

OUR RALEIGH LETTER

By M. L. Shipman

Raleigh, May 18.—The economy program of Governor McLean, upon which he has been quietly working the past few weeks, came to the fore during the past week at the capital when three developments took place of outstanding importance and perhaps designed to be of great significance in the weeks to come. The Caswell Training School head, Dr. C. B. McNairy, declared that because of the decreased appropriation brought about by changed and changing conditions it would be necessary to return a large number of the weak-minded inmates of the institution to their home communities. The Executive Committee of the State University Trustees submitted to the Attorney General request for a ruling as to the exact powers of the Salary and Wage Commission in fixing salaries of the professors there. Miss Margaret Edwards, supervisor of home economic education for the State, announced that the decreased appropriation allowed for her work would result in a similar cut in the Federal appropriation and that only 60 rural schools would be aided instead of 140. The classes of girls receiving this highly important training would be cut in number from 7,000 to 4,000 on account of the reduction.

This was the outstanding development of the week, because it brought out the "growing pains" of the departments and institutions which may suffer under the new order of things approved by the General Assembly. The general reaction was that the weak-minded charges of the Caswell Training School must not be returned to their home communities, but, at the same time, the institutions and departments must learn that the corners will have to be cut and all must be curtailed if the budget is to be kept within revenue. There has been some talk of the Governor allowing the Caswell Training School situation to be considered as an emergency which would give an added appropriation from funds provided for such purposes.

With regard to the Home Economics situation, nothing definite has developed, but there is a growing tendency to believe that economy, while commendable as a rule, should not be carried to such an extent as to imperil education or care of the State's charges.

The development in the Board of Trustees Executive Committee of the University reveals a feeling that it may be said has been crystallizing for some time. The men who are serving the State as trustees of the institutions do not feel, it is said, that their rights should be thus circumscribed. The trustees are said to have expressed varying feelings at the

meetings which took the action. The ruling of the Attorney General on the question raised will be awaited with interest. The meeting adopted resolutions expressing pleasure in the declarations of President Chase and Dr. Archibald Henderson of the presidencies tendered them recently by the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute and the University of Oklahoma, respectively. Governor McLean praised Judge N. A. Sinclair and Solicitor Don Gilliam for their persecution of the Needleman case which resulted in the first conviction en masse of a mob in the history of the State. The Executive took occasion to re-state his position that law enforcement must be insisted upon and that the courts exist for settlement and trial. The nine men convicted have been lodged in the State's Prison for terms ranging from two to thirty years and the fines collected from twice that number which swells the school fund of Martin county to the extent of many thousands of dollars.

The recent amendment to the State Constitution in regard to taxation of homes, homesteads, notes, and mortgages, provide for exemptions under certain conditions which must exist, according to an opinion formulated by assistant attorney general, J. H. Harwood, and approved by Attorney General Brummit. They are: All evidences of indebtedness to apply on a home to be in good faith; loan not exceeding \$8,000 running from one to thirty years; holder of note or mortgage shall live in county where security is listed and taxes paid on it, the home bought, built or repaired must have been occupied by the owner as such for at least three months preceding the time of listing for taxes; the home may be exempted from taxation for fifty per cent of the amount of notes or mortgage and the letter exempt for fifty per cent of the value, provided both home and securities are taxed in the same county; note and mortgage upon which exemption is claimed by the "Home" owner must be specifically listed by name and taxes paid to the local authorities on fifty per cent of its value.

Governor McLean has placed Arthur M. Dixon, of Gastonia, and R. S. McCain, of Henderson, both former members of the State Senate, on the advisory budget commission authorized by the last Legislature. The Governor is himself, director of the budget. The other members are: Representative Walter Murphy and Senator Walter Woodson, of Rowan; Senator P. H. Williams, of Pasquotank and Representative Nat Townsend, of Harnett—by virtue of their positions as chairmen of Senate and House finance and appropriations committees. An all time assistant to be appointed by the Governor under the provision of the budget act. The commission will begin to function July 1.

At a meeting of the new board of trustees for the State School for the Blind, held during the week, A. L. McNeill, of Sanford, was elected president and Superintendent Lineberry, secretary. Harry Barton, architect, of Greensboro, was employed to draw plans for the new \$50,000 infirmary authorized by the legislature, and other improvements under contemplation were discussed. All officers and teachers of the institution were re-elected. The new board is composed of A. L. McNeill, J. R. Baggett, F. H. Brooks, J. C. Finlay, R. H. Crichton, W. N. Keener, R. L. McMillian, John A. Oates and C. M. Wilson.

R. O. Self, in charge of the bus regulations imposed by the last legislature upon the Corporation Commission, reports that 117 temporary permits have been issued, and one of a permanent character. Driver's permits issued number 538. Total revenue collected from this source and turned over to the Department of Revenue is \$23,938. A tax of six percent of gross earnings is required under the bus regulation. The application of each operator is accompanied by a check for \$200, and for each driver \$1.00. All drivers are required to pass satisfactory examinations under the act regulating buses.

