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STATE ACTIVITY UNDER GARDNER DURING 4 YEARS

Administration Saw Bubble Burst and Heard Woes of a Bad Depression

Raleigh.—North Carolina is now looking back upon four trying years as the administration of Governor O. Max Gardner came to an end and took inventory of what it did to meet the changing conditions.

The Gardner administration, beginning in 1929 when prosperity was in bloom, saw the bubble burst and before it was two years old, the State was struggling to keep its head above the water.

With the depression came other woes for North Carolina.

Strikes broke out like eruptions of volcanoes; many banks collapsed as paper houses in strong winds; agriculture prices struck rock bottom; unemployment became a serious problem and the need arose for emergency relief measures.

The state's government was put to one of its most strenuous tests.

There were no special legislative sessions called, the only two being held being the biennial sessions of 1929 and 1931, the first a comparatively quiet affair but the second a five-month even during which the woes of the State were thoroughly aired.

The 1929 session was short lived and harmonious. The governor's program calling for workmen's compensation act and a secret ballot law was accepted.

But sensing that the future might hold if the good times of the day did not continue, Governor Gardner also successfully sponsored legislation to restrict the creation of additional debts by local governments and sponsored legislation for reduction of local taxes which were beginning to mount under increasing bond issues.

When the 1931 legislature convened, the storm of depression was in its full fury. The bank debacle had swept the State, striking down many institutions once considered impregnable. The five-month session was the longest on record in the State.

The banking laws were strengthened and a bank department created.

State expenditures, which had been reduced by Governor Gardner in 1930 under the executive budget act when it became apparent conditions would not improve in the near future, were further slashed; state maintenance of roads and schools to reduce local taxes was voted; the scope of state supervision over the fiscal affairs of local governments was broadened.

The net result of the Gardner administration, as cited in the same democratic manual, has been a reduction in property tax from \$63,300,000 in 1928-29 to \$47,680,000 in 1931-32, and a decrease in the total cost of state and local government from \$102,000,000 in 1929-30 to \$90,000,000 in 1931-32.

One of the major programs of the administration of the retiring chief executive was the "live-at-home" movement he proposed in his inaugural address to encourage the decrease in production of cash crops and an increase in the production of food and feedstuffs.

This program, the agricultural department of State College estimates, increased by \$5,000,000 the value of food and feedstuffs produced in the State, while the value of cash crops dropped from \$293,000,000 in 1929 to \$144,000,000 in 1931 because of the fall in the prices of cotton and tobacco—the state's two principal farm products.

To meet unemployment conditions, a program of road building was inaugurated with federal funds. A state department of relief was established and money for its support borrowed from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Although the administration came to an end with a deficit estimated between \$10,000,000 and \$12,000,000, more than \$19,900,000 was paid off during the four years on the State's funded debt, indicating revenue collections during the period have exceeded the cost of government by \$7,500,000, according to the tax commission's report.

Court Called Off Account Illness of Judge H. O. Peel

With only a few cases on docket for trial, the today's session of the county recorder's court was called off on account of the illness of Judge H. O. Peel. The court will hold its next session Tuesday of next week, the condition of the judge's health permitting.

No Meeting of Masons Will Be Held Tonight

The regular meeting of the local masonic lodge will not be held tonight as the East Carolina Firemen's association is meeting here at that time, it was announced today.

Hog-Killings Order of Day On Martin County Farms

With all the major crops about marketed in this section of the State, farmers are turning their attention to meat packing for the coming season. The work is being carried on very rapidly in this county at this time, and it now looks as if the old hog jowl and cornbread with home-made molasses as a finishing touch are coming back into their own as never before.

Unusually large hog killings are reported throughout the section, farmers everywhere stating that they have plenty of taters, corn and meat to run them twelve months or longer.

While the weather has not been ideal for hog killings this season, it has been more favorable so far than it was last year. So far as it can be learned here, no meat has spoiled this season on account of warm weather. However, every precaution should be exercised against possible loss.

Few Tenants Have Places To Move To

NINE APPLY FOR DIVORCES IN 1932

Number Is About Same As For Previous Year; Few Cases Completed

Nine applications for divorce were filed with the clerk of the court, R. J. Peel, in this county last year, it was learned from a review of the records this week. In only two or three cases were judgments made complete, the applicants failing to pay the proper fees. In one or two other cases, defendants could not be found, temporarily delaying the decrees.

