

BYRD REFORMS PLACE VIRGINIA IN TOP RANK

All of Governmental Departments Reorganized; Fewer Appointees.

BY ROSCOE E. FLEMING
Times Staff Correspondent
RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 7.—Under the leadership of Governor Harry Flood Byrd, Virginia, recently has accomplished reforms in her state government which place her among the most advanced and progressive of the states. Byrd himself, a young man of pleasant and direct manner and a brother of Commander Richard Evelyn Byrd, summarized in his office here accomplishments which he considers most important since he took office in 1916:

1. Reorganization of all departments, reducing the number of state boards and bureau from 100 to 12, 40 being abolished. This reorganization, incidentally, deprived the Governor of sixty appointments.

2. A revision of the constitution which made eighty changes and was approved by the people at a special election, June 19. This virtually gives Virginia a new constitution, at a cost of about \$50,000, as against a possible cost of \$1,000,000 if a constitutional convention had been called.

3. Construction of roads under the "pay as you go" plan. Virginia is spending \$16,000,000 a year on new roads and at the same time readily reducing the state debt.

4. Reform of the taxation system accomplished by law and by amendments in the constitution.

Tax Program Important

Of these four accomplishments the tax program appears the most important and the one by which Byrd's administration will be longest remembered.

As he himself expresses it, it has made Virginia the first single-tax state—that is, the state takes certain bases of taxation for itself and assigns other entirely to the county and local governments.

The state now collects no taxes at all on either real estate or tangible personal property. These entirely are under the control of county and local officials. The plan was adopted in 1926, and put into the state constitution in 1928, after two years of successful operation.

Prior to its adoption, Virginia really assessments had run from 10 to 70 per cent of the value of the property, in various parts of the state. That is, a man in one county would pay upon a basis of one-tenth the value of his property, while another man might be paying on 70 per cent, the rate of tax being the same.

In addition to gasoline and auto taxes, which are used solely for roads, the state taxes incomes, corporations, the rolling stock of railroads, franchises, capital in business, evidences of debt, inheritance and other sources of revenue. The rates on some of these progressively have been reduced, however, and the non-resident transfer inheritance tax has been repealed, effective next Jan. 1.

Economy Is Practiced

Loss of revenue from these reductions has been made up in the following manner:

1. Simpler and more effective tax administration under C. H. Morrisett, tax commissioner, which Byrd estimates has saved the state \$250,000 a year, but has collected more taxes. By better administration, for instance, 23,000 persons not

Coolidge Slaughters Clay Birds



"Bang! Bang!" went Calvin's trusty shotgun, and two more clay birds bit the dust. It was at Swansboro Club, near Swansboro, Va., that President Coolidge, prevented by a light drizzle from hunting quail, went to the traps to try his aim. Here you see him, in costume reminiscent of the Black Hills days, drawing a bead on a flying target. Mrs. Coolidge, with a small movie camera, stands by and records her husband's prowess.

paying income tax have been added to the income tax rolls. About \$1,000,000 a year has been added in taxes not formerly collected.

2. Slight increases in the income tax, on the rolling stock of railroads and in the gross franchise taxes.

One aim of the changes in tax administration has been to attract new industry to the state.

As a result, Virginia, situated between the industrial north and the new industrial south, is increasing her wealth on an average of 5 per cent a year.

The state's industrial products were valued at \$440,000,000 in 1922. In 1928 they are expected to be close to \$900,000,000, and in 1929 Byrd expects the state to blossom into the billion-dollar class.

BUTLER GETS BOOKS

Denny Library of 1,200 Volumes Given School.

A library of more than 1,200 volumes, including histories, essays, biographies and fiction, has been presented to Butler university by Mrs. Austin Flint Denny, 1619 North Delaware street, it was announced Thursday.

The gift was made by Mrs. Denny in memory of her husband, an alumnus of the old Northwestern Christian university, class of '62, who died in 1922.

The late Mr. Denny was a prominent Indianapolis attorney and was one of the most active of Butler alumni.

Auto Stolen at Funeral

LEBANON, Ind., Dec. 7.—While the Rev. Orville Woody was conducting funeral services for John Miller at the New Salem church, north of here, he was worried in an exchange of autos. An unidentified man driving a car in a much more worn state than the minister's escaped with his car, leaving the other machine.

OWES RECOUNT BILL

J. C. Humphries, Muncie, who was defeated for sheriff of Delaware county by Harry McAuley and demanded a recount because of alleged malfunctioning of voting machines, must pay the cost of the

recount, the appellate court ruled Thursday. Delaware circuit court granted James R. Peacock, G. C. Arbogast and William Mathewson, \$75 each for the work in recounting. The decision was affirmed in an opinion handed down by the higher court Thursday.



