

THE INDEPENDENT

SAUNDERS LETS FOLKS KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING

Would Create Office of Prosecutor in Pasquotank County and Phil Sawyer Wants the Job—Introduces Bill to Dam Knobbs Creek

BY W. O. SAUNDERS

About 50 years ago some one wrote a joker into the constitution of North Carolina by which most of the rich men of the state have since been exempt from paying an income tax to the state. The joker provided that no income shall be taxed when the property from which the income is derived is taxed. The present General Assembly of North Carolina will scrap that joker if the Doughton bill goes through—and the Doughton bill is apt to go thru just because it is the Doughton bill. The author of the bill himself has heretofore been one of the greatest reactionaries in the House and a stumbling block in the path of progressive legislation.

Governor Doughton's tax amendment bill would abolish that section of the constitution which says "no income shall be taxed when the property from which the income is derived is taxed," and provide for a uniform income tax law not to exceed six per cent. The exemptions would be \$1,000 for unmarried and \$1,500 for married persons.

The bill would also change the Constitution and provide a uniform poll tax of \$2.00 and limit the total State and County tax rate on property to 66 2/3 cents on the one hundred dollars' valuation except for a special purpose and with the approval of the General Assembly. Residence in the State, as a pre-requisite to voting, would be changed from two years to one and in the precinct from six months to four. The payment of poll tax prerequisite would be abolished altogether.

THE CRIMINAL COURT OF PASQUOTANK COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That chapter one hundred and eighty, Public Laws of nineteen hundred and seven, and the same is hereby amended by adding at the end of said chapter the sections which shall be as follows:

Sec. 24. That there is hereby created the office of "County Prosecutor" for Pasquotank County, which office shall be filled by a reputable lawyer of said county. Said prosecutor shall be elected by the qualified voters of Pasquotank County at the first general election for county officers following the ratification of this act, at the same time and in the same manner as members of the General Assembly. The term of office of the said prosecutor shall be for two years from and after the first Monday in December next succeeding his election. Until said election is held Ernest L. Sawyer be and he is hereby appointed to serve as such prosecutor in Pasquotank County from and after the ratification of this act until his successor is elected and qualified as provided for in this act. Said prosecutor, before entering upon the discharge of his duties, shall take and subscribe the oath of solicitors before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Pasquotank County, or some other person qualified to administer oaths, which oath shall be filed and recorded by the Clerk of the Superior Court of Pasquotank County.

Sec. 25. Said prosecutor shall appear for the State in all criminal actions or matters heard before the Trial Justice and shall receive as compensation therefor one half the fees as are now prescribed by law for solicitors except that in prosecutions for violation of city ordinances the fee shall be two dollars for each conviction, and said fees shall be taxed in the bill of costs to be collected and paid the prosecutor as now provided by law for solicitors.

Sec. 26. Any vacancy that may appear in the above named office either by death, resignation, failure to qualify or for any other cause, shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Board of County Commissioners of Pasquotank County.

Sec. 2. That this act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification.

To Dam Knobbs Creek

The other bill introduced by your representative this week is for an act to authorize the Elizabeth City Water & Power Company to dam Knobbs Creek. The bill has the written approval of the Elizabeth City Board of Aldermen and the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce. The bill as drafted and forwarded to your representative was rather loose in its construction and gave no protection whatever to land owners on Knobbs Creek who are opposed to any dam that would back the water of the creek up on their lands. Your representative has so drafted the act that the landowners on Knobbs Creek need have no such fears. The landowners are further protected by a provision which puts the plans and specifications for the proposed dam up to the Pasquotank Highway Commission. Any one who desires to be heard on this bill can get a hearing by wiring me; but I am determined in the interest of Elizabeth City water consumers to put this bill thru. The bill follows:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED "AN ACT EMPOWERING THE ELIZABETH CITY WATER & POWER COMPANY TO BUILD A DAM ACROSS KNOBBS CREEK."

