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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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VOTING REFORM BILL INTRODUCED

First Measure Sponsored by Administration Presented in Senate; Many Bills of Statewide Interest Before Law-makers

A compromise Australian ballot bill, representing the views of both the extreme Australian ballot advocates, led by Senator J. M. Broughton of Wake, and the eastern Democrats, represented by Senator T. L. Johnson of Robeson, was introduced in the senate Friday jointly by Senators Broughton and Johnson.

The bill was referred to the committee on election laws, of which Senator Carlisle Higgins of Alleghany, is chairman. The bill will have the support of Governor Gardner and will be known as an administration measure.

The bill incorporates all the essential features of the secret ballot law generally designated as the Australian ballot. The bill is not modeled in particular after the law of any other state, the co-authors undertaking to incorporate the best features of such laws in effect in most of the states of the union. The bill provides for the printing of all ballots at public expense and strictly limits and regulates handling and distribution of ballots. Ample mandatory provisions are made insuring absolute secrecy in voting. The bill provides for a well restricted voting arrangement including voting booths and forbids interference with voters and is designed to secure to every voter the right to vote in private without molestation. The measure provides stiff penalties for failure to comply with its provisions. Persons convicted of making imitations of the official ballot are held guilty of a misdemeanor and are to be sentenced to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 and imprisonment of not less than one year at the discretion of the court.

Election officials who violate the provisions of the law are to be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200, and jail sentences of more than 10 to 90 days. Markers who misinform blind or illiterate voters are liable to a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$100 and jail sentence of 30 days.

Any person who aids or abets fraud in connection with any absentee vote cast or to be cast, shall be guilty of a felony upon conviction, be sentenced to the penitentiary for not less than one or more than five years, the law provides.

Important Bills

Bills of state-wide importance have been placed in the legislative hopper since last Wednesday as follows:

Wednesday SENATE

By Person of Franklin: To abolish the salary and wage commission, putting its powers and authority in the hands of the council of state.

By Womble of Forsyth: The budget revenue bill.

By Clark of Mecklenburg: To appropriate a total of \$90,000 for the 33rd annual reunion of Confederate veterans, to be held in North Carolina.

By Person of Franklin: To permit North Carolina druggists to fill prescriptions containing alcohol for medicinal purposes as allowed by the Voistad act.

No bills were passed in the senate Wednesday.

HOUSE

By Mull of Cleveland: The revenue act.

By Halstead of Camden: To provide for equalized maintenance of public schools in North Carolina.

Halstead of Camden: To enlarge state highway system by taking in county roads and increasing tax of motor fuels.

By McNeil of Ashe: To authorize state highway commission to complete all state highways on the road map of 1921.

Thursday HOUSE

By Borne of Guilford: To amend subsection 4, Sec. 1589 relating to divorces.

By Carr of Duplin: To protect married women against slander of their husbands.

By Winston of Bertie: To authorize naming joint legislative committee to consider cutting expenses of government by eliminating and consolidating boards, departments and commissions.

SENATE

By Lawrence of Hertford: To provide ways and means to enable the state to assist in the support of schools by levying a three per cent tax on electric current and gas sold by public service corporations, municipal light and power plants excepted, and to tax long distance telephone calls and telegrams.

By Person of Franklin: To repeal the state primary law.

By Blount of Pitt: To provide for

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2,000 Volumes Added to Blowing Rock Library

Blowing Rock, Jan. 23—Mrs. Paul Klutz is acting as chairman of a committee to arrange for an oyster supper Saturday night to raise money to help pay for the 2,000 volumes added Saturday to the Blowing Rock school and community library. The supper will be held in the Central hotel and will be followed by a dance.

A good time is promised to all who will come to the supper and dance, as arrangements are being made to provide the best of entertainment. Serving at the tables will be Mrs. I. E. Story, Miss Sarah Banner, Mrs. Audie Sale, Miss Hattie Greer and Mrs. Rupert Gillett.

Principal G. O. Mudge and the librarian acted on their own initiative in purchasing the library of the Boone Fork Institute at Shulls Mills and took a chance on getting the money later. The townspeople immediately came to their support and offered to raise the money with the oyster supper.

