

News of the Week in Legislative Circles

By M. R. DENNAGAN, Special Democrat Correspondent

Practical, common-sense, little less, will be required to prevent the North Carolina General Assembly from passing the 1931-32 Revenue Bill this week, these predictions being that the measure will pass its third and final reading about one o'clock Wednesday a. m. after which that body will adjourn following its regular session of 141 days.

The Revenue Bill, embracing a 15-per cent. ad valorem tax on real estate, on a State-wide basis, for the support of the public schools, supplemented by a substantial increase in the taxes on corporations and incomes, passed the third reading in the House last afternoon, Saturday morning and the third representatives were released until Monday night. The third reading was merely a perfunctory one, the report having been adopted on its first reading, 91 to 45, Thursday night and 64 to 50 Friday.

The Senate begins consideration of the measure Monday night and is expected to pass it along as rapidly as the constitutional provision of reading at three separate sittings will permit. Although the report was adopted by the Senate by only two yeas, the measure is expected to pass this week. The opponents of the measure have their lines fairly fixed on the subject.

The opponents, on the other hand, are expected to join them. The conference report has been by agreement, following other similar reports on the same bill, which also had their ups and downs. This report, when it first came from the committee to the House last Monday night, was rejected, 57 to 50. Thereafter it was brought back by the same vote, 57 to 50, and held with no action, the House waiting for the Senate to act. The Senate, Wednesday, rejected the report by a tie vote, 19 to 19, and one Senator changed his vote from "aye" to "nay" in order that he might move to reconsider at the next day.

The Senate, Thursday, by a vote of 25 yeas, 19 nays, and adopted the report, paving the way for its final adoption. Senator F. O. Clarkson of Beaufort, made the tie by voting for the measure. Senator F. O. Clarkson, of Mecklenburg, broke the tie by voting for the measure, but until the Senate had adopted his resolution which would prevent cutting of salaries of teachers, superintendents, principals and supervisors more than 10 per cent. below the State schedule and not then until all other means of economy had failed. Senator Clarkson said he was unwilling to have the teachers make the cuts and bear the big end of tax salary cut.

The Revenue Bill, it is generally agreed, will result in a relief of the business and economic conditions continue as at present. Under normal or good conditions, it would produce enough to practically cancel money for complete operation of the budget. Another provision has been enacted which permits the Governor and Council of State to issue short term notes, if necessary, to pay the full amount appropriated to schools and to prevent a cut in the amount.

The Machinery Bill, which sets out the methods of valuation, taxation and tax collections, and the Appropriation Bill, giving the various institutions departments and divisions of the State the money on which to operate for the next two years, are yet to be passed. It is possible that these will pass before the adjournment of the session of the Revenue Bill. Some of the amendments may be cut to try to help decrease the expected deficit. Possibly, but not likely, these bills may cause the session to continue a day or even two days longer than the time needed for passing the Revenue Bill.

The bill seeking to reorganize the Senate's districts on the basis of the 1930 census figures has also had a hectic career. The bill, finally adopted by the House and sent to the Senate, approached a fair distribution of Senators as to population, but the Senate killed it and passed one which starts only two or three counties in eastern districts, and makes no effort to adjust on basis of population. The House probably will pass it, although it leaves two Senators in the east who would normally be elected by the west. The House reapportionment bill is a matter of mathematical calculation and not so much subject to politics and it will probably pass as arranged.

Less than twenty-five bills were introduced last week, largely local, and only a few have been enacted into law. Total introductions have reached 2,000.

Laws enacted the past week include one to empower and direct municipalities to apply sinking funds to the purchase of their own bonds whenever such purchases may be effected and to require proper investment of sinking funds. A joint resolution provides for the appointment of a commission to study the matter of adoption, purchase and distribution of high school textbooks and report its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the first regular session of the General Assembly. Another act passed exempted hucksters from jury duty.

The House killed the bill which would have placed an additional tax on power companies of half a mill per kilowatt-hour of power produced in the State.

Chain stores are taxed on stocks by a bill introduced and passed by the House. The present law now before the U. S. Supreme Court as to constitutionality, taxed each store except one, \$50. The new bill graduates the tax and gets all stores, as follows: \$6 each for one store; \$20 for each of two to five; \$40 each for six to 10; \$60 each for 11 to 20; \$80 each for 21 to 30; and \$100 each for 31 or more.

Other bills introduced the past week follow:

To allow counties to vote special taxes in support of the six months term.

Reducing salaries of all State officials and employees, including those in State-supported institutions, 10 and 20 per cent.

To promote efficiency in the public service and to extend the opportunity to the people of the State to engage in such service.

To permit municipalities and counties to stipulate, upon agreement with purchasers or holders of bonds and notes, to buy in such notes and bonds before they fall due.

Mr. Newwed—Darling, you went to cooking school, didn't you?
Mrs. Newwed—Yes, dear.
Mr. Newwed—Then you must have skipped all the classes.

Lenore Ulric and Sydney Blackmer on Vacation in Blowing Rock Country

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the shrub be replanted until fall, when she contemplates having it moved to her estate on the Hudson.

Last summer Miss Ulric traveled twelve thousand miles from a tour to European countries to visit her husband in Blowing Rock, and had made plans to spend several weeks there, but three hours after her arrival, a call came for her to come to Los Angeles for the casting of a picture, and she left immediately.

