

TAKING TESTIMONY IN TOBACCO CASE

Prominent Warren County Man on Trial; One of Negroes Guilty

Taking of testimony in the case of A. T. Stewart, prominent Warren county young man, and two Negroes, Willie Lee Durham and Robert Lee Currin, charged with stealing a quantity of tobacco from two Henderson warehouses during November, was begun following the noon recess of Vance Superior Court before Judge Henry A. Grady, presiding.

Reginald Young entered a plea of guilty to the charge, and was the first witness offered by the State.

A jury took the case of Junius Brown and Boots Hunt, Negroes, charged with taking money from G. R. Brame, a Negro store keeper in Williamsboro township, this morning at 11:30 o'clock, and had it under advisement in the early afternoon.

James Anderson, Negro, was given eight months on the roads for breaking into the house of O. C. Sadler and taking his property.

Curtis Funderburk, was charged with abandonment and non-support, was guilty of non-support, and was ordered to support his family and show good behavior for the next five years.

Add Harris, who had pleaded guilty to a charge of disorderly house yesterday afternoon, was given eighteen months on the roads, commitment not to issue if he pays the costs and shows good behavior.

LAST RITES HELD FOR OWEN EVANS

Services Conducted This Morning at First Baptist Church With Inter- ment in Elmwood

Last rites for Owen D. Evans, 34, were held this morning from the First Baptist church, with interment in Elmwood cemetery. Rev. Albert S. Hale, pastor of the church, officiated, and was assisted by Rev. J. Everette Neese, pastor of the Congregational-Christian church.

Mr. Evans died suddenly of a heart ailment in Rock Hill, S. C., where he was connected with the Post Office department.

A large concourse of friends attended the services, and the floral offerings were numerous.

POWER COMPANY'S WORKERS INJURED

Car of Massachusetts Man Sideswipes Truck; Held Under \$500 Bond

Charles A. Crane, of Newton, Mass., is being held under a \$500 bond to answer a charge of reckless and careless driving and hit and run, the charge growing out of a collision to the north of the city between an automobile which Crane was said to have been driving, sideswiped a truck of the Carolina Power and Light Co.

Officials who investigated the accident said Crane was attempting to pass the truck, and met another automobile. The right side of Crane's car struck the front wheel of the truck, causing it to swerve off the road, slightly injuring workers on the truck. Crane was said to have continued on his way, being stopped about five miles south of the city, and returned here by Chief of Police J. H. Langston.

France Ponders Mobilizing Army on Spanish Frontier

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charged Adolf Hitler was ready for open military action in Spain.

Gibraltar's armed insurgent traveler halted the Russian merchantman Belmorecanal and escorted her to Spanish Morocco.

Paris—France is reported ready to start mass troop movement to the Spanish border to guard against the threat of Nazi volunteers in Spain.

London—Great Britain demands a "showdown" answer from Italy and Germany on their intention to aid Spanish insurgents.

Berlin—Germany orders Palos incident closed Friday, no matter what answer Spain's government makes to ultimatum.

Bayonne—Three-day truce prevails between German and Basque war fleets in Bay of Biscay, pending expiration of Nazi ultimatum.

GOVERNMENT FORCES RUSH TO NORTHERN DEFENSE LINE

Madrid, Jan. 6 (AP)—Government forces were rushed today to a sector ten miles northwest of here to bolster defense of the vital El Escorial highway.

Fascists were known to have gained a foothold on the important communications line to the Guadarramas, in what military commanders believe a new attempt to drive a wedge through the besieged capital's western defense.

Militiamen and international volunteers were heavily reinforced for a battle to drive the Fascist back and keep the link with the mountain guard intact.

Ehringhaus Helps Agriculture Work

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brought under the crop control movement in 1933, and that tobacco prices would again have been disastrously low. But as a result of the fight made by Governor Ehringhaus that year, prices rose to an average of 21 cents that fall and the farmers received the best prices they had gotten for years. It is also now generally admitted that if experts in Washington had listened more to Governor Ehringhaus in the successive crop years, including 1936, instead of the "big crop" advocates, that the tobacco crops would have remained smaller and prices higher than has been the case. Most of the farmers also now agree that Governor Ehringhaus was eternally right and again on their side when he refused to call a special session of the General Assembly last spring to enact a tobacco compact law, since it has now become apparent that such a law would have not only been useless but actually dangerous.

Prison Reform

Another high spot in the administration of Governor Ehringhaus is what he has accomplished along the lines of prison reform and in the development of a modern and equitable parole system. Most of the prisoners are now housed in modern prison camps, most of them fireproof, are well fed and treated humanely. Despite the fact that the population of the State Prison system is in excess of 10,000 month and through which approximately 17,500 prisoners pass each year, there was a decrease of 52.3 per cent in the number of escapes this past year. Part of this has been due to better guards and guarding, but much of it has been the result of better morale among the prisoners resulting from better treatment, better food, better housing and a better parole system which assures every prisoner of a review of his case at least once a year as soon as he becomes eligible for parole. All of these improvements have been made at the instigation and insistence of Governor Ehringhaus.

