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Entered as second class matter January 1, 1905, at the postoffice at Shelby, North Carolina, under the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. 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.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1931

TWINKLES

Sunday is "Father's Day," and here's hoping it will be a big occasion for him provided he doesn't look ahead and think of the first of the month, another day when he's the most important person about the premises.

The city fathers of Shelby, it seems, have not fully decided on the land to be added to Sunset cemetery, and since they haven't it might be well for them to remember that the addition will be a permanent affair and should be of such a nature not to be regretted.

Just through with a controversy as to whether bread should be dunked or crumbled in potlikker, Governor Huey Long, Louisiana's senator-elect, is now engaged in a discussion as to how a jewsharp should be played. Our ruling on the technical method of playing the instrument will be left to Frank Lewis, the former Cleveland county Princess Pat—if he can be found—but you'll have to hand it to Huey. That boy knows how to keep his name in the newspapers.

Local convicts now serving on the No. 6 chain gang may get some pleasure out of the announcement that the State will make use of the No. 6 convict camp after county highways and convicts are taken over July 1. With their quarters remaining here it will be possible for the convicts to have the home folks out as visitors. Some, however, embarrassed by their predicament may be wishing that the camp be moved many miles away from where they are known.

BETTER FINISH FIRST JOB

"FEDERAL OFFICIALS," reads a headline, "Spurred By Victory Over Al Capone, Look To New York." Before they wash their hands of the Capone cleanup, pat their backs and move on to Gotham, they should be sure that the Capone victory is complete. Are those of us who have been amazed by the organized criminal racket in Chicago to be asked to believe that Capone and his crew have been cleaned out and eliminated just because the gangster king has pled guilty to several counts against him? Would it not be best to be sure that no half-way job has been done before moving on to a new field? Do not tell us that a gang engaged in such a profitable racket has been squelched so easily.

A VALUABLE GROUP

THE RE-ELECTION of J. R. Robinson as chief of the Shelby firemen was a move that is generally commended about the city. Incidentally, the election of new officers by the volunteer firemen offers one of those opportunities to give the volunteers credit for their work. Shelby has no more worthwhile organization than the volunteer firefighters who answer alarms day and night for a recompense that is right often not equal to the work and danger involved. The majority of us seldom stop to think of the value of the volunteer fire department; and when we do, we generally get busy at something else and forget to tell the boys what we think of them. There is no need to reserve your praise until it is your home they save some night; they might appreciate the compliment more if given in advance.

ENTERTAINING REPORTEE

SINCE THE REORGANIZATION of the North Carolina highway system Charlotte and Statesville editors have been taking a few shots at each other. Statesville, you see, has landed the district highway headquarters which had been at Charlotte. The Statesville Daily chided Charlotte for not desiring to relinquish the office and The Observer replied. The Daily said something about "getting all four feet in the trough," and that method of saying a thing without using the direct word did not settle so well with the Observer.

Soon the entire matter will have been forgotten as the new system adjusts itself, but in the meantime the controversy is not in the least boring to those of us on the sidelines. If it were not likely to get us entangled in the exchange of repartee, we might remind that in the Shelby section we would be mighty well pleased to have benefitted in highway distribution as well as either of the two cities and sections. But as it is it may be best for us not to get in all the pushing and shoving in the trough.

"WORST IS OVER"—BABSON

ROGER BABSON, famous authority on economic problems, is willing to stake his reputation, his goatee, and what-have-you that the worst of the business depression is over. That will be cheering news to the majority of us. But he points out, in making his prediction that the recovery will be slow. In that connection it is our idea that Republican politicians are hoping that business will be pretty well back up the hill by next year while Democratic leaders may be wishing that there is enough of the depression still hanging around in 1932 to make it possible to refer with biting sarcasm to "Hoover prosperity."

Once we are back up the grade, Mr. Babson anticipates

the return of unusual prosperity. He says: "The recovery will be slow and tedious, but the old law of action and reaction teaches now that unparalleled prosperity will again follow the depression. "The most conservative economists who were bearish, a few days ago are bullish now, so far as the future is concerned. Irrespective of what happens to the stock market in the next year, I am willing to stake my reputation that business has seen its worst."

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

IN MONDAY'S STAR a news dispatch from Raleigh quoted the director of the local government commission as saying that Cleveland county is a model county in handling its business and finance.

The information contained in that dispatch should be tucked away in the minds of Cleveland county citizens for the purpose of reference next year. When campaign time rolls around we generally hear gobs of propaganda intermingled with many vague rumors sent out to catch votes. But the sensible voter usually disregards typical political thunder and seeks the cold facts before making up his or her mind. That is why we say it will pay to bear in mind the information contained in the Raleigh article.

It is rare these days to find a county worth thirty-eight and a half million dollars with a bonded indebtedness of only \$189,000. It is a bit unusual, too, considering the times, to note that in 1929-30 this county operated itself and paid off more than \$70,000 of the county indebtedness and then reduced the debt by another \$38,000 in ten months of 1930-31. These facts deserve additional consideration and thought when it is recalled that we have a new jail, a rebuilt county home and other modern improvements, all with one of the lowest tax rates in North Carolina.

A few of the men who are units in such a model system of government may be changed at the next election. We cannot say about that, but it is our idea that the sensible taxpayer, who looks for economy in public office as well as in private life, will be very content to leave the system we have in operation. There are few counties in the State who have smaller marks on the red side of the ledger. And when we have modern institutions and good government, what other factor is more important when we march to the polls?

