

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

A Non-Partisan Newspaper, Devoted to the Best Interests of Northwest North Carolina

VOL. XL, NO. 3

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1929

FIVE CENTS A COPY

SCHOOL BILL IS PASSED BY HOUSE

Compromise Measure Carrying Appropriation of \$15,250,000 for State Aid During Next Biennium Goes to Senate for Action

Without a dissenting vote, the house Friday passed its school bill carrying \$15,250,000 of state aid for county schools during the next biennium and then killed its appropriation committee bill giving state institutions \$1,972,000 for permanent improvements during the same period. The school bill, a compromise measure, arrived at after a week of debate, now goes to the senate.

The school bill was amended in three particulars before final passage. An amendment of Representative Eaker of Lincoln, Republican, provided that teachers be paid on the same basis as at present and would define a school month in the meaning of the bill as four weeks, the same as at present.

Before the Eaker amendment, the bill provided for the payment of teachers on a calendar month basis, a provision that school officials said meant a loss of two weeks pay during the year to a teacher since the present salary scale was retained in the bill.

Other amendments adopted were offered by Moss of Nash and Davis of Hyde. They were of a technical nature, clarifying the wording of sections without changing their intent.

The bill provides two separate equalization funds, one to aid counties in the conduct of six months' schools and the other to aid special tax districts maintaining schools of longer terms. The six months fund would be \$6,000,000 the first year of the biennium and \$6,250,000 the second year. The special fund would be \$1,500,000 for each year.

The administration of the fund would be vested in the state board of equalization, composed of the director of the budget, the superintendent of public instruction and a member appointed by the governor from each congressional district.

Powers of the present board would be increased by the act. It would be empowered to examine the budgets and supervise the conduct of all schools. Refusal to pay vouchers from the equalization fund to the schools if they were not conducted on a business-like basis would be within its powers.

The fund would be distributed to the counties on the basis of a 30-cent tax levy, the board determining the true property valuation of the county and fixing the amount it should raise from such a levy.

As an emergency fund, \$300,000 of the equalization fund would be set aside in reserve. The board of equalization would have the power to allot to any county a sum up to \$5,000 from the fund to aid in meeting any special school emergency that might arise in the county.

Australian Ballot Bill Passes in the House

Passing the amended Johnson-Broughton Australian ballot bill Tuesday night by a vote of 92 to 14, the house moved toward completing one of the most important issues before the 1929 general assembly.

The rules were suspended and the bill passed finally without record vote. The vote came at 10:30 Tuesday night after five hours of debate.

Five amendments tacked on to the bill by the house just before passing make a total of 30 added by the house Tuesday, but most of them were regarded as strengthening rather than weakening the measure. The bill survived a last-minute attack by Chairman Hancock, of the election laws committee, Cowles, Republican, of Wilkes, and Lumpkin of Franklin, Democrat.

As the measure, which has already passed the senate picked up 30 amendments in the house, it will go back before the senate for concurrence before it becomes law, but as the house amendments were mostly of minor nature, there is nothing in them, it is thought, that can result in anything more serious than calling in a conference committee to iron out whatever differences that may develop.

Would Eliminate the County Treasurer

Under the terms of house bill No. 1258, introduced in the legislature last week by Representative R. C. Rivers of Watauga, the office of county treasurer would be abolished, the duties of this office devolving upon the county accountant to an extent and the funds to be taken care of by some local bank to be designated later. It will be recalled that a similar action was taken some years ago, but the plan was not workable in that under the terms of the bill the finances were to have been distributed equally between the four banking institutions in the county, making the scheme altogether too complicated to be practical.

Numbers of the more progressive counties of the state have thus taken an important junction from the realms of politics and placed it with institutions whose business it is to deal with finances. The plan is said to work admirably when properly introduced and needless to say the saving effected is considerable. Other measures offered by Representative Rivers are as follows:

H. B. 1268: An act relative to the taxation of dogs in Watauga county.

H. B. 1269: To enable the trustees of the Appalachian State Normal to make contracts with the Watauga Hospital.

H. B. 1369: To exempt World War veterans from the payment of poll tax.

Information as to these measures is meagre, however. The Democrat expects to publish them in full as soon as they become available.

GAIN IN NORMAL ENROLLMENT

The Normal School reports an enrollment for the regular spring term of 530, representing an increase over the same period last year of 60 students. The student body is made up, says the registrar, of representatives from 32 North Carolina counties and 11 counties in other states, 350 coming from outside a radius of 50 miles. The closing of the spring term is announced for May 10th at which time the commencement exercises are to be held.

Normal Heating Plant Is Valuable Asset

Perhaps the most valuable as well as the most modern addition to the campus of the Appalachian State Normal is the central heating plant which has recently been completed by R. F. Coffey, building engineer, and which was erected at a cost of more than \$50,000. The building is of brick construction and located just east of the site of the old Dougherty mill. It is designed for the accommodation of three 200-horsepower boilers, one of which is now in place and is satisfactorily heating five of the main buildings on the campus, warming the water in the swimming pools and supplying hot water to all the buildings. Besides the greater part of the cooking in the central dining hall is done with steam from this plant.

