## -THE SPOTLIGHT-

## (Continued from page 2)

est price in many years at an average above 20c, and the millions that this change has meant to us, it is manifestly imperative for the protection of future crops that we carry out our pledge of crop limitation and of crop limitations contracts which the Government will present. The Government will never be permitted to suggest that our farmers failed to carry out, to the letter, their part of the understanding. The future salvation of agriculture depends upon our keeping faith in the matter of signing contracts."

#### Sales Tax Defended

He defended the sales tax, urging the citizenship of North Carolina not to grumble but to give thanks for a method of taxation which is saving the farms, homes and schools of the State. "Let those, who criticize the imposition of this tax tell you how it could have been avoided under the conditions existing at the time the Legislature was in session," he said. "There is no, other way except to push it back on your homes and farms or destroy your schools."

In discussing the merchant's attitude in regard to the sales tax the Governor declared, "if I were a merchant and unwilling to help my State as well as my nation when it involved no cost to me, I would turn the Blue Eagle in my store around, for I would be ashamed to look it in the face for fear it would ruffle its feathers at me. It is not costing them anything, except inconvenience, but it is saving your farms, your homes and your schools. Patronize the man who cooperates with you, but ask the man who complains what he is kicking about and if he continues to complain when you are paying the tax, take your trade elsewhere."

### **Reviewed School System**

In reviewing the present school system, salaries and transportation provisions Governor Ehringhaus stated, "that North Carolina has stood the depression more valiantly and has preserved more of her educational structure than almost any State in the Union. The desperate situation which confronted the Legislature in January, the utter breaking down of ad valorem tax realization; the complete collapse of the old system of dual support of schools and the imperative necessity for State action if educational chaos was avoided, are familiar but oft forgotten facts. Whatever of defects are inherent in our present system, there are three things which may be said of it which we should never forget: First, not a school in North Carolina has been closed down for want of funds; secondly, an eight months school term has been guaranteed by the State for every child in it; and thirdly, what salaries we have promised, we are paying promptly, and paying cash. I verily believe that no other State in the Union can equal these accomplishments.

various speakers, and of the affair honoring him as chief of the conference delegation, the Governor stated that there is "glory enough for all in the realization, not simply of the millions which the effort has meant to bobacco growers, but also the contribution which has been made by the success toward the liquidation of debts, the salvation of the merchant creditors in the areas affected. the emancipation of the farms and homes from the bondage of past and pressing debts, the rehabilitation generally of the section, and the protection of a vast number of tobacco growers from the starvation, blood and tears which were threatened."

"Let me assure you that I am with you and will keep on fighting for you."

#### Congressman Warren Unable To Attend

With words of regret for the accident to his ankle which kept Congressman Lindsay C. Warren away from the celebration, E .V. Webb of Kinston president of East Carolina Warehousemen's Association, expressed the sentiments of his hearers in the tribute paid this statesman, whose every effort has been, and is bent in the struggle towards the accomplishment of the benefit plans outlined for the attainment of a living price for tobacco.

Mr. Webb read a letter sent to Congressman Warren by President Roosevelt, two days previous to the occasion, in regard to the situation, which was as follows:

Letter From The President The White House,

Washington Nov. 8, 1933 "My dear Mr. Warren:

"It is heartening to hear the good reports from North Carolina that the efforts of the Administration to help the flue-cured tobacco grower is

meeting with success. "Without the intelligent cooperation of the producers, we could not have hoped to obtain improved prices which you are now receiving for your tobacco and have received since the reopening of the markets. You are familiar, of course, with the steps that were taken when ruinous prices forced the closing of warehouses. Had it not been for the fact that the producers of flue-cured tobacco met this emergency with a definite and immediate promise to adjust production in the next season, our task in obtaining fairer prices this year would have been more difficult if not impossible. "May I call your attention to the fact that soon this group of farmers will be called upon to execute a definite contract to reduce production next year. I am convinced that the spirit that was demonstrated in the emergency sign-up campaign will be carried forward and a sound program of production adjustment will result. "Very sincerely yours, "FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT." Lanier Urges Continued Cooperation J. Con Lanier of the AAA, was introduced by W. E. Fenner, of Rocky Mount, in words of warmest commendation for the meritorious service he has rendered since being placed in

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the position of tobacco expert in Washington.

Mr. Lanier went into the acreage reduction contract in detail, giving the benefit to be received from keeping the pledge made previous to the reopening of the markets, and the results which will come in case the farmers fail to stand by their promise of a 30 per cent cut.

He stated the government's plan to pay \$17.50 an acre for land taken out of tobacco cultivation for next year, saying,"What the crop brings, the government will add 12 and 1-2 per cent. Those signing the contract will receive 20 per cent additional for the tobacco they sold prior to September 25 this year, and those who sold their tobacco between that date and October 7 will get a bonus of 10 per cent.

On top of all that, a grower who produces less tobacco than that allotted him in the contract next year will get two cents from the government for each pound he fails to sell beneath the stipulated amount."

David J. Whichard, editor of the Greenville Reflector, brought the program to a close with a tribute to the Governor and to the men who sponsored the movement for improved prices, and to the growers themselves, who remained at home in the rear ranks and assisted in getting their acreage reduction contracts signed.

Affair Closed By Jubilee Ball The Golden Jubilee Ball, held directly after the speaking program in honor of Governor and Mrs. Ehringhaus, under the auspices of the Major May Chapter, D. A. R., was

a magnificient social event, with more than fifteen hundred in attendance as participants and spectators. Tal Henry's orchestra furnished the music. Favors for the ladies were immense chrysanthemums, golden in hue, and cigarettes were presented to the men in the grand march led by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Fenner of Rocky Mount. Monk's warehouse was elaborately decorated for the occasion in festoons of lemon and orange crepe paper, the color motif being significant of the two types of tobacco. Long leaf pine was used as a background for the dance division of the floor.

#### Governor To Stand By

To prove the sincerity of his statement made to Eastern Carolina in November, "Let me assure you that I am with you and will keep on fighting for you," the Governor has recently emphisized the fact that a price of 22c a pound for tobacco this year, is not enough to carry on the recovery program in the tobacco belts, and is pressing the point that manufacturers must pay at least 25c per pound, and regard parity of 27 to 30 cents as a true parity, if parity prices are to mean prices in terms of buying power, as everything the farmer buys has greatly increased in value.

Representatives of practically every major farm organization in America, as well as many individual farmers, were present when the principles of the legislation were adopted, and are consulted frequently in administering the program. It is truly a farmers' program.



**Governor** Praises Others In expressing appreciation for the personal tribute paid him by the

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