

With the Legislature

(By Emmet Atkins, Jr.)

Raleigh, Feb. 20.—As the General Assembly this week swung into its seventh full week of work, two salient points were apparent to close observers of the thusfar mild and relatively unproductive session. First, that the Legislators will very likely be in Raleigh until well into April, instead of breaking up toward the middle of March as was expected at the outset, due mainly to the increasing schism between the two money committees and their inability to make the revenue and spending bills jibe. Second, the more astonishing, is the fact that to date no strong leadership nor coordinated group has displayed itself in the House. As a rule, by the end of the first four weeks of the session, some leader has emerged on the floor of the House with a fairly solid bloc behind him, a definite program in mind, and the momentum and cooperation of his group to push his program through to a concerted if not early, finish.

The men who were expected to emerge as leaders this session with a definite program in mind have so far shown no indications of grasping the reins. The absence of any leadership in the house has caused the session to be one of apparent listlessness, with House members floundering without any leadership behind which to unite, and without the necessary impetus to drive through a united program of legislation. The most recognizable clue to this is the ever-widening rift between appropriations and revenue, which if not soon breached, augurs stormy sessions during the next few weeks.

As a result of this situation a persistent rumor was abroad in Raleigh this week-end to the effect that Dr. Ralph McDonald, unsuccessful candidate for Governor in the last election, will be discharged in a day or so from the sanatorium where he has been recuperating from an illness for the past two years, and may re-

turn to Raleigh within two weeks to attempt to organize a united bloc in the House. McDonald's followers in the House are legion, and his return to Raleigh would be accompanied with explosive possibilities.

The Appropriations committee wound up the week almost ready to take final action on a bill which is substantially in accord with the original appropriations measure recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee. The Finance Committee, on the other hand, lopped off an additional million dollars from the revenue bill during the week, which brought the revenue measure down to almost a million and a half dollars below the original estimated income for the next biennium. In round figures, appropriations now stand \$180,116 over the total recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission. It is understood, however, that a \$198,000 increase previously voted for vocational education will be lopped off, bringing the budget approximately \$18,000 under original budget recommendations. As the revenue bill now stands, it is approximately \$1,650,000 below original estimate. Main beneficiaries of last week's million-dollar cut in revenue were the railroads and the ABC stores operating in 27 wet counties. The franchise tax on railroads was reduced from 90 to 70 one-hundredths of one per cent of the valuation for ad valorem taxes, resulting in a loss to the state of \$500,000 in revenue for the two years. The budget proposal to increase the tax on county liquor stores from 7 to 10 per cent of the gross receipts was defeated by an overwhelming vote. This will reduce the revenue for the 1939-41 period by approximately \$425,000.

Faced with the problem of bridging the two million dollar chasm between the spending and income measures, Senate and House took an unprecedented step Friday in appointing a single 16-

These Three Have Free Tickets to Theatre Awaiting



Snapped by The Tribune photographer, the three people pictured above will each receive two free tickets to the Lyric theatre if they will kindly call in person at The Tribune office. More tickets will be given away next week to the lucky three who are pictured in this space at that time. Watch for the cameraman. He'd just as soon take your picture as anyone else's.—(Tribune Photos).

man sub-committee, representing all four money committees, to begin a series of sessions with a view to bringing the two money bills into line. This is the first time in North Carolina legislative annals that Appropriations and Finance committee members have ever actually worked together, although they have in the past met together for informal sessions. The formal merging of the two into one committee represents a distinct departure, and one that might be followed permanently in the future if it proves productive of good results. The money bills were slated to reach the floor of the House the latter part of last week, but it now appears that another week or ten days will be necessary to get them into shape to bring out of committee. Committee chairmen are determined not to report the bills until they are in balance.

After a whirlwind campaign in which they sought restoration of the salary cuts inflicted by recalcitrant legislators last week, the State's grade school teachers had at week's end won a partial victory, although a hollow one. Four days of intensive lobbying by the teachers resulted in a restoration of the original budget allotment for public schools, but the ninth pay increment so fervently desired by them was excluded in the committee recommendation. As finally passed by the committee, the measure restores to the school fund the original budget figure, but at the same time provides that the extra funds earmarked for a substantial salary increase for teachers with nine years experience be used instead to "adjust" salaries of classroom teachers all along the line. Analyzed, this means that instead of the \$5-a-month raise for nine-year teachers, a maximum average raise of \$1-a-month may be voted by the school commission, which will have control of the extra funds. Thus, the schools will get the money originally allotted them, but salary increases will be negligible.

The hazy but battered election reform measure seemed to gain support during the past week. Studied by a sub-committee earlier in the week, it emerged into the full committee toward the end of the week and is expected to receive favorable action at the hands of the Election Laws committee at its next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday of this week. The bill abolishes voting in the primaries and greatly restricts its use in general elections.

