

# AN EXPLANATION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

By R. R. Williams, of Asheville.  
To the Editor of The Courier:  
The Constitutional amendments are an appeal to the people by the present State Administration and the last State Legislature for relief from certain provisions of our Constitution which are retarding the progress of our state.

There was practically unanimous sentiment in the last Legislature that certain changes must be made if our people were to receive from our state government the service to which they were entitled. Our Constitution may have been well adapted to the period during which it was written, but our Commonwealth has grown by leaps and bounds and changed conditions have made certain portions of our Constitution ill-adapted to present day needs. That the need for the change is urgent is evidenced by the introduction of 15 bills in the last Legislature looking towards amending our Constitution. That the proposed amendments met the need is established by the significant vote of 80 to 14 by which they passed the House and the vote of 40 to 3 by which they passed the Senate, by the open support given them by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and practically every member of the present administration, the unanimous endorsement by the State Press Association, officers and representatives of the State Farmers' Union, and by numerous civic organizations, and by the enthusiastic advocacy of them by a very large proportion of the leading men of the state of both political parties, while there is hardly noticeable a voice in opposition to their ratification. They are supported by the strongest public sentiment ever given any measure in North Carolina.

Four of the amendments are relatively unimportant when compared to the commanding purpose of the other six, but even if alone, they would commend themselves to thoughtful and patriotic citizens.

They are as follows:  
Amendment No. 1—Removes the words "War of the Rebellion" and has our Constitution speak of our Civil War as "The War Between the States."

Amendment No. 4—Makes definite the date of inauguration of the governor and leaves it to take place after the canvassing of the votes. Under the present Constitution he becomes Governor before he is declared elected.

Amendment No. 6—Removes certain obsolete sections which put the Constitution in operation when originally drafted, but which are no longer in use.

Amendment No. 2—Changes the method of paying Legislators. Under the present Constitution, a Legislator receives \$4 per day and ten cents per mile each way. Under the proposed amendment, he is to receive \$6 per day and five cents per mile. The compensation fixed by the amendment treats all members more fairly and justly than does the present Constitution. It makes their compensation more nearly equal.

The tenth amendment increases the school term from four months to six months. This amendment expresses the desire of those who have the education of the children most deeply at heart and will give great impetus to education in North Carolina, especially in the country.

The great purposes of the other amendments is to emancipate the people of North Carolina from the servitude of out-worn restrictions which are impeding the progress of our people and binding their energies.

Amendment No. 5—Liberates our judicial system. Under the present Constitution each Superior Court judge is required to hold courts in a fixed circuit and most of them hold courts at the same time. The system is such that if an illness or marriage or death occurs in the family of a judge, the courts must stop, litigants go home with their cases untried, witnesses lose their time at court and counties suffer the great expense of the court which could not be held. The proposed amendment provides that emergency judges may be selected to continue sittings and try cases under such conditions. The amendment does not require the selection of emergency judges. It merely permits it, so that the Legislature of the future may or may not provide for their selection as they may desire.

Amendments Nos. 2, 3 and 9 liberate the future for work on measures of great importance by removing the burdens of the unimportant bills which now consume their time and dissipate their energies. There has been much criticism that the State Legislature does nothing. It is loaded so heavily with petty bills that it cannot do anything. In the session of 1913 there were approximately 3,000 bills introduced, an average of 50 for each day of the session. Each of these bills must be read in the Legislature and investigated by a committee, some of them read several times and considered in both House and Senate. The merely formal work connected with them consumed a great time. Of this number a large proportion were bills which dealt with only one county or a portion of a county. In 1913, the Legislature passed 478 pages of public bills and 3178 pages of local and private bills, a ratio of 7 to 1. The number of public bills covering these pages was 203; the number of local and private bills was 1522, a ratio of 6 1/2 to 1. If the proposed amendment had been in force, approximately 800 of these local and private bills would have been eliminated and the time consumed by attention to them could have been given to matters of state-wide importance. Future Legislatures will be encumbered even more greatly if the amendment does not pass, and that too, in a period when problems more and more complex are demanding solution by the legislature. If we are to ex-

pect Legislatures of the future to deal wisely or to deal at all with great burdens, we must free them from the burdens of petty legislation.

