ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY BALTO.

CECIL COUNTY STAR

Enoch Pratt Free Libr'y Cathedral & Mulberry Sts. Permanent File

Vol. 55—No. 24 ELKTON, MARYLAND, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1936. $1.00 Per Year

Plenty Of Action Forcast For Busy Session Of Legislature

Governor Nice Has Lengthy Program And Will Ask An Increase Of $7,000,000 In State Budget Fight On To Remove Gorfine And Senator Coad From Power

With but a few days remaining before the regular session of the Maryland General Assembly convenes at Annapolis, impending fights with plenty of action are cropping up and the session presages to be a stormy one if the pre-session talk that is going around may be taken as a criterion. Fights are brewing over many of the legislative proposals expected to come before the Assembly, and from every source comes reports of legislation that will be introduced and of groups organizing to fight some o fthe legislation.

Reports have it that the State Administration has indicated that it will ask, among other things, for legislation to utilize prison labor, to revise the parole system, to reconstruct the automobile code and to conserve the natural resources of Maryland. The legislators will be asked to provide for a budget that will call for $7,000,000 more than it did in 1935.

After Gorfine—Coad

While it is generally conceded that Senator Landsdale G. Sasscer will be reelected president of the Senate, an open fight is on to remove Emanuel Gorfine as Speaker of the House and Senator J. Allan Coad (Dem., St. Mary's) as Chairman of the Finance Committee and majority floor leader of the upper branch of the Assembly. The fight against Senator Coad seems to have cooled the last few days but the tide is still strong against Gorfine and seasoned legislators are predicting that a new man will preside over the House at the coming session.

Opposition Already

Opposition to at least one portion of that program has arisen already. On the Eastern Shore yesterday, a group announced itself ready to fight anything it regards as an encroachment upon the rights of oystermen to make their living, and this probably means a fight against long-range oyster conservation.

There will undoubtedly be trouble with the Democratic Legislature over the budget, which will include larger appropriations for institutions for the insane, for the raising of salaries, particularly those of school teachers, and for rehabilitation of State departments the Governor thinks have fallen into disrepair.

Vote Machines Up

A proposal to give Baltimore city voting machines and permanent registration will be offered, and, while there may not be much of a public fight over the issue, there will certainly be a great deal of undercover hostility directed at the measures. Politicians do not look with favor generally upon these election reforms, but elected officials, seeing public sentiment for them becoming stronger every day do not dare risk an open battle against them.

Efforts will probably be made to change the unemployment insurance law passed at the last special session. It is a safe bet the forces that favored a liberal bill at the special session will attempt to liberalize the conservative, Federal-minimum bill that now is State law.

The Senate will be asked to approve the recess appointment of Major Enoch B. Garey, superintendent of the State police. This appointment will be given the Senate with the other "green bag" appointments of the Governor, and will undoubtedly occasion a fight. There is strong sentiment in the Senate hostile to Major Garey, some of it coming even from Republican sources.

The Governor has announced that the "green bag" will contain a number of changes among some of his present officeholders. Those he intends to replace he charges have been "disloyal to him and to the Republican party."

To Seek Tag Price Cut

Moves will be made to have the automobile license fees cut drastically. One city Senator has announced he will fight for a $5 flat fee. Other legislators have said they are drawing up bills calling for a $2 fee, in accordance with a promise the Governor made during his campaign.

From the counties will come all varieties of local legislation. Liquor laws, particularly, will be tossed into the legislative hopped. A trick of the single-license liquor lobby at the last regular session cost the counties all the changes they had asked for at that time, and consequently they will submit them again.

Cecil Farmer Dies From Automobile Injuries

Elliott Krause Injured On Christmas Day Dies In Hospital Here Sunday

Sustaining internal injuries in an automobile accident on Christmas Day, Elliott Krause, aged 60, a farmer residing near Conowingo, died in Union Hospital Sunday, making the nineteenth death from automobile accidents in the county during the year.

James Cross, driver of the car in which Krause was riding, remains in a serious condition in the same hospital from a fractured skull.

The accident occurred near Porters Bridge when Krause's car collided with a truck. Coroner Stanley D. Jeffers deemed an inquest unnecessary after an investigation and gave a certificate of accidental death.