The wet and dry forces in the legislature went into a clinch last week as public hearings were held on the Umstead bill—a measure proposing to establish State liquor warehouses in cities with over 35,000 population to sell only to residents of dry counties. Hearings on the bill brought out a strong contingent of dry forces under the wing of Cale K. Burgess, president of the United Dry Forces of North Carolina. Declaring that the attempt to raise revenue from the "mail-order" sale of liquor was a "pernicious doctrine," the dry leaders retaliated against the measure by demanding of the wets a state-wide referendum on the entire liquor question. The wets showed no signs of accepting the challenge.

House and Senate Labor committees have arranged to begin joint public hearings Tuesday of this week on the Administration-supported wage and hour bill, which has to date aroused widespread opposition from a large number of affected groups. The hearings will be the longest held in years on any single proposal.

ZEPHYR

Mrs. Etye Parks and family spent last Sunday in High Point visiting Miss Juanta Parks.

Of cordial interest to friends in this community and elsewhere is the marriage of Miss Minerva Laster to Dewey Melton. They are both of this community.

The following teachers from the Zephyr school faculty attended the teachers meeting in Dobson last Friday evening at 2:30 o'clock: Mrs. Hattie Douglass, Mrs. E. C. Smith, and Mr. R. B. Blackwelder, principal.

We are glad to learn that Miss Stella Mounce, who has been sick for the past few weeks with pneumonia, is much improved. We wish for her a rapid recovery.

Several of the young people of this community have been attending the ball games at Mountain Park this week. After each game the gymnasium is turned into a skating rink which provides entertainment for all.

Mrs. Lena Dockery of Elkin spent last week here with Mrs. Etye Parks and family.

Mack Parks spent last Saturday in Elkin on business.

Mr. G. G. Tucker, of Winston-Salem is spending a few days here this week attending to business affairs.

The farmers of this community are glad to see the warm weather that was here this week and last. Several are preparing tobacco plant beds.

PLEASANT HILL

Rev. I. W. Vestal filled his regular appointment at Pleasant Hill Saturday and Sunday. Rev. D. W. Day preached Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Gentry and visited Mr. and Mrs. David Darnell Sunday. In the afternoon they motored to the mountains.

Mrs. D. W. Day of this community and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Freeman of Elkin visited Mrs. Ida Howell of Winston-Salem Sunday.

The F. H. C. Class will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday February 23, at the church at 7 o'clock.

The Sunshine quartet sang at the Baptist church in Arlington Sunday night.

Mrs. Harvey Gentry and son, Jack, of Boonville spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Darnell of this community.

Mrs. Martha Collins is ill at this writing.

Mrs. Lula Bryant spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Raymond Ray.

The measles are still raging in this community.

The barn of Mr. Otis Couch burned Monday morning. About 170 small chicks were burned to death.

STATE ROAD

Rev. Claude Fincher of Pilot Mountain was a guest speaker at Pleasant Ridge Sunday night. Rev. Fincher only a young man in years proved to be a very brilliant and impressive preacher. We hope to see him a lot in the future.

Mrs. Bessie Smith shows no improvement from a serious illness, we regret.

Messrs. Dock Stanley and Samuel Gilliam of Benham were the guests of friends here Sunday.

Mrs. L. C. Lowe and daughters, Hazel and Stella, visited relatives here Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Allen Poteat and Mrs. Lee Faucett were the week-end guests of their sister, Mrs. Bessie Smith.

Salem Fork News

The Salem Fork home decoration club met with Mrs. R. L. Brown Thursday February 16, at 2 o'clock, with 12 members and 4 visitors present.

The meeting opened with Mrs. N. J. Martin, president, presiding. "The Collect" was repeated and a song, "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean," was sung. The secretary, Mrs. R. L. Brown, read the minutes of the previous meeting. The roll call was answered with, "New ways of doing everyday things."

Mrs. Grace Brown gave a very interesting talk on planning the home garden. Mrs. Jack Layne, the home beautification leader, showed a very attractive chair back made from old felt hats.

Mrs. N. J. Martin prepared a meat loaf, and Mrs. Grace Brown gave leaflets on preparing and serving meats.

The hostess served refreshments. Rev. Hoffman of Copeland filled his regular appointment at the Salem Fork Church of Christ, Saturday night and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hutchens of Dobson spent the week-end here visiting relatives.

We are glad to note that the small child of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Corner is improving from a recent illness.

Mr. Grover Simmons made a business trip to Elkin and Winston-Salem last Thursday.

Miss Irene and Joyce Martin attended the skating party at Mountain Park, Saturday night. Several from here attended the

Negro Minstrel, at Dobson Friday night presented by the junior class.

Pleasant Ridge

We had 115 present for Sunday school Sunday morning and a number of visitors. Among the visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Thurmond Gentry and Oda Gentry. Oda Gentry made a splendid talk to the Sunday school, which was greatly enjoyed. A cordial welcome is extended the public to attend Sunday school at our church.

Rev. Claude Fincher delivered a splendid sermon at the evening service at our church Sunday. A good congregation was present for the service.

Regular services will be held at the church next Sunday. A cordial invitation is extended the public to attend.

We have a number of cases of measles in this community, we are sorry to note.

EVERYTHING

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Mrs. Poteat and Mrs. Faucett are from Greensboro.

Minor colds are numerous in this community, mostly due to changes in the weather, we presume.

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