

AT THE CAPITOL

News of Interest From the Legislature Now in Session

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Special to Franklin Times

Raleigh, Jan. 26.—The outstanding feature in legislative circles was the message of Governor McLean to a joint session of the Assembly on Wednesday in the Hall of the House. The address was a comprehensive survey of the State's business, accompanied with important and valuable recommendations looking to the application of needed remedies to meet the urgent needs of the hour. The governor would not retard the progress of the commonwealth in any sense, but he wants to proceed on a "safe and sane" basis. Enlargement of public institutions, to an extent that will enable them to keep pace with the State's steady and solid development, meets the Governor's approval, yet he would have all garments "cut to fit the cloth."

The Governor's suggestions were received with the closest attention by the solons and a crowd which packed the lobbies and galleries of the Hall. The need for an economical administration was one of the points in the message which received the "glad hand." The speaker wanted the financial condition of the State disclosed in its entirety and will be satisfied with nothing else. The Governor covered a number of subjects in his address, viz: Training in Agriculture, Health, Economy in Administration, the Budget System, Reform in Judicial Procedure, Freight Rates, Development of Water Transportation, Highways, Treatment of the Afflicted, the Pardoning Power, Blue Sky Law, Conservation and Development, our Natural Resources, Industrial Development, Development of Coastal Plains, Treatment of Labor, Workmen's Compensation, Treatment of Prisoners, the State's Prison, Commercial Traffic on the Highways, Fish and Oysters, etc.

The question of deficit, or no deficit, has passed the debatable stage. It is here, and the size is yet to be determined. The most authentic information available fixes the amount as of June 30, 1924, at \$6,600,000. The Budget Commission estimates that a couple of millions more may as well be added

to the shortage reported by the auditor. Governor McLean insists, that "all the cards be laid on the table," so that the General Assembly and the public may know "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." It is the Governor's purpose to get the State's expenditures back in line with its deficient revenues, and members of the General Assembly appear to be in accord with the views of the Executive.

The proposed 35-million bond bill for the further extension of the State's highway system was trotted out for the inspection of both houses on Thursday. It was introduced in the house by Representative Bowie, of Ashe; in the Senate by Senator Heath, of Union. It will not take the course of Port Terminals measure which the voters of the State rejected in November. The Legislature is either to accept or reject it. If it passes, the gasoline tax will be increased to four cents a gallon, and short term notes issued and sold. It will likely "pass muster," for good roads are the subject of general and polite conversation with most everybody in the State these days. So long as those who use the public highways most are willing to pay for the privilege will be the State risk its credit in further extent in the system.

The request of Governor McLean for a Pardon Commissioner is to be seriously considered. Representative Womble, of Forsyth, has offered a bill which would authorize the appointment of an official to assist the Governor in connection with applications for pardons and commutations. He would be paid a salary of \$4,000 a year and allowed to employ a stenographer at a salary not exceeding \$150 a month. The Commissioner would be under the immediate direction of the Governor, the final arbiter in all pardon cases. It is the purpose of Governor McLean to devote his entire time to the weightier matters of the State, instead of wearing himself out in the consideration of petty affairs. It is not in the mind of the Governor to shirk any duty, but to discharge every obligation to the best of his ability. A capable man as commissioner of pardons, one who could prepare all cases in a proper way, would relieve the Executive of no little worry and detail.

The General Assembly "took a day off" and visited the State University in a body on Friday to witness the formal dedication of the new law building. Owing to pressing official duties Governor McLean could not attend and Lieutenant Governor J. Elmer Long presented Manning Hall to

that institution, while the acceptance speech was made by Mr. Josephus Daniels on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Members of the General Assembly occupied seats on the Speakers' platform.

Special seats were provided for the wives of the legislators and other invited guests who were, also, handed tickets to the luncheon at New Carolina Inn following the exercises. State officials, members of the Supreme Court and distinguished persons from afar graced the occasion with their presence. Developments at the University were given "the once over" by many members of the Legislature during their visit to the Hill and first-hand information may be helpful to some when the appropriation bill comes up for consideration later on.

Both branches of the Assembly were in action again on Friday evening but neither had a "full house." The 3rd week of the session has practically expired, with no bills ratified except a few of routine character. The 4th week will start with prospects of accomplishment. Governor McLean has shown himself a man of action and makes plain his conviction that he is not one of those who is content with "making promises to the ear to be broken to the hope." He finds fault with the State's fiscal policy and wants the system changed. He stands for progress, but does not look with favor upon extravagance in any form. It is his conviction that the State is a big business institution and he believes that sound business methods and prudent business management should be applied in the handling of its fiscal affairs.

A number of the legislators were heavy losers in a disastrous fire which destroyed the Motor Service Storage building near the Sir Walter Hotel on Thursday morning, in which more than 200 automobiles and trucks were burned. Serving as a member of the General Assembly this winter will, to them be an expensive experiment. Few of them carried insurance on their cars. These will have to take total losses and make the best of the misfortune.

