

# At the CAPITAL

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

"Special session" talk continues to be one of the main considerations in Raleigh and over the state, but the trend has been changed as a result of the action of Governor Gardner toward a conference of the governors of four principal bright tobacco states, along with three or four agricultural figures, to see if uniform action can be taken toward relief for the tobacco growers from low prices and restriction of acreage to prevent further overproduction next year again.

The plans under way call for a meeting of Governor Pollard, Virginia; Governor Blackwood, South Carolina; and Governor Russell, Georgia, with Governor Gardner, probably in Charlotte on Friday of this week, to consider joint action on the tobacco situation. Three or four others interested in tobacco and agriculture generally, to be named by the Governors, would be asked to the conference. While legislation might result, it is not thought this method would be agreeable. Just what form the action would take is problematical.

Fully 500 messages, letters, telegrams and calls, had come to Governor Gardner's office during the last few days and up to Saturday, Secretary Edwin Gill reported, saying these messages had not been tabulated and it is impossible to say how many are for and how many against the special session of the General Assembly. Belief was expressed that the majority were against the Governor's calling the legislature together for cotton and tobacco acreage reduction. The messages are being tabulated and classified.

Governor Gardner's message earlier in the week that no power or influence could force him to call a session and that no power or influence could force him to refrain from calling one, depending upon his own convictions as to whether it would be or would not be desirable from the point of view of the people of the state, has brought forth many forms of comment. Approval of the sentiment was given in an editorial by Josephus Daniels, who brought out that Governor Gardner should not be influenced by the opposition to the special session, as expressed by Norman A. Coker, head of an industrial group. Mr. Daniels is given credit for being the greatest proponent of the special session movement, and of promoting the movements seeking to influence Governor Gardner to call the session.

Tobacco products took the lead in the value of manufactured goods in North Carolina in 1929, going ahead of textiles which had held the supremacy for several years, figures compiled in the 1930 census and announced by the Department of Conservation and Development show.

Cigars and cigarettes manufactured in 1929 were valued at \$480,038,850, or more than \$80,000,000 more than the value of the same products in 1927, two years before, which was \$392,050,130. Smoking and chewing tobacco and snuff are not included in these figures, which would carry the total considerably above the half a billion mark. In 1927 all tobacco products were valued at \$413,274,113, at which time the textile products were valued at \$425,437,522, but in 1929 the textile values had increased to only \$452,000,000. Values of textile products increased almost 10 per cent from 1927 to 1929, while tobacco products increased approximately 20 per cent in the same two-year period.

Wage earners in cigar and cigarette making numbered 14,081 in 1929 and had decreased to 13,773 in 1927, but wages paid increased from \$11,542,745 in 1927 to \$11,783,472 in 1929. Costs of materials, supplies, fuel and purchased electric current increased from \$177,565,177 in 1927 to \$139,613,094 in 1929. These costs do not include the approximately \$250,000,000 paid for government stamps, but this cost is computed in counting the value of manufactured products. By which it is seen that raw material and processing of tobacco products constitute more than half of the value of the finished product, exclusive of the stamp tax cost.

State general fund revenue collections for the first four months of this fiscal year are about a million and a quarter dollars ahead of collections for the same period last year, or \$6,264,820.89 for four months this year, as compared with \$5,004,957.09 for the same period last year, the October report of Commissioner of Revenue A. J. Maxwell shows. The increase was almost the amount of franchise tax increases made by the General

Assembly, the big jumps having been in public utilities, more than doubled so far, telephone companies, also doubled, and railroads, almost doubled. License taxes showed some increase, while inheritance and income taxes decreased. Marriage license taxes continue to decrease 10 to 12 per cent.

Gasoline consumption showed an increase the last four months over the same period last year, giving an increase in all automobile taxes for road operations from \$4,722,653 for the first four months of last fiscal year to \$5,902,749. The gasoline tax increased some above the one cent additional per gallon levied by the last General Assembly. License taxes, on the same basis, showed a fair gain, which dropped some in October, while title fees showed a decline. Collections on 1930 licenses to October 30 reached \$6,689,359, but collections on 1931 licenses to that date were \$6,209,884, a decrease of nearly half a million dollars, \$479,475.

