

MAJOR ISSUES WILL VEX NEW CONGRESS

Payment of Soldier Bonus First on List of Vexing Legislative Problems.

(Washington Correspondence.) Without trying to predict what the final outcome will be, this is a good time to take note of the major issues with which the second session of the 74th Congress, convening on Friday, January 3, will occupy its time.

1. Immediate payment of the Veterans' Bonus. The only apparent open question about this is whether or not

SPEAKS AT NIGHT Leaders of the Senate and House have arranged for an extraordinary session Friday night to receive the message of President Roosevelt on the state of the Union. The President has departed from usual custom again in delivering his message at night, presumably in order to increase the number of radio listeners. Only once before has such a message been given at night, the war message of President Wilson. Mr. Roosevelt, also has set a precedent in bringing his messages personally, something seldom done in the nation's history. The President devoted the last day of the old year to the preparation of the message, which will be broadcast at 9 or 9:30 Friday evening.

the bill as passed will provide for full cash payment or for a special issue of bonds.

2. The Townsend old-age pension proposal. This will stimulate a lot of oratory in both Houses. The labor lobby will oppose it. The best guess is that the Townsend plan will not be adopted but that the agitation will result in liberalization of old-age benefits under the Social Security Act, which has got to be amended in many respects, anyway.

3. Lots of talk and some pretty hot debates on the Frazier-Lemke Farm Mortgage greenback bill. Little chance, however, of its passage.

4. Government ownership of railroads. Again a lot of talk, backed by a well organized campaign of the railroad unions in favor of it. Action of Interstate Commerce Commission in ordering reduction of railroad passenger rates to two cents a mile, where they are now higher than that which is all over the East. This will be a demonstration of the Government's present power over railroads, and may have a strong influence in bringing holders of railroad bonds into line for Government ownership.

Neutrality, Navy, Army 5. The neutrality question will come up early in the session. The present temper of Congress is to strengthen the neutrality laws. The strong belief prevails that a great war is rapidly approaching, and Congress will not be inclined to trust the State Department alone to keep us out of it. One outcome of the war talk is likely to be liberal appropriations for a bigger navy.

6. Proposals for increasing the army strength will be backed by reports that Mexico is planning an out-and-out Communist Government. This will give strength to the demand for military defenses along the Rio Grande.

7. There will be more debate on proposals to regulate wages and hours of labor. Outlook is for the passage of the Walsh Bill, requiring all contracts selling anything to be standards established by NRA.

8. Attempts will be made to straighten out the silver tangle, probably by mandatory legislation requiring the Treasury to increase its purchases and maintain the world price. The silver policy is not clearly defined as yet.

9. Amendments to the Housing Act probably will be made, with the objective of inducing private capital to go into large scale low-cost housing projects. This is in accordance with the views of Secretary Morgenthau, Director of Home Owners Loan Corporation, and Peter Grimm, Housing Co-ordinator.

10. A lot of noise that will be heard on Capitol Hill from now on will come from the committee rooms, where Public Utilities, railroads, munitions, chain stores and various other phases of business will be under investigation.

The program for this session will be complicated by other factors. There will be Supreme Court decisions which will intersect new issues. The budget as submitted by the President will look quite reasonable.

Politically, the relief issue has been brought to the front by Hoover's speech in St. Louis. The Government's plan to turn the relief problem back to the states as fast as possible is not making headway.

Betting on Republican candidates is now better than even money on London. It seems certain that neither Mr. Hoover nor Mr. Borah will be the nominee.

Even money is being bet on a Republican Congress in 1937, but the Presidential odds are still in Mr. Roosevelt's favor.

RURAL CARRIER EXAMINATION The United States Civil Service Commission has announced an examination to fill the position of rural carrier at Vilas, N. C.

The examination will be held at Boone, N. C. Receipt of applications will close on Jan. 17, 1936.

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JACKSON DAY TO MAKE HISTORY IN STATE POLITICS

Political Pot May Be Expected to Warm Following Dinner Gatherings.

PARK SYSTEM GETS OVER 7,000 ACRES

House Speaker Shows Signs of Activity; PHIs Feted by Prison Inmates; The Review of the Week in Raleigh

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

Raleigh, Jan. 1.—Jackson Day Dinners to be held in probably more than 50 of the 100 counties of the state January 8 will be making political history, primarily because from that date politics may be expected to hold the spotlight in the state for the next six months, or until after the June and July primaries.

