

## ROAD BONDS LEGISLATION IS HELD CONSTITUTIONAL

Nothing to Prevent Pasquotank or Any Other County Providing For Permanent Roads Thru Act of Legislature—Other Notes From The Capital

BY W. O. SAUNDERS

In view of the fact that the people of Pasquotank county must depend upon an act of the General Assembly to secure permanent roads, a ruling given this week by Attorney General James S. Manning is of unique importance to the readers of this newspaper.

There is a limit to the local legislation which, under the constitution, can be passed by the General Assembly. Many have construed this limit to include bond issues for roads. Judge Manning has cleared up that mooted point.

After quoting at length from the Supreme Court's various opinions on the matter, Attorney General Manning states:

"We conclude that the Legislature is not prohibited from enacting special highway or bridge bond laws for any township or county in the State. As a corollary to this power and as incident to its proper exercise, it may in such laws provide all the machinery necessary for effectuating the purpose for which the law is enacted. In other words, the Legislature may in such acts provide for the appointment of a highway commission in such public local laws and authorize them to lay out, open, alter and maintain or discontinue such highway, street or alley."

And so there is nothing in the constitution to prevent the people of Pasquotank and other North Carolina counties bonding for good roads if they so desire.

One finds here at Raleigh a healthy sentiment against big bond issues. But the State Highway Commission and good roads authorities generally are still convinced that only by the bond issue can funds be provided for satisfactory improvement. A county that starts out to build permanent roads by taxation can build only two or three miles of road a year. By the time it has carried its "road building ten miles from town in a period of ten years, it finds that it has to start all over again because the roads built the first year goes to pieces while the later additions are being built.

Having given the matter a great deal of study I am nearly convinced that the bond issue is the thing and that even a bond issue of say \$500,000 for Pasquotank would not be excessive if proper provisions were made: 1. To secure all available state and Federal aid; 2. To provide for the state taking over our bonds under the Clark act which probably will be re-enacted at this session of the General Assembly. The Clark act would provide for the state lending its money to counties on county five per cent bonds, taking over the counties' bond issues. The state would in turn issue four per cent bonds which would find a ready sale than the county securities. The Clark act provides that in 41 years the county bonds would be automatically retired the county and state bonds providing for the retirement of the county bonds at that period. It is hard for an ordinary individual to figure out how a surplus of one per cent carried over a period of 41 years would wipe out a debt of 100 cents, but any one who cares to figure it out will find this gratifying result.

But no local road measure must lose sight of prospective state and Federal aid. Pasquotank will get \$9,000 a year from the Federal government for road improvements if the state supplements that aid by a like amount. There is every indication that the present General Assembly will provide to secure this Federal Aid. If such provision is made Pasquotank county will be relieved of an expenditure of \$18,000 a year. Sounds good, doesn't it?

**The Dry Amendment**  
The House of Representatives this week ratified the national Dry Amendment by a vote of 83 to 10. The act had been previously ratified by the state senate.

Only two members from the First Senatorial District voted against the ratification. They were Representative E. R. Johnson, of Currituck and Representative B. G. Crisp, of Dare.

Mr. Crisp made his maiden speech in the House in opposition to the amendment. He made a very earnest, very eloquent and very old-fashioned appeal in behalf of Jeffersonian principles and state rights. He called the burial of John E. Sworn the funeral of "the vitalizing spirit of Democracy." There were several who made a funeral of that vitalizing spirit known as J. Barleycorn.

**In Several Committees**  
It may be of interest to the readers of this newspaper to know that the Representative from this county appears on nine of the most important committees of the House. Those committees are, Public Roads and Turnpikes, Fish and Fisheries, Regulation of Public Service Corporations, the

Oyster Industry, Counties, Cities and Towns, Printing, Penal Institutions, Manufactures and Labor, and Claims Pasquotank is pretty well represented on committees. Our Senator Ferebee is Chairman of the Senate committee on Public Roads and Turnpikes.

**Many Petitions**  
Petitions against stock law, which have been facetiously called "Petitions to extend the free lunch privilege to razor-back pigs and scrub cattle," continue to reach your representative. One of these petitions, signed by 81 citizens in Nixonton township was addressed "To The Senate and House of Representatives." Petitions so addressed are not always sure to be delivered. Fortunately your representative caught this one and it was duly referred to the committee on Agriculture.

