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The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, Dec. 20.—The second regular session of the 76th congress meets on January 3, but the army of lobbyists for a hundred special interests has been on the job for several weeks, and every returning member is made aware, by more or less devious means of communication, that it would be smart for him to vote for this, that or the other proposal—or else.

"Or else" in a year when all the representatives come up for reelection calls for little explanation. Of course it is never—or hardly ever—put as bluntly as to say to a member of congress that if he doesn't vote for a given proposal the heat will be turned on and he will lose a lot of votes which would be extremely useful in his district. But when it is considered that practically half of the members now sitting got in by such close margins that a shift of only a thousand or so votes would have elected the other fellow, it would seem as if it wouldn't take much more than a hint to swing a good many members' votes.

That is the popular notion of the way the lobbyists work. It has been made the theme of many a romantic piece of fiction, and a lot of folks who don't know the wheels actually go round in Washington are inclined to think of their congressmen as rather spineless weaklings concerned with nothing but their own personal continuance in office. That is a wrong picture, for several reasons.

High Principles

First, it is not as easy to influence the average congressman or senator to vote in favor of any measure which he does not honestly believe for the public welfare, as many folk think it is. The average of high and honorable principles, on every question of importance that comes up for consideration in congress, is probably higher than in any other legislative body in the world. There are honest differences of opinion, and a preference to follow the party leadership, but the record of the first session of this congress carries its own evidence that there are many members who put their honest convictions above party policy.

To be sure, there will be a lot of votes cast, and on important questions, because of their possible effect upon the success of one party or the other; but on the whole, the controversial issue will be determined by the majority opinion of their wits.

There is no likelihood of a short session. There will be too many questions on which members of both parties will want to put themselves on record, for one thing. And for another, the activities of the lobbies, working with pressure-blocks inside of congress, will be greater than in the first session.

Possibly more controversy will be aroused over the tax situation than on any other one subject. It is difficult for outside observers to see how increased taxes can be avoided, if even part of the President's program for enlarging the national defenses is carried through. And on that matter the belief in Washington is that the public is pretty solidly behind the President.

Better Feeling Toward Business
The problem is how to raise the additional billion or so without cutting essential expenses in other fields, and without adding to the tax burden on business.

There is a much more tender feeling toward business apparent here than there has been in the past. The force of the argument of business interests that they cannot put more men to work if they are not allowed to make profits is being felt at both ends of Pennsylvania avenue. The only alternative to increasing taxes, however, seems to be additional borrowing and increasing national debt beyond its present legal limit. Any economies, however drastic, made in other departments, seem certain to be offset by increased expenditures for the army and navy.

The agricultural relief situation is one of the things which this session will be called upon to readjust. One of the most powerful pressure blocks in congress, backed by the most powerful of all the lobbies, is the farm block. The American Farm Bureau Federation has come out with its definite plans, approved by the secretary of agriculture, for a new processing tax on farm products to be used for the purpose of giving farmers a price for their products which would put their purchasing power on a parity with that of industry.

Less Coalition Talk

There is less talk, however, about a coalition of labor and agricultural lobbies. Organized labor is beginning to realize that its interests are not the same as those of the farmers, who are capitalists and employers of labor.

The labor lobby is less powerful than it formerly was, because of the split between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

A program along that line is being worked out in the department of justice. It would attempt to remove all obstacles, legislative or otherwise, in the way of consumers' (Continued on page four.)

BURLEY HOUSE TO BE BUILT FOR SEASON OF 1940

Stockholders of Mountain Burley Warehouse Make Plans for Organization of New Corporation; Site for Proposed New Building is Made Available

Stockholders in the Mountain Burley Warehouse and other interested persons met Monday evening and laid concrete plans for the building of a second burley warehouse in Boone, and definite assurance is given that the new floor will be ready for the opening of the burley season in December, 1940.

The new warehouse will be a distinctly separate corporation from the Mountain Burley, it is pointed out, and land for the construction of the second house has already been secured adjoining the present structure. The organization is to be actually formed at once, and papers of incorporation applied for.

Officials of the Mountain Burley Warehouse corporation state that the books of that concern have been closed, sufficient stock having already been subscribed to take care of the transaction. When the incorporation of the new enterprise is effected, stock certificates will be available to interested persons in this region. More detailed announcements will be made regarding the new organization shortly after the first of the year.

