

Says Cultivation Of Honesty Needed To Correct Vote Evils

Corrupt Election Practices Offer State Serious Problem

"The cultivation of honesty and decency will offer about the only solution to the corrupt practices surrounding the political elections in this State," Mr. Sylvester Peel, chairman of the Martin County Board of Elections said last week in commenting on the proposed changes in the election laws in the current General Assembly.

"The problem is far more serious than many of us think," Mr. Peel continued, pointing out that many people whose names are now on the registration books had the promise of the State that they would never have to register again. The county elections official is of the opinion that a new registration will give rise to more problems than there are now. To abolish the absentee ballot in its entirety would be contrary to the constitution which guarantees every man the right to vote, provided he can meet certain qualifications and he is held at home by illness, it would be contrary to the constitution to deny him the ballot," the elections official reasoned. On those grounds, the chairman of the elections board in this county expressed himself in favor of retaining the absentee voting system.

Mr. Peel is in perfect accord with the movement to lift the widespread corruption from around the ballot box, and believes it can be done without a new registration and without abolishing the absentee ballot.

He would call for a complete revision of the registration books. The names of voters who have passed away or moved to other states would be removed from the list by the county election board or some other designated authority. New laws governing the distribution of absentee ballots would be passed, and the names of absentee voters would be published in county papers before the election with notice to the general public to report any apparent irregularities.

It was pointed out that possibly as many as four or five hundred people whose names are now on the registration books could not be put back again if a new registration were called, and that a new registration would add hundreds of names that are not now on the books.

"But, after all," Mr. Peel said, it is impossible to have clean elections unless honesty and decency are cultivated on a greater extent than in the past."

Mr. Peel, now nearing his eighties recalled with pride the record maintained at the ballot-box in this county under him as chairman of the board of elections. "We have made mistakes, but the elections officials and the voters have been honest and fair in preparing for and participating in elections, and it is difficult for us in this county to understand how there could be so many evils surrounding the ballot box in other sections of the State."

H. G. Horton Gets Committee Places

His wings partially clipped because he took a definite stand in the speakership race in the State House of Representatives, H. G. Horton, Martin representative, nevertheless drew some important committee assignments this week at the hands of D. L. Ward, speaker.

While he does not head any of the committees as chairman, Representative Horton holds membership in the powerful finance committee. He is also a member of the following committees: Judiciary No. 2, Elections and Election Laws, Unemployment Compensation, Education, Higher Education, Corporations, Deaf and Dumb.

Mr. Horton, it was generally believed, would have landed the chairmanship of the strong appropriations committee had his candidate, Victor Bryant, of Durham, gained the speakership.

Nine Marriage Licenses Issued First Nine Days

The new year is off to a good start in the Martin County marriage license bureau, Register J. Sam Getzinger stating late yesterday that the office had averaged one sale each day for the first nine in the year.

Patronage is coming principally and almost entirely from the colored population. Out of the first nine licenses issued, eight of them were for colored couples.

Application for \$72,000 Loan From Government Approved

An application for a \$72,000 from the federal government for financing a general improvement program was approved by the Atlanta office last Saturday, the action giving a new hope for the project that was virtually abandoned a few days before.

The application was approved without qualifications, but the unsuccessful execution of the program now rests with the Public Works Administration office in Washington. Under the old law the government made a direct grant of \$52,200 to the town on condition that work on the program was to be started before January 1. The town was planning to float \$72,000 in bonds to match the \$52,200 grant, but refused to pay the rate of interest charged by private bond companies. Considerable delay was experienced and the application to the government for the \$72,000 loan at 4 per cent

was made after the deadline. The PWA fund was not depleted, but it was the opinion of the Atlanta office that all money not contracted for by January 1 would be returned to the treasury. However, it is possible that the PWA will be continued by the present Congress, and if it is then the loan will go through at 4 per cent, and the work on the program should get underway within two or three months.

If that portion of the PWA fund that was not used is returned to the treasury, and Congress makes no provision for continuing the agency then it is quite apparent that the proposed \$124,000 improvement program here will fall through.

