

# Interesting News Items Reported From Raleigh

By M. R. DUNNAGAN  
(Special Correspondent)

Raleigh, N. C.—North Carolina, but for an unexpected trick of fate, will again be sitting "on top of the world" when the fall crops are garnered and sold and the farmers total up their receipts for the summer's work.

This State had reduced during the past few years its cotton crop to a large extent, particularly as a result of the "live-at-home" campaign of Governor Gardner, and had turned to food and feed crops. Some slight reduction was also made in the tobacco and peanut crops, before the AAA reductions were made.

At this time the cotton and tobacco crops are excellent, and but for an act of Providence, the fields set to these crops will produce abundantly. Reports that cotton is expected to be much smaller in production generally than was permitted under the AAA, is expected to benefit this State materially, as it has an excellent crop, probably even more than the AAA rules allow, and may be able to sell the entire crop at the prevailing prices, rather than have to pay one-third of the excess as a penalty for over-production.

And tobacco, that golden weed, now selling at an average of around 22 to 24 cents a pound, will bring in a golden stream to the tobacco-growing sections, even exceeding that of last year, after the price agreement had been reached. Present prices are almost twice those of the opening last year.

Moreover, truck and fruits produced in numbers of counties of the State have been and are bringing good prices, as compared with those of former years. Apparently the low price potatoes brought, hurting growers in the northeastern section of the State, is the only complaint. North Carolina growers will have this year, if a kind Providence continues to be considerate, and in contrast to the direful conditions that exist in other parts of the country.

On top of all this, North Carolina growers have been getting reduction and rental funds in abundance, \$5,014,608 having been distributed to tobacco growers, in addition to CWA and IRA funds.

Watauga County has received \$879 in tobacco funds, in the past months, with more to come.

### ROAD MILEAGE INCREASES

Watauga County had 814 miles of State highways and 574 miles of county roads on July 1, 1934, according to a survey made by the State Highway and Public Works Commission, as compared with 756 miles of State highways and 355.6 miles of county roads as of June 30, 1933.

In most counties there is an increase in mileage of both State and county highways, but in some instances a shrinkage is shown. This does not mean that some roads have not been added during that four-year period, but in many cases it was found that the 1930 survey of county roads, made as a preparation for the State to take over the county roads for maintenance, as pushed through by Governor Gardner, was inaccurate. In some cases roads were listed that did not exist at all. The changes made since then have made the figures more accurate, but in most cases some road mileage has been added throughout.

In the State system as a whole it is shown that the present mileage is 10,551.25, an addition of 1,630.45 miles to the 8,920.80 miles making up the system four years ago. The 10,551.25 in the present system includes 296.06 miles in the State system which are located in incorporated cities and towns, forming a part of the State system, but not maintained by the State. This is done by the cities and towns in which they are located.

### PROTECT NATIVE FLOWERS

Protection of native flowers and shrubs from fire and depredation along the Park-to-Park Highway is urged by Chairman E. B. Jeffress, of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, who advises that public sentiment be aroused in communities adjacent to the Parkway for such protection.

"I am confident this parkway will annually bring thousands of people into North Carolina from all parts of the nation and if developed according to Federal plans it will be the most outstanding road in the world," said Mr. Jeffress.

Co-operation in developing native shrubs and flowers and their protection would result in "making our mountain regions even more attractive and the tourist business therefore more profitable," said the highway chairman.

Surveying work in this State is expected to start this week, he said.

### WATAUGA'S SALES TAX

Watauga County paid a total of \$12,344.89 during the past year in sales tax. Of this, \$10,565.84 was paid by local merchants and merchants with their main offices in the State, \$1,764.33 by chain stores with main offices outside the State, and \$74.72 as the \$1 registration fee, by which it is seen that this county has about 72 stores.

The general sales tax brought a total of \$6,011,770.16 in revenue to the State (not including \$3,257.17 paid and refunded), during the first year

of its operation, to June 30th, as is shown.

It is not generally known, however, that chain stores which have their main offices outside the State paid nearly a million dollars of this sum, or \$859,693.27, while \$8, 115,573.26 was collected from local merchants and from chain stores which have their main offices within the State. Of the amount, too, \$38,408.80 was collected as the \$1 registration fee for each merchant doing business in the State, the odd cents in the case of each county resulting from penalties imposed of a few cents for delayed payment of this fee.

