

**The Enterprise**  
 Published Every Tuesday and Friday by The  
**ENTERPRISE PUBLISHING CO.**  
 WILLIAMSTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

W. C. Manning Editor

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Entered at the post office in Williamston, N. C., as second-class matter under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all communications to The Enterprise and not to the individual members of the firm.

Friday, October 31, 1930.

**A Citizen's Duty**

It is the privilege every citizen to vote for whom he pleases whether the one of his choice be Democrat Republican or Independent. And it is every citizen's duty to vote for somebody on election day.

We need not expect good government unless we elect good men, and if we fail to vote, we should keep our mouths closed about the acts of the officials.

The ballot is one of the underlying factors of good government, and is the greatest privilege bestowed upon the people. We should not only appreciate this privilege, but we should exercise it.

**Misquoting The Facts**

Our friend, Editor Carl Goerch of the Washington, N. C. Progress, made our headwriter to hang his head in shame in his last week's issue of his splendid paper, not that the headman committed a gross error, but because the Washington editor twisted one of our article captions. He says one of our recent headlines read, "Young White Man Shot In the Cross Roads." Commenting upon the headline, he stated that he hoped it wasn't serious.

The exact reading of the headline was "Young White Man Shot in Cross Roads." With the space limited, the head writer just did not add "township" to the heading.

We are subject to and do make numerous errors, and we always entertain a fellow-feeling for those who unintentionally make mistakes. And while we can over look Mr. Goerch's error in this particular case, we refuse to grant a pardon for his thoughts in the matter. Surely there is a vast difference in being shot in Cross Roads and being shot in the cross roads.

**The Proposed Classification Amendment**

Mr. J. S. Holmes, State Forester, is making a strong plea for the passage of the constitutional amendment exempting growing timber from taxation. He advances a number of arguments in favor of the proposed amendment and asks why should a crop of young trees be taxed annually in addition to the land upon which the trees are growing. "There is no resulting revenue until the timber is cut," he says.

It is difficult for us to agree with the State forester. It would seem that he wants the farmer's cultivated land, the acres upon which the timber stands taxed and the timber itself exempted, maintaining his wish on the grounds that the land produces income. It is a known fact that the major part of the standing timber in our State is held by large milling corporations, and the proposed amendment would exempt their holdings from taxation, the amendment provides, in the event the proposal is made law, the farmer will pay taxes upon his cleared acres which have produced very little income for many years. He will pay taxes

on the soil upon which the mill man's timber stands and the timber owner would pay no tax.

We can hardly see how it would be fair for one man to own an acre of ground for growing timber for another man and the land be taxed and the timber exempted. Records show that timber has been the greatest producing asset of land during the past ten years.

The forester also argues that the timber owner does not get an annual income from timber and for that reason it should not be taxed. The same conditions apply to the stock raiser who spends time and money raising a colt. For three or four years, the animal eats and there is no income but all outgo; yet the owner has paid annually a tax based upon the potential value of the animal when sold. The selling price is based on all costs, including taxes. A tree grows thirty years and if it is taxed annually and sold on the basis of cost, including taxes paid annually, we can see no advantage in allowing it to remain tax free for that length of time with a good chance for a big reduction in the taxes accumulated during the period.

In the case of the small farmer who still owns his timber rights and has a balanced property providing him with wood and straw, there is no good reason why he had rather switch his taxes from his timber to the land upon which it grows and to his cleared acres. If there is any reason why the exemption of growing timber will reduce the tax on farms and homes we are unable to see it. And if there is any reason why taxing intangible property such as money, notes, stocks, bonds, etc. at a lower rate than is charged on horses, houses and land will lower the tax rate on farms, houses, etc. we are unable to see it. Why, then, should the ordinary citizen vote to make these changes in the State Constitution?

**Guilford's Trouble**

Guilford County is having lots of trouble these days. Only a few weeks ago the Democratic County Clerk was caught collecting and keeping pensions for Confederate soldiers who had been dead many years and it looks as if they have ample proof to convict him. Now comes charges against R. M. Candle of High Point alleging the embezzlement of \$9,000. of City.

This seems to indicate that poverty does not make men do wrong because neither of them are poor. It does really look like the little financial pinch is going to work out some good. It will at least teach public office and public funds belong to the people.

This will not only apply to the man who is in the public service it is going further and make men generally more appreciation of their jobs and more efficient in their work.

