

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press
At Franklin, North Carolina
Telephone No. 24

VOL. XLIX

Number 52

BLACKBURN W. JOHNSON.....EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Entered at the Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year	\$1.50
Six Months75
Eight Months	\$1.00
Single Copy05

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HE CAME to my desk with quivering lip,
The lesson was done.
"Have you a new leaf for me, dear Teacher?
I have spoiled this one!"
I took his leaf, all soiled and blotted
And gave him a new one, all unspotted,
Then into his tired heart I smiled:
"Do better now, my Child!"

I went to the throne, with trembling heart.
The year was done.
"Have you a New Year for me, dear Master?
I have spoiled this one!"
He took my year, all soiled and blotted
And gave me a new one, all unspotted,
Then, into my tired heart he smiled:
"Do better now, my Child!"

—Author Unknown

The Steady Subscriber

HOW dear to our heart is the steady subscriber,
Who pays in advance at the birth of each year;
Who lays down the money and does it quite gladly,
And casts round the office a halo of cheer.

He never says: "Stop it; I cannot afford it,
I'm getting more papers than now I can read;"
But always says: "Send it; our people all like it—
In fact, we all think it a help and a need."

How welcome his check when it reaches our sanctum,
How it makes our pulst throb; how it makes our
heart dance;
We outwardly thank him; we inwardly bless him—
The steady subscriber who pays in advance.

—Author Unknown

Life Insurance

IN THIS Year of Depression 1934, more than two billion, seven hundred million dollars have been distributed by the life insurance companies of America to the holders of life policies and their beneficiaries. And in the same year more than fourteen billion dollars of new life insurance was bought by the people of the United States.

There is a great deal of significance in those bald facts, it seems to us. For one thing, the fact that two-thirds of the payments were made to policyholders, rather than as death benefits, indicates that there are many persons who are scraping the bottom of the barrel to find money with which to meet their obligations, and are borrowing or cashing in on their life insurance as a last resort. And the increase in the volume of new business appears, in all probability, to reflect a growing thriftiness on the part of those who still have incomes, and who are trying to provide for their families, or for their old age, by the safest means that has yet been evolved.

With nearly one hundred billions of life insurance now in force in the United States, the responsibility upon the insurance companies is a tremendous one. Whatever tends to impair the security of investments strikes a blow at the savings of more than half of the people of the United States; for the holders of life insurance policies number more than thirty million, and almost every policy represents protection for two or three others.

Next to Government bonds, we know no safer place to put money than into life insurance; and the latter has the advantage of providing protection for the insurer's dependents which even Government bonds do not furnish.

Hail and Farewell

by A. B. Chapin



THROUGH CAPITAL KEYHOLES

BY BESS HINTON SILVER

CHERRY BLOSSOMS—

Raleigh politicians are inclined to take the newly-hatched boom in behalf of Representative R. Gregg Cherry, of Gaston, for Speaker of the 1935 House of Representatives with a grain of salt. The opinion is expressed freely on Capitol Hill that Mr. Cherry's friends would like to see him get chairmanship of an important committee and it is known by one and all that a good way to assure that is to line up some votes in the Speakership race.

CONSOLIDATION—

Sentiment for county consolidations is growing in North Carolina but the prognosticators will stake their reputation that the idea doesn't get beyond the dream stage during the coming session of the General Assembly. Home-town courthouse politicians would howl to high heaven if their Representatives began talking about abolishing their jobs and the natives would get into no end of squabbles about the county seats of the new districts. Capitol Hill believes that consolidation of counties will be among those things not done by the Legislature next year.

BIG WAR—

The opinion is growing over the State that North Carolina is going to witness another political "Battle of the Century" in the spring of '36 between the forces of Senator Josiah W. Bailey and those of Governor Ehringhaus. There is no doubt that the sparks will fly if these two political Hercules lock horns. Certainly Senator Bailey is going to seek re-election and if Governor Ehringhaus resists the pressure that is being brought to bear to get him to make the race he'll be "a better man than you are HUNKA TIN."

