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VIRGINIANS INTERESTED IN DISMAL SWAMP ROAD

Virginia Highway Commission Goes Over Route —State and Federal Aid Granted for Pasquotank's Part of Project, Elizabeth City to South Mills

Interest in the proposed, hard surfaced highway between Elizabeth City and Portsmouth via South Mills and the Dismal Swamp Canal, is growing in both states. Virginia interest in the proposed highway was again demonstrated this week when the Virginia Highway Commission, members of the Virginia Legislature, Norfolk County officials and other interested Virginians went over the proposed route from Portsmouth to South Mills, Wednesday of this week. South Mills folk were on the job and greeted them with a hearty reception committee and a big dinner. Chairman Frank Page and Hon. John E. Cameron of the North Carolina State Highway Commission were guests of the party.



MARY WINSOR TO SPEAK HERE

Brilliant, Brave and Eloquent Suffragette Here Sunday February 8

The Virginians were impressed with the importance of the project and to encourage early Virginia legislative action advocates of the proposed road have been invited to appear before the roads committee of the Virginia Legislature one day next week. W. L. Cohoon and W. O. Saunders of this city have accepted the invitation.

The proposed Dismal Swamp highway has nothing to do with the District Highway project which proposes to build a road from Edenton to Norfolk via Elizabeth City and Moyock. The two roads serve two entirely different and equally important needs. The peculiar advantages of the Dismal Swamp route are many. To begin with, it puts Elizabeth City ten miles nearer Norfolk than does the Moyock route. It gives a hardsurfaced Carolina and tidewater Virginia highway to a section of North that is sadly in need of transportation. It will not only provide a trade outlet for the South Mills section of Camden county and the black lands of Norfolk county, but opens up a new trade outlet for Gates county, puts Elizabeth City on a line with Gates county and links Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties with the state highway system, via Gatesville and Winton.

The first link in the proposed Dismal Swamp Highway will be built by Pasquotank County, from Elizabeth City to a point in Newland township near South Mills. South Mills township promises to carry the road on thence to the Virginia State line along the banks of the Dismal Swamp Canal. It is up to Virginia to pick up the work at the state line and carry it onto Deep Creek, Va. where it will meet the present hardsurfaced highway into Norfolk. The N. C. Highway Commission has approved Pasquotank's county's application for state and federal aid on the road from Elizabeth City to Newland, which means that the road will be an eighteen foot wide road. Work on this road will be under way this summer.

POTATO SPRAYING CAMPAIGN IN FEBRUARY

During the last week in January, and leading throughout February, an intensive Potato Spraying Campaign is to be conducted in the eastern part of the State. The purpose of this campaign, which consists of a series of talks given by extension workers from the State Department of Agriculture, is to present to the farmers the advantages of better potato culture, particularly the spraying of plants with the home made Bordeaux Mixture. Experiments conducted by the Division of Entomology, in both the eastern and western part of the State during a five year period, have conclusively proved that it pays to spray.

POSTMAN—Package of merchandise in Post Office. Owner can get same by applying to JAMES M. WHITEHURST at Post Office, Elizabeth City, N. C. c590-1c

SMALL COMES CLEAN

First District Congressman States His Position on Sterling Sedition Bill

In a telegram to W. O. Saunders dated Jan. 29, 1920, Congressman John H. Small says:—"Your telegram relating to Sterling and Graham Sedition Bills received. I have given careful consideration to same. The acts sought to be prohibited and punished by these bills are evil and unpatriotic and no good citizen would be guilty of same, but I believe we would best rely upon public opinion to correct same. Our people have paid too high a price for freedom of speech and press and individual liberty to jeopardize same by any effort to correct abuses."

