

THE INDEPENDENT

THIS CITY WILL SPEND A MILLION IN 2 YEARS

Tax Payers Must Watch Their Step In Electing a New Set of City Officials In May

Elizabeth City is on the eve of the most important municipal election it has ever held and the candidates for Aldermen and Mayor to date, taken all together, are anything but an inspiring lot, considering the fact that Elizabeth City probably will spend more money in the next two years than it has spent in any previous ten years.

Elizabeth City will, in the next two years, spend upwards of \$400,000 on its public schools and \$250,000 or more in acquiring its own electric light, water and sewerage properties. With the installation of sewerage and the extension of its water supply system every street in the city will be torn up, which will necessitate the intelligent expenditure of many thousands of dollars in street repairs and improvements. To whom is Elizabeth City going to entrust this big business? It is time the voters and tax payers of this city began to give serious thought to this question, with the election only a few weeks off.

With so much money to be handled under the next administration, the old line politicians are bestirring themselves as never before. For the first time in years old man Mack Sawyer has brought his old time ally into the open and we find P. H. Williams himself running for the Board of Aldermen.

One finds Mr. Williams, friends and the Mack Sawyer fraternity generally most active in condemning the administration which has held office in Elizabeth City for the past two years. The present Mayor and Board of Aldermen are bitterly condemned and accused of every incompetency, wherever a group of Sawyer-Williams supporters are found. All this is part of the game to persuade the thoughtless and indifferent voters to call for an entirely new set of Aldermen. The old line politicians have filled the field with new material for the voters to pick from. And when the voters have picked a lot of this new material they will wake up some fine morning to find the town back in the hands of the Mack Sawyer gang, just where it was two years ago.

The People Forget.

"People forget how things were run when old man Mack Sawyer and his henchmen held the reins. They forget that the very streets of the town were littered with rubbish and the collection of garbage neglected for weeks at a time. They forget that Mack Sawyer administrations wrestled with the water and sewerage problems in Elizabeth City for years without ever accomplishing a single improvement in either. They forget that for four years the Mack Sawyer gang let the city markethouse go to rack and ruin, an investment of \$40,000 eating at the revenues of the town and yielding not a penny in rentals. Under the Mack Sawyer regime the principal street in one ward in the city where Mack Sawyer and Louis Anderson carried a majority of votes in their pockets, never had a dollar spent on it and was impassable for weeks at a time in winter months. Such was the condition of the town when the present Board of Aldermen took hold of it two years ago.

When the present administration came into power the old Mack Sawyer regime had left the city heavily in debt and had let every item of city property run down. There had been no street extensions or improvements under the Mack Sawyer regime; bridges and culverts had gone to pieces; the sanitation of the town had been neglected; the city's water supply was a stench in the nostrils; the city market had gone to pieces; the city's street cleaning and garbage collecting system had gone to pot. The city didn't even own a respectable shovel, a broom or a bridge. The public is prone to forget such facts.

A Board That Did Things.

A sorry mess awaited the new administration. The town was filthy from months of neglect. The streets were in many instances dangerous to travel, no repairs having been made on many streets in eight or ten years. Against all these handicaps and with the added handicap of no increase in revenues, the new administration set to work and has accomplished more than any other administration Elizabeth City ever had. Here are some of the things accomplished:

1. Purification of the city's water supply, accomplished by applying expert engineering advice to the problem and co-operating with the Elizabeth City Water Co. If the present administration had done nothing else, it should merit the everlasting gratitude of the public for its successful handling of the water problem.

2. Opening of the city market and establishing it on a self sustaining basis. The market house had been al-

lowed to stand idle for several years. It is now paying for itself and with improvements yet to be made it promises to be the most attractive city market in the south.

3. A large number of streets heretofore impassable during winter months and which could not be paved because of the excessive cost have been covered with Lillington gravel and have been in fine condition all winter. The streets so improved include such arteries of traffic as Parsonage and Ethinghams streets, say nothing of many lesser traffic streets. More than \$7,000 has been expended in such street improvements.