Amendment No. 7 is the greatest of all the amendments. It deals with our tax system and frees us from the bondage of a system that has been abandoned by every European country except Holland and Switzerland and is rapidly being abandoned by the states of the American Union. Last year amendments were passed by two states removing similar restrictions and amendments were submitted in 11 more states. Our early Constitution did not contain the present restriction. It was imposed in 1863 by a convention largely of agrarians and carpet baggers and was ratified at a time when a large number of our leading citizens were disfranchised. It was a product of the Civil War and was copied from the Ohio Constitution of 1851. None of the early Constitutions contained it and no state in the last twenty years has adopted it. An experiment of a period immediately preceding and immediately following the Civil War it has proven a failure and is being abandoned everywhere. It never should have been incorporated and should be now removed.

The proposed amendment does nothing but remove the restrictions and permits the state to adopt modern systems as they may be found successful in practice and wise in principle. No system is made compulsory by the amendment. It merely enlarges the power of the Legislature to model tax systems to meet our changing needs. If we were living under the Constitutions in force prior to 1865, no amendment would now be necessary. The Legislatures had the power then and it is the purpose to give it to them again.

The present system has proved a failure in every way. The tax rate has become abnormally high, visible property is being unjustly assessed with glaring discrimination between various counties and various individuals in the same counties; notes and bonds are escaping taxation; to such an extent that the state derived only about one-half the revenue from them in 1912 that it did in 1860. Our state is running in debt, and good will between the counties is being succeeded by an era of jealousy and suspicion that each is paying more than its just share to the State government.

All these burdensome conditions are increasing upon our people to such an extent that we must look for a solution if we are to save our state. We must remove the straight jacket and give our people an opportunity to grow. Freedom to develop is the essential thing. The best systems are not created instantaneously. They grow and develop.

We may desire to separate the kinds of property so that the state may derive its revenue from public service corporations and leave real and personal property of individuals for county purposes so that each county may stand on its own bottom and raise its valuation and lower its rate without regard to the action of any other county. We may desire to use different methods in dealing with the different kinds of property, visible or invisible. All these details should be left to the Legislature to adopt or reject, immediately or gradually, completely or partially, as the demand of the people may require. They are in successful operation here and they can be adopted here. If they are not advisable, the present system can be retained or returned to. Nothing is compulsory, except the tax rate is limited and an excessive rate forbidden. It removes the clothes that bind our feet and leaves us free to leap forward in the march of progress.

## MOTHER! IF CHILD'S TONGUE IS COATED

If Cross, Feverish, Constipated, Give "California Syrup of Figs."

A laxative today gives a sick child temporary relief, but when the child takes the time to play to empty their bowels, which become clogged with waste, liver gets sluggish, stomach sour.

Look at the tongue, mother! Cross, feverish, breath bad, restless, doesn't eat heartily, full of cold or has a sore throat or any other children's ailment, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," then don't worry, because it is perfectly harmless, and in a few hours all this constipation and sour bowels and fermenting waste will gently move out of the bowels, and you'll have a well, playful child again. A thorough "inside cleansing" is oftentimes all that is necessary. It should be the first treatment given in any sickness.

Beware of counterfeit fig syrups. Ask your druggist for a fifty-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has full directions for babies, children of all ages, and for grown-ups plainly printed on the bottle. Look carefully and see that it is made by the "California Fig Syrup Co."

## NEW WONDERS OF "WIRELESS"

The Rome correspondent of the London Times reports that an Italian priest named Domenico Argenterio has invented something new and wonderful in wireless telegraphy. It is an apparatus by which messages may be received even in closed rooms, without poles or batteries. The apparatus can be carried in the pocket, and is cheap.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

## INTERESTING STORY FROM THE CHARLESTON STANDARD, FEBRUARY 26, 1858.

Senator Hunter's Address, as Given in Part Below, a Masterpiece of Literary Production.

The following will be of interest to the readers of The Courier, more especially the younger ones who are now students in school:

The Inauguration of the Statue at Richmond.

