

## Through Capitol Keyholes

By BESS HINTON SILVER

**CAPITAL MANAGER?**—It's being kept pretty quiet but there is an under-cover movement to have the Legislature change the government of Raleigh from the commission form to a city manager form with a board of councilmen, according to the Capital City grapevine. The present Raleigh City Commissioners have been from one row to another almost since the day of election and even the man on the street can sense sentiment for a change in government. None of the Wake County members of the General Assembly have expressed themselves publicly on the subject but pressure for the change in your Capital City is about as sure as death and taxes.

**COST OF TALKING**—The order of the State Utilities Commission reducing Southern Bell telephone rates in 58 North Carolina communities has received a delay by order of Superior Court Judge W. C. Harris. The court injunction halts the proposed reductions in rates until the company's appeal is heard in Superior Court which may be in January or several months later. The Utilities Commission, aided by the office of Attorney General Dennis G. Brummitt, is ready to fight for the last ditch for the approximately 12 per cent cut and reliable, although non-quotable, sources are of the opinion that lower phone rates are just around the corner.

**FERTILIZER**—Governor Ehringhaus and Commissioner of Agriculture William A. Graham are going to bat for lower fertilizer prices in North Carolina. The Governor writes that he is unable to understand the upping of fertilizer prices in 1934 over those of the year previous and wants Mr. Graham to assemble data and attend a conference on the subject to be held in the nation's capital in the near future. Fertilizer and gasoline prices have been worrying the Governor almost as much as the increase in tobacco prices has pleased him.

**BUDGET MESSAGE**—What's in the report of the Advisory Budget Commission to the General Assembly is a closely-guarded secret and newsmen snooping around the offices of printers for the State haven't been able to learn much about the budget recommendations. You can put one thing in your pipe and smoke it, however, that is, that the budget proposal will contain a suggestion for reenactment of the sales tax with some revisions. It may be liberal enough to suggest that the sales tax can go by the board if the legislators can find the money elsewhere. The Budget Commission is friendly to the administration and Governor Ehringhaus has publicly stated that the "emergency" for which the sales tax was enacted has not passed—you get what that means. The message also may contain suggestions for higher teacher-pay.

**DIVERSION**—Don't be surprised if anti-sales tax leaders urge that four or five millions of dollars from the taxes paid by motorists and truckers for building roads be diverted to replace the sales measure. Farmers living on the secondary road system may not object to this but they want the holes filled up and the bridges repaired before their gasoline and license taxes go for some other purpose. Most of them wouldn't object to lower automobile taxes but that is only a dream if half the folks after a slice of highway-fund pie get it.

**NOT WORRIED**—At one stage of the game it looked like the State Revenue Department might be in for a good drubbing at the hands of the Legislature. It is still highly probable that attack will be made on the State's collecting agency but the record on increased revenues will stand Commissioner of Revenue A. J. Maxwell and his executive assistant, Dr. M. C. S. Noble, Jr., in good stead when they are called on the carpet before committees that will themselves be harassed by need of money to fill appropriations promises. Money makes the mare go in the General Assembly as well as in the colleges and public schools.

**SITTING PRETTY?**—Friends of Governor Ehringhaus have spent weeks checking over names of members of the General Assembly and are wearing big smiles these days. Administration stalwarts avow that His Excellency is sitting on top of the world with a good majority of friends in the Senate and are confident that no anti-administration bloc of dangerous proportions can be organized in the House. But with all that some Raleigh political writers profess to hear rumblings of trouble coming for the Governor on the eve of the Legislature.

**MARRIED LIFE**—Watch for a movement in the Legislature to pass a law against married women serving as public school teachers. Alexander B. Andrews, of Raleigh, has compiled some figures which show that approximately 4,000 married women were

men are teaching school in North Carolina. Some states have rules against employment of married women in the schools where single ones are available and sentiment for such a law in North Carolina has been cropping out in spots recently.

**GETTING TAUT**—Political lines are drawing tighter in the Capital City these days and you need not be a political wise man to sense the forming of groups behind the favorite candidates for Governor and the Eastern Senate seat in the classic of 1936. Probably the most pronounced single groups are those behind Governor Ehringhaus and Senator Josiah W. Bailey and there's no longer any doubt many people want the Governor to oppose Mr. Bailey. Other blocs are forming in behalf of Clyde R. Hoey, of Shelby; Congressman R. L. Doughton and Lieutenant Governor A. H. (Sandy) Graham for Governor. Doughton and Hoey may make some announcement shortly but Governor Graham is expected to hold his peace until the end of the legislative session.

