

THE MARKET Cotton, per lb. 16c up Cotton Seed, per bu. 34 1/2c

Cloudy, Rain. Today's North Carolina Weather Report: Increasing cloudiness and warmer tonight followed by rain in west and central portions. Tuesday rain.

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SHELBY, N. C. MONDAY, FEB. 16, 1931.

Published Monday, Wednesday and Friday Afternoons.

5c MAIL PER YEAR (IN ADVANCE) \$2.50 OFFER PER YEAR (IN ADVANCE) \$5.00

Vote On Highway Plan Latter Part Of Week

Bitter Battle Waged On Program

Gardner Proposal To Change Highway System To Reduce Land Taxes In Spotlight.

By M. R. DUNNAGAN, Star News Bureau

Raleigh, Feb. 16.—The highway reorganization plan of Governor Gardner occupied the center of the stage most of the past week and when the general assembly reconvened today the bill carrying out the changes advocated had not come from the committee. The result is that the bill will be the main consideration on floors of house and senate this week, toward the latter part of which it may reach a vote.

Much oratory, argument and some times bitter arraignment were indulged in by proponents and opponents of the measure before the joint roads committee last week, providing for abolishing the present state commission and naming another from the state at large, and taking over for maintenance the county roads.

Frank Page, former chairman, and

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McSwain Thinks Gardner's Road Bill Will Pass

Sees Big Tax Reduction Resulting. State Senator Discusses Assembly Topic.

"I believe the highway bill, which provides for a new state highway system with the state taking over county roads will pass," Senator Peyton McSwain stated while spending the weekend at his home here.

"A strong fight is being made against, and, of course, it isn't positive that the bill will go through, but in my opinion it will. The people seem to be for it, because of the promise of tax relief, and they're letting the representatives down in Raleigh know they want it passed," he added.

Sees Good Reduction.

With the state taking over county roads, thus relieving land of road tax, and with the new state supported school plan providing a larger equalization fund, Senator McSwain looks for a big reduction in taxes generally throughout the state.

Consolidation Bill.

Senator McSwain discussed numerous other legislative matters of interest here.

The definite outcome of his bill to consolidate three Cleveland county offices cannot be foretold now. It may, it was hinted, go by the boards. The consolidation bill as originally introduced by him passed in the senate. In the house it was somewhat altered by Representative Henry B. Edwards and then passed. The substitute bill now returns to the senate, and its future in altered form is uncertain.

Revaluation Work.

Asked about the postponement of property revaluation Senator McSwain stated that he doubted if the revaluation could be postponed in this county longer than March 15 unless a special bill was passed giving Cleveland the privilege of passing up the revaluation for the time being. Representative Edwards before leaving to attend the general assembly was asked and agreed to introduce a bill giving the commissioners of the county power to postpone the work until a more suitable time when values are more evenly adjusted and when the expense of the work will not be too keenly felt.

"I am opposed to the movement for a constitutional convention to re-write the state constitution," the senator declared, "unless an amendment with it instructs that the new constitution, or changes therein, be left to the vote of the people." The constitutional convention bill passed the house without such an amendment, but when it came before the senate committee, of which the Cleveland senator is a member, the amendment stating that changes made in the constitution should be ratified by the people before becoming a part thereof was added. "The bill will never pass the senate without that conditional amendment," Senator McSwain predicted, "and it may not pass then. For my part I do not think it is right for 120 men to revise our constitution and say what changes should be made without permitting the citizens to have their say."

The motion before the general assembly to have Al Smith, now vacationing at Pinehurst, to speak to the senate and house at Raleigh received more applause, Senator McSwain said, than any development of the legislative session. "It seemed to be a Smith crowd," he added.

Farmers Pledge To Produce Their Food

Grain And Hay Crops Planned As Feed. Chickens And Hogs For Food.

Two of the first farmers to pledge their co-operation to The Star's "grow-your-own-food" movement are V. V. Wright, Shelby Route 1, and T. M. Sweezy, of Fallston. Considerable acreage on the Wright farm will be set aside for corn, wheat, oats, hay and vegetables, and hogs and chickens will complete the live-at-home idea there. Mr. Sweezy plans to produce his own food and feed by giving enough acreage to potatoes and all garden crops.

