

## Eastern Commissioners Did Not Oppose Opening Inlet

Dr. Julian C. Baum, Returning from Raleigh, Denies Resolution Was Passed Over Eastern Opposition, and Tells What Opening New Inlet Will Mean to Section

Returning from Raleigh where he was in attendance on the meeting of the North Carolina Fisheries Commission and where report has it, he was largely instrumental as a member of the Commission in securing the adoption of a resolution authorizing the opening of New Inlet, Dr. Julian C. Baum of Poplar Branch expressed surprise at the statement in this week's Independent by its Raleigh correspondent to the effect that eastern members of the commission appeared to think little of the attempt to open the inlet while western members were willing to take a chance on it.

"I'm not claiming," said Dr. Baum, "that there was no opposition to the proposition and I'm not saying who opposed it, either; as the question was settled in meeting and there's no use prolonging discussion. But I do not want the impression to get about that eastern members of the Commission opposed the resolution and that its passage was brought about by the vote of the western Commissioners despite eastern opposition or indifference. Nothing could be farther from the truth than that."

It will be spring, in the opinion of Dr. Baum, at the earliest, before actual dredging operations can be got under way. There is first the matter of securing a right of way for the inlet and then that of obtaining a grant from the War Department to connect the two bodies of water. Both of these matters, Dr. Baum thinks, will be mere formalities and will present no obstacles, but both will take time.

Next will be the question of whether the undertaking will be let to contract or whether the State will be able to secure the free use of a Government dredge and undertake the work itself. Dr. Baum thinks that, in any event, bids on the project will be asked for and that if bids are in line with the engineers' estimates, the work will probably be let to contract. Further time, of course, will be consumed in these further preliminaries.

If there is no hitch anywhere in the necessary formalities and preliminaries and if the engineers do not interpose reasons why the work of dredging should not be undertaken in the spring, Dr. Baum believes that work should start by that time. If, then, the work goes through as planned and without hitch or delay in actual operations, in Dr. Baum's opinion the inlet will be open within eight months at the outside and possibly within three months.

The appropriation by the last Legislature for the opening of a new inlet somewhere along the North Carolina banks was \$100,000. Dr. Baum thinks that the project can be completed for a sum within that amount.

"Many do not understand," says Dr. Baum, "why New Inlet was chosen rather than Oregon Inlet farther north, which could have been opened at less expense. The object of the undertaking is to give the fresh water of the Northeastern North Carolina watercourses more direct outlet to the sea, as it is hoped and believed that this will have a very direct influence in bringing shad and other fish that spawn in fresh water to seek these streams. But the waters from the Chowan and the Roanoke pass through Croatan Sound, between Roanoke Island and the Dare County mainland, and this gives them a southeasterly direction when they strike the banks. Oregon Inlet is off against the southern point of Roanoke Island, too far north to give the water passing through Croatan Sound a direct outlet.

"The primary purpose of opening the inlet is to influence migratory fish in larger numbers to enter the inland waters of the State. Records kept indicate, for instance, that there is a very direct relation between the natural closing of New Inlet by winds and tides and between the diminution in the flow of water through Oregon Inlet and the number of shad taken in the waters of the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds and in the estuaries and sounds tributary to them. It is hoped that with the opening of this inlet there may be an increase in the number of shad and other migratory fish taken instead of the decrease that has marked fishing operations in these waters for the last decade or more.

"But as the inlet will give the sound waters more direct access to the sea, it will also, when the tide flows inland, give the salt water of the sea more ready access into the sounds and thus, it is hoped, rejuvenate the oyster beds of these sound waters. Oystermen have complained during the present year of the unsatisfactory quality of the oysters taken in the sounds, and they attribute poor quality and falling supply to the diminishing supply of salt water coming into the sounds.

"While I am on the subject of oysters," Dr. Baum continued, "I want to say that I am bitterly disappointed that the restriction against dredging for oysters in motor boats of not less than 30 feet in length was not removed this season. The

### PERCY McMULLAN STATE ATTORNEY

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—Employment by the State of Percy McMullan of Elizabeth City and of Bynum, Alderman & Hobbgood of Greensboro as attorneys for North Carolina, in the freight rate fight precipitated by the filing of a complaint on the Virginia corporation commission, was announced by Governor Morrison last night.

### MINISTERS HOLD DISTRICT MEET

Called Together Thursday by Presiding Elder C. B. Culbreth, Occasion One of Great Helpfulness.

Presiding Elder C. B. Culbreth called the preachers of the Elizabeth City District to a meeting held at the First Methodist church Thursday morning at 10 o'clock for the purpose of discussing plans with reference to the year's work such as their own reading and study, the Centennial Movement, the Superannuated Endowment Fund, their plans for revival services and other matters about their work.

