



WE DO OUR PART

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THE INDEPENDENT

A NEWSPAPER FOR HUMAN BEINGS WITH HEADS

State Banking Commissioner Hood Says He is Anxious to Approve New Bank for E. City

"What's The Matter With The First & Citizens National?" Queries C. O. Robinson, Board Chairman of That Institution

"Elizabeth City needs another bank and we are anxious to approve an acceptable plan for reopening the Savings Bank & Trust Co.," said State Banking Commissioner Gurney P. Hood following a conference with Miles L. Clark and Graham W. Bell in Elizabeth City Tuesday morning.

At the conclusion of the conference Mr. Clark stated that Mr. Hood would not approve a plan presented by him and his associates and that he was through with it. Mr. Clark's plan contemplated a reorganization of the Savings Bank & Trust Co. with a new issue of \$50,000 preferred capital stock, the return of former stockholders to be provided upon the retirement of the old stock issue. Mr. Hood said that his department could not approve such a plan except where a banking emergency existed, and no such emergency existed in Elizabeth City.

Commissioner Hood, accompanied by C. I. Taylor, head of the liquidation division of the State Banking Department, attended the conference of Group One of the North Carolina Bankers Association at Raleigh Monday and spent Tuesday morning in the city on their return trip to Raleigh.

"Elizabeth City needs a new bank," reiterated Mr. Hood, "and the Savings Bank building should be utilized for banking purposes. It is not suitable for a store building, because it has no back door for delivery purposes and no storage room. To make it available for mercantile purposes it would be necessary to dismantle the banking fixtures and make a sacrifice of those valuable fixtures. We have been in no hurry to dispose of the building, but the liquidation of the bank must be terminated and it will be necessary to make some disposition of the real estate within the next few months."

"I am hoping," said Mr. Hood, "that the Elizabeth City people will come forward with plans for a new bank that we can approve." C. O. Robinson, Chairman of the Board of the First & Citizens National Bank commenting upon Mr. Hood's statement that Elizabeth City needs a new bank, said: "What's the matter with the one we have? Elizabeth City is getting along very well with one telephone company, one gas company and one electric light and power agency, isn't it?"

"It must be admitted," said Mr. Robinson, "that there is some congestion at the First & Citizens National Bank on Saturdays, due to the fact that we are handling the deposits of a number of local industries. This congestion is to be relieved by advancing our textile mill pay rolls a day, throwing this business on the bank on Fridays instead of Saturdays."

Those who know Mr. Hood are anxious that local people make no further move to organize a bank, that he will make overtures to some out of town banking concern to step in and take over the bank building and fixtures for a branch bank.

Retiring P. M. Thinks He Has Been Fortunate

Most men who had been a U. S. Postmaster for 12 years and would now find themselves displaced by a man of another political creed would consider themselves to be unfortunate. Strangely, Jethro A. Hooper, retiring local Republican Postmaster, does not feel that way about it at all. In fact, Mr. Hooper has considered himself to be a very fortunate man.

Mr. Hooper was appointed to the Postmastership in 1922, when the Republican Party entered upon its 16-year reign of power. He succeeded Dr. A. L. Pendleton. Prior to retiring the appointment, Mr. Hooper had been a traveling salesman for more than 23 years. Born at Rodanthe on the Dare County "banks," he entered the Coast Guard service when he was a young man. After finishing in the service for six years he returned and moved to Elizabeth City to take a job as salesman for Foster and Company, where he remained for 15 1/2 years. He then transferred to C. H. Robinson Wholesale Co. for eight years.

At the time of his appointment to the Postmastership, Mr. Hooper was probably the highest-paid traveling (Continued on Page Two)

COMMANDER PRICE IS NO STRANGER HERE



COMMANDER PRICE

When a new commanding officer likes the men he is to have under his command and is liked by those men, it is more than likely that his tenure of office will be marked by harmony and cooperation. Such should be the state of affairs in the Seventh Coast Guard District during the next three or four years, when Commander James A. Price will be in charge of the district.

Commander Price was named last week to succeed Commander W. W. Bennett as Seventh District Commander. He probably will take charge of the district around the first of June.

Commander Price is no stranger to the men of the Seventh District. He served as commander here from 1922 to 1926, during which time he won for himself the love and esteem of his men. He was followed by Commander O. A. Littlefield, who served until 1930. Commander Littlefield was succeeded by Commander Bennett, who was transferred the first of this month to Grand Haven, Mich., his old home.

Upon Commander Bennett's transfer, Commander Price let it be known that he would like to return to the Seventh District. He liked the district and he liked the Coast Guard personnel in the district. Headquarters fulfilled this desire last week.