The best way out for the farmer in 1931 is to produce enough food and feed for home consumption instead of "shooting the works" on cotton.

Farmers who will pledge their support to the live-at-home movement are asked to fill out the following blank and mail it to The Star so that their names might be entered on the live-at-home honor roll:

I WILL LIVE AT HOME IN 1931. I hereby pledge myself to devote enough acreage this Spring to food and feed crops to supply the wants of everything on my farm. If I have tenants on my farm, I will insist that they also grow their own and feed. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Food crops planned \_\_\_\_\_

Negro Of Wealthy Name Freed Here

James Several Thousand Dollars Marshall Comes Clear On Larceny Charge.

The cynical saying that it is almost impossible to convict a rich man in court was substantially endorsed in the county court here today.

A colored man was up charged with stealing a coat and he came clear. He gave his name as "James Several Thousand Dollars Marshall." Asked why he was given such a peculiar name, James stated that he did not know except "that's what my many called me."

Lawyers bandying the odd name about the court room came to the conclusion that had been found guilty and bound to Superior court his name should have entitled him to a personal recognizance bond.

Over 700 People Killed In Automobile Wrecks In State During 1930.

Raleigh, Feb. 16.—North Carolina's automobile death rate is 93 1-3 per cent greater than for the whole United States, according to an analysis of the motor vehicle deaths in the state in 1930 made by Sprague Silver, motor supervisor of the department of revenue.

The 777 death list in 1930 compared with a total of 690 persons killed in 1929, and is an increase of 7.9 per cent. This is an increase of 79 per cent over 1926 and 1929

A Grand Old Man



Looking over the years well spent and sounding an optimistic note in business, Thomas Alva Edison, world famous inventor, posed for the camera at his Fort Myers, Fla., winter home, as he celebrated his 84th birthday.

County Basketball Tourney To Open In Shelby Wednesday Eve; Ten Cleveland Teams In Contest

Biggest County Sport Event of Year This Week Shelby And Lattimore Play.

The biggest sport event of the year for the schools of Cleveland county will get underway here Wednesday night when the annual county-wide basketball tournament for the Rotary championship cup starts in the Central high tin can.

The tournament will hold sway for four nights, ending with the championship clash Saturday night. Good Quints In.

Ten county teams have entered the race and will compete for the Shelby Rotary club's silver loving cup which is now in the possession of the Lattimore quint, 1930 champions.

The first night's play, Wednesday night, will likely see a record crowd as the two favorite teams in the tourney, Lattimore and Shelby, face each other in one of the three games.

Bargain Carnival. The tournament as commercial houses would advertise it will be a bargain carnival. Three games will be played Wednesday night and also Thursday night. Two games will be played Friday night, and the title game Saturday night. Admission for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights will be only 25 cents, while admission for the final night will be 35 cents. Three fast and furious cage contests in night for a quarter will likely pack every available space in the local gymnasium.

How They Play. Coaches and officials of ten county schools met here Saturday to arrange the schedule and to draw opponents.

On the opening night, Wednesday, (CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.)

Automobile Death Rate In North Carolina Third Higher Than For Entire Country, Figures Reveal

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with a decreased registration of approximately 29,000 motor vehicles, said Mr. Silver. Mr. Silver said the North Carolina death rate percentage from motor vehicle accidents is only exceeded by three southern states, Florida, Virginia and South Carolina, and the registration for North Carolina is in excess of the registration of either of these states by at least 100,000 motor vehicles.

Fewer Machines Used. Greensboro, Feb. 15.—The sharp decline in the amount of gasoline consumed and in number of motor vehicles registered to date this year compared with similar period last year may be attributed in a large measure to fear of car owners for their personal safety on the highways due to the great increase in traffic accidents and fatalities, says C. W. Roberts of Greensboro vice president of the Carolina Motor Club.

