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V. E. & P. Co. Believed Likely To Extend Its Power Line to Pt. Harbor and Maybe to Dare

Upon learning this week that the Virginia Electric & Power Company of Norfolk is preparing to extend its power line from Moyock to Coinjock, in Currituck County, optimistic Elizabeth Citizens predicted eventual extension of the Vepeco lines to Point Harbor and thence across Currituck Sound to the Dare Coast.

The V. E. & P. Co., which originally intended to start work on the Moyock-Coinjock power line in 1936, has held off on it because of the small number of potential customers along the proposed route. Dudley Bagley, whose home is at Moyock and who is serving as chairman of the State Rural Electrification Authority, is generally credited with persuading the power company to rush this project along.

The proposed line probably will run from Moyock thru Tulls Creek to Currituck Courthouse, and thence to Coinjock, a total distance of 12 to 14 miles.

The power company has considered this extension for several years, but has held off on it because of the small number of potential customers along the proposed route. Dudley Bagley, whose home is at Moyock and who is serving as chairman of the State Rural Electrification Authority, is generally credited with persuading the power company to rush this project along.

Another result of the proposed extension probably will be the construction of a modern drawbridge, with electrically-operated mechanism, across the Albemarle & Chesapeake Canal at Coinjock.

Gasoline mechanism has been used exclusively on this bridge ever since its construction, and the independence and defectiveness of this mechanism has resulted in four deaths, most recent of which occurred last year.

In July, 1934, David Dindsay, 64-year-old tender of the bridge, was suddenly killed when the draw span suddenly carried him high into the air and then threw his body into the canal. It was disclosed at that time that the mechanism for lifting the draw fly into the air, its ascent being retarded by iron and concrete weights. There was no means of locking the mechanism when the draw was down except by insertion of a small iron pin into the gears.

This incident stirred Currituckians to such an extent that petitions were circulated, signed and taken to Congressman Lindsay C. Warren, requesting him to exert every effort to have the United States War Department provide a modern structure across the canal at Coinjock, with both electric and gasoline motors as a safety measure.

The War Department has never done anything about the matter, but with power available from a Vepeco line it probably will hasten to make the Coinjock bridge safer.

There are only 71,000 dentists in the United States.

Babson Urging Co-operation On Part Utilities

By ROGER W. BABSON
Babson Park, Mass., December 5, 1935.—Under the Public Utility Act passed last August, most holding companies were required to register with the Securities Exchange Commission by December first. Some did—most did not. I believe that the United Gas Improvement Company was wise in refusing to register. It was up to some concern to test the constitutionality of this questionable legislation. United Gas Improvement is probably the oldest utility holding company and is one of the largest. In my judgment it has been honestly and conservatively operated.

Legality Should Be Tested
The vice president of this great Pennsylvania concern, Phillip H. Gadsden, was in charge of the fight on the Public Utility Act in Washington last summer and is thoroughly acquainted with the "ins and outs" of the legislation. Therefore, I thoroughly approve of the attitude of the United Gas Improvement Company in refusing to register and in determining to test the constitutionality of the act. This same comment may also apply to one or two other outstanding companies.

However, when it comes to a discussion of the attitude of those companies which do not have such a bona fide reason for refusing to register I have a different opinion. I refer to the fact that so many of these concerns have followed like blind sheep and jumped the wall. In my judgment some companies, by refusing to register, have not taken into consideration the real good of all their stockholders. Their executives are, of course, honest in their actions and are doing what they think is best.

Making Big Mistake
I believe, however, that they are making a great mistake. They are defying the law and thereby setting a bad example for labor, farmers, and other aggressive groups. We are living under a democracy—the oldest and largest democracy in the world. During the past few years other democracies have crumbled and fallen. We have seen great nations turn to communism and fascism because some powerful group was not satisfied with the slow progress of democratic government.

We bankers and utility officials are direct resistance to law and order by communists or fascists. But, are we justified in resisting law and order when it suits our convenience? Of course we are not! Hence, certain power companies may be making a great mistake in arbitrarily flouting an act passed by our duly elected representatives. I feel very strongly on this point for the act, by proper amendments may become a real benefit to the security holders of certain companies.

Importance of Good Will
For many years I have been intimately connected with the Utility industry. It is a splendid business and is constantly growing. There is nothing in sight to stop its growth so far as kilowatt-hour output is concerned. The only flies in the ointment are municipal ownership, pending franchise expirations, and unfair rate reductions. Legitimate rate reductions need not now be feared as thus far they have resulted only in increased business. Unfair rate reductions, of course, have been, and are still a serious problem.

All this means that those power companies have the good will of their customers are making money. The only ones in trouble are those who are suffering from poor public relations or from unwieldy capitalizations, especially in connection with bond issues of holding companies. The stocks of public utility companies operated by honest, far-seeing men and free of troublesome franchise expirations, should still be wonderful investments. Some such common stocks may double or quadruple in value during the next two or three years.

