

### CAPITAL HAS AN EXCITING WEEK

#### Closing Doors of Commercial Bank Stuns Citizens Of State Capital

#### WINE BRICKS ILLEGAL

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

RALEIGH, Dec. 22.—Capitol City has experienced a hectic week end since the announcement Thursday morning that the Commercial National Bank, a landmark and symbol of strength for many years, had closed its doors—a condition of hysteria or stunned facilities similar to numbers of scenes enacted in many sections of the State a year ago when banks were being closed overnight and fortunes were wiped out.

There was no run on the Commercial National, but heavy withdrawals had followed the successful closing of it made against a run a year ago. The high type of its officers and the case with which it faced the earlier run made the closing all the more unexpected and calamitous. Of the more than \$4,250,000 on deposit, only about \$1,500,000 was in about 6,000 active checking accounts; more than \$2,000,000 was in 2,000 saving accounts, and \$700,000 in secured funds of State, county and city. The First National Bank of Burlington was placed in the hands of Federal bank examiners about the same time.

A run developed on the Morris Plan Bank, Raleigh, continuing for more than two days, which was successfully withstood. Withdrawals were rare from the Wachovia Bank & Trust Co., the North Carolina Bank & Trust Co., and the Page Bank & Trust Co., only remaining commercial banks in Raleigh. Safety deposit boxes were in demand and postal saving leaped upward. Two or three small banks in this section, one at Wake Forest, closed, doubtless from frenzied withdrawals.

Commissioner of Banks Gurney P. Hood announces that payments amounting to \$584,131.81 have been or will be made to creditors and depositors of 38 State banks that are now in process of liquidation from October 1 to December 31, making a total of \$1,653,635.95 that has been paid from closed banks since May 28.

The three months payments include \$203,630.49 in secured claims, \$113,261.41 in preferred claims and \$306,319.91 in common claims, deposits. Commissioner Hood's statement shows.

California "wine brick" manufacturers could not have purchased at any price the valuable advertising given their product in North Carolina as a result of the opinion from Attorney General Dennis G. Brummett's office, written by Assistant A. F. Seawell, that the bricks, now on sale at many drug and other stores, have, when nature is allowed to its course with them, as per transactions on the package how "not" to do, a kick that puts it in a class prohibited by the N. C. Durham Act.

The same Mrs. Mabel Walker Wheelwright, who, as assistant attorney general had charge of prohibition law enforcement and was then called to speak to church and women's organizations against the liquor evil, particularly in the 1928 campaign days, got this product by the Volstead act, for the grape growers and wine producers of California, for whom she is now attorney. She also got them a big haul to produce grapes from the

Federal Farm Board. Mr. Seawell holds it is illegal to have these bricks for sale or use.

National banks, because they have certain immunities from State regulation coming from functions connected with the national currency, are not by such immunity permitted to escape the \$200 annual privilege tax for doing a fiduciary or trust business imposed by the 1931 General Assembly, Assistant Attorney General Seawell has held in another opinion.

The powers and duties thus exercised are derived wholly from the State, which can control, examine or forbid their exercise of the functions which the State itself creates corporations to perform, Mr. Seawell holds, adding that such a corporation cannot "crash the gates of the probate courts, deal in the administration of estates, and do so on the basis of unfair competition with the State banks, and pay no reasonable tax for the privilege."

Governor Gardner has turned literary and broken into The Saturday Evening Post with an article that will appear in the January 2 issue, on sale December 30. Governor Gardner wrote on "New Wine in Old Bottles," holding that new conditions demand new remedies. Editor Lorimer has written him that the article is so timely, dealing with the reorganization of State government that he has changed the title to "One State Cleans House." The article is expected to be extensively read, not only in this State, but over the nation.

Leland Kitchin, Scotland Neck, has been named by Governor Gardner as a member of the State highway Commission, succeeding N. L. Stedman, Halifax, who resigned because he expects to spend about six months of each year in Florida and thus cannot attend to the duties involved satisfactorily. Regret at the resignation of Mr. Stedman was expressed by Governor Gardner, who is sure Mr. Kitchin, brother of three noted North Carolinians the late Governor W. W. and Congressman Claude Kitchin, and Prof. T. D. Kitchin, of Wake Forest College will prove a worthy successor to Mr. Stedman.

Constitutionality of that part of the 1931 Machinery Act which provides that the value of real estate for taxation may not be changed more than a total of 10 per cent in any county is questioned in a case argued before the N. C. Supreme court last week. This provision, S. T. Hooker and other taxpayers of Pitt county contend, is contrary to Art. 5, Sec. 3 of the Constitution, which requires that property be valued for taxation at its true value in money; also that it would result in taking property without due process of law. This 1931 provision was in lieu of the quadriennial revaluation.

Indictments brought against John Mitchell, former chief State bank examiner and Corporation Commissioners W. T. Lee, George P. Pall and Stanly Winborne, under whom he operated, in Buncombe county on charges of misfeasance and nonfea-

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sance for failure to close the Central Bank & Trust Co. and the Biltmore-Oteen Bank were declared null and void by Judge Walter L. Small in Wake Superior Court Saturday.

The ground was that the order of abatement issued by Judge Cameron F. MacRae and transfer of the cases to Wake county requires that new indictments be brought in Wake county. The order Saturday does not prohibit the Solicitor from bringing new action seeking indictments before a Wake county grand jury, but means that such indictments must be brought in Wake before the State officials can be tried here. If presentments are made it will be necessary for Buncombe witnesses to appear in Raleigh. No new move is expected until January or February next year.

Maintenance of the county highways by the State, as provided by the 1931 General Assembly will save the State \$400,000 in transportation, despite the 15 per cent increase in number of pupils hauled, Governor Max Gardner quotes Dr. A. T. Allen State superintendent of public instruction and members of the State Board of Equalization, as predicting, as a result of the splendid condition the county roads have been placed in the State Highway Commission.

In many mountain counties, in which roads were allowed to go during the winter months, leaving many of them impassible from December to March, the State High-

way Commission has treated them to 60,000 tons of gravel, in order to make them passable, Governor Gardner said. This "releases" many of the mountain people who were "bottled up" during the winter months, except for walking or horseback riding, he said.

"I am hearing from all over the State and many people who opposed the State maintenance plan are now heartily in favor of it," Governor Gardner said. "I feel sure that if it were left to a vote of the people now as to whether the State should continue or the counties resume highway maintenance, the verdict would be overwhelmingly and decisively for State maintenance."

"It is hard to convince property owners that this system is wrong when they travel over the roads and when they see the great reduction in their tax receipts," Governor Gardner said.

#### Select Best Birds In Mating Poultry

Correct mating of poultry for greatest profits during the coming year is a difficult problem and one that is usually conducted as a "hit or miss" proposition.

N. W. Williams, practical poultryman in charge of the State College flocks, says mating poultry is a hard job for the experienced poultryman and that the inexperienced man generally gives it no consideration at all. However, it is one of the

most important jobs to be undertaken at the beginning of the new poultry year.

First the grower must know what he wants. If he wants egg production, he must mate birds that have been producing eggs. If he wants show birds, he must use those that have the standard conformations.

To mate birds for egg production, the poultrymen ought to understand what body factors indicate high egg production, says Williams. Select those of standard weight that are vigorous, broad, deep and with large body capacity. Such birds will lay more eggs and the chicks will be stronger than those from birds which do not have such desirable characteristics. If the hens lack some of these good qualities but are good layers, use a male bird which will correct the deficiency in the chicks. No bird should be used in the breeding pens which has a tendency to be weak constitutionally.

In mating for show purposes, careful breeding must be done through several generations. Birds with any disqualifications such as split wings, wry tail, side springs and foreign color in the feathers should never be used as breeders because the undesirable features have a tendency to crop out in the resulting chicks, says Williams. He urges that much attention be given to selecting the male bird both when breeding for eggs or for show purposes.

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### Corn Sold As Pork Still Offers Profit

All surplus corn should be converted into pork. Records kept on 13,788 hogs by county farm agents during the past six years proved that corn sold as pork has returned an average of 62 cents a bushel more than its local market value.

"Had 25 percent of the corn crop of the past four years been sold as pork at the current price paid for hogs, it would have returned \$22,140,520 more than its market value as corn," declares W. W. Shay, swine extension specialist at State College. "Again this year, every farm should by all means grow all the pork needed for that farm. Many waste products can be supplemented and used as hog feed, but hogs which are intended for either home use or market should be limited to the number sufficient to consume the feed available for them. A market hog pays for its feed only when it is gaining in weight at a substantial rate. When not gaining, the market hog is going into debt for what he eats."

Mr. Shay urges every farmer in North Carolina to keep one good brood sow this year for each 150 bushels of prospective surplus corn. Breed this sow as nearly as possible on the first of May and the first of November. Full feed her pigs a properly balanced ration from the time they are four weeks of age until they are sold. Sell them at a weight last two years has not been claimed.

of 200 pounds and over during March and April or again in August or September.

The man who can grow corn cheaply and at good average acre yields and will stick to this system year in and year out regardless of the price of hogs or the price of corn will make money for himself and his farm, says Mr. Shay.

### Baby Thrives On Diet Of Wood

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 21.—Probably the strangest baby diet in the country is that of Dolores, three and one-half year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob First of Two Rivers who thrives on wood—the ordinary kinds used in furniture—and milk.

She doesn't like oatmeal crushed vegetables, mashed potatoes and finely cut meat, but seems to enjoy gnawing at a chair or table.

Despite her strange proclivities she suffers no apparent ill effects, her doctor pronouncing her healthy.

When Dolores started to bite on her rocking chair, it was considered normal teething. When she tore splinters loose it was considered "cute," and a sign of good, strong teeth. When she chewed the wood pulp there was general alarm, and when she sampled the family radio a temporary halt was called.

A dollar lying in the South Carolina state treasurer's office for the last two years has not been claimed.

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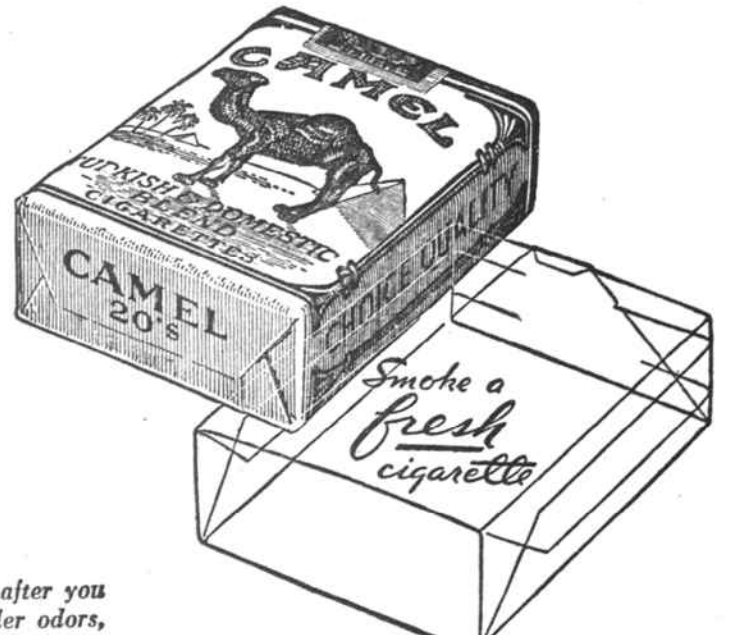
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## Best Wishes for the Season

Gladness is the Message every Christmas brings. For this Christmas we hope the message multiplies immeasurably. A merry Christmas to you all.

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