

# Grand Jury And Judge Praise County Officers

## Clerk of Court Receives Special Commendation; Grand Jury Finds Condition of Central Colored School Unsatisfactory.

The Vance superior court grand jury, in session during the January term of criminal court concluded yesterday afternoon, reported to Judge Henry L. Stevens, who presided over the court, that some school buildings and school buses are in need of repairs and recommended that a padded cell be provided in the county jail for mentally deranged inmates, and found that the courthouse offices and other county property are in good condition.

Judge Stevens, included in the court record a mention of praise for the condition in which the county offices are kept, with particular commendation of the office and records of E. O. Falkner, clerk of superior court. The judge stated:

"Mr. Falkner and members of the grand jury. I wish to convey very sincerely with your report in connection with the splendid manner in which the various offices of Vance county are kept and run. I have not had the opportunity to visit any county office other than that of the clerk of superior court, but I can accurately say that I am certain that there is not a better conducted clerk's office in the State of North Carolina. His records are systematic, orderly and accurate, and it is a real pleasure to have the opportunity of inspecting such a highly efficient public department."

The grand jury report had said of county offices:

"We have visited the various offices in the courthouse and find the office of clerk of superior court in the most excellent condition. His records are complete in every detail and the office is being conducted in such a manner as to reflect credit upon our county, and too much praise cannot be given to our efficient clerk, Mr. E. O. Falkner."

"We find the office of the register of deeds also in excellent condition, and that office too is a credit to our county."

"We find the sheriff's office and county auditor's office also in splendid condition."

The grand jury reported finding need for repairs to be made at several colored schools, although the white schools were found to be in generally satisfactory condition except for need of minor maintenance, and that of the Central colored school:

"We found a great number of broken window panes. There is no fire escape and windows are covered with heavy wire, making even an escape from them impossible. Lighting is inadequate, wiring is defective; floor in auditorium is unsafe; boys' toilet on second floor is out of order. Several broken seats on sixth grade rendering them useless."

A former grand jury had found the Central colored school building to be unsafe and the report had resulted in an investigation by state school authorities.

Members of the grand jury are E. C. Mitchell, foreman, Sidney B. Harris, D. L. Hunt, W. G. Ayscough, J. T. Adcock, H. B. Axtell, H. P. Hilliard, J. T. Collins, P. E. Winstead, N. T. Mitchell, G. M. O'Leary, G. H.

Hester, W. L. Dorsey, U. C. Woodiel, J. T. Allen, J. M. Robertson, J. J. Matthews, W. W. Ellis.

Final case to come up for trial at the short, three-day session of court was that of Roby Adcock, white man charged with drunken driving, who was acquitted by the jury.

## Governor Can Draft Civilians!

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By BOB THOMPSON

Raleigh, Jan. 8.—The war powers of the governor of North Carolina are so broad that they include authority to draft civilians for defense service.

Every able-bodied North Carolina man between the ages of 18 and 46 is a member of the State militia and subject to the call of the governor, although neither many of them nor their lawyers know it.

The facts were revealed in a digest of the governor's military powers just completed by First Assistant Attorney General T. Wade Bruton. Under the law the governor has the power not only to call men into service but to order the State treasurer and auditor to pay them without waiting for action by the legislature.

There are, today, four divisions of the North Carolina Militia. They are the National Guard, now in federal service, the State Guard, organized to take its place in the event of intra-state emergencies; the state naval militia, and the "unorganized militia" which includes every able-bodied man between the ages of 18 and 46. These last can be used to "execute the law, suppress riots or insurrection and to repel invasion" and they are subject to any military rules and regulations which the governor may make, insofar as these rules are not inconsistent with the regulations of the United States armistice forces. If enough men do not volunteer for this service, the law gives the governor authority to draft them.

In addition to his military authority, the governor also has, under World War I law passed in 1917, power to organize all of the State's resources for defense. Though as yet to be interpreted by the courts, this statute apparently gives the governor of the State war-time powers far in excess of the authority he has in times of peace. It would seem that he can draft property as well as men for defense needs.

