

Former County Officials Undergo Examination

For More Than Six Hours Counsel Delve Into Record of Former Boards of Commissioners; Former County Attorney Protests That Hearing Not Fairly Conducted.

Whether the investigation held at the county courthouse last Friday produced any light or not there cannot be any question that it produced plenty of heat. In the first place it was about the hottest day of the summer and the County Commissioners' room where it was held was very crowded which made the matter worse. With the exception of one or two slight clashes between counsel for the board and witnesses, the examination was conducted with dignity and courtesy.

As the public expected the hearing to be a private one there were only a few spectators present when it commenced. The News had been officially informed that the investigation would be in executive session and had so announced. It was decided however by the board to make an open session of it. Immediately after the board convened former County Attorney Luther Hamilton arose and asked the board to consider a typewritten motion which he held in his hand and which asked the board to hold the proceedings in a public session. Chairman Bushall informed Mr. Hamilton that the board had already decided to have an open meeting and so there was no further discussion about this point.

The witnesses examined Friday were former Commissioners H. C. Taylor, T. B. Hall, G. H. Whitehurst, Rudolph Peletier, G. W. Huntley, Former County Attorney Luther Hamilton, former Auditor W. L. Stancil, C. K. Howe, who assisted with the road engineering, F. M. Simmons, of the Simmons Construction Corporation, T. E. Kelly, former paymaster of the Simmons company, R. C. Carter of the firm of Russ, Dixon and Carter public accountants employed by the old board to audit the books were also examined. A mass of testimony that it required some six hours to develop was taken down for a record by two stenographers. The examination of witnesses was conducted by Attorney Hedrick of the firm of McLendon and Hedrick of Durham and Attorney E. H. Gorham of Morehead City. County Attorney Jas. W. Mason and C. F. Delamar accountant assisted the two attorneys.

Taylor First Witness

The first witness to take the stand was former Commissioner H. C. Taylor of Sea Level. He was examined at considerable length and the question asked him covered practically the entire range of activities of the two boards from December 1924 to December 1928. He was asked, as most of the other witnesses were also, if he had in his possession any books, papers or records belonging to or concerning the county's affairs. His reply was no. He was asked by what authority Mr. Stancil had been elected County Auditor. He said he didn't know there was any law about the matter until the County Finance act was passed. He was asked if the board made budgets and said it did. Asked about transferring money from one fund to another he said this was done to save borrowing money. He said he didn't know whether funds were deposited daily or not. Asked if resolution paying Stancil back salary was passed in 1927 or 1928, said he didn't recall. Asked about Stancil's bond, said he didn't remember how much it was. Asked about Stancil's salary, said it was \$2000 at first and afterwards increased \$500 a year. He stated that County Engineer Geo. J. Brooks was allowed a commission of four percent on all county road work. Asked if an act had been passed by the General Assembly fixing the engineer's compensation at \$250 a month, he replied that he had never heard of such an act. He was asked about the County Attorney's salary and said this was fixed at \$1000 a year, but did not include the collection of back taxes.

Good many questions were asked Mr. Taylor about the road contracts with the Simmons Construction Corporation. He said the first contract was the Beaufort to North River bridge piece. It was to be an asphalt road. He didn't remember as to prizes and specifications. He said there were three lettings of road contracts. Said the lettings were advertised. Didn't remember about the Bettie Davis road contracts. He was asked questions about the Davis (Continued on page eight)

FORMER ENGINEER EXAMINED LAST

Investigation Finished For The Present; Hamilton Failed To Furnish List

The hearing of witnesses in the investigation being conducted by the Board of County Commissioners, for a time at least has been ended. At the Tuesday meeting former County Attorney Luther Hamilton, who had been notified to be present with a list of the delinquent taxes collected by him, failed to show up. He had told the board that unless he was forced to do it he would not furnish the list. He gave the amount of collections made by him and the amount of the penalties also at the Friday session but declined to furnish the itemized list on the ground that this was his private property and that the county had nothing to do with it. On the advice of counsel the board decided to give Mr. Hamilton until their regular meeting on the first Monday in August to furnish the information desired.