Postal Receipts Reach Record Figure Locally

REBATES

Farmers of this county will have until Saturday of this week to file their claims for tax rebates paid on gasoline used in farm work during the past quarter. Mr. G. H. Harrison, of the Harrison Oil Company, announced today.

These rebates run well into the hundreds of dollars, but to get them, farmers must file proper claims. The Harrison Oil Company has the proper forms for filing the claims and the management will assist the farmers in preparing the forms, it was stated.

Senators Of Second District Placed On Many Committees

William B. Rodman and D. Bradford Fearing, State senators from this, the second senatorial district, drew many committee assignments at the hands of Lieutenant W. P. Horton, president of the senate, last week.

Senator Rodman, assigned the chairmanship of the power appropriations committee, holds a ranking position in the upper house and shares with Senator Fearing in the memberships of various other committees. Senator Fearing heads the committee on institutions for the deaf, and holds membership on the powerful appropriations committee.

The Washington senator was placed on most of the important committees, and possibly has a record when it comes to the group assignments. His second term ranks him at the top. The Dare senator did not do so bad as he holds membership on important committees.

Besides being chairman of the appropriations committee, Senator Rodman is a member of the following committees: Judiciary, Election Laws, Education, Constitutional Amendments, Manufacturing, Labor and Commerce, Public Welfare, Unemployment Compensation, Rules, Insurance, Public Utilities, Commercial Fisheries, Courts and Judicial Districts, Trustees of the University, Consolidated Statutes, Rules, Water Commerce, Congressional Districts, Railroads, Senatorial Districts, and Military Affairs. Mr. Rodman, an attorney and representative of a public utility, is well acquainted with the tasks assigned him on most of the committees.

In addition to heading the Committee on Institutions for the Deaf, Senator Fearing is a member of the following committees: Appropriations, Election Laws, Constitutional Amendments, Public Welfare, Insurance, Conservation and Development, Commercial Fisheries, Engrossed Bills, Institution for the Blind, Caswell Training School, Federal Relations, Journal, Justices of the Peace, Library, and Claims.

Able To Be Out

John Frank Allsbrooks, young son of Officer and Mrs. J. H. Allsbrooks who was painfully injured when struck by an automobile on East Main Street here December 29, is able to be out today, and is getting along all right.

Business Increase Is Small, However, During Past Year

Total Business For Period Almost Totals \$21,000.00

Postal receipts reached an all-time high record in the Williamston office last year when stamp sales approximated \$21,000 and general activities were greatly increased. "We have just completed one of the busiest years in the local office," Postmaster Leslie T. Fowden said. Stamp sales totaled \$20,721.76 for the period, the postmaster explaining that the handling of thousands of small denomination stamps was necessary to bring in that much cash.

In 1937, the local office reported an increase in business of approximately \$3,000, and when 1938 rolled in, Postmaster Fowden well realized that his office would do well to maintain that record. Adverse conditions after the markets opened last fall caused concern, but the office continued to hold its own and at the close of business on December 31 it showed an increase of \$19,077. Postmaster Fowden, after considering conditions as they existed during the year, was about as proud of that gain—for it was a gain, after all—as he was over the approximately \$3,000 increase the year before.

After experiencing a marked decrease in stamp sales in the first quarter of last year, the office started gaining in the second quarter and forged ahead during the few days just before Christmas. Thousands of 1-cent stamps were sold in a single day, and the office handled on an average of 21,000 letters and cards daily, for almost a week before Christmas.

Comparative records of stamp sales by quarters in 1937 and 1938 are, as follows:

Quarter	1937	1938
First	\$ 5,197.34	\$ 4,724.61
Second	4,654.82	5,000.31
Third	4,897.10	4,889.37
Fourth	6,043.43	6,102.47
Totals	\$20,792.69	\$20,721.76

The fact that the postal receipts remained virtually the same during 1938 as compared with 1937 indicates that general business about held its own considering many unfavorable factors common to this immediate section.

For the first time in a number of years, the money order business showed a decline at the local office. Several big sales at home are thought to have affected the money order business. According to the records, the money order business totaled \$113,391.06 in 1938 as compared with \$134,676.20, a decrease of \$21,285.14.