STATE COLLEGE OFFERS FREE TOBACCO SCHOOL

The fourth annual tobacco short course for adult farm men and women of the state will be held at State College January 16-19. It is announced by Dan M. Paul, director of the agricultural short courses at the college. Tuition is free. A charge of \$1.00 is made for registration and a certificate of attendance.

A limited number of beds are available in the athletic room of the college Y. M. C. A. at 50 cents per night, and meals may be secured in the college cafeteria at a reasonable cost.

About 600 persons attended the three previous tobacco short courses held at the college, and 210 growers received certificates for attending all sessions of a short course. Registration is open to white men and women over 16 years of age.

It is announced that instructions will be given in all phases of tobacco production, and related subjects, including tobacco seed, fertilizers, insect and disease control, soil fertility, and the value of forest thinning to obtain tobacco wood.

VARIETIES OUTYIELDED CORN BELT HYBRIDS

Hybrid corn, as now available, cannot be grown economically in this state, says Dr. Paul H. Harvey of the agricultural experiment station at State College, who is in charge of the corn breeding program intended to develop corn hybrids adapted to North Carolina conditions.

He advised farmers to wait until research work is completed and hybrids suited to the soil and climate of this state are developed. This, he said, should be accomplished by 1942 when the first North Carolina hybrid seed will be available to farmers on a limited basis.

"Commercial and experimental hybrids from out-of-state sources were grown in yield tests at five locations in the state in 1939," Dr. Harvey reported. "In four locations, the standard varieties now in use were equally as good as the best hybrid in yield. At the upper coastal plain station at Rocky Mount, several hybrids did outyield the varieties, but were lacking in quality, weevil resistance and earworm resistance.

"From results obtained this year, and from similar tests in 1938, it is quite definite that none of the Corn Belt or Northern hybrids can be grown economically in North Carolina. There may be exceptions to this generalization, such as special uses as an early crop for hogging off in August, and late plantings following a truck crop," the agronomist stated.

WINS FLORIDA TRIP

Mr. James H. Council of Boone, who is president of the Skyline Oil Co., of Sylvia, has been given a free trip to Florida as a result of his company having set a sales record in the three counties it serves. Buddy Hall, manager of the oil company, was to have made the trip, but was unable to go. Mr. Council will leave Charlotte next Wednesday by chartered bus and will visit points of interest throughout Florida, returning about January 4.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

There will be a Christmas cantata at the Baptist church Wednesday, December 19 at 7:30 p. m., to which the general public is cordially invited. Regular services will be held next Sunday at both the morning and evening hours.

The Story of the Nativity

St. Luke Version . . . Chapter II



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyprenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Local Burley Warehouse Has Sold Million Pounds

Democrat Takes Holiday Vacation

Members of the Democrat organization start on their Christmas vacation today, this being the first time in the year that we have been granted a respite from our labors.

Business will be resumed after Christmas and the paper published next week.

1940 AAA Program Announced By Floyd

Announcement by E. Y. Floyd, Triple-A executive officer of State College, of the 1940 agricultural conservation program shows important changes in the rates of performance and soil-building payments to farmers for co-operation in the government's efforts to conserve soil resources and stabilize farm commodity prices.

Revision of the rates of soil-building payments have been made for the following practices, which in 1940 will be: Seeding alfalfa, \$1.50 per acre; seeding timothy and red top, 37½ cents per acre; seeding other specified types of legumes and grasses, 75 cents per acre; and turning under interplanted summer legumes, such as soybeans, cowpeas, crotalaria and velvet beans, 37½ cents per acre.

Floyd also announced that the rate of credit for application of ground agricultural limestone had been made uniform throughout the state, at \$1.50 for each 1,500 pounds applied.

The new rates of payment for conservation, or performance, payments are: Blue-cured and burley tobacco, 1 cent per pound; wheat on commercial farms, 9 cents per bushel.

There was no change from the 1939 program in payments for seeding lespedeza, seeding winter legumes, turning under green manure and cover crops, application of phosphate, terracing, thinning and weeding timber stands and planting forest trees.

Floyd urged farmers to consult with their county farm agent, or their AAA committeemen and determine exactly how the 1940 program can be applied to their farms.