## Attlee Admits Britain's Lack of Resources

(Continued from Page One)

of the seeming inadequacy of British military preparations in the Far East, Attlee said the fact that Britain's Pacific positions were less strongly garrisoned and equipped than might have been wished was not due to lack of foresight.

Rather, he said, it was because it was beyond Britain's resources to be strong everywhere.

## 'Emergency Powers' Worry Many Members Of Congress

BY CHARLES P. STEWART (Central Press, Columbia) Washington, Jan. 7.—Alexander Hamilton once remarked that statesmen who begin their careers as outstanding friends of the common people show more than an average tendency to drift later in a dictatorial direction.

That observation of Alexander's is strikingly quoted pretty frequently in Congress at present. It's done especially because the emergency powers are extremely broad and are being exercised as a matter of course by the President.

Continuing to whisper, they say they favor the emergency powers AS "emergency powers," but (and here they become almost inaudible) can they be sure that such executive powers will be relinquished by the White House tenant after the emergency is over?

Woodrow Wilson relinquished his when the time came, but he never particularly advertised himself as the "strong man's" champion, so Alexander's dictum didn't fit his case with an especial appropriateness. Thus the whisperers.

Benito Mussolini mentioned out loud, as having been a vociferously proclaimed leader of the Italian masses when he started, and the guess is ventured that maybe it was in good faith that he so proclaimed himself, developing dictatorially subsequently more or less unconsciously. He's a joke now (a bad one), to be sure, but for a while he was 100 per cent absolute.

Adolf Hitler announced himself as an anti-pluralist also, and still so call himself. Nobody gives Adolf credit for ever having had any good faith in his system. Still, he made his initial appearance as Germany's popular idol.

## Kerevsky Meant Well

Russia's original revolutionary leader, at present, is an old man of about nine-tenths of czarism's oppressed subjects, and I'm inclined to think it really meant well by him at the outset, Alexander Kerevsky wasn't a bad chap, but things got away from him.

Lots of Latin American autocrats have slid in as liberators, gradually to be evolved, perhaps partly without their own volition, into despots. Porfirio Diaz was a conservative. He was a great upholder of Mexico during his early years, but wound up as so arbitrary a ruler that his country had to rebel and chase him into exile.

With Russia among the democracies today and with the Latin Americans all more or less aligned with us, it isn't very good taste to refer to any of 'em currently as having an historical character who tended to bear out Alexander Hamilton's thesis. Nevertheless, they've had 'em.

Spain's Dictator Francisco Franco doesn't support the whisperers' argument. He broke into his job dictatorially, from the jump, and therefore hasn't undergone any transformation. Possibly he's one of the exceptions that proves the rule, though.

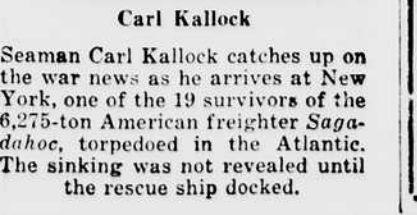
Japan never has had a liberator, either, to designate into absolutism, but maybe it'll have one in due course, and then it'll denigrate.

Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia, is a lawmaker who's expressed himself above a whisper, though he did it before we actually were in the war. What he said was that "we've measures of him as great or greater than those abroad."

The "same sentence" he was referring to was the expansion of executive authority at the national legislature's expense. Congress is jealous of the executive governmental branch; there's no mistake about it and it's as much so now as it was before Uncle Sam became out-and-out involved in the conflict, though its utterances on the subject are more into voice than they were.

No Very Vocal President Roosevelt's third term has accentuated legislative uneasiness in the matter, but it's hesitant

## Ship Torpedoed



Seaman Carl Kallock catches up on the war news as he arrives at New York, one of the 19 survivors of the 6,275-ton American freighter *Sago*, torpedoed in the Atlantic. The sinking was not revealed until the rescue ship docked.

## Most Stocks Sell Lower

New York, Jan. 8, 1942.—Stocks from a few low priced values and specialties, stocks generally maintained their downward direction in today's stock market.

## Cotton Prices Turn Lower

New York, Jan. 8.—(AP)—Cotton futures, opened 15 to 20 cents lower. Mid-land prices were 23 to 15 and a bale lower; March 47.74; May 47.91; July 48.01.



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