**LIQUOR**—Several months ago it was a generally accepted opinion that this General Assembly would shy away from any efforts to change North Carolina's dry laws but as the time for convening draws nearer the prohibition question has stepped boldly into the spotlight of speculation. From all indications the Drys still have the situation well in hand but a lot of folks can't figure out just what is happening to bring out an apparent change of sentiment in some quarters. You can find plenty of officers of the law suffering since Virginia legalized liquor and Tar Heels began week-end excursions into the Old Dominion. Some of these same arms of the law privately express the hope that something will be done to liberalize the State's liquor laws at the coming session.

**RIDING A WAVE**—Unless some dark-horse steps out into the light Thad Eure and LeRoy Martin will be unopposed for election as principal clerks of the House and Senate respectively. The speakership race is still an uncertain quantity but here's the line-up of candidates in the order that most of Capitol Hill wise ones place them according to strength: Robert Grady Johnson of Pender first with Laurie McEachern, of Hoke, running a close second and Willie Lee Lumpkin, of Franklin running third. How accurate this estimate of strength will be will be determined in the Democratic caucus on the night of January 8.

## POULTRY

CLEANING POULTRY HOUSE IS ADVISED

Building Should Be Freed of Annoying Insects.

By M. D. Farrer, Entomologist, Illinois State Natural History Survey.—WNU Service.

Before farmers begin housing their chickens for fall and winter production it will be decidedly profitable to thoroughly clean and treat the poultry buildings for lice, mites and other parasitic insects.

Unless effective control measures are taken at this time, flocks often become so heavily infested with these insect pests that they become unthrifty, egg production declines and thousands of dollars in poultry profits are lost by producers.

Practically all poultry insects can be killed by applications of any kind of oil. This applies particularly to mites, bed bugs and fleas which feed on the birds by sucking their blood at night. In the daytime these insects usually leave the birds and hide in cracks and crevices in the poultry house.

Some of the more economical and effective oils for this purpose are creosote, kerosene and waste crank case oil, applied with a brush or emulsified with soap and water and sprayed on the inside of the building. Dormant tree spray emulsions mixed at the rate of four or five gallons in 100 gallons of water are also efficient poultry insect destroyers. All corners, cracks and tough places in the wood should be saturated with the oils to insure satisfactory control.

Poultry lice spend their entire lives on the birds and thus must be controlled by treating the fowls with dips, powders or gases toxic to the insects. For this a good grade of sodium fluoride is economical. Each bird is dusted individually by applying a pinch of sodium fluoride under each wing and around the vent, roughing the feathers to allow the powder to get into the plumage, or the birds may be dipped in a solution of one ounce of sodium fluoride in one gallon of water.

## Farm Census Under Way

About 25,000 Census Takers to Secure Valuable Information

Approximately 25,000 Federal census employees yesterday began the huge task of enumerating the more than six million farms and ranches of the United States in what is probably the most important agricultural census in the nation's history, according to a statement released by Director William L. Austin, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce in Washington. Plans call for the completion of the canvass before the end of January.

"The fifteenth decennial census act, approved June 18, 1929, directed that a mid-decennial census of agriculture be taken January 1, 1935, for the calendar year 1934," Director Austin said. "Because of the tremendous upheaval in the great basic industry of agriculture, due to the depression, drought and other factors new farm statistics are urgently needed in connection with the government's vast recovery program.

"The earnest cooperation of the farmer is necessary to the success of this census, for it is one of the federal activities designed primarily for his benefit. However, the welfare of agriculture affects all other industries, directly or indirectly, and the public generally. The statistics are necessary not only for the ordinary transaction of governmental business, but also for allotment programs. These programs range from the allocations of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to the Federal Emergency Relief and Farm Credit Administrations. Indeed, the benefits expected to be derived from this census are incalculable and will have a marked influence on the future welfare of agriculture and the country as a whole. At the completion of the canvass every effort will be put forth to make preliminary tabulation reports available at the earliest possible moment.

