

THE INDEPENDENT

TEN PAGES
IN TWO SECTIONS
THIS WEEK

A NEWSPAPER
FOR HUMAN BEINGS
WITH HEADS

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Government Relieving The Farmer of Last Hope for A Fair Return for Potatoes

The last vestige of hope for a curtailment of the Irish potato acreage has vanished with the availability of more Federal millions for loans to farmers. Prospects now are for an increased acreage and the outlook for anything like a cost of production price for this year's spuds has gone a glimmering. Another case of government relieving the farmer until it will relieve him of everything he has.

The Federal government thru the National Agricultural Credit Corporation is offering millions to farmers to grow bigger and bigger crops in the face of a farm crop surplus that has already bankrupted agriculture. Hundreds of potato growers who of necessity had planned to curtail their acreage are preparing to avail themselves of the new offer of loans and to plant more potatoes, with a small hope that disaster may happen to the crop in some other section of the country and give them a break at harvest time.

Thousands of small farmers who would have planted no potatoes at all this year, will avail themselves of government loans, content to give their labor in return for the potatoes they may eat and for the pocket change that will come from picking up and cutting the potatoes to the leading sheds.

In this newspaper's information that one Eastern Shore of Virginia farmer who had planned to abandon potatoes this year, has applied for a government loan of \$90,000 and will put it all in potatoes. Leading fertilizer manufacturers in and around Norfolk are imploring their big accounts to gamble on potatoes this season. If they must gamble, the fertilizer men know that is in store for the potato grower and are fearful of the consequences. If the government could be credited with so much foresight, one might suspect that it plans to create larger food surpluses this year for the benefit of the poor in this country.

In the meantime the R. A. C. C. with millions to lend is setting up the machinery in every county to make loans easily available to all who want them.

Larry E. Skinner, Jr., of Elizabeth City, has been designated as attorney for Pasquotank county whose certificate of title for liens, chattels and mortgages will be accepted by the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation of Raleigh, N. C., for loans to be made to the people of the county. John P. Stedman, executive vice president and manager, announced this week.

Mr. Stedman also announced that Mr. Wilma Sample of Elizabeth City has agreed to aid those of this county seeking to borrow money from the corporation in making out their applications in proper form, in facilitating the preliminary work and holding to save time and eliminate "red tape" in getting the loans through.

Fees for attorneys, paid by the applicants, are limited to one-half of one per cent of the loan, with a maximum of \$1 and a maximum of \$12.50 on chattels and liens, while the fees on real property will be governed by the amount of work involved in preparing the abstract and mortgage. Attorneys, as well as county farm agents, are agreeing to perform the duties connected with making loans largely for patriotic and community reasons, Mr. Stedman states, pointing out that county agents are cooperating splendidly.

Interest on the loans is at the rate of 5 per cent and a small inspection fee, depending on the size of the loan, will be added, Mr. Stedman states.

Loans will be confined to actual "farmers" whose main livelihood comes from farming, poultry, livestock and dairy operations, Mr. Stedman states. It is the farm owner, top, and not the tenant farmer, who will be the beneficiary of the R. A. C. C. assistance. Those engaged in producing crops, raising cattle, operating dairies and raising poultry on their own land will be extended loans under the regulations of the corporation.

Loans are made direct from the Raleigh office and do not have to be passed upon in Washington, thus eliminating time and trouble and permitting the borrowers to get their money much earlier than otherwise would be the case.

Acting unexpectedly, the House Committee on Judiciary No. 1 reported favorably the House-Murphy bill to legalize the sale of wine and beer in North Carolina contingent upon like action by Congress and to impose one-half whatever tax may be fixed by Congress. No formal speeches were made against the bill.

THIS REPORTER WAS MAKING NO WILD GUESS

By WM. KEITH SAUNDERS
Altho professing to know very little law, I nevertheless must take issue with County Auditor C. C. Pritchard when that worthy county official asserts that I "was guessing and making a bad job of it" when I stated in last week's issue of this newspaper that he is receiving \$360 per year, as compensation for fulfilling the duties of county auditor to which he has no legal right.

