

THE ENTERPRISE

Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Latchkey to Over Sixteen Hundred Martin County Homes

VOLUME XXXV—NUMBER 95

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, January 27, 1933

ESTABLISHED 1898

YEARLY BURDEN OF TAXES TOTALS \$77.53 PER PERSON

State and National Levies Found Overlapping in 326 Instances

Washington, Jan. 23.—An analysis of the national tax picture revealing an average yearly burden on every citizen of \$77.53, was made public recently by the house ways and means committee experts in preparing for steps toward eliminating some of the 326 cases of overlapping state and federal taxation.

"Total federal expenditures have increased nearly seven times in the last 20 years," the experts said.

Their work was published on the eve of a committee meeting to discuss proposals for paring down the large field of duplicate taxation at the coming special session of Congress.

Cigarettes, Gasoline First

Tax legislation at this session has been abandoned, but representatives of cigarette and gasoline interests have been assured by Democratic leaders their proposals for unifying taxes will be considered before any general revenue legislation is undertaken.

These call for levies to be collected by the federal government and a portion of them distributed equally among the states. By uniform rates, the sponsors believe that consumption and revenue will be increased.

For months, a group of experts headed by L. H. Parker, chief of the staff of the joint congressional committee on internal revenue taxation, has been assembling data on the present tax situation.

"Totalling the tax collections of the federal, state, county, city, and other local governments," Parker said, "we find taxes collected in 1922 amounted to \$7,418,000,000 and in 1931 to be \$9,519,000,000. In the same period the total per capita tax burden has increased from \$68.27 to \$77.53.

"This increase amounts to \$9.26 per capita, or nearly 14 per cent. Leaving out of account federal taxes, the per capita tax burden of all other taxes amounted to \$38.85 in 1922 and to \$57.76 in 1931. This increase amounted to \$18.91 per capita, or about 48 per cent.

In making public the report, Representative Vinson, Democrat, Kentucky chairman of the subcommittee studying the question, said:

"Inasmuch as the report submitted concerns itself almost entirely with presenting the facts, it was unnecessary for the subcommittee on double taxation specifically to approve or disapprove of the report as prepared by the staff of the joint committee. However, we are in substantial agreement with the statements contained therein."

Draw Five Conclusions

These statements included a conclusion by Parker, saying:

"As far as this preliminary report is concerned, it is believed that sufficient has been shown to prove—

"First, that our present system of taxation is complicated, cumbersome, and in many respects inequitable.

"Second, that there are many serious instances of double taxation or duplication in taxation between the federal government and the states.

"Third, that in view of the number of taxes imposed, the tax revenues are disappointing.

"Fourth, that the tax burden, especially on certain specific objects, is reaching the breaking point.

"Fifth, that the expenditures have increased to such a degree as to require their investigation in order to determine whether the public is obtaining value received for the tax dollar."

BEAMAN FACES A THIRD CHARGE

Indicted This Week for the Alleged Attempt To Burn His Home

Thomas E. Beaman, former Free-will Baptist preacher, one time United States commissioner and a fraternal organization worker, head of a detective agency and insurance agent, was indicted this week by a Pitt County grand jury for the alleged burning of his home in Greenville early last Sunday morning. The charge is the third preferred against the man. He was charged with accepting bribes from alleged bootleggers back in December and more recently with collecting insurance premiums and failing to turn them over to his company.

The charge of arson was brought following an investigation of the fire at the home of the former minister by W. A. Scott, Deputy Insurance Commissioner, who filed a complaint with Solicitor D. M. Clark, who presented the bill to the grand jury this week.

Tax Collections Are Better Than in 1932

INCOME TAX FACTS

WHO? Single persons who had net income of \$1,000 or more or gross income of \$5,000 or more, and married couples who had net income of \$2,500 or more, or gross income of \$5,000 or more must file returns.

WHEN? The filing period begins January 1 and ends March 15, 1933.

WHERE? Collector of internal revenue for the district in which the person lives or has his principal place of business.

HOW? See instructions on Forms 1040A and 1040.

WHAT? Four per cent normal tax on the first \$4,000 in excess of the personal exemptions and credits. Eight per cent normal tax on the balance of net income. Surtax on net incomes in excess of \$6,000.

AGED MAN DIES NEAR HAMILTON

John Lawrence Griffin Was Found Dead In Woods Last Tuesday

John Lawrence Griffin, one of the last members of a prominent and well-to-do Halifax County family, fell dead in a woods one-half mile from Hamilton last Tuesday. He was found by his wife a few minutes later holding a saw in one hand and an axe in the other, the body lifeless.