All this is accomplished, explains Mr. Coffey, through a system of steam mains that are carried to a central point of the campus in a large concrete tunnel, from which point the radiation is distributed to the individual buildings. The system is different from those heretofore used in that the steam as it condenses is piped back to the boiler, thus saving the greater part of the water.

In this same building is housed a new electric unit developing the same amount of electrical energy as is produced at the hydro plant in use on New River. A switchboard at the auxiliary plant allows the engineer to have complete control of the system. Both plants may be operated simultaneously or separately as occasion demands. Thus there can be no danger of a shortage of current until the amount used by the town and school is considerably more than doubled. When there is steam on the boiler and there is a shutdown at the New River plant, the change may be made instantly to the auxiliary, and under any condition, it is pointed out, the town could not be out of power for more than one hour.

Another 200-horsepower boiler will be installed this year, doubling the heating capacity of the plant, which now rates favorably with any in the state.

HOOVER, CURTIS ASSUME HIGH POSTS

Through Brave Driving Rain For Hours to Honor New Executive Splendor Marks Ceremony.

Washington, March 4—The American people today with solemn ceremony placed Herbert Hoover in the highest office within their gift—that of president of the United States.

With a pelting, stinging rain falling, he swore to uphold and defend the constitution of the United States, kissed a verse in the Bible and began the gravest duty ever demanded of him in his life of far-flung activity. And, turning to his inaugural address he made a pledge to enforce all laws, including the prohibition amendment, to the full extent of his ability.

Into office with this California engineer and orphaned Quaker went Charles Curtis, who had risen from an Indian reservation to the vice presidency. The two then rode down the historic route from the capitol to the White House, bareheaded, rain beaten, but smiling their happiness over one of the most remarkable and enduring omissions given any president in recent years.

For nearly four hours the thousands stood in the driving rain waiting to do honor to the foremost two Americans. They filled the long rows of water soaked stands lining the route; they perched upon perilous, slippery ledges of buildings flanking the street. Dripping windows were filled with peering faces, and roof tops were heavy with humanity.

On the capitol plaza, shining with its watery film, the thousands with water dripping clothes, saw Mr. Hoover kiss a verse in the Bible which sealed his reality to his countrymen. That verse said: "Where there is no vision the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

And when the solemn ceremony was over they remained defiant of the weather to see the impressive tribute paid to the incoming head of the nation by representatives of nearly every group of American life.

The train of events leading up to the ceremonial installation of the president and vice president began at 10 o'clock in the morning and the two central figures started for the White House to join President and Mrs. Coolidge. Mr. Hoover rode with Mrs. Hoover in a White House automobile from his home on S street, while Senator Curtis and his sister, Mrs. Edward E. Gann, proceeded to the executive mansion in a congressional car.

After a short stay at the White House the official party, including the President and Mrs. Coolidge departed in a motor cavalcade for the capitol. Reaching the capitol, President Coolidge and his successor-to-be entered the president's room on the senate side, and there awaited the moment for the induction into office of Mr. Curtis. The rain was showering the senate skylights when the senate finally adjourned and the inaugural party moved toward the open-air stand on the plaza for the swearing in of Mr. Hoover. Chief Justice Taft administered the oath of office to Mr. Hoover on the 20th anniversary of the day Taft himself had taken over the reins of government from Theodore Roosevelt, and a president-elect stood there until the few words of obligation made them one president and two former presidents. The plaza ceremonies complete, Mr. Coolidge and Mrs. Coolidge departed for their journey homeward, and the procession of acclaim was formed. The president and vice president rode to the White House ahead of the parade for luncheon. As they passed in automobiles, with tops down, they repeatedly waved their high top hats to the cheering spectators. Half an hour later the two leading figures in the events of the day, surrounded by members of their families, were seated in the reviewing stand to return salutes to the thousands who marched by in honor of a new president.

The end of the trudging column passed a few minutes before five o'clock. Then President Hoover invited into the White House the Republican national committee, the members of the new and old cabinet and the committees which arranged for the inaugural ceremonies. The meeting was for the purpose of exchanging greetings.

How to Make More Money on the Farm

BY REAL FARMERS

By H. NEAL BLAIR

Having been asked to write something for this publication, based on my experience in farming, I want to say in the outset that I have always tried to get what information I could from agricultural writings, based on experiment station tests, and other farmers' operations, and then make some experiments of my own to try out the advice that I had received. As a result of these experiences, I have decided:

1. That we Watauga farmers should diversify our crops to include all that will show a reasonable profit.

2. That we should be governed in the selection of these crops by the amount and kind of land that we have, our location with respect to getting out to market, our facilities for reaching and ability to work that market, and our ability to finance the production.

3. That we should figure the normal cost of producing a certain crop, compare this cost with an average return from each crop, based on a four or five-year production, and market, to see if there is to be a profit.

4. Rotate crops as much as possible.

5. For our soil, climate and marketing facilities, we should select from the following: Cattle, sheep and poultry raising, dairying, growing cabbage, potatoes, apples and hay for market—and then grain for home use if it can be done economically.

