

**THE STATE PORT PILOT  
Southport, N. C.**

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Wednesday, February 5, 1936

You can't throw mud without losing ground.

A good politician doesn't give cigars—he promises them.

Divorces are increasing, but there is one consolation: They cannot exceed the marriages very easily.

The political pot is beginning to simmer, but each prospective candidate seems afraid to be the first to make his announcement.

The couple who received the biggest rush Friday night at the Roosevelt Ball were the boys who brought in the hot coffee and cocoa.

Throwing snowballs must be an instinct, judging from the proficiency of local children who had never seen any snow before last week.

**Commendable Action**

Prompt action on the part of school authorities in closing the schools of the county last Thursday because of the snow, and leaving them closed until the county roads were safe for school busses to travel, showed good judgment.

Postponed days must, of course, be made up during the spring and there is a possibility that some of the parents will be inclined to complain because of the late commencements. They should remember the days of the past week when ice and snow, and later the resulting mud and slush, made it dangerous to attempt to transport children to and from school.

**Dangerous**

With all other sections of the Southport-Wilmington highway swept clean of snow and made safe for driving by last Thursday night, we can not understand why a piled-up barricade of snow and ice was left to block half the road at Allen's Creek bridge near the turpentine camp.

The quick work of the highway forces in clearing the road was a big help to motorists and the road was safe for normal travel except in that one place. Leaving that drift on the bridge to block half the highway was a dangerous bit of carelessness, and it is a thing for which to be thankful that no accident resulted.

**Brooks W. Benton**

Brunswick county lost a valuable citizen and a competent official last week when death came to Brooks W. Benton, member of the board of county commissioners.

Three times this man was elected by his fellow citizens to serve as a member of the body that guides the business policy and financial affairs of the county. His sound judgment and wise counsel will be missed by his fellow commissioners.

**No Shadow**

Winter is over! At least it is if the Groundhog Day theory is to be trusted.

February 2, is the day when this oldest of weather prophets is supposed to come out from his underground winter quarters to take a look around following his weeks of hibernation. If the sun is shining and the groundhog sees his shadow, superstition holds that he hurries back into his hole, fearful of the six more weeks of bad weather sure to follow. A cloudy day, though, and all is well. No shadow, and the groundhog is unfrightened. He remains above the ground and winter is over.

Sunday was a cloudy day, but shadow or no shadow, the little animal must have suspected that something was wrong when he came out of his hide-away and

discovered the ground covered with snow. Our guess is that he didn't wait around for a peek at the sun before he scurried back into his hole and pulled it in after him, to warm him up after his chilly exposure.

**Cheating**

An investigation conducted last week among the student body at the University of North Carolina resulted in the suspension of more than forty students for cheating on examinations.

While the results of this action have caused nation-wide discussion, it is not to be presumed that the University of North Carolina is any worse than other colleges and universities throughout the United States. The condition is even more widespread than that, and is to be discovered in practically every one of our high schools. We hope that the example set by authorities at our State University will be followed in other institutions.

Like war, cheating can not be stamped out through force. It is necessary that students understand just what a foolish waste of time it really is, and this must come through education against this insidious enemy of intellectual development.

Since there are rules in all schools and colleges against cheating on examinations, it is up to the teachers in charge to see that none goes on. This is true except where the honor system is in use. With a teacher in charge, the first concern of a student intent upon receiving unfair help is to avoid detection. This game of chance which he has elected to play with his teacher immediately takes practically all thought away from facts concerning the examination, and the good of months of study is completely overshadowed. If he is caught, disgrace, with possible dismissal from school, awaits him. If he "gets by" he may have passed a grade, but has learned nothing.

In school a boy or girl begins to form habits that will be followed all their life. If they take short cuts to get by teachers on examinations while they are students, they are training themselves to become the kind of citizens that are always trying to "get by" someone in a business deal, or to "get by" the law in the commission of some crime.

We can think of nothing more humiliating for a boy and his parents, than to be sent home for an indefinite period for cheating. Forty boys from the University of North Carolina now know what this means. Their humiliation will not have been entirely wasted, though, if boys and girls throughout the state and nation will just consider the high cost of cribbing.

**School Sanitation**

Dr. W. H. Booker, writing in the University of North Carolina News Letter, deplores the lack of proper sanitation among the schools of the state.

Says he: "The condition of our school sanitation in North Carolina is at a low ebb. School sanitation in North Carolina, is, in my opinion, far worse than our prison sanitation."

"Approximately 20 per cent of our North Carolina schools have no sewage facilities at all—not even privies, only 25 per cent have what might be classed as fair to good sewage facilities, and over 50 per cent have distinctly bad or dangerous sewage facilities.

"As for school water supplies, about 33 per cent have no water supply on the school grounds at all, about 30 per cent have what might be termed good or safe water supplies, and over 36 per cent have bad or dangerous school water supplies."

