

The News and Observer

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THE WEATHER
North Carolina—Generally fair Tuesday and Wednesday; not much change in temperature.

VOL. CXIII, NO. 32.

TWELVE PAGES TODAY.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1, 1921.

TWELVE PAGES TODAY.

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

BUSINESS REVIEW OF RESERVE BOARD MORE OPTIMISTIC

Decided Turn To Better State of Affairs During January Reported By Board

MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN BANKING CONDITIONS

Stiffening of Cotton Prices Causes More Picking in South; Improvement Shown in Textile Industry in Carolinas; Prices of Tobacco Reported Still Unsatisfactory

News and Observer Bureau, 603 District National Bank Building.
By JOEL L. BAKER.

(By Special Licensed Wire.)

Washington, Jan. 31.—A distinctly optimistic tone is noticeable in the report of the Federal Reserve Board for January.

While the business developments during the month were slight, they were unmistakable. The board declares in beginning its statement, and there is a turn toward a better state of affairs.

While the Department of Labor figures show a total of approximately 3,500,000 unemployed in the country, at a number of plants where a considerable number have been unemployed, operations have been resumed either in whole or in part.

Banking conditions have been materially improved, the report says, and this is in part due, it avers, to a steadier and more rapid movement of agricultural products to market. Liquidation of paper held by member banks has also contributed. Of the agricultural cotton situation, the report says:

The close of the year found a considerable amount of cotton still un-picked in district No. 11 (Dallas), but it is generally believed that most of the unpicked crop will be saved. Some low grade cotton has been left unpicked in district No. 5 (Richmond), but due to favorable weather and a slight stiffening in prices, more cotton has been picked during the last two weeks. Little cotton was sold in that district during December, due to the unsatisfactory prices, but around the opening of the new year prices showed an upward tendency. Much talk of reduced acreage, both for cotton and tobacco, was heard in district No. 5 (Richmond).

The census bureau reports consumption of cotton by the mills of the country in the period from August 1 to December 31 to be 1,067,000 bales, as compared with 2,554,000 bales for the corresponding period a year ago. Only 294,000 bales were consumed in December, 1920, as compared with 511,600 bales in December, 1919, and 332,000 bales during the preceding month. A slight advance in price occurred after the opening of the new year, but was followed by declines. The total cotton exports during December were 788,575 bales as compared with 685,323 bales in November and 878,852 bales in December, 1919.

Textile Improvement.
"There has been some improvement in the cotton textile industry of New England during the past month, especially in the market for yarns, for which there has been an increased demand and a resultant increase in prices." "During the third week in January there was a slight increase in quoted prices. In North and South Carolina signs of recovery were much more in evidence, some of the textile mills having resumed operations on approximately full time. In a majority of the Southern mills wage reductions averaging about 25 per cent have become effective."

Tobacco Conditions.
"Conditions in the several tobacco sections continue unsatisfactory," says the report. It is stated that the best grades are selling at reasonably fair prices, while the inferior grades of which the crop is largely composed, are bringing unusually low figures. Little tobacco was sold in district No. 5 (Richmond) during December, and many of the markets were closed a good part of the month or until after the holidays. A general sentiment in favor of a reduction in the tobacco acreage apparently exists in all the sections. Much talk is heard of raising no burley crop in 1921 in district No. 4. Numerous plans to enforce a reduction of acreage have been advanced in district No. 5, and farmers in district No. 8 are negotiating to hold last year's crop and plant none this year."

Weather Ideal For HARDING, THE FISHERMAN
Miami, Fla., Jan. 31.—Perfect weather favored President-elect Harding and his vacation party today on their fishing trip south of Miami.

Throughout the day a tropical sun looked down from unclouded skies and tanned the faces of the fishermen as their yachts shadow maneuvered about the Biscayne and sail-fish grounds off Cocolobo Island. The sea was smooth, but a languid breeze played across the Shadow's deck, blunting the force of the sun and completing a natural setting which might have been made to order for fishing.

