

THE INDEPENDENT

A NEWSPAPER FOR HUMAN BEINGS WITH HEADS

TWELVE PAGES IN TWO SECTIONS THIS WEEK

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1933.

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Elizabeth City Police Patrol System Must Be Changed to Combat Epidemic of Burglary

That the present police patrol system in use in Elizabeth City may be discontinued or altered in the near future is currently talked as the result of a wave of holdup burglaries in the city during the past week. Under the present system, it is entirely too easy for a criminal to keep a check on the patrolmen and so time his crime as to practically assure himself of no police interference.

Last Thursday night, someone broke into J. N. Wood's store on West Commons street and stole a quantity of flour, soda, cigars, cigarettes, and other small items were taken.

On the same night, thieves pulled the bars off a rear window of Bendler's North Road Street store, cut a hole in the wall, loaded the small iron safe on one of the little ladders and away by D. P. stores in a carbon offer and carted the safe to a point back of the gas plant. The safe was opened. Cash amounting to \$136.00 in cash, stamps and other small items were taken.

Someone cut a hole in the side door of J. T. Wynn's store on the corner of Cypress and Second streets on Thursday night.

On Friday night, a thief or thieves entered the Albemarle Laundry, about 700 block from police headquarters, took the safe into the laundry, unlocked the doors and carted away. The safe was found open in the West Main street. The safe door had been opened. The safe door had been opened. The safe door had been opened.

On Saturday night, a thief or thieves smashed the glass in the front door of J. J. James' place but was frightened away by a Negro who was sleeping inside.

The most daring crime of the week, however, occurred on Tuesday night, when a thief or thieves smashed two plate glass windows of Boyer & Harris' store on South Hampshire street and stole three pairs of shoes and some neckwear. This occurred around 10 o'clock at night in the business section just two short blocks off Main street. Only a few yards away was a white light and next door several persons were talking in Sedberry's drug store when the windows were broken. Persons in the drug store heard the glass shatter but paid no attention to it. It is believed that the crime was perpetrated by a Negro or Negroes whose eyes had been tied to a pair of almost "blue" shoes in the window. One of the windows was smashed last Tuesday and a similar robbery occurred.

In the present time, the police patrolmen walk a certain beat every night, calling headquarters regularly from box in different parts of the city. This system enables headquarters to keep a check on the patrolmen and to determine their whereabouts at all times. It also enables the criminal to make a like check. This makes robbery in Elizabeth City a fairly simple thing.

The system must be changed or more patrolmen added to the force as the demands made by many Elizabeth City citizens. And it is possible that the former may be changed.

At Death's Door



THOMAS J. NIXON, J.C. prominent Hertford business man, lies at the point of death at his home in Hertford. He suffered a paralytic stroke early Wednesday morning, following a long period of ill health. His two elder sons, Herbert, who is a student at Duke University, and Tom, who is a student at Marion Military Institute, Marion, Ala., have been summoned home.

For several years prior to his failing health three years ago Mr. Nixon was general manager of the Major & Loomis Lumber company of Hertford, and has been prominently identified with several other business enterprises. He is a member of the board of directors of the Hertford Banking company, and also of the Hertford Building & Loan association.

When A White Woman Is Below A Black Man Culpepper Asks For Moratorium On All Debts

Deplored the presence in Elizabeth City of such "moral putridity" and "rotteness," Trial Justice W. C. Morse, Jr., in Recorder's Court Tuesday morning found Nettie Pritchard, white, and Starkey Holloman, colored, guilty of prostitution and sentenced the woman to serve 18 months in the county jail, the man to serve 12 months.

It was Judge Morse's opinion that, in a prostitution case involving a white woman and a colored man, the woman is the most guilty of the two. Fortunately for Holloman, tho, the reputation of the woman in the case was very much against her and, besides, this section is not inclined toward mob violence. Had a colored man been caught consorting with a white woman in some sections of the country the result might have been horrible.

