MUCH COUNTERFEIT IS IN CIRCULATION

Blockaders Paid off in Spurious Bills. Organized Band Believed to Be Operating Racket. Officers at Work on Cases.

By M. R. DUNNAGAN
(Special Writer for The Democrat)

Raleigh.—Probably never before in the history of the State has there been as much counterfeit money in criculation in North Caronna as there is at the present time, according to official, but, by request undisclosed, sources.

These official reports disclose that there is an organized band of counterfeiters operating in the State, maintaining a headquarters and working out in all directions from a central point, and indications are that this band is also engaged in rum-running on a large scale. While it is known that the operations are extensive in these lines, it is also considered possible that other related and unlawful operations are carried on by the band.

An official report ties up the counterfeiting and rum-running activities. Report was made to an official in the State that a blockader in the far-eastern part of the State made a sale of corn whiskey to a man, the transaction amounting to $160. In payment, the purchaser paid the maker eight new $20 greenback bills. It was discovered that they were counterfeit, and the recipient of the spurious bills reported the incident and turned the money over to officials.

In this case the seller of the liquar was warned over long-distance 'phone that the money this offered was counetrfeit, but when the warning came, the transaction had already been made and the purchaser had gone with his liquor.

Earlier this year there was an apparent epidemic of spurious 50-cent pieces being circulated in the State, but these operators are working on a much larger scale. Washington officials have been in the State checking up on this new money and report that some of it is so nearly perfect that it is exceedingly hard, even for experts, to detect the difference.

Needless to say, officers are at work on the evidence they are securing, but there is slight intimation that a condition exists in the State which is somewhat similar to a recent description given of a mid-western city; that city required registration of all crooks entering it, and kept addresses. The result was that it was a haven for crooks, but they would not ply their trade in that city, "working" other cities and going there for refuge.

THE BABY CHICK SEASON IS NOT SO FAR AWAY

Mating the breeding birds in the home poultry flock to secure the best and most vigorous baby chicks is the problem immediately before the North Carolina poultryman.

"The object in breeding poultry is to reproduce and increase, where possible, those desirable traits to be found in the males and females of our farm flocks," says Roy S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry department at State College. "If certain desirable characteristics lack on one side, they may be corrected on another by breeding with birds that are strong in such characteristics. By this method a reasonable balance may be seured in the flock. Thus, if one group of birds are good layers but are weak in some other place, they may be bred with birds having the desirable strength. The careful poultryman will begin to select his mating pens right away so that the birds may adjust themselves to new conditions before the eggs are to be saved for incubation."

Dearstyne believes it may be necessary to buy some new blood if careful mating and pedigree work has not been done on the farm in the past. However, no poultryman should buy new stock without a personal visit to the farm where he plans to buy. Should this not be possible, Dearstyne recommends a conference with the county agent about the matter.

Before establishing a breeding pen the females should get a final culling and the birds examined for vitality, defects, body weight and the like. Late moulters are usually high producers. Those hens moulting in September should have had a profitable year, but those moulting after October 1 probably are the highest producers in the flock.

Where records have not been kept and the poultryman is unable to secure pedigreed stock, males necessarily must be selected on appearance alone, Dearstyne says.

"BIG EXECUTIVE" COMING TO THE PASTIME THEATRE

Ricardo Cortez, Richard Bennett, Elizabeth Young and Sharon Lynne are featured in Paramount's latest hit, "Big Executive," directed by Erle Kenton, which comes to the Pastime Theatre on Thursday and Friday of next week.

A story of the new-type big business man, stock manipulator, speculator, up-and-at-'em financier, the picture contrasts with him the old-type of empire-builder, men who made railroads, industries, banks, mines in a nation of pioneers.

Cortez plays the role of the modern "big executive" who has built his fortune on the misfortune of others. No one has been able to stop him in his headloog career until he falls in love with the great-granddaughter of Commodore Richardson, the ninety-seven-year-old retired empire-builder of the past. To stop the union with the man whose methods he despises, the Commodore returns to business, and, using his opponent's own methods, resolves to break the "big executive." What happens when the market crashes furnishes a surging finish to a story of splendid characterizations.

The picture marks the cinema debut of Elizabeth Young, daughter of Judge William Young of New York. Also in the cast are Dorothy Peterson and Barton MacLane.

