

## TAX BURDEN ON N.C. PROPERTY REDUCED

### Changes in School and Road Legislation Brings Much Relief To Property Owners In Some Sections.

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 McLean 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, \$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 effectuated 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 \$19—for roads. If Buncombe county had raised its road maintenance funds from taxes it would have had to levy twenty cents.

In the same year Craven County spent \$81,257, and levied a rate of three-thirtieths 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 thirty cents for roads if it had met its road expenditures out of road tax levies.

The average state-wide 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, Nash 67 cents, Currituck 64 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 charge, 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 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

## WEEVIL INFESTATION IN HOKE VERY LIGHT

### Farmers Have Kept Army Killed Down By Use Of Poison; Burton Does Some Counting.

Weevil infestation in the county appears to be unusually light, according to reports coming in and to some counts made by County Agent Burton this week.

In one field counted, which had been mopped with a molasses poison one time, Mr. Burton found an infestation of 15 per cent, the highest that he found. In another field on the same farm that had been mopped twice the count showed four per cent and in another field on this farm that had been mopped three times the infestation was only two per cent. On other farms inspected that had been mopped consistently the infestation was almost nothing and Mr. Burton feels that the weevil is well under control.

Conversations with various farmers shows very few complaints from this pest this year and a marked improvement over preceding years, though it is possible for considerable damage to be done yet.

The cotton crop in Hoke county is one of the prettiest this year ever seen by old farmers. While planting was a little later than normal, the crop seems to have gotten off to a good start and made rapid progress. In many fields it is meeting in the rows and is fruiting beautifully. The weather has been ideal with enough dry weather to make fruiting rapid and check the work of the weevil.

## FALL TO BE SENT TO NEW MEXICO PRISON

### Former Member of Harding Cabinet Assigned After Day Is Added to His Sentence; Term To Begin Soon.

Washington, July 15.—Albert Bacon Fall, secretary of the interior in the Harding administration, will serve his sentence of a year and a day in the penitentiary at Sante Fe, New Mexico, his home state.

The New Mexico prison was chosen today by Attorney General Mitchell after Justice Bailey of the District of Columbia Supreme court had added a day to his jail sentence of a year.

The change was made to enable the attorney general to choose a prison more suitable to the health of the former cabinet officer than the District of Columbia jail.

Fall is expected to go to the penitentiary as soon as the warrant for his commitment is sent to a United States marshal or prison officials.

He served as senator from New Mexico before becoming secretary of the interior and was a territorial judge before New Mexico became a state.

Fall was convicted in October, 1929, of accepting a bribe from Edward L. Doheny, oil operator, for the lease of the Elk Hills, Calif., naval oil reserve to a Doheny company.

The sentence was changed by Justice Bailey on motion of Frank Hogan, attorney for the former secretary of the interior.

Justice Bailey last week in denying Hogan's request for a suspension.

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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.

On the whole, the eastern part of the state will receive a larger reduction in rate than the central or western. The average reduction of the counties in the Coastal Plain is 52 cents, and the Tide Water Section 41 cents. On the other hand, the Piedmont counties receive a reduction of 39 cents, and Mountain counties a reduction of 33 cents.

Two counties will each receive more than a 70 cent reduction in tax rate, eleven will receive between 60 and 70 cents, eighteen between 50 and 60 cents, twenty-nine between 40 and 50, twenty-seven between 30 and 40 cents, seven between 20 and 30 cents, and six below 20 cents.

## WATERMELON OUT-LOOK BRIGHT HERE

### Advices From Northern Markets Indicate Good Prices; Hoke County Crop Is A Good One.

Advices from the Northern markets indicate that watermelons will bring a good price this season and latest quotations received by County Agent Burton are most encouraging. A letter from a New York brokerage firm, mailed on Monday, quotes the following prices on tracks in that city for Watsons:

34-36, \$420 to \$475.  
32-34, \$375 to \$400.  
30-32, \$320 to \$345.  
28-30, \$290 to \$315.  
26-28, \$250 to \$275.  
24-26, \$210 to \$235.  
22-24, \$175 to \$200.  
Dixie Belles: 24-26, \$210; 22-24, \$200.

There are approximately two thousand acres planted in melons in the county and Mr. Burton estimates the number of cars of nice melons to be shipped at six hundred. Shipments are just beginning and it is impossible to give any returns at this writing on any shipments but the next few days will see the heavy movement get under way. The condition of the crop is reported by Mr. Burton as good and if the prices continue as favorable as now seems likely, quite a neat sum will be realized by growers from this year's crop.

Commenting on conditions in New York on Monday, besides stating that the weather was terrifically hot, this firm had the following to say: Liberal arrivals coupled with slow movement on Saturday allowing 99 carsloads to be carried over from previous receipts helped make the heavy decline in prices realized today. However, weather conditions are excellent, terrifically hot and this coupled with low prices ruling today should help move holdings on track into consumption freely.

As shipments reported are very light it would not surprise us to see our market react very favorably about Wednesday. Should you be interested in making shipments at that time or after that time please be good enough to telegraph us for spot market conditions. We can then advise you whether or not such shipments should be made.

## BUSINESS BETTER THAN IN 12 YEARS

### Upchurch Milling & Storage Company Drawing Customers From South Carolina And Coast Of N. C.

Business is better with the Upchurch Milling & Storage Company than it has been since 1919, according to the manager, Mr. H. A. Cameron, who has been with this company for all these many years. Last fall this company installed feed mills and began the manufacture of all kinds of feeds, either on a toll basis or for cash or furnishing part of the ingredients and using whatever the customer brought for the balance. This service has proven immensely popular and people are coming from distant points in order to get the benefit of this service. Last week customers came from points in South Carolina and from counties on the coast in this state. Many customers have been using the flour mill of this company for years and coming from adjoining counties in which mills were to be found simply because they liked the service here better. With the addition of the feed grinding and mixing machinery they find a service now that is not available in many places and the increasing volume of business being done by this company is evidence that folks are waking up to the benefits to be derived from this service.

This paper pointed out the significance of this enterprise last fall and it is gratifying to see the warm reception given it in so short a time. It is bringing people to Raeford from an ever increasing distance and should be a material factor in making Raeford a larger shopping center.

## COMMISSIONERS HOLD MEETING

### Hear Complaints From Tax Payers On Valuations Set Upon Property; Tax Sales Postponed Until October.

The board of commissioners met Monday in an all day session, sitting as a board of equalization to hear complaints from tax payers on the valuations set upon their property. All members were present except Mr. N. P. Watson, who was prevented from attending by sickness.

Quite a number appeared in person and some wrote letters asking for reductions in values placed upon their property. Except in cases where buildings had been destroyed or built, very few changes were made in the figures from last year.

The commissioners re-considered a former action with reference to the appropriation for a fire and game warden, but found that since this office has already been contracted for that they could do nothing but continue it for the ensuing year.

They ordered the sheriff to withhold the advertising of lands for 1930 taxes until September and that the sale not be held until the first Monday in October. It has been customary for the lands to be advertised in May and sold in June heretofore, but last year the sale was deferred until October in an effort to assist the tax payers and it is hoped by the commissioners that putting it off this year will assist many people to pay up and avoid the embarrassment and expense of having their lands advertised. October is the latest that they can put it off. In fact, it works something of a hardship on the sheriff in that it makes him late closing his books for 1930 and in getting his books for the 1931 taxes. However, if the action enables many tax payers to meet their taxes without advertisement it is felt that the inconvenience is well worth while.

A budget for the year 1931-32 will be adopted by the commissioners on the third Monday in August. It is not known now just what the rate for this year will be but it is believed that a substantial reduction will be the outcome. Salaries have been cut recently, the school term has been shortened in

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## MELON INSURANCE NOW ON MARKET

### Sapp McLeod Secures Agency For Hoke County; Results Guaranteed So Long As Sapp Remains Awake.

Some Mutt once remarked that there was nothing new under the sun, but if he had tried to steal a watermelon from the patch of Harry Greene any night recently he would have had an experience new to him anyway. Thieves had been entering this said patch and not only stealing melons but cutting and breaking green ones and doing a world of unnecessary damage. Mr. Green secured the services of Hoke County's most versatile man and none other than the redoubtable Sapp McLeod was employed to guard the patch, the guarding being done in regulation sentry style with a double barrel shot gun. It has also been rumored that the government was assisting in the guarding, though this has not been confirmed.

Saturday night a little war occurred over at the patch when Mr. McLeod heard some would-be rogue on the outskirts of the field of battle. He was heard to let go both barrels in rapid succession, though no casualties have been reported thus far. Mr. Green wanted and tried to go to the scene of hostilities to render first aid, if necessary, but his nerve failed him when he approached the field of battle and he sickened with fear when the thought occurred to him that Sapp was no respecter of persons in the dark and that he, Mr. Greene, might be the recipient of some little shots intended for the thieves. However, he conceived the idea of using his young son as a

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## TONSIL CLINIC IS DECIDED SUCCESS

### Twenty-four Children Have Tonsils Removed; Clinics Becoming Popular In Hoke County.

A tonsil and adenoid clinic was held in the basement of the Presbyterian church last Thursday and twenty-four children, coming from various parts of the county, were successfully operated on. Dr. McKay, of Fayetteville, performed the operations and was assisted by Miss Smith, operating nurse, Dr. Williams, of the Sanatorium staff, and Dr. R. L. Murray, County Physician. The clinic was held under the auspices of the county Parent-Teacher Council, and Mrs. H. A. Cameron, the chairman, asks that the thanks of the council be extended to all who so graciously assisted in making the clinic a success.

Clinics have been held from time to time for a number of years and have proven quite beneficial and popular. They enable parents to get accommodations for their children at greatly reduced cost and right at home, and therefore much more conveniently. They are put on under the direction of the State Board of Health and only experienced surgeons and nurses are used. Their record of success is one of which any state should feel proud and the work that these clinics are doing are of inestimable benefit to the people.

## DRY FORCES BEGIN HEAVY CAMPAIGN

### 335 New Men To Be Placed At Work In Several Districts; 16 Sent To Territory Including North Carolina.

Washington, July 15.—Federal prohibition enforcement chiefs were prepared tonight for the biggest campaign in dry law history with tomorrow set as the zero hour.

This was the word given out at the prohibition bureau, after the receipt of information that the 335 new dry agents had or would complete within 24 hours their intensive enforcement training. By tomorrow night most of them will have reached the posts assigned to them.

Howard T. Jones, acting prohibition administrator, said he did not anticipate, however, any immediate upward leap in arrests and seizures.

Just as a policeman breaks in on a new boat, he explained, the new agents will work for some time with men who have been in the service for a year or more. Later they will be put more on their own and the force of the new drive is expected to be more apparent.

Jones pointed to the record of the prohibition bureau during the past month as evidence of the results obtained by the addition of 165 new agents earlier in the year. The arrests of more than 7,000 violators was reported, with seizures of nearly 500,000 gallons of beer and 157,000 gallons of spirits, a record considerably above that of May. The corps of agents he referred to was part of the new force of 500 authorized by Congress.

Meanwhile the prohibition bureau made public the final distribution of the 335 agents who started their training in impromptu schools in a dozen cities July 1.

Thirteen will work in the first prohibition district, comprising New Hampshire, Main, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island; 65 will be sent into the second district, consisting only of New York; 50 will go to the third which encompasses Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey; 16 will work in the fourth, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina; 28 have been assigned to the fifth, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas; 27 into the sixth, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan; 57 into the seventh, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin; 28 into the eighth, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.

## SEN. GEORGE FOR TARIFF REDUCTION

### Says U. S. Should Abandon Embargo Theory and Adopt More Liberal Trade Policy; Commends Moratorium.

Washington, July 15.—Recognizing tariff barriers as a serious hindrance to the restoration of international trade, Senator George, of Georgia, member of the senate finance committee, in a statement issued Monday declared that downward revision of tariffs here and abroad may well be expected to hasten the return of normal conditions. He said:

"The President's proposal to suspend for one year the payment of inter-governmental debts has received cordial assurance of support by representatives of both political parties. The ultimate value of the moratorium lies in the use we shall make of it.

"If we shall indicate by our actions the purpose to abandon the embargo theory of tariff and to adopt a more liberal trade policy, the history of tariff making in Europe justifies the belief that European nations may eliminate many of the trade barriers erected by them against other nations, including the United States, thereby setting in normal motion the currents of world trade.

"In 1925 and 1926 there was marked upward revisions of the tariff in 16 European countries. This tendency was apparently checked by the bankers' manifesto of 1926, the report of the world economic conference in 1927, and other statements from the leading financiers and industrialists of the world.

"In 1927 upward revision of the tariff occurred in only 10 European countries; in 1928 five, and in 1929 probably only two countries continued the policy. In 1929 Congress was called in extraordinary session and invited to make a limited revision of the tariff in the interest of agriculture and a few industries suffering from insurmountable foreign competition. Political necessity and expediency, however, led to a general revision of the tariff.

"The result is the Smoot-Hawley act. The further result is the erection of retaliatory tariffs by many countries of Europe, by some countries in this hemisphere and protests from every quarter. Drastic reductions in foreign commerce, both exports and imports, has followed. This decline is due in great part to the world depression; but exports from the United States fell approximately 21 per cent during the first six months of 1930; while British exports declined about 13 per cent; Italy about 11 per cent and France about 5.5 per cent.

"Excess European tariffs have most certainly contributed to the general depression and we have not of course escaped the consequences of that depression. The president's views regarding the tariff are known. He himself recognized inequalities in the present tariff. Upon his insistence the executive flexible provision was retained in the act. It is not necessary that the president invite a congressional revision of the tariff. With the assistance of the tariff commission he may eliminate those unwarranted and especially burdensome duties on the trade and commerce of so many of our best customer-nations. "President Hoover properly recognizes that military and naval disarmament must come by international agreement; likewise economic disarmament.

"There is not the slightest disposition to criticize or embarrass the efforts thus far made by the President to stabilize world conditions, and a downward revision of tariffs here and in Europe may well be expected to hasten materially the return of normal conditions."

Al Smith is said to act the plays that he sees after he returns home. We bet his wife kept him from seeing "Hell for Sartin."

## NATURE'S ICE BOX

Refrigerating problems do not exist for housewives in north-eastern Siberia, where the thermometer frequently takes a dive to 95° degrees below zero. Keeping the food-stuffs fresh is a simple matter of hacking or burning a six or seven foot pit in the frozen soil and placing the edibles within. No ice box or refrigerator can compare with this arrangement in frigidly.