

THE BEAUFORT NEWS

Published every Thursday
at Beaufort, Carteret County,
North Carolina.

Beaufort News Inc., Publisher

WILLIAM GILES MEBANE
President and Editor
J. P. BETTS
Secretary and Treasurer

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THURSDAY JAN. 13, 1927

Federal chemists are now trying to find something to put in alcohol that will keep people from drinking it and still will not kill them. Even that might not work but we would suggest that they try a little fish scrap and see what it would do.

The corporations are saying that North Carolina's tax laws are unjust to them and that many are being driven out of the State on account of the said laws. The farmers say that they are being taxed too high and most everybody is kicking more or less. What we would like to know is, who wants to pay taxes any way?

The Weekly Times, published in New Bern by Leslie B. Homan, has been a regular visitor at our office for several weeks and we have found it a very newsy and readable sheet. Craven county has not had a weekly newspaper for some and it seems that there ought to be a good field there for one. We wish the Times much success.

There was not a single lynching in North Carolina last year, which was a good record. There were some acts of mob violence but no mob murder was committed. In South Carolina three people were murdered by mobs and Florida with eight mob murders led the whole Union. The change in North Carolina is due largely to a change in public sentiment which has been forming for some years and also to the fact that officials have been more active in performing their duties in the way of protecting prisoners.

ABSENTEE VOTING.

The best way to reform the absentee ballot law is to repeal it. We doubt if it is possible to put safeguards around this nefarious law that would make it decent. Not many people will be hurt by its repeal and the whole commonwealth is hurt by its being in force. There are many thousands of people in North Carolina who do not vote because they do not want to. Most of the absentee fellows are in that class. If they were really interested in voting they could manage to get to the polls. Some people travel hundreds of miles to vote and yet thousands of absentee votes are polled in the primaries and the regular elections simply because the absentees are too indifferent to attend to the business of doing their own voting. And then too some of the absentees may be dead. A letter law that the absentee law would be to make every qualified voter go to the polls and vote or pay a fine. Absentee voting thwarts fair elections and is a source of corruption. It ought to be stopped.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

In his message to the General Assembly Governor McLean made a number of recommendations which seem to be very good. One that particularly impressed us is that relating to county government. In the year 1925 the Governor appointed a commission to study the question of county government. It did so and made several criticisms of present methods. The Governor referred to these in his message and suggested that the Legislature pass some law looking to the improvement of county government. He called attention to the practice, which prevails in many counties, of issuing bonds without giving the people any choice in the matter. Also that of calling special elections on short notice and rushing a bond issue over before the people have given it

any real consideration. This condition is badly in need of a remedy.

Another thing that ought to be done is to keep the people informed at frequent intervals as to the county indebtedness. Carteret county has a very large bonded indebtedness, most of which has accumulated in the past two years, and we will venture the assertion that not ten people in the county knew until recently how much it owed. And while they are working on the matter the legislators might very well put a few restrictions on boards of town commissioners also.

POWER.

Ten years ago the motive power of the Beaufort News consisted of a little wheezy, old gas engine. It was somewhat like a balky horse in that it ran when it felt like it, which was not very often. A year or so later a new engine was purchased and then a few years after that two electric motors were installed. A few days ago a large electric motor was put into commission and now the News machinery is entirely electrically operated and with some power left for future growth.

Electricity is the best sort of power for most shops and factories. It pulls more evenly than steam or gas engines do and the fire risk is considerably less than where gasoline is used for the motive power. Twenty five years ago electric power was used but sparingly in North Carolina. Now in the great manufacturing, Piedmont section it is used almost exclusively by the cotton mills and many other factories and shops. So popular has it become that the big power companies are not able to supply all that is demanded of them and are constantly increasing their capacity. This electrical development in the middle part of the State has contributed in wonderful fashion to the growth of the manufacturing industry there, and the end is not yet. If all goes well within the next fifty years the manufacturing industry in North Carolina will rival that of the great manufacturing districts of England, Germany or the New England states.

Some of the big power companies are thinking of extending their lines throughout eastern Carolina too and when they do then industrial centers like Winston-Salem, High Point, Greensboro and Durham will spring up in the east. They will need a great port then to send their products to the four corners of the earth and we know the place where this port should be located.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

Here is a question that has been the cause of many an acrimonious debate. Likely enough some day Beaufort will be in the throes of such a dispute. A few weeks ago representatives of a large power company were here looking over the local power situation and evidently had in mind the thought of buying or making an offer for the city plant. It is probable that they have visited various other eastern towns for the same purpose. In the middle and western sections and some of the east practically all electric power is furnished by such companies as the Southern Power Company and the Carolina Light and Power Company. The street railways and the electric lighting and gas plants are owned by corporations. In some of the smaller towns the electric light lines are owned by the towns and they buy their power from the big power companies. Beaufort and many other towns in the eastern part of the State own their power plants and sell the current to their citizens.