Also, it is expected that most of the announced candidates for major posts will be on the program and make important announcements then or soon after as to platforms, policies, managers, headquarters, and the like. Too, it is likely that the date will be the signal for the beginning of the end of the political announcements of candidates for state-wide offices, as well as for congressional and judicial district officers. Such announcements may be looked for by or soon after the dinner date, as few candidates will announce for office in major or general contests later than January.

Lots of oratory may be expected. Public men and women and candidates will be on many programs. For example, Governor Ehringhaus will speak in Greensboro and Senator Bailey in Raleigh. Others will be scattered through the counties.

Tickets in this state will be only \$2, those honored as "sponsors" paying \$5 each. Protests are made against high charges at many cities. The proceeds will go largely to the national Democratic headquarters to pay a deficit, that body sponsoring and the Young Democratic Clubs handling the dinners. Mrs. Bess Phoenix has charge in this state, with E. C. Brooks Jr., Durham, as coordinator.

JOHNSON IN ACTIVITY

Politics—Robert Grady Johnson, House speaker, was seen in activity last week which may mean that he will manage a campaign for one of the candidates for Governor, Clyde Hoey or "Sandy" Graham?—Dr. Ralph McDonald intimates that he will have no state manager, but a headquarters in Raleigh. R. T. Fountain still claims he is running on Senator Bailey's record, that the senior Senator was really with President Roosevelt on only two important matters, the World Court and (Continued on page two.)

FATHER GREET'S SON AFTER PERIOD 45 YEARS ABSENCE

E. M. Norris of Starbuck, Washington, formerly of Watauga county, N. C., and eldest son of W. H. Norris Sr., who resides with his daughter, Mrs. S. O. Stanberry in Boone, came in for a short visit, spending four days only with his aged father and other relatives among whom were Rev. J. L. Norris, Hamp Norris, and Hattie Rae Norris, of LaCrosse, Fla., who faced the winter breeze to Boone, in order to see the brother and uncle, all leaving December 27 for their homes in Washington and Florida, respectively. Friends of the Western man will be glad to know that he has succeeded well, and Old Man Depression doesn't interfere at all.—Reported.

NO RECORDER'S COURT

There was no session of the Recorder's Court again Tuesday adjournment having been taken for two weeks the day before Christmas. Since there is practically nothing on the docket, there will be no session of the court until next week.

REVIEW OF YEAR ADDED FEATURE

Readers of the Democrat will note that the publication has followed usual custom in making the Chronology of the year 1935 a feature of the first issue of the New Year.

This valuable feature which appears on page three, gives a concise and classified resume of what happened during the old year in the field of domestic, foreign and international relations and provides a store-house of accurate information. As in the past, many will doubtless make a scrap-book piece of this page, so that there may be a permanent record in the household of the principal things that constituted news in 1935.



FIREMEN CHEER NEEDEY CHILDREN

Empty Stocking Fund Ample to Take Care of Goodies For the Destitute.

At the last minute, people of the community responded liberally to the annual call for Christmas trinkets and goodies for the destitute children and according to Fire Chief Pat McGuire, who with city officials, was actively in charge of delivering the Santa Claus parcels, there was ample provision made.

About three hundred bags of fruits, nuts, candies, and toys were distributed in the community and environs the day before Christmas, and ample parcels were taken to the county home, the jail and the prison camp. Allotments for different purposes were increased, but yet there was a surplus of the commodities, Mr. McGuire said. He believes there was a decided indication of improvement in the condition of the poorer families his year.

Dunnagan Retires As Local Correspondent

Raleigh, Jan. 1.—M. R. (Mike) Dunnagan, Raleigh correspondent for several newspapers in the state for nearly seven years, including The Watauga Democrat, announces that he will suspend his newspaper work for the present and devote practically full time until next June, or July if necessary, to his campaign for the Democratic nomination for Secretary of State.

Mr. Dunnagan takes up his residence in Winston-Salem early in the new year and will conduct his campaign from that city. He reports that he has a home there, mortgaged but not foreclosed, occupied by a brother and with plenty of room for his campaign activities. He expresses the belief that he has a very good chance for the nomination, and expects to make the best possible use of the opportunity.

Wilkes County Man Goes To High Court

Washington, Dec. 30.—Branson Benton, operator of a 700-acre farm in Wilkes county, N. C., appealed to the Supreme Court today to free him from a \$1,000 fine and two-year prison term ordered by lower federal courts for alleged illegal operation of a mountain distillery.

