

# The Franklin Press

and

# The Highlands Maconian

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press  
At Franklin, North Carolina  
Telephone No. 24

VOL. L Number 15

BLACKBURN W. JOHNSON.....EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Entered at the Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year .....	\$1.50
Six Months .....	.75
Eight Months .....	\$1.00
Single Copy .....	.05

### The Revenue Bill

At this writing the State Senate is still debating sections of the biennial revenue bill, always the most important measure to come before the General Assembly.

This morning's papers contained the encouraging information that the Senate had rejected a committee proposal to apply the sales tax to hotel room rentals, boarding houses and tourist homes, which undoubtedly would have had the effect of handicapping Western North Carolina's ever-increasing tourist business.

There were hopeful indications, too, that the Senate would muster a sufficient majority to defeat attempts to make the sales tax applicable to nine basic food articles which are now exempt. We sincerely hope such a provision as this will never find a place on the North Carolina statute books; but we cannot help feeling some degree of alarm over the matter in view of the Legislature's tardiness in rejecting forthwith any such proposal. The only thing that has made the sales tax sufferable these last two years has been the fact that meat and bread and other necessities of sustenance have been exempt. A sales tax on foodstuffs would be a tax on poverty, and the poor man already is bearing more than his just share of the tax burden.

Everyone is desirous of having the General Assembly reach adjournment as soon as possible, to end this uncomfortable uncertainty of what might or might not be done; but, if necessary, we would rather the lawmakers stay in session all summer than have them adopt in haste a revenue bill containing a sales tax on foodstuffs.

### Negroes on Juries

THE announcement of Governor Bibb Graves that "Alabama is going to observe the supreme law of America," although that will mean inclusion of negroes in jury lists, has won the editorial commendation of many newspapers. A few southern editors, moved by undue alarm, have expressed fears that the Supreme Court's decision in the famous Scottsboro case will encourage application of Lynch Law in cases involving negroes; but others, with proper realization of the majesty of the law and due respect for constituted authority, are inclined to accept the Scottsboro ruling as inevitable, just and, in the long run, a wise decision. Praise has come from pulpit, bar and press for Governor Graves' statement:

"Holdings of the United States Supreme Court are the supreme laws of the land. Whether we like the decisions or not, it is the patriotic duty of every citizen and the sworn duty of every public officer to accept and uphold them in letter and in spirit. . . . This decision means that we must put the name of negroes in jury boxes in every county."

"It should be recognized," comments The Christian Science Monitor, one of America's most broad-minded and most ably edited newspapers, "that living up to this promise will entail difficulties and perplexities which states farther removed from racial problems can but partly understand. Not only legal tangles but reservations sanctioned by sentiment and tradition will have to be dexterously and tactfully handled. Other Southern states are aware of the implications in the Alabama stand. But it already has been indicated that some of those states will follow Alabama's lead—a lead, it should be noted, that calls for support of the supreme law 'in spirit' as well as in letter."

It will take Southerners a long time to become accustomed to negroes sitting on juries, and, too, it will take a long time perhaps for most of our negroes to become accustomed to the heavy responsibility entailed by jury service. In fact, we believe that most of them will be inclined to beg the bench to be excused, especially when the defendant is of the white race.

Doubtless there will be some difficult adjustments of law and public attitudes to be brought about before we grow used to the new situation brought about by the Scottsboro decision. But a South that learned to respect the constitution despite the indignities it suffered in the period of reconstruction can also learn to respect the fact that that constitution calls for equality for all before the law, regardless of color.

## In No Uncertain Tones — by A. B. Chapin



### THROUGH CAPITAL KEYHOLES BY BESS HINTON SILVER

#### TOUCHY—

As the length of the general assembly grows members are beginning to display evidence of developing "nerves." Members arising to points of personal privilege to "bawl out" some member, or some newspaper editor, are becoming numerous as they have a habit of doing in sessions that run into the payless period beyond the constitutional 60 days. Finger-pointing and fist-shaking will soon be the order of the days if the boys don't get their troubles ironed out and go back home.

#### LITTLE CHANCE—

A private poll of the legislature reveals that the batch of bills sent down from Washington by Secretary Ickes designed put cities and counties in the business of generating and selling power have little chance of passage. Two measures, drawn by the State Rural Electrification commission, are much more modest and have the backing of the Ehringhaus administration. However, if they get by it will be a close squeeze.