6. That we should lime all the land that we are financially able to lime, fertilize freely—but study the use of fertilizer carefully—use legumes, and be careful how we apply stable manure—to get the value of it.

Now, to go back and analyze. We should diversify because our seasons are so varied that we sometimes have partial or total failures on one or more of our principal crops, and we are also subject to a price level set by the shippers from other sections of the United States, where any of our crops are produced on a much larger scale than they are here. For example, the potato market this year.

As to kind of land, location, etc., Hill land should be kept in pasture as much as possible and devoted to cattle and sheep raising—this to prevent wearing and washing away. Dairying is good business if near a market for milk. We should bear in mind that sheep can be wintered much more cheaply than cattle, if we do not have plenty of other good, tendable land on which to produce grain and roughage. As to the market for cattle and sheep, we need not have any fear. Poultry raising, truck and fruit growing are especially adapted to the small farm. In considering these, there is almost always a good market for nice apples, and for potatoes if they are grown to show a large average size and are graded and packed according to market regulations. The cabbage market is more limited on account of crop being so perishable. It is more necessary to know ahead of time what you are going to do with a cabbage crop. I figure that cabbage and potatoes are about equal in value per acre under ordinary conditions. Either will show a profit amounting to as much as the gross value of a corn crop. But unless a man knows where his cabbage crop is going to, he had better go into it moderately.

As to the cost of production and estimate of profit I figure rent in land to range from about \$4.00 per acre for common old hill pasture to about \$20.00 for choice bottom land run in corn or hay. I count \$5.00 per acre for preparing land for planting. I count the labor that I think will be required per acre to make and harvest a given crop—and I think I know pretty well what it will take from beginning to end for most crops that I grow. I count the seed and fertilizer that I propose to use. Then I count a potato crop at 175 bushels of market potatoes per acre at 85¢ per bushel at home; a cabbage crop at 25,000 pounds per acre at \$5.00 per thousand at home; a corn crop at 40 bushels per acre at \$1.25 per bushel and \$10 for

WEATHER BUREAU NOW RECOGNIZED

Prof. Wright Gets Local Station Listed by U. S.; Interesting Notes About January Weather

During the latter part of November, 1928, through the efforts of Professors D. D. Dougherty and J. T. C. Wright, the Appalachian State Normal School set up a local weather station for the purpose of taking readings of temperatures, rainfall, snowfall, barometric pressures, direction of prevailing winds, and any phenomena or other facts about climatology that might occur from day to day. On December 1, the local station operator, Prof. J. T. C. Wright, began readings of the instruments. These consist of a maximum and minimum thermometer of the "U" type, a recording thermometer, a barometer, a rain gauge and a snow gauge. The purpose of the maximum thermometer is to record the highest and lowest points reached by the thermometer during any day. The recording thermometer leaves a trace in red ink on a record sheet of the temperatures at all times during the day. A person can look at this chart and tell the temperature at any time during the day that he may wish to know about. These records are kept on file and properly dated so as to leave a complete record of the daily temperatures. The barometer gives the pressure of the atmosphere. It also forecasts the weather. A person who has been properly initiated can forecast the weather more or less accurately about 12 hours in advance. The rain and snow gauge is to catch any rain or snow that may fall. This is measured by a special rule made for that purpose and is then recorded.

After the close of December, the operator sent a report of the month to the state weather bureau. He informed them that he would be glad to send in these reports monthly if they desired to have them. They replied that they would be glad to have them. They sent some pamphlets about how to read and record the weather and wrote that they would recognize the station as a cooperative station of the U. S. weather bureau if certain changes were made and if readings were given as they outlined. An application blank was filled out and sent to Raleigh giving in detail a description of the instruments and other facts concerning which they desired information. A few days ago the state weather bureau informed Prof. Wright that the station at Boone was now considered a U. S. weather bureau cooperative station. The reports sent in will be recorded in its reports and published just the same as those from any other station.

A few interesting facts about the weather during January are given below:

- Average maximum temperature 50 degrees.
- Average minimum temperature 25 degrees.
- Average temperature 38 degrees.
- Highest temperature during month 73 degrees on January 18.
- Lowest temperature during month 7 degrees on January 3.
- Average daily range in temperature, from low to high, 25 degrees.
- Greatest daily range in temperature 41 degrees on January 14.
- Total precipitation 3.55 inches.
- Greatest precipitation in 24 hours, 1.85 in. on January 5.
- Total snowfall 1 1/4 inches.
- Number of days with .01 inch or more precipitation, 12.
- Clear days 11, partly cloudy days, 5, cloudy days, 15.
- Sleet on January 5th and 27th.
- Direction of prevailing wind for the month was west.
- The Democrat hopes to publish reports of the local station each month.

LENOIR NEWS-TOPIC SOLD

Announcement was made Thursday of the purchase of the Lenoir News-Topic by Johnson Avery, managing editor of the Hickory Daily Record. Mr. Avery purchased the News-Topic and plant from a stock company, headed by C. H. Hopkins. The consideration was said to have been approximately \$25,000. Mr. Avery took charge Friday. The Lenoir paper has been managed in the past by Fred H. May.

There were more than 20,000 students in the medical colleges of the United States last year.

(Continued on Page Ei)