The Shadow is expected to put back into Miami late tomorrow and unless Mr. Harding changes his plans and yields to the temptation of the Cocolobo water, he will start Wednesday morning on his return trip to St. Augustine.

SELEST DONAL O'CALLAGHAN AS LORD MAYOR OF CORK
Cork, Jan. 31.—The Cork corporation today re-elected Donal O'Callaghan Lord Mayor. (Lord Mayor O'Callaghan is at the United States.)

Towards the close of the meeting a police force entered and arrested three of the alien men and seven nationalists taking their seats in the barracks. The prisoners included in the arrested men on the way.

Refusing Pardon Five Times Aunt Sarah Wyckoff Goes Free

After Forty-Two Years in Prison For Crime She Didn't Commit, Little Old Woman of Alexander County Dies and Today Her Body Goes Back To Mountains To Be Buried Beside That of Her Husband, Who Was Slain

By BEN DIXON MacNEILL.

Forty-two years ago there was a hanging in Alexander county. One Bob McCorkle, negro, swung out into eternity for the murder of Wesley Wyckoff, white, Sarah Wyckoff, the wife of Wesley Wyckoff and the mother of his children, came to the State Prison to serve a life sentence for conspiring with the negro to kill her husband. Yesterday her sentence was ended. She is dead.

And Sarah Wyckoff had never committed murder, had never known anything about the killing of her husband. Circumstantial evidence had tied the knot around the negro's neck, and had torn her from her children and shut her up in prison. Thirty-nine years after the negro had been hung, and the woman had become No. 1304 in prison, a man confessed to the murder—and died.

Confession Clears Her. Hanging over the edge of eternity, torn with the fear of death, the red stain on his soul, the wife of the man who had been killed, she was left to the mercy of the law. She had done nothing, and she had suffered for the crime of another man.

Her little children that she had left in the home back in the hills of Alexander had grown up, had married, had had children of their own, had forgotten their mother locked in prison, had died. There was none left who had ever known her, or her own blood. A daughter-in-law, widowed, heard the confession, and in time wrote. But forty years had blotted out memory from the mind of the twisted old woman. She didn't care.

Five Governors had pardoned Sarah Wyckoff, but the clemency that sent her to prison had torn up by the roots every strand that bound her to the world outside the grim gates of the prison. She had nowhere to go, none to welcome her anywhere, and in prison they were good to her, and kind. Shut away in a little cell, twisted and bent with rheumatism, bedridden, kindly things found her, and she was content.

Today the twisted, shriveled little body will go back to the hills of Alexander to be laid by hands that she never knew beside the bones of her husband for whose death she has suffered so grievously. In the jailing of the woman the last days of her service, he came back to her, she talked with him, and they were young together again. It was then that she wanted to go back to Alexander. Other times, he was a blurred dream.

Warden Busbee was good to the little old lady. High on the top floor of the woman's building in the prison, looking out over a pleasant garden, he had made her a place to live. A room to herself, with heat and lights and a bath. All of material comfort that he could bring was brought. And there was Nancy Curley, an old woman of the hills who had murdered her grandchild, to watch over her. They lived together very happily.

Invalid 23 Years. Rheumatism laid hold of Sarah Wyckoff 23 years ago, and since then she had not walked. In bed, and in a little wheel chair, she spent her years, knitting, crocheting, sewing. She specialized in little aprons of white cloth, bound around with cunningly done lace.

HIGH RATE TAXPAYERS LITIGATE IN COURT ROOM

Thousand Union County Citizens Indicted For Failure To List Their Property

Monroe, Jan. 31.—Superior court for the trial of criminal cases convened here this morning with Judge J. B. Ray presiding. The entire morning was taken up with empanelling and charging the grand jury. Never before in the history of the county have there been so many cases on docket for a term of criminal court, the reason being that more than one thousand Union county citizens were indicted for failure to list property taxes. The court yard was filled all day long with irate groups of farmers, who had driven through tough mud to attend court to answer to the charges, many of them having tax receipts in their pockets indicating that they had not only listed property but had paid taxes early in the season and before caps was served on them for failure to list.