Around 86 years of age, Mr. Griffin was born and reared in Halifax County, the son of Henry and Mary Baker Griffin. Twenty-three years ago he moved to this county and settled in Poplar Point Township. Several years ago he moved to Hamilton, where he had since lived.

He had married three times, the last time about 21 years ago. Seven children were born, one by the first union and six by the second. He had farmed most of his life.

Despite his advanced age, he was able to do some work, and was seeking a load of wood near Hamilton when he fell dead.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. E. C. Shoe Wednesday afternoon. Interment followed in the Baker burial plot in Hamilton.

CONVENTION AT FAIRVIEW

Two-Day Meeting Begins at Christian Church Tomorrow

The Roanoke District convention of the Christian church will be held with the church at Fairview tomorrow and Sunday, it was learned here this week. A number of ministers and others from as far away as Wilson are planning to attend.

The first of the series of sessions will be held at 10 tomorrow morning. Rev. D. W. Arnold will make a short talk, and Dr. H. S. Hilley, of Wilson, will preach at 11:15. Following a short recess for lunch, the convention will continue its program in the afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. A business session will be held at 3 that afternoon. Rev. Roy Respass will preach at 7:30 that evening.

Starting at 10 o'clock Sunday morning with a devotional service, the convention will be brought to a close following a sermon by Rev. Dennis W. Davis.

ROBBER GETS 7 TO 10 YEARS

Joe Berry and T. C. Poole Will Be Tried In This County In March

Joe Berry, alleged robber of the Harrison Wholesale Company store here last November, was sentenced to from 7 to 10 years in prison in the Pitt County Superior Court this week when he was convicted there of complicity in the attempted robbery of banks at Fountain and Winterville. Prayer for judgment was continued in the case charging T. C. Poole with connection with the Winterville robbery.

Berry has already started his sentence, but will be brought here in March to face trial in the Harrison Wholesale robbery case. Poole is now in the jail here awaiting trial. The two men will be tried along with George Bailey, an alleged third party to the robbery here.

HOPE TO REACH HALF WAY MARK BY FEBRUARY 2

Coast Line Pays \$40,520.20 To County Tax Collector Here This Week

Unusual happenings have been reported here and there since January 1, but the most unusual one of all is the tax collection record of Sheriff C. B. Roebuck to date. The sheriff has collected more taxes to date, by a little over \$2,000, than he did last year up to January 26, it was learned from his office yesterday.

Collections jumped from \$40,121.91 last Thursday to \$83,108.59 yesterday, giving the collections for the year an edge of more than \$2,000 over collections for 1931 up to the same date last year. The sheriff was all smiles yesterday afternoon when he compared his records, and declares the worst of the depression is over. Back yonder when the 1932 books were turned over to the officer, he was a bit blue over the outlook. And days passed when collections were next to nothing, but what looked to be a bad beginning turned out to be bright, and the sheriff is calculating on reaching the half-way mark by next Thursday, when the 1 per cent penalty goes into effect.

The record of the sheriff this year is even more remarkable when one considers that there was a marked reduction in the total levy in 1932. For instance, the Coast Line, one of the largest, if not the largest, single taxpayers in the county, paid around \$43,000 into the treasury for 1931. This year that amount was reduced by about \$3,000, it is understood. But with these reductions the total collections this year are greater, making the percentage collected considerably higher than it was last year up to the same time.

A check for \$40,520.20 was received from the Coast Line this week. Of that amount \$33,253.01 goes directly to the county fund. Nearly \$5,000 goes to special school districts, as follows: Oak City, \$968; Parme, \$787.32; Everetts, \$447.46; Jamesville, \$352.88; Dardens, \$351.27; Hassell, \$246.04; Poplar Run, which has been consolidated with Jamesville, \$217.07; Williamston, \$693.45; Sandy Ridge, which is now a part of the local school, \$211.97; and Robersonville \$638.34. More than \$2,000 goes to special roads not including road tax paid direct to Robersonville special road district, as follows: Williamston, \$367.42; Cross Roads, \$639.45; Goose Nest, \$968; and Hamilton, \$378.52, a total of \$2,353.39 for roads and \$4,913.80 for special schools.

"This is a direct aid," he said, "and it is marvelous the per cent of repayment these bankrupt farmers return to the government.

"I do hope that under the administration of this fund, the greatest possible economy may result in order that the maximum amount of benefit will accrue to the farmer."

He referred to the avoidance of duplication of effort with the regional agricultural credit corporations.

