

THE BEAUFORT NEWS

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Tax Relief For State May Be Realized Soon

Reports Are That Many Counties Have Reduced Tax Rates; State Support of Schools and Roads Relieves Counties of That Much of the Load; State Saves Large Sum on Gasoline

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

Raleigh, July 13—"If the people are as insistent upon tax relief in July as they are now—" is the beginning of a statement by Governor O. Max Gardner while the General Assembly was in session. His meaning was that if the people back home made the same demands for tax relief upon their local officers as they were making on the State, then they would get plenty of relief.

The relief sought is being given. In many instances reports are that county and city officials are slashing budgets and cutting expenses for next year. The Tax Commission's report, showing that more than \$12,000,000 is being taken from the property tax bill in the State, nearly nine and two thirds millions in the schools and more than two and one-half millions in roads, will be welcomed information for property owners, even if a State deficit does develop.

And this reduction must be reflected in the individual tax bill. The counties are required to reduce local taxes by that much, and can exceed the difference by only three cents, and then with the approval of the Local Government Commission. The result will be greater than that of the "million dollar rain," in that it will be more than \$12,000,000 relief.

Save Money on Gas

While the amount is indefinite, estimates place the savings on the one item of gasoline alone for the present fiscal year at \$150,000 to \$200,000 on the approximately 10 million gallons that will be used by the State's agencies, as a result of the contracts entered into last Friday between the Division of Purchase and Contract and the Texas Company for the supply. Supplies for about seven counties will come from six smaller firms, the Texas company supplying the remainder of the State.

The contracts give the State the benefit of all local price wars, in that the price is so much less than the published service station price in effect at the time and point of delivery, the big contract being 6.15 cents less than tank car prices; 5.15 cents less than tank wagon prices, and 3.15 cents less than service station prices.

This division has called for bids on nearly 10,000 pneumatic tires and slightly more than that many tubes and 200 solid tires, to be opened next Friday. This supply is the estimated needs of the State Highway Commission, public schools, universities and colleges, hospitals, training schools, correctional institutions, experiment stations and State departments for the fiscal year. The savings on tires by bulk purchase will range from 30 to 50 per cent of the prices formerly paid by the counties and other units and will probably approach \$200,000. These two items gasoline and tires, give fully three-fourths of the \$400,000 savings promised by Governor Gardner through this division, belief being that it will approximate a million dollars a year in totals.

Large State Deficit

The deficit in the operation of the State for the past two years reached \$2,230,064, the Budget Bureau reports, or within close range of the difference the General Assembly of 1929 left between its appropriations and the amount of revenues anticipated from the taxes levied. The drop in the expected revenues was more than taken care of by the reduction of 10 and 20 per cent made by the Governor in appropriations to State agencies. The deficit was larger by some \$480,000 because that much in Schedule B license taxes should have been collected in June, but delayed because of the long General Assembly session.

Even though running the deficit, the State's credit is unexcelled, for it was able to sell \$2,300,000 in revenue anticipation notes last week to take care of this deficit at the remarkably low interest rate of 2.25 per cent, one of the lowest rates ever secured by North Carolina.

The new State Board of Agriculture, composed of five farmers, representing five major farming divisions, general truck, tobacco, cotton and livestock, held its first regular meeting last week, when Commissioner William A. Graham made his report. (Continued on page eight).

DR. CLIFFORD W. LEWIS WILL PRACTICE MEDICINE HERE

Dr. Clifford W. Lewis, a native son of Beaufort, has decided to locate here for the practice of his profession. He will have offices in the Potter Emergency Hospital building and will have office hours twice a week at Davis and once a week at Atlantic. He is the son of the Reverend W. W. Lewis and Mrs. Lewis who live on Ann street in Beaufort.

Dr. Lewis received his early schooling at the Beaufort Graded school and after graduation here he entered the University of N. C. and received an A. B. degree. Dr. Lewis studied medicine at the Medical College of Virginia and received his M. D. degree. Dr. Lewis studied medicine at the Medical College of Virginia and received his M. D. degree there. Dr. Lewis has also had wide experience in hospital work. He served for a time in Retreat for the Sick Hospital in Richmond, later he was with the City Memorial Hospital in Winston-Salem which is one of the largest in the State. Dr. Lewis was chosen as a member of the staff of Welch Hospital number one, Welch, W. Va. This is a large state institution which pays especial attention to surgery. Dr. Lewis has many friends in Beaufort who are glad to have him locate here.

SNAKE SWALLOWS DOORKNOB THINKING IT AN EGG

Too great fondness for chicken and eggs brought to an untimely end a large chicken snake killed by J. T. (Smoker) Small of the Core Creek community. Mr. Small had missed a good many eggs from his nests and had also found three half grown chickens dead and with their heads and throats mashed and the blood apparently sucked out of them.