Postmaster Fowden said that the small office was crowded during the entire year, that additional help was needed. "However, we are looking forward to better facilities for serving the public when the new building now well under construction is completed," Mr. Fowden added.

Junior Woman's Club Will Hold Regular Meeting

Tonight at eight o'clock the Junior Woman's Club will hold their regular meeting at the Woman's Club. All members are urged to attend.

Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Group In Session

County Branch Has Nearly Million Dollars in Force

Making marked gains during the past year and showing an unusually strong financial rating, the Martin County Branch of the North Carolina Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance held a meeting of its membership in the county courthouse last Saturday morning. The session attracted no large attendance, but the representative group handled the business before the meeting and formulated plans and policies for the operation of the branch during the new year.

The report of the secretary-treasurer, James L. Coltrain, proved very interesting in that it showed the association to be in the strongest financial condition since it was organized years ago. At the present time, Mr. Coltrain's report shows, there are 600 policyholders in the association with approximately \$800,000 of insurance in force. During 1938, the association reported a gain in business of between seventy-five and one hundred thousand dollars, the total business nearing an all-time record.

According to the secretary's annual report, the association had an exceptionally successful year in 1938. During the period, losses were limited to around \$750 and expenses, including salaries, were held to a minimum of around \$400.

Placing an assessment of only 50 cents on each \$100 insurance, the company increased its reserve fund to almost \$9,000 during the year. Four years ago, the association started the new year with no balance in its reserve fund. "Fortune has been good to us, and today we are approaching the goal of \$10,000 set five years ago," Mr. Sylvester Peel, president of the local unit of the association, said following the meeting Saturday.

James L. Coltrain who has faithfully served the association in the past as secretary-treasurer, was re-elected to that position, and he is now in his 27th term. Mr. Sylvester Peel enters upon his fifth term as president of the association, and Mr. Joseph S. Griffin continues as vice president.

The old board of directors, including Messrs. W. B. Harrington, S. T. Everett, W. M. Green, Joshua L. Coltrain, W. S. Rhodes, S. T. Woolard and Joseph S. Griffin was re-elected for the new year.

Secretary Coltrain and Mr. S. T. Everett were named delegates to attend the annual meeting of the State Association to be held in Raleigh on the 19th of this month.

After a short discussion of the problem, the meeting unanimously voiced itself against abolishing the individual units of the association and combining them into one State organization. The secretary pointed out while there were possibly some advantages to be gained by combining all the units into one association for the State, the costs for such an organization would be far greater than are now in the individual units, certainly in Martin County. The delegates to the State meeting were instructed to oppose any action proposing to consolidate the several branches.

The board of directors and officers of the association are scheduled to hold a business meeting here on Tuesday of next week for a discussion of several problems now facing the organization.

Youths Leave For Civilian Camps

Nine Martin County youths left here early this morning for Washington where they will take examinations for entrance in the Civilian Conservation Corps. There are openings for only six, County welfare authorities explaining that the three alternates might gain places if the other counties in this district fail to fill their quotas.

More than fifty applications were received from youths in this county. The CCC is receiving white youths only in the present enrollment.

The boys leaving this morning for the camp were: Robert E. Roberson, of Robersonville; Allen Warren, Jr., of Oak City; Herbert Linwood Bunting, of Parrale; LeRoy Martin, Williamston R. F. D. 3; Charles Buie Rogerson, Williamston R. F. D. 2; Jesse Bell Harrison, Williamston R. F. D. 1; Bonnie Haywood Dail, Hassell; William Edgar Price, Hamilton; and G. B. Edmondson, Williamston R. F. D. 3.

Successful candidates will be located in one of three camps, New Holland, Manteo, or Washington.

County Farm Bureau Plans Big Membership Drive in Preparation For Any Price Emergency In Fall

Strong Farm Organization Will Brighten Fall Outlook

Discussing the farm situation at a meeting of Martin County Farm Bureau members here last evening, farm leaders were of the opinion that the building up of a strong organization of farmers now would brighten the price outlook for next fall. "If we can perfect a strong organization of tens of thousands of farmers now and have it ready to strike should any emergency present itself, we can look to the fall marketing season with a greater assurance of fair prices than we could if we sit idly by and wait for someone else to fight our battle," it was pointed out.

