

THE CONCORD DAILY TRIBUNE

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VALUE OF NORTH CAROLINA FARM LANDS.

As listed for taxation, farm land in Gaston county is twice as high as land in any other county in the State, according to the recent annual report of the State Commissioner of Revenue.

Statistics compiled from the report of the commissioner were carried in a recent issue of the University News Letter and show that the total value of all property listed for taxation in North Carolina for the tax year 1924 amounts to \$2,711,783,919.

Town real estate, manufacturing properties, outside incorporated towns, and mineral, timber, and waterpower properties are listed at \$839,811,689. Farmers pay taxes on 53 per cent. of all real property listed for taxation in the State.

With Gaston occupying the topmost rung of on the ladder at the strangely high rate of \$181.54, strangely high by comparison, at least, we find the County of Graham at the bottom with a tax valuation on its farm lands of \$6.02.

"It is a far cry, of course, from the assessment of Gaston's farm lands to the assessment of similar lands in Graham County in the same State and, without dogmatically asserting that either Gaston is too high or Graham is too low, both affirmations can be made if we are proceeding on the assumption that there should be some degree at least of identity between taxable values in this State.

"The University News-Letter remarks in timely and pertinent fashion 'some counties approach true values on the tax books, while in others the policy is to assess at some agreed upon per cent. of the true value, as 55 per cent. in Orange county, 75 per cent. in Durham county, and so on. No one has been able to give a legitimate reason for our policy of allowing the various counties to list property according to local likes and dislikes. And what is even worse, there is often no uniformity in listing property within a county. Some pay too much, and others not enough.' The most casual perusal of the local tax sheets is the only proof needed to substantiate this point. For pure fiction there is nothing that beats the tax books. To illustrate, the owner of one of the most attractively furnished homes in a prosperous mid-State town lists his personal prop-

erty at three hundred dollars. Oriental rugs, antiques, the motor car and other items do not have much value to him, on the tax books! We heard a story something like this right here in Concord. A man told a friend that a mistake had been made in his taxes when he saw an increase in the amount. Asked if he had listed anything not listed the year before he said no, and went ahead to mention some of the things listed each year. And included in the list were two new Ford cars, listed at \$15 each! If people would really list their property at anything near its real worth the tax rate in every county in the State could be reduced and still there would be more money for the counties than ever before.

CAN'T WE GO STILL FURTHER?

Some of the book companies doing business with the State of North Carolina have agreed to cut the prices on the books. This reduction has been made possible by the fight waged by certain North Carolina officials when they learned that despite contracts with some companies the latter were selling books for more in this State than in Tennessee.

However, the reduction should not end the matter, for it may be possible that the books can be made still cheaper. The State Board of Education should investigate the system used in every State in the Union so as to be in position to make recommendations to the next General Assembly.

Full inquiry made result in big savings to the people of the State. Take for instance the State of Kansas. There, according to N. L. Broughton in an article in The Raleigh News and Observer, the State leases plates, prints its own text-books and sells them at cost. In other States no doubt other systems are used and it is only reasonable to presume that we can well afford to take advantage of the experiences of other States in trying to reach a solution to this matter.

In his article in The News and Observer Mr. Broughton gave the following prices paid in Kansas as against prices paid in North Carolina (four books mentioned): Algebra, in Kansas, cost 70 cents, retail 81 cents; in North Carolina, \$1.32. Arithmetic (Elementary), in Kansas, cost 36 cents, retail 41 cents; in North Carolina, \$1.18. Arithmetic (Advanced), in Kansas, cost 38 cents, retail 55 cents; in North Carolina, \$1.43. History, in Kansas, cost 60 cents, retail 69 cents; in North Carolina (2), \$1.50 and \$1.84. English (Book 2) in Kansas, cost 36 cents, retail 35 cents; in North Carolina \$1.32. English (Book 2) in Kansas, cost 36 cents, retail 41 cents; in North Carolina, \$1.32.

WISERACKS.

Hope the fellow who predicted a cool summer has spent most of his time in a telephone booth.—Ledger, Lakeland, Fla. They wear rouge instead of veils. But veils are not expensive. Why not wear powder for stockings?—Sun, Durham, N. C. A New Jersey preacher says most persons afflicted with the "psycho-analysis" fad will be cured if you ask them to spell it. At that it is easier than deathtrap-omph-tion.—Register, Mobile, Ala. Always look to see if medicine is marked "poison," and read radio programs for "sopranos."—Ledger, Lakeland, Fla. A university professor discusses the "homing" tendency of inanimate objects, but of course makes an exception in the case of the lost umbrella.—Register, Mobile, Ala. Mussolini's effort to dictate the kind of clothes to be worn by the women of Italy may make it necessary for him to shave his head.—Banner, Nashville, Tenn. Europe agrees to pay us everything left over after we agree to cancel everything she owes us.—Bee, Danville, Va.

FRAUD IN BANKRUPTCY.

New York World. In a series of articles beginning today The World discloses some startling facts concerning a type of commercial fraud which has attained large proportions during the past three years. This is the fake failure or "crooked bust," by which legitimate business concerns in the United States are defrauded yearly to the extent of some \$250,000,000. Fraudulent bankruptcies are not a new evil; it is the insidious methods by which they are devised and the dimensions which they have attained which now make them a peculiar problem. Until recently the harpies who have devised these huge swindles had nearly everything in their favor. Manufacturers have given them easy credit; when the fictitious bankruptcies came the creditors have been more anxious to settle for a few cents on the dollar than to prosecute. Even when prosecutions have been initiated the Government attorneys have been so swamped with work and the court calendars have been so jammed that the one year during which the offenders were amenable to criminal proceedings might elapse before the case could be called. And when a conviction was obtained the average prison sentence was an easy way for the criminal to "earn" his loot. Only during the past year has any substantial progress been made. A new federal statute which became effective this month puts more teeth into the Bankruptcy Law. Thanks to the excellent co-operation between the United States Attorney's office and the National Association of Credit Men, some notorious offenders are now serving prison terms. Much remains to be done. More adequate court machinery and more careful credit ratings would help to check the evil, and creditors themselves can co-operate by exercising greater caution in taking on new accounts and by refusing to compromise with a money settlement when failure is not honest.

A JOURNALISTIC FEAT.

Winston-Salem Journal. The "Progress Edition" recently issued by the Rutherford County News is an outstanding accomplishment in North Carolina weekly journalism. The edition contains one hundred pages, or six hundred columns. The bold Editor R. E. Price, of The News, is thoroughly sold of Rutherford County's progress is graphically "sold" on his county. He is convinced that "no county in the State is making greater progress." He says the "farmers of Rutherford are making great strides—bringing improved methods of farming and diversifying their crops." "In good roads and schools," he continues, "Rutherford is not surpassed by any county in the State. In health, public buildings, and pure Anglo-Saxon stock we lead the State. It is nothing unusual for people to live to be 90 to 100 and more years of age in this county."

ESCAPING CONVICTS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED

"We Will Get Them All Sooner or Later," Says Warden Norman. Tribune Bureau Sir Walter Hotel

Raleigh, Sept. 3.—Prisoners are like bananas—they come and go in bunches, according to prison authorities, who report the capture of three voluntary "vacationists" in one day. J. B. Vickers, Charlotte "killer," is back in prison, though wounded when he tried to escape when in the shadow of the prison walls. Ikey McMillan, who escaped from the Polk prison farm after a spree on tomato wine, is being held in Greensboro, and Sylvester McNeill, sentenced from Sampson county in 1916, has been taken into custody in Long Island, Virginia. The capture of the other prisoners who escaped recently is now considered only a matter of days by prison authorities.

Vickers was serving a ten-year term for murder from Mecklenburg county, where he was convicted on circumstantial evidence of having beaten a fellow workman to death with a hammer or monkey wrench, robbing him of his week's pay, then throwing his body in a clump of bushes. He escaped August 26th in Charlotte, where he had been taken for a physical examination by the veterans bureau. He had served eighteen months overseas and had been gassed. He was captured in Spartanburg, S. C., August 23rd and brought back to Raleigh, where he tried to escape just before reaching the prison. He was shot by the deputy who had him in charge, but is now improving and believed to be out of danger. "I don't blame him for shooting me," Vickers said. (Vickers died later at night in the state prison.)

Ikey McMillan, negro, sentenced to from twenty to thirty years for murder from Guilford county, was one of two negroes that escaped from the Polk prison farm near Raleigh a little more than a week ago, after having made a quantity of tomato wine from stolen tomatoes and staging an orgy. He was put in solitary confinement for punishment, but an accomplice clipped the locks from the door and set him free while the other prisoners were at supper. He was captured when he turned up in Greensboro, where he was well known, after a former convict had "tipped off" the police.

Sylvester McNeill, negro, sentenced to a long term from Sampson county in 1916 for attempted rape, and who escaped in 1922, has been captured in Virginia, after being free for four years, and is being held for prison authorities, they have been informed. McNeill is a clever negro, and has been captured for a long time, but this time venture back to near home and was taken.

CALL OF DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES AND CONVENTION.

As Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Cabarrus County, I hereby request the Democratic voters of said county to assemble at their respective voting places on Saturday, September 4th, 1926, at 2 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of expressing their preference in the selection of a Democratic County Ticket, and for the purpose of sending delegates to the county convention, Concord, Kannapolis and Mt. Pleasant will vote by ballot beginning at 2 P. M., and closing at 6 o'clock P. M., and all persons voting in said boxes will be considered delegates to the County Convention.

The County Convention will be held at the court house in Concord, N. C., on the following Saturday, September 11th, 1926, at 2 o'clock P. M. All voters, men and women, regardless of past political affiliations, who propose to support the Democratic ticket in the November election, are cordially invited to participate in the coming primaries and convention. C. A. ISENHOUR, Chairman, Cabarrus County Dem. Ex. Com. 16-e. o. d.

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But just as soon as they do, we begin to get on their trail, and we soon have them. A man can conceal himself for four or five weeks fairly well, but not for much longer than that, for then he begins to hanker for his old associates and his old haunts and will almost invariably wander back. And then we get him."

FULL PARDON GRANTED WYATT, HOLT'S SLAYER

Former Raleigh Detective Had Served Six Months of Penitentiary Sentence. Tribune Bureau Sir Walter Hotel

Raleigh, Sept. 3.—Jesse Wyatt, former Raleigh policeman, sentenced to a term of eight months in the state prison last December for manslaughter, following the fatal shooting of Stephen S. Holt, of Smithfield, by Wyatt, who mistook Holt's automobile for that of a liquor runner, is today a free man as the result of an unconditional pardon granted him by Governor A. W. McLean. Wyatt has served five months and seventeen days of his sentence, and would have been discharged from the prison September 22nd, owing to time off for good behavior. Governor McLean has steadily refused to parole Wyatt, though such action has been requested from the time he was first sentenced. However, being convinced that the shooting of Holt was largely accidental, but at the same time believing that Wyatt should serve enough of his sentence to let it be a lesson to others to be careful in the use of firearms, even though they be officers of the law, Governor McLean has declined to act until at the present time. Because of Wyatt's excellent record while a member of the Raleigh police department and because on question of reformation was involved, a pardon was granted rather than a parole, since a parole always implies subsequent reformation and good behavior during the time of the parole.

Many recommendations for clemency for Wyatt were received, among them a letter from Judge Garland E. Midette, the trial judge, who said that he was convinced that the shooting was what the public would call accidental, and that the minimum term of four months was sufficient punishment. The mother and brother of the man shot down by Wyatt also wrote that they felt justice had been done and that they were not opposed to the granting of clemency to Wyatt.

