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VOLUME XXI

8 PAGES THIS WEEK

THE BEAUFORT NEWS THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1932

PRICE

SINGLE COPY

NUMBER 14

## Counties and Towns Have Reduced Debts

### Bond Issues Have About Stopped; Governor Gardner Says Local Government Commissioners Saving The People A Good Deal of Money

By M. R. DUNNAGAN  
RALEIGH, April 4—While North Carolina's counties, cities and towns were issuing new bonds to the total extent of \$810,500, more than half of which was embraced in two items, one voted by the people of the unit, the other ordered by the court, these same units of government paid off, in bond principal and interest \$24,025,522.85, during the year ending March 18, despite the fact that this marks the most trying period in local government in many years.

In contrast to this small sum of \$810,500 issued in a year, the first year of the operation of the Local Government Act, these same governmental units issued new bonds to the sum of \$6,147,412.50 in the preceding year, when there was little restriction on bond issues from a central State body, as has been in the last year under the Local Government Commission.

This information is contained in a statement issued yesterday by Governor O. Max Gardner, after a conference with and report from Charles M. Johnson, director of Local Government, in which Governor Gardner said: "There is no branch of the State government rendering a more constructive or worthwhile service to the people of this State than this Commission, and no law was ever more needed," after saying it will be of interest to the people of the State to know something of the administration and the economies effected thru the operation of this commission.

As an illustration of the effectiveness of the act, Governor Gardner pointed out that since the law went into operation March 18, 1931, and to March 18, 1932, only \$810,500 in new bonds had been issued by all units of local government, \$220,000 of which was to erect a new Haywood county courthouse, the old one having been condemned and the county authorities threatened with indictment unless they built a new one, and \$250,000 to replace the burned Raleigh Auditorium, a vote of the people having approved the issue.

During the preceding year, March 18, 1930 to March 18, 1931, cities, counties and towns issued new bonds of \$6,147,412.50. "This shows an important trend in the decreased debt of the State but the most important thing that has taken place since the new law went into effect," said Governor Gardner "is that the debts of the counties, cities and towns have been reduced by the payment of principal and interest in the sum of \$24,125,522.85. In the past three years there has been paid around \$15,000,000 in retirement of State bonds. It is well known that the debt of the counties, cities and towns is considerably larger than the debt of the State, and it is very significant that these units have reduced their debt in a greater amount than the State."

(Continued on page eight)

### SEVERAL DEFENDANTS FAIL TO APPEAR IN CITY COURT

Only two cases were tried in City Police Court last Friday afternoon. There were four or five other cases on the docket but the defendants failed to show up and could not be tried. Mayor Taylor instructed the police officers to find these defendants and stated he would fine them \$5 each for contempt of court.

Roland Swain submitted to a

### FIRE ALARM WHISTLE MOVED TO THE CITY HALL NOW

The fire alarm whistle which has been located at the city power plant for several years is being moved to the fire station house next to the city hall. Men have been working on it for a day or so and will soon have it installed. A representative of the Gamewell Fire Alarm Company is here looking after the job.

While the work of moving the apparatus is going on any one who may be so unfortunate as to have a fire should call telephone 13-L which is the fire station number. The fire whistle in Morehead City is also being moved to the city hall there.

### BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Joel Davis, Sunday, March 27, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth.

## SPECIAL SESSION OF LEGISLATURE IS BEING TALKED

### It seems That Something Must Be Done; Governor Against It

#### LARGE DEFICIT IS CERTAIN

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

RALEIGH, April 4—Talk is heard again of a special session of the General Assembly, either before the election, or after, when a new set of legislators would convene, and even some State officials are wondering if it will not be necessary, in order to get the State over its first year of school operation. That new burden, in addition to the usual interest and bond payments, and other costs, is keeping the State Treasury in a tight place all readily admit.

Although a special session may seem necessary, it is a safe bet that it will not be called, unless a greater emergency arises than is now apparent. Governor Gardner is the only power that can call the legislators together at other than regular session times, and his opposition to it is well known. The question is raised that, if it should meet, it would have no program, and if it did, it would hardly be started before another session, which might undo it. All agree the budget must be balanced, but hope is expressed that it can wait until the regular session, even though it is certain to be hard sledding.

While revenue collections for the general fund for the first nine months of the fiscal year reached \$14,835,243.84 at the end of March, about \$3,200,000 more than the \$11,641,394.01 for the same period last year the needs for revenue this year are much greater and a deficit close to \$4,000,000 is sure. Collections from income tax are larger as they are from franchise and license taxes, due to higher rates this year, but inheritance taxes dropped.

Automobile taxes for highway operations reached \$16,846,046.52 in nine months, as compared with \$15,121,387.51 for the same period last year, also due to the one cent gallon increase on gasoline. License plates sold number 310,000, about 35,000 less than last year this time, revenues from the 1932 plates up to this time being \$4,636,362.01, as compared with \$5,308,240 for 1931 plates at this time last year.

