

THE ROANOKE BEACON

And Washington County News

A home newspaper dedicated to the service of Washington County and its 12,000 people.

Advertisers will find Beacon and News columns a latch-key to 1,100 Washington County homes.

VOLUME 42—NUMBER 12

Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Friday, March 20, 1931.

ESTABLISHED 1889

NORMAN THINKS HOUSE TO STAND BY McLEAN BILL

Adjournment Not Looked For Now Before April 1, Representative Says

Representative Z. V. Norman, who spent the week-end in his home here, stated that there was no chance for adjournment of the legislature before April 1st, and that the body would possibly be in session even longer than that. While a great number of bills have been passed, a great many of them are purely local character or are of minor importance. None of the revenue measures had been reported out of committee up to the week-end, although the house expected to get the main revenue bill early this week.

The matter that is holding up proceedings more than any other one thing is the finding of tax revenue to support the constitutional six-months term from sources other than by ad valorem taxation. Mr. Norman said the house would probably pass the general sales tax bill, while the senate, if it passes any kind of sales tax, will more than likely hold out for the selective of luxury feature. The revenue bill will then probably go to conference, the outcome of which no one is willing to predict.

The senate is opposed to any kind of sales tax, and it may pass a bill repealing the McLean law, which was passed early in the session by both houses. However, the Washington County representative believes that the house will "stand pat" with reference to the MacLean law, which requires that the State finance operation of the schools for the six-months term. Should the two houses become hopelessly deadlocked over this proposition, the chances are that they will adjourn without providing any revenue for the operation of the schools.

Under the McLean law, the county commissioners can not levy a tax for the support of the six-months schools and if the legislature adjourns without making provision for raising the necessary money, either a special session will have to be called by the governor or there will be no school next fall. Adjournment without providing revenue for the schools will put the whole matter up to Governor Gardner, who, so far, has played a "hands off" policy in regard to the school problem.

Mr. Norman believes the house will stand by the MacLean bill to the last ditch, as it is the only measure so far offered this session that will materially lower taxes on land. He also believes the house will pass the gross sales tax bill, but its fate in the senate is problematical. Both senators from this district, E. S. Peel, of Williamston, and H. S. Ward, of Washington, are for the sales tax measure also, but recent polls of the senate have indicated that the vote will be very close, if not against any form of sales tax.

LOW PRICE PAID FOR TOBACCO

Average for 1930 Crop Is 30 Per Cent Under Price For Previous Year

North Carolina tobacco farmers were paid 30 per cent, or 4.5 cents per pound, less for their tobacco during the 1930-31 season than for the year before, the federal and state crop reporting service announced recently.

With only six warehouses yet to report, producer's sales for the season amounted to \$60,728,517 pounds, or approximately 90,000,000 pounds more than was sold last year. The final figures are expected shortly. The average price paid for the tobacco was approximately \$12.90 per hundred pounds, as compared with an average of approximately \$17.50 for the previous season.

Juniors To Have Big Meet Monday Night

R. L. Tetterton, secretary of the Plymouth Rock Council, Jr. O. A. M., announced this week that a class initiation would be staged at the hall of the local lodge Monday night, March 23. All members of the order are invited to attend, and a large crowd of visitors is expected at the meeting.

Creswell Teachers To Present Play March 27

Creswell, Mar. 18.—The Man in the Green Shirt, a play in three acts, will be presented in the school auditorium here Friday night, March 27. The production is sponsored by the faculty of Creswell High School, and a very competent cast has been selected. Providing plenty of comedy, with a thread of mystery pervading throughout, the play promises to be one of the best ever presented here.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Sallinger of Norfolk spent a few days of last week as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Rodgers.

L. E. Hassell, of Roper, Is Named to Board Education

Will Succeed Capt. C. E. Mizelle, Also of Roper, Whose Term Expires April 1st; Appointment Before Legislature This Week

L. E. Hassell, former county treasurer, of Roper, has been nominated as member of the county board of education by Representative Zeb V. Norman, it was learned this week. The new member will succeed Capt. C. E. Mizelle, of Roper, whose term expires April 1. The other two members of the board Chairman T. J. Swain, of Plymouth, and H. H. Bateman, of Creswell, will retain their places, as their terms do not expire this year. Appointments are made for six years, the term of one member expiring every biennium.