Poverty certainly puts us in good schools, where we can think in terms of honesty, economy and good will to others.

If these two men had been kept in such a school they would have kept straight too much money enlarged their eyes and diminished their hearts.

**"Equal-Rights-Within-Ten Years"**

Ten years ago, feminists won their victory of victories with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment bestowing suffrage rights upon women. Within ten years from now, the same feminists hope to see passed another amendment providing for "equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

Statutes that discriminate against women have been unearthed by the hundreds and are being published in pamphlet broadsides by the National Woman's Party in Washington. The rights of women as regards citizenship, property, marriages, jurisdiction over their children, contracts, and eligibility to office are involved.

This "equality-within-ten-years-campaign" probably will not be attended by all the drama that went into the suffrage fight. In those days, women were sent to jail for picketing the White House, and they made the most of their persecution by carrying on a "prison special" campaign. With the ground already broken by the suffrage victory, it is thought that opposition to the proposed Twentieth Amendment will not be so intense as it was to the Nineteenth. Leaders of the present campaign are planning to base their appeal on logic and facts rather than on spectacular demonstrations.

**INTERESTING COUNTY AND STATE FACTS**

**Martin County Has Nine Lawyers; Nine Doctors and Two Dentists**

Martin County has a total of 9 lawyers, 2 of whom receives less than \$1,000 a year for their professional services; 9 doctors, of whom none receives less than that amount, and 2 dentists, of whom none are living on less than \$1,000 a year, according to their individual statements, made to representatives of and recorded in the Department of Revenue. The professional man who received less than \$1,000 a year for his services the year before which, of course, includes those just beginning to practice, have to pay only one-half of the \$25 license fee imposed on those making more than that amount.

Figures compiled in the Revenue Department show that slightly less than one lawyer out of three, 30.75 percent, or 638 out of the 2075 paying the license fee to practice, made less than \$1,000. Doctors fared better, only one out of 15, or 13.4 percent, or 268 out of the even 2000 paying the fee were entitled to the half rate. Dentists almost reached the lawyer class in compensation for their services, out of five, 20.05 percent, or 137 of the 684 listed as paying, received less than \$1,000 a year.

The N. C. Year book lists 2266 lawyers, the State collecting fees from 2075; it lists 2049 doctors, the State getting fees from even 2000, and lists 732 dentists, 684 paying license fees. In some cases, of course, the men are

inactive, teachers or engaged in other activities.

The State Highway Commission, at its meeting here this week, Thursday, will consider the recommendations of State Engineer John D. Waldrop for the distribution of the \$500,000 highway equalizing fund and the roads on which this fund is to be used, all of which roads are subject to Federal Aid. The result will be that these highways, construction work on which will amount to about a million dollars, will be included in a letting this fall.

The Commission will also act upon the low bids of \$624,027.70 submitted last week on 10 highway projects. Three of which are for widening 16-foot highways to 20 feet. All of the 10 projects except one are Federal Aid jobs, the commission seeking to utilize all available Federal Aid funds with the money it has on hand to match this aid.

One hundred or more miles is expected to be added to the State Highway System at this week's meeting, carrying the system's mileage above the 9,000 mark. The system now embraces 8,991.3 miles.

The county road systems of 96 of the 100 counties, Brunswick, Catawba, Columbus and Gaston being absent, embrace a total of 62,202 miles, Chairman R. A. Doughton, of the State commission, has found from a survey, coming as a result of the movement to have the State take over all the county systems.

While the State's outstanding bonded indebtedness for highways is now \$107,399,600 plus \$3,250,000 in bond anticipation notes, the 96 counties have a total bonded highway indebtedness of \$86,612,280, or a total highway indebtedness of State and counties of \$200,000,000, assuming that the four missing

counties have bonds of about \$2,750,000. Martin County's outstanding bonds, as of July 1, are shown to amount to \$599,000 in Chairman's Doughton's returns. The county has a total of 600 miles in its county highway system; the tax levy for 1929 was 25 to 40 cents on the \$100 valuation, which brought in revenues of \$53,208.23 for building and maintaining the county highways.

Answering the charge of Charles A. Jones, congressman and republican nominee to succeed himself in the Ninth District, that North Carolina is paying \$10 per pupil, or about \$10,000,000 a year for a school books, Dr. A. T. Allen, State superintendent of Public Instruction, has issued statement to show that Mr. Jones has over-stated the amount by about 800 percent. He states that, based on Federal figures, North Carolina is not paying in excess of \$750,000 a year, or about one-eighth of the amount Mr. Jones charges.

