

THE INDEPENDENT

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SENATOR WILLIAMS' EYE IS ON THE GOVERNORSHIP

Vacancy In Office of Secretary of State Brings Elizabeth City Man Into The Spotlight, Revealing His Aspirations

The death of W. N. Everett, beloved Secretary of State of North Carolina in Raleigh Tuesday night, has brought State Senator P. H. Williams of Elizabeth City into the limelight as a possible successor to Mr. Everett and disclosed something of the higher political aspirations of Senator Williams.

It has been known for some time that Senator Williams has had his eye on the office of State Treasurer. Before the body of William Nash Everett was barely cold friends of Senator Williams in Elizabeth City were stirring up telegrams to the Governor urging Mr. Williams' appointment to fill the unexpired term of the dead Secretary of State.

And in their zeal some of the friends of Senator Williams have let it be known that for several years Mr. Williams has had his eye on the governorship and that he particularly desires a State office that would give him a position at the capital in which he could command the attention of the State and exhibit his qualifications for higher office.

Senator Williams is an able man; in fact he is perhaps the peer of any man in his own bailiwick in the matter of sheer intellect. He has his enemies in Elizabeth City, but even his enemies admire his genius and capabilities and would help rather than hinder his higher political ambitions.

Except for his active presidency of the Savings Bank & Trust Co. Mr. Williams has practically retired from business; he has salted away a comfortable fortune and has both the time and the money to seek gubernatorial honors. It takes both in North Carolina.

And here gossip gets in its work. It is pointed out that if Senator Williams goes to Raleigh the Savings Bank & Trust Co., deprived of his expert direction, would not easily find his equal. But that is a matter of small moment, says gossip, since it will be only a matter of a few years before the Savings Bank & Trust Co. and the First & Citizens National will consolidate anyway. Directors of both institutions are known to be favorable to such a consolidation. And that's more talk.

In an effort to get a line on Senator Williams' chances for the appointment to the vacancy in the office of Secretary of State, this newspaper wired its Raleigh correspondent yesterday. The Raleigh correspondent reports as follows:

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 9, 1928.—Although much private discussion yesterday of a successor to Secretary of State W. N. Everett gave to Senator Pat Williams a commanding lead. Activity began here today indicates that William S. Moye of Rocky Mount, may have what the politicians regard as the inside track to the appointment. At the same time, it became known during the day that influential friends of Max D. Abernethy, former newspaper man who has been chief clerk to the late secretary for three years, are going to ask Governor McLean that he name Abernethy to fill the term of office expiring January 1st, next.

Senator Williams has a big advantage, however, in that he is the type McLean likes to appoint to office. He is a banker and his legislative record has been such as to commend him to the Governor.

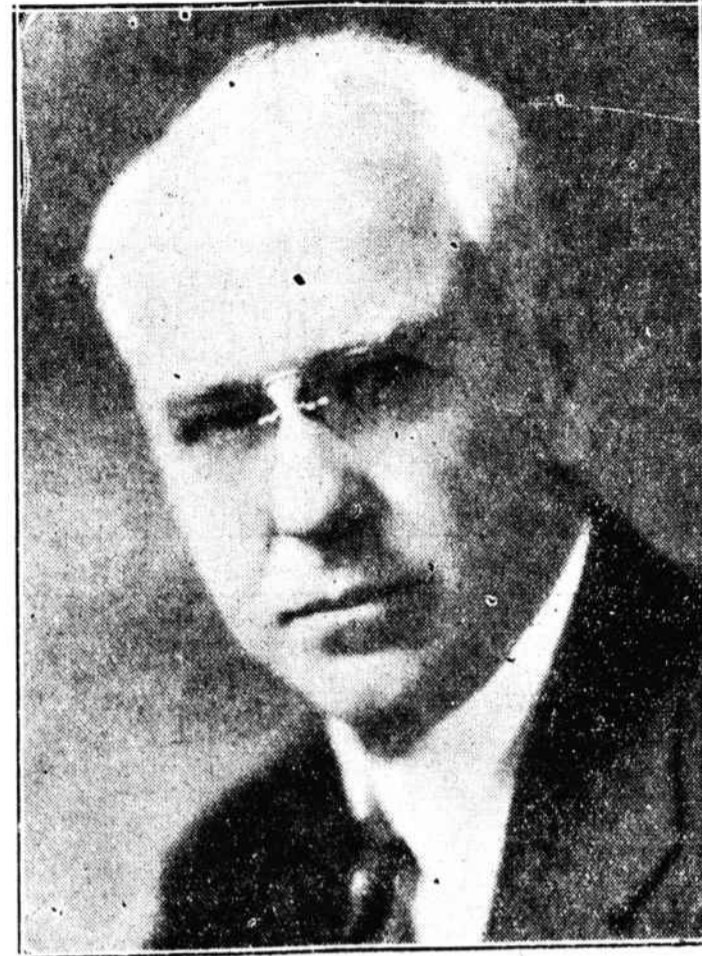
It rather looked out here today that while the Elizabeth City man is McLean's preference, the governor may hesitate to name him through a fear that his appointment will be repudiated at the polls in June. McLean is a candidate for the United States Senate whenever there is a vacancy. Opposition to him at this purely speculative state, is sufficient to prompt a primary candidate against Williams. It is doubtful that Moye would have as formidable opposition were he to be appointed, and almost certain that Abernethy, if named for the unexpired term, would not run for the nomination.

