

At the CAPITAL

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

A reduction of 10 per cent in the salaries, wages and fees of all employees of the State and its divisions, the counties and the cities and the institutions maintained by them, applying to all who have not been cut that much since December, 1929, and exclusive of those receiving less than \$50 a month, effective July 1, 1931, and for two years only, was asked by Governor Gardner in his message to the Legislature Friday last.

Governor Gardner pointed out that practically all citizens are now on reduced incomes, that the employees of the State and its units get their pay regularly and that 85 cents will buy as much now as did \$1 in 1928. He estimates that \$4,000,000 annually will be saved and demands that this saving be reflected in the taxpayers' bill.

Some new and important changes, others expected, are included in the recommendations made by Governor Gardner. Some of the important ones follow:

Abolishing the present Highway Commission as constituted by districts, making it a State-wide body of a chairman and four commissioners at large.

Increasing the gasoline tax to six cents, two cents of which, with an additional \$500,000 a year, to be devoted to county roads, which the State commission should take over maintenance.

Reduction of taxes on property to reflect the appropriations made to the counties by the State.

Establish a central purchasing agency for all State departments, institution and agencies, saving, he predicts, \$400,000 a year.

Introduction of "short ballots" to apply to all offices created by statute thus leaving the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Attorney General and Superintendent of Public Instruction to be elected by the people.

Mandatory consolidation of some of the 100 counties and an act permitting counties to consolidate in operation of common jails, county homes, health departments and convict camps.

Enact the bill drawn by the Educational Commission, providing for a uniform eight months school term, eliminating expensive and arbitrary district lines and decreasing spending agencies from nearly 1,400 to 129.

Correct any equalities that may be found to exist in the Workmen's Compensation Law.

Reduction of 60-hour work week to 55 hours, prohibit night work in industry for women under 18 years of age, and require children between 14 and 15 years of age to complete the sixth grade before being permitted to work.

Submit to voters at next election the question of calling a Constitutional Convention, to be held some time in 1933, to revise the Constitution.

Postpone quadriennial assessment of property for taxation, now starting, until the beginning of 1933, because of the unsettled land value status.

Governor Gardner's message to the General Assembly, containing some new and unexpected recommendations, is causing varied comment from Leg-

islators and citizens generally. In the main and by the majority, the lawmakers seem to be favorable to the program. In some instances and on some items, some of them hesitate to express themselves, while a few take issue with parts of the message. Generally speaking, it is believed that practically all, if not all, of the major items will be enacted into law, on the ground of their reasonableness, desirability and economic features included.

The General Assembly, as is the custom and to meet the requirement that it convene daily, will hold brief sessions each Saturday, when only local bills will be introduced and no State-wide measures will be considered, and on Monday nights, thus permitting the Legislators to spend weekends at home.

Calling attention to the law that requires that the General Assembly "shall," after each 10-year census, redistrict the State, when additional representation is permitted, Odus M. Mull, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee and Governor Gardner's Executive Counsel, has come out strong for redistricting by the present General Assembly and not electing a Congressman-at-large, as has been suggested.

While Mr. Mull has gone into the alignment of counties for the new and remaining districts, he is interested now primarily in provision for the new district and will not comment on the line-up. A Congressman-at-large has no standing and would run into the two senators if he tried to function for the State as a whole or into one of the Congressmen if he sought to act for any particular section.

Mr. Mull believes a new district can be formed, largely from the largest Imperial Fifth, which will provide not more than a variation of 25,000 people from the average of 288,000 population for the 11-district division. "This General Assembly looks good to me as a proper body for making the division," said Mr. Mull, referring to the 163 Democrats and seven Republicans composing it. Mr. Mull also favors redistricting as to State senators and representatives on the basis of the last census.

With only 18 full-fledged farmers in both houses of the body, the average member of the present General Assembly is seen as a lawyer, an alumnus of the State University and a Methodist, while probably 10 others combine farming with manufacturing, merchandising, banking or other vocation.

The Senate has 35 lawyers out of the 50, the House 58 out of 120. The University has 34 alumni in the Senate and 39 in the House. In the Senate are 20 Methodists, 12 Episcopalians, eight Baptists, five Presbyterians, two Christians, one Methodist Protestant; in the House are 36 Methodists, 25 Baptists, 18 Presbyterians, 14 Episcopalians, two Lutherans and one each of Christians, Methodist Protestants, Maravians and Jews. Twenty-seven Senators have had previous legislative experience, as have 60, or half of the present House members.

