NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MANY BILLS PASS FINAL READING IN BOTH BRANCHES OF LEGISLATURE.

LEGISLATORS HARD AT WORK

The Senate Resolution Asking Taft Not to Veto the Webb-Kenyon Bill Was Discussed at Considerable Length in the House.

Senate—Tuesday.

The Stewart mileage bill as introduced in the House, to require railroads to pull mileage on trains, and finally gotten through that body with this feature stricken out and the requirement substituted that family mileage books be provided at two cents a mile under penalty of a flat two-cent mileage to the state, was killed in the Senate.

The Senate passed the bill to require certification to clerks of courts of names of all partners in partnerships for information of the public. Also, the bill to empower the state commissioner of insurance to refuse or revoke licenses to insurance agents was passed.

Petitions were presented from citizens of Pender against state-wide stock law; from the Junion Order Council of Henrietta for six-months school; from farmers in Rowan and Daughters of Liberty of Salisbury for six-months school and compulsory attendance.

House—Tuesday.

The bill to amend the builder's lien law came up and was amended by striking out the clause that gave architect lien on the house for service and that requiring bonds by builders. As amended it passed second reading.

There was a long discussion on the bill to increase the number of directors for the State School for the Deaf and Dumb and requiring that one of the directors shall be a graduate of the institution before it was finally defeated, 55 to 18.

The Senate bill defining the crime of bigamy was passed and ordered enrolled for ratification.

A number of new bills were introduced in the House.

Senate—Wednesday.

The senate passed the Ivey bill for the regulation of automobiles, fixing the scale of taxes at $5 up to 25 horsepower, $7.50 to 40 horsepower. Motorcycles will be taxed $2. Speed limits will be 10 miles an hour in business sections and 15 miles in residence sections of towns and 25 miles on country roads. Dealers are to pay $10 registration tax for number to be used on demonstration cars with exemption for 15 days. Municipalities are allowed to impose additional taxes.

The bill fixing minimum punishment for carrying concealed weapons at $25 fine or 30 days imprisonment was defeated after a spirited argument.

House—Wednesday.

The bill by Hall for tax of $1 on male and $2 on female dogs for benefit of the school funds in the counties was discussed, many Representatives asking exemption for their counties. It was then referred to the judiciary committee. The compulsory school attendance bill, pending as a deferred special order for today, was meerly ordered printed and set for Tuesday of next week.

The Kellum bill to give the corporation commission power to regulate rates of power, light, gas and water companies, both corporation and municipality-owned and empowering the corporation commission to require physical connection of competing telephone lines passed and it was sent to the senate. The house voted to have a special committee appointed to investigate the hiring of convicts by the state to railroads and other enterprises and report relative to the advisability of passing the pending bill to require state convicts to be hired to all counties wanting them for road work before letting them to railroads.

Senate—Thursday.

Of routine matters little was done Thursday in the senate. The session was interrupted by a joint session and an executive session. Senator Lawson called up his compulsory education bill again, with the provisions of his own measure inserted after the enacting words of the McCravey house bill, but debate was adjourned as usual.

The 1 mill school tax bill which was passed by the house is in the senate, faborably reported with amendments.

House—Thursday.

The senate bill to provide for the sale of the property of the State Hospital for the Insane by the sinking fund commission and the transfer of the hospital to State Park was passed to third reading by the house.

By a vote of 63 to 27, the house sustained the veto of the governor on the act to hold an election in Jasper county for the purpose of voting $40,000 in bonds with which the supervisor and county commissioners could build a court house and jail. The original act creating Jasper county provided that the buildings should be erected by a commission of five.

The house refused to pass over the veto of the governor the act to empower the municipal authorities of Greenville to destroy alcholic liquors seized by them.

The Berkley delegation bill to require timber to be returned as personal property for taxation was passed to third reading on the house.

Senate—Friday.

The Senate passed the bill to work convicts on the public roads after a lengthy discussion by members whether the state is not throwing away its money in leasing convicts to build roads for stock.

The six-months minimum school term bill from the house was further discussed by the senate and passed on second reading 44 to 1. Or rather, this was the vote on the adoption of the Bryant amendment empowering counties to levy special five per cent tax for county purposes when county authorities deem this necessary in connection with the operation of the school term act. The bill passed second reading unanimously.

House—Friday.

By a vote of 81 to 9 the house passed the Kellum bill providing for the semi-annual issuance of $300,000 four per cent state bonds, to be used in financing road bonds issued by counties at five per cent for road building; the bonds to run for 41 years, by which time the one per cent sinking fund will have provided for liquidation.