On Friday Mr. Small made a search for the marauder and under a hen's nest found a large chicken snake about five feet long and a smaller one about two feet long. Both were killed and upon examination it was found that the large snake had swallowed a door knob which had been in the nest. The knob was put into the nest to make the hen think it was an egg and it seems the snake was also fooled. The large snake with the knob inside and the bar on which the knob is fastened sticking out of its side was brought to town and seen by a large number of people.

Two U. S. Senators Pay Beaufort A Visit

It is a rather rare event for Beaufort to have a visit from a United States Senator but yesterday she was honored with the presence of two at one time. They were Senators Cameron Morrison and Josiah Bailey. The Senators have been spending several days in Morehead City and yesterday they were in Beaufort for a short time. They talked with several persons and shook hands with quite a number.

As far as the News has learned the visit of Messrs. Bailey and Morrison to the county has no special political significance. Senator Bailey is down on a vacation trip and Senator Morrison was booked for a speech to the soldiers at Camp Glenn today. Mr. Morrison will come up for re-election next year, having been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Overman. One candidate has already announced himself in opposition to the Senator and several others are prospective candidates. Senator Bailey was elected last November for a six year term and is not bothered about any opposition next year. He has a contest with his Republican opponent Mr. Pritchard on hand though which may or may not give him some trouble.

WATERMELON CUTTING

The Lina Bumpass Bible Class of the Methodist Sunday School will have an old-fashioned watermelon cutting on the lawn of Mrs. J. H. Stubbs, Thursday, July 16, from 7 P. M. to 9 P. M. Charges will be nominal, ten cents, and everyone is invited to come and have a good time.

Officers Make Raids And Arrest Several

Sheriff E. M. Chadwick and several deputies and police officers went on raids yesterday afternoon and rounded up several alleged offenders against the prohibition laws. The defendants were all brought to Beaufort and this morning had preliminary hearings before Justice of the Peace H. W. Noe who bound them all over to Recorder's Court.

Those who were put under arrest were Clarence Low, known as "Fat" who runs the place known as the "Log Cabin" near the entrance to the driveway of Morehead Villa, Lee Garner, Morehead Bluffs, Mrs. Callie Noles, who runs the Lone Pine filling station and Nat Eborn. The officers said they found considerable quantities of "home brew" at Low's and Garner's places and about six gallons of whiskey at Mrs. Noles' establishment. Nat Eborn was charged with being drunk and having liquor in his possession. W. W. Kellum who runs a filling station in the Morehead Bluffs community was also put under arrest by the sheriff. This was done on request of Lenoir county authorities who wanted him on some criminal charge.

POLICE COURT DEFENDANTS SENT TO RECORDER'S COURT

There were three hearings in Police Court last Friday and one case was continued. The defendant in the latter case Elizabeth Fulford was too sick to come to court. She was charged with an assault upon Hettie Rhodes with a knife. All of the defendants involved are colored people.

Sam Rhodes charged with an assault upon Mamie Grady was held for Recorder's Court. He admitted that he was guilty. Bond of \$25 was required.

James Fulford was also bound over to Recorder's Court under a \$25 bond. The charge against him was striking Little Stanly with his fist. He denied striking her but said he shoved her out of his way.

Fannie Chadwick charged with profanity, admitted the profanity but said she was not drunk. The Mayor fined her \$1 and costs.

MASS MEETING POSTPONED TO NEXT TUESDAY NIGHT

The mass meeting which the Board of Town Commissioners intended having Wednesday evening was cancelled. This was due to the fact that C. M. Johnson, director of the Local Government Commission, was unable to attend. He has informed the board that he can be here next Tuesday evening and so the meeting has been set for that time.

The town's financial condition is the subject to be considered at the mass meeting and it is hoped that some plan can be worked out to improve the same. All citizens who are interested are invited to be present at the city hall at 7:30 Tuesday evening.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Edgar F. Fulcher Stacy, and Esther Mason Atlantic.

Friends of Mr. D. W. Morton were congratulating him today on the fact that he had reached his 66th birthday. His health is good and his chances for passing a good many more milestones along life's pathway seem bright.

PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION IS ASSURED BY REASON OF RECENT LEGISLATION

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

Raleigh, July 14—Property taxpayers in the 100 counties of North Carolina will receive an average tax reduction for roads and schools of 41 cents on the \$100 valuation, or a total of \$12,167,849, based on a total State valuation of \$2,975,208,279 according to figures just made public by Dr. Fred W. Morrison, of the Tax Commission, as a result of the action of the 1931 General Assembly.

These figures show that the tax reduction provided under the 15 cent levy for current expenses of school operation for six months will amount to an average of 32.5 cents on the \$100, or a total of \$9,652,491, while the net reduction for roads and bridges will be an average of 8.5 cents on the \$100, or a total of \$2,515,358. The 15-cent levy for school operation will amount to \$4,462,807, the compilation shows. The tax levy for roads and bridges in 1930 totaled \$5,252,113, in addition to the \$2,736,755 in State aid for roads, devoted largely to debt service of the counties.