4. Sidewalks and bridges have been built. \$13,854 has been spent on sidewalks, mostly in sections of the city that never got a dollar in improvements under a Mack Sawyer administration. In the repair and construction of permanent bridges, the present city administration has spent \$3,500, replacing a number of dangerous bridges with permanent concrete structures.

5. In health and sanitation the present city administration has been far and away ahead of any of its predecessors. One of its first acts was to inaugurate daily garbage collections, something Elizabeth City never had before. Enough men have been employed at all times to keep up this work and to keep the streets clean. Every visitor to Elizabeth City these past two years has remarked upon the tidiness of the city's streets. And here's another thing this administration did: it abated the mosquito nuisance in the city last summer by doing something that no Mack Sawyer administration had ever thought of doing. Oil drip cans were placed on canals and other likely breeding places of mosquitoes, preventing the breeding of the pests where they had previously bred most prolifically. The public is prone to overlook little things like this that mean so much to the health and happiness of a community.

A Million Dollar Business.

Take the record of the present administration all the way thru and it makes a most creditable showing. Of course, it hasn't been perfect. You can't have a perfect administration under our American system of municipal government. Here we elect a number of men of divergent opinions and different abilities to give a part of their spare time to the important business of running the affairs of an expensive corporation. You can elect any set of men under the sun, by such a system as we have, to run the affairs of a town by such a system as we have, and you can pick flaws in their work every time they make a move. The present administration is no exception; it has done a lot of things that are open to criticism. But the average intelligent voter is going to hand it to them: They have done things and done them well considering their handicaps. Elizabeth City could hardly do better than to continue the same Mayor and the same Board of Aldermen in office another two years, if Mayor Gaither and all of the present members of the Board could be persuaded to run again. But since this is not likely Elizabeth City will do well to watch its step and take an accurate measure of the men who will succeed them. The affairs of this town must not be entrusted to less able management another two years. A good test to apply to the candidate for the Board of Aldermen from your Ward is: Is he a man to whom you would entrust the administration of a million dollar business? That's what the business of this town probably will amount to these next two years—schools, lights, water, sewerage, street improvements and general expenses. If this town fails to elect a Mayor and Board of Aldermen that can measure up to the work ahead, then this town deserves everything that will happen to it if Mack Sawyer and his gang get control.

ROANOKE ISLAND PROFITS BY AEROPLANE TOURISTS

Croatian Sound Is Being Dredged to a Depth of 12 Feet.

Roanoke Island gets its share of visitors now that many aeroplane pleasure hunters find it a convenient place to rest en route to and from Florida and New York. The island lies directly in the air course and makes a practicable oiling station for the planes. The Texas Company sensing the early need of larger storage capacity, has erected an 18,000 gallon tank at Manteo, giving that town more storage for oil than any point south of Elizabeth City.

Along with the gas and supply dealers, the hotel does its share of business. Aeroplane visitors stop over for several days at the time, to visit historic spots on the island.

The 15-mile stretch of water lying between Roanoke Island and the mainland is now being dredged to a depth of 12 feet so as to open traffic to all vessels designed to ply thru the inland waterway. The sound is about five miles wide and unites the waters of Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds. The work is being done by the H. S. Taber, one of the largest dredges employed by the Department of Engineers of the U. S. Army, and will require several months to complete.

Handsomest Church in Southern Methodism



The new home of the congregation of the First M. E. Church South of Elizabeth City, now nearing completion. This magnificent edifice will be the finest church in all Southern Methodism. It will cost more than \$125,000 and the aim of the congregation has been to have every cent of the cost paid when the building is finally dedicated. It is hoped to complete the building this summer, but right at this time the finance committee is wrestling with a deficit of about \$10,000 which threatens to slow down the work of construction. It is no secret that many who pledged contributions to the enterprise are backward in redeeming their pledges, a characteristic of the times. A special committee is now soliciting the backward brethren and it is hoped the deficit will be considerably reduced within the next few days. Photo by J. Sterling Moran.

ELIZABETH CITY SHIPS FIRST CAR LOAD PEAS

Three Weeks Ahead of Last Season—Peas Selling Good on New York Market.

