

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

HAPPENING OF INTEREST IN
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
NORTH CAROLINA.

SENATE KILLS AUDUBON BILL

Bills Introduced Providing for Creation of Two New Counties Out of Robeson County.

Raleigh.—The following are among the features of general interest marking a week's work of the North Carolina General Assembly:

The Senate.
Feb. 21.—Senator Sisk, member from Macon, put in a bill to amend materially the absentee election statute, making it obligatory for the registrars to turn over to the county boards of elections all ballots cast by absent electors. These are to be kept for six months and together with the registration books shall be open to inspection to anyone desiring to do so.

Passage of bill providing for uniform system of recorders' courts for cities of 5,000 population and over and all counties of the State and defeat of Senator Ferebee's proposed State-wide stock law featured a busy session of the Senate yesterday.

The House.

Committee reports included favorable action on the bill introduced by Mr. Matthews to divide the State into five judicial circuits and restrict the resident judge to each district in the twelve months at a time. The house judiciary committee, number one, reported unfavorably the senate bill introduced by Senator Price to set aside November 11 as a legal holiday in North Carolina.

Confirming a forecast some time ago, Representative Neal, of McDowell county, introduced a bill to abolish the State-wide primary act insofar as it relates to State, Congressional and District offices. The last class would include judges, solicitors and State senators representing more than one county.

The Senate.

Feb. 22.—The Warren bill for the election of school boards by vote of the people in the respective counties came from the committee on education with unfavorable report and Senator Warren procured, under Rule 51, the placing of the bill on the calendar so that the issue can be fought out on the floor of the senate.

New bills were introduced as follows:

Adoption of the conference committee report of the committee on the State-wide dog law. Senator Stevens thought the leaving of the question of requiring tax tag and collar to the discretion of the county commissioners was undesirable but considered this the best that could be obtained at this time. The conference report was adopted.

The House.

The house passed on final reading and ordered engrossed and sent to the senate Saturday the revenue bill, an amendment being accepted to allow blind men and Confederate veterans to sell pianos and organs without a license.

Bills passed:

Extend the period of compulsory education in Charlotte.

Amend the law as to licensing embalmer.

Require all State officers making collections of fees and taxes to make return to the State treasurer.

The Senate.

Feb. 24.—Senator Warren procured the passage of his bill for the popular election of county school boards by the people, through the senate on second reading, with the understanding that opposition to the bill and to features of the measure can be fought out on the final reading.

The senate cleared from the calendar some local bills and adjourned.

The House.

The house was convened at 3

Labor Surpluses Increasing.

Washington (Special).—The United States employment service reported an increase in labor surpluses for this week over last week. "Slight shortages are still reported from Charleston and Columbia, S. C., with a general shortage of labor throughout the state.

"North Carolina shows slight shortages of carpenters, laborers and women cigar workers. Common laborers are plentiful in the larger towns. Raleigh reports an equality of labor supply and demand.

Demand Handy's Dismissal.

The house thrashed out in the most heated and indignant manner the "Handy" slander on the western Carolina mountaineers as to the rounding up of draft deserters and finally adopted the moderate senate resolutions and referred the resolutions offered by Turner, of Mitchell county, denouncing Federal Agent Frederick Handy as personally responsible for the slander, and calling for his dismissal from the service, to a committee for recommendation.

o'clock by Speaker Brummitt. New bills were introduced as follows:
Gold—Amend the North Carolina lien law. Amend the 1917 vital statistics law.

In the last hour of the late afternoon session the house first amended the Everett bill to regulate the conferring of degrees by colleges and then tabled the measure. The amendment was by Williams, of Cabarrus, to cut out the endowment feature. "Williams making the plea that the bill would create something of an aristocracy in educational degrees.

A bill to raise the pay of members of the county boards of pensions to \$4 a day was much discussed and then amended to apply only to Robeson.

House and Senate.

Feb. 25.—The senate completed the consideration of the revenue bill in committee of the whole today, making few changes in the bill as it came from the house. The tax on dealers in revolvers was cut to \$25 with the tax on cartridge dealers one-fourth. An amendment by Long of Halifax to strike out the sections providing the income tax was voted down.

The senate killed the State-wide Audubon bill providing State game laws and a game warden.

The house killed the bill to annex Williams township, Chatham county, to Durham county.

Bills were introduced by Sellers to create two new counties out of Robeson, one to be known as Liberty county with St. Pauls as county seat, and the other as LaFayette with Rowland as county seat.