There are two sides to the municipal ownership question. We have no intention of debating it at this time. It will be time enough to do that whenever a serious offer is made for the town plant. If a good price could be secured for it and a favorable contract made as to future service it might not be a bad idea to sell and apply the money to some of the town's debts. We should not favor a sale though unless a good trade could be effected. We understand that although the plant was enlarged a short time ago that already about all the current is being used. It will be only a short time before an addition will have to be made which will require a considerable outlay. It might be well enough therefore for our people to think something about the municipal ownership as compared with private owner-

ship and get such light on it as they may be able to find.

PRESS GLEANINGS

ON CONDITION.

The approaching Legislature will be urged to pass a law providing for an eight-months school term in the State. For some time the question has been agitated and its advocates are pressing the matter to the utmost. The value of schools and education is one that we would not for a moment underestimate, and we hope to see the time when every rural district in the State has the same length term and the same high type of schools as the cities now have. However, until the system of taxation for schools is revised we cannot get enthusiastic on the proposed eight months term. The State is amply able, we feel sure, to support a uniform eight months if a uniform system of school taxation, with the State as a unit, is devised. As conditions now exist the longer term in some counties would add very little extra burden, in others the extra levy required would be burdensome. The eight months proposition should be pushed only on condition that the taxation problem is worked out wisely and uniformly.—(Morganton News Herald.)

FOUR MILLION ACRES SHOULD BE FOESTED

There are in North Carolina close to four million acres of idle land which should be reclaimed for forests, according to an estimate of the Division of Forestry.

This territory has been denuded of growth by forest fires following ordinary methods of logging and is either unsuited or not yet needed for agriculture. Since otherwise the land will not be used, it is pointed out that its reforestation will not only bring eventual financial benefits, but will also be an asset to the State in many other ways. Idle land is a liability while productive land is an asset. The two ways suggested for reclaiming this land are by the planting of forest tree seedlings or by sowing the seed direct. The success of planting, F. H. Claridge, assistant forester, shows, has been demonstrated in many European countries and in some parts of the United States, where it has been resorted to in order to supplement natural reproduction or to reclaim areas denuded by fire or shifting sand.

Some of the best reasons given for reclaiming the land are: the increasing price of timber, the enhanced value of a farm on which timber is growing, the desirability of shelterbelts and windbreaks, the advantages of making idle lands productive and the fact that idle land deteriorates.—(Natural Resources.)

Letters From Our Readers

PRaises THE NEWS.

Editor of the News:
I herewith inclose one (\$1) dollar for subscription to the News which I consider the best paper in your State because of the excellent editorials editorials given in various issues and the good sound principles back of them. I am alluding particularly to one in which you exonerated Lincoln for the illiteracy in the South and another in which you gave the truth about North Carolina being pushed out of the Union at the beginning of the Civil War instead of going out voluntarily as has been so often erroneously stated.
Very Truly,
(Miss) IRENE A. SMITH,
E. F. Bldg.
Government Hotels,
Washington, D. C.
Jan. 7, 1927.

MRS. LAY ENTERTAINS.

Mrs. G. W. Lay delightfully entertained a few friends at bridge Friday afternoon. The party was given complimentary to Mrs. Edmund Jones of Petersburg, Va. who is here on a visit to her daughter Mrs. C. P. Dey. Top score was made up Mrs. A. J. Cooke, Mrs. Lay's guests were Mrs. Edmund Jones, Mrs. C. P. Dey, Mrs. A. J. Cooke, Mrs. Joseph House, Mrs. John Abernethy, Mrs. W. A. Mace, Mrs. W. G. Mebane. Delicious refreshments were served. Mrs. Jones was presented with a lovely sachet of lavender blossoms.

THE WILLISTON EPWORTH LEAGUE
Will Give a
PIE PARTY
FRIDAY NIGHT
JAN. 22nd.
Everybody Come

Dr. J. O. Baxter
SPECIALIST

The Eye Only
NEW BERN, N. C.
shademy

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE

The Bank of Beaufort

at Beaufort, N. C., in the State of North Carolina, at the close of business, December 31, 1926.

RESOURCES

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Loans and Discounts | \$332,318.96 |
| Demand Loans | 8,135.00 |
| Overdrafts, secured, \$...; unsecured, \$335.28 | 335.28 |
| United States Bonds and Liberty Bonds | 11,000.00 |
| All other Stocks, Bonds, and Mortgages | 5,000.00 |
| Banking Houses, \$19,443.60; Furniture and Fix. \$ 5,000.00 | 24,443.60 |
| All other Real Estate owned | 4,117.09 |
| Cash in vault and net amounts due from Banks, Bankers and Trust Companies | 40,393.96 |
| Cash Items held over 24 hours | 182.78 |
| Checks for clearing | 2,295.51 |
| Total | \$428,222.18 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Capital Stock paid in | 20,000.00 |
| Surplus Fund | 7,500.00 |
| Undivided Profits, less current expenses and taxes paid | 437.48 |
| Dividends Unpaid | 800.00 |
| Notes and Bills rediscounted | 19,398.89 |
| Deposits subject to check, Individual | 163,656.46 |
| Demand Certificates of Deposit | 3,166.76 |
| Cashier's Checks outstanding | 572.98 |
| Certified Checks | 10.00 |
| Savings Deposits | 212,429.61 |
| Accrued Interest due depositors | 250.00 |
| Total | \$428,222.18 |

