

THE BEAUFORT NEWS

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VOLUME XX

8 PAGES THIS WEEK

THE BEAUFORT NEWS THU RSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1931

PRICE

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NUMBER 7

Road Bill Opponents Make Vigorous Fight

Two Afternoons of Argument Over The Bill; If Passed Highway Commission Will Resign At Once; Constitutional Convention Bill Passes House.

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

Raleigh, Feb. 17.—The highway reorganization plan of Governor Gardner occupied the center of the stage most of the past week and when the General Assembly reconvened Monday night the bill carrying out the changes advocated had not come from the committee. The result is the bill will be the main consideration on floors of House and Senate this week, toward the latter part of which it may reach a vote.

Much oratory, argument and sometimes bitter arraignments were indulged in by proponents and opponents of the measure before the joint roads committees last week, providing for abolishing the present State commission and naming another from the State at large, and taking over for maintenance the county roads.

Frank Page, former chairman, and Leslie R. Ames, former engineer, look up the cudgel for Governor Gardner's plan, while chief opponents were John Sprunt Hill, fourth district commissioner, Henry A. Page, brother of the former chairman, and E. T. Candler, Charlotte. Two full afternoons were consumed with the public hearings in the House of Representatives. Governor Gardner, meanwhile, is throwing the entire force of his office to the support of his measure. He issued a table showing how much each of the 100 counties would save by the State taking over the roads, a showing which is expected to have great weight with the folks back home.

Meanwhile, the State Highway Commission, meeting Thursday, adopted a resolution to resign if and when the bill is enacted, their resignations to be effective at the pleasure of Governor Gardner. The contract with the State's Prison to furnish crushed stone and gravel for highway construction entered into consideration of the \$1,550,000 in contracts on which bids were opened last week. This is the first of three lettings as a result of the emergency aid fund, which makes available nearly \$4,000,000, to be used primarily as an unemployment relief activity.

Al Smith To Speak

Former Governor Alfred E. Smith, of New York, had hardly reached Pinehurst before the General Assembly had a joint resolution in motion to invite him to address the joint body and a special committee was soon on its way. On its return it reported that Governor Smith promised to make a special trip to Raleigh Sunday, March 1, and to speak Monday night. He will be a guest of Governor Gardner while here. He took occasion to commend Governor Gardner's reorganization plan, having pushed something similar through in New York while Governor. He said, however, that the Constitutional Convention proposal is a hard nut to crack.

In one of the most dramatic scenes enacted in the General Assembly in many years, Speaker Willis Smith, with the House stage all set, cast the deciding vote of that body for the Constitutional Convention bill, a two-thirds vote being required, at the Thursday night meeting. An amendment to submit the new constitution to a vote of the people for ratification was defeated, as was one to have the membership of the Convention on a basis of the present House of Representatives, that is, the 1921 census, rather than on the new 1931 census basis. About six members will move to the west and piedmont on the population basis of the last census.

The Senate committee emasculated the bill Friday morning, however, and has endangered its passage, unless the Senate body turns down its amendments. One would have the vote on calling the Convention in 1932, call a special election to elect the delegates in the spring of 1933, and have the Convention convene that fall, and then submit the Constitution to a vote of the people for their ratification.

The six months State operated school measure has not been in the open this week, but the Education committee's sub-committee is struggling with ways and means. One bill introduced would provide uniform high school textbooks. Two bills provide for taxes, one on sales, and production, the other on production both for the aid of the school measures. (Continued on page eight)

ROAD SUPERVISOR GETS ACQUITTED

Charlie Styron Not Guilty Of Driving Car While Under Influence of Liquor

The case that attracted most interest in Recorder's Court Tuesday was that of County Road Supervisor Charlie Styron charged with driving a car while under the influence of liquor. The trial lasted for several hours and despite the strenuous efforts of Solicitor Phillips the defendant was acquitted. Attorney Alvah Hamilton represented Styron.

The evidence against the defendant Styron was mainly that of Highway Patrolman R. R. Glover. The officer said that on the afternoon of January 10 he noticed a car zig-zagging across the road, that he followed it across the bridge at Beaufort, that the defendant was driving the car and that he ordered him to stop and put him under arrest. He said Styron was drunk and that he staggered when he walked. He was corroborated to some extent by a Mr. Mann who said he saw the car swerve from side to side.

The defendant went on the stand and denied that he had taken a drink on the day mentioned and said he was sober. He was supported in his statement by Leonard Styron, who is a member of the road force, by Herman Smith, Cleveland Smith, Sheriff Chadwick Deputy Sheriff Chaplain and Register of Deeds Irvin Davis. These witnesses all testified that Styron was excited and mad on account of being arrested but that they did not smell whiskey or notice that he was drunk. It was brought out in the course of the trial that the defendant had been convicted last summer of the same offense. It was also stated by Lieutenant Croom of the highway force that he had a letter in his possession written by Styron to Captain Farmer in which he made threats against the officer who arrested him last year. The defense claimed that there was some defect in the steering gear of Styron's car and introduced a garage man who said that it was out of order. The jury was out only a few minutes and brought in a verdict of not guilty.

A bad check case was tried which also resulted in an acquittal. The defendant L. K. Piner of Morehead City was charged with having given a check for \$150 about two years ago to J. S. McGlohn. The check was in the name of the Ocean Fish Company drawn by Piner. E. Walter Hill attorney for the defendant contended that he could not be held for a bad check given by a corporation and asked for a dismissal. This was overruled. The evidence disclosed that while the check was refused by the bank on the 20th that within a few days thereafter the defendant deposited a total of some \$700. Judge Davis held that the State had failed to prove that there was an intent to defraud and dismissed the action. It was also shown that the check was given for real estate and that the property had been given back to McGlohn.

A somewhat familiar figure was in court Tuesday in the person of John Bunyan Congleton. John was convicted, but the Court said he did not know what to do with him and invited John to offer a suggestion as to his sentence which he did. The charge against the veteran defendant was that he stole two chairs from the filling station of S. W. Morgan just beyond the Beaufort bridge and which has since burned down. John admitted possession of the chairs but said they were given to him by two men from New Bern whom he did not know and who said they were going to open a laundry and blind tiger there. John was put under a suspended sentence of 90 days in jail and must show good behavior for the next six months.

HOSPITAL NOTES

Mrs. Seymour Davis of Williston is in the hospital for treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton of Stacy are recovering from an attack of flu.

Messrs. Johnnie Pittman and E. M. Pittman of Lukers were admitted last week for treatment.

Mr. Hubert Day of Cedar Island is in the hospital recovering from flu.

Miss Margaret Hampton, nurse, who has been quite sick with flu is able to be back on duty.

Mr. Sterling Chadwick who was severely burned some week ago while attempting to throw an exploding oil stove from a window in his mother's home, leaves the hospital today.

Mrs. Will Potter and Mrs. Carl Rice of Beaufort left the hospital early in the week.

Electric window screens have been invented that kill insects when they touch the wires.

WATER AND LIGHT CHANGE PROPOSED

Commissioners To Be Elected For Two, Four And Six Years

Raleigh, Feb. 16.—In lieu of a bill previously introduced and tabled, relative to changes in the charter of the Town of Beaufort, Representative Luther Hamilton, of Carteret, introduced another bill last Friday to change the charter. The bill follows:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA. Then General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That Chapter four hundred and thirty-five of the Private Laws, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen, as amended by Chapter ninety three Private Laws one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five, be amended as follows:

Add at the end of Section twenty-four, after the word "Commissioners" the words "Not exceeding three hundred dollars per annum."

Strike out sections seventy-five, seventy-six, seventy-seven, seventy-eight and seventy-nine, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"Sec. 75. That for the management of said water and light systems, a Commission, to be called "Beaufort Water and Light Commission," is organized, which Commission shall consist of three members, to be elected by the Board of Commissioners of said town, for terms of two, four and six years respectively; and in case of vacancy on said Commission, either by expiration of term or otherwise, the Board of Commissioners shall appoint such person as may be recommended by the remaining members of the Commission to fill such vacancy. Said Commission shall organize by electing one of its members Chairman, and may elect such other officers as said Commission deems expedient or advisable.

"Sec. 76. That the said Commission shall have entire supervision and exclusive control of the maintenance, improvement and management of said systems, and shall fix such uniform rates for water and lights and electric power and current as conditions shall determine: Provided, that any person may appeal to the Board of Commissioners from the decision as to rates, and the decision of the Board shall be final."

"Sec. 77. That the Commission shall keep its funds, which shall be paid out only on the order of said Commission, and at the end of each fiscal year, or calendar year as said Commission may determine, said Commission shall report to the Board of Commissioners its receipts and a schedule of its disbursements, and if a net gain is shown shall recommend to the Board such amount, if any, as may be turned over to the general fund of the town."

"Sec. 78. That said Commission shall elect or appoint all officers, agents and employees necessary to the operation of said systems, and fix their remuneration and may require bond in any case."

"Sec. 79. That the Board of Commissioners may allow remuneration to the members of the Commission, but such remuneration shall not exceed the per diem allowed to members of the Board of Commissioners, except the Chairman of the Commission compensation, not exceeding Three Hundred Dollars per annum, may be fixed by the Commission and be payable out of its funds on its order."

Sec. 2. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. That this act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification.

OCRACOKE HAS HAD A GOOD HUNTING SEASON

Captain John M. Dickinson and Mrs. Dickinson who have been spending the winter at Ocracoke returned to Beaufort last week. Captain Dickinson takes care of shooting parties on his boat the "Idle On". He says that his business during the season just closed has been better than it was last year. There has been plenty of game in the Ocracoke section and the sportsmen have had good shooting.

