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RALEIGH LETTER

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS AND OTHER MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

One of the problems which confront the Legislature is how to give the necessary increased appropriations and still keep down the levy for State purposes to such a figure as will allow the counties sufficient margin for their needs without having to resort to the unpopular special tax. Already several counties have asked for special taxes to pay their indebtedness.

The Insane Asylum Directors ask for an additional appropriation of \$25,000; the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institution wants \$25,000 additional; the Insane Asylum at Goldsboro \$18,000; the Agricultural and Mechanical college \$25,000 more; the Soldier's Home wants \$3,000 and the Training School for White girls will need \$10,000. This aggregate increase of appropriations, amounting to \$106,000, would require an additional levy for the State of at least five cents. The levy for the past two years, including that for pensions and school purposes, has been 40 1/2 cents. Add the five cents for extra appropriations and the levy would be 45 1/2 cents, leaving for county purposes within the constitutional limit a fraction over twenty-one cents. Now it is desired to increase the levy for school purposes two and a half cents which would reduce the levy for the counties to say, nineteen cents. This would be entirely insufficient for many counties, Halifax among the number, I think; and a special tax to make up the deficiency would inevitably follow in two years.

But this is not all. The merchants are demanding the abolition of the license tax which they have for a long time been paying, and a delegation has been before the Finance committee with their complaints. This tax yields the State annually a like sum for the counties. If the merchants' tax is abolished it would add nearly one cent more to the levy upon property. Treasurer Bain says that no reliance can be put in the probability of an increase in the value of taxable property, as his experience is that a new assessment does not bring about this desirable result in an appreciable degree.

If the railroads could by any means be made to pay taxes on their real value it would be some help. For instance: the highest valuation put upon any of them is \$8,000 per mile; some of them at a much less sum. These same roads are nearly all mortgaged or bonded for far more—some of them for as much as \$25,000 a mile, I am told. If these railroads are worth that much as security for bonds they certainly should be worth equally as much for purposes of taxation. No plan has yet been matured which will bring their valuation up to reasonable figures but one is being now considered.

One of the strongest fights which has been in progress during the session is that to reduce the percentage and warehouse charges for selling tobacco. Mr. Long, of Warren, introduced the bill and has had it in charge before the committee on agriculture. Many farmers have been here to help secure its passage, while warehousemen from all over the State have worked hard to defeat it. The committee once reported the bill favorably but it was recommitted and is still in committee. It will be again reported in a few days and the fight will be renewed in the House.

The bill appropriating \$3,000 for the Soldiers' Home has passed the Senate and will in all probability pass the House when it comes before that body. It will doubtless be made a special order. Certainly it is a small amount and it should be given. No tax payer ought and none will begrudge the old heroes this small pittance.

The two daily papers here are still fighting over the public printing. The members of the General Assembly have done what they think was right in this matter and I don't believe any change will be made. Some stir has been made by the contest, but I believe the committee and

the Legislature were conscientious in their action. What the result will be in the future as regards the printing is not now of much importance.

The bill making the conviction for felony or absence from the State for twelve months an additional cause for divorce provoked a lively discussion in the House one day last week. It was reported favorably by the Judiciary committee but the bill was defeated. There are plenty causes for divorce already existing in North Carolina. It is not often that the Judiciary committee is set down upon. It is considered the committee of the highest dignity and its reports are nearly always accorded the greatest respect, but this Legislature is a pretty independent body and does its own thinking sometimes.

The committee which has charge of the congressional districts is at work, and I hear some talk to the effect that the Second district can be made Democratic. It is proposed to put Craven in the Third district and Wayne in the Second. It has been suggested also that Vance can safely be added to the Fourth. Whether these counties will consent to the proposed changes will be willing to take in more Republican counties is something that has not yet been developed. The Second district would be glad to exchange Republican for Democratic counties, but in making changes the committee should be very careful not to make the mistake of erecting an additional Republican district. The vote at the last election is not a reliable guide, neither can much be learned from the exodus movement. Edged tools should be handled gingerly. I have no doubt, though, the committee will consider the question in all its possible bearings, and if the Second district can be made safely Democratic without endangering the political complexion of the others we will be grateful.

Mr. M. J. Squire, of Northampton, was in the city last week trying to effect some arrangement by which the rebuilding of the road from Hlickford to Gaston could be secured. President Elliott of the Petersburg road told me an arrangement had been arrived at which was satisfactory to all concerned. It was to the effect that if the Petersburg road did not begin the rebuilding of this branch road within twelve months and complete it within two years the company will give up all claim and right to it and it could then be taken by any other parties. This agreement was, I believe, incorporated in the charter which is now pending in the Legislature. It is thought that if the franchise is abandoned by the Petersburg road the Atlantic and Danville can be induced to build and operate it. The people do not ask its construction to Gaston but to the Summit, which would avoid the necessity of constructing heavy works across the low grounds at Gaston.

Capt. Hill last week introduced a bill in the House to charter the Scotland Neck bank. Among the incorporators named in the bill are A. McDowell, F. P. Shields, Noah Biggs and others. It is said that Mr. McDowell will be president and Mr. Shields cashier. The bank will have all the powers usually granted to banking institutions. This bank will be a great convenience to the whole county and will of course be a great help to the town. The officers and directors are men whose names will at once give the bank the very best standing in business circles.

A bill has passed the House for the relief of sheriffs. It allows them to collect arrearages of taxes from 1886. There was a number of bills for relief of this kind, one of them going as far back as 1881. The committee thought it had policy both on account of the sheriffs and the tax payers that such apparent negligence should be encouraged. It is true that in many instances the neglect to collect was owing to kind-heartedness on the part of the officials but the view prevailed that generally it would be more convenient for people to pay their taxes as they become due every year than to have them to pay for a number of years at one time. The House sustained the committee there was some little opposi-

tion. I am glad to say that Sheriff Allbrook is not among the number who asked for relief.

The Senate has adopted an amendment to the constitution requiring solicitors to be elected by the State at large as the judges are, and not by districts. If the bill should become a law the second district would have a Democratic solicitor. If the House adopts this amendment it will then have to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next general election before it can go into effect. Should it finally be adopted by a vote of the people it will not effect the terms of the present solicitors.

The railroad commission bill was taken up in the Senate Saturday on special order. Senator Grigsby offered a substitute for the bill reported by the committee. He said he had been instructed to vote against a commission but if a bill could be passed with moderate powers he would vote for it. The substitute was lost. It gave the commissioners less power than is given them by the committee's bill. The principal difference is that the original bill gives the commissioners power to make freight and passenger tariffs while Mr. Grigsby's bill gave them only the power to regulate them.

During the discussion of the two Senator Butler, of Sampson, who is chairman of the committee and has charge of the bill in the Senate made some statements to which Senator Lucas took exception and the latter said if the Senator from Sampson meant to reflect on him his statement was false. Mr. Butler disclaimed any such intention and peace was restored. The salaries of the commissioners which had been fixed at \$2,500 each by the committee were reduced to \$2,000. An amendment was incorporated in the bill making members of this General Assembly ineligible as members of the commission. It is whispered around that this amendment has had the effect of depressing several members who had a weather eye to the positions. Whether this be so this deponent saith not. It is certain, however, that there is some good timber in the Legislature for the position. There is not, though, any reason to fear that good men cannot be gotten outside of the Legislature. I believe a very large majority of the members of both houses are glad of the amendment. The clause making ineligible any attorney who has been in the employment of a railroad company for twelve months preceding his election has been changed so that only attorneys who are actually in the railroad service are excluded. The Senate will probably be engaged upon this bill for several days and some other amendments may be made. The bill was made the special order in the House for 4 o'clock Monday and will be the chief subject of interest for some days. Whether any material changes will be made in it before it becomes a law cannot now be foretold. A strong majority favors the bill as it came from the committee, but there a few, and they are determined, who want to modify it in some particulars. Whether these modifications will be accepted or whether a fight will be made upon them greatly depends the success of the measure. The bill in whatever shape it passes cannot have a direct effect upon a large class of the people of the State as they do not come into direct business relations with the roads and whether a commission should be established with only advisory or with absolute powers is a question which is troubling some of the lawmakers. Members who live in sections of the State which have too few railroad facilities or none at all are fearful that a stringent law will deter outside capital from going into railroad enterprises in the State. They want no law which they think may have such an effect. Unless these differences of opinion can be compromised there is some danger that the bill may after all be defeated.

The charter of the town of Weldon was reported favorably from the committee on corporations with an amendment to the effect that it should not be construed to repeal the law forbidding the sale of merchandise, etc., within half a mile of the fair grounds during fair week. At the request of Mr. Hall the bill was recommitted and he went before the committee in opposition to the amendment, but after he had stated the facts and urged the uselessness of the amendment the committee decided to let it remain, with the understanding that the operations of the law referred to should be reduced to four hundred yards. The bill passed the House as amended by the committee and will pass the Senate in a few days. Committees, as has been remarked before in this correspondence, sometimes take the bit in their teeth and it is useless to contest a point with them, ordinarily; for though their reports are sometimes set down upon in matters of general importance it is rarely if ever the case in questions of local character in which the members generally take no interest.

A bill has been introduced in the House forbidding the sale or manufacture of liquor within two miles of Whitakers Chapel, in Halifax county. It may be reported favorably as a separate measure or it may be included in the omnibus bill which is usually passed at each session.

The charter of the Scotland Neck bank has been amended so that its corporate existence is limited to thirty years instead of ninety-nine and so that any branches it may establish will be required to pay the usual State taxes. With these amendments it has been reported favorably.

A SUSPICIOUS MAN.

WHY HE WOULD NOT HIRE OUT HIS TEAM TO A STRANGER.

A young man in a Southern town applied to the keeper of a livery stable for a horse and buggy.

"Who is going along with you?" asked the latter.

"I am going to take my wife's mother out for a ride. She is not well, and I want her to have some fresh air. I wish you would put a spade and hatchet in the bottom of the buggy."

"What do you want them for?"

"I want to dig up some young cedar trees to plant in the cemetery."

"I don't think I can let you have a buggy."

"Why not?"

"Because I don't want to be hauled up as a witness every time court meets. I have got my business to attend to."

"I don't understand you."

"Maybe you don't, but I understand you. You have been married some years, and when a married man in this town wants to take his mother-in-law out for a ride for her health, and wants a spade and hatchet, and talks about planting things in the cemetery, that's all I want to know."

"But, my dear sir—"

"It may be all right, but I don't propose to take any risks. When your trial comes off you will swear there is a prejudice against you in this town and you can't get a fair trial, and get a chance of venue to some county away off and I'll have to go as a witness every time the case is continued or be fined \$40. If you want to get rid of your wife's mother you go to a drug store and get some 'rough on rats' and it will be a case of suicide or accident, but I am not going to be mixed up in it by supplying you with spades and hatchets and a horse and buggy to carry off the corpse to hide. No, sir! Why don't you ask me to put a coffin in the buggy besides?" No sir, I am not that kind of a livery stable man. I'm not in that line of business. I sympathize with you, but for the mere hire of a horse and buggy I can't afford to take any such risk."—Texas Siftings.

Why will you cough when Shiloh's Cure will give immediate relief. Price 10c 50c and \$1. For sale by W. M. Cohen.

Shiloh's Cure will immediately relieve Croup, Whooping Cough and Bronchitis. For sale by W. M. Cohen.

"Hackmatack," a fast and fragrant perfume. Price 25 and 50c. For sale by W. M. Cohen.

SLEEPING WITH A BABY.

A MAN WHO HAS LIVED THROUGH IT TELLS HIS STORY.

The free from care and ease-taking old bachelor who, in his momentary lapse of wisdom contemplates matrimony, should at the same time reflect on the remote but contingent possibility of his having to some time sleep with a baby, should he marry. Years of experience of martyrdom of this kind make me feel it to be my duty to set forth the misery arising from a contingency of this kind.

The baby, if he happens to be a lusty little fellow eight or ten months, will decline to stay covered, and will also decline to allow you to keep yourself covered. He indicates his wishes in this direction by keeping his little pink heels going all night, a good part of the time on your back.

He will also insist on lying "crosswise," "cat-cornered," "bias," or in any other position but that which will give you a few inches of room in the bed and a few minutes' sleep. His infantile needs will begin to manifest themselves about one o'clock in the morning, at which witching hour you will go blundering around in the dark for a drink of water.

He will howl steadily and cheerfully from two to three o'clock, and will kick you furiously between the shoulder blades with every howl. It will not be any use for you to pat him tenderly and sing out, "There, there." He is right there and knows it, and intends that you shall know it.

It is of no use to say coaxingly, "What does papa's baby want?" Papa's baby doesn't want anything but to howl, and he is gratifying that amiable desire to the utmost. It is of no use to add to your Judgment Day list of enormities by swearing. And if your wife has been calmly passive through it all, she will develop an amazing degree of spirit if you dare to lay the weight of your finger in anger on that "poor, dear, innocent, darling sweetness." He will squirm all night as though he were first cousin to an angle-worm. He will journey around all over the bed and on of the coverings.

You are no sooner asleep than one of his moist little heels is planted firmly in your nose or in your mouth, and, later on, with childhood's scorn of decency and decorum, he will sit astride your neck and grow green and purple with rage when gently made to sit elsewhere. Should he fall out of bed and yell loud enough to be heard over your ward your wife will say she firmly believes that you pushed him out and that you are not fit to be a father, anyhow. An animated dialogue of a purely personal and private nature will follow this remark.

But when the roystering little chap finally "snuggles up" to you and goes to sleep with one of his velvety little cheeks close to your own, and one of his warm, soft arms around your neck, you find your heart growing very soft and tender toward him, and you would single handed wage war against a host or lay down your life for the love of him.

IF YOUR BACK ACHES, Or you are all worn out, really good for nothing, it is general debility. Try BROWN'S IRON BITTERS. It will cure you, cleanse your liver, and give you a good appetite.

WOMAN suffrage appears to be accepted as a fixed fact in Wyoming. It is symbolized on the official seal of the State, which contains the figure of a woman, from whose up-lifted arm hangs a broken chain, while the motto of the State is "Equal Rights."

The First Step.

Perhaps you are run down, can't eat, can't sleep, can't think, can't do anything to your satisfaction, and you wonder what ails you. You should heed the warning, you are taking the first step into Nervous Prostration. You need a Nervous Tonic and in Electric Bitters you will find the exact remedy for restoring your nervous system to its normal, healthy condition. Surprising results follow the use of this great Nervous Tonic and Stimulant. Your appetite returns, good digestion is restored, and the Liver and Kidneys resume healthy action. Try Electric Bitters. Price 50c at W. M. Cohen's drugstore.

SENATOR VANCE.

AS HE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO TALK POLITICS HE TOLD SEVERAL JOKES.

Loud calls for Senator Vance induced him to make a few remarks. He said: "When I received your summons to attend on this interesting occasion your secretary told me how delighted you would all be to see me, and added no politics were wanted. I accepted the hard conditions. After I had got here and went to a room my friend, Dr. Boykin, came up and said, 'Remember, no politics tonight.' I had not enjoyed more than one drink at this table when your honored president said: 'You know no politics are wanted here. You can speak on any other subject, though.'"

I will tell you a story. Down in the mountains of North Carolina an old gentleman went to visit his brother-in-law's family. After a night's sleep and before breakfast he saw one of his nephews making some mysterious gestures. He followed him to the shack pit, from which the nephew drew a bottle of corn whisky stopped with a corn cob. Said he: "Now Uncle Jim, you know we're all temperance and prohibition here, but I keep a little for my own private use, and thinking you might be in the habit of takin' a drink before breakfast, I would be glad to have you jine me. But keep awful quiet, for they're all temperance here." Uncle Jim refreshed himself and on his way back to the house he perceived his other nephew making the same mysterious gestures. He followed him to the corn crib, from which his guide pulled another bottle of whisky, and said: "Now Uncle Jim, you know we are all temperance and prohibition here, but I keep a little hid for my special use, and I'd be glad if you'd take a little with me. But for the Lord's sake don't tell the old folks, for they're powerful set against drinking." He had the same experience with the old man, who had rheumatism, and the old woman, who had neuralgia and pains in the stomach. When he got to breakfast he was pretty full. Now that is the case with me in spite of repeated warnings. I must say a little something about politics. I can't keep it.

"Before I got religion I practiced law a while. I was elected prosecuting attorney of my county and once had a colored man before me who was accused of playing the fiddle unlawfully. I talked to him until I had the poor culprit nearly scared to death. Said he: 'Deed boss, I nebber played no fiddle; I jes' drawed de bow across to see ef she was in chune.' That's the way with me, too; I must draw my bow across just to see if the fiddle is all right."

"The only reference I will make to politics, however, will be to say that we have passed through a great crisis. Instead of appointing our own election officers in North Carolina we were about to have them appointed by our friend Judge Bond."—Baltimore Sun.

BROWN'S IRON BITTERS Cures Dyspepsia, Indigestion & Debility.

SENATOR VEST is the first Senator in Missouri, since the days of Thomas Benton, to be honored with a third term.

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The Rev. Geo. H. Thayer, of Bourbon, Ind., says: "Both myself and wife owe our lives to Shiloh's Consumption Cure. For sale at W. M. Cohen's drug store."

Are you miserable by Indigestion, Constipation, Dizziness, Loss of Appetite, Yellow Skin? Shiloh's Vitalizer is a positive cure. For sale by W. M. Cohen.

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