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A. F. JOHNSON, Editor and Manager  
VOLUME L

THE COUNTY, THE STATE, THE UNION  
LOUISBURG, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1921  
NUMBER 26

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 Per Year

## MAKES A MOCKERY OF EQUALITY SAYS MAXWELL OF WATTS

### Member of Former Tax Commission In Vigorous Statement On Tobacco Order.

## REBATE TO TOBACCO TRUST VIOLATES ALL INTENT OF STATUTES

### American Tobacco Co. and Liggett and Myers Co. Get Their Property On Books at 60 Per Cent of Value While Other Companies Voluntarily Submitted Book Values; Says General Assembly Had No Intention of Authorizing Retroactive Readjustment of Tax Values and Wants Order Ought to Be Rescinded; Watts Says It Is County Business.

"A mockery of any pretense of equal treatment in the administration of our tax laws, and ought to be rescinded," declares Corporation Commissioner A. J. Maxwell on the action of Revenue Commissioner A. D. Watts in ordering an aggregate retroactive reduction of \$12,733,450 in the assessment of the property owned by Liggett & Myers, and the American Tobacco Company in Durham.

Mr. Maxwell's statement was the first expression that has come from the State since the administration of the revenue laws of the State was taken by the relative action from the Tax Commission, of which he was a member, and placed in the hands of a Revenue Commissioner, and A. D. Watts appointed by Governor Cameron-Morrison to fill the office.

The Duke properties in Durham were assessed by the same standards which applied to the Reynolds interests in Winston-Salem, and other lesser tobacco interests throughout the State, Mr. Maxwell says, and from this the Duke's excepted. Their exceptions have won the approval of the Revenue Commissioner, almost to the dollar of the value placed by themselves on their own property.

State loses \$16,000  
The State school fund loses \$16,543.48 by the transaction, and the Durham county general expense fund loses \$26,613.50. The tax on the disputed valuation had been held in abeyance, and was not paid when the taxes were collected in Durham county last fall.

Under the commissioner's order, the tax will not be paid by the companies to which the reductions were given. The city tax rate in Durham for last year is not known here.

Book values were the standards used by the Tax Commission during the revaluation period for determining the value of tobacco in warehouses. Book value was taken as the original cost of the leaf tobacco bought on warehouse floors, plus storage and redrying costs. The Reynolds company returned its property on this basis at approximately fifty million dollars, and the same standard of values was applied to all tobacco companies in the State.

Dissatisfied with the values placed by the Tax Commission, the American and Liggett & Myers companies lodged protest, which was overruled by the commissioners, and the assessment certified to Durham county for the levying of the tax rate for 1920. Further exception was taken to the values placed, and late in April, a few days before the Revenue Commissioner took over the duties of the Tax Commission, formal exception was filed by the two companies.

Rebate on Taxes  
Persistence and patience has won for the Durham Tobacco Companies favorable consideration of a fight that began 18 months ago. The old Tax Commission heard them at various

## EIGHTY-ONE PER CENT IN ROBESON SIGN CONTRACTS

Lumberton, Aug. 25.—Eighty-one per cent of the cotton growers in Robeson county, the banner cotton county of the State, have signed co-operative marketing contracts, and they are still signing at a rapid rate, according to L. S. Prevatt, director of the membership drive. It is confidently expected that the entire cotton crop will be signed up before the campaign closes. Robeson farmers are in sympathy with the movement.

## FIREMEN'S CONVENTION IS LARGELY ATTENDED

### Handsome Silver Pitchers Presented President McNeill and Vice President Boyden.

Gastonia, Aug. 23.—The features of today's meeting of the state firemen were an address by Stacy W. Wade, state insurance commissioner, this morning at 11 o'clock and the presentation of handsome silver pitchers to President McNeill, of Fayetteville, and Vice President Boyden, of Salisbury. They were presented in token of appreciation of the work done by them for the past 25 years for the firemen of the state. There were also short talks by Insurance Commissioner McMahon, of South Carolina; Commissioner of Public Safety Fitzpatrick, of Asheville, and Building Inspector Stelling, of Durham.