CENSUS OFFICE OPENED

Salisbury, Dec. 19.—Zeb V. Long, Jr., of Statesville, supervisor of the ninth district in the 16th decennial census of the United States, has opened offices in the Salisbury federal building.

A. O. Jones is his assistant. He comes here from Sparta. The office will have five full-time employees. It was also announced that a training school for enumerators will be held here.

New Market Continues to Lead Burley Belt With Prices Averaging Around \$18 Mark; Total Sales to Reach Two Million Pounds By Saturday

Mountain Burley Tobacco market had Monday evening sold more than a million pounds of leaf for an average price of around \$18.00 per hundred. Monday's sales were the largest of the season, 250,000 pounds having been sold for averages estimated at between \$18.00 and \$19.00.

Paul Hardy, operator of the new warehouse, estimates that better than two million pounds of burley will have been sold when the floor closes for the holiday season next Friday afternoon. Prices, according to him, have been above the belt average, and he believes that during the four weeks in January as much or more leaf will be sold here than during the congested opening weeks.

Trucks are arriving daily from eastern Tennessee, southwest Virginia and the tobacco-growing counties of western Carolina, bringing huge loads of burley to the new market. Growers express themselves as being highly pleased with the courtesy and efficiency of the Hardy Brothers organization, and freely state that Boone has already established itself as one of the most satisfactory markets in the dark leaf belt.

A small basket of select leaf grown by Clyde Reese of the Beaver Dam section, sold Saturday afternoon for 50 cents per pound on the Boone market. This is said to have been the highest price paid. The better grades have been averaging from \$25 to \$28 per hundred. The quality of the offerings Monday was very high, few of the lower grades being placed on sale.

Grady Bradley, Vilas farmer, sold the crop from slightly less than one acre of ground on Friday for \$328. His average price was \$19.25 per hundredweight. This is believed to have been the best crop thus far sold by a local grower.

Literally thousands of people from a wide section of the country have come to Boone to witness the tobacco sales. Among these visitors were Congressman Robert L. Doughton, who has spent considerable time around the warehouse and among friends in the city. The veteran representative was one of the leading figures in organization of the market, and is lending his splendid assistance to the move begun Monday night for a new floor.

For planting and cultivating forest trees and shrubs and protecting such plantings, farmers may earn a conservation payment of \$7.50 an acre under the 1940 AAA farm program.

Funds Needed For Christmas Party

Manager C. H. Trotter of the Appalachian Theatre and Rob Rivers of the Watauga Democrat are anxious to secure some small contributions from the people of the community with which to furnish the necessary confections for the Christmas party which will be held at the local theatre Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. When the needy children of the county will be presented with toys and candies. The toys are already available, and the newspaper and the theatre would greatly appreciate some help for the goodies. Contributions may be left either at the Democrat office or at the theatre box office.

TAX LISTING TO START JANUARY 1

New Statute Changes Date for Listing Property for Taxation in State

Tax listing in Watauga county will begin on January 1, according to C. D. McNeil, county tax supervisor, who states that lists are being made out as of the status of property ownership at the first of the calendar year, rather than on April 1, as was the case under the old statute. In an advertisement in the Democrat today Mr. McNeil urges taxpayers to take note of the changes and take care of their listings promptly.

The list-takers for the different townships of the county are as follows:

Bald Mountain, Russell Vannoy; Beaver Dam, Grover Johnson; Blowing Rock, Kent Brown; Blue Ridge, Marion Coffey; Boone, W. L. Trivett; Cove Creek, Allen Adams; Elk, P. G. Carroll; Laurel Creek, Edward B. Hagaman; Meat Camp, Bynum Clawson; North Fork, Walter South; Shawneehaw, Howard Edmisten; Stony Fork, E. B. Hardin; Watauga, Paul Fox.

W. N. C. USES 7 THOUSAND TONS OF TVA PHOSPHATE

Demonstration farmers in 15 western North Carolina counties have used 14,387,400 pounds, or 7,193,200 tons of TVA phosphate since the cooperative TVA-extension farm program began in the mountain area in 1935, it is reported by R. W. Shoffner of State College, who is in charge of the program. The farmers used 3,475,100 pounds during 1939.