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

That authority is hereby granted to the Elizabeth City Water & Power Company to erect and build a dam across Knobbs Creek at a point which is sixty-five feet west from the center of the main line track of the Norfolk-Southern Railroad Company where it crosses the creek with its bridge over the road leading to the man Elan in Lumber Company to Road Street, together with the necessary powers for constructing and maintaining said dam. The said dam is to have a concrete wall and base, together with the necessary automatic tide gates to permit the free outflow of water when the current is outward but closing when the current is inward, and an especial sluice or gate to permit the passage of logs. The plans and specifications for the said dam shall be approved by the Pasquotank County Highway Commission and the dam built in accordance with the plans and specifications so approved.

Sec. 2. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Market House Legislation

Your representative is repeatedly implored to do something to force the butchers in Elizabeth City to use the market house. There is nothing your representative could do in this connection. The Board of Aldermen has every power in this respect that is invested in the General Assembly of North Carolina. It is up to the Board of Aldermen and the Aldermen who tell you that he has got to have more legislative authority is not telling you the truth. No act of the General Assembly could change the attitude of the present Board of Aldermen to the Market House. Elizabeth City has got to change its Board of Aldermen.

P. G. Wants the Job

Only two persons in Elizabeth City knew on Monday of this week that I contemplated introducing a bill to create the office of Public Prosecutor in connection with the Recorder's Court. Those two men were Recorder Joe Spehce and attorney Ernest L. Sawyer.

(Continued on page five)

The Severely Wounded, The Monster Lives



WOULD PUT NO TAX ON CHURCH PROPERTY

Mr. John Berry Resents Editorial Suggestion in Recent Issue of This Paper

The editor of this newspaper has a good many ideas in the course of the year and occasionally he hits off one that doesn't suit somebody. His recent suggestion that the General Assembly consider the idea of taxing church property gets a rise out of John D. Berry, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of I. O. O. F. of North Carolina. This newspaper is always glad to get views of its readers and publishes herewith Mr. Berry's communication in full:

I notice in "The Independent" under date of January 17, you call attention to the fact that church property in North Carolina amounting to twenty-five to fifty million dollars worth, pays no taxes. You raise the question, "Wouldn't it be a good idea for our legislators in the present General Assembly to consider this fact?"

I think the answer to this question be emphatically NO.

In the first place, churches have no income except the voluntary contributions of its members, all of whom are already taxpayers. To tax the church property would be an injustice to its members, as it would mean a double taxation on those who are supporting the churches of our land. Church buildings have very little commercial value except for the purpose for which they were erected. Very few church buildings could be sold for one-half their cost of erection for any commercial purpose. There is no rental income from this class of real estate.

In the second place, churches exert a wonderful influence in their respective communities and reduce crime to a minimum. Search the records of your criminal courts, and you will find that a very small per cent of those who are prosecuted before the bar of Justice are of any church or ever have been. Thus it can easily be seen that the churches help to reduce the governmental expenses, and thus justify the time-honored custom of exempting church property from taxation.

You say "more taxes must come from somewhere." We have no doubt this is true. Instead of undertaking to tax church property, we would suggest necessary machinery for the correct valuation of property, both real and personal, this year as the new assessment is made. If this is done we do not believe there will be any occasion for considering the taxation of church property.

It would be just as feasible to tax the property of our schools and colleges, which are public benefactors throughout the State. Surely no one would advocate the taxation of church property after mature deliberation on the subject.

Yours very respectfully,
JOHN D. BERRY.
Raleigh, N. C., January 31, 1919.

FLYING MACHINE ADVERTISES FLU

Dare County Folk Don't Like Publicity of Flu Fighting Fliers

Fighting the Flu via aero may be great sport for the U. S. Medical Corps and furnishes interesting headlines for newspapers, but it isn't making the strongest sort of appeal to the people of Dare county who are the beneficiaries (or the victims) of this latest adventure.

Dare county, like every other county in North Carolina has had a Flu epidemic. On account of the peculiar geographical nature of that county physicians can not get about very rapidly and many communities have felt the handicap of lack of prompt medical aid during the epidemic.

