



NORTH CAROLINIANS HONORED—Pictured above are three prominent North Carolina residents who have been honored with national offices in veterans organizations. Halsey B. Leavitt (left), of Asheville, is commander-in-chief of the United Spanish War Veterans; Col. Edgar H. Bain of Goldsboro, is national chaplain of the Legion of Valor; and Mrs. Walter G. Craven of Charlotte is national president of the American Legion Auxiliary. Leavitt is an Asheville insurance broker; Bain is state director of North Carolina Committee-United States Brewers Foundation, and Mrs. Craven is active in club and political circles.

Capital Letters

By THOMPSON GREENWOOD

FIRE—Fire broke loose in the inner chambers of the State Highway Commission here last week when one of the commissioners, Merrill Evans of Ahsokie, heaped red hot coals on the heads of some of the members for their apparently dull-gives-a-hang attitude toward the miserable condition of North Carolina's country roads.

Declaring with temper in his voice that "the commission and the governor are going to be placed in an embarrassing position," Evans, who was appointed highway commissioner last year, said that while "we are committed to a program to provide all-weather farm-to-market roads for the farmers of the state, we are just not breaking loose on this program."

ONE-TENTH—Just how thoroughly the commission is not "breaking loose" on its program was not made public by Evans.

What he should have said is this: Since this commission began its work last July, fewer than 100 miles of all-weather improvements to rural roads have been contracted—or less than one-tenth of a mile per county!

The new contracts will call for attention to 340 miles of paved roads and 30 miles of country roads.

... this, despite all of the hullabaloo that has been raised about the condition of our secondary roads system.

S. C.—Evans could have pointed to just a little bit south of North Carolina—to the state we used to thank heaven for, because it kept this state off the bottom. Evans knows that in the month of January South Carolina awarded contracts for the all-weathering of 500 miles of country roads. In April, he could have told the commission, South Carolina will award contracts for the improvement of 700 more miles of rural roads.

In other words, South Carolina will do 12 times as much for country roads in four months as wealthy North Carolina has done in nine months.

NOW—Now is the time to see your highway commissioner about RFD roads—not next winter. Nothing can be done next winter. NOW IS THE TIME.

The first item of business on the agenda of county commissioners' meetings throughout the state next Monday should be the improvement of the roads over which children must ride to school and over which farm produce must reach the market.

JAPAN—Tom Creekmoore's friends have landed him a job with the Government in Japan. Creekmoore, a Raleigh attorney, originally was made head of the State Bureau of Investigation to succeed P. C. Handy, Sherlock Holmes looker, who was demoted by former Governor J. M. Broughton.

There had been talk around the

capital for some time that Creekmoore might be moved to another job, and last week he was transferred to the State Probation Commission at a reduction of about \$1,300 (from \$4,000 to around \$3,000) in annual salary. But in Japan he will make considerably more money, do considerably more traveling, and be almost wholly free from state politics, which raised him from only a minor law practice and then boomed him down again.

FRIENDS Before getting into appointive politics, Archibald be sure that you have friends in several camps. Creekmoore had. They have had this Japan thane cooking in Washington for some time.

Believe it or not, there are numerous hangers-on in Cherry's administration who take great delight in not working with him on political matters. They attend to their duties all right—no quarrel there. But there is a feeling in Raleigh that many of them are not as loyal as they might be. Although this situation would never exist at least it never existed under Broughton, it seems to be doing all right under Governor Cherry. In his first year in office Broughton was ruthless in regard to those who looked in the direction of Horton's camp in 1940, and even before he was sworn in, many non-supporters saw the handwriting on the wall. Sometimes their political demise came more like a bolt of lightning than any handwriting, as Oscar Pills sometimes called Broughton's "hatchet man," might tell you. Of course, the hatchet finally turned on Oscar.

TOLERANT Don't think Cherry doesn't know what is going on. He does—but he's just tolerant—at least temporarily so. He feels that these officials are doing their work well, and there is still time between now and 1948 to make corrections if the situation demands it. Cherry isn't the type who wants blind obedience and ours-but-to-do men. Everybody thought he was when he took office, and they looked for a "housecleaning," but this administration has been in power a year and three months now, and much to the amazement of many, the housecleaning is still "just around the corner."

EMPLOYEES At the present time, one person out of every 244 North Carolina citizens is working for the state. That's right. We now have 14,600 state employees out of a total population of 3,571,623. This might appear too many unless we turn our eyes northward to Virginia and find that one person out of every 164 is on the state list—or 16,300 out of a population of 2,677,773. Georgia, with a population of 3,123,723, has only 6,700 state employees. Tennessee, with 2,915,341 people has 7,700 employees—or one out of every 373.

This state employees list does not include teachers. This would

bring North Carolina's total to approximately 40,000.

BYRD—But the great Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia is political boss of that state—and the main preacher of economy in Washington. He says, and right he is, that there are entirely too many on Federal payrolls—but this great angel of economy should look homeward, where, including teachers, around one out of every 75 persons is working for the state—and either directly or indirectly for Harry Flood Byrd's political machine!

NOTES—The gossip around Raleigh persists that Monroe Redden of Hendersonville will win out over veteran Congressman Zeb Weaver in the Twelfth, but it's going to be tight. If Major John Lang of Charlotte is active in support of C. B. Deane of Rockingham, Deane should win over Bill Horner of Sanford rather handsily. However, Raleigh heard via Washington last week that Horner would emerge victor in the Eighth. Congressman Herbert Bonner should win without too much trouble in the First District they don't like to change horses in the middle of the stream or otherwise in the Elizabeth City-Washington-Greenville area, but Bonner should not consider his opposition too lightly. Although now Comptroller General, Lindsay Warren still keeps a firm hand on politics in the First. It still looks like Thurmond Chatham (blankets) in the Fifth, largely

because of Congressman John Folger's peculiar attitude. But Joseph Daniels' New Dealish News and Observer's having spasms because of this turn of events. Chatham wasn't a Roosevelter all the way, and that settles things as far as Joe Daniels is concerned. Thurmond should feel happy that this paper isn't in his district.

TWIST-UP Lt. Gov. L. Y. Ballentine, candidate for Governor, may be crossed up by Broughton supporters—in this manner: Ballentine and Broughton are great pals, though Stag doesn't lean on J. M.—not necessarily so. But Broughton's folks want W. R. Umstead of Durham, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, to run for Governor—so that he won't run against Broughton for the U. S. Senate. This would make plenty of trouble for Ballentine, and might make everything nice for Broughton. So here you have Ballentine and Broughton, both Wake County Democrats, shooting at each other with Umstead as the deadly ammunition. It's a great world.

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