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VOLUME XX

8 PAGES THIS WEEK

THE BEAUFORT NEWS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1931

PRICE 5c SINGLE COPY

NUMBER 6

School Legislation Stirred Up Orators

Six Months School Act Aroused Great Interest; Finance Committees Are Considering Various Plans of Raising Revenue; May Have A Sales Tax; Road Question up For Consideration.

M. T. DUNNAGAN
Raleigh, Feb. 3—Rarely has there been so much interest created and so much oratory turned loose in the General Assembly of North Carolina as during the past week on the so-called act which fixes the policy of the legislative body as requiring the State to take over and operate the six months school term, a measure which was adopted in both houses by healthy majorities. By it, direction is given to provide a bill raising the necessary revenue from sources other than ad valorem taxes.

While the school measure held the spotlight and consumed three fourths of the meeting time of both houses during the week, with three night sessions, a side skirmish, dealing with the reorganization of the State Highway Commission, taking over the county roads and raising the gasoline tax to six cents, was staged in committee and gives promise of taking the center of the stage this week when Governor Gardner expects to bring it and the Constitutional Convention matter before the General Assembly.

The Appropriations committees have been and will continue active for some weeks, hearing departments, institutions and agencies of the State which are seeking more funds for operation the next two years than the Advisory Budget Commission allowed in its recommendations in the Appropriation Bill. Finance committees are considering the Budget Revenue Bill, which increases the revenue about \$3,000,000, and will soon take up the several sales tax bills which have been referred to it. From \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 in new revenue will be required to provide the State-operated schools, under the measure adopted, and a sales tax may have to be resorted to.

Active proponents of the school measure are inclined toward a sales tax, at the same time saying power and tobacco companies should pay more taxes, income taxes should be increased and a tax placed on stocks in foreign corporations. They were successful in blocking amendments which would provide State operation of schools, when and if sufficient revenue could be found without placing undue burdens on any of the taxpayers of the State.

Opponents of the measure, practically all of whom said they were not opposed to the State operating the schools, thought it sensible to make every effort to find the revenue before adopting a policy which they might not be able to carry through. Only one or two references were made to the loss of local self-government through State operation of the schools, by which county and local affairs would lose all authority in school matters. The distress from the economic depression is considered the main reason for such a drastic measure.

Close on the heels of the enactment of the measure came a bill directing the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Board of Equalization to prescribe a minimum uniform scholastic standard for a six months term, fix uniform salaries for superintendents, principals and teachers and all costs determine the number of high schools in each county, create a central purchasing agent for the schools, start by May 1, 1932, to reassess and equalize the property values in all counties, and levy an ad valorem tax of 20 cents on the \$100 property valuation all over the State, the proceeds to be paid into the State Treasury and the State paying the balance of the cost. County commissioners could add 20 cents for longer terms, higher salaries or other costs, and cities could supplement the term and pay teachers what they desire. The counties and districts would not be relieved of their bond and debt service.

County Government Bill
County government would be further improved and cities, towns and special tax districts brought under State financial control, as counties now are, by bills introduced, with administrative sanction. Uniform blanks for records and bookkeeping systems would be established in all counties by the County Government Advisory Commission and banks named as depositories would be required to furnish (Continued on page 8)

FIRE DESTROYS SCRAP FACTORY

Biggest Oil and Scrap Factory in the County Burns to the Ground

One of the most disastrous fires in the history of Carteret County took place today when the plant of the Beaufort Fish Scrap and Oil Company was destroyed. The fire began shortly after two o'clock and in an hour or so the main buildings were destroyed. Night watchman J. B. Dickinson had made his usual rounds about two o'clock and a few minutes later he heard a noise discovered that the fire had started. He called Superintendent Sam Morgan and Warren Moulton, who live in Beaufort, and they and other men went to the scene but were unable to do anything to stop the flames.