The office of County Auditor for Pasquotank county was established by Section 19, Chapter 61, Page 76, Public-Local Laws of 1915. This law set the salary of the County Auditor at \$1,600 per annum, and enumerated the various duties to be performed by this officer. Section 25 of the same chapter asserts in unmistakable language that "It shall be the duty of the said auditor to act as accountant for the County of Pasquotank." Neither of these sections has been repealed, amended or altered. Therefore, when, in perusing the County Auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1932, I noticed that County Auditor Pritchard was drawing \$30 per month salary as County Auditor in addition to his salary as County Auditor, I took this to be irregular. Perhaps I was guessing when I charged that Auditor Pritchard is not legally entitled to extra compensation as County Auditor, but I am inclined to believe my guess was better than that of the Board of County Commissioners which voted this salary to Mr. Pritchard under the provisions of Chapter 146, Section Three, Public Laws of North Carolina, 1927.

This law, which Auditor Pritchard uses as his defense and basis for his assertions regarding my "guesswork" is a part of the "County Fiscal Control Act." Here is what the law says: "It shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners of each county in the State, on or before the first Monday in April, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven, and biennially thereafter, to appoint some person of honesty and ability, who is experienced in the duties of a county auditor, to act as county auditor for the county." (Continued on Page Six)



HERE he is, folks—State 4-H corn club champion for 1932, a Pasquotank product, Alvin Sample, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Sample of Providence Township, competed with more than 1,800 corn club members last year and won the State Championship by raising 113 bushels of corn on an acre of land at a total cost of \$37.47. Photo by Zoeller.

An ancient coffin with a tree growing thru one side was washed from the ground near the Currituck Coast Guard station during a recent storm when 30 feet of shore washed away. A human skeleton lay inside the coffin. The size of the tree indicated the coffin to be more than 100 years old.



THE BANK CLERK AND THE SODA JERKER
THE BANK CLERK FORGETS HIS AGE

"I thought I was getting old," said the Bank Clerk to his friend the Soda Jerker. "Well, what you getting old?" responded the fizzle water vendor. "Not as old as I was beginning to think I was," replied the Bank Clerk. "I began to worry about my age when I began to attend some of these dances around town. They start about 10:30 at night and finish about 2 A. M. and then it's so near breakfast time that you get to go to a restaurant and get something to eat. You get to bed about 3 o'clock in the morning and when your alarm clock calls you to work you feel like 'ell."

"And I stay thru one of these dances feeling like a no-legged man at a kicking frolic. These young bucks and buckerinos around town can out dance me, out smoke me and out drink me. They may not have a dern thing in their heads except a sponge, but they can get more action out of their legs in one dance round than I can get out of mine in a night of it. I find myself ting down after two or three sets and go out with a party to take a drink for sociability, and maybe to revive my spirits. The party laps up several rounds of drinks and gets peppier with every drink; while after the second drink I'm ready to stretch out and go to sleep. These dances leave me with a feeling of great sadness; I'm a back number, an old fogey, a fossilized hunk of obsolescence. I was born 30 years too soon. That's the way I've been feeling; but I've found a dance club that has put the skids under my inferiority complex and given me a better opinion of myself and of folks who like to dance."

"I owe a lot to Virginia Edwards. You don't know Virginia; she's that smallest, old maidish looking little Home Demonstration Agent over in Currituck. She looks awfully prim and school marm, but when you get to know her she's a folksy little sport. When Virginia asked me to come over to a dance at Comjock Saturday night at 8:30. The invita-

tion appealed to me because I always thought; 8:30 a sensible hour to begin a dance; that gives a fellow a chance to get home at a decent hour. And so I attended the dance at the H. D. Club at Comjock Saturday night. Sure enough, the folks began to drop in at 8:30. Young folks, old folks and middle aged folks, with three or four pretty girls and young women for every man. For music they had a two piece orchestra for square dances, and a phonograph with an amplifier for the round dances. None of the girls smoked, there was no drinking, and I sauntered around the club grounds during an intermission, pried into every automobile and didn't find a single necking couple or drinking party. Now most of you young bucks will think that there's no fun at a party like that, but I haven't had such a good time at a dance in years and I came home without a headache or a leg ache. And before the evening was over I found myself in one of those old time barn dances or square dances, swinging my partners like a very devil and without a thought of my middle age."

