

# The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, March 30.—Rising prices of consumer goods and the labor situation are the main worries of the administration, and are regarded by many as constituting the 'crisis' which President Roosevelt spoke of when he asked congress to authorize him to make changes in the supreme court so that emergency legislation would be held to be constitutional.

That prices are rising faster than the incomes of most Americans are rising is disclosed by official statistics of the government, and that this process will continue so long as the government continues to operate on borrowed money, is the gist of the warning sounded by Governor Marriner S. Eccles, of the Federal Reserve board. Mr. Eccles' proposed remedy is to cut down federal expenditures and impose new taxes, in order to balance the budget as soon as possible. This is not in accord with the ideas of some other members of the cabinet, who do not want to have the expenditures of their departments curtailed.

On the other hand, Secretary Wallace of agriculture, has endorsed Mr. Eccles' views, and Secretary Roper, of commerce agrees, while Treasury Secretary Morgenthau is resisting as strongly as he can the demands of the spenders to be allowed to keep on spending.

### Inflation Warning

The force of Mr. Eccles' warning has not been lost on the leaders in congress, who have been warned many times from other sources that unless there is a firm check upon the present inflationary trend there is great danger of another collapse which might be as serious as that of 1929 and which, if it should occur before the election of 1940, would seriously affect the chances of the Democratic party continuing in power. But offsetting that in the minds of many leaders are considerations of immediate political concern. Spending money, particularly for relief, makes votes; to stop spending it might lose enough votes in many districts to unseat congressmen who will come up for re-election next year. Also taxes are unpopular, unless they can be imposed only on wealthy individuals and corporations. That those who are now paying taxes in the "upper brackets" can pay enough more to bring the federal outgo and income into balance is considered doubtful.

That means that any new income taxes must be spread downward, to reach the lower incomes, which would be politically risky, or must be in the form of excise taxes on commodities, which might be equally unpopular. However, congressional economists and tax advisers are diligently studying the possibilities in both of those fields. There is talk of new excise taxes on coffee, tea, sugar which seems quite certain—salt and steel and electrical appliances. Just at present both senate and house spokesmen are saying that no new taxes will be necessary. That can be dismissed as the usual line of political talk heard every year at this period in congressional session. The practice has been, and doubtless will be this year, to "hush-hush" on taxation until along in July or August, and then rush through a new tax bill.

### Labor Policy Needed

Out of the labor situation precipitated by the "sit-down" strikes in the automobile industry has arisen a strong demand for the clarification of the government's labor policy. There is, indeed, no definite labor policy on which all elements in the administration are agreed. The major item of labor legislation, the Wagner labor relations act, is still before the supreme court awaiting decision as to its constitutionality. That it is an inadequate tool in any serious labor dispute is indicated by the fact that it has not been invoked in the automobile strikes. It places no power in the government to intervene unless the organized workers in an industry call on the national labor relations board for aid. Employers cannot, under the Wagner act, take the initiative in calling for a decision as to the rights or wrongs of a dispute with their employees, and no power is lodged in any government agency to compel workers to accept the labor board's decisions if they should be contrary to the workers' demands. Regardless of the constitutionality of the Wagner act, there is a general consensus that an entirely different kind of labor legislation is needed. The railway labor mediation law has worked admirably in maintaining excellent relations between railway workers and the roads, and under it the railway brotherhoods have not only maintained the respect and good will of the companies and the public, but have steadily bettered their own economic condition. Searchers for a new federal labor policy point to this mediation law as a good base to start from, while much study is being given to the British labor act which places much more responsibility

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# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year Eighteen Eighty-Eight

VOL. XLVIII, NO. 38

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1937

\$1.50 PER YEAR

### Oldest Justice



Washington.—Justice Willis Van Deventer is the oldest member of the supreme court in point of service. He was appointed by President Taft and has served 26 years as a member of the highest court.

### NEW CHURCH TO BE ERECTED IN TOWN

#### Presbyterians Close Deal For Property; Modern Structure to Be Erected Soon

A deal was closed last Friday whereby the Holston Presbytery became the owner of the Dr. Robert King property on Howard street near the cemetery and a modern church structure will be erected for the Presbyterian denomination.

Mr. J. D. Faucette of Bristol, chairman of the home mission board of the Presbytery and Rev. John Martin, superintendent and evangelist, negotiated the deal for the property which has a frontage on Howard street of 100 feet and a depth of 130 feet.