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WORLD LEADERS OF AVIATION TO DINE AND SPEAK

Radio to Carry Addresses by Famous Airmen at Chicago Banquet.

Internationally famous aviators, statesmen and business men will be heard by aviation and radio fans Monday night, Dec. 10, when the official dinner given by city of Chicago, the Chicago Aero commission and the Chicago Association of Commerce to distinguished visitors from overseas attending the International Aeronautic Exposition and to the United States aircraft industry as a whole will be broadcast.

The banquet, to be held in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Sherman, will go on the air through stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company from 9:30 to 10:30.

Reed G. Landis, chairman of the Chicago committee for reception of distinguished visiting foreigners, who are here to attend the conference of civil aviation, will preside. Colonel Paul Henderson, chairman of the Chicago aero commission, will greet the distinguished visitors. The senior diplomat for the

'Spellbinder'

By Times Special
CAMBRIDGE CITY, Ind., Dec. 7.—A perfect record in spelling for six weeks is the distinction held by Rosemary Hurlburt, 7, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman H. Howe of this city. She is a second grade pupil in the Central school and received 100 per cent in all tests conducted during a spelling contest.

United States in attendance will respond. That man is to yet be named by the department of state. Major Lester Gardner, president of the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce, will also respond.

Among important speeches will be that of Trubee F. Davidson, assistant secretary of war for aeronautics, who will speak on the "Army of the Air," and that of E. P. Warner, assistant secretary of navy for the air, who will speak on "Ships That Fly."

W. Irving Glover, second assistant postmaster-general in charge of air mail, will speak on "The Flying Postman." William P. McCracken Jr., assistant secretary of commerce for aeronautics, will sum up the others in a general resume of flying in the United States.

This is expected to be one of the most important banquets from an aeronautical standpoint of any ever held in the United States. It will bring together men who have been pioneers in aviation, who have seen it develop from the crude planes of the Wright brothers to the present

day, when transcontinental liners maintain regular schedules throughout the year.

Stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company systems through which this program will be heard are WBZ, WBZA, WLW, KVOO, WFAA, WRC and probably others to be announced later.

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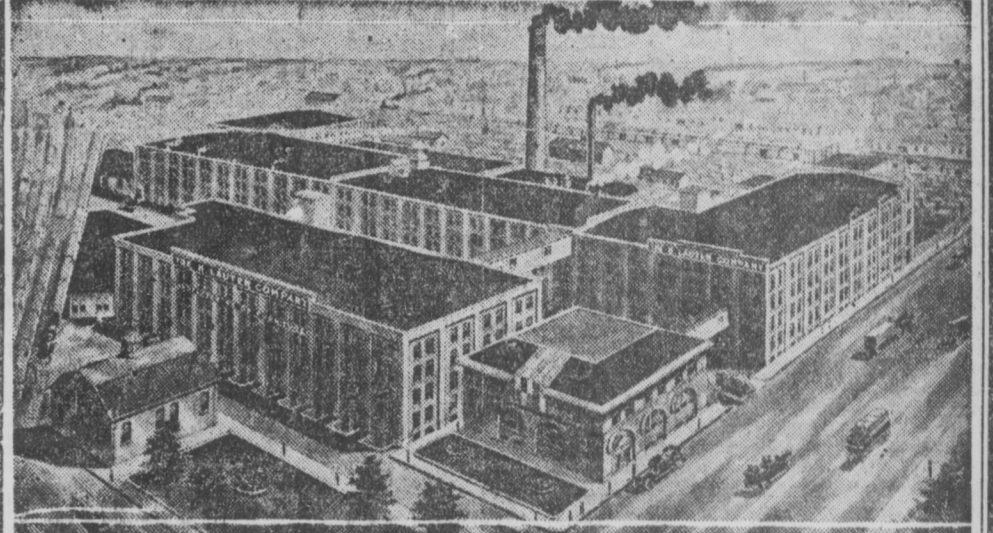
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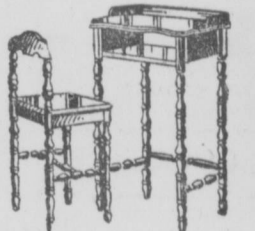
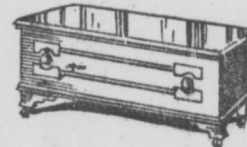


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