Captain Dickinson says the dredging which is to be done at Ocracoke will greatly improve the harbor there and will add to the popularity of the place which is noted as a fishing and hunting resort. He is now getting the "Idle On" ready for the summer season here.

A professor of a Chinese university claims that a working knowledge of Chinese can be obtained in three months.

Things Are Somewhat Tangled At State Capital Goerch Says

Presbyterians Honor Late George H. Webb

By Carl Goerch

Marehead City, Feb. 17.—The officers and members of the First Presbyterian Church with a consciousness of their loss, and out of love and esteem for this sterling Christian character, George Herndon Webb, vote unanimously, together with approval of the whole Presbytery to change the name of the Presbyterian church in this city in his memory.

Mr. Webb while residing at Covington, Va., was received into the Presbyterian Church by Rev. J. Harry Whitmore, D. D., now pastor of the church of the Covenant, Wilmington, North Carolina. From that time until the day of his death he remained a faithful, loyal, and devoted member of the church of his choice. Before returning to this city to make his home, Mr. Webb resided in several different places where in each case he took a deep active interest in all the affairs of the Kingdom.

Upon his return to this city he was very desirous and became very active in establishing the church here. He was the first to sign the petition for an organization, his child was the first to be baptized in it, and he was the first to be claimed by death. In addition to being a charter member Mr. Webb held the following offices; Deacon, Church Treasurer, Treasurer of the Church Building Fund, and Teacher in the Bible School. He served every office with credit, being always thorough, capable, and willing.

No finer character has tabernacled in mortal clay than George Herndon Webb. He knew the fine art of living, and he practiced it every day. First and always he was a consecrated Christian worker devoting himself unreservedly to every activity of the church. He was a valuable citizen as well, with a deep interest and concern in every public issue. His mind was ever open to see the truth; his judgment were sane and guileless; his character was pure and wholesome. Surely, he had caught the spirit of the Divine entreaty.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

If the primary purpose of this earthly life is to build character, Mr. Webb made a tremendous big success, though brief in years, and has set an example we all do well to emulate, conscious of this transcending fact, the officers and members of the church, feel that in the changing of the name they honor the organization as they pay tribute to his memory.

Two Large Stills Taken By County Officers

A blow was struck at the liquor making industry in the county last week when Sheriff Chadwick and deputies destroyed two large stills and all equipment. One of the stills was captured Thursday morning at about 11 o'clock in a swamp about a mile south of the Laurel road. The other was taken at about daylight Friday in an out of the way location about a mile north of the Laurel road.

One of the stills destroyed was of 150 gallons capacity and a large quantity of mash, estimated at 3000 gallons, was also destroyed. The other was a 100 gallon affair and there was 1000 gallons of mash taken with it. The stills had been operated recently but the operators were not present when the officers arrived.

MR. AND MRS. N. W. TAYLOR CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson W. Taylor will be at home to their many friends next Tuesday, February 24, from three to five in the afternoon and from eight to eleven in the evening, the occasion being the golden anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. No invitations have been issued in Beaufort, but a cordial invitation is given all friends. The following invitation has been mailed out of town friends:

1881-1931

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson W. Taylor request the pleasure of your company on the fiftieth Anniversary of their marriage Tuesday, the twenty-fourth of Feb. nineteen hundred and thirty-one 3 to 5 and 8 to 11 o'clock at home

Three hundred and five Ann Street Beaufort, North Carolina

Nobel, founder of the Nobel prizes, owed his great fortune to the discovery of dynamite.

A CORRECTION

In your last issue (Feb. 12th) you state that Supt. Robt. Fritz had told me it would be "practicable" to reduce this current school year to an eight month term instead of nine.

In justice to Supt. Fritz let me say that he did not say he thought it desirable, at this late day, to reduce the term, but did say that it might be possible to do this by rearranging the schedule and by extra hard work on the part of the teachers and pupils.

F. R. SEELEY,

A CHANGE PROPOSED FOR COLLECTING TAXES

A bill to appoint a county tax collector and to put the sheriff on a salary has been introduced in the Legislature by Representative Luther Hamilton. The bill proposes that the tax collector shall be paid two percent on collections and may be allowed compensation for enforcement of tax certificates.

Under the terms of the bill the sheriff will receive a salary of \$2500 per annum and shall have his usual fees for processes and writs, except such as are directed to him on behalf of the county. This arrangement is to start as of December 1930.

POTATO PLANTING GETS UNDER WAY

More Seed Planted This Year; Harvesting Broccoli Crop Starts

The fine weather that has prevailed in this section for several weeks has enabled the farmers to get a good start on their spring work. It appears that they have taken full advantage of the opportunity. According to County Agent Hugh Overstreet about half of the early potato crop has been planted and but for rain the first of the week the job would have been about finished by the last of the week.

Mr. Overstreet estimates that the quantity of seed potatoes planted this year will be a third larger than last year, 6000 bags against 4500. Plantings by some of the larger truckers are about as follows: K. W. Wright 200 bags; G. W. Huntley, 250 bags; Gibbs Brothers 275; Wm. Savage 300; Ball Brothers, 100; M. S. Snowden, 500. Of course it is too early yet to make any predictions about the crop but everybody is hoping for a good yield and good prices. Shipments of broccoli will start soon. Representatives of J. A. Byrd and Brothers of Parksley, Va., are expected here today to look after the harvesting of this crop. Approximately 60 acres have been planted in broccoli and it is expected to harvest about 40 carloads from this acreage. A good many early cabbage have been planted and the prospects for this crop seem very good at present.

Ship "Fort Armstrong" Saved From Disaster

The Nelson line steamship "Fort Armstrong" escaped from a hazardous position on Core Banks beach Wednesday morning when she was pulled into deep water by a Merritt and Chapman tug. The vessel floated at 7:10 A. M.

Thick weather last Friday night got some five or six vessels into trouble along the Atlantic coast and the Fort Armstrong was one of the number. She went on the beach about 14 miles northeast of Cape Lookout. Boats from the Cape Lookout and Core Banks Coast Guard stations went to the rescue of the vessel shortly after she got into trouble. Revenue cutters and other boats also went to the scene. Fortunately the weather became calm and the steamer was not wrecked as she might have been had the weather been stormy. After the big tug had pulled off into deep water the vessel got under way under her own steam bound for the Panama Canal.

The legislature is afflicted with a reading clerk who can't read. That's nothing. The State is afflicted with a legislature that can't legislate.

Things are in an awful tangle up at the capitol. Nobody seems to know exactly what it is all about. Did you ever see an amateur cook trying to boil a pot of rice, fry a steak, toast some bread, scramble eggs and peel onions all at one and the same time? That's exactly the status of things in the legislature just now. And there's no telling how they will turn out.

Whenever the members of the house can't think of a new bill to introduce, they turn their attention to Mr. Lunsford, the alleged reading clerk. One of these days some member is going to introduce a bill "equivocating the differential of potentialities relative to adjudication of spontaneous and incomprehensible salubrity" and Mr. Lunsford just naturally will choke himself to death.

It's a wonder nobody ever thought of that idea.

One of the most important bills passed thus far has been the six-months' school bill. Having partially adopted it, members of the legislature are now looking around for ways and means to tear it to pieces. By the time they get through with it, instead of being a bill to finance the schools for six months by means of State aid, it is liable to be a bill for furthering the interests of deaf and dumb spinsters in Patagonia.

The highway bill is the next important project to come up for consideration. Many people throughout the State regard the legislature as being composed principally of a bunch of highwaymen, so it may be said that the highway bill won't give them any serious difficulty. In the long run, however, the county roads probably will be paved with good intentions, instead of concrete.

A committee went down to Pinehurst last Friday to interview Al Smith and get him to speak to the legislature. When Al came to Raleigh in 1928 and made a talk, the State promptly turned around and went republican. If he should accept the present invitation and talk to the legislature, there's no telling what might happen. Something actually might happen. Something of a beneficial nature.

Two prisoners out at the penitentiary were electrocuted last week. It happened to go out there that day, but I didn't have the nerve to witness the electrocution. Just about as terrible a sight is to look around and see several hundred men standing around in idleness, with absolutely nothing to occupy their time. And when you stop to think of the crime stories that are told, of the mingling of hardened criminals with mere novices, of the lessons in crime that are given mere boys, it sort of makes your flesh creep. Put a young fellow in the penitentiary for six months and there is little chance of ever making a useful citizen out of him again. I certainly am in favor of some sort of plan for segregating

(Continued on page 8)

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. 20	Low Tide
9:42 A. M.		3:29 A. M.
10:06 P. M.		3:45 P. M.
Saturday, Feb. 21		
10:17 A. M.		4:05 A. M.
10:38 P. M.		4:17 P. M.
Sunday, Feb. 22		
10:46 A. M.		4:45 A. M.
		4:52 P. M.
Monday, Feb. 23		
11:14 A. M.		5:30 A. M.
11:23 P. M.		5:31 P. M.
Tuesday, Feb. 24		
11:57 A. M.		6:17 A. M.
12:08 P. M.		6:17 P. M.
Wednesday, Feb. 25		
12:50 A. M.		7:14 A. M.
1:04 P. M.		7:11 P. M.
Thursday, Feb. 26		
1:53 A. M.		8:20 A. M.
2:12 P. M.		8:13 P. M.