

## CITY TAX COLLECTOR NOT "SHORT" IN ACCOUNTS

**THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN IN SESSION LAST THURSDAY NIGHT FORMALLY DECIDED THAT UNPAID LICENSE TAXES ARE NOT TO BE COLLECTED AND TAKE NO ACTION REFLECTING UPON MR. BERRY.**

The charge was made some time ago, in public print, that City Tax Collector Milton W. Berry was short in his accounts. The report was wholly untrue and almost unfounded. The board of aldermen, or no member of it, ever accused Mr. Berry of misappropriation of funds or of dishonesty of any sort. But the board did take action ordering Mr. Berry to collect license taxes to the amount of nearly fifteen hundred dollars which, they declared were due and unpaid; thus implying that Mr. Berry had either been negligent in the performance of his duty or guilty of discrimination in the matter of collecting license tax. At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen last Thursday night action was taken which means that the attempt to collect the "unpaid" taxes will be abandoned.

Here is the story in detail of how the matter came up and of what has since occurred: Some time ago there was brought to the attention of the board, through one of its members, the fact that there was a falling off in the collection of license taxes to the amount of \$1,458.00 in the year 1911 as compared with 1910. The fault, it was believed, might lie with the City Tax Collector and an investigation was begun.

The first investigation report was to the effect that Mr. Berry had failed to collect license taxes to the amount of \$1800 or \$2000. Some of this, perhaps, there was then no way of collecting, but the members of the investigating committee claimed that it was still possible to save for the city something over a thousand dollars. And Mr. Berry was ordered to collect these back taxes.

But Mr. Berry denied that he had in any way been derelict in his duty or that it was possible to collect anything like the amount that the board specified. He demanded an investigation to definitely establish the claims of the board or to vindicate himself. This demand the board granted, and a committee was appointed to examine Mr. Berry's books.

Just here it became apparent that that board did not have the keenest and confidence that had been theirs when the matter was first taken up. They showed a disposition to let the investigation drop, and probably would have left matters resting just where they were, had not Mr. Berry insisted upon a definite report from the investigating committee.

Various meetings were held and Mr. Berry says that when the state machinery act was compared with the city license act it began to appear that certain license taxes could not be legally collected; that, in this way, and from the fact that many items entered for collection had already been paid the amount that the aldermen were going to save the city by withholding until here was practically nothing to it. At any rate the final meeting was held on last Thursday night. The board seemed hardly to know how to meet the situation, but after going over each item again a motion was made to excuse Mr. Berry from further collection of the unpaid license taxes. To this motion Mr. Berry's attorney offered objection, on the ground that the word "excuse" would imply that Mr. Berry was at

fault. The motion was accordingly changed, and the wording made to imply that it was tax-payers and not Mr. Berry who should be excused. At any rate the motion makes it apparent that it is the purpose of the board to push their investigation no further and that they are unwilling to go on record as censuring Mr. Berry in any way. Statistics gathered and compiled by Mr. Berry indicate that his efficiency last year was the real cause of the bad light in which the board of aldermen had placed him. The following are statistics prepared by Mr. Berry and furnished to the board. In the first table of figures it is shown that Mr. Berry has collected a larger sum from license taxes in the last two years than have ever been collected in an equal period of the city's history. In the second table the exact items to which the loss of revenue during 1911 is due are set forth.

LICENSE TAXES collected for the past ten years:

YEAR.	AMT.
1900	\$2,624.62
1901	2,865.31
1902	2,987.84
1903	2,456.82
1904	2,776.25
1905	2,477.50
1906	2,462.50
1907	2,734.50
1908	3,024.00
1909	2,777.50
1910	4,243.00
1911	2,785.00

