

HOUSE AGAIN MUSTERS STRENGTH TO WARD OFF AD VALOREM TAX PLAN

ADJOURNMENT IS AGAIN TALK OF ASSEMBLY

Plan Rejected Last Night Called for a 15-Cent Ad Valorem Tax

The House last night, by the narrow margin of 60 to 55, continued the deadlock that has featured the present session of the North Carolina General Assembly by rejecting an ad valorem tax. According to opinions advanced over the week-end since the adjournment is now in order, but what will actually result is not known just at this time. Rumors had it that the Senate was gathering strength for a sales tax yesterday, but the body temporarily ceased its activities without taking a vote.

The conference report rejected by the House last night provided a 15-cent ad valorem tax, and would have reduced the six-months school budget from \$20,000,000 to \$16,500,000, which Dr. A. T. Allen, State Superintendent, previously stated would entail salary cuts of between 20 and 25 per cent for every teacher in the State.

Chairman Spence brought in the conference report. It was signed by five of the seven conferees Representatives MacLean and Connor not signing.

Mr. Spence explained briefly that the conference bill was estimated to raise \$16,500,000 for the schools.

This brought a questions from Holmes, of Pitt:

"This report contemplates a 20 to 25 per cent cut for teachers, doesn't it? Then if the same cut were applied to all administrative departments why couldn't enough be saved to run the schools without any 15-cent ad valorem tax?"

Mr. Spence said he was willing to go with the Pitt Assemblyman in effecting economies.

State Responsibility
Mr. Spence stressed the fact that under the conference report the State would be responsible for maintenance of the schools, regardless of whether the counties could collect their taxes or not. He also stressed the fact that they levy would be on an actual and not a determined valuation basis.

Representative A. D. MacLean, leader in the fight for State support, stated that he believed the time had come to lay aside differences and reach a correct conclusion in this matter.

MacLean Gives Arguments
He stated that it was his purpose to lay before the House, he hoped for the last time, the principal reasons for and against the report.

On the affirmative side, he said, the report admits and recognizes and attempts to provide the revenue for the six months school term "and is equivalent, as I view it, to the establishment of the underlying principle we have been fighting for here."

He added that it represented at least one-half victory in that respect and in the ad valorem tax cut to 15 cents represented about three-fourths of the ad valorem relief hoped for.

The third affirmative reason, he said, was that adoption would bring the legislature to a conclusion.

Negative Outweighs
On the negative side, however, he said there were three better reasons why the report should not be adopted.

"It involves surrender of the principle of school maintenance without recourse to an ad valorem tax," he said.

"This report," he stated, "increases the rates on business beyond the danger point, I fear, and leaves the ad valorem tax removed," he said, "the increases would not be too great."

Raises Deficit Issue
The second major reason against it is that it almost assuredly means a million dollar deficit for school purposes," he declared, adding that he had been informed that the Governor was very much disturbed over the prospects of a deficit under this bill.

He asserted that the rates in the bill were designed to produce a maximum of \$12,000,000 for schools, pointing out that if it fell short only five per cent a substantial deficit would result.

The third objection, he stated, is the 20 per cent slash in school costs, which according to State Superintendent A. T. Allen would have to be absorbed almost wholly in teacher's salaries.

"Anxious as I am to see economies introduced, I never expect to be willing to see the common schools crippled to the point where they can not carry on, and I fear that it is what will happen if the \$4,000,000 cut, great-

CHAIN STORE TAX IS UPHELD BY U.S. SUPREME COURT

North Carolina Likely To Win Tax Case Against The Chain Stores

Washington, May 18.—In a five-to-four decision, the Supreme Court today upheld Indiana's chain store tax. The law compelled chain stores to pay more for operating than independent establishments. Lafayette A. Jackson, operating 223 stores in Indianapolis, brought suit claiming the statute was unconstitutional.

Unusual attention was attracted to the case by protests against the growth of the chains and by similar attempts in other states to tax them. North Carolina's tax on chain stores is now pending before the court.

Judge Roberts said, in presenting the majority opinion, that the case hinged upon the power of the legislature to classify businesses, "so long as its action is not unreasonable and arbitrary."

