

SOLONS OCCUPY CENTER OF STAGE

Many Bills Before General Assembly; Whiskey Measure Is Killed Early

FIGHT SECRET BALLOTT

By M. L. SHIPMAN

RALEIGH, Jan. 29.—Again this past week the General Assembly was the center of interest as many important measures came up for consideration and the budget committee continued its work of listening to pleas for added funds for institutions and departments. Chief among measures up for consideration were the bills providing for medicinal dispensing of whiskey, liberalizing the divorce laws, sterilizing mental defectives, barring lobbyists and tagging them, workmen's compensation, and many others. Governor Gardner was trying to line up forces for his Australian ballot system and got an ally in former Governor Morrison but it was reported that eastern North Carolina would kill this measure offhand. No announcement was made with reference to the State highway commission, pardon commission and State prison jobs though it was indicated that Nat Townsend had refused the pardon commissioner's post.

The senate finally killed the measure which would have liberalized the prohibition laws so that whiskey might be dispensed by drug stores on doctors' prescriptions. The matter was referred back to committees for amendments but even in improved form it failed of passage. Representative Boren's bill providing that five years of involuntary separation would constitute grounds for divorce was passed by the house and sent to the upper body. It was meant specifically to afford relief to the mates of convicts but many feared that it was an opening wedge to make divorce easy and were opposed on that ground as the laws on this subject are plenty lax now.

Lobbying Bill Fails
A move to tag all those appearing in Raleigh in favor of bills as lobbyists failed in the senate after Senator Person had made a valiant fight. His measure was far-reaching in scope and was aimed at, he said, the big business interests of the State, especially the power interests. A bill to provide for sterilization of mental defectives was presented and referred to committee. This is in line with advanced thought of the day and no doubt the measure will have many friends when it comes up for consideration.

The heads of educational institutions appeared before the powers that be this week and urged that they be allowed more funds. The request for educational funds was pressed by leading educators of the State but no indication was given that any changes would be made from the recommendations as this is undoubtedly an economy legislature and may be inclined to carry the cuts to extremes.

Having Hard Fight
Governor Gardner is having a hard time in his fight for an Australian ballot system. It is reported that many influential Democratic leaders, especially from eastern North Carolina, are fighting the proposition and it will have hard sledding. Whether the undoubted demand from the people for honest election and secret election laws will have any weight with legislators remain to be seen. At the present time the vocal powers are all favoring elimination of the Australian ballot bill by the easiest method. At the same time former Governor Morrison came out for the bill proposed by Governor Gardner's henchmen in the General Assembly and this may influence some votes. During the week the senate passed the bill restoring to the Governor the right to fill vacancies in the United States senate brought about by death or resignation. It is generally believed that this is a political move designed to give Governor Gardner the right to name either McLean or Morrison, or both, in the event of death of either one

or both of the incumbents, and both Overman and Simmons are believed to be near the end of their careers. It is hard to say what will happen to this bill in the house but there are those who insist that the primary law should govern in such cases, also why have the primary. They argue the people have a right to elect their own senators.

Workmen's Compensation

A measure providing for workmen's compensation was introduced and referred to committee. For twenty years your correspondent, as commissioner of labor and printing, made a fight for such a measure but was unable to get it through. Sentiment of the people has crystallized now though and the workmen probably will get justice. The bill also deals fairly with employers and is said to be favored by them. Another bill of interest will provide pensions for dependents of policemen and sheriffs and their deputies killed in line of duty or aged in the service. This bill is slated for early passage if all indications are correct, for it is felt it does justice to a neglected class and without raising the tax levies.

Among other bills of interest now pending are the following: to increase the penalty for public drunkenness; to increase the number of justices of the State Supreme court from five to seven; to prohibit crop estimates by State authorities which are speculative in character; to reduce the penalty on property advertised for taxes from 20 to 12 per cent of the tax; to change date of primary elections from first Saturday in June to first Tuesday after first Saturday, this being sponsored generally by newspapermen and public officials who work under great hardships under the present law, to provide a State mine inspector; to teach the harmful effects of alcohol in the State schools, and many local bills from various counties.

Suit Settled

A suit involving around \$200,000 annual revenue of the automobile department of the State was settled during the week by Judge Henry A. Grady when he ruled against the State. The commissioner of revenue was seeking to collect the gasoline tax of four cents per gallon from counties using gasoline and the judge ruled that the State had no right to levy on counties. It was said that the matter will be carried to the State Supreme court for final decree. During the week the affairs of State fair came to the front with an indication that there was some-

thing wrong. A deficit was shown in revenue but a shortage also was alleged to have been discovered in receipts. The manager, Mr. Moyer, resigned his post and it was indicated that the State fair trustees would study the matter, audit the books and give out a statement shortly. In the meantime the matter of using a portion of State fair grounds for a public golf links again was agitated.

W. H. Lawrence, wealthy contractor of Durham, lost his appeal in the Supreme court from a sentence of 30 years for murder of Mrs. Annie Terry, dressmaker of Durham. The case aroused considerable interest at the time of the murder a year ago when the woman was killed by being thrown from a bridge. Lawrence was convicted solely on circumstantial evidence and has steadfastly denied his guilt. He risked his all on an appeal based on insufficient evidence rather than error in conducting the case and the high court ruled on this one point only. He will begin his sentence in the next few days.

Special districts which are not keeping up their interest payments on outstanding bonds are again worrying the State auditor and he indicated that action would be instituted shortly to compel payments in delinquent cases. The law provides that the State auditor must see that payments are made and gives the right to call such matters to the attention of solicitors when payments are not made.

Flu Peak Passed

The peak of the influenza epidemic has passed says the State health department, though the full death list as a result has not yet been compiled. Care is still urged by those suffering from after effects of the disease as the best means of keeping away relapses.

