

BICKETT PRAISES THE LEGISLATURE

FAITH EXPRESSED IN CLOSING SENTENCE OF BIENNIAL MESSAGE FULLY JUSTIFIED.

SYMPATHY WITH NEW TIES

Revaluation Machinery Act, Complete Abandonment of a Standard That Was Hoary With Age.

Raleigh.—"An inspiring record" is the suggestive caption that Governor Bickett gives a special summary of important legislation that he prepared for the newspapers of the State, as reviewing the work of the 1919 legislature, just adjourned. He says that "its record will declare its glory" was the way he expressed his faith in this assembly in his message at the opening of the session and he is deeply grateful that its work had justified his "confession of faith."

The governor reviews the legislation of the session in a most gratified vein, beginning with the petition for a league of nations, ratification of the national prohibition amendment to the constitution; and in taxation, education, health and all the other avenues of legislative contact with the people, stressing especially the school, good roads, and health legislation. The Governor's summary follows:

The closing sentence of my biennial message to the general assembly of 1919 is: "My prayer to God is, and my faith is that when the general assembly of 1919 shall pass into history its record will declare its glory." I am deeply grateful that the work of the general assembly justifies the above confession of faith. It is not a perfect record. A careful reading of The Journal will disclose errors of commission, but, viewed in its entirety, it is an inspiring record.

In the very beginning the general assembly evidenced its sympathy with "the new tides running in the hearts of men." The general assembly of North Carolina enjoys the noble distinction of being the very first in the Union to petition the American peace commissioners in Paris to incorporate in the treaty of peace a league of nations that will deliver the world forever from the burdens and horrors of war.

The general assembly promptly ratified the federal prohibition amendment, and thus aided in cutting out of our social and political life the most fruitful source of poverty, disease and crime.

Taxation.
(1) The budget bill is abreast with the best thought of the times and will enable succeeding general assemblies to consider demands for the expenditure of public funds with a full knowledge of all essential facts.

(2) The income tax amendment to the constitution will enable the State to derive a reasonable avenue from sources well able to pay it, and will wipe out the discrimination now practiced against the man who earns a small income in favor of the man who collects a large one, and will make it possible for a succeeding general assembly to write a model tax law under which it will be unnecessary for the State to levy an ad valorem tax on real or personal property, but can leave all of this to the counties and towns.

(3) The revaluation machinery act marks the high tide in sane and progressive tax legislation in North Carolina. It is a complete abandonment of a standard, hoary with age and antiquity, and the establishment of a new standard of truth and justice. I am well within the bounds of conservative statement in saying that the fixed purpose of the general assembly to make all men come clean to the tax books will add more to the moral and material welfare of our people than all the tax laws that have been written in North Carolina since Virginia Dare first saw the light on Roanoke island.

Education.
It was a monumental achievement to get the people of North Carolina to insert in the organic law of the State a mandate that every child shall have a chance to go to school six months in the year. But it was a more difficult task to frame a wise and just law to carry out this constitutional mandate. This task has been accomplished so well that when the measure was fully explained many who "came to scoff remained to pray." In the beginning there seemed to be a hopeless division of opinion, but when the light was turned on these differences disappeared and practically all men of all parties now confess

Tale of Hun Gas Attacks.
Charlotte.—Lieutenant Terry Brady, a member of the first Canadian expeditionary forces, who was caught in the first of the German gas attacks at Ypres, Belgium, and who was wounded several times before being declared incapacitated for further military service, will deliver several illustrated lectures at the Piedmont theater each on separate days. He was a member of the Sixteenth Scotch-Canadian Highlanders and said he is one of the 17 surviving members of that original unit.

that the law as written is the very best that can be devised under the conditions that obtain.

Last year the average teacher received a salary of \$45 a month, and was employed four months in the year. Under a minimum wage law enacted by this general assembly the average teacher will receive approximately \$65 a month for a minimum term of six months.

The law requiring every child under fourteen years of age to go to school during the entire term of the public school in the district in which the child resides, and providing for the rigid enforcement of this law through a system of juvenile courts, gives North Carolina a compulsory school law that ranks with that of any State in the Union.