Federal taxes collected in North Carolina largely from cigarettes, also slumped, the first nine months of this year showing receipts of \$176,695,768, or \$17,615,110 less than the \$194,310,878 collected in the same period last year. March collections this year were \$20,402,953, or \$3,378,491 less than in March last year. In fact only one of the nine months in the present fiscal year was as much for the same month the year before, November.

(Continued on page five)

## BOARD APPOINTS SCHOOL TRUSTEES

### Vacancies Created By Resignation of Hornaday And Hamilton Filled

At the regular monthly meeting of the City Board of Commissioners Monday night two new members of the board of school trustees were appointed. The appointments were to fill vacancies caused by the resignations of J. A. Hornaday and Julian Hamilton.

The place made vacant by Mr. Hornaday's resignation was filled by the appointment of Blythe Noe. Lon Hill was elected to fill the Hamilton vacancy.

Several representatives of fire hose manufacturers came before the board and submitted samples and prices. After considering the various bids the board decided to purchase 1000 feet of hose from the Goodrich Rubber Company at \$1.10 a foot.

George Woolard came before the board and asked to be relieved of taxes on his property. He said he was unable to sell the property and owing to the conditions of his eyes is not able to do much work. Action on the matter was deferred.

Wiley H. Taylor asked permission from the board to put a no parking sign in front of the Beaufort Grocery Company's store. There was no objection to the request.

The board went into executive session to consider the matter of the accident which happened to Officer D. M. Jones when he backed the city automobile overboard. Mr. Jones asked for an investigation of the matter and voluntarily stopped work a few days. He was restored to duty and the board appointed Commissioners Runley and King to investigate the matter and report later.

### PAVING IS BEING LAID ON NORTH RIVER FILL

It will only be a short time now until the job of paving the North river bridge fill will be completed. The work of grading the fill is practically done and a State Highway Commission force is now at work laying the asphalt paving. When finished this will be one of the longest and best bridges in the State. North river at this point is nearly a mile wide.

More than ten years ago the county built a wooden bridge there and while it has done good service it could not last much longer. In fact it has been regarded as very unsafe for some time. North River is a very broad and pretty sheet of water. It is a good place for fishing and bathing and no doubt will be used for these purposes extensively as time passes.

### CRYSANTHEMUM IN BLOOM

Among other freakish things of the year is a chrysanthemum plant in bloom here in Beaufort. This is a plant at the home of Mr. John M. Wolfe on Orange Street.

## VITAL STATISTICS REPORT SHOWS VERY FEW DEATHS DURING WINTER

VITAL STATISTICS—14 Double.

The vital statistics report for Carteret county for the months of January and February shows remarkably good health for the people at large. In the two months there were only twenty deaths reported in the county while at the same time there were 63 births. The weather for these two months was unusually mild and pleasant and it is thought that this accounts for the lack of much illness during the winter.

The detailed report as furnished by the State Board of Health is given below.

Town	Deaths	Births	Still Births
Beaufort	1	5	1
M. City	0	5	1
Newport	2	1	
Townships—			
Beaufort	1	2	
Cedar Island	0	0	
Harlowe	0	1	
Hunting Quarter	0	0	
Davis	0	0	
Hunting Quarter	0	1	
Stacy	0	1	
Harkers Is.	No report.		
Sea Level	0	0	
Hunting Quarter			
Atlantic	0	0	
Marshallberg	1	0	
Merrimon	0	2	
Morehead	0	2	
Newport	3	0	
Porthmouth	1	0	
Smyrna	1	0	
Straits	0	2	
White Oak	0	2	
	10	23	

## First Fire Wednesday Destroys Much Property

### Large Acreage of Timber Lands Burned Over; Church, Dwellings And Other Buildings Burned; Beaufort And Morehead City Firemen Help Fight Flames

### Deal Has Been Closed For Lumber Plant Site

A deal was closed here yesterday between the Scarboro-Safrit Lumber Company of Mount Gilead and owners of land on the Lenoxville road, just out of the corporate limits of Beaufort, for a site for a lumber manufacturing plant. The property referred to is owned by the Beaufort Realty and Investment Corporation and was formerly known as the Gefroy tract. The lumber company has leased the land for one year with privilege of five years and with privilege of buying it if desired.

The News is informed that the lumber company also closed a deal recently with F. M. Simmons of Charlotte for a tract owned by him which is adjacent to the other property acquired. A railroad siding is to be run to the site of the proposed plant and the work of grading the land for buildings is to start right away. It seems probable that it will not be very long before the plant will be ready to start work.

### JONES ROAD CASE GIVEN A RE-HEARING

There were no trials in Recorder's Court Tuesday. There was a re-hearing of the F. C. Jones case which was tried last week. Mr. Jones was tried on the charge of obstructing a public road, was convicted and a fine of \$15 imposed. His attorney Luther Hamilton then asked to be given opportunity to show that his client had not violated the law and promised to produce Supreme court decisions to sustain his position.