E. G. Crisp, an enterprising lawyer of Manteo, conceived the idea of getting aid from the U. S. Public Health Service on the ground that influenza had broken out in the U. S. Coast Guard stations, of which there are a great number in Dare County. The government responded with Capt. C. Michel, of the U. S. Army Medical Corps, four trained nurses and a big hydro-airplane to carry the doctor and his nurses from place to place. The presence of that airplane seems to have advertised the prevalence of Flu in Dare as no other device could have done. The result is that merchants and transportation men all over Dare are said to be objecting to the government "hurting business down that way. It is pointed out that the government's use of a monster airplane in its fight on Flu in Dare has the effect of making the outside public think that the Flu in Dare is worse than in other counties. U. S. Army surgeons and nurses have worked in other counties in the state without attracting any particular attention; but when the government sends them "biting around the earth in an airplane at a speed of 90 miles an hour everybody sits up and takes notice. Dare, like other counties, doesn't like to have the Flu advertised.

Dr. P. P. Gates, Health Officer for Dare County, is quoted as saying that influenza in Dare is not particularly alarming and that there have been very few deaths. The U. S. Army outfit, doctor, nurses and airplane, was sent into Dare without the solicitation of Dr. Gates. He was as much surprised as any one when the big trying machine lit into his practice.

The airplane has demonstrated what could be expected of an aero mail service between Elizabeth City and points in Dare county. The airplane now in use comes from Manteo to Elizabeth City for a supply of pills in about 27 minutes and returns in the same space of time. Other means of transportation consumes nearly a day under present schedules.

Dr. C. Michel, of the U. S. Public Health officer having charge of the Dare epidemic returned to Norfolk, Va., this week, declaring that local physicians had the epidemic well in hand.

GROCCERS CAN GET IN HOT WATER ON THIS

New Prohibition Law Makes The Sale Of Extracts A Risky Business

The new Prohibition law submitted to the present General Assembly by the Anti-Saloon League provides a bunch of trouble for druggists and dealers in toilet articles, flavoring extracts, etc. The question arises, how will such law be enforced? The section of the bill designated to put an end to the drinking of bay rum, lemon extract, shoe polish, etc., follows:

SEC. 14. That it shall be unlawful to manufacture or sell any toilet, medicinal, antiseptic preparation or solution, or any flavoring extract or patent or proprietary medicine or preparation, the manufacture or sale of which requires the payment of the United States liquor dealer's tax. All other toilet, medicinal, antiseptic preparations or solutions, or flavoring extracts or patent or proprietary medicines or preparations, which are not potable or capable of being used as an alcoholic beverage may be manufactured and sold: Provided, the vendor, by asking the purchaser, satisfies himself or herself:

- (1) That the article or preparation is to be purchased is to be used according to directions and purposes intended by the manufacturer of the same.
- (2) That the purchaser is not addicted to the use of alcoholic liquors, has not been under the influence of alcoholic liquor during the last three months preceding, and does not intend to use the article or preparation as a substitute for liquor.
- (3) And that the would-be purchaser has not procured from any source the identical article or preparation within the last forty-eight hours preceding: Provided, further, that not more than 8 ounces of flavoring extract or two ounces of patent or proprietary medicines may be sold at any one time.

WANTED: A white woman, 25 to 45 years of age, to attend to linen at hospital. Apply ELIZABETH CITY HOSPITAL.

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.

HOUSEWIVES TO FIGHT HIGH COST O' LIVING

Elizabeth City Woman Launches Movement To Organize Against Filth and Profiteering

SAUNDERS WILL LEAD FIGHT FOR CHILDREN

Pasquotank Member Enraged Over Latest Vicious Device of Cotton Mill Men

W. O. Saunders will undertake to lead a fight in the General Assembly to secure a child labor law with teeth in it. Saunders has, in fact, already introduced a bill proposed by M. L. Shipman, Commissioner of Labor and Printing, which bill provides a labor commission with powers to enforce child labor legislation in North Carolina.

Saunders was inspired to lead the fight by a damnably vicious move made by the cotton mill men to destroy Commissioner Shipman as soon as he proposed an effective child labor law. Representative Love of Lincoln, a cotton manufacturer and chairman of the House committee on Manufactures and Labor, introduced a bill in the House Tuesday to abolish Commissioner Shipman and his office. Interviewed by a reporter of the News & Observer Tuesday night Representative Saunders, of the committee, declared that the bill was one calculated "to make red blooded North Carolinians hot in the collar."