Getting the books from Shulls Mills was a task which last Saturday required the combined efforts of a truck and eight men. Rob Greene donated the use of his truck, and five boys volunteered to go along and help with the loading, and especially with maneuvering the truck through the mudholes and bogs between here and Shulls Mills. Besides Mr. Greene, Principal Mudge, and the librarian, the following boys helped with the transportation: Clarence Greene, Donald Greene, Hayes Coffey, Parks Knight and Jay Knight.

Because of the thaw of Friday and Saturday, the road was almost impassable. Several times it was necessary for all the crew to get off and push and at one place it was necessary to borrow a pole from a neighboring fence and pry the truck bodily out of the mud. The boys carried rocks from the hillside and threw them in the ruts as the truck progressed.

Among the new books are two encyclopedias, making a total of four authoritative works of this kind now in the library. A large number of volumes of reference works, in history and other subjects are included, as are a large group of English classics and a collection of good fiction. Altogether, this is probably the most valuable addition yet made to the library. With the other books already on hand, this collection gives the Blowing Rock school a library of 2,800 volumes—one of the largest and most complete possessed by any consolidated school in this part of the state.

The library is open to the townspeople on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoon from three to five. They may borrow any books that have not been reserved for the use of the high school classes.

The 2,000 new volumes are now being accessioned and placed on the shelves. They will probably be available to borrowers some time this next week.

Work of grading the Yanahouse road is rapidly approaching the Sandy Flat neighborhood, and in that vicinity the ground is being cleared to make way for the new route, which straightens a number of sharp curves between Blowing Rock and Sandy Flat.

HUMAN SACRIFICE VICTIMS UNEARTHED IN ANCIENT PIT

Philadelphia, Jan. 21—A mammoth death pit in which the bodies of 45 victims, sacrificed in accordance with ancient Sumerian burial rites, lay amid an amazing wealth of gold, silver and semi-precious stones has been discovered in one of the Chaldees, home of Abraham, by the joint archaeological expedition of the University of Pennsylvania museum and the British museum, it was announced today.

The death pit is larger than any found before in the 5,000-year old cemetery at Ur and although it has been only partly cleared it already has yielded 34 gold head-dresses, in-laid pendants, wreaths and hair ribbons, many silver "combs" and other ornaments, according to a report from C. L. Wooley, director of the expedition.

Three harps of unusual design and a pair of statues of rams which are made of gold, silver, white shell and lapis lazuli also were found. These statues were described as "two of the most remarkable objects of antiquity that Sumeria has yet produced."

In reporting the discovery, Mr. Wooley said that the pit should be the introduction to an actual tomb and that the workers were digging down from the modern surface in the hope of finding a tomb beneath it.

"What a marvelous strain that is!" said the musical genius.

"Yes," said the unappreciative, "I too feel it."

CITY OF BOONE IS CITED FOR DEFAULT

State Auditor Turns Cases of Continued Complaints Over to Solicitors for Action; No Information as to Amount of Local Default

As the result of continued complaints for default in principal or interest payment on bonds of Salluda, in Polk county, Boone, in Watauga county, and Kenilworth in Buncombe county, State Auditor Baxter Durham has turned the complaints over to the solicitors of the three judicial districts in which the towns are located for prosecution, according to information made public at the auditor's office in Raleigh yesterday.

Some years ago delay in paying principal and interest on bonds became so frequent as to embarrass the credit of the entire state and in 1921 and 1923 drastic legislation was passed requiring registration of all bonds with the state auditor, who is required to send notice 30 days before a payment is due and failure to make payment on time was made a criminal offense. Even though the principal or interest is paid the next day, it is pointed out, a default of even one day is regarded as serious in bond circles and the legislature has made strenuous efforts to protect the credit of the counties and municipalities of the state, "the overwhelming majority of which pay their indebtedness the day it is due."

The largest issue on which Auditor Durham has received a report is on Carteret county, the report being that interest due on January 1 on \$1,250,000 5-1-4 per cent bonds had not been paid, the payment due amounting to \$32,802.50. In the case of the towns of Boone and Kenilworth, the state auditor has no information as to the amount of the defaults on January 1, but since these towns have before been reported to him for the same offense, he has deemed it wise to transmit the cases to the solicitors of the respective districts for appropriate action.

