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OUR RALEIGH LETTER

By M. L. Shipman

Raleigh, July 16—During the week the State administration cancelled a contract with the Carolina Coal Company touching the employment of negro prisoners in the coal mines near Sanford, revoked the commission of a negro who had been named a notary public for Davie County, released Otto Wood from death row at the State Prison, here he had been in solitary confinement since his third escape more than two years ago, decided that the Salary and Wage Commission must get along without a full time secretary and let it be known that North Carolina's hired help, generally speaking, is expected to live within their present income.

Governor Gardner appears to have more of a "fellow feeling" towards the State's convicts than did his predecessor, Mr. McLean, for he recently led the way to a revocation of the contract with the Carolina Coal Company for the employment of negro convicts in the coal mines of that corporation where three or four of them met death in under-ground accidents. While cancellation of the contract was based on the ground that the Company had not discharged its part of the agreement, Governor Gardner declared he had felt from the beginning of his administration that the policy of compelling State prisoners to endanger their lives in mining operations was wrong and should be discontinued. The State Prison had been receiving compensation at the rate of 20 cents an hour for each convict under the five-year contract with the Carolina Mining Company. During the fifteen months they have been employed in the mines near Sanford, five were killed in an elevator accident, one was electrocuted and one died after being crushed by a coal car. For the present, it is said, that the policy of employing convicts in quarries will be continued, but doing service in mines is not to be required any time soon. Nor will Otto Wood be compelled to drag out the remainder of his thirty-year sentence on death row simply because he is considered a "bad man."

He must be a good negro to obtain and retain a commission from the office of Governor Gardner. On June 24th requests was made of the Governor by B. C. Brock, a former republican member of the General Assembly from Davie County, for appointment of T. J. Lyons, Mocksville Negro, as notary public and assuming the applicant to be a white man, the commission was issued. Later the Governor was surprised to learn from reputable citizens of Mocksville that he was not only a "gentleman of color," but one of disrepute in that he had convictions for larceny and other crimes to his credit, or discredit, and the commission was promptly revoked. It has been the policy of former governors to issue notary commissions to reputable negroes to serve their own race, but applications have generally come from democrats.

Thousands of birds are being hatched at the State Game Farm, near Ashboro, for distribution over North Carolina, says an announcement from the Department of Conservation and Development. Up to the end of June more than 6,000 ring-neck pheasant and 2,000 quail eggs had been gathered at the farm. Most of the pheasant eggs had been distributed to sportsmen who had made formal application while quail eggs are being hatched at the farm for later distribution. Engineers of the Department were again dispatched to the coast to continue the studies of physical changes caused by the winds and tides. Objects of these investigations are to determine the rate of coastal changes, to discover their cause, to devise economical and effective means of controlling erosion, and to build up data which enables a determination of the best methods of controlling the migration of inlets which now seriously impair the fishing industry in inland sounds and the permanence of valuable coastal and resort lands. A new forestry district with headquarters at Wilmington was recently established with W. C. Hamerle in charge as district forester. This district will include the counties of Columbus, Bladen, Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, Duplin and Onslow. The Department finds that the production of electrical energy in the State has grown from 8,351,356 kilowatt hours in 1902 to 2,245,470,000 in 1928. Recently a 185-acre plot of land containing a 66-acre lake near Fayetteville was purchased for the State by the Department and will be utilized in the operation of a game fish hatchery.

Matters of routine occupied the attention of members of the executive committee of the board of trustees of the University of North Carolina held in the office of the Governor during the week. A committee to study the problem of junior colleges and their relation to the educational system of the State and to the University, touching, also, the matter of raising the standards of these schools, with the view to admitting student graduates to the higher colleges, is composed of A. H. Graham, Hillsboro, chairman; Josephus Daniels, Raleigh; Chas. Woodbee, Hertford; A. E. Woltz, Gastonia; and A. A. Shuford, of Hickory. The State Highway Patrol, which began operations from one end of the State to the other on July 1, reports activities a plenty to Captain Farmer, generalissimo of "the army" here. Few arrests, considering the number of motorists detained for various infractions of the traffic laws, have so far been reported, the patrolmen contenting themselves with giving fair warning that punishment may be expected for second offences. Drunken drivers on the highways are said to be increasing at an alarming rate.

There is to be no full-time secretary to the Salary and Wage Commission, nor many salary increases for departmental heads or their clerical assistants during the year of 1929, ac-

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According to decision of members of the Commission in semi-annual meeting here during the week. The need for a permanent secretary was not seriously questioned, but the General Assembly failed to provide for an adequate salary and the Commission will go right along without one, assuming that Judge Townsend, parish commissioner and executive counsellor, will continue to "keep the records straight." The Commission passed upon between 300 and 400 applications for boosts in salaries aggregating around \$60,000 a year, but allowed less than 30 increases amounting to between \$5,000 and \$6,000. The pay of Dr. C. A. Shore, director of the State Laboratory of Hygiene, was raised from \$5,000 to \$6,000 per annum and that of H. K. Witherspoon, assistant to Chairman Doughton of the State Highway Commission, from \$3,600 to \$4,200. Following adjournment of the Commission it was announced that exclusive of the State Highway Commission, there were 1,043 persons on the payroll of the State in June, last, whose salaries aggregated \$153,123.

The North Carolina Industrial Commission decided to "continue the chase" for two and one-half per cent tax chargeable against firms insuring themselves under the compensation act, rather than submit to the contrary ruling of Attorney General Brummitt placing it in the general

(Continued on page three)



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Source, Bored Well
Collected 6.10-29
Received 6.11-29
Reported 6.14-29
Turbidity 0

Odor Cold 0
Color 0
Alkalinity, bicarbonate 34 ppm
Total bacterial count per c. c. at 37d C. 5
B. Coll in 1.10 c. c. 0
B. Coll in 1 c. c. 0
B. Coll in 10 c. c. 0

M. L. S., Analyst.



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