Agreement was reached to plan for a reading circle for the district and the Elizabeth City Methodist ministers were appointed as a committee to perfect the plan. They entered into covenant with one another to pray each for the others by name and the second week of April was selected as a special week of prayer for the deepening of the spiritual life of the district and for the blessing of God upon revival efforts.

Presiding Elder Culbreth presided and it was a time of genuine spiritual helpfulness. While in the city the visiting ministers were the guests of the resident ministers: Rev. C. B. Culbreth, Dr. N. H. D. Wilson, Rev. Daniel Lane, and Rev. W. T. Phipps. Those attending the meeting from out of town were: Rev. N. C. Yearby of Hertford, Rev. M. R. Chambers of Chowan, Rev. R. N. Fitts of Dare, Rev. J. V. Knight of Edenton, Rev. C. T. Thrift of Moyock, Rev. J. T. Stanford of Winfall, Rev. A. W. Peice of Roanoke Island, Rev. S. Salver of South Camden, and Rev. A. B. Crumpler of South Mills.

### TUT HIMSELF IS FOUND IN TOMB

Luxor, Egypt, Jan. 4.—The sarcophagus of Pharaoh Tutankhamen, has been found in the monarch's tomb in the valley of kings, it was announced today.

The long-sought treasure of antiquity lay within the fourth casket. It is of white and red granite.

### A CORRECTION

Under the heading "No Excuse for Shivering Now" appearing on page three of this issue in regard to the overcoat sale of the Spencer-Walker Company, the price of overcoats should be "as low as \$15.50 instead of 'as low as \$17.50'."

Oystermen were ready for a fight on this matter before the last session of the Legislature, but we who then constituted the fisheries commission persuaded them that if they would not carry their case before the Legislature we would see that they got the relief they sought. But then came the change in the personnel of the Commission and the new members have never been able to see the matter in the same light as did those who constituted the Commission when the Legislature was in session. I am not blaming anybody for this situation; but that does not detract from my disappointment in not being able to make good a promise that was made, so far as I was concerned, in all good faith. My regret in the matter is the more keen in that I am sure that the use of power boats would not affect adversely the oyster beds where they are used. I am confident that the use of these power boats would be far less objectionable than the use of a power dredge by a sailing schooner, which is now permitted.

"It should be remembered that the oyster beds that have been planted by the State are not affected by this controversy. Our oystermen are not asking to dredge these artificial beds but the deep water natural beds north of Long Shoal are the ones affected. Restricting oyster dredging to sail boats is practically prohibitory so far as most of our fishermen are concerned; for few of them have anything but motor boat equipment."



COMING HERE NEXT WEDNESDAY  
The Cambrea Concert Artists are booked for a delightful concert in Elizabeth City on Wednesday evening of next week at 8:30 in the grammar school auditorium. The music department of the Woman's Club is making their appearance here possible and asks the co-operation of the public in making the event a success.

### COMMANDANT



Frederick C. Billard of Maryland has been nominated by President Coolidge to be commandant of the Coast Guard with the rank of rear admiral. He succeeds William E. Reynolds, who retires in January.

### STRIBLING DEFEATS SOLDIER PUGILIST

Fort Bragg, Jan. 4.—With a knockout in the fourth round young Stribling, Macon, Georgia, school boy fighter, defeated Kid Numbers, Fort Bragg soldier pugilist, here last night.

The fight was easily Stribling's from the start to the finishing blow.

### REJECT AMENDMENT TO THE TAX BILL

Washington, Jan. 4.—The House Ways and Means Committee today rejected the amendment to the administration tax bill under which gains from the sale of stock dividends would be subject to normal and surtax rates.

### YEGGMEN STAGING SERIES ROBBERIES

Petersburg, January 4.—Yeggmen, believed to be the same as those who blew open the vault of Wakefield Bank yesterday, this morning staged a series of safe crackings at Disputanta, about fifteen miles from here. They blew open the vault of the Farmers Bank and the safes of a general store and the Norfolk and Western Depot. Only about \$100 was stolen, and the safes at the bank and depot resisting the efforts of the cracksmen.

The police believe it is a gang of professionals and the same gang that blew up the Wakefield-Bank vault.

### AIRSHIP TENDERS FOR ARCTIC EXPEDITION

Washington, Jan. 4.—Designs for two airship tenders fitted with moorings masts to secure rigid airships of the Shenandoah type will be virtually completed with the plan for the Arctic expedition with aircraft next summer, the Navy Department announced today.

## Bestcity Has A Chance To Secure State Normal School

Miss Catherine Albertson Presents Matter to Women's Club and That Organization Is Getting Busy Immediately to See What Can be Done

Miss Catherine Albertson, field secretary of the North Carolina Parent-Teachers Association, made a talk Thursday afternoon to the Elizabeth City Woman's Club which gave the members something to think about and a lot to work for.