A number of unemployed, 689, were given positions through the State-Federal employment service

last week, it was announced. A war on gamblers in Wake county resulted in 19 arrests over the week end. Sergeant E. W. Thomas, retired, well known and respected citizen of Raleigh dropped dead a week ago while leading the singing in First Vanguard church of this city.

A bus service from Raleigh to Norfolk has been instituted and is said to be very convenient for those who travel this territory. Two trips a day in each direction are scheduled. The ninth annual convention of Women Voters of the State was held last week and the ladies formulated a legislative program for which they will fight before the General Assembly. Usually they have little success but have seen some of their measures adopted after years of fighting. The budget commission, headed by Auditor Burke is in constant bickering with various departments for the cold blooded way in which it handles fiscal matters without regard for other considerations. The latest fuss is between the commission and the State laboratory of public hygiene which is doing a wonderful work in preventing disease by preparing serums and the like. The laboratory has public confidence to an unusual degree and needs a slight increase in funds to carry on its research work but the budget heads have cut the funds to the bone. It is to be hoped, in the interests of public health, that the laboratory will win its fight and the people can help by writing their representatives in the legislature to grant the small amount of money asked, less than in any other state of the union.

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CHINA GOES MODERN

Since they quit shaving their heads or braiding their hair, the Chinese can't get enough of our modern ways, it seems. Cigarettes, for instance, instead of the dinky little pipes that used to be all the rage in Pekin and Chefoo. Of all the cigarettes exported from the United States in 1926, China took nearly three-fourths. Not only that: they're starting their own factories and buying the leaf.

He Should Try Growing It!

"The price of cotton is determined in New York, and goes up when you have sold and goes down when you have bought," says a contributor to Mixed Goods. "A buyer was sent to New York to watch the market. He wired his firm 'Some think it will go up and some think it will go down. I do too. Whatever you do will be wrong, so act at once!'"

"Of all factors that support civilized peoples, soil fertility—the gauge set up by Nature—is the one by which their perpetuity is measured."

ONE OF THOSE inquisitive chaps who are always chirping useless facts about immaterial things has it all figured out that the great-grandpappies of the Mound Builders, who had left before the Indians came, first burned tobacco as incense and liked its aroma so much that they said "Why not?" and made stone pipes to smoke it in. He's dug into the mounds and found some of the pipes.

And V-C Cuts It There

In 1620, when 55,000 pounds of good Virginia leaf was the world's crop, tobacco brought 54 cents a pound. But just 19 years later the crop had grown to 1,500,000 pounds and the price had dropped to 6 cents. Then they began learning that it's always a question of how good, not how much. The price was then—and is now—in the quality.



HIGH ANALYSIS FERTILIZERS are coming—but they'll be slow and sure about it. Farmers are ranging today among fertilizer grades of between 15% and 25% available plant food. But manufacturers are already producing—and selling—fertilizers containing up to 40%. Progressive farmers are leading the way, and some have already arrived.

Fertilizer Cuts Cost

"The average cotton grower produces his crop regardless of expense and then tries to boost the market to where he can sell at a profit. This will not work. Since we can not control the price, the only alternative is to reduce the cost of production. This can be done in three ways—by better preparation and cultivation, the use of good seed, and improving the fertility of the soil. I never intend to plant an acre of cotton to which fertilizer can not be applied. I know it helps to reduce the cost of production."

BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR, Virginia led in tobacco production. Then Kentucky took the lead and kept it till 1926. Two years ago North Carolina went out in front. Kentucky comes second, Virginia third, South Carolina fourth, Tennessee fifth, Georgia sixth—according to the 1927 estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"The latest farm song success—'The Fertilizer Blues.' The words ain't much but you'll never forget the air."

"A POUND OF GOOD FERTILIZER should bring an increase of about a pound of seed cotton. This holds true up to around 800 pounds of fertilizer per acre. It's a good trade."

WRITE YOUR OWN MORAL

"In a North Carolina experiment the yield of seed cotton without fertilizer was only 797 pounds per acre. With 400 pounds of balanced fertilizer the yield was 1,120 pounds," says The Fertilizer Review. "With 800 pounds of fertilizer the yield jumped to 1,472 pounds of seed cotton; and with 1,000 pounds of fertilizer the yield was 1,582 pounds of seed cotton—practically double the yield of land on which no fertilizer was used."

"Without much question the farmer of the future will enjoy a higher living standard than today. More efficient and larger unit farming will permit it; a progressive rural citizenry will demand it."—Renick W. Dunlap.

Buy fertilizer early—and get early delivery, early planting, early crops. Also early pay.

Queen or No Queen

Can you weigh smoke? Of course. Some old bird made a bet with the



queen on it, away back yonder—and he won. Weighed a pipeful of tobacco, smoked it, weighed the ashes—and the difference had gone up in smoke. She had to pay.

"Plants, like all other forms of life, must feed in order to grow. Feed the farmer grows is crying for food. Fertilizers contain plant food."

But He Spends It

Uncle Sam gets more out of the tobacco crop than the growers do. The farm value of tobacco in 1927 was \$234,253,000, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture; and the revenue taxes on manufactured tobacco that same year were \$345,247,210—with no need for fertilizers.

SUCCESS

Many a man owes his success in life to the fact that he established a sound banking connection that through deserved credit lent him assistance.

For a quarter of a century this bank has given its aid in the upbuilding of this section. This policy shall be continued.

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FOR SALE

Land and Timber

A tract of land known as the Spring Green Tract, containing 100 acres, more or less, bounded on the N. by Alex and Haywood Alston; on the S. by the Powell and Alex Alston lands; on the E. by the Road to Powell's mill, and on the W. by Fishing Creek. Timber is located on this land which will be sold also, either separately or together with the land.

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