With sufficient allowance for the small penalties, it is seen that there were approximately 36,350 merchants paying the registration fee during the past year, this tax being in lieu of former heavier taxes on merchants and reduced in consideration of their services in collecting the general sales tax.

### POWER RATES REDUCED

Announcement of voluntary reductions of rates by the Duke Power Company to North Carolina users of power will save more than \$1,000,000 a year and South Carolina users about \$200,000 a year, is taken to mean that the State's largest power company will not "be down" before the TVA, but will, apparently, show fight, evidently to demonstrate the truth of the assertion, if it is the truth, that a rigidly organized private corporation can stand up and compete even with a government subsidy.

The new rates are said to be almost as low as those inaugurated by the TVA as a "yardstick," with the differential about the amount the private firm is paying in taxes. As a pioneer in rate reduction, the Duke company evidently plans to show that its rates are sufficiently low as not to require an invasion of its territory by the TVA. It will be interesting to watch the results of a war, if war it is, between the private corporation and the government subsidy.

What effect the reduction will have on other large North Carolina power firms, Carolina Power and Light, the Tidewater Power, Virginia Electric & Power, and the Durham Public Service Company is not known. Supposedly it will bring reductions in rates of these companies. The Carolina Power and Light Company branch at Asheville may even be taken over or turned over to the TVA, as it is operating in the closest proximity to the benefits to be derived from the TVA.

### COMMITTEE MEET NOT CALLED

The State Democratic Executive Committee has not been called to meet yet, and the delay is giving the women candidates for National Committeewoman, to succeed Mrs. Palmer Jerman, resigned because of conflicting offices, a case of nerves. The meeting probably will be held the latter part of this month, or early in September, in time to get forces ready for the fall campaign.

Meantime, the name of Miss Ethel Parker, Gatesville, long a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee, has been brought forward. Others mentioned are Miss Beatrice Cobb, Morganton; Miss Mary Henderson, Salisbury and Chapel Hill; Mrs. Marshall Williams, Faison, who appear active, and Mrs. C. W. Tillet Jr., Charlotte. J. Wallace Winborne, Marion, is expected to be renominated as chairman; Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, of Goldsboro, may have to give up the vice-chairmanship, and Thad Eure, Norman, Sheppard and George Ross, Pot are possible secretary candidates.

### INSURANCE RATES LOWER

North Carolina, again in 1933, pushed still lower the insurance premiums paid for fire insurance, carrying the average rate down to 82 cents on the \$100 of property insured, five cents lower than the next lowest and 54 cents lower than the highest paid in the Southeastern states, Insurance Commissioner Dan C. Boney reports. The report is based on reports of 196 fire insurance firms doing business in the State last year and writing more than 88 per cent of the total business, the balance being done by mutual companies.

North Carolina has had the lowest rate in this territory for years, and her rate last year of 82 cents compares with an 87-cent rate in Virginia, 90-cent rate for Louisiana; Tennessee and Florida, 97 cents; Georgia and South Carolina, 99 cents.

North Carolina's record reflects the depression in the five-year report, both in decrease in amount of insurance carried and in the amount of fire losses paid, due to incendiarism, in part. But last year a slight increase was shown in amount of insurance in force and a big drop in the amount paid in fire losses. Property owners received 55.4 per cent of the premiums paid in 1933 in fire losses, almost normal. In 1931, the worst year of the depression, fire losses were 82.4 per cent of premiums paid.

### SOME HIGHWAY FIGURES

North Carolina's State and county highways, if laid end to end, would about reach two and one-half times around the world at the Equator. The mileage is 57,302.25, of which 10,551.25 miles are in the State system and 46,751.00 are in the one hundred

county systems. Of the State system, 296.06 miles are in incorporated cities and towns and are not maintained by the State, but by the cities and legislature will be besieged to have the State take over and maintain these State-numbered city and town streets. The North Carolina Municipal League has already asked that the cities be relieved of it.