Those who have not paid taxes but whose abstract of returns are found in proper form are being permitted to pay taxes and go home. It is expected that a very small percentage of the total number will have to stand trial on the indictment. Several dozen citizens have still further and more real cause for grievance.

The seating capacity of the court room is not sufficient to accommodate the thousand indictees and witnesses and many of them crowded around the bar and stood in the doors. Judge Ray ordered them to be seated or retire and when a numb failed to comply with this order they were fined \$25.00 each for contempt of court. He then ordered the doors locked and the sheriff to collect the fines. One man, whose identity could not be learned, attempted to sit down after the fees had been imposed to avoid payment and he was assessed a fine of \$25.00. Whatever opinion these gentlemen had of a court room, they are now of the unanimous opinion that it is no place to stand around in.

Dist. Judge January, Jan. 31.—The January court session will be held here on Wednesday, Jan. 31. (Continued on Page Three)

PRESIDENT WILSON REFUSES TO FREE SOCIALIST LEADER

Rejects Recommendation of Department of Justice To Commute Debs' Sentence

EXECUTIVE'S DECISION CAUSES NO SURPRISE

Recommendation Asked That Sentence Be Commuted Effective On Lincoln's Birthday; Socialist Party Headquarters Comments On Supreme Court Decision

Washington, Jan. 31.—Recommendation by the Department of Justice that the ten-year sentence of Eugene V. Debs, long a prominent Socialist leader and now serving a ten-year sentence at Atlanta, Ga., for violation of the war laws, be commuted.

So long as her eyes could see she was a close student of the Scriptures. Her money went mostly into the three purses—one for pennies, another for nickels and dimes, and a third for larger denominations of coins. There was almost a quart of it. And on deposit in the office there was other money. She had enough to bury her, a little competent, built up, slow as a coral reef, through forty years saving of the meagre money that comes to a prisoner.

Of her own blood there is none left to mourn the death of Sarah Wyckoff. The children whom she left when she became a prisoner she never saw again. They are dead. The grandchildren have never known her, nor she them. But of those who sorrowed at her going there were many, and with sincere grief. Old Nancy Curley, who had attended her, was bowed down with sorrow yesterday when they had taken the body away, and she went about removing the last traces of the 23 years tenantry of that little room under the roof of the prison. Every woman in the ward was weeping.

And so ends the story of Sarah Wyckoff. Many have come in the years that befell during her incarceration. Her number, in the long, and serial list of prisoners who have entered there was 1304 when she was committed in 1879. Yesterday, as her body was being carried away there entered a new prisoner. To him was assigned the number 17465. That many have come, and most of them have gone, since she came.

It is a long list. Among them the innocent, the guilty, as must happen so long as laws are administered by the fallible hands of men. Sixteen thousand have passed within the gates and fifteen thousand and more have passed out again during the forty-two years, and in the top story lay the little woman, robbed by the law. Yesterday she went free.

Clever Detective Work. Time has broken most of the links that bind today to the time when Sarah Wyckoff stood before a jury in Alexander county to answer the charge of murder. Representative J. T. Linney, member from Alexander, remembers hearing his father tell of it. The elder Linney prosecuted her. The evidence against her was circumstantial, but she was very nearly being hanged. One member of the jury, Isaac Lewis, could not stand for seeing a woman hanged, and he stood out for a recommendation of clemency.

Wesley Wyckoff was shot in the dark. (Continued on Page Three)

VICTOR BERGER TO GET A NEW TRIAL

Supreme Court Holds Judge Landis Ineligible To Conduct Trial of Socialists

Washington, Jan. 31.—Victor L. Berger, Socialist editor of Milwaukee, and four co-defendants who were convicted and sentenced to terms ranging from ten to twenty years for violation of the wartime espionage act, will be given new trials under a decision today by the Supreme Court.

