

A NEWSPAPER THAT  
DARES TO SPEAK ITS  
CONVICTIONS

# THE INDEPENDENT

TEN PAGES  
IN TWO SECTIONS  
THIS WEEK

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## Why the Newspapers Refrain From Playing Up News of Fear-Crazy People Forcing Banks to Close

### People Make Panics When They Lose Their Heads—Panics Are Mass Cowardice, Easily Controlled and Subdued Where There Are Cool Heads and Leadership

An Editorial By W. O. Saunders

NEWSPAPERS are being condemned by a lot of well-meaning people because they did not make big news of the large number of bank failures in North Carolina during the Christmas holidays. In suppressing the news of this latest outbreak of bank closings the newspapers have rendered their respective communities and the State a great service. For banks are wrecked by fear and newspaper scare heads calculated to throw fear into the hearts of large numbers of bank depositors could wreck every bank in North Carolina.

Making big news of the bank failure in Ahsokie started an immediate run on the bank of Winton in a neighbouring town, forcing that fine, old, conservative and remarkably sound institution to close its doors for the protection of its depositors. As a matter of fact, a wave of fear from the crash of banks on the other side of the Chowan River broke on this side of the river last week and might have gathered momentum and grown into a panic but for the fact that the section's coolest and wisest heads saw what was coming, were prepared for it and quietly mobilized to combat it. And the newspapers helped the situation by refraining from printing some very interesting news.

There was no panic in the Albemarle last week because it was licked before it got under way. And the newspapers played their part nobly by refusing to spread alarm.

A panic is one of the easiest things in the world to lick if taken in time, for a panic is but mass cowardice and cowardice can always be licked if taken in hand before it runs amok.

But what usually happens when a panic appears is, people try to pooh pooh it and say that it doesn't exist. They kid themselves and everybody around them until the panic has gained such momentum that nothing can stop it. And some fine morning they find a frantic mob battering at the doors of their strongest banks and demanding more money than the banks are prepared to pay out at once.

Banks are wrecked. Out of several thousand depositors a few hundred have got their money which they may hide in tin boxes or in old socks; but the vast majority of depositors have their savings tied up indefinitely, all business is disorganized, the buying power of the people diminished or destroyed, business houses crash, shops and factories are forced to suspend work, armies of people are thrown out of employment, real and personal property is thrown on the market in forced sales and the price of everything further depressed.

If people would only stop to think they would not invite the risk of wrecking a bank for the sake of saving their own hides. Many a man unthinkingly fears that if his bank closes he will lose all. As a matter of fact he will do nothing of the sort. In many instances he will get all or most of it back. In the case of national banks depositors as a rule get back 80 to 90 per cent. The loss a depositor takes in leaving his money in a closed bank is far less than the loss he may have to take as a result of the upsetting of business and depression of property values that inevitably follows a bank failure.

And when any large number of people take their money out of the fire and burglar proof vaults of their banks they are inviting an utter loss of their savings thru the possibility of fire or burglary. Desperate yeggmen and hold-up men are looking for communities in which large numbers of people are holding their money out of banks. Such communities attract thieves and murderers as surely as honey attracts flies.

No stronger banks exist anywhere in North Carolina than the little group here in the Albemarle region. But if the panic that has seized upon other parts of the State is permitted to sweep this section every bank in the Albemarle can be closed and the loss to agriculture, business and industry could run into far more millions than are represented by the liabilities of all the banks combined.

To close any one of a number of banks in the Albemarle would precipitate a large number of business failures, throw hundreds of people out of employment, depress real estate and other values to a point from which they could not recover in a decade and would drive many citizens to suicide. It is a horrible picture.

But panic is doomed when any considerable number of influential people, representing the best brains and capital of a city and its trade area see it coming, recognize it, square themselves for a fight and say with courage and decisiveness, We shall not lie down, We shall not run.