High School Grant Here Listed Among Largest In State

Total Of $1,300,000 Is Appropriated In State For Non-Federal Projects

Wide Distribution Made With Cecil County Getting Fair Share

The Public Works Administration reported today grants approximating $1,300,000 had been made for non-Federal PWA projects in Maryland out of 1935-1936 appropriations.

Among the larger appropriations was that for the Elkton High School construction amounting to $81,000 and $180,000. A grant of $509,000 to Baltimore county for a water works-sewer system headed the list. The project was estimated to cost $1,131,110.

A grant of $278,788 was made for school improvements and building in Wicomico county, expected to cost a total of $615,000.

Other Projects Listed

The other propects for which grants were made and their total cost:

Anne Arundel county, soil erosion, $59,686 and $132,635; Anne Arundel schools, $97,268 and $215,150; Riverdale, municipal improvements, $18,000 and $40,000;Tydings-on-the-Bay, bulkhead construction, $12,273 and $27,273; Cumberland waterworks, $8,100 and $18,000; Cumberland waterworks, $16,785 and $37,300.

Grantsville school addition, $22,927 and $50,950; Pikesville Infirmary, $41,727 and $92,727; Pikesville dormitory, $38,455 and $85,455; Pocomoke City Municipal Building, $21,032 and $46,850; Prince George's county schools, $52,000 and $115,555.

William D. Bratton Dies Suddenly At His Home Here

Editor Of Cecil County News Succumbs Soon After Suffering A Heart Attack

Prominent In Many Activities In County—Was Editor For 30 Years

William D. Bratton, for 30 years editor of the Cecil County News, and a member of one of the most prominent families of Cecil county, passed away at his home on East Main street early Saturday morning from a heart attack following a brief illness. While Mr. Bratton had not been in the best of health for the past two years, his death was unexpected as he had been at his desk on Thursday and as usual had directed the publishing of the News on Wednesday. He was 68 years old.

Mr. Bratton's family has been identified with the social and civic life of the county since the days of the Revolutionary War, and it was at the "Hermitage," the family's homestead, which is still one of the beautiful old homes of the county, where officers of George Washington's army tarried during the campaign in this section.

He was a son of the late Daniel Bratton, and following his graduation from Princeton University followed his profession as a civil engineer in the employe of the Pennsylvania Railroad. About thirty years ago he succeeded his brother the late Daniel Bratton, Jr., as editor of the News and continued his newspaper activities until his death.

Mr. Bratton was always active in educational, civic and religious affairs, and served as superintendent of Cecil County Schools, and also as President of the Cecil County Board of Election Supervisers. He was an elder in the Elkton Presbyterian Church and took an active part in the affairs of the church. Through his newspaper profession he was a member of the Maryland Press Association and a past president of the Delmarva Press Association.

Surviving are his wife, the former Miss Bertha Wilson, two sons, William D. Bratton, Jr., a member of the faculty of the Glen Burnie High School, and Francis Bratton, a student at Washington College, and two sisters, Mrs. William H. Booth and Miss Polly Bratton.

Funeral services, which were largely attended, were held Monday afternoon from the "Hermitage," with the Rev. Albert E. Thomas, pastor of the Elkton Presbyterian Church, officiating. Interment was in the Elkton Presbyterian Cemetery.

Cecil Financial Report Lists $49,049 Balance

Total Receipts for Fiscal Period Amount To $493,164.42

The report of County Treasurer Edwin S. Dorcus for the fiscal year shows the total receipts of his office for the period covered amounted to $493,164.42 including the balance of $44,706.80 remaining from the previous year. Total disbursements for the year amounted to $444,115, leaving a cash balance of $49,049.42.

The governmental expenses amounted to $21,069.16; education, $198,050.60; interest on bonds, $28,557.50; charities and reformatories, $37,520.99; public indebtedness, $17,619.15; protection of life, health and property, $47,333.14; State Treasurer, State taxes, $72,665.80, and sundry accounts, $21,298.66.

Cecil Methodists Plan To Attend Area Meeting

Dr. E. S. Jones, India Missionary Will Address Gathering Monday Eve.