We have received no Richmond papers of later date than Monday last, and have been forced to make up some account of the inauguration ceremonies from our exchanges from other cities.

For a week previous to the 22d instant, crowds of visitors, including many men of national fame, had been pouring into Richmond, and on the day of the inauguration, it was estimated that fifteen thousand persons were present. We gave a brief sketch of the exercises in yesterday's issue, and a little remains to be added except a notice of the oration of Senator Hunter, which in point of length and ability has been equalled by few similar productions.

The statue, rider and horse, is twenty-five feet in height. Washington is represented in full Continental uniform, and the time is supposed to be the critical moment of a battle. The horse is reined up and half thrown upon his haunches. James, the novelist, says the rider "sits on the seat with majestic ease; and, as if something had suddenly caught his attention in the distance, he is pointing forward and rather upward with his hand while his head and face is slightly turned to the left, and might indicate that he was either calling the object that had just struck his own eyes to the notice of his companions, or was giving a command to be executed at the spot to which he points. The figure is erect, the chest thrown forward, the knees pressed to the saddle, the heels nearly beneath the shoulder, and the sole of the foot almost horizontal. The seat is a military and not a hunting seat, and the whole impresses the mind with the idea of perfect ease, calmness and command."

The oration of Senator Hunter seems to have been eminently appropriate to the occasion, as well as eloquent and able. We have not space to publish half of it, even, as it occupies seven columns of the Washington Union—and can give only the concluding paragraphs. The orator began by speaking in beautiful language of the spirit which animated the now-brought to so grand a close; of the veneration which she cherishes the memory of her noblest son; and of the appropriateness of her choice of a tribute to his worth and evidence of her affection. He then began to trace the history of Washington—how as a simple country gentleman he fitted himself by the best discipline, moral and physical, for the great work which Providence had allotted to him; how he received marks of confidence, unusual at his age, from his state, with a modesty that won all hearts; and how at the call of his country, he assumed the direction of her armies in the struggle for Independence. His conduct of the Revolution, as a soldier and a citizen are viewed in a patriotic and philosophical spirit, and the charge, or rather insinuation, that he lacked military skill is refuted with singular force. The orator next views him as he occupies the President's chair and casts a rapid but comprehensive glance at the perilous state of affairs amid which Washington entered upon his duties as Chief Magistrate of the nation. This part of the oration, if no other, is, doubtless, destined to constitute a valued portion of our national literature—as an exposition of Washington's career in the present day are none too well informed. The peroration is a grand effort, as our readers will learn from the following paragraphs:

This statue is not merely a monument to Washington, but an altar erected to heroic Virtue itself, before which the human heart may purify its own aspirations under the clarifying influence of the greatest example of the Father of his Country, and upon which it may sacrifice every wild or mad desire that may be adverse to the country's good.

And yet this monument itself will use away when time with slow corroding tooth, shall have dissipated, atom by atom, its consecrated dust.

But when all its particles, fugitive from human view, there will still survive the monument which Washington's own genius has created for itself, for there is a promise in which we do all confide, that the good which we do shall live after them. How much of all that we admire of human achievement must lose its influence in the end, because it is founded in evil. The very process of its progress dissipates it at last, for the circles of its impulses grow fainter as they grow broader, until they finally disappear altogether on the face of the great ocean of life. But the good which men do in this life, and especially such as Washington achieved, shall live always as an efficient cause and a permanent influence in the progress of human affairs. The foot of the spoiler may trample down for a while what is best in the garden of life, but heaven, soon or late, will send its rains to wash out all traces of the step. Its tempered airs will visit the germinating seed, its genial light will guide the upward growth until by a full development of leaf and flower, and fruit and seed, it has not only completed the course of one charming circle of existence, but provided for the re-appearance of another. The work of him who planted the good seed shall live long after all traces of the destroyer shall have been lost and forgotten. If, then, the good which men do in the charmed seed of life, which must increase and multiply in the successive process of a continued re-production, who shall affix limits to the growth and existence of that which Washington plant-

ed as deep as the foundations of human society itself? Who does not believe that the seed which he sowed will continue to bear the rich fruits of human happiness and social progress until man shall have completed his destiny on earth? He who bequeathes a great moral influence to his race, whether it be the influence of precept or example, shall continue to repeat his existence, through each succeeding generation of man, and its interests will live and grow throughout the whole march of the great story of humanity, until the book of man's life upon this earth is closed forever.

"Immortale nihil mundi compage tenetur,  
None orbis, non regna hominum non aëria, Roma."  
The cloud capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,  
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,  
Yes, all which it inherits shall dissolve,  
And like the insubstantial pageant faded,  
Leave not a wreck behind."

And still surviving all the good which men have done on earth must live. It will live in the eternal consciousness of the soul from which it emanated, the seed, it may be, of a new life, which is to be constantly re-produced in the ascending scale of a continued succession of higher developments from the old. But I must not obtrude with profane gaze upon mysteries so infinitely beyond my ken. It is enough for me to have proclaimed that the influence of what is good in the reputation of man is alone immortal, and so much I was bound to say in justice to the great memory which we celebrate today. For upon this great truth I found the prediction that his example will be felt beyond those of all the princes and of every other ruler of the earth. But Virginia here raises monuments to more than one of her children, and as she bends over that group of her departed sons, she may well shed the mingled tears of pride and grief. Amongst these she will place Lewis, her bold pioneer, who wrested with the red man from the waters of the Holston to those of the Great Kanawha, and finally made good the title of his state to the possession of the western wilderness on the bloody field of Point Pleasant, from which he drove the Indian beyond the Ohio. There will be found Nelson, the patriotic Governor of Virginia, whose generous sacrifices and great public services called for the thanks of Washington at the siege of York. Geo. Mason, too, is to be placed there, in the fondness of a mother's pride, he whom history will acclaim as one of the apostles of civil liberty, the author of the Bill of Rights of Virginia, the orator and the sage, whose vision was so nearly prophetic, and whose wisdom and patriotism made him a great leader in his day. John Marshall is to constitute another figure in that great group, whose qualities of head and heart were bestowed by Nature as if she were trying her most cunning hand to constitute a perfect judicial character. Unequal in learning to Coke, or Hale, or Hardwicke, or Mansfield, because he had fewer opportunities to acquire it, he united the character of Hall to the genius of Mansfield, and found in his own resources those means of mastery for which they were so largely dependent on the assistance of others. Patrick Henry already stands there, commanding figure in the group, the "Rouser of orators," whose mighty voice started the ringing down with the ages to come the most listless of human ears with those watch-words of civil revolution and progress, "Give me liberty or give me death!" And yonder contemplative figure, who needs to be told that it is Thomas Jefferson, the most intrepid thinker and the greatest political genius of his day; a man who was capable of committing himself, like Columbus, to the winds and waves in pursuit of his own idea, and of persevering until he discovered new provinces of thought, he found the ground for the human mind beyond the uncertain seas which others had feared to pass before.

Still the representation of the Revolutionary family of Virginia is far from complete. The status if George Rogers Clarke, like that of Brutus, is missing. The Lees and the Randolphs, Madison and Monroe, "sapientium cura prosum," might well constitute another group of kindred greatness to these. May a long succession of such chapters of monumental history continue to tell the tale of Virginia's greatness and glory.

But I must not close this address without one word of affectionate abjuration to thee, Virginia, and bidding you all hail, oh most glorious mother. Take us, thy children, with thee to the tombs of you mighty sons that we may learn from your meditations something of the secret of your own great heart. Does it occur to you as you bend in sorrowing pride over the monuments of your dead, that perhaps the wisest part was taken by the daughter of Scipio and the mother of the Gracchi, who refused to bear more children lest she should be ashamed by the comparison of the younger with the elder born? Is it the secret question of your bosom, "Quid faciant Strenuata?" when you contrast your present with your past? I pray you, by the love we bear you, to harbor no such reproachful suggestions in your bosom. The wealth of your achievements may be in the past, but never was a mother richer in the affections of her children. Every drop of your waters and the very dust of your soil are as dear to them as if they bore the charm of life itself. Your great name and its associations constitute the fascination and the spell which call up the deepest emotions of filial love and pride in the hearts of your children. They may not add to the lustre of your name, but they will preserve and defend it against reproach and disgrace—they no longer bring ridicule dignities to your home nor do victors and faces mark their approach to your door, but they bear your watch and best all is the richest treasure and after defence of a state, the loyalty

# SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF SEN. L. S. OVERMAN

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE LIFE OF A MAN WHO IS HONORED, NOT ONLY BY DEMOCRATS, BUT BY ALL WHO KNOW HIM—IN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WILL BE FOUND RECORDED SOME OF THE GREAT THINGS HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE SENATE—MR. OVERMAN WILL BE THE FIRST UNITED STATES SENATOR VOTED FOR IN THE STATE BY THE PEOPLE.

Educated at Old Trinity

Lee Slater Overman, Democrat and statesman, was born in Salisbury, Rowan county, on January 3, 1854, in the old Overman home place in which a younger brother now lives. Received his early training in primary schools of his home town. Afterwards entered Trinity College (now one of the leading and most richly endowed colleges of the country) and was graduated from that splendid institution with the degree of A. B. in 1874. Immediately after his graduation he taught school for two years, keeping up his studies while teaching, at the expiration of which time the degree of A. M. was conferred upon him by his Alma Mater.

Private Secretary to Governors Vance and Jarvis

But young Overman was ambitious and his mind turned toward politics. In 1878 he accepted the position of private secretary to the famous war governor, Zebulon B. Vance, in which capacity he afterwards served under Governor Vance's successor, Governor T. J. Jarvis. As private secretary to Governors Vance and Jarvis, Mr. Overman came in almost daily contact with the foremost public men of the state and he had abundant opportunity to study life and public questions. He was alive to his opportunities and made the best of them, as subsequent events have shown.

Studied Law, Elected Speaker House of Representatives

While teaching school and later acting as private secretary to the Governors, Mr. Overman devoted his spare moments to the study of law. He practiced his license and began the practice of law in his home town, Salisbury, in 1880. Three years later he was elected to the state Legislature from Rowan county and was re-elected four times to that office. He subsequently, having served during the sessions of 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, and 1889. He was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1893; was chosen Presidential elector for state at large in 1900; was twice male Chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee; during all of which time he served his constituents conscientiously, consistently and faithfully.

Elected United States Senator

Mr. Overman was the choice of the Democratic party in 1895 for United States Senator, but failed of election through a coalition or fusion of Populists and Republicans which at that time swept almost the entire country through disaffections over the free coinage of silver issue. But this combination of Republicans and Independents was soon broken in North Carolina and six years later Mr. Overman was overwhelmingly elected to the United States to succeed the man by whom he was defeated in 1895—Jeter C. Pritchard. He discharged his duties as Senator during the first six years of his incumbency so well that he was unanimously re-elected to the office in 1900 and again nominated to succeed himself without opposition by the Democrats at their last State convention held in the city of Raleigh. If he lives, he will, of course, be overwhelmingly elected in the November election.

Stands at the Top

Senator Overman's committee assignment are second to those of no Senator. There are only 14 of the ninety-five members of the Senate who antedate Senator Overman in continuous service—four Democrats and ten Republicans. Only four other Democrats are his seniors in length of service and, as his party seems assured of the control of the Senate for years to come, Senator Overman's prominence and influence in the Senate will necessarily increase.

Over two-thirds of the membership of the present Senate have served but one term or less. Experience in that continuous branch of the Government is therefore of extraordinary value. When to this experience is added Senator Overman's high character, capacity, energy, fidelity and loyalty to duty, he easily becomes one of the great factors in American institutions.

His Great Influence and Prominence

Senator Overman's position and prominence in the Senate carries with it heavy responsibilities and a constant exaction of ability and energy. As chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, one of the most powerful committees of the Senate, Senator Overman has discharged the duties of the position with conspicuous ability and to the entire satisfaction of his colleagues, irrespective of party affiliations, since the Democrats came into power in the 63rd Congress.