A hundred and odd firms and individuals, imbued with the courage and leadership of the section's most courageous and resourceful citizen, Joseph P. Knapp, of Currituck, resolutely determining that there shall be no epidemic of fear and no panic in these parts can effectually stay off anything approaching hysteria and panic. It is just as simple as that. People make panics. When the leaders say there shall be no panic, that settles it. Yes, it is just as simple as that.

### A Jovial Copper



NOTHING ferocious about this fat and jovial Elizabeth City Police Chief, Leon Holmes. Anyway the accompanying snapshot photo shows him in a jolly mood. But after his picture was snapped he grew very serious and told a group of friends, "I'll bet that durned Independent is fixing to write me up about something."

### Lowest Prices In Years Bring Buyers Into Retail Stores

Activity in retail merchandising in Elizabeth City this week indicates that people are waking up the unprecedented opportunities to save money by spending. Prices of cotton goods, wearing apparel, furniture and other commodities are down to the lowest levels in years and indications in many quarters are that prices will never be lower.

And if something should happen all of a sudden to assure the business leaders of the country better times immediately ahead, prices would surely take an upward trend. Thrifty people are beginning to sense the fact that these are happy days for buyers and there is evidence of a growing tendency upon the part of conservative folk to take advantage of present low prices in anticipation of higher prices ahead.

Elizabeth City and its trade area are not broke; more than 1,000 new Christmas savings accounts have been opened in the First & Citizens National Bank of this city within the past few weeks.



The BANK CLERK AND THE SODA JERKER

THE POWER OF SUGGESTION

"One of the best things that could happen to this section would be a snow storm that would snow us under so deep that we couldn't stand around on the streets and talk our fool heads off," said the Soda Jerker.

"And maybe you're right about that," said the Bank Clerk.

"I know darn well I'm right," said the Soda Jerker; "We have too much fair weather for our own good; these warm languid days leave everybody with a let down sort of feeling and they hang around the streets, get together in little groups here and there and kill a lot of time talking. And you can't get a group of two or three or more together before somebody is talking about hard times. And before they're thru talking every fellow is convinced that everything has gone to hell and the only reason they ain't building more poor houses is because they can't sell bonds to pay for 'em."

"It's got so that when I start down the street and see Miles Jennings coming I duck around the corner because I know that if Miles corners me he'll tell me that everything's gone to hell and there'll be a revolution next week or week after next at the latest. And the country is full of fellows like Miles; good fellows you know, but just so darn panicky that they just run around putting fear in everybody's heart and spreading gloom so thick that folks wrap themselves up in gloom instead of buying the clothes they need. And some of 'em are so busy chewing the rag about hard times that they don't take time to eat; no wonder we have a food sur-

## Gallop Case Is Tried and Ended After Two Years

After dragging thru the courts for a period of more than two years, the case in which Marshall P. Gallop, local realtor, was charged with second degree murder in connection with the death of Tom Case and Robert Bembury, both Negroes, who were injured when the car in which they were riding near Perquimans High School was struck by Gallop's car, finally came to a close Wednesday afternoon when a jury in Perquimans Superior Court brought in a verdict of not guilty.

Mr. Gallop was enroute to this city and had almost reached Hertford on the night of October 17, 1929, when his Pontiac sedan crashed into a cart in which Henry Hurdle, Tom Gordon, Tom Case and Robert Bembury, all Negroes, were riding. Case and Bembury died of their injuries and Mr. Gallop was indicted for second degree murder.

The case was called time and again in Perquimans Superior Court and was postponed each time for one reason or another. At last, two years and two months after the fatal accident, Mr. Gallop was placed on trial. The State tried to show that Mr. Gallop had been drinking on the night of the accident, that the cart was completely off the highway and was carrying a lighted lantern at the time Mr. Gallop's car struck it and that Mr. Gallop was driving at an excessive rate of speed at the time. So slim was the State's evidence in support of these contentions that Judge Clayton Moore instructed the jury to strike out the second degree murder charge and consider only a manslaughter charge against the defendant. This was done and in the end Mr. Gallop secured complete vindication.