News Items From Raleigh And The State At Large

By M. R. DUNNAGAN
(Special Writer for The Democrat)

Raleigh.—A scenic highway atop the Blue Ridge connecting national parks in Virginia and North Carolina, a required course of study on natural resources of North Carolina in high schools and a system of small parks over the State for sport fishing purposes are urged in resolutions adopted by the State Board of Conservation and Development at a recent meeting. The resolutions with omissions of repetitions, follow:

"Whereas, the building of the proposed scenic highway atop the Blue Ridge Mountain connecting the Shenandoah National Park with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park will open to the motoring public the greatest scenic areas in Eastern America, and, the building of this road will furnish employment to people of the mountain areas who are greatly in need of relief at this time, therefore, be it

"Resolved, by the Board, that it heartily approves of this project and urges that the Federal Director of Public Works approve the project and make available at the earliest possible time a sufficient allotment for construction of the highway.

"Whereas, outdoor recreation is an essential part of the training of young people; outdoor recreation is a need for older people; the natural resources of North Carolina have been seriously depleted in years gone by; it is possible to increase the income of landowners in North Carolina by a sum ranging from $50,000 to $100,000 annually; an increased public interest in the natural resources is a current need, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Board, that the Department of Public Instruction be urged to prescribe a suitable course dealing with the natural resources of North Carolina as a part of the required studies of every high school student in the State in order that these future citizens may obtain a more intimate knowledge and appreciation of these gifts of Nature and that they may be administered for the best interests of succeeding generations.

"Whereas, there is a greater need for outdoor recreational facilities to meet the requirements of an increasing number of people interested in camping, hunting, fishing and hiking; the number of people interested in outdoor recreation will continue to increase because of the current trend toward shorter hours in industry and commerce; building of strong citizenship is greatly influenced by outdoor life; the State has an obligation that it should make availble facilities for outdoor recreation, therefore, be it

"Resolved, by the Board that it recommends to the Governor to use his influence toward establishing a number of small parks accessible for the sport fishing waters of N. C. for the benefit of all the people.

HUNTING LICENSES INCREASE

Hunting license collections for this season are leading slightly receipts for last year in spite of reductions in fees ranging from one-third to more than one-half, remittances from selling agencies to the middle of last week reaching $78,744 as compared with $76,451 on the same date a year ago, the Department of Conservation and Development announces.

Estimates are made that at least one-third more licenses have been sold so far than at this date last year, indications being that collections will exceed by several thousand dollars those of last year, reasons for increases in licenses are improved economic conditions, better hunting weather and closer inspection of license fees by wardens in the field.

The new schedule of license fees is: resident county, 60c; resident State, $2.10; combination hunting and fishing, State-wide, $3.00; non-resident, $10.10. Last year the fees were: resident county, $1.25; resident State, $3.25; combination hunting and fishing, State-wide, $4.50; non-resident, $15.25.

HOLIDAY GREENS

Judicious cutting and use of holly and other Christmas greens is necessary if the supply of these beautiful holly decorations is to be perpetuated, State Forester J. S. Holms warns. Referring to holly with red berries, galax, leucothoe, palms, kalmia, hemlock, spruces and pines as desirable holiday decorations, he states.

"Proper selection and cutting will assure a continuous yield. We advise the taking of not more than 25 per cent of the leaf surface of holly and other greens and that the cutting be done with a sharp axe or saw toward the tips of the branches.

"Much longleaf pine is now being cut and used for decoration and there is no more effective green. Unfortunately, however, the whole tree from five to ten years old is generally used and many thousands of young trees are destroyed in this way.

"If these young trees, one to six feet high, were only taken so as to thin the stands of young growth to proper density, no harm would be done; in fact, benefit would follow. No longleaf pine, or, in fact, any other evergreen should be taken nearer the road than 150 feet and beyond that the cutting should be judicious thinning."

TO IMPROVE CAPITOL SQUARE

All preliminary work has been done preparatory to the program of improvement of Capitol Square in Raleigh on the plans prepared by Olmstead Brothers, Brockline, Mass., under direction of Governor Angus W. McLean about seven years ago. These plans include a complete permanent planting plan for trees and shrubbery, as well as a special kind of walkway on the square.

