

Capital News Letter

(By Thompson Greenwood)

THAT LITTLE CLAUSE—Even though Robeson, Bladen and Pender counties have given the boot to wine and beer within the past few weeks, chances are pretty good that few other counties in North Carolina will even get an opportunity to vote on the brew and the grape in 1948.

Here is why. The dregs, asleep or with legal hands tied, permitted the Legislature last year to pass the bill saying counties could decide on the beer-wine issue if sufficient names were placed on the petitions. That was fine, said the arid ones. However, in their jumping joy they overlooked the fact that the measure said that the beer-wine votes could not be held within 60 days of another election!

The Primary comes on May 29. Consequently, there can be no vote between March 29 and May 29, nor between May 29 and July 29. No county can vote on these items between September 2 and November 2,

the date of the General Election.

SECOND PRIMARY—As Sam Blount of Little Washington, the new czar of the North Carolina chapter of the U. S. Brewers' Foundation, looks down the months lying ahead, he can see only a few days on which there is a possibility for his industry to take a whack on the head. From now until March 29 they can do it. You won't get Blount and his assistant, C. A. Upchurch, Jr., to admit it, but in all likelihood they were as pleased as punch that Key Scott decided to run for Governor. Why? Because his entrance might well mean a Second Primary. This would fall about July 3, and would mean no vote could be taken until around September 3 . . . which would mean no vote because this date is within 60 days of the General Election.

EVEN MULL—The beer attorneys, like crack basketballers stalling for



'AND ALL I ASK IS A TALL SHIP' . . . Swift and graceful as it cuts the waters off Miami Beach, the "Cyclone," Cuba's entry in this year's Lipton cup race, inevitably calls to mind the memory of Sir Thomas Lipton. Except for his tea, the amateur yachtsman asked for little but "a tall ship and a star to steer her by." Sometimes called the world's greatest sportsman, Lipton spent millions over a period of many years in an attempt to bring the yachting title to England.

time, have employed technicalities to prevent a half-dozen or so counties from holding an election. Among those being Avery and Cleveland, home hallowick of Oduis M. Mull, one of the fathers of the bill permitting the vote.

Unless these counties can get their petitions worked on a solid legal basis and so on, and hold the election within the next 10 to 20 days, they have no choice but to sell wine and beer until next year.

TOBACCO ACREAGE—Senator William B. Umstead has expressed the opinion repeatedly that the 27.52 per cent cut in the North Carolina flue-cured tobacco acreage was just too much of a slash. His worthy opponent, an official of Tobacco Associates, J. M. Broughton, stood solidly on the 27.52 per cent reduction. The matter became somewhat of a political issue. Senator Umstead said that the tobacco picture has changed since the reduction was set, and that tobacco growers should not be cut more than absolutely necessary. Broughton held that it would be dangerous to alter the acreage to be grown.

Last week it seemed definite that J. M. Broughton had won his battle, on this score at least. Acreages were released. The 27.52 per cent slash stood.

Shy, retiring C. L. Hardy, Green County batchelor, will this season again have more acres devoted to

the "filthy weed" than any other farmer in the world. His acreage: a whopping 665 (as against last year's 917). In second place is merchant-farmer K. M. Biggs of Robeson county with 408 acres.

OFF THE CUFF—Rigid auto inspections and drivers' tests are making the State Administration and its leaders very, very unpopular in some sections—are expected to reduce the Democratic vote in many counties this year.

As this is written, J. M. Broughton has no campaign manager, no official headquarters. By the time it appears in most papers, he should have both . . . room 531, or thereabouts, in the Sir Walter . . . and Ben Price of Hendersonville or Fred Royster of Henderson as manager . . . strong possibilities . . . Broughton's decision to get down to business is said to have been brought on by accelerated activity in the Umstead camp.

The largest political sign in Raleigh—around 10 feet by three—hangs over the entrance to the Sir Walter Hotel and reads: "Umstead headquarters" . . . Most consistent passenger on Raleigh-Washington run these days: Sen. W. B. Umstead.

Reports reaching Raleigh are to the effect that business in retail stores throughout the State in January and February were considerably below the same months in 1947—Credit accounts are increasing at a

dizzy rate . . . Small loan companies are doing the best business since before the war . . . And colored maids are out looking for work again . . . No sharp drop in farm prices is expected, because of the Gov't. support price of 90 per cent of parity, which runs through the 1948 crop year—or two years after official end of war, which was in December, 1946.

OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES—With the income tax man now eating with you, sleeping with you, going where you go and doing what you do—until you finally throw him out of your mind on March 15, a note on these good citizens who might purposely pay too much income tax might be in order at this time.

It seldom happens on the State level—though North Carolina does pay 6 per cent interest on overpayments. Revenue Commissioner Edwin Gill, who by the way, really knows his taxes, says he can recall only one instance in which a taxpayer seemed purposely to overpay. The rather flagrant error in overpayment was noted one year, but was regarded as a broad mistake. But the next year another big error occurred in this man's return. The matter was called to his attention. Gill, wanting to save the State money, contacted this taxpayer, the refund was made, and the citizen agreed not to charge interest on the overpayment.