Administration of the fund in the past was sharply criticized by Senator King, Democrat, of Utah, who said "During the past year a political organization has been administering the fund and it has not been in the interest of the farmer."

Under the measure as finally passed, the secretary of agriculture may require a borrower to cut his production by as much as 30 percent.

PENALTY SOON GOES INTO EFFECT

More than Fifth of Town's 1932 Tax Levy Has Been Collected

Activities in the office of the town tax collector increased 100 per cent this week when collections jumped up to \$9,419.45, or about one-fifth of the 1932 levy. Several more days are to come before the penalty of one per cent goes into effect, and before that time several thousand more dollars are expected to find their way into the town's treasury.

Collections this week are believed sufficient to put the town's credit in good standing, clearing all interest and bond principal accounts.

The penalty of 1 per cent goes into effect next Thursday, followed by an increase of 1 per cent on March 2.

One Service Sunday At Church of the Advent

The minister of the Church of the Advent announces that there will be morning prayer and sermon Sunday at 11 a. m. The subject of the sermon will be "Hypocrites and Brazen Sinners."

There will be no evening service as Mr. Moseley will be in Hamilton at that time. He will also preach at Holy Trinity mission, near Bear Grass at 3 p. m.

Tom Barnhill Murder Case Continued In Pitt County

The case charging Tom H. Barnhill with killing his ward, Jesse Barnhill, at Flat Swamp church last year, was again continued in the Pitt County Superior Court this week. One of the main witnesses for the state was said to have been sick when the case was scheduled for trial, and another delay was ordered by the court.

MANY FARMERS PLAN TO APPLY FOR SEED LOANS

Is Believed Nearly 1,000 In This County Will Apply For Loans This Year

Instead of approximately 300 applications filed in Martin County last year for crop seed and feed loans, it is believed a number nearer 1,000 will ask for aid under the seed and feed loan act passed by Congress this week and making available \$90,000,000 for what are termed "one-horse" farmers.

Only a flourish of President Hoover's pen remained this week to make the seed loan business a law, and there is no doubt but that the measure will go through. It will be some time, however, before arrangements can be made for the handling of the loans in this and other sections of the country, it is believed.

Hailed by its friends as providing the only adequate source of credit for thousands of purse-pinched farmers, the bill would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to lend a total of \$90,000,000 for use in producing 1933 crops. As a security, the government would take a first lien on the crop.

A similar measure was passed last year and the new bill simply re-appropriates for 1933 a part of the same funds, made available originally out of the Reconstruction Corporation treasury.

Within 24 hours after conferees on the part of the House and Senate agreed on a compromise bill reconciling differences of the two branches, it was approved at both ends of the Capitol. The Senate at first had voted to use the entire remaining balance estimated at \$103,000,000 and the House had limited it to \$75,000,000, but the conferees hit upon the \$90,000,000 figure.

In the brief words of debate that preceded its acceptance in the Senate, marking completion of Congressional action, Senator Smith, Democrat, of South Carolina, its sponsor, hailed the bill as "aid for the 'one-horse' farmer."

"This is a direct aid," he said, "and it is marvelous the per cent of repayment these bankrupt farmers return to the government.

"I do hope that under the administration of this fund, the greatest possible economy may result in order that the maximum amount of benefit will accrue to the farmer."

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Dance at Woman's Club Tonight at Nine O'clock

The local Woman's Club will hold a dance in the club hall tonight, beginning at 9 o'clock, it was announced by a member of the dance committee today.

Big Cotton Crop Grown in This County Last Year

Martin County farmers raised their largest cotton crop in 1932 than for years, according to a recent report released by the Government. Production last year was almost double that of the season before, the report showing that 5,100 bales had been ginned up to January 16 as compared with 2,998 bales ginned to the same date in 1932.

Regular Program Services at Baptist Church Sunday

The Baptists will have their regular schedule of services Sunday. Sunday school at 9:45 o'clock, followed by the morning sermon. Young people's meeting at 6:30, followed by the church service at 7:30.

The general public is invited to these services.

Says It Is A Pleasure To Pay His County Taxes

While on a business trip here yesterday, Mr. J. B. Whitfield, of Oak City, visited the sheriff's office paid his taxes and told the sheriff that it was a pleasure for him to pay his taxes.

Cows on the farm of Bryant Wallin and Lester Price in Madison County returned a pasture rental of \$3.50 to \$4 a head per month after paying the cost of other feed and labor.

