

## Financing Local Governments

The following is an address by Dr. John D. Robinson, Chairman of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners and President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and County Accountants, which he delivered during the national meeting of county officials in Chicago last week:

"Representing the Association of County Commissioners and County Accountants of North Carolina, I wish to congratulate you on this organization for the advancement and preservation of local self-government.

"In the past few years, local self-government has lost prestige largely because of financial difficulties in which the local units have found themselves as a result of large bond issues and expenditures brought about by the boom years following the world war and the high pressure sale of bond companies and the demand for local improvement for roads and schools.

"While the counties were assuming these vast obligations, they continued to depend on real estate levies to finance them. In the meantime the Federal and State governments spread out and acquired all the extra sources of revenue for their financing, consequently, as soon as these bond issues began to fall due and the depression came on and real estate values dropped, it was not long before counties were in default on interest and principal maturities and as a result of this, most counties were also unable to pay the operating expense of the local government units. This was further aggravated by the counties not being able to collect the levies on real estate and also the fact that they issued new bonds to take care of current expenses.

"Now I wish to call your attention to the fact that local self-government may cost more than centralized government. It is worth a lot more. It is the personal contact that counts. It is kind of like the young man who called his sweetheart on long distance and threw a kiss to her over the telephone, and she said, 'come on up to see me'. He replied, 'it costs too much'. She said, 'but it would be worth a lot more'.

"In order to continue to function local self government must be able to finance itself as it goes and this can be done by the application of the following schedule:

"In the first place, each local unit must place a reasonable value on its taxable property and then make

of a reasonable levy that the people will be willing to pay, and the same must be collected. In other words, all budgets of government, whether it be national, state or county, should be budgeted on receipts rather than expenditures.

"Of course, the local units of government will have to depend largely on real estate and personal property for their sources of revenue in the future as they have in the past, but there is no reason why the Federal and State governments cannot allocate back to the local units of government some of the funds which they have collected.

"As an illustration of what I mean, I call attention to the fact that North Carolina pays into the Federal Government a sum in excess of \$250,000,000 yearly and that the bulk of this comes as a tax on tobacco. In the meantime, the State of North Carolina collects less than \$6,000,000 and the counties of North Carolina nothing from this source, and what is true relative to the tobacco tax as it affects North Carolina is also true of many other sources of revenue levied by the Federal and State governments in the other states of this nation.

"It is my contention that the tobacco farmers of North Carolina actually pay this entire tax because the consumer pays a reasonable price for the article he consumes, and the manufacturers receive adequate profits.

"Now if the Federal Government would return to the State of North Carolina about 50 percent of the Federal tax collected from North Carolina and then the State of North Carolina allocate to the several counties 50 percent of the amount received from the Federal Government, the finances of the state would be solved and the cost of county government to the owners of real estate would be reduced to a minimum.

"The necessity for Federal Relief would be done away with and local self-government will come into its own again.

"Our salvation and future depends on our ability to finance our local units so as to be able to give efficient government to the people at a price they are willing to pay for it."

## STATE ADJUSTMENT UNIT LAUNCHED THIS WEEK

The work of the Resettlement Administration's debt adjustment unit in this state was formally launched this week with announcement of the appointment of W. Kerr Scott, Haw River, farmer-stockman, as regional chief in charge of the work in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina.

Mr. Scott was formerly a member of the North Carolina Debt Adjustment Commission. In his new capacity he will work in close cooperation with state directors of Rural Resettlement and will be directly responsible to Homer H. B. Mask, Regional Director of Rural Resettlement.

Mr. Scott, a graduate of the North Carolina State College, operates a large livestock farm. He has been active for many years in agricultural affairs and is thoroughly familiar with rural problems.

In his new work, Mr. Scott will be assisted by five regional specialists, one assigned to each state in the region, who will act in an advisory capacity to the state rural resettlement directors. These specialists, with their official stations, are: C. N. Shaw, Lexington, Ky.; Harry Watkins, Raleigh; C. Nelson Beck, Charlottesville, Va.; G. L. Hively, Morganton, W. Va.; Robert Sercey, Nashville, Tenn.

Under these regional specialists, district specialists have been chosen who will cooperate closely with the regional specialists in coordinating the volunteer committees in charge of farm debt adjustment activities.