FEDERAL—But the Federal people are watching with eagle eye this year the huge overpayments. Of course, the taxpayer does not want to pay too little (he might want to, but dare not), so it is easy to take the long view, pay too much, and receive a refund plus 6 per cent interest—not a bad investment return in these low-interest days. So when you read of these tax overpayments, just remember that they are not always accidental. And they are good investments—accidental or intentional.

NOTES—Although pressure for a special session of the Legislature has not subsided, Gregg Cherry has firm resistance, seems determined not to call one . . . If inflation continues, teacher pay raises will be retroactive to Sept. 1, '48.

The dry trend—as noted above—is being followed by the candidates . . . Ker Scott may come out flat-footedly for a Statewide liquor referendum . . . One of the strongest supporters of J. M. Broughton is Carl Williamson, head of ABC stores in the State . . . and among those attending Charlie Johnson's organization gathering a few days ago was Cutlar Moore of Lumberton, former ABC head.


Baptist eyebrows were raised last week when Meredith College trustees voted to permit smoking, on the campus . . . It's been done for years, but in rest rooms, under sheets, in closets, and under beds.

What in thunder is all this talk

about draft board members being asked if they will serve again, etc.? Uncle Sam has decided not to abandon several camps scheduled to go out of existence this spring, among them Seymour Johnson Field at Goldsboro.

Retiring Congressman Bayard Clark of the Seventh District is said to be whispering Umstead's praises in

the Fayetteville area. Johnson, headquarters pay stenographers around \$50 per week—Kerr Scott's girls, save one, must get along on \$100 per month. Advertising solicitors are already knocking at candidates' doors—but the ads must be paid for in advance . . . There is nothing more poverty-stricken than a defeated political organization.



Wanted

--TO--

BUY

Live Poultry

We will be loading a large truck at the following places—Bring all you have:

In Dunn—at Cotton Yard
Wednesday, March 17—8 to 12 Noon

In Sanford—at Palmer-Reaves
Thursday, March 18—8 to 12 Noon

In Angier—at Ward's Hatchery
Friday, March 19—8 to 12 Noon

In Lillington—at Superior Seed & Feed Co.
Saturday, March 20—8 to 12 Noon

Will pay: 30c for heavy hens, 20c for leg-horns, 16c for Roosters.

Abar Poultry Buyers

It's Easter

At... POPE'S



EASTER RABBITS—Standing Rabbits—Sitting Bunnies—Candy Filled Rabbits—Priced 5c up. Have you seen the Egg Laying Toy Hen? Cute! Nice assortment of Easter Rabbits and novelty wagons filled with candy. Stuffed Bunnies \$1.49



COMPLETE LINE LADIES' READY-TO-WEAR for her spring wardrobe. Hats, bags, gloves, hose, scarfs, cosmetics, underwear, blouses and shoes.



SLIC CHIC—SLING PUMPS—Ask to see Style No. 2190 As sketched. Provocatively slick and versatile . . . best laid plans must include a pair of these soft leather flattie sling pumps! Versatile because they're as chic at a dance as they're smart on street and so amazingly "easy on the feet!" \$4.85



EASTER BASKETS—Lovely Easter baskets, cellophanned, priced from 20c up. Easter grass. Novelty Easter toys.



EASTER EGG DYE—Only 10c per package. Get beautiful results from our Egg Dye. Magic pencil and transfers free with each package.

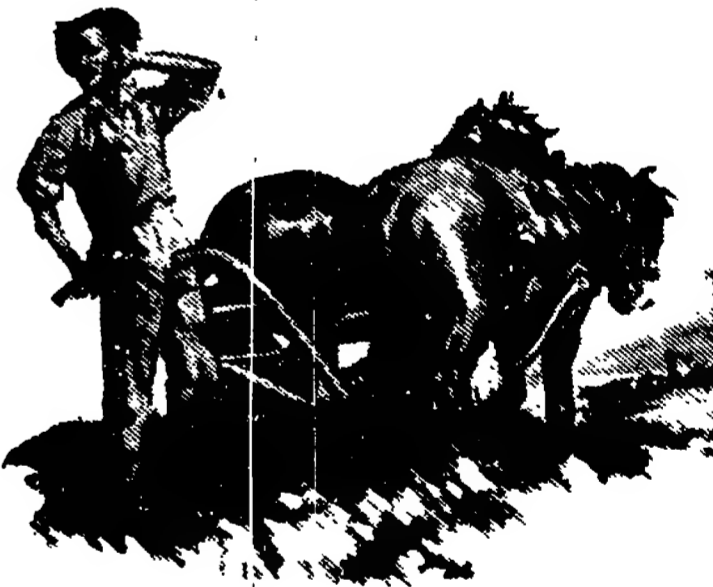
MEN'S CLOTHING—A nice selection for the man in your family. Hats, dress shirts, belts, ties, suspenders and shoes.

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Additional quantities available for our customers who have already bought fertilizers.

Liberal share nitrogen to new customers with Johnson's Famous Better Mixed Fertilizers.

Supplies very limited. See your Johnson Cotton Company store or agent without delay.

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