

## BAILEY MAKES OPENING SPEECH IN RALEIGH

Is Concerned Over the Future of Our 350,000 Families Who Must Live on Less Than \$900 a Year —Farmers Unjustly Taxed, He Says

Raleigh, March 10.—"The Way of Progress in North Carolina," was the subject on which Josiah W. Bailey spoke here tonight in his first formal address in his campaign for the democratic nomination for governor of North Carolina. J. B. Chessine, Jr. presided at the meeting. Declaring that he proposed to show the direct relation of politics to human welfare and what could be done to improve the condition of all people, Mr. Bailey said that there were 500,000 homes in North Carolina of which 450,000 were cottages wherein resided families on incomes less than \$2,000 per year and that at least 350,000 of these families were living on less than \$900 a year.

The test of progress is what is being done for the relief of such lowly families and not how many millionsaires we have in our state, the speaker said. The measure of progress is human betterment and there are great things to be done along this line in our state.

Mr. Bailey classified the task before the state to be the securing of just freight rates, equal taxation and a political awakening and restoration of representative government. Emphasizing that the immediate task was to relieve the farmer, and small homes of unjust shares of the burden of taxation, Mr. Bailey said, "We hear much of progress in North Carolina. This state has a great destiny and none but a fool would arrest the progress of this commonwealth. Our school progress, our road progress are sources of unending pride and encouragement. The growth of our institutions is magnificent, but let us not be content with these domains of advancement. Rather let us see what we may set about for greater things."

"What do we mean by progress? Let us think of it and strive for it in terms of human welfare."

"North Carolina can never be what she should be so long as only 40,000 of her 500,000 families have incomes of as much as \$2,000 per year. Half of our people are farmers and the average income of the North Carolina farmer is \$800. Here the point from which we will derive the progress of the commonwealth. Raise that average to \$1,500 per year and we will have all the schools, colleges, universities, asylums, roads, public service that the heart could desire. There is no one thing that will do it. And any one man would be foolish to promise it. But it can be done. America has been thinking industrially for two generations—and to a great purpose. All America is realizing that she must now think agricultural."

"North Carolina's greatest handicap is adverse and unfair freight rates. We have no big cities because we have no through rates. If we had 100,000 population in Raleigh, 250,000 in Charlotte and Greensboro, 100,000 in Fayetteville, Asheville, Winston-Salem and Durham, our agricultural problem would be half-solved and our tax problem would be simplified. Our farmers would have markets."

"There are no large cities in North Carolina because the cities in the north, south, and west of us have all had the advantage in freight rates. Give the cities of North Carolina a chance and they will show the world an amazing progress."

"There are more people within 50 miles of Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, or almost any other city in North Carolina than there are within 50 miles of Richmond or Lynchburg. But Richmond is selling North Carolina-made damasks, towels, socks, underwear, and overalls all over North Carolina. Why? There is but one answer—freight rates."

"North Carolina has the power to exact justice for our people from the railroads. Let us not be content with filing petitions and begin making demands. The railroads are not more powerful than this commonwealth."

"I have for four years contended that the burden of taxation rested in unfair and unjust measure upon our farmers and small homes. Lock Craig said to the circuit court when representing the state as a lawyer employed by the present governor: 'The average farmer gets only three and one-half per cent return upon the tax valuation of his lands.' Think of that. It tells the story. He also said that in 1920 three railroads shifted \$300,000 of their taxes upon other property in this state. Of this the Atlantic Coast Line got \$200,000."

"The official records show that the average farmer pays 16 per cent of his incomes in taxes. The average for the rest of us is only 11 per cent. Let the plow stop the next 60 days in America and everything in America will stop. And they will stop if you continue to pile the burden upon the man between the plow handles. Every man that can be leaving the farm. The hill plow is the greatest of all symbols but one. It means a ruined universe."

"We have over-burdened land with taxes. It is getting to be about the only thing to tax. We are issuing tax-free bonds in America at the rate of a billion dollars per year, and

North Carolina is doing her share of it. This much of taxable property is passing off the tax books every year. And taxes always rise in volume and in rate. The owner of the farm and the occupant whether owner or tenant of the small home cannot escape. The whole weight of the tax burden falls upon them."

"The state has taken over too many of the sources of taxation and left upon the land too much of the burden of the government. The state takes for state purposes all of the taxes on automobiles, gasoline, oils, fertilizers, licenses, inheritance, franchise and income. It has put on the counties the support of the schools, public roads, county government and these three great sources of expense fall upon property, that is largely land. The state ought to contribute more to the free schools or give to the counties more of the sources of taxation."

"Our tax problem is primarily one of readjusting the burden. Of course, we must reduce the volume wherever we safely can. A sound economy will save many a dollar in North Carolina. There is too much on land, especially farming land and small homes. Here are the lines of progress—justice in taxation."

"After all it is not the structures we build. Towers and palaces are not the evidence of progress. We should measure our progress by what is being done for the children in the cottages—in the 450,000 homes that live upon less than \$2,000 per year. Are their fathers and mothers getting ahead? Is home ownership increasing? Is there plenty of milk for the children? Have they warm beds, good books, wholesome surroundings? The state's chief product is the men and the women. So far as we know this is the object of existence. The only progress worth talking about is the progress of human welfare, moral and spiritual."

"Back of schools and roads are children, and back of children are homes, and good food and books and mothers and fathers who are doing well. To these considerations must the state ever look. By these standards must progress be measured."

"Those of us who are prosperous must remember that those who are not love their children just as much as we love ours, that they desire good things for their children and that they desire to get ahead for their little ones' sake just as we do. It is our duty to think of them in terms of our own experience. We must measure our progress not by the number of millionaires in the state, but by the number of happy homes. It is ours to make of North Carolina the best place in the world for men, women and children to live. This is the only politics. This is the new politics throughout the world."

"We have had enough of politics of selfishness and power and self and glory. The whole world is sick and weary of that sort of politics, and all the people of the earth are rising up and taking charge of the government. It is so in Europe. It is so in China, even. The bosses and machines will fall in America just as the thrones of the lords have fallen in the old world. There is a new age the world over. Its prophet passed a few weeks ago, but his work will go on. Woodrow Wilson was the new time. He was a democrat and he gave to the democratic party in America and democrats throughout the world its chart and compass for an age to come."

"In his faith let us labor. In his spirit let us do battle."

### Failure of the "V.-C."

The failure of the old established Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company last week (after a long period of near-bankruptcy, it was finally thrown into the hands of a receiver) will excite general interest all over our territory. Up to 1920 this company was regarded as about the strongest and most prosperous of fertilizer companies, but "deflation" proved too much for it. The value of its preferred stock has steadily declined from \$134 to \$7 per share and the value of its common stock from \$92.50 to \$3 per share.

Some farmers have long assumed that we have a "fertilizer trust" and a "farm implement trust," each having power to fix prices so high as to be able to go on making profits no matter what happens to the farmer. But the facts do not seem to bear out this theory. Both the fertilizer manufacturers and the farm implement manufacturers were fearfully hard hit by the panic of 1920-21, and numbers of them narrowly escaped the fate which has ever since dogged the steps of the "V.-C." company, finally culminating in last week's receivership.—Progressive Farmer.

## REPUBLICAN CONVENTION OUTWARDLY HARMONIOUS

Expected Storm Fails to Materialize as Surry Convention Transacts Business and Elects Delegates; Coolidge Endorsed

Surry county Republicans met in convention at Dobson last Saturday and elected a new executive committee and delegates to the state convention without outward strife and trouble. The expected fight for the chairmanship of the county executive committee was solved by placing a dark horse in the field, O. B. Webb of Mount Airy, whose nomination was like pouring oil (not Teapot Dome) on the troubled waters, and his election was easy.

Outwardly at least the local Republican forces have buried the hatchet and the delegation that left Mount Airy Monday for the state convention which convened in Raleigh Wednesday went away in a cheerful mood.

The convention passed resolutions lamenting the death of the late President Harding and of John Motley Morehead and endorsing the administration of President Coolidge and instructing Surry's delegation in the state convention to vote for delegates to the national convention favorable to Coolidge's renomination. The resolution instructed the delegates from this county to cast their votes for Hon. D. H. Blair and Johnson J. Hayes from the western part of the state as delegates as large to the national Republican convention, which assemblies in Cleveland, O., June 10th.

The following delegates at-large to the Republican state convention were elected: Edward M. Linville, G. W. Crissman, G. L. Kohloss, T. M. George Township delegates to the convention were as follows: Bryan, A. H. Wolf and W. G. Simmons; Dobson, W. W. Hampton and W. M. Jackson; Eldora, W. L. Chilton; Elkin, J. R. Ray and S. O. McGuire; Franklin and Long Hill (Donated right to representation to delegates at large); Marsh, J. F. Carter; Mount Airy, S. E. Marshall, J. B. Sparger, J. A. Jackson, O. B. Webb, W. E. Lindsay and A. E. Tilley; Pilot Mountain, C. M. Barnard and I. M. Gordon; Rockford, J. N. Marion; Shoals, W. L. Ashburn; Siloam, W. H. Ashburn; Stewart's Creek, W. A. York; Westfield, S. F. Shelton and T. L. Brim.

The local convention instructed its delegation to the Raleigh convention to place in nomination and support A. E. Tilley as a delegate from the Fifth congressional district to the national convention.

Members of the county Executive Committee to have charge of the affairs of the county Republican organization for the next two years are as follows:

O. B. Webb, Chairman; Robert Inman, Secretary; F. S. Eldridge, W. W. Hampton, W. S. Wall, J. F. Carter, E. L. Schuyler, W. P. Armstrong, A. C. Wall, C. R. Boyles, J. A. Jackson, J. H. Gwyn, D. G. Smith, C. M. Barnard, W. Y. Davenport, A. L. Ashburn, J. M. Whittaker, W. A. York and W. L. Inman.

By resolution the convention abolished the practice of holding township primaries for the purpose of electing delegates to the county convention, since this was an expensive procedure that kept the organization in financial embarrassment all the while.

### Post J. T. P. A. Hold Banquet

An enthusiastic meeting and banquet of the local post J. T. P. A. was given at the Blue Ridge Hotel Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Between thirty and forty members were present. Messrs. N. H. Irvin, State Director and D. C. Crutchfield, State Secretary were visitors. Interesting talks were made by both these visiting brethren, and also by the retiring president, A. Goldsmith, and Mayor A. V. West.

A nominating committee was appointed by the Chairman, to recommend officers for election for the ensuing year. After hearing the report of this committee, their report was accepted and the following officers and directors were elected by acclamation:

President, T. C. Barber, First Vice President, J. G. Harrison, Sec. V. Pros, J. C. Hill, Sec. Treas, J. B. Haynes.

Directors: A. V. West, N. W. Dobbins, B. E. Herman, G. C. Lovell, R. B. Short, W. A. Jackson. Contributed

## SUICIDAL FOR CITY TO TAKE BACKWARD STEP

If men were not careful about their financial matters it would soon be so that no one would be in possession of property. It is a fact that most men of business ability are careful about going into debt. Just now the public mind here in our town is agitated about the question of raising more money for public improvements to be made this year in the way of better streets. We wonder if there are not many people who do not really understand what all this means and if much of the talk and agitation would not be cleared up if a better understanding of the needs of the public could be brought about. With this in mind let us go a little further into the matter. Not so long ago and the country had no investment made by the whole people except a court house and a county home. For long ages the State or the County made no improvements, and so had no bridges, no roads, no insane asylums, no orphanages. Then the public mind for some cause waked up to the needs of all these institutions, especially the asylums and the bridges and roads. But how to get them was the problem. No man had the money to advance and no people would be willing to have a special tax levy sufficiently large to meet the expense at one time. It somehow dawned on the minds of men that by borrowing the money and paying it back on the installment plan—issuing bonds, is what it means, the funds could be secured with which to make these needed improvements. And when this idea got into the minds of the people, and that was not so long ago, we began to build asylums, hospitals, roads, bridges and so forth. Since that time the country has invested much money in this way and made it an entirely different place in which to live.

The editor of this newspaper remembers well when there was not a bridge in the county and not a mile of road over which an automobile could be driven with comfort. Then it took all day to cross the county. Back then the county home consisted of a few log cabins stuck back on the county farm near Dobson. And not until the public mind worked out a plan to secure the money did we get away from the primitive conditions of the past and begin to make progress in better living conditions.

Now, every one knows that it is easy to go too deeply into debt, be it private or public debt. Conservative business men have thought over

all this carefully and reached the conclusion that it is safe to issue bonds for a town or a county to the value of ten per cent of the tax value of the property in the town or county. In these days of progress and enlightenment towns are everywhere making public improvements. The people demand that this be done, for the thoughtful people are no longer willing to see their insane confined in common jails or to drag about the country in mud when a good road can be made. Most towns have made streets to the limit that the law permits. The little town of Elkin, and there is no better small town than Elkin, just last year spent \$250,000 on her streets. And it is being done everywhere. Now we are planning to spend \$60,000 here this year, and there is opposition. Would you have thought it! This town can legally issue \$330,000.00 more bonds and yet be no more progressive than other towns all about us who are keeping step with the spirit of the times.

Mount Airy has done a fine work during the past two years in laying permanent streets that have long been needed, and there is yet much of this work that should be done at the earliest moment consistent with good business. There is no other way to build a town.

It is astonishing to think how much money it costs to keep the unimproved streets of this town in condition. The rains are frequent and heavy and the streets are so much travelled that they are often almost impassable. But once they are hardsurfaced the work of upkeep is over with for many years to come and the town relieved of a heavy expense, to say nothing of the value of the improved streets to the public.

Now, it is a fact that most of us are too busy with our private affairs to bother with public questions, but we believe that if any man will give this a careful and intelligent consideration he will see that a town the size and importance of this can afford to issue bonds within the legal limit and improve its streets to a point where the needs of the times are met. To us it seems to be the only consistent course to pursue. It is the only way we can meet the demands of the public mind of our day. It is the only way we can consistently face the world and say we are a progressive people.

## Police Arrested as Murderer

Woman's Body Found in Pool of Blood; Policeman Suspect Disappears; When He Returns Is Jailed

High Point, March 15.—L. C. Jenkins, chief of police of Thomasville, charged with the murder of a woman believed to be Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, of Appalachia, Va., whose body was found in Jenkins' home yesterday, was arrested when he returned to Thomasville early today, according to advice received here.

Jenkins was taken to Lexington and placed in the Davidson county jail.

The body of the woman was found yesterday after the woman had not been seen for more than a day. The body was lying on a bed in a pool of blood. The woman's five-year-old daughter was in the room and attempted to prevent anyone entering by telling them to "go away" each time they knocked.

The woman was believed to be the wife of Jenkins but a telegram was received last night from Greenville, S. C. and signed by a woman stating she was Jenkins' wife. The woman then was tentatively identified as Mrs. Jones as a result of a telephone call from Asheville.

Jenkins had left Thomasville shortly after midnight Thursday after stating that he was after some bootleggers. He returned this morning and was immediately taken into custody.

A coroner's jury yesterday afternoon held him responsible for the slaying.

Jenkins as quoted as saying today that the woman fired the shot which caused her death. The girl who was present when the shooting occurred, questioned by the coroner, did not say who did the shooting.

Jenkins was held responsible by a coroner's jury late Friday for the killing of a woman whose dead body bathed in blood was found in a room here Friday morning, guarded by a five-year-old girl who says the dead woman was her mother and

who says her father was in the room when her mother was shot.

According to the verdict of the coroner's jury, the woman came to her death from a gunshot wound inflicted from a gun in the hands of L. C. Jenkins.

### Indicted for Issuing Marriage Certificate

Wilson, March 16.—Failing to secure a health certificate in Nash county to marry Miss Lilly Moss, 31 alleged to be mentally unbalanced, L. Graham, 70, with his intended bride, came to this city and secured a health certificate from Dr. G. W. Lewis, a local physician.

Being vouched for by a reputable Wilson citizen, Miss Temple Jane Batton, register of deeds of Wilson county, issued the license to Graham and the nuptial knot was tied by Magistrate W. R. Wood and not until Friday last did there seem to be the least trouble.

Knowing the bride to be mentally unbalanced it is alleged by Welfare Officer W. D. Glenn, Jr., of Nash county, he caused a warrant to be issued against Dr. Lewis charging a violation of the health law of North Carolina, the penalty for which is not less than \$200 fine. The case was tried before the magistrate who performed the ceremony last Friday and as yet he has rendered no decision.

Notwithstanding the "newly weds" were both of Nash, they gave their residence as Wilson county. They were married February 17 just 26 hours after the bridegroom has buried his first wife.

In the event the trial magistrate concludes to pour oil on the troubled waters by dismissing the case the matter will be presented to the grand jury, it is stated.

## SOLDIER BONUS TO COST OVER 2000 MILLIONS

More Than Three Million Servicemen Will Get Paid-up Life Policies

Washington, March 16.—The report of the house ways and means committee on the new soldier bonus bill, which will be presented to the house tomorrow and voted on Tuesday, was made public today by Chairman Green.

The report estimates the maximum cost of the measure at \$2,119,000,000 spread over 26 years. The cost, the report said, could be met by anticipated savings in current expenses of the government.

A minority report signed by four Republican members of the committee,—Treaday, Mass.; Tilson, Conn.; Watson, Penn.; and Mills, New York attacked the giving of a bonus as an "unsound principal" and declared its cost would limit tax reduction in future years. The bill provides for paid-up, 20 year endowment life insurance policies and cash payments to veterans not entitled to more than \$50 in adjusted service compensation.

Proponents of the measure here, predict its passage, although a two-thirds majority will be necessary, the bill coming up under suspension of the rules which limits debate and prohibits amendments.

Members of the Democratic veterans group were disturbed today because they had been denied opportunity under the rules of offering an amendment providing for full cash payments as an option, but leaders indicated most of them would vote for the bill and depend on senate action for the full cash payment option.

Twenty-one of the 22 Democratic members from New York state signed a statement today declaring they favored immediate passage of soldier bonus legislation but preferred "immediate all-cash payments."

Chairman Green in his report said two bonus bills had passed the house and one of them both the senate and the house. The latter, he said, was vetoed by President Harding, but the present measure was framed "so that it will become law." It would confer substantial benefits upon the soldiers he said, its cost would be capable of accurate and definite determination and the necessary appropriations could be made without embarrassing the treasury.

The average of the insurance policies, it was estimated, would be \$962. The policies would be valued on the basis of the adjusted service compensation provided in the vetoed bill. \$1 for each day of home service and \$1.25 for each day overseas. The first 60 days would not be counted.

Veterans who served more than 110 days and who would not be entitled to cash would receive a paid up 20-year endowment policy for the amount of the insurance their adjusted service credit plus 25 per cent would purchase at their age. Such insurance would be computed in accordance with accepted actuarial principles and based upon American experience tables of mortality, with interest at 4 per cent per annum compounded annually.

If the veteran died before the 20 years were up the full amount of the policy would be paid his beneficiary or his estate. At maturity the face value of the policy would be payable in full. The policies would be dated from next January 1.

### Due Each Man \$382

The majority report estimated the average adjusted compensation due veterans would be \$382 each. The maximum number of days which would be counted are 560. Service any time between April 5, 1917, and July 1, 1919, would be counted if enlistment was made prior to November 11, 1918. Adjusted service credit of \$496.62 would be worth a policy valued at \$1,000.

Chairman Green estimated that on January 1, 1924, there were 3,083,282 veterans living who would be entitled to the insurance policies and 380,583 veterans who served from 61 to 110 days who would be entitled to the cash payments. Also there were 163,505 veterans who died prior to January 1, 1924 and whose dependents would be entitled to the adjusted service compensation in 10 annual installments. The average age of veterans were figured at 39 years. As of January 1, 1924, officers above the rank of captain in the army and marine corps and lieutenant in the navy would not be eligible.

The cash payments might be made, Mr. Green said within the calendar year, if the bill is passed, although the insurance policies would not be dated until January 1, 1925.