The only witness heard Tuesday was former County Engineer George J. Brooks. He was examined by Mr. E. H. Gorham and was on the stand for about an hour Tuesday afternoon. His examination covered his connection with the county as engineer while the road building program was in progress. The evidence was that he was employed as engineer in the spring of 1925. He said that his proposal to do the engineering for 4 percent was accepted by the board.

That within twelve months this was increased to 5 per cent on account of the fact that he was called on to make a number of extra surveys which increased his expenses. Compensation received by him amounted to \$110,338.32. A statement was read to the witness showing that the total cost of the various road projects amounted to \$1,965,359.75. Besides his commissions on the road work some extra compensation amounting to several thousand dollars was allowed him for other work done such as surveys in the "open grounds," Cedar Island, around Stella and other places.

In reply to questions Mr. Brooks stated that he alone received the compensation paid for engineering, except however he said that after paying expenses he shared the remainder on an equal basis with C. K. Howe. He gave a list of names of men employed by him to assist in doing the work. These men were all paid by him. He said that two contracts were let by the county to the Simmons Construction Corporation, the Newport project and the Beaufort-Atlantic project. He identified contracts shown him as the ones he worked under. Had never seen any supplemental contract. He thought board had the privilege of doing additional work under the two contracts. Didn't know under what contract the Lenoxville road was built. He said he took his instructions from the chairman of the board and went ahead and did what was told him to do. He said a chemist, C. E. Graham of Pittsburg, Pa., was employed to make tests. He was paid by the county he said and the amount deducted from the contractor's bills. He said that he had never submitted bills for all the county owed him but would try to get up this information for the board. He expressed himself as being entirely willing to furnish the board with any information in his power.

Just before adjourning a resolution was passed by the board authorizing the chairman to employ an engineer to come here and make surveys and tests of the roads. The board recessed until next Tuesday at which time the adoption of the annual budget will be considered.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

John Kelly Gay Jr., Rocky Mount and Margaret McPhail, Mt Olive.
Charles O Pitts, U. S Naval Base, Hampton Roads, Va., and Edith Skarren, Beaufort
Walter Lee Guthrie, Morehead City and Frances Stowe, Morehead City

Water From Atlantic Poured In Mississippi

Memphis, Tenn., July 15—Re-enacting the "Marriage of the Waters," which was solemnized in Memphis in 1857, seventy two years ago, in celebration of the completion of the Memphis and Charleston railroad, forming in connection with other lines a continuous railroad between the Atlantic ocean and the Mississippi river, Mayor Thomas P. Stoney of Charleston, S. C., on Tuesday, July 9th, poured a barrel of water from the Atlantic into the Father of Waters.

Mayor Stoney rode into Memphis on the "Best Friend of Charleston," first locomotive built in the United States to be used in actual railroad service, which has been reproduced by the Southern Railway and is now touring the South. He was welcomed by Mayor Watkins Overton of Memphis at the original terminus of the Memphis and Charleston railroad which is still known as the "Charleston yard" and the two mayors joined in the repetition of the ancient rite.

The "Best Friend" was built in New York City for the South Carolina Canal and Railroad Company, brought to Charleston by ship, and made its first scheduled run on Dec. 25, 1830. When completed to Hamburg, S. C. on the Savannah river opposite Augusta, Ga., 133 miles, in 1833, the South Carolina line was the longest continuous railroad in the world. It and the Memphis and Charleston formed the eastern and western links in the line between the Atlantic ocean and the Mississippi river. Both are now included in the Southern Railway System.

LIVE STOCK BEST HOPE FOR RELIEF

Statistics Indicate That Carteret County Needs More Live Stock

(By Frank Parker State Agr. Dept.)

Raleigh, July 15—When many leading (successful) farmers were asked for their ideas of farm relief, the majority said that only through livestock as an important part will any relief be probable for the next few years. If this proves true, our cotton and tobacco counties may have hard sledding.

The Department of Agriculture has recently issued county figures on all crops and types of livestock. These show that cattle predominate in the eastern and western counties; hogs in eastern (Coastal Belt) counties; sheep in northwestern mountains; mules in the cotton belt and goats in the water-front Coastal counties.

