

THE INDEPENDENT

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COAST GUARD MAY GO TO LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS

Shake-Up In Maritime Department of Government May Play Havoc With U. S. Coast Guard Putting Life Savers Under Lighthouse Bureau

If the government re-organization plans developed by the Institute for Government Research and recommended to the joint congressional committee on re-organization are followed the United States Coast Guard will be abolished and the life saving men will return to their old status, except that they will be directed by the Lighthouse Bureau. The specific recommendation concerning the Coast Guard is as follows:

1. That the coast guard service of the Treasury Department be abolished and that its revenue cutter service be transferred to the Navy Department, and its life saving station service be transferred to the proposed department of maritime affairs, where it shall be consolidated with the bureau of lighthouses.

A Great Economy Scheme. There are at the present time no less than eleven services whose primary, and in most cases exclusive function is to minister to the needs of marine transportation. These are:

The coast and geodetic survey in the Department of Commerce; the lighthouse survey in the War Department; the hydrographic office in the Navy Department—all of which make marine surveys, prepare sailing charts, pilot instructions, etc., for navigators; the bureau of lighthouses in the Department of Commerce, which maintains lighthouses, buoys and other aids to navigation; the coast guard service in the Treasury Department, which embraces in fact two distinct services, one for patrolling the coast and going to the aid of vessels in distress and the other for maintaining a chain of life-saving stations for the purpose of assisting wrecked vessels; the bureau of navigation and the steamboat inspection service in the Department of Commerce for the administration of the laws in respect to the licensing of officers, shipment of seamen, inspection of hulls, boilers, etc.; the United States Shipping Board, an independent establishment, and its subordinate agency, the Emergency Fleet Corporation, the first for the purpose of regulating rates and conditions of service of vessels engaged in interstate and foreign commerce, and the latter for the construction and operation of vessels, and the radio service of the Navy Department for the purpose primarily of maintaining communication with vessels at sea, though use is made of its facilities to a certain extent for direct communication with foreign lands.

Services Scattered.

Notwithstanding that all of these eleven services have the same primary function—that of the promotion of the marine transportation interests of the country—they are scattered among the several departments and are consequently operated as independent or detached units. This condition is unfortunate from every point of view. It means diffusion instead of concentration of responsibility in respect to one of the important tasks of government, duplicating of organization and plant, the burdening of departments with duties not properly pertaining to them, difficulty in determining and making provision for the financial needs of work in this field, and confusion generally in performing both the legislative and administrative work of the government.

To correct these evils the recommendation is made that all of these services, with the exception of the United States Shipping Board proper, which should continue to be an independent establishment, be brought together as a single department, to be known as the department of maritime affairs, which will have the single function of caring for the maritime interests of the country. In connection with this recommendation the further proposal is made that a number of these services be either abolished or consolidated, due to the fact that their duties are so nearly identical with those of other services that it is uneconomical and inefficient to maintain separate services for their performance.

Power to Departments.

To get this scheme into law without long-winded committee hearing and pressure from disgruntled job-holders, Congress is to pass the buck by giving the departments power to do the re-organizing, as the following quotation from the bill introduced in the 66th Congress by Senator Philander C. Knox, close friend of President Harding, will show:

Page 54, Sec. 4, Senate Bill No. 4542: That the head of each executive department is hereby given power and authority to make, subject to the approval of the President, such changes in the organization of the bureaus, offices and other branches of the public service as he may deem essential to economical and effective administration. . . . Provided, that no action shall be taken under the provision of this section except such as will result in a reduction of the number of persons employed under the jurisdiction of the department concerned and of the expendi-

HIS HOBBY IS HUNTING WILD-CAT/STOCK FAKERS



HON. STACEY W. WADE
AMONG the interesting visitors in Elizabeth City this week is Hon. Stacey W. Wade, State Insurance Commissioner. His fearless and persistent crusade against wild-cat stock salesmen and fake promoters in North Carolina has won for him the admiration and applause of appreciative men and women at home and abroad. Commissioner Wade was here this week as the guest of the North Carolina Building & Loan League and delivered a powerful address on the subject of wild-cat stock fakers before the convention of building and loan men. His address is given in full elsewhere in this issue of THE INDEPENDENT.

STATE TO BRIDGE CHOWAN RIVER

Commissioner Hart Firm In His Determination to Destroy Ancient Barriers.