Moye said here last night that he was "a receptive candidate" but that he would not attempt to get endorsement until after the funeral of the late secretary. Wires had been received here from Elizabeth City asking endorsement for Williams last night.

Williams in Raleigh
Senator Williams was in Raleigh Thursday in conference with Governor McLean and friends here are confident that he will be the Governor's appointee.

WE will pay you three cents a pound for good clean rags, no dirt. THE INDEPENDENT.

And He's the Boy Who Put It Over



Behind every great human achievement is a dynamic personality. Here is that dynamic personality who not only thought of Norfolk's new community parking center first, but who rolled up his sleeves, put salt on his feet and sugar on his tongue and plodded and plugged until he had sold the idea to his community and turned a dream into a reality. This then is G. Leslie Hall, President of the Norfolk Ad Club, active member of the Retail Merchants Association of his city, and community spirit extraordinary. He is perhaps best known to readers of this newspaper as head of the G. L. Hall Optical Co.

The beauty about Mr. Hall's preparations community parking center

is that is to take in several valuable blocks in the very heart of downtown Norfolk, is that it doesn't cost the city or the merchants a dollar. An ingenious plan was worked out by which the whole thing is financed by an indirect gas tax that nobody feels and that few are aware of. Some day we shall have Mr. Hall come to Elizabeth City and tell us how the thing is done.

True enough Elizabeth City beat Norfolk to it in the matter of providing a free parking lot in the heart of town but there is no service and no protection for cars on Elizabeth City's parking lot. Norfolk has done the thing right, thanks to G. Leslie Hall.

Why He Subscribed To The Independent

C. A. Fritsch, proprietor of the Hotel Farrar at Tarboro, N. C., should take the palm for being the most honest hotel man in America. He advertises his hotel as "The Worst Hotel in North Carolina." When some one told him that they expected to find a newspaper like *The Independent* in the worst hotel in North Carolina, Proprietor Fritsch immediately subscribed to *The Independent*.

right the correct reading shows current we consumed in previous months that had not appeared on previous months' bills. They told me that it all evened up in the long run and that in the ultimate I only paid for what I got. It makes me mad all over; it makes me itch to get out and start a campaign against municipal ownership and return our electric light franchise to private ownership.

"But we've got private ownership of gas and we're in as bad a mess with private ownership of gas as we are with public ownership of electricity," said the Soda Jerker.

"You're right," said the Bank Clerk; "the pair of them seem to take lessons from each other in general eussedness."

"But why do we have to pay the town 12 1/2c for electric current that costs the city 1 1/2c?" asked the perplexed Soda Jerker.

"The town is making the electric light consumer pay not only for his electric lights, but for other public improvements as well. They paid his electric light bill to get money to pay the interest and provide a sinking fund for water and sewerage bonds so that these things don't appear in his tax bill. If our city book-keeping wasn't juggled to conceal the truth there would be a riot in this town when the folks discovered just how high their taxes are."

