

# Jeffress Sees More State Support For Schools

## PROPERTY TAX DOOMED, SAYS HIGHWAY CHIEF

### Could Abolish Unemployment In North Carolina By Spending Six Millions On Roads.

"Undoubtedly the state will be forced to take completely over support of the six-months school term and I doubt that any governor can be elected who does not promise to remove the 15-cent ad valorem school tax," declared Chairman E. B. Jeffress, of the North Carolina state highway commission, in a statement to a representative of The Watchman.

Mr. Jeffress said he would guarantee to abolish the state's unemployment situation if congress would pass the bill of Senator LaFollette providing for \$375,000,000 for unemployment relief if the sum was prorated among states for use in building roads and other public works, instead of being used as a dole as suggested by Senator LaFollette.

"North Carolina's part of a fund of that kind would be about \$6,000,000," explained the highway commission chairman. "If the federal government would give us that sum without requiring us to raise an equal amount, we could use it for roads and other necessary improvements, including underpasses in municipalities, and could guarantee the municipalities that we would handle unemployment. We could transform the state into a prosperous dominion, without use of a dole."

"We have gone through a period of great expansion in North Carolina and have accumulated a large debt, but I view the situation not hopelessly but hopefully for we have laid the foundation for great future expansion and our problem is now reduced to an operating problem," continued Mr. Jeffress. "When business revives we will have the facilities so that we can ask outside people to move in."

"Two things of outstanding importance were enacted by the last legislature, the decision to finance the six months school, and the taking of the road burden off of property and placing it on the man who operates an automobile."

"Our commission is now administering under a single unit 10,000 miles of state highways and 47,000 miles of county highways and we have 4,200 prisoners to feed, clothe and guard."

The highway chairman expressed the belief that the state will eventually take over the short-term prisoners, relieving cities and counties of caring for them except during the trial period.

"There is a possibility the state can group counties under health officers on a state-wide basis, giving further relief on ad valorem taxes. County lines are not proper lines for many services of government, although I am not advocating abolition of the counties."

"The times have unstabilized public thought and there is business and political uncertainty. In facing the future, changed conditions will make necessary a re-study of city, county and state government."

"Instead of worrying over the money that has been spent, let's talk North Carolina as a united state and sell the state to the nation. Pull together, and then North Carolina will enter a new era of prosperity."

## SUICIDES SHOW GAIN FOR YEAR

Homicides decreased in North Carolina in 1931, but suicides hit the upward trail. During the year 329 persons were killed by others and 305 took their own lives, according to the yearly mortality statistics released by the state board of health.

The figures compared with 347 homicides and 281 suicides in the state in 1930.

**DAN CUPID IS INACTIVE**  
Rutherfordton.—Only 60 marriage license were issued in Rutherford county during 1931 by Register of Deeds W. O. Geer, as compared to 73 in 1930, it is reported more local couples were married outside of the county and state than were married in it.

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## LABOR NEWS

By F. T. CORNELIUS, Secretary Salisbury-Spencer Central Labor Union

**LABORS RENUMERATION**  
There is a tendency among certain writers on economics and industrial relations to assume that all the workers are entitled to a "living wage." This theory frequently expresses itself in the declaration that if those who own and control our industries cannot furnish work at wages large enough to provide their workers with the necessities of life, then there must be some form of unemployment insurance or as a last resort, relief in the form of public or private charity, with charity standards of living bases on scientifically prepared budgets designed to keep the workers alive and but little more. This reactionary idea should be scrapped. Labor does most of the productive work in all departments of our economic life.

With modern machinery the workers not only produce earnings large enough to provide a "living wage" for themselves and a fair return to the owners on legitimate investments but also produce surplus earnings running into billions of dollars. This theory of the living wage people is that this immense surplus belongs of right to those who own and control industry. Labor does not subscribe to this theory. Labor's policy declares that a large and even a larger portion of this surplus should go to the workers in wages, and that the amount should not be determined in the least by what it cost the worker to live. A living wage is what the slave owners gave their slave workers. Labor has passed beyond the slave status. Living wage employers and economists are still dominated by the slave conception. They should modernize their viewpoint.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS**  
President William Green has issued a call for the Executive Council to meet on February 2nd and on February 9th.

**FAVOR FEDERAL RELIEF**  
Local Labor is much pleased with the introduction of Senate Bill 3045

### Aids Town by Running One-Man Bank



Edward Groth, former messenger and teller for the Hammond, (Ind.) National Bank, when the last of the seven local banks closed up, decided to open a bank of his own. He accepts deposits from workers and merchants in the form of checks for collection and acts as a clearing house in the settlement of local debts. No laws are said to exist for the governance of the Groth institution.

introduced by Senators Costigan and LaFollette which provides for an appropriation of \$375,000,000 to be used for relief purposes in cities, towns and states throughout the nation. All representatives from our state in Senate and Congress have been officially notified that the labor movement in this district favors the passage of this bill for the reason that it is believed that local relief programs have been empty gestures and have failed to cope with the situation and its ever increasing problems. Welfare and charitable institutions are given credit for remarkable work but

ruary 9th. This call also included representatives from all National and International Unions. The purpose of this meeting will be to consider Labor's legislative and unemployment program. When this meeting is called to order President Green will be in possession of actual facts pertaining to conditions in every locality. The Central Labor Unions throughout the United States playing an important part in gathering this information.

lack funds to adequately provide and the passage of this bill would offer this necessary relief. This bill will have the support of the entire Labor movement.

**OPPOSE WILKERSON**  
Protests have been sent in against the nomination of Judge James H. Wilkerson as judge of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals. This is the gentleman who saw fit to issue the drastic injunction in connection with the 1922 shopmen's strike and labor has not forgotten the many injustices suffered at his hands.

**OPPOSE REDUCTION**  
The Central Labor Union at its last regular meeting issued instructions that our representatives be notified that we opposed any and all reductions in the salaries of Federal employees. Stating in effect, that to lower these wages would mean lowering the standards of living all over the nation, and that Christianity and higher living conditions went hand in hand and to lower one is to lower the other. Therefore, reduction in salaries of Federal employees would be a backward step.

**UNION SHOP CARDS**  
The Salisbury-Spencer Central Labor Union has officially declared all barber shops not displaying the Union Shop Card unfair to organized labor and have made arrangements whereby unemployed union men will be used to peacefully persuade all our friends to patronize those shops friendly to us.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COLUMN**  
By R. E. L. NIEL

The conductor of this column while in Charlotte during the past

week was quoted in the morning newspaper of that city as declaring that the unemployment situation in Salisbury was not as critical as it was a year ago. In fact the article cited the cause for the belief being that the Cartex Mills had reopened the old Vance Mills which had been idle for a year, a rug making plant had been established and a garment making concern had more than doubled the number of employees during 1931. Attention was also called to the building of the addition to the Salisbury post-office and the negro high school.

On Saturday last the mail brought to the aforesaid conductor a letter from the metropolis of Western North Carolina written by an anxious mother who said "I read your 'speech' in the Charlotte paper and I am asking you if you will get my boy a job there in Salisbury or elsewhere. He has been out of work ever since he finished college last June." The fond mother went on to tell of the accomplishments of the young man and concludes by saying "Help him get a job right away please." Of course the good mother had to be told that there were no surplus jobs at present and that the local supply would naturally receive first consideration. Now the Chamber of Commerce official who was quoted in the neighboring city paper is wondering if he spoke out of turn.

The incident recalls a story told of a well to do citizen in the native city of the writer. This man although free hearted when it came to charity and much beloved would never lend a helping hand toward boosting the town and when asked his reason declared: "Did you ever go blackberry hunting? If you did and you found a bush heavy laden with the luscious fruit, did you call all the rest of the boys and tell them what you had found? Yes you did, but it was after you had filled your own bucket to overflowing!"

Life is a struggle for peace,  
A longing for rest,  
A hope for the battles to cease,  
A dream for the best;  
And he is not living who stays  
Contented with things,  
Unconcerned with the work of the days  
And all that it brings.

He is dead who sees nothing to change,  
No wrong to make right;  
Who travels no new way or strange  
In search of the light;  
Who never sets out for a goal  
That he sees from afar  
But contents his indifferent soul  
With things as they are.

Life isn't rest—it is toil;  
It is building a dream;  
It is tilling a parcel of soil  
Or bridging a stream;  
It's pursuing the light of a star  
That but dimly we see,  
And is wrestling from things as they are  
The joy that should be.

With a \$6,000,000 hydro-electric power plant and a \$125,000 hospital projected for Salisbury who will say that 1932 has not started out with bright prospects at least of great development for this community. Of course both projects are in an embryo state but a citizenship that will give serious consideration to enterprises such as these can't help attain success in the end and it speaks well of this central city of the Piedmont Carolinas that has an outlook for the future, confident of the ultimate destiny of their section.

According to an exchange a newspaper in speaking of a deceased citizen, said: "We knew him as Old Ten Per Cent, the more he had the less he spent; the more he got the less he lent; he's dead—we don't know where he went—but if his soul to heaven was sent, he'll own the harp and he'll charge 'em rent."

The annual meeting and dinner of the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce is in the offing. This event always marks the beginning of a new year of activity for that organization and if the plans of its officers materialize, as is confidently expected, the 1932 occasion will instill renewed vigor in those charged with its direction, and results for the good of the entire community is predicted. A well functioning Chamber of Commerce is an asset to any city and is as necessary as is schools, churches, fire and police departments, libraries and other agencies. The hearty co-operation of all citizens, however, is necessary for the accomplishment of the greatest good and this to the 100 per cent mark is to be asked of Salisbury during the coming months.

Harvey Wilson of Kansas City couldn't find a place to park his car—so he gave it away!

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