The registration steadily increased last night and today as the crowds from all sections of the state have continued to pour in. At noon today a total registration of 413 had been reached. Out of this number there are at least 43 municipalities all over the state represented from Morehead City on the east to Asheville on the west. After the roll call the president emeritus, Capt. James D. McNeill, the dean of firemen in this state, was called on for a short talk. He spoke of his connection with the firemen's association through a long period of service, having delivered the response to the address of welcome at the first firemen's convention in this state which was held at Greensboro in 1888.

## RED CROSS CAFETERIA.

Mrs. J. A. Turner, Chairman of the Louisburg Red Cross Chapter, received an invitation to be present at the formal opening of the Red Cross Cafeteria in Raleigh. Also the following invitation which she was requested to have carried through THE FRANKLIN TIMES to the people of our town and community so that they might know the Cafeteria will be open and ready for their patronage when in Raleigh.

"The Wake County Chapter of the American Red Cross invite your Chapter to be present at the opening of the cafeteria to be operated in the city of Raleigh by this chapter of the Red Cross. The opening will take place at the cafeteria on West Marston Street on Monday, August 22nd, from eight to ten p. m.

times last year and denied them valuation on other than the accepted standard of book values applied to other tobacco companies in the state. Some favorable adjustments were made for them, Mr. Maxwell says, but refused time and again to reverse its original valuation.

"If this last action stands," concludes Mr. Maxwell, "they have at last succeeded in getting a rebate on their taxes for 1920 upon a basis of about 60 per cent of the value upon which other tobacco companies voluntarily submitted to be taxed and which was considered by them to be conservative and fair. This action, if it stands makes a mockery of any pretense of equal treatment in the administration of our tax laws, and ought to be rescinded."

Commissioner Watts regards the reduction as a matter of concern only to Durham county, and one which has the approval of both county and municipal authorities, which ought to end the matter. Various county and city officials, he says, heads of various commercial bodies, gave unanimous approval to the course, and in writing and in delegations, asked the Commissioner to order the reduction.

A considerable delegation of them visited the Commissioner soon after he took the oath of office, he said yesterday, and asked that the retroactive order be made. He said that he gave formal notice of a hearing some weeks ago, and invited any who were opposed to it to be present and present their case. None came to oppose the order and he had no hesitancy in putting it into effect.

The man who thinks he can't, is the one who doesn't. The other fellow has a better opinion of himself.

## INJUNCTION SUSTAINED COMMISSIONERS NOT ALLOWED TO EQUALIZE PROPERTY

### Case Heard at Edenton Before Judge Bond Monday—Commissioners Take Appeal.

The injunction case of Williams and others Vs the Board of County Commissioners, restraining the Commissioners from equalizing property values for taxation purposes was heard before Judge W. M. Bond at Edenton Monday and sustained.

It will be remembered that in April the Board met and passed a resolution making a horizontal reduction of forty per cent in the valuation of all real estate in the County. Later the Commissioners realizing that the reduction failed to correct any of the inequalities decided that it was their duty to bring about a more equal situation, and were advised by their Council that they could do so. Therefore they proceeded to put new values on a lot of the property in the County through a system that they selected—each Commissioner taking his two townships. The result was that in some townships big changes were made, while in others practically no change was recommended. This action brought about quite a big kick and resulted in the employment of Mr. W. M. Person and an injunction, with the results stated. The Commissioners gave notice of an appeal to the Supreme Court for further hearing.

The order of Judge Bond sustaining the injunction is as follows: This cause coming on to be heard, it having been originally returnable before the undersigned at Raleigh, N. C. to be heard this day, and place of hearing having been changed to Edenton, N. C., by agreement, both sides being present, after hearing the evidence and argument:

It is adjudged, ordered and decreed that defendants are restrained from and forbidden to increase the value of any real estate in Franklin County for taxation for year 1921 beyond the value as fixed by former order of said Board adopted June 16, 1921, same being value as fixed for taxation for year 1920 after deducting from said fixed value forty per cent thereof, and which order of the defendant Board was approved by the Department of Revenue, Hon. A. D. Watts being chairman, and to that end the restraining order issued heretofore in this cause be and same is continued to the final hearing of said cause.