The gist of her remarks was that the State Education Board is preparing a bill to present at the next session of the State Assembly establishing six normal schools in the sections of the State where they are most needed, and everybody knows that Elizabeth City is all six of places where they are most needed, or at least they can't be needed worse anywhere else in North Carolina.

For Elizabeth City, as Miss Albertson went on to say, is the metropolis of the Albemarle and there is no State or denominational college for whites in this section.

Miss Albertson said that some years ago Elizabeth City had the chance to get the State school that is now located at Greenville, but Elizabeth City missed it and Greenville got it. It was at that time that Miss Albertson, keenly disappointed at the failure, determined to make it her business to speak a word in season and out for the educational facilities of this part of the State and to see to it that the next opportunity was not lost.

Accordingly, when she passed through Raleigh at any time and on any business whatever she made it her custom to visit the educational authorities and ask when her part of the State would be recognized and helped.

She didn't get much encouragement, but she kept on. They told her at first that the section would have to wait until there were more high schools in the section, for at that time there was only the Elizabeth City High School, and when children in the country finished the

seventh grade they had to quit unless the Elizabeth high school could accommodate them, and that school, which only this week got itself into adequate quarters, was overflowing. Miss Albertson waited and she also watched. She kept on visiting the power that be at Raleigh, and at last, in 1923 her efforts were rewarded. She was told about the bill which will be introduced to establish the six normal schools. She asked what Elizabeth City must do to get one of them. She was told that they would be placed not in the city offering greatest advantages but where most needed. However, it was said that the offering of a site and the anxiety shown to secure one of these schools would undoubtedly help and would be worth trying.

The most important thing, though, would be to select the right men to represent the County and the district at the next State Legislature.

Miss Albertson was told that the fact that the State is spending so much of the State Normal School for negroes here would not affect the city's chances for securing the normal school for whites, but would rather be in the city's favor.

With eloquent reference to the historic background of the Albemarle section, Miss Albertson closed her talk by asking the women to begin at once to work for the school and to pass the torch quickly to the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis, the Merchants Association and other organizations, enlisting the support of the men of the city and section for securing the institution.

The club was immediately enthusiastic and will leave nothing undone that will help to bring the school here. "We aren't in politics," said one of the members, "but we're for education, and we don't mind saying so to anybody."

### SEINE CONTINUES RISE STEADILY

Paris, Jan. 4.—The Seine rose 8.66 inches in the last 24 hours and the weather forecast is for mild and persistent rains, so a repetition of the disaster of 1910 seems probable unless there is a drastic change in temperature before night.

## Capital Hood Bank Is Oversubscribed

And Gurney Hood Being Invited Undertake Organization in Other Cities

With an oversubscription of stock by 183 shares the charter for the new Hood System Industrial Bank has been drawn and was mailed to the Secretary of State Thursday. When the charter is returned a date will then be set for the first stockholders' meeting which will be held shortly, in all probability.

There are 84 stockholders in the new bank. The average holding of each is about \$350. No one holds control of the bank and the largest stockholder, who is said to have subscribed \$2,000, will relinquish part of his share to take care of the over subscription.

Already Gurney P. Hood, organizer of the new bank and originator of the plan under which it will operate, is receiving letters from various cities in this and other states urging him to undertake the organization of similar banks in these cities.

### Ask for the Release of British Rum Runners

(By The Associated Press.)  
London, Jan. 4.—Great Britain has asked the United States for release from bail of British and Canadian members of the crew of the British schooner, Tomoka, alleged rum runner, seized in November beyond the three mile limit off New York.

Investigation by British authorities, it is stated, showed the Tomoka to be of Canadian ownership, and seized well outside the three mile limit and while the British are entirely out of sympathy with liquor smuggling they feel they have no alternative but to protect the rights of British vessels outside the traditional three mile limit which they say must remain a law until the new treaty extending the limit to an hour's steaming distance becomes effective.

### FARM LABOR WAGES HIGHER LAST YEAR

Washington, January 4.—Wages for farm labor were higher last year than since 1920, the Department of agriculture reported today. The average rate with board was \$33.18, without board \$46.91 for one month in 1914, rates were \$21.05 and \$29.88 respectively. Day wages and harvest and harvest labor with board in 1923 averaged \$2.45 as compared with \$1.55 in 1914.

### EXCHANGE SUSPENDS MOSS PRIVILEGES

New York, Jan. 4.—The New York Cotton Exchange today announced the suspension for 30 days of Lester R. Moss for alleged infraction of rules. Subsequent to the official announcement, it was stated that they merely suspended Moss from floor privileges and that the membership of the firm of Moss & Ferguson was not affected.