Representative Mull, for the special committee of the house appointed to draft a State highway bill that the legislature can get together on and make sure of full participation in federal aid road funds the next two years, introduced the committee bill. It provides that automobile license taxes shall be \$9 to \$10, according to horsepower, and license for trucks \$40 to \$100, with \$20 per ton for trailers.

The senate passed the Stacy bill to require counties to establish juvenile courts with the clerk of the court as judge.

The Senate.

Feb. 26.—The senate passed on final reading without discussion the Warren bill for popular election of county school boards.

Senator Long, of Montgomery, introduced a bill to require registrars of election to furnish official lists of those registered in their precincts to the candidates for office of all parties.

In committee of the whole, the senate amended the revenue bill to impose a tax of \$250 for amusement parks where admissions are charged, excepting baseball parks.

The House.

The house entered into a strenuous discussion of the child labor bills, the Saunders bill and the Neal substitute, that differed mainly in point of composition of the commission to enforce the child labor law, the Saunders bill having the state commissioner of labor as the enforcing official and the Neal substitute the commissioner of public welfare.

In the end the Neal substitute was adopted by a large majority and amendments were voted down to incorporate the eight-hour day and substitute the commissioner of labor for the commissioner of public welfare.

The Senate.

Feb. 27.—The senate took up the health bills that had been pending as requested by the state department of health and all six of them were passed with only minor amendments.

The last of these measures is that requiring health certificates for the issuance of marriage licenses. It prohibits the granting of licenses to persons drunk or under the influence of drugs and requires a certificate of health, particularly of freedom from venereal diseases, before a marriage license can be issued.

The House.

The house defeated, by a vote of 27 to 42, the bill by Matthews of Bertie to divide the State into five circuits for superior court judges instead of the present system of rotating in 10 districts.

The house also had its "knock-out" rounds for bills to increase the salaries of the assistant attorney general and the supreme court reporter Gardner, of Yancey. In leading the opposition, said he would oppose all salary increases until what he considered adequate provision has been made for the old Confederate soldiers.

Revaluation of Real Estate.

A complete revaluation of all real estate in North Carolina at full market value during the next 12 months and a special session of the legislature, in May, 1920, to reduce the tax rate, fixing it in proportion to the increases in the property valuations, are contemplated in a bill to be known as the Gray-Doughton bill, unanimously approved by the joint finance committee. Indications are that there will be practically no opposition to the bill in either house.

Mill Men Arraigned.

"The textile manufacturers of North Carolina are not honest on child labor legislation; they merely think they are," according to Representative W. O. Saunders, the introducer of the Connor-Saunders bill which has met with the stubbornest resistance from cotton manufacturers in North Carolina. Mr. Saunders admits the cotton mill men say they are honest but he insists that the evidence is against them. In support of this stand he draws a brief, covering the legislative situation with a scathing criticism of cotton mill methods.

DEDUCTION FROM TAX ARE LIBERAL

MERCHANTS MAY DEDUCT FROM
RETURN ALL AMOUNTS PAID
OUT FOR ADVERTISING.

IMMUNITIES OF PHYSICIANS

Farmers Deductions Consist Partly in Cost of Seed and Fertilizer Used, and Harvesting of Crops.

Statesville.—That deductions more liberal than those embraced in any of the previous income tax-acts, for business expenses, are allowed under the new revenue law, is a fact that Collector Watts, of this district, is calling to the attention of the taxpayers throughout his division. Discouraging further upon this subject Mr. Watts said:

"Business expenses are the amounts actually paid or incurred during the tax year in the conduct of a business, trade or profession.

"A merchant may claim as deductions the amount paid for advertising, hire of clerks, and other employees, the cost of light and fuel, water, telephone, etc., used in his place of business, the cost of operating delivery wagons, motor trucks, and incidental repairs to such vehicles. Amounts expended in entertaining out-of-town customers may be deducted if the sole purpose is to cultivate the good will of the customer and obtain an increase in trade.

"A physician may claim as deductions the cost of medicines and medical supplies used by him in his practice, a reasonable proportion of the expenses paid in the maintenance and repair of an automobile used in making professional calls, the expenses of attending medical conventions, dues to medical societies and subscriptions to medical journals, the rent paid for office rooms, the cost of heat, light, water, telephone, etc., used in such office rooms and the hire of office assistants. The same deductions are allowed a dentist.