SANTA CLAUS—

You can find plenty of political-wise people who believe that there will be a real Santa for school teachers, highway employes and other State hired help when the General Assembly meets. Governor Ehringhaus is as proud as a dog with two tails over increases in State revenues and he is not expected to oppose increases in pay for the public slaves. In fact, nobody would be surprised if he recommended a little more gravy to go with the dry bread. The legislators themselves, as well as their neighbors, have more money than

they did two years ago and everything looks brighter. State employes are not failing to hang up their stockings, even though some of them may have to tie up holes in the toes and heels.

DEADLY—

Death takes few holidays on North Carolina's highway system. The total highway fatalities reached the all-time high for one month during November when 115 persons were killed. The next General Assembly is almost sure to pass some sort of drivers' license law but the more important thing is enforcement. It will take money to do the job and many more highway patrolmen will have to be employed, in the opinion of authorities on such matters. The money is in the highway fund to pay for the job but a lot of folks want to use it for something else.

AT IT AGAIN—

Attorney General Dennis G. Brummitt and State Treasurer Chas. M. Johnson are throwing bricks at one another again. Mr. Brummitt started when he dug up his pet row about who should audit books of the School Commission. Mr. Brummitt ruled that the Commission didn't have a legal right to advance teachers' salaries before Christmas but added that since the Commission didn't follow his ruling on the audit proposition it might go ahead and disregard him. That got a rise out of Mr. Johnson but the smoke is clearing away once more.

MONEY MAN—

The Grapevine reports that Representative Reginald Harris, of Person, who held the Speakership in the 1933 session, will head the House Finance Committee in 1935 if either Robert Grady Johnson, of Pender, or Laurie McEachern, of Hoke, are elected Speaker. If Representative W. L. Lumpkin, of Franklin, gets the Speakership that will change the picture and Tam C. Bowie, of Ashe, friend and supporter of Lumpkin, probably will get one of the major committee posts.

GETS A BREAK—

Representative Tam C. Bowie, the political powder-keg from Ashe county, is quoted as saying Raleigh scribes are not mentioning his name as a candidate for the gubernatorial nomination in 1936 for reasons of their own which could not be called ethical or public-spirited. Mr. Bowie can't hurl that charge at Keyholes, which has never minimized his political powers but has quoted his friends as saying that he will not run in opposition to his close personal and political friend, Congressman R. L. Doughton, if

that gentleman decides to start a race from Sparta, N. C., to a certain red brick house on Blount Street in Raleigh.

MAY FARE BETTER—

Two years ago the Department of Conservation and Development and the Parole Commissioner were objects of concerted legislative attacks. The parole office had been an issue in the gubernatorial campaign and the conservation department was in Dutch because of certain game wardens. All has changed. R. Bruce Etheridge is winning acclaim for the former set-up while Parole Commissioner Edwin M. Gill has done the latter office untold good. Prospects are good that both these important State offices will get better than the shoe-string doled out by the last General Assembly.

CRIME—

All these State and national conferences on crime are striving toward a goal that can be described in one word—cooperation. From coroner to Supreme Court and still upward to the Governor and Executive Clemency what is needed most, in the opinion of those who handle criminals in State Institutions, is cooperation. All too often police officers think that the whole system of justice depends on them. Likewise some judges seem under the impression that it is up to them to administer justice in its entirety from beginning to end. Prominent North Carolina criminologists are of the opinion that all these officers and their legal functions should work as parts of one big machine of justice and that such cooperation would result in better law enforcement and fewer crimes.

SALES TAX—

Over in the Old State of Mecklenburg the boys who furnish the material for newspapers will tell you that the sales tax is not so unpopular as it once was and that Governor Ehringhaus is gaining popularity. Some of them will even venture the prediction (off record) that he could beat Senator Josiah W. Bailey in the 1936 race for one of the State's seats in the most august legislative body in the world. That may mean something with a legislative session just around the corner and the Governor's friends urging him to oppose Senator Bailey two years, or less, hence.

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