He took the view there was enough difference in chain stores and independent units to justify the Indiana law. Chief Justice Hughes, Justice Holmes, Justice Brandeis, and Justice Stone agreed with him.

Dissenting Opinion
Justice Sutherland, in a dissenting opinion concurred in by Justices McReynolds, Van Devanter, and Butler, held the law obviously was discriminatory, and added:

"The power to tax is the power to destroy; and this constitutes a reason why that power, however moderately exercised in given instances, should be jealously confined to the limits set by the constitution."

"The problem of taxation is fundamental to the very existence of the government of states," Justice Roberts said. "The fact that a statute discriminates in favor of a certain class does not make it arbitrary, if the discrimination is founded upon a reasonable distinction."

Action of the United States Supreme Court Monday in sustaining as valid the Indiana law imposing heavy license fees on chain stores probably will result in a favorable decision by that court on the constitutionality of a similar tax imposed by North Carolina, at present under attack, Attorney General Dennis G. Brummitt said yesterday.

The Indiana law imposes a license tax on chain stores graduated in accordance with the number of stores under the same general management. Mr. Brummitt said, while the North Carolina tax, passed by the 1929 General Assembly, imposes a \$50 tax on each store of a chain above one. The North Carolina law yields the greater revenue as the highest listed in Indiana is \$25.

Mr. Brummitt said he did not think it necessary to revise the North Carolina brief filed in answer to the action brought by the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, and carried to the United States Supreme Court.

The North Carolina Supreme Court sustained the State's tax.

Branch Bank Employees Hove Holiday Tomorrow

The Branch Banking and Trust Company will observe tomorrow, May 20th, Mecklenburg Day, as a holiday, Cashier C. D. Carstarphen announced this morning.

The day marks the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and is limited to North Carolina. As far as it could be learned, no other business firms will observe the day as a holiday in this county.

Chevrolet Employees Go Back On Full Time Basis

All plants of the Chevrolet Motor Company are now operating an average of five and one-half days a week, with workers back on a full-time basis, W. S. Knudsen, president and general manager, announced Saturday.

The total company payroll is now in excess of \$6,000,000, employees, and some plants are on a heavier production basis than at any time since the fall of 1929, Mr. Knudsen said.

He stated that it was his conclusion that the arguments for the negative outweighed those for the affirmative, and urged the House to defeat the report in hope that the Senate would come around to considering the matter on a more satisfactory basis.

EIGHTH MONTH HONOR ROLL OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

Names of 148 Students Appear on Roll for Last Month of School

The eighth-month honor roll in the local schools was the largest of the year, 148 pupils meeting all requirements to have their names appear in the list. The sixth grade led the list with 27 honor pupils, the number being the largest ever reported by any one grade in the Williamston schools. The list follows:

Grade 1-A: Oniley Cowen, Reg Griffin, S. C. Griffin, William Lilley, Haywood Rogers, Terry Howell, Mary A. Cherry, Bina Jackson, Carrie Jones, Elizabeth Parker.

Grade 1-B: Kathleen Nicholson, Etta Mae Wynne, Garland Wynne, Nina Mae Bunch, Irene Crawford, Martha Whitley.

Grade 2-A: Dorothy Harrison, Mary Ruth Ward, Sarah K. Taylor, Madeline Pope, Evelyn Corbett, Sallie F. Thomas, Eleanor Brown, Alice B. Jenkins, Marjorie G. Dunn, Katherine Manning, Nina Bland, Raymond Rawls, Stuart Critcher, Jerry Manning, Emory McCabe, R. J. Hardison, Joseph Thigpen, Jack Sullivan.

Grade 2-B: Leslie Coltrane, Robert McClaren, McDonald Sarvis, Doris Bullock, Emma Lou Daniel, Dorothy Jones, Arna Wallace.

Grade 3-A: Bill Ballard, Jerry Clark, Dick Dunn, Jack Edmondson, Julian Jackson, Gordon Manning, James W. Ward, Bernice Cowen, Sallie G. Gurkin, Margaret Jones, Doris Moore, Louise Melson, Pearl Roberson, Susie Whitley, Virgil Ward, Julia Watts, Rachel Keel, Eleanor Taylor.