N. C. P. A. MEETING NEXT WEDNESDAY

Publishers To Meet At Villa Hotel; Met There Several Years Ago

The annual meeting of the North Carolina Press Association will take place next week and will be held at Morehead Villa. Several years ago the association met there and has met in Morehead City a great many times, more in fact than in any other town.

When the publishers were at the Villa before, the bridge between Beaufort and Morehead City had not been completed and that across Bogue Sound had not been started. The county also had but few paved roads at that time, so the newspaper folks will see that considerable improvements have been made.

The meeting opens Wednesday night, the chief feature of the occasion will be an address by President Graham of the University of N. C. The address of welcome will be made by Charles S. Wallace of Morehead City. The program which has been arranged provides for considerable recreation as well as business. It is as follows:

Wednesday Evening, July 22nd 8 O'clock

Invocation — Rev. B. B. Slaughter, Pastor Morehead City Methodist Church.

Welcome — C. S. Wallace, Morehead City.

Address — Dr. Frank Graham, President University of North Carolina.

Appointment of Committees. Announcements.

Thursday Morning, July 23rd 10 A. M.

President's Address—J. W. Noell, Roxboro Courier.

Report of Secretary-Treasurer — Beatrice Cobb.

Progress of the Audit — Lee B. Wathers, Chairman, Special Audit Committee.

Report of the Legislative Committee—J. L. Horne, Jr., Chairman.

Discussion—Announcements—

Thursday Afternoon, July 23rd

Given over to recreation—Bathing, Boating, Fishing—Optional.

Thursday Evening, July 23rd 7 O'clock

Dinner — Courtesy Morehead Villa Management.

Stunt Program — Directed by Jno. Park.

Address — E. B. Jeffers, Chairman N. C. Highway Commission.

Musical Program Oliver Naylor and his Band.

9:30 — Variety and Musical Program at Atlantic Beach Pagoda — R. W. Cordon, Host.

(Continued on page 8)

W. M. BELL OF WASHINGTON DIES FROM HEART ATTACK

Information was received here last Thursday, July 9, of the death of William M. Bell of Washington, N. C. His death was very sudden and was attributed to heart failure. Mr. Bell was engaged in the jewelry business in Washington and had been a prominent figure in the commercial life of that city for many years. He was a brother of Mr. B. A. Bell of Beaufort. He is also survived by his widow Mrs. Jennie Bell, two sons David H. Bell and W. M. Bell Jr., and several grandchildren.

Auto Truck Collision Fought Out In Court

An indictment which grew out of a collision between a car and a truck was the principal case tried in Recorder's Court Tuesday. The accident happened on the east driveway of the courthouse grounds on May 20. L. A. Wickizer was the prosecuting witness and C. N. Hobbs the defendant, both well known Morehead City residents.

The case was sent up to Recorder's Court on appeal from a decision of Justice of the Peace Frank King who had decided against the defendant. Attorney Alvah Hamilton represented Mr. Hobbs and Solicitor Phillips prosecuted the case. Both sides made a hard fight. Attorney C. R. Wheatly appeared in the role of a witness for the prosecution instead of his usual one of counsel for one side or the other.

As is usually the case in auto accidents there was quite a difference in the statement of facts by the witness. Each side tried to put the blame on the other. It was agreed however by all that Mr. Hobbs backed his truck into the roadway and that the Wickizer car coming up the drive about the same time collided with it. The truck was damaged very little. The running board of the car was torn up rather badly. John Glover, young Morehead City man was the driver of Mr. Wickizer's car. Judge Davis said the evidence was contradictory and that he did not think it sufficient to convict Mr. Hobbs of the charge of reckless driving therefore he dismissed the action.

James Fulford, young colored man of Beaufort charged with an assault upon Lottie Stanly, said he shoved her. Judgment was suspended provided he paid the costs, otherwise he has to serve 30 days in jail.

Sam Rhodes colored, also of Beaufort, for striking Mamie Grady with his fist was also put under a 30 day suspended sentence. Mamie said the reason he struck her was that she had "quit going with him." She seemed to bear no ill will and shortly after sentence was pronounced they were chatting together in a friendly fashion.

Joe Washington, colored man who is on one of the Coast Guard boats, submitted to the charge of carrying a pistol. Chief Nelson of Morehead City said that was his first offense and that he was not a bad fellow and seemed to think he had a right to carry weapons. Judge Davis continued prayer for judgment for 12 months and required him to pay the costs or spend 60 days in jail.