Health.
The general assembly made tremendous strides in health legislation. The steps taken for the protection of the health of this and future generations in themselves abundantly justify the existence of the present session of the general assembly.

In my opinion the most important and the most advanced step taken in the domain of health laws is the statute that gives authority to the medical staffs of our penal and charitable institutions to perform operations on inmates of these institutions that will make it impossible for incurable lunatics and imbeciles to "multiply and replenish the earth." The law carefully safeguards the patients and these operations can be performed only when in the judgment of the medical staff they will redound to the benefit of the patients.

The act that calls for the regular examination of every child who attends a public school in order to ascertain the existence of either physical or mental defects and the appropriation of \$50,000 per annum to correct these defects in indigent children breaks new ground in this field of legislation. This law is bottomed on the sound principle that Christian civilization cannot allow a child to stagger through life under the handicap of a curable physical or mental defect simply because the parents of that child may be stricken with poverty.

A series of acts was passed for the purpose of co-operating with the federal government in the suppression of vice and the prevention of diseases incident to vice. These measures are as follows:

The education of the public by suitable means regarding the cause and prevention of unhygienic sex life and venereal diseases.

The furnishing of free salvarsan, the specific for syphilis, for the treatment of all syphilitics of the State, and making provision throughout the State for free treatment of persons diseased with gonorrhoea, and syphilis, in order that these diseases may not be transmitted to others.

Social Welfare.
For the first time in the history of the State we now have the machinery for a unified State and county system of social welfare work. The state board of charities and public welfare, which has oversight over the state's charitable and penal institutions, has been given the right to appoint three persons in each county to act as a local welfare board and to advise with the local authorities on all matters pertaining to local conditions. In addition to this the legislature made it the duty of the board of education and the county commissioners in each county to elect, not later than July 15 next, a county superintendent of public welfare, who shall be an officer trained in all matters pertaining to constructive social work. This officer will be the chief school attendance officer and the chief probation officer of the county, charged especially with the duty of looking after delinquent and neglected children. His position is made to fit in with the compulsory attendance law and the new juvenile court law.

Good Roads.
The general assembly did good work in public road legislation: The road act passed by the general assembly for the purpose of meeting the requirements for obtaining aid from the federal government is not a perfect piece of legislation. It does not represent the views of any one member of the general assembly, but in the hands of a wise and fair commission it can be made the instrument of great good in the State. The work of the appropriation committee reflects great credit upon the intelligence and patriotism of that committee.

The Warehouse Act.
This act is designed to benefit the cotton growers of the State. It was passed upon the earnest insistence of those most deeply interested in the welfare of cotton growers. I hope that much good will result from this act, but I frankly confess that in my opinion the only way the cotton grower can win in his perpetual war with Wall street is to fight his battles behind breastworks of bread and bacon. A warehouse may enable him to win a single fight, but it can never make him win a war.

Gastonian Wins Cross.
Gastonia.—Capt. Erskine E. Boyce of the 113th Field Artillery, on service overseas, has recently been awarded the distinguished service cross. Captain Boyce is a son of Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Boyce and the people of this city share with his homefolks and friends in the pride over the splendid record he has made. Gastonia will also be interested to know that Major C. L. Pridgen, who has had many friends here, has been promoted to the position of brigade surgeon of the 56th brigade.

NO CHANGES IN HOLIDAYS

Proposition to Abolish Certain Holidays in State Is Tabled in Senate by a Decisive Vote.

Raleigh.—Inspired to eloquence by the State flag that hangs behind the presiding officer's chair in the senate chamber, Senator D. Z. Newton, of the county of Cleveland, and the town of Shelby, moved the senate to table the house bill to abolish April 12th, the anniversary of the signing of the constitution of 1776, as a legal holiday in North Carolina. Senator Gray had moved that January 19th and May 20th also be abolished as legal holidays in this State, arguing that they are not generally observed and that it proved a great inconvenience to banks on account of this fact.