These facts, based on unlimited research in the schools of our state, should bring some cause for contemplation in the minds of our people. The daily subjection of a large portion of the school-children of this state to a dangerous condition, should be enough to bring some well-founded action on the part of the people at large.

Dr. Booker, summing up the situation, gives the reason for such conditions. He says: "Our laws on school sanitation are indirect and cumbersome. Improvements to school sanitation usually have to be taken up first through the school principal, then the county superintendent, the county board of education, and finally through the board of county commissioners.

"It is my understanding that many of our North Carolina teachers teach hygiene and sanitation in the class room. I would like immensely to see our state's practice in the school plant square with the teachings in the classroom."

**CAPITAL NEWS**

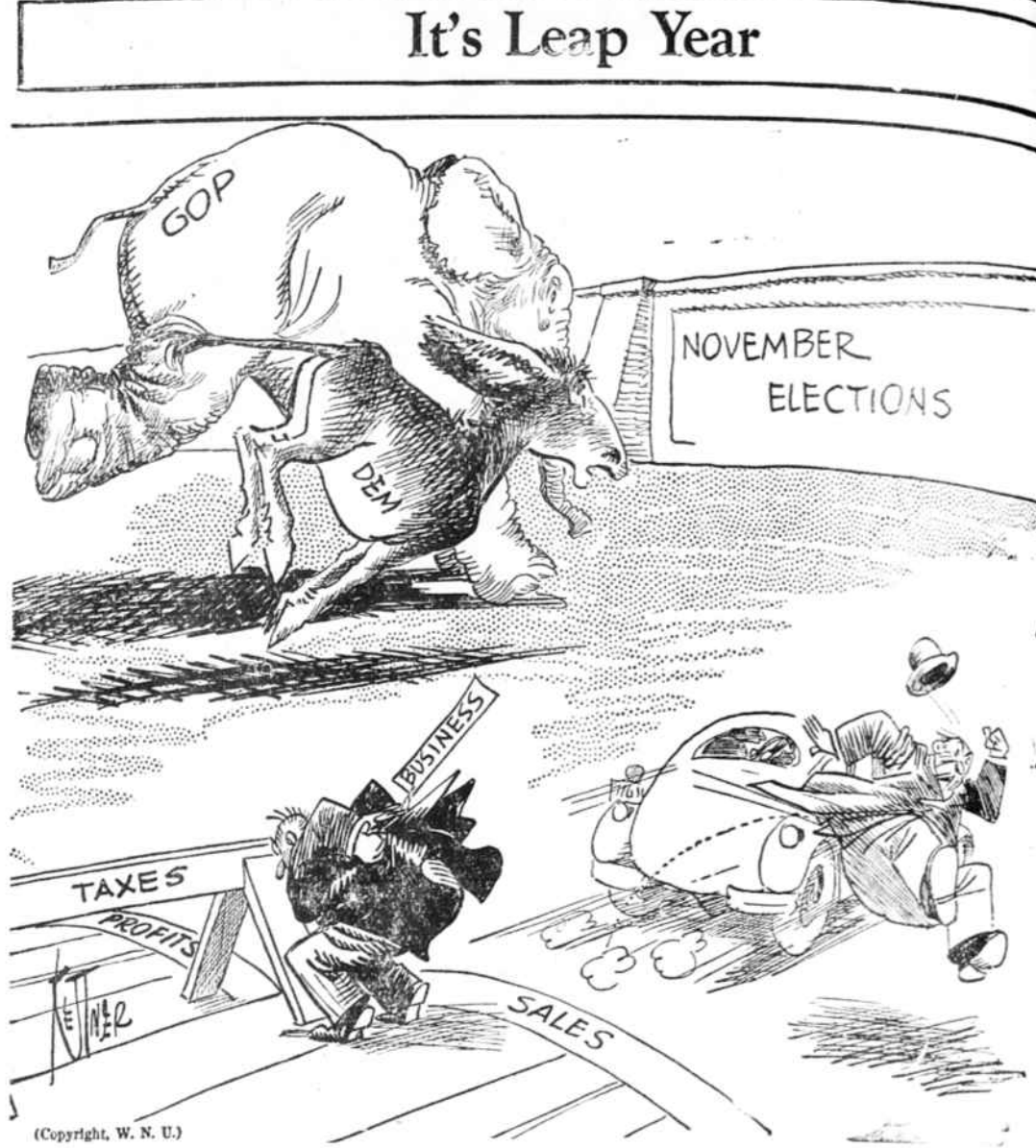
Washington, Feb. 5.—Our national lawmakers are now at the hair-pulling stage over the methods of taxation to pay for bounties bestowed with utter disregard of those who must eventually pay the piper. Turning their back on the Presidential veto of the veterans' bonus brought a new crisis to their door. The politicians insist that a tax program in a campaign year is nothing short of suicide for office-holders seeking votes from the tax-paying class. At present, the legislators want to procrastinate with a "borrow and pay later policy" or anything to postpone a revenue bill before the November elections. If there is any doubt about political expediency governing this problem it may be dissipated when consideration is given to the fact that radical and conservative in both parties are in accord as to the wisdom of stalling off a day of reckoning. They know full well that political scalps will be lifted at the polls if higher taxes are imposed either directly or indirectly.