There were three candidates for the vacant position in the primary last June, George W. Dixon, of Roper, receiving the highest number of votes

cast, Sidney A. Ward, of Plymouth, being next, and W. B. Davenport, of Mackees, third. It is understood that the condition of Mr. Dixon's health will not permit him to serve, which is the reason he was not appointed. Captain Mizelle did not run for reelection, as he was a candidate for representative; and Mr. Hassell was a candidate for treasurer in the same primary.

The omnibus bill, making appointments to county boards of education throughout the State, was favorably reported to the house by the committee on education Tuesday, and action on the measure will probably be had this week. The new member in this county will be sworn in at the meeting of the board on April 6.

Two Pouches Mail Stolen From Depot Here Monday

Spring Will Officially Begin Saturday, 21st

Springtime, the inspiration of poets and the busy season for farmers, will officially get under way tomorrow morning, Saturday, March 21, at exactly 7 minutes past 9 o'clock, according to the old reliable Turner's North Carolina Almanac. This is the season when the days and nights are approximately the same length, with the days gaining a few minutes each day over the night following.

Last Tuesday the sun rose at 6:09 a. m. and set at 6:09 p. m., which made the day exactly 12 hours long. And the "old-timers" are now holding their breath for the equinox storms, which are supposed to temper our enthusiasm for the arrival of spring.

SALVATION ARMY MAKES REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

Large Number Influenza Cases Causes Increase In Amount Work

Envoy and Mrs. W. C. Brewer, in charge of the local post of the Salvation Army, this week made their report for the month of February, showing among other things, that groceries were furnished to 63 families during the period, 227 garments were distributed, 7 pairs of shoes were given out and medicine was furnished for 7 people. Mr. and Mrs. Brewer stated that the large number of cases of influenza aggravated conditions during the month, but that the coming of warmer weather a distinct improvement should be noted.

The army workers also made 86 visits to the homes of sick, prayer meetings were held in 26 homes, and a number of investigations were made.

Mr. and Mrs. Brewer again praise the people of the county for their cooperation in caring for the needy, stating that they had some splendid assistance from people in Creswell and Roper, as well as Plymouth. Personal help was rendered in several instances, for which the relief workers are very grateful.

CROP ROTATION EXPERT HERE

Several Projects Are Under Way on County Farms; Agent Assisting

E. C. Blair, extension agronomist, of State College, Raleigh was in Plymouth Wednesday in connection with some soil improvement projects being conducted in the county by several farmers under the direction of County Agent R. E. Dunning. Rough maps are made of the farms where the projects are under way, and a definite program of crop rotation for each field is outlined through the cooperation of the agent and Mr. Blair. Results of the demonstrations will be made in detail at the end of the period considered necessary.

Mr. Dunning stated that demonstrations of soil improvement by crop rotation were being conducted on farms of L. E. Hassell, of Roper, E. H. Liverman, of Plymouth, the Westover farm under the supervision of J. T. Robbins, and at several other points in the county.

BETTER PRICES FOR POULTRY AT CAR MONDAY

Colored Hens Are 2 Cents Higher Than Before; Broilers Same

The North Carolina Division of Markets, through the cooperation of County Agent R. E. Dunning, will operate its second poultry car of the year in this county next Monday, when the car will be placed on the siding at the A. C. L. Station here for the day. The prices as announced are higher on several types of poultry, and Mr. Dunning is looking for probably the largest loading ever to be made here.

Broilers will again bring the highest price, 25 cents a pound, the same as at the first car. Colored hens will bring 18 cents per pound this time, however, which represents an increase of 2 cents. Roosters will bring 9 cents, ducks and geese 8 cents, and No. 1 young turkeys 23 cents per pound. Guineas will continue to bring 30 cents each. Leghorn hens and old toms of No. 2 turkeys will be worth 15 cents, with capons quoted at 17 and 23 cents per pound, depending on size.

LESPEDEZA IS BEING TRIED

Recommended by Agent for Both Hay and Soil Improvement

County Agent R. E. Dunning said this week that he had secured 400 pounds of lespedeza seed to be used by county farmers this year. This amount will plant only about 16 acres, and is not as large as the agent hoped for, but it is regarded as a step in the right direction, and it is believed other farmers will take it up next year when they see the results obtained.

Lespedeza in this section is usually regarded as a grazing crop, but the agent pointed out that it was highly regarded for its hay-producing and soil-improving qualities in the western part of the State, where it is grown extensively. Experiments have shown that it will yield from 3,000 to 5,000 pounds of high grade hay per acre. It is recommended that lespedeza be broadcast on land where rye or oats have been planted. These crops can then be cut off in the spring without damaging the lespedeza, which is not harvested until August. Besides giving two feed crops a year under this plan, the lespedeza will reseed itself if left in field until August, and usually from 5 to 10 bushels of seed can also be harvested per acre. The hay compares very favorably with alfalfa, it is understood.

