

January 12, 1929

Yesterday I was in Raleigh along with several thousands of other persons to see the inauguration of our Governor. I thought it might be of interest to you who have never attended an inauguration to tell you something about it. The new members of the General Assembly all took the oath of office. The Lieutenant Governor is not a member of the General Assembly and yet he is the presiding officer of the General Assembly. Just about 12 o'clock the two houses of the General Assembly met in joint session and adjourned to the large auditorium in Raleigh which will seat approximately 5,000 people. They had seats reserved on the first floor for the members of the House of Representatives and the members of the Senate. These people came down in procession with a lot of soldiers and military display and the members of the House took their seats and also the Senate then the Governor, Governor McLean, and the Governor-elect, came in next and took their seats on the stage and immediately following them came the state officers that were elected at the last general election. Then the retiring Lieutenant Governor called the two bodies of the Legislature to order. He then called upon the minister who opened with prayer. Then he called the various state officers one after the other and designated some member of the supreme court to administer the oath of office to each of these people. Then the Lieutenant Governor was sworn in and the retiring Lieutenant Governor took charge so when he was sworn in he immediately became the presiding officer. He introduced the retiring Governor who was at that time Governor. McLean was governor until Gardner took the oath of office. The Lieutenant Governor introduced Governor McLean who present Governor-elect Oliver Max

Gardner and designated the first Justice of the supreme court as the person who was to administer the oath of office. Then Justice Stacey administered the oath to Gardner and Gardner became the Governor of North Carolina and delivered the inaugural address.

There are quite a number of addresses and various and sundry articles in the papers today that will give you an idea of how these things take place. It is a good lesson in state history which takes place in our state only once in four years. There is no way for it to take place oftener than that because we have the election of these officers every four years and only every four years. The Governor made some recommendations to the General Assembly and made the statement that he would make other recommendations to them when he has had time to study certain questions.

O. Max Gardner, for he is known all over North Carolina as O. Max Gardner. O stands for Oliver. O max Gardner is a younger man than is usually elected to that office. He is 46 years old. As a young man early in life he had the ambition to make himself the Governor of North Carolina and he has never stopped running for that office until he was finally elected. In some respects his career is the most interesting of any in our state. He was elected Lieutenant Governor and as a rule that is a good job for a person to get to keep him from being elected Governor. Of course, if the Governor dies, the Lieutenant Governor becomes Governor. Jarvis was Lieutenant Governor when Vance was elected to the United States Senate then Jarvis was moved from Lieutenant Governor to the position of Governor and ran at the end of that term for re-election and is the only person in North Carolina who has ever been elected for the second time as Governor. Gardner ran against Morrison and was defeated. Usually when someone runs and is

defeated for that office he does not run again. That is almost an unwritten law but he took his defeat in such a way that people all over the state loved him. There is another unwritten law that is as binding as if it were written, and that is that the Governor should come one time from the East and the next time from the West so when Gardner was defeated by Morrison because no man would dare go against this unwritten law in our state he had to wait eight years to run again. A senator has to come one out of the East and one out of the West. Gardner bided his time and last summer he had no opposition in his political party and was elected. That was just a little outline of the political career of our Governor.

Robert H. Wright, President