

# Revenue Officials Will Be Out of Jobs

The Watts Bill Will Put Some Hundreds of Them out of Business--The Moonshiner's Opportunity

BY THOMAS J. FENCE

Washington, June 18.—Special.—Records in the office of the commissioner of internal revenue show that there are 450 storekeepers and gaugers in North Carolina, and the belief prevails that more than four hundred of this number will walk the plank July 1st, when the Watts law, driving distilleries to incorporated towns and cities, goes into effect. With the Watts law in operation North Carolina will lose the distinction of being the home of the small distiller. The last annual report of the commissioner of internal revenue shows that North Carolina had 1,001 registered distilleries, more than 300 in excess of the number in operation in any other one state. Virginia had the next largest number with a total of 689. It is the opinion of officials here that while a large number of distillers will go out of business, a good per cent of them will cross the state boundary, locating in Tennessee, Virginia and South Carolina. The smaller fellows are attached to their surroundings, and while it would not require much effort to shoulder their five-gallon affairs and change camp, they are expected to go out of business, officially speaking.

It is the opinion of many of those who have had experience in such matters, derived from the observation of the application of somewhat similar laws in other states, that there will be a large increase in blockading in North Carolina after July 1st. Talking with one of the veteran clerks in the internal revenue department yesterday, he said:

"While the effect of the new North Carolina law will probably result in much good to the people of the state, there is one phase of it that will, in my opinion, result in more trouble. The moonshiners are certain to grow in numbers, and this condition will soon manifest itself. North Carolina has far more small distilleries than any other state in the union, and it is no secret that many of these have to evade the law to do business. They are not at all equipped to extract the spirits from the product. They do well to get two and three gallons from the corn, whereas the big distilleries, using approved machinery, extract five gallons to the bushel. Their primitive methods make the business unprofitable and they cannot compete with the big establishments. Many of them have evaded the law and they will continue to do so. The government ought not to permit the operation of a distillery that has a capacity of less than fifty gallons per day."

If the government should apply the above principle there would be no need for a Watts law. Last year there were only four distilleries in the state with a capacity in excess of forty gallons per day.

The farmers of the state will be affected as the result of the termination of the whiskey-making business in North Carolina. Last year these industries consumed 255,528 bushels of North Carolina products. Some of these were: corn 208,070 bushels, rye 27,645 bushels, wheat 23,449 bushels, and barley 2,117 bushels. At the same time Uncle Sam will be a loser, for last year the government received \$782,235 from the North Carolina distillers.

As an evidence of the fact that there is a desire among some people in the state to make whiskey without Uncle Sam's consent, it has only to be recalled that 270 stills were seized last year, and there were 275 criminal cases in the federal court for violations of the law. While the storekeepers and gaugers will go out of business after July 1st, the deputy collectors will in all probability be strongly reinforced, and the storekeeper who can land as a deputy should be exceedingly glad, for they have been drawing only \$2 per day, whereas if they catch on as deputies they will pick up something like \$1,200 per annum. The internal revenue department is looking for an increase in the roll of deputy collectors in North Carolina when the Watts law goes into effect.

The Boll Weevil Spreading

The boll weevil, the deadly enemy of the cotton plant, which first made its appearance in Mexico several years ago, is gradually extending its operations over the state of Texas, where last year it so devastated the cotton crop that it affected the price of the commodity. The northward migration of the boll weevil, in the opinion of the experts and scientists, means that the pest will ultimately spread over the entire cotton area, reaching the northern limits of the cotton territory in North Carolina and Virginia.

Government experts estimated that the boll weevil destroyed over half a million bales of cotton in central Texas last year. After first making its appearance in Mexico the pestiferous little insect moved across the Texas line, and since then it has moved northward in fan-like shape. Last year it confined its northward movement to the boundary of the Trinity river, which cuts Texas in half, separating the eastern portion of the state from the other territory. Representative Cooper, who is in Washington, brings the news that the boll weevil has made its appearance east of the Trinity river this year. "When I left Texas last week," Mr. Cooper said, "farmers east of the Trinity river were much alarmed because of the appearance for the first time of the insect. This regrettable news is dangerous to the future of the cotton crop in the south. No remedy has yet been discovered for the annihilation of the pest. There is only one inference to be drawn from this condition and

that is that the boll weevil will gradually extend its area of destruction to Louisiana and Mississippi and then northward through the cotton states to their ultimate boundary. Cotton in Texas is very backward, but there is plenty of time for the development of a full crop. You know we have ten counties in Texas that control the price of the staple. These ten counties produce more than a million bales."

## SUBURBAN WON BY AFRICANDER

New York, June 18.—In a terrific drive on a track fetlock deep in mud, with 40,000 men and women cheering wildly, Africander, the three year old son of Star Ruby and Afric Queen, won the suburban handicap at a mile and a quarter at Sheepshead Bay today by a short head in 2:10 2-5.

It was the first victory of a three year old since the first running of the suburban in 1884, and it was a remarkable triumph inasmuch as Africander gave away weight to everything in the race, except E. R. Thomas' \$60,000 Hermis, from whom he received three pounds.

From the quarter pole to the finish line it was a heart-breaking struggle between Africander and W. C. Rollins' old campaigner Herbert, who finished four lengths in front of light weighted Hunter Raine, while six lengths back came the favorite Major Daingerfield, who beat City Bank a head, with Igniter a half length away and a length before Bonnie Boy. Africander was a 15 to 1 shot, his price going up, while Herbert was backed down to fifteen and Hunter Raine closed at twelve.

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## KNOTTY QUESTION IN THE COURTS

Naval Officers Enjoined From Launching the Cruiser Galveston

Richmond, Va., June 18.—If the cruiser Galveston is launched at the Trigg yards Monday as scheduled it will be in violation of the mandate of the Virginia courts and by force of arms on the part of the government. The legal complications, already vexatious, were doubly added to this afternoon when Judge Grinnin of the chancery court of this city, in which court the receiver of the Trigg yards was appointed, issued an injunction directed to Lieutenants Thiess and Groesbeck of the United States navy, who have charge of the arrangements of the launching, restraining the mfrom interfering with the boat.

Mr. L. T. Meyers, general manager of the Trigg works and receiver under the court, represented to the court that great injustice would be done the creditors of the Trigg Company to remove the vessel, and also to the Trigg Company, which, he believed, would soon effect a reorganization and be ready to complete the contract.

The boat is sixty per cent complete and was to have been launched Monday, to be taken to Norfolk and finished by the government at the navy yard there. The naval officials here are waiting for further orders. It remains to be seen whether the government will come in direct conflict with the state and use force to secure the ship.

The decision of the government in connection with the Galveston concerns the big self-propelling ocean dredge Benyard, which was being built for the government at the same yard. Preparations to launch the Galveston which have been in progress will be suspended pending the decision of the knotty question.

Washington, June 18.—Naval Constructors Groesbeck and Lieutenant Thiess, who have charge of work on the Galveston, have been instructed by the navy department to personally obey the injunction. The department intends, however, to launch the vessel Monday and will, under the arrangement related above, make a show of force to prevent interference by the officers of the enjoining court, thus affording a basis for a test case as to the right of state or municipal authorities to interfere with a national vessel of war.

The navy department holds that the Galveston is not an asset of the Trigg company, and this view has been sustained by the attorney general.

Worst of All Experience

Can anything be worse than to feel that every minute will be your last? Such was the experience of Mrs. S. H. Newson, Decatur, Ala. "For three years," she writes, "I endured insufferable pain from indigestion, stomach and bowel troubles. Death seemed inevitable when doctors and all remedies failed. At length I was induced to try Electric Bitters and the result was miraculous. I improved at once and now I'm completely recovered." For liver, kidney, stomach and bowel troubles Electric Bitters is the only medicine. Only 50c. It's guaranteed by all druggists.

## Justice Delayed by An Easy Going Official

Assistant Attorney Taggart Subjected to Severe Criticism — Indictments Virtually Pigeon Holed

Washington, June 18.—Serious friction has developed between the officials in charge of the investigation of postal scandals and Assistant District Attorney Taggart. This condition is entirely due, according to high officials of the post office department, to the dilatory and unsatisfactory methods employed by Mr. Taggart in the prosecution of the cases in his hands. It is claimed that the delay is seriously hampering the progress of the inquiry and may even result in the failure of certain carefully laid plans of the investigating authorities. Mr. Taggart, when asked tonight to assign a reason for the alleged inexcusable delays in the cases under his charge, indignantly refused to discuss the matter and practically ordered the reporter out of his house.