For Carteret County there were last year 687 horses; 688 mules; 466 dairy cattle; 1174 all cattle; 5533 hogs; 373 sheep and 188 goats. The State value per head 1929 is horses \$86.00; mules \$124.00; milk cattle \$64.00; all cattle \$48.30; sheep \$9.00 and hogs \$12.40.

North Carolina's National ranks in livestock values show 29th in horses; 3rd in mules; 35th for all cattle and 24th in milk cattle; swine 12th and sheep 33rd. Our rank in crops is 8th; in livestock 26th, while for both combined we are 16th.

Livestock offers proportionally better opportunities than do cash crops. Livestock show relative farm prices to be much higher than crops. Poultry, veal calves, lambs and wool are more than twice the pre-war trend. Butter shows to be 154 per cent a good product. The purchasing power of livestock products is better than before the war, while crops will buy only about 75 per cent as much as formerly.

POLICE COURT ITEMS

Five defendants were in Mayor Chadwick's court Friday afternoon and as occasionally happens all were colored.

Sarah Edwards charged with cursing and disorderly conduct drew a fine of \$5 and costs.

Beverly Jones on an assault charge was acquitted.

Rosa Bell Pigott on drunk and disorderly charge got a sentence of 10 days work.

Aleck Edwards, drunk and disorderly, first offense, \$2.50 and costs.

George Davis, speeding, fined \$5 and costs.

DEAN NOE TO PREACH

Reverend Israel Nos, Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral, Memphis, Tenn., will preach Sunday morning, July 21st at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The public is cordially invited to attend that service.

CROP STATISTICS ARE FAIRLY GOOD

(By Frank Parker State Agr. Dept.)

Raleigh, July 15—The first important crop report of the year was released on July 10th by the National Crop Reporting Board. The Raleigh office, however, has much detailed county and district data not available from the Washington Bureau. The cotton report released yesterday shows one percent increase in acreage; tobacco released today shows 5 percent increase; small grains show variable increases. In fact, the area under cultivation this year shows a 1 percent increase in total crop area.

The condition of crops shows that grasses and allied crops have very good prospects. Small grains showed yields appreciably above the average. Wheat was indicated at 11.7 bushels per acre; oats, 24.1; barley, 24 and rye 13 bushels yield. The quality of these was consistently good. Corn, with a condition of 77 per cent is better than last year. The best condition of the crop is in the western mountain counties and the poorest in the northeastern Coastal Belt where excessive rains have occurred. The acreage of this crop appears to be reduced about 2 percent. Thus the increases in the other crops were largely at the expense of the corn acreage.

Tobacco Not So Good

The tobacco condition of 69 per cent as of July 1 is 3 per cent poorer than last year. In reality the condition last year was much better than was reported. Many argue that it is poorer this year than it is reported. With an increase of 5 per cent in acreage and with a record production of 500,000,000 pounds last year, it will probably be to the farmers' advantage to have a decrease in the yield per acre this year. The burley type in the extreme western counties shows the best condition. The Bright Leaf tobacco is generally reported at not over 71 percent, the lowest condition being 63 in the Piedmont area. Curing has started in many of our eastern counties. The Carolina Belt has been curing for some time.

The condition of peanuts, reported at 78 percent for the State, shows an average of 75 percent in the commercial northeastern producing counties. The acreage shows an 8 per cent increase over last year. In order to get more dependable legume information than has been published before, a special inquiry is to be sent to growers in all parts of the State. The final results and probable reduction of these crops will be published in September. Peanut forecast will be included.

Fruit Crops Short

Fruit crops are generally short—peaches show an average of 51 per cent; apples 44 and pears 41 per cent of a full crop prospect. The average for peacans is 71 per cent. Soy beans and sowpeas are both less than last year, the present condition being respectively 81 and 74 per cent.

The early commercial Irish potato crop was cut almost 50 per cent in acreage, while the yield was generally considered as being very good. A yield of 115 bushels for the State's early crop and 126 bushels for the commercial crop was reported. Prices have been fairly satisfactory.

A distinct advantage that North Carolina holds over the Southern States and probably any State of the Union is what is known as the identical farm comparisons made available from year to year through the State Farm Census. Prior to the July report 6,246 such samples were available for indicating the acreage percentage changes from last year. These have proven so dependable that they are supplanting almost all other sources of information. More and more the Farm Census is proving to be a most valuable source of farm economic information. The records are available since the work was begun in 1918. Counties having new Farm Agents are finding in this a valuable inventory to safely speed the Agent in getting acquainted in a business like way.

JUNE GOOD MONTH FOR AUTO BUSINESS

Raleigh, July 15—During the month of June 5,157 new passenger cars and 747 motor trucks were titled in North Carolina, according to the report of the motor vehicle bureau of the State Revenue Department. Of the new passenger cars titled, 2,426 were Fords and 1,123 were Chevrolets.

Of the trucks, 352 were Fords and 302 Chevrolets.

Raleigh Bus Dies By His Own Hand

(By Frank Parker State Agr. Dept.)

W. L. Brogden a successful business man of Raleigh committed suicide Tuesday morning at his summer home in Morehead City. Mr. Brogden's body was found in the bath room with a pistol lying near his right hand and a bullet hole in his right temple. The only person in the house at the time except Mr. Brogden, was a colored servant who heard the noise made by the fall of the body and went to see what was the matter. She reported what had happened to Mrs. Brogden and others at the home of Mr. J. G. Bell next door to the Brogden home. Mr. Brogden's widow is a sister of Mr. Ball. Dr. C. G. Ferebee was called and reached the scene of the tragedy a short time after it happened. Mr. Brogden was still alive, although unconscious and lived about forty five minutes. Coroner L. J. Noe was notified and had a jury summoned composed of R. B. Wheatly, W. R. Longest, George Norcom, W. C. Piner, J. N. Willis Clyde Jones. The verdict of the jury was that the deceased came to his death by his own hand by means of a pistol. The body was taken to Raleigh Tuesday night for interment.

Mr. Brogden is survived by his widow Mrs. Alice Ball Brogden, a daughter, Mrs. Charles B. Aycock, his father, J. L. Brogden of Smithfield and two brothers J. F. Brogden, C. B. Brogden and a sister Mrs. A. A. Lewter of Durham. He was 48 years of age. Mr. Brogden had been actively engaged in business for many years. Two or three years ago he had a nervous break down and had been in a nervous condition again recently. He came to Morehead City on the advice of physicians to recuperate.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Geo. M. Zingsheim and wife to Esther Stone Cahn et al 2 lots Newport Consideration \$100.

E. H. Gorham and wife to Lyda P. Duffy, 1 lot Sunset Shores. Consideration \$1000.

L. C. Fulcher, trustee, to W. Z. McCabe, 3 tracts Morehead Township. Consideration \$10.

J. Harry Davis and wife to Dan G. Bell et al 50 acres Morehead Township. Consideration \$100.

Dan G. Bell et al to the Marine Hardware Co., 50 acres Morehead Township. Consideration \$500.

D. G. Bell, mortgagee to J. Harry Davis, 50 acres Morehead Township, consideration \$2000.

A. M. Davis to Fannie J. Davis, 1 lot Morehead City. Consideration \$100.

J. M. Buck and wife to Beaufort Banking and Trust company, 3 acres Beaufort Township. Consideration \$1.00.

A. M. Davis to Fannie J. Davis, 34 1-2 acres Marshallburg. Consideration \$100.

Earl W. Davis and wife to Gaskill Bros. 5 acres Sea Level Consideration \$75.

CANADIAN WHISKY IS STAYING IN COUNTRY

Washington, July 10—The treasury's intensive war upon bootleggers who import liquor into the United States from Canada in the month of June cut the amount of alcoholic beverages exported from the Windsor, Ontario, area by 375,155 gallons.

Figures showed that in the year ending last May 31 more than 5,000,000 gallons of alcoholic beverages had been exported from points opposite Detroit into this country, and scores of prohibition, coast guard and customs agents were sent into the region with orders to stop the smuggling.