"During the month of January we were stung with lights at my house; we guarded our lights so carefully that we actually deprived ourselves of sufficient light to read by. We were determined to cut our bill in two in January."

"But when our bill came in on Feb. 1st it was twice as high as it was on Jan. 1st. I raised the very devil at the city offices and they gave me another explanation. They explained this time that the chap who reads the meters doesn't always read them correctly; that some months he reads them too low and the next month when he reads them

Breakfast 40c; lunch, meat or fish with two vegetables, dessert, bread, butter and coffee 45c; regular dinner 75c. A room with private lavatory \$2.00
The Virginia Dare Hotel
Elizabeth City, N. C. adv

\$25,000.00 FOR WRIGHT BEACON PLANS IN BILL

Congress Expected To Make Initial Appropriation Within A Few Days

An amendment to the Army Bill now under consideration adopted by Congress Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 8th carries an appropriation for \$25,000 for making the necessary plans surveys, investigations and other expenses incident to the erection of the Wright memorial at Kill Devil Hills, N. C.

The Army bill went to the House with an appropriation of only \$5,000 for this initial expense in connection with the Wright memorial and the amendment raising the amount to \$25,000 was secured by prompt and vigorous action upon the part of Congressman Lindsay Warren, author of the Act creating the memorial.

The \$25,000 appropriation is for preliminary expenses incident to the erection of the monument and not for the monument itself. Friends of the monument hope for an appropriation of \$250,000 for the monument itself.

The monument is to be built from plans to be approved by a special commission composed of the Secretary of War, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Navy and the Secretary of Agriculture. Tentative plans now before the Budget Bureau call for a monumental structure of cathedral like design, the tower of which will serve as a coast lighthouse and aerial beacon combined. The structure itself will furnish magnificent quarters for the U. S. Coast Guard at Kill Devil Hills. In one set of plans the monument combines not only a memorial fit to mark the shrine of aviation in America, but a much needed Coast Guard Station and Lighthouse as well.

Bottle Hurlled Thru Duff's Car Window
Martin County moonshine liquor came near being the undoing of John Hall of the law firm of Ehringhaus & Hall of this city Tuesday night. Somewhere between Williams and Windsor, on State Highway 342, some hoodlum hurled a whiskey flask from the side of the road at the big Lincoln sedan of W. P. Duff in which Mr. Duff, W. A. Worth and Mr. Hall were returning to Elizabeth City from Raleigh at a late hour Tuesday night. The bottle barely missed Mr. Hall who was riding on the rear seat.

The sedan was going 45 miles an hour; when the bottle crashed thru a side window and showered broken glass over the occupants, the sedan made 75 miles an hour. "I have heard that gasoline and corn liquor don't mix," said Mr. Duff next morning, "but I never got better mileage out of my car in my life."

A SQUARE MILE OF CUKES
A pickle factory established at Norfolk last year has just signed contracts with Norfolk county farmers for 700 acres of cucumbers to be planted this year. When Elizabeth City makes a serious effort to get factories and lands something like that it will not only put a payroll in the town but put money in the pockets of its rural neighbors as well.

Not Just Your Country or My Country Only
One of the first edicts of ecclesiasticism was that man should not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, "for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." They were spoofing us then and they are spoofing us now, declared W. O. Saunders in an address to the Kiwanis Club of Goldsboro Monday night.

Monday night was a splendid audience of substantial, thoughtful, forthright lookers on the point into the future.

THE BEST IS CHEAPEST
Breakfast 40c; lunch, meat or fish with two vegetables, dessert, bread, butter and coffee 45c; regular dinner 75c. A room with private lavatory \$2.00
The Virginia Dare Hotel
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CURRITUCK SOUND WILL BE BRIDGED ANYHOW

But It Looks Now As If Private Local Interests Are In A Fair Way To Beat The Public To It

Thru rain and mud came fifty or more citizens of Dare and Currituck Counties Wednesday to appear before Lieut. Col. Henry C. Jewett of the War Department and oppose the petition of the Currituck & Dare Bridge Corporation to bridge Currituck Sound. And it is the guess of this newspaper that the opposition will cut little ice with the War Department.