"The farmer may deduct all amounts paid out in preparing his land for a crop and the cultivation, harvesting and marketing of the crop. The cost of seed and fertilizer used and amounts expended in caring for livestock are deductible items. The cost of minor repairs to farm buildings other than dwellings, and of fences, farm machinery and wagons may be claimed, also the cost of farm tools which are used up in the course of a year or two and of materials for immediate use such as binding twine, stock powders, etc.

Another Industry For Charlotte.

Arrangements are being made which are expected to result in the bringing to Charlotte about 10,000 tons of soapstone annually from Hemp, 85 miles east of this city on the Norfolk Southern railroad, to be ground, and talc extracted by the Oliver Quartz Company, which will be shipped to northern points, according to W. S. Creighton, of the Charlotte Shippers and Manufacturers' Association. Soapstone is gathered at Hemp.

Heretofore, the soapstone has been ground by a plant at Hemp and shipped direct to northern points. The Oliver Quartz Company, since the outbreak of the war, has been engaged almost solely in the manufacture of acid proof cement for the government and war contracts having been filled, the company is to turn to the grinding of soapstone and shipping of talc as one of its peace-time activities.

Webb to Get Judgeship.

Washington.—President Wilson said that he would appoint the federal judge for North Carolina right away, and added that he had made up his mind to name Representative Webb. This information is accurate.

It is believed now that the President will act immediately after Congress adjourns. It will be a recess appointment.

Teachers Are Poorly Paid.

Charlotte.—The average salary paid teachers in 1918 was \$248 less a year than the average wage paid to scrub-women in the United States navy yard," stated a card received by County School Superintendent J. M. Matthews from the University of North Carolina education extension service, urging general support of the new educational bill introduced in Congress by Congressman Townner, of Iowa. This bill, the card stated, provides for the establishment of a federal department of labor.

Boy Mangled by Dynamite.

Statesville.—Herman Pharr, 17-year-old schoolboy, had his hand badly mangled while en route to school with a piece of dynamite in his pocket. Just how the accident occurred cannot be explained by the boy except that he was fingering with the explosive while it lay in his pocket and it suddenly "went off." His motive for having had such a dangerous piece of paraphernalia in his possession could not be learned. Doctor say it may be necessary to amputate the wounded hand.

CAMP GREENE IS GIVEN AWAY

Company Composed of Land Owners of Site Acquire Title to the Entire Property for \$25,000.

Washington (Special).—The war department has practically made Charlotte a present of Camp Greene. It has turned over the camp, lock, stock and barrel, to the company composed of land owners of the site, represented by Mr. E. C. Griffith, for the nominal sum of \$25,000. Charlotte is to assume all liabilities that might arise.

The papers were signed by the war department authorities this morning and the Camp Greene deal is officially and finally closed. There were two other bids for the camp, but the department was inclined to give Charlotte preference.

Manager Griffith says he expects the camp will be turned over to his company by March 15.

His plans for development of the camp into an industrial and manufacturing suburb are well advanced, some deals having been already closed. Among these is one by which the splendid laundry building completed about the time the armistice was signed, will be utilized as a spinning mill.

Public Income Tax Exempt.

Statesville.—Officers and employees of a state or a political subdivision thereof, such as a county, city or town, will not be required to pay income tax on their salaries, wages and official fees received during 1918, according to rulings of the internal revenue bureau at Washington, copies of which were received at the office of Collector Watts. In determining his liability to file a return and to pay income tax, under the new revenue law, any such officer or employee may omit such compensation from his gross income. With respect to any taxable income he may have received in 1918 from other sources, he is subject to all the provisions of the law, and must file a return if such other income amounted to \$1,000 or more or \$2,000 or more dependent upon his married or single status.

Will Lift Embargo on Crabs.

Washington.—Shipments of soft shell crabs from Eastern North Carolina to destinations north of the Potomac river and points west of the Ohio river can proceed uninterrupted after March 1. The embargo of the product that finds favor on tables north and west will be lifted then.

To the Tar Heel who resides far inland, the idea of a soft shell crab industry big enough to invite an order from the United States railroad administration may provoke laughter. However, the industry brings into Carteret county alone something like \$75,000 during the rush season of March, April and May.

An Effective Liquor Law.

Morganton.—Wilson's Burke county liquor law has gone into effect with a rush and during the few days it has been in effect three alleged block-adees have been jailed. This being equal to any month previous.

The expense of being caught and tried now comes from the moonshiner and the fee, \$50, for each man caught in operating a still, is paid by the moonshiner himself instead of a county or government expense, as heretofore.