Dividing six to three, the court held that Federal District Judge Keneaw Mountain Landis, of Chicago, was ineligible to conduct the trial and should have retired upon the filing of an affidavit by the defendants charging him with "personal bias and prejudice" because of the nativity of certain of them.

While Justice McKenna was reading the majority opinion of the court, an announcement came from the White House that President Wilson had overruled a recommendation of the Department of Justice that the sentence of Eugene V. Debs, previously affirmed by the Supreme Court, be commuted to expire next February 12. Debs, many times candidate of the Socialist party for President, is serving ten years in the Federal prison in Atlanta, Ga., as a result of his conviction at Cleveland, Ohio, on practically the same charges as were Berger and his co-defendants. Those co-defendants are Adolph Germer, national secretary of the Socialist party, a native of Prussia; William Krasso, editor of the Young Socialist Magazine, whose parents were German; John Tucker, writer and lecturer, natives of the United States and claiming to be of immediate German descent.

The sole question before the Supreme Court was whether Judge Landis had erred in continuing to sit in the case after counsel for the defense had filed a properly drawn affidavit of prejudice. Six members of the court, including Chief Justice White, held that he did. Three other members, Justices Day, Pitney and McReynolds, held that he did not and filed opinions sharply dissenting from that of the majority.

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EXPECT CONGRESS TO MAKE VOLSTEAD ACT BULLET-PROOF

Prohibition Leaders Want Flat Jail Sentence For First Offense of Selling

WANT HOME BREW PUT ON BANNED LIST ALSO

Confiscation of Private Stocks Also Urged But Opposed By Many Dry Leaders; Big Fight For Amendment To Start With New Session; Chairman Volstead Awaiting Word

Washington, Jan. 31.—(By The Associated Press.)—Prohibition leaders in Congress are hoping to tighten up the Volstead law.

They are planning new legislation to provide a flat jail sentence for the first offense of selling liquor. The law now provides for a fine of \$100 and a jail sentence of not more than 60 days for the first offense.

Confiscation of every drop of liquor held by citizens, regardless as to when or how it was acquired, is also being urged. This would legalize seizure of all stocks held in private cellars, or a safety deposit vault. Objection to that, however, has been made by some dry leaders on the ground that little such liquor finds its way into channels of bootleg trade and that it won't be long before such liquor will be used up.

Unless a pending bill, which would permit Federal Commissioners to try minor liquor cases in camera, a proposed amendment to the law would take care of this. Federal court dockets are now badly congested with Volstead violations and government officials have reported a change of procedure necessary.

The big fight for amendment will start with the opening of the new session in April, according to dry leaders. They say they have enough votes in the House now to put through any added restrictions they might desire, but that there is not enough time left.

Meanwhile, Chairman Volstead, of the House Judiciary committee, on whose shoulders will fall the bulk of revising and tightening up, is awaiting word from prohibition enforcement officers as to suggestions for making the law bullet-proof. He wants the advice of the men charged with responsibility of breaking up the outlaw traffic.

TEX RICKARD TO PROMOTE BIG FIGHT BY HIMSELF

Makes Announcement Following Conference With Other Promoters of Bout

New York, Jan. 31.—Tex Rickard will promote the Dempsey-Carpenter bout for the heavyweight championship of the world, alone. He made this announcement late today after a conference with William A. Brady at which he agreed to take over the interests of both Brady and Charles B. Cochran, of London, England who is seriously ill.

The necessary legal papers will be drawn up within the next few days and with the signing of the Rickard deal will remain as sole promoter of the international contest for the premier title of pugilism. Under the new agreement he will become responsible for the entire amount of the promoter's guarantee or forfeit which totals \$100,000.

There will be no change in the contract between the boxers and Rickard, except such as may be necessary by later developments. The date of the bout still remains Saturday, July 2, and the site of the contest any portion of the American continent or Cuba as may be named by Rickard not later than March 1.