In response to a telephone call, Chief Holmes went to a vacant house on Harney Street on Monday afternoon to investigate a reported black-and-white prostitution case. After trying the door and finding them locked, Chief Holmes called and no one answered. He then sent Claude Bailey, who was with him at the time, down the street to get a key to the house. While Bailey was gone, Starkey Holloman came out of the back door.

Stepping to the door, Chief Holmes saw Nettie Pritchard on the inside, with her coat and shoes off and her dress torn around the breast. He placed the white woman and the colored man under arrest, charging them with prostitution. The woman, he recalled, was the same woman who was found stark naked roaming around in a colored residential section of the city about two years ago and who had been banished from the county for a year as a result.

"On that first occasion, the officers had quite a time getting the woman into the patrol car because of her weight and her fighting disposition. She proved almost equally untractable this week. Several Negro men of the neighborhood had to be deputized to assist in getting her to police headquarters, and even then she managed to implant a few hard kicks on different parts of the Chief's anatomy.

Holloman's attorney tried to show that his client had been guilty of no wrong, had merely gone into the house to find out who was there and had been unfortunate enough to be caught leaving. He moved for a dismissal of the charge, but Judge

"I believe nearly every person in the state who owes a bill to his merchant will be glad of the opportunity of an extension of his morality, it would not be discreet for him to let his aspirations along this line be known too far in advance of the election. The 1931 General assembly, it will be remembered, is slated almost until June. If the 1933 session should lag along, Mr. Culpepper might have to remain in Raleigh almost until the date of the election, and certainly no man could represent his county in the General Assembly in Raleigh and campaign for the majority in his home town, 170 miles distant, at the same time. There would remain the possibility of Mr. Culpepper committing some indiscretion, such as supporting an unpopular bill, before the Legislature should adjourn. So, if he is the man who is to lead the anti-administration ticket in the municipal election in May, he and his supporters naturally would say

"Unless steps are taken to stop the drain of cash, the people of North Carolina will soon be in a position where they will have to stand in breadlines every day because all their property will have been taken away from them to satisfy their debts in a period when they are temporarily unable to pay.

"Unless steps are taken to relieve the merchants of the immediate necessity of meeting their obligations until they can collect from their customers, the whole business life of the state will be at a standstill and the morale and credit of the state suffer thereby.

"While the farmer must be taken care of, the best way to aid him is to stop the running of the statute of limitations against his debts. The merchants get their business from farmers and other urban customers. Merchandising in North Carolina employs more employees than industry and is the backbone of newspapers which carry daily events into the homes of the state. And so, if merchandising goes under, the press would be deprived, and our people would be deprived of the newspaper, our greatest educational institution, and would not be able to keep up with the happenings of the world every day. In my opinion my bill is proposed in substance and if passed, will be as good a piece of legislation for the come back of the State of North Carolina to its normal condition as can be enacted in the 1933 Session of General Assembly. As it does seem to me that the merchants of our state are always left out as it should be admitted that they are one of the states greatest assets.

"This legislature is proposing to declare a moratorium on real estate mortgages and tax sales certificates, and the only way the merchant is mentioned is insofar as he might be aided by the relief given to the farmer. Now the merchants find themselves in the position where they are in dire need of relief and yet this General Assembly now in session proposes to place the unsupportable burden of a General Sales Tax in the shoulders of an already over burdened business which I am very much opposed to. In substance it all seems up to this. The merchant may have his thousands of dollars of open accounts due him

ONE POLITICAL POT THAT AINT BOILING FAST

With the local municipal election only about ten weeks off, political "insiders" and "dopesters" are strangely silent and uncommunicative as to the prospects, and rumors concerning candidates are mysteriously non-existent or hidden. There simply hasn't been any talk, to date, regarding the city election to be held on May 2.

The current situation in this respect is unusual. Not in many years, according to old-timers, have political talk, gossip and announcement of candidacies been stifled or withheld until a date so late. That there is some reason for the strange silence on the part of the politicians and the political-minded seems certain. But what?