The political bows and arrows are flying thick and fast in all sections to signal the beginning of a partisanship struggle for popular support. The factions are now on the warpath as a preliminary to the battles to be staged at the national conventions in Philadelphia and Cleveland in June. The cross-fire from bitter feuds is so confusing that it is difficult to discern the true state of affairs. Despite the feeling that the President should suggest tax plans and relieve a harassed Congress of this responsibility to their constituents it is not likely that an open rupture will develop between the executive and legislative branches. The Patman idea of inflation and issuance of "greenbacks" to pay bonus costs may call for a show of hands and force Congress to tackle the tax problem with all its implications of a voter's reprisal next fall.

The family scraps within the American Federation of Labor are a source of genuine concern for legislators. The current controversy as to the effectiveness of craft and industrial unions threatens the hold that organized labor exercised over Congress during the last three years. The ambitious legislative program will probably never get beyond the talking stage with such dissension rampant in labor circles. The Walsh government contract bill, which in effect carries out basic NRA ideas of maintenance of wages and hours, is stalemated in the House. The issue of wage differentials between the North and South is effectively blocking action on the measure. If the Southerners persist in demanding favors in lower wage rates because of race questions then the North and west are not greatly enthusiastic, as such differentials militate against areas where these concessions are not wanted.

There is some talk in labor organizations of imposing a Federal tax on machinery as a means of restricting the use of labor-saving devices. It is an old idea used in early England when the power-loom and spinning-jenny displaced hand labor. The proposal is considered a plain threat with little chance of getting anywhere at this time. A Congressional committee is, however, making a study of this technical problem of machines versus workers. The farm relief program has pushed these matters into the background. The debate on agricultural policies will disclose differences between the Democratic and Republican solutions for this vital issue.

Despite the flow of substantial checks to large groups of farmers under the AAA crop restriction program during the last two or three years, the Agriculture Department and Congress are pestered by demands for free seeds. This expensive government gratuity was stopped about thirteen years ago in the interest of economy. However, there are large segments of the population demanding packets of free seeds as a price for their friendship at the polls. Secretaries to legislators are constantly explaining that the law prohibits the distribution of government seeds. The solons are still distributing government publications to the registered voters in their districts, but the demand for this printed matter has diminished. The Department of Agriculture allocated 20,000 copies a year to each member of Congress for farm bulletins, but this has been cut to five thousand a year. Many legislators from rural districts take over the allotments of their city colleagues in order to make the voters conscious of their work in Washington. The lawmakers are protesting the restriction of maps which are prin-



ted for the Department of the Interior, the distribution of which is restricted to ten or twelve to each member of Congress. The printed hearings of the House Appropriation Committee, available this week, reveal many of the inside plans of the Administrative agencies for the next fiscal year. In making their demands for money the bureau officials have been obliged to reveal details which seldom receive publicity. Members of the House were astounded that the annual loss each year from fires on farms is estimated to be \$100,000,000 and another \$160,000,000 in addition to that in rural communities with the loss of several thousand lives. The spontaneous combustion of hay, one of the principal sources of farm fires, has resulted in boosting insurance rates. Government officials are

attempting to lower this loss by using salt as a fire preventive.

**COUNTY HOME NOTES**

B. C. Williams made a trip to Shallotte on Monday evening of the past week, taking Miss Ruby Ludlum to her home for a visit, from which she returned on Sunday afternoon.

Henry Williams called to see B. C. Williams on Tuesday afternoon.

James Long was a caller on Tuesday to see Miss Delphia Long.

B. C. Williams attended the funeral of Brooks W. Benton on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Arnold called Friday afternoon to see G. W. Kirby, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Arnold and Mrs. G. W. Kirby, Jr., called to

see G. W. Kirby, Sr., Sunday morning.

Mrs. Mary Drew and Mr. Mrs. Jack Drew visited Mrs. da Greer Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. R. L. Johnson was a caller at the home on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Lee Jordan, of Rowland and Mr. Garvin Mercer were visitors on Sunday.

**CARD OF THANKS**

We wish to thank members the Southport volunteer fire department for their splendid efforts in putting out the fire that threatened our home and household goods last Friday. We are also grateful to friends Southport and Brunswick county for their sympathetic assistance.

MR. AND MRS. J. D. SUTHERLAND AND FAMILY.

**Did You Ever See:**

*Did you ever see a man carrying a billboard under his arm? No.*

*Did you ever see a picture of the new hat you want come into the home via radio? No.*

*Did you ever see a live newspaper thrown into the waste basket without being read? No.*

*That's why advertising in the State Port Pilot brings results.*

**The State Port Pilot**  
SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA