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### OUR RALEIGH LETTER

By M. L. Shipman

Raleigh, Jan. 30.—The capital city entertained an unusual number of conventions during the week, heard Wilbur Evans, Philadelphia's young bass baritone, in his first public concert since he stepped into prominence by winning the Atwater Kent Foundation addition contest a little while ago, received announcement of the proposed visit of Senator James A. Reed, of Missouri, on March 27th to address the State Convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and experienced a destructive wind and rain storm which smashed windows in, demolished garages, uprooted trees, blew telephone poles down, upset chimneys and left an aeroplane hanging in some telephone wires.

The State's business Governor is still playing the part, his latest move being an effort to stimulate the demands for State bonds with the view to placing about \$25,000,000 authorized by the last General Assembly. A succinct statement containing a summary and analysis of the financial condition of the State has been put in pamphlet form and being distributed to banking and bond firms all over the country. This is expected to produce the demand for State securities by removing all doubts from the minds of investors.

Will Taylor, Gaston county negro, convicted of first degree burglary and sentenced to the electric chair has received commutation to life imprisonment, the change of sentence being made by the Governor on recommendation of Pardon Commissioner Bridges, the trial judge and jury and scores of people in that section of the State. The Governor also recently gave freedom to three violators of the liquor laws upon recommendation of Mr. Bridges and the trial judges.

Capitol square and the area occupied by State buildings will be beautified according to plans to be submitted by a firm of landscape artists employed by Governor McLean who plans for a larger area to be used to guide future additions of State buildings or improvements of old ones and surveyors are at work on the Square. Their recommendations are to be submitted to the State Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds for approval after which local contractors will be employed to carry out the plans probably entailing a re-arrangement of shrubbery and some memorials.

It is said that Governor McLean will soon appoint a committee to pass on applications for admission into the State's penal and correctional institutions with the view of placing each applicant in the proper institution. This committee would also codify the laws governing each institution and define the duties as between the counties and State in handling these cases.

Governor McLean has been asked to introduce Senator Reed when he comes to address the Daughters of the American Revolution on March 27th.

That it costs big money to operate a great State like North Carolina is observed in reports of expenditures during the month of December aggregating the huge sum of more than two and one-half million dollars, the bulk of which was for pensions to Confederate Veterans and their widows. This heavy drain on the general fund of the State changed a cash balance on December 1, 1927, of \$987,613 to an overdraft on January 1, 1928, of \$775,012. But the highway and other special funds grew from a balance of \$13,000,000 to sixteen and one-half million during December. However, the general fund is expected to show a distinctly favorable condition right along now since income taxes have begun to pour in at a rather rapid rate. Revenue Department officials are organizing for the usual drive of field men and the Commissioner urges early payments to avoid the usual rush near the final date for filing. These taxes are on income earned during the calendar year of 1927 and must be paid on or before the 15th of March.

President E. C. Brooks of State College is at Battle Creek Sanitarium after a breakdown suffered during and immediately following the Christmas holidays and the faculty council is in charge of the administration of the affairs of the institution. Doctor Brooks is a victim of overwork and his return to active duties is indefinite, according to reports of his physician who advised an extended rest at the Michigan sanitarium. Dr. W. C. Riddick, former president of the College, is chairman of the faculty council which is composed of deans and directors of extension departments. Dr. G. W. Foster, a member of the faculty, is one of the number of college officials of the State who are to aid the State Tax Commission in its survey to determine the part of the tax burden resting upon the farmers

of the State. The Commission, which is said to have completed a survey of the State, is expected to recommend the ratification of a constitutional amendment to permit a lower tax on angles, which would be passed upon by the people at the general election next November.

The board of directors of the Industrial Farm Colony for Women created by the General Assembly have the backing of Governor McLean in making a beginning and due to the small contract and the difficulty in getting enough laborers to go ahead with the construction work of a fireproof building to cost around \$60,000, on the 500-acre site near Kinston, have decided to ask for convict labor to be used in construction work. In a recent conference with the directors the Governor promised that maintenance would be provided for out of the State's emergency and contingency fund. Tentative plans call for an expenditure of \$54,000 on the building with two stories and basement.

The expected election of Dr. Cyrus Thompson, secretary of state during the fusion regime, as the successor of the late Dr. J. Howsitt Way former president of the State Board of Health did not materialize. Instead the Board in call session here during the week named as its new president Dr. A. J. Crowell of Charlotte, without even a contest. Dr. Crowell will fill out the unexpired term of Doctor Way which would have terminated in April, 1929.

The Board also adopted a resolution asking for the re-enactment by Congress of the Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act. The Board finds that, with one exception, deaths from tuberculosis in all its various forms were fewer in 1927 than they have been in any one of the past six years, with indications that the death rate from this cause will be the lowest in the history of the State, the number last year being 2,550 against 2,769 in 1926. The circulation of the Health Bulletin continues to grow and over a million pieces of literature were distributed last year, it is said. The

moving picture unit of the department is being widely used in addition to other educational features of health promotion. Of the 259,862 school children examined last year diseased throats and decaying teeth claimed a total of 47,962, and 1,762 operations were performed at the tonsil and adenoid clinics. Secretary Laughing-

house and Dr. C. N. Sisk, of the Department have been on a tour of Alabama, Tennessee, and Ohio inspecting the work which is being done in those states by the International Health Board.

Secretary of State W. N. Everett

(Continued on page ten)

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