SIMMONS ENTERS DEFENSE FOR TAR HEEL GOVERNOR

Resolutions of Southern Tariff Congress Declared To Convey Wrong Impression

Washington, Jan. 31.—The attitude of Southern Governors toward resolutions passed by the Southern Tariff Association at its recent Atlanta meeting urging enactment of the emergency tariff bill caused considerable discussion in the Senate today when the resolutions were read into the record by Senator Randall, Democrat, Louisiana.

The stationery of the association, which it was said carried the list of practically all the Southern Governors as vice presidents, was read by Senator McCumber, Republican, North Dakota, a supporter of the Fordney tariff bill. This brought from Senator Robinson, Democrat, Arkansas, the statement that he did not believe more than one-fifth of the Southern Governors were present at the convention or had any knowledge of the resolutions which Senator Simmons, Democrat, North Carolina, asserted he was certain the resolutions did not express the sentiments of the Governors of his State.

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CHARGE PROFITTEERING TO FIVE COAL CORPORATIONS

Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 31.—Five coal companies and twelve of their officials were indicted by the Federal grand jury late today for violating the Lever act. It is charged they made profits ranging from \$3 to \$5 per ton on coal.

The names of those indicted follow:

Coff, Kichy Coal Company—Issac C. Goff, Harold L. Goff, James L. Deegan and Esttram H. Taylor. United Coal Company—J. M. Ickes, W. E. Crawford and George W. Gender.

Federal Clay Products Company—George J. Markley and C. H. Sawyer. Glenville Coal Company—William H. Evans and Byron H. Evans. George J. Markley Coal Company—George J. Markley.

EQUALIZATION IS GENERAL OPINION ON REVALUATION

Ten Per Cent Limitation Is Exceeded By \$900,000, Doughton Says

CHIEF OPPOSITION ASKS FOR MORE TIME TO SPEAK

Joint Finance Committee Gives Farmers' Union and Collector Bailey Until Next Tuesday To File Case; Act Will Work, If Inequalities Are Smoothed Out, Many Believe

Equalization and not repeal is what will happen to the Revaluation act, if the opinions voiced by the full Joint Finance Committee yesterday afternoon indicate the sentiment of the General Assembly. "Don't kill it, but doctor it," as Senator McKinnis expressed it, and with variations as to method, entire session yesterday.

Senator Burdette, who has been the most vigorous critic of the Revaluation Act in the Senate, but still its friend, was for action without waiting to see what President Stone was going to say. "We know what he is going to say, and what the distinguished gentlemen with him is going to say, and I don't see any use in putting off consideration of this important matter." The committee has already told Mr. Bailey that he could be heard next Tuesday, and the action stood.

Representative Doughton surprised the committee and the attendants upon its hearing with the announcement that in spite of the ten per cent limitation imposed by the General Assembly, levies for public schools by boards of commissioners in ninety of the hundred counties in the State exceeded the limitation by \$900,000.

Mr. Doughton based his statement on a tabulation of reports from these ninety counties in the hands of the State Tax Commission.

These levies were made presumably on school budgets made up by the County Boards of Education. Seventy-six of the ninety counties exceeded the ten per cent increase and twenty-eight of these counties exceeded it by more than ten thousand dollars. It is noticeable also that the most complaint of excessive taxes is coming from tax payers in those counties where the increased taxes were levied for county schools and in violation of the limitation of tax rates fixed in the revaluation act.

THE TWENTY-EIGHT counties exceeding the limitation by more than ten thousand dollars each, and the amount of the excess taxes levied for schools in each of such counties, show the ten per cent authorized by the revaluation act, is as follows:

Anson, \$27,235; Bertie, \$12,326; Burke, \$15,978; Cumberland, \$13,351; Craven, \$17,515; Durham, \$25,338; Durham, \$20,209; Franklin, \$19,315; Halifax, \$40,835; Harnett, \$14,290; Johnston, \$41,819; Martin, \$23,712; Nash, \$12,568; New Hanover, \$16,100; Northampton, \$21,831; Pitt, \$23,838; Robeson, \$30,654; Rockingham, \$29,989; Rowan, \$17,564; Rutherford, \$10,964; Stanly, \$16,565; Stokes, \$11,768; Surry, \$11,999; Union, \$24,493; Vance, \$23,395; Washington, \$12,466; Wayne, \$15,650; Wilson, \$67,391.