## W. M. BOND, Judge.

To foregoing order and judgment at time of its rendition, in open court and in presence of all parties defendants excepted and appealed to Supreme Court. Notice waived. Appeal bond fixed at \$50.00. The summons, complaint, answer and affidavits filed, with foregoing judgment, and appeal bond, shall constitute record for Supreme Court.

## TWO HUNDRED VETERANS ARRIVE FOR ANNUAL REUNION AT DURHAM

Durham, Aug. 22. Two hundred veterans are already here for the annual reunion of which opens at Trinity College tomorrow afternoon and continues through Thursday. General James I. Metts, commander of the North Carolina division, also arrived tonight. The city is all decked up and presents a gala appearance.

The veterans will be formally welcomed tomorrow afternoon at exercises at Craven Memorial Hall. Congressman Charles M. Stedman, of Greensboro, will deliver the principal address in Craven hall tomorrow evening.

The Daughters of the Confederacy today threw down a challenge to the Ku Klux Klan, which is arranging for a big rally Wednesday evening in competition with the reception to be given for the veterans of Trinity College. The statement condemning this action of the Ku Klux is signed by Mrs. J. Harper Erwin, chairman of the reception committee, and Mrs. T. E. Cheek, president of the Julian S. Carr Chapter U. D. C.

## MURDEROUS ASSAULT ON MAN AT WILSON

Wilson, Aug. 21.—W. T. Sullivan, night watchman at the Farmers' Cotton Oil mill, was found in an unconscious condition in a pool of blood early this morning, he having been struck with an iron pipe which was found nearby. He was discovered by the relief watchman about 5 o'clock and sent to a local hospital where he remains unconscious. Robbery was the motive as \$120 that he carried on his person and a pistol are missing.

## IR-3 EXPLODES Killed in Two Over Half On Last Test

London, Aug. 24.—The giant airship IR-3, purchased by the United States from Great Britain, exploded in the city of Hull today, according to officials received shortly after 6:30 p. m. this afternoon.

The airship was passing over Hull in the style when suddenly it was seen to break in two. Instantly there burst into flames and commenced to descend. Three parachutes were seen to leave the IR-3.

Thousands of people of Hull watched the disaster, which occurred at 5:45 p. m. As the explosion occurred they dashed panic stricken in all directions for fear of being enveloped by the wreckage, which fell just over the Victoria pier.

Traps and other craft of all kinds put off from the shore for rescue work immediately after the disaster was witnessed. Simultaneously a corps of volunteers dashed to the pier and rescued members of the crew to the infirmary as they were landed.

A wireless message from the IR-2 received here at 3:30 p. m. stated that the dirigible was over Beverly, Yorkshire, headed for Pullman and expected to arrive here by six or seven o'clock tonight if the weather continued good.

The airship is a wreck in the river estuary. Two dead and a number of injured were landed from the river and conveyed to the Hull infirmary.

Five Saved From Crew of Forty-Nine  
A dispatch to the Press Association from Hull says five men were saved from the crew of forty-nine.

Dirigible Had Been in Trouble  
A London dispatch of Sunday last quoted The Observer as asserting that during the first trials of the IR-2 a tendency of the giant dirigible to "jump" developed and that an inspection revealed the fact that certain girders had bent and that lattice work had buckled under strain. Remedial measures were taken, the newspaper said, including considerable reinforcement of the frame work along most of the airship's length. In addition to the structural trouble, the Observer asserted, the IR-2 had been damaged by engine trouble.

A small message announces that the body of "Ensign Marcus Astery" was taken to the Mortuary. It added that Captain Swann, the British officer who commanded the IR-2, was unharmed. It is assumed here that by "Astery" is meant Lieut. Marcus H. Astery, American radio officer of Washington, D. C.

It is known that at least six survivors have been picked up, one of them with a broken leg, and one severely burned.

## Not Many Men On Board Big Ship

Washington, Aug. 24.—Navy department officials, on being informed of the explosion of the craftable IR-2 through press dispatches, expressed the opinion that not more than seven or a dozen Americans were aboard the big craft.

Burning fragments from the airship beached dense columns of smoke, and flame which extended for hundreds of feet along the surface of the water. Eye witnesses saw at least four men descend from the burning airship by parachutes. Three men were seen hanging from one parachute.

The explosions in the big dirigible were of such force as to wreck many of the windows of store fronts in the center of Hull.