Chairman of Senate Judiciary Committee and Chairman of Sub-Committee Investigating "Lobby"

In addition Senator Overman is ranking member both of the all-important Judiciary and Appropriations Committee, two of the really big committees of the Senate, as well as a member of other active and influential committees. As acting chairman of the Judiciary Committee, practically the entire time since the Democrats assumed the control of the Senate, Senator Overman has been called upon to deal with important questions affecting the constitutionality of the law. His committee has even been called upon to amend the Constitution itself. Last year the presence of the "insidious lobby" for the purpose of unduly influencing legislation, Senator Overman was appointed chairman of the sub-committee of the Judiciary Committee which was authorized

to investigate the existence of the lobby. The committee has not yet completed its hearings, but much in the direction of good has already been accomplished and the work of the committee is now recognized as one of the most useful and lasting services of the Wilson administration. The work was of great aid to the President in getting through the tariff bill, and Senator Overman was very much complimented by him on his work in this connection. It is the consensus of opinion in Washington that this committee should be kept intact, during this session of Congress at least, for the interests which formerly attracted the lobby are still under consideration by Congress.

Has Greatly Increased Appropriations For This State

Senator Overman has, through his great influence as a Senator, been largely instrumental in bringing to the people of his state large sums of money in the way of public improvements. Before he became a member of the Public Buildings Committee, North Carolina had never received more than five hundred thousand dollars for public buildings since the Civil War. During the few years the Senator Overman was a member of the Public Buildings and Grounds Committee, he secured the passage through the Senate of appropriations amounting to two millions of dollars or more for his state. He aided in securing adequate appropriations for city after city in North Carolina until now nearly every leading town in the state has the Government committed to its public building project.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Overman succeeded, and it is so recognized here, in saving to the country in the way of economy millions of dollars. It was said by one of the leading magazines of the country that Senator Overman's examination of Mr. Taft, who was then Secretary of War, on the question of travel pay and actual expenses of the army (when he had a rule made that they should have expenses in lieu of travel pay) saved the country fifty million dollars a year.

Secures Appointment of Commercial Agents

Soon after Senator Overman came to the Senate he secured an appropriation for the appointment of Commercial Agents to send abroad to exploit and extend our commerce with the world. From time to time he has secured additional sums for the extension of this work. The reports of the departments show that this work has done wonders towards increasing our exports to the extent of millions of dollars. Three capable young North Carolinians through the influence of Senator Overman, were placed in charge of this work.

Author of Many Important Acts and Amendments

Senator Overman was author of the amendment, which had the endorsement of President Roosevelt and was finally enacted into law, providing that no injunction should be granted except after five days' notice. He was also the author of the Long and Short Haul Amendment. He also succeeded in passing as a rider on another bill a bill providing that no injunction should issue against an officer of the state upon enforcing a state statute on the ground of its unconstitutionality unless the same should be passed upon by at least three judges, one being a Circuit Judge. This legislation has since been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States in a suit brought to test its constitutionality. This met the situation as it existed in North Carolina when Judge Pritchard issued his infamous injunction. It made it possible for persons without means to prosecute their appeals in the Circuit and Supreme Courts of the United States in forma pauperis.

Has Aided Cause of Good Roads, Rural Delivery, Etc.

Senator Overman has been instrumental in securing appropriate legislation for aid to good roads, further restriction of immigration, improvement of our rural free delivery service and numerous other legislation of similar import affecting the interests of North Carolina in particular and the country in general.

The People For The First Time Vote For Senator This Election

In this election for the first time the people will vote for United States Senator. Heretofore members of the House of Representatives in Congress were elected by the people. United States Senators were elected by the General Assemblies of the different states. This year under the change in the Constitution we elect United States Senators by a vote of the people at the general election.

Senator Overman's name will be at the head of the State ticket. See that your neighbors all vote for the ticket headed by the name of Lee S. Overman for United States Senator.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

There are many times when our own questions another's actions and motives. Men act differently under different circumstances. The question is, what would you do right now if you had a severe cold? Could you do better than to take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy? It is highly recommended by people who have used it for years and know its value. Mrs. O. E. Sargent, Peru, Ind., says: "Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is worth its weight in gold and I take pleasure in recommending it." For sale by all dealers.