"I have had a rising temperature ever since I saw the blamed thing this morning," continued the Pasquotank member. "There may be some argument in favor of abolishing Shipman and his office but it comes with a bad face from a cotton mill representative on the heels of Commissioner Shipman's recommendation of a bill to put an end to the employment of child labor in North Carolina. Everybody knows that the cotton mills violate every child labor law on the statute books and maintain a lobby in every legislature to block child labor legislation. Their latest move, though, is the rawest thing I have ever seen."

"Mr. Love's bill should act as a boomerang," Mr. Saunders thinks. "North Carolinians will resent so bold an effort to head an honest man just because he attacks an evil which has been a source of profit to the more powerful manufacturing interests in the State," he said.

"Then menace of Bolshevism," added Mr. Saunders, "is abroad in the land today just because of the arbitrary spirit of capitalism. If I thought the sovereign people of North Carolina were to be run over by the cotton mill interests in any such way as indicated by the Love bill, I think I would bolt the Democratic party myself and enlist under the red flag."

The cotton mill men pretend to be in favor of child labor legislation. They always do. And they always kill child labor legislation. They maintain a big lobby at the capitol and the House is packed with cotton mill owners, their lawyers and representatives. Attorneys for the cotton manufacturers have actually come into the House, sat in the seats of members and lobbied for their interests in the House while the House was in session. Saunders has his fighting clothes on and says he is not going to mince words in taking up this fight in behalf of the children of the Old North State.

The cotton mill men are endorsing Governor Bickett's views on child labor. Governor Bickett's views as expressed in his biennial message are as the Raleigh Times well says, "Less pleasing to his admirers than any other portion of his splendid document; for the governor did not grasp this subject by the tail, head or middle but merely pointed at it."

PERMANENT ROADS FOR NORTHEASTERN CAROLINA

At a conference of the Senators and Representatives of the first District held in Raleigh Wednesday night, it was planned to form a District of the five counties north of the Albemarle Sound, and bond the District for the purpose of building a permanent road between the Albemarle Sound at Edenton and the Virginia State line at a point near Moyock.

Each county would be assessed according to its taxable property. Elizabeth City being the chief beneficiary of such a highway, would be the most heavily assessed. The plan has the approval of the Representatives of the five counties, and they have invited leading citizens of all the counties to meet in Raleigh next Tuesday and endorse or repudiate the plan.

Senator Ferebee is sponsor of the scheme and has the support of the State Highway Commission.

ZEBLON STANLEY

Zeblon Stanley, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Stanley of Nixonton Township this county, died of influenza at eight o'clock Monday morning. Three sisters and three brothers survive him. One brother is now ill of pneumonia. The funeral occurred Tuesday afternoon and interment was in Hollywood.

MRS. V. A. ROYALL

Mrs. V. A. Royall, wife of Rev. V. A. Royall, formerly pastor of the Pasquotank Circuit of Methodist Churches, dropped dead while out for her housework, at Sanford, N. C. last Saturday. Mrs. Royall is survived by her husband and four children.

GARD OF THANKS

We wish to take this method to thank our many friends and neighbors during our recent sorrow. We appreciate beyond expression their sympathy and many acts of kindness extended to us during the illness and death of our dear mother Mrs. Kate Mann.

MRS. E. D. MCGIBBT and
MRS. A. A. ARMSTRONG.

FOR SALE: A good gentle work horse, 12 years old. A good worker but I don't need him any more. Apply to W. D. WILLIAMS, 314 Maple street, City.

MARITIME ENGINEERING CO. SOON TO REORGANIZE

The Maritime Engineering Corporation during the past week, have unloaded five carloads of freight and transferred same to Coast India shipyard.

Mr. Vandenberg, the local representative of the company, states that the reorganization of the company will probably be completed within ten days and work immediately resumed thereafter.

PEANUT MEAL For Sale, \$3.00 per 100 lbs. EASTERN COTTON OIL CO. Elizabeth City, N. C. c131-11