

At the CAPITAL



By M. R. Dunnagan, The Pilot's Raleigh Correspondent

"Consolidation of counties, suggested as a means of combining administrative units and thereby reducing operating costs, probably will not be accomplished by the 1931 General Assembly, and, if it comes, will develop over a period of years and as a result of urgent need for the lowering of county costs and therefore tax rates," said Governor O. Max Gardner, in discussing the proposed combinations of counties in the state.

"Too much sentiment is attached to names of counties and county seats that would lose their identity and too many office holders and politicians would oppose the movement for it to get over now, even though it would doubtless result in more efficient and economical operation of county affairs," Governor Gardner said.

He does feel, however, that there will be a movement, probably successful, to consolidate various administrative units, mentioning especially the combinations of counties into school units, under one administrative head. Suggestions of counties into school units, under one administrative head. Suggestions have been made that this also extend to jails and prison farms for small counties, as well as county poor homes, and it is considered likely that an act permitting such combinations will be passed by the General Assembly.

Elimination of county road boards or commissions, and placing county road construction, maintenance and supervision back in the hands of the county commissioners, is one of the plans being studied and will be the subject of a report by the government experts engaged in studying methods of reducing costs and increasing efficiency in State and county administrations.

The 100 counties of the state fall into two general classes, 56 of them handling their roads through the county commissioners and 44 by special road boards, four of the latter having township or road districts within the county boards, four of the latter having townships or road districts within the county. Moore county's roads are handled by a road commission of nine members.

Differences of opinion exist as to which method is more efficient and economical and the proposal for a change will doubtless find many opponents, as well as proponents. But the matter will doubtless be up for consideration.

Purging more carefully the lists of Confederate veterans, widows and colored servants, pensioners of the State as a result of the War Between the States, in the 100 counties will probably result from the disclosures and charges against Mason W. Gant, clerk of Superior Court of Guilford county, in the distribution of pension checks.

Distribution of these funds is in the hands of the State Board of Pensions, composed of the Governor, the Auditor and the Attorney General, the Auditor being designated more particularly as distributor. Each county has a county board, composed of Confederate veterans or sons or daughters of veterans for one or two of the places, which is directed to meet annually and purge the lists. Often this is merely a matter of form, details being handled by the Clerk of the court.

The General Assembly appropriated \$1,200,000 for such pensions for the fiscal year 1929-30 and, on the assumption that several veterans would die, reduced the amount to \$1,035,000 for the fiscal year 1930-31. The actual number of veterans living now is around 1,700, an average of about 17 to the county, while the widows number three or four times as many.

General fund revenues collected for the State during the first four months of the present fiscal year, ending October 31, amounted to \$5,004,957.09, an increase of \$32,486.56 over the \$4,972,490.53 collected for the same period last year, the report of A. J. Maxwell, commissioner of revenue shows. The gain the past month more than offset a loss for the month of September, as compared with last year.

Automobile tax collections, on the other hand, amounted to \$4,722,653.31 for the first four months of the fiscal year, a decrease of \$440,337.91 from the \$5,162,991.22 collected in the same period last year. Gasoline consumption, license plates and title fees all showed a decrease this year. Fees from the sale of license plates and title fees all showed a decrease this year. Fees from the sale of license plates for all of 1930 to October 31 amount to \$6,689,121.37, as compared with \$6,824,789.71 to this date for

1929, a decrease of \$135,648.34.

License taxes decreased about \$52,000 and franchise taxes about \$19,000 while inheritance taxes increased about \$66,000 and income taxes about \$38,000 the first four months of this year as compared with the same period last year.

Launching a movement which they hope will result in the inclusion of Governor O. Max Gardner or former Governor Harry Flood Byrd, of Virginia, on the national Democratic ticket next time, 10 district chairmen and as many vice-chairmen of the Young People's Democratic Organization in the State, reported on activities in the present campaign and made plans for the next Jackson Day dinner, which will probably be moved up a week or two, early in March, in order that members of the General Assembly may attend.

The organization, headed by Tyre C. Taylor, assumes that Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York, is successful Tuesday, will be the candidate of the wet wing of the Democrats in 1932 for President. They propose Governor Byrd, but if that fails, then Governor Gardner might be the dry leveling on the west ticket with Governor Roosevelt. Some of the national Democratic leaders have conferred with some such line-up in view and it is not considered impossible.

Governor Byrd will probably again be invited to address the Jackson Day dinner meeting, having been prevented at the last minute last March. Will Rogers, humorist, was also suggested and may be invited to speak.

Moore county received \$372.00 from the Mothers' Aid fund of \$50,000 appropriated by the General Assembly for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930, which, combined with a like amount furnished by the county, resulted in the use of \$744.00 for General Mothers' Aid, according to the figures compiled for the biennial report of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

The Mothers' Aid fund was established in 1923 to give aid to worthy widowed mothers to help them maintain their children at home. The sum of \$50,000 was set aside for this purpose. The 1929 General Assembly specified that \$10,000 of this fund be set aside for mothers whose husbands are prisoners, but only 30 per cent of this amount was used, due to the high standards of health morals and mental qualifications required of mothers who participate in the fund.

The general Mothers' Aid granted the last fiscal year was \$35,345.18, with an equal amount from the counties, and the prisoners' mothers' aid was \$2,978.25, also with an equal amount from the counties. Seventy-nine counties participated in the general fund, but only 32 of these in the fund for wives of prisoners.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina, with about 150 members tracing their line of ancestry back to passengers on the good ship Mayflower, will hold its annual meeting in Raleigh December 15. Usually the meeting is held near the date of the signing of "The Compact" on the boat before the passengers landed at Plymouth Rock 310 years ago, November 21. Due to the absence in Europe of the governor of the society, Burham Stanish Colburn, of Biltmore Forest, the board moved up the date. The North Carolina society has members who are descended from 17 of the 22 passengers from whom descent is traced, including seven members each who are descended from Captain Myles T. Stanish and from his successful rival with Priscilla, the Pilgrim maiden, John Alden, who finally spoke for himself.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ABERDEEN ELECTS OFFICERS

The November meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of Aberdeen was held at the Methodist church last Monday afternoon, with a good attendance.

Mrs. H. W. Doub, president, presided over the business session and reports were heard from the different officers. The local treasurer reported a goodly amount received from the recent Kiwanis luncheon and plans were made to secure the additional amount required for the orphan fund. Miss Lois Barkley, Superintendent of Study and Publicity, announced that the Vass Auxiliary had invited the Aberdeen society to meet with them in the study of the Fall mission book, "Trailing the Conquistadores," and

Thursday, November 13th, was the date decided upon. Mrs. George Martin, delegate to the district conference recently held at Maxton, gave an interesting report of the meeting.

This was the time for the annual election of officers and the chairman of the nominating committee reported the nomination of practically all of the old officers, and re-election followed. Mrs. A. L. Burney was elected to take the place of Miss Bertie Goodwyn, who has been the effi-

cient treasurer for a number of years. A special Week of Prayer service will be held on next Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock, at the church. All members are urged to attend and bring an offering.

Mrs. J. H. Sutfenfield of Pinebluff, accompanied by Mrs. W. T. Worsham and Miss Mary Johnson of Aberdeen attended the Group Conference of the Presbyterial held at Old Cape Fear Church last Wednesday.

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PINEHURST, N. C.

New low prices on Nitrate of Soda in its new packages.

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PINEHURST LUMBER YARDS Pinehurst, N. C.

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PINEHURST LUMBER YARDS Pinehurst, N. C.