

N. Carolina Resources Neglected, Director Says

COULD INCREASE INCOME HUNDRED MILLION, CLAIMED

Conservation Department Can Do Little Because Of Lack Of Funds, He Explains.

By strengthening and improving North Carolina's conservation laws, the natural resources of the state can be made to increase its annual income by not less than \$100,000,000, according to Colonel J. W. Harrelson, director of the state department of conservation and development.

The huge amount of money from natural resources can be earned without a further drain on the general fund of the state, he continued. The method is simply to arrange proper fees and taxes to be paid by the people who enjoy or exploit the natural resources.

One of the greatest needs of the state, said Colonel Harrelson, is a state-wide program for protection of the forest from fires. The present system, although effective in the counties which accept the terms of as the laws leave to county commissioners, and not to the owners of the forest lands, the decision of whether or not the forest are to be protected. Changing conditions in each general election place the protection of forests at the mercy of politics. One cent an acre a year, or \$210,000 for North Carolina's 21,000,000 acres of forest land, will furnish adequate protection from fire, he declared.

The inland or sport fishing situation is also unsatisfactory, the department director continued. He favors a moderate state-wide fishing license requirement with which the department would be able to increase the state's six fish hatcheries and to give farmers assistance in the building of farm fish ponds. It is possible, he said, to bring millions of dollars to farmers in returns from food fish which can be produced in farm fish ponds. Thousands of these should be constructed under supervision of the state but the department is unable, through lack of funds, to furnish assistance to farmers who would gladly use their spare time during the winter months in construction of fish ponds. Also the present capacity of fish hatcheries would not permit stocking of these ponds in case they were built.

He described the condition of commercial or coastal fishermen of the state as deplorable. Because of lack of funds for planting seed oysters and carrying forward a complete development program, the fishermen are losing about \$10,000,000 a year. The state should either make it possible for seed oysters to be planted over a good part of the more than 1,000,000 acres of good oyster bottoms or should change the present unreasonable law which permits an individual to lease only 200 acres of oyster bottoms, said Colonel Harrelson.

There are mineral deposits in the state valued at hundreds of millions of dollars that cannot be surveyed because the state cannot put experienced men in the field, he continued. It is known that one mining company has spent more than \$80,000 in North Carolina during the last 18 months in investigating various mineral deposits. As the information collected is private, the state does not have the advantage of any of the data collected prospective developers, it was declared, should be encouraged to the extent of being furnished with, at least, fundamental facts about the state's mineral resources. Colonel Harrelson pointed out that his program does not necessarily require a further heavy drain on the state's general fund. Appropriations required for a comprehensive development of the natural resources can usually be collected from taxes or fees levied against the industry.

He urged the need of the state's making plans at once, in co-operation with the United States Geological survey, to complete a topographic map of North Carolina. Some arrangements should be made also to furnish large industries looking southward for locations with information about the advantages offered by North Carolina.

"Man is of nature, and nature includes man," he said "No state program for the improvement, education, welfare, character, development and pastime of our citizens will be complete without considering parks and playgrounds with school houses, timber production with tobacco and cotton products, fish and game with high school and college athletics, waterfalls and beautiful mountains with public libraries, lakes and wild flowers and art galleries, or all phases of outdoor recreation with the welfare of the public in general.

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Uncle Sam Pays Huge Sum For Gun Salutes

It costs Uncle Sam about \$315,000 annually to salute the Stars and Stripes at sunrise and sunset and welcome visiting army generals and governmental personages.

It was estimated at Eight Corps Area headquarters at Fort Sam Houston that the powder used at the army's 300 posts throughout the nation and possessions in firing reveille and retreat guns cost \$265,000 a year.

It requires another \$50,000 for salutes to visiting civilian and military dignitaries.

Corps area headquarters estimated it took \$1.21 to fire a first-class salute to a rising sun. Items: One pound of powder, primer, cap, felt wad and two cents' worth of rubbering paint to seal the charge.

Overhead charges such as pay of officers and men who complete the ceremony and wear and tear on equipment were not taken into consideration.

Salutes to visitors come a little higher, due to the fact that 1-2 pounds of powder are used. These were estimated to cost \$1.47 each.

Read The Watchman Ads.

TWO ROWAN COUNTY NEGROES DIE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR FOR MURDER OF FRANK STEWART

Raleigh—Two Rowan county black boys, J. W. Ballard, 17, and Bernice Matthews, 18, gave the state's electric chair one of the hardest pulls in its service of nearly 23 years Dec. 11 when they were put to death for the murder of Frank Stewart, filling station operator, on Labor day of this year.

Effacing them was a job. The younger and guiltier, Ballard, went out almost blithely, but his heart would not stop beating. The state played the current of electricity on him for more than three minutes. And when attendants picked him up to carry him to the dead wagon, one of his ears was burned half off.

His co-slayer died more easily, but not so gracefully. Ballard went into the chair and gave it a perfect survey. He joined the preachers in their chants, but when they lifted a hymn his mouth was bound and the current was devouring him before they had finished the first line of "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour." While

there was life he was all talk. He was inviting everybody to join him in the life above and asked particularly that his sister meet him in heaven. To the minister's question as to his guilt, he said without equivocation that he was Stewart's murderer.