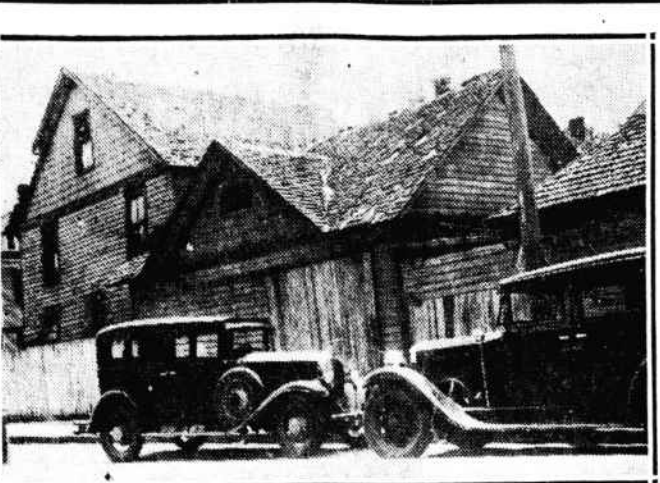
Captain L. T. Doughty, ordnance officer in local headquarters for the past five years, also wanted to succeed Commander Bennett, and he stood the examination for Commander in Washington last week. Most of the men in the district wanted Captain Doughty to win the promotion, for he is highly popular throughout the district, but the men were by no means displeased at the appointment of Commander Price, who was well-liked by his men when he left here in 1926.

It is fortunate for the district that Commander Price is no stranger here. It is no easy matter for an officer from the New England or Great Lakes regions to adjust himself to the manners and customs of the Seventh District and to grasp the points of views of the men in this district. It is difficult for a Northerner to win the confidence and esteem of Seventh District Coast Guardsmen. Fortunately, Commander Price already is acquainted with Seventh District men and customs and is pretty generally liked by the men. He should have a harmonious and pleasant tenure of office.

Death Holds Own
Death held its own on North Carolina highways during April. Fifty-nine persons were killed in automobile accidents during that month, bringing to 257 the highway death toll for 1934. There were 319 accidents in April, in which 460 persons were injured in addition to the 59 killed.

A Japanese Bible for the blind, printed in Braille characters, has been completed in 34 volumes.

Mayor and Fire Chief Publicly Rebuked



UNSIGHTLY FIRE HAZARD THAT PROVOKED REBUKE

THE urgency of razing this unsightly and dangerous fire hazard in the heart of the city was impressed upon Mayor Jerome B. Flora, upon whose mother's property it stands, by a field representative of a fire insurance company at a meeting here Wednesday. Godfrey Cheshire of Raleigh, attending a fire prevention conference here, spoke thus to the group that was assembled in the Virginia Dare Hotel ballroom Wednesday morning: "You don't have to go far to find an example of what is wrong here in Elizabeth City. You can't walk out of the hotel without your eyes encountering a dangerous fire hazard. That old worthless building (pointing out the window to the above structure) might cause a serious conflagration here under adverse conditions. It is of no value except as firewood. An enlightened citizenry should demand that such hazards be removed. Of course, the citizens can't band themselves together and tear it down, but they can arouse enough public sentiment to cause the owner to do so."

Mr. Cheshire did not know it, but the old stables he referred to belong to the mother of Mayor-City-Manager-Fire Chief Flora, who had but a few minutes earlier welcomed the insurance men here and who was then sitting just a few feet away from the speaker. Local citizens attending the conference were amazed and pleased with Mr. Cheshire's unwitting rebuke. Leading citizens have long pleaded with Mayor Flora to destroy the old buildings, and he has promised to raze them, but nothing has ever been done further than that. This eyesore, situated directly in front of the town's leading hotel, has given many visitors a bad impression of the city. Mr. Cheshire's unintentional chastisement may produce results which local sentiment could not. Staff photo.

Cucumbers Late Pickle Plant To Open July 1st

Because adverse growing conditions throw the cucumber crop in this section several weeks behind and necessitated replanting in numerous cases, the local pickle plant, now operated by the Helwig & Latta Corp. of Baltimore, probably will not begin operations this season until around July 1, according to W. E. Hilbert, manager of the plant.

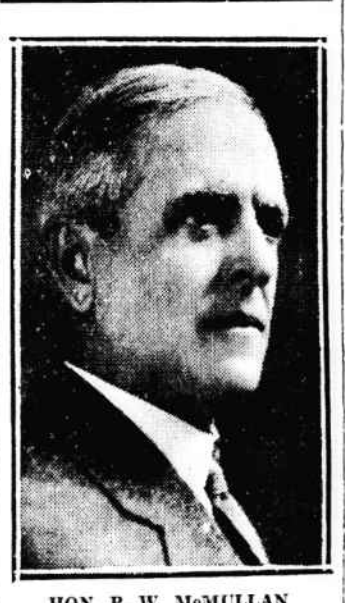
The plant has contracted for 210 acres of cucumbers this season and is expecting to put up around 5,000 barrels, granted a fair yield. It had been hoped to begin operations on or around June 15, but adverse weather during the early part of the growing season delayed the crop so that it is hardly likely that the growers will begin delivering the cucumbers to the plant before July 1.