Elizabeth City shipped her first car load of early garden peas Wednesday, April 20. They were shipped in a refrigerator car. The shipper was R. C. Abbott and the peas were consigned to Bernard Abel Co., wholesale produce commission merchants, New York City.

There were 347 baskets in the car and they will go on sale on the New York market Saturday morning. Growers will anxiously await the result of the sale. South Carolina peas sold on the New York market this week for \$4.00 to \$4.50 a basket. If local growers get as good a return everybody will be happy.

This first car of peas of the season is just three weeks ahead of the first car shipped last year. The loading of another refrigerator car is not expected this week, but a heavy movement is expected next week, beginning Monday.

It is not an unusual occurrence that Mr. Ward proposes, Roanoke Island and many post offices in Currituck, Dare and Carter Counties on the North Carolina coast are solely dependent upon slow-going and, often unseaworthy, small gasoline boats for mail carriers. Mails are often delayed for days at a time. Copies of THE INDEPENDENT mailed for Hatteras on a Friday were known to reach Hatteras a week later. From Elizabeth City to Hatteras by airplane is but an hour's flight. The Hydroplane type of aircraft would find easy landing at almost any point along the coast. No landing fields would have to be provided and the government would be put only to the expense of maintaining one or two planes to serve the entire coast line from Cape Henry to Cape Lookout.

OXFORD ORPHAN CLASS HERE NEXT WEDNESDAY

The Singing Class of Oxford Orphanage will give a concert in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, April 27th, at 8:30 p. m. This Class has made an enviable reputation for giving concerts of a high order—concerts that entertain and edify. From some comments already published regarding this year's concert it appears to be up to the usual high standard, and all who attend can be assured of an evening of real pleasure and profit.

Another year of high prices in our State has served to make the needs of the orphanages greater, and the demands upon these institutions for admission of needy children is increasing. The Oxford Orphanage receives children without regard to denomination or fraternal relationship of parents, the chief consideration, and is striving to do its part in meeting the increasing demands. Your presence at the concert will aid in this work and will help to encourage the children, and friends who are working in their behalf.

THE INDEPENDENT FROM NOW UNTIL JAN. 1, 1922 \$1.00

Send a dollar bill at my risk if not convenient to send check or P. O. money order.
W. O. SAUNDERS, Publisher, Elizabeth City, N. C.

Hathaway Says

If you wear glasses, have your eyes and glasses both examined from time to time, and go to the place where you can afford to pay a reasonable price for real professional work. Remember your eyes are your bread-winners. Take care of them.

You have your teeth examined twice a year. Why not your eyes? They are more important.

Dr. J. D. Hathaway
Optometrist
Phone 999 Bradford Bldg.

FAST MAIL FOR COAST OFFICES

Proposed Airplane Mail Carriers To Work Between Norfolk and Beaufort.

If Congress will see it his way, Hallett S. Ward, Congressman from this district, will have an air mail service along the North Carolina Coast, all coastal stations between Norfolk, Va., and Beaufort, N. C. being served daily by aerial mail carriers.

He would also give Washington, Edenton and Elizabeth City service by the same carriers.

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Ward's bill was introduced in Congress last week and referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. Here it is:

Whereas the United States Mail Service to and along the coastal reef on the eastern shores of Virginia and North Carolina between Norfolk, Virginia, and Beaufort, North Carolina, is greatly expedient and adequate as now operated, and

Whereas the Lighthouse, Coast Guard and Life-Saving Service and also the citizen patronage along said coast require a facilitated system of mail offices and patrons thereof on the coast reef east of Currituck, Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, North Carolina, once each day, and on the outgoing voyage to serve offices at Elizabeth City, Edenton, Washington and New Bern, and all intermediate points that may be found practicable and most conducive to the public interest and on the return voyage to serve any and all points and places where United States mail is now delivered for distribution along the aforesaid reef and coast, including Manteo, North Carolina.

Sec. 2.—That such line or system of air mail service shall be established and put into effective operation as early a date as may be practical and on or before January 1, 1922.