Large Attendance From Every Section Of Wilmington Conference Expected

Dr. E. Stanley Jones, India missionary leader, evangelist and author, who will speak at a mass meeting of Methodists of this area in the Union Methodist Episcopal Church, Wilmington, on Monday evening, January 4, under the auspices of the church's Million Unit Fellowship Movement, is the head of two important Indian-style religious schools.

They are "ashrams, located in the City of Lucknow, and in Sat Tal, the latter a summer resort high in the Himalaya Mountains.

For many centuries, India's "holy men" and religious leaders, many of them fine Hindu and Buddhist scholars, have set up "ashrams," where students have been attracted because of the leader's piety or learning. The poet Tagore and others have had such private schools.

Dr. Jones has taken this Indian institution and adapted it for Christian instruction, meditation and rest. The summer ashram at Sat Tal has been in existence a decade, and has drawn scores of Indian students—Christian and non-Christian—to its simple daily routine. A number of missionaries of various denominations have absorbed its spirit of freedom of speech ,and of interchange of ideals and of fellowship. Bible study, a study of other faiths, and a study of the Christian motive and messages are part of the program.

The Lucknow ashram is closely associated with Lucknow Christian College and with the government school, Lucknow University. A Methodist missionary, Dr. J. Holmes Smith, heads the ashram during Dr. Jones' absence in America, and also teaches in the College. The ashram and its Indian and western personenl are carrying on extensive writing on Christian subjects for India's newspapers, are helping new missionaries understand India and acquire its languages, are making a fellowship and study center for students of Lucknow University. They also conduct the religious teaching in Lucknow Christian College, a Methodist institution.

(Continued on Page Eight)

Automobiles Take Toll Of 19 Lives In County During 1936

Biggest Catastrophe Occurred In August When Seven Were Killed In One Crash. Three Others Killed In Same Month

Automobile accidents in Cecil county during 1936 took a toll of nineteen lives, the latest victim being Elliott Krause, 60 year old farmer who died in Union Hospital Sunday following an accident in which the car he was riding collided with a truck.

The first death in the year occurred at North East on January 14 when Ronald Crouch, a seven year old colored boy fell from a truck. The second victim was Winfred Bacon, a young white man of Dumbarton, Va. Bacon was found dead in his truck on Main street near Blue Ball road on January 29 and was believed to have been a victim of monoxide poisoning.

The third death was that of Thomas Kershey, Baltimorean, who was instantly killed at Charlestown on Route 40 on February 28. There were no fatal accidents during the month of March, but in April, Tony Lirosi, aged 20, of Brooklyn, New York, was instantly killed in an accident near Rising Sun. Lirosi and a party of young men were enroute to their homes from Washington.

May was without a fatality. Richard M. Balderston, 41, prominent Rising Sun electrical contractor, met his death in an accident on June 22, when his car collided with a heavily loaded truck on the road near Battle Swamp. July also registered one death when Julius Pyles, 75-year-old man of Catonsville, died in Union Hospital on July 10 following injuries sustained on the Glasgow road on July 4.

August saw the heaviest fatality when ten people met death on highways in the county, the most horrible accident taking a total of seven lives. Frank Patterson, 19, and Frank Ott, 19, Wayne, Pa., youths died from injuries in an accident on the Principio Hill on Route 40, on August 22. Patterson was killed instantly and Ott succumbed in an ambulance while being rushed to the Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace. The young men were returning to the home of a friend on one of the local waterfronts whom they were visiting from a dance at Forest Greens, near Aberdeen. The third death in August was that of W. H. Kirby, aged 60, an Elkton painter, who was struck by a car driven by a Baltimore physician on August 15. Kirby died in Union Hospital a few hours after the accident.

One of the worst catastrophies in the history of the county occurred in the early hours of the morning of August 27, when a truck, loaded with negro potato diggers enroute to their homes in Florida and Georgia, from New Jersey, got out of control of the driver and failing to make a turn in the rain soaked road, crashed through the guard rail at the Conowingo bridge and rolled into the river seventy feet below. Thos killed were, George D. Hart, white, owner and driver of the truck, Annie Simmons, Junis Mais, Clarence Caldwell, Sam Jackson, Harry Harris and James Silas, all colored. The last two died in Union Hospital on Sept. 3.

September escaped without a fatal accident, but October registered two, the first being Harry Wilmore, colored truck driver who was killed at the Rock Run underpass near Port Deposit on the morning of October 13. The second victim of the month was Rodney Husfelt, 9 year-old white boy of Cecilton who was killed whe nstruck in Cecilton on Hallowe'en night. The nineteenth victim of the year was Elliott Krause.

Havre de Grace Elks To Hold New Year's Party

With all arrangements complete, members of Havre de Grace Lodge, No. 1564, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of which many Cecil countians are members, are looking forward to a gala occasion on New Year's Eve when the annual party of the lodge will be held. James Carson is chairman of the entertainment committee.

Mr. Carson has arranged an attractive program of dancing with a floor show. Breakfast will be served shortly after midnight and the party is open to the general public.

Alleged Store Robber Returned to Cecil County

James Ring, formerly of Perryville, was returned to Cecil county Monday where he is being held in the county jail on a charge of robbing a store in Perryville about three weeks ago. Ring was arrested in Lynchburg, Va., and was held in that city until the arrival of Cecil county authorities.

When the store was entered, the safe was broken and its contents stolen including about $50 in cash. Suspicion was placed on Ring, a former employe in the store and his arrest soon followed in the Virginia city. Authorities are looking for an accomplice, who it is claimed is a resident of Perryville and his arrest is expected at any time.

Farmers Program To Include Wide Range Of Subjects

Farm Experts Will Discuss Important Matters at Annual Gathering

Large Delegation Of Cecil Farmers Plan To Attend 4-Day Parley In Baltimore

Cecil county farmers who will attend the annual convention of the Maryland Farm Bureau and affiliated organizations in Baltimore January 12 to 15, and it is understood a large delegation from Cecil county will be present at the sessions, will hear some very important discussions, in fact the program indicates that every problem of the Maryland farmer in production, marketing, economics, and social relationships will come up for consideration at some time during the gathering. President Harry H. Nuttle of the Farm Bureau will preside and has announced that the program for the occasion is nearing completion.

Will Discuss Electricity

Administrator Morris L. Cooke, of the Rural Electrification Administration of Washington will bring to a state-wide Maryland group for the first time the progress of extending electricity to the farm homes of the county at the first general session of the farm group on Wednesday afternoon, January 13. After Mr. Cooke's talk the balance of the afternoon session will be spent in discussing the farm interest in Maryland's road problems, with an explanation of the present survey by W. F. Childs, Jr., at the beginning of the session.

To Discuss Cooperatives

The story of the progress of Mid-Western farmers in their cooperative business efforts will be given the Maryland group on Thursday afternoon by I. H. Hull of Indianapolis, president of United Cooperatives, and a long-time leader in Mid-West farm bureau activities. On the same afternoon, Chester Gray, Washington Representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation will talk over legislation of national importance and forecast the program of organized farmers at the coming session of the National Congress.

Byrd Will Preside

President H. C. Byrd of the University of Maryland has been announced as toastmaster of the annual banquet on Thursday night, January 14. Delegates from the county farm bureaus will hold business sessions Friday morning, out of which will come the program of organized Maryland farmers for 1937.

Dr. Albinson Will Have Assistant For County Work

New Priest Will Be Located At Port Deposit And Aid In That Section of County

Trinity Church Now Has Largest Work In Diocese Of Easton And Second Largest Parish

Cooperative Work In County Has Fired Chuches With New Zeal

The special effort being made in the Every-Member Canvass for pledges to cover the 1937 budget of current expenses and benevolences of the Episcopal Parishes in Cecil county that are under the Rectorship of the Rev. Dr. J. Warren Albinson is due, it was revealed, to the desire to provide for a full-time Assistant Priest who will take some of the burden of the load from the Rector's shoulders and put the parishes into position to make even greater strides forward. The new assistant will make his home in the Rectory at Port Deposit and will be assigned most of the routine work in that end of the county but Dr. Albinson will continue as Rector of St. Mark's and St. James' as heretofore.

A new and unique work in the directing of Parishes of the Episcopal Church has been quietly and successfully developed in Cecil county. The idea was conceived that by combining two or more small parishes, without destroying their individual identity as parishes, into a larger co-operative group under one rector, a clergyman of sufficient calibre and vision might be secured to work toward the accomplishment in mind—a rural work that would be the equivalent to what we commonly speak of as a "Large City Parish."