### Epworth League Has Re-organization Meet

The Epworth League of the First Methodist church re-organized Thursday night and plans were made for its activities in the future with special reference to the young people in the church between the ages of 15 and 21.

The following officers were elected: Billy Fearing, president; Margaret Hollowell, vice president; Grace Pedleton, secretary; William Perry, treasurer; Mary Louise James, correspondent secretary; Lina Stanton, agent of the Era; Mildred Perry, superintendent of the first department; Robert Fearing, superintendent of the second department; Grace Jenkins, superintendent of the third department; and Emily Commander, pianist.

After the close of the business meeting the young people enjoyed a social hour and were the guests of their pastor, Dr. N. H. D. Wilson.

### COTTON MARKET

New York, Jan. 4.—Cotton closed quiet this afternoon, declining 40 points. Middling 35.25. Futures closed as follows: January 34.24; March 34.72; May 34.95; July 33.93; October 28.40.

New York, Jan. 4.—Cotton futures at 2 p. m. today were as follows: January 34.45, March 34.95, May 35.19, July 34.21, October 28.55.

## PEE DEE RIVER MADE A COUNTY

Its Turbulent Waters So Divided Anson That Richmond Was Created, Says Historian Fred Olds.

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—The Pee Dee River with its turbulent flood seasons and its sometimes broad expanse was the cause of the division of Anson County so as to create Richmond County, according to the History of North Carolina Counties compiled by Colonel Fred A. Olds of the State Historical Commission. The river was made the dividing line, all of Anson to the South remaining as Anson while the territory to the north was designated as Richmond. The act was ratified by the General Assembly in November, 1779. The new county was assigned to the district of Salisbury but in 1787 Fayetteville district was formed and Richmond became a part of it.

"The General Assembly," continued Colonel Olds' account, "appointed commissioners to fix upon a site for the courthouse and jail and to buy 50 acres of land on which they were to be located, as the place for the county seat. A tax of 2 shillings on the hundred pounds value of property for two years was levied and two shillings on persons who did not have property worth 100 pounds.

"The county was known as Richmond Court House until 1784 when the General Assembly directed that the commissioners heretofore appointed to contract for the public buildings should lay out the land they had purchased for the use of the public into a town of half acre lots, to be called Rockingham and to sell the lots and use the money to complete the courthouse, etc.

"The county was named in honor of Charles Lennox, Duke of Richmond, who was principal secretary of state in the second administration of William Pitt, prime minister of England, the Duke being a devoted friend of the American colonies, and having made the motion in the House of Lords that they be granted their independence. The county seat was named for Charles Watson Wentworth, Marquis of Rockingham, the leader of the party in the British Parliament which advocated American independence and who was prime minister when the 'Stamp Act', so so tedious to the American was repealed.

"In 1786 a large number some 600 of Tories headed by Samuel Bryant whom they called their Colonel were in arms in Rowan and marched through part of that county and thence into Montgomery and Richmond to the ford of the Grassy Islands on the Pee Dee River, taking many prisoners marched them across the river at that ford, and were there joined by British Dragons of the 71st Regiment, there being a British army post at Anson courthouse. John Hampton was the Lieut. Colonel of this corps. Judge Spenser held a special court in Richmond to try Tories and Plotters. Richmond was called on in June to furnish 36 men to General Rutherford's gade. Colonel Thomas Wade of the Volunteers made things lively for the Tories and killed a number of them. He had in his regiment 50 Richmond men.

"In 1781 the American currency was frightfully depreciated and the price was fixed by the General Assembly for articles furnished to the public in Richmond county. That year the Tories ravaged Richmond, Randolph and Chatham counties and a troop of cavalry was formed in each to put down these outrages against persons and property.

"In 1785 part of Montgomery was added to Richmond. In 1786 the General Assembly authorized a tax to build a jail. That year the first State census was given and showed that there were only 2,585 people in the county. "Richmond Academy was chartered by the Assembly in 1788. The wardens of the poor were authorized to build homes for the poor and to levy a tax for them. The tobacco brigade, Col. Thomas Wads of the was established on the land of William Blewitt on the southeast side of the Pee Dee River.

"The United States census of 1790 gave the county 782 white heads of families. The first court house was in use until 1884. In March, 1865, almost at the close of the War Between the States, 'bummers' as the hangers-on of the Federal army were termed, threw a lot of the records out of the court house and cut some. The will books and county court minutes from 1779 were preserved and the deed books from 1784."

Richmond County has furnished to the State several members of the council of state from time to time, the present secretary of State, W. M. Everett being a native of the county. Three Congressmen have given their birthplaces as being in the county, these being Alfred Dockery, Oliver H. Dockery and Walter L. Steele.

### BANDITS MAKE HAUL

Kansas City, Jan. 4.—Five bandits today held up two messengers of Centropolis State Bank and escaped with \$22,500.