E. E. ELLER OPENS PRODUCE HOUSE HERE

Mr. E. E. Eller of North Wilkesboro was in town yesterday and completed arrangements for opening a produce station here. The business at present will be operated at the Barnett Garage near the end of the pavement in the eastern limits of town and Mr. S. M. Norris has been selected as the local manager of the concern. An advertisement in this issue gives the prices which will be paid for produce for the week beginning the 28th. Prices will be announced from week to week. Mr. Eller basing them exactly on the prices being paid by him in North Wilkesboro, less actual transportation.

Mr. Eller is the owner of the "Leading Poultry House of North Carolina," at North Wilkesboro and some idea of the extent to which his business has grown in Wilkes is indicated by the fact that during the Christmas season his concern marketed 20,000 turkeys, to say nothing of other poultry, butter, eggs, dried fruit, etc. Watauga farmers have been doing business with Mr. Eller regularly for years and they will welcome the opportunity of receiving his usual good prices for their produce here in Boone and save the long haul down the mountain to North Wilkesboro. At the same time citizens of Boone are delighted that Mr. Eller has opened a business here.

SENATE VOTES DRY MILLIONS

The president of the United States has been voted \$24,000,000 by the senate to be used in an attempt to more strictly enforce prohibition. The bill remains to be approved by the house and President Coolidge and if this is forthcoming, the expenditure of the money is destined to fall entirely to the lot of Herbert Hoover, because of the short remaining time of the Coolidge administration. The measure was introduced by Senator Harris of Georgia and passed the upper house by a vote of 50 to 27. The senate also voted an additional \$250,000 for presidential investigation of the illicit liquor problem.

After two weeks of conferences with Republican party leaders, President Hoover left Washington Monday for Florida where he will prepare his inaugural address and rest up preparatory to taking over the duties as the nation's chief executive. Traveling on a special train, Mr. Hoover arrived in Miami Tuesday afternoon. There he was greeted by the governor and other state officials and accompanied to the J. C. Penny estate on Belle island where he and Mrs. Hoover are guests.

How to Make More Money on the Farm

BY REAL FARMERS

(Editor's note—For the next three months The Democrat will publish each week the experiences of a Watauga county farmer on some aspect of farming which can be made to bring in more profits to the farmer. The articles will contain no theories—only the actual experiences of farmers in this county.)

This series of articles is being sponsored by the Watauga County Bank in the hope that every farmer in the county might get some ideas on how to increase his own income and at the same time to increase generally prosperity of the county. If a diversification of farm products can increase the average farm income by only \$50 a year, the buying power of the county will be increased by \$100,000.)

"Few farmers in this county seem to realize the large profits that can be made through the proper method of raising sheep," says W. L. Winkler, one of the county's most successful sheep raisers. "The beauty of it is that this extra profit can be made through so little extra labor that it does not in any way interfere with the other activities of the farm. Almost any farmer in the county can place a few sheep on his idle grazing land and add these extra dollars to his income without diminishing in any way his other sources of revenue. It is a pure gain."

"By keeping careful records on my sheep, I have found that the wool will pay the whole cost of keeping and raising the sheep, leaving the sale price of the lambs as clear profit. This is not theory, but actual fact as shown by my records. 'The average ewe will produce one lamb a year, and some will produce two. At the very lowest market price, this lamb will bring \$8, which, as I explained, is clear profit. If a farmer has fifty ewes, therefore, the very lowest profit he can expect, provided always that he takes the proper care of his sheep, is \$400. Certainly such a profit as this is not to be despised by farmers of this county. Even if he has room for only a dozen ewes, his profit is nearly \$100. He raises many other crops that require much less labor than sheep with a profit smaller than that."

"Sheep can be raised with less labor and trouble than any other kind of livestock. The fencing is practically the only labor involved, for the sheep do not need to be fed except during the month just before lambing time. During this month, the ewes are weak and need a ration of grain. They should not be overfed, but should have a good substantial ration. At other times during the year they can support themselves on good grazing land, in which this county abounds."