Another petition sent up from Pasquotank this week carries the names of 60 persons who desire a repeal of Section 6, Chapter 752, Public Local Laws of North Carolina relating to fishing in Pasquotank river. The petitioners desire to have the privilege of fike net fishing in Pasquotank river restored. The petition was referred to the committee on Fisheries. Under the rules of the House, which are being strictly enforced at this session, nothing else could be done with the petition.

**Fish Fight Imminent**  
Representative Clayton of Hyde County wants to abolish the North Carolina Fish Commission. Something of a fight on the Commission may develop at this session.

Representative Johnson of Currituck is manifesting some uneasiness over the bill introduced by your Representative last week, to provide for a survey of highways between Elizabeth City and the Virginia State Line. Mr. Johnson insists that there is only one route (his route, via Shawboro and Snowden) and he doesn't want this fact to be established by an official survey. If the Shawboro, Snowden route is the logical route, the State Highway Commission will so recommend if the bill is enacted.

**Freak Legislation**  
It is evident that this session of the General Assembly is to have its freak legislation. The House had its laugh yesterday over a bill to make it a misdemeanor for scrub male cattle to run at large in Mitchell county. Some of the older members of the House look askance at such suggestions.

There is little likelihood of the General Assembly adjourning prematurely on account of the Flu epidemic here. It has been pointed out that conditions are hardly worse in Raleigh than in other parts of the state.

**SAUNDERS INTRODUCES BILL TO ABOLISH ELECTRIC CHAIR**

Creates Quite a Stir in Lower House

Representative W. O. Saunders of Pasquotank introduced a bill in the House of Representatives Thursday to abolish capital punishment. This action created quite a stir and it is evident that there will be much discussion before its passage.

North Carolina would only be following the lead of other progressive states if this bill is passed in both houses and becomes a law. No reason ever has been or can be now advanced showing where capital punishment lessens crime but, on the other hand, capital punishment has been the cause of many a man getting free just because the majority of juries do not look favorably upon that old teaching "an eye for an eye."

That Mr. Saunders would introduce a bill of this kind was made known by him last November thru the columns of THE INDEPENDENT and this fact met with the general approval of the citizens of this community.

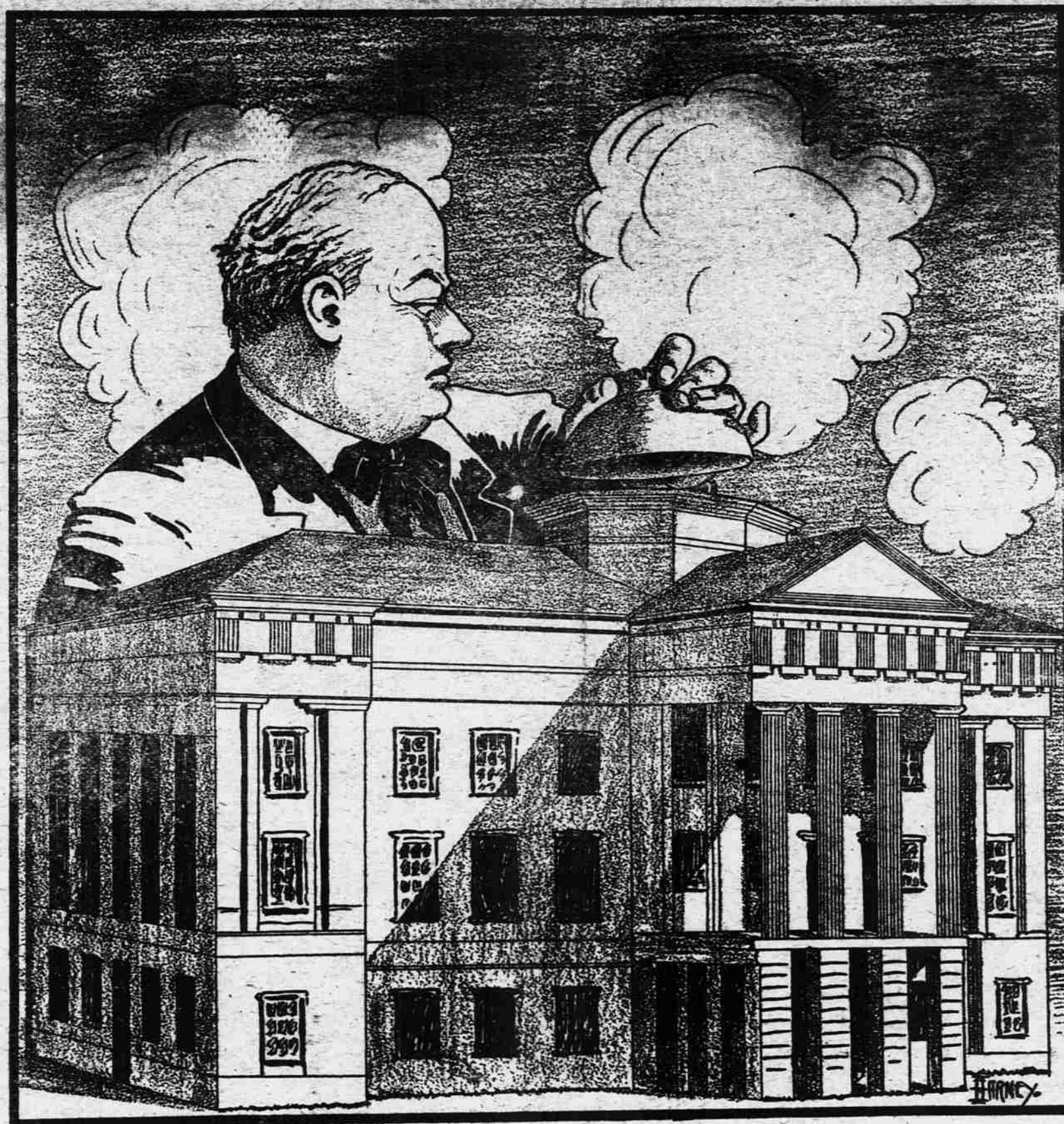
See page ten this week for S. R. Siff's Victory Sale. He is offering some astonishing bargains to all who visit his store during the next ten days of this sale.