### LEA RETURNS TO PRISON

Col. Luke Lea, the State's most distinguished prisoner, returned to the State prison Thursday nearly an hour before his parole expired at noon, donned his Grade B prison garb and returned to his duties of making N. C. automobile license plates, after attending the funeral in Tennessee on Monday of his youngest son, Percy, 24, killed in an automobile accident in Illinois. Col. Lea was accompanied here by Mrs. Lea and their young daughter, who will spend a few days in Raleigh. Two State guards, a \$10,000 bond and promises of political friends and foes in Tennessee, including the Governor, were required to insure his safe return to North Carolina by Governor Ehringhaus.

### THE LIVE AT HOME PROGRAM

North Carolina's "Live at Home" program, inaugurated in 1929 by Governor Gardner and carried thru under a long-time plan endorsed by Governor Ehringhaus, has attracted such nationwide attention that the "Bulletin" of the Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers Association for August devoted three of its four pages to a summary, five-year report, tables showing increase in food and feed crops and thirteen pictures of rural live-at-home activities.

In the five-year period, 1929-33, it shows that cotton acreage was reduced 34.4 per cent, with slight reductions in acreage of the two other main money crops, tobacco and peanuts. A few of the minor food crops were reduced, such as wheat, oats, barley and rye, but corn was increased in acreage, 16.5 per cent. In land development crops, lespedeza increased in acreage 323 per cent, cowpeas, 15 per cent; soybeans, 8.2 per cent, and hay, 22.6 per cent; home

gardens increased in acreage 111 per cent; sorghum, 80 per cent; truck crops, 41.3 per cent; sweet potatoes, 38.5 per cent; Irish potatoes, 25.8 per cent; fruits also increased in bushel production: apples, 99.0 per cent; peaches, 32.5 per cent; pears, 11.2 per cent; pecans, 5.4 per cent; live-stock increases in five years were dairy cows, 15 per cent; other cows, 3.5 per cent; brood sows, 16 per cent; sheep, 4.5 per cent; laying hens, 14.6 per cent.

The State grows enough Irish and sweet potatoes for its own consumption, but needs more in other basic feeds. It produced only 77 per cent of the corn needed in 1933; only 30 per cent of the wheat, 23.7 per cent of the oats, 91 per cent of the hay, 67.3 per cent of the beef and veal; 29 per cent of lamb mutton; 73.5 per cent of the pork and lard; 61 per cent of the milk and 65 per cent of the poultry and eggs.

"The shift (from money to food and feed crops) kept thousands of farmers from losing their farms during the bad times, as they were able to use cash crop returns mainly to pay interest on mortgages and to re-secure production credit lines," the Bulletin states. In 1933 the canned fruit and vegetables jumped to 11,570,950 cans, as compared with an average of around a million cans a year for the 12 years up to 1931. Canning, preserving, gardens, fields, storage houses, sorghum grinding and boiling and other live-at-home activities are shown in the pictures carried.

### GARDEN QUESTION

What vegetables are recommended for planting for the fall and winter garden?

Answer: Snap beans, turnips, mustard and spinach are the main crops for planting at this time. However, in extreme eastern sections it is not too late to plant bush lima beans, sweet corn, and set plants of celery and tomatoes. The time of seeding all vegetable crops and the rate of planting for the different sections is given in Extension Circular No. 122, copies of which may be secured by writing the agricultural editor, State College at Raleigh.

### EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

Our dear friends:

We should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the beautiful spirit of love and sympathy of the people of Boone and the neighborhood around about. Over and over in our sorrow our thoughts have gone back to the neighborly interest you took in us, who were comparative strangers in your midst, and to your thoughtfulness expressed in so many ways. Surely, greater kindness could be found nowhere! For the beautiful flowers which you sent to brighten the bedside of one who loved flowers as few people do, for your hospitable offer of rooms and automobiles, for your personal expressions of sympathy and interest, and for the tireless efforts of doctors and nurses we are more grateful than words can express. What a comfort it was to feel that we were surrounded not only by the kindest of friends, but also by as fine medical aid as could be found anywhere! The things you did for us will linger long in our memories, and the people of Boone will always have a warm place in our hearts.

It seems fitting to us that the flowers which you had sent Mrs. Brewer and which she had admired and appreciated so much were brought to Raleigh and made into a design which rests at the head of her grave, a beautiful expression of love from a people who proved themselves to be real friends.

With deep appreciation, we are  
Yours sincerely,  
TALCOTT W. BREWER,  
J. C. WATKINS,  
W. H. WATKINS.

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