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LEE B. WEATHERS President and Editor
E. ERNEST HOEY Secretary and Foreman
RENN DRUM News Editor
L. E. DAIL Advertising Manager

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We wish to call your attention to the fact that it is and has been our custom to charge five cents per line for resolutions of respect, cards of thanks and obituary notices, after one death notice has been published. This will be strictly adhered to.

WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 1931

TWINKLES

And today what interest there was, turns away from the city election, which is now history, and to what?

The photo of President Hoover with all the fish he caught at his Virginia camp recently indicates that he still has his old 1928 ability to pull in the fish.

It has been shown over and over again that crime runs in waves and ripples. Just a few weeks ago a news story in The Star informed that the number of prisoners in the county jail was at a low mark and two week-ends passed with only a few arrests. But the past week-end was one of activity for officers and the jail was, to use a street term, full and running over.

North Carolina ballot boxes are to be impounded and held for investigation in the contested election of Senator Josiah Bailey at the request of his defeated rival, George Pritchard, Republican candidate. The expenses of the investigation will run into a considerable sum of money, and, with times as they are, The Star is inclined to consider it a foolish expenditure. A few instances of fraud may be shown, and would likely be shown in any State-wide election in which there was so much interest, but by no stretch of imagination could one believe that enough votes were stolen, in any form, to offset that record majority of 113,000 votes given Bailey. Even Al Capone and his gang could not have turned such a tremendous job.

HAS BEEN HARD ON THEM

MAJOR ATTENTION, due to the human craving for the sensational side of things, will be directed upon the actual trial of Rafe King, former Shelby man, at Lancaster this week, instead of to less colorful side issues. Yet the people of this section who have human hearts cannot help but have a feeling of deep sympathy for the parents and relatives of King. The nature of the long-drawn out case has been such as to be a super strain upon his close relatives, physically, and financially. The parents are old and in ill health and, respected as they are and regardless of the developments of the trial, the burden that has come to them has been a hard one and this community will with them hope for the best.

MR. DANIELS AND HIS FIGURES

BECAUSE THE STAR carried a news story Friday calling the attention of the land owners to the prospective shift of 47c in the taxes from real estate rate because of the enacting of the new revenue bill, the News and Observer of Sunday undertook to point out that "Cleveland county will save \$196,603.14 every year."

Here is the cheerful statement he furnishes:

"According to statistics compiled by the State Department of Education, the MacLean LAW ('ain't you glad' it's a LAW?) will save the owners of property in Cleveland county \$196,603.14 every year. In ten years this saving would amount to \$1,966,031.40. For that great reduction in taxation (the greatest ever given in North Carolina by a Legislature) the taxpayers of Cleveland county owe a lasting debt of gratitude to Mr. MacLean and the MacLean Law Old Guard who have stood firm 115 days to carry that relief to the taxpayers of Cleveland county and like reductions to the other 99 counties."

These statements are just as misleading as many others appearing in the News and Observer, during the present session of the General Assembly. Mr. Daniels, secretary of the navy under Woodrow Wilson for four years, has always undertaken to show that the MacLean resolution calling for the operation of the six months school by the state from revenue from "sources other than an ad valorem tax" is a saving. It is not a saving, it's a shifting. It is a tax on the poor people who are least able to pay it.

There are a certain number of people in North Carolina. A certain amount, about 28 million dollars is necessary to run the six months schools and the state government. The revenue bill provides for the raising of this money. It doesn't tax anybody else out of North Carolina. It raises the money from the citizens of the state, by it the State reaches out and gets the poor who are least able to pay, shifting the burden from a few to many. It is true land is relieved, but not only farm land. It relieves in the same proportion, mercantile property, industrial plants, magnificent homes, vast estates, power dams, sky-scrapers, etc.

Mr. Daniels says:

Here are the savings for one year for Cleveland county:

Under MacLean law	\$196,603.14
Under Connor road law	97,411.00
	\$294,014.14

Now get those figures. If they are true and a corresponding saving is effected throughout the state, pray tell us, Mr. Daniels, where the 28 million dollars appropriated is coming from? Who is going to pay it if not the people of

TOPNOTCHERS by KET



North Carolina? Yet Mr. Daniels has persisted in trying to make the public believe the system of taxation he espoused is a saving to North Carolina. In our reasoning, we can get nothing but a shift of the burden and nothing more than a shift.

North Carolina would be truly Utopia if Mr. Daniels is correct. The figures above are his and this fall when the tax books are made out we shall remind him and the public of this statement.

Kings have been tumbling off their thrones at a rapid clip in recent years, Alfonso of Spain being the latest to come down, but over here in America Al Capone appears to have a good clutch—a trigger-finger grip as it were, on the throne as King of Crime.

THE COUNTY COMMISSION'S PROBLEMS

THE CLEVELAND COUNTY board of commissioners have before them at least two perplexing problems. As always, there are two sides to both problems and a certain amount of argument on both sides.

The first problem is that of property revaluation. Shall the revaluation program be carried on now or postponed until what many think a more suitable time?

The second question is the matter of selling land for unpaid taxes. Should the advertising and sale of property be carried out now at the customary time, or postponed until fall?

When this is read the county board may have reached a solution to both questions. Regardless of what those solutions may be The Star is of the opinion that a major portion of the citizenship will give the board credit for doing what it thinks best for the general welfare of the entire county and all citizens. Since there are two sides to the problems it naturally follows that all cannot be pleased, and it is only proper, therefore, that the general good of the county as a whole be paramount over the two factions of opinion.