"Another peculiarity of sheep that makes caring for them easier than the care of other livestock is that you can count exactly the time of lambing. For sheep is exactly 145 days, and it never varies. You can keep your records, therefore, and know exactly when to expect your lambs. I kept such a record one year, and one night I went out and brought in nineteen young lambs, which arrived exactly on schedule."

"A word of warning need be added about salting. It will not do to put out rock salt for sheep, because they will stand and lick it until their tongues get sore. Moreover, they will get too much and then go to water and drink so much that you will have water-logged sheep."

"The grazing land should be a pasture bordering on a wood. The sheep are very fond of the grown-up grass which is found on most of such lands, and in the woods they find herbs that seem to have a medicinal quality for them. My observation is that nearly every farmer in the county has just such grazing lands bordering on woods. In most cases, these lands are lying idle; whereas they could be made profitable with a few sheep."

"Moreover, sheep are the best of all fertilizers. Land on which sheep have grazed has been found to be much richer for crops in a few years than land that has lain fallow."

"Some farmers object, however, that sheep ruin the grass lands. This is not true, unless the sheep have been allowed to graze on the land during the month of April. It is during this month that our grass gets its start every year, and therefore, the sheep should be kept off of it during that month. They can be kept in a pen and fed during that time. There is another reason for

keeping them up in April, for during that month the sheep get rid of most of the worms that have formed in their stomachs. Keeping them up during April prevents these worms from falling on the grass. If these precautions are used, there is no danger that the sheep will destroy the grass lands."

As an illustration of the improvements in sheep-raising, I shall cite one of my own experiences. For a long time I bought my rams here and there without regard to pedigree, but just as an experiment I decided to buy a thoroughbred Hampshire ram. He cost me \$71 delivered at Shulls Mills. My neighbors were astounded. Even my father said I was foolish for paying such a price for a ram, when I could buy one for \$15 from my neighbors.

"Nevertheless, I went ahead and bred from that ram. The next spring, not a lamb that I sent to market weighed less than 128 pounds. I brought eight ram lambs on a wagon to Boone and offered them for sale at \$20 each. When a few buyers looked them over, those eight lambs were gone in thirty minutes at a price of \$12 above the average price of \$8. A few days later I brought seven more ram lambs to Boone and sold them in an hour at the same price."

"This shows what can be done by using thoroughbred stock. That is why we are bringing these Hampshire and Shropshire ewes to this county—to show the farmers what can be done with sheep when good stock is used. The farmers are responding nobly, for already we have had to send a hurry order for two carloads of ewes, and before long we shall have allotted all of the ewes to Watauga farmers."

"These ewes are brought from Southern Michigan, where the climate is practically the same as in Watauga. There is no climate anywhere that surpasses this for sheep raising, because it has cool summers, comparatively mild winters, and a long grazing season."

"Watauga farmers who take up sheep raising need have no fear about the market, because we have never had any trouble in getting our wool and lambs to market. The large companies of the north send their buyers throughout the country; hence our wool and lambs get to market very quickly and demand the best prices. That is one reason we have an advantage with our connection with Mr. Jones of Lenoir. He represents one of the largest buying companies, and through him we can market our products at the highest prices and in the shortest time."

"If Watauga farmers will give sheep raising their serious attention, they will find that the profits more than pay for the small amount of trouble necessary to care for the sheep. Every farmer knows how welcome an extra \$50 or \$100 or \$1000 will be just at the time of year that taxes fall due. When we are living in one of the finest sheep-raising districts in the country, it is not wisdom to let the opportunity of gaining this extra profit pass."

IRON MINE IN ASHE COUNTY MAY BE PUT IN OPERATION

Jefferson, Jan. 20.—J. W. Ballou of Crumpler, owner of what is declared to be the most valuable iron ore mine in this section, is understood to be negotiating with capitalists for sale of the property and it is anticipated that a deal may be put through which may mean operation of the mine.

Experts have ascertained that millions of tons of ore is buried in the earth on Mr. Ballou's property. Samples of the ore have been tested and found of highest quality. The ore has won several prizes, including first award at the world's fair at Paris, France, a number of years ago. Lack of transportation has prevented development of the property until now, but it is expected that activity will be started at no distant date.

