Thru Capital Keyholes

By Bess Hinton Silver

reorganized State Revenue Depart- Charlotte, are in town scratching ment hit another one over the fence their heads on how to get out a big for a home-run in report of collections for the first quarter of this state-wide contests of major interfiscal year. Collections for July, August and September totalled \$7,-112,562.98, representing a gain of \$2,678,400.21 more iron men than were gathered together during the same quarter last year. The percentage increase for the quarter was 62.34 while a gain of 217 percent was registered in the month of September. That's good news to Revenue Commissioner A. J. Maxwell who has heard that the Legislature will seek to make his post elective instead of appointive, and his assistant Dr. M. C. S. Noble, who has heard rumbling of coming attacks on his position next January. Both men will be well fortified with figures if at-

BOYS, GET THE VOTES - Now that the battle on the textile front is over the State Democratic organization has opened State headquar-ters in Raleigh and is all set to scrap the Republicans for a couple of servatively" that it will require up-Cutler Moore, Lumberton and Raleigh insurance man, is the Bright Hill, port collector at Wil-Wallace Winborne, Committee Chairman of Marion,

RINGS THE BELL AGAIN-The and Mrs. Charles W. Tillett, Jr., of for its "bad" roads vote next month in the absence of ests. The old bunk mills of both parties will be grinding merrily for

PULLED A BONER?-Many politicians coming into Raleigh from over the State express the opinion that Congressman R. L. Doughton, considered a 1936 candidate for Governor, pulled a boner when he tele graphed Francis J. Gorman, textile strike leader, that he had no influence" with the State administration in the matter of using troops in troubled areas. Gorman termed the Doughton telegram "favorable" and in Raleigh it was interpreted as a bid for the organized labor vote tempts are made to get them down but some hair-splitting politicians on the carpet. man didn't expect the message to be published.

HOW'S YOUR ROAD?-Members of the State Highway and Public Works Commission estimate "conwards of \$2,000,000 to "restore the old county roads or secondary State secretary to succeed John system to the condition they were in when the Legislature ham-strung expenditures two years ago. If the next Legislature diverts highway

funds the State will suffer a \$1,000,-000 "penalty" in federal funds each year of the coming biennium. With all the varied and sundry demands for diversion, demands for purchase of toll bridges and lowering of the license tax is not impossible that North Carolina may become known

MORE TROUBLE-Federal relief officials threaten to withdraw al assistance from States not sharing in the costs. The State of North Carolina is not spending one penny on relief and the local units very little. This State may get a stay of execution until the Legislature convenes but what will happen after that is an unknown quantity. The General Assembly is going to have its headaches over running schools and other functions of the State and now it will have the added task of raising money for relief.

VINDICATED-Governor Ehringhaus, State Parole Commissioner Edward M. Gill and the courts were vindicated of charges of prejudice when Emanuel (Spice) Bittings. Person county Negro went to his death in the electric chair. It had been charged that Spice did not get a fair trial and that his family was intimidated. As he took his seat in the chair Bittings said, "It's not the court's fault-it's nobody's fault but my own that I am here." He should have known

IN THE COLD-State departmentemployes are wondering why it is that nobody seems to realize their reduced financial status. On every hand speakers and writers are urging increased pay for school teachers but few voices are raised in behalf of the remainder of the fired help. Just to give you an idea of how things stand the CWA furnished a part time stenographer to one State official and paid her more than his full time secretary was get-

UP THE LADDER—By reason of deaths and primary defeats Frank Hancock the up-and-coming young Congressman from the Fifth North Carolina District, will be number three man on the highly important House Banking and Currency Committee of the next Congress. Hancock, one of the young and most aggressive members of the North Carolina delegation is known in Washington as more Rooseveltian in his ideas than even the President. Every now and then his name bobs up in speculation as a potential candidate for Governor or the Senate.

A LOT OF GRUB-The Prison Division of the State Highway and Public, Works Commission, under the direction of Jack Roach, among other little jobs has to prepare 25,000 meals each day-for prisoners and employees. That's an average of slightly more than 1,000 meals every hour—and the way those huskies can eat. It's a neat little job of housekeeping that faces Mr. Roach every morning at breakfast.

TAR HEELS ON SCENE - North Carolinians are forging to the front in the Roosevelt Administrationthere's Josephus Daniels, Ambassador to Mexico; Mr. E. Dodd, Ambassador to Germany; J. Crawford Solicitor General; Turner Battle, practically second in command of the Department of Labor; Justice Walter P. Stacey, Chairman of the President's Labor Mediation Board; S. Clay Williams, newlynamed Chairman of the reorganized NRA Board. In many of these appointments many seers profess to see the fine Italian hand of former Governor O. Max Gardner, regarded as one of the President's most confidential advisors. Governor Gardner is reported to be enjoying one of the most lucrative practices in Washington.

NOT BRAGGING-This infant column of news behind the news in North Carolina. not yet three months old, is now appearing in 52 newspapers in 38 counties of the State. You must admit that it's a good-sized youngster for its age. Almost every week some new paper starts publishing "Capital Keyholes."

GOOD MONEY—If you don't live in the "tobacco belt" it would do your heart good to ride through the country and hear the expressions of happiness that come from the lips of farmers and see the smiles on their lips. Millions of dollars are flowing daily into their pockets and automobile salesmen are in their hey-dey. But the happiest of all probably is Governor Ehringhaus who went to bat for the tobacco growers with such decided success last year and has watched prices continually on the rise since.

MUCH TALK-Raleigh recently dedicated its new \$250,000 airport and aviation officials agree that it is one of the finest east of the Mississippi river. It was a grand occasion and everybody enjoyed it except the folk who stood on their own feet during all the speeches preceding the flying stunts. Aside comments indicated that Tar Heels would like more action and less talking at their celebrations.

Snakes, as a whole, are beneficial to mankind in that they destroy myriads of insects and rodents.

Astors "At It"



NEWPORT, R. I. . . . an added attraction to the yacht an added attraction to the yacht races here, a fine family spat in public 'twixt young John Jacob Astor and his recent bride, the for-mer Ellen Tuck French (above). It happened at dinner in a hotel, young Astor parting by the process of outrunning his bride and friends who tried to catch him.

HELPED PRISONERS ESCAPE City court in Raleigh Friday bound L. O. Branch, Raleigh plumber, over to Wake county superior court on charges of helping two men escape from state prison September Branch, who was working at the prison prior to their escape, was charged with driving the escaping

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prisoners away in his car. Neither has as yet been caught.

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