Prison Fireproofed

Still other improvements in the prison system during the governor's administration have been the fireproofing of the 72-year-old Central Prison here, which has been a veritable firetrap; the transformation of one wing of the prison into a modern and fireproof hospital; the authorization for the building of a new and separate prison for women, not yet constructed, also authorization for the construction of a prison industries building to house additional and enlarged prison industries.

Launches Rural Electricity

Governor Ehringhaus also took the lead in rural electrification in North Carolina and to date two-thirds of all the rural electric lines which have been built in the entire United States, have been built in North Carolina—and most of this without any Federal aid. At the present time, some 4,000 miles of rural electric lines have been built or authorized in this State since Governor Ehringhaus first appointed a commission to look into the rural electrification problem, and later appointed Dudley Bagley, of Currituck county, as chairman of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority to supervise the promotion of rural electric lines in the State. The total of rural electric lines constructed or authorized in the entire nation including the 4,000 miles in North Carolina, is only about 6,000 miles. The only cost to the taxpayers of the State for this progress in rural electrification has been the \$10,000 a year appropriated for the maintenance of the State authority.

Fathered Rate Cuts

The efforts of Governor Ehringhaus were not limited, however, to the extension of electric lines. He also instigated the movement for a reduction of rates charged by the various utility companies in the State and directed the Utilities Commission to make the various investigations which resulted in rate reductions which have aggregated a saving of almost \$30,000 during the past four years, according to estimates made by the utilities commission. The power companies doing business in the State have made from three to four reductions in rates since January 1, 1933, while substantial reductions have also been obtained from the telephone, gas and railroad companies.

Local Units Cut Debts

The counties, cities and towns in the State have also benefitted greatly both from the legislation sponsored by the administration resulting in the creation of the Local Government Commission as well as through other legislation, such as the school legislation, which aided them indirectly. With the assistance of the Local Government Commission and the lessened tax burden on property, the counties, cities and towns have not only been able to collect enough taxes for running expenses during the past four years, but have paid off approximately \$26,000,000 worth of debts.

Big Road Allotments

Governor Ehringhaus has also taken much interest in the development of the State's highway system and during the past two years has allotted almost \$10,000,000 to the highway department for additional maintenance work and betterments and of the surplus which accrued from 1933 to 1935, in addition to the regular amount appropriated for maintenance. As a result, the State highway system as a whole is regarded as being in better condition than it has in four years, especially the county roads, since most of this \$10,000,000 has been spent on the county system.

Revenue Reorganization

The reorganization of the State Department of Revenue, so that it is now regarded as one of the most efficient revenue collecting agencies in the United States, is also regarded as one of the outstanding achievements of the Ehringhaus administration. For while Governor Ehringhaus was severely criticized when he named Dr. M. C. S. Noble, Jr., as Assistant Commissioner of Revenue in charge of reorganization and office holders here howled loudly when Dr. Noble started cleaning house, the 1935 General Assembly gave both the governor and Dr. Noble high commendation for what they had done and lauded the increased efficiency of the department. It has collected millions more in back and current taxes than ever before.

Bitter Under-Cover Fights For Agriculture Positions

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ler tobacco farmers, feel that it hurts rather than helps them and gives the big tobacco growers a tremendous advantage, especially if the Federal government does not enact a law prohibiting the transportation and sale of tobacco across State lines. For without this law, the smaller farmer maintain that the big farmers can haul their excess crop into another State and sell it, so that these who violate the compact law the most will gain the most and those who conform will be penalized. It is also agreed that most of the tobacco warehousemen are opposed to the crop compact plan, in the belief that it will hurt the warehousemen and the small farmers and tend to help the big growers. As a result, most of the warehousemen are expected to line up with the smaller growers in opposition to the compact law unless Federal prohibition of the inter-state shipment and sale is guaranteed. It is also believed that the tobacco manufacturers are opposed to any form of compact or tobacco control legislation. There are also some 40 counties which do not grow tobacco which are not interested one way or the other.

Four House Candidates

There are four active candidates for the chairmanship of the House Agriculture Committee, as follows: W. W. Eagles, of Edgecombe, a farmer, who was chairman of the committee during the 1935 session; William Wiley Andrews, of Wayne, also a farmer, who was vice-chairman of the committee during the 1935 session and presided over many of the hearings, due to the injuries sustained by Eagles in two automobile accidents; W. E. Fenner of Nash county, a Rocky Mount tobacco warehouseman and business man, and Claude C. Abernethy, of Spring Hope, Nash county, a lawyer.