### Automobile License Plate Sales W ay Ahead of Last Year

Is everybody broke? The Elizabeth City branch of the Carolina Motor Club answers NO. Up until noon Wednesday, Jan. 6th of this year, Mrs. R. J. Cohoon, distributor of automobile license plates for this city had sold 2,953 plates. At the close of business on the same date last year the same bureau had sold only 2,652 plates.

With all of the howling about hard times people had bought over 300 more automobile license plates this year than last. The answer seems to be that people generally have money for things they want.

Most people have visual defects of one sort or another. It is wise if your vision seems perfect to have your eyes examined. DR. J. D. HATHAWAY, Carolina Bldg. adv.



Dr. G. E. Newby

## Dr. Newby's Case Off To A Start In Prequimans

The highly sensational murder case in which Dr. G. E. Newby, prominent Hertford physician, Stewart Thornton, Jewell Thornton and Johnnie Trueblood are charged with second degree murder in connection with the death of pretty, 16-year-old Thelma Gray in Albemarle Hospital last February, was getting underway as this newspaper went to press, the Perquimans Grand Jury having returned a true bill in the case Wednesday at noon.

Highly sensational testimony is expected to be brought out in this case. It is alleged that Thelma Gray, after yielding to her lover, Johnnie Trueblood, was induced by him to go to a filling station operated by Thornton and his wife for an operation. It is alleged that at least one possibly two, operations were performed upon the girl in the filling station by Dr. Newby under the most unsanitary conditions. As the result of the operation or operations, the girl contracted blood poisoning and inflammation of the system, eventually causing her to die in great agony.

## EASTERN N. C. FOLKS WAITING FOR OIL FLOW

Benjamin E. Lamb, of California, who presumably is an oil tycoon, has been working quietly and unostentatiously in Eastern North Carolina since the fall of 1929, with the result that he today is the lessee of 270,000 acres of land, nearly 50,000 acres is located in Chowan, Perquimans, Gates and Bertie counties. Mr. Lamb believes oil is to be found in this section.

In September, 1930, Mr. Lamb came to this section and quietly began to secure leases on farm lands of a certain description. This land, he explained, was very similar to land under which oil had been found in Mississippi, Texas and other fields. He further stated that oil is to be found under the surface of the earth in virtually any given locality, provided one drills deep enough.

To lend emphasis to his assertions, he last summer brought to Eastern North Carolina a geologist from Columbia University who went over the region with a magnetometer and who said he detected beneath the earth's surface certain rock formations and strata that corresponded perfectly with formation and strata found in other sections in which oil had been discovered.

So Mr. Lamb, who is said to be backed by powerful financial interests in New Mexico, spent some time in Lenoir, Carteret, Craven, Pamlico, Sampson, Bertie, Gates, Chowan and Perquimans counties last year and succeeded in leasing 270,000 acres of land for a period of two years. He leased 5,000 acres in Gates County, 6,000 acres in Bertie County, and around 35,000 acres in Chowan and Perquimans counties.

Under the terms of the lease, Mr. Lamb must set up an oil well in each county in which he has leased land before the expiration of the two years. If no oil is forthcoming, he is the loser. If oil is found, the landowners are to get one-eighth of the value of the flow and he and his backers are to get the remainder. The landowners do not have to put up one penny. Mr. Lamb and his backers care for the expense of erecting the wells and if there is no oil they lose all they have put into the venture. If there is oil, they stand to reap handsome profits.

Why Mr. Benj. E. Lamb and his financial backers are so positive or so very confident that oil is to be found in Eastern North Carolina when the State Geologist, the noted Collier Cobb, U. N. C. geology professor and a recognized authority on geology, and other geologists have declared emphatically that oil is not to be found in commercial quantities in Eastern North Carolina is a puzzle.

Mr. Lamb represents the Pamlico Oil Company, which already has erected a well in Pamlico County, near Aurora. Wells are to be erected in the other counties as soon as the Pamlico County well is set in operation, according to one landowner who has leased several thousands of acres to Mr. Lamb. Meanwhile, several hundred Eastern North Carolina landowners sit sitting back and waiting for the erection of oil wells and the expected flow of "white gold."

