

# A Statement to the People of Elizabeth City Concerning Their Public Utilities

By HOWARD E. CROOK, President of the Companies

The interest shown by the people of Elizabeth City in the present and future status of their sewerage, water and light and power service, following the publication of my Open Letter in the local newspapers, convinces me that the citizens will welcome further facts about what the three Companies have done, are doing and are capable of doing in the performance of their public function in respect to the health and well being of the community and as a contribution to the sound business growth of Elizabeth City.

My Open Letter referred to has prompted many expressions from the citizens, indicating their fairness and that they will welcome further facts in the spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation between the Companies and the Public. Mr. J. C. Parker, Superintendent of our Companies, has been approached by numerous persons interested, as a result of which we are prompted to present further facts for the information of the community, facts similar to those stated by Mr. Parker verbally.

I therefore ask the Public to consider these facts in their relation to a decision which the people of Elizabeth City will be called upon to make in respect to a municipal bond issue to provide additional facilities, the need of which is urgently felt, particularly in the matter of sewerage and water.

Since the people of Elizabeth City are considering a municipal bond issue to provide the funds for the enlargement of their public utilities service, we feel that in the working out of this plan the facilities of the present Companies should be considered the nucleus upon which to build.

The growth of Elizabeth City during recent years has increased the service requirements of our facilities. Nevertheless the Companies have been able in the main to provide reasonably satisfactory service. We are endeavoring constantly to maintain adequate service.

In presenting our facts to the people a fair understanding of the local facilities situation is what we seek to accomplish. We will gladly answer such inquiries as the citizens may care to ask and we will welcome suggestions looking to better service as well as to our ability to meet present requirements.

HOWARD E. CROOK,  
President, Electric Light Company of Elizabeth City, Elizabeth City Water and Power Company and Elizabeth City Sewerage Company.

Mr. Crook's Open Letter To the People of Elizabeth City follows:

## Open Letter to the People of Elizabeth City

Feeling that the people of Elizabeth City have been somewhat misinformed as to the actual condition and operation of their public utilities, I beg this means of bringing certain facts to your attention.

Nearly twenty years ago, at which time your City has no electric, water or sewer service, you sought the investment of outside capital in companies that would render public service to your community and the present owners of the companies, accepting in good faith the overtures made to them by the then City officials and certain leading citizens, agreed to undertake the construction and operation of utility plants. The necessary ordinances granting sixty-year franchises were passed, put to vote and approved at the polls by an almost unanimous vote, the investments made, and for eighteen years water, electric light and power have been furnished, and in addition of the town sewer connections have been continuously maintained. During these eighteen years, no dividend has been paid any stockholder, and no salary to any officer other than Mr. Whitehurst and Mr. Lewis.

The City recently made an offer to purchase the three utilities, and stated that if the prices offered were not accepted, that the City would build and operate its own plants. The sum offered did not represent the reasonable fair value of the properties, and was so low that without great injustice to the owners could not be accepted. As an evidence of the unfairness of the city's offer, we need only cite the figures involving the sewer company's treasury, which consists of more than thirty thousand feet of main sewer, twenty-two stations, seventy-five manholes and ten flushing stations, all in good operating condition.

Original cash investment of the company, approximately	\$40,000.00
Accumulated value after allowing for full depreciation, as found by the City's own Engineers in June, 1922	31,000.00
Offered by the City in July, 1922, for	15,000.00
Company offered to sell in August, 1922, for	25,000.00

Our sewerage company has also offered to sell its property to the City on the basis of a disinterested appraisal by an impartial board or at a price to be fixed by the Corporation Commission of North Carolina.

We want the people of Elizabeth City to have the fullest knowledge concerning the condition of our plants, and we stand ready and willing to furnish any information that may be desired.

Believing from our association with the people of Elizabeth City that, when they know the real facts, they will not want, after our eighteen years of service without remuneration, to acquire our plants at less than their true value, or to construct plants of their own, the operation of which can result in great loss to both the City and ourselves, I beg to remain,

Respectfully yours,  
HOWARD E. CROOK, President.

## N. C. STATE NEWS

Digest of Everything Worth Knowing About Old North State Folks and Things

—Will Zachary, of High Point, while walking on the railroad track near Spencer, was struck by a passenger train and instantly killed.

—General John J. Pershing will attend the North Carolina State Fair at Raleigh Wednesday, Oct. 18, and will probably speak at the Fair grounds on that day.

—Mrs. James K. Norfleet, of Winston-Salem, was unanimously elected president of the North Carolina American Legion Auxiliary at the recent assembly held in Greensboro.

—Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the plant of the P. A. Thomas Car Works, at High Point, manufacturers of trolley cars, entailing a loss estimated at \$250,000.

—The jury failed to agree and a mistrial ordered in the case of five strike sympathizers charged with seizing and carrying away in an automobile Atlantic Coast Guards in Rocky Mount.

