

Mayor Goes To Raleigh To Amend City Charter

Provision Which Makes It Mandatory Upon Utilities Commission to Assess Sewerage Cost on Property Owners Disliked by Present City Administration

That provision of the City Charter which makes it mandatory upon the Utilities Commission to assess the cost of the present sewerage system acquired by the city and of the complete new system which the city is planning to establish against abutting property owners is so repugnant to the present city administration that at a called meeting of the Council Wednesday afternoon it was decided to send Mayor Goodwin to Raleigh in a last effort to secure an amendment whereby, at the discretion of the Utilities Commission, the city as a whole instead of the abutting property owners will bear this cost.

The idea of charging the cost of the city's sewerage system up to property owners was favored by Senator P. H. Williams when he was a member of the City Council, and he it was who embodied that idea in the present charter. He is so wedded to the plan, in the belief of some of his friends here, that nothing short of an overwhelming expression of popular opinion would persuade him to permit the amendment proposed by the present administration to pass.

Mayor Goodwin, then, in his mission to Raleigh upon which he departed Wednesday night would seem to be leading a forlorn hope unless Senator Williams and Representative Wilson should be bombarded today with telegrams in a sufficient number to persuade them that the enlightened sentiment of the city is strongly against the charter in its present form.

It was on February 7 that the City Council in called session voted unanimously for an amendment to the charter changing the word "shall" to the word "may" in that section which provides for the assessment of the cost of sewerage against abutting property owners. The present administration, in other words, would not take from the Utilities Commission the power to assess cost of sewerage against abutting property owners; but would leave the exercise of that power up to the discretion of the commission. This amendment was promptly sent to Representative Wilson on the date of its adoption by the Council; but it was not until this week that the Council received from Mr. Wilson a substitute amendment which, in the opinion of members of the City Council, strengthens the existing provision of the charter instead of embodying the suggestion made by the City Council.

The assessment of the cost of sewerage against abutting property owners, as now provided in the City Charter, would amount to practical confiscation in some instances, in the opinion of members of the City Council. For instance, here are several blocks owned by a widow of limited means on an undeveloped street with only one residence on the entire property. To have to pay one half the cost of the sewer on that street within a period of five years, as the charter now provides, would mean that this widow would have to give up her property. Again, there are certain streets, as for instance Pearl, on which the plans of Engineer Olsen call for the laying of cast iron pipe for sewerage, an extremely expensive type of construction. Then again, there is West Church street extended, one side of which is within and the other side without the city limits. Under the existing charter the property owners on that side of Church street within the city limits would have to pay the entire cost of sewerage for that street. Finally, property owners occupying corner lots would be taxed with half the cost of sewerage on two sides of their property.

It is estimated that the cost of the sewer system, contemplated under the plans of Engineer Olsen will cost in excess of \$300,000. The question is whether abutting property owners are to have to bear the entire burden of this cost upon their shoulders or whether it is to be assumed by the entire body of tax payers, as is the case in the matter of water and electric lights.

EBERT BURIAL TO BE AT HEIDELBERG

Heidelberg, Germany, March 5.—President Ebert's body was today interred in Berg Cemetery after the arrival of the funeral train here this morning.

BANK OF ENGLAND RAISES DISCOUNT

London, March 5.—The discount rate of the Bank of England was raised today to five per cent.

COTTON MARKET

New York, March 5.—Spot cotton closed steady, middling 26.05, points unchanged. Futures, closing bid: March 25.75, May 26.95, July 26.15, Oct. 25.54, Dec. 25.50.

NO TRUE BILL IN MURDER CHARGE

And Thus Currituck Court Which Had Two Sensations Booked for This Week Misses Both.

Currituck, March 5.—With the Devo case moved to Gates County, this week's term of Superior Court here was robbed of its next biggest sensation late yesterday when announcement was made by Solicitor Small that the grand jury had failed to find a true bill in the case in which Harry Balfance, Claude Tindell, Lester Davis and Tom Pallett of Knotts Island were held for probable cause on a charge of murder by the Currituck recorder's court.

It was admitted from the beginning that the evidence against the defendants was of a purely circumstantial and somewhat flimsy character. The charge grew out of the mysterious death of Herman Pentress, 30-year-old Knotts Island farmer, who was found dead shortly after an alleged altercation with the defendants at his home on Sunday night, November 9, 1921.