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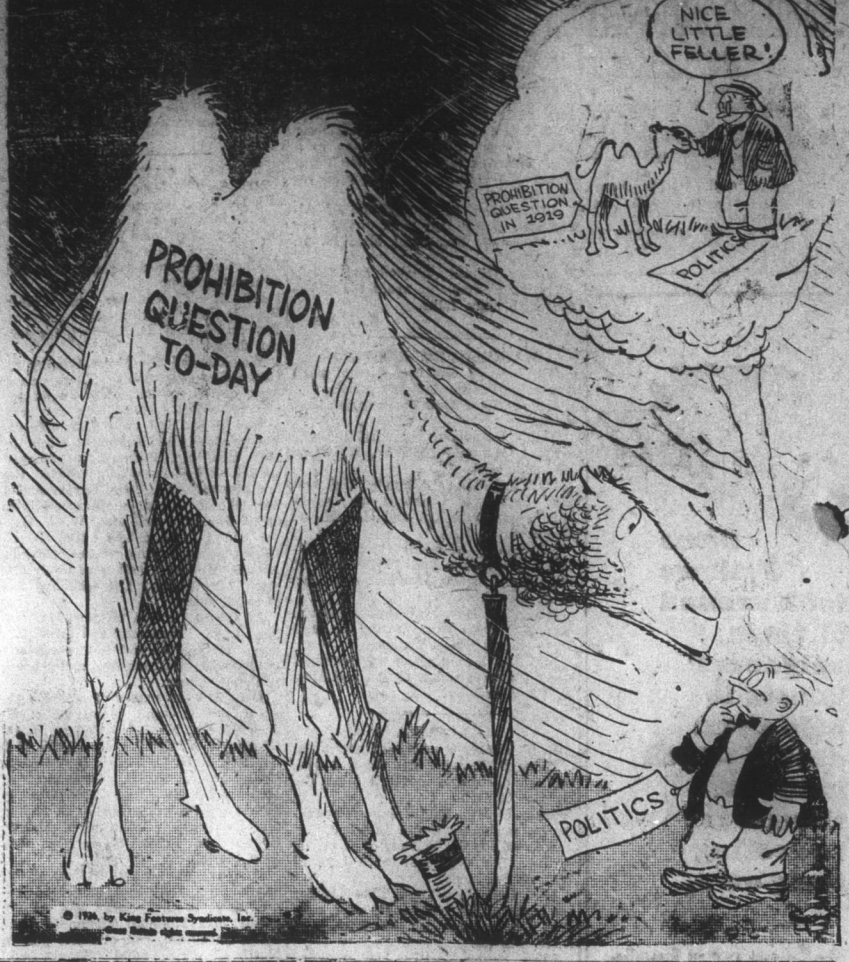
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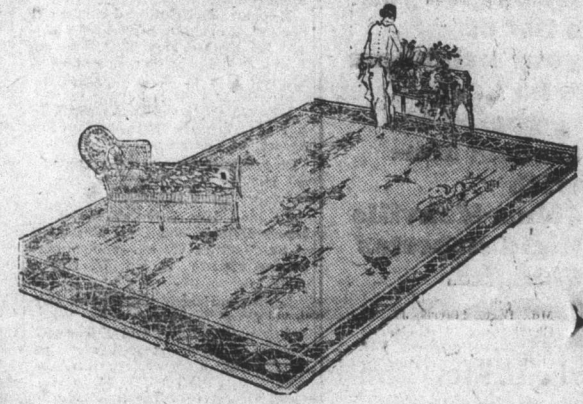
SOMEBODY'S BEEN FEEDING HIM



Wyatt. So without in any way condoning the act of Wyatt and warning the officers of the law generally that they must use caution in the use of firearms, the governor granted the pardon.

Chief Winder Bryan, of the Raleigh police department, said that Wyatt would not be given a position in the department now, but that it might be considered at a later date.

The youngest executive head of any great railway system in the world is E. W. Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific railway, who reached his post at the age of forty.



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