The Chowan river, that formidable natural barrier which together with Albemarle Sound have isolated the six northeasternmost counties of North Carolina from the rest of the state, making these counties geographically a part of the state of Virginia, is to be bridged. The counties of Gates, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck are to be thus linked to the state highway system and Chowan river will no longer be a barrier between these counties and the rest of the state. Northeastern North Carolina is to become in fact as well as nominally an important part of the Old North State.

Assurance that the State Highway Commission will lose no time in bridging Chowan river was given by Hon. Wm. A. Hart, State Highway Commissioner of the First District at a great mass meeting of citizens of Gates and Hertford counties held at Winton Wednesday, June 15. Elizabeth City was represented at the meeting by Attorney Walter L. Cohoon, General Counsel of the State Highway Commission. Commissioner Hart did not hesitate to commit himself. He told the assembled crowd that two things he proposed to do: 1. To bridge the Chowan River at Winton. 2. To put a road across that swamp between Pasquotank and Gates counties, throwing the counties of Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck into the state highway system via Winton and giving the people of Gates and Hertford counties ready accessibility to the social life and markets of Elizabeth City.

Commissioner Hart loses no opportunity to voice his genuine interest in these two projects and he is the close personal friend of Governor Cameron Morrison himself, in whom the people of these counties have a devoted friend. Governor Morrison is the first governor of North Carolina to seriously recognize the isolated position of these northeasternmost counties and bestir himself to secure their recognition as an important part of the state.

tures of such department. If Congress puts this into effect lighthouse keepers probably will direct our few life-savers left will trim the lights and mow the lawns. The rest of the erstwhile Coast Guard will be sprinkled over the Navy, where the life-savers are opposed to going.

HOME BUILDERS HAD GOOD TIME

Much Fun Mixed With Serious Business of Important Convention.

Nearly a hundred delegates and guests of the 18th Annual Convention of the North Carolina Building & Loan League had a gloriously good time in Elizabeth City this week and Elizabeth City tremendously enjoyed the presence of the visitors. The Building & Loan Association business in North Carolina will find itself immeasurably stimulated as a result of the convention here and Elizabeth City gets out of it all of a fund of good will that will be a permanent asset.

The Building & Loan League convention brought to Elizabeth City many notable men, including Franklin T. Miller, assistant to Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover; Hon. Stacey W. Wade, Insurance Commissioner of North Carolina and Hon. Heclier Clarkson, of Charlotte.

The business of the convention was transacted in five hard working sessions beginning Tuesday evening and concluding at noon yesterday.

The convention was entertained by the Albemarle Building & Loan Association, Merchants' Association and the Chamber of Commerce and the sessions were held in the Assembly room of the latter organization. The visitors were treated to an automobile ride Wednesday afternoon and a banquet Wednesday night and a boat ride on the Pasquotank Thursday afternoon.

The banquet Wednesday night was unique for its formal program, everybody being drawn into the feast of fun which accompanied the feast of food. Frank R. Hufty directed the musical program, with Leslie Waldorf at the piano. The affair was called a chicken dinner. The guests thought they had discovered the chickens when they fell into a reception line of twenty hand-picked Elizabeth City beauties of the "sweet sixteen" class. Those "chickens" made a hit, such a hit in fact that Col. A. L. Smith, the youngest member of the convention wanted to dance a one-step. Secretary Goodwin, one of the cleverest masters of ceremonies in North Carolina, was instantly on the job and provided Col. Smith with a partner to his liking; the floor was cleared, the music started and Col. Smith, 74 years old, had his dance with a demure and petite maid of seventeen summers. Col. Smith is vice-president of the Mechanical Perpetual Building & Loan Association of Charlotte. He contributed much to the life and fund of the convention in its playful moments, just as he has contributed so much to the building and loan game in his forty years connection with the most successful association in the south.

"The dinner itself Wednesday night was one of the most successful served in Elizabeth City since ex-president Taft was entertained here several years ago. The menu was most attractive and abundant and it was served with a promptness and efficiency that was most pleasing. The Daughters of Pocahontas did it.

The principal speaker at the dinner was Maurice L. Long, of Norfolk, Va., a live wire of that Virginia City who has always entertained a friendly feeling for Elizabeth City. Elizabeth City folk as well as visitors heard him with interest and will respond to his suggestion to make more of our Building & Loan Association possibilities.

Dividing honors with Mr. Long as a principal speaker at the evening was E. L. Keesler of Charlotte who had become enamored of all the chickens he had met and bewailed the fact that some one had stolen his ice cream trousers, silk socks, canvas shoes and other appurtenances of he-amping. He had no other ambition than to desert the mediocrity of a monogamous marital relation in Charlotte and build five California bungalows on the banks of the Pasquotank for five brand new Pasquotank brides. He said he was equal to it and Mrs. Keesler wasn't present to deny the allegation and keep his feet on the ground.