SAYS SAUNDERS' BOOK IS A JOY AND INSPIRATION

Here is one of scores of letters of appreciation of Saunders' book, "A Concept of Life and Other Editorials." This is from a distinguished North Carolinian, name furnished on request:

"I have finished reading your book, "A Concept of Life" and it has been a source of real joy and inspiration to me. Not that I can or do agree with everything you say, but because of the originality and boldness with which you tackle current topics and problems. With many of your articles and editorials I find myself in complete agreement and I wish that your tribe might increase that the mask may be torn from more shams."

If you haven't read Saunders' book you will want to read it and have a copy to pull on your friends whenever there is a lively argument. The price is 60 cents a copy and there is a generous sixty cents worth of it. Postage prepaid. Order of the publisher.

SOME CENSUS FIGURES.

The census bureau has just made public the complete census of North Carolina for 1920. Of particular interest to these northeastern North Carolina counties is the population of these counties. If you haven't the figures otherwise available, here they are for your scrap book:

Camden	5,382
Chowan	10,649
Currituck	7,268
Gates	10,357
Dare	5,115
Perquimans	17,870
Pasquotank	11,137
Tyrrell	4,849
Washington	11,429
Beaufort	31,024

NO REDUCTION IN YOUR TAXES

If Appraisals Are Reduced 10 Per Cent, Tax Rate Will Be Increased Proportionately.

A blanket reduction of 10 per cent in the assessed value of all real property in Pasquotank County which was recommended to the State Tax Commission by the joint meeting of the board of county commissioners and the county board of appraisers will not make any difference in one's taxes. If the blanket cut is approved by the Tax Commission, the county commissioners will raise the tax rate, because the county must raise the same revenue this year that it raised last year. So declares N. Burfoot, chairman of the board of County Commissioners. Mr. Burfoot has written to the State Tax Commission urging that body not to reduce valuations.

Any blanket reduction in the valuation of property in this county is flatly opposed by Mr. Burfoot and by J. P. Thompson, who supervised the revaluation of property in this county. These gentlemen presented some interesting figures at the joint meeting of the commissioners and board of appraisers to show that property had not been valued too high in this county. Out of about 50 transfers of real estate made in this county within the past few months they found only two instances in which land was sold for less than its appraised value; but in all other instances property had sold at a much higher figure than the appraised value.

The two exceptional instances were: 1. S. W. Scott, sold to J. G. Brown, ten acres appraised at \$3,500, sold for \$3,220. 2. T. P. Nash sold to Joe Ellis, a lot on Poindexter St., valued at \$3,100, sold for \$3,000.

But in every other transfer made within recent months the appraised value was much lower than the price commanded, and this spite of the fact that the property was appraised in peak times and sold during the period of depression. There was the residence of the late W. P. Knowles, on Martin St., appraised at \$2,500 and sold a few weeks ago for \$2,950. W. D. Saunders' home on Euclid Heights road, appraised at \$6,000 was sold to W. D. Dozier for \$6,000. Mullin Weeks sold to Harry Sedgwick for \$1,500, a town lot appraised at \$800; sale made last December, by Mrs. Rufus Parson sold a residence on Center St. in this city in December, for \$1,800. It was appraised at \$1,000. More than two score similar cases could be cited.

And here's a case where land sold for more than double its appraised value. On Jan. 14, 1921, J. T. Garrett sold to Coppersmith Bros., a farm in the Simonds Creek section of this county for \$10,000, appraised at only \$4,500.

The transfers cited here were all made during a period of depression following the peak price period of a year ago. Going back to last summer one finds the J. A. Byrum farms on the outskirts of town, valued at \$49,000, sold to the Newbern Produce Co. for \$100,000. And the Lumdsen Farm owned by Mrs. Sarah K. Lumdsen, valued at \$2,000, sold for \$15,000 to S. W. Scott, C. T. Scott and S. G. Scott. The fact that these sales fell thru doesn't obliterate the fact of their high value. The Newberns forfeited \$10,000 option money on the Byrum farms and the Scotts forfeited \$10,000 on the Lumdsen Farm; but not so much because they doubted their judgment, but because the bottom dropped out of everything else about the time their options expired.