FROM THE STATE PRESS

LOCAL FEDERAL RESERVE

Troy, the capital of Montgomery County was without a bank just a day. Its sole financial institution closed doors one day, for "protection of depositors," and next day banking facilities were arranged for by the Page Trust Company, opening a branch there. Around that section of the State, the Page bankers operate somewhat in the nature of a local Federal Reserve system.—Charlotte Observer.

A RAILROAD VICTORY

Mounting interest in the plight of the railroads and the growing conviction that they must be given some relief from the drain of increasing bus and truck competition, in which government regulation is patiently lacking, serves to focus attention upon a development in Florida where the Supreme court has quashed a permit to a motor truck line paralleling the Seaboard Air Line railway from Tallahassee to Jacksonville on the grounds that the railroad was adequately serving the territory in question.

The court's action, invalidating a permit previously issued by the state railroad commission, opens a new field, at least so far as North Car-

olina has been publicly advised, in the realm of motor transportation control. Yet it seems but simple justice. If another railroad is not allowed to enter a certain territory because that section already has what are judged to be adequate transportation facilities, why should bus or truck lines, which offer just as effective competition, be permitted to start operations?

The Florida court, touching upon the inconsistency of such a situation, predicts that "if the railroads are serving adequately when motor truck lines apply for permits the time will come when all passenger and freight, except heavy, bulky, low-grade, basic commodities will pass from the railroads, which own property and pay taxes, to motor lines which operate over highways built and maintained by the public for public use." Further, the decision suggests that the law be so construed that permits to truck lines would be granted only where the public was not already adequately served by established carriers, whether rail or motor vehicles.—Greensboro Daily News.

GOLDEN HOURS

It is no longer the Sandhills, for that region has developed into the Winter Gardens of the South and the

gardens are scenes of daily activities of many kinds, for people have swarmed there as they swarmed into Florida during the palmiest days of that section. The sparkle of the golden sunshine on the long leaf pines dims the glory of the rustling of sea breezes among the royal palms. And out in the open day after day, strollers take in the fascinating scenery of the Sandhills section and enjoy the bracing atmosphere, for at Pinehurst and Southern Pines are colonized people of literary fame, artists of Nation-wide reputation, capitalists and sportsmen, so that the Winter Gardens are alive with animation.

One runs upon notables in unexpected way. The editor stumbled over a well-remembered personality in Joe Mitchell Chapple, editor of The National Magazine and friend of kings and presidents, who had been called to Southern Pines to entertain the Chamber of Commerce. We found Chapple up to his ears in a bird book of absorbing interest, for it dealt with the feathered inhabitants of the pines and swamps, to development of an amazing variety, all presented as they appear in their native haunts and in natural colors. Chapple insisted on presenting The Observer with a copy of the book, which is one of a sort to delight the heart of the Audubon people and to surprise the Nation at the wealth and variety of bird life in this section.

This book, "A Guide to the Winter Birds of the North Carolina Sandhills," is declared by authorities to be one of the finest illustrated and accurate books on birds that has ever been published. Said Joe, in a burst of enthusiasm, "how the late President Roosevelt, or John Burroughs and all the eminent living lovers of bird life would have enjoyed this tete-a-tete with feathered friends in North Carolina! Everyone loves birds, but few of us know or realize how closely entwined are their airy lives with our own. The fascination of birds is enhanced the more we know about them and see them. To see them is one thing,—but to know about them is a thrilling revelation of ourselves."

Then there's Bion Butler writing his reminiscences of the Sandhills in the classy publication known as The Pinehurst Outlook, which will prove entertaining contribution of these former barren wastes into the Winter Gardens, which development has, in itself, become the marvel of the Northern people, though taken as a matter-of-fact by our home folks.—Editorial in The Charlotte Observer.

RALPH PAGE'S ARTICLE

What ails banking in North Carolina is the subject of an interview with Ralph W. Page, of Aberdeen, banker and literarian who finds

money and letters uncertain, but both pesky business.

He quit writing years ago and put a chronic hiatus in state literature when he did. The same thing happened when Marse Henry Page and Congressman Bob decided to do business and say nothing about it. Ralph Page is a nephew of the elder Pages and a son of Walter Hines Page. The streak persists. The banker who appears to have none of the financier's timidity about money or anything else just cuts loose.

He finds rather disquieting things about banking. The troubles are two: The folks who insist upon running banks and the other folks who deposit in them. The average man who puts his money into the bank does not know that it belongs to the depositor, Mr. Page appears to think. Neither does the legislature, which makes the laws governing the banker's game. The result is the unwillingness of the statesman to make laws permitting flexibility in interest rates. The other trouble is the depositors' placing money in a bank which his representative has hogtied before the coin gets into the coffers.