It is understood that one or two of the applicants have married again, leaving the question unsettled as to whether they have an absolute divorce or not when the costs are not paid.

The number demanding freedom from their mates last year was about the same as the number applying for divorces in 1931. The number has been materially decreased during the past two or three years, as compared with the number of divorces granted back in the twenties.

TEACHERS MEET HERE THIS WEEK

Southern Group To Hold Session Here Saturday Morning

The Martin County teachers in the southern group of schools will meet here Saturday morning of this week at 10 o'clock, it was learned from the office of the Martin County Board of Education here this week. The southern group includes the Bear Grass, Macedonia, Lilley's Hill, Smithwick, Farm Life, Dardens, Jamesville, and Williamston schools.

The northern group, made up of the Oak City, Hassell, Gold Point, Robertsonville, and Everetts schools, held its monthly meeting in Robertsonville last Saturday.

Each group will hold three meetings and work for the term will be brought to a close by a joint meeting the latter part of the school year, according to present plans.

No scheduled program for the meeting here Saturday of this week has been released.

Everetts 4-H Club Held Regular Meeting Friday

The senior 4-H club met January 9, 1933, at Everetts schoolhouse. The meeting opened with the roll call, repeating of the club pledge in unison and a few club songs. The club girls are planning to keep expense accounts for a period of two or three months, the blanks to be given out at the February meeting. All girls are making a study of clothing costs and needs for 1933. This includes a clothing inventory to be taken by each club girl to determine what clothing shortage she may have and methods of taking care of the shortage. At the meeting Monday each girl in the club estimated the cost of the clothing which she was wearing for one day at school. It was found that the total amount spent by the 16 girls in the club was \$111.67. This represented the cost for one day's clothing required in going to school. Health exercises concluded the meeting.

Play To Be Given At Bear Grass On Friday

Members of the Bear Grass School faculty will appear in a play, "When a Woman Decides," in the school auditorium there Friday night of this week at 7:30 o'clock, it was announced last week by Principal Hickman. Proceeds from the 10 and 15 cents admission fees will go to the school, it was stated.

UNEMPLOYMENT SERIOUS IN SOME PARTS COUNTY

40 Workmen Called For at Oak City Monday; 100 Respond

Unemployment in the upper part of the county has reached a serious point, according to reports reaching here yesterday. Acting upon an announcement made by the State Highway Commission calling for the services of 40 men, nearly 100 residents of that section reported for work this week. Sadness marked the nearly 60 men when they were turned away, probably because they remembered the hungry and needy back home.

Receiving as little as 8 cents an hour and that amount to come from the relief fund, the men were eager for work. And the type of work is not very pleasant, it having to do with ditching in mud and water.

At the present time a large number of men are working throughout the county under the direction of relief agencies. Probably the conditions are not as serious in the middle and lower parts of the county as they are in the upper section, but reports indicate that there is a plentiful supply of workers in all parts.

It has been said that people will not work, or that many of them will not, but the report from Goose Nest indicates that they are ready and willing to do anything that comes to hand.

Probably the peak of unemployment is being experienced in this county at the present time. Many of the jobless are coming from the rural sections, as farming operations for the new year are hardly under way just at this time. Spring plowing will soon be in order, and it is believed the number of unemployed in the rural sections will be materially lessened.

NEAR END OF LICENSE SALE

1,675 Plates Have Been Sold At Local Bureau Up To Last Night

With 2,500 license plates on hand back in the middle of December, the local bureau had sold 1,675 of that number up until last night, Manager N. C. Green said today. Approximately \$33,000 has been collected by the bureau since it opened.

According to the latest information received here, the local bureau will close next Saturday. After that time, auto owners who have not placed the new tags on their cars will have to buy them direct from Raleigh or one of the bureaus remaining open throughout the year.

As far as it could be learned yesterday no time extension will be granted auto owners and those whose cars do not carry the new plates will be subject to indictment from now on unless the time is extended.

HOUSE CLERKS GET LESS PAY

Received More Money for Work Done Outside of General Assembly

Raleigh.—The chief clerk of both houses of the North Carolina General Assembly are drawing less pay for their legislative duties than they drew on their regular jobs, which they are compelled to resign for the period they serve in the General Assembly.