- SOME FACTS ABOUT THE ALBEMARLE BUILDING & LOAN ASSN.
- The report of W. Ben. Goodwin, secretary-treasurer of the organization since it founding, for the year ending January 1, 1921, shows as sets for the Association in the amount of \$75,008.69. At the present time the Association has approved loans in force to the sum of \$100,000.
- There are some 500 shareholders enrolled, and the average holding of each is six one-hundred dollar shares—materially above the national Building and Loan average of \$507.75 for the entire country for the year 1920.
- The officers of the Albemarle Building & Loan Association are: J. P. Kramer, president; W. H. Zoeller, vice-president; W. Ben. Goodwin, secretary-treasurer, and J. B. Leigh, attorney.
- Its directors are: Noah Burfoot, Jr., S. G. Etheridge, W. Ben. Goodwin, A. G. James, J. P. Kramer, J. B. Leigh, M. G. Morrisette, A. R. Nicholson, J. C. Sawyer, T. T. Turner, Dr. C. B. Williams, and W. H. Zoeller.

Custodian of Nearly a Hundred Millions



COL. ISAAC M. MEEKINS
THIS Elizabeth City man has the unique distinction of knowing what it is like to be the custodian of 850 millions of dollars, because that is exactly what he is in the absence of Col. Miller, Allen Property Custodian of the United States. Col. Meekins is General Counsel to the Allen Property Custodian and is acting Custodian when Custodian Miller himself is out of Washington. It is Col. Meekins' job to pass upon all legal questions involved in the disposal of \$550,000,000.00 of German property seized in this country during the war. Needless to say Col. Meekins dignifies the office which he holds and in the short time he has been in Washington he has already won the confidence and respect of all who have come in contact with him.

GOOD RACE MEET HERE JULY 4TH

Sensational Novelties Will Make This Race Meet of Unusual Interest.

The fact that Elizabeth City will have two big days, June 28 and 29, the occasion of the Surfmens' convention, will in no way diminish the enthusiasm of those who are ever eager for Fourth of July Races. There will be an unusually interesting race program at the Elizabeth City Fair Grounds Monday afternoon, July 4. The purses aggregate \$325.00 and there are no entry fees in any of the races. There will be three races: a 2:50 pace or trot open to the district; a 2:25 trot and a Free-for-all. The races will start promptly at 2:30 p. m.

Besides the race there will be a number of special events of unusual interest. Dr. Victor Finck of Elizabeth City, easily one of the best horseback riders in America, will give a daring exhibition of fancy riding, full of thrills. Neil Thorn, the famous guideless wonder who won the applause of thousands at the fair here in 1919, will be on the track here July 4th, and will pace an exhibition mile in competition with a running horse or an automobile. The work of this wonderful horse alone is worth the price of admission. Here are the races:

- 2:50 Trot or Pace (three-quarter mile heats)—Best 3 in 5; for horses owned in Counties of Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Gates, Tyrrell, Hertford and Hyde. (Horses must be owned for at least three months prior to race, and must not ever have won a race in less than 2:50). Purses, \$100.00.
- 2:25 Trot (three-quarter mile heats)—Best 3 in 5. Purses, \$100.00.
- Free-for-all (mile heat)—Purses, \$125.

The races will be held under the Albemarle Agricultural Association, W. Ben. Goodwin, secretary-manager and C. C. Thompson, racing secretary.

With representatives of practically every Pythian Lodge in the state present, the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Pythian order was held in Greensboro this week.

Capt. S. E. Alexander, Sr., former Congressman and distinguished citizen of Charlotte, died at his home in that city Tuesday.

The 12th annual convention of the Baptist Young People's Union of North Carolina met this week in Charlotte.

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.

OCEAN FREIGHTERS WILL LAND AT ELIZABETH CITY

Such Is the Expectation of Senator F. M. Simmons Who Has Never Been Called a Visionary

ROOSEVELT MAY COME TO SEE US

Considering Invitation To Attend Convention of Surfmens June 28

Plans for the entertainment of the Surfmens' Mutual Benefit Association at Elizabeth City June 28 and 29 are being rapidly perfected by the Chamber of Commerce committee, in charge and the official program will be announced in a few days.

Commodore W. E. Reynolds, head of the U. S. Coast Guard, has given the committee personal assurance of the fullest co-operation in making the Surfmens' convention here not only the occasion of much fun and interest for the Coast Guard, but for the public as well.

The Coast Guard Service has loaned the use of much life saving apparatus and two Coast Guard airplanes from the Morehead City station will entertain the crowd with stunts, giving a public demonstration of the part the airplane will play in the rescue of shipwrecked men. The spectacle promises to be so unique that both the Pathe and Fox moving picture men will be here to get the pictures for the screen.

There is a possibility of Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy coming as a distinguished guest of the convention. The invitation was extended him in person by a committee composed of Congressman H. S. Ward, Col. I. M. Meekins, R. C. Job, Capt. M. P. Hite, C. O. Robinson and W. O. Saunders, who saw young Roosevelt at his offices in Washington last Friday.

At the first suggestion that he come to Elizabeth City the son of the great Theodore Roosevelt threw up his hands Fritz fashion and yelled:

"Kamerad!"

The Committee proceeded with its argument and young Roosevelt again threw up his hands, exclaiming with a breath of smiles and showing of teeth characteristic of that other Roosevelt, "Kamerad!"

He was sure he was too busy to come, but he appeared more interested when told that he could make the trip to Elizabeth City from Langley Field, Va. in 20 minutes. If Col. Roosevelt's duties take him anywhere near Langley Field on June 28 he will make the detour to Elizabeth City, probably bringing with him an escort of a bombing planes to make his how to Elizabeth City all the more spectacular. The committee not only invited him to bring the bombers along, but obligated to provide a ship target for them to bomb if they would make the trip to Elizabeth City. There are several hundred navy aviators playing up and down the Virginia and Carolina coasts right at this time, engaged in just such experiments. The idea seemed to appeal to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PRACTICALLY ABANDONED

Too Little Genuine Interest To Merit Continuation of Program.

The attempt to establish Community Service in Elizabeth City seems to have signally failed after a three months' demonstration period. A half-hearted organization composed of a handful of public spirited men and women already worn to a frazzle, carrying so many community obligations see no way to carry on. An effort to raise \$1,200 to \$1,500 for six months of Community Service following the demonstration period, failed utterly. Within the past week a fund of about \$650 has been subscribed, enough to pay for a three months program.

But who will carry it on? That is the question. An offer of \$150 a month has been tendered a community service expert to come here for the months of July, August and September. It is not likely that a capable man will accept such an offer. Elizabeth City hasn't caught the vision at all, engrossed as it is in so many divided enterprises and personal affairs. Elizabeth City isn't quite ready for Community Service.

J. Sterling Moran, director of Community Service, sent here by Community Service, Inc. of New York City has departed for other fields. Elizabeth City has profited much by Mr. Moran's three months' sojourn in Elizabeth City. He has influenced a greater appreciation of music, recreation and community spirit and by persistent personal work has given many individuals a broader vision and a desire to make the most of our possibilities. No man who ever visited Elizabeth City could have inspired so many people to a greater community vision. And there is where the Community Service failed. On his big, strong, friendly capable shoulders the people were inclined to place the whole burden of putting the "big idea" over. Elizabeth City will awake to-morrow to the fact that Community Service isn't a one man enterprise.

Colonel Albert Cox of Raleigh was named president of the Alumni Association of the State University to succeed R. D. W. Connor, who will become professor of history at the State institution.

War Department Interested.

From the office of Senator Simmons the Elizabeth City delegation saw Col. T. Q. Ashburn, Chief of the Inland & Coastwise Waterways Service, at the War Department. Col. Ashburn indicated that nothing could be done pending the outcome of their negotiations with the prospective purchasers of the line, but he was immensely interested when shown that the tonnage already available for such a line at Elizabeth City aggregates 800,000 tons annually and that Elizabeth City has more feeders for such a line than the ports of Washington and New Bern combined.

Elizabeth City shippers want the barge service because it means direct, time-saving and cheaper transportation of commodities. Freight rates are 20 per cent cheaper by the barges. The barges as now operated make the trip from North Carolina ports to Baltimore every five days. It often takes longer than five days to get freight moved from the yards of a city terminal and car load freight from New York to Elizabeth City is often several weeks or a month in transit.

Congressman Ward Gracious.

The Elizabeth City delegation was given most valuable assistance by Congressman H. S. Ward, who arranged interviews with both Senator Simmons and Col. Ashburn and piloted the delegation in both instances. Mr. Ward assured the delegation of his genuine interest in their cause and left the impression that in him Elizabeth City will always have a willing and aggressive friend at court.