

Interesting Figures Shown in Report of N. C. Tax Commission

Assessment Rolls Show Railroads and Corporations Bear Brunt of Tax Burden in State

SOME LOCAL FIGURES

By Bion H. Butler

The report of the Tax Commission of North Carolina submitted to the recent session of the legislature, and from which came the information that was used largely as the foundation of the new tax law, is an interesting document. It shows that North Carolina has property valued at above two and three-quarter billion dollars, and that of the total, lands, including town lots, constitute the big item, exceeding two billions. Town lots and city lands exceed in value the rural lands, so that the farmer does not carry the entire burden of taxation in the state. The man in town pays more on his land and houses than the farmer pays.

As a matter of curiosity the light and power companies are assessed at almost a hundred million dollars. In 1921 the railroads and other corporations were assessed \$325,000,000, and the railroads contested a part of the assessment. They lost and the next year they were stood up for more. In 1929 corporation assessments the figure had dropped slightly below \$300,000,000. Corporations are assessed at about a third of the value of the lands of the state outside of the towns. Railroads, electric companies and cotton mills are assessed at nearly four-fifths of the value of rural lands. It becomes evident that the town and city resident, along with the railroads, electric light companies and cotton mills, as well as other smaller manufacturing lines in the state, pay a fair proportion of the taxes. Apparently the town and city man, along with the corporations, is carrying the decidedly big end of government.

Expensive Decade

An interesting statement in the report is that between the years 1920 and 1928 the local governments, that is county and town and city, issued each year bonds in excess of an average of \$30,000,000, and the State added to that tremendous piled-up debt an average of \$20,000,000 a year for the period. The combined total means that State and subdivisions owe now materially above half a billion dollars. To pay off the debts and the interest that will accrue by the time the bonds are retired indicates, according to the report, over \$616,856,000, which is a right tidy sum for North Carolina. And here seems to be the meat in the cocoon. The statement says, "this tremendous spending from borrowing increased the amount available for spending anywhere from 100 per cent down to 50 per cent above the taxes."

So this is what we have on our shoulders. Instead of getting through on the taxes we increased our spending to nearly double the amount of the taxes, and now we have the interesting little bill to pay. Instead of getting through on our taxes we borrowed money enough to load us up for the lifetime of most of us now living. Now we have to pay taxes enough to carry on, and in addition enough more to pay the debt and the interest on the debt we have piled on our shoulders. We are paying now for what we did not pay for in the past few years, and paying the penalty of mortgaging the future. We thought we could not pay for our expenditures in the last ten years. Now we have to pay for our current expenditures and also to pay for those of the years that are gone when we lived on borrowed money for our state and county and city needs. Now we can live within our income for we have to, and we can also live less than within it, for the big end goes to pay for what we would not pay for when we incurred the debt ten years ago and since.

The County Debt

It is important for us all to understand the situation. We have eaten our cake. Now we have it to pay for. Fortunately Moore county has been more prudent in some respects than some of the counties. Our debt in proportion to our assessed valuation is only .6 per cent. Some of the counties have a debt four times as great proportionately. For the next ten years sixty cents of North Carolina's tax money goes to the debt service, and the big share of that is interest. Because we thought we could not pay fifty cents as we went in the past years we now pay a dollar, and more than half of it goes to pay what we would not pay then and interest on the borrowed lot.

Moore county's debt is over \$2,000,000. Of this \$23,875 is county debt for schools, and \$535,000 for other than schools. Districts and townships have a debt for schools of \$398,000. Towns and other minor divisions have a debt of \$850,463. Of this total debts owed by the county and subdivisions \$671,

Florida Newsboys Entertain Sandhills Crowd



Fifty Piece Reporter-Star Newsboys' Band of Orlando, Florida.

Peach Crop Moving at Slightly Better Price

Thousandth Car Shipped from North Carolina—Good Truck Demand

Peaches have been moving rapidly all week from the Sandhills belt, and with the Georgia crop fairly well out of the way there are indications of better prices for the North Carolina grower. The prices stiffened here some this week, much of the fruit bringing 60 cents instead of the prevailing price of 50 cents up to now, and some bringing even better than this. The thousandth carload lot was shipped from North Carolina during the week, and local railroads are reporting heavy movements through Aberdeen. There is also a steady truck demand at the orchards. Local growers are offering some of the best looking fruit they have grown in years.