"Due to the splendid cooperation of newspapers, farm publications, radio broadcasting stations, state and county farm agencies and organizations and educational institutions in disseminating information concerning the importance of the farm census more than a million copies of the sample schedule have been distributed to farmers. Those who do not have sample schedules are urged to write to the farm census headquarters in their district, procure a copy, study the questions and have their records ready when the enumerator calls.

"The bureau desires to call attention to the law which provides that the individual return made by each farmer is an absolutely confidential government report and to emphasize the fact that no individual figures will be used for taxation purposes nor given to any tax official. All enumerators, as well as all census employees, are sworn to secrecy and are required to read the law and the severe penalties established for any disclosure of information. Only sworn employees of the Census Bureau have access to the files. Section 9 of the Fifteenth Decennial Census Act provides penalties for failure to answer questions asked by enumerators or for giving false information.

"Enumerators are legal residents of the districts which they canvass. Some, if not all, of the farmers residing in an enumeration district will know the enumerator personally and they will do well to see that an accurate report is returned for their district. With the program now being carried on by the government to assist agriculture an inaccurate report might very readily react to the disadvantage of the farmers in that particular district.

"The farm schedule is comprised of 100 questions covering practically every important ramification of the agricultural industry. Of course, very few farmers will be required to answer all of the questions, only the ones pertaining to their particular activities. Questions to be answered will include farm tenure; farm population; farm acreage, which includes all crop land, pasture land and woodland; total value of the farm; acreage and yield of each of the principal field crops and vegetables; number of trees and yield of the principal fruits and nuts; number and value of each class of livestock, and poultry and eggs."

The local cheese factory at North Wilkesboro has increased the prices paid for milk with a corresponding increase in deliveries at the plant.

retire. The nicotine fumes filter through the birds' feathers, killing the lice. This treatment should be repeated in 10 to 14 days as it does not kill the eggs. All lime or whitewash should be removed from the roosts before nicotine sulphate is applied.

Scaly leg, caused by mites feeding under the leg scales, can be controlled by dipping the feet and legs in a solution containing two parts of raw linseed oil and one part of kerosene.

# "The Mighty Barnum"



AS THE MOST FAMOUS COMMENTATORS OF RADIO RECALL HIM . . . . . TODAY

Brake Carter

TELLS ABOUT

"A Fortune, Mer-maid"

See the 20th Century Picture with WALLACE BEERY

Released and © 1935 by UNITED ARTISTS CORPORATION

**DO YOU believe in mermaids?** If so, do you think you could take your mermaid, mix in a little advertising and add a dash of your best imagination and with the combination make yourself \$3,000 a month?

True, you might be considered a lunatic if you tried. If you tried and failed, your failure would cause no surprise, evoke no sympathy. But if, by some strange quirk or fortune, you succeeded, then you most assuredly would be classed as a "fugged individualist" and a loud call out in for a code of mermaids.

Yes, you can make money from your mermaid, with a deep sense of religion, but a smart sense of the gullibility of human nature, once took these three ingredients, combined them and upon the mixture, founded a fortune, became the pioneer of modern American advertising and carved for himself an everlasting niche in the American hall of fame.

The young man was P. T. Barnum. The imagination was his own. The advertising he created himself but titillating, in subtle manner, the fancies of the New York news papermen of the middle 1800's (newspapers weren't particular in those days of the source of their news, as long as it was news) and the mermaid was a hideous mummified creature he bought from the owner of the Boston Museum in the summer of 1842.

**Mermaid Fools Expert.**

The examination of the mermaid by his experts disclosed not the slightest sign of joint or artificial manufacture. The creature was but three feet long, with an unbroken spine extending from the base of the skull to the tail. The shoulders were covered with hair.

The face was ugliness personified, with beak-like teeth. Two skinny arms, hands and fingers like those of any human, and a fish-like body and fish-like tail, completed this strange picture. Barnum's mermaid, it is clear, was not of that saucy, alluring variety of fish-like maidens who besotted themselves at the expense of the unfortunate sailors of Ancient Greek mythology.

Still, this discrepancy with the popular ideal didn't deter Phineas P. Barnum, as is only too clear in the picture. United Artists 20th Century production, "The Mighty Barnum." He bought his mermaid and decided to make the American public believe in mermaids, too.