It became known today that nearly a week and a half ago the federal grand jury returned complete indictments against two men who have been drawn into the web of post office scandal, on information presented to that body by Fourth Assistant Bristow. The cases against these two men, whose names have been frequently mentioned in connection with the present inquiry, were considered by the grand jury to be so conclusive that a very short time was spent in deliberation and the indictments were immediately returned. Although nothing remained to be done, prior to the issuance of warrants for the two men named in the indictments, except to have the formal papers signed by the foreman of the grand jury, this has not been done, notwithstanding the federal body was in session all of last week, and also this week, up to today. To make matters infinitely worse, in the opinion of post office officials, Mr. Taggart this afternoon adjourned the grand jury over until Monday without having the foreman sign the two indictments in question.

Information on which the grand jury will be asked to bring in further indictments against former Superintendent Machen and the Groff brothers, his associates in the patent fastener bribery scandal, and indictments against George E. Lorenz and Mrs. Lorenz of Toledo, Ohio, the alleged go-betweens, is said to have been in Mr. Taggart's hands for more than a week, and in this matter, as in that relating to the signing of the completed indictments brought in a week and a half ago, department officials are completely in the dark with regard to the motives of the assistant attorney.

A post office official said this afternoon, "At the present rate of progress, the trial of the accused post office officials is fully two years in the future. This condition of affairs will not be borne. There is too much at stake and the investigation is being seriously hampered."

The situation became so serious late this afternoon that President Roosevelt sent for District Attorney Beach and Assistant District Attorney Taggart, in whose hands rests the prosecution of the local cases arising in the department, and acting Assistant Attorney Robb, the legal officer of the department. While it cannot be learned what took place at the conference, it is presumed the president strongly urged upon the prosecuting officers the necessity for prompt action in the post office cases.

To Control Cotton Seed

New Orleans, June 18.—The North Louisiana Cotton Planters' Association, which includes most of the planters on Red River and in the southern part of the state, has decided that no member of the association shall sell any of the cotton seed raised or controlled by him. All the seed must be turned over to the executive commit-

tee which will supervise and arrange the sale. In this way it is expected to prevent a cutting of prices and maintain a high and standard price for cotton seed. The association is endeavoring to organize similar bodies in other parts of Louisiana and neighboring states.

## TREASURED IN MEMORY

Tribute of Dentists to Deceased Members of the Society

Winston-Salem, N. C., June 18.—The state dental society held three sessions today. At the morning and afternoon sessions there were interesting and instructive discussions on many subjects pertaining to the profession. At 3:30 this afternoon a complimentary carriage drive over the city was given the visiting members by the local dentists. A beautiful and touching memorial service was held tonight in memory of Dr. J. W. Hunter of Salem, Dr. T. M. Hunter of Fayetteville and Dr. J. W. Hatcher of Seima. Sketches of the life and character of the deceased members were read respectively by Drs. R. H. Jones of this city, G. B. Patterson of Fayetteville and H. D. Harper, Sr., of Kinston.

## DIED FOR HIS COWS

A Farmer Drowned While Trying to Reach His Stable

Rutherfordton, N. C., June 18.—Special.—It has just been learned that Van Bradley, a farmer at Island Ford, was drowned several days ago while attempting to save his cows from the same fate. During the night the creek near his house rose so high that he feared for the safety of his cows that were in a stable near the creek bank. In the darkness he plunged into the high waters toward the stable to rescue his cows. He was never seen again alive. He had only gotten a few yards when he found the water was twelve or fifteen feet deep.

Searching for his body went on for several days. Finally, when the stream lowered, several days later, he was found in the creek not far from the stable. There were two cows in the stable. One was drowned; the other succeeded in getting her front feet into a trough and held her head above the water until she was taken out.

Gift to Guilford College

Winston-Salem, N. C., June 18.—Special.—Mr. R. J. Reynolds, the wealthy tobacco manufacturer here, contributes one thousand dollars to Guilford College to be used in the establishment of an electric plant.

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