Pass Sentence In Rutherford Case Next May

Judge Sinks Suspends Judgment On 5 Bank Defendants. Must Raise Money.

If the five Rutherford county bank officials, convicted by a Cleveland county jury at Rutherford last week of receiving deposits knowing the bank to be insolvent, can raise \$75,000 by next May they will not likely go to prison.

The five men—J. L. Taylor, president of the defunct Rutherford County Bank and Trust company; W. B. Walker, cashier, and K. S. Tanner, S. E. Elmore and T. F. Oates, directors—were found guilty on a charge on which no defendant has ever been found guilty in this state. Once before, a defendant was convicted in superior court, it is said, on a similar charge, but the decision was reversed by supreme court.

The guilty verdict was returned in court there Thursday. At that time Judge Hoyle Sink, presiding, stated that he would not pass sentence until late Saturday afternoon, and perhaps not until next May. Saturday afternoon, after a consultation with counsel on both sides, he announced that judgment would be continued until the May term, when he returned to Rutherfordford. Sink's Proposal.

As The Star understands the matter, Judge Sink's proposal is that he will give the five convicted men until May to raise \$75,000 and pay it to the receiver of the defunct bank. If that condition is carried out by the defendants, they will be, it is said, given suspended sentences at the May term. If they fail to comply with the condition, they may receive prison sentences, a fine, or both, according to law.

The continuance of the matter from Thursday until Saturday was because Judge Sink was scheduled to preside over the May term at Rutherfordford. Judge Sink gave the lawyers in the case from Thursday until Saturday to see if they could arrange an exchange of terms between him and Judge Stack so that he might return to Rutherford in May and wind up the case heard before him. This exchange was arranged and it was then that Judge Sink explained his disposal of the case.

Peases Citizens. Citizens of Rutherford county, The Star is informed, prefer Judge Sink's solution to prison sentences for the defendants because those effected by the closing of the bank and the alleged discrepancies of the officials will be better off with the \$75,000 paid back than to see the men go to prison with none of the money returned.

Another unofficial reason for giving the former bankers an opportunity to pay back \$75,000 instead of going to prison is that two or three of them head industrial plants and organizations, in which hundreds of people are employed, that would suffer if the heads of the organizations were sent to prison. Counsel on both sides, it is understood, also endorse the Sink decision. Two Shelby attorneys, Clyde R. Hoey and D. Z. Newton, appeared in the hearing, the former for the defense and the latter aiding in the prosecution.

The hearing attracted considerable interest in this county not only because it was heard by a Cleveland county jury, but, also, because the interests of the two neighboring counties are closely allied.

Golfers To Meet Tuesday Evening

To Decide Future Of Cleveland Springs Club, Desire To Keep It.

A meeting of golfers and those interested in golf in the county will be held Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock at the Hotel Charles.

Plans for the summer will be made and a program outlined with the aim of putting new life into the Cleveland Springs club. One proposal attracting interest is that the club house be transformed into a country club where social affairs may be held by the ladies in connection with other activities there centering more directly about golf. Numerous tournaments, for men and women, with clubs of adjoining cities and towns will be discussed with the ambition of making Cleveland Springs a golfing center during the spring and summer months.

Newton Back On Job. County Solicitor J. Clint Newton, who has been ill for a week or so, was back on the job prosecuting defendants in recorder's court today. While he was sick members of the local bar alternated in handling the prosecution.

McMurry Seeks Re-Election On Economy Platform; City's Debt Cut To Low Level Under Him

Economy Platform For Mayor



In announcing his platform for mayor of Shelby today, Mr. S. A. McMurry points to the fact that the city's floating debt has almost been eliminated during 18 months of his administration in addition to meeting all payments and interest due on Shelby's bonded indebtedness.

Light Interest In City Contest, Talk Aldermen

Announcements Of Two Candidates Talked For Day Or So, Then Passed Up.

Political interest in Shelby's approaching mayoralty contest refuses to be aroused to fever heat until the day of the ballot battle draws nearer.