Benton appealed from a ruling by the fourth federal circuit court which affirmed the penalty.

Lawyers for the farmer said the conviction was based on "wholly circumstantial evidence." Federal agents found a 300-gallon still and other equipment April 23, 1934 on land adjoining Benton's farm.

MRS. SALLIE ADAMS COMBS Mrs. Sally Adams Combs, aged 77, died December 21 at Vilas, N. C. Funeral service and interment was at Henson's Chapel, December 23, at 11 a. m., with Rev. Mr. Parker in charge.

Surviving is the husband, W. D. Combs and the following children: Mrs. T. C. Cain, Southwick, Idaho; Mrs. J. L. McSwain, Gastonia, N. C.; H. L. Combs, Mabel, N. C.; Mrs. J. L. Seagraves, West Jefferson, J. P. Combs, Mrs. W. H. Campbell of Vilas, and Mrs. Spencer Miller, of Boone. 34 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren also survive.

Mrs. Combs was well known, particularly in the western part of the county, where she had attracted a wide friendship through her many sterling traits of womanhood. She will be greatly missed in her section.

MEETING CLOSES

A revival meeting closed at Brushy Fork Baptist Church just before Christmas, which resulted in 26 additions to the church. The meeting which lasted two weeks, was conducted by Rev. W. C. Payne and Rev. W. D. Ashley and good attendance was reported.

HAT IN RING Senator Borah Definitely In Presidential Picture



Senator Borah of Idaho is definitely in the race for the Republican nomination for the presidency, Monday the Idahoan gave permission for his name to be entered in the Ohio primaries on May 12. Great interest is centering in the effort of the liberal Republican group to put across his nomination, and opinion is that his candidacy is gaining momentum rapidly.

SCHOOL OPENINGS POSTPONED IN CO.

Severe Weather Makes Opening of County Schools Impossible This Week.

Opening of the various county schools has been postponed for a week on account of the cold weather, and blocking of side roads with snow, making it impossible in instances for the buses to operate. The schools were to have opened Monday and Tuesday of this week, and Superintendent Walker states that in one or two instances, the teachers attempted to open, but the classes were hopelessly depleted, hence the general postponement order.

Those schools which observe Saturday as a holiday will open next Monday, while those taking Monday off, will open Tuesday, Mr. Walker stated.

Brazil leads the Latin-American countries in cotton production with an annual crop of approximately 207,000,000 pounds.

WPA Workers Walk 17 Miles Facing Zero Storm

Those who believe that direct relief and the subsequent works program have made a lot of "softies" out of the wards of Uncle Sam should have beheld twenty-four snow-clad and frosty visaged individuals who trekked from the Potterytown country into Boone Monday morning, to show up for work, as security-wage earners under the WPA.

The even two dozen workers had walked distances ranging from 11 to 17 miles, in order to take care of their nineteen dollar a month jobs, and the tortuous journey was accomplished in near-zero temperature and in the face of a blinding freezing gale of snow and ice. The way was unmarked save by these hardy travelers, and snowdrifts six and eight feet high often had to be surmounted. Progress was slow, and occasionally the tattered two-dozen turned their faces for a moment away from the snarling teeth of

ONE ARREST MADE DURING CHRISTMAS

Police Department Believes People Have Set Record For Orderliness.

Whether or not the frigidly of the atmosphere contributed to the general piety, the fact is quite conclusively established that the celebration of Christmas in Boone and environs was the most orderly in many years. Friends mingled mostly about the family fireside during the past week and the city police department reports the arrest of one man the day before Christmas on an inconsequential charge of a generally improved potential indictment.

The calm of Christmas week came condition in the town brought about some weeks ago when Chief Wiley Day's police department clamped down, so to speak, on violators of the law, and there has been less and less public drunkenness since.

Patrolman Ollis, who has been in police work for many years in some of the larger towns of the state, takes occasion to compliment the citizenship of this section on their manner of observing the Christian holiday. Never in his experience as an officer, says Mr. Ollis, has he seen such a fine and orderly disposition on the part of the people at the holiday season.

Reports Good Price For Burley Tobacco

Mr. W. O. Stephens of Zionville, in town Monday, tells of having secured an unusually favorable price for his burley tobacco, recently marketed at Abington, Va. One crop of 262 pounds brought \$65.93. A basket of 68 pounds went at 35 cents; 34 pounds brought 33 cents, and 70 pounds went at 29 cents, just to mention the three highest lots.