One possible reason has been advanced. It is thought in some quarters that W. T. Culpepper, Pasquotank county's representative in the General Assembly, may seek the office of Mayor again this year. Mr. Culpepper no doubt would like to be Mayor. The fact that he has twice sought the office would indicate this. It is also pretty generally known that the element that is opposed to Mayor Jerome B. Flora is planning to make another determined fight against the administration and is on the alert for a leader. That this leader may be Mr. Culpepper is the one and only rumor to come to the writer's ears concerning the approaching election.

If this be the case, the reason for the unusual silence is made obvious. If Mr. Culpepper is to seek the mayoralty, it would not be discreet for him to let his aspirations along this line be known too far in advance of the election. The 1931 General assembly, it will be remembered, is slated almost until June. If the 1933 session should lag along, Mr. Culpepper might have to remain in Raleigh almost until the date of the election, and certainly no man could represent his county in the General Assembly in Raleigh and campaign for the majority in his home town, 170 miles distant, at the same time. There would remain the possibility of Mr. Culpepper committing some indiscretion, such as supporting an unpopular bill, before the Legislature should adjourn. So, if he is the man who is to lead the anti-administration ticket in the municipal election in May, he and his supporters naturally would say

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nothing about it as yet.

As for Mayor Flora and the other incumbent municipal officeholders, they, of course, are not prone to let their plans and intentions be known until the opposition has been heard from. It is just possible that this may explain the mystery of complete and utter silence on the part of all the politicians with the election so near at hand.

P. U. C. Refuses To Reduce Light Current Rates

Insisting that it could not make a reduction in the local electric light current rate "at the present time and under present conditions" and still meet its periodic bond payments, the Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday night flatly spurned the recommendation of the Young Men's Civic Club that the light current rate be cut from 12 to eight cents a kilowatt hour. The attitude of the Commission suggested that no relief in the form of lower rates could be expected by Elizabeth Citizens at any time in the near future.

"We would like very much to grant this reduction," said Dr. A. L. Pendleton, chairman of the P. U. C., "but we see no possible way in which we can do this and still retire our bonds as they come due. No one is more anxious than the members of the Commission to reduce the electric light rate, but it simply cannot be done at present."

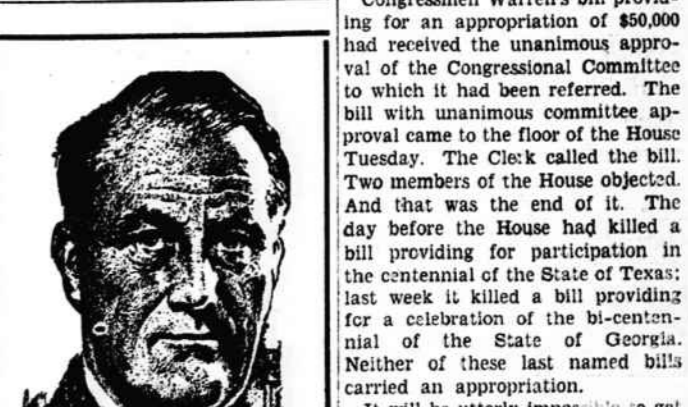
The Civic Club committee argue and expostulated with the Commission for about an hour and a half, but to no avail. No amount of arguing could have influenced the Commission to grant a reduction from the 12 cent rate. The committee tried to show that the Public Utilities Commission, during the few years it has operated the public utilities of the city, has met all interest and principal payments on utilities bonds, has given cash to the city's general fund annually, has donated lights and water to the city in the amount of \$165,547.88 and, in addition to all this, has been able to carry into its operating surplus account a total of \$163,395.32, or in excess of \$22,000 each year.

The committee argued that, with operating expenses held down to the level or possibly cut a little more, as Superintendent J. C. Parker has intimated they might, with no apparent need of any fixed improvements such as water meters, a white way, et cetera, for some time to come, and in view of the virtual

(Continued on Page Four)

Congress Denies Consideration Of Bill for Roanoke Island Settlement Celebration In 1934

Congress has turned thumbs down on any consideration of an appropriation for the proposed celebration of the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of English-speaking civilization in America on Roanoke Island in 1934.