Registration of 789,813.

Washington (Special).—A total of 42,463 North Carolina men and 307,350 South Carolina men registered for selective service in the four registrations, according to figures included in the second annual report of Provost Marshal General Enoch Crowder to Secretary of War Baker, copies of which were received by the members of the local board for Charlotte. Of the North Carolinians, 105,922, or 46.29 per cent, were unmarried, and South Carolina had 65,733, or 45.43 per cent, single registrants. This state sent into the national army through the draft 41,690 men, while South Carolina sent 37,104, and of these 4,517 North Carolinians and 3,653 South Carolinians were rejected, leaving North Carolina a representation of 47,173 men in the national army and South Carolina 33,451.

Young Assin in Trouble.

Asheville.—Following a raid, made on the Langner hotel by S. Glenn Young, captor of the Crawleys, Guy S. Lavender, manager of the hotel, had a warrant issued for Young, charging the government agent with assault with a deadly weapon and false imprisonment for the period of one hour. Mr. Lavender charges Young with threatening to "fix" him (Lavender) following the payment of a hotel bill which Lavender says he required the agent to pay, and which Young denied he owed.

Bridge to Be Rebuilt.

Fayetteville.—Plans already under way for the erection of a new concrete bridge to replace the county bridge at Manchester burned, according to announcement made by F. L. Holcombe, member of the board of county commissioners. Mr. Holcombe, E. V. Eden and Albert Wade, commissioners, with an engineer and contractor, visited the scene of the fire and plans for the new bridge are being drawn now. Construction will be completed in 60 days.

NEW LOAN BILL IS PASSED BY SENATE

HOUSE HOLDS BRIEF SESSION
DISPOSING OF CONFERENCE
REPORT ON HOSPITALS.

MANY BILLS DOOMED TO FAIL

No Matter of Sufficient Importance to Require the Calling of an Extra Session Expected to Arise.

Washington.—The sixty-fifth congress entered upon its last full working day, facing an unprecedented mass of legislation, but with the contested "Victory loan" bill out of the way.

The senate remained in session all night to pass the loan bill, the key-stone measure of the calendar, while the house held a business session, disposing of the conference report on the hospital bill.

Passage of the loan bill without a record vote and in the identical form in which it came from the house definitely marked the course of future legislation and gave assurance that President Wilson would not find it necessary to change his plan of deferring a call of the new congress until after his return from France, probably in June.

Most Republicans favored an earlier extra session, but after Republican senators at a conference last night failed to reach any decision as to the advisability of obstructing the loan bill no filibuster was undertaken.

Although many important bills, including the \$720,000,000 navy appropriation measure with its authorization of a new three-year building program and the 1,215,000,000 army bill, apparently are doomed to certain failure, administration leaders believe that none is of sufficient importance to require an earlier call of congress, and that the president will adhere to his original plan, announced after he arrived from Paris.

Passage by the senate of the "Victory loan" bill, authorizing sale by the treasury of \$7,000,000,000 of new short term notes and \$1,000,000,000 for advances by the war finance corporation in extending American foreign commerce, came after a bitter controversy, a threatened Republican filibuster.

COAL AND OIL LAND LEASING BILL IS TALKED TO DEATH

Washington.—The oil and coal land leasing bill virtually was killed when obstruction led by Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin, Republican, prevented a vote on the conference report which had been adopted by the house. Managers and opponents of the bill agreed that there now is practically no chance of securing action on the bill before Congress adjourns.

Senator LaFollette spoke for three hours and a half and only yielded the floor to permit the adoption of the bill being laid before the senate with the understanding that if the oil bill was again brought up, he would not be barred from speaking again.

The Wisconsin senator devoted most of his address to an attack on the senate rules giving conference reports priority over other matters and on the practice of bringing in such reports on important bills late in the session.

Washington.—Forty per cent of the total known oil supply in the United States, exclusive of oil shale deposits, according to estimates transmitted by Secretary Lane to the senate commerce committee, in compliance with a resolution presented by Senator Ransdell, of Louisiana.

Up to last January 1, Mr. Lane said a total of 4,598,000,000 barrels had been produced, while the known available oil resources, not counting the shale deposits, in the ground and in field storage were estimated at 6,740,400,000 barrels. Distillation of shale deposits in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, however, would produce 78,000,000,000 barrels of oil, the secretary said.

LAST OF COASTWISE SHIPS RESTORED TO THEIR OWNERS

Washington.—Ships of the Merchants and Miners Transportation Company, engaged in Atlantic coastwise traffic were turned back to private management by the railroad administration. Officials of the company accepted the relinquishment which heretofore they have protested.

This action restores the last of the coastwise steamship lines not owned by railroads to private management.

40,000,000 RUSSIANS ENGAGE IN EFFORT TO SAVE COUNTRY

Paris.—Forty million Russians in organized governments are now, co-operating in a movement for a reunited Russia. These Russians are working and fighting, dying by hundreds and even by thousands daily, in an effort to save Russia from complete destruction; and all this is being done without a thought of political ambition," said Sergius Sazonoff, minister of foreign affairs in the Denikine government.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By Rev. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR MARCH 9

JOSHUA, PATRIOT AND LEADER.

LESSON TEXT—Joshua 1:1-2.
GOLDEN TEXT—Be strong and of a good courage.—Joshua 1:9.
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Joshua 1:10-11; 1:12-15.

PRIMARY TOPIC—A story of a brave leader. Memory Verse—Joshua 1:9.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Follow the right leader. Memory Verse—Deut. 1:7.
INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—When to be brave.

The book of Joshua is a history of the conquest of the promised land and its apportionment among the tribes of Israel. It takes its name from its principal character—Joshua. During the wilderness journey he was Moses' minister, and captain of his army. When Moses was denied the privilege of going over the Jordan, Joshua was appointed to the leadership of Israel. Being so long faithful as a servant, he is now qualified to rule. Only those who have themselves learned to obey are fit to rule. Moses, the representative of the law, brought Israel to the borders of Canaan. Joshua was the man chosen to lead the people into the place of rest. The name "Joshua" has the same derivation as the name "Jesus." The law (Moses) was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ; but Christ (our Joshua) has given us victory and rest.

I. Joshua's Call (1:1-2).

Moses, God's servant, is dead, but God's work must go on. He continues his work by calling others to take it up, though he buries his workers. Joshua, no doubt, was sorrowful over the loss of his master, but there is no time for mourning. The best way to cure our griefs and sorrows is to take up courageously the burdens and responsibilities which our leaders have laid down.

II. God Renews His Promise of the Land to Israel (1:3-4).

The promise had been made to Abraham, and renewed to Isaac, Jacob and Moses. It is now renewed to Israel when they are about to enter upon its possession. The borders of the land were quite large (v. 4) "from the wilderness and this Lebanon, even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast." The nearest it was ever possessed was during the reigns of David and Solomon, though not then fully realized. This country still belongs to the Jews, and in God's own time they shall possess it. Their getting possession of this land was due entirely to themselves. God promised them, that wherever their feet set upon the land it was theirs. If they failed to secure possession it was because they failed to claim it. We would all enjoy larger blessings if we would claim them.

III. God's Presence Promised to Joshua (1:5).

Joshua was entering upon a perilous and difficult enterprise, but the Lord said as he was with Moses so would he be with him. The difficulties before him were:

1. The Jordan river (v. 2). It was now at its flood (3:15), making it impossible for armies to cross.

2. In the land the people were living in walled cities. Notwithstanding this, God's help insured success. (1) "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee." (2) "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee." (3) "As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee."

IV. Conditions of Blessings in the Land (1:6-9).

1. "Be strong and of a good courage" (v. 6). His mission was to go in and divide the land among the tribes for an inheritance. God could not bless him if he should play the coward.

2. Unwavering obedience to the word of God (v. 7). In a land of idolatry it requires much courage to obey the true God. The prosperity and good success was conditioned upon unswerving obedience to God's commands. In all his work he must conform his life to the law of God.

To pass from the path outlined there in would bring disaster and ruin. In order to accomplish this the law of the Lord must constantly be in his mouth. He was to meditate therein day and night. If we are to prosper in our Christian experience there must be that regular and reverent study of God's Word. Joshua renders prompt obedience. He did not stop to cavil, but at once gave orders for the march. God made the plan and gave the directions. His responsibility was to go forward without doubting, taking possession of the inheritance.

Sacrifice.

A work that requires no sacrifice does not count for much in fulfilling God's plans. But what is commonly called sacrifice is the best, happiest use of one's self and one's resources—the best investment of time, strength, and means. He who makes no such sacrifice is most to be pitied. He is a heathen because he knows nothing of God.—Samuel Chapman Armstrong.

Thy Friend.

Make not thy friend too cheap to thee, nor thyself to thy friend.—Fulcan.