"The only two dates on that flag are April 12th and May 20th," said Senator Newton with great earnestness as he marched to the front of the chamber. "I do not think we want to abolish those two red letter days in our State's history as holidays in North Carolina. Gentlemen, we have appropriated \$2,000 to aid in restoring the house at Halifax in which our first constitution was signed."

In New Church Building.

Salisbury.—The congregation of the First Methodist church deserted the tabernacle where they have been worshipping for the past three years and went into their handsome new church building. This structure has been built and furnished at a cost of about \$100,000. In equipment it is modern, and in beauty is hardly excelled by anything in the South. There is a seating capacity of 1,000 and the first service was attended by a congregation that was limited only by the size of the building.

Planning Automobile Show.

Greensboro.—Greensboro will have an automobile show this spring. It will be held March 25 to 29, inclusive. Last year's event was quite a success, and it is hoped that this year's affair will far surpass it. John Kelley, of Philadelphia, who managed the Gate City's first show, will be in charge, again for the occasion, and he is exceedingly enthusiastic over the outlook. The big brick warehouse on Greene street has been rented for the show, and Mr. Kelley is already engaged on plans.

Arrest of Blind Tiger.

Statesville.—Will Bell, a well-to-do farmer residing about 12 miles east of Statesville on the Winston-Salem post road, was arrested by Sheriff M. P. Alexander and Deputy Sheriff O. L. Woodliffe while in the act of operating an illicit distillery near his home. The officers came on him while he was at the plant and watched him from their hiding place for some time before closing in, in the hopes that they might apprehend others who were supposed to be connected with the plant.

North Carolinian in Trouble.

Washington.—North Carolinians are constantly getting in trouble. Here is an illustration: Henry Monroe Holt, railroad brakeman, from Fayetteville, who was arrested as he was boarding a train with 14 quarts of liquor in his possession, found himself in a dilemma following his release. Officials reached the conclusion that Holt had violated no law by bringing the liquor here, his intention being to leave on the first connecting train, and the liquor was ordered returned to him. If Holt remained in this city, it was pointed out, he would become amenable to prosecution under the bone dry law, and if he boarded a train and crossed the river into Virginia he would be liable to arrest. He said he knew he would be liable to arrest if caught in North Carolina, with it.

Three Debates on Program.

Wake Forest.—Following the arrangement of a third inter-collegiate debate with Emory and Henry College, of Emory, Va., the Wake Forest College debate council announces the following men have been selected to speak on this third debate, which will be held at Meredith College, Raleigh, on April 26. The debaters will be O. T. Glenn, Rougemont; and R. R. Mallard, of Allendale, S. C., with Mr. W. E. Honeycutt, of Yancey county, as alternate.

Charged With Immoral Conduct.

Greensboro.—Rev. A. R. Woodson, who has been superintendent of the Glade Valley high school for some time, was dismissed from his position and from all connection with this school, on his confession of immoral conduct, by the board of trustees. E. B. Eldridge, assistant superintendent, was placed in charge of the institution until permanent arrangements could be made. This institution is under the care of Orange presbytery, and S. M. Rankin is chairman of the board of trustees.

Missing Girl Is Located.

Salisbury.—Edna Edwards, 16-year-old Hickory girl, who has been hunted for five weeks and for whom the county of Catawba had offered \$50 reward and the town of Hickory, \$100, was found here by Salisbury police. Local officers last night received a photograph of the girl and they located her at LaFayette Almons', on North Lee street, where she was living as one of the family. She offered no objections to returning home with an officer, who came here for her.

CLOSING HOURS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE KILLS BILL PASSED BY SENATE FOR HOLDING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

ACTS PASSED NUMBER 1,130

Last Bill Ratified Was an Act Which Placed the Name of a Confederate Widow on the Pension Roll.

Raleigh.—The following is a brief resume of the principal events which marked the closing hours of the General Assembly of North Carolina:

House and Senate.
March 7.—The senate, in committee of the whole, tonight received the conference committee report on statewide road bill to assure federal aid, adopted the committee bill and then in regular session passed it on second reading.

Under the amended bill, the State highways will be constructed through all counties, as between county seats and principal towns, of 2,500 population and over. Any county can provide one-fourth of the cost for such roads and speed up the road construction and the State Highway Commission has authority to contract with counties for roads in that county or give roads out to contractors or build on its own account.

The senate tonight passed the Neal child labor bill as it came from the house. This action came after the Neal bill had been presented with minority favorable report from committee and after an amendment to substitute the commissioner of labor and printing for commissioner of public welfare the vote was 27 to 20.

In the late afternoon session of the house there came a message from Governor Bickett urging that the Brummitt bill for the sterilization of "morally insane" persons or hopelessly and curably imbeciles be passed. The message was read and then the bill was put on its readings and passed by a vote of 67 to 25.

Mr. Doughton told the house that a conference committee road bill had been agreed upon that "is agreeable to those who believe in a state system; those who believe in a county system; those who believe in state bonds and those who do not believe in state bonds."

Senate.

March 8.—The senate got to work on house bills at the afternoon session. It took time to concur in the house amendments to the Stacy juvenile court bill and then took up the local calendar.

On motion of Senator Thompson the roll was called to ascertain how many senators would remain until Tuesday in order to finish up the business of the General Assembly. Thirty-six senators voted to remain until Tuesday. The house bill prohibiting the sale of patent medicines containing alcohol or lemon extracts went to the table upon motion of Senator Glidewell after he had called attention to the fact that it placed the exclusive power of sale for certain articles in the hands of the druggists.

The senate was more lenient towards Senator Harding's bill to regulate the sale of molasses. The Pitt senator explained that it was designed to curtail the sale of "monkey rum" which could not by any means compare with "mountain dew." The western members said "amen" to that and the measure went through without opposition.

House.

The Grand Old Man of the General Assembly, Governor Rufus A. Doughton, whipped the lower branch into shape and the house by a vote of 57 to 21 adopted the conference committee's report on the Pharr-Matthews road bill.

It was a long and tedious debate in the house before it finally assented. Pharr of Mecklenburg and Matthews of Bertie, balked at the suggestion of adopting the conference report and insisted that the house ought not to concur but go into further conference with the senate. The senate had long

Ex-Soldier Finds Job.

Lieut. G. Fred Hale has been appointed bookkeeper and stock man of the state department of labor and printing to fill the additional clerkship allowed the department by act of the general assembly. Lieutenant Hale prior to his entry into the military service served the department as stenographer. He has lately returned from overseas duty.

The act of the legislature allowing the addition to the department's force, made room for the first addition since establishment of the department.

Shipman Is Indignant.

"I want the senate and the people of North Carolina to know that I resent with all possible emphasis the statement of Senator P. W. Glidewell on the floor during the debate on the child labor issue that I had threatened the manufacturers with labor antagonism on account of their antagonism to me," said Commissioner of Labor and Printing M. L. Shipman in a letter to the state senate, read before that body. The Commissioner demanded that the charge be established or "publicly retracted."

since decided against this. Positively it intended to yield no further and as an alternative members of the upper branch were ready to pack their grips and leave the State without a road law. In the case of the house, patience had ceased to be a virtue, and Governor Doughton diplomatically conveyed the sentiment to members of the house.

House and Senate.

March 10.—The bill of Senator Brown, of Columbus, for a constitutional convention went to its death in the house this afternoon by almost a unanimous vote after it had passed the senate by a large majority some weeks ago. Its death was largely due to consideration of the success of the income tax amendment to the present constitution that has to be submitted to the people for ratification at the next election, and a desire to not hamper this issue with any question as to further revision of the constitution.

This, the last busy legislative day of the session, saw the ratification of the State highway federal aid bill that gave both branches of the legislature so much trouble in reaching a compromise. Adjustment of diversified views that would provide a really workable law, under which the counties, the State and federal aid could co-operate for the building and maintenance of both main artery highways through the State, linking county seats and principal towns, and the lesser roads that radiate into localities and lead to these thoroughfares.

Representative Crisp, in personal privilege, gave Representative Saunders, of Pasquotank, a tongue lashing for criticisms of Crisp in his paper, the Independent, in which he referred to "The habit of the representative from Dare, Crisp, of taking a bit of fