

# The Mount Airy News.

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## HARDING NOW OUR PRESIDENT

### Simple But Impressive Ceremony Marks His Inauguration—Weather Ideal for the Occasion.

Washington, March 4.—Warren G. Harding, of Ohio, and Calvin Coolidge of Massachusetts, were inaugurated today President and Vice President of the United States. Mr. Harding took the oath at 1:18 p. m., and Mr. Coolidge at 12:21 p. m.

Pressing his lips to an historic Bible, used at the inauguration of George Washington, the new president took the oath, administered by Chief Justice White. He had chosen the eighth verse from the sixth chapter of Micah, saying:

"What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Immediately after the administration of the oath, Mr. Harding turned to the vast crowd which stretched across the capital plaza, and began the delivery of his inaugural address.

Sound amplifiers carried his voice to the outskirts of the big assembly. A chill wind, feebly warmed by a bright sun, swept the broad space which appeared strangely in contrast of other years when it has been illuminated by the uniforms of West Point cadets, midshipmen from Annapolis and troops.

Pledging his faith anew to American institutions, President Harding reiterated a plea for the "return to normalcy" for industrial peace, for friendship with the world, and spoke again a promise of work for an association of nations to bring about peace, and "approximate disarmament." But he coupled his renewed declarations with fresh pronouncement against entangling alliances.

"America," he said, "can enter into no political commitments, nor assume any economic obligations, which will subject our decisions to any other than our own authority."

"I am sure our people will not misunderstand nor will the world misconstrue," said the new president. "We have no thought to impede the paths to closer relationship. We wish to promote understanding. We want to do our part to make offensive warfare so hateful that governments and people who resort to it must prove the righteousness of their cause or stand as outlaws before the bar of civilization."

Then speaking of his determination to enter no entangling alliance, Mr. Harding declared:

"This is not selfishness; it is sanctity. It is not aloofness; it is security. It is not suspicion of others; it is patriotic adherence to the things which made us what we are."

He said the republic must pursue a policy of non-involvement in old world affairs. As he spoke the sentences which followed in his prepared manuscript concerning other aspects of American foreign relations, Mr. Harding punctuated his delivery with vigorous gestures which repeatedly got the crowd cheering.

Mr. Harding spoke in a clear full tone proceeding more deliberately than he usually does in public addresses. He put a solemn emphasis upon his condemnation of "super-government" and the crowd responded with another crash of applause.

There were more cheers when the President delivered his condemnation of war profiteering. He then had been speaking for about fifteen minutes and was half thru his manuscript.

In the midst of his address Mr. Harding departed from his prepared manuscript to make mention of the wounded soldiers just below the inaugural stand. He assured them "that this republic will never be ungrateful for the service you have rendered," and added that he hoped for a policy in the future for those wounded in war time.

While he was speaking a woman fainted just in front of the stand and Mrs. Harding motioned to a secret service man to go to her aid. The first lady of the land turned her attention away from the inaugural speech and followed with her eyes the first aid rendered to the stricken woman. A marine had led the woman away before Mrs. Harding again turned back to follow the address.

President Harding concluded his address at 1:55 after talking 27 minutes. There was another roar of applause when he concluded and turned to receive the congratulations of those on the inaugural stand. Vice President Coolidge was the first to shake hands with him. As the President and Mrs. Harding started from the

stand the marine band played a stanza of "America" when the crowd began to disperse and the inauguration was over. Leaving the inaugural stand the new President returned to his room off the Senate chamber.

The Senate reassembled and appointed a committee of two to wait on President Harding. It then went into executive session to consider nominations of cabinet officers by the new president.

### Oath as Administered by Chief Justice White

Washington, March 4.—The oath of office of President as administered by the chief justice of the United States, Edward Douglass White, follows:

"I, Warren Gamaliel Harding do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

### Governor Morrison Names Road Commission

Raleigh, March 4.—Gov. Morrison this morning sent to the senate the names of eight appointees to the state highway commission under the newly adopted state highway law. The members include:

W. A. Hort, of Tarboro, cotton mill man and farmer first district.

W. A. Girt, of Wilmington, president of the North Carolina Good Roads Association, third district.

John Sprunt Hill, Durham, banker, and business man, fourth district.

J. Elwood Cox, High Point, manufacturer, fifth district.

Word H. Wood, Charlotte, president American Trust Company, sixth district.

Representative R. A. Doughton, Sparta, banker, farmer, seventh district.

John C. McBee, Bakersville, lawyer and manufacturer, eighth district.

James G. Stikeleather, Asheville, business man and present commissioner, ninth district.

The commissioners, newly appointed, will assume their duties on April 1. J. E. Cameron, Republican, of Kinston, present member of the commission, continues to serve, his term not having expired, as does Chairman Frank Page. Mr. Stikeleather's appointment is for another term.

The minority on the commission is represented by John C. McBee, of Bakersville, and J. Elwood Cox, of High Point, new appointees, and J. E. Cameron, who remains on the body.

Expressing the belief that he had named a committee acceptable to the people of the state, Gov. Morrison declared his only regret was the fact that he had not named a member from the far east, across the sound. He has determined, however, to ask the commission to name an attorney for itself, Mr. Walter Cohoon, of Pasquotank.

The governor made it plain that he had no notion of appointing a commission of road building experts, but a commission of successful business men who would efficiently administer the road building program of the state together with the problems which financing it involves.

## THEIR JAPANESE THRONE STARTS ON VISIT ABROAD

Tokio, March 3.—Prince Hirohito, heir apparent to the throne of Japan, left Yokohama today for Europe. His departure was marked by an imposing military and naval display. Fifteen thousand soldiers and police lined the streets from the palace to the station and the crown prince passed under beautiful arches, which had been constructed in his honor.

The special train taking the crown prince from Tokio to Yokohama was boarded by members of the imperial family, cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and upwards of a hundred Japanese officials.

The prince is the first member of a reigning family to take a voyage abroad since Empress Jingo-Jo crossed the straits to conquer Korea in the third century. He will visit a number of British ports enroute to England and newspapers here declare he took with him 1500 trunks, many of them containing gifts for persons he will meet during his trip. The prince will be accompanied on his journey by an extensive suite, including General Prince Kanin, supreme military councillor, and Viscount Chinda, minister of foreign affairs, and at one time Japanese ambassador to Great Britain.

## STATES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

### Legislature Provides for Six Months Term for All Schools

Raleigh, March 5.—The educational program of the state department of education which was submitted to the general assembly in four bills has therefore become the school law. The four acts are as follows:

1. An act to provide revenue for the public schools for six months for teacher-training. This act provides for annual appropriation of \$1,400,000 of this amount \$600,000 will be used as an equalizing fund to aid the weak counties, \$650,000 will be used to provide teacher-training, that is, for the support of Culleewee Normal school, Appalachian Training school, the three negro normal schools, and the Cherokee Indian Normal school, which are placed under control of the state board of education. In addition to this extra appropriations are made for teacher-training in county summer schools, in high schools, etc. Two hundred and twenty-four thousand dollars are appropriated for the encouragement of vocational education and the aid of high schools in rural districts.

The act also creates a division of teacher-training, a division of certification of teachers, a division of negro education, a division of physical education and a division of publication. The bill provides that the maximum rate to be levied by any county is 30 cents, and those counties that cannot provide a six-months' school term with a 30-cent rate may draw the remainder necessary from the equalizing fund.

2. The second important act is that providing a bond issue of \$5,000,000 by the state, to be loaned to counties on a basis of 20 years, 1-20th with accrued interest to be paid by the county annually. This act will make it possible for counties to secure funds to erect a more permanent type of school building. It provides that none of this fund can be used in erecting school buildings containing less than five rooms. It will aid materially in promoting county-wide consolidation.

3. The third act provides for the adoption of text books for the elementary schools. According to the provisions of this act the governor and the superintendent of public instruction will appoint a text book commission composed of seven representatives of the teaching profession. These will be allowed about five months in which time to select a multiple list not to exceed six on any subject. The state board of education will then adopt books from this multiple list. It provides for two basal readers and two basal primers and one basal book on all other subjects. It further provides that at the end of the five-year contract only a limited number of books can be changed in any one year.

4. The fourth important act contains a number of small amendments to the school law. The more important one provides for the consolidation of districts and permitting the consolidated districts to vote taxes. This includes special charter, special tax, and non-special tax districts. It also provides for the State Board of Education to amend or repeal charters of special charter districts upon the petition of the governing authority. It further provides that the county board of education shall organize at the April meeting, and permit the county board of education to elect county superintendents before the July meeting. It permits the county commissioners to allow a salary of \$5 per day to the members of the county board of education. These are the more important provisions of this act.

When I said that your article was not timely, I had in mind the completion and occupancy of the new North Main building. I think that what you have said about compulsory attendance, would be entirely proper next year, provided we get in the new building now under construction, and do not enforce the Compulsory Attendance Law. For I think we will then have ample room to care for all our children.

I grant you that the condition is deplorable, and there is nobody that it affects more than it does me. I never see a child who is not attending school, whether he is working or loafing, but that I feel the awfulness of his condition. I have a keen desire to see him in school, and feel that somebody is responsible for his not being. But when my mind wanders over the various school rooms and I see the crowded conditions there, I do not feel that the responsibility rests on me.

Let's reason together a little and see if you are not attacking the wrong crowd. Really, whose fault is it, if our children of compulsory age are not all in school, and let me state here that nearly all of them are. Is it the teachers' fault? I should say no, unless there is room to take care of them when they are forced in. If the real truth were known about it, it is not the duty of the teachers to get the children in school anyway. It is their business to report absences, and teach them when they are there. This matter of getting children in school belongs to a truancy officer, but there is none for Mount Airy except the Welfare Officer, and I am frank to say that the job of a whole county is too big for any one man.

But granting your contention, that it is the duty of the teachers to see that children come to school, it is not their business to build school houses. That is a prerogative that belongs to school boards. Then it is the business of school boards to furnish the buildings. But again, how can school boards build school houses without adequate means to do it with? Whose business then is it to furnish the means? You will readily see that this responsibility falls back on the citizens and tax payers. Then why not begin at the beginning? But let's see if there is any need of doing this, at this particular time.

Our people are doing their best at present to relieve the condition. They are cooperating with the school as they never have before, I am repeatedly told. This is evidenced by the splendid Parent-Teacher Organization; by the way most of them are sending to school; by the good building under construction on North Main; and by the liberal way they have recently contributed to the preparation of the much needed playground behind the High school. Other ways could be mentioned near-

ly as visible.

I do not know of a town in this great Commonwealth that does not have a sufficient number of stores to take care of the trade; enough automobiles to take care of the transportation and pleasure service; enough garages to take care of the cars, but there are few towns that have enough school houses to take care of their children.

In a meeting of a majority of the city superintendents at Asheville, Thanksgiving, there was a free and enthusiastic discussion along this very point, and out of the large number who took part in this discussion I recall only one superintendent who said that they were strictly enforcing the Compulsory Law in his town. The rest attributed the lack of enforcement to a lack of room. Therefore, unless most towns have a building program under way, we are going to lead in this respect next year.

Then let's continue to pull together, and discourage anything that will have a tendency to divide our people in this important work, and all will be well in the future.

L. M. Epps, Supt.

SENATE CONFIRMS THE NEW CABINET

### Republican Majority, Reenforced by Newly-Chosen Members, Breaks Precedent by Action—Many Changes Noted.

Washington—D. C.—Nowhere was the change in the national administration effected more sweeping than it was in the Senate of the United States. That body, the alleged home of long-term statesmen, underwent on Friday afternoon one of the most sweeping changes in its history. In the yielding of the old order to the new, 14 United States senators bade farewell to the body, and their places were taken by 14 new senators, the victors in the last election.

Eleven of the new senators are Republicans and three are Democrats. The Republican Party in the Senate now numbers 59, while the Democratic ranks are reduced to 37.

Ten of the Republican senators who were sworn in by Vice-President Calvin Coolidge after he himself had taken the oath of office administered by former Vice-President Thomas Riley Marshall, succeed Democratic senators. These were the men who were swept into office on the tidal wave of last November. One Republican, Lawrence Y. Sherman of Illinois did not desire reelection, and one Democrat, James Gay of Louisiana, retired for the same reason. In every other case the change is due to the vicissitudes of politics. When the new House assemblies with the call for the special session there will be over 100 changes, almost all Republican gains, but the change in the lower house is always less noticeable than the change in the Senate.

In conformity with custom President Wilson had called the new Senate into session before his retirement from office. Senator Harding sent up the Cabinet slate shortly after he took the oath of office.

The Senate lost no time in convening. There was no contest over the confirmation of the appointments of President Harding. In fact there is no precedent of any Cabinet appointee being refused confirmation, but the Senate's action yesterday is said to have set a precedent for quick action.

The Senate meets again at one o'clock today. There are thousands of nominations which come within the spoils of victory, and most of the Senate's time will be occupied with dealing with the large list of presidential appointees. It is barely possible that the Senate may find time to take action on the Colombian treaty which President Harding is anxious to have enacted as a preparatory move toward the putting of South and Central American relations on a more friendly plane.

M'Swiny's Brother Gets 15 Years in Jail

Cork, March 4.—John (Sean) McSwiney, brother of the former lord mayor of Cork, was one of the ten men who were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment here today for making war against crown forces, being in possession of arms, munitions and explosives. Another accused man was sentenced to ten years penal servitude.

If we were as satisfied with our fortunes as we are with our judgment, what a contented old world it would be!

## Prof. Epps Writes About Compulsory School Law

Dear Mr. Editor:

I have noticed recently several articles in your paper, some written by you, I judge, and others by other citizens of the town and county, relative to the enforcement of the Compulsory Attendance Law. I am sure that a majority of our people know the conditions as they exist in our schools at this time, but in order to give those who may not have had an opportunity to become acquainted with these conditions, I shall be glad if you will find space in your paper for this article, lest they be misled of the real conditions.

It is not my business to discuss the conditions of the county schools, besides I do not know them, but I believe I am more or less familiar with our own conditions, and shall limit my remarks to them.

I should like to say here that what you have had to say about the Compulsory School Law in both the county and town schools is good but not timely. I rather think that it is coming too late to do much good in the country, for their schools will soon be out. And as for us, don't you think you are a little advance of the season? I believe that if you had spent a little time going through any of our school rooms, and investigating the conditions as they actually exist, and had seen from a third to a half, and in many instances twice as many children as the state recommends that teachers undertake to care for, and in addition to this, had observed that in dozens of instances two children were sitting on a desk designed for one, you would have decided that a later date would have done just as well to advocate the enforcement of the Compulsory School Law in this town.

When I said that your article was not timely, I had in mind the completion and occupancy of the new North Main building. I think that what you have said about compulsory attendance, would be entirely proper next year, provided we get in the new building now under construction, and do not enforce the Compulsory Attendance Law. For I think we will then have ample room to care for all our children.

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## DEATH CLOSES CAREER OF CHAMP CLARK

### As End Came Near He Lived Again in Memory His Days As Speaker of House.

Washington, March 2.—Death closed today the career of Champ Clark, of Missouri, for more than a quarter century a towering figure in national politics, a stalwart of stalwarts in the Democratic party.

He died in the very shadow of the capitol. Just over the way from the hotel where he has lived many years, house and senate seethed in the closing hours of the Congress of which he was an honored member and leader. The stir of legislative battle was with him to the end. He lived again in memory, as his pulses flagged, the days of the eight years he wielded the speaker's gavel in the house. Those sorrowing at his bedside heard the old chieftain mutter in his last delirium.

"The question is an adoption of the conference report."

By mandate more binding than any written law, Congress barely halted in reverence to mark the passing of the aged member. Knowing as the years had taught him to know the vital urgency of time in the closing days of a Congress, the former speaker made known his will from what he knew was his death bed. His wish was carried to both houses that no halt in public business should be made at his death.

In obedience to that behest, the house, peopled with his personal friends of whatever party, halted a short half hour in adjournment, then marched on with its crowded program.

In that pressing work, Mr. Clark took active share up to little more than 10 days ago, counseling his party colleagues as Democratic leader until a cold struck him down to become a victim to the infirmities of his 70 years of driving life that reckoned nothing of his own physical welfare. His death threw a shadow over every face in the chamber when Representative Rucker, of the Missouri delegation, arose to announce it, voice choked with emotion. It was a halting, brief eulogy he pronounced, but it drew from members signs of sorrow more eloquent than words to tell of the place the dead leader held in their affection and respect. The formal motion for a half hour adjournment was made by Representative Mondell, Republican leader.

Mr. Clark would have been 71 years old had he lived until next Monday, but his 26 years of service in the house would have ended Friday, for he was defeated for re-election.

In the subdued talk on the floor or in cloakrooms while the house paused in honor of his memory, friends of years' standing scorned the suggestion that the stout heart of the Missourian had been shaken by political defeat. That he had foreseen long in advance they said. It was a more personal matter that had broken his spirit, they insisted, the death a year ago of his idolized three-year-old grandson and namesake, Champ Clark Thomson.

Since that blow, it was said, Mr. Clark's colleagues had noted a waning of his keen interest in public affairs and a little droop to the massive shoulders so familiar through the years in the corridors of the capitol.

"There was one thing upon which all were agreed that Mr. Clark had died as he wished to die, in the harness of his life work. He had planned retirement to his home in Bowling Green, Mo., after March 4, but the end found him still serving his country and his state in the house, that made it possible for the house to vote his widow a year of her husband's salary as its first business when the memorial adjournment was over."

Dr. Jesse Shoup, Mr. Clark's physician, had little hope from the day his patient was taken down with a cold. Pleurisy developed quickly, but behind that there was an accumulation of ailments due largely to advanced age and the reckless energy Mr. Clark had thrown into his work.

Both houses of Congress on Saturday will pay respect to the dead leader in a manner which had been duplicated only a few times in the history of the nation's law making body. Tentative arrangements for the funeral as announced tonight provide for funeral services at 10:30 o'clock Saturday morning in the house chamber.

An Ideal Remedy for Constipation

It would be hard to find a better remedy for constipation than Chamberlain's Tablets. For the best effect they should be taken immediately after supper. They are easy to take and mild and gentle in effect.