A message from Hull received shortly before 7 p. m. said the airship captain had been rescued. Some bodies, the message added, had been recovered.

## AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor of The Franklin Times, Louisburg, N. C.

I wish to express my greatest appreciation for the expressions in your article, "Serious Mistake," last week. So many of the good white people have spoken to me since Friday that I want to say publicly that I have read and reread the article carefully, for in it is found my deepest love and respect for those of the power, who appreciate honesty and straightforwardness and their friends in their open expressions to me for my attempt to be honest, to be truthful, to be clear and respectful to all. Furthermore, I am glad to respect inferiors, equals and superiors. And with no personal feeling to the others and their friends, but kindly ask the rights of an American citizen without intimidation and beg the aid of all good white people in the selection of negro leaders, who may be honest and clean and in that many occasions of lynching and mobbing may be avoided.

E. N. DENT,  
Former Principal of Colored Graded School.

Prof. W. R. Taylor and family are visiting his people in Louisburg before going to Greensboro, where he has taken a position with the State Normal College.

Mr. J. R. Collier, of Raleigh, was a visitor to Louisburg yesterday.

## TAR RIVER LEAGUE.

	W.	L.	Pct.
LOUISBURG	4	1	.800
Castalia	3	2	.600
Justice	2	3	.400
Spring Hope	1	4	.200

## TWELVE DEATHS IN MACON HOTEL FIRE

### Other Bodies Believed To Be In The Ruins; Explosion Started the Blaze.

Macon, Ga., Aug. 22.—Work of exploring the ruins of the Brown House, which was completely destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning and where more than a dozen bodies are believed to be buried, stopped at sundown tonight.

Building Inspector F. Joe Bishop, in charge of the hunt for bodies, announced that the search will be resumed at day-light tomorrow morning with a force of 100 convicts from the county and city chain gang.

"We will know before noon," he said "just how many bodies are in the debris. We expect to find at least twelve—possibly more."

## Explosion Caused Fire.

A coroner's jury reported this afternoon that an explosion of escaping gas in the basement of the Brunner Drug Company caused the fire. The explosion cut a hole through the hotel from the basement to the roof, tore out the stairways and wrecked the elevator at the rear of the building were enveloped in flames an instant later and fire also was bursting from every window in the big brick structure.

It is understood that the State fire marshal will arrive here tomorrow to aid in the investigation that is underway. Facts obtained by city and county officials and the State fire marshal will be laid before the 1500 county grand jury at its next session through Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett.

## Many Persons Hurt

When work of exploring the ruins of the burned hotel stopped for the night four bodies lay in a local undertaking establishment, only three of which had been identified. Eight persons were in the Macon hospital suffering from serious burns and broken bones, received from the fire and in jumping from second and third-story windows. Others less seriously hurt were attended by private physicians.

The list of missing mounted tonight to seven, and there were many inquiries from all parts of Georgia for persons whom it is feared were in the hotel.

## Register Destroyed

Horace Weems, son of the proprietor of the Brown House, said there were more than one hundred guests at the hotel last night. The hotel register was destroyed in the fire and much difficulty is being experienced in checking the missing.

Only a small section of the original building, built long before the Civil War, remained intact tonight with floors still clinging to the side walls. It was in exploring one of these ledges this morning that firemen came upon two bodies, one of which was identified as Harry Turnipseed, a railroad employe. The other body, which lay only a foot away, with hands clasped and outstretched, has not been identified.

Firemen worked continuously on the blaze from 1:35 o'clock this morning until late in the afternoon. They were recalled at 7:30 o'clock when flames broke out again in the ruins.

It was the heat which caused the second fire, Building Inspector Bishop stated, that necessitated the abandonment of the search for bodies tonight.

## WOMAN'S EXHIBIT.

Charlotte, Aug. 22.—The task of organizing an exhibit for the Made-in-Carolina Exposition, which will be held here Sept. 12 to 29, to show the handicraft of women is being rapidly carried to a successful conclusion by Mrs. C. C. Hook, of this city, former president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Hook has charge of this work for the Charlotte Women's Club, which has undertaken to form a comprehensive woman's work exhibit, expected to require about 1,000 feet of floor space.