It is announced that the North Carolina Agricultural Credit Corporation has advanced \$1,800,000 in 1925 crop loans to farmer-members of the cooperative tobacco and cotton growers associations. Loans totalling \$135,000 were placed during the week according to statements of officials of these associations.

Governor McLean declined a parole for I. D. Royal convicted last year in the Wake Superior court of false pretense and sentenced to not less than three years in the State's prison. Royal was convicted of giving mortgages on property he did not own. Parole is granted Della Davis, of Craven on account of her hopeless physical condition.

The pardon mill was at a standstill for a while during the week on account of the illness of the Pardon Commissioner, who has been confined to his home with the mumps. A number of hearings were necessarily postponed. With Mr. Sink back on the job business will be brisk. The Commissioner is never without clients.

S. E. Douglass, of Raleigh, and T. W. Costen, of Gatesville, have been appointed trustees of the State Teachers College for Negroes at Durham, and Elizabeth City Normal School for colored respectively, by Governor McLean.

The eighteenth annual convention of the North Carolina Optometric Society closed a two day session here on Friday which was characterized by a number of interesting features. The Association proposed the inauguration of a course in optometry at Duke University; appointed a committee to secure new laws governing the profession; listened to a number of splendid addresses outlining the purposes of the organization and enjoyed a barbecue dinner provided by the local committee. New officers elected; Dr. N. Rosenstein, Durham, president; Dr. W. C. Carr, Greensboro, vice-president; Dr. John D. Perry, Winston-Salem, secretary and treasurer. The convention will be held in Asheville next year.

John D. Berry, general chairman of the local convention committee, announces that Rev. M. F. Ham, noted

evangelist, has consented to preach to the Baraca-Philathea convention in session here Friday afternoon, June 12th, at the City Auditorium. This will be the Silver Jubilee of the Baraca movement in North Carolina and extensive preparations for the entertainment of the delegates are being made. The Tabernacle Baptist church will be host to the convention of the Baracas and their sisters, the Philatheas, who are working hand in hand with them in promoting one of the greatest religious movements of modern times. The meeting will be in session from June 11th to 14th.

President Brewer expresses the confident hope that the "New Meredith" will be ready for occupancy by January 1 next. Cost of the new plant complete is placed at a million dollars, of which \$750,000 has been realized by the sale of bonds. It is expected that the present site will bring around \$750,000.

A proposition to reduce the distance between Raleigh and the town of Benson, Johnston county, from 44 to 28 miles, is the hope of the business interests of these two municipalities. \$6,000 will complete the highway proposed, with other funds available, and there seems little doubt that the objective will be reached. The

Pensioners are ready with the \$3,000 allotted to them and Raleighites must either "put up or shut up." It is believed that they will "come across."

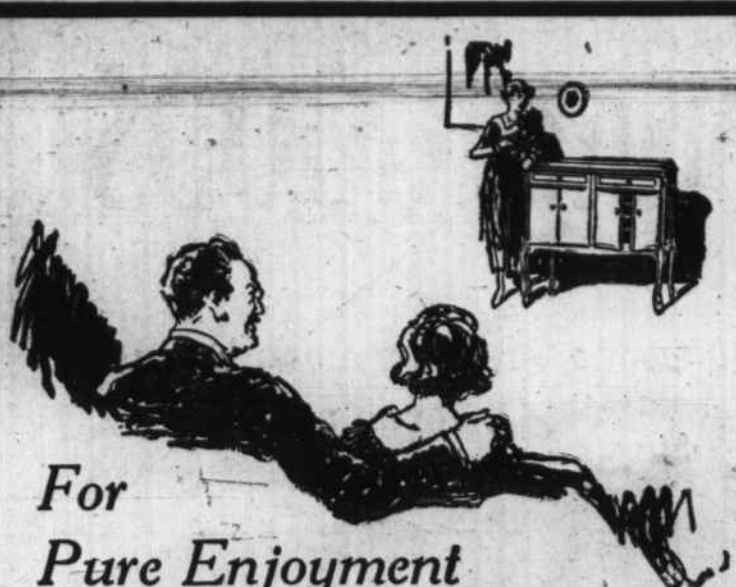
The Commissioner of Labor and Printing has appointed Paul G. Noel, of Lexington, to have charge of the work of looking after claims due World War veterans by the Federal government, under an act of the recent Legislature. The position is to draw a salary of \$3,000 per year.

The time is past when complete plumbing systems in the farm home should be considered a luxury. Of all the labor-saving conveniences, the water system should come first and every farm home in North Carolina should at least have a simple pump and sink fixture, say home demonstration workers of State College.

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This is a good time to sell the rooster or remove him from the laying flock so that only fertile eggs may be produced during hot weather, recommends A. G. Oliver, poultry specialist at State College.

It doesn't pay to crowd the growing chickens. Mice and lice thrive under such conditions and the young birds also kill one another. As soon as the birds are weaned from the heat, move them out on a better range.

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