

Declares State Spending With Rank Extravagance

Joshua W. Bailey Charges State Departments With Utter Disregard of Economy; Attacks Auditor's Office That Costs \$140,000 a Year.

J. W. BAILEY in News & Observer This statement is addressed to the people of North Carolina and particularly to the democratic party, since it is in control of the state and is responsible.

We now know that the deficit on current account in the state's finances is at least \$9,515,786.63; this is the finding of the budget commission; it is recognized as a fact by all save one citizen. How the state auditor of this state will ever reconcile the public statements heretofore made by him with these facts, is a matter for him to explain.

It is now known that the bonded indebtedness of the state is over one hundred million dollars; and by the time the present general assembly adjourns, it will be \$120,000,000 or \$150,000,000.

It is now known that the finance committees of the general assembly are laboring desperately to devise a tax scheme sufficient to meet the situation; and that under any circumstances, taxes will be very greatly increased, since the state taxes are to be about \$5,000,000 more per year than heretofore.

Before the state levies one dollar of additional bonds, it is the duty of the legislature to make a thorough-going investigation with a view to cutting down the cost of government, and, if possible, recovering money wasted.

That some of the departments of the state are being run extravagantly is beyond all question in the minds of the democratic party, and I believe we will be held to answer for it.

I wish to point out some expenditures of the state: The state auditor's department for example, is costing the state \$140,000 a year. There is no reason whatever why this office should cost the state over \$40,000 a year.

The state department of revenue is costing the state \$120,000 a year. In its expense account is the sum of \$13,235 for hotel bills and \$10,570 for automobile hire, and clerical salaries, \$517,000.

The automobile license bureau of this state, under the secretary of state, is costing the state over \$200,000 a year. I am informed by the secretary of state that he has purchased nine Packard cars—the Packard car being one of the most expensive types.

the cost of the state's printing. We spent \$48,339.54 for survey of the Appalachian and Western North Carolina Railway, in all probability a dead loss, since the attorney general declares the act unconstitutional.

We paid interest on the funded debt, \$2,729,768.50; and in addition to this, interest on notes payable \$831,115.82. Bear in mind this is interest—not principal. When our state debt amounts to \$150,000,000, as it shortly will, the annual interest will come to \$6,500,000.

I have mentioned a sufficient number of instances to confirm my statement that we are spending money at a rate that indicates an extravagant disregard of sound principles of economy as well as the condition of the tax payer, and demands investigation.

For over \$40,000,000 of our state bonds we have no specific provision whatever for paying interest or principal, and since state income is running behind state expenses, our credit is threatened.

The state prison has been run at a loss of from \$250,000 to \$300,000 in three years, and its superintendent says he will require about \$30,000 a month hereafter above its earnings—that is, \$300,000 per year.

One other matter, we have built within the last four years a large number of costly structures. There have been a number of ugly rumors touching some of these buildings. I have heard enough to justify me in suggesting that the legislature compare the buildings with the plans and specifications, with a view to ascertaining whether the quality of material and construction in these buildings comes up to the specifications upon which payment was made.

It is understood that this figure is far below that of the bids refused by the commission several weeks ago and is said to be the lowest cost per mile for the construction of

the recent special session there was a deliberate effort to have the legislature authorize the sale of the state prison farm near Raleigh for \$400,000. The bill was fortunately beaten; but only because certain individuals appeared and informed the legislators that the property was worth in the neighborhood of a million dollars.

They are studiously doing. They move in solid phalanx; they constitute a well organized machine; and so long as they know that they can do this, they will be extravagant. The only check upon money spending in North Carolina is the will of the people; and so long as we have a primary and election law that enables office holders to defeat the will of the people, we will have a government by officeholders and not by the people; and a government of extravagance, rather than of economy. All will be reflected in increased taxes and increased pay for the office holders.

The writer has been a democrat and has faithfully supported the party ever since he became twenty-one years of age. He has canvassed for the party in every campaign since 1908. He hopes that no one will call him in question on the point of the earnestness of his desire that the democratic party shall do well. If he had a duty also to support the party, and have performed it, I have also to advise and warn. I do not hesitate to express the conviction that unless the party shall put an end to extravagance in this state, and shall investigate thoroughly the large expenditures of money that have been made under its administrations, and shall give to the people of this state and the rank and file of the party itself a better and safer way of expressing their will, no power on earth can save it. This is not a threat—it is the expression of conviction. The large and increasing majorities given the party are evidence of the desire of our people to support it; and they will support it so long as it justifies their confidence; and it seems to me that the only way now for it to justify their confidence is to put an end to extravagance and useless money spending, put an end to impositions on the public treasury, and let the people know that every dollar spent the past four years will be intelligently investigated and courageously returned to be accounted for; and further, to let the people know that the party trusts them and is willing to stand with them in absolutely fair and honest election laws. A politician will not trust the people; and the people will not be trusted by the politician.