What of the Future?
Currency inflation, which means rising prices, would be severe on those utilities whose power is steam-generated. Their costs would be likely to rise more rapidly than would their rates. This, however, might not injure those utilities which generate their electricity from waterpower. Their production costs would not be much greater under a period of inflation. Many people even believe that the stock of a good hydro-electric company is one of the best hedges against inflation.

Therefore, since the utilities have so many good points in their favor, it seems too bad for their leaders to undermine in any way their greatest asset, namely, good will and public confidence. It is upon these two fundamentals that continued proper rate structures and private

And the Duck Slaughter Goes On in Spite of Stupid Laws Made by Bureaucrats

Checking up on the fears of Rupert E. West, State Game Protector, that the drastic regulations prescribed for migratory wildfowl shooting will defeat their purpose, a reporter for this newspaper has convinced himself that Mr. West's fears are well founded.

Limiting the season to 30 straight days, cutting down the bag limit to ten ducks, prohibiting shooting from batteries and prohibiting bush blinds in open waters more than 100 yards from the shore line; prohibiting the baiting of shooting ponds and shooting over live decoys, will not save the ducks, and these regulations have the unhappy effect of depriving thousands of people of a livelihood at a time when the government itself is spending billions to take care of the jobless.

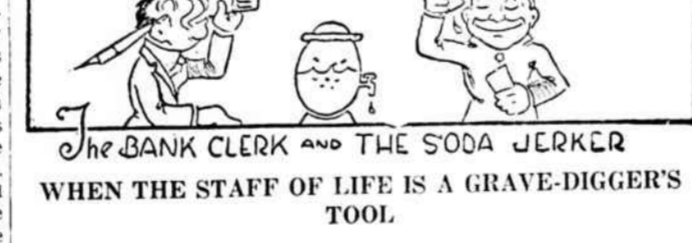
This season's regulations theoretically deprive the poor man or the man of moderate means of the privilege of shooting ducks, geese and brant. The regulations are also designed to ham-string the rich man; but rich men, poor men and men of moderate means are going to keep right on shooting after the legal season ends on Dec. 19th.

Let's see how the rich man escapes embarrassment from the new regulations. The law says he shall not shoot over a baited pond. There is nothing in the law to prohibit him from baiting ponds over which he does not shoot. Very well then, the rich man baits a large number of his ponds over which he theoretically does not shoot, leaving the unbaited ponds over which he may shoot to his heart's content. The birds flock into his marshes to feed in the baited ponds, but don't confine their excursions to the baited ponds. All ponds look alike to the bird in the air and he has to do a lot of exploring and diving to find which ponds are baited and which are unbaited.

The result is that shooting is as good on the unbaited ponds as on the baited pond. And the unscrupulous rich man may keep a motor boat pattering around in the unbaited pond to drive the ducks over to his unbaited pond when he goes forth to shoot.

The law says that if a guide shoots, his kill is charged against the bag quota of his employer. Very well then, the rich man gets rid of most of his guides. Really, one doesn't need so many guides when he can't put out live decoys. The guide is fired and then hired all over again as a guard or watchman and as such he can shoot without his quota being charged against his employer.

But what happens in the case of the poor man or the man of moderate means who owns no marshes or ponds to bait? He can't shoot from a battery in the open sound as was his custom. A nearsighted bunch of bureaucrats in Washington has practically confiscated the property of battery owners and denied them the right to earn a livelihood. But this government that makes damphool laws makes no provision for effective enforcement. The number of game wardens in all the state is negligible. It's a ninety-nine to one shot that the little fellow who violates the law will not be apprehended. And so the little fellow waits until the ducks and geese come into the marshes for the night and in the twilight of the fading day pumps hell into a raft of ducks or geese, hastily gathers up his kill and departs, unapprehended and unprosecuted. And he will go right on doing this after the season ends.



WHEN THE STAFF OF LIFE IS A GRAVE-DIGGER'S TOOL

"I see by the papers that New York City health authorities claim that twice as many people died of diabetes in New York last year as in 1929. And I thought this stuff they call Insulin or Iletin would prolong the life of a diabetic and cut down the diabetic death rate." The Soda Jerker speaking.

"Insulin will do everything that is claimed for it," said the Bank Clerk; "it will wrest a diabetic from the brink of the grave and enable him to live his normal life expectancies, if he sticks to it and watches his diet. But Insulin costs money and I have an idea that millions of diabetics in this country have had to give up their Insulin during the depression, just as they had to give up a lot of other things."

"Poverty and diabetes are arch enemies. When a man is down and out, he can still somehow manage to get bread, beans and potatoes. But bread, beans and potatoes are likely to be a diabetic. To a normal man bread is the very staff of life, but to a diabetic the staff turns to a grave-digger's tool."