JOHN H. SMALL

DECLARES HUSBAND HELPED DEFRAUD HER

Mrs. C. W. Harrison Brings Sensational Charge Against Husband Who Spent Heavily on Her

Mrs. Pearl Harrison, wife of C. W. Harrison, formerly of this city, makes the sensational charge that her husband attempted to defraud her. The story is told in the New York papers, the following account being given by the New York Herald, issue of Jan. 22. The Herald says:

Mrs. Leona Pearl Harrison, whose husband, Charles W. Harrison, a shipping man, is reputed to have made and lost \$1,500,000 during the war, filed an answer in the Supreme Court yesterday denying she is indebted to George T. Williams, also a shipping broker, to the extent of \$7,000, for which he is suing.

Before the present action was brought, Mr. Williams forced a chattel mortgage on the defendant's furniture. Mrs. Harrison declares she was induced to sign the mortgage papers by her husband without knowing the contents. She said her husband and Mr. Williams were engaged in a series of transactions and, as a result, Mr. Harrison became indebted to the plaintiff for sums of money advanced and commissions.

On January 2, 1919, declares Mrs. Harrison, the plaintiff and her husband, by taking advantage of the defendant's ignorance and lack of business knowledge, caused her to sign a paper. Later, Mrs. Harrison says, she discovered the paper was a chattel mortgage. "They represented it was just a matter of form," she asserted.

Mrs. Harrison alleges, she believed, that her husband had discharged his obligations to the plaintiff and adds that a claim against her was satisfied by the surrender of her automobile to Mr. Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison are now said to be living in Baltimore. Her husband has been president of the Alpha Steamship Company and the Virginia Carolina Navigation Company. He is well known in shipping circles.

In meantime stories of a split between Charlie Harrison and his wife are emphatically denied by relatives in this city. Those who knew the Harrisons intimately say that Mrs. Harrison was in close touch and in full sympathy with her husband in all of his spectacular experiences. It is certain that she showered vast sums of money and gifts upon her when he was prospering. He gave her automobiles, diamonds, rich and luxurious clothing and home furnishings, and gave her a country home on Long Island in addition to their sumptuously furnished quarters on New York's fashionable Riverside Drive. Gossip says that Mrs. Harrison herself spent money lavishly and thought nothing of buying dozens of pairs of shoes at a time, with many pairs of silk hose to match every pair of shoes. Her lingerie bills alone in a year would have dressed a dozen middle class families in her old home town.

So far Hallett Ward's Congressional Boom is about the coldest thing we've seen this winter.

PASQUOTANK ASKED TO ADOPT 33 ORPHANS

Thousands of Armenian and Syrian Children Starving to Death

In response to the appeal for food and clothing and a chance to live, the people of Pasquotank county have been asked to adopt 33 homeless Armenian orphans who are today facing death in a land where hopeless natives know nothing but sorrow. Beginning Sunday, February 1, a campaign of relief will be waged in the county under the direction of W. O. Saunders as chairman of the drive. The campaign will run for three weeks.

It is not a war fund that the people of this country are being asked to raise. It is only an act for humanity's sake. Nearly 300,000 naked, starving boys and girls are weeping and waiting for a chance to live. They are homeless and parentless. They are suffering because their parents were murdered and their comforts of home destroyed—yes, all because the Armenians would not discard their Christian faith for that of the cruel and barbarous Turks.

Under the leadership of State Chairman George T. Bellamy, North Carolina will conduct its campaign for the adoption of 3,334 orphans in the Near East. \$60,000 will provide for one orphan for one year. Practically every county in the State has been systematically organized for the campaign and applications now pour in for a successful drive in every county. Some have already raised their quotas. Others are prepared to adopt all their orphans during the first week.

So far the census takers have not attempted to list all the Monkeys Rum distilleries in this section.

May Be Candidate For Governor



COL. ISAAC M. MEEKINS

THE RALEIGH AMERICAN, the new Democratic afternoon daily published at the State Capital has discovered in this distinguished Elizabeth City man a strong gubernatorial possibility. The Raleigh daily under date of Jan. 24 published the following article on its front page:

Believing, whether it be true or not, that they have a fighting chance in the election next November to carry the State, the leaders in the Republican party in North Carolina are perking up and there is considerable talk in the various camps about candidates for Governor on their ticket.