The slender black had confessed many times but always left the impression that he killed Frank Stewart as the result of a quarrel over 35 cents said to be due the prisoner by the dead man. But robbery was the manifest motive. Rowan witnesses to the execution said the boys gathered \$40 from the killing. Ballard did the shooting, but he said Matthews furnished the gun.

When the attendants carried the youth out, Matthews came in. He chanted with much more difficulty the appropriate scriptures. "Thou anointest my head with oil," he mumbled as the attendants clamped the helmet over his head and fastened it under his chin. Matthews made a strange outcry as though the leather was choking him, but he was

warming to a religious fervor. He was caught in a song. There was something weird about the anointment of the black boy's head with oil, when the attendants were pressing down the headgear that guarantees sudden death.

But they did anoint him and his associate with water. Thrice the warden poured from a bucket a mug of liquid to make the killing more certain. The floor and the chair were saturated and Matthews was seated on a bottom from which the water had been wiped. The state found him easier than his junior. Both died hard.

Three neighbors of the dead man drove down from Salisbury to see it. His 21-year-old son, Frank and John

Kenerly, Rowan deputy, witnessed the execution, the first that they had ever seen. Mr. Shoaf's father was for many years constable in Rowan and Mr. Kenerly's father had been superintendent of the Rowan prison camps. The boys were too young to have established much of a record for crime.

They never perfected their appeals when they tried in Rowan, but the Supreme court reviewed their case anyway and found no error in it.

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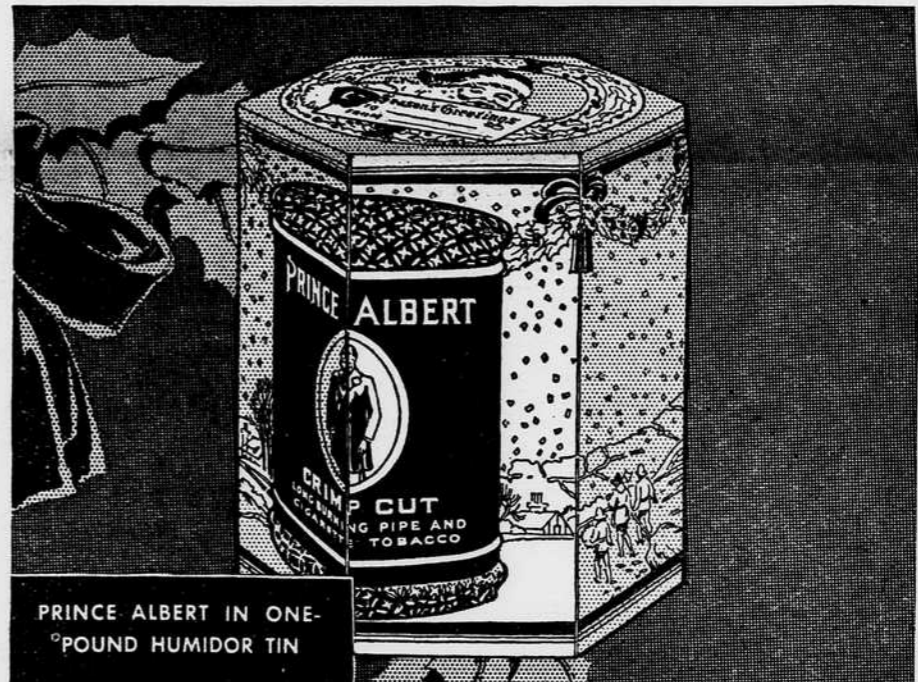
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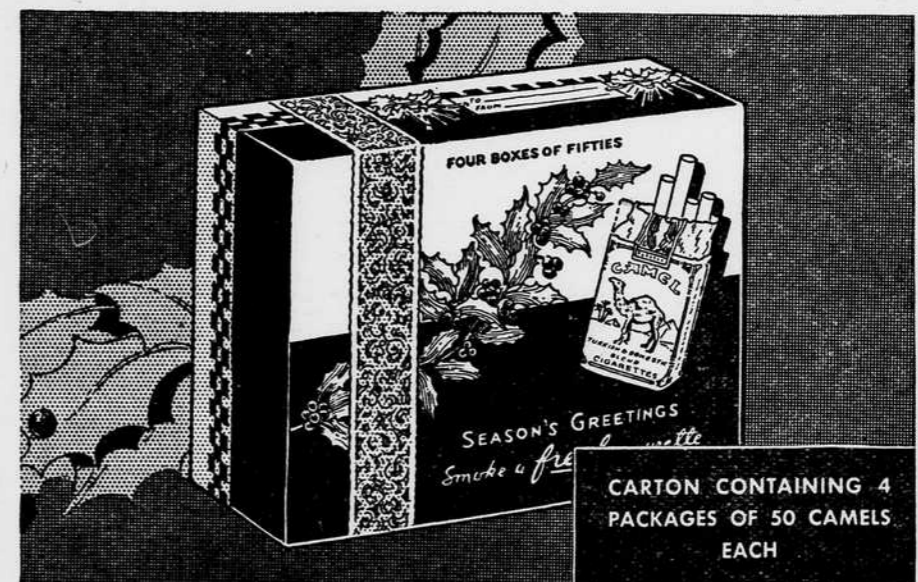
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