Itemized Statement of Losses in Revenue and License Taxes

Loss on acct of lower rate	\$1108.12
Judgement against county in 1910	3,680.09
Loss in	
Restaurant licenses	161.00
Butcher's licenses	300.00
Near Beer licenses	300.00
Plumber's licenses	50.00
Show's licenses	165.00
Livery Stable's licenses	50.00
Bicycle license	20.00
Pool Table license	25.00
Junk Dealer's license	20.00
Cigarette Dealer's license	25.00
Sign Painter's license	36.50
Fish Peddler's license	12.00
Coal Dealer's license	20.00
Ship Broker's license	10.00
Retail fish dealers license	70.00
Pistol Dealer's license	10.00
Laundry's license	15.00
Hotel license	25.00
Pressing Club license	20.00
J. B. Thomas collected less	137.37
Judge Sawyer's court less	166.07
Loss from cut'g weeds, etc.	163.00
Loss from pick up tax	102.11
Loss of	
Bottling Work's license	25.00
Boat Block license	14.00
Electrician's license	25.00

### BROTHERS-PUCKETT

Mr. Wilson I. Brothers and Miss Ella Puckett, the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Puckett of this city were united in marriage in Norfolk last Monday evening at four o'clock. Rev. Dr. Smith performed the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Brothers are spending some time in Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia on an extended wedding trip.

Mr. Brothers is a prominent young grocer of this city. He is well known in both business and social circles and is held in high esteem. Mrs. Brothers is a highly cultured young lady; is well known and is popular in a large circle of friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Brothers will make their home in this city.

### DEDICATORY SERVICES

Blackwell Memorial church will hold a series of dedicatory services beginning on Sunday morning January 28th.

## THE WEEK IN TYRRELL

**MUCH BUSINESS BLOCKED BY BITING COLD; BUT SKATING AND SLEIGHING MAKE THE HOURS PASS MERRILY AND HOG-KILLING AND DUCK SHOOTING ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY—PEOPLE THAT COME AND GO.**

On account of the extreme cold the Branning Manufacturing Company have shut down their mill. It is impossible to get logs from the woods.

Ducks have been plentiful on Scuppernon river this week, owing to the cold, rough weather. Some of the boys have done some good shooting.

The young people of our town enjoyed last Sunday snowballing, skating and sleigh-riding.

On account of the freezing weather work has been stopped on the new bank building which is now under construction. Work will soon be resumed, however, and the building, it is hoped, completed in the near future.

The roads of the county have been in very bad condition, so much so that the Gum Neck mail has missed making its trip several days this week.

The weather is the roughest seen here for many seasons, but it doesn't get too cold for Tyrrell farmers to kill hogs, and ship them. Many are still letting them go.

A large number of our farmers, too, are holding cotton for higher prices. We are glad to see that the price is gradually working up, and we believe we'll get fifteen cents yet.

Mr. W. H. Hall, principal of the Columbia High School, returned Sunday night from Greenville, N. C., where he has been attending the meeting of county superintendents.

Mr. Clyde Stallings, of Washington N. C., is in town this week visiting friends.

Miss A. L. DeLon, after spending a delightful visit with Mrs. C. W. Tatum on Water Street, left Tuesday for Plymouth, N. C.

Mr. A. J. Cohoon was in Tyrrell this week on his regular trip.

Mr. C. A. Etheridge and Miss Etha Dutcher of Currituck county, after spending a very pleasant visit with friends and relatives here, have returned home.

Miss Lida Taft has accepted a position with the Mercantile and Farmers Bank.

Mr. Harper Woodard, of Boundside, has gone to Elizabeth City this week on business.

Misses Mildred Johnson, Lula Jones and Eleanor Chesson spent several days in Roper this week visiting Miss Carrie Clagon and the Misses Ella and Margaret Harrington. They report as having a very pleasant time indeed.

Mr. G. N. Hurdle of Princess Anne county, Virginia, has bought the house and lot owned by Mr. J. F. West on Howard street and will move here at an early date. We welcome Mr. Hurdle and his family to our growing little city and wish for him success in the business which he is to enter.

### HELD DISTRICT MEETING

The Improved Order of Red Men held a district meeting with the Pasquotank tribe yesterday afternoon and a banquet was given last night. A number of the delegates from the tribes in this district were in attendance.

Mr. H. O. Hill is rapidly improving from an attack of pneumonia.