The main building, where the fire started, was of wooden construction and was completely burned. Much machinery and equipment was ruined. The boiler house, which is a brick building, is about the only building of much consequence not burned. Some 15 to 20 tons of scrap were burned and also 5000 gallons of oil and one purse seine. The piers were also burned. Fortunately the company's fleet of fishing boats were at New Bern.

The Beaufort Fish Scrap and Oil Company's plant was probably the largest in the county. In fishing season it employed several hundred men on the boats and at the factory. No accurate figures as to the loss sustained can be given at this time. Men who know a good deal about the matter estimate it as high as \$150,000. Some insurance was carried but probably not enough to cover the loss. The origin of the fire is not known but some employees of the factory say they believe it was of incendiary origin. The factory is located on Newport river more than a mile from Beaufort and the local fire department could not do any thing to stop the fire. W. B. Blades and A. Marks of New Bern are the principal stockholders of the Beaufort Fish Scrap and Oil Company. H. C. Jones of Beaufort also owns considerable stock in it.

Road Sentences Given On Liquor Charge

A short session of Recorder's Court was held Tuesday. The only case tried was that of a young man, Julius Piver, on the charge of having liquor in his possession for the purpose of sale. He submitted to the charge and threw himself on the mercy of the court.

Chief of Police Longest who arrested Piver was a witness for the State. He said that the defendant was "a walking, talking barroom" and that other than that he knew nothing against him. Judge Davis said he regretted to have to punish the man but felt it to be his duty to do so and gave him six months on the roads. Piver's defense was that he had a wife and two children and was selling liquor to support them.

A bad check charge against L. K. Piner of Morehead City was continued until next Tuesday. He was required to give a \$100 bond.

FIGHTERS AND DRUNKS FEATURE POLICE COURT

City Police Court last Friday afternoon was rather easily disposed of as there were only a few cases and these all submitted pleas of guilty. They were the following:

Carlton Garner and John "Clam" Noe fighting. Neither was hurt and Mayor Taylor thought \$1 and costs would about fit the case.

Tom Rhodes, colored, drunk and fighting was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1 and costs.

Howard Rhodes, fighting, drew a sentence of \$1 and costs.

Tom Eric charged with drunkenness also got a sentence of \$1 and costs.

COUNTY TREASURY NEEDS SOME HELP

Taxes Slow Coming In; Large Sums Due Schools, Interest on Bonds And So On

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held Tuesday Chairman W. M. Webb, Commissioners C. T. Chadwick, L. C. Carroll, Martin Guthrie and W. W. Styron were all present.

Perhaps as important a piece of business as was transacted was the passage of a resolution offered by Commissioner Chadwick that the Tax Collector be advised that "tax sale certificates will not be accepted in payment of taxes on personal property in settlement of taxes for the years 1930-31." "And that tax sale certificates to be acceptable to the board shall apply only to real estate after the exhaustion of all personal property as required by law." This means that farm equipment, boats, machinery, or any sort of personal property, shall be sold to pay taxes before selling lands.

Auditor J. J. Whitehurst made a report to the board, or "tale of woe" as he called it, which showed a number of unpaid bills and other debts. From this it appeared that the county is now in arrears \$49,520.88 in unpaid interest and principal on bonds and notes now past due. A motion was passed to renew a note for \$110,000.00 due shortly at the Hanover Bank and Trust Co., of New York. It appeared that the county owns the Board of Education the sum of \$55,876.68. Some taxes are being collected but a large sum remains on the tax books still.

A delegation of citizens from Merimont township came before the board and reported that the roads in that community are in very bad shape. Supervisor Charles Styron wanted to know if the roads were not in the best condition that they had been in for ten years. No one agreed with that statement, but it was said by one citizen that they were better than they had been in two years. Messrs. J. M. Carraway and E. L. Nelson said money now being spent was largely wasted in that it was necessary to dig a ditch five feet wide and four feet deep to carry off the water. They were instructed to (Continued on page five)

TAX PROPOSED ON PACKERS OF FISH

Bill Requires License Tax From Packers And Trucks Handling Sea Food

A bill has been introduced in the House by Carteret's Representative Honorable Luther Hamilton to amend the fisheries laws. Its main features are to provide a license tax on dealers and packers in fresh fish and to regulate the transportation and sale of sea food in trucks. As the matter may be of considerable interest to some readers of the News the provision of the bill are given below: **The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:**

Section 1. That Section eighteen hundred and ninety-two of the Consolidated Statutes, nineteen hundred and nineteen, be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

"An annual license tax for the year beginning January 1st in each year, to be collected by the Division of Commercial Fisheries of the Department of Conservation and Development, is imposed on all persons or dealers who carry on the business of canning, packing, shucking, or shipping sea products enumerated below, as follows:

Oysters	5.00
Escallops	5.00
Crabs	5.00
Fish	5.00
Shrimp	5.00

And on all retail dealers in fresh fish, whether caught within the limits of the State or wherever located \$2.50

All persons, firms, or corporations hauling fresh seafood in trucks for inland markets shall pay an annual license tax of fifty (\$50.00) dollars per truck so operated, whether the persons, firms, or corporations operating said trucks are hauling to inland markets, either in or without the State.

No such truck so hauling seafood to inland markets, whether for retail or wholesale trade, shall be operated at all unless it shall be of the refrigerator type and lined inside with galvanized iron and covered all over.

This provision shall not apply to trucks hauling seafood of less than five hundred (500) pounds at one (Continued on page five)

Airport Offers Big Opportunity For Development Homan Thinks

Lawmakers Pay Visit To The Penitentiary

By CARL GOERCH
The most important thing done by the legislature last week was adoption of Representative MacLean's school bill.

It specifies that the State shall pay the cost of financing all schools for a term of six months. The only thing about the bill that hasn't been decided as yet is where they're going to get the money.

The legislature has a lot of confidence in MacLean. They figure that he, being Scotch, wouldn't advocate any measure unless it was strictly economical, so they passed the bill without giving it much consideration. Their confidence is justified. You see, he's from my own county, and I've known him personally for a long, long time. They tell me around home that he used to put a mirror in front of each of his children's plates when they were eating dinner, so they'd think they were getting double portions.

George Ross Pou, Superintendent of the State Prison, had about 150 members of the legislature out to an oyster roast last week. A lot of Raleigh folks, when they saw the various senators and representatives heading for prison, breathed a sigh of relief. They were very much disappointed when they saw the same crowd heading back to town again an hour or so later.

Mr. Pou told his guests some interesting facts about the prison. He is particularly anxious to put his idle prisoners to work. It's all right for members of the legislature and other politicians not to be doing anything useful, but he claims that the prisoners ought to be doing something to help pay for their keep. When he told the expense of maintaining the present old building and the excessive cost of operating the various camps on the present basis, it made a big impression on his listeners. Here are some of his recommendations which the legislators as a whole seemed to endorse.

1. That a new central prison plant built on an economical scale, be erected at Cary.
2. That an adequate parole system be adopted so that paroled prisoners will be followed up and "Checked and double checked" to see they (Continued on page five)

BULB GROWING IS GETTING STARTED

New Industry For County Gets Under Way; Will Plant 22 Acres

A new industry for Carteret county that promises to be of considerable value in the near future started here recently. This is the growing of gladiolus bulbs and the flowers.

Several weeks ago H. B. Avery of Cumberland, Md., and S. E. Hanes of Wilson, New York leased some land on the Pinner place, formerly the Howland place, about three miles from Beaufort on North river for the purpose of cultivating gladioli. They have already planted about 17 acres and expect to plant 22 acres in all. They are not in partnership however although they have leased land on the same farm. To plant gladioli costs about \$1500 an acre, which includes bulbs, labor and fertilizer. It takes about 1000 pounds of high grade fertilizer per acre for the crop.

