

Wage And Hour Law Throws Stemmers In Street On Monday

Most Firms Settle Down to Give New Law a Trial

Buckling their belt a notch tighter, local business, with one or two exceptions settled down yesterday to give the new wage and hour law a fair trial. "We believe the law has good intent, and we are going to cooperate with it if we can," one manufacturing plant operator said today.

Designed to raise the wages of workers to a minimum of 25 cents an hour and hold hours down to 44 each week, the new wage and hour law that went into effect throughout the nation yesterday was hailed as a blessing to the common man. However, dark spots began to appear as tobacco plant operators, mostly independents, dismissed stemmers by the hundreds. "We turned 150 workers into the street," Mr. J. E. King, of the Skinner Company, said here this morning. "We have stopped our logging activities and our plants in Delaware have been closed," Francis Barnes of the Wicomico Lumber Company said yesterday, explaining that sizeable stocks had been made up and were in warehouses awaiting delivery.

Action on the part of tobacco plant operators would indicate that tobacco products will be delivered with stems ere long, reports from Wilson, Greenville, Rocky Mount, Kinston and other towns stating that several thousand stemmers had been thrown out of work on account of the wage and hour law.

Declaring it economic suicide to comply with the wage minimum, tobacco men faced two alternatives: Mechanization of plants or resistance to the interpretation applying the new law to stemmers. An attorney said tobaccoists would contend in a petition to Administrator Elmer F. Andrews that the stemming and redrying process was a part of preparation of an agricultural product for market and hence exempt from interstate commerce provisions.

The wage and hour law only applies to business firms operating in interstate commerce, and does not affect retail, wholesale, farming and allied activities.

A hurried review of the business front here shows that quite a few firms that come under the act have been complying with its provisions even before the law was passed. "We learned a lesson under the old NRA, and we have tried to continue fair practices since that time," an operator of a large local plant said this week.

The wage and hour act was hailed by workers throughout the country as a great blessing to the underdog, and administrators of the law declared that it will protect the thoughtful operator against cut-throats.

Idle Talk Creates Political Interest

Idling around in an off-year election campaign, eastern North Carolina Democrats are beginning to sit up and take notice now that rumors have reached the section maintaining that Jonas is gaining ground on Robert Reynolds in the race for a seat in the United States Senate. While it is admitted that more rumors will have to be heard before this section arouses itself to any great action in the campaign and election at hand, it is apparent that more voters will be counted on Tuesday, November 8, than many expect. However, surprisingly few were expected at the outset to vote in the election.

The Reynolds-Jonas contest is about the only one for Martin County voters to participate in. The Republicans are offering no county ticket. Lindsay Warren is without opposition in the First District House race, and nearly every other Democratic nominee is without an opponent.

The sheriffs are creating much interest in the election by advocating the ratification of an amendment to the State Constitution increasing their term and that of coroners from two to four years.

However, it will take more than Jonas-Reynolds rumors and proposed amendments to the constitution to get out a sizeable vote in this county on Tuesday, November 8, the observers believe.

BAND MAKES HIT

Playing for the First District Democratic rally here this afternoon the Robersonville high school band made a great hit with the crowds.

Farmers May Vote on Tobacco Control Bill on December 10

Martin County farmers are likely to make known their views on tobacco control next December 10, unofficial reports coming out of Washington intimating that the tobacco control referendum would likely be held in conjunction with the cotton program referendum.

The report indicating the tobacco vote would be held that day was based on a statement issued by William Collins, chief of the AAA tobacco section, who said it was probable, the tobacco election would be held then as a dual election would facilitate the voting.

If December 10 is definitely set as the date for holding the tobacco referendum then tobacco farmers in Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia will vote that day.

December 10 has been definitely set as the date for holding the cotton referendum in all the main cotton-growing states.

In Martin County last March, the growers favored tobacco quotas by a vote of 3,063 to 39. Cotton farmers voted for the program, 1,716 to 15. The states offered both crops a substantial support over the two-thirds required majority.

It is thought here that no definite date has been set for the tobacco referendum because officials were hopeful it would be possible to determine and announce poundage quotas for 1939 before the farmers expressed themselves at the polls. The department is still working on quotas for the current year in other states, and it will likely be impossible for them to establish 1939 quotas before December 10.

Sheriffs Working for Four-Year Office Term

SPEAKER



Congressman Lindsay Warren made a stirring address to First District Democrats in a political rally here today at noon.

Farmers Of Bear Grass Participate In AAA Election

Old Committee Re-elected At Meeting Held Last Night

Martin County farmers started setting up the machinery for administering the Agricultural Administration Adjustment program in this county for the coming year last night when those in Bear Grass named community committeemen, alternates and delegates to the county convention. The election was the first of a series to be held in nine of the ten townships in the county, Williamston and Poplar Point voting as a unit in the county agricultural building later in the week.