A bill by Senator Sams, of Forsyth, would change the constitutional requirement relative to the canvass of the vote for Governor and other State officers by committees of the General Assembly. The Senator thinks this should be attended to not later than February 1st before the Legislature convenes. With the submission of the amendment goes, for the third time, the proposal to increase the compensation of members of the General Assembly which has twice been rejected, the last time by a very close margin.

Several administration measures are "in the making" and will soon be ready for presentation. The Governor will insist upon the budget system of handling the affairs of all state departments, and revision in the judicial system. The claim of congested dockets has reached the ear of the Executive. Whether the Legislature is in accord with his views on this particular proposition remains to be ascertained. His Excellency plainly indicates the desire to evolve a plan for the expansion of the Geological and economic Survey, as outlined in his message to the General Assembly, rather than the creation of an additional department for the purpose of collecting an collating information touching the industrial progress of the State.

The legislative mill has begun to operate with a greater degree of regularity and the lobbyist is no stranger these days around the hotel lobbies and even the capitol itself.

Public Bills
The following public bills have been presented during the week:

An act to amend section 2591 of the consolidated statutes relative to judicial sales; to amend sections 1536, 1537, 1541, 1542, 1551 and 554 of the consolidated statutes by authorizing cities of a population of 2000, and over to establish recorder's courts and providing for a schedule of fees in said courts; to amend section 564 of the consolidated statutes prohibiting the judge from criticizing the verdict of the jury; to amend section 108 of the consolidated statutes relative to authorization by clerk to executor or administrator for grave stones; to repeal section 5018 to 6055 inclusive of the consolidated statutes relating to the primary law; to amend statutes relative to immunity to witness in bribery cases; to aid in the development of any city, incorporated town or county; to amend statutes relating to the establishment of recorder's courts and providing for a mode and manner of establishment of township recorder's courts; an act to forbid a person carrying arms to protect himself while engaged in making intoxicating liquors; an act appropriating moneys to settle claim of the western Wake highway district against the State of North Carolina by reason of the location of the State prison farm; the State Highway shops in said Highway District; an act to amend statute changing the date of Arbor Day; joint resolution for appointment of committee to investigate Fort Macon and report with recommendation for the care and preservation of same; an act to amend statute relating to the corporation commission; an act to amend statute providing for the licensing motor vehicles for the calendar year; an act to amend the constitution relative to the rotation of judges of the Superior Courts; an act relating to the procedure in hearings in the Superior Court in matters pertaining to allowances; an act to amend statute with reference to husband and wife as witnesses in criminal actions; an act to regulate the size of nets to be used for catching food fish and the time to begin fishing; an act to amend statutes relative to expense accounts of judges; to provide for an additional issue of \$35,000,000 of bonds to be used by the State Highway Commission for the further extension of the State Highway system of Public Roads; an act to amend the statute relative to covenants to wills; an act to relieve the congestion of court dockets by authorizing any county in the state to establish a county court; an act to regulate the hours of service of State employees; to authorize the Governor to

HOW DOCTORS TREAT COLDS AND THE FLU

To break up a cold over night or to cut short an attack of grippe, influenza or sore throat, physicians and druggists are now recommending Calotaba, the nameless Calomet tablet, that is purified from dangerous and sickening effects. Those who have tried it say that it acts like magic, by far more effective and certain than the old style calomet, heretofore recommended by physicians.

One or two Calotaba at bed time with a swallow of water,—that's all. No salts, no nausea nor the slightest interference with eating, work or pleasures. Next morning your cold has vanished and your system feels refreshed and purified. Calotaba are sold only in original sealed packages, price ten cents for the vest-pocket size; thirty-five cents for the large family package. Recommended and guaranteed by druggists. Your money back if you are not delighted.—adv.

appoint a commissioner of pardons; to regulate the practice of continuing cases in superior courts of the State; to prevent the erection of signs on the State highway; amend statutes relating to payment of damages for injury of property by dogs; amend statutes relating to time for entering judgments; amend public laws increasing exemption allowed widows and minor children under the inheritance tax law; authorizing the sale of life estates in the capital stock of foreign corporations; act to provide for a suitable memorial to the late Judge Henry Graves Connor; to enable each county in the State to have a county agricultural agent; to make exemptions of North Carolina income tax; relating to speed limit of automobiles; to provide for State fish and game commission and regulations of wild animals; to make it unlawful for notaries and magistrates to charge for attesting affidavits for pensions; to authorize Clerks of Superior Courts to allow executors and administrators to purchase gravestones; to amend constitutional requirement of joint session of legislature to canvass election returns for State officers; to protect county and city agricultural fairs from certain competitive shows; to allow creation of county courts and extending service of their process.

The House of Representatives expressed sympathy for Representative Massenburr in the death of his mother by the passage of a resolution introduced by Mr. Fountain, of Edgecombe.

A joint resolution of retirement of disabled emergency officers of the army during the World War.

An act to amend section ten chapter 84, of the Public Local laws of 1919, being an act to provide good roads in Goldmine township, Franklin County, N. C.

An act relative to the publishing of a semi-annual statement of the financial status of Franklin County.

An act relative to the licensing of peddlers in Franklin county.

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