DR. SYMINGTON TELLS OF MOSQUITO DANGERS

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charged with house waste, or sewage. Slowly moving or stagnant water into which house sewers discharge produce many more "Culex" per unit of water surface area than clean water. Also, when extensive "Culex" breeding areas of this nature are produced, by man, we find the "Culex" range sometimes as far as two miles from such a prolific source and follow us into our homes. Especially is this true where the effluent of a town septic-tank empties into a small stream near the edge of the town. Under this condition sometimes the water is black with mosquito larvae for a distance of two or three miles. It is well for us to keep in mind the fact that we are very frequently responsible for the prevalence of this kind of mosquito, because we allow water containers to be exposed to the rains, and allow polluted water to exist in and near our homes and communities, which conditions favor a rapid production of this pestiferous insect.

In large numbers of communities these conditions favorable to mosquito production make it essential to screen the homes, and in many instances the cost of screening is greatly in excess of the cost of removal or control of the breeding places of the "Culex" mosquito.

In order to bring about the reduction of the mosquito nuisance, many towns have adopted the standard mosquito ordinance, which makes it a misdemeanor for any property owner or tenant to allow mosquitoes to breed on his premises. Copies of this ordinance may be obtained from your State Health department or from the Public Health Service at Washington, D. C.

A report has recently reached this office regarding half a block of land near the center of a town where tin cans and rubbish are being dumped and where mosquitoes are breeding. This is undoubtedly a question for the above town commissioners. But it is up to all of us to see that breeding places of mosquitoes are eradicated around our homes in town or country.

Paul Dana of Pinehurst was elected a vice-commander of the North Carolina department, American Legion, at the annual convention in Morehead City.

875 is for school purposes. The rest is for roads, streets, water, sewers and various things. According to the figures the bonded indebtedness of the towns of Moore is as follows: Aberdeen—streets, \$36,000; water, \$74,000. Carthage—water, \$59,000. Pinebluff—water, \$41,200. Vass—water, \$35,000. Southern Pines—water, \$129,000; public improvements, \$44,000; funding, \$8,000. Some of these figures have changed since the report was prepared, but they are what they were at the time of gathering the statistics by the tax commission. They are near enough to indicate the situation.

Local Landowners Plan Hunting Preserve Under New State Law

To Open Up 5,000 Acres of Little River Section for Bird and Game Raising and Shooting

A few weeks ago The Pilot made mention of the new measure from the legislature which provides for the organization of landowners for the purpose of providing hunting reservations on which they may arrange for bird and game raising and shooting. The matter has attracted considerable attention, and a step has been taken out in the Little River section looking toward the trial of the project. A group of owners, representing around 5,000 acres has signed an agreement looking to the creation of a reserve on the lands they own, the names including N. J. Patterson, A. D. McLaughlin, O. H. Stutts for the Daniel Hector McNeill lands, F. W. Taylor, Daniel McCrimmon, Dunc McCrimmon and E. D. Dunlap, with others interested.

They have taken up the matter with J. W. Harrelson, Director of the Department of Conservation and Development of North Carolina, who writes that he will send a representative from the department as soon as practical to look over the area to be included and to hold a conference with the persons who own the lands within the proposed section. The territory involved lies on the east side of the highway between Vass and Southern Pines, extending down toward James Creek and its junction with Little River, close by the Fort Bragg boundary, which is looked on as a good feature as the fort region is wild land and fertile in its development of wild life. Most of the land is wooded, with but a few small clearings, with a fair number of stream heads for refuges for wild creatures, and plenty of cover.

State Shows Interest

As this is a new idea in furthering the hunting possibilities of the state, the plans are not worked out anywhere else in this section so far, and the coming of a representative from the State Conservation Department will be of considerable interest in showing what can be done and how, and the state game laws will cooperate and advise. Under the law the land owners after their organization may lease lands for hunting, or may permit hunters for a fee that is fixed by the law, to hunt on the lands, and the possibilities are believed to be large in the direction of creating breeding territories and feeding grounds in which birds should become plentiful. Expressions of approval have been forthcoming from men who are interested in hunting, with the assurance that an organization properly planned and carried on would meet the encouragement of hunters from distant points who like to come to the Sandhills in winter for a little shooting. The low grounds on the property under discussion offer frequent chance at a deer, and foxes, turkey, and other things are of common occurrence.

