

Mebane Leader

J. C. FOY, Editor and Owner

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Thursday, January 19 1911

INSURANCE MEN RUNING TO COVER.

The session of the house Thursday was enlivened by its first debate that morning, and this arose over insurance matters, which promise to give the general assembly considerable difficulty during the session. The debate arose over Mr. Koonce's joint resolution asking the appointment of a joint committee to investigate the conduct of insurance companies in the state, which was reported from the judiciary committee No. 1 with a recommendation that it be sent to the committee on propositions and grievances, of which Mr. Koonce, the author of the resolution, is chairman.

Objection was made to the reference, members insisting that the resolution should go to the committee on insurance. In urging reference to his committee Mr. Koonce stirred up a hornet's nest by intimating that the committee on insurance would be too biased to give the measure proper consideration, and declared that a powerful lobby is already working to defeat the proposed investigation. Immediately half a dozen members clamored for recognition, to reply to Mr. Koonce's statement. It developed that the committee on insurance has yet been appointed, but this did not prevent the members from defending the speaker's probable choice, for this committee. The fact that Insurance Commissioner Young, in his report sent in to the house made no mention of any great abuses as to rates of insurance made the matter significant.

The above quoted from the Raleigh Evening Times under date of January 12th. Seems to indicate and we do not for a moment doubt but what Mr. Koonce is on the right track.

It is an outrage and a shame, the way things are conducted in our General Assembly. There is no trouble about passing any little private bill that is not worth the time it consumes of the Legislature, but when relief is sought through a measure that would bring great benefit to our people then a half a dozen or more lobbyist spring up in the capital, the henchman of allied interest, no smoother crowd ever scuttled a ship, or slit a throat than these sharp oily tongued agents, and if money is needed to carry their purpose, they have it.

Mr. Young may be a splendid Insurance Commissioner, a capable man, fully qualified for all his duties, and surely they are duties for which the state of North Carolina is paying, but it seems to us among the many matters he is expected to look after, the insured should get some attention.

Mr. Young it seems ought to know that our present insurance laws are very imperfect, that their operation is to the hurt, and serious prejudice of our people, they need remedying, and it would seem clearly within the province of Mr. Young's duties to suggest a remedy. It is alright for Mr. Young to try, and run down and prosecute every incendiary, even if his services are largely in the interest of the insurance companies but the people are not getting a fair deal when insured property is burned by accident, and it is as much within his duties to see that they get a fair deal as it is for him to protect the interest of the insurance companies.

It was thought that the employment of Mr. Young as a commissioner, might help to reduce insurance rates but has it done it? Something should be done to protect the people from present insurance imposition. If Mr. Young cannot help do it then Mr. Young must not stand in the way of its being done. We have at each recurring biennial session of the Legislature for the past ten years spoke of the in-

justice editorially that people suffered from insurance companies who had the misfortune to have their houses burned down after they were insured. In one instance we remember some years ago, that we tried to impress our ideas upon a certain Representative—well when he got to Raleigh he manage to get on the insurance committee as its Chairman. There was nothing doing—all legislation was put to sleep in the committee room, but soon after the adjournment of the Legislature when this Mr. Chairman returned home, he began the erection of a building, and his friend kept on wondering where he got the money from.

FAVORITISM FOR THE STANDARD OIL CO.

It will be seen by reference to the revenue act of 1909 that oil companies are permitted to sell oil in this state by paying a state tax of one per cent gross on all sales in excess of \$25,000. That is the state shares in the perfdy of the Standard Oil companies special privilege license, for so far, they have been able to choke to death any serious competition. Then as a further concession to this giant soulless octopus, they permit a license of \$10, only in towns or cities where the oil company maintains a station or storage warehouse. There is only about fifty cities in North Carolina whose population exceeds 1000 souls, and the standard oil company do not maintain sales stations at all of these, but there are 4000 towns and villages that they do not maintain station at, into which they are permitted free of tax to peddle their oil out of waggons, selling at a higher monopoly profit in the smaller places, and cutting prices in the larger ones to stifle competition.

Analyze this matter, and see what you can make of it. The most powerful trust on earth granted a special consideration. Who got the money for the states loss?

Compare it with the following Every manufacture of sewing machines, and every person or persons or corporation engaged in the business of selling the same in this state, shall before selling or offering for sale any such machines pay to the state treasury a tax of four hundred dollars, then the tree thousand agents of these sewing machine companies must pay a license tax of \$2,00 each.

Each lightning rod agent \$25.-00. Every firm or corporation selling pianos fifty dollars each, and then forty cents on every \$100, valuation of sale.

A fellow who sells a few tons of coal in a village a (benefactor) is required to pay the same amount of tax that the Standard oil company does to sell its millions of gallons of oil in our big gest cities, this tax makes it prohibitory to sell coal in small towns and operates as a serious inconvenience to the people at large. Take the case, will you, perpetuate the wrong if you will you, but some one will remember it

TO GET READY FOR JUDGEMENT.

In the remarks attributed to Judge Boyd at the conclusion of the whiskey libel suit against N. Glenn Williams at Greensboro it would appear that Mr. Williams has a course of medicine ahead of him. There was another case of pending judgement against Williams and Craft who was convicted last June of conspiring to defraud the government by padding the sale of postage stamps at Williams, Wilkes county, in order to receive a larger salary for the office, in which sentence was deferred until the above case was heard June term. In continuing judgment Judge Boyd stated that Williams could dispose of the liquor involved in the libel case to better advantage than any one else so he would defer sentence in the conspiracy case in order to give him time to settle up all his affairs and get in readiness to accept such judgement as the court saw fit to impose.

From that it would appear that the Judge is going to give Mr. Williams a rest at Atlanta.

There ought to be a law in North Carolina to license and label lobbyist, that is if we must have them. It has always appeared to us the most practical way to get rid of them, would be to kick them out. For the people to elect men to make their laws and then have them tampered with and turned wrong by men of sharp practice is not the right thing.

A tariff commission with Beveridge at the head of it is calculated to inspire, us is it not? Let Aldrich appoint the commission, and the government pay for the white wash, and we are likely to see something in ten years when they get through with it. The commission business is an infernal dodge to continue the thieving.

We heard a gentleman remark a few days past, say that North Carolina was the first state to have a cotton mill, and the second state to have a tobacco factory. It was an attorney of Durham and we were not in a position to get more particulars but if this be a fact it is an important fact.

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