

THE INDEPENDENT

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ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1926.

Published Every Friday by W. O. Saunders at Elizabeth City, N. C.

SINGLE COPY 5 CENTS.

How Elizabeth City Taxpayers Are Being Mulcted

W. L. Jones Construction Co.

General Contractors
Pile Driving, Steam and Gravity Hammers,
Concrete Foundations, Cellars and Sidewalks

Elizabeth City, N. C. 5/12/26

W. L. Jones Construction Co.

General Contractors
Pile Driving, Steam and Gravity Hammers,
Concrete Foundations, Cellars and Sidewalks

Elizabeth City, N. C.

Dear Mr. Freeman,
Supplementing Our Telephone
Conversation of a few minutes ago
With reference to Clay Gravel for The
City of E. City, Mr. Ferbee the City Manager
just came around to see us and
advised that you made him a price of
150 per ton delivered, which seemed
to be a very good price but before
he would go any further with the
matter with you for me to get in
touch with you and see if you
would allow us 150 per ton comm.
to be decided between Brother Ferbee &
myself which would be three ways and
of course Mr. Ferbee could be known
in the proposition and don't let him know
that he is connected at all in the matter

at no time in any conversation or
Correspondance I feel you can do
this without very much sacrifice and
I am sure if you do this the deal
will go through all over, I have
also been in touch with the Camden
Highway Comm., today they are going
to build 15 miles of clay gravel
roads and I feel sure I can see
them your material we could also use
Barge transportation for delivering this
material we can get a better price
on this material I think to and I'm
fast I know we can do you see you
won't be losing anything by allowing us 150
on the City material, please write me at once,
just what you will do at once, say this
under your hat please, your truly,
W. L. Culpepper
Camden will need about 75,000 tons

Now you may see genuine photographic facsimile reproductions of the famous sand and gravel letters of L. B. Culpepper. The reproductions are slightly reduced.

After reading the above letter by Mr. Culpepper you can't blame him for telling Mr. Freeman to keep it under his hat "please."

ROANOKE ISLAND READY FOR ITS NOTED VISITORS

Over Six Thousand People Expected to Visit Spot Where Many National Notables Will Gather August 18

HOME COMING TO LAST AN ENTIRE WEEK

By D. V. MEEKINS
Everything is in readiness for the crowds who will set sail, beginning Monday, and continuing thru the week, to attend the Dare County Homecoming, the principal event of which will be the celebration of the Birthday of Virginia Dare on Wednesday, August 18 beginning at 11:30 o'clock and lasting an hour and a half before luncheon begins.

WHERE MUCH OF OUR MONEY GOES

36,000 Ford Cars Bought by 76 Counties in 15 Months

A statement authorized by the Norfolk, Va. assembly plant of the Ford Motor Co. shows that this one plant has placed 36,000 Ford cars in 76 Virginia and North Carolina counties in the first 15 months of its operation. This is an economic fact of supreme importance.

CULPEPPER HARDWARE COMPANY
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
HARDWARE
ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.
May 14th, 1926.

Mr. W. H. Freeman,
Va-Carolina Bldg.,
Norfolk, Va.

Dear Mr. Freeman:
I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 13th with reference to clay gravel for the City of Elizabeth City, and I am very sorry to advise that I was too late to head off your letter in giving quotation to the city on gravel as same had been turned over to the Council by Mr. Ferbee.

However, I wish I could have known of this earlier as I feel sure that we could have gotten a fair margin of profit out of this proposition, and nobody would have been the loser.

However, I appreciate very highly the \$4 per ton that you have included for us and I assure you anytime we can do for you will be done with great pleasure. Don't hesitate to call on us for any favor we can render.

With best wishes, I am
Yours truly,
W. L. Culpepper

In this letter Mr. Culpepper says "we could have gotten a fair margin of profit and nobody would have been the loser." Only the tax payer would have been the loser and the tax payer is always a nobody.

CAPT. MIDGETT TELLS OF THE NEXT WAR
Says Christians In His Section Are Joining Ku Klux Klan For War on Catholics

Capt. Thos. P. Midgett, U. S. Lighthouse Keeper at Ridge, Md., passed thru Elizabeth City this week to visit his old home on Roanoke Island. Capt. Midgett stopped at The Independent office long enough to warn the editor that he is going to hell if he doesn't repent of his ways and steer clear of Roman Catholics, Evolutionists and Science.

DOCUMENTS TO SHOW HOW THE GRAFTERS WORK

Much has been said about certain sensational letters written by L. B. Culpepper in connection with the city's recent deal for 200 to 400 tons of gravel. Here then are the letters, obtained by this newspaper with great difficulty and presented for the information of its readers.

Photographic facsimiles of the letters slightly reduced are reproduced here. They make interesting reading. They show how city contracts may be padded to provide secret commissions to influential citizens who represent themselves as having the "inside track" with city officials.

A history of the letters is in order. To begin with, on May 11, 1926 W. H. Freeman, a Norfolk, Va. dealer in sand and gravel gave City Manager Miles W. Ferbee a low bid of \$1.60 a ton for certain gravel delivered at Elizabeth City on bay barges.

This bid was not considered in the final letting because of the excessive cost of unloading the gravel from bay barges and putting it on the streets. Bay barges have decks and the gravel has to be removed thru hatches, requiring much labor.

It was on May 11, 1926 that Mr. Freeman placed his bid in the hands of the City Manager.

On May 12, 1926 Mr. Culpepper wrote the following astounding letter to Mr. Freeman, a facsimile of which is printed above:—

Read This Carefully
May 12, 1926.

Dear Mr. Freeman:
Supplementing our telephone conversation of a few minutes ago with reference to Clay Gravel for The City of E. City, Mr. Ferbee the City Manager just came around to see us and advises that you made him a price of \$1.55 per net ton delivered, which seems to be a very good price but before he would go any further with the matter with you for me to get in touch with you and see if you wouldn't allow us 15c per ton commision to be divided between Brother Ferbee and myself which would be three ways and of course Mr. Ferbee couldn't be known in the proposition and don't let him know that he is connected at all in the matter at no time in any conversation or correspondence. I feel you can do this without very much sacrifice and I am sure if you do this the deal will go through all o. k. I have also been in touch with the Camden Highway Comm. today. They are going to build 15 miles of clay gravel roads and I feel sure I can sell them your material, we could also use barge transportation for delivering this material. We can get a better price on this material I think to and in fact I know we can so you see you won't be losing anything by allowing us 15c on the City material, please write me at once just what you will do at once. Keep this under your hat please.

Yours very truly,
L. B. CULPEPPER.

Camden will need about 75 M. Tons.

On May 13, Mr. Freeman replied to Mr. Culpepper as follows:

May 13, 1926.

L. B. Culpepper
Care Culpepper Hardware Co.
Elizabeth City, N. C.

Dear Sir,

Reference sand clay gravel for the city of Elizabeth City. Your letter of May 12, received and contents duly noted.

While in Elizabeth City the other day, I gave Mr. Ferbee a price of \$1.55 net ton on sand clay gravel delivered F. O. B. bay barge along side dock, Elizabeth City. After getting back to Norfolk, and going into the barge situation I found it impossible to get out of Powells Creek with sufficient water enabling us to carry 800 to 900 tons due to the fact of having to dredge the channel. I wrote him a letter yesterday, stating that situation, withdrawing the price of \$1.55 quoting him

(Continued on page four)