar year 1921."

To Build More Roads.

The Highway Commission is considering bids on two stretches of hard surfaced road, the main one from Tarboro to Rocky Mount, in the first district, a stretch of 18 miles, and from Thomasville to the Guilford county line in the fifth district. The R. G. Lanister company is apparently the lowest bidder on these two projects, but the contract has not been awarded. The commission is also considering bids on a number of other soil roads in different parts of the state. The bids have been opened.

SUGGESTS CHANGES IN SCHOOL SYSTEM

DR. BROOKS SAYS THAT GREAT GROWTH MUST BE MET WITH ECONOMY.

MONEY RESOURCES AT LIMIT

Must Meet Situation With Reorganization of System in Schools—Outlines the Changes.

Raleigh.—Already touching the limit of its resources from taxation, future growth of the school system in North Carolina must be provided for through reorganization of the schools that will reduce the cost per pupil, and provide for additional enrollment, declares State Superintendent E. C. Brooks in outlining the new policy of school administration to become effective next September.

More pupils to the teacher and fewer supervisors of teachers is the most drastic recommendation that Doctor Brooks makes to the county and city superintendents. He calls attention emphatically to the fact that school revenues have reached their maximum. The schools must continue to grow, he points out, and to meet this demand, more economical organization must be consummated.

During the past year Dr. Brooks, foreseeing the situation that confronts the school system of the state, has made a thorough study of school organization throughout the country, and his recommendations are based on data that has been collected from many sources.

The following preface was given to the program as outlined by Dr. Brooks. I wish to discuss very seriously with the city superintendents the necessity of a very careful study of the relationship of school organization to the cost of operating a school system. The public does not know how to organize a school system. It must take the recommendations of the superintendents, but the public is entitled to know that a skillful superintendent can so grade the pupils, group the classes, and organize the teachers as to operate the entire school system at a considerably less cost per capita per pupil than other superintendents can who are less skillful, and this can be done without reducing the effectiveness of classroom instruction.

A poor superintendent is exceedingly costly even if he is paid a very low salary for his services. He may cost the people many thousands of dollars and they may never know that the money could have been saved, and too, without a loss of class-room efficiency. We have been moving rapidly within the past three years. More progress has been made than within a given decade in our history. But the time has come now to take an inventory, to become introspective and to plan for as wise an expenditure of public funds as it is possible to work out. This is why I am calling your attention to the whole question of school organization and its relation to school revenue.

The public has had a tendency to criticize the salaries paid to superintendents. The trouble is not due to the high salary paid but to the lack of wisdom on the part of some boards of trustees in selecting the right man to whom to pay the higher salaries. Therefore, it is necessary for us to prepare a statement showing the per capita cost of instruction and supervision in the cities and in the counties that the public may know what it costs to educate the children of a given community. This is one guide in measuring the business and professional efficiency of a superintendent.

"We have been moving rapidly within the past three years. More progress has been made than within a given decade in our history. But the time has come now to take an inventory, to become introspective and to plan for as wise an expenditure of public funds as it is possible to work out. This is why I am calling your attention to the whole question of school organization and its relation to school revenue."

The public has had a tendency to criticize the salaries paid to superintendents. The trouble is not due to the high salary paid but to the lack of wisdom on the part of some boards of trustees in selecting the right man to whom to pay the higher salaries. Therefore, it is necessary for us to prepare a statement showing the per capita cost of instruction and supervision in the cities and in the counties that the public may know what it costs to educate the children of a given community. This is one guide in measuring the business and professional efficiency of a superintendent.

"We have been moving rapidly within the past three years. More progress has been made than within a given decade in our history. But the time has come now to take an inventory, to become introspective and to plan for as wise an expenditure of public funds as it is possible to work out. This is why I am calling your attention to the whole question of school organization and its relation to school revenue."

The public has had a tendency to criticize the salaries paid to superintendents. The trouble is not due to the high salary paid but to the lack of wisdom on the part of some boards of trustees in selecting the right man to whom to pay the higher salaries. Therefore, it is necessary for us to prepare a statement showing the per capita cost of instruction and supervision in the cities and in the counties that the public may know what it costs to educate the children of a given community. This is one guide in measuring the business and professional efficiency of a superintendent.

"We have been moving rapidly within the past three years. More progress has been made than within a given decade in our history. But the time has come now to take an inventory, to become introspective and to plan for as wise an expenditure of public funds as it is possible to work out. This is why I am calling your attention to the whole question of school organization and its relation to school revenue."

Negro Commits Suicide.

Lexington.—Although a presumption of doubt has been raised in certain quarters, county authorities have little doubt that Weldon Crump, well known negro farmer and father of about 20 children, who died in Tyro township from a wound across his throat, really committed suicide. A coroner's inquest was requested following Crump's death and the jury found that he came to his death as the result of a wound inflicted on his throat with a razor.

Father of 28 Children.

Greensboro.—Bob Austin, an "old-time" darkey, with 28 children, 26 of them living, thrice married, his last wife having so far borne him only six children, holds the record for parenthood in Guilford county.

He is 71 years old, works on the farm of Lawrence Duffy, three miles from here, every day, chews tobacco and gets up at midnight and eats meat.

Austin does not believe in sparing the rod and spoiling the child, he said.

Revision of County Government.

A general revision of county government in North Carolina is contemplated in steps which Governor Morrison is now taking, with the approval of the Council of State, for the preparation of legislation to be submitted to the 1923 General Assembly. Governor Morrison is in process of appointing a commission of a score or more of distinguished men in the state to undertake the drafting of a reform measure which will be submitted to the legislature as a basis for its consideration.

Governor Morrison is satisfied that great improvement can be made in the county governments in North Carolina. The present law under which the counties of the state are governed, says the governor, is out of date. It has been handed down, in its main principles, from the first county government act adopted after the war between the states.

"The only thing in the world that insures good and efficient government in the counties of the state is the men who are elected to fill the offices," said the governor. The law as it now stands, the governor went on, is submerged in a mass of amendments and special legislation to the extent that even the lawyers in many cases are puzzled. A complete reorganization of the county government and the accounting systems in operation in them is the governor's aim.

While Governor Morrison was not yet ready to make any announcement of definite plans, he stated that he was selecting a commission for the purpose of taking the whole matter into consideration and of aiding him in the drafting of a new law for submission to the next General Assembly.

Date Fixed For State Fair.

The week of October 16-21 was fixed as the official dates of the 1922 State Fair at a meeting of the new executive committee of the North Carolina Agricultural Society.

Plans for the enlargement of the fair were presented by Vice President Joseph Hyde Pratt, representing the President, Mrs. Edith Vanderbilt, and after thorough consideration by the management were approved and will be pushed with energy.

Plans will be drawn by an expert for the improvement and beautification of the grounds in connection with the location of the new grandstand and other buildings.

Appoint Automobile Inspectors.

Legislation enacted at the 1921 special session of the General Assembly for the better enforcement of the automobile laws made a start toward actual achievement when Col. J. Bryan Grimes, secretary of state, appointed two regular "automobile inspectors" and four special inspectors without salary. The regular inspectors are George J. Suddert, formerly of Washington, now of Raleigh, and Walter Lee Horton, of Raleigh. Special inspectors without salary include J. E. Sawyer, motor supervisor of the department of state; A. L. Fleming, clerk in the automobile department; Frank Page, state highway commissioner, and Lee S. Folger, automobile dealer of Charlotte.

Commissioner Page Ends Debate.

Discussion and disagreement of four years' standing in Bladen and Columbus counties, with some outcroppings of feeling in New Hanover over the routing of the Wilmington-Charlotte-Asheville highway was brought to a conclusion when State Highway Commissioner Frank Page and State Highway Engineer Charles Upham gave their approval to the route known as the "Green Swamp Route."

Price of Farm Products Decrease.

The farmer's products are bringing still lower prices than last year—the peak of the wave of business depression—and that principal items necessary to agriculture have not declined in proportion, is disclosed in the January price report of Frank Parker, Agricultural statistician of the Co-operative Crop Reporting service.

Mr. Parker's statement shows that while there is talk and "signs" of better business and returning prosperity, the farmer's boat is being badly battered on the rocks of financial stress—because of the most precipitate and demoralizing plunge taken by prices of involved agricultural products. Other commodities have come down, but the farmers' products hit the bottom the hardest—and are still sticking there, with few exceptions.

Route Gets 30-Day Respite.

The ten-day reprieve granted to Wright Rouse, 79-year-old, one-armed negro in the state prison under sentence of death for the killing of William Whitley, Walstonburg farmer, in the fall of 1921, was extended to 30 days. The new rate of execution is March 3.

Governor Morrison is making some investigations of his own into the sanity of the negro who slew Whitley, a prosperous farmer and a good citizen, upon the promise of \$500 from Mrs. Whitley and her lover, Tom Hayes.

WILL EXTEND WEEVIL FIC...

Craven County Delegates Will Ask Four Neighboring Counties to Co-operate.

New Bern.—Committees representing the Craven County Agricultural committee will go before the commissioners of four neighboring counties at their regular monthly meetings and ask for co-operation in carrying on the campaign against the boll weevil by the appointments of committees in each county to take the leadership in a movement to liberalize farming in East Carolina to offset the inroads of the weevil into the production of cotton.

Craven county appropriated \$10,000 to carry on the work, and employed C. C. Kirkpatrick, an expert in diversified farming, to head the campaign, but Pamlico, Carteret, Onslow and Jones counties will be asked to simply endorse the work by naming committees to help in extending it among their own farmers. The local committee believes that to get returns for its own efforts in the fight it must have the co-operation of the neighboring counties. They are in the same condition as Craven, and a joint fight will help both.

W. W. Griffin, chairman of the Craven committee, named his delegation. The Pamlico county commissioners will be met at Bayboro, the Carteret board at Beaufort, the Onslow commissioners at Jacksonville and the Jones commissioners at Trenton by committees composed of leading farmers and business men.

Two Men Killed in Boiler Explosion.

Fayetteville.—Two persons were killed and a third injured by the explosion of a boiler in a planing mill owned by W. E. Waller at Stedman, this county.

The dead are: L. B. McDuffie, mechanic in charge of the boilers of the mill. John Dawson, negro fireman. David Fort, another negro fireman, was slightly injured.

The cause of the explosion has not been determined.

According to the testimony gathered, a steam pipe on the outside of one of the two boilers in the mill had been leaking, and the steam in this boiler was allowed to go down in order that it might be repaired, the other boiler being used at the time. After the repairs had been made, the boiler was again put in use.

C. W. Puts, general manager of the mill, testified that he was standing beside McDuffie three minutes before the explosion took place and that the pressure at that time was not more than 20 pounds.

The force of the explosion threw Dawson against the pump and every bone in his head was crushed. McDuffie's skull was fractured. Both men were instantly killed. Fort was thrown into a pile of brick, but he sustained only bruises.

McDuffie, who resided in the town of Stedman, leaves a wife. His father lives near Vander, in this county.

Managers Name Orphanage Head.

Charlotte.—Rev. George S. Hill, rector of Christ's Episcopal church in Elizabeth City, was elected superintendent of the Thompson orphanage in this city, to succeed Rev. W. J. Smith, who resigned some time ago, at the annual meeting of the board of managers of the orphanage.

Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire of Raleigh, presided over the meeting as chairman ex-officio. Bishop T. C. Darst, of Wilmington, was present for the first time as a member of the board representing the eastern part of the state.

The Edwin A. Osborne Memorial building, just completed and to be used for children under four years old, was accepted by the board and will be opened up and ready for use as soon as the furnishings can be secured and installed.

Moss Named Director.

Oxford.—At a meeting of the delegates held in Oxford E. G. Moss was elected director for the eighth district, composed of Granville and Person counties, of the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Marketing association. Dr. E. J. Tucker, C. T. Wood, G. M. Crowder, M. T. Carver, F. D. Long, C. T. Hall and W. H. Wilkerson. All the delegates from Granville were present.

Christian to Represent District.

Fayetteville.—R. W. Christian, of Manchester, Cumberland county, was elected director for the seventh district of the North Carolina Co-operative Marketing Association, by a majority of 158 votes over J. R. Peterson, of Clinton, Sampson county, according to announcement of the result of the balloting made here. Mr. Christian received 333 votes while 235 were cast for Mr. Peterson. Mr. Christian is regarded as one of the most successful and progressive farmers of this section.