William Harrison, member of the old committee, again heads the community group and polled the largest vote as a delegate to the county convention. He received 37 votes as community committeeman and 24 for delegate. Sidney Beacham, also re-elected, polled sixteen votes as alternate delegate to the county convention and 29 votes for a place on the community committee. J. D. Wynne, receiving 30 votes, is vice chairman of the community group. He was a member of the old community committee. E. C. Harrison and B. F. Whitehurst, receiving 14 and 12 votes respectively, were named first and second alternates. Only two others, Calvin Ayers and N. R. Rogerson, were nominated. These two men polled over 20 votes each for community committeemen.

The voting was orderly, and while some were a bit disappointed, the final vote was accepted without complaint.

Sixty-two farmers were present for the meeting, but all of them did not participate in the election. More interest was shown in the election than any other previous one, and the farmers listened attentively to County Agent T. B. Brandon who talked about the soil conservation program and the future trend of farming, crop rotations and general farm problems in the county.

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Officers Hold Pep Meeting In County Courthouse Sunday

Amendment to Constitution Has Endorsement of Thousands

Holding a pep meeting among themselves in the county courthouse Sunday morning, eighteen sheriffs from all over eastern Carolina formulated plans for concerted action in their drive for an amendment to the North Carolina State Constitution which would give them four-year terms instead of a term just half that long. While realizing that many voters are more or less indifferent to the fate of the proposed change, the leaders of the sheriffs' association are optimistic and predict the amendment will receive a strong support throughout the state.

Secretary John Morris of the North Carolina Sheriffs' association opened the meeting and after urging the sheriffs to get busy and exercise their influence in support of the measure that assures a better enforcement of the law in the state, introduced John D. Larkins, Jr., chairman of the Citizens' Constitutional Amendment Committee, who spoke to the officers, including one or two coroners.

Chairman Larkins reviewed the strong support pledged the proposed amendment by leading statesmen, judges, officials and prominent leaders throughout the State. The man produced a small pamphlet carrying the endorsements of all State officers, prominent doctors, judges and hundreds of others. The support claimed by the group in behalf of the proposed amendment apparently proves that there will be no organized opposition. "Our biggest handicap is to overcome the fear of changing the constitution, to let the people know the real facts and prove to them that the ratification of the amendment will increase the efficiency of the sheriff's office and result in better enforcement of the laws," Larkins, Jones County lawyer, said as chairman of the Constitutional Amendment committee.

"In 1865 when the State Constitution was written, two-year terms for sheriffs and coroners were considered long enough," Mr. Larkins continued. "At that time, sheriffs had very little to do except politic. Now he works overtime running down criminals, collecting taxes, handling 2,001 other duties and obligations and squeezing in a bid every few months for re-election.

"Our program is well founded," Mr. Larkins continued, pointing out four salient facts. "The office of

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County Man Mysteriously Shot In Tarboro Sunday

James Monroe Everett, young Robersonville man, was mysteriously shot and killed in Tarboro last Sunday evening about 9:30 o'clock. An Edgecombe County coroner's jury ruled that the young man, one time distributor in this county for a patent medicine firm "came to his death as a result of a pistol shot in the forehead inflicted by an unidentified person."

Lewis Ayers, Bernice Whitehurst and Paul Bullock, companions of Everett, said they left the car a few minutes and when they returned he was shot.

Young White Man Facing An Assault Charge In Courts

Leaves Scene of Accident Without Identifying Himself

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon and leaving the scene of an accident without identifying himself, Leon Hall Rawls is now at liberty under a \$1,000 bond. Driving into town Sunday night about 10:30 o'clock, young Rawls is alleged to have run down and struck Mary Clark and Carrie Dell Moore, young colored girls, in front of a dance hall on Washington Street.

The Moore girl was said to have suffered severe injuries, and could not hold her head up yesterday. Her condition is not considered serious, however. The other girl was painfully but not seriously cut on the head. Both were painfully bruised.

Witnesses to the accident were quoted as saying that the two girls started to cross the highway after waiting for a car just in front of Rawls to pass them, that they stepped into the path of the Rawls machine.

Witnesses were also quoted as saying that Rawls stopped the car, but apparently became frightened and left the scene of the accident without identifying himself. He was said to have driven to the Houghton Street intersection, turned north and circled around town, continuing to his home in Bear Grass Township where he was arrested a short time later by officers upon information furnished by witnesses who got the car number.

Bond in the sum of \$1,000 was arranged that night, and the defendant reported for a hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell yesterday morning, but a continuance was ordered by the court pending the outcome of the condition of the injured parties. The hearing has been tentatively set for 10 o'clock next Monday morning.

