

## C. E. Thompson Declines To Serve As Member Of Council Graft Probers

### Attorney Named as Chairman Holds Committee Has Insufficient Power to Make Investigation

#### OUTLINES REASONS

### Body Unable to Put Witnesses Under Oath or to Compel Them to Appear or Produce Evidence

Holding that such a committee would have no power to accomplish anything worth while, C. Everett Thompson, attorney, whom Mayor McCabe appointed chairman of a special investigating committee to look into charges of graft in connection with the recent letting of a gravel contract here, gave positive assurance Thursday that he would not serve on the committee.

In outlining his reasons, Mr. Thompson explained that the committee which was appointed at the regular meeting of the City Council Monday night in response to a request from City Manager M. W. Ferree, lacked authority to summon witnesses, put them under oath, or to compel them to appear, testify, or produce evidence. In such a state of affairs, he held that nothing could be accomplished by it.

"Of course, we could call Mr. Ferree before us, and he would accuse Mr. Culpepper of graft," Mr. Thompson commented, "and we could have Mr. Culpepper appear and accuse Mr. Ferree of graft. Or we could bring them before us together, and have a free-for-all fight. But we wouldn't really get anywhere with the investigation."

Incidentally, Mr. Thompson expressed doubt whether the mayor or the Council had a right to appoint such a committee. The "Mr. Culpepper" to whom he referred was Luther B. Culpepper, whom City Manager Ferree, in a sworn affidavit published a week ago, accused of having approached him with an offer of a "commission" if he would assist in having the Council buy a specified type of gravel.

The committee appointed by McCabe comprised, besides Mr. Thompson, L. R. Foreman and Jerome B. Flora, well known local business men. Formation of the investigating body was authorized by the City Council upon the request of City Manager Ferree. It is regarded as highly improbable that Messrs. Foreman and Flora will serve on it, although neither has expressed himself publicly on the matter.

Whether or not the Council committee functions, there is every assurance that the charges will be aired through the medium of the courts, either through the recorder's court, a county tribunal of limited jurisdiction, or by a grand jury at the November term of Superior Court here.

Both Mr. Ferree and Mr. Culpepper have promised to produce additional evidence "at the proper time," although little has been added to the original accusations of either, as made public a week ago. In answer to Mr. Ferree's charges, Mr. Culpepper made a statement at that time, in which he alleged that the city manager had approached him with a request that they "see what they could get out of" the gravel contract, which involved an expenditure of \$60,000 to \$90,000.

Mr. Ferree denied having had part in any such alleged transaction, commenting that, if he had been inclined to accept graft in the letting of the contract, he assuredly would have undertaken to deal directly with the firm of individual supplying the material, and would not have assumed the risk incident to dealing through any Elizabeth City representative.

## FORMER AMBASSADOR IS SEEKING DIVORCE

Stroudsburg, Pa., Aug. 5.—Richard Washburn Child, former ambassador to Italy and widely known writer has asked the Common Pleas Court of Monroe County to award him a decree of divorce from his wife, Maude Parkes Child, who is a well known writer, the records of the court disclosed today.

## COTTON MARKET

New York, Aug. 5.—Cotton futures opened today at the following levels: Oct. 17.22, Dec. 17.13, Jan. 17.17, March 17.37, May 17.50.  
New York, Aug. 5.—Spot cotton closed steady, middling 18.75, advance of 5 points. Futures, closing bid: Oct. 17.28, Dec. 17.21, Jan. 17.26, March 17.44, May 17.59.

## At Canton



This is Jake Sarkish, one of the members of "Junio" Crowley's underworld gang at Canton, Ohio, questioned by authorities in the search for the murderers of Don Mellett, publisher.

## Councilman Cohoon Voices Faith In City Manager

"In the 12 years that I have served on the City Council, I have never been thrown in contact with a city manager or other city official in whom I placed more confidence than in City Manager Miles W. Ferree," declared P. C. Cohoon, senior member of the present Council, yesterday, in commenting upon recent charges of graft in city administrative circles.

"I believe Mr. Ferree is absolutely honest," Mr. Cohoon continued. "I have seen contract after contract that he has made, and I am convinced that in every instance, he has put forth every effort to safeguard the best interests of the city. I regard him as being as capable, efficient and trustworthy as any city manager we have ever had."

"I have had people tell me that when he had approached Mr. Ferree they had approached Mr. Ferree to see if they could interest him in offering him some inducement, and that they found they could not. With reference to the charges against him, I believe that when the investigation is made, he will be found absolutely innocent."

"During Mr. Ferree's term as city manager, I have watched him when he didn't know it, and I never have seen anything to cause the least suspicion that he was anything but entirely honest."

As chairman of the Council, and through his long service on the board, Mr. Cohoon has been thrown in close touch with every city manager that has served here since the city manager form of government was adopted about ten years ago. He is unshaken in his praise of the manner in which Mr. Ferree has performed the duties incident to the position.

## Colored Defendant Is Let Off Lightly

Upon presentation of evidence tending to show that the defendant and the colored driver of an ice wagon probably were equally at fault in little street altercation which ended without serious harm having been done to any one, Ernest Pendleton, colored, was found not guilty of a charge of assault at the close of a hearing in recorder's court Thursday morning.

Pendleton was fined a dollar and costs on a charge of having failed to procure a city license to drive an automobile, and was directed by the court to obtain such a license before again piloting his flivver through the streets of the city. A charge of having operated an automobile while under the influence of liquor was dropped when it appeared that police had no evidence to substantiate it.

## THREE THOUSAND DIE WHEN DYKES BURST

Hankow, China, Aug. 5.—River Yang-Tze has added another dismal chapter to the history of oriental floods. Approximately 3,000 persons are dead today in the deluge which followed the bursting of dykes.

## FEW UNDERSTAND PERSONALITY OF THE PRESIDENT

### He Does Not Think Out Loud and Those Who See Him Often Still Do Not Know Him Well

#### NEVER OFF GUARD

### Companionable, Sociable and Democratic Enough But He Never Forgets His Official Responsibilities

By DAVID LAWRENCE  
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Washington, Aug. 5.—Although the country has had three years in which to get acquainted with Calvin Coolidge, few of those who have seen him close up will concede that they understand his inscrutable personality.

If it is suggested, for instance, that Mr. Coolidge is uncommunicative, there are dozens of callers who have spent a half hour or more with him who can testify that he has monopolized the conversation. If it is contended that he is cold and exclusive, then may be recalled that more people have been invited to break bread with Mr. Coolidge than with any President possibly since the days of William Howard Taft.

Mr. Coolidge has not shut himself in. He has had many people along with him on his week-ends on the "Mayflower" and he keeps a constant round of invitations going for breakfast, luncheon, and dinner at the White House. More members of the Senate and House, it is safe to conjecture, have breakfasted with Mr. Coolidge than with any other President in our times. If there is any thrill in a White House invitation, Mr. Coolidge has bestowed it liberally on members of Congress, industrial capitalists, newspaper editors and publishers, correspondents, political leaders and distinguished visitors from foreign countries.

Certainly there has been every aspect of democracy at the White House and to no small extent the spirit of ease and equality has been inspired by the first lady of the land who has succeeded in banishing stiffness from social functions.

Why then is Mr. Coolidge inscrutable? It is because he does not think out loud. He doesn't entertain conversation, forget the necessity for caution and deliberate statement. He is the last word in carefulness of expression. Possibly it is his long training in politics where the first rule is never to utter a superfluous word. Possibly it is a conservatism developed by his study of the law. But, in any event, many persons who have talked with Mr. Coolidge will concede that after they have heard him express himself, they have learned merely at first hand what he has been saying or preaching in public speeches or in conversations with public men as reported in the press. In other words Mr. Coolidge never throws off the business aspect of his life and in this respect there are probably thousands of men in private life who parallel him—they eat, think and dream their business affairs.

It has been said of Mr. Coolidge that he does not play. Yet there are forms of relaxation which he does enjoy. He likes to see motion pictures. He likes to walk. He has lately shown an enthusiasm for fishing. It is not surprising, for Mr. Coolidge likes the kind of thing that does not require that he participate with others as in games. He likes to see pictures because he doesn't have to talk if he doesn't want to. He likes fishing because it is carried on in solitude. For the art of companionship is not one of Mr. Coolidge's strong points. He likes to have people about him, and yet does not like to feel a responsibility for entertaining them or unfolding his mind. People like to hear Presidents gossip. They like to see Presidents off their guard. Many indiscreet statements have been uttered in unguarded moments at the White House in the past. Mr. Coolidge is unscrutable because he is never off his guard. He is always mindful that he is in politics and that he is vested with an incomparable responsibility.

## DEPRESSION GROWS IN MEXICAN AFFAIRS

Mexico City, Aug. 5.—Pessimism regarding the religious conflict between the government and the Catholics was more pronounced today. Business depression, born of the economic boycott declared by the Catholics in protest against the government's religious regulations, is gripping portions of the republic and causing apprehension in other parts including the capital.

## Virginian Coming To Highway Event

Assurance that Virginia will send a large delegation to the approaching meeting of the Atlantic Coastal Highway Association here has been received from John A. Leaner, of Norfolk, president of the Tidewater Automobile Association. Mr. Leaner gave assurance also, in a letter to the Chamber of Commerce, that the delegation would bring a speaker prepared to represent the Old Dominion at the session.

The meeting is to be held sometime in August or September, the date to be decided upon definitely later. The president and secretary of the association are expected to attend, together with representatives from cities along the route of the highway through North Carolina and Virginia.

While mainly to be concerned with proper marking and advertising of that part of the South Atlantic Coastal Highway which passes through the two States, it is anticipated that the meeting will be devoted also to a discussion of plans for further improving the highway, and to other problems in connection with it.

## NEW SCHOOL AT POWELLS POINT BE DECIDED ON

### Rather Heated Discussion Seems to be in Prospect About Consolidation of Three Schools

#### MEETING SATURDAY

### Currituck County Superintendent of Education and Patrons of the Schools to Decide the Matter

Powells Point, Aug. 5.—Final decision on a plan to consolidate Harbinger, Powells Point and Albina schools and to locate the consolidated school at Powells Point, is expected to be reached at a meeting between Miss Matt Newbury, County Superintendent of Education, and patrons of the three schools, to be held at Powells Point school building Saturday of this week. A rather heated discussion appears to be in prospect.

There is considerable sentiment against the proposed consolidation, particularly at Harbinger. This opposition was given expression last Monday at the court-house when A. J. Hartley, G. C. Sawyer and Lorenz Crank, all of Harbinger, went before a meeting of the school board and set forth the grounds of their opposition of the proposed consolidation. These speakers expressed the opinion that the schools as they are are satisfactory to the people and that no change is desired or needed. They emphasized the hardships that the consolidation would put upon small children living at a distance from any of the roads covered by the buses of the proposed consolidated school. These little children, they declared, would suffer particularly in cold weather.

In answer to the arguments of the Harbinger delegation, Miss Newbury explained that a consolidated school such as she proposed would make it possible to serve the patrons with a smaller number of teachers and at the same time would give the children many more advantages than they could be accorded at the schools of which they have been going to. The same money, she pointed out, that it would take to buy cheap equipment for the three existing schools would more than provide the best equipment for one school. Again in a consolidated school four teachers would be adequate to take care of all the children in the proposed district, whereas at present seven teachers are required. These four teachers, she pointed out, would naturally be better equipped than are those of their profession than are those now serving the people of the proposed district.

In answer to the argument that there was much danger in carrying children to school in buses on account of possible accident, Miss Newbury replied that the statistics of the State of North Carolina do not record a single death resulting from any accident to a school bus, while reports did show that a number of children had been killed while walking to school.

There is a current report in the section affected by the proposed consolidation that in case the plan for consolidation goes through, as it probably will despite the opposition to it, the buildings that have heretofore been occupied by the white children will be given to the negroes. This plan, for sentimental reasons, does not set so well with numbers who cannot forget the hard work that they and J. M. Newbury, then superintendent of schools for Currituck County, did in building these schools 15 years ago. Some go so far as to say that they would prefer to see the property destroyed than converted to such uses.

## PONZI IS REFUSED WRIT HABEAS CORPUS

Houston, Tex., Aug. 5.—District Judge Charles Ashe today refused the application of Charles Ponzi of Boston for a writ of habeas corpus.

Ponzi was ordered turned over to Massachusetts authorities. Ponzi's attorney, however, gave notice of an appeal to the court of criminal appeals which is to meet in Austin next October. Ponzi faces a seven to nine year term in Massachusetts for fraud. The effort of the appeal is prosecuted will be to keep Ponzi in Houston until the higher court renders decision. In the face of the appeal Massachusetts authorities are powerless to remove him to that state.

## KNIGHTS COLUMBUS VOICE A PROTEST

Philadelphia, Aug. 5.—Knights of Columbus in annual convention today unanimously adopted a statement protesting against the policy of President Calles in the religious situation in Mexico.

## Little Peter and—the Countess!



Countess Millicent Rogers and Little Peter, a young child, sitting together outdoors. They were at Southampton, Long Island, Chubbey Somerset, etc.

## Have Councilmen a Right To Sell Wares To City?

### Well Known Local Attorney Holds Noah Bright, D. Ray Kramer and E. J. Cohoon Have Overstepped Section 4388, of Consolidated Statutes

The interesting question whether members of the City Council have a right to deal with their own property in view of the restrictions laid down in Section 4388, of the Consolidated Statutes of North Carolina, 1919, is raised, upon the basis of a survey of the city books made by a representative of The Daily Advance yesterday afternoon.

That survey was made from the check stubs showing disbursements made by City Auditor John H. Snowden, under authority from the Council, over the period from April 1 to July 31. It showed that firms in which three members of the Council are interested had consistently sold supplies to the city during that period.

Section 4388 of the Consolidated Statutes is captioned: "Director of Public Trust Contracting for His Own Benefit." It provides: "If any person, appointed or elected a commissioner or director to discharge any trust wherein the State or any county, city or town may be in any manner interested, shall become an undertaker, or make any contract for his own benefit, under such authority, or be in any manner concerned or interested in making such contract, or in the profits thereof, either privately or openly, singly or jointly with another, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

This statute is taken to mean that no member of the City Council or other governing body of a municipality has a right to do business with the city, no matter how straight and aboveboard those business dealings may be. In view of the foregoing statute, it is interesting to note that the Coast Oil Company, of which Councilman Noah Bright is manager; E. J. Cohoon and Company, in which Councilman E. J. Cohoon is a partner, and the electrical firm of Councilman D. Ray Kramer have done considerable business with the city in the period between April 1 and July 31. In that connection, however, there is not the slightest suggestion of "graft" or of any sort of irregularity—other than that perhaps the three councilmen named have unthinkingly overstepped their rights as members of the city governing body.

The following disbursements to the City Auditor Snowden are noted from the check stubs:

April 6, E. J. Cohoon & Company, \$18.75 for auto supplies; Coast Oil Company, same date, \$152.78, noted St. Auto 16228; E. J. Cohoon & Company, same date, supplies, 33 cents; Coast Oil Company, \$213.96, dated May 6; E. J. Cohoon & Company, same date, \$59.32; D. Ray Kramer, same date, \$8.30; Coast Oil Company, May 21, \$225.87; E. J. Cohoon & Company, items of \$67.29 and \$20.19 of same date; D. R. Kramer, items of \$1.28 and \$5.49, same date; a third item of \$1.88 to E. J. Cohoon & Company, same date. On July 13 are found items of \$21, \$14.37 and \$14.80, and one of \$6.50 to D. Ray Kramer.

The question involved, as stated, is whether members of the Council have a right to make such transactions—in other words, sell goods to the city. One well known attorney here, who requests that his name be withheld, holds positively that they have not.

In connection with Section 4388, quoted above, the first case cited as having been appealed to the State Supreme Court, and which was decided against the defendant, Williams, involved a New Bern alderman who also was an official in a light and power plant there, from which the city purchased current. Williams was fined, and was required to give up his seat on the board of aldermen.

While the general "housecleaning" is going on here, it has been suggested that the matter of Councilmen dealing with the city might come in for some investigation, too.

In connection with the three Councilmen named above, there has not been the slightest suggestion of collusion or other irregularity, except that they may have stepped somewhat out of bounds in the transactions cited. It is anticipated that the matter will be decided, definitely and finally, whether these Councilmen were within their rights in the matter.

## FAIR DIRECTORS PROMISE BETTER ENTERTAINMENT

### District Exposition, to be Held Here October 5 to 9, Inclusive, Expected to Prove Best Ever

#### INTEREST EVIDENCED

### Farm Agent L. W. Anderson, of Perquimans, Broadcasts Appeal to Farmers to Offer Exhibits

With more money available this year than in perhaps a decade, the directors of the Greater Albemarle District Fair, to be held here October 5 to 9, inclusive, are promising a bigger and better exposition of the section's resources, and more diversified entertainment, than ever has been given here before.

In that connection, it is announced that the usual arrangement of special days has been discarded, except Children's Day, when a special program will be given for the youngsters. The directors hope to make the fair so attractive that those who attend the first day will keep on coming right through the week, with each day offering equal entertainment.

The first balloon ascensions ever here in several years will be given as a special attraction each day of the fair, with parachute leaps and attendant thrills. On the closing day there will be an automobile race, in which all residents of the ten counties in the Albemarle District will be privileged to enter.

Active cooperation in arranging for the fair already is being given by the various county agents in the district. For instance, L. W. Anderson, agent in Perquimans County, has broadcast an appeal to the people of his county to prepare exhibits for it and for other like exhibitions, including the annual State Fair at Raleigh.

The management of the fair here is writing to prominent individuals throughout the district, urging that they take an active part in making the event a complete success. Incidentally, the fair premium list is in the hands of the printer, and should be ready for distribution in about ten days. An exceptionally wide range of prizes for winning exhibits of farm, garden, livestock, dairying and home products is assured.

In recent years the fair association has been handicapped by a steadily increasing accumulation of debts, but in the past two years, these have been reduced to the vanishing point, through careful management and strict economy. Hence it is that this year the directors feel inclined to "splurge" somewhat, and give the public a bigger and better district fair than they have ever undertaken before.

## Jazz Has Invaded Peace And Quiet Of Nags Head

Nags Head, Aug. 5.—For people here the first time since perhaps have been using Nags Head as a summer resort the loud notes of jazz and syncopation of an honest-to-goodness orchestra have awakened the echoes of the sandhills in pealing out the tunes for the dances Tuesday and Wednesday nights at the pavilion.

Tuesday night was the first time an orchestra had played for a square dance here and the pep and snap of the music was evident in the dancing of the couples on the floor and in the various comments of approval of the performance. On a still, calm night the music can be heard a good distance. Many couples were on the floor both nights the orchestra has played and it is evident that people will continue to come as long as the musicians keep up their record.

The orchestra consists of five pieces as follows: piano, Mrs. Arthur Padgett; drums, Braxton Dawson; saxophone, Hugh Sawyer; banjo, Miss Louise Wood; cornet, Tommie Williams. This combination has drawn a larger crowd to the round dances than any previous attraction this summer.

## MIX AND "TONY" SHOWN IN NEW BARRING ACTS

"Tony Runs Wild." Fox Films latest Tom Mix production featuring Tom Mix, Tony, the Wonder Horse, and Jacqueline Logan is showing at the Alkrama Theater today.

"We are really very fortunate in having such a program for those who are holding complimentary tickets given them by certain merchants with purchases," says Manager Shelby Burgess. "This picture gives Mix and his wonder horse, Tony, an opportunity to appear in new feats of strength and skill and to provide thrills that are new even for Mix and Tony."

## FIRST SWEETS SHIPPED FROM HERE TO BOSTON

### Thirty-Five Barrels Go From Julian Newbern's Farm in Camden and Bring \$8.75 a Barrel

#### CARLOADS FRIDAY

### Crop Is Late This Year but Season Beginning in Earnest and Thousands Barrels Will be Shipped

The first sweet potatoes shipped from Elizabeth City this year brought \$8.75 per barrel. This was a shipment of 35 barrels from the Camden County farm of Julian Newbern, local commission man. They were shipped to Boston.

"The quality of these potatoes was really poor," Mr. Newbern said. "The yield would have been better if they had stayed in the ground a little longer."

It is possible, though hardly probable, that a car or two of sweets will leave here on Friday or Saturday of this week, commission men say. A few car shipments are expected to move next week but movements will hardly begin in earnest before the 16th.

The crop is late this year. The acreage is considered larger than last year with the yield hardly as good. The stand generally is said to be poor though the additional acreage is expected to bring the volume of shipments about up to a normal crop.

The average yield this year is estimated at from forty to fifty barrels per acre. Quotations this morning are from \$6.50 to \$8.75 per barrel with prospects for prices considered fair for the first 15 days of shipping.

The average cost of marketing sweets is estimated at from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per barrel. Flaring on a normal volume of shipments for this year probably 500 cars or about 100,000 barrels will leave Elizabeth City during the season.

The drought has not hurt the crop to speak of except to delay it in the opinion of commission men. The last shipments of Irish potatoes will probably leave this week. When the market went all to smash just before heavy shipments ceased, commission men began to hold them with the hope that better prices might develop. Their action was wise and the market has jumped slightly, quotations ranging from \$3.00 to \$4.00 in Northern markets this morning. Hot weather, however, has necessitated regrading in many instances. Quite a number of farmers made good profits on Irish potatoes this year, but a considerable number who were late in marketing lost their crop.

## JOSEPH E. POGUE DIES IN NEW YORK

Raleigh, Aug. 5.—Colonel Joseph E. Pogue, for years secretary of the North Carolina State Fair and a prominent citizen of the State, died early today in Roosevelt Hospital in New York.

Word to this effect was received by relatives here this morning. Colonel Pogue had been in New York for treatment about a month. He was suffering from a complication of troubles.

He is survived by his widow, formerly Miss Henrietta Kramer of Raleigh, and one son, Joseph E. Pogue, Jr.

## LEAPS TO DEATH FROM SIXTH FLOOR HOTEL

Philadelphia, Aug. 5.—A man who had registered as "John Brown of Boston, Massachusetts," which name is believed by police to have been fictitious, committed suicide today by jumping from the sixth floor of the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. He was killed instantly.

## HE THOUGHT INSULF CONTRIBUTED FUNDS

Chicago, Aug. 5.—Frank L. Smith, Republican Senatorial nominee in Illinois, testified today before the Senate campaign funds committee that during the recent primary campaign he "understood" that Samuel Insull, Chicago public utilities magnate, had contributed funds to his candidacy.



## 100 Years Ago

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