As a general proposition, property in Pasquotank is fairly valued. In special instances where values are too high corrections undoubtably will be made on individual petitions to the county commissioners.

Chowan and Tyrrell counties here in northeastern North Carolina do not think their values too high and have asked for no cut. Gates county has asked for a ten per cent cut. Thirty-four counties in the state have asked for cuts in valuation ranging from 10 per cent to 60 per cent. Thirty-three and a third per cent is a popular figure with the counties asking for a reduction.

STATE WILL BUILD SIXTEEN FOOT ROAD TO NEWLAND

Commissioner Hart Satisfied That State Should Take Over Newland Road, Work To Proceed Without Delay.

\$144,000 SCHOOL BONDS ARE OFFERED FOR SALE

More Bonds Will Be Offered As Building Plans Are Developed.

The Board of Graded School Trustees will offer for sale at once \$144,000 of the 35 year six per cent bonds of the \$400,000 bond issue voted in the recent election.

Only \$144,000 of the \$400,000 issue is being offered at this time because plans for the expenditure of a greater sum have not been perfected. There is a floating indebtedness on the schools to be paid off; a site is to be purchased for the new High School building and there is a teachers' dormitory to be built. It is hoped that the teachers' dormitory can be completed this year for the inducement it will offer many new teachers needed for the next school term.

It is estimated that \$144,000 will be even more than can be spent in the next few months and more bonds will be issued as other plans are developed.

The money from the sale of these bonds will be banked in all three Elizabeth City banks, each sharing alike in the handling of the funds. This tactful plan does away with any possibility of a row between the friends of the local banks. The plan is satisfactory to all the banks.

MASONS LOCK DOORS OF THEIR BALL ROOM

Scandalous Conduct at Late Easter Dance Said To Be The Reason.

The assembly room or dance hall of the Masonic Lodge in Elizabeth City will not be leased for dances any more. When the hall is used for dances in future the Masons or Shriners will use it, but the hall is closed to cotillion clubs and other organizations. The Masonic hall has always been considered the only desirable dance hall in town and the younger set will not find some other place quite so desirable.

The Masons were persuaded to shut out the dancers following the recent Easter Ball in this city. The ministers and church people generally have been raising a hullabaloo against the dance evil in Elizabeth City for months and charges that dances given in the young set were accompanied by drinking, spooning and immoral practices generally have been repeatedly made and repeatedly denied. But on top of all the preaching and disapproval the last dance gave the town something else to talk about. One prominent society woman from another town, visiting a prominent family in town, vomited from the third story window of the Robinson building in which the Masonic hall is located. That vomiting episode did its own advertising.

Many ugly stories grew out of that Easter Dance. It is told of a married woman that she was so intoxicated that she insisted on dancing after the music had stopped. Told that the music had stopped, gossip says she exclaimed to her boy partner, "What the hell do you care if the music has stopped so long as you have me in your arms!" The Masons heard just so much of that sort of thing and decided that renting their hall for dances wasn't good for Freemasonry.

TO TEACH GIRLS HOW TO MAKE THEIR HATS

Expert Advice in Millinery and Dress Designing For Pasquotank County Girls.

An unusual opportunity will be offered the ladies and girls of this city and county next week to obtain expert advice and instruction in millinery and dress design. Miss Mamie Sue Jones, tidewater home demonstration supervisor, will conduct one-day schools in dress and hat making at various points as follows:

At Fork High School on Monday, April 25, for Fork, Berea, Corinth and Providence sections. At Salem Church on Tuesday, April 26; for Salem, Weeksville, Sound Neck, Lister's and Dry Ridge School districts. At Riverside School on Wednesday, the 27th, for Bayside and Riverside neighborhoods. At Nixonton School on Thursday, the 28th, for Nixonton, Small's and Bank's School districts. At Newland High School on Friday, the 29th, for Newland township. At the Elizabeth City Y. M. C. A. building on Saturday, the 30th, for Okisko, Mt. Hermon, Simonds' Creek, and any and all interested persons of the city and county.