Governor McLean, in addition to having the plans made at a cost of about $7,000, also started the paving work on the Fayetteville Street side by creating the memorial wall and walks leading to the south side of the building at a cost of about $7,000 more. The 1929 General Assembly appropriated $21,000 to carry out the plan, but the money was never used. The total cost was figured at $42,000, but the work is to be done now by CWA workers at a cost of about $63,000, but only about $12,000 will be spent for materials by the State.

The walks, similar to those already built under the plan, are of a mixture of cement and three-quarter-inch pebbles, the cement being washed away while soft so as to expose about one-third of the pebbles. They are to be winding and graceful, not straight and harsh, and give a flag-stone effect. One unit around the Vance statue is to include two fountains, while another fountain is to be in the center of the circle at the driveway entrance on the north side of the building.

TOBACCO REDUCTION

While only about one-third of the tobacco growers of North Carolina have signed up in the new tobacco contract for next year, all the groundwork has been laid and the work is expected to progress rapidly during the next two weeks, which will be holidays for tobacco marketing, E. L. Floyd, North Carolina director of the sign-up, announces. The growers have been so busy marketing that progress was slow, but the sign-up is expected to be pretty well completed in the next two weeks.

CWA WAGES SAFE

Wages earned by CWA workers are not subject to any garnishee laws that may exist in any of the States, Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, State administrator, was advised Saturday from Washington. Only taxes in certain conditions are subject to garnishee in North Carolina, but in many other States the wages are subject to garnishee for all kinds of debts. The reason is that the wages are figured as only sufficient to provide necessities of life for the workers and their families.

HALF OF CWA PROJECTS LET

Of the total of $9,552,239 apportioned to North Carolina for public works projects under emergency leg-

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PASTIME THEATRE

"PLACE OF GOOD SHOWS"

Saturday, December 23rd
KEN MAYNARD
in
"Lone Avenger"
SPECIAL CHILDREN'S BARGAIN MATINEE
to this picture, beginning on Saturday Morning, December 23, at 10 o'clock. Five Cents to all children under 12 years of age. Remember, this bargain matinee only runs from 10 o'clock to 12 o'clock!

Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 25-26
JAMES DUNN and CLAIRE TREVOR
in
"Jimmy and Sally"
A Special Holiday Picture at Regular Admission.

Wednesday, Dec. 27
REGINALD DENNY
in
"The Iron Master"

Thursday-Friday, Dec. 28-29
RICARDO CORTEZ
in
"Big Executive"

Saturday, December 30
BOB STEELE, DORIS HILL
in
"Rangers Code"

COMING!
Midnight Matinee
with the beginning of the New Year!

BARGAIN WEEK To Matinee Shows

Adults 15c; Children 10c; to Matinee only. Matinee each day at 3:00. Nights, 10c-25c.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

FESTIVE HOLIDAY AND MEMORIAL WREATHS
POTTED PLANTS.

On Display December 18th
Give us your order for Cut Flowers for Christmas

Miller Floral Shoppe
Phone 20 48 E. Main St.

CHRISTMAS *and a* TIMELY THOUGHT

We are approaching another Christmas season. Within the next few days millions of dollars will be spent to make a joyous Christmas morn. This is all fine; we find no fault, but much of this money will be spent for articles that are practically worthless . . . will not bring any permanent happiness, and will only last at the very most, for a few short weeks. They will add little if anything to the permanent wealth of any individual.

With this in mind, may we make a suggestion for a Christmas gift for your children or grandchildren in the form of something substantial; something that can be looked on with pride over a period of years, and something that will be of lasting benefit to those receiving the present. LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR $100.00 in gold, silver or currency. It takes only $100 invested in a lump sum to bring a $5 check as a Christmas present for any little boy or girl of this town. One dollar and fifty cents brings to your child or grandchild a beautiful certificate in a nice Christmas package and when paid on at $1.00 a month for about 84 months will represent $100 in cash.

Why not remember the children and friends in this way and encourage them to become thrifty home-owning citizens? Only twenty-five cents a week provides a sum sufficient to start a college education, and $2.50 per week over the period would secure a diploma from one of the best colleges of the State.

We wish our shareholders and friends a joyous Christmas and hope they may co-operate in making the January series one of the best in our history.

WATAUGA BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

W. H. GRAGG, Secretary

Watauga Bank Bldg. Boone, N. C.