—Paul Siloff, of New Bern, was struck by an automobile driven by Mrs. O. G. Dunn of that town, and is now in a hospital. Whether any internal injuries took place is not known.

—Rosecoe Morris, Albert Durham and Queen Clayburn, negroes of Charlotte, were drowned in Lake-wood Park lagoon when the boat in which they were riding was overturned within 15 feet of the landing.

—Fifty-five warehouses have made contracts with the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Co-operative Association to store cotton this season, according to R. F. Brown, manager of the cotton department.

—While North Carolina's fire loss of \$221,233 for August, 1922, is larger than the loss for June or July, it was \$940 less than the loss for August, 1921, according to reports just made public by the North Carolina Insurance Department.

—The Raleigh Chapter of the American Red Cross decided to launch a campaign for a Tuberculosis hospital for Wake County. It voted to devote all of the proceeds from the Red Cross Roll Call starting Armistice Day to this purpose.

—Frank Summers, who several days ago is alleged to have confessed to the Augusta police that he killed Manning Ford, at Marietta, N. C., seven months ago, was carried back to the scene of the crime by Sheriff Carpers of Robeson County.

—A real student's publication, the Carolina Bell Weevil, is going to take place of the ill-fated Tar Baby, the privately owned magazine which was mistakenly supposed by many to be a University publication and which went out of existence recently.

—John Wyberg, construction foreman, of Roxboro, died at a hospital in Durham, from injuries received when his automobile collided with a team of horses. Roy Dehart, of Hillsboro, who was also an occupant of the car will recover.

—The Democratic executive committee of the Third Congressional District met this week in Goldsboro and named Charles L. Abernathy as nominee for Congress to succeed the late Congressman Brinson. He will take his seat when Congress meets in December.

—Miss Adeline Ratley, 93 years old, a resident of Cumberland Mills section near Fayetteville, faces trial at the next term of the United States District court in Raleigh on a charge of violating the prohibition law, 137 gallons of wine having been found on Miss Ratley's premises.

—Five thousand farmers, business men and agricultural demonstrators of 18 counties and their families gathered at the Willard test farm near Wallace last week, on which occasion Governor Morrison delivered an address outlining the State's progress.

—A Re-inforcement Campaign among the Baptist churches of North Carolina was launched in the First Baptist church of Raleigh Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock. Secretary Chas. E. Maddy of that city called a meeting of the State Board of Missions for that place and hour.

—Poverty cannot be called a crime in North Carolina so long as extravagance is made a virtue, declares Governor Cameron Morrison in a proclamation issued calling upon the people of the State to observe Monday, Oct. 9th, the fifty-first anniversary of the great Chicago fire, as Fire Prevention Day.

—Forty miles of hard surfaced roads were completed and put into use in the State during the month of August, despite the partial paralysis of construction work by strike conditions. During the same period 106 miles of gravel and other types of road were completed and turned over to the State Highway Commission.

—W. V. Guernard, of Bryson City, former King Kleagle of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, deposed by Dr. W. E. Thompson, voluntarily surrendered to the Sheriff of Wake County, when he learned that papers had been received from Bryson City, for his arrest under charge of embezzlement of funds belonging to the Ku Klux Klan.

—As a result of the discovery of two women in the room of a State College student, warrants were sworn out by Edwin R. Van Sant, President of the Student Council, charging two prominent young men of Raleigh, E. H. Robbins and Charles Hearty, with taking the women to the College dormitory for immoral purposes.

—A draft for forty-three hundred dollars was honored the other day by the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Co-operative association. It was drawn by William Peterson, of Sampson County, who delivered 86 bales of cotton to the association at the Clinton warehouse. This is the largest single delivery that has been made to the association.

—The Southern Power Company, of Charlotte, furnishing 300,000 horsepower of electrical energy every day to industries in the two Carolinas among them, 300 textile mills, will be forced to suspend operations for one day each week, unless relief is given in coal transportation, an official notice issued from headquarters of the company set forth.

—Three million dollars for the development of a State port at Wilmington will be one of the requests that will come before the 1923 session of the North Carolina General Assembly, and the petitioning rates will not be primarily that of Wilmington but of the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the State Traffic Association, and like allied bodies.

—The Christian Church at Borderly, Union County, recently installed an organ after a several months' wrangle among the congregation. To-day a mass meeting of squalid members was all that remained of the organ. It had been removed from the church, taken into the church yard, chopped to pieces and set on fire after coal oil had been poured over the pieces.

—While driving from Greensboro to Blowing Rock, Margaret Smith, of Greensboro, and F. L. Jenkins, of Winston-Salem, were held up by six masked men, who went off with the automobile with Jenkins in it, leaving Miss Smith by the roadside. No clue to the identity of the masked men has been found by Sheriff W. H. Carson, of Taylorsville, where the holdup occurred.

—Less handshaking at the church door on Sunday morning and more foot-shaking on the streets for six days in the week is a mighty good way to build up an efficient Sunday school, Arthur Flake, Baptist Sunday School Administration Secretary, told several hundred Sunday school workers gathered from over the eastern section of the State at the First Baptist church in Raleigh.

—As Cyclone Mack sees more and more of North Carolina he keeps on saying that he will hand it to the Tar Heel State as having outstripped his State of South Carolina in progress; he says North Carolina is certainly getting something for the tax money spent; that evidences of this fact are sticking out all over Tarheel; wherever you go progress greets you.

—The name of Belvin W. Maynard, "Flying Parson," who was killed recently at Rutland, Va., will be perpetuated at Wake Forest College, his alma mater, according to faculty action taken at a called meeting. Two memorials will be established, one a bronze tablet placed in Winrate Hall, the other an endowment scholarship bearing his name, to be used by worthy students whose means are not sufficient to enable them to attend college on their own resources.

—Rev. C. M. Gentry, of Albemarle, who died recently, left substantial sums of money to Church and charitable causes—the Methodist Orphanage at Winston-Salem, missions, etc. Relatives have instituted proceedings to test the will. It is the exception, rather than the rule, for the estate of a preacher to figure in court. Few of them, for obvious reasons, leave enough worldly goods to incite a row over their disposition.

—When a car in which they were riding swerved from the road near Greensboro in avoiding another car, and somersaulted down a steep embankment, William Pharr, of Asheville, R. L. Thompson, Jr., of New York, and R. L. Justice, Jr., of Greensboro, had a narrow and miraculous escape from a sudden and violent death. Leaving the rim of the road the automobile turned over five or six times and flung hundred one hundred feet from where it started its plunge.

—The Laurinburg Exchange learns that at the close of the closing service of a revival meeting at the Methodist church, five white-robed Klansmen marched into the church and handed Rev. Frank Culbreth, pastor of the Caledonia charge, an envelope containing \$20 in cash as an expression of their appreciation for the virile gospel he had preached during the meeting. Klansmen are accustomed to giving surprises themselves and perhaps they were not prepared for the surprise Mr. Culbreth gave them. The preacher, according to this news story in The Exchange, without hesitation returned the offering to the Klansmen and frankly but kindly told them that he could not accept it, that he does not approve of the order and is not in sympathy with it and its work.



### Down Come the Prices

For several years past the prices of dependable merchandise skyrocketed the other way and everything was up, up, up.

Then they took a tumble the other way and prices to-day are more favorable for the purchaser than they have been in a good long time.

But we do not advise any one to wait for lower prices. The rail road strike, the coal strike, the textile strike, the tariff and a lot of other things are combining to boost the price of things again.

Higher cotton this fall is going to be another factor in sending the skyrocket of prices on another upward flight. LET US OUTFIT YOU NOW.

## The Spencer Co.

The Quality Shop  
Hinton Block

whereupon the Klansmen, remarking, "Well see you later," marched out of the house with their rejected gift.

—Normal consumption of coal for domestic and industrial purposes in North Carolina, exclusive of coal used by railroads is 2,721,000 tons annually, according to the coal survey of the State made by the North Carolina Fuel Committee and just made public by Director R. O. Self. Guilford County burns 170,000 tons annually and leads the State in consumption, and from that the figures by counties range downward to a dozen counties that use only two or three carloads a year. Cotton mills are the heaviest consumers, with domestic consumption ranking second and light and power plants third. North Carolina pays about thirty million dollars annually in mine costs and freight on its 55,000 tons of coal, and with the increased cost charged up to the three months strike of coal miners and the demand growing out of slow deliveries on account of the rail strike, it will probably pay more for the next few months.

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If planning a trip, or going away to school, it is a wise precaution to take along an extra pair of glasses.

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Many exceptional values now on display at prices much more reasonable than heretofore.

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"I've discovered a most wonderful water softener"

A group of young housewives were discussing washing materials. One said that her clothes had been fairly eaten to ribbons by patent washing fluids and chemicals.

"No more of that in my home," said Mrs. Southlee. "I've discovered a most wonderful water softener that does not harm the fabric. My maid says it makes the washing easier than anything she has ever used. She just dissolves a 1/2 teaspoonful of Red Seal Lye in each bucket of water. This softens the water, and makes the clothes snowy white. She uses less soap."

"That's quite true," chimed in another. "I've always used Red Seal Lye as a water softener, but that's only one of its many uses. Red Seal Lye makes an excellent soap. I tell my cook to save all the waste grease. One can of Red Seal, when mixed with grease and water, makes enough soap to last several months for all laundry scrubbing purposes. It's really quite simple to make. The directions are in the can."

There are many household uses and recipes for Red Seal Lye described in the Red Seal Booklet, which will be mailed you free. Send for it today.

Ask your dealer for the old reliable granulated Red Seal Lye. Get the genuine. Take no other.



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