WILL AGAIN SHIP CARP FROM HERE

Schwartzman To Construct Pounds Here; Ship Fish In Tank Cars

Mr. I. Schwartzman, representing New York fishing interests, was in Plymouth Tuesday making arrangements for shipping german carp to Northern cities again this year in tank cars. Last year was the first time this scheme was tried out in this section, and the success of the venture assures its continuation.

Besides buying carp from local fishermen, Mr. Schwartzman is planning to construct several pounds for catching the fish himself. Only carp are shipped in this manner. They are put in tank cars and kept alive until they reach the markets in the northern towns, where they command a good price.

A few years ago, the carp was not considered a very desirable fish, and thousands of them were thrown away by fishermen. They are caught in considerable quantity all along the Roanoke River, and are said to be considered quite a delicacy in the north.

HITS BOTTOM

Washington, March 16.—Farmers received less for their products last month than at any time during the last 20 years.

The Agriculture Department announced today the general price level had dropped two points below the index figure of 92 recorded in 1911.

Comfort was found for farmers, however, in a lower level of prices paid by them for necessities.

February 15 the index of farm prices was 90, four points under January 15, and 41 points lower than February, 1930. Slight advances were indicated for the first two weeks of March.

The department said the general lower level reflected to some extent larger supplies, but principally was due to business depression, curtailment in buying power of consumers, and reduced demand for feed because of a mild winter.

BILL TO EXTEND CITY LIMITS HAD SHORT LIFE IN HOUSE LAST WEEK

1857 Newspaper Tells How To Make Crows Commit Suicide

Ever since Egypt had its plagues, subsequent generations have had theirs in one form or another. Today the farmers have the boll weevil, corn borers, and numerous other insects to prey upon and destroy their crops. Back in 1857, crows were apparently one of the pests, for Augustus Moore, editor of the Democratic Banner, a newspaper published in Williamston, offered the following remedy in his issue of June 25 that year:

"Take a horse hair two inches long, tie a knot at one end, run it

through a grain of corn and throw the grains broadcast over your farm. The crow will swallow the grain, the hair sticks out at the mouth, and produces irritation and inflammation, which causes the crow to commit suicide by clawing his throat for relief. This is no humbug."

The above item was taken from the Democratic Banner, issue of June 25, 1857, now owned by a Williamston citizen, who has a large collection of old newspaper, some of which are more than 100 years old.

Slade and Kitty Hawk Fisheries To Begin Operating Monday; Capacity Of Both Places 750,000 Fish Daily

60 TO 125 MEN TO BE EMPLOYED DURING SEASON

VISITORS FROM ALL PARTS OF STATE EXPECTED; NEW ROAD IS BUILT

The Kitty Hawk and Slade fisheries, owned and operated by W. H. Hampton & Son, of this place, will begin the 1931 fishing season next Monday morning, it was announced this week by W. R. Hampton, who will be in active charge. The two fisheries will operate with a crew of about 60 men for the first few weeks, the force gradually being increased until about 125 men are employed at the peak of the season, which is usually reached during the last two weeks in April. The fisheries are located on opposite sides of the Roanoke River, about two miles west of Plymouth.

Aside from providing one of the most spectacular scenes in this section, attracting hundreds of visitors from all parts of the State, the fisheries furnish seasonal employment for a large number of people, and the money paid out for wages and salaries usually makes all lines of business better in the town. The industry is quite an asset to Plymouth, and the opening of the season is always hailed with delight by local people.

A new road has just recently been completed to the fishery property, the work being done largely by a crew of convicts from the county road camp, and thousands of cars will doubtless make the trip up the river between now and May 10, when the season ends. The "Nellie Bly," a boat owned by the Hampton interests, will also make regular trips to and from the fisheries to carry sight-seers and prospective purchasers.

Everything was declared to be in readiness for beginning operations Monday by Mr. Hampton in an interview yesterday. The big seines used by the fisheries have been repaired and tarred, the grounds have been cleaned off, bins and storage houses put in condition, and tentative crews selected. Mr. Hampton will be in charge of the Slade fishery, on the Washington County side of the river, while C. H. Robbins, who has been associated with him for many years in the business, will direct operations at the Kitty Hawk fishery, on the Bertie side.

Each of the two seines is 800 yards long, nearly half a mile, while the depth ranges from 24 to 42 feet, with a mesh of 2 to 3 1/2 inches. Over a mile and a half of rope is required for the operation of each seine. Casts are made alternately, one fishery putting out its net while the other is pulling in, and the two outfits combined have a daily capacity of 750,000 fish.

Herring naturally constitute the bulk of the catches, with large quantities of rock, perch and shad, in the order named, coming next. An occasional sturgeon is landed, although this fish is becoming more rare every year in the Roanoke. The usual catch of the two fisheries runs from 1,500,000 to 2,750,000 pounds each season. As high as 125,000 herring have been landed at a single haul.

All of the fish except herring are shipped fresh, packed in ice boxes. The herring are cleaned, some are salted and others cured in vinegar, then packed in kegs and shipped. The salted herrings are usually sold in North Carolina, while the vinegar-cured kind are shipped principally to New York and Chicago. The roe is removed at the fishery and usually canned at the local canning plant. It is presumed

KILLED FRIDAY AFTER HEARING BY COMMITTEE

Large Delegations From Here, For and Against Measure, Heard

The bill introduced in the house last week proposing extension of the city limits of Plymouth had "a short life but a merry one," if the amount of argument, pro and con, stirred up by the measure is any indication. The bill itself was killed by an unfavorable report of the house committee on counties, cities, and towns Friday afternoon, following a hearing attended by large delegations representing both sides of the question.

The bill was drawn up by W. L. Whitley, special attorney for the town, following an adjourned meeting of the Town Council last Tuesday night, members of the council unanimously favoring the proposed extension. Representative Zeb Vance introduced the measure in the house Wednesday, and it was referred to the house committee on counties cities and towns, which fixed Friday afternoon for a public hearing on the bill. Mr. Norman stated at the time the bill was presented to him that he would remain neutral on the question, and he did not take an active part in the hearing Friday.

Proponents and opponents of the proposed extension marshalled their forces for the hearing Friday, Attorney W. L. Whitley making the principal argument for the bill, which was opposed by attorneys for the Norfolk-Southern Railroad, Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, representatives of the Chicago Mill and Lumber Co., the National Handle Co., W. H. Clark for the Plymouth Peanut Co., and several local citizens. Senator H. S. Ward and several local citizens also spoke for the bill before the committee. Following the hearing, the committee went into executive session, when the vote was taken. Conflicting accounts as to the vote are reported, the acting chairman stating that the unfavorable report was reached unanimously, while several citizens who attended stated that the vote was 4 to 1, Representative Lumpkin, of Franklin County, voting to report the bill favorably.

The unfavorable report kills the bill, so far as practical purposes are concerned. It can be revived by a majority vote of the house to remove it from the unfavorable calendar, but such action is not likely to be taken unless drastic amendments are added.

The principal argument for the measure was that the area proposed to be added was needed by the town to promote its natural growth, and that the people of the greater part of the territory were enjoying many of the benefits of the town at the expense of the taxpayers inside the city limits. It was pointed out that the extension of the limits would add approximately one-third to the present valuation of taxable property, thereby enabling the town council to maintain the present tax rate, which will have to be increased one-third or more this year unless the valuation is increased.

Opposition was voiced by the several corporations on the grounds that they were already contributing in an indirect manner to the institutions of the town by providing employment for a large number of persons who spend their money in Plymouth. They do not consider further taxation justifiable for the benefits they would receive.

The proposition has evoked more argument than anything that has happened here for some time. Following the introduction of the bill Wednesday of last week, it became almost the sole topic of conversation locally. Sentiment here is generally in favor of the extension as many town people see in the proposal a means of reducing town taxes, or of holding the rate down. Officials believe the rate will be around \$3 this year unless property is added to the books from somewhere. However, there are enough who believe differently to furnish an argument, and the entire matter has been threshed out in discussions hundreds of times in the past week.

Among those attending the hearing in Raleigh last Friday were: For the bill, D. O. Brinkley, S. A. Ward, J. T. McNair, A. L. Alexander, A. L. Owens, Harry Stell, and Attorneys E. L. Owens and W. L. Whitley; against the bill, A. H. Stier, C. L. Groves, W. H. Clark, E. R. Jackson, J. M. Horton, J. A. Getsinger, H. L. Horton, and Julian Brinkley.

PARACHUTE JUMPER KILLED

Jesse Exum, parachute jumper, met death near Tarboro last Saturday when his parachute failed to open and he fell 1,000 feet to the ground. Up until yesterday none of his relatives had been or could be reached.

(Continued on page four)