The voluntary debt adjustment program was initiated in 1933 by the Farm Credit Administration. Through cooperation with the governors of the various states, the services of 15,000 volunteer workers were secured. They paid their own expenses in bringing creditor and debtor together in preventing farm foreclosure. Through their operations, agreements were affected by which 150,000 cases of farm debts were composed and approximately half a million persons were kept off the relief rolls.

Farm debt adjustment work will be carried throughout the nation with a \$2,000,000 allocation from the works relief fund which was made by President Roosevelt on September 5, when the program was transferred from the Farm Credit Administration to the Resettlement Administration.

Mr. Mask in announcing Mr. Scott's appointment, declared that it is the desire of the Resettlement Administration that the volunteer state and county debt adjustment committees "be given proper supervision and aid so that the program will function with maximum cooperation and effectiveness."

"The members of these committees," Mr. Mask said, "have in many cases given their time and services without remuneration and often have paid their own expenses in an effort to save from foreclosure homes and property of debt-ridden farm neighbors. We plan to maintain these committees, taking steps to strengthen them where necessary, and, through the debt adjustment supervisory personnel, assist them in the settlement of debts of distressed farm people.

"The voluntary farm debt adjustment project of the rural resettlement division is expected to be coordinated with all rural resettlement agencies and the fullest cooperation should prevail at all times. The farm debt adjustment program will have a very vital place in the rehabilitation work. With funds available to take care of necessary expenses, there is every reason to believe that the adjustment program will now take on added impetus."

### WHEN A PRETTY GIRL GROWS OLD

An unusual story describing in words and pictures the interesting history of England's "perfect blonde beauty," who has erased the wrinkles of time. One of many fascinating articles in the November 3 issue of the American Weekly, the big magazine which comes regularly with the Baltimore Sunday American. Your newsdealer or newsboy has your copy.

## WITH WALTER L. MAIN CIRCUS



MISS ST. LEON and one of her Arabian stallions. Miss St. Leon presents her darling foals to the public at the circus twice daily with the Walter L. Main Circus. Shows at 10:00 and 8:00. Bristol Monday for afternoon and night performances at the Roller grounds.

### G.O.P. "Strong Man"



WASHINGTON... The aftermath of the meeting of Republican party leaders held here last week, is that the "strong man" today in directing party affairs is Harrison E. Spangler (above), of Iowa, recent grass-roots conference chairman. Some observers are of the opinion that he may be the next Chairman of the National Republican Committee.

### Prize Winning Dahlia



NEW YORK... To Charles G. Reed of Lawrence, Mass., goes the prize for growing the largest dahlia in the U. S. this year. It measured 14 1/2 inches and is exhibited by Miss Joan Danton at the annual American Dahlia Show, held here.

### Flaming Temples



NEW YORK... The flame-pagodas of Cambodian Temples are interpreted into the above colorful fall hat, a new creation which takes designers' breath away. . . . It is of black velvet trimmed with cut-out leaves and graced with multi-colored sinias.

### Stationary

A third American party is always being promoted, but it never graduates.—Norfolk Virginian Pilot.

## OBITUARY

Rev. William G. Griffith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Griffith was born in Athens County, Ohio, March 31st, 1872. While yet a small boy he moved with his parents to Iowa where he grew to manhood. He was married to Miss Daisy England of Benton, Iowa Feb. 9, 1898. Four years later he moved to North Dakota where he spent the remainder of his life before coming to North Carolina. He spent the last 20 years in Evangelistic service. Four years of this time being spent in this state.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, two sons and one daughter and a host of

other relatives and friends. He departed this life Oct. 13th, 1935, age 63 years, 6 months, 17 days.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev. O. Lambert of Calypso, assisted by Rev. Mrs. Pool of Selma. The remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Faison where the family now lives.

### Card of Thanks

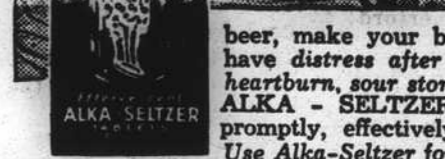
We take this way of thanking our friends and neighbors for their kindness shown us during the sickness and death of our beloved husband and father, also for the many beautiful flowers.

Mrs. Griffith and son, William.

## Are YOU HAPPY After Meals



Or Do Gas on Stomach and Sour Stomach make you Miserable?



Too much food, or the wrong kind of food, too much smoking, too much beer, make your body over-acid. Then you have distress after eating, gas on stomach, heartburn, sour stomach.

ALKA - SELTZER relieves these troubles promptly, effectively.

Use Alka-Seltzer for Headache, Colds, Fatigue, "Morning After Feeling," Muscular, Sciatic and Rheumatic Pains.

Alka-Seltzer makes a sparkling alkaline drink. As it contains an analgesic (Acetyl-Salicylate) it first relieves the pain of everyday ailments and then by restoring the alkaline balance corrects the cause when due to excess acid.

Alka-Seltzer tastes like carbonated mineral spring water—works like magic. Contains no dangerous drugs... does not depress the heart... is not laxative.

Get a drink at your Drug Store Soda Fountain. Keep a package in your home medicine cabinet.

SATURDAY, NOV. 2

# A NEW CHEVROLET

The only complete low-priced car



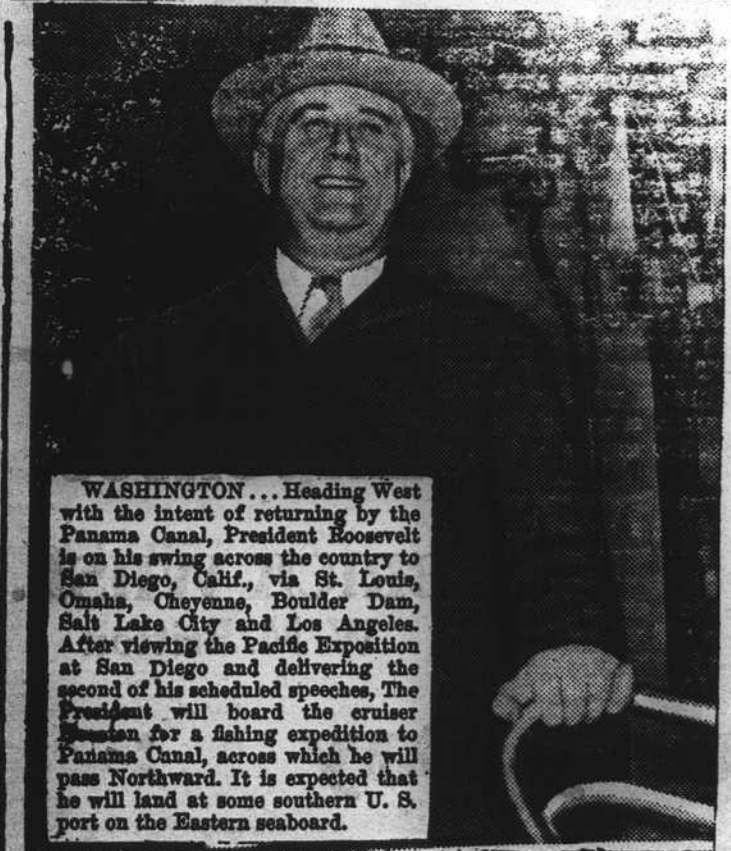
Safe beyond all previous standards of safety

WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT CHEVROLET ALL CHEVROLET DEALERS

## World Series Leaders and Fan No. 1



DETROIT... Above are the baseball leaders who have been master-minding the world series games and Mr. Fan No. 1. On the left is Charlie Grimm, manager of the Chicago Cubs who brought his team with a rush to win the National League pennant. Right, lower, is Mickey Cochrane, manager of the Detroit Tigers, two-time American League winner. Insert, above... is Bill Cunningham of Kansas City, Kas. who took up his stand at the bleacher box office here on September 29... for seat No. 1.



WASHINGTON... Heading West with the intent of returning by the Panama Canal, President Roosevelt is on his swing across the country to San Diego, Calif., via St. Louis, Omaha, Cheyenne, Boulder Dam, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. After viewing the Pacific Exposition at San Diego and delivering the second of his scheduled speeches, The President will board the cruiser *Wesley* for a fishing expedition to Panama Canal, across which he will pass Northward. It is expected that he will land at some southern U. S. port on the Eastern seaboard.