Thus far there have been no outspoken candidates for this coveted post, but the name of Hon. James E. Boyd has been brought up by G. Ed. Kestler. Mr. E. Carl Duncan, who at one time was the king pin in the party and who is still one of the dominant factors to be dealt with, has been spoken of, and in every gathering of the faithful, it is asserted, you can hear the name of Isaac Meekins, of Elizabeth City, mentioned as a strong possibility.

From what can be gathered Meekins' friends are numerous and represent the militant element of the party. In party wrangles the Elizabeth City man has been classed as a Duncan man, though not a fool about any man or thing. The friends of Meekins claim that he combines many elements of strength. He is just about fifty-two years of age, a prominent lawyer and his equal as a stump speaker is hard to find in any party. Those who are up on the situation say that he is a man of independent means and would be willing to make the fight of his life for the success of the party with his name at the head of the ticket.

ANOTHER EDITOR FOR SAUNDERS FOR CONGRESS

High Point, N. C. Jan. 25. Mr. W. O. Saunders, Elizabeth City, N. C.

My dear Mr. Saunders: I have noticed in the newspapers that you are a candidate for election to the house of representatives. I see no reason why you should not be elected. Of course, I have known you more or less vaguely, but I have a habit of forming opinions. Chiefly I have known you through what you have written in The Independent, which I get hold of now and then, and in The Down Home. I sized you up several years ago as a regular he-man, if you know what that means.

As a newspaper man you have impressed me as being the embodiment of fearlessness combined with a keen sense of propriety and the ability to discern between the real stuff and the shoddy. There is an over-plus of hypocrisy abroad in the land and I have enjoyed the hefty blows you have dealt it. If elected, you will have greater opportunities to make your force felt for the betterment of the conditions under which we live.

The influential man must keep in mind the trend of human activities and follow the currents of life as they ebb and flow, because after all the real thoughts and deeds of living men and women furnish the motive power which rules and guides the destinies of communities and states. These current events, impressed by high ideals, furnish the inspiration to the genuine representative of the people.

What the United States, and its citizens need, are more representatives of the thoughts and desires of the people and less of scheming politicians. Politics are the curse of the land. We need to get down among the masses and do some legislating for them. I believe you are fitted to jibe in that niche. Fraternally yours,
ISA BIRGSS,
Editor High Point Enterprise

CHESEBRO ORGANIZATION NOT STRONG FOR SHAD

Sam Chesebro, Head of Fulton Market Combination, Says North Carolina Shad Don't Pay

It is believed that the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co., formerly one of the greatest buyers of North Carolina white shad will not work this territory so heartily for shipments this season. One evidence of the shyness of the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co. this season is found in the fact that they have withdrawn their advertising from this section. Not even THE INDEPENDENT carries an ad of the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co. Mr. Sam Chesebro, president of the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co., says that their North Carolina business has been handled at a loss and insists that his company can't make any money out of North Carolina white shad.

The Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co. is a consolidation of eight of the oldest and biggest firms on the Fultons Wholesale Fish Market. The company was organized about three years ago and has not had the easy sailing of some other concerns. It was an attempt to do for the fish business what the big packers have done for the meat business. Since its organization the big fish merger is said to have had considerable trouble with the courts. The consolidation consists of Chesebro Bros., N. S. Gates Co., Warner & Prankard, Robbins & Robbins, Burnett & Keeney, H. M. Rogers, Wilson & Barry and the Continental Fish Co. At the time of its organization about a year ago and is going it independently. S. B. Miller & Co., Lynch & Co., Geo. T. Moon, Caleb Haley & Co. and several other old and wise dealers have steered clear of the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co. All of these firms outside the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co. will make a strong bid for North Carolina shad business this season.