To begin with, the promoters of the proposed bridge took much of the winds out of the sails of the opposition by coming to the hearing with a petition for a bridge located at least two miles further South than their original survey contemplated, offering a route that is in effect a compromise with the large public that wants a bridge direct from Point Harbor to Kitty Hawk. The bridge promoters originally planned to build a bridge from a point near Hog Quarter Landing in Currituck, a distance of three miles or more above Point Harbor. Their present plans put the bridge within 4,000 feet of Point Harbor.

Everybody wants a bridge across Currituck Sound; the opponents of the bridge to be built by Elizabeth City capital want a bridge; but they want it where they want it; they want it straight from Point Harbor to Kitty Hawk. And if it were put to a vote of everybody in the Albemarle region there wouldn't be a corporator's guard to vote for a bridge further north than Kitty Hawk.

But the thing that some lose sight of is that if private capital wants to build a bridge to suit itself, then that is the business of private capital and the War Department's only concern is as to whether the proposed structure will be a hindrance to navigation. The War Department doesn't give a hoot what the fellows on shore think about it. A sad fact maybe, but it is all too true.

Cold, practical, hard-headed U. S. Army engineers will in all probability hold that if private capital has picked an illogical location, that is private capital's own error and not the fault of the War Department. If another bridge is more desirable, then let other interests build another bridge.

Here is the situation: Local interests composed of W. G. Gaither, M. P. Galloway, M. B. Sawyer, L. C. Blades, S. B. Parker and possibly a few others own several thousand acres of land North of Kitty Hawk, including Martin's Point on Jean Guites Creek. It is said to be the most beautiful piece of coastal property in America. Leonard Tuttle of Pinehurst who visited the property two years ago raved over it and wished he had found it before he put his money in Pinehurst.

The Elizabeth City men who own the Martin's Point property have great faith in its future as a rich man's playground where millions will be spent on private residences, hotels, club houses, golf links, etc. But in order to develop their property; they must have a bridge to it. They realize that if they wait for a public bridge across Currituck Sound that bridge would in all probability be built to some other point than their own property.

And so, taking advantage of the fact that the counties of Currituck and Dare are not able to get together on a bridge project and the fact that the State Highway Commission is not in position to consider building a bridge over Currituck Sound at this time, the local men have organized a company and arranged for financing a bridge of their own to be operated as a public toll bridge.

Of course they have expectations of ultimately selling their bridge to the State Highway Commission and they will court the Highway Commission for approval of its plan and specifications. This does not mean of course that the State Highway Commission will be committed to the new route and when the State finds a way to bridge Currituck Sound it may ignore the Martin's Point bridge and follow a more southerly route. In that event there would be two bridges across Currituck Sound and everybody would be happy.

The State will eventually throw its highway across Currituck Sound. Frank Page himself no longer hesitates to say that he will not be satisfied until there is a paved highway from Manteo to Murphy. Mr. Page's (Continued on page Four)

Theodore Meekins Made A Good Deal
The Paraguay, a hore on the North Carolina coast near Kitty Hawk, where it was driven during a storm on December 4, is to have her cargo salvaged. The vessel is broken in two parts but her cargo of 800,000 gallons of fuel oil is intact, and an effort will be made to pump the valuable fluid from her tanks into tanks or barges that will be towed out to the stranded craft. Capt. T. C. Conwell, master of the Wood Towing Corporation's tug Goliath, in Norfolk, says the salvaging will begin soon. The oil cargo is valued at \$60,000. Theo. S. Meekins of Manteo is reported to have bought the Paraguay and her cargo for \$100.

—Will White, Negro employed by the local ice manufacturing concern in Rocky Mount, was drowned when he fell from a cooling tower on which he was working at the plant late last night.

YOUR EYES AT WORK
Constant use of your eyes in any line, working all day by artificial light will lower their efficiency. It is wise to help your eyes with a pair of glasses, correctly prescribed. Consult an eye specialist, DR. S. J. D. HATHAWAY, Carolina Bank Building.