Some machinery for equalization of assessments locally, and for bringing the county assessments throughout the State to a common value is the aim of all members of the General Assembly who discussed the matter yesterday, and during the two hours, very nearly every member of the committee had something to say about it. Some advocated the recall of the Board of Assessors and others advocated the County Commissioners as the proper channel, but both with the State Tax Commission to supervise the whole to the end that all counties should be assessed alike.

Tweedledee For Tweedledee. Senators Burdette of Northampton and Cameron of Durham were the most severe critics of the tax system. Mr. Burdette thought that values were too high in his county, considered on the basis of present business conditions, but couldn't see where anybody was going to be helped if they reduced the appraisal and raised the rate of taxation. It would be swapping treedee dum for tweedlee dee, he thought.

Colonel Cameron found wide discrepancies in the taxing of his properties. In Raleigh he paid a lot more, and on his holdings in Orange county, he paid not less than he did under the old system of taxation. He wanted something done about it, some revision that would relieve his taxes in Raleigh. His home here was valued at \$100,000, which he thought was entirely too much.

McKinnis Wants Doctor. Senator McKinnis declared that the people didn't want the Revaluation Act scrapped, but they wanted some machinery whereby they could smooth out glaring inequalities from township to township, and from county to county. Some means of appeal for revision of the findings of the Boards of Assessors, perhaps the recalling of the Boards to revise their own work in many counties, would serve the desired purpose.

Representative Bass, of Moore, and (Continued on Page Three)

REPUBLICANS ASK FOR CLOTURE RULE

Vote Wednesday On Question of Limiting Debate On Fordney Tariff Measure

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COLBY REFUSES TO JOIN JOHNSON IN GHOST DANCE

California Senator Requests Secretary To Make Public Japanese Treaty

Washington, Jan. 31.—Senator Johnson, of California, asked Secretary Colby today to make public the negotiations between the United States and Japan on the California land question and Mr. Colby replied that "if Senator Johnson expects to go to a ghost dance on this subject he's got to do it without me as a partner."

Senator Johnson, in a formal statement, reiterated his declaration as embodied in a statement last Saturday that Roland S. Morris, United States ambassador to Japan, and Baron Shidehara, Japanese ambassador here, in the negotiations recently concluded tentatively agreed upon a treaty "which in effect repealed the California alien land law." Pointing to Secretary Colby's reply, also made Saturday, that the California Senator was proceeding on an erroneous assumption, Senator Johnson asked that the report of Ambassador Morris on the negotiations be made public, asserting that "the people of the country are entitled to know what that report contains."

Secretary Colby, who replied informally today to the California Senator, asserted that "there is no indication or concealment here (at the State Department), and no secretiveness." The Secretary intimated that the negotiations would be made public at what was described as "the proper time." The subject, Mr. Colby said, was one "that cannot be settled in a covert manner."

STEEL TANKER LAUNCHED AT WILMINGTON YARDS

Wilmington, Jan. 31.—Amid the shrieks of numerous whistles and the cheering of more than a thousand spectators, the giant steel tanker San Lambert, built at the George A. Fuller Company Carolina shipyard for the Eagle Oil Transport Company, Ltd., of London, England, was successfully launched at the local steel shipyard Saturday afternoon.

THREE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS HELD FOR THE GRAND JURY

Charlotte, Jan. 31.—Three principal officers and two directors of the Wizard Automobile Company, of Charlotte, were held for investigation by a Federal grand jury under bonds of \$5,000 each by United States Commissioner Cobb here tonight, at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing, which began last Thursday, on charges of conspiracy and fraud in the use of the mails, filed by District Attorney E. J. Durham.

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