Prospect Is For Increased Tobacco Acreage in County

SEVERAL GO TO ROADS FOR NOT PAYING FINES

Either Pay Fines and Costs Are Go To Roads, Judge H. O. Peel Rules

Business is business, so Judge H. O. Peel rules in the county recorder's court. If defendants are unable to pay their fines and the costs, they are given the opportunity to square their debt to society by working the amount out on the roads. Several defendants, fined at a previous session of the court, were sentenced to the roads last Tuesday because they had not complied with the judgments.

And the judge continues to maintain the cash policy as far as it is humanly possible to do so. Last Tuesday he called for fines amounting to \$100. Several cases were continued until next Tuesday.

Having failed to pay the costs in the case charging him with fornication and adultery, Elmer Riddick was sentenced to the roads for a period of 60 days. Jodie Thompson an Will Brayboy, having failed to pay the \$10 fines and costs in the cases charging them with assaults upon females, were also sentenced to the roads for 60 days.

The case charging Spencer Hyman with violating the liquor laws was heard and continued.

Jim Sutton, charged with abandonment and non-support, was sentenced to the roads for 60 days.

Judgment was suspended in the case charging J. R. Davenport with violating the traffic laws.

Charlie Luton was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs for the alleged operation of an automobile while under the influence of liquor.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Jesse Colburn was found not guilty.

John T. Hadley was adjudged guilty of reckless driving and was fined \$50. He appealed to the higher courts, Judge Peel requiring bond in the sum of \$100.

FIRST HERRING IS TAKEN IN BERTIE COUNTY WATERS

Caught January 18; Earliest in Years; Presages Opening of Season in Martin

Mr. Ira Coltrane, of Jamesville, will have to look to his laurels this year. For many seasons past, he has been the first to report catching a herring in this section, but, according to a story in last week's Bertie Ledger, Advance, that honor goes to Guy Smith, of Merry Hill, who landed the first of the season's run Wednesday of last week, catching it in a net in Middle River. Mr. Coltrane, experiencing poor health just at this time, failed to open the smokehouse in the Roanoke this year, as Kader Godard pulled a nice herring out of Martin waters last Tuesday and five more just as good the following day. "The smokehouse has opened down here," the fisherman said yesterday.

The first herrings in the Roanoke are usually reported around February 1st; in fact "the key to the smokehouse door," as the first herring is known in these parts, has been caught for many years by Mr. Coltrane on February 2nd, "Groundhog Day."

The coming of the herring season means more than usual to the people of this county this year, due to the large number of needy unemployed. Many a man can borrow a dip net and a canoe for a few hours and catch enough fish to supply his family for many weeks. The fisheries also give employment to many during the season, which is due to start about the first of March and continues on until late April and sometimes in May. Millions of fish are taken from the yellow waters of the Roanoke, large quantities being "corned" and shipped to markets all over the country. Many more are sold fresh from the water by the various fishermen, and herring constitutes a staple article of food for practically the entire population of Martin County for several months every year.

The story in the Windsor paper follows: "Fresh herrings!

"Maybe that should be a fresh herring, to be perfectly exact. Anyway, the first herring of this year's run has been taken from Bertie County waters.

"It was taken in a net by Guy Smith of Merry Hill, Wednesday, from Middle River.

"This is the earliest catch of her-

TOWN AUTO TAGS

Days of grace have just about expired for local automobile owners who have not purchased new town tags, Chief of Police W. B. Daniel said today. After next Tuesday, owners, who have not purchased the new tags and who continue to operate their cars here will be subject to arrest, the officer said.

Up until noon yesterday, 60 town tags, or about one-fourth the regular number, had been sold. Last year 217 tags were sold here.

ROBBERS ENTER THREE PLACES

Steal Car from Cox Motor Company and Enter the Moore Filling Station

Three small-scale robberies were reported in the county during the past three days. The Robert Moore filling station, located near here on the Hamilton road, was entered last Wednesday night and a quantity of goods, valued at about \$35, was stolen. Thieves entered the Cox Motor Company garage in Robersonville the same night and stole a Ford car and a crockery. Going to the tobacco barn, the thieves stole a bale of cotton from Mr. John A. Powell, near Robersonville, some time Wednesday night.

No arrests have been made in either of the three cases.

Investigating the Moore country store robbery, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck found a crowbar that was later identified as the property of the Cox Motor Company, indicating that the robbers entered the garage first and then robbed the store. The robbers entered a rear door of the garage and are believed to have driven the car to the Moore filling station where they gained an entrance by prizing open the front door. The Ford was found parked yesterday morning in Robersonville about 100 yards from the garage.

Uncoupling the trailer from their car, thieves pushed it to the tobacco barn of Mr. Powell about 100 yards from the highway. The bale of cotton, weighing 600 pounds, was loaded and pushed to the highway, where the trailer was connected. The rogues drove toward Robersonville.

