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and

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Weaver Turns on TVA

MANY friends of Congressman Zebulon Weaver have been greatly surprised at the critical attitude he has recently manifested toward the Tennessee Valley Authority, whose broad program holds such great promise for the development of this and other tributary areas of the Tennessee river.

Mr. Weaver's protestation that he is still a warm supporter of the TVA has the sound as if uttered with his tongue in his cheek. His sponsorship of legislation in behalf of the Mellon-controlled Nantahala Power and Light company which would increase that company's stranglehold in a large section of Western North Carolina has been an astounding revelation to a great number of the Eleventh District Representative's supporters.

After carefully reading and re-reading the amendment which Congressman Weaver has proposed to TVA legislation now held up in a house committee, after having been approved in the senate, we do not see how it could have any other effect than to shut the gate in the face of the TVA in Macon, Swain, Graham and possibly other counties beyond the Balsams. And if the gate can be closed here, it might be closed on every tributary of the Tennessee River, thereby confining the beneficial effects of the TVA to a comparatively small area.

We cannot help wondering if Mr. Weaver felt out the sentiment of his constituency before espousing the cause of the Mellon interests. Could he have been misled by the insidious campaign waged in behalf of the power company last autumn to turn public sentiment in this section against the TVA?

Furthermore, we wonder from whom Mr. Weaver has been obtaining his information. He was quoted in The Asheville Citizen as having told a house committee that the Mellon interests paid 92 per cent of the taxes in Graham county, 30 per cent in Swain and 20 per cent in Macon. We do not know how much the Aluminum company subsidiaries pay into the treasuries of Graham and Swain counties; but an examination of the tax books of Macon county reveals that valuations of the Nantahala Power and Light company are pitifully small in proportion to other valuations and that on their vast holdings in this county for the year 1934 their taxes amounted to only \$3,730.29, less than six per cent of the county's total tax bill. Although the company owns the Franklin hydro-electric power plant and lines, the great Nantahala dam site, upon which many thousands of dollars have spent, and other properties in this county, its valuation totals only \$332,679. The total valuation for the county is \$5,629,764. A year ago the Nantahala Power and Light company endeavored to get a reduction in the valuation of the Franklin power plant, which was listed at \$175,000. Less than a year before it had paid the Town of Franklin \$288,000 for this same property. In other words, the power company's valuations are below actual cash values, while, as everyone knows, most other property in the county, especially farm lands, are listed for more than they would bring on the open market.

The Nantahala Power and Light company has kicked up a big row over the purchase by the TVA of two small tracts of land in the basin of the proposed Fontana dam and is blaming TVA for thwarting development of its properties in Western North Carolina. Mr. Weaver told a congressional committee that the company was prepared to spend sixty million dollars on dam projects. If this be so, we would like to know what is preventing the

Mellon crowd from undertaking completion of the Nantahala dam, upon which work was discontinued five or six years ago? The TVA has done nothing to block this project.

Defending the TVA's action in making the purchases in the Fontana dam basin, Senator George Norris, author of the TVA act, accused the Nantahala Power and Light company of refusing to cooperate with the TVA, to which Mr. Weaver's only reply was: "That is news to me. I am informed that the company is anxious to cooperate with the TVA and stands ready to enter into an agreement."

The question naturally arises: "What or who has been Mr. Weaver's source of information?" Inasmuch as J. E. S. Thorpe, Mellon missionary extraordinary, has been spending "much time" in Washington, according to press dispatches, one naturally is inclined to venture a surmise.

We hope Mr. Weaver will look thoroughly into the TVA's side of the question before he takes any other steps toward pressing for enactment of his amendment. The full story very evidently has not been told. We are reserving final judgment until it is, but we certainly do not want to see any legislation enacted which would strengthen the Mellon throttle grip.

We by no means desire to discourage Mellon or anyone else in the development of Western North Carolina's hydro-electric resources, but we certainly do not want his or any other group to exercise such a watertight monopoly that Uncle Sam himself could not get a foothold.

For Better Health

THE Board of Commissioners is to be congratulated on its acceptance of the State Board of Health's proposal for expansion of public health service in Macon County.

