

OUR RALEIGH LETTER

By M. L. Shipman

Raleigh, July 11.—Intense discussion over the distribution of the State printing contracts, trial of four Raleigh policemen for bribery and liquor trafficking, letting of a big bunch of road contracts, appointment of the state tax commission and various other matters served to keep Raleigh folks interested during the past week. Many of the questions were by no means settled and this week sees a renewal of the discussions in several spheres.

The distribution of the state equalizing fund promises to be one of the major problems confronting the administration during the coming months. Many counties which had confidently expected increases and themselves without such increase and other counties have gotten large increases. After the matter had been discussed from one end of the state to the other following announcement of the equalizing board figures ten days ago, a meeting was held at Raleigh Friday at which the whole question was reviewed and the counties which protested against their allotments were represented. No definite disposition has been made of the matter but it has been emphasized anew that if North Carolina is to perfect its educational system so far as money distribution and tax burden is concerned, the property values of the various counties will have to be gotten in line.

The efforts to award the printing contract for the State have not been very successful as state printers are taking the stand that they will not handle the printing at a loss while the administration is trying to get lower figures. Frank D. Grist, printing commissioner, made a trip into several other states but when he returned he had not solved the difficulty for North Carolina figures were found to be low, or in line with other places. The last move of the printing commission is to call a meeting of certain appointed printers of the state to draft new specifications for letting the contract, it being the idea that the work should be let out piecemeal in some form or another. Practical printers are shaking their heads over

this for the system which has been in vogue has operated successfully for many years while the experiment now proposed may prove disastrous to state printing, which must be neat and meet high specifications.

The state tax commission was appointed by the governor and will proceed on the herculean task of revising the entire system of state taxation. This commission no doubt will face a task much more difficult than the job of the equalizing commission for in addition to school taxes the commission must consider taxes on business, manufacturers and the farmers. It will be organized immediately and will proceed to make a thorough investigation by the time of the next general assembly, or earlier if possible.

The highway commission let 24 projects during the week for a total of \$2,343,000, this being the first big letting of the new fiscal year. This will insure continuance of the road building program for a long time to come and day by day there will be new miles of splendid highways added to the state system.

Efforts are being made to open the tobacco markets of the border belt along South Carolina at an earlier date this year. The producers claim they will lose money by the late opening and the state authorities have interested themselves in the matter. Raleigh folks are facing an increase in county taxes though nothing definite has been decided. It looks however as if this will be the final action of the county commissioners.

Raleigh entertained Major H. A. Dargue, leader of the Pan American Good Will flight last Saturday. He came here from Greensboro and told all about his experiences in the South American countries and was royally entertained.

Politics got into the air during the week to name George Ross Pou as the next lieutenant governor and Chester O. Bell as his successor at the head of the state prison system. Just where the information came from is not clear but it certainly is a great rumor for no one thus far had ever thought about Mr. Pou as lieutenant governor. In addition to this young Pou, he is just a shade over thirty has got to make a living and he can't do it on the small remuneration of lieutenant governor, even if he were elected. Well, the politics have been dull this summer so maybe someone started talking just to stir them up. If Mr. Pou does get into the race he will make it interesting for the "other fellows."

Governor McLean is pleased with development of the state fishing industry he said on his return from a trip this past week. The budget commission met during the week and decided that the state was in a healthy financial condition and there was no necessity for cutting the budget allotments. This was good news for all departments and institutions. It was announced that a surplus of \$1,403,583 had been created during the first two years of the McLean administration.

Raleigh citizens got a great deal of amusement this week out of the claim of Niles O'Neal for \$7,000 from the county for services rendered as a detective. O'Neal says he was forced to make liquor and serve 15 months on the roads because of his zeal in trawling down certain law-breakers. In the meantime the public remembers that he was known as "King of the Harricane," the section of the county from which he hails and that he has had a reputation as a bootlegger extraordinary for many years.

The death of Clarence Call at North Wilkesboro was heard with regret in Raleigh where he was well known for his devotion to the state and his disinterested public service. Mr. Call was a Republican and had served his section well in many spheres.

Two stills and eight gallons of hooch were captured Sunday by Sheriff Turner when he raided a still site at the church hour. It was said that the still operators were attending church at the time. A number of forest fire outlook stations have been established by the federal government in cooperation with the state government in an effort to prevent the devastating forest fires which have swept the mountain sections in past summers.

The death of Broadus Miller at Morganton was read of with interest in Raleigh. Miller was the assaulter and killer of a 15 year old girl and feeling ran high. He was killed by a member of a posse. While citizens here generally felt that the right man was killed and that he got something less than he deserved, still they were horrified by the gruesome display of the negro's body on the courthouse lawn at Morganton following the slaying.

Among conventions here during the week was that of the rural letter carriers. They were heartily welcomed in Raleigh. Governor McLean paid a visit to Senator Simmons at New Bern during the week but there was nothing said about what was discussed. The citizens were pleased at the announcement that Brigadier General Bowley, commander of Camp Bragg, would cooperate with the city in getting Lindbergh, the famous aviator, to visit Raleigh in the near future. It is hoped that the attempt will be successful.

Three hundred farm women gathered here during the week and took part in the short course for farm women offered at state college. These courses have proven immensely popular among the farm women of the State. Another meeting here was the Women's Missionary Society of the United Lutheran Synod of North Carolina which held an interesting convention.

Though deposits and loans decreased in Raleigh banks during the past year, it is felt that the banks weathered a lean year in excellent shape. The Raleigh banks draw largely upon rural business and the farmers of the section were hard hit in the past 12

months.

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