Watauga county has used the most TVA phosphate during the past five years, 2,028,400 pounds. Farmers of that county used 406,300 pounds this year.

The phosphate is usually applied with lime. Emphasis is placed on concentrated phosphates because they effect savings in bagging, freight and handling costs, Shoffner said.

FUNERAL HELD IN BOONE MONDAY FOR W. H. BROWN

Superintendent of Watauga Prison Camp and County Leader Died Saturday; One of First Students at Old Appalachian Training School

Funeral services were held Monday morning from Boone Baptist church for Wesley Hardin Brown, 53, superintendent of Watauga prison camp, who passed away early Saturday morning at his home just west of the city. Rev. G. A. Hamby, pastor of Oak Grove church, of which the deceased was a member, was assisted in the rites by Rev. F. C. Watts of Wilkes county, and Rev. J. C. Canipe of the Boone church.

Interment took place in Boone cemetery, in the presence of a huge concourse of sorrowing friends. The list of active and honorary pallbearers embraced many of the northwest's most prominent citizens.

Surviving are the widow, the former Miss Hattie Mast of Vitas, and the following children: Oscar U. Brown of Forest City, N. C.; Mrs. William Casey, Miss Loy Brown, Stanford and Everett Brown of Boone. Five brothers and two sisters are also listed among the survivors. They are Aaron Brown, Warren, Mont.; Chauncey Brown, Fircro, W. Va.; Rev. Robert L. Brown, Moravia, Iowa; D. A. Brown, South Hampton, Pa.; Homer Brown, New York City; Mrs. Jim Scott, Casey Creek, Ky., and Mrs. A. L. Cooke, Boone.

Mr. Brown was born in Wilkes county, a son of the late F. A. and Mary E. Brown. His boyhood days were spent in the Laurel Springs section of Alleghany county. He came to Boone in 1903 as a student in the old Appalachian Training school. Following his graduation he taught for several years in the public schools of Watauga and adjoining counties. In 1913 he received an appointment as a rural letter carrier out of Boone, resigning in 1918 to enter the employ of the state highway and public works commission.

Following 15 years of experience in highway construction and maintenance, Mr. Brown was placed in charge of Watauga prison camp following its completion in 1934. Under his excellent supervision this unit of the state's penal division has come to be looked on as a model. Despite ill health, which had confined him to his home for more than a year, Mr. Brown remained actively in charge of the camp until death came.

During his long residence in Watauga, Mr. Brown identified himself prominently with the civic, educational and political life of the county, and had served ably in many positions of public trust.

DIVIDEND CHECKS ARE AVAILABLE TODAY

Merion Thomas, manager of the Rich Mountain Mortgages, states that another 5 per cent dividend on the stock of the corporation will be paid today. He asks that the stockholders either bring their certificates or mail them to his office at once, so that they may receive their checks promptly.

OWNER OF WATAUGA BULL RECEIVES VALUABLE AWARD

The Farmers Hardware and Supply Company of Boone is this week delivering to John Dugger, Vilas stockman, three rolls of woven-wire fencing which were won by him in competition at the Asheville fat stock show and the North Carolina state fair during the fall.

The award was given by the Tennessee, Coal, Iron and Railroad Company of Birmingham, Ala., manufacturers of fencing. The local hardware company is their selling agent in this section.

Mr. Dugger's Hereford bull, Marion Mischief, considered by stockman to be one of the best sires in the southeast, brought three prizes to Watauga county, having won first place in the get-of-sire group of three baby heaves at Asheville and Raleigh, and the get-of-sire competition for feeder steers at the Raleigh showing.

County Agent Harry Hamilton yesterday received a letter from W. G. Booker, farm products agent in North Carolina for the T. C. I., in which the local award was made known. Mr. Booker stated that in his belief Marion Mischief would win enough fence to enclose the Dugger farm if he lives long enough.

The Birmingham manufacturers are annually awarding get-of-sire prizes at Asheville and Raleigh to encourage the ownership of high-type males by North Carolina breeders.

TOBACCO PRICES SLUMP ON ASHEVILLE MARKET

Asheville, Dec. 18.—Prices slumped sharply on the Asheville burley tobacco market today and 286,972 pounds of weed sold for \$40,036.31, an average of only \$13.95, lowest of the season.