It seems certain that the defendants were drinking on the night in question and that, going to the premises of Pentress, Balfance and Tindell entered the home and made themselves so objectionable that they were put out of the house. The young men would not leave the premises, however, and Pentress is alleged to have left his home by the back door to look for help. He did not return and when a search was made for him late that night his body was found at the door of his barn several hundred yards from the house cold in death.

No marks of violence were found on his body except a slight abrasion of the skull, though there was a report that a post mortem examination had shown a slight fracture of the skull. Since the evidence before the grand jury was not made public, it is impossible to verify these reports.

The probabilities, since the jury did not find a true bill, would seem to favor the conclusion that Pentress came to his death by an attack of apoplexy or by some other natural cause and that if there was a fracture of the skull it was caused by the head striking some hard object in falling or else by the crude hack saw which is said to have been used in making the post mortem examination.

Ezra Balfance was defendant with O. A. Bonney in another case involving liquor in which both men were charged with participating in an affray and Balfance was accused of assault with deadly weapon. In this case there seemed to be hardly any question that a fight occurred and that in the course of the fight Balfance used a knife on Bonney, inflicting serious bodily harm.

Apparently the only way to excuse Balfance would have been to find that he acted in self defense, and in that case Bonney would necessarily have been the aggressor. A Currituck jury, however, probably because the jurors were unable to agree as to who started the fight. The fight occurred in 1923 and the recollection of most of the witnesses seemed to have grown hazy as to its details.

PARIS WEARS 'EM ABOVE THE KNEES

New York, March 5.—Skirts above the knees, curled eyelashes and red ears are the latest Paris modes. New York has just learned.

The European editor of the American Magazine who returned on the Olympic yesterday, when asked if the short skirts worn by some of the messengers were fair samples of the latest Paris styles replied, "What! Those skirts! Why they're down to the knees!!! In Paris they're above the knees."

PHOTOGRAPHS SENT BY THE TELEPHONE

Washington, March 5.—Photographs of President Coolidge and the inauguration ceremonies were received in New York, Chicago and San Francisco by telephone yesterday in time for afternoon papers.

KELOGG AND JARDINE SWORN INTO OFFICE

Washington, March 5.—Frank B. Kellogg was sworn in today succeeding Charles Evans Hughes as Secretary of State. William M. Jardine today became Secretary of Agriculture succeeding Howard M. Gore who retired yesterday to become Governor of West Virginia.

FAVORABLE REPORT DETENTION HOME

Raleigh, March 5.—The bill to allow the commissioners of Pasquotank County to acquire land and build a detention home received a favorable report in committee last night.

LAWRENCE STREET SOON BE WIDENED

Another Improvement Long Planned Gets Under Way Under City Manager Ferebee

Work on the widening of Lawrence street, as to eliminate the blind corner at its intersection with Road and so as to make Lawrence an extension of Ehringhaus, can be begun in 30 or 60 days, in the opinion of City Manager Ferebee.

Adjustment has at length been reached with all the property owners affected, and the S. S. Davis store, corner Lawrence and Road is now being moved.

That gets under way under the administration of City Manager Ferebee another improvement the need of which had long been keenly felt and discussed but toward which real progress prior to Mr. Ferebee's administration, had been painfully slow. With Lawrence street opened and with both Lawrence and Ehringhaus paved to the latter's intersection with the State Highway to Hertford, it is believed that a new wholesale and warehouse section would be developed on East Lawrence and Front streets while residence development could be looked for on Ehringhaus street extended which still bears the designation "Rum Road," given it for obvious reasons in the days of the open saloon.

Provision for the pavement by the County of the Rum Road section of Ehringhaus, which is beyond the city limits to a width of nine feet, is made in a bill introduced in this session of the General Assembly by Representative Wilson, provided that there are sufficient funds left from the new road bond issue of \$250,000 authorized under another bill introduced by Mr. Wilson, and provided further that abutting property owners will agree to pay the additional sum necessary to pave the road to a width of sixteen feet. It is represented that Mr. Wilson estimates there will be enough bond money left to complete the work; but it is feared that it will be difficult to secure the consent of abutting property owners to being taxed for seven sixteenths of the cost of paving a sixteen foot road. The amount assessed against property owners would be something like \$12,000, which would be a low valuation to put on the improvement of the property of the road, in the opinion of City Manager.