Information is that plans for the building will be prepared promptly and it is the purpose of the Presbytery to proceed immediately thereafter with actual construction. Pending the advice of the architect there was no information as to the details, but it was stated that the building, while not particularly commodious, would represent the very latest thought in church construction and would likely be built of native stone.

### Proposes Gift of Ginseng To China

Mr. A. M. Banner, of Sugar Grove, exhibited two roots of ginseng here Saturday, which had grown into the remarkable likeness of a man and a woman. The roots have been in the possession of Mr. Banner for more than 20 years, and the largest, weighing one pound when dug, has shrivelled to a mere four ounces.

Ginseng, which is cherished by the Chinese for its supposed prolongation of life, is most desired in the Orient when it attains the shape of a human being. Mr. Banner understands that in such cases it is worth \$300 to \$400 per ounce, and is not consumed, but practically worshipped by the Chinese. Accordingly, Mr. Banner has interviewed the manager of a large Chinese temple in Chicago, and will allow him to present the strange tubers to the Chinese government.

Mr. Banner says he would rather have the friendship of one-fourth of the earth's population than the money which would accrue from the sale of the ginseng.

### EAGLE DEGREE CONFERRED UPON ROBERT KING, JR.

Members of the Boone, College and Blowing Rock Boy Scout troops and a number of visitors were present at the Methodist church Friday evening when Robert King, Jr., received the Eagle Scout degree, being the only boy in the county to have been elevated to the highest rank in the organization. A number of other Scouts received promotions and several merit badges were granted.

Dr. Robert King presided at the meeting, and Rev. Paul Townsend extended a welcome. H. Banks Newman, of Winston-Salem, Scout commissioner for the Winston-Salem district, addressed the gathering.

### Trout Fishing Season Will Begin April 15th

Raleigh, March 30.—The annual closed season for fresh water fishing will begin April 1 and end May 10, except in a tier of counties in western North Carolina, where the period will extend from April 15 to June 10.

Trout fishing in the mountains will open April 15 and last until September 1, and small-mouth bass fishing will begin June 11 and continue through October 1.

### UNEMPLOYMENT ACT AFFECTS 91 WATAUGA PEOPLE

#### Eight Establishments Come Under Provisions of Unemployment Compensation Act; Guilford Leads State in Number of Employers and Employees

Watauga county has eight establishments with 91 employees who come under the provisions of the newly-enacted unemployment compensation act, according to records compiled for 1936 in the office of the North Carolina Unemployment Compensation commission. These figures are approximately correct since only a few employers had failed to report when they were compiled.

Employers of less than eight workers are not under the act but may voluntarily come under it, and thus give the protection larger employers are required to give their workers of an assured income during unemployment brought about through no fault of their own. Farm and home workers, employees of non-profit organizations, sailors, government workers and a few other classes are exempt.

Guilford leads the North Carolina counties in numbers of employees, followed by Forsyth, Mecklenburg, Gaston, Cabarrus, Durham and Alamance, while Mecklenburg leads in numbers of employers, followed by Guilford, Wake, Forsyth, Buncombe and Durham in order.

In fact, seven counties, Guilford, Forsyth, Mecklenburg, Gaston, Cabarrus, Durham and Alamance, reported 170,611 workers, or more than all of the other 93 counties in the state combined. The state had 438,526 employees under the provisions of the unemployment compensation act, but 56,254 of these are reported by out-of-state employers and are not credited to any county.

One county, Camden, had no employer or employee under the act; Currituck had one employer; Greene and Pamlico, two employers each; Clay, Jones and Stokes, three employers each; Madison and Tazewell, four employers each, and Ashe, Brunswick, Caswell, Graham and Onslow, five employers each.

### Officer Is Wounded As Gun Discharges

Deputy Sheriff Charles Thompson was seriously injured Saturday by the accidental discharge of his gun, as he stepped into an automobile in Boone. The .45 automatic, which was carried in a holster on the right side of the officer, fired, for some unknown reason, and the bullet rained through the lower part of the abdomen.

Mr. Thompson was taken immediately to a Winston-Salem hospital, where recent reports indicate that he is improving and it is believed that he will recover.