The first definite indication of how effective the rum blockade had become was received yesterday by the treasury from the Canadian collector of national revenues at Ottawa who reported that exportations of liquor in the Windsor area last month totaled 112,878 gallons. The state ment also showed that in June, 1928, the exportations amounted to 407,033 gallons.

MANY CARS RECOVERED DURING MONTH OF JUNE

Raleigh, July 15—One hundred and sixty-seven automobiles were stolen in North Carolina during June and 142 were recovered, according to the monthly report of Leland "Pete" Harris, director of the motor theft bureau of the State Revenue Department. Of the cars recovered 67 were stolen during previous months and 75 were stolen during June.

Ninety-two of the cars stolen during June were unrecovered on July 15.

CARTERET COUNTY MADE TWO FIRSTS

Led The State In Shipments of Cabbage And Sweet Potatoes

(By Hugh Overstreet County Agent)

No doubt it will be of interest to the farmers of Carteret County to know that last year, 1928, this county shipped 965 car loads of fruit and vegetables. This does not include shipments made by boat and hauled by truck from the county. These shipments were made up of the following products, string beans 12 cars, cabbage 155, sweet potatoes 439, Irish potatoes 306, water melons 50 cars and 3 cars of mixed vegetables. In 1928 North Carolina shipped 1361 cars of sweet potatoes, of this number Carteret County shipped 439 cars or nearly one third of all the potatoes shipped by rail from the state. This county lead her nearest competitor by 172 cars on sweets. Last year North Carolina shipped 255 car loads of Cabbage. Carteret County shipped 155 of the 255 cars, or 55 more than the rest of the state combined.

The early sweet potato crop is being harvested with farmers reporting a good yield. Prices, so far, are satisfactory to the growers.

Next week July 23 to 27th inclusive will be Farm and Home week at State College. At this time the State Agricultural Advisory Board will meet with representatives from all the counties in the state for the purpose of mapping out a five year program of work for the state as a whole. Each county will make its plans so as to fit the state plan as nearly as practical. Mr. G. W. Ball, Willie Loughton, C. T. Cannon and I. S. Allgood, members of Carteret County Agricultural Board, will represent this county at the state meeting.

HIGHWAY ENGINEER SAYS CONDITIONS ARE BETTER

District Highway Engineer R. E. Snowden of Kinston was in town Monday and informed a reporter for the News that the New Bern-Jasper link of route 10 would be finished in about eight or ten days. The concrete has been poured and it is now going through the hardening process. This piece of road is an 18 foot wide concrete slab and replaces the old nine foot brick road built some eight or ten years ago by Craven county and which did very good service while it was in use.

Mr. Snowden says he thinks the Highway Patrol has already had a good effect on highway traffic. The reckless drivers seem to be taming down a bit and people are obeying the laws about lights and other things better than formerly. Some arrests have been made and a great many warnings given and these seem to be having a wholesome effect.

Atlantic Beach Will Have Cabaret Night

Tonight is expected to be an event of great interest to the patrons of Atlantic Beach. It is to be known as "Cabaret Night." The ball room of the pagoda will be arranged with tables in the regular cabaret style. Some fifty tables will be in the place and a large number of them have already been reserved. "Happy" Felton, director of the Kellogg Pep Orchestra will be the master of ceremonies for the entertainment.

Eddie Clifford, a sensational dancer from New York, has been engaged to contribute to the entertainment of guests this evening. Other dancers of unusual ability will give exhibition dances. There are to be two floor shows, one at 1:30 A. M. and the other at 3 A. M. The dancing begins at 12 midnight. Before this many of the dancers will attend the military ball at the Atlantic Hotel which begins early in the evening. Besides the soldiers there are many visitors now in Morehead City and Beaufort and the summer season is at its height.

FORMER SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ON VISIT HERE

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. E. Pittman and children are visiting friends in Beaufort. Mr. Pittman was formerly Superintendent of Schools here and has many friends. He has been in Marion for some time, but next year he enters a new field, going to Andrews, which is still further in the mountains than Marion.

Careful trapping is the most dependable method of controlling moles, says E. M. Mills, New England regional leader of rodent control.