Employees in the Motor Vehicle Bureau of the Revenue Department are

having to work two hours a night for four nights each week, and without extra pay for overtime, in order to get ready for the license plate sales which begin next month for the year 1932. The General Assembly changed the basis from horsepower to weight of automobiles, necessitating a complete change in the system, the long session further delaying the start toward getting ready for the sales.

Thirty alleged liquor law violators in Wake, Johnston and Granville counties were arrested last Friday, and several warrants were still to be served by Federal prohibition officers, cooperating with sheriff and police forces. The arrests followed some weeks of work by "under-cover" men. Some of the old offenders are included in the list, while several new alleged violators were under arrest. Trials are scheduled to be held during the term of Federal Court beginning November 9, with Judge I. M. Meekins, presiding.

### COTTON GINNINGS IN MOORE WELL UNDER YEAR AGO

Cotton ginnings in North Carolina prior to October 18th aggregated 453,527 bales this year as compared with 464,794 bales to the same date last year, according to the Census bureau.

The Moore county figures show, for 1931, 931 bales; 1930, 1,443 bales.

## Local Concern Engaged by New York Interests to Drill for Oil in State

### Dowdy & Butler Have Contract for Deep Well in Eastern Section and Start Work Soon

North Carolina is to have another attempt to determine whether the state has any oil territory. B. E. Lamb, manager of the Pamlico Oil Company, holding 270,000 thousand acres of leases in the eastern part of the state, has contracted with Dowdy & Butler, local drillers, to drill one or more wells on the territory. The lands are in Pamlico, Craven, Sampson, Carteret, Lenoir, Bertie, Chowan and Perquimans counties. Mr. Lamb was in Southern Pines in the last few days arranging some of the operations and detail.

Dowdy & Butler have moved their largest machine down to Oriental, in Pamlico county, and on a tract of seventy thousand acres they have built a derrick 84 feet high, 24 feet square at the base and this week are stringing up their tools and expect any day to start the drill. They will put down a hole eighteen inches in diameter. Mr. Lamb hopes to find oil or gas within a thousand to fifteen hundred feet, but says the company plans to go five thousand feet if necessary to

reach the crystalline rock which is the final bottom of all oil-bearing territories. It is hoped that the first of the year will see the first hole pretty well on its way to the bottom. The outfit which Dowdy & Butler have taken down to the new field is one of the largest and most powerful ever operated in this state.

Mr. Lamb says this is purely a business search for oil. It is financed by some New York men of means who have leased the acreage of the land mentioned in such sections as looked promising. With the modern instruments employed by the best oil geologists the field has been covered with months of work. Dr. H. N. Coryell, one of the best authorities on the study of underground conditions, has put in considerable time tracing out the irregularities of levels of the deeper rocks and has helped to determine the selections chosen for drilling.

Mr. Lamb says his associates believe there is oil in the state. If they are correct, they will have a field convenient to tide water, in easy reach by water and rail of the large consuming centers of the east. If they find nothing it will be their hard luck, but the prospects look so good to the company that they are willing to venture their money.

## Golf Driving Range Opens on Midland Rd.

### New Clubhouse Soon To Be Ready, and Lighting Equipment to Follow

The new Midland Golf Driving Range, on the Midland road between Southern Pines and Pinehurst, is open, and golfers and embryo golfers already trying to improve their tee shots and irons from the 16 tees that are already available. You get 40 balls for half a dollar and drive them out while they last, and you don't have to worry about chasing them or losing them. This helps you keep your eye on the ball. It isn't your ball and you can forget everything except your stance and direction and distance and the thousand and other things that pro told you to remember.

The new clubhouse isn't up yet, but the lumber is on the job and soon there'll be a 12x20-foot house with a fireplace at one end and a spacious veranda on the tee side. Lighting equipment will be installed in the near future for night driving and practice. Willis H. Haines, who comes from Kingston, New York, where he operates a driving course, says the Midland range will be open from daylight till dark until the lights are installed.



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