In order that the programs arranged for the above days will be successfully carried out, Miss Marcie Albertson, county demonstration agent, states that each meeting will be begun promptly at 10:30 o'clock in the morning, and continue through the day. Those attending are requested to bring their lunches and have a picnic dinner. It is to be hoped that everyone interested in hat or dress designing will be present at these meetings. Dress designing will be taken up in the morning sessions, and millinery in the afternoons.

LEAGUE OF NA- Raymond Recolutions SALARIES

Reviews in the League of Nation's budget. First, there is the secretary general with a salary of 600,000 francs, or \$120,000 at normal exchange per annum, exempt from all income and other taxes. The under secretaries each receive 200,000 francs, or \$40,000 per annum. There is a third under secretary who gets nearly 300,000 francs. Below these gentlemen in the financial hierarchy, six directors receive salaries which range from 100,000 to 150,000 francs, or from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per annum. Below these are eight commissioners whose salaries range from 60,000 to 90,000 francs, or from \$12,000 to \$18,000 per annum. Last of all, there is a humbler host of earnest workers—all serving the good cause—at salaries ranging from \$6,000 to \$12,000. One of the most striking facts in this report is that the head of the International Labor Bureau, a British Socialist, receives a salary of 360,000 francs. A British review observes: "It is all the more galling to the penurious countries thus fleeced that rich and prosperous America, after patenting this project, should resolutely refuse to contribute a single cent to its upkeep."

News of stupendous importance to Elizabeth City broke in the parlors of the Southern Hotel in this city yesterday when Wm. A. Hart of Tarboro told a group of Elizabeth City men representing the Chamber of Commerce that he would recommend state construction of a sixteen-foot road from Elizabeth City to the upper end of Pasquotank county and the continuation of that road thru Gates County to Winton, where connection would be made with the state highway system.

Wm. A. Hart is the State Highway Commissioner of the First North Carolina Highway District in which Pasquotank and all other northeastern North Carolina counties are located. Mr. Hart is a practical, hard-headed business man of few words. He is slow to commit himself to a project and he admits that he is hard to move after he has committed himself. He is committed to the project which will put Elizabeth City on the state highway system with a road from Elizabeth City to the upper part of Pasquotank county, thru the three miles of Dismal Swamp between Tadmore in Pasquotank and Acorn Hill in Gates, and on to the Chowan river at Winton.

Mr. Hart came to Elizabeth City yesterday to investigate the project for himself. For weeks engineers of the State Highway Commission have been over the ground and have all the geographical and topographical data necessary for the project. Yesterday Mr. Hart went over the ground himself. He is convinced that the state owes it to Elizabeth City and its territory north of Albemarle Sound to build the road in question and give this territory an outlet to the capital and to the mountains of the state.

The State Highway Commission meets Tuesday, April 27, and Commissioner Hart's recommendation will be made at that meeting. Immediate action is expected.

This is the road familiarly known here as the Newland Road. The Pasquotank Highway Commission began the construction of this road a few months ago, building a nine foot brick road. Three miles of this road have been completed. Commissioner Hart says the part of the road that has already been built must be widened when the state takes it over. This will be done and Pasquotank will get a 16-foot road all the way.

The fact that none of the \$50,000,000 bonds authorized by the last General Assembly have been sold will not delay the construction of the Pasquotank road when the State Highway Commission takes it over. The Pasquotank Highway Commission is prepared to finance her project until the state's bonds have been sold, at which time the state would reimburse the county for the money advanced.

The taking over of the Newland Road by the State will release Pasquotank's own road building funds for the construction of other roads in the county. Mr. Hart was met upon his arrival here by R. C. Job, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce; Walter L. Cochran, attorney for the State Highway Commission; A. B. Houtz, O. F. Gilbert, and F. F. Cochran of the Pasquotank Highway Commission; N. Burfoot, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; W. G. Gaither, W. P. Duff, Taylor Grandy, J. T. McCabe and others representing the Chamber of Commerce. After going over the proposed road Commissioner Hart was given an informal reception in the Chamber of Commerce rooms and uncheon at the Southern Hotel. He was well pleased with Elizabeth City and such of the country as he saw in his brief stay.