

Pitt County Gives Big Party to Legislators

Politics Submerged in Gathering in Honor of County's Senator and Representatives

Greenville, July 15.—Three men who came back from the long legislature even stronger in the hearts of their people than when they left, Ed Flannagan, Marvin Blount and John Holmes, were honored by the people of Pitt county, as hosts, and many of the people of Eastern North Carolina, as guests, at the Greenville Country Club today.

The party had much more than local significance. Among the seven or eight hundred assembled at the barbecue were people from 22 different counties. They, or most of them, came to show their appreciation for a good legislative fight, even though it was not a complete victory. Their presence indicated that the people in this section of the state at least do not believe that the fight is over yet. They believe that the next legislature will do what the last couldn't quite do, take the entire constitutional school burden off land and put it on the state.

Though there had been predictions in some quarters of great political significance to the meeting here today, it had none. Candidates a plenty were here but the party was not theirs and nobody was boosted for governor or for any other office. Land tax relief was the subject of the only political talk when Senator John Hinsdale and others urged that in the next election care be taken to discover the legislative candidates' ideas on ad valorem and sales taxation before the election.

The speaking went on all day while some listened and others didn't. The audience shifted and the barbecue tables, the drink and even the golf course were competitive attractions. It was one of those parties at which everybody did what they pleased and a lot of different things were found to be most pleasing to different people. Tonight the affair ended with a dance at the club which brought out the women. The day's activities were almost wholly stag.

P. C. Harding was master of today's ceremonies. He first introduced Mayor R. C. Flannagan, who greeted the guests on behalf of Greenville, and then Raymond Turnage, of Ayden, who extended the official welcome of Pitt county.

Congressman Lindsay Warren had much to do with keeping factional or sectional democratic fights out of the day's program when he said that it was time for members of the party to get together and act for the state as a whole.

"North Carolina is paying the price of a spending spree that has made us the talk of the civilized world," said the congressman. "In this time there arose in the county of Beaufort a man whose name is now high in the annals of state history. Public education never had a better friend. In the most terrific legislative battle ever staged he won an 80 per cent victory and he and his followers secured the most substantial tax reduction ever given at one time in the history of North Carolina."

The congressman's remarks about Representative Angus D. MacLean drew prolonged applause as did the introduction of Mr. MacLean by Mr. Harding, who called him the "best known and most beloved citizen of Eastern North Carolina."

Mr. MacLean criticized the present system of capital and business which he said, "leaves makers of manufactured products rich and makers of crops poor."

"The present system has put too much money in too few hands," said Mr. MacLean, and the resulting problem necessitates the best and most honest thinking for the good of the state.

Mr. Harding told the audience that Josephus Daniels, editor of The News and Observer, was to have been present, but had found it impossible and sent a message to be read. Before reading the message Mr. Harding was most complimentary to the "fighting editor" and later the assembly passed a resolution requesting the paper to print the message in full.

Judge Francis D. Winston, the man who made Bertie famous, put the audience through its paces of laughter and then made it think. His was a "headline act."

Senator Rivers Johnson talked about the legislature and reminded the people at the barbecue that the last assembly had the most difficult of problems before it, and if it did not succeed completely as all had wished, the partial failure was not due to any lack of effort.

Lieutenant Governor Fountain also praised the industry of the legislature. He touched briefly on the economic problems, insisting that the school burden must be taken completely off land by the next legislature.

Hallett S. "Hot Stuff" Ward took off his coat and went to work on one of his rip roaring speeches that reminded at least 22 members of the

Notables Invited to Bridge Opening

\$350,000 Structure at Elizabeth City Will Be Opened Soon

Elizabeth City, July 15.—Governor O. Max Gardner, Chairman E. B. Jefferson of the State Highway Commission, and other notables will be invited to be present at the formal opening of the new Pasquotank river bridge some time the early part of August. A baseball game and boxing matches held under auspices of Seth E. Perry Post of the American Legion are planned as part of the celebration.

The new \$350,000 bridge is being fast brought to completion by the Atlantic Bridge Company of Greensboro, and it is expected that it will be far enough advanced to admit traffic by the latter part of July. The bridge is of concrete construction with double leaf bascule spans across a 100 foot channel. It was at the insistence of the United States War Department that the draw was made 100 feet instead of 80, as at first planned by the State Highway Commission, the contention being that the bridge was constructed to serve for many years and crossing a section of the Inland Waterway system, all possible requirements of future waterborne traffic must be provided for.