Another crop of tobacco raised by Mr. Stephens on the farm of Rev. R. C. Eggers, was really better he says. 100 pounds sold at 37 cents; lungs brought 34 cents and the dark leaf came in for 33 cents.

Mr. Stephens states that the tobacco proved exceedingly profitable, since aside from 100 pounds of fertilizer, there was scarcely no cost to its production.

LICENSES REVOKED

Several hundred automobile drivers have had their licenses to drivers revoked in the less than two months since the law became effective requiring the revocation for several offenses, and making it discretionary for others. License must be revoked for 12 months for driving while drunk or drugged, using car to commit a felony, perjury as to car ownership, transporting liquor, manslaughter, two convictions for reckless driving, and failure to stop and render aid in case of accident.

KING WINTER HAS HELD WATAUGA IN RELENTLESS GRIP

Severity of the Cold Brings Recollection of Freeze During Winter 1917-18.

PIPES FREEZE, BOILERS BURST FROM ZERO BLASTS

Highway Crews Busy For Days Keeping Roads Open, While Boone Shoveled Self Out From Under Heavy Blanket.

The most severe siege of winter weather for almost two score years gripped Watauga county during the Christmas-week holidays, and heavy snowfalls accompanied the freezing gusts which carried the thermometer to 5 below the week-end before Christmas, and has brought mercury to or near the zero point each succeeding morning. Tuesday morning the sun broke through the clouds and despite predictions of the weather man that more snow or rain was in the offing, those who had been more or less snow-bound went about smilingly under the cheering rays of old Sol.

The intense cold has prevailed, without abatement for more than twelve days, and while the depth of the snowfall in this section cannot be accurately determined due to the driving winds it is quite likely that twelve inches or more have fallen. Highway crews were busy for days keeping the main thoroughfares cleaned and on occasions, the scrapers were teamed throughout the night. The heaviest snowfall, occurred with the week-end, and Sunday the city employed a large number of men and supplemented the work of the highway forces by clearing the snow from the sidewalks through the principal business section. Monday came in with blinding snow and the work was postponed until Tuesday when WPA crews, unable to proceed with their regular street improvement duties, joined hands with the city in clearing the streets and sidewalks.

Plumbers of the city had their busiest season in years, as frozen pipes were experienced in large numbers of homes, in rare instances boilers to heating plants having burst. A minimum of trouble has been experienced however, with the city water mains, since they were laid in anticipation of intense cold.

Old timers, who had concluded that severe winters were in the discard, wrinkled their brows during the last few days and tied to recall similar severity of the wintry elements. It is definitely determined that not since 1917-18 has there been such intensely cold weather.

17 DEAD FROM COLD

New York, Dec. 30.—Snow, ice and freezing temperatures lay over the east, south, and much of the middle west tonight following a storm that took at least 17 lives and caused millions of dollars of property damage.

Regionally, the heaviest death toll was in the south, where five persons succumbed to the unaccustomed rigors of winter.

Snow flurries, felt as far south as Florida, were moving tonight into New England after covering the middle Atlantic states with the heaviest fall of the season. In depth the snow ranged from four to six inches in New York City to 13 inches in parts of North Carolina. Mount Mitchell, N. C., reported 20 inches.

For north Georgia it was the worst snowstorm in 39 years.

With freezing temperatures extending generally to the gulf of Mexico, southern children took advantage of the snow and ice with improvised sleds and skis, made of barrel staves. For the first time in years there was a thin coating of ice on the Mississippi river at Greenville, Miss.

Faced with the task of opening snow-clogged roadways, the South Carolina state highway commission began a search for a snowplow which it believed it owned but could not find.

New York City officials who have more use for such apparatus, quickly found 2,000 snowplows and sent them into action, together with sweepers, flushers, and rotary brooms. The city's snow removal crew totaled 45,000 men and a \$1,000,000 appropriation was voted during the day to finance the work.

Six ocean freighters, icebound in the Hudson river between Albany and Kingston, N. Y., were freed during the day by coast guard cutters.

In addition to the five deaths in the south, four were attributed to the storm in Philadelphia, four in Oklahoma, two in Kentucky and one each in New York and Battle Creek, Mich.

Ice flurries and snowdrifts in the Ohio and West Virginia region. The Wabash was completely frozen over at New Harmony, Ill. The Metropolis, Ill., reported the heaviest snowfall since 1917, six inches.