The formal announcement of W. N. Dorsey, former mayor, last week, and the statement from Mayor S. A. McMurry that he would be a candidate again attracted city-wide attention for a day or so as a new topic for discussion, but by the week-end general interest in the contest had waned.

This situation, however, will not likely prevail so very long. If the so-called depression can keep Shelby from getting stirred up and excited over a political contest, then it will have done something nothing has ever done heretofore. Perhaps anticipation of some bitter groundhog weather between now and election day retards the boiling of the political pot. Be that as it may the astute politicians about town look for plenty of action and a warm race before it is all over.

Aldermen Up. The rather sudden projection of the mayoralty race into the limelight started considerable conjecture about probable contests for seats on the city board. So far as is known the members of the present board of aldermen will be candidates again. Nothing has been said by them so far.

Here and there about the city several citizens, it is reported, are being groomed as aldermanic candidates. None of those talked has made a definite statement, but two or three are known to be nosing about in an effort to ascertain the degree of their popularity and their chances of winning.

Meantime, speculation has it that there will be one more candidate for mayor, if not two.

Several weeks may pass before the campaign warms up and the political pot starts percolating, but it is practically assured now, that there will be two or three interesting races in the Spring.

Grover Men Struck By Train Improving

Young Men Cut And Bruised When Passenger Train Hits Car At Gaffney.

Isby Moss and Lou Allen, young Grover men, are in a Gaffney hospital suffering with cuts and bruises received Saturday night when their automobile was struck by a passenger train at a Gaffney crossing.

The train, No. 40, hit the rear end of their car and both occupants were thrown out. The accident took place about 7 o'clock. Both were taken to the hospital and at first it was thought that they were seriously hurt. Today, however, it was stated that both are improving rapidly and will be able to return to their homes in this county within two or three days. No bones were broken.

Present Mayor Out With Platform

Floating Debt Cut From \$90,000 To \$8,000 In 18 Months. Economy Needed Now.

In making his formal announcement as a candidate for re-election as mayor of Shelby, Mayor S. A. McMurry today declared that, to use an old political phrase, he is running on his record and is willing to leave the matter of his candidacy with citizens of the city on the savings brought about by his economy program.

His platform for re-election centers to an extent about continued economy where needed, but assures that due to economy practised by the city for the last 18 months Shelby is in better financial shape now to consider a more expansive program for the next two years.

His Views.

"In announcing my candidacy for re-election as mayor," Mr. McMurry states, "I wish to call the attention of citizens and taxpayers to a few financial items connected with the city government, for it is my opinion that when all is said and done the average citizen looks at his government through the eyes of a taxpayer. When I became mayor, less than two years ago, it was my announced intention to improve the city's financial condition to the best of my ability. Economy has been the watchword of the administration and the aldermen and myself have worked to that end wherever possible.

Cuts Down Debt.

"When the present administration took office we found that Shelby had a floating debt of \$90,170.81 in addition to the bonded indebtedness. In 18 months time, due to economies practised here and there and savings made in this and that department, we have managed to pay off \$82,037.47 of this amount. Today Shelby's floating debt is only \$8,133.34. In almost eliminating that floating debt we have also managed to meet all payments and interest on the city's bonded indebtedness. At the end of the term we will have paid approximately a quarter of a million dollars in payments and interest on the bonded indebtedness in addition to paying the major portion of the floating debt. Those are figures I

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Mrs. Blanton Is Buried Sunday

Mrs. Isabel Blanton Died At Home of Daughter, Mrs. O. L. McSwain, Age 75 Years.

Mrs. Isabel Blanton, widow of the late F. A. Blanton, died Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the home of her daughter, Mrs. O. L. McSwain on S. LaFayette street after an illness of four months. Mrs. Blanton was the widow of F. A. Blanton who preceded her to the grave 31 years ago. She was a fine Christian character, a kind neighbor and a devoted mother. In early life she joined Methodist church, later moving her membership to the Sharon Methodist church.

Mrs. Blanton was the mother of ten children, four of whom survive: Mrs. O. L. McSwain, Mrs. Sam Jones, Chas. A. and O. C. Blanton. Forty-one grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren also survive, together with three sisters, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. John Moore and Mrs. Jim Pearson and one brother, Billy Watters.