"And you mean to tell me they can have a dance in Currituck without liquor?" asked the Soda Jerker. "In fact I created much confusion and caused a lot of good ladies to blush when I observed a puddle of water on the dance floor and made a wise crack about it. I sniffed the air and asked 'Who did it?' I thought somebody had spilled their liquid corn. But those good women don't think in terms of liquor at all and thought I was implying that some one had suffered a renal relaxation, or something like. You should have seen the dear girls give me a wide berth until they recovered from their shock."

Prohibition Enforcement Meets Its Supreme Challenge; A Fight to the Death or Quit

That the Prohibition Bureau of the U. S. Department of Justice either must lay down on the job and admit itself "licked" in its enforcement activities in this part of the country or must wage a fight to the finish with daring and dangerous gangsters seems to be the almost inevitable result of the treatment received by Prohibition Investigators J. L. Lancaster and E. A. Booth at the hands of certain bootleggers near St. Brides, Va., last Thursday night.

The facts made public concerning the case have been very meager. Lancaster and Booth, acting under orders from their superiors, could not say much about the affair. But P. M. Caudle, deputy prohibition administrator for the Eastern Carolina district, gave to a reporter for this newspaper all the facts in the case which he could divulge without hampering his investigation. Here's what happened:

Investigators Lancaster and Booth last Thursday night gave chase to a Master Eight Buick sedan which, according to their information, was carrying a load of liquor. The Buick outran their Dodge coupe and eluded the agents somewhere between the Carolina-Virginia line and Great Bridge, Va. After failing to pick up the trail of the rum-runner's car, the officers turned their Dodge around and headed back toward Elizabeth City. It was then around 10:30 P. M. Shortly after passing Hickory Grounds and before reaching St. Brides the officers heard a high-powered car bearing down on them from behind. As it passed them, they saw it was the Buick which they had chased. Just as they thought of giving chase to it again, the Buick swung across the road in front of them, leaving them the alternative of taking to the ditch or smashing into the Buick. They ran the Dodge into the ditch. Drawing their guns, they ordered the driver of the Buick to surrender himself. Offering no resistance whatever, he got out of the Buick and allowed them to place him under arrest. The officers were very well-pleased with their night's work and were delighted at the ease of their capture. But they did not know what was in store for them; they had not stopped to consider that their prisoner might be a "decoy" sent after them to lead them into a trap. They quickly found out, tho, for they had hardly arrested the driver of the Buick before another high-powered automobile arrived on the scene and a force of armed men got out and quickly surrounded the officers. These men, a tough-looking, powerful set, fully armed, did not have much trouble in persuading Lancaster and Booth to release their prisoner. The officers were then disarmed and ordered to get into the rum-runners' car and ride down the road with them. What happened thenceforth is merely rumor, for neither the officers nor Mr. Caudle would give out the facts as to the treatment accorded the officers. It is reported that Booth fled across a field and was shot at several times and that Lancaster was released after being treated roughly for some time and being made to get down on his knees and plead for mercy. Anyhow, the two officers escaped injury.

It is thought that these agents, either thru daring or ignorance, gave chase to a liquor car belonging to a highly-organized and dangerous band of rum-runners, who decided to teach the officers a lesson by throwing a genuine scare into them. Whether this "scare," coming on the heels of several clashes between the illicit liquor forces and the prohibition enforcement officers in this section in the past year, will result in acknowledgment of defeat by the officers or a clean-up of the lawless element remains to be seen. "If the Government ever proposes to do anything to check the bootleggers, it would seem that now is the time to do it," says J. P. Thompson, United States Commissioner. "Every time these fellows pull off such a wanton stunt as this and get by with it, they become more and more lawless and are encouraged to try something more daring and more outrageous."

Deputy Prohibition Administrator P. M. Caudle hastened here on Sunday when he learned exactly what had happened, and he spent the first part of the week in investigating the case. His report has been forwarded to district headquarters but its contents have not been divulged. Asked if he knew the names of any of the men who took part in the affair, he would not commit himself. Asked what course the government will pursue in the matter, he was silent. The only intimation he gave as to what may be expected was the solemn statement that "The law must be supreme. This might be construed to mean that the government purposes to

put an end to disregard of the law and bulldozing of officers of the law in this section. The government may stand for a certain amount of this sort of stuff, but there must be a limit, and it is just possible that the St. Brides affair may have aroused the government's "dander" to the point where action will be taken. If so, there's trouble in store for this section. There will be fireworks when and if the government agents close in on those Norfolk county gangsters.

Federal prohibition investigators stationed in this city deny that they had any such experience on Monday night, and Camden county officers likewise disclaim any knowledge of such an occurrence. It may be that the gentleman who brought the news to this newspaper was misinformed, and again it might be that officers really did let rum-runners get away from them and were ashamed to admit it.

Reported That Rum Cars Escaped Law
A reliable citizen of Beieross reported to this newspaper that officers sought to block five Virginia liquor cars in Camden county Monday night but that all five cars went by the officers at an amazing rate of speed, leaving them empty-handed.

'T. T.' with 'Bill C'



The Sawyer Co. (Bill C.), Elizabeth City's exclusive gents furnishes have added a new department, made to measure clothing. And it isn't just a gesture on the part of Sawyer Co.; the firm is going to push men's made to measure clothing and has secured T. T. Turner as manager of the new department. They would have had to look far to find a more popular or experienced salesman. T. T. Turner came to Elizabeth City 30 years ago and got his first experience under that old time maker of merchants, the late Chas. H. Robinson, in what was known as the Fair Store. When Mr. Robinson discontinued his retail business about 1908 Mr. Turner had already shown such aptness in fitting and selling men's clothes, that Mitchell's Department Store immediately employed him as manager of its clothing department. He was with Mitchell's seven years, later going in business for himself.

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Electric Light Rates Can Be Cut One Third, Says This Committee Report

Despite a general skepticism on the part of the townspeople, despite the assertion of a member of the Public Utilities Commission that they were a "bunch of damn fools" and despite Superintendent J. C. Parker's statement that they were unqualified to criticize the Public Utilities Commission, the utilities committee of the Young Men's Civic Club last week completed its investigation of local utility rates and submitted to the Club on Monday night a report showing how local light rates can be reduced by 33 1/3% without affecting the tax rate or affecting the operations of the utilities.

Money For Hall For Dr. Sunday Is Big Problem

If a committee composed of three local ministers and two laymen can, between now and Sunday afternoon, decide what type of auditorium, tabernacle or shelter shall be provided for the proposed Billy Sunday revival here and can discover means of financing this shelter, a unanimous invitation from the ministers and boards of the various churches of Elizabeth City will be forwarded to Dr. Sunday and the five-weeks campaign will probably get underway late in April.

The plan to bring Billy Sunday to Elizabeth City to arouse the dormant religious instincts of the populace, to return the back-sliders to the churches and thereby increase shrinking revenues, to throw the fear of the Lord into the hearts of thousands and to entertain with his vigorous antics and mannerisms his vigorous antics and mannerisms was first brought up by Rev. J. C. Wicker, pastor of the First Baptist church, at a meeting of the Elizabeth City Ministerial association. The ministers were unanimous in favoring a Billy Sunday religious campaign in Elizabeth City, but they wondered where the necessary funds to provide an auditorium would come from. So a meeting of all the ministers and their various boards of deacons, stewards, vestry and so forth, as well as interested laymen, was called. The meeting was held at First Methodist church last Sunday afternoon.

At that meeting, there was considerable discussion about the proposed revival, and when a vote was called for on the question of desiring to invite Dr. Sunday to come to Elizabeth City the vote was unanimously affirmative. But there still remained the problem of providing a place in which to hold the campaign. There is not a hall or an auditorium in the city that could conveniently be made to accommodate more than 1,000 or 1,200 persons, and it is estimated that twice that many should be accommodated if Billy Sunday is to be brought here. A committee composed of Rev. G. F. Hill, Rev. J. L. Carrick, Rev. J. H. Lanning, W. T. Love, Jr., and L. R. Foreman was appointed to investigate the cost of renting a tent, providing an auditorium of a permanent nature and to try to work out a plan for the financing of the type of meeting place decided upon. This committee is to report back at another meeting at First Methodist church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The plan of having the City provide the funds for the erection of a five or six thousand dollar hall for the Billy Sunday campaign and later to be used as a sort of city auditorium and convention hall evoked no enthusiastic response from city officials and seems to be out of consideration. The plan now deemed most feasible is that of borrowing \$7,500 or \$10,000 with which to finance the Billy Sunday campaign. Finding signatories for a note and finding that much available money are problems to be considered.

Dr. Sunday is ill at present and has been advised by physicians to take a rest for three months, but his wife, to whom Rev. Wicker talked over long distance telephone Sunday night, said he would more than likely be ready to begin a campaign here on April 23, the proposed date. The revival, if it should materialize, will begin April 23 and continue thru May 28.

We're all fed up with that word "Depression." Why not call it "The Predicament" or something, just for a change?

The high light of the Committee's report, which was adopted unanimously after lengthy discussion by the Club members, was the recommendation that the Public Utilities Commission, instead of carrying more than \$22,000 annually to its surplus account after paying all operating expenses and fixed charges and donating lights, water and cash to the City for tax relief purposes, should return this amount to the electric consumers as a dividend in the way of a lower light rate.

In the language of Norman N. Trueblood, author of the report, "Public utilities belong to the public and should be operated so as to benefit the public. When a big corporation makes certain earnings over and above all expenses and fixed charges, these earnings are passed on to the stockholders as dividends. The people of Elizabeth City are the stockholders in its public utilities, so why should they not receive the benefit of the annual surplus?"

The findings and recommendations of the committee which investigated local light and water rates with the purpose of showing how the 12c light rate could be reduced, were as follows:

L. Findings:
"The operation of the public utilities of Elizabeth City was taken over by the Public Utility Commission on February 1st, 1925. Upon examination of the records of the Public Utility Commission by the Civic Club committee, it was found that for the period that the Public Utility Commission has had charge of the operation of the public utilities, that is, from February 1st, 1925 through June 30th, 1932, the total net income, or profit, has been \$403,923.21, or an average of \$55,105.48 yearly. Of this net income, \$165,547.88 has been given to the city in the form of lights and water service rendered to its various departments, while \$74,990.01 in cash has been turned over to the general fund of the city for the relief of the tax burden of the city, making a total of \$240,537.89 that has been furnished by the users of the public utilities for the relief of the tax burden of the city. The remaining \$163,385.32 has been carried to the surplus account, and represents the total operating surplus as of June 30th, 1932, the date of the last audit."

"For the last fiscal year the total operating revenue was \$226,790.38, as compared with the average total operating revenue of \$247,045.68, yearly. For this same period the net income was \$53,504.82, which compares very favorably with the yearly average as shown above. During this period, \$26,119.26 was given to the city in the form of services rendered, and \$4,490.01 net in cash was donated to the city, making a total of \$30,609.27 donated to the city. The remaining \$22,895.55 was carried to the surplus account."

"This committee finds that the current furnished the city is charged at regular rates instead of at actual cost. In this connection, it may be said that it should be impossible to arrive at the actual cost, since there is a certain amount of overhead including maintenance involved. Since the expenses incurred relative to all overhead is carried in the proper expense account, it is not necessary, in the opinion of (Continued on Page Six)

Assassin Tries To Kill Roosevelt!

While aboard his special train in a Miami railroad station, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt was fired upon Wednesday night by a would-be assassin and narrowly escaped fatal injury. Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago was shot in the chest and was not expected to live. Four others were injured but were reported as having a chance. The gunman, one Joe Zangara of New York City, fired a stream of bullets into the presidential party during its reception at the station.