The new bridge is located about 150 yards upstream from the present one-way traffic bridge built about 20 years ago as a toll bridge by private interests and later taken over by the highway department. Contract for construction of the new bridge calls for the removal of the old.

dience of the past session of the senate. He talked tax relief, MacLean law, scales, taxes and old fashioned democracy, and he was in top form.

"The trouble with the world is that people won't use the common sense that the good Lord gave them," began one of the Wardisms. "There is no limit to man's smartness except that he can't govern himself. When people are starving, while warehouses are full of food that can't be sold, there's something wrong."

Allmost all of the speakers had praised the guests of honor and Senator Ward added a special tribute to Mr. Holmes. "I knew Ed Flannagan and Marvin Blount were good representatives before I went to Raleigh," he said, "but my admiration was won by this man Holmes."

Highway Commissioner E. B. Jefferson made a short talk as did Revenue Commissioner A. J. Maxwell, the latter talking about tax problems but diplomatically "laying off" the sales tax. His speech was another reminder of the activities among the crowds of certain friends of Senator W. G. Clark who want him to run for Commissioner of Revenue. But the senator announced that he was too busy enjoying the barbecue to be talking about politics. He would talk about everything else but the possibility that he might run.

Senator John Hinsdale went right to the sales tax fight. The present bill the impending deficit means, he said, "that there must be a general sales tax, a so-called luxury tax or an increase of ad valorem taxes." Already, he declared, the opponents of the luxury and the sales tax are preparing for the next legislature. Those who oppose an increase in the ad valorem tax must do the same thing, he stated.

Senator Baggett, Tom McNeill, O. B. Moss, R. B. Davis, Senator Rodwell, the "Bishop of Warren," and others made short talks while the crowds around the platform and the barbecue tables swapped places. Finally the three men in whose honor the party had been given expressed their appreciation of the honor and the compliments that had been paid them and one of the most enjoyable gatherings of the year came to an end.

If the governor had been forced to call a special session of the legislature yesterday, he could have found almost a quorum of both houses present and even the "third house" was ready to transact business. It looked like a reunion of the veterans of the five months' war.

Got Unemployment Facts

Col. Arthur Woods, who just returned from studying unemployment conditions in Europe, at the instance of President Hoover.

World's Flyers With Their Wives, Backer and Plane



The world's latest heroes were caught the morning after they finished circling the globe in eight and two-thirds days. Left to right are H. G. Gatty and his wife, Mrs. Wiley Post, and her famous husband. At top are shown Florence C. Hall, backer of the flight, and the Winnie Mae.

This Week In Washington

Washington, D. C., July 16.—One fallacy that dates back to the founding of the Republic has been exploded—the idea that American diplomats are no match for European statesmen. The world has been treated to the spectacle of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, a Pittsburgh banker and iron magnate, handling, on more than even terms, the delicate negotiations involved in the debt holiday.

Practically every other country but France was won over to the plan before Mellon left this country. France alone proved obdurate and entrenched itself behind its Chamber of Deputies, which Premier Laval asserted, had authorized him to agree only within certain limitations. Mellon's success in threading his way past these defenses has strengthened the administration's hold, politically, as it is known that he was guided throughout by President Hoover's personal advice. The negotiations have been conducted more skilfully, perhaps, than any deal made with a foreign government since the days when Benjamin Franklin was Minister to the Court of France and enlisted its aid for the American colonies.

Led by Vice President Curtis and Senator Capper, the two leading politicians from the wheat belt, an attack is being made on the Federal Farm Board's announced policy of unloading its wheat at the rate of five million bushels a month, if found practicable without breaking the price. Many observers here see in their activity only a political gesture, designed to bring the two men more into the limelight.

These critics point out that the Farm Board is committed against any action that would result in material lowering the price of wheat. It has the problem of selling its holdings at an average price of 92 cents and the present price is less than half that on the Chicago Board of Trade. The effect of an appeal to Mr. Hoover to stop the Board from unloading its holdings cannot amount to much, it is said here, as wheat will have to approximate \$1 a bushel before the government can start selling.

The Farm Board's selling campaign is definitely hooked up with a plan to purchase fresh wheat to the amount of its sales. All transactions will be handled so as not to depress the market price unless the world price should rise, and none will be made without consulting representatives of the farmers. It is generally conceded here that the board's statement is an ultimatum to all wheat farmers, warning them that unless they reduce their wheat acreage. It is also taken as a warning to private grain traders that the board will not allow itself to be "smoked out" into a definite announcement regarding prices, which would permit traders to jockey the market for their own self-interest purposes.

Tammany may be condemned for a thousand sins but it never has been accused of pussy-footing. Republican politicians here are trying to puzzle out whether Claude G. Bowers, the keynote orator at the Democratic National Convention in 1928, has not again sounded the call to battle in his Fourth of July speech at the Tammany Wigwam in New York City. That his speech actually represented the best thought of his party is being considered here as more than likely.

It is to be noted that Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, now the most likely candidate against Mr. Hoover, studiously refrained from attending the rally. His action leaves him free to accept or reject the Bowers dictum, which is that the coming campaign will be fought out strictly on the tariff issue.

Ever since this country became a great manufacturing nation, some 75 years ago, the tariff question has dominated the platform in a majority of presidential campaigns. The free silver issue and Wilson's war stand alone put it into the background. The

N. H. Whitfield Buried Sunday

Former Greenville Man Dies at Home of His Daughter in Farmville

N. H. Whitfield, 70, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. B. O. Turnage, in Farmville, last Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, following long illness.

Funeral services were conducted from the home yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock and burial was made in the Farmville cemetery. Rev. H. L. Hendricks, pastor of Farmville Methodist church, officiated.

Mr. Whitfield lived in Greenville several years and had a host of friends there who received news of his death with sorrow. He had been in business at Ontario, Va., the last several years, but his health became impaired and he moved to Farmville where he had been making his home with his daughter for the last several months.

He was a native of Franklin county but lived in many parts of the country during his lifetime. He married Miss Ruth Hays of Chase City, Va., who preceded him to the grave by a number of years.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. George Buchanan, of Henderson, and Mrs. B. O. Turnage, of Farmville; three sisters, Mrs. B. W. Chavis and Mrs. J. W. Hester, of Waco, Texas, and Mrs. J. R. Townsend, of Ontario, Va. He is also survived by several grandchildren.

Active pall bearers were: George Buchanan, New York; B. O. Turnage, Farmville, grandsons; G. A. Rouse, J. T. Thorne, A. W. Bobbitt, R. A. Fields, Honorary, G. M. Holden, F. M. Davis, T. C. Turnage, W. J. Turnage, J. Y. Monk, W. J. Rasberry, Plato Monk, W. Leslie Smith, B. S. Smith, E. C. Beaman, Dr. C. C. Joyner, M. V. Jones.

MRS. MARTHA L. MORGAN

Mrs. Martha L. Morgan, wife of Elbert Morgan of Seven Pines and Farmville, died July 15, at the age of 53. Mrs. Morgan is survived by her husband and one son, D. Hathaway, and several step-children. She was highly esteemed and much loved by a wide circle of acquaintances and her death is a great loss to the community in which she lived.

last really sharp tariff battle was in Cleveland's victory in 1892, which was followed by some lean years.

Bowers chose as his text the claims put out by the Hoover managers in 1928 that a high tariff meant prosperity. He said that voters had enjoyed plenty of time, between customers, since then to meditate upon the success of the tariff, charging that the high tariff has put a Chinese Wall around the country right at a time when it desperately needed foreign markets.

Not a word was said about the prohibition issue or superpower. If Bowers' speech is accepted by the Democratic party as a competent expression of its aims it means that the farmers of the country are to be asked to vote for the Democratic ticket on the appeal that the high tariff has raised the price of everything they buy while it has not added a cent to his purchasing power.

Russian wheat and cotton are selling below the price American farmers can raise them and the Democrats are expected to make this point their main bid for votes when the campaign starts. Bowers' speech before the Texas convention three years ago is still remembered as one of the greatest keynote orations ever made, rivaling in its dramatic power Bryan's "cross of gold and crown of thorns" speech at Chicago in 1896. Unless his recent speech had been approved by Democratic leaders before it was given, it would never have been made.

Tax Burden On Property Much Reduced

School and Road Legis- lation by Late General Assembly Helps Some

Raleigh, July 15.—A net reduction of \$12,167,849 from the 1930 property tax levies for the six months school term and county roads will be realized by North Carolina taxpayers as a result of the school and road legislation of the 1931 General Assembly.

Figures compiled and just released by the State Tax Commission indicate that a saving of nearly twelve and a quarter million dollars from the actual 1930 levies will accrue to the owners of property from the passage of the administration road law under which the state takes over the entire maintenance of county roads, and the MacLean school law under which the state takes over the entire maintenance of the six months school term and reduces the levies on property for school support to 15 cents.

The net reduction from the 1930 levy for the six months school term is \$9,652,491, and for roads \$2,515,358. The average reduction in rate for schools is 32 cents, and for roads, 9 cents.

The actual levy for county and township road maintenance in 1930 was \$5,252,113, none of which is to be levied in 1931. The counties will have to assume additional responsibility this year, however, in the amount of \$2,736,755 for the payment of county road debt service which last year was paid out of state aid appropriated to the counties. This leaves a net reduction from the 1930 actual levy of two and one-half millions.

While the twelve and one-quarter million dollar decrease from the actual levy in 1930 is the biggest total reduction in property taxes ever effected at one time in the history of North Carolina, a reduction of more than twenty per cent of the total taxes levied on property, county, municipal and district, for all purposes, the reduction itself would be \$600,000 bigger if every county had levied, in 1930, as much as it actually spent for road maintenance that year.

A number of counties have been spending a great deal more for road maintenance than they have been levying. For example, Buncombe county spent \$327,000 in the year ending June 30, 1930; but in 1930 Buncombe county levied a rate of only five hundredths of one cent, or \$819, for roads. If Buncombe county had raised its road maintenance funds from taxes it would have had to levy 20 cents.

In the same year Craven county spent \$31,257, and levied a rate of three-tenths of one cent which produced \$807. It spent nearly \$80,000 more than it levied, and would have found it necessary to levy a rate of 30 cents for roads if it had met its road expenditures out of its road tax levies.

The same condition existed in many other counties. Currituck county, which spent \$13,486 for the year ending June 30, 1930, did not levy any tax for road maintenance in 1930.

The average statewide reduction for roads and schools combined is 41 cents. The twelve counties receiving the greatest reduction are led by Rutherford with an even \$1.00, followed by Dare with 77 cents, Columbus 69 cents, Vance 68 cents, Pitt 64 cents, Scotland 64 cents, Union 62 cents, Davidson 61 cents, Greene 60 cents, and Camden 60 cents.

The county receiving the lowest reduction from the 1930 levy for schools and roads is Clay, which could not receive a large reduction from last year's rate, because it levied only \$10,500 for roads and schools combined. When it again assumes the payment of its road debt service charges, for which it received last year \$10,000 of state aid, its tax rate will actually be increased 13 cents. This county levied only \$3,377 for roads last year, but it actually spent

New Measures Invoked To End Economic Panic

Mussolini Says U. S. Can Make World Disarm

The Duce Says "There Is No Other Road If Wes- tern Civilization Is to Live"

(By ROBERT J. BENDER)

Rome, July 15.—Modern civilization has reached its "last stand" from which it may be plunged into "chaotic disaster" by the war or saved for peace and economic recovery through disarmament, Premier Benito Mussolini told me in a private interview today.

Fresh from disarmament discussion with Secretary of State Stimson, Mussolini stressed the important position of the United States in the decision which will determine the future of the world, "now at the parting of the ways."

The United States, as the most powerful country in the world today, can achieve disarmament "by pounding with hammer blows until disarmament is an accomplished fact," the premier said.

"This has got to be," he added solemnly.

"There is no other road, if Western civilization is to live. As we stand before 1932, we are facing a great uncertainty. On our decision depends the future of the world."

"If we decide for peace, we will have saved humanity. If we decide for war, we will plunge the world into chaotic disaster."

The Duce earnestly declared that without the United States, the 1932 disarmament conference would be doomed to failure, as has been the case with its many predecessors. But if disarmament comes, he said, the great powers will achieve much financial relief.

"If only from an economic viewpoint," he pointed out, "disarmament is a progressive necessity, and since the average nation spends about one-fourth of its revenues on its military establishments, the value of lightening the burden is evident."

"Not secondary to the immediate economic saving is the guarantee of peace. Unrest and stagnation followed the war and morale is low. The world is craving a sustained peace. The reestablishment of the normal flow of commerce and the resumption of industry make peace an essential part of the world program."

"Resumption must take place, because another winter of hardship and misery will plunge Europe into despair. Do not forget that where there is dire distress, there you will find the way open for the germ of bolshevism. In distressing times it is a real danger."

twice this amount. The true net result of the operation of the school and road law will, therefore, leave Clay county with approximately the same rate in 1931 as in 1930. This county incidentally has a high total county tax rate for the reason that its debt service needs (not operating costs) for roads and schools require a levy of \$1.39.

Other counties that will receive small reductions as a result of the road and school laws are Macon 6 cents, Brunswick 7 cents, Ashe 8 cents, Randolph 17 cents, Forsyth 19 cents, Watauga 22 cents, Yadkin 23 cents, Avery 25 cents, Alleghany 27 cents, Yancey 27 cents, Swain 27 cents. With the exception of Forsyth which has an unusually low tax rate because of its high assessed valuation, all of these counties except two are mountain counties which have fairly meagre road facilities and which have been receiving the largest part of their six months school term revenue from the state equalizing fund.

On the whole, the eastern part of the state will receive a larger reduction.

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Democratic Head Back



John J. Rankin, chairman of the National Democratic Committee, has just returned from a trip to Europe, ready for work.

Authorities Resort to Use of Firearms in Pre- serving Order

Berlin, July 15.—To the accompaniment of news of Communist rioting in many sections of Germany, Chancellor Bruening's government tonight broadcast by radio a series of decrees opening the banks and clamping down drastic regulations on traffic in foreign currencies.

The news that riots had broken out in a number of cities where quiet has reigned throughout the day began to arrive in Berlin by telegraph at the same time Finance Minister Dietrich was vigorously appealing by radio to the people to keep their nerve, to "use common sense," and to stand behind the country's leaders in their task of restoring financial and industrial equilibrium.

Although police were forced to resort to the use of firearms in Dresden, Leipzig and Karlsruhe, reports received up to midnight indicated they were unable to control the situation everywhere.

All banks in the country will be reopened tomorrow, the government decreed, but at least for the rest of this week they will take care of only such essential items as payrolls, tax obligations and the unemployment dole.

It was made clear that Chancellor Bruening was determined not to permit a new run on foreign currencies or the resumption of raids on savings banks.

Finance Minister Dietrich also asked the people not to forget that "It is not the government, but private industry which is pressed for cash." The Hoover plan, he said, with Chancellor Bruening's drastic economy program, has put the German exchequer "on its feet," and even enabled the government to begin repaying some of its floating debt. Already, he said, several hundred millions have been returned to industry.

New financial relief measures were announced to the country over the radio by a government broadcaster, who appealed to those who had been discommoded by the bank closure to show "a sporting spirit and get along somehow for a few days more."

The government's action came a few hours later the Reichsbank had lowered the 40 per cent coverage on currency required by law, thereby releasing millions of marks to ease the credit situation created by heavy withdrawals of foreign credit during recent weeks.

The Reichsbank also raised its discount rate from 7 to 10 per cent and boosted the rates on loans against collateral from 8 to 15 per cent—both measures being taken to keep the expanded currency down to the actual needs of the nation and to forestall inflation.

In appealing to the people to show a sporting spirit, the government broadcaster pointed out that savings accounts, tied up by the bank closing order, were intended for use in rare emergencies and not for current expenditures.

The decree affecting foreign currencies, also read over the radio, restricts buying and selling to the Reichsbank and its duly appointed agents. It prohibits the quotation of any except official rates of exchange, which will be determined in Berlin.

The decree also forbids publication of unofficial stock and bond quotations as well as all trading in foreign exchange futures.

The radio broadcast closed with the government's assurance that the restrictions would be removed shortly from remittances of money through banks and postoffices, and that "gradually, but rapidly as the situation permits, the banks will be allowed to return to full normal operation."

The foreign exchange decree vests the federal minister of economics with authority to inspect books and to demand sworn statements from all persons buying or selling foreign currency, and lays down drastic penalties for violations.

GLOBE GIRDERS WILL NOT GO TO RALEIGH

Raleigh, July 15.—Raleigh will not see and hear Messrs. Post and Gatty, who girdled the globe in less than nine days, and who now plan, under the sponsorship of the National Broadcasting Company, to girdle cities of the United States willing to pay for the privilege of entertaining them.

When Secretary H. B. Branch, of the Chamber of Commerce, heard of the proposed tour, he jumped right in and invited the fliers to include Raleigh on their triumphal itinerary.

Yesterday the answer came back.

"We will be glad to—the fee will be \$1,000," Secretary Branch said that it was all off.