Congressmen Warren's bill providing for an appropriation of \$50,000 had received the unanimous approval of the Congressional Committee to which it had been referred. The bill with unanimous committee approval came to the floor of the House Tuesday. The Clerk called the bill. Two members of the House objected. And that was the end of it. The day before the House had killed a bill providing for participation in the centennial of the State of Texas; last week it killed a bill providing for a celebration of the bi-centennial of the State of Georgia. Neither of these last named bills carried an appropriation.

It will be utterly impossible to get any action from this Congress, says Congressman Warren, who suggests that funds might be solicited from private sources.

There is also a suggestion that the celebration be postponed until the year 1935, in hopes that a revival of confidence and improved business and financial conditions might warrant another effort to get a Federal appropriation. It has been proposed to celebrate the birth of English-speaking civilization in America, the 350th anniversary of which would fall in 1934, the year of the landing of the first expedition of Sir Walter Raleigh on Roanoke Island. The first actual settlement in America was not made on Roanoke Island until 1585 and the year 1935 would mark the 350th anniversary of the first English Settlement in America.

W. O. Saunders, president of Roanoke Island Historical Association and originator of the idea of a celebration of national importance on Roanoke Island, frankly professes discouragement. "I am not a man to take a licking lying down," he said, "but I feel no encouragement to go ahead in the face of adverse circumstances and in a State that is characterized by apathy, inertia and the spirit of 'let George do it.' I am having a pretty tough uphill fight keeping my own little business going. I can not risk a sacrifice of my own business and the bread and butter of my family by undertaking the task of going out into the highways and by-ways and sandbagging wealthy patriots to get the funds necessary to stage an important celebration. I might somehow succeed in putting the thing over and erecting a monument for myself, but my family can't live on a tombstone."

A meeting of the directors of the Roanoke Island Historical Association will be called at an early date to determine the next move.

The idea of celebrating the 350th anniversary of the birth of English-speaking civilization on Roanoke Island in 1934 will not be abandoned. Something will be done about it.

Elizabeth City To Celebrate ROOSEVELT DAY SAT., MARCH 4th

Watch the big issue of this newspaper next week.

The following business establishments are co-operating:

- McCabe & Grice
- Louis Selig
- D. Walter Harris
- E. S. Chesson & Son
- Sunshine Grocery
- Virginia Dare Coffee Shoppe
- Buxton White Seed Co.
- Carolina and Alkrama Theatres
- Garrett Hardware Co.
- D. M. Jones Co.
- Leslie Belanga
- The Apothecary Shop
- Service News Co.
- Culpepper Hardware Co.
- Sawyer & Harris
- Elizabeth City Floral Co.
- Elizabeth & Suburban Gas Co.
- M. G. Morrisette & Co.
- Sawyer Co.
- Rucker & Sheely Co.
- Puritan Cafe
- Stevens Tire Store
- Gerald's Confectionery

New Telephone Directory In Our Printers Hands

Copy for the spring, summer and fall issue of The Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company's directory was completed this week and is now in the hands of The Independent for printing. The new directory will be ready for distribution to subscribers on or before April 1st. Typing and printing a telephone directory is not a rush job; proofs must be read and re-read to insure the accurate listing of the telephone numbers of thousands of subscribers in Elizabeth City, Hertford, Edenton, Mantoloking and on rural lines. The Independent has printed this telephone directory for many years. Your telephone company keeps this big printing job at home.

Automatic presses, folding machinery, stitching machinery, power driven paper cutters and the "know how" enables The Independent to handle jobs like a telephone directory with speed and satisfaction.

A petition demanding that evictions of the unemployed be stopped, and that water and lights be furnished the jobless families of the city, was drafted by the executive committee of the Durham unemployed council this week and will be presented before the city council at their next meeting.

Balance The Budget and Go Home Without Levying More Taxes

By W. O. SAUNDERS

The members of the General Assembly of North Carolina in session were elected with one supreme mandate from the people: to reduce taxes. And they seem to have been chiefly concerned with ways and means to find more taxes since they gathered in Raleigh early in January.