## Wild Ducks and Geese Starving For Lack of Food

Thousands of wild geese and ducks dependent upon the largest of sportsmen and shooting clubs for their winter rations are threatened with starvation this winter, according to Dr. J. C. Baum, superintendent of Pine Island Club, near Poplar Branch, N. C.

Goaded by their hunger more than 500 wild geese came into the yard of his home one morning this week looking for food, said Dr. Baum who was in Elizabeth City Tuesday.

Dr. Baum also reports the unusual spectacle of wild geese foraging for food in the marshes, eating the tender shoots of grasses, a food they usually disdain.

There is a scarcity of natural food for migratory waterfowl in the waters of Currituck but in former seasons any food shortage has been relieved by the shooting clubs that have generously baited their ponds and shooting points during the shooting season. Pine Island Club alone puts out 25 bushels of grain every day during the shooting season. But Lord Hoover cut the recent shooting season from ten weeks to 30 days and the birds were reduced to 30 days rations. When the season ended on Dec. 15th the shooting clubs in Currituck and Dare and in the Back Bay region of Virginia quit putting out food.

Given a ten weeks' season the numerous shooting clubs around Currituck Sound and along the coast would have been putting out daily rations for the birds until the first of February. But when their shooting was cut off on Dec. 15th they cut off their free rations and the birds are suffering for want of food. Few and far between are the Joseph P. Knapps who will continue to feed the birds on his estate whether or no; the average sportsman's interest in feeding the hungry geese and ducks ceases when his shooting privilege is taken away from him.

### Camden Young Men Organize Civ. Club

A Young Men's Civic Club of Old Trap, which is rarely just an athletic club but which has adopted the same name as the local Civic Club, has been organized and now is holding regular meetings in the auditorium of the Old Trap High School.

The officers of the Club are: Ward Mitchell, President; Roy Brockett, vice president; Elton Forbes, secretary, and Everett Burgess, treasurer. The club has started with twenty members and expects to increase this number to fifty. Members are admitted from Shiloh, Riddle, Old Trap and neighboring communities. The club held meetings in the homes of various members at first, but the school committee decided to allow the young men to use the Old

## THEO. MEEKINS BATTERS IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

### President Dare County Chamber of Commerce Minces No Words in Controversy With So-called "Conservationists"

When the Izaak Walton League of America, Inc., so-called "defenders of woods, waters and wild life," queried Theodore S. Meekins, President of the Dare County Chamber of Commerce, regarding the establishment of a chapter of the League in Dare County, the League started a controversy which has been going on for two months already and in which Mr. Meekins apparently thus far has bettered the League officials.

### A Yuletide Bride



AN attractive bride of the holiday season is Mrs. Joseph Henry Towe, of Hertford, who formerly was Miss Irene Pritchard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Pritchard, City Route Five. The marriage took place at the home of the bride's parents on Saturday, December 26, and the young couple returned a few days ago from their honeymoon trip to Florida. They are making their home in Hertford.

### "W. O." To Attend Jackson Day Dinner

W. O. Saunders is in Washington to-day to be the guest of the National Democratic Committee at the annual Jackson Day dinner in the capital city to-night. Another North Carolinian from the First District who will sit in at the big dinner is the Hon. Edward G. Flanagan, of Greenville.

Trap high school auditorium as a meeting room.

The club now is sponsoring boxing, wrestling and basketball and expects to arrange contests with the Elizabeth City "Y" and other teams in this section in the near future.

## MUCH RECOMMENDING IN PASQUOTANK AUDIT

### County Audit, Just Completed, Reveals Many Faults in Record-Keeping and Accounting Systems in County Offices

Changes and improvements in the accounting records of the Sheriff's office, the bonding of all persons handling County funds, the installation of a proper system in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court, the appointment of a clerk to the Recorder's Court, the coordination of the records of the Trial Justice, Police Department and Sheriff's jail record and other changes and recommendations are contained in Bundy and Moran's audit report of Pasquotank County for the year ended June 30, 1931, which report is to be presented and explained to the Board of County Commissioners by Harry W. Bundy.