Under this plan the work has grown from a small number of faithful communicants to a list of 466 Confirmed persons and 803 Baptised members, the largest work in the Diocese of Easton. Trinity Church, Elkton, a member of the cooperative group, has advanced, alone, to the position of the second largest individual parish in the whole Diocese.

Before the co-operative work began the various parishes would often go many months without a rector and very often be without any Service for long periods making the rebuilding of congregations extremely difficult when a clergyman was finally secured. Under

(Continued on Page 8)

Gov. Landon Made Honorary Member Of The Wellwood Club

Governor Alfred M. Landon, governor of Kansas and presidential standard bearer for the Republican party in the recent election, has been made an honorary member of the Wellwood Club at Charlestown. The Governor's name for honorary membership was proposed by Colonel George F. Hoffman and Colonel Louis J. Kolb, and Governor Landon accepted the nomination.

Elktonians Enjoying Holiday Vacations

Mrs. Thomas and Miss Mary L. Deers of Elkton, are stopping at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall, Atlantic City.

Mr. Ralph A. Jeffers is staying at the Hotel New Weston, New York City, for a few days.

Urges Commissioner To Enforce Headlight Law

Aroused by the tragic deaths in the State over the holidays, Baltimore City Councilman Sydney Traub has addressed a letter to Commissioner of Motor Vehicles Walter R. Rudy, demanding that Maryland's law against too-bright headlights be strictly enforced.

Councilman Traub cited instances where death followed the blinding of drivers approaching in the opposite direction and in part said, "One familiar with the situation can hardly dispute the fact that if there is a rigid enforcement of the law restricting the use of glaring headlights, a material reduction in the number of casualties will follow."

Rudy Says "Change-Proof" Tags Are Out; They're Not Change Proof

Although Year Has Shown Gain In Revenue From Trucks, Commissioner Says Tags Will Be Abanaoned

Because the "change-proof" commercial truck license tags turned out to be, among other things, not change-proof, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles Walter R. Rudy has announced that their sale will be discontinued for 1937.

The "non-transferable" plates were supposed to insure an end of "doubling-up"—using the same license plates on a truck during the working day and on a pleasure car in the evenings and on holidays.

Revenue Gains

As a matter of fact ,the revenues from truck licenses during the past year and the number of sets of license plates for commercial hiring trucks showed gains described by Mr. Rudy as "very good." But he considered the trouble to which the office force was put to be greater than the monetary gain.

The number of sets of tags rose from 49,731 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1935, costing $700,311 to 56,641 for that ended September 30, 1936, costing $794,821. Part of this gain Mr. Rudy attributed to the better business conditions, but a "fair portion' 'of it to the special type of ltag.

Some difficulties and the ways to "beat the tag" are:

The entire license-plate bracket was moved from the truck to the pleasure car and back again in order not to damage the license plate.

Bolts other than the special locking ones, provided with the tags, were used so that the tags could be moved at will.

The tags were too thin and many sets had to be replaced.

Many sets were damaged beyond use when the purchaser made mistakes in putting them on the license bracket.

Entire new licenses had to be issued at the expense of the commissioner's office when a person owning a hiring truck sold it, bought a pleasure car and sought to merely transfer his license plates to the new vehicle.

Embarrassing To Owners

Because trucks were not segregated when the new registration applications were sent out their owners were sent pleasure car licenses and were stopped and embarrassed temporarily by police wanting to know why the CH, or commercial hiring, licenses had not been purchased.

A special check is being made of all registration files, Mr. Rudy said, to make sure that the CH tags are taken by all who have trucks for commercial hiring use. A special State tax is assessed on such vehicles.

North East Man Badly Injured By Fall

Edwin Harvey, 44, suffered an injury to his spine when he fell from a scaffold while working on the new home of Dr. Joseph I. France, near Port Deposit last week. Harvey, whose home is at North East, was rushed to the Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace where he remains in a serious condition.

Retail Sales In County For 1935 Up To $4,687,000

Three Hundred And Ninety Stores Employ 548 Persons

Final figures for retail sales in Cecil county in an area report released by William L. Austin, Director, Bureau of Census, show total sales of $4, 687,000 in 390 in 1935.