Santa Toy Shop To Be Set Up In Local Hi School

Handicapped by a lack of quarters in which to develop the wood-working shop of which they have dreamed, local Boy Scout leaders this week turned their equipment over to the Elizabeth City High School to form the nucleus for a larger and complete shop for that institution.

The local Scouts last year set up a toy shop to make and repair toys for the underprivileged children of the city. The only piece of mechanical equipment at first was a jig saw donated by the local Kiwanis Club. With the aid of this and borrowed tools, the Scouts prepared and distributed toys and playthings to scores of children here last Christmas.

After Christmas, another electric motor, a lathe, a band saw and several smaller tools were added, and a year-round workshop was planned. It was quickly found that there was no room for a workshop in the Troop 152 headquarters, where the equipment had been installed, so the workshop project was held up.

This week, realizing the necessity of putting the toy shop into operation at once in order to get ready for Christmas, Scout leaders hit upon the idea of establishing the workshop in an unused room in the high school building. Then it was decided that, in order to secure permanent quarters for the workshop and to obtain the most possible benefit from its operation, the equipment the Scouts have been using should be turned over to the school to be used as a nucleus around which to build a complete wood-working shop eventually.

School authorities were enthused over the proposition, and the shop is to be set up this week end.

The local Scouts are to begin rounding up old, broken and discarded toys at once, and anyone having any toys, games, tricycles, roller skates, kiddie cars, etc., that they no longer need are urged to communicate with Lorimer Midgett, Dail Bembury, Keith Saunders or Fred Drinkwater.

Colerain Girl Wins Her Doll Quite Easily

Typical of the ease with which many little girls and their mothers in Northeastern North Carolina are winning the beautiful free dolls The Independent is offering in return for a little work is the case of a little Bertie County girl whose letter is self-explanatory. She writes:

Editor The Independent:— I am Mary Alice White of Colerain. I will be four years old just before Santa comes—Dec. 20. My mother read in your paper that you would send any little girl who sold four (4) new subscriptions and got her Daddy's renewal, a pretty doll with a fur coat. Here are mine. I sold them myself.

Enclosed you will find a check for seven dollars and fifty (\$7.50). Thanking you, I am,
Your little friend,
MARY ALICE WHITE,
Colerain, N. C.

The dolls are going like hot cakes, with women and little girls in eight different counties determined to win one. The big dolls and the smaller ones with the white fur coat, cap and muff, are given free with five subscriptions, including at least four new ones. The pretty 18-inch dolls are given with only three subscriptions, which may include the renewal of the contestant or the family of the contestant.

The dolls are very pretty and are easy to win. The offer is proving to be the most popular ever made by this newspaper.

Som of the others who have won dolls are Wilma Doris Hudson, R. F. D. City; Mrs. J. W. Meekins of Hatteras; Erling Ward of Elizabeth City; Mrs. J. A. Riddick of Belvidere, Route One and Mrs. Gilbert Godfrey of Route Two, City.

Saunders Speaks On The American Revolution of '30-40

W. O. Saunders was the principal speaker on the program of the Vocational Agriculture Class Father and Son Banquet given at the Gatesville school building Thursday evening, Dec. 5th.

Morse Says A. B. C. Store Is Not Responsible For Increase In Drunkenness In This County

Local Drys who knowingly point to an increase in public drunkenness and drunken driving in Elizabeth City during the past four months and attribute this increase to the opening of an A. B. C. liquor control store in this city are jumping at a hasty conclusion, in the opinion of Judge W. C. Morse, Jr., Pasquotank Recorder.

Oyster Shucking Ceased Here For While At Least

Henry McMurrin and M. M. Lee, veterans of 35 years' experience in the trade of oyster-shucking, are today out of jobs, and Elizabeth Citizens who cannot afford to pay top prices for oysters have to shuck their own as a result of a recent action of the State Board of Health. McMurrin and Lee, both Negroes, have been working for the firm of Thos. Crank for around 35 years, but they and a number of other local oyster-shuckers lost their jobs last month when a State health inspector visited the city and forbade further shucking of oysters here unless those engaged in this practice were to install certain equipment and shuck their oysters in such manner as to comply with the State sanitary laws.

It seems that the State has had some rather stringent laws on the books for about two years now covering the handling of oysters, but the law has never been enforced, at least not in Elizabeth City. But last month a health inspector came here, visited all parties engaged in shucking oysters, cited the State regulations, announced that oyster-shucking must be stopped in Elizabeth City unless these regulations were complied with.

Thos. Crank, leading oyster dealer of the city for a number of years, reckoned that meeting the State requirements would be too expensive for him at present, decided to lay off his oyster-shuckers, four in number. Besides McMurrin and Lee, there were two others named William Ward and Willis Liverman. These Negroes shucked oysters several hours a day during the oyster season each year. McMurrin and Lee had worked for Thos. Crank's father before him.

Also laid off were several Negroes who had been employed as shuckers for the Hodges Brothers, whose oyster boats have been coming here regularly for several years past. The Hodges get their own oysters in Pamlico Sound and bring them direct to Elizabeth City and other coastal towns, selling them from their boats. They had built up a pretty good business here, being able to undersell the regular oyster dealers of the city because of their low overhead expense. At first they sold the oysters in the shell only, but later employed several shuckers and sold shucked oysters on their boats. But now those who don't want to pay the top market price for shucked oysters will have to buy their oysters in the shell and do their own shucking.

The Hodges' have a small plant across the river, and they are said to be contemplating putting in the equipment necessary for meeting State requirements for oyster-shuckers.

Thos. Crank, for the present at least, will buy his shucked oysters from a shucking plant at Belhaven. Incidentally, Mr. Crank doesn't look with favor upon the State's laws, which require that shucked oysters, before being offered for sale, must be washed so much that the flavor is washed from them.

Col. Ed Flanagan Visits Guaranty's New Branch Here

Col. E. G. Flanagan, president of the Guaranty Bank & Trust Co., of Greenville, was a visitor to the Guaranty's new branch office in Elizabeth City this week, for the first time. He was accompanied by A. W. Ange, of Winterville; John Staton of Bethel and W. H. Woolard, executive vice president of the Guaranty Bank & Trust Co., of Greenville, who comprise the Examining Board of the Guaranty Bank & Trust Co.

Col. Flanagan took the opportunity to pay his respects to many of his old friends in the city and expressed himself as delighted with Elizabeth City and with the prospects of the Guaranty Bank & Trust Co. branch in this city.

Returning Prosperity, more than any other single factor, is responsible for the very apparent increase in the consumption of liquor in Pasquotank County this fall," said Judge Morse. Folks here are drinking more liquor, not because an A. B. C. store makes it more convenient for them to do so, but simply because they are more able to buy liquor now than they have been these past few years.

"Furthermore," added His Honor, as an afterthought, "we can't overlook the fact that there is a more widespread and more stringent enforcement of the law here in Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County now than there has been heretofore. Just a few years ago we had no motorcycle officer on our police force, and until a few months ago we had only one. Now we have two motorcycle officers, and these men are responsible for an increase in the number of arrests for traffic violations and drunken driving. Also, we now have two State Highway Patrolmen here, and our police force has been increased in the past three years. At present, there are more law enforcement officers in this city and county than ever before in our history. Hence more arrests do not necessarily mean more crime; it only means stricter enforcement."

"With people more able to buy liquor this fall than they have been since 1929 or 1930, and with more officers keeping tab on them, it is easy to explain an increase in arrests for drunkenness, drunken driving and being drunk and disorderly. And it is, my personal opinion that the opening of a liquor store here has not had a thing to do with this increase."

During the months of August, September, October and November, this year, local officers made 84 arrests for drunkenness, 21 for drunken driving, and three for being drunk and disorderly. The same period in 1934 saw 78 arrests for drunkenness, five on drunk and disorderly charges, and none for drunken driving.

Further proof of Judge Moore's statement regarding more stringent enforcement of all laws here is seen in the monthly report of Chief of Police R. C. Madrin for the month of November.

This report shows that the police department made 150 arrests in November, a record never equaled before, so far as the records show. Of these, 147 resulted in convictions. Fines and costs collected during the month totaled \$821.60, one of the largest sums collected by the local police court in any one month of its history.

GOOD NEWS!

Good news to students, better news to teachers, was the announcement this week that the Elizabeth City public schools will grant a two-weeks Christmas vacation, beginning at one o'clock on Friday, December 20th, and continuing thru the New Year to January 6th.

This was especially good news to the teachers, for under a recent ruling they will be paid this year for all school holidays. It has been hard on the teachers, considering their meager salaries, to have a day's pay deducted from their checks for each day of holiday, including those at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

FIRE AT WEEKSVILLE

Fire of undetermined origin Tuesday morning destroyed three out-buildings behind the home of Jarvis M. Scott at Weeksville and threatened the home of Mr. Scott and those of two neighbors, Tran Munden and Lloyd Halstead. Neighbors, forming a bucket brigade, worked in vain to save the outhouses. The Elizabeth City Fire Department arrived in time to keep the fire from spreading to the nearby homes.

Federal Revenue Down
Internal revenue collections in the North Carolina district for November totalled \$20,074,429.22, Collector Charles H. Robertson reported this week. This was a drop of over \$600,000,000 below the mark of November a year ago. The collection of cotton processing taxes from textile mills, now held up by suits and temporary injunctions in the courts, would account for most of the decrease, it is pointed out.