Hit-and-run charges were apparently left out of the warrant when it was determined by witnesses that Rawls stopped his car and returned to the scene of the accident.

Cotton Crop Almost Total Failure This Year In The County

Crop in Other Counties Is Woefully Short, Reports State

The cotton crop in this county is recognized as almost a complete failure this year, unofficial reports stating that production will run three-fourths or even more behind the 1937 harvest. Last year, Martin County produced in excess of 3,000 bales. Farmers declare not more than 700 bales will be ginned in the county this year, and some are of the opinion that the total production will not exceed 500 bales.

Authoritative reports described conditions in surrounding counties equally as bad and possibly worse in some. Up until last Friday, Washington County had ginned four bales of cotton from the current crop as compared with 700 up until the same date a year ago. The county ordinarily produced fifteen or sixteen hundred bales, agricultural authorities there declaring the production is not expected to exceed fifty bales this year.

A recent report from Halifax County shows that 259 bales were ginned in that county up until October 1, this year, as compared with 4,768 bales up until the same date in 1937.

Over in Northampton County, farmers had up until the first of October ginned 500 bales as compared with 5,000 a year ago.

"We will do well to get 20 bales from around 100 acres," Farmer Lester Everett of the Robersonville community, said a few days ago.

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Local Girl Included Among "Who's Who"

Miss Alta Critcher, young daughter of Attorney and Mrs. B. A. Critcher, of Williamston, was signally honored this week when she was included as one of eight students in Meredith College gaining a place in "Who's Who" among students in American universities and colleges.

The young woman's accomplishments among the Meredith student body and in the school itself earned a place for her in the honor organization.

Several Hundred First District Democrats Hear Lindsay Warren In Big Party Rally Here Today

RECENTLY ELECTED KIWANIS OFFICERS



Elected at a meeting of the organization here last Thursday evening, Messrs. L. B. Wynne, clerk Martin County Superior court, left, and Carter Studdert, attorney, right, will head the local Kiwanis club as president and vice president respectively during the new year.



Party Leaders See Big Landslide In State November 8

Lindsay C. Warren Delivers Address to Democrats Of 14 Counties

Half thousand attending a First Congressional District Democratic rally here today listened to glowing reports from every nook and corner of fourteen counties and heard party leaders plead for a big November 8 vote to offset republican gains, if any, in the west.

Numbers of speakers appeared on the program today, with Gregg Cherry, chairman of State democratic executive committee, and all pledged a large vote to the democrats in the west in the absence of opposition down east.

Mrs. W. B. Murphy, vice chairman of the state democratic executive committee; Libby Ward, secretary; A. J. Maxwell, Harry McMullan, Congressman Graham Barden and others briefly addressed one of the most enthusiastic pep meetings ever held here by members of the democratic party.

Opened by Herbert Bonner, of the Congressional executive committee, the meeting took on the air of one big happy family, harmony reigning as encouraging reports were heard from all counties in the unit. Mayor J. L. Hassell welcomed the group, and Gregg Cherry, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, took charge of the meeting Mr. Cherry warned First District Democrats, now idle, to be on the watch for the enemy, and keep organizations in readiness for opposition. "There's great activity among the Republicans in the west," he declared, but the able chairman seemed to forget all about the Republicans and opposition as he heard the glowing reports describing democratic strength in every one of the fourteen counties in Congressman Warren's district.

Mrs. W. B. Murphy, addressing the meeting as vice chairman of the State committee, urged the women to see that those coming of age have their names on the registration books, and work for another landslide for the party next month.

Libby Ward, the committee secretary, admitted to the group that "the west is worried and is looking to the east to give them a majority." He urged eastern Democrats to swell the majority.

Chairmen of the several county Democratic executive committees painted a bright picture of the Democratic party in the district. All the counties were heard from, the representatives predicting sizeable majorities on November 8. The reports were heard with marked interest, and were recognized as a good tonic to the party leaders coming from those areas bordering the disputed grounds.

The Young Democrats of the State were recognized through their leader, Gordon Gray, of Winston-Salem. "The first district is poorly organized, but that'll be corrected," he said in pointing out that the organization was gaining strength in other sections of the State.

Congressman Graham Barden, of the Third District, addressed the group and paid a high tribute to his colleague, Congressman Warren. J. M. Broughton predicted Mr. Warren will become speaker of the National House of Representatives as did others who referred to the leadership of the First District congressman as the strongest in Washington.

Commissioner of Revenue A. J. Maxwell was pinch hitter for both the State and Federal administrations, referring to the enviable record maintained by the people's government. Blasting the opposition, Mr. Maxwell said, "The Republicans have not put a finger on one piece of New Deal legislation that they would repeal. The New Deal has advanced a new conception of government, and there will be no going back to the policies of Herbert Hoover," he declared.