WE DON'T WANT CHRIST, JUST GIVE US HELL

Elizabeth City has a great preacher in its midst this week; he is Rt. Rev. R. E. L. Strider, Bishop of the diocese of West Virginia. He is an able and eloquent preacher of great poise, dignity and character. He came to Christ Church last Sunday to conduct a week of evangelical services. Since Sunday morning he has delivered a number of the finest and most helpful sermons heard in this city in a long time. And there were less than 100 hearers in his audience Wednesday night.

The people do not want Christianity; the people want religion. The people have no ear for a clean, wholesome, educated exponent of the gospel who comes with a sane and reasonable message; the people want an abusive, mud-slinging, hell-raising, hate-engendering salvationist. Four thousand turned out nightly for six weeks to hear one of that type in Elizabeth City a few years ago and are now eager to hear his likes again.

CHOWAN BRIDGE ROUTE WILL BE SEWED UP SOON

Contracts let last week for paving the twenty one miles of dirt road between Edenton and Windsor on Route 342 means that much tourist traffic will be diverted from Elizabeth City this summer. The road will be impassable most of the time while the paving is under way.

Contracts for this important project were let to the Roberts Paving Co. Work is to begin immediately and the paving is to start from both ends of the road (Edenton and Windsor) simultaneously. With good weather the contractors will build a mile or more of road a week. But they will have many weeks of bad rather than the winter and spring and the completion of the road before late summer is not anticipated.

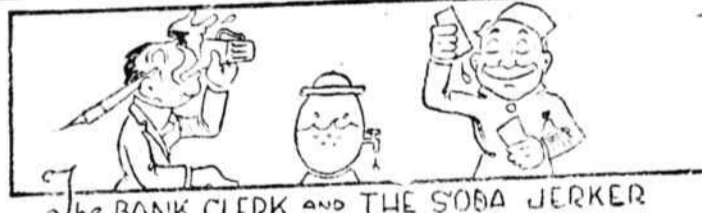
"I know I will be in for a lot of cussing now," says Chairman Frank Page of the N. C. Highway Commission, "but this happens to one of those roads from which traffic can not always be conveniently diverted and there will be times when the road will be closed to traffic; that's going to be hard on a lot of travellers and I shall not think hard of them if they relieve their ire by cussing me out."

But, Oh Boy! What a joy it will be to plan a trip to the interior of the State next fall without having to phone ahead going and coming to find out whether the Chowan River Bridge route is passable? The road in its present unimproved condition holds much terror for motorists following every heavy rainfall.

Hotel Stores Will Pay Big If We Can Wait

Rental from the stores and offices of the Virginia Dare Hotel and its Main Street annex will eventually yield a handsome return on the investment and go far toward putting the hotel itself on a dividend paying business, according to Col. Chas. H. Consolvo, owner and manager of the Monticello, Norfolk; the Jefferson, Richmond and the Belvedere, Baltimore.

But it takes time to rent new store spaces and run the rents up to where they show a handsome pre-



THE BANK CLERK AND THE SODA JERKER

TAIL FEATHERS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT BILLS

"From what I see by the paper, some of those Norfolk preachers are going to tear the tail feathers out of 'W. O.' before they're thru with him," remarked the Bank Clerk to the Soda Jerker.

"Well, if 'W. O.' is as bold in other parts as he is on his head, they won't get many feathers," replied the Soda Jerker.

"We'll all be bald-headed if something isn't done to cut down our electric light bills," observed the Bank Clerk. "Our town is not content to buy electric current at a cent and a half a kilowatt and dole it out to us at twelve and a half. It seems to delight in gouging us by rendering excessive bills that would have shamed the old non-resident private owners."

"My light bill came in on Jan. 1st twice as big as in any month previous. I kicked like a steer and it was explained to me that December was the month of longest nights when more current was consumed and that in the exuberance of holiday observance I probably burned more lights anyway. I accepted the explanation with reservations and paid my bill."

"During the month of January we were stung with lights at my house; we guarded our lights so carefully that we actually deprived ourselves of sufficient light to read by. We were determined to cut our bill in two in January."

"But when our bill came in on Feb. 1st it was twice as high as it was on Jan. 1st. I raised the very devil at the city offices and they gave me another explanation. They explained this time that the chap who reads the meters doesn't always read them correctly; that some months he reads them too low and the next month when he reads them