Commenting upon the condition of the office of N. E. Aydtlett, Clerk of Superior Court, the auditors had this to say: "The accounting records in this office were in a deplorable condition, being incomplete and unsystematized. It is urgently recommended that a proper system be installed in this office that will consolidate various cash books and memorandum books now being kept and furnish controlling accounts for the various funds, accounts, notes, investments, etc. Such a system would greatly facilitate the work of your Clerk and, if properly kept, would readily show the correct status of the various funds, etc. kept by the Clerk at all times, whereas it is now necessary to make a detailed check of all the records in order to determine the status of the accounts of this office."

In conclusion of comment upon the office of Sheriff Charles Carmine, the auditor recommended "that necessary changes and improvements be made in the accounting records of the Sheriff's office that will permit the entering of all items daily as received, that the Pick Up and Undivided accounts be eliminated and collections of the office be deposited daily as

The following letters between Mr. Meekins and G. W. Lockhart and Harold D. Fish, Izaak Walton League officials, convey some idea of the workings of the League and also gives a pretty accurate picture of the regard in which the League is held in Northeastern North Carolina:

November 12, 1931.  
Mr. T. S. Meekins, President  
Dare County Chamber of Commerce  
Manteo, North Carolina.

My dear Mr. Meekins:  
We have your reply to our letter of October 27, stating that Dare County does not seem to be much in the League as you don't believe our recommendations are in keeping with a real knowledge of conditions in the East.

Of course, not being on the ground, we are quite unable to understand completely what you have in mind in making such a statement. We are, however, communicating with the President of the Regional Council of North Carolina, Mr. David Lindsay of Spindale, asking him to investigate this matter and, if possible, talk with you relative to your problems. We would also appreciate further word from you as to just exactly what it is about our recommendations that are not in keeping with a real knowledge of conditions in your section.

The League is trying to work in cooperation with all interests, having to do with conservation of our natural resources, and in a short period of time has accomplished a great deal in your state. We are confident that our progress to date has been very sound and we expect that a great deal more will be accomplished in North Carolina.

If our recommendations are not made with the correct understanding, we would very much appreciate any advice you can give us.

Very sincerely yours,  
G. W. LOCKHART,  
Chapter Service Department.

November 17, 1931.  
Mr. G. W. Lockhart,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Lockhart:  
I have your letter of 12, instant wanting to know what recommendations your League has made which are not in keeping with conditions in our section, and the statement that your League has done much for North Carolina.

One recommendation made by your League is the shortening of the season for wildfowl in this and other sections of the east, without any provision whatever for the enforcement of the rules or regulations. It is evident to any one who knows conditions in this section that by this one act of the Department of Agriculture thousands upon thousands of wild ducks, geese and black brant will be destroyed that otherwise would have returned to their native breeding grounds. This recommendation is not only evidence of ignorance of real conditions in this section, but it is positive proof that your League is willing to make recommendations and insist upon them without a full knowledge of what you are doing.

I do not know of any real accomplishments your League has made in this state, except to create a few offices for those who know nothing about game of any kind, and so far as I have been able to ascertain, careless. As a matter of fact we have in this (Dare County) more waterfowl, shore birds and other migratory game birds than any county in the State, and we have other game such as bear, deer, foxes and yet there is not one dollar spent for the enforcement of a great voluminous lot of laws and regulations promulgated by the State as well as the Federal Government. The same conditions exist in other counties of the State and the people in this section are absolutely disgusted with the entire outfit of the so-called game protectionist.

Very truly yours,  
THEO. S. MEEKINS, Pres.  
Dare County Chamber of Commerce.

November 20, 1931.  
Mr. Theodore S. Meekins, President  
Dare County Chamber of Commerce  
Manteo, North Carolina.

Dear Mr. Meekins:  
The statements in your letter of November 17 to Mr. Lockhart, bearing upon the duck situation, are etc. for the Recorder's Court. We (Continued on page six)