### AN UNUSUAL SERVICE

The country is full of good eye specialists and there are hundreds of good eye glass manufacturers, but it is worth something to Elizabeth City and vicinity to know that both can be found in this town. Dr. Hathaway is not only a reputable and skillful optometrist, but he grinds and fits glasses on his premises. This unusual service is seldom found except in much larger cities.

**DR. J. D. HATHAWAY**  
OPTOMETRIST  
Over McCabe & Grice  
Elizabeth City, N. C.

## Saunders of Pasquotank Looks into General Assembly



### WHICH IS THE BEST ROUTE TO NORFOLK?

Bill Would Provide Surveys Which Should Help Solve Mooted Question

A bill entitled "An Act to provide a survey for a highway Elizabeth City, North Carolina and the Virginia State Line," was introduced in the House last week by Representative Saunders. The bill reads:

WHEREAS, Elizabeth City, a thriving and populous town, located at the northern terminus of the vast inland water courses of eastern North Carolina, and consequently the trading center of a large part of this vast territory, is only forty five miles south of the city of Norfolk, in the state of Virginia; and whereas, the authorities of Norfolk County in the state of Virginia, contemplate the construction of an improved highway leading from the city of Norfolk to the North Carolina state line, and in this direction of Elizabeth City; and whereas, the said county of Norfolk has been authorized by the General Assembly of the state of Virginia to issue bonds to the amount of one million dollars; and whereas, a part of which sum is to be expended in the construction of the said interstate highway leading to Elizabeth City and through the counties of Currituck and Camden, in the state of North Carolina; and whereas, such a road is eminently necessary in affording the means of communication between the great Virginia metropolis and Elizabeth City, as well as to that large territory contiguous, THEREFORE,

The General Assembly of North Carolina Do Enact; Section 1. That the North Carolina State Highway Commission be and is hereby authorized and directed, to cause to be made proper surveys for a highway leading from the city of Elizabeth City to a point in the state of Virginia, and which routes of survey shall be as follows: One route from Elizabeth City to a point in Currituck County known as "Ritter's Corner," and via Shawboro, Snowden and Movoick; another route shall be from Elizabeth City via "Hasting's Corner," in Camden county, and thence over what is known as "The Lake Road" and the north canal of the Camden Run Drainage District, and through the present Farms Corporation to "Ritter's Corner" in Currituck County; the other route shall be from Elizabeth City via "Hinton's Corner," in Pasquotank County, and thence to the village of South Mills, in Camden County, and thence parallel with the Dismal Swamp Canal to the Virginia state line; Provided, however, that if the State Highway Engineer, after thorough investigation, shall deem that some route more desirable or feasible, he shall cause such route to be surveyed.