At the hearing Tuesday Mr. Hamilton read a number of decisions which held that an ordinary path or cartway is not a public road in the meaning of the law. It appears that to be made a public road a roadway has to be declared as such by the Board of County Commissioners and has to be under the control of the public authorities. Judge Davis, and attorney W. C. Gorham representing the other side, agreed that this was the meaning of the law and Mr. Jones was declared not guilty. Mr. Gorham stated however that under this construction of the law not many roads in Carteret county could qualify as public roads.

### ALLEGED BANK ROBBERS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT

ELIZABETH CITY, April 6—Omer L. Partee, of Charlotte and W. R. White, of Cove City, were under arrest here today after escaping jail at Kinston March 21.

Officers said they were awaiting trial on a charge of robbing a grocery company safe when they saw the bars of their cell and escaped in a stolen car.

Police also said they were suspected of being implicated in the robbery of a bank at Newport the night of their escape.

### JOHNSON TO OPPOSE ABERNETHY IN RACE

RALEIGH, April 3—State Senator Rivers D. Johnson, of Warsaw, veteran of more than 20 years of public service, including eight years as senator from the ninth district, Saturday said he would seek the Democratic congressional nomination in opposition to Charles L. Abernethy, veteran representative from the third North Carolina district.

Last week, during debate on salary cuts in Congress, Abernethy declared that he was opposed to cutting the pay of congressmen and asserted his constituents would renominate him without opposition.

Johnson was one of the leaders of the economy forces of the last North Carolina general assembly.

### REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

C. V. Cowper, Trustee to F. L. Eubanks and wife, 1 lot M. City, for \$100.  
V. A. Bedsworth to Carrie M. Bedsworth 4 lots M. City, for \$10.  
R. L. Pigott and wife to Elbert M. Chadwick, 11 acres, Straits Township, for \$2000.

Citizens of Smyrna, Marshallberg, Gloucester and Straits fought desperately all day yesterday to save their homes and other property from destruction by one of the worst forest fires this county has ever experienced. The fire was finally gotten under control but only after it had done a great amount of damage.

About five square miles of timberland was burned, probably doing a vast amount of damage to wild life. The home of Leon Lewis at Marshallberg was completely destroyed, and the small house and barn of Tom Jones, a short way up the same road was also destroyed by the forest fire. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis were spending the day at Newport and their children were in school. They would have lost everything except for the work of their friends and neighbors in removing their household effects to safety. The large barn of Keel Gillikin caught from sparks and was destroyed.

The historic Star Church, which had not been used recently was burned to the ground. At Gloucester, the fine home of Robert Chadwick caught from sparks and soon burned. Mr. Chadwick expressed his appreciation to a representative of the News for the splendid work done by the Beaufort Fire Company's men in moving his furniture and other valuables to a safe place. This home was partially covered by insurance. No insurance was carried on other buildings that were lost in the flames.

As most of the men yesterday were out crabbing it was necessary to have help. Calls came to both Beaufort and Morehead City Fire Departments for help, and a truck left from each place, with corps of men. While they were unable to get water to pour on the fire, they stood by and assisted in making back fires, and carrying things to safety. The children of Marshallberg, Gloucester and Straits attending the high school at Smyrna were held in Smyrna until late in the evening before it was thought wise for the trucks to travel the roads.

Beaufort and vicinity were wrapped in a thick blanket of smoke obscuring the sun most of yesterday, and the ashes fell all over the town.

### PRELIMINARY TRIAL IN SHOOTING AFFRAY TOMORROW

In City Police Court tomorrow afternoon (Friday) a shooting affray that occurred Saturday evening in the section of the town occupied by colored people will have a hearing.

A warrant charging Walter Chadwick of Beaufort with an assault with a deadly weapon upon Will Hazel, young colored man, and one charging Henry Ricks with drunkenness will be heard. Young Ricks lives in the country near Beaufort and it is alleged that he and Chadwick were together when the shooting took place. They were put under arrest by Chief of Police Longest and spent the night in the city jail.

### 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, April 8	
9:22 a. m.	3:13 a. m.
9:34 p. m.	3:07 p. m.
Saturday, April 9	
9:53 a. m.	3:47 a. m.
10:07 p. m.	3:42 p. m.
Sunday, April 10	
10:26 a. m.	4:27 a. m.
10:45 p. m.	4:20 p. m.
Monday, April 11	
11:01 a. m.	5:11 a. m.
11:06 p. m.	5:05 p. m.
Tuesday, April 12	
11:31 a. m.	6:00 a. m.
11:57 p. m.	5:56 p. m.
Wednesday, April 13	
12:26 a. m.	6:56 a. m.
12:57 p. m.	6:56 p. m.
Thursday, April 14	
1:31 a. m.	7:57 a. m.
2:07 p. m.	8:05 p. m.