#### LIQUOR—

There can be no doubt that sentiment in favor of the Hill liquor bill is growing among members of the Legislature. It still appears doomed but only a few converts are needed to put the measure across. Members show a decided notion not to cut the appropriations bill drastically and if these troubles over taxes are not settled pretty soon you are going to see a great drive to put the Hill bill through.

#### EARLY BIRDS—

John A. McRae, of Charlotte, has joined Colonel T. LeRoy Kirkpatrick, of the same city, in announcing for governor on the Democratic ticket. In Raleigh various stories are being told about the intentions of Clyde R. Hoey, Shelby attorney, and Congressman R. L. Doughton regarding the governorship. But make no mistake—Lieutenant Governor A. H. Graham is going to run for governor or bust a trace. All efforts to get him attracted by other jobs and what-not have failed entirely and a lot of folk believe his campaign is well underway.

#### RAIDS—

Raids on gasoline tax money have gotten away to a good start. The

general assembly has voted to spend \$500,000 of it annually in keeping up city streets and it looks like \$1,630,000 is going to be diverted to the general fund during each of the coming years. It also appears likely that some of the gasoline taxes are going into county treasuries before long in the form of paying the counties for roads they built before the highway commission had the money.

#### SCHOOL BOOKS—

State rental of school books by the time the boys and girls hear the first bells next fall is still likely. The books companies are said to be realizing that fact and a good authority says that the publishers will be willing to sell the books to the state on credit and collect as the rentals come in. Such a plan would not call for an amount of money large enough to require a bond issue and may be taken care of by an appropriation. The Democrats are laying their plans to rush the school book rental bill through in a hurry once they get started. It will make a good chaser as the dear public begins to swallow the three per cent general sales tax or a milder retail levy.

#### AMUSING—

It's nothing short of funny the way the various factions estimate the possible yield of the biennial revenue bill. Anti-sales taxers and advocates of greater appropriations boost the figures above those of the revenue department while sales tax three per center's cut them down by like amounts. If anybody really knows how much the revenue bill will yield, the way the legislature is almost constantly changing it, that person is a magician.

#### TROUBLE—

The biggest obstacle in the \$62,000,000 biennial revenue bill is the taxing peddlers. Representatives from cities and towns want to tax the boys who buy and sell and transport in trucks out of existence while representatives from peach, apple and cabbage growing sections want the tax low so the trucks can operate and buy their surplus products. You will never know just what the peddlers' tax will be until the final day of the general assembly. Somebody changes it at every turn.

#### CONDUCT—

A lot has been written and said about the conduct of members of this and other legislatures. Admitting that some of the boys may like to kick over the traces once in a while, they are no different from other men. In fact, the 170 members of the general assembly behave much better than some con-

ventions that come to the Capitol City. Some of the finest men and women of this state have been members of scandalized legislatures and there are quite a few in the present one who never tasted hootch.

#### UNPOPULAR—

Many members of the general assembly do not relish the idea of Dr. Ralph McDonald, anti-sales tax representative from Forsyth, writing his views on the front page of a daily newspaper. He has been called on the floor of the house on some of his writings that amount to accusations, and his ears should be red when the boys gather round dinner tables or in hotel lobbies.

#### BAIT—

Privately it is admitted by anti-sales taxers that they favor applying the three per cent retail levy to meals in the hope that it will make the tax more unpopular. There is no doubt that such application would make the sales tax smell a lot worse to most folks and if it is finally levied on meals served in boarding houses you will hear plenty of political rumblings. The Republicans watch with great glee all these little squabbles between the Democrats, and the G. O. P. boys are making notes in their little blue books.

#### BUSY—

Secretary of State Stacey W. Wade isn't letting grass grow under his feet since the news leaked out that Thad Eure, principal clerk of the house, may become a candidate for Wade's job. The secretary likes his place, believes he is doing his chores nicely and wants the voters to return him in the next elections. It will be a lively affair if Wade and Eure lock horns.

#### STEADY—

Governor Ehringhaus has done pretty well with his hands-off policy of dealing with the general assembly. Many of his friends urged him to call the boys in on the carpet and tell them what he was depending on them to do. But he sat tight and right now it looks as if most of recommendations will become law without his having to go to bat for them every day. A majority of the lawmakers seem to be playing on the governor's team.

### Don't Sleep On Left Side—Affects Heart

If stomach GAS prevents sleeping on right side, try Adlerika. One dose brings out poisons and relieves gas pressing on heart so you sleep soundly all night. Angel's Drug Store. (adv.)