In the meanwhile, the new management is making improvements at the pickle plant. A new grading machine has been installed and nine additional brining tanks are being set up. The plant has fifty tanks of 80-barrel capacity each, in addition to the nine new tanks.

According to Mr. Hilbert, it is Helwig & Latta's plans to expand the local plant so as to include all the processes of manufacturing the pickles, provided the farmers of the section cooperate to the extent that they will furnish cucumbers of the desired quality. At present, nothing is done here except the curing of the raw stock, which is then shipped to Baltimore for manufacturing purposes.

The plant will pay around \$8,000 to farmers in this section this summer.

Just Mentioned



HON. P. W. McMULLAN

AN Elizabeth City man was prominently mentioned for the Supreme Court bench of North Carolina this week, upon the passing of the late Justice W. J. Adams. P. W. McMullan, in many ways one of the ablest members of the local bar and one of the finest legal minds in North Carolina, is generally recognized as Supreme Court timber. Some were encouraged to believe that Governor Ehringhaus, who hails from Elizabeth City, would grab the opportunity to honor a fellow townsman for whom he has great personal admiration. But Governor Ehringhaus appointed Superior Court Judge Michael Schenck of Hendersonville. The Governor's eye is on the West.

A New Deal For The Fishermen Says Etheridge

Recent adoption of the National fishery code is termed by R. Bruce Etheridge, director of the Department of Conservation and Development as an important step toward bringing about a "New Deal" for the thousands of fishermen on the North Carolina coast and elsewhere.

Copies of the approved code, recently received by the conservation department, reveal that provisions for a number of features toward which the State agency has been working have been made. In particular, the code paves the way for the adoption of national grades or standards for fishery products.

Among other things, it provides that "the National Code Authority and the several Executive committees shall investigate the feasibility and wisdom of establishing a proper system and agency for the grading of products of the industry for the fourfold purpose of benefiting the fishermen, stabilizing the industry, preventing destructive price-cutting, and eliminating from the market not only immature and undersized fish and shellfish, but also all types of inferior and unwholesome products of the industry."

Director Etheridge and others seeking to promote the development of North Carolina's fisheries have expressed the belief that the adoption of an adequate system of grading and standardization of seafoods, along with other conservation measures, could be made to add millions of dollars annually to the income of fishermen of the State.

He believes that the improvement which should naturally follow the change in marketing methods will reverse the downward trend in the income of the fishermen and help bring them parity in return for their products. While the income of other groups, as a rule, has increased during the last year, that of the fisherman has steadily declined. In 1928, according to the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, the value of catch of all fishery products in North Carolina was \$2,629,214, but had dropped to only about \$800,000 in 1933.

Largely as a result of federal measures, it was pointed out, the value of principal farm crops in North Carolina jumped from \$104,167,000 in 1932 to \$192,595,000 in 1933. The fisherman, according to Mr. Etheridge, is entitled to the same consideration received by the farmer.

State Senator Lloyd E. Griffin To Seek A Modification of Present 3 Per Ct. Sales Tax

That he will work and vote for a modification of the existing 3 per cent sales tax if nominated and re-elected to the General Assembly of North Carolina was the statement made to this newspaper this week by State Senator Lloyd E. Griffin, of Edenon, who is a candidate for re-election.

Graded School Trustees Guilty Law Violation

If Shepard's Citations may be regarded as a reliable authority (and this book is generally regarded as such,) the members of the Board of Graded Schools Trustees of Elizabeth City are liable to indictment on a misdemeanor charge arising out of recent teacher elections for the coming term.

Section Four, Chapter 76, Public Laws of 1915, part of an act relating to the school trustees of the City of Elizabeth City, says: "That no person who is related to any member of the board of trustees of said graded school to a degree that would disqualify one to serve as a juror shall be eligible to employment as teacher in said graded school. Each and every member of said board of trustees who shall vote to employ any person ineligible under the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined or imprisoned, in the discretion of the court."

Shepard's Citations, which are generally relied upon as a guide in searching to see if a law has been amended, repealed or superceded since its passage, contains no reference to the above-quoted law, so the law presumably is still in force.