To Supreme Court



Attorney-General Harlan Fiske Stone, in President Coolidge's cabinet less than two months, has been nominated by the President to the U. S. Supreme Court to succeed Justice Joseph McKenna, who retired due to ill health.

COM. LETS CONTRACT FOR PAVED ROADS

Stokes and Ayden to Ridge Springs Projects Let by County Board Yesterday at \$20,468 Per Mile.

Greenville, Feb. 5.—Contracts for construction of a sixteen-foot concrete road from highway number 11 to Stokes and for a similar road from Ayden to Ridge Springs (Greene county line) were let by the Pitt County Highway Commission yesterday at a price of \$20,468 per mile.

It is understood that this figure is far below that of the bids refused by the commission several weeks ago and is said to be the lowest cost per mile for the construction of

the completion of these two projects will add much to the county's road system and will be a great benefit to residents of the sections through which these roads pass as well as to the towns to which they lead.

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ALLSBROOKING-TIM MURPHY AGREEMENT

Recent Candidate for Congress Killed When Car Turned Turtle. Chauffeur Whose Back Was Broken Lost Control of Machine.

Tarboro, Feb. 5.—Tim Allsbrook, prominent attorney of Tarboro, former solicitor and candidate for the democratic nomination in congress against Judge John W. Kerr last year, was instantly killed in an automobile accident, three miles from Greenville tonight about 8:30 o'clock. His colored chauffeur suffered a broken back.

Mr. Allsbrook had been attending court at Wilson. Owing to the bad condition of the road, other than those of hard surface, he decided to drive home by way of Greenville and Bethel, by which route he would have had three miles this side of Greenville in turning out to pass a wagon, the chauffeur lost control of the car and it ran into a tree. According to reports reaching here, the automobile turned over, pinning Mr. Allsbrook under it and crushing his life instantly. Another report said that in trying to pass a wagon on the road the chauffeur ran into another automobile coming from the opposite direction. The chauffeur was carried to a hospital in Greenville.

Mr. Allsbrook had been in practice as a lawyer at Tarboro for many years, having been born November 19, 1874. He was born in Scotland Neck, the son of Dr. J. W. Allsbrook and Temperance Dollie Allsbrook. He received his early and college education in private schools in the White Hill Male Academy, Scotland Neck. In 1896 he graduated from the North Carolina law school in Raleigh and was admitted to the bar.

several new members added. Selection was in union by the members added much to the spirit of the occasion.

At a late hour delicious refreshments consisting of chicken salad, saltines, pickles, raisin and nut cakes, waffles, ginger and chess sandwiches and hot coffee were served by the hostess assisted by her daughter, Miss Mary Elizabeth.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE Presbyterian church was entertained on Monday afternoon by Mrs. J. M. Hobgood at its regular monthly meeting.

Mrs. T. C. Turnage conducted the Bible study, taking as her subject: "Our Great Example of Humility." Mrs. Turnage emphasized in an impressive way Jesus' humility, as demonstrated by the washing of His disciples' feet at the Last Supper.

Mrs. N. N. Fleming then offered a prayer. A review of the foreign mission work recently studied by this group was also conducted by the leader. This was followed by the election of a delegate to attend the Parallel convention of N. C. Synodical Auxiliaries convening in Goldsboro February 18-20. Miss Sarah Bellamy was elected as delegate and Mrs. W. G. Sheppard as alternate.

J. L. HOOKER DIED AFTER SICKNESS

Popular Salesman of Scotland Neck Found Unconscious on Farmville-Greenville Road; Interment in Home Town.

Mr. John L. Hooker, 5, died in the Pitt Community hospital in Greenville Tuesday night at 12 o'clock, from what is believed to have been an attack of acute indigestion. The remains were sent to Scotland Neck, his home town.

Mr. Hooker, a traveling salesman, was found Tuesday afternoon by Chief of Police Hobgood of Farmville, sitting on the running board of his car in an unconscious condition. The car had been parked on the side of the Greenville-Farmville road a few miles from Farmville.

Realizing that Mr. Hooker was in a serious condition, Mr. Hobgood rushed him to the hospital in Greenville.

Although unable to ascertain the exact cause of his death it is believed that he suffered an attack of acute indigestion. He evidently was too ill to drive his car any further and had stopped thinking some one would pass.

CHORAL CLUB ENTERTAINED BY MRS. HEYWOOD SMITH

Mrs. Heywood Smith was charming hostess to the Choral Club on Monday evening at her home on Church street.

Miss Jerome, director of the club, gave an interesting talk on Gypsy music, and related the old legends of Romany concerning the construction of the first violin and initial articles on voice culture were read by Miss James M. V. Jones, J. L. Shackelford and Miss Vivian Case. The Club was

BANKING FOR THE PEOPLE

Copyright 1924 Harvey Blodgett. The problem of bank management is to keep in position to meet the demands of depositors, and at the same time, to lend a portion of the funds on deposit at rates which will cover expenses and earn a reasonable profit.

Certain items of operation cost must be met—as in any business. What is left from gross earnings after meeting operating expenses constitutes "profit."

As the business of a well managed, service giving bank expands, more capital is required, just as in any growing business. Therefore a well managed bank does not distribute all of its net profits among stockholders. A surplus is created, in effect, additional working capital.

A bank, like any business or individual, should build a surplus. There are years of depression when bank earnings are low—a condition common to the business world. More reason for retaining a surplus—some of the bank's earnings in the business. Banking has its expenses, its risks, its losses, just as every other line of business does.

Tobacco Asso. Will Make Final Settlement 2 Crop Feb. 7



Chas. Sledge, Dry City leader of tobacco growers was one of the men who will receive the final settlement of the 1922 crop of tobacco.

East Carolina Members Will Start receiving Final Payments February 7th. Will Close Two More Pools Soon, Border Counties Next.

Complete settlement on two crops of tobacco will be made with members of the Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association in Eastern North Carolina next Saturday, February 7. The media which will be issued to associate members from the cooperative warehouses in the eastern belt will cover the last indebtedness of the association to its members there on deliveries both of 1922 and of 1923 tobacco.

The tobacco co-ops of South Carolina and the North Carolina border counties will be the next in line to receive their final payments on the crop of 1922. After that Saturday's settlement, having already received full payment of their 1922 deliveries some months ago, the final settlement by the association with its members in the South Carolina belt is scheduled to take place on or before March 15, according to the announcement of the tobacco association's board of directors.

The tobacco farmers of the old bright belt of Virginia and North Carolina who are members of the association will receive their final settlement on deliveries of the 1922 crop on or before March 15, and, according to their directors this settlement will be followed within 40 days by payments on all grades of their 1923 tobacco which have been sold and paid for.

The Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association will be the first of the big American cooperatives to make full settlement with its members on the 1922 crop of tobacco as in the case of its members in Eastern Carolina this week and in South Carolina next month. The T-G Co's organization of tobacco farmers also shows the most successful sales record among the big

FAMILY PREPARES FOR MILLENNIUM

Ready to Meet It, Which is Due to Their Belief, Shortly After Midnight tomorrow

Patuxent, N. C., Feb. 4.—Six members of Robert Reid's family, for many years residents of this quiet little island community, completed preparation today to greet the Millennium.

Reid, a former member of the church of the Seventh Day Adventists by whom he was disowned, had recently, as he said, a cloud of gloom would call for him at the hill, and transport him, his wife and four children to Hollywood, Cal., home of Mrs. Margaret W. Bowen, leader of the little band which has sincere faith in the truth of her prediction that the earth and all things temporal are to end some time Friday.

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MINISTERIAL MEETING

The local ministerial board held its regular monthly meeting at the home of the chairman, Rev. B. S. Slaughter, on Monday morning at 11:30 o'clock.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. J. L. Ramsey after which Rev. N. N. Fleming reported that framed notices of church services had been placed in the stations and post-office. The dinner recently given members of the ministerial board by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith was brought up and Rev. J. W. Hayes requested to write an expression of appreciation to the host and hostess. The following schedule for conducting chapel exercises in the high school was then arranged:

1st and 2nd weeks in February—Rev. N. N. Fleming. 3rd week—Rev. D. E. Hill. 4th week—Rev. J. W. Hayes. 5th week in March—Rev. D. B. Slaughter.

The next Union service to be held on the fifth Sunday evening in March was discussed. This service will be held in the Methodist church and Rev. J. W. Hayes is to preach. The next meeting will be held on March 7 with Rev. N. N. Fleming at 11 o'clock.

ROTARIANS HOLD REGULAR TUESDAY EVENING SESSION

The local Rotary club held its regular weekly meeting on Tuesday evening at 6:30 o'clock.

LOCAL MASONS ENJOY CHICKEN DINNER

One of the most enjoyable of recent affairs was the chicken dinner given Monday evening by the two losing groups of Masons in an attendance contest. The contest started three months ago when the local Masonic order was divided into five teams with nineteen members on each team.

W. G. Sheppard acted as toastmaster and in a few but well thought-out remarks thanked the boys for the splendid dinner. During the course of the evening speeches were made by John Hill Taylor, Mr. T. Thorne, J. W. Jones, R. E. Bailey, G. E. Wheeler, G. W. Davis and others, and several delightful songs were sung. Two teams a yard dash and a foot race added to the fun and entertainment to the program. Toastmaster Sheppard brought the delightful affair to a close by the greatest of all fraternal orders, and wished that smiling and inspiring poems by Holladay, God bless Us Men, will be read.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY ROYALLY ENTERTAINED

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