As to the postponement of property revaluation: The Star is inclined to side with those who would postpone the revaluation. There may be, and likely is, considerable property in the county not on the tax books at its proper value. Values have shrunken up in recent years; no denying that. Yet it is only reasonable horse-sense to say that present-day values are any more near the proper valuation than somewhat inflated values of a few years ago. Undoubtedly, it seems best now to wait a year or so until business and values in general adjust themselves and get back to normalcy. Then, there is this other argument favoring postponement: Property values, when the revaluation program is carried out, may be generally lowered, but it takes approximately \$300,000 per year, the county-wide tax levy, to operate the county government. It is only logical, and should be clear to all, that if the valuation is lowered the necessary money for operating the county must continue to come in and with values lowered it would of necessity mean that the tax rate should be raised. From that angle, the revaluation would be just as broad as it is long; if the values are lowered, the rate goes up. And since the revaluation task would cost several thousand dollars, estimated by some at \$10,000, there would be that additional expense and a time when the people are not hankering for any additional expense anywhere.

As to postponing the sale of property for unpaid taxes: There are many people in the county, as the present delinquent list shows, who do not appear able to pay their taxes. Some of them, they say, just cannot pay. Admittedly it would be a relief to those of that class to have the sale postponed until fall, giving them that much extra time in which to get up their taxes. But there is another side. The taxes past due now are last year's taxes. If payment of the 1930 taxes is postponed until this fall, it means that the combined taxes of 1930 and 1931 will bear down upon taxpayers at the same time. Another angle, and an important one, is that further delay in tax collections would impair the county's credit and prove embarrassing in a financial way. Already with collections slow, the county has been forced to sell \$25,000 worth of notes to meet current school expenses. With the uncollected remainder of the 1930 levy not collected until fall, it may be necessary to borrow more money to meet current expenses until that time. Then there is this other feature, which tends to hold against a delay in tax payment: Approximately five-sixths of the taxpayers in the county have paid their 1930 taxes. They paid before the deadline period to avoid advertising and sale. Now that they have paid, many of them having a struggle to do so, they might

be inclined to feel that they are not being fairly treated if an extended time is given the one-sixth of the taxpayers who have not paid.

As was stated at the outset, both problems are perplexing. The county board this year is, like the legislature and other governing and law-making bodies, having a harder year than in many years. The general depression has brought on conditions and troubles not known in many years. And the board in debating and deciding these abnormal problems that have developed should be sympathized with instead of criticised. However they may decide it will be with the general interests of all the county at heart and without being influenced by personal motives or selfish aims.

Medal Winners At Lattimore

Twenty-Two Medals Awarded To Lattimore School Students.

Lattimore, May 5.—The following honors were awarded at the closing exercise of the Lattimore school commencement Saturday evening by Rev. D. G. Washburn:

Newton society improvement won by Shannon Hamrick.

High school declaimer's medal, given by Prof. Lawton Blanton, won by Aston Adams.

Elementary declaimer's medal, given by Miss Candace Rayburn, won by Dietz Washburn.

Elementary recitation medal, given by Mrs. Ornie Smith, won by Jocelyn Magness.

High school readers medal, given by Mrs. Nina Toms, won by Faith Davis.

Scholarship medal, given by Dr. R. L. Hunt, won by Thelma McIntire.

Honor student medal, won by Elizabeth Hewitt.

Dramatic medal, given by Mr. Babson Stockton, won by Milan Callahan.

Newton society debater's medal, given by Mrs. E. Y. Harrill, won by J. C. Moore.

Home economics improvement medal, given by the Woman's club, won by Alma Crowder.

Diploma of honor in home economics won by Reba Davis.

Prize in home maker's club won by Pearl Glascoe.

Historical essay medal, given by W. E. White, won by Vernie Cabaniss.

Agriculture medal given by Prof. Coley, won by J. Z. Walker.

Music medal, given by Miss Wiloree Calton, won by James Greene.

Operetta medal given by Prof. Karl Jordan won by Elizabeth Hewitt.

C. H. W. society improvement medal won by James Wilson.

Edgeronian society improvement medal won by Frances Doggett.

C. H. W. society debater's medal, given by W. A. Crowder, won by Jessie Pearl Irvin.

Athletic medal given by Prof. Hood, won by Lyman Martin.

Edgeronian debater's medal, given by S. G. Price, won by Milan Callahan.

Mr. James Rayburn of Bowling Springs college spent the week-end at home. He was accompanied by his room-mate, Mr. Lattie Knox, a ministerial student there. Mr. Knox filled the pulpit for Rev. W. C. Lynch at the Sunday evening service.

Those from Lattimore attending the memorial service at Zion Sun-

day were: Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Hamrick, Misses Louise and Sarah Hamrick, Mrs. Onnie Smith, Miss Mada Wilson, Robert and Julia Hunt, Bobbie Hewitt and John Blanton, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Morehead and Miss Maude Morehead and Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Hawkins visited Mrs. J. R. Pray at Avondale Sunday, who is ill.

Misses Sarah Hamrick and Lois Adams of Mars Hill college attended the Lattimore commencement.

Misses Effie, Bessie and Evangeline McEntire visited Mrs. Onnie Smith and Miss Mada Wilson Sunday afternoon.

Miss Claudie Spencer of the Zion community visited Mrs. L. O. Hamrick during the Lattimore commencement.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Blanton of near Cliffside visited Mr. and Mrs. Karl Jordan Saturday.

The people who make money out of the mail order business laugh at the man who thinks he ought to help his own town. They call him a "sap."

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Vegetables, eggs, poultry, meat, and milk sufficient for home should be produced on the farm. We wish to repeat our warning to the farmers of this territory of the danger of excess production of cotton and the consequent low prices. We should face facts as they are and not depend upon Government legislation for drought relief funds, or some act of providence to solve our present economic condition. Let us solve our own problems by curtailing production of this crop which is now over-produced and grow the things necessary to live on. A cow, a sow, a hen and feed on every farm should be our slogan.

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