They now propose to raise more taxes by either a sales or luxury tax; so long as the people have a dollar to spend the State will continue to grab a greater and greater share of that dollar.

They must have six or eight million dollars that a sales tax will provide, taxing the bread and butter or the pleasures of the poor—take your choice. They would bankrupt hundreds of border line merchants by driving much of their trade to States having no sales tax. They would bankrupt every merchant whose margin of net profit is already less than the sales tax it is proposed to levy.

Why resort to a sales or luxury tax? Why add to the crushing tax burden of the people and why drive thousands of struggling merchants to the wall?

Why not do the simple, sensible expedient thing and cut the State budget another six or eight million dollars. Why persist in spending money we haven't got, pursuing the folly and madness of digging ourselves into a hole so deep that we can never climb out.

By the simple process of lopping two, three or even four months off the public school term in North Carolina for the next two years, the tax payers can save six millions, eight millions or twelve millions a year for the next two years. The General Assembly can balance the State budget overnight and go home.

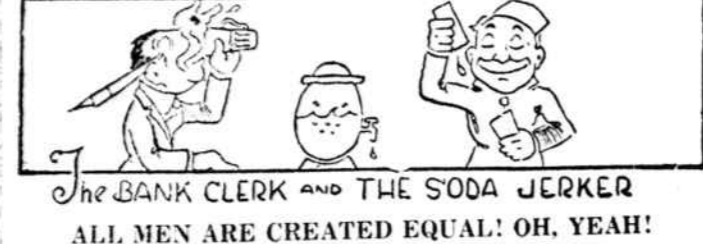
Away with all the talk about the sanctity of education and the future of our children! Nothing is more sacred than the preservation of the home and the conservation of public health. The children of the masses in North Carolina—and their parents—are in want for clothes for their backs and food for their bellies. And we would jeopardize all private property and impoverish our people in the interest of mass education.

It is all so obviously simple. Reduce the school term in North Carolina that is costing 24 million dollars a year for maintenance alone; reduce it to the number of months we can afford to pay for: Balance the budget without resort to additional taxes and go home, Mr. Legislator, go home!

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85 per cent of all people have defective vision. Are you one of these? Have your eyes examined today. DR. J. D. HATHAWAY, Carolina Building.

(Continued on Page Eight)



ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL! OH, YEAH!

"Well, it looks as if the General Assembly is going to adopt some sort of sales tax in spite of the N. C. M. A. W. O. S., and the devil," remarked the Soda Jerker.

"Yee," replied the Bank Clerk. "Our law makers persist in running counter to the philosophy of that famous political document upon which democratic government in America was modeled."

"What's that?" asked the Soda Jerker.

"I am speaking of the Virginia Bill of Rights, adopted in the Virginia Convention at Williamsburg, Va., on June 15, 1776, 20 days before the proclamation of the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia."

"Well, what about this Virginia Bill of Rights?"

"Just this," replied the Bank Clerk: "The Virginia Bill of Rights held that men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights of which, when they enter into a State of Society, they can not by any compact deprive or divest their posterity."

"Democratic government in America is supposed to have been patterned after the Virginia Bill of Rights which held that government could not deprive or divest posterity of certain rights. And for the past forty years government has been steadily divesting not only posterity, but its present subjects, of every desirable right by pyramiding the burden of taxation. Here in North Carolina we have already piled up an indebtedness of 525 million dollars for posterity to pay with interest compounded."

"Well, all I can say is, the government is the people and the people have been piling it on themselves."

NOW \$1.00

What we know just which corner to look around for elusive prosperity. The Independent will be mailed to subscribers in the Elizabeth City territory only for the low price of \$1.00 a year for 6 months. Counties embraced in the Elizabeth City trade territory are: Camden, Currituck, Chowan, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Tyrrell. Elsewhere the subscription price will be \$1.50 a year, \$1.00 for 6 months, 50 cts. for 3 months. The Independent is the best depression tonic you can buy.