The 390 stores are shown to have employed during 1935 an average of 385 proprietors and employed 548 persons full-time or part-time, to whom was paid a total payroll of $370,000.

The report also shows that of the total number of stores, 100 were food stores with sales for the year amounting to $1,494,000. The people of the county ate and drank $323,000 in eating and drinking places numbering 69.

The general stores in the county numbered 40 with a total volume of sales of $343,000. In addition were the general merchandise stores which numbered ten. The sales in this class of stores however, were withheld to avoid disclosure.

Motor Business Improves

In the 37 automotive stores, the total amount of business was $891,000, and in addition 56 filling stations did a business amounting to $317,000. The people of the county spent in five stores $68,000 for furniture, household effects and radios. While 19 lumber, building and hardware stores sold $05,000 of goods.

The drug stores, numbering ten, did a business of $100,000 and all other stores including liquor stores numbering 30, did $558,000 worth of business.

Total sales in the State amounted to $462,874,000 in 23,349 stores, and the ten leading counties and Baltimore in point of sales for the year were: Baltimore City and Baltimore county, Allegany, Washington, Montgomery, Frederick, Prince George, Anne Arundel, Wicomico, Carroll and Harford.

Elkton Masonic Lodge Elects New Officers

Union Lodge No. 48, A. F. and A. M., elected the following officers at a regular communication on Tuesday, Dec. 15:

Worshipful Master, J. H. McCloskey; Senior Warden, Harold N. Anderson; Junior Warden, Pogue R. Paxton; Secretary, William T. Vinsinger; Treasurer, Robert J. McCauley.

The installation of the officers will be held Tuesday evening, January 5 in the Masonic Temple.

State Roads Chairman Says Rural Road Work Is Necessary

Commissioner Points To Fact That Many People Are Practically Shut In During Winter Months And They Deserve Roads That Are Passable

Answering criticism of its program of development of low-cost roads, the State Roads Commission today made it plain that in reconstructing feeder and farm-to-market roads, it is not endangering the forthcoming program looking to improvement of the State's system of primary highways.

Censured in some quarters for what is termed "unwarranted improvement to secondary roads, when it is our primary arteries that need most attention," the Commission explained that the new improvements are not to the secondary system, but rather to what it terms the "tertiary" roads of the State.

Roads Are Impassable

"While it is realized that the State is faced with an emergency situation in its primary highways, carrying our heaviest inter-state and intra-state traffic, it is felt that something also must be done to help those rural residents who are dependent on the feeder-type and farm-to-market roads. Some of these people are practically shut in during the winter months when their dirt roads become so muddy and rutted that they are almost impassable.

It must be realized that special measures must be taken to bring our primary highways up to modern standards. Under its present budget less than $600,000 out of a total annual revenue of nearly $14,000,000 is left to the discretion of the State Roads Commission for improvements to the system. Not many roads can be built with such a residue.

"But the Commission has found that it is possible, using the allotments to counties under the 1½-cent lateral roads gasoline tax, to give the rural resident wide, well-drained and soil-stabilized roads which will serve them 365 days of the year. Moreover, the development of old roads along this line also make for cheaper maintenance, which eventually will effect a broad economy, since it develops upon the Commission to maintain county roads.

"Heretofore, our low-cost roads have suffered from some of the same ills that long have assailed the primary arteries—they have been too narrow and poorly drained. Soils when dry and well packed are capable of carrying vast loads, but when they are saturated with water they naturally break down. By persuading property owners along tertiary roads to give up sufficient rights of way, we are able to widen their roads, drain them to carry free water below the frost line and thus free them of the mud and ruts that work such a hardship on those who must use them.

Plan Better Rural Roads

"It is the hope of the State Roads Commission that the next Legislature will see fit to take emergency measures to start us on the road toward improvement of primary highways. Meanwhile, the Commission hopes to prevail upon the counties to cooperate in building up a network of safe, efficient and economical tertiary roads."

Methodist Men's Club Elects Officers

The Men's Club of the Elkton Methodist Episcopal Church has elected the following officers to serve for the ensuing year: President, F. J. Newcomer; vice-president, Ralph George; secretary, R. H. Baker; treasurer, Andrew P. Dean. The club holds monthly meetings with interesting programs and is one of the outstanding organizations of the community.