Secretary of State Thad Eure spoke briefly and others spoke. In fact, it was a time for the party leaders to let off steam and transmit it to others in support of a Democratic victory next month.

Warren's Address
Suffering from sinus and eye
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File Suits Result Of Two Fatal Auto Wrecks In County

Plaintiffs Are Asking Total Of \$35,000 in the Two Suits

Two sizeable damage suits were filed, one in the Martin Superior court and the other in Edgecombe County, last week as a result of fatal auto-truck wrecks in this county. The combined suits alleged total damages in the sum of \$35,000.

Acting as administrator, J. E. Pope is suing Homer Glosston, J. C. Whitehead and W. M. Bingham for \$10,000 damages alleged to have resulted when Isaiah Hardison, Jamesville Township colored man, was fatally injured near Dardens on the night of September 14, this year. The complaint filed by Attorney Henry D. Hardison in the courts of this county, alleges.

"Homer Glosston, servant or agent of the co-defendants Whitehead and Bingham, was operating a motor truck and semi-trailer on Highway No. 64 leading from Jamesville to Plymouth under the influence of liquor, and was driving truck in a reckless, careless and negligent manner and at a rate of speed in excess of that allowed by law, and was not keeping a proper look-out for other cars or pedestrians.

"That on September 14, 1938, Isaiah Hardison was walking along the highway towards Jamesville from the Piney Woods filling station about 9:30 o'clock to his wife and children, and that Homer Glosston ran over him with truck inflicting injuries that proved fatal, that Defendant Glosston failed to stop."

The complaint also alleges that the co-defendants wrongfully entrusted Glosston with the motor truck at all times, "notwithstanding they should have known that Glosston was addicted to the excessive use of intoxicating liquor; that he was a reckless, incompetent and irresponsible driver."

C. H. Leggett, collector of the estate of Minnie Davis, deceased, is suing Jasper G. Davis, Shields Company, Inc., and Chas. J. Shields, trading as Shields Company for \$25,000 damages alleged to have resulted when Mrs. Davis and her

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District Meet Of Legion Auxiliary Held Nov. 16

The Fourth District American Legion Auxiliary will meet in Woodland on November 16th according to announcement of Mrs. H. L. Swain, first area chairman. The meeting will begin at one o'clock with a dutch dinner and then the business will be handled.

Mrs. Herbert Taylor, department president and Miss Aurelia Adams, department secretary, will be present and take part in the meeting. All members of the Auxiliary of Martin County are invited to be present.

The time of this meeting was changed from Nov. 2nd to 16th because the state officers found they could not be present at the time first set.

SURVEY

Preliminary plans were discussed by Martin County school principals and educational authorities in session here yesterday for a survey of illiteracy in the county. No plans for the survey were announced, but the study will be centered among those illiterates above ten years of age.

The last census shows that 16 per cent of the adult population in Martin County is illiterate.

A. C. J. Officials Announce Change In Train Schedule

New Schedule Offers Little Added Inducement to Travelers

A change in the schedule of the Atlantic Coast Line passenger train operating through here each morning was effected last Sunday, the action having been taken without notice to the general public.

The schedule has been delayed one hour, it was learned. Leaving Plymouth at 10:50, the morning train reaches Williamston at 11:35 and stops at Tarboro at 1:10 p. m. The return schedule remains unchanged. Leaving Tarboro at 3:30 p. m., the train is scheduled to reach Williamston at 4:48, but it generally runs from a few minutes to more than an hour late. Heavy mails and express shipments coming in from the main lines are said to cause the delayed schedules on the return trip from Tarboro to Plymouth.

No marked advantage follows the schedule change as far as passenger service is concerned. It merely shortens the wait at Tarboro by one hour. A passenger going to Norfolk leaves Williamston at 11:35. He reaches Tarboro that afternoon at 1:10, and waits until 3:00 o'clock for a connection to Norfolk. The Virginia City is reached that evening at 6:15 o'clock. If a passenger is going to Rocky Mount by train, he only waits from 1:10 to 1:55, reaching Rocky Mount at 2:25.

Schedules for trains operating on other branch lines in this section have also been changed.

Effected at a meeting of railroad officials and representatives of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce in Greenville a few days ago, the change in schedules offers little inducement to train travelers. Just why the schedule was not delayed so as to render unnecessary wait in Tarboro, the announcement offers no explanation. Apparently it is possible, it has been pointed out, for the train to leave Plymouth at about 11:35, pass through here 45 minutes later and reach Tarboro at 1:55, making direct connection with the Norfolk-Wilmington train.

ENJOY MEETING

First Congressional District Democrats, meeting in annual session here today, were free in their praise of Williamston for the reception accorded them. A delightful dinner was enjoyed at the Sunny Side Inn, Martin Democrats matching their strong party strength with a bountiful meal.