

## THROUGH STATE CAPITAL KEYHOLES

By: Bess Hinton Silver

### Can't Stop It

Industrious Birmingham popularity in the tobacco belt of Eastern North Carolina continues to grow and there is increasing sentiment that he offer for the eastern Senate seat, now held by Senator J. W. Bailey, in 1906. The Governor is not saying much for the present, but he is assuming a campaigning position. Most men are creating a sensation, and there can be no doubt that Hinton is a friend of the east and is anxious to be prominently placed in the Senate.

### New Danger

Many persons are concerned in the situation here of the tobacco crop. Tobacco growers are being attacked by too great quantities of crops that would result in an unprecedented high price. The tobacco market is being threatened by the manufacturers. Real friends of the farmers have been in helping the price rise. Foreign production is not as great as with cotton but many persons who have studied the tobacco problem believe that prices can be boosted to the point where it will be more profitable to grow and buy the weed in other lands. Sixty per cent of the tobacco grown in North Carolina is exported and a big dent in that trade would be a calamity.

### Knows His Stuff

Wallace Winborne of Marion, State Democratic chairman, has a few stars in his crown as a political organizer and economical operator of campaigns. In the two State-wide campaigns Mr. Winborne has managed unprecedented majorities have been put up for his party and with no deficit. In fact he has the office furniture out of stock and a few times to jangle in the party purse until it comes to pass the hat again in 1906.

### Easy Money

Easy money, easy go, is the way many politicians view taxes collected from motorists in North Carolina. Because the gasoline tax of six cents on the gallon is collected without a whimper and the license tax without much squawk many of the quick-thinkers would cut other taxes and use the money paid by farmers hauling their produce to market to further their own political ends. There's just one fly in the ointment—many wheels are spinning in the mud in North Carolina these days and for every spin some tax is paid on gasoline. If the country roads were in as good condition as two years ago the politicians might get farther with their plans.

### Improving Their Minds

When Shakespeare's "Hamlet" plays a midnight stand in Raleigh, the political minded were much in evidence. Leading the parade of notable slaveholders was Governor Hinton. Then came Senator J. W. Bailey, Fourth District Congressman Harold D. Cooley, State Parks Commissioner, Edwin M. Ginn, J. M. Broughton, of Raleigh a Cooley "admirer" and many others. There wasn't much opportunity to talk but it was a good place to shake hands with a lot of the 1906 who wield some control over the ruling of the game of politics. It never misses a trick, no matter how little it counts, and that doesn't mean that the boys present didn't have a real love for the immortal Bard of Avon.

### Veering Winds

Times have changed since mother was a girl and in fact, even more recently. Two years ago R. T. Fountain of Rocky Mount, was Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina and leader of a Democratic minority that only lacked a mere 1,000 votes of making him Governor. During the recent campaign he made only one speech, at Gastonia and it is reported here that less than one hundred people were out to hear him. Two years ago the very name Fountain would draw a crowd campaign or no campaign. Does that mean the Mr. Fountain's great personal following has gone to sleep?

### Not Unexpected

The slight increase in Republican representation in the General Assembly as a result of the voting last week wasn't any surprise to the politically-minded who hang around the State Capitol. Rumblings of discord had been coming in from more than one backwater for some time, much to the concern of Democratic leaders. You wouldn't have been forced to look far to get a bet that the Republicans would have twenty members in the next Legislature.

### Valor And Caution

Some political observers are wondering if the overwhelming endorsement accorded the New Deal in the National election will have the effect of toning down Senator Josiah W. Bailey in the next session of the Congress. The Raleigh Senator was quite outspoken his criticism of some New Deal policies in the last session and incurred the displeasure of many Democrats as well as the praise of others.

### Announcement Coming

One aftermath of the recent campaign.

plains a rather confirmed opinion around Raleigh that Clyde R. Hoey, of Shelby, has been running for Governor for some time. If Mr. Hoey hasn't been doing that his friends have been staging for him a campaign. Many of his close personal friends in the Capital City are expected to announce to follow the heels of sine die adjournment of the session of the Legislature.

