

THE FIGHT FOR LIQUOR

By E. C. CRAWFORD
Raeford, N. C.

Members of the 1941 North Carolina Assembly are getting set for another legislative battle over the liquor problem. This is to be expected, for what to do with liquor is the greatest question before the people today. The life, happiness, and safety of the people of North Carolina is affected by liquor as by few other things in the State.

For the year ending June 30, 1840, the people of North Carolina drank \$7,972,893.86 worth of liquor and over 9,250,000 gallons of beer and approximately 500,000 gallons of wine, to say nothing of the amount of bootlegged liquor still consumed. Over 25,000 liquor licenses have been revoked in North Carolina for driving drunk since liquor was legalized. The second rule of the twelve rules for safe driving issued by the Highway Safety Division of North Carolina is, "Do not drive when drinking." Statistics are more and more revealing intoxicating liquors as a major cause of auto accidents.

What should be done now? In the first place, the democratic thing should be done. The people of the State should be allowed to say by their vote whether they want liquor legalized in North Carolina. The last three Legislatures have refused them this privilege. A vote of the 1935 Assembly at 3:02 in the morning of the last day opened the door for legal liquor to go from 17 ABC counties all over North Carolina. By a vote 2,807 in Nash county June 6, 1935, under the Pasquotank Act of the 1935 Legislature, liquor was legalized in the State of 600,000 voters. And, in "dictator" fashion, the 1937 Legislature by special act slipped liquor stores in Moore and Bertie counties without even a vote of the people of these two counties. The 1939 Legislature upheld the county option law, granting any county liquor that would vote for it, and granting 27 counties the privilege of selling liquor to the citizens of the 73 other counties of the State, but the 1939 Legislature would not grant the people of the 73 dry counties the privilege of joining the people of the 27 wet counties in a democratic statewide referendum to determine a democratic, statewide liquor policy for the State. Will the 1941 Legislature show its faith in the democratic process by letting the people of the whole state express their desire on the present liquor middle? It will if it believes in democracy.

In the second place, in dealing with

liquor we should seek to promote temperance rather than to collect revenue. It is bad enough to have a sales tax on bread, but when a sales tax is placed on liquor, a poisonous, habit-forming drug,—the people are being robbed and enslaved. There is not one element of temperance promotion about the present liquor system, it is a wholesale liquor business, advertised and boosted for the sake of revenue for the counties in which it operates and for a profit for the few that direct it. It began with 3 per cent beer, then liquor, then 5 per cent beer, and later 3/24 per cent wine. Sales on all these are now on the increase in the State. Last year there was in North Carolina 89 liquor stores, 1,222 places selling wine, and 4,990 selling beer, all legalized by the state. Under the old days of the open bar room there were not more places of sale. Has legalization brought temperance in North Carolina? It is not even headed that way!

The temperance workers are urging the Legislature to let the people of the whole state vote in a referendum on the liquor question. If a majority votes against legalization, legal sale will be stopped; if the majority vote for it, then it will continue. If you want to help keep liquor stores out of Hoke county and to promote temperance throughout the State, sign the blank below and mail to the writer or Cale K. Burgess, Raleigh, N. C. Don't be fooled about the revenue idea. To raise \$1,576,711 in revenue on liquor last year the State sent \$5,081,951 out of the State to pay for liquors. It sent about 80c out of the state to get 20c revenue for the State. The present liquor system in North Carolina doesn't promote good government, good morals, or good business.



POOLE'S MEDLEY

By D. Scott Poole

The church at Jackson Springs was organized in 1819. We celebrated its one hundredth anniversary at a meeting of Fayetteville Presbytery in April, 1919. The choir of that church sang that Presbyterian Psalmist anthem: "Jerusalem, My Happy Home," which is, I think, one of the finest of musical compositions.

It is more than probable that the present General Assembly will not allow enforced the Constitutional amendment adopted by popular vote of the people several years ago, exempting \$1,000 personal property from taxation. Never in the history of North Carolina has so large demand been made for increased taxation as the Budget Commission handed out.

Frank: "When you proposed to her I suppose she said: 'This is so sudden?'"
Jack: "No, she was honest, and said: 'The suspense has been terrible.'"

The present change in the law requiring enlisting for taxation in January, instead of April, was intended to get more taxes from farmers, who pay their own taxes and everybody else's. If you are intelligent you may see here why farm produce is so low priced.

A teacher asked a boy to write a sentence using the words "analyze and anatomy," so this is what a boy wrote:

"My analyze over the ocean,
My analyze over the sea,
Oh who will go over the ocean,
And bring back my ana-to-my."

I was a candidate for Sergeant-at-arms of the House, extra session of 1936. My representative, Hon. E. B. McNeill, was sick and not in the caucus the night before the session opened. I was not nominated. A man named Brown was elected. I told him he was elected on my votes. He said he was. It was special session, December, 1936. He told me to come back January 6, 1937, he had a job for me. I went to Raleigh on January 5th, told him I was there according to promise. He said he made me no promise. "Thar I wuz."

Neighbor: "Taking your son out for an airing?"
Father: "No. I am taking my heir out for a sunning."

Members of both political parties hold caucuses the night before a legislative body meets, the dominant party to nominate the executive, assistant and clerical help of the body. The Senate and the House of Representatives are organized exactly alike. They elect a speaker, reading clerk, sergeant-at-arms, chief clerk, engrossing clerk, etc. These each have a number of employees they name themselves, with the approval of the presiding officers.

Being in town, two Scotchmen dined together at a cafe, and after dinner they both sat and talked until they talked out, then sat and smoked in silence for two hours, then one of them arose, went to the telephone and called his wife. "You dinna wait up any longer for me, lass, it looks mighty like a deadlock."

There are 120 members in the House of Representatives and 80 senators in a North Carolina Legislature, and there are more "help" in a Legislature than there are members. The Legislature of 1905 cost about \$40,000; that of 1911, \$90,000; \$200,000 is budgeted for this term.

A rude boy got hold of a certain ministers Bible, rubbed out "tree," and put "horse." And as the minister read "And the wicked spreadeth himself like a green bay tree," he stopped, looked around, then hesitated, then admitted: "Brethren, it's certainly horse."

Members of the legislature now get \$600 a term of 60 days. If they continue in session more than the Constitutional 60 days, they get no extra pay for the extra time spent in legislating. The helpers get what the Rules Committee allows them, from \$2.50 per day and mileage 20 cents per mile one way, up to \$8 a day. And a bonus before the term is over.

From 1868 till 1928 members of the

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Legislature were paid \$4 a day and 20 cents a mile one way. The first 6 Hoke county members received \$240, plus \$16.00; or I did. Some may have had more mileage.

An exslave master said to his favorite Ephram, several years after freedom: "Eph, if you die before I do, I want you to be coming back now and then to let me know how it is over there."

"Alright, Boss, but ifen you goes fust, be sure to come back in de day time."

There is no necessity for these four-month legislature terms. Members waste more than half their time during a term. During the first forty days of a legislative term, a few local bills are passed, and some statewide bills that leaders do not want members to think much on.

No, it is not the "world" that has increased in size—it is our vision that has enlarged. However, "let another man praise Thee."

While a member of the legislature, I read every statewide bill that came to my desk. For that reason, I spent my evenings in my room reading proposed legislation, and I needed no explanation of any bill that came up. I did not read the Revenue nor Appropriation bills, for those were always taken up seriatim.

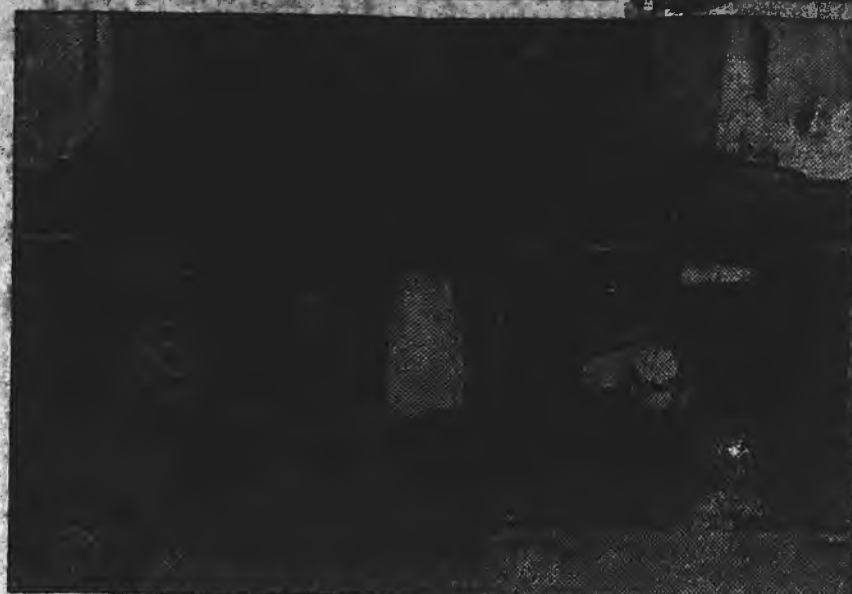
I am indebted to Dr. A. C. Bethune for the name of the discoverer of Jackson Springs. I had heard his version of the matter, and also that a man named Ray had shot and killed a deer near the springs, and after cutting the deer's throat, he stepped on the edge of a rock to wash his bloody hands and saw the water bubbling up in the nichs in the rock.

Lady Customer: "Please weigh this package for me."
Butcher: "It weighs just three and a half pounds, madam."

Lady Customer: "Thank you. These are the bones from that roast you sent me yesterday."

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Don't Be Careless While Riding In Truck Or Car

An "epidemic" of accidents in which persons have been killed as a result of falling off of or out of moving automobiles or trucks on North Carolina streets and highways has been noted in recent weeks, the Highway Safety Division reported this week.

Five such fatalities were recorded in December, and two more during the first two weeks of January.

Reading of the accident reports gives some idea of how these accidents happened. One report said: "Two negroes were riding between truck and trailer. A hog ran out into rear wheels of truck, causing truck to bounce up, throwing negro from truck and trailer and under wheels of trailer. Killed instantly."

Another report simply said: "Deceased fell out of car when right door came open as car was rounding curve."

"Such accidents can be eliminated if every driver in North Carolina will refuse to carry any passengers for whom they cannot find a seat inside," said Ronald Hocutt, director of the safety division. "Furthermore, all persons who ride in motor

CO-OPS

Farmer co-ops, with a membership of more than 3,000,000 producers, handled a \$2,000,000,000 business during the 1939-40 marketing season, says the Farm Credit Administration.

vehicles as passengers should learn that it is dangerous to lean on door handles."

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Stark Bros. Nursery
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Montgomery and Moore county orchardists testify they have not missed a crop of fruit since their Stark trees began bearing.

D. SCOTT POOLE
Raeford, N. C.

LEGISLATIVE PETITION CARD

In order to promote temperance and sobriety in North Carolina

- I hereby petition the General Assembly of 1941 to enact laws to prohibit the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors.
- If the General Assembly is unwilling to outlaw the liquor traffic, I urge that at least it give the people of our State the privilege of voting in a State-wide Referendum for or against legalizing the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors.
- I agree to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages.

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