THE TOOTHsome SHAD PUT IN APPEARANCE SATURDAY

Two roe shad and six buck shad, the first of the season, were marketed in Elizabeth City, Jan. 24, the entire catch coming from Jethro H. Midgett, of Manns Harbor, Dare County. The roes weighed 5 and 6 pounds each, respectively and sold readily at 40 cents a pound.

SAYS SOME ALDERMEN NEED HEADS PUNCHED

Retiring City Manager Says That's The Only Way a City Manager Will Ever Make a Go of it Here

CHLORINE GAS FOR CITY WATER

And With New Filtration Plant The City May Get Pure Water

Chlorine gas, that deadly chemical with which the Germans wiped out the Froggies in Flanders will be used to destroy the froggies, tadpoles, angle worms, colon bacilli and other vermin in Knobbs Creek water before it is piped to water consumers in Elizabeth City. Water experts have discovered that chlorine gas will destroy every vestige of bacteria in water and this gas is now being successfully employed by water companies in many sections of the country. The efficacy of the gas in the treatment of infected water may be guessed from the statement that only 3 pounds of the gas is required to treat a million gallons of water. The gas in such small quantities diluted in such a vast quantity of water is harmless.

The Elizabeth City Water Co. is now making extensive improvements at its plant with a view to solving the city's water problem. A Pittsburgh Water Filter with a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons a day is now being built and will be in operation in a few weeks. In meantime the big concrete sedimentation tank at the water plant has been reroofed and improved.

With the new sand filters in operation in connection with the perfected sedimentation tank, the water company believes it will be able to give the city an abundance of clear, wholesome water free from vegetable coloring and bacteria. The problem of avoiding salt water which backs up on the city waterworks with every southeast wind will be solved with the opening of warm weather, by the building of a dam across Knobbs Creek just below the water intake. This dam will be provided with automatic gates which will open from the pressure of water coming down from the swamps and close when the tide comes in with salt water. All necessary permits to build this dam have been secured.

The filter construction now under way at the water plant is along lines recommended by former City Manager Fred W. Simonds who all along believed that Elizabeth City could get good water from Knobbs Creek if that water were properly treated and thoroughly filtered. Spite of the unsavory reputation of Knobbs Creek, every analysis so far made had shown that the water in Knobbs Creek is not bacteriologically inferior to the water in Pasquotank river, even when water is taken from the river at a point several miles above the city.

TWO BIG STILLS ON NORFOLK COUNTY FARM

Liquor Was Being Made at a Lively Rate When Revenue Officers Found Them

Not a cub, but a full-grown tiger and the biggest that has come under the observation of Federal Officer Wagner, was captured in Norfolk county Friday of last week. C. H. Powell and son C. D. Powell were arrested by U. S. Revenue Officers and are now out on \$2,500 bail each.

The officers found on the Powell estate of 1,000 acres, two stills, one of 60 and another of 40 gallons capacity, operated by a five horse power steam boiler. Twelve hundred gallons of "mash" was ready to be run off, the stills having a capacity of about 30 gallons per day. The Powell farm is located near Butts Crossing.

Beside the two stills which they confiscated, the federal officers found four other places.

The Powells are known to many Elizabeth City people and some of their property is said to have been marketed here.

Lambert Bros. Elect Officers for the Year
Lambert Bros. Inc., of this city elected the following officers at their annual meeting Tuesday night: F. M. Grice, president; W. R. Lambert, vice-president; E. J. Lambert, secretary and treasurer. The Board of Directors for the ensuing year are, W. G. Gaither, W. E. Dunstan, C. E. Thompson, J. G. Gregory, F. M. Grice, W. R. Lambert and E. J. Lambert. To take care of the increasing growth of their business the company increased its capital stock 100 per cent.