## THIS FREEZE NEVER BEATEN

**AND IT'S THE WORST IN A GENERATION—PASQUOTANK RIVER WAS FROZEN ENTIRELY OVER AND ALL WATER TRAFFIC WAS SUSPENDED—SLEIGH RIDERS ON THE STREET AND SKATERS ON THE RIVER.**

For the past week this section has been held in the grasp of one of the most severe freezes that has occurred since the winter of 1893.

A more disagreeable combination of sleet, snow and ice can not be imagined than that we have experienced in the last several days. Besides, it has been bitterly cold, the thermometer down at about nine or ten degrees, and a northwest wind chilling the atmosphere all the time. Ice began to form in the harbor Monday, and Tuesday it froze up. On last Sunday steamers tried to get out of the river, but ran into solid ice and had to come back to the dock. Since then no boats have left this port except iron tugs, and it was a big task for them to break their way down the river. Sunday night a sleet set in and Monday morning everything was so slick that a horse could not stand on the streets. It was with a great deal of difficulty that pedestrians could get about. All day Monday and Tuesday, every kind of business was tied up. No delivery system of any kind could be maintained. All of the groceries had to be carried by hand, and coal and wood was hauled in hand carts. Fuel ran short in many homes, and many suffered for the want of fire.

In spite of the disagreeable side of this freeze, the young people got in on the happy side of it, in sleighing and skating and the creeks were thronged with the merry-makers whirling away on skates, and the streets were full of boys and girls sliding about on the slippery streets.

If we get nothing worse this winter the freeze we have had this week will be long remembered for its severity.

### CARRIERS WORK HARD TO DELIVER MAIL

The mail carriers, both city and rural, deserve a great deal of credit for the effort they made this week to give their patrons prompt service in spite of the snow and sleet. All of the city carriers made their regular trips every day. Stafford and Harris, two of the up county carriers, made their trips Monday, though the roads were regarded as being impassable. Everybody in that section stayed home except these two plucky carriers. Culpepper and Perry made the greater part of their route on foot and carrier Tom Harris made his entire route on Tuesday. Carrier J. L. Jennings made his entire route Tuesday. Tuesday was a bad day too, and few people stirred abroad.

### MR. VENTERS IMPROVING

The many friends of the family will be delighted to learn that the condition of Mr. R. T. Venters is rapidly improving and that his chances for complete recovery are very bright.

Mr. Venters underwent an operation in St. Vincent's hospital several days ago for an attack of appendicitis. His case was a critical one, and at first there was little hope for his recovery.

Mr. W. J. Saunders, of Weicksville, was in the city Thursday on business.

## FARMERS INSTITUTES TO BE HELD SOON

**IN CURRITUCK, CAMDEN AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES — MEETINGS FOR MEN AND WOMEN AND MANY TOPICS OF PRACTICAL INTEREST TO BE DISCUSSED—FARMERS' WIVES SPECIALLY INVITED.**

Elsewhere in this issue of the Advance appears a letter from Congressman John H. Small calling attention to the Farmers' Institutes that are to be held in this and adjoining counties next month. In order to keep the dates of these meetings before the readers of the Advance this announcement will be run every week until the date of the institutes.

Since receiving this communication from Congressman Small, the following additional information has come to this office through a letter from Director T. B. Parker to Mr. H. M. Pritchard:

These meetings will be held for men and women and, it is hoped, will be made practical and helpful to all. Those who attend are urged to come prepared and expecting to ask the speakers questions along the lines that are to be discussed.

Separate rooms or buildings will be provided for the women, in each case. The meetings for men in Elizabeth City will be held in the court house, and Mr. Pritchard is making arrangements with the local authorities to get permission to use the federal court-room, in the post-office building, for the women's meeting. At Salem it is understood, Mr. Pritchard thinks, that the men will hold their meeting in the church, while the school-house will be open to the women.

It is hoped that the attendance on these institutes will be unusually large. Details as to the meetings in Currituck county and Camden county will be gladly published if sent to this office.

### CALENDAR PASQUOTANK SUPERIOR COURT.

January Term 1912.