The government places aside around 30 per cent of customs receipts to bolster farm prices, and the tobacco farmers are already looking to that fund as their one main hope for help when the record crop, now being planned, starts moving to market next fall. A strong

organization can be of great value to agriculture now in that it can work for increased benefit payments under the soil conservation program. "Control has been defeated, but we are not licked yet, and we must fight harder now than ever," farm leaders said at the meeting in addressing an appeal to every Martin County farmer to support the Farm Bureau membership drive now underway in this county.

"Industry is represented in the State Legislature and the National Congress. Let us get busy and support a representative of our own there," farm leaders declared.

"With a strong organization ready and able to act next fall, it is not assuming too much to say that credit sources that are now frozen almost tight would begin to thaw out. Merchants could look to the future with more optimism, and general conditions would be better," it was pointed out.

Albemarle Church Group in Annual Meet Here Today

Presbyterians Gather in Local Church This Morning at 10:45

The Presbytery of Albemarle opened its mid-winter session in the auditorium of the Presbyterian Church of Williamston at 10:45 this morning with the following elders and ministers present: elders, J. T. Lawrence of Leggetts, John H. Roberson of Williamston, E. Y. Joyner of Rocky Mount, Tillet of Elizabeth City and others. The ministers present were: J. C. Whitley of LaGrange, H. K. Dudley of Kinston, Hugh Scott of Goldsboro, H. R. McFadyen of Pinetops, H. M. Wilson of Farmville, J. T. Wildman of Parrale, J. A. Satterfield of Rocky Mount, J. Ray Dickens of Macesfield, E. C. Lynch of Wilson, and J. Norton Dendy of Tarboro, N. C.

After the singing of Hymn 323, "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us," the Presbytery was led by prayer by Rev. H. K. Dudley. Following the prayer Rev. Hugh Scott called the Presbytery to order. In the absence of Rev. R. E. McClure of New Bern, who is the stated clerk of the Presbytery and who is studying in the Union Theological Seminary of Richmond, in Virginia during the month of January, the Rev. H. K. Dudley, permanent clerk, presided.

The Rev. Z. T. Piephoff of Williamston, welcomed the Presbytery to Williamston and the moderator responded.

The first item of business was the dismissal of the Rev. R. C. Grady, late pastor of the Presbyterian church in Greenville to Cleveland Presbytery of Ohio.

Presbytery then voted to give 2 1/2 per cent of its regular benevolent askings for 1939-40 to the Committee of Religious Education for work among the Presbyterian Students at State College, the University of North Carolina, North Carolina Teachers College, East Carolina Teachers College and other State institutions.

The Presbytery then approved a number of changes in the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of the

Firemen Effect Makeshift In Answering Call Today

With the town's fire truck temporarily out of commission, local firemen were handicapped and puzzled when a call was received from the colored section of Warren Street at 11:30 this morning.

Placing several extinguishers in private cars and a few hundred feet of hose in a town garbage truck, the volunteers hurried to Warren Street to find the fire out upon their arrival.

The truck was out of commission while mechanics were making repairs to the clutch. The machine is now ready for operation, but Fire Chief Hall stated that a new clutch would be necessary.

Confined to a small grass plot on West Warren Street, the fire did no damage.

INCREASE

An increase of 30 per cent in the 1939 tobacco transplanting over those for 1939 was predicted over the week-end by State farm leaders. The prediction was made following a survey conducted in most of the tobacco-growing counties in this section.

While an increase in the crop is anticipated in this county, Martin farmers are not expected to go that far in an expansion program this coming season.

Tobacco Remains Under Conservation Setup Despite Vote

E. Y. Floyd Explains That Farmers Can Still Earn Payments

E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer at State College, reminds North Carolina farmers that the vote rejecting tobacco marketing quotas did not affect the agricultural conservation program for tobacco.

"Each tobacco grower can earn a payment on the normal production of his acreage allotment by planting within the allotment, unless he also grows cotton and knowingly overplants his cotton allotment," Floyd said.