LeRoy Martin, clerk of the Senate, is executive secretary of the Board of Equalization, which pays an annual salary of \$3,600, and Thad Eure, principal clerk of the House, is Assistant Director of Personnel, also a \$3,600 job.

Both clerks make \$7 a day during the session of the legislature, compared to a little over \$10 a day on their regular jobs. Some uninformed criticism of the clerks "holding down two jobs" has been going the rounds in some quarters, but the North Carolina law compels them to resign their regular jobs for the duration of the legislature, and they are serving as clerks at actually a lower salary than they ordinarily get.

Colored Man Arrested For Assault Yesterday

Charged with assaulting a female, Jodie Thompson, colored, was given a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell yesterday and was bound over to the recorder's court for trial today.

Railroads of Country Require Lot of Water

The railroads of the country use as much water annually in their locomotives as Chicago or New York uses in a like period for all purposes.

Three Men Jailed for Recent Robberies of Stores in County

BUS AND TRUCK LEGISLATION IS IN THE MAKING

Truck and Bus Groups Are Expected To Enter Vigorous Protest

The truck and bus operators in North Carolina and especially the franchise operators, are going to become the targets of another attack in this general assembly and an effort will be made to tighten up the laws to see that they pay at least their proportionate share of the gasoline and license taxes, according to preliminary rumblings heard during the past few days. It is regarded as significant that the reports both of the state tax commission and of the state highway commission recommend tightening up the laws affecting both trucks and busses. The report of the highway commission specifically recommends making changes in the present basis of taxing franchise bus and truck lines.

Operators of franchise bus and truck lines do not pay a single cent into the state highway fund from license taxes, as do all other trucks and busses, with the result that the only revenue the highway fund gets from these carriers is from the gasoline tax they pay, it is pointed out in the biennial report of the state highway commission. It is true, of course, that the franchise bus and truck lines are supposed to pay a franchise tax of 6 per cent on their gross earnings and that this tax carries with it the right to operate, so that they do not pay anything for their operating licenses. It is also pointed out that all the revenue from this 6 percent license tax goes into the general fund and not into the highway fund. The result is that the state gets thousands of dollars a year less revenue from the franchise trucks and busses than from those owned by individuals. Yet almost without exception the franchise trucks and busses are owned and operated by corporations and thus regarded as better able to pay an operating license fee than those owned by individuals.

Those who have been studying the question are also inclined to agree that the present laws providing for the collection of the 6 per cent tax on the gross earnings of franchise truck and bus lines are due to be materially changed and strengthened especially to prevent any tax evasion. For while there is no proof of any tax evasion under the present laws, there are a good many who frankly do not believe that the franchise truck and bus lines are paying the full amount of tax that they should. There is no doubt that bills will be offered to materially tighten up existing laws and that will make more difficult to evade the payment of any portion of the present 6 percent license tax. It is also regarded as certain that bills will be introduced to require the franchise busses and trucks to pay the same license fees that privately owned trucks and busses pay.

Any effort to change the present laws will, of course, be bitterly fought by the North Carolina Truck Owners' Association and the expensive and powerful lobby which it is expected to maintain here. The organization already has several thousand members, has collected a large "war chest" from its members for the purpose of fighting any changes to the present laws that may be proposed.

ASK DONATIONS CANNED GOODS

Home Agent Urges Those Who Have Food to Spare To Help Others

By Miss LORA E. SLEEBER
With the burdens of 828 families applying to the county for food, it should become every one's responsibility to help during the year 1933. All women who have canned the past year and have canned food to spare should tithe with canned foods, contributing every tenth jar to help those who lack food. All who can supply land for gardens this spring can help the county very much in cutting down the burden on other year, and all who can supply seed for these families will help very much. Food for the families of Martin County should be first for 1933. If you can tithe with your canned foods and not rob your own family, leave your jars of canned foods at the courthouse with Mr. Raleigh Manning or as Miss Sleeper comes into your community she will carry these jars to Mr. Manning's office for you. Help your neighbor applying for food to have a garden this year. Help your neighbor to can this year and provide food for winter storage another year. Begin early to make plans for your garden. Your home agent is willing to help you in every way with your home problems. Are you willing to cooperate and help cut the burden on the county of families now without food and clothing? Garden budgets and canning budgets for your family can be given you by the home agent.