#### FIRST WEEK

##### Monday January, 22nd.

- 1—Morris vs Maston.
- 2—Bradford vs Griggs.
- 3—S. A. Jennings vs F. W. Lowry
- 4—M. R. Fletcher vs J. C. Blount
- ... and E. C. Harrell
- 5—G. W. Whitehurst vs Railway et als
- 6—W. T. Love vs Caleb Harris
- 7—S. E. Schull vs Southern Express Co.
- 8—Alice Bell vs George Bell
- 11—Sarah Jane Brothers vs James Brothers
- 12—Dora A. Johnson vs Simeon Johnson
- 13—C. L. Hinton and R. L. Hinton, Executors, vs John P. Weeks
- 15—W. O. Saunders vs Oliver F. Gilbert
- 16—W. J. Saunders and wife vs Oliver F. Gilbert
- 17—John Banks vs Mangle Banks
- 18—Willie Hollowell vs Farmers Mfg. Co.
- 19—Zeans Ferris, Jr. vs Farmers Mfg. Co.
- 20—Alice E. Sykes vs W. Lynch

#### Tuesday, January 23rd.

- 6—J. H. Townsend et als vs McLean Construction Co. et als.
- 14—F. W. Helmick et als vs D. E. Williams et als.
- 21—Mary C. Perry vs Peter Perry
- 22—J. H. Johnson vs Maria Johnson
- 23—O. F. Gilbert vs G. C. Hayman

Wednesday January 24th

- 26—E. L. Burton vs C. L. Burton
- 27—C. W. Reid vs Norfolk Southern railroad
- 28—S. L. Sheep vs J. L. Strahl
- 29—T. A. Crank vs Mopskov
- 30—E. S. Gaskins vs Foreman-Blades Lumber Company. THURSDAY, JAN. 25TH.
- 33—Eliz. City Iron Works & Supply Co. vs W. H. Ward
- 36—Liquid Carbonic Co vs W. T. Deans
- 34—Graded School Trustees vs R. L. Hinton et als.
- 37—W. A. Britton vs Wilson Morris
- 38—Jack Moore vs Wiley More
- 40—Wilson Wood & Lumber Co. vs East Carolina Railway Co. FRIDAY, JAN. 26th
- 46—W. T. Old, Receiver, vs LeRoy Steamboat Company.
- 39—E. R. Daniels vs J. H. LeRoy Co.
- 42—S. H. Spencer vs Automatic Machine Co.
- 43—J. C. Perry vs Elizabeth City
- 44—J. A. Parker vs E. R. Daniels
- 32—Carrie B. Blount vs Joseph C. Blount
- 50—W. L. Cohoon vs W. M. Price

#### SECOND WEEK

MONDAY, JAN. 29TH.

- 20—C. P. Weston and R. C. Works vs Roper Lumber Company

#### TUESDAY, JAN. 30TH

- 51—T. S. Onley vs Norfolk Southern Railroad.
- 52—Sawyer and Brooks, Executors, vs W. H. White et als.
- 53—J. H. Aydtlett, Sec., vs J. Boyd Anderson
- 54—Royal Typewriter Co vs C. B. Mason

#### CONCERT COMPANY PLEASD AUDIENCE

The third number in the Star Course was presented last Friday night in the auditorium of the high school. A good sized audience was present to witness this performance.

This number was the Apollo Concert Company and Bell Ringers. It was a high class production and it pleased the audience immensely. The different members of the company performed their part in a very pleasing manner and each member on the program was called back several times. The Bell Ringers was a novel feature that delighted the audience and had the performers submitted to the "encores," they would be performed for into the night. Miss Spring, in her part as reader and impersonator, called forth vociferous applause and she brought down the house in the best response when she forgot "Who said it and what it said."

This was undoubtedly the most pleasing attraction presented this season.

#### JUDGE BRAGAW WILL RESIDE

The January term of Superior Court for the trial of civil cases will convene here next Monday morning. His honor Judge Stephen Bragaw will preside. This will be Judge Bragaw's first visit here as a judge of the superior court.