Moreover, Dr. Allen shows that North Carolina, her county and city boards of education are getting school books as cheaply as any state in the Union for the same books. All contracts with publishers provide that North Carolina will get school books as cheaply as any state, and when prices are reduced in any other State, the prices are automatically reduced to the same level in this State for the same books.

North Carolina's general fund collections for September just passed were \$630,278.98, as compared with \$693,351.06 for September 1929, while collections for the three months of the present fiscal year totaled \$3,083,821, as compared with \$3,162,922.72 for the same three months of the past fiscal year, the report of A. J. Maxwell, Commissioner of Revenue, shows. A decrease was also shown in the automobile tax collections, which amounted to \$1,213,428.65 last

month and for September 1929, totalled \$1,315,641.49. Collections for the first three months of this fiscal year were \$3,537,649.79, and for the same period last year were \$3,825,571.47. Automobile license plates for 1930 sold to September 30, brought in \$6,640,725.57, while 1929 plates in that period brought in \$6,760,712.25.

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**PEANUT CROP IS BELOW NORMAL**

Condition 57 Per Cent of Normal in State As of October 1

The Federal Government recently issued its report as to the condition of peanuts as of October 1st, as well as the estimated yield, covering the twelve peanut-producing States. The condition of the crop is given as 58.8, as compared with 73.2 on the same date last year, and 73.8 for the 10-year average from 1918 to 1928. Virginia stands at the bottom of the list, with a crop condition of 40 per cent. North Carolina is 57 per cent, but Georgia, Alabama, and Florida are 73 per cent, near the 10-year average.

The average for the whole 12 states is put at only 69.4 of the 1929 crop. The estimated yield is 693,123,000 pounds, against 928,975,000 for last year and an average of 759,000,000 for the five years ending with 1928. The report does not give the carry-over of peanuts from the 1928 and 1929 crops, but local estimates do not exceed 250,000 bags, or less than one-half the carry-over estimated last year.

Asiatic importations for the year ending October 31, 1930, will only be about 14.84 per cent of the importations for the year before a decrease of 85 per cent.

**GROWERS FAVOR PLAN FOR CO-OP SALE OF PEANUTS**

Agent Says Meetings Have Been Well Attended and Much Interest Shown

Washington County peanut growers are apparently looking upon the movement to perfect an organization for their benefit with considerably more favor than did the tobacco growers. Meetings were held at Creswell and Roper on Monday and Tuesday nights of this week, respectively, with about 25 or 30 present at each place, and the proposed plan of organization was County Agent R. E. Dunning says received with interest by the farmers.

Mr. Sheffield of the Division of Markets, Raleigh, was present at each of the meetings, and explained the details of the contract also presenting the advantages of the type of organization suggested. As outlined Mr. Dunning said that the plan was more like a mutual exchange than it was a cooperative marketing association, and in as much as each county unit is entirely independent of any other organization the growers are looking upon the idea with considerable favor.

Another meeting was held in Plymouth Wednesday night, but the heavy rain prevented a very large attendance. Mr. Dunning says that the plan is to secure a sales manager for the organi-

zation, if formed, and to sell the peanuts direct to the cleaner. Economies can also be effected in having the peanuts graded and stored when the farmers are acting as a unit instead of as individuals. By selling direct to the cleaners, the commission of the broker is saved by such an organization, and all of this is added to the selling price of the product.

Mr. Dunning said that he thought the association would be formed provided around 10,000 bags could be signed up, of which the producers of approximately 4,000 are believed to be ready to sign now. There are around 40,000 or 50,000 bags in the county this year, it is estimated.

**Both Parties Take To Air In Final Days of Campaign**

As the closing days of the present campaign in North Carolina come near, the candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties are taking to the air, in order to reach as many of the people of the State as is possible. Governor Gardner, J. W. Bailey, and Clyde Hoey are to more broadcast their closing speeches on Monday night, two of them speaking over WBIG in Greensboro, and the other from WPTF, Raleigh.

The Republican senatorial candidate, George M. Pritchard is booked for an address from the Greensboro station Saturday night at 8 o'clock, and from WPTF in Raleigh Monday night from 7:30 to 8. His speech in Charlotte tonight will also be broadcast from WBT beginning at 9 o'clock.