BUILDING "POLITICAL" ROADS

SINCE THE PASSAGE of the new state road law whereby the State takes over all county road systems on July 1st, there has been a needless expenditure of public moneys, not only in Cleveland, but all over North Carolina. Here in No. 6 township the building of political roads has been going on to the criticism of the road commissioners. At the time these particular roads and the "tar and feather" projects in Shelby and surrounding territory were agreed upon, it was thought that the new state road law confiscated whatever moneys and road machinery our road subdivision would have on hand July 1st when the shift takes place in the road program. An amendment to the state road law was passed, however, before the legislature adjourned, when it was found out that confiscation of sub-division money and property was unconstitutional.

Laboring, therefore, under the impression that our road moneys would be confiscated after July 1st, and having some moneys on hand, a spending orgy was started. Later developments reveal that if this road money were not spent, it could have been applied to debt service and all taxpayers in the township would have been benefitted by having this leftover money applied to road bond payment.

The road commissioners should justify, many contend, their building a new road from East Gidney street through the McMurry farm and converging with old Kings Mountain road beyond Horseshoe bend. This road known as the "McMurry road," traverses the properties of McMurry, Lineberger, Ford and Putnam, the last three of whom, we understand, were not strong advocates of the road. It lies midway between two other good roads, neither one of which is over a half mile away from the farm lands the new road serves. The bridge alone on the road is costing the tax payers around \$1,000 and the new road has no houses except those heretofore served.

Neither can many see the justification for the road recently built from No. 20 at the Country Club house south to the old Kings Mountain highway, a distance of approximately a mile, where two small bridges were necessary. On this road there is one house now occupied by a colored tenant family.

As for the black-topping program in Shelby and No. 6 now under way, and costing the town and township over \$10,000, this money is well spent, if the other necessary coats of surfacing are applied and the roads are maintained. The two coats of tar and one of gravel which are being applied will last for a while and include, with one exception, roads which are important arteries of travel. We feel sure the taxpayers will in the main approve the expenditure for the surfacing projects if, and only, on condition that these roads receive the additional treatment necessary and are properly repaired and maintained. Otherwise the road money would have been better applied on debt service which would have benefitted all taxpayers.

A public office is a public trust and officials should never be swayed by personal friendship or selfishness. "Political" roads cause just criticism and distrust and when the Legislature first provided for confiscation of road district moneys and machinery, many roads throughout the state were built that do not justify themselves.

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Successor For Grist Is Topic For Politicians

With Labor Commissioner Out For Senate Others Will Seek His Office.

(Special to The Star.)

Raleigh, June 19.—In addition to throwing open the gate to those who might want to seek the seat now occupied by Senator Cameron Morrison in the United States senate, the announcement of Franklin D. Grist that he will oppose Senator Morrison also throws wide open the gate to those who might want to succeed Mr. Grist as commissioner of the reorganized department of labor—the printing having been eliminated.

Elimination of the printing supposedly eliminates several candidates, among them Clarence Mitchell, of the Mitchell Printing Co., Raleigh; Roy Cox, of the Asheboro Courier; Asheboro; John Beasley, of the Moore County News, and others primarily printers, who may have had their eyes open for possible entry.

But it opens up the other end and suggests some who may be inclined toward the labor activities. J. Dewey Dorsett and T. A. Wilson, both of the N. C. Industrial commission, handling the workmen's compensation, have been mentioned, belief being, however, that neither is interested. It is also suggested that R. R. Lawrence, Winston-Salem, president of the state federation of labor, might become a candidate. Parks G. Hampton, for several years book-keeper for the department of labor and printing, also has been suggested.

Probably the most serious of all is the possibility of the entry of Maj. A. L. Fletcher, deputy insurance

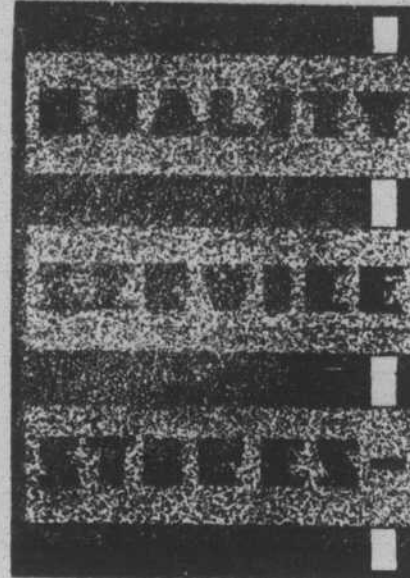
commissioner and prominent as a member of the American Legion—commander of the Raleigh post and for several years historian of the state department. "It is too early to start the campaign, but I would like for my friends to know that it is my intention now to be a candidate for commissioner of labor in 1932," said Major Fletcher today, when pressed for a statement. "This is at least an announcement of an intention, even if not for the nomination for the office itself."

Alabama Power Co. Shows Good Profits

New York.—Reports of the Alabama Power company and subsidiaries show a net income of \$5,505,253 for the year ending December 31, 1930, after taxes, depreciation, amortization and interest. This was equal to \$16.25 per share on 326,350 shares of combined \$7, \$6 and \$5 preferred stocks, reports made public today showed.

For the year ending December 31, 1929, the company reported a net income of \$6,278,552, equivalent to \$21.64 per share on 290,038 combined shares of preferred stocks. All common stock of the company is owned by Commonwealth and Southern. Movie stars, declares a film publication, are going in more extensively for gardening. It must be great to have a real plot to work in.—Boston Herald.

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