It is the purpose of Messrs. Avery and Hanes to ship both bulbs and flowers. They will be able to put their flowers on the market one or two weeks earlier than growers farther north. They have arranged with the ice plant here to put their flowers on cold storage during the shipping season.

County Agent Hugh Overstreet has received a letter from another man who is interested in growing gladioli and he is expected here Thursday to see if he can get a suitable location for the business. He wants to lease or buy 60 acres of land. Farmers and business men in this section are much interested in the experiment and are hoping that it will prove very successful. Mr. and Mrs. Avery have moved here and are occupying the Gibbs residence on Front street. Mr. Hanes expects to move his family here also.

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VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE COUNTY SHOW GOOD GAIN IN POPULATION

Vital statistics for Carteret county for the month of December show almost twice as many births as deaths. There were 22 deaths and 41 births. Morehead City led the list in both respects. The number of deaths for the year 1930 reported in the county was 182 and births were 408 which shows a gain in population of 226.

The figures as reported by the registrars are given below:

For December 1930		
Town	No. Deaths	No. Births
Beaufort	2	4
Morehead City	8	9
Newport	0	0
Townships—		
Beaufort	3	6
Cedar Island	1	0
Harkers Island	0	2
Harlowe	0	0
Hunting Quarter—		
Davis	0	2
Stacy	0	0
Atlantic	2	2
Sea Level	0	1
Marshallberg	0	0
Merrimon	0	1
Morehead	3	7
Newport	0	0
Portsmouth	0	0
Smyrna	0	2
Straits	2	3
White Oak	1	2
Total For The Year	22	41
Town	No. Deaths	No. Births
Beaufort	37	80
Morehead City	51	91
Newport	3	3
Townships—		
Beaufort	18	37
Cedar Island	7	1
Harkers Island	3	21
Harlowe	7	13
Hunting Quarter—		
Davis	3	5
Stacy	2	8
Atlantic	5	12
Sea Level	4	6
Marshallberg	5	14
Merrimon	2	7
Morehead	12	34
Newport	8	15
Portsmouth	0	0
Smyrna	4	11
Straits	12	18
White Oak	9	32
Total	182	408

MRS. J. P. C. DAVIS DIES IN NEW BERN

Friends here were shocked at the sudden death of Mrs. J. P. C. Davis at her home in New Bern last Saturday. Mrs. Davis had been in good health until an attack of angina pectoris about two weeks ago, from which she had recovered and seemed to be in almost her usual health. Friday she suffered another attack, from which she again rallied, but Saturday she had the third attack and death came in less than twenty minutes. A short funeral service was held at the house Sunday afternoon and the body then carried to Richmond for burial, services being held from the church there Monday.

Surviving Mrs. Davis are her husband, John P. C. Davis, an only daughter Mrs. Broadus Massey of Richmond, Va., three sisters, Mrs. Charles Skarren of Beaufort, Mrs. J. C. Biggars of Seattle, Washington, Mrs. Nelson Woolford of New Orleans and three small grandchildren, Broadus, Jr., Charlotte Bruce, and John Davis.

Mrs. Davis was just fifty-five, a native of Beaufort, daughter of Susan Robinson and Capt. Jack Roberts. She spent her girlhood in Beaufort and married John P. C. Davis, of Beaufort in 1900, since that time making her home in New Bern.

Mrs. Davis was active in church and civic life in New Bern, and she was beloved by a large circle of friends there, in Beaufort and in Richmond, her daughters home, who mourn her passing.

POSITION IN RUSSIA OFFERED WM. S. MORTON

William S. Morton, former Beaufort man now living in Chicago has been offered a very fine position with the Russian government. He has been offered the position of superintendent of maintenance of way for the railroads of Russia, all of which are owned by the government. The position carries a salary of \$18,000 a year and is good for three years. Mr. Morton is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Morton of Beaufort. He has not decided whether he will go to Russia or not.

By KID HOMAN
New Bern, Feb. 4—Could I have my way I'd sentence every inhabitant of Beaufort, Morehead City and environs to an airplane trip at least 2000 feet in the air that they might view the lovely setting and gain a greater idea of the tremendous undeveloped resources of this section as a resort, and a terminus for state and coastal plane travel—oh, I know that's modern talk—but it's only a question of a short time when the town without some sort of airport will be just as decadent as a town without a garage and filling station was a few years back—transportation by air—express, passenger, even freight, as well as mail—it's here—and as each year passes planes will increase tenfold—they're hatching 'em out now faster than they can be counted.

Beaufort is an ideal spot for a terminus for up-state planes—they won't come, though, until adequate facilities are provided and Beaufort has that opportunity—just a bit of cooperation between the civic organizations, the county and city and Ernest Waters—there's more work to be done on the West Beaufort landing field—and with co-operation, more than cash—a good field can be provided—right now it's a bit dangerous—it's small, narrow, and there's some dangerous overhead wires.

New Bern has developed a high class field, Kinston is building one, Goldsboro is talking airport, Raleigh has a good field, Greensboro, Charlotte, Winston-Salem—the state is dotted with them—flyers can travel over the eastern part of the state when they can have places to set down on—fishermen, sportsmen, tourists would find Beaufort ideal—we know that.

Saturday afternoon Ralph Jordan, pilot for Ernest Waters, picked me up at the New Bern airport, hopped into the air 2000 feet and we flew away for Beaufort—farm lands and woods spread out beneath us in grotesque crazy-quilt patterns—streams, ponds and lakes intersect the terrain all the way to the coast—somewhere in the North Harlowe sector I spotted a still smoking up a storm of cigarette juice we glimpsed about eight incipient forest fires—flew over one near Havelock and the plane squatted like a duck into an air pocket—drop a flock of feet and all my underwear rolled down to my shoe tops as we dropped and rolled up again when we hit the bottom of the ethereal hole—Newport and immediate vicinity is a vast layout of cultivated fields—looks mighty prosperous and attests the fact farmers work in that vicinity.

Swinging in over Morehead opens a panorama of symmetrical streets vast water resources—every bar in Bogue Sound and the harbor is visible for miles from our altitude—Beaufort, just ahead, is a repetition of Morehead's beauty—miles and miles of water—now we know why Cleude Wheatly is web-footed.

But, gee, opportunity—resource—golden millions are still wrapped up in this section's sounds, oceans, beaches—miles and miles of undeveloped farm lands, resort possibilities—a classified, mapped airport brings its quota of visitors and publicity—and today wealth rides in the air.

TIDE TABLE

Information as to the tides at Beaufort is given in this column. The figures are approximately correct and based on tables furnished by the U. S. Geodetic Survey. Some allowances must be made for variations in the wind and also with respect to the locality, that is whether near the inlet or at the heads of the estuaries.

High Tide	Friday, Feb. 6	Low Tide
10:34 A. M.	4:17 A. M.	
10:49 P. M.	4:40 P. M.	
	Saturday, Feb. 7	
11:07 A. M.	5:14 A. M.	
11:26 P. M.	5:27 P. M.	
	Sunday, Feb. 8	
12:00 M.	6:14 A. M.	
12:21 P. M.	6:18 P. M.	
	Monday, Feb. 9	
1:01 A. M.	7:17 A. M.	
1:22 P. M.	7:15 P. M.	
	Tuesday, Feb. 10	
2:06 A. M.	8:26 A. M.	
2:30 P. M.	8:18 P. M.	
	Wednesday, Feb. 11	
3:13 A. M.	9:36 A. M.	
3:35 P. M.	9:25 P. M.	
	Thursday, Feb. 12	
4:17 A. M.	10:42 A. M.	
4:39 P. M.	10:29 P. M.	