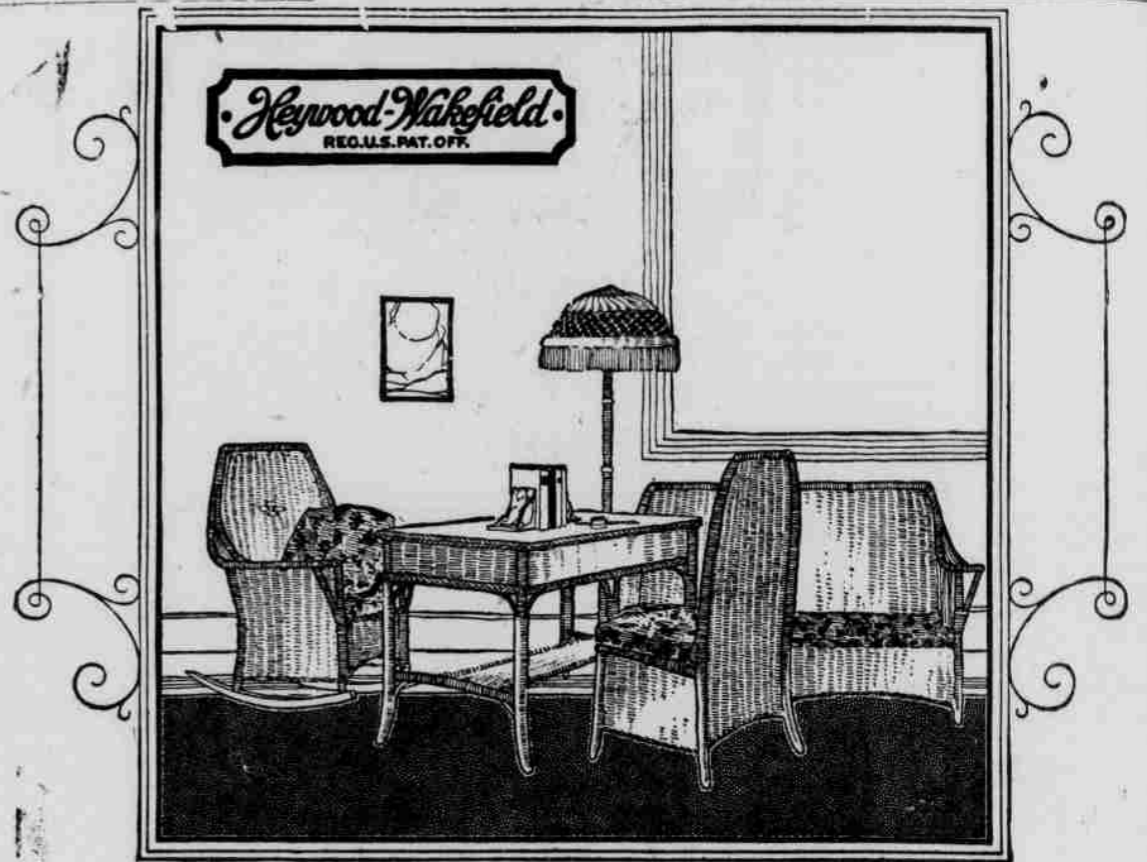
State of North Carolina—County of Carteret, January 11, 1927.

I, J. A. Hornaday, Cashier of the above named Bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. A. Hornaday, Cashier.

Subscriber and sworn to before me, this 11 day of January, 1927.
Jno. Forlaw,
Notary Public.
My Comm. expires 12-2-28.

Correct—Attest:
JOSEPH HOUSE
JNO. FORLAW
W. A. MACE
Directors.



**For Modern Modes of Living—
Reed and Fibre Furniture**

In these days of cozy apartments and sunny little houses in the country and suburbs—can you imagine any more delightful or practical furniture than Reed and Fibre Furniture?
Now on display is a very interesting collection of Reed and Fibre Furniture.
Heywood-Wakefield Furniture is the result of a century of investigation and study. There are suites for almost every room, and also there is a wide selection of odd pieces.

Gaskill-Mace Company

Two Stores

Hardware Furniture

FRONT ST. BEAUFORT, N. C.



"Keep the Baby in the Air" in a Heywood-Wakefield Baby Carriage. A wide range of styles and colors is ready for your inspection.