### Prolonged Job

There's no hope of completing remodeling and fire-proofing of the State old fire-trap of a prison here this winter. Prison officials had expected hope that the job could be completed before the heat had to be turned on but that's now out of the question. Because the walls of the structure are being preserved the work is progressing slowly and will require many months to finish. At the rate it has been going remodeling may not be completed by next winter.

### Shining Star

Congressman Frank Hancock, of the Fifth District, is viewed by many North Carolina politicians as the most promising member of the North Carolina delegation in Washington. They point out that in his comparatively short service in Washington he has attained high ranking place on the House Banking and Currency committee and although he has taken some bold steps in voting on measures his district continues to give him handsome majorities in primaries. He was unopposed in the general election.

### Big Stick

The State School Commission has a club that it uses to get the most favorable bids for hauling coal from cars to schools. Last summer the commission had a number of utility bodies built for trucks at the highway shops near Raleigh at the cost of thirty dollars a throw. If bids for hauling coal are higher than the commission thinks they should be then its members say: "Alright, we'll just haul our own coal." Off come the passengers, load on school trucks and on goes the utility body all set for the sooty job. Or in other cases the bids are lowered and it isn't necessary to change the bodies. Which just goes to show you that there are still many ways to bring death to a fellow.

### Sleepless Nights

Life is anything but a bowl of cherries for State Parks Commissioner Edwin Maurice Gill. Capital punishment cases give him the most trouble but the pitiful old ladies, mothers of prisoners seeking release of their sons, make some of his decisions mighty hard. Recently he was called out of bed at 2:30 in the morning to go to State's Prison and receive the confession of a man convicted of murder. All manner of pressure is brought to bear upon him in every capital case and he must weigh the facts carefully. Often his decisions are not popular for the simple reason that lawyers have guided public opinion in another direction.

## Three Government Jobs Are Available

Three positions in the alcohol tax unit of the bureau of internal revenue are open, according to the Civil Service Commission. The three jobs pay from \$2,500 to \$6,400 a year. Applications must be filed not later than November 22. Complete details may be had at the local post office.

### President's Wife Not With Him

William Henry Harrison, the ninth President of the United States, died before his wife was able to join him in the White House. He had been married in 1795 at North Bend, Ohio, to Anna, daughter of Col. John Cleve Symmes, Revolutionary statesman and soldier, chief justice of New Jersey and founder of the Miami Settlement. They had six sons and four daughters. Mrs. Harrison was ill when her husband was elected President, and was unable to accompany him when he went to Washington to be inaugurated March 4, 1841. He died April 4, one month later. The President's widowed daughter-in-law, Mrs. Jane Findlay Harrison, acted as hostess at the executive mansion during his brief tenure of office, his invalid wife remaining at their home in North Bend.

### First Horse Cars

The first horse car line was opened in New York city November 14, 1822. The cars resembled stage coaches and accommodated from eight to ten passengers. The line was operated by the Harlem Railroad Co. and the tracks were laid on Fourth avenue between Prince and Fourteenth streets.

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## Poisoned Bait Will Keep Down Damage By Mice

Field mice are an orchard pest that most fruit growers are unaware of until it is too late to save their trees, says H. R. Niswonger, extension horticulturist at State College.

Most of the mouse damage, he says, occurs during the winter months in orchards where a heavy sod covers the ground. The mice work just beneath the

surface and are not noticed until the trees begin to die or fail to bud in the spring. At first the damage may be slight, but eventually the mice eat away the bark from the trunk a few inches below the soil so as to completely girdle the tree.

The common meadow mouse migrates to the orchard when their food supply in the open fields becomes scarce. The short-tailed pine mouse is most destructive, doing worst damage to orchards growing near timber areas.

Niswonger urges orchardists to examine the areas around their trees, looking for mice runways and inju-

ries to the trees. If evidence of is found, they can be destroyed by putting out wheat bait which has been poisoned with strychnine. Detailed information how to use bait and place it around the trees may be obtained free from the Agricultural department of State College in Raleigh.

As a supplementary control measure, Niswonger suggests the digging up of grass and weeds under trees. This breaks up the tunnels and runways and causes the mice to seek their food in areas far from the trees.

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