"In that case he cannot receive a conservation payment on cotton, tobacco or any other crop, or for carrying out soil-building practices if he knowingly overplants his cotton allotment in a year when cotton marketing quotas are in effect. Cotton quotas for 1939 were approved in the referendum December 10.

The Triple-A official also said it was important for tobacco growers to remember that if they overplant their tobacco acreage allotments under the conservation program they run the risk of losing all of their conservation payments on cotton and other crops.

"If a tobacco grower overplants," he said, "deductions will be made from his tobacco payment. The deduction will be made not only from the payment calculated on the normal production of his tobacco allotment, but also from the conservation payment that otherwise might be due on cotton, peanuts and other crops and for soil-building practices.

"This means that the tobacco grower who overplants stands the risk of having such a large deduction that he will not get any conservation payment on any crop or for any soil-building practice carried out."

Car Stolen In Stokes Is Recovered Here Sunday

A 1935 V-8 Ford stolen in Stokes was recovered here Sunday afternoon by Patrolman H. W. Rothrock. Arthur Mayo, young colored boy, who was alleged to have stolen the car from his grandfather, was arrested and jailed. Mayo was later turned over to Pitt County authorities.

Well-Known County Farmers Heading Drive For Members

Tobacco Belt Is Lining Up Forces For Action Next Fall

Apparently anticipating a drop in tobacco prices, North Carolina Farm Bureau officials are recruiting the forces of the organization for action if any emergency presents itself next fall when a new leaf crop goes on the market. Refusing to remain idle and accept their fate without murmur, a large group of Martin farmers met in the agricultural building here last night, and showing a keen interest and a willingness to act, mapped plans to build up a strong organization and be prepared should starvation prices face them in the zero hour.

Two teams, one headed by Farmer Van Taylor and the other by Farmer Charlie Daniel, have started work recruiting forces of the Farm Bureau in this county, and indications point to a hot and interesting contest between now and the latter part of the month.

Attending his second meeting in the county within the past few days, J. T. Cooper, Farm Bureau field representative, appealed to the farmers to get behind the organization and be prepared for any emergency. "Get behind your organization now and let those who may have to go to Washington next fall that they have your support," Mr. Cooper said, explaining that the farmer is facing a period similar to that of 1933. He added that the Farm Bureau, while devoting much attention to tobacco and prices, is interested in the general welfare of the farmer, and that the North Carolina unit will meet in Raleigh on Thursday of this week for a discussion of State legislation.

"With control defeated, there is some hope to be found in the fund created from custom receipts, and if tobacco prices are low next fall, we will need some of that money," Mr. Cooper continued. "But we will need help in advancing any claim to that money," he added, explaining that by liberally supporting the Farm Bureau it will be possible to turn to that organization.

The danger facing the tobacco farmer was pointed out by Mr. Cooper when he said that on a single farm in Georgia twenty new tobacco barns are being constructed, and that south of Wilson and Kinston, farmers are planning an increase of from 30 to 60 per cent in their crops.

"Men, let's act now and not wait," he appealed to the group of leading county farmers. The fight was on, and Mr. C. L. Daniel, taking the floor, said, "I hope we will not do as the prodigal son did, and wait until we get down with the hogs and eat hushes from the corn before we do something. There is no doubt but what we need a strong farm bureau and I appeal to every farmer in the county to get behind the movement."

Farm Bureau President C. A. Roberson

Two Face Larceny Charge In Courts

Edward Lingo and Joseph Gardy, two young white men, were returned here last Friday from Hazletton, Pa., for trial in the Martin County Superior Court in a case charging them with the larceny of two motorcycles. They were accompanied from the Pennsylvania City by Captain Farmer and W. S. Hunt of the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

Lingo, 25, and Gardy, 21, are alleged to have stolen the motorcycles from Jimmie Smith, thrill driver at the Williamston Fair here last September. The two young men maintain they were working for Smith and that he owed them money. When they loaded the motorcycles on a truck and started for Kinston, the two went to Pennsylvania. According to court records, the two men were working for Austin C. Wilson, promoter for the Jimmie Smith thrill shows.

Upon their return here, they were placed under \$500 bonds, and unable to raise that amount they were placed in jail. Bond will be arranged within the next day or two however, it was learned.