CAMPAIN COSTS \$1,638,177 IN 1932

National Democratic Group Now Has Net Deficit Of \$769,055.00

Washington.—The Democratic national committee told Congress recently it had spent \$1,638,177 last year, an amount many times greater than the cost of keeping a president in the White House during four years.

The report of the Democrats filed with South Trimble, clerk of the house, showed receipts for the same period totalled \$1,708,507, leaving a balance of \$70,330.

However, the report also listed unpaid obligations of \$839,385 so deducting the balance from these the net deficit appeared to be \$769,055.

The report indicates that even though there was a loud cry for a Democratic president and congress, there wasn't such a ready effort to pay for it. But the deficit is in keeping with the national committee, for it would hardly know how it felt to be out of debt.

The Republican reports has yet to be made.

TOWN TAGS HERE

Three hundred blue and white tags for local automobiles were received here yesterday and are now offered for sale at the mayor's office and by Chief of Police W. B. Daniel. The plates were late in reaching here, and automobile owners will be given until the first of February to display them on their cars. After that time, owners who fail to buy and display the plates will be subject to indictment, Chief Daniel said yesterday. The tags are patterned after those sold by the State.

NEGRO JAILED FOR ROBBERY

Ananias Keel Charged with Stealing Watch in Griffins Township

Ananias Keel, colored, and one of the wandering group, was arrested last Friday by Chief of Police W. B. Daniel and placed in jail on a housebreaking and larceny charge. Keel is alleged to have entered the home of Mr. John Gurkin in Griffins Township the day before Christmas and stole a \$65 Hamilton watch and a few other articles of small worth. He is said to have carried the watch to Jesse Rogers, colored, and pawned it for the small sum of \$2.45. Rogers later tried to borrow money by offering the watch as collateral. He tried several places and failed, but some of those asked to advance the loan remembered that Mr. Gurkin had lost a watch and officers were notified. Rogers turned over the watch when the officer questioned him and told from whom and how it came into his possession. A warrant was issued and Keel was placed in jail to await trial today.

Just a week before his arrest, Keel indicted Joe Davis for the alleged theft of a pair of shoes. Davis was sentenced to the roads for a period of 90 days, and present indications are that Keel will join him ere long.

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CONFESS SERIES OF ROBBERIES IN EAST CAROLINA

George Bailey, T. C. Poole and Joe Berry, Raleigh Men Awaiting Trial

T. C. Poole, Joe Berry and George Bailey, white-men, are now in jail awaiting trial in connection with a series of daring robberies reported in this and other counties throughout Eastern North Carolina during the past few months. Making his first public statement in connection with the bold robberies, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said today that preparations were well advanced for breaking up and convicting the group of robbers that has caused much terror throughout hamlets and towns in this part of the State at various times since last August.

The three men, all of Wake County, waived preliminary examination and now face trial in Martin, Pitt, Chatham, Cumberland, Robeson, Greene and Edgecombe Counties where they are alleged to have robbed a large number of stores. Bailey, a young man of only 20 years and a victim of the older heads in the group, is the son of a Raleigh detective. He is being held in jail here. Poole is being held in the Wake jail, and Berry is over in Pitt.

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Plymouth Negro Wrecks Wagon Here Saturday

John Robbins, Plymouth negro, ran into and demolished a wagon owned and driven by Solomon Hodge on the Washington road near here last Saturday afternoon. Frank Scott, riding in the wagon with Hodge was slightly hurt about the head.

Robbins was driving a truck belonging to a Plymouth Hardware concern and was said to have been unable to stop it when he ran up behind the wagon and could not pass as a car was meeting him. He was given a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell and was required to give bond in the sum of \$100 for his appearance in recorder's court here today.

Margolis Brothers Starting Big Clearance Sale Friday

Starting their annual January clearance sale Thursday of this week, Margolis Brothers, local merchants, are offering the greatest opportunities ever made to the buying public in this section. Every item has been reduced, making possible fancy bargains in quality and standard merchandise.

Centering their activities on Watson, the Sampson County merchant, officers and victims of the robbers went to Roseboro yesterday but were

(Continued on the back page)