### Rural Mail Carrier In Service 28 Years

Mr. A. M. Banner of Sugar Grove, who retired last summer from the Sugar Grove rural mail route, has traveled something over a quarter of a million miles in line of duty.

Mr. Banner began carrying the mail in 1908 and served the patrons of the route for 28 years, 10 months and 15 days, and for 17 years made his 26 mile journey daily on horseback. For many years thereafter the trip was made by automobile during the summer and in the saddle when winter made the roads impassable for motor vehicles.

### EMORY AND HENRY GRID SQUAD MEETS A. S. T. C.

The Appalachian football team will meet Coach Billy Lavall's squad of Emory and Henry here Friday, April 2, in the first of a series of proposed practice games. A return game will be played at Emory and Henry the following Friday.

According to announcements by the athletic committee, admission will be free to everyone, and all are invited and urged to attend.

Emory and Henry is expected to offer strong opposition. Coach Lavall is recognized for his ability, having led sports at the University of South Carolina and Furman University before taking up his present duties.

However, Coaches Brewer and Stewart are expecting Appalachian to be in the line-up with several of the brilliant players of last year's squad, in addition to the new aspirants out for spring practice.

### Coming Spring With Music



Los Angeles.—Now we know that spring is here. These young violinists are part of the 1,500 piece children's orchestra got together for an outdoor rehearsal. They are members of the Junior Musicians of America, a non-profit organization that has over 5,000 members in Los Angeles alone.

### Sugar Grove Postoffice is 100 Years Old March 23

By V. B. MAST.

The current year marks the centennial of Sugar Grove postoffice. This office was established March 23, 1837, and was named Sugar Grove because of the vast number of sugar maples growing in this section at that time. Records show that it is the oldest postoffice in existence in Watauga county to have retained its original name.

In July, 1823, Jordan's Store was established with Jordan Council as the first postmaster. It held that name until June 20, 1850, when it was changed to Boone. Watauga county was not organized until the year 1849 and was prior to that time a part of Ashe county.

The first postmaster at Sugar Grove was John Mast, grandson of John Mast who emigrated to America from Switzerland in 1750.

According to the records, the first official mail route to supply Sugar Grove was established between this postoffice and Morganton on April 13, 1837, less than a month after the office was established. This route afforded the only known means of communication with the outside world at that time. Leaving Morganton on Friday at 10 o'clock a. m., the carrier was scheduled to travel up Johns River and arrive at Sugar Grove the next day at 1 p. m. He was to leave Sugar Grove on Thursday at 6 a. m. and arrive at Morganton the next day by 9 a. m. This trip was made once a week by horseback.

Some idea of the isolated condition of this mountain section at that time may be gained from the statement of Newton Banner, who is now 94 years old, that when he carried the

mail from Lincolnton to what is now Mountain City, Tenn., 30 years later, there was only one building in Hickory, and that on some trips his mail from Lenoir to Sugar Grove consisted of one letter and two weekly newspapers, the Lenoir News-Topic. These two papers were delivered to a family by the name of Whittaker, living at Sugar Grove. Mr. Banner relates that for a time there was only one copy of the paper coming to the Whitakers and that the entire family wanted to read it at once, which of course, could not be done. The father, in order to be able to read in peace, subscribed for a second copy of the News-Topic, hence the two newspapers comprising Mr. Banner's mail load.

If only two newspapers came into the section in 1867, one wonders what the residents knew of the outside world thirty or forty years before that time.

Blowing Rock postoffice was established July 26, 1858 with Silas Coffey as postmaster. For some reason this office was discontinued on December 6, 1866. It was re-established November 29, 1869.

In 1844, Watauga postoffice was established with Philip Shull as postmaster. The name was changed to Valle Crucis in 1845.

Another of the older postoffices was established as McBride's Mill on May 10, 1859, with Hirman McBride as postmaster. The name of this office was changed to Amantha, May 14, 1887.

The historical information regarding the above mentioned postoffices was furnished by K. P. Aldrich, chief inspector of the postoffice department.

### DUKE AWARDS GO TO BANNER ELK

#### Grace Hospital and Grandfather Orphanage Remembered in Distribution of Funds

Trustee of the Duke Endowment at a meeting held in Charlotte Tuesday, appropriated \$938,499.30 to 95 hospitals and 44 orphan homes in the Carolinas to aid them with the charity work they carried out last year.