Of course Mr. Page's shrewd appeal for a more elastic interest-bearing rate will bring rebukes from the "trybunes of the pee-e-p-u-l-," but it is hot stuff on a subject of present interest. The Page Trust Company which has been picking up busted banks all over the state, has one in Raleigh and it has been liquidating another. The Pages have found out something about banking as she is banked. The rollicking Ralph tells the world about it.

Whether it will move anybody to offer yet again a change in the interest rates, is not certain. There are numerous bankers in the state; but when the populistic-republican general assembly of 1895 cut the interest rate from 8 to 6 per cent, it wrought something that even the cantankerous Democracy of 1899 would not touch, nor has any successor put hand upon that sacrosanct.—Greensboro Daily News.

S. BRYANT BURIED HERE AFTER DEATH IN RICHMOND

Stanhope Bryant, 65, formerly superintendent of a cotton mill at Randleman, died in Richmond, Va., Sunday afternoon in the home of Mrs. Herbert McMinn, a sister, and was buried Monday at Southern Pines beside his wife, the former Lillian Dicks, of Randleman, who died there ten years ago. Following his wife's death, Mr. Bryant moved to Winston-Salem, engaging in business there for a time. He then moved to Atlanta entering the insurance business. He returned to Richmond three years ago in failing health and had since made his home there.

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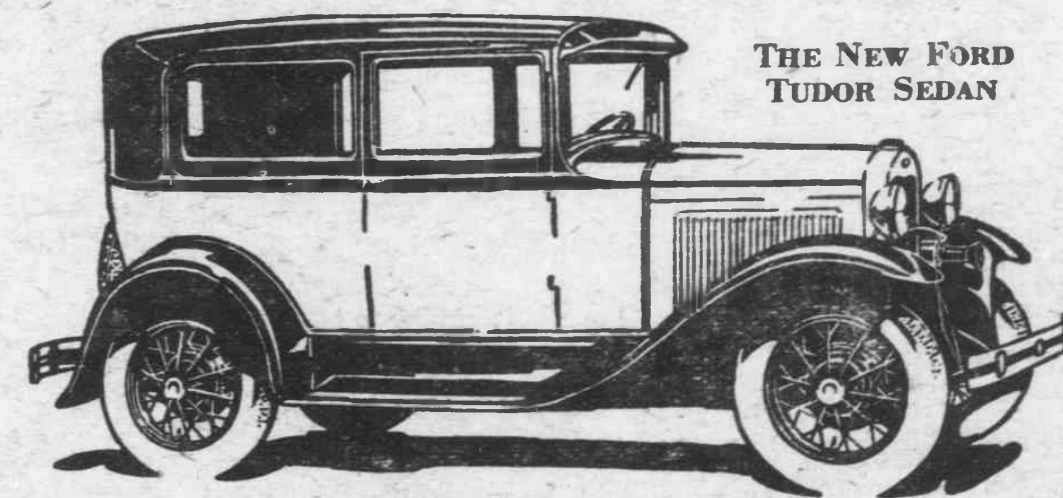
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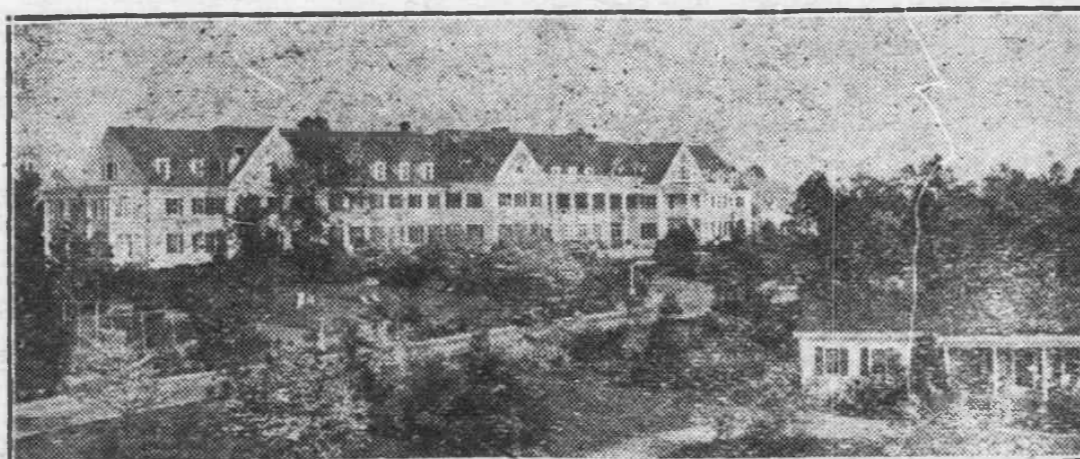
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