"The man who makes good in the office of City Manager in Elizabeth City must first punch the heads of two or three members of the Board of Aldermen." That is the opinion of Fred W. Simonds whose resignation as City manager of Elizabeth City became effective Saturday, Jan. 24. Mr. Simonds says there is too much politics and too little civic righteousness in Elizabeth City. According to the former City Manager, there are some men on the present Board of Aldermen who are more interested in being re-elected than in serving the community.

At the same time Mr. Simonds does not relieve a growing suspicion that the public has not been given the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about his resignation. The Board of Aldermen which began its very existence with a Star Chamber session, held a Star Chamber session to fire Simonds. The public was left out of the councils of the Aldermen and the public will lean toward Simonds till the Board of Aldermen explains its Star Chamber activities and takes the public into its confidence. People don't elect public servants to do the public's business behind closed doors. The public's business is the public's business and officials who hide behind an executive session to do things lose the confidence of the people who put them in office. There never was a legitimate excuse for a Star Chamber proceeding in a democracy.

One rumor has it that City Manager Simonds' troubles began when Alderman P. C. Cahoon took him up to Halifax county to survey a piece of land. The rumor says the survey didn't suit Alderman Cahoon. It certainly didn't suit the tax payers of this city very well, because even the Cahoon paid the city for Simonds' time, no one likes the idea of a City Manager being used by members of the Board of Aldermen to do their private work.

Mr. Simonds talked freely with the writer of this newspaper just before going out of office. He made no criticism of any member of the Board of Aldermen and indulged in no personalities. He says his greatest conflict with the Board was over the matter of expenditures. The old Mack Sawyer Board left the city in a notoriously run down condition and with no equipment for working its street cleaning department. The streets were filthy; garbage was collected about once a week; sidewalks were filled up; not a cent had been expended in repairs to street paving since it had been laid; the market house was running at a loss; the city was at war with the Electric Light Co. and the Water and Sewerage companies.

Shortly after coming into office Mr. Simonds made up a budget of the money the city should expend this year and his budget exceeded the city's revenues by \$15,000. Mr. Simonds insists that the city could not be put in any sort of condition on a less sum. He says also that the Aldermen never did anything with his budget, but insisted that he cut down expenses so they could show the tax payers a notable saving of money by the next election.

Mr. Simonds says the Board of Aldermen bought him a Ford so he could run around and look after street improvements and gave him nothing to make improvements. He says when he didn't ride around on a useless chase he was accused of loafing and when he did use the blamed Ford he was accused of joy riding. To add to his troubles he says certain Aldermen were continually after him to fire this or that city employe and put in some political favorite who would make more votes for them in the next election.

Mr. Simonds says that in spite of his handicaps he feels that he rendered the city some service. He points to the opening of the market house, to the drainage of the Second Ward, to the daily collection of garbage, to the cleanliness of the streets and to other apparent improvements. He is particularly proud of the fact that his recommendations for the purification of the city's water supply are being carried out by the water company, that company now spending thousands of dollars in the installation of a new and modern filtration system which will be completed at an early date.

And then Mr. Simonds expressed the opinion which leads this story. He is sure a City Manager will have to lick two or three politicians and teach them their place before he can have a free hand in Elizabeth City. Mr. Simonds may have gotten this idea from reports that City Manager Ashburner of Norfolk did just that thing with certain members of the Norfolk City Council.

In meantime Elizabeth City is without a City Manager. An Aldermanic committee composed of J. B. Leigh, J. R. Bowden and C. M. Cooper has in hand the matter of finding a man for the job. They are expected to report to the next regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen, Monday night Feb. 2nd.

AGENTS WANTED—Men or women. A fast selling article that nearly every housewife wants the moment she sees it. Write for particulars. REBICO SUPPLY CO., Box 606, Raleigh, N. C. c590-1c
WANTED—To buy a farm in Perquimans county. Will deal only with owner direct. Address "FARM", P. O. Box 387, Elizabeth City, N. C. c590-1c