METHODIST BISHOP DIES AT MEMPHIS

Memphis, March 5.—Bishop William B. Murrah of the Methodist Episcopal Church South died here today following a paralytic stroke in January of last year which was aggravated by a fall from a chair at his home several days ago. The end came unexpectedly following a sudden turn for the worse after midnight. He was 72 years old.

WEEKS' LIST IS REDUCED TO THREE

Washington, March 5.—The list from which Secretary Weeks will recommend to the President a successor to General Mitchell, assistant chief of the Army Air Service, has been reduced to three officers, none ranking below lieutenant colonel.

ITALIAN TROOPS FIGHT BEDOUINS

London, March 5.—Special dispatches from Cairo say that reports are current there of fighting in the neighborhood of Jaramba territory. Italy and Egypt are in a dispute regarding the latter's western frontier.

MAY LEAD GERMAN'S ELECTION



As the present German constitution makes it possible for the president to be elected for a term of five years, and the President Ebert will have elections, former Premier Cuno, right, and Wilhelm Marx, left, are regarded as the likely candidates.

GAME BILL MEETS DEFEAT IN HOUSE

Raleigh, March 5.—The State-wide Game Bill met death last night in the House following hours of debate, the vote being 71 to 36. Thirty members were allowed each side for discussion but failed to bring forth any heated arguments.

Some called the proposed measure drastic while others said it was too elastic and others that it was useless.

Contrast Sweeps Capitol Completely Off It's Feet

Not Unexpected but So Strikingly Presented in Inaugural Addresses by Coolidge and Dawes That It Was Breath Taking Just the Same

By ROBERT T. SMALL. Washington, March 5.—Coolidge has lifted his eyes from the manuscript and read out over the vast sea of faces in front of him, Mr. Coolidge early today in emphasis, his right hand and arm indulges in what appear to be involuntary gestures at times, but it is only fair to say the President had none of the arts or trappings of an orator. He has put the style even of the masters "Woodrow Wilson. He speaks earnestly and shows with his rapid reading that he has learned his address before starting to deliver it.

Probes of applause followed the President. They were all respectful silence. It was marvelous to see so great a crowd so quiet and attentive. In the olden days before the advent of the far-carrying loud speakers, the fringes of a crowd, hearing nothing and seeing little, soon became discontented. There was nothing of that at the inauguration. The crowd listened as children might to a respected teacher and Mr. Coolidge spoke largely in that vein, holding out his ideals of peace and justice to all peoples.

The ornamental railings in front of the inaugural stand were rather high—too high for a man of the President's stature and those who stood or sat beneath them could see little more than head and shoulders of the Executive.

In the formal ceremonies at the capitol the Coolidge inaugural of 1925 lacked nothing in the brilliancy of those which have preceded it in history. It was only in the lack of the frills and fireworks and fireworks provided unofficially for and by the people that the event was different.

Simply simple, it was none-the-less impressive to the great inaugural crowd. Only a few hundred had witnessed the contrasting performance in the Senate.

PARIS SCORNFUL OF AMERICAN PEACE

Paris, March 5.—"Pax Americana" on the lips of the "Pax Romana" which the Roman Empire gave to the world is derided by the Paris press to be the ambition of the United States government on the basis of the President's inaugural address.

CUTTING TRACK TO THE CHOWAN BRIDGE

Edenton, March 5.—The final survey of the Chowan River bridge has been completed, and now the engineers are having the track cut through the swamp on this side of the river. The bridge will run from about three-quarters of a mile this side of the Coastal Highway to a wharf on this side to about one hundred yards the other side of the ferry wharf at Edenborough. The road this side is being surveyed through half a mile of swamp land to the high land and then runs into the Bolton Bridge Road.

DECISION LEAVES CURRITUCK FLAT

Thursday County Morning After With Small Crowd in Attendance on Trial of Civil Case

Currituck, March 5.—With the Devo case moved to Gates County, the morning session of Currituck court today was a very quiet affair. The morning session was held in the courtroom, presided over by Judge Small, and the afternoon session was held in the courtroom, presided over by Judge Small. The morning session was held in the courtroom, presided over by Judge Small, and the afternoon session was held in the courtroom, presided over by Judge Small.

The removal of the Devo case to Gates County yesterday was not only a severe blow to the defendant and his counsel, but it left the whole county with a very alluring prospect of a trial and all the excitement and interest which usually attend such a trial.

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FRANK A. VANDERLIP NOW GETTING WELL

Scarborough, N. Y., March 5.—Frank A. Vanderlip who has been ill several months is now getting along very well, Mrs. Vanderlip said today.

NAVY MANEUVERS NOW UNDER WAY

Aboard the U. S. S. Seattle, March 5.—One hundred and nine United States Navy warships are now engaged in one of the greatest peace time maneuvers on the Pacific Coast of Mexico.

GEORGIA DEMANDS GUTZON BORGNUM

Atlanta, March 5.—Requisition papers were issued late yesterday on Governor McLean by Governor Walker asking for the return of Gutzon Borglum to Georgia to answer charges of malicious mischief and larceny.

Scarborough, March 5.—Habeas corpus proceedings, under which Gutzon Borglum, former Stone Mountain memorial sculptor, hopes to gain his freedom from charges of malicious mischief and larceny from a house, will be heard by Judge Michael Schenk of Hendersonville here Saturday evening.

PRESIDENT HASTENS BACK TO HIS WORK

Washington, March 5.—Apparently un-fatigued by the strenuous activities of inauguration, the President was at his desk this morning before nine o'clock and immediately plunged into routine work.

TREBEL MAN FINED

Lee Parish, of Tyrrell County, was the only defendant in police court Thursday. Parish was charged with being drunk. The defendant admitted his guilt but stated that an overdose of medicine and nervousness were responsible. Mr. Parish was fined \$5 upon paying a fine of \$5 and costs.

PERSHING EXPECTED BE OUT AGAIN SOON

Havana, March 5.—General Pershing who became ill on arriving here Tuesday, was sleeping quietly this morning at his hotel and friends said he expected to be out by Sunday.

REVENUE BILL IS APPROVED BY SENATE

Raleigh, March 5.—The revenue bill last night was approved as a whole by the Senate, after weathering a storm of amendments, passing its second reading 42 to 5.

The House passed on its third reading last night the administration bill designed to consolidate tax collecting agencies of the State and voted to defer consideration on the measure to allow the Attorney General three assistants.

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TO GET TENNIS COURTS IN SHAPE FOR SEASON

At meeting of the directors of the Elizabeth City Country Club held this week R. C. Job, G. F. Seyffert, J. H. Lefroy, Jr. and Lester Winder were appointed a committee to look after the layout of tennis courts for the year. With a nine-hole course located upon the golf links will have ample room for as many tennis courts as the committee decides that the club can use to advantage. Meanwhile work on laying out the golf course is proceeding at a rate that necessitates a pay roll of \$200 a day.

August Senate Laughs At Diatribe Of Dawes

Immune to Reform Senators Smiling and Serene Under Bawling Out Administered by New Presiding Officer of the Upper House of Congress

By ROBERT T. SMALL. Washington, March 5.—"Hell and Maria" Dawes snapped and snarled his way into the Vice Presidency yesterday. He began his four years as presiding officer of the Senate United States Senate by bawling out the Senators for the manner in which they allow one of their number to play hob with an entire legislative program.

The Vice President didn't say "Hell and Maria" once during his bawling but "Hell and Maria" was in his voice. He bawled out some of the "pinheads" of the House of Representatives, whom he had bawled out when they were members of a committee attempting to investigate the conduct of the war. The "pinheads" applauded the Vice Presidential diatribe. The Senate laughed. There is no need to discuss the fact. The Senate laughed heartily. It was plain to see from the outset that the bawling out of the Senators and their presiding officer is going to be a pretty one to watch these coming years of storm and strife.

The Senators have seen other attempts to reform them. They are immune to all that sort of thing. Senator Borah was the first to smile as the Vice President started his inaugural address. The smile first of all was at the vehement manner of the new officer. Even President Coolidge had a dry little grin on his otherwise cool and calm features as General Dawes plunged right in at full speed to tell the Senate what he thought of that body as a whole. The Senate expected Mr. Dawes to be lively. There never has been such a virile, vigorous, vital man on the job as presiding officer. But it didn't think Dawes was going to take advantage of the crowded galleries and the distinguished company of diplomats, Supreme Court justices and cabinet dignitaries on the floor to start a "war."

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Charlie Admits That He Is Funny



Charlie Chaplin, noted film comedian, is shown as he appeared on the witness stand in Los Angeles during a trial in which he sought to prove Charles Amundson, inset, from imitating him on the screen. Charlie admitted he was funny and protested having his antics copied.