A great lover of the stage, Mr. Blackmer seems to be equally adept at the amorous game in real life. To him, Miss Ulric seems to represent the embodiment of everything good. Their views along all lines apparently are in perfect harmony—even to politics. She is a whole-hearted supporter of Al Smith for the Presidency, and believes he will be the next Democratic candidate. He is a staunch admirer of the "Happy Warrior," but looks on Franklin D. Roosevelt as the "sure-shot" for 1932. However, they both follow the Democratic donkey, and confidently expect the administration to change following the next election.

A few years ago Lewis Cobb stated that all North Carolina needed was a press agent. In Miss Ulric and Mr. Blackmer the Old North State has two of the most sincere boosters on record—two famous persons who just love to "tell the world" how well they like it. And they intend to stay just as long as possible on this "second honeymoon." In the meantime, they will return as often as possible to their snug little home on the mountain top.

GOD OF THE OPEN AIR
Thou who has made thy dwelling fair
With flowers blooming above with
starry lights
And soft things all over everywhere,
On mountain heights,
In woodlands dim with many a dream,
In valleys bright with springs,
And on the curving slopes of every
stream,
Thou hast taken to thyself the wings
of morning, to abide
Upon the secret place of the sea,
And on fair lands where the tide
Visits the beauty of untroubled shores,
Waiting for worshippers to come to
thee
In thy great out-of-doors!
To thee I turn, to thee I make my
prayer,
God of the Open Air
—Henry Van Dyke.

\$7 DEBT CONTRACTED BACK IN 1875 PAID GRANDSON CREDITOR

Chesler, Pa.—A \$7 debt contracted in 1875 was paid recently to a grandson of the creditor.

Benjamin Berry, 32, received a money order for that amount from Annie Fishery, of Atlantic City, N. J. She explained that her father, who died several weeks ago, had purchased a pair of blankets from Nathan Berry, general store keeper in Shemakville, 56 years ago and had never paid for them.

On his death bed he made his daughter promise she would find an heir of Nathan Berry and pay him. During the last two months, County Agent J. O. Anthony of Harnett County has assisted his father to sell \$8,400.20 worth of live poultry in carlot shipments.

LIMESTONE!

If interested in some limestone for your cabbage ground, see us. We can now furnish you Ground Limestone delivered in Boone for only \$3.50 per ton

FARMERS HARDWARE & SUPPLY CO.
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

BARGAINS IN Batteries

- 13 Plate Battery, guaranteed 12 months 6.75
- 13 Plate Heavy Duty, guaranteed 18 months 7.50
- 30x450 India Tires, fully guaranteed 5.69
- 32x6 India Truck Tires 29.75
- 30x5 India Truck Tires 17.95

J. R. TOLBERT
AUTO SUPPLIES
LENOIR and BOONE

The Five to Five Store

IN THE QUALLS BUILDING BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

Owing to the fact the store is being remodeled, I will not be able to open on May 28th, as was stated in last week's Watauga Democrat, but

Will Open at 9 o'Clock A. M. Saturday, May 30th

An invitation is extended to all to come!

I have a beautiful line of new DRESSES!

in Silk Crepe, plain or printed, Shantung Silks, Summer Silks, etc. in all the newest styles. Bought at the new low prices, and sold at the ridiculously low prices from—

2.95 to 4.95
House Dresses, 49c up

NEW SUMMER HATS IN STRAWS AND PAN-AMAS AT LOWEST PRICES!

Pure Thread Silk Hosiery 77c to \$1
(Full fashioned in all shades)

Hand-made Porto Rican Gowns 49c

Rayon and Silk Bloomer 25c up

Misses and Children's Anklets 9c to 19c

Piece Goods, large assortment 5c up

Men's Dress Shirts, whites and fancys 89c
(These are vat dyes, fast colors and pre-shrunk, at a price so low that you can't afford to miss the opportunity of laying in a supply)

Men's Work Shirts, good quality, each 49c

Men's Overalls, per pair 67c

Boys' Overalls, a splendid value at 45c

Lots of other values from 5 cents to five dollars. Come early, get your share and let's get acquainted.

The Five to Five Store

"Under Priced Merchandise in All Lines" — J. B. Brewer, Proprietor

The Biggest Attraction of the Summer Season!

FIDDLER'S CONVENTION

AT THE COURTHOUSE IN BOONE, N. C.

FRIDAY - SATURDAY JULY 3 & 4

Arrangements have already been made for some of the best banjo pickers, guitar players, clog dancers, fiddlers and string bands in this section of the State to enter the contests. Twenty-five per cent. of the proceeds will go to Grandfather Orphans Home. Positively the only attraction of the glorious Fourth in Watauga.

THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ENTERED SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MANAGEMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

MACK CROW, OF MAIDEN, WELL KNOWN MASTER OF CEREMONIES, WILL BE IN CHARGE OF CONTESTS

Address communications to J. W. Bryan BOONE, N. C.

PASTIME THEATRE "Place of Good Shows"

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 28-29

MARION DAVIES —IN— "THE BACHELOR FATHER"

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Buddy Roosevelt and Buffalo Bill Jr.

WESTWARD BOUND

MONDAY-TUESDAY, JUNE 1-2

William Powell and Kay Frances

"A LADIES MAN"

WED.-THURSDAY, JUNE 3-4

Bert Wheeler and Robert Woosley

"HALF SHOT AT SUNRISE"