Grade 3-B: Ben Godwin, Ben Hardy, Ellen M. Coburn, Mary E. Leggett.

Grade 4-A: Cottie M. Wynne, Marion Pender, Virginia Lilley, Nora Grimes, Thelma Griffin, Mary H. Barnhill, Grace Barnhill, Lewis Wallace, John Ward, Jr., Reg Manning.

Grade 4-B: Muriel Bland, Ben Hopkins.

Grade 5-A: Melrose Bonds, Addie L. Meador, Nellie Rogerson, Charles Dieck, E. G. Wynne, Jr.

Grade 5-B: Beulah Bennett.

Grade 6-A: Edna Ballard, Essie L. Biggs, Ethel Coltrane, Bolton Cowen, Frances Cox, Ella W. Critcher, Marie Griffin, Allie Harrison, Ruby Harrison, Myrtle Price, Frances Stillman, Doris Teel, Gwen Watts, Jean Watts, Howard Cone, Robert Grimes, Robert Gurganus, Thad Harrison, Milton James, Brinkley Lilley, Ben Manning, Clayton Moore, Densel Simpson, James Williams, Ellis Wynn.

Grade 6-B: Jessie B. Swain, Lorene Weaver, Elie Nicholson.

Grade 7: J. D. Bowen, Tom Crockett, Billy Griffin, Lawrence Lindsley, John Pope, Jr., Exum Ward, Jr., Frances Barnhill, Pattie R. Bennett, Alta Critcher, Mary B. Edmondson, Eula Green, Hennie Gurganus, Alice Harrison, Blanche Harrison, Grace Manning, Irene Rogerson, Annie Wynne, Edna Rogerson.

Grade 8-A: None.

Grade 8-B: Jessie Mae Anderson, Mattie Gurganus, Olive McCabe, Edna Coats, Roger Critcher, Wheeler Martin, Jr., Julian Raynor.

Grade 9: Jane Moore, Jennie G. Taylor, Grace Barnhill, Marie Peele, Russell Roebuck.

Grade 10: None.

Grade 11: Raymond Gurkin, Wheeler Manning, Frances Bowen, Nellie Ingram, Edith Peele, Thelma Peel, Mary C. Williams.

SCHOOL FINALS AT HAMILTON

More Than 400 People Hear Literary Address of the Hon. R. O. Everett

Hamilton, May 18.—The people of Hamilton and surrounding community enjoyed having the Hon. R. O. Everett, of Durham, a native son of distinction, to deliver the literary address to the graduating class. Wednesday night. An audience of more than 400 people listened attentively to an interesting and instructive message on the subject, "The Eleventh Step in Human Progress," which was handled in a scholarly and masterful manner.

Following this address certificates were presented to those having 100 per cent attendance, those promoted to high school, and to the graduating class.

The Parent-Teacher Association presented two beautiful pictures to the high school, which won the "Father Night" contest.

The program was concluded after awarding the following medals: Valedictorian, Gleen Grimes; Salutatorian, Flored Cox; Expression, Faye Wynne; Mobley; Declamation, W. E. Grimes. The school reports a very successful year for the 1930-31 term.

REVIVAL MEET AT BEAR GRASS ENDS SUNDAY

Seventeen New Members Added To Church Roll During Past Week

The series of evangelistic services conducted by Dr. E. E. Gillespie, of Greensboro, in the Community Chapel at Bear Grass was brought to a successful close last Sunday evening when more than 300 people attending to hear the visiting minister in a last of the scheduled services.

The little chapel, recently completed at a cost of approximately \$5,000.00 was comfortably filled each evening throughout the week, 1,668 people from a radius of several miles, attending the services during the period.

Perhaps the largest crowd to attend a revival service in the community packed and jammed the chapel Sunday evening. Every seat was filled—many parents held their children to make room for others—and still they came. Quite a few patiently stood about the door and listened to Dr. Gillespie deliver the last of the special series of sermons.

A marked interest in the meeting was shown by the people of the entire community and as the Gospel of Jesus Christ was presented in a way in which the smallest child could understand it, many Christians reconverted their hearts and lives to Jesus, while young and old came forward for the first time to take their stand for Him.

People came from far and near—they came in carts, buggies, wagons, and automobiles. Many walked several miles each night to attend the services, while on one occasion as thirteen "head" were counted in one wagon.

At the conclusion of the last service, the sacrament of Baptism was administered to seven boys and girls and men and women, while ten others were received by letter.

NEW FURNITURE FIRM IS FORMED

To Handle Used and Hand Made Furniture and Antiques

Arrangements were completed this week for the opening of a new furniture store in the flat-iron building on Washington Street here within the next few days, it was announced today by Mr. Guthrie Strawbridge, partner in the business. While efforts are being made to have the store opened by Saturday of this week, the owners were not certain this morning that all the details could be handled by that time or not.

Mr. Kenneth Lindsley, a former resident of this place but who now lives at Virginia Beach, will be associated with Mr. Strawbridge, it was stated. It is understood that Mr. Lindsley will maintain his residence in the Virginia City.

During the past several months, Mr. Strawbridge has successfully operated the Handmade Furniture Company, a manufacturing plant specializing in hand-made furniture of select patterns. The new store will carry in stock a general line of the hand-made products, antique goods, and used furniture, it was stated.

Political Pot Was Boiling In County One Year Ago

One year ago the "political pot" was boiling in the county. Fifty-seven candidates, it will be remembered, were doing the firing and there was a marked interest in the outcome. The shortage of tobacco plants and politics were the main topics for conversation. There was little room or time left to discuss "hard times" and everyone apparently got along fairly well or all right. This year, there were no candidates and farmers found sufficient plants to set out their tobacco crops, leaving nothing but the deadlock in the legislature to divert our attention from ourselves. The assembly has about spent itself, and there is cause for one to wonder what will be provided next to divert the mind from "hard times."

Jimmy Brown To Again Play on Hertford Team

Jimmy Brown, of Jamesville, who played third base on Hertford's championship baseball team last summer, has been hired again by the Hertford team to play on the team, which is being assembled for this season.

Edgar Morris, manager of the Hertford club, was in Raleigh recently interviewing home-prospective players at State College. However, Jimmy Brown is the only one of the three hired players allowed on the team to be definitely hired.

Brown was one of the most popular members of the team last year.

METHODISTS OF ELIZABETH CITY DISTRICT MEET HERE

Summer School To Be Held Here; Begins Next Tuesday

Will Give High School and Grammar Grade Students An Opportunity To Remove Conditions and Prepare Clean Slates for Opening of New Term

In an effort to assist those pupils who are delinquent in one or more school subjects, local school officials are planning a summer term to begin next Tuesday and continue for six weeks, Principal W. R. Watson stated yesterday. The school is being planned at a nominal cost to the prospective students, and will be conducted according to State rules.

"The secondary purpose of the summer school is to give an opportunity for review and special work in subjects that have caused worry in the past."

"The summer school is planned and operated according to the regulations of the State Department of Education and credits earned are acceptable to any high school or elementary school."

"Courses in all high school and elementary school subjects will be offered provided there is sufficient demand for them."

Prospective summer school students and parents interested in placing their children in summer school are invited to confer with the director at the high school office as soon as possible.

ANNOUNCE MEET IN LOCAL CHURCH

Rev. John Barclay To Conduct Series of Services Here Next Week

The Christian church feels very fortunate in securing the return of Rev. John Barclay, of Wilson, to conduct again its summer meeting. Those who heard him last year remember him as an outstanding speaker and thinker and a man of charming personality.

Mr. Barclay has been pastor of the Wilson Christian Church for over six years, ministering at the same time to the students of Atlantic Christian College. The several A. C. C. alumni residing here were instrumental in securing the services of Mr. Barclay last year and were anxious for his return. He was also pastor of the church at Bethany, W. Va. where Bethany College is located.

He is not a theological or academic preacher, but deals with the realities of life. His constant association with college young people has given this very definite characteristics ring to his every sermon. He is thoroughly acquainted with every phase of our social and economic problems and has thought them out in relation to the teachings of Jesus. This has made him a favorite with both old and young who are interested in living the Jesus way in our complicated, machine age.

He is a man of deep convictions, delivering his sermons with an earnestness that leaves no room for doubt. This, no doubt, has been one of the great secrets of his success.

The local pastor will open the meeting next Sunday, Mr. Barclay arriving Monday, May 25, to remain through the following Sunday or longer. We are bringing to the community one of our strongest men, and we cordially invited everyone to attend these services.—The Pastor.

TAX COLLECTION SHOWS BIG DROP

Payments for Both County and Town Have Been Practically Stopped

Tax collections, both for this town and county, have been very limited so far this month, according to reports coming from the collectors' offices. Payments ran into the thousands of dollars during the first few days of May, and they have been fair since then, considering the fact that tax sales were ordered stopped by the commissioners. Several thousand dollars have been paid into the town treasury since the 8th of this month, it was stated.

Everetts Demonstration Club In Regular Meet

Everetts, May 18.—Last Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, the Everetts home demonstration club held its regular meeting in the home of Mrs. Frank Edwards. The meeting discussed the steam pressure cooker and its uses in the home. Miss Sleeper also stressed the importance of buying from home manufacturers, and had with her some very interesting samples of the products made in the State.

The members completed their old straw-hat projects started at a previous meeting.—Club reporter.

MORE THAN 200 VISITORS HERE FOR MEETING

Dr. H. E. Spence Makes Splendid Talk at Session Held This Morning

The Methodist Quarterly Conference of the Elizabeth City District was opened here this morning with a large number of representatives attending from the various churches. A slow registration was reported at noon today, but it was estimated that more than 200 pastors and delegates were here from the twenty-three churches included in the district.

The first of the series of services scheduled during the two-day session of the conference was held this morning at 9 o'clock when communion was observed. Following regular conference business, reports advancing the activities and financial condition of the various churches were made by the various pastors. Dr. F. S. Love, prominent Raleigh minister and a recognized leader in the Church in this State, addressed the meeting this morning. Dr. Love has been heard by thousands of people throughout the State in his sermons broadcast over radio from Raleigh.

At 11:30, Dr. H. E. Spence, noted minister of Durham, spoke on "The Work of the Board of Christian Education." Dr. Spence's talk was one of the highspots of the conference, commanding a close attention on the part of the large congregation hearing him.

The conference adjourned at the noon hour, members of the local charge serving lunch to the visitors in the Woman's Club hall.

Following the opening exercises this afternoon, the "Laymen's Hour" was held at 2 o'clock which was followed by a report of the Woman's Missionary Societies by Mrs. R. H. Willis, district secretary, of Hertford. Following the election of delegates to the annual conference, the afternoon session will be brought to a close.

Rev. M. E. Cunningham, of Avon, is scheduled to preach this evening at 8 o'clock and a goodly number of the townspeople is expected to join the visitors at that service.

The tentative program for tomorrow as announced by Presiding Elder O. W. Dowd, of Elizabeth City, at noon today, follows:

Wednesday Morning
Devotional service by Rev. B. F. Boone.

Pastors' reports, continued. Emphasis upon district goals; benevolences in full; improvement of church property; worthwhile program of Christian stewardship; comprehension program of Evangelism; the enrichment of our spiritual life; special work for steward pastors in certain areas of the district; monthly letters, check-up meetings and an early wind-up of financial program before the annual conference.

Reports from special committees. Election of delegates to the annual conference, continued.

Roll call of local preachers and their reports.

Wednesday Afternoon
Devotional service by Rev. R. G. L. Edwards.

Election of delegates of the third session.

Invitations for the next session of the district conference.

Reports of special committees, continued.

Resolutions.

Reading of minutes of the fourth session.

Adjournment, doxology and benediction.

Many of the pastors serving the local church in past years are here for the conference which is understood to be one of the largest held in the district in some time. Following this afternoon's service, the delegates will be assigned to the various homes of the town where they will be entertained as guests until the conference is brought to a close tomorrow afternoon.

Move Old Fire Trap from Near Tobacco Warehouses

The old Hemby house, squatting for years between the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse and the Planters Warehouse on Washington Street here, has been moved to a new location further out on Washington Street. The removal eliminates an old fire trap, the local fire company having answered as many as two calls to the building in one week.

Rumors that the lot owners were going to erect a building on the site were declared unfounded yesterday.