Mr. Harrelson, of the Department of Conservation, in his letter says he cannot understand why other landowners in the vicinity do not join in the movement as he says, "there is no expense attached, no lease required, and the owners of the lands without public shooting grounds may disband and cancel their agreement with the Department at any time they wish. All revenue collected for hunting privilege go to the landowners. The only requirement so far as expense is concerned is that the applicants for the establishment of a public shooting ground must buy from the department posters for marking the ground. The department is required to sell the posters at cost, and this is done to insure a uniform size, color and wording of posters."

In effect the organization, once undertaken, becomes an establishment under the law, supervised to an extent by the game wardens, yet managed wholly by the owners under the law, within certain restrictions, and open for shooting to any admitted by the owners on payment of the fees provided, but at all times under the

Chicken Stew

Take 1 Qt. Liquor. Add 2 Stolen Chickens and—Work it Out on the Roads

Harmon Brewer, Jasper Williamson and Ira Morgan, white, of the upper part of the county were in court on Monday, all on account of their having been led astray by their appetites. Williamson, it is said, supplied himself with a quart of liquor and went to Brewer's home, where Ira Morgan was spending the night. He and his host made merry for a while, then waked Morgan at about one o'clock in the morning to give him a drink. Williamson then suggested that they prepare a chicken stew, so the three started for the nearby premises of a widow to visit the poultry house. Morgan, who had imbibed rather freely, dropped out along the way, but the other two proceeded and got several chickens, two of which they converted into a "stew" which was ready to serve by around five o'clock.

The woman missed her chickens, but soon located the ones that were still on foot and the officers located the carousers. Morgan was taxed with the costs and required to pay for the chickens; Williamson was given 61 days on the roads, and Brewer will serve the county for thirty days, working at the county home.

Clyde Tew and Roy Ward, implicated by John Jernigan in a forgery case, were before the court, but no probable cause was found as to either of the two and they were discharged. Jernigan had heretofore been tried and was bound to the Superior court.

Willie Cole, colored, was found guilty of violating the prohibition laws and was fined \$10 and the costs. He was found with a small amount of liquor.

Upon payment of the costs, prayer for judgment was continued in an assault - with - deadly - weapon case against Cicero Barrett, colored.

Winfred Cassidy was given four months and Von Stricklin three months for disturbing a meeting at a colored church on the fourth of July. Cassidy was found guilty of carrying a concealed weapon, along with disturbing the assemblage.

2,000 HEAR FLORIDA NEWSBOY BAND IN SOUTHERN PINES

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making a success of the occasion, the Country Club and John Powell for chairs for the band, Mayor Stutts and the commissioners for cleaning and cornermeal the street, Bakers' Food Shop and the Little River Store Company for the cornmeal, the Highland Hardware House for electric equipment, the many who took in the boys for meals and the night, and volunteers who aided in stringing lights and doing the little odd jobs which occasion demanded.

"We want to come again next year. This is 'some town,'" the boys said. And Director Ball said they'd come if invited. They're invited already.

FIRST COTTON SELLS FOR 12 CENTS IN SO. CAR.

A. A. Richardson, state game warden, sold the first bale of cotton ginned in South Carolina this year for 12 cents a pound at an auction at Columbia Wednesday. The Joseph Walker company, cotton brokers, was highest bidder. This is the sixth year that Mr. Richardson has ginned the year's first bale in the state.

The new road from Carthage to Biscoe is reported opened for traffic.

guidance and supervision of the guides appointed. No hunting may be undertaken on the lands except with consent of the owners, who have absolute jurisdiction over their property.

Theatre

Comedy laid on thick is the promise of the management of the Carolina Theatre who is offering Charlie Ruggles in "The Girl Habit" as the main feature of the program for this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. "The Girl Habit" is Ruggles' first starring picture. As such it gives him a chance to display fully all his clever talents for making folks laugh right out loud. Since he is the main personality in this picture, audience can depend upon it that the performance will be even funnier than the earlier films in which Ruggles was a mere featured player, such as "Gentlemen Of The Press," "Young Man of Manhattan," and "Her Wedding Night." "The Girl Habit" was written by Owen Davis and Gertrude Purcell. A competent cast of Broadway favorites supports Ruggles.

"The Girl Habit" presents Charlie as a wealthy young bachelor who, although already engaged to marry one sweet young thing, just can't seem to keep out of the clutches of every convincing female he meets. An added attraction which will please lovers of good music is a group of songs by the famous opera star, Martinelli.

At last a picture that isn't "sexy," a picture that appeals to the emotions; a picture that even our grandparents would approve. This picture is "Sporting Blood," which is based on the famous story, "Horseflesh," by Frederick Hazlitt, and which is coming to the Carolina Theatre Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. When preview audience stamp their feet, whistle and yell, it would seem that pictures are getting back to the good old days of movies that move people. That was the unusual greeting "Sporting Blood" got a preview showing in California. "Sippy" is the only other picture that ever brought such applause. How people do love these salt-of-the-earth pictures about dogs and horses and their ennobling effect upon human beings! Clark Gable and Madge Evans will receive well-deserved plaudits; so will Ernest Torrence, Lew Cody and Marie Prevost, but you will all take off your hat to the sterling work of John Larkin, who carried the famous thoroughbred, Tommy Boy, from a mud puddle on to his spell-binding derby finish. Added attractions are another of the "Magic Carpet" series, showing the process of diamond making from the mines to the finished product, another of those famous "Silly Symphony" Cartoons, entitled "Birds of a Feather" and the second of the series of organ numbers by Lew White, the well known broadcasting organist.

KIWANIS DIRECTORS' MEETING

Officers and directors of the Kiwanis Club of Aberdeen will meet at 7 o'clock this, Friday, evening at the Park View Hotel in Southern Pines.

CAROLINA Theatre

Southern Pines



Thu., Fri., and Sat., August 6, 7, 8.—8:20 P. M.
Matinee Saturday at 3:00 P. M.
(Coolest Spot In The Sandhills)

Presenting
An All-Star Cast, including, Clark Gable, Madge Evens, Ernest Torrence, Lew Cody, Marie Prevost and John Larkin,
in
"SPORTING BLOOD"
adapted from the famous story, "Horseflesh,"
by
Frederick Hazlitt

Mon., Tue., and Wed., August 10, 11, 12—8:20
Matinee Tuesday at 3:00 P. M.
(Coolest Spot In The Sandhills)

NIAGARA

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Chatfield and son, who have spent several weeks visiting Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Goddard at the Pine Meadow farm, left recently for their home in Brownville Junction, Maine.

J. P. Turnley, postmaster at Cameron, visited Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Dutton the past week.

S. W. Andrews, who is register of deeds in Hillsboro, Orange county, and his daughter, Miss Agnes, were pleasant visitors here the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Lang and R. W. Morgan of near Chapel Hill were visitors on Monday.

C. F. Bullard of St. Paul is spending a few days on a visit to relatives in this section.

Miss Mary Olive Morgan, who has spent the past month visiting friends in Summerton, S. C., returned to her home here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Monroe of Williamsburg, Va., spent a few days the past week on a visit with his mother, Mrs. A. E. Monroe, of Niagara.

PYTHIANS TO ENTERTAIN AT ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL

The Pythian Home Entertainment Class of Clayton will be at the High School auditorium next Wednesday night, August 12th, at 8:30 o'clock to entertain the Knights of Pythias and their friends of this section.

Want Ads

All classified Ads in The Pilot are at the rate of 2 cents per word. Count the words in your ad and send cash or stamps with order.

PUBLIC STENOGRAPHER—Apply Mrs. C. C. Bethune, Gichner Johnson Building, Aberdeen.

FOR SALE—Refrigerator. 50 lb. ice capacity. Excellent condition. Apply Page Corporation, Aberdeen.

FOR SALE—Used bicycle, excellent condition. Very reasonable. Apply box 278, Aberdeen.

MIDDLE AGE SINGLE WHITE man, experienced in tobacco and small fruit wants job to help house cure and grade crop of tobacco, or work on fruit farm at moderate monthly wage, address Tobacco, care Pilot.

ROOMS FOR RENT—At The Teacherage in Aberdeen, large bedrooms for the summer months. Reasonable rates. Apply at The Teacherage.

FOR RENT—Five room cottage at Roaring Gap. Apply M. H. Foley, Aberdeen.

LOST—Black wallet containing papers belonging to B. W. Earl. Reward if returned to B. W. Linderman, Box 1432, Southern Pines.