Matthew Marshall, 18 year old white youth, charged with possessing and transporting liquor admitted having some but said he was not selling it. Chief Nelson recommended mercy for him and the Judge took the same view of the matter. He was required to pay the costs and given a 60 day sentence, the capias not to issue if the defendant does not violate the law again.

The case of Thos. Campen charged with issuing a worthless check was taken up but as the alleged worthless check was not in evidence the case was nolle prossed with leave to take up again.

Morehead City Plant's Valuation Is \$250,000

In its report of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners last week this newspaper stated that the valuation of the water and light plant at Morehead City was fixed at \$24,000. This was just one of those unaccountable errors that slips into newspaper occasionally. The valuation put upon this property was \$250,000 which means of course that the county and Morehead will derive a large amount of taxes therefrom. When the property was owned by Morehead City it paid no taxes at all. It is now owned by the International Public Utilities Corporation.

The Gulf Refining Company's bulk plant at Morehead City, recently completed had a valuation of \$24,000 put on it.

NEW PHARMACIST HERE

Mr. O. L. Umstead of Durham arrived here last week and is employed with the Joe House Drug Store. Mr. Umstead is a registered pharmacist and has had a number of years experience in the drug business.

HEAVY WEIGHT TOMATOES

Three tomatoes growing all in a bunch that weighed four and a half pounds were on exhibition in the store of Mr. Ben Jones this morning. They were grown by Mr. S. C. Davis of Gloucester who presented them to Mr. John Forlaw. The tomatoes were not only large but remarkable fine in other respects.

TOWN FINANCES KNOTTY PROBLEM

High Tax Rate Is Possible; Budget For Next Year Is Published

The city Board of Commissioners held about a two hours session last Friday night in spite of the hot weather. For the most part the commissioners wrestled with problems of finance and taxes. The budget for the next fiscal year was submitted by City Clerk Thomas and there was general discussion of it. All members were present and Mayor Taylor presided over the meeting.

The budget, which is printed elsewhere in the News, shows what the town owes and what revenue will have to be raised to meet all demands for the fiscal year July 1931 to July 1932. City Clerk Thomas told the board that a tax rate of \$3.70 would be necessary to meet the situation unless a large sum could be raised from some other source. This situation, he said is because previous boards have not been levying a high enough rate to meet all expenses. After a good deal of talking it was decided that a public meeting should be held and citizens invited to attend and express their opinions on the subject. Commissioner Gibbs offered a motion, which carried that State Treasurer O'Berry and Local Government director C. M. Johnson be invited to attend the meeting. The meeting was set for Wednesday night at 7:30 o'clock at the city hall.

The matter of appointing police officers was taken up. Gherman Holland was appointed unanimously to the position which he now holds. Action on the appointment of a night watchman was continued. Applications for positions on the force were filed by D. M. Jones, G. W. Styron and John Pake. An application for the position of City Clerk by G. W. Ireland who offered to work for \$60 a month, was read and filed. This position had been filled at a previous meeting. R. L. Smith and Thomas Noe applied for jobs on the street force. No action was taken. On motion of Commissioner King seconded by Commissioner Rumley, G. W. Duncan was appointed City Attorney. The board then recessed subject to the call of the Mayor.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Norman R. Webb et al to Marion S. Webb, 2 part lots Morehead City, for \$2000.

David M. Webb to Bettie Webb, part lot Morehead City, for \$10.

Bessie Webb, Guardian, to D. M. Webb, 1-6 interest in 2 lots Morehead City, for \$10.

Neal O. Wade and wife to C. Manly Wade, 1 lot Morehead City, for \$10. Jefferson Standard Life Ins. Co., to A. Witschard, tract Morehead Bluffs, for \$12,516.14.

C. L. Willis and wife to Llewellyn Phillips, 2 lots Morehead City, for \$10.

W. J. Plint and wife to Bank of Morehead City, 1 lot Morehead City, for \$100.

C. R. Wheatly, Trustee to Osey G. Wheatly, part lot Beaufort, for \$135.

F. M. Simmons and wife to Associated Activities Inc, part lot Beaufort, 1 lot Morehead City, for \$100.

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	Low Tide
Friday, July 17	
9:12 A. M.	3:06 A. M.
9:34 P. M.	3:06 P. M.
Saturday, July 18	
10:05 A. M.	3:51 A. M.
10:25 P. M.	4:01 P. M.
Sunday, July 19	
10:58 A. M.	4:39 A. M.
11:01 P. M.	5:00 P. M.
Monday, July 20	
11:17 A. M.	5:28 P. M.
11:54 P. M.	6:01 P. M.
Tuesday, July 21	
12:12 A. M.	6:19 A. M.
12:55 P. M.	7:05 P. M.
Wednesday, July 22	
1:14 A. M.	7:11 A. M.
1:56 P. M.	8:12 P. M.
Thursday, July 23	
2:16 A. M.	8:09 A. M.
2:58 P. M.	9:20 P. M.