Section 2. That the State Highway Engineer shall cause to be made a preliminary survey together with specifications of the most practical materials for such construction and estimated costs of such highway, and the expense of such survey, and the expense of the survey thereof to the County Highway Commissions of Currituck, Camden and Pasquotank Counties, respectively; Provided that the expense of such survey, and other work incident thereto, shall be paid for out of the automobile tax of the counties of Currituck, Camden and Pasquotank in proportion to the tax paid to this fund by each of said counties respectively.

Section 3. That the State Highway Engineer shall cause such survey to be made as early after the first Monday in March, 1919, as may be practicable.

Section 4. That this act shall be in force and effect from and after its ratification.

### WILL NORTHEASTERN N. C. FALL BEHIND

Dr. Rollins Gives Expert Opinion Why We Should Raise Better Cattle

The speech by Dr. Hartwell Robbins before the members of the Chamber of Commerce at Tuesday's meeting of that organization, made a profound impression on those who heard it.

An abstract of the address is here given, because the theme is one that should interest all readers of this paper, and THE INDEPENDENT welcomes this opportunity to carry to its readers expert opinion on a question related to the development of the resources of northeastern North Carolina.

At the conclusion of Dr. Robbins' address, the meeting voted to appoint a committee of five to cooperate with the Federal government in its tick eradication work in Pasquotank county. In part, Dr. Robbins said:

"Tick eradication is co-operative work; co-operation between the Federal Government, the State of North Carolina, the County, and the Cattle Owners. Without either co-operating, tick eradication is a failure."

"The large, olive green tick observed on cattle is the female tick which engorges itself with blood, drops to the ground, and lays from 300 to 5000 tiny eggs. In about ten days, in the summer time, these eggs hatch 3000 to 5000 ticks the size of a chicken mite, with only six legs. It is not their nature to crawl on the ground. They take up the first object they come to, a spear of grass, a weed cluster, and wait for the cow. When the cattle comes in contact with this cluster of ticks, they get on them and attach themselves. In seven days they shed a skin or molt, and they then have eight legs. They become grown ticks, ready to drop to the ground as an olive green tick.

The quickest that we have known ticks to get on the ground from the cow is twenty one days. That is the reason for dipping the cattle every fourteen days so as to kill these ticks before they become grown ticks. The little tick will live in the grass without anything to eat from two to seven months. This is the reason that we should dip the cattle every fourteen days for a period of seven months, beginning the first of March.

Ticks either kill good cattle or de-generate them to scrub. It is estimated that a steer weighing 1,000 pounds grossly infested with ticks, in one year's time the tick will take 300 pounds of blood from the steer.

An experiment conducted by the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, proved that milk cows, slightly infested with ticks produce 18.6-10% less milk, and those heavily infested produce 42.4-19% less milk than cows free from ticks. The ticks also cause an economic loss in leather. A tick infested cow hide will bring 50 cents to \$1.00 less than a tick free hide. A Southern cow hide free from tick bites is the best leather in the world. The climate naturally makes the leather of fine texture, used extensively in upholstery, fine automobiles, furniture and gives a corne leather which takes the different stains more readily than other cow hides.

Pasquotank County at present has 4,548 cattle. When Pasquotank is re-

### PROMINENT CAROLINIAN CLOSES SUCCESSFUL CAREER

Major Cyrus Wiley Grandy, one of the most prominent citizens of Norfolk and vicinity passed out of this life at his home 340 Botetourt street, Norfolk, Va., on Thursday of last week.

Major Grandy was a native of Camden County, North Carolina, but had been a resident of Norfolk most of his life being in the 80th year of his age. He married Miss Mary Selden, daughter of the late Doctor William Selden of Norfolk.