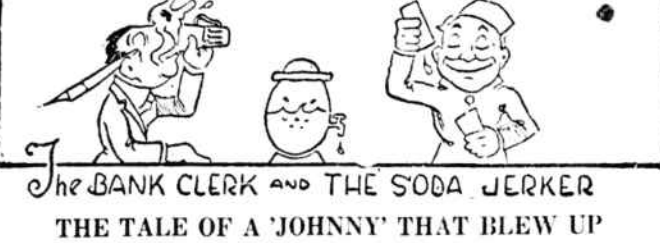
At the April meeting of the local school board, when teachers were elected for the 1934-35 term, relations of three members of the board were elected. They were: Miss Lota J. Spence, of Norfolk, niece of Trustee George J. Spence; Miss Virginia LeRoy, sister of Trustee Margaret Winder, first cousin of the wife of Trustee A. Raymond Moore.

According to the above law, it appears that each and every member of the school board who voted for either of these three teachers is subject to indictment.

This law was introduced by Walter L. Cohoon, who represented this county in the General Assembly in 1913.

Virginia Dare Gardento Open Saturday 26th

Elizabeth City folk, visitors and tourists may eat, drink and be merry under the moon and stars when Chas. Vanture, Virginia Dare Hotel caterer, throws open his Virginia Dare Garden Saturday, May 26th.



THE BANK CLERK AND THE SODA JERKER

THE TALE OF A 'JOHNNY' THAT BLEW UP

Funny how the whole country seems to have gotten a kick out of that CWA Privy page that appeared in *The Independent* a few weeks ago," said the Bank Clerk. "And they tell me at *The Independent* offices that big New York bankers, stockbrokers, Wall Street lawyers, U. S. Senators and executives of big corporations have ordered copies of the paper by the hundreds. You wouldn't think that big men surrounded by every modern convenience and luxury would be interested in a satire on a commonplace thing like backhouses?"

"You forget from what humble beginnings most of the big men in this country came," replied the Soda Jerker. "I'll bet my shirt that old man John D. Rockefeller, Henry Ford, Will Rogers, Irv. Cobb and most of the older celebrities you can name, have passed many an hour in an old fashioned backhouse. And you can bet your plus fours that President Roosevelt himself is familiar with them. If he didn't use them in his youth, he certainly formed acquaintance with them when he found Warm Springs, Ga."

"Our lives are compassed about by memories," continued the Soda Jerker; "and some of the most intimate memories of our childhood are associated with the primitive three-holer back on the farm. We don't discuss these peculiar memories until some wag breaks out with a wise crack that opens up the subject, and then we suddenly break into fits of laughter because we've just been waiting for years for some one to drag the subject out into the open. The Saunders tribe did just that thing in the biggest possible way when they publicized the construction of 25 miles of backhouses by the CWA in North Carolina and had a lot of fun with the project.

Two Cent Tax Enough

"I believe any candidate would be foolish to pledge himself to abolish the sales tax until the people have had an opportunity next fall to vote for a new constitution that gives broader taxing powers to the Legislature. For instance, under our present constitution, incomes in North Carolina can not be taxed more than six per cent. The new constitution would place no limit on income taxes and it might be that under a new constitution we would raise more taxes out of incomes without resort to a sales tax. But that new constitution hasn't arrived yet."

"But we have seen the mistakes of the present sales tax and they should be corrected. The collection of the present tax is complicated and in many instances thwarted by the removal of these exemptions, the tax can be easily lowered to two cents. Stop the leaks and two per cent would be as productive of as much revenue as the present rate of three per cent. I am also convinced that the administration of collections of the tax may be simplified and great economies thereby effected. I am going to work and vote for a lower sales tax, if no way can be found to abolish it altogether."

When Sales Tax Will Be Abolished
"Frankly, I think the sales tax in North Carolina will ultimately be abolished by the Federal government. Our educational system has bankrupted many states and they are a nationwide demand for Federal appropriation of \$240,000,000 to be allocated to the States for the maintenance of a uniform public school system in all states. The Federal government would provide for such an appropriation by a general sales tax collected at the source. North Carolina's allocation from such an appropriation would be, on the basis of our population, \$6,400,000. With this Federal aid North Carolina would abolish its State sales tax. Federal support of the public school system is not a remote prospect."

Senator Griffin's views parallel those of State Senator Dudley Bagley who teamed with him in the last General Assembly. Both admit that they voted for the State sales tax only as a last resort, when no other method of raising needed revenues could be found. Their service in the last General Assembly was characterized by industry, ability and integrity. They brought to their legislative duties a rare display of intelligence and courage.

POTATO HEARING
County Agent Grover W. Falls has been notified that a hearing on the proposed marketing agreement for early Irish potatoes is being held in the Chamber of Commerce Building in Norfolk Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock. The meeting has been called by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Mr. Falls does not know any details about the meeting or its purpose. He is planning to attend, however.

peach. For fancy ice cream mixtures, I shall handle the products of Southern dairies."