Of this amount \$824,213 went to hospitals and \$114,286.50 to orphan homes. It is anticipated that 28 additional hospitals will apply for aid on the basis of one dollar per day for approximately 148,000 free days of care given in 1936.

Of local interest is the gift of \$9,522 to the Grace Hospital at Banner Elk, and \$1,628.99 to the Grandfather Orphan Home at the same place. The Mills Home at Thomasville was granted \$12,067.88, while the Children's Home at Winston-Salem received \$7,487.70.

### CROP INSURANCE MEASURE PASSES

Washington, March 30.—The senate passed today and sent to the house the administration's crop insurance bill, setting up a \$100,000,000 federal corporation to protect wheat growers against weather, insects and other natural hazards.

If the plan works successfully with wheat, the administration may seek to extend it to other major crops.

### RUFUS DOUGHTON NAMED PRESIDENT IN BANK MERGER

#### Election, With R. L. Doughton as Board Chairman, Leroy B. Martin, Executive Vice President, Feature Organization of New Board

Consolidation of four banks into the Northwestern Bank, an institution with resources of approximately \$3,000,000, serving northwestern North Carolina and having head offices in North Wilkesboro, was completed at a meeting of directors in that city Monday.

Congressman Robert L. Doughton, of Laurel Springs, was elected chairman of the new bank; his brother, Rufus A. Doughton, of Sparta, president; C. C. Hunter, North Wilkesboro, vice president; Leroy B. Martin, Raleigh, executive vice president, and Edwin Duncanson, North Wilkesboro, secretary.

The bank has an authorized capital stock of \$500,000, and begins business with a fully paid-in capital of \$150,000 and a surplus of \$75,000. Charter was issued Saturday by Secretary of State Thad Eure and adopted at Monday's meeting.

The new institution is a consolidation of the Merchants and Farmers Bank of Bakersville and Burnsville, the Watauga County Bank of Boone and Blowing Rock, the Bank of Sparta and the Deposit & Savings Bank of North Wilkesboro. Branches will be maintained in Bakersville, Boone, Blowing Rock, Burnsville and Sparta, in addition to the headquarters in North Wilkesboro.

Boards of directors of the merged banks were unanimously elected as local boards of managers.

Leroy Martin, the only newcomer in the organization, has for the past two years been vice president and assistant trust officer in charge of the trust department of Wachovia Bank and Trust company's Raleigh office. He was formerly executive secretary of the state school commission.

Robert L. Doughton, chairman of the board, has been congressman from the ninth district for 30 years. He is chairman of the ways and means committee in the house of representatives. He is one of the most influential men in the state, particularly in the northwestern section.

Governor Rufus A. Doughton has been connected with public affairs of the state for more than 40 years. For most of that period he held office. He was appointed chairman of the highway commission in 1929 to

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### BASEBALL TEAM MAY BE ORGANIZED HERE

At the Tuesday meeting of the Boone Athletic club plans were made for organization of a baseball team. All those interested in baseball are requested to be present at the next meeting, Tuesday, April 6, at 8:00 o'clock in the club's recreational hall. Those expecting to play on the team will be required to become members of the club.

The club greatly appreciates the aid given by the town, which has given and furnished with lights, heat and seats, a meeting place, and Mr. Tatum, of the City Meat Market, who gave us \$2.00 toward getting athletic equipment.

All those interested in recreation, regardless of age, wishing to join the club at the present rate of 50 cents will have to do so before the next meeting when the rate advances to 75 cents. These dues can be paid to any of the directors. The club plans to sponsor recreational activities of all kinds from checkers to baseball. Other cultural activities will be sponsored. Later similar clubs will be formed in adjoining towns and competition in all forms of activities will be carried on.—Reported.

### Grand Old Opry Unit To Appear Next Week

Mrs. Shelton Penn, supervisor of the adult educational work in Watauga county, announces that a unit of the Grand Old Opry from radio station WSM, Nashville, will appear in the courthouse in Boone Wednesday and Thursday, April 7-8, and that the proceeds from an admission of 15 and 25 cents will be used to further the adult educational program in the county.

The troop to appear in Boone is headed by Robert Lamm, the talking blues artist, and the Lakeland sisters, singing cowgirl, with Happy Al Hicks, blackface comedian and Rambling Red Majors, fiddler. The program will be varied and entertaining and the public is cordially invited to attend.

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