In the past public health work here has merely scratched the surface. We have had a county physician, whose duty is primarily the care of the sick in the county home and jail; but no public health officer, no public health nurse, not even a sanitary inspector. Consequently, enforcement of the sanitary code has been lax and the quarantine law has been ineffective. Other than free vaccinations for smallpox and typhoid fever and cursory visits by a state school dentist, this county has enjoyed very little of the benefits of constructive public health work.

Now, beginning July 1, it is to have a full time county nurse, a full time sanitary inspector, the supervision of a district health officer and an assistant, and its prorata share of the time of a district dentist . . . all at a cost of only a few hundred dollars more a year than the county has been spending on immunization work alone.

In the past the county has spent \$900 to \$1,200 a year on vaccinations. Its appropriation for the broader public health service is \$1,500 a year. To this will be added \$3,700 from other sources. Some idea of benefits to be derived can be obtained from the following program of work to be undertaken:

1. School health supervision, including physical examination of school children for defects.
2. Immunization service will be offered by the district health department, providing for the control of smallpox, diphtheria and typhoid fever.
3. The perfection of an organization for the correction of physical defects, such physical defects to be corrected by competent physicians of the district.
4. The department will conduct an organized program to reduce maternal and infant deaths.
5. An adequate venereal disease and tuberculosis program will be carried out, with the cooperation of the local medical profession.
6. The district health department will conduct an educational and supervisory program, which will go far toward correcting environmental sanitation, with particular emphasis on safe excreta disposal, malaria control, providing a pure and wholesome water supply, a pure milk supply, and pure food within each county in the district.
7. The department will conduct epidemiological investigations and institute adequate, intelligent, and effective measures for the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases.

Good health is any individual's best asset; so, likewise, is a healthy citizenry the best asset of any community. Money spent to promote good health is wisely spent.

In accepting the State Board of Health's offer the county commissioners demonstrated themselves to be forward thinking, progressive men with the best interests of their community at heart.

Oak Dale

The farmers of this section are very busy working their corn.

Mrs. Minnie Crawford and Blanche Cope spent Saturday night with Mrs. Emmie Tallent.

Forest Slagle, of Tellico, was visiting here Sunday.

Jud Tallent was visiting at Burningtown Sunday.

Lon Mack, of Kyle, spent Saturday night with his sister, Mrs. Belle Rice.

Miss Geneviva Bryant and Vivian Crawford spent Friday night with Ruby and Allene Roper.

Harve Bateman spent Friday night with Edgar Reeves.

Miss Grace Swafford, of Iotla, was visiting here Sunday.

Mrs. Henry Hall was the weekend guest of Mrs. Maggie Rowland.

Garmon Raby, who is working in Georgia, spent the week-end with home folks.

Miss Maude Rowland, who is staying at Dillsboro, spent Sunday with home folks.

Those from this section who attended the E. R. E. commencement at Asheville Saturday were: John Slagle, Mrs. Arlesa Roper and children, Jim Wild, Harvy Roper, Harve Bateman, Robert Wild, Robert Clappitt, Edgar Reeves, Geneviva Bryant, Ruby and Allene Roper and Ivalee Roper. They all reported a very nice time.

West's Mill

Miss Sarah Osborne, from Rosman, Ga., visited Miss Marjorie West last Thursday.

A shower was given at the home of Mrs. J. M. Morgan last Saturday evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bryson. Many nice and useful gifts were received.

Mrs. L. S. McCarty and Mrs. Heath from Thomasville, Ga., visited Mrs. L. J. Smith and Mrs. J. L. West last Tuesday. They were accompanied by the Rev. C. R. McCarty, from Highlands.

Mrs. Albert Potts visited relatives in Atlanta, Ga., from Saturday until Wednesday of last week.

The ice cream supper of the Ladies' Missionary society of the Methodist church here was a success. After a very interesting program and the sale of the ice cream and cakes the ladies realized they had made about \$24.

The work on the C. C. Camp here is progressing very nicely.

Mrs. Ada Hyatt, from Otto, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. C. N. West.

We are glad to learn that John Ray is improving.

The road up Rickman Creek is being greatly improved by the laying of a crushed rock surface.

Mrs. Kate Simpkins, from Asheville, is visiting her brother, T. C. Bryson, and family.



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