Three Senate Aspirants

In the Senate the three men being most prominently mentioned as under consideration for chairman of the agriculture committee are W. G. (Uncle Willie) Clark, of Tarboro; Ernest V. Webb, of Kinston, and L. L. Gravelly, of Rocky Mount. Clark is a merchant and farm owner, while Webb is a tobacco warehouseman and Gravelly another tobacco man.

It is known that the State Grange has already sent a committee to call on Speaker R. Gregg Cherry, of Gastonia, asking him to name Eagles chairman of the House committee. It is also understood that W. Kerr Scott, new commissioner of agriculture, and former master of the Grange, was named a member of this committee, but did not serve, also that he is personally backing Fenner for the chairmanship. Yesterday the directors of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation met here and named a secret committee to call on Speaker Cherry and Lieut. Governor W. P. Horton to urge the appointment of a "dirt farmer" as chairman—that is, either Eagles or Andrews and neither Fenner nor Abernethy. This also means that this Farm Bureau committee urged the appointment of Clark as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee rather than Webb or Gravelly.

Fenner May Win

The belief in most circles here today, however, is that Eagles will not be re-named chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, since he headed it two years ago, also that the chances look better for Fenner than any one else.

Scott Gets in Bad

Newly elected Commissioner of Agriculture W. Kerr Scott, of Haw River, former master of the State Grange, is temporarily in disfavor with a good many members of the Grange because he is backing a rival candidate for chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, according to the story going the rounds here today. While the Grange as an organization, is backing Representative W. W. Eagles, of Edgecombe county, for chairman of this committee, Commissioner Scott is supporting W. E. Fenner, of Rocky Mount, Nash county, for chairman, according to this story.

According to the story as heard here today, Scott was named a member of the committee appointed by the Grange to call on Speaker Cherry some days ago in Gastonia, to urge the appointment of Eagles as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. But when the committee went to see Speaker Cherry, Commissioner Scott was not able to go.

After listening to the committee make its indorsement of Representative Eagles, Speaker Cherry is understood to have informed the committee that he was somewhat surprised at the request, since Scott, former master of the Grange, had been to see him and had urged the appointment of Fenner as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

He Wants a Mother!



Richard, a forsaken orphan

You'd cry, too, if you were as young as Richard and didn't have a mother. Richard, not quite a year old, is an orphan, one of many at St. Vincent's Orphanage, Chicago.

A Future Champion



This little mountaineer may be said almost to have cut her teeth on a pair of skis. She is shown in Switzerland's Bernese Oberland, where mere infants are adept at the hazardous winter pastime.

Air Hero and "A Good Friend"



Dick Merrill, who saved the lives of nine of the passengers and crew of the Eastern airliner he was piloting when he pancaked into a mountain, is shown in St. Francis' Hospital, Port Jervis, N. Y. His lovely visitor is Bernice Claire, who insists that "Dick and I are just very good friends." Broadway says they're more than that. (Central Press)

Find Clothing in Mattson Case



Washington police are shown examining the clothing which was found in an abandoned shack near Olympia, Wash. Residents of the neighborhood report seeing a man and a boy near the spot after the kidnaping of Charles Mattson, 10, son of a wealthy Tacoma physician.

Plan for the New Congress



Vice President John N. Garner supplies the match for Speaker William B. Bankhead's cigarette as the two presiding officers of Congress got together at Washington to discuss matters concerning the first session of the 75th Congress, which convenes January 5.

EARLE SEEKS "BOOTLEG" ANSWER



Gov. George Earle, center, clad in overalls and wearing the illuminated cap of a coal miner, Gov. George Earle of Pennsylvania is seen, center, at the bottom of a shaft in a colliery at Minersville, Pa. The governor made this trip into the pit while on a tour of the bootleg mining area in an effort to find a solution to the problem.

Triumvirate Rules Cuba



This unusual picture shows Colonel Fulgencio Batista (left), the real power behind the ruler of Cuba; General Montalvo, probable next president of the island Republic, and President Federico Bru, who is ruling following the impeachment of President Gomez. This triumvirate is shown at a New Year celebration in Havana.

NOAH NUMSKULL
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

DEAR NOAH—IF YOU BOUGHT A BRIDLE FOR ONE DOLLAR, WOULD THE HORSE GET EIGHT BITS?
S. B. CRUSTY
WARRIORSBORO, TENN.

DEAR NOAH—IF SPEEDERS WERE ARRESTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WOULD THEY RECEIVE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT?
LUCY LEAVELL
TRENTON, KY.

POSTCARD YOUR NUMS IDEAS TO NOAH—CARE OF THIS PAPER!