High Spots of Yesterday in the General Assembly

Five features marked yesterday's session of the general assembly with committees busy at work preparing legislation for consideration on the floors. The high spots were:

1. Appropriation committee heard Senator John Sprunt Hill, of Durham, advocate the use of prison labor to produce food and feed supplies to bring about economies in the cost of government.

2. Representatives of bottlers, telegraph, express, household gas and Pullman companies continued the "depression parade" before the joint finance committee and asked lower tax rates instead of increased levies as proposed.

3. Senator Angus D. MacLean, of Beaufort, told the joint education commission it should draft a bill to provide a state supported eight months school term.

4. The house elections committee voted 6 to 4 for an unfavorable report on the proposal to abolish the state's primary law but advocates said they would seek consideration by signing a minority report.

Wreck Victim Recovering in a Greenville Hospital

Charles Topkis, Wilmington, Del., lumber man, injured in an automobile wreck near Robersonville last Monday afternoon, is rapidly recovering in a Greenville hospital, according to reports received here yesterday.

Badly shocked and burned about the head and hands, Mr. Topkis was carried to the hospital in an unconscious condition soon after his car collided with the Pontiac driven by Mr. Hyman Warren, Robersonville Township farmer.

The Delaware man's car was insured against fire, it was said.

ring reported from Bertie waters in a number of seasons.

"According to all the signs and portents, the fishermen say, a good season is in prospect and, where one herring has been taken this month, during the regular season thousands will be taken daily to provide summer food for hundreds of the county's population."

BLUE MOLD MAY CUT ACREAGE TO BE PLANTED

Prospect Is For Increase of Around 50 Per Cent in This County

Unless the blue mold steps in and curtails the crop, there will be a marked increase in tobacco acreage in this county and throughout the entire Bright Tobacco Belt, according to reliable reports coming from more than 100 farmers in this county and a few others well posted with the agricultural situation in adjoining counties.

The estimated increase ranges from 25 to 40 per cent over a normal production year. When questioned this week, one large scale farmer said, "I am going to plant every bit I can. I am frank about it while others say they are going to plant about the same as they did last season. You can expect an increase in over 50 per cent of those cases," the large scale farmer concluded.

Down in Georgia, reliable reports state, the bankers are advising their farmers to plant and cultivate more tobacco, and it now looks as if one of the largest tobacco crops is in the making than at any time since the war. Of course, the blue mold is to be considered.

Down in Georgia again, comes reports that blue mold has already attacked the young plants. The reports were denied, however, but in this state it is generally expected that the blue mold will do more damage this year than it did last season. The crop was considerably decreased by the disease last year.

Farmers in this county are understood to be preparing beds for more than twice and even for more than four times as many plants as they plan to use.

County Agent Brandon has cleaned enough seed to sow a large portion of Martin County already, and farmers continue to visit his office. Two or three farmers are said to have had cleaned as many as one-half bushel of seed each, and a half gallon per farmer is considered a small amount.

A large number, or about one-third of the farmers in this county have already planted their beds for the first time. It has now become the practice to plant, replant and then plant again on one bed to make certain that some of the plants will not be killed by freezing weather.

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS MEET

Will Discuss Farm Matters in Colored School Here Next Wednesday

A farmers' conference for landlords and colored tenants will be held in the colored school building here next Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock, it was announced yesterday by Extension Worker C. R. Hudson, who will have charge of the meeting.

While the meeting is arranged for the promotion of interests of colored farmers, it is open to all who are interested, it was said. Such vital questions as "Getting Out of the Depression," "Causes of the Depression," "Present Status and Outlook," and plans to meet existing conditions will be discussed.

A similar meeting was held in this county last year when a large number of colored tenants made a specialty of trying to live at home. The meeting proved of much value to the tenants and to their landlords. At this time, when landlords are finding it difficult to feed and "carry" their tenants, it is believed that a goodly number of tenants and landlords will attend the meeting here next Wednesday.

Several prominent men from Raleigh and a few from the county will make short talks, and a program of value will be outlined for the tenants, it was announced.

One Preaching Service at Methodist Church Sunday

C. T. Rogers, pastor, Sunday school, 9:45 a. m. Church services, 11 a. m. No service at night. Epworth League Monday, 7:30. Cottage prayer meeting Wednesday 7:30 p. m., at Mrs. Martha Leggett's home on Smithwick Street.

Gospel sermons at all of our church services, "Soul Food."

You are cordially invited to meet with us. Special prayer will be made for the absent members.