A number of exhibitors already have signed contracts for participation in this exhibit, and details incident to a decision on the part of others are being worked out by correspondence, said Mrs. Hook. She began this effort about ten days ago, and said "I feel very much encouraged by the success which has come so early."

## AMONG THE VISITORS

Mr. H. L. Candier is on a trip to New York.

Mr. W. H. Ruffin visited Nashville on business Tuesday.

Mr. W. M. Person paid Edenton a business visit Monday.

Mr. W. R. Young returned the past week from a visit to Norfolk.

Mr. P. S. Allen returned this week from a trip to Hot Springs, Ark.

Mr. W. D. Weathers, of Apex, was a visitor to Louisburg Saturday.

Prof. W. R. Taylor, of Auburn, Ala. is visiting his parents in Louisburg.

Mr. Francis Yates, of Canada, is on a visit to his mother here this week.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Bessley returned the past week from a visit to Asheville.

Mrs. J. A. Tucker, of Newberne, is visiting relatives in and near Louisburg.

Misses Mattie and Lucy Allen returned home Saturday from a visit to Sylacauga, Ala.

Mrs. O. L. Daniels, of Philadelphia, is visiting friends and relatives in and near Louisburg.

Mr. K. P. Hill and son, John Burt Hill, of Raleigh, were visitors to Louisburg the past week.

Messrs. A. J. Harris and R. Y. McAden, of Henderson, were visitors to Louisburg Monday.

Miss Florence Silver, of Greensboro, is visiting her aunt, Miss Mary Spencer, at Oakhurst.

Mr. James Coppedge and Mr. John Coppedge, of Raleigh, were visitors to Louisburg this week.

Senator F. B. McKinne and wife left this week for a trip to Winston-Salem and Wilkesboro.

Mr. F. N. Egerton, Jr., of Columbia University, New York, is visiting his people in Louisburg.

Mr. W. W. Webb and daughter, Elizabeth, returned home Sunday from a trip to Blackstone, Va.

Mr. Nathan Clarke left Sunday for Raleigh, where he will take a position with the Yates Motor Co.

Mayor L. L. Joyner and Mr. J. B. King went over to Raleigh Wednesday to witness the ball game.

Miss Francis Scott, of Wilmington, and Miss Bettie Burt Hill, of Raleigh, are visiting Miss Temple Williams.

Mr. L. Kline left this week for Baltimore and New York where he will purchase the fall stock for his firm.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hawkes returned the past week from a visit to friends and relatives near Winston-Salem.

Mr. J. J. Barrow, Clerk of the Superior Court, and Mrs. F. O. Swindell returned Tuesday from a trip to Durham.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Person and children, of Enfield, passed through Louisburg Saturday en route to Wake Forest to visit his mother.

Mrs. W. H. Ruffin, Mr. P. R. White Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Egerton went over to Oxford the past week to attend the Taylor-White wedding.

Mr. W. G. Daniel and wife, of Montgomery, W. Va., were visitors to Louisburg the past week, guests of her brother, Mr. H. M. Stovall.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Allen, and children, Sam and Kate, and Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Thomas returned Monday from a motor trip to Wrightsville Beach.

Supt. O. C. Hill returned the past week from Durham, where he received treatment. His many friends are glad to know that he is improving.

Messrs. L. P. Hicks and H. C. Taylor returned the past week from a trip to Richmond, where they attended a meeting of the Southern Retail Merchants Association.

Mr. Jim Allen left the past week for Farmville, to finish the rest of the ball season with the team of that place. We notice that Jim won his first game against Plymouth by the score of 19 to 1.

Commissioners J. P. Timberlake, C. C. Hudson, Attorneys Ben T. Holden, W. H. Yarborough, Register of Deeds S. C. Holden, and Auditor H. W. Perry returned Monday night from a trip to Edenton.

Mr. E. W. Furgurson returned Friday from Baltimore, where he accompanied Mr. W. E. Tucker, Mrs. E. W. Furgurson and son, who are on a trip to Washington, D. C., hence to Cambridge, Md., to visit relatives.

SUNDAY AT METHODIST CHURCH.  
Announcement of regular services at the Methodist Church on Sunday morning and evening is made for next Sunday, Rev. G. F. Smith, pastor, will preach.  
The public is invited to attend.