The funeral services were conducted by Revs. R. L. Forbis and D. F. Putnam at Sharon church Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock and a large crowd was present, the church being insufficient to accommodate the people. There was also a beautiful and bountiful floral offering as a testimony to the esteem in which she was held.

Gets Sentence For Taking Cotton Seed

In county court this morning Calvin Corry, colored, was given a three months road sentence on the charge of stealing six bushels of cotton seed from Mrs. Sam Hamrick.

Last week Judge Maurice Weathers sentenced King Black, Joe Hamrick, and Eph Harvey to six months each on charges connected with the capture of a small still Saturday week ago to the Pleasant Hill section by Deputies Bob Kendrick, Ben Cooper and Yates Kendrick.

Jurors Drawn For U. S. Court Term In March

54 Men To Serve On Juries Here

Next Term of Federal Court To Convene Here Monday, March 16.

Fifty-four men from four counties who will serve as grand jurors and petit jurors at the next term of federal court here were drawn by Miss Fan Barnett, deputy federal court clerk, at Charlotte last week. The district court session convenes here Monday, March 16, with Judge E. Yates Webb presiding.

Sixteen of the 54 jurors drawn are from Cleveland county. The others are from Lincoln, Gaston and Rutherford counties.

The Cleveland men drawn were: Roland Hamrick, W. R. Casstevens, John Mauney, A. R. McNeely, J. M. Ledford, Thomas Dye, Claude Crofts, Thomas Black, D. Byers, Charles Grigg, Robert Thornburg, W. C. Whitworth, E. L. Holland, G. P. Kendrick, H. Clay Cox, Lee Roberts.

Other jurors drawn: Lincoln county: W. H. Boring, Sumney Sain, Wray Sifford, Preston Bynum, David Bynum, O. S. Howard, Butler Scrance, I. H. Howard, Eph Killian, George Rudasill, Bruce Cherry, C. A. Goodson, C. C. Chulders, Alonzo Shuford, Carl McIntosh, Lee Cline.

Rutherford county: J. W. Beason, Fred Hill, J. D. Flack, C. Jack Logan, G. N. Huntley, J. D. Morris, John Carpenter, F. C. Hunt, F. B. Koone, F. D. Keeter, Benjamin Harrison, Furman Walker, J. L. Hamrick, Fred Pendergrass, Grover McDaniels, J. O. Griswold.

Gaston county: W. H. Horsley, J. M. Deanguard, R. C. Crawford, R. B. Almand, Neal Carson, R. E. Eaker.

Mrs. Eva Spain Buried On Sunday

Young Matron Of Sharon Community Succumbs To Pneumonia. Buried At Lattimore.

Mrs. Eva Spain, wife of Lester Spain, of the Sharon community, died in the Shelby hospital about noon Saturday of pneumonia. She had been a patient there for only three days. Mrs. Spain before marriage was Miss Eva Brooks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brooks of Lattimore. She was only 16 years and 22 days old and before marriage, attended school at Lattimore. At the funeral services held Sunday at Lattimore, Prof. Lawton Blanton paid a tribute to her as a fine Christian character and a model school student.

Mrs. Brooks and her husband were natives of Georgia, but had lived in Cleveland a number of years and were highly esteemed by a host of friends.

Surviving are her husband, parents and the following brothers and sisters: Edgar, Stewart, Emmet, Carl, Jr., Mrs. McSwain, Eva and Lizzie Brooks. Funeral services were conducted by Revs. W. C. Lynch, pastor of the Lattimore Baptist church, assisted by Revs. J. D. Bridges and I. D. Harrill. A large crowd attended.

Grier Child Victim Of Pneumonia, Age 3

Lewis Ray Grier, three months old child of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Grier died Friday afternoon at the home of his parents, just west of the Ora Mill. The child was a victim of pneumonia. Funeral services were held at the home Saturday afternoon by Rev. W. A. Elam and interment was in the cemetery at Double Springs Baptist church.