Ashe county is considered one of the richest counties in the state in mineral deposits but its mines have been handicapped by remoteness from the market and lack of transportation facilities. In addition to rich deposits of iron, copper in large quantities and some gold have been found in the county.

This is our conception of the truly human man: a man in whom there is a just balance of faculties, a catholic sympathy; no brawler, no fanatic, no pharisee, not too credulous in hope, not too desperate in purpose; warm, but not hasty; ardent and full of definite power, but not running around to be pleased and deceived by every new thing.—Woodrow Wilson.

BIG SUM PLEDGED FOR NEW CHURCH

Boone Baptist Congregation Has Subscribed Approximately \$20,000 For Erection of New Edifice; Work to Begin in April

Approximately \$20,000 in money and land had been subscribed early this week to the fund for building the new Baptist church, it was said by W. D. Farthing, chairman of the finance committee. It is expected that work on the new structure will start in April, Mr. Farthing said.

Last week the church leaders got together and formed an organization for prosecuting the campaign for the building. So ready was the response to the appeal for funds that \$10,000 had been subscribed by Tuesday afternoon.

In addition, a lot 115 feet deep, facing College street, adjacent to the present church building, and 35 feet facing Main street, was donated, making the building site 100x190. An architect donated the plans, and some building material was donated, bringing the total up to about \$20,000.

The present plan calls for the erection of the three-story Sunday school building in the rear of the present building. As soon as this unit is completed, it will be used for all church purposes while the old building is being razed and replaced with a modern structure.

The complete plan of the plant has not been finished, but if donations continue at the present rate, Boone will have a Baptist church that will compare favorably with any in this part of the state.

ASSESSMENTS AND TAXES IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1927-1928

The department of rural social-economics, University of North Carolina, in the current issue of the University News Letter, gives showing the assessed valuation of each county in the state in 1927, the total tax levy—county and district, the county-wide rate and the average county and district rate. The assessed valuations and the county-wide rates are those reported to the commissioner of revenue. The total tax levy in each county was the amount reported to the field workers of the state tax commission. The average county and district rate was determined by dividing the levy by the valuation.

The total amount of county and district taxes levied in the state in 1927-28 was \$15,605,731, and the assessed valuation was \$2,924,911,733. Hence the average tax rate on the hundred dollars of property was \$1.56, though in only 29 counties was the average rate as low as this. There were, however, 32 other counties which, outside of special districts, had a rate as low as \$1.56. In 41 counties the average county and district rate was \$2.00 or more, and in 12 counties the countywide rate alone was at least \$2.00. Forsyth county had the lowest total average rate, 69 cents, and Clay the highest, \$3.36.

Watauga county in 1927, ranked 25th among the counties, the assessed valuation of property that year being \$9,130,950, the total tax levy \$140,784. The county-wide rate that year was \$1.33 and the county and district rate, \$1.54. In 1928, the Watauga county rate was reduced to \$1.30 per hundred, so that the county and special district levies for the year is about \$1.51 per hundred.

INCREASED VALUE OF NORMAL

The value of North Carolina's state institutions has more than doubled in the past eight years, according to records on file in the budget bureau office as compiled by budget officials. This doubling of valuations is figured on the basis of permanent improvements alone. It is interesting to note that the Appalachian State Normal at Boone has increased in value 285 per cent. Its valuation in 1921 was \$252,700, while in 1929 it reaches \$982,886. Its appropriations were listed at \$615,000 and funds otherwise received \$115,186.

One thousand seven hundred and thirteen persons met violent deaths in North Carolina during 1928, state health department officials state in giving out their yearly report. Of this number 251 were homicides. Cause and number of deaths follow: Burns, 278; automobile and railroad, 35; automobile accidents, 561; drowning, 146; railroad accidents, 83; homicides, 251; suicides, 281; gunshot accidental, 62; gunshot doubtful, 99; lightning, 16.

A Duroc Jersey hog weighing 1,110 pounds was killed by Herbert Dickson, Wayne county farmer, last week. After the hog was dressed it weighed 980 pounds and the liver 20 pounds, making 1,000 pounds of meat.