He is survived by three sons, and a sister, Mrs. W. W. Hunter. He is also survived by several grandchildren. He had been in failing health for a year or more, and attributed the beginning of his illness to a severe fall which he had down a flight of steps at his home on Botetourt Street. Major Grandy's father was the founder of the present well known business house of C. W. Grandy & Sons, Cotton Factors, 706 Front street, Norfolk, Va., which is one of the oldest business houses in the city, having been established in 1845. Major Grandy was connected with it through all his active life.

### NOTICE OF MEETING OF CLUBS FOR COMING WEEK

Monday afternoon the Dry Ridge Club with Mrs. J. L. Falmer to discuss making over old woolen dresses.

Tuesday afternoon, the Body Road Club with Mrs. Will Jackson, to discuss different ways to make cornbread and demonstrate wheat substitutes.

Wednesday afternoon, the River Side Club at the River Side School House to discuss making over old wooler dresses.

Thursday afternoon, the Providence Club with Mrs. R. N. Morgan, to discuss better poultry.

Friday afternoon with Mrs. Brothers to discuss better or pure bred poultry.

Every farmer and business man in Pasquotank County, is interested in developing the cattle industry of this county. Due to the fact that the recent war has made the world supply of cattle 33,000,000 head short, the Chinese citizen has got to help to build the cattle industry, and conserve meat food products for this and the next generation.

Our scientists tell us that we have got to continue to be a meat eating nation or else we will become a second Japan and Spain, are not meat eating nations. All three are second class nations.

If we eat sufficient beef steak and beans the scientist claims we will not have pellagra. All cattle owners and business men are requested to meet with the County Commissioners of Pasquotank County the first Monday in February at which time a representative of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry will endeavor to secure sufficient co-operation through the commission to begin systematic tick eradication in Pasquotank County at the earliest possible moment."

## HOW BICKETT WOULD GET TRUTH FROM TAX PAYER

His Proposed Questionnaire Would Uncover Every Annanias in The State And Cut Present Tax Rate in Half

In his address to the General Assembly last week Governor Bickett made certain recommendations for the listing of taxes which should be carefully studied by every North Carolinian. North Carolina today appears to be one of the poorest states in the union with an abnormally high tax rate. Governor Bickett would have this status reversed by legislation which would compel people to list their property honestly.

The wealth of Pasquotank county, for instance, is probably \$20,000,000.00. It appears on the tax books as \$8,000,000.00. We are compelled to fix a high tax rate and a low valuation.

Governor Bickett's recommendations, including his sensational suggestion how to get the truth from the tax payers, follows. Read:—

### SHOULD NOT LEAP IN THE DARK

When the General Assembly knows the liabilities of the State for two years it knows just half enough. Unless it prefer to leap in the dark rather than walk in the light, the General Assembly should have before it an inventory of the assets of the State as well as its liabilities. This inventory should be taken as thoroughly and as honestly as the merchant takes stock when he desires to ascertain exactly how his business stands. There has never been a conscientious effort to take such an inventory of the assets of North Carolina. The present machinery act tends to conceal rather than reveal the true value of property. The excuse for such machinery is that if property should be placed upon the books at its true value the tax rates would be confiscatory. Such a fear is not well founded. It may be considered a childish faith, but I believe that in the long run it pays to tell the truth about anything. We may not hope to be a great people so long as we condone falsehood and deception in our relations to the government under which we live. The principles and practices that are tolerated in the listing of non-listing of property for taxation constitute a school of immorality that will, if allowed to continue, destroy the moral fiber of our people.

I devoutly believe that if we shall resolve to about face and tell the exact truth about our property, we will not only shame the devil, but we will decrease rather than increase the burdens of taxation.

To this end I urge you to clothe the Tax Commission with ample powers and equip it with ample forces and direct it to find and place on the tax books at its real value every piece of property tangible and intangible in the State of North Carolina. It will not be difficult to frame machinery that will accomplish this result if we be in deadly earnest about it. It is not necessary to discuss the details of such machinery, but I will mention just one vital feature entirely absent from the present act. A questionnaire should be carefully prepared and submitted to every tax payer, and he should be required to answer under oath a series of very searching questions.