He had just put every penny he had and pennies he didn't have into the purchase of Scudder's American Museum in New York—the museum which afterward became Barnum's American Museum, Broadway and Ann Streets, an institution which was a visitor to the growing metropolis ever failed to "take in" among the sights. It was just such a curiosity as this mermaid—the Fejee Mermaid he cryptically called it—that he needed to get the names of himself and his museum before the public.

**Distinguished Stooze**  
So Barnum went to work. Soon letters appeared in the local press

prevented him from showing it publicly in New York. In the meanwhile, Barnum had prepared 10,000 copies of a pamphlet describing the mermaid. He called upon the editors of three large New York dailies and in mournful tones, explained that he had hoped to prevail upon Dr. Griffin to exhibit his mermaid—but the doctor was adamant—he wouldn't yield, so the pamphlets were no good to him any more. Thus, out of the goodness of his heart for the journalistic profession, he, Barnum, was offering his pamphlets to the editors to print.

All were delighted and only the next day, when the various papers came out on the street, each bearing a different picture of the mermaid, did the editors understand how they had been thoroughly humbugged.

By this time the public interest had reached fever pitch. The public had seen the papers and read Barnum's out of town letters. In addition, Barnum had let loose a flood of pamphlets as handbills on the streets. Finally advertisements appeared that Dr. Griffin had relented and after all would consent to exhibit his mermaid for one week at Concert Hall on Broadway, hired specially for the occasion by the astute Barnum.

The crowd was immense when the doors of the hall were thrown open. Men, women and children streamed inside. Dr. Griffin told scholarly tales of the South Seas and the curious throngs gazed intently at the shriveled up, three-foot-long, Fejee Mermaid.

search paper by a German author, dealing with Japanese customs of the 19th century, an account of how a Japanese fisherman joined the lower half of a fish and the upper half of a monkey so deftly and neatly that the joint could not be detected.

The Japanese fisherman then told his fellow countrymen that he had caught the creature in his net, but that it had quickly died. However, he added, it had spoken a few momentous words—before gasping its final breath.

The mermaid, he said, had predicted a few years of prosperity for Japan, and then subsequent years of a fatal epidemic which would sweep the land. The only remedy offered by the dying creature, explained this Japanese fisherman, would be possession of a likeness of the prophet.

Whereupon thousands of Japanese bought crude likenesses of the mermaid. Finally it fell into the hands of a Dutch trader, who sold it to a shrewd American, who, in turn, exhibited it to the ignorant and gullible alike in Europe thirty years before Barnum tried the same trick in the United States.

And Barnum was quite convinced that this mermaid was his mermaid and he secretly hailed the Japanese fisherman as a blood brother in the gentle, but subtle art of spoofing the public.

Can you, then, take a mermaid, a little advertising and a dash of your best imagination and make \$3,000 a month? Certainly you can—even in 1934—providing you're another P. T. Barnum.

wer convinced they were looking upon the real thing.

Later, the exhibit was moved to Barnum's American Museum. And to help things along, Barnum, convinced there was no limit to the ways and means of "packing 'em in," ordered an 18-foot banner, designed as a mermaid, to be stretched across the face of his museum on the outside, so as to attract large numbers.

**Stooze Revolts**

Even Dr. Griffin couldn't stomach this colossal deception and he threatened to walk out on Barnum, if the latter persisted in carrying through his pennant scheme. Barnum lacked doubt, because he could not afford to lose the "doctor." And in portraying the life of the promoter and famous showman, Wallace Beery makes his 20th Century picture, "The Mighty Barnum," a living vivid chronicle of a famous American's rise to fame.

How successful P. T. Barnum was in this early venture in hoaxing the public is attested by the fact that prior to the arrival of the Fejee Mermaid, his museum had been grossing but \$7,200 a month, whereas during the four weeks that followed, Barnum's Museum took in \$3,341.93.

And the mermaid? Real? Of course not. Barnum never actually found direct proof of its origin, but he did believe it came from Japan. For he found in a scientific re-



Barnum had an eye to the bizarre and eccentric.

**Of Interest To You . . .**

Several attempts have been made in the past to publish a paper for Hertford and Perquimans County ~ all have been failures ~ a newspaper to exist must have **Subscribers.**

**We need YOUR subscription NOW!**

Just send your name, **75c** For 1 year's Subscription and address to us with