The house received from committee and passed immediately, after considerable argument, the bill to increase the membership of the Warren County Board of Education.

Mr. Stephens of Wayne presented and procured immediate passage of a joint resolution authorizing the placing of a bronze statue of Gov. Charles Brantley Aycock in Capitol Square.

Another bill received from committee and put under immediate consideration was the Bolick bill to protect human life by prohibiting persons from walking on railroad tracks.

Senate—Saturday.

The six-months school bill was passed on third roll call reading and ordered sent to the House for concurrence in Senate amendment.

The Jackson county seat removal bill was passed on final reading and went to the House for concurrence in Senate amendment.

Senator Jones introduced a resolution declaring it to be the sense of the General Assembly that the School for the Blind at Raleigh be removed to another site. A committee of three Senators and five Representatives is called for to investigate and report to the Legislature.

Bills passed final reading as follows:

Senate bill for water and light bond issue by Benson.

Senate bill ratifying call for election on the county farm in Iredell county.

House bill amending the Iredell county road law.

House—Saturday.

The House passed on final reading the Kellum bill for the state to issue semi-annually $300,000 state 4 per cent bonds to cover county 5 per cent bonds for road building, and the bill goes to the Senate.

The House passed the Kellum bill to regulate elections in Wilmington, a comprehensive corrupt practices act. Great numbers of public local calendar bills were passed.

The house passed bills as follows that go to the senate for disposition by that body:

To incorporate Pine Bluff school district.

To fix boundary of Marshall school district, Madison county.

Good road bond issues for Cleveland county.

Senate—Monday.

Senate bills passed on final reading were as follows:

Legalizing road bond issue in Island Creek Township, Duplin county.

For additional support for Newbern schools and for bond issue for new building.

For road bond election in Person county.

Empowering Belmont to improve streets.

Recharteling Raleigh and election on commission government.

For road bond election in Edgecombe, outside the road districts.

Amending charter of Snow Hill.

Amending charter of Town of Mashall.

Authorizing bond issue for Gastonia.

Incorporating West Bladenboro, Bladen county.

House—Monday.

The house passed and then reconsidered the vote on a Senate resolution by Ward urging Taft to not to veto the Webb-Kenyon bill. It had passed the senate by a vote of 13 to 14 and been rushed across to the house, where there was immediate passage and very soon thereafter a successful motion by Devin to reconsider the vote, this being carried 70 to 25.

House bills passed final reading as follows:

To regulate pay of jurors and witnesses in Brunswick county.

Road bill for Iredell county.

Road bond issue for Granville county.

To permit the City of Reidsville to borrow money.

Bond issue for Monroe.

Bond issue by Morning Star district, Mecklenburg county, for schools.

Good roads for Yadkin county.

STATE ROAD BONDS

MEASURE PASSED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND WAS SENT TO SENATE.

VERY LITTLE OPPOSITION

Is Passed By Vote of Seventy-Six to Five—The Bill Provides That State May Issue $300,000 in Bonds Semi-Annually.

Raleigh.—By a vote of seventy-six to five, the house passed on its final reading the bill by Representative Kellum to encourage road building in North Carolina by the state issuing its bonds to take care of good roads bonds by the counties. There was but little serious opposition to the measure. The bill provides that the state may issue $300,000 in bonds semi-annually, sell these bonds at four per cent interest and with the proceeds purchase the bonds issued by counties for good roads construction. The county bonds are to bear five per cent interest. The bonds are to run forty-one years, and it is a mathematical calculation that these bonds can be issued by the counties and retired in forty-one years at five per cent—in other words, the counties do not provide a sinking fund and never have to provide for paying the principal of the bonds—the five per cent for forty-one years wipes out the county's debt, while the state sells its bonds at four per cent interest. The whole proposition does not cost the state a cent but its action in the matter services to provide $600,000 a year to be spent in the state in good road building.

This is the scheme worked out by W. S. Wilson, of the state department, and adopted by the North Carolina Good Roads association. The application of the measure is left optional with each county. No county can issue its bonds under this plan, except after an election has been held and a majority of the votes cast must favor the issues. Such an election can not be called except upon petition of twenty-five per cent of the voters of the county. The advocates of the measure say there is no danger of over taxing the state's credit, because as fast as the state increases its liabilities it is increasing its assets, as it always has county bonds at five per cent as collateral to its own bonds at four per cent.

Substitute For Banking Bill.

Raleigh.—The Senate Committee on Banking and Currency will report favorably a substitute for the general banking bill endorsed by the North Carolina Bankers' Association. It establishes the office of Superintendent of Banks, at a salary of $3,250, to appoint and have charge of three bank examiners, one chief examiner at a salary of $2,400 and two assistants at $1,800 each, provides for two examinations annually of all banks, gives discretion to Corporation Commission to refuse to charter a bank, prohibiting banks from starting business with less than $10,000 in cash, empowers Corporation Commission to appoint receivers to wind up the affairs of banks declared insolvent.

Two New Tax Districts in Onslow.

Raleigh.—Onslow county has added two local tax districts within a week and now has fifteen. The election several days ago determined that No. 6 district and one adjoining it would levy a special tax. The superintendent of public instruction does not indicate what are the provisions of the levy. The amount of revenue raised by it is not known. But it is known that Onslow has fifteen of the thirteen hundred or more that North Carolina now has.

Acquitted of Murder Charge.

Asheville.—Joseph Price, a white man of Marion, charged with the murder of John Allen, colored, in August, 1911, was acquitted by a jury according to a telephone message received here. Price was arrested on the statement of his 16-year-old son that his father had slain Allen in order to get the gold which the negro was supposed to carry on his person.

Disagreement in Huff Case.

Asheville.—After being out for 82 hours the jury in the case of John Huff, a negro charged with the killing of Edward McConnell, a member of the local police force on July 4, 1911, had not reached a verdict at last report, and a disagreement is expected. Mr. McConnell was shot on the Fourth of July by a negro prisoner whom he had arrested. Wess Brewer, also colored has been in the county jail for a year and a half charged with the crime on which Huff now awaits the jury's verdict.

New Train For Patrons of Southern.

Raleigh.—The Corporation Commission has set a hearing on the matter of giving to the patrons of the Southern Railway a new train between Sanford and Mount Airy, and March 12, in Greensboro, this question will be taken up. Travel has become heavy on the branch road between these two points and the trains now running are said to be unequal to the demands made upon the service. This road connects with the Seaboard and with the Norfolk and Western and much travel depends upon it.

WILL BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

ENTIRE SECOND DIVISION OF U. S. ARMY TO BE ASSEMBLED AT GALVESTON.

MEXICO HAS BEEN WARNED

The Soldiers Are Held in Readiness to Await Any Order That President Elect Wilson May Wish Executed When He Comes Into Office.

Washington.—Military orders fell thick and fast in redemption of President Taft's promise to have an army of 10,000 men assembled at Galveston, the most convenient patrol to Mexico, all equipped for foreign service and ready to execute any order that his successor might choose to issue upon the basis of conditions that will exist after March 4. These orders were supplementary to those which left the War Department last week and were calculated to insure assemblage of the second division of the reorganized army at or in the neighborhood of Galveston. The completion of the orders to move the entire second division is intended as further warning to Mexico that there will be no departure from the established policy of preparedness during the remaining week of President Taft's Administration. All plans for the possible sending of troops into Mexico will continue with the same minuteness of detail which would characterize official orders had the present acute conditions arisen in Mexico at any time earlier in the strife which has rent that Republic since the first uprising against Porfirio Diaz more than two years ago. This course is based on the ground that any cessation in the closing days or even hours of the Taft Administration might be seized hold of by Mexican malcontents as an opportunity for a strike at Americans, which could not be adequately overcome should officials here relax their vigilance.

Americans Held For Ransom.

Austin, Tex.—Governor Colquitt ordered four companies of Texas State militia to proceed to Brownsville with all haste when it was reported to him that Americans had been arrested and held for ransom at the Mexican town of Matamoras, across the boundary from Brownsville, when they refused to contribute money to the officials in charge of Matamoras. The Governor also sent this message to Captain Head, in command of the Brownsville company of the Texas National Guard:

"Notify Mexican commander at Matamoras who is demanding money that if he harms a single Texan, his life will be demanded at a forfeit."

Money Trust Committee Busy.

Washington.—The house money committee took up with Counsel Samuel Untermyer details of its report. Mr. Untermyer presented a long analysis of testimony with a number of recommendations for remedial legislation. With these as a basis, the committee expects to complete a report to the house in the near future. Several points in Mr. Untermyer's recommendations caused spirited discussion. Among them were the regulation of interlocking directorates in interstate corporations, the regulation of stock exchanges and proposed Federal control of clearing houses.

Are Pleased With Date Named.

Washington.—Democratic senators and representatives expressed satisfaction with the date fixed by President-elect Wilson for assembling of the extra session. The interval between March and April 1 will allow for the remodeling of the house chamber to take care of the fifty members added through the reappointment. "That date is satisfactory to me," said Democratic Leader Underwood. "The plans for the extra work in the house are well under way."

Personnel of Cabinet in Doubt.

Trenton, N. J.—With his inauguration not a week off, President-elect Wilson has not yet been able to make a final choice as to the personnel of his cabinet. The lines are admittedly drawn closer and the field is narrowing, but the status of the slate showed incompletion in some of the most important posts. By the governor's most intimate friends it is believed that William J. Bryan certainly will be secretary of state. It is known that Mr. Bryan and the president-elect are in frequent communication.

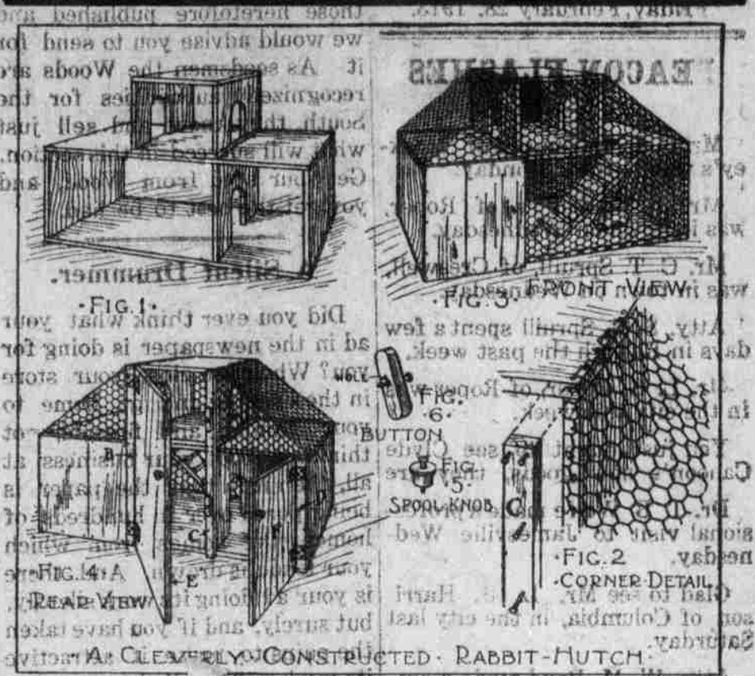
Uncle Sam and Huerta Government.

Washington.—The extent to which recognition may be extended by the United States to the Huerta government has not been determined. This probably will depend upon recommendations of Ambassador Wilson, who has been given discretionary authority. The question is to be brought to an issue very soon, through some applications from the Huerta government, which it is understood is not disposed to consider satisfied with the action of Ambassador Wilson in recognizing it as a de facto governmment.

BOYS' HANDICRAFT

By A. NEELY HALL

Author of "Handicraft for Handy Boys" and "The Boy Craftsman"



A CLEVERLY CONSTRUCTED RABBIT-HUTCH.

The rabbit hutch shown in the illustrations probably differs very materially from anything of the sort that you have seen. You will notice that it combines a nest compartment and runway on the first floor, and that an incline from the runway leads to an upper deck that contains a sun parlor at each end and an open-front compartment in the center. If you do not want a breeding hutch, the nest compartment may be omitted and the lower story left in one large runway. Another change that may be made in the plan is the enclosing of the upper open compartment, for a nest, instead of the end of the first story. These changes are easily arranged.

It will be easiest to build the hutch out of grocery boxes, but of course if you have some good boards you will have the advantage in building it up of being able to make it of just the proportions you wish to have it. The lower portion of the hutch should be about 3 feet 6 inches long, 16 inches wide, and 14 inches high, and the upper center compartment should be about 14 inches long, the width of the lower story, and 12 inches high. If you use boxes, the bottom boards, of each, as well as the cover boards, should be removed. Cut a doorway in each end of the short box, about 3½ inches wide and 5 inches high, with an arched top; then fasten the short box to the side of the long box, in the position shown in Fig. 1.

Cut the partition A to fit between the sides of the lower box, directly under one of the ends of the upper box as shown in Fig. 1. Before fastening this in place, cut a doorway through it similar to those in the ends of the upper box.

Cut an opening in the second story floor for the stairway, and make an incline out of a strip several inches wide, with small crosspieces nailed to it several inches apart to extend from floor to floor.

Wire netting with 1-inch hexagonal mesh is best for covering the open portions of the hutch. This can be purchased at any hardware store. You will need some double-pointed tacks with which to fasten it in place. The wire enclosure of the little end sun parlors may be put on as shown in Fig. 2, one piece being for each and bent down to cover the triangular sides; or the top and two side pieces may be cut out and their edges lapped and twisted together. Cut the strips B, C, and D (Fig. 4) 2 inches wide, and nail them to the rear edges of the boxes as shown. Then cut the door E to fit between strips B and C, and door F to fit between C and D, and hinge them to strips B and D, respectively. Cut a spool into halves, and with a small screw fasten each half to a door for a knob (Figs. 4 and 5). Cut a couple of wooden buttons (Fig. 6) and screw them to the center strip C, as a means for fastening the doors. Now, all that remains to be done to complete the rabbit hutch is the enclosing of the front of the nest compartment (Fig. 3), and the remainder of the rear of the first story (Fig. 4).

As rabbits are very sensitive to moisture, the bottom of the hutch should not be kept upon the ground, but raised 20 inches or more. It may be placed upon a bench or packing-case, or you can fasten strips to the ends for legs.

It is essential to keep the inside of a rabbit hutch clean, and in order to have it so it is necessary to give the runways a thorough cleansing twice a week. Spread a thick layer of sawdust over the floors. This can be procured from the grocer, if your workshop does not furnish a large enough supply. A portion of the old sawdust can usually be used a second time. Place some hay in the breeding compartment for the nest, and do not forget to supply a drinking receptacle. A small earthen dish is best for water, because it will stand solidly upon the floor of the hutch and is not likely to be upset.

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TRUST MAN OF CHARACTER

World Has Confidence in His Judgment and Wise Conduct, and Relies on Him.

There is no virtue without a characteristic beauty to make it particularly loved of the good and to make the bad ashamed of their neglect of it. To do what is right, angles superior tastes as well as morals; and those whose practice is evil feel an inferiority of intellectual power and enjoyment, even where they take no concern for a principle. Doing well has something more in it than the fulfilling of a duty. It is a cause of a just sense of elevation of character; it clears and strengthens the spirits; it gives higher reaches of thought; it widens our benevolence and makes the current of our peculiar affections swift and deep.

A sacrifice was never yet offered to a principle that was not made up to us by self approval and the consideration of what our degradation would have been had we done otherwise. Certainly, it is a pleasant and a wise thing, then, to follow what is right, when we only go along with our affections and take the easy way of the virtuous propensities of our nature.

The world is sensible to these truths; let it act as it may. It is not because of his integrity alone that it relies on an honest man; but it has more confidence in his judgment and wise conduct, in the long run, than in the schemes of those of greater intellect, who go at large without any landmarks of principle. So that virtue seems of a double nature, and to stand oftentimes in the place of what we call talent.—R. R. Dana.

Domestic Tragedy.

"Your wife isn't entertaining as much as she was?"

"No. She hasn't any social secretary now."

"How is that?"

"Why, she had a secretary, you know, and I didn't like her. I smiled at her sweetly. My wife saw me. One of us had to go."

THERE ON TIME, OR WALK

Elevator Man, in Saturline, Much Had Planned Discomfiture of the Close-Fisted.

There were half a dozen resplendently attired persons of both sexes waiting for the elevator when Mr. Topflo' floor came in the other evening and Algernon glanced gloomily at them as they trooped into the car. When they traaped out again at the fourth floor he remarked:

"De Flosstein, dey's giving noder o' der en'tainmen's dis ebenin'. It de fo't dis week an' dis am only T'ursday. Does dey gibe large en'tainmen's? Yas sah, I should say dey did. Dis elebater be runnin' up an' down an' up an' down a-cryin' dem to de next hour. De's ten head o' dem in de Flosstein's partmens now, an' der'll be fifteen mo' befo' nine 'clock. Dey come f'om all ove', some in dem come in trolley cr's, some in autymobiles an' some comes a-foot an' I elebates dem people up an' I elebates 'em down, but der ain' one o' dem dat'll gi' me so much as a dime fo' doin' it.

"It mos' nine 'clock now, Mistoh Topflo'," pursued Algernon solemnly, looking at his big nickel watch, "at twelve or mebbe one 'clock dey'll all come out an' dey'll all wan't gis on de elebater to once, an' I jes' has to stan' an argy wif 'em an' show 'em dat de elebater ain' made to hol' mo'n six or seben, an' dat ef dey resist in gittin' on, dey's sho' riskin' deir life. But der's one t'ing 'bout it," concluded Algernon with decision, "w'en dey come out tonight, ef dey isn't out by twelve 'clock, dey all has to walk down dem stairs, 'cos dis heyah elebater, it gwine stop runnin' at perzackly twelve 'clock to de minute."

She Wanted to Know.

"Every human being," said the professor, "sends out psychic waves."

"Do I sent out psychic waves?" demanded the pretty girl.

"You do."

"And are they marcelled?"