**QUESTIONS FOR TAXPAYER.**

1. Did you secure this property by purchase or inheritance and when?
2. If by purchase what did you pay for it?
3. Have you sold or offered to sell any part of this property within the last four years, and if so what did you get or offer to take per acre or front foot?
4. Has any one proposed to buy this property or any part of it within the last four years, and if so what was the offer per acre or front foot?
5. Has any property been sold by your section of the town or county within the last four years, and if so what did it bring per acre or front foot?
6. State in full the difference between the general character of your property and the property so sold.
7. What are the buildings on the property worth independent of the land, and how much insurance do you carry on such buildings?
8. Have you ever offered a loan or applied for a loan of money on this property, and if so for how much did you apply, and what did you state was the value of the property in your application for the loan?
9. What do you honestly think this property would bring if sold for one-fourth cash the balance of the purchase price to be paid in one, two and three years?

The above questions are simply suggestive; others may be inserted in the questionnaire in regard to intangible property. The law should make it perjury for any tax payer to knowingly make a statement materially false. The law can be so framed that any person who endeavors to conceal the real value of his property will be in grave danger of going to jail in this world and to hell in the world to come.

If all property should be placed on the books at its true value the problems of equalization would at once disappear. True values are equal values and just in proportion as we depart from the truth we make room for discrimination.

**HIGH VALUATION; LOW TAX.**  
I am convinced that a conscientious effort backed by proper machinery would result in more than doubling the tax value of the property on the books. I believe that the true value is treble the assessed value, taking the State as a whole. If I did not believe this I would not be interested in the subject. But if we expect the people to deal fairly with the government, then the government must deal fairly with the people. It would not be fair to double or treble valuations and to allow current rates of taxation to continue. In order to keep faith with the people, I recommend that this General Assembly cut the property tax half in two except the tax levied for the benefit of the schools and I recommend that this be reduced one-fourth. In addition to this action on the part of the State, the General Assembly should require counties and towns and special districts to cut all their ad valorem taxes reduced half in two except the taxes levied for the support of the schools, and these should be reduced one-fourth. The results of such a law would be four-fold.

1. We would put an end to the debauchery of the people by winking at falsehood and fraud in the matter of taxation.
2. We would get rid of unequal valuations.
3. We would more than double the value of property on the books and secure increased revenues.
4. We would appear before the world as a wealthy state with a reasonable tax rate, instead of a poor state with an exceedingly high rate.

There is a reasonable difference of opinion as to just when this work should be undertaken. I think we ought to do it now. We could extend the time for the work, let the taxes fall due on the first day of December instead of the first day of October, and make such other and further extensions as would give time in which to do the work thoroughly. However, time is not of the essence, but I do insist that this General Assembly shall require the work to be done.

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### CARELESSNESS OF WESTERN UNION

Mistake in Message is Cause of Great Deal of Mental Anguish

Receiving a message that his wife was dead and was to be buried before he could possibly get here was the sad fate of Sidney Etheridge, pharmacist and former manager of the Apothecary Shop of this city. Mr. Etheridge was on duty with the medical corps of the U. S. Army at Fort Terry, 18 miles from New London, Conn., when this message reached him.

Upon receipt of this news over the phone from Camp Wright which is the nearest telegraph station to Fort Terry, Mr. Etheridge hurried over to that place to verify the message and found the message which stated that his wife was dead. Obtaining a seven day leave he made all possible haste to catch a train to New York where he could transfer to the train for Norfolk.

Arriving in Norfolk Monday morning, among the first persons seen by Mr. Etheridge was his wife who was in the pier to meet him. Sadness was immediately turned into joy and after a little explaining it was found that the Western Union had made quite an error in the transmission of a message which was filed here Saturday. As a consequence Mr. Etheridge is thinking of entering suit for the mental anguish which he underwent until he arrived in Norfolk.

The message in question was notifying him that his brother Joe's wife had died and was to be buried that day. By an error either by transmission over the wires or over the phone the message was delivered "your wife" instead of "Joe's wife" as originally filed. This carelessness might cost the Western Union a pretty penny before every thing is settled.

After being here for two days Mr. Etheridge received a message from the commanding officer at Fort Terry telling him to return immediately so that he might be discharged from active duty. Mr. Etheridge will again assume management of the Apothecary Shop.

**TO LIBERTY LOAN SUBSCRIBERS**  
According to the Government schedule for payment by installments on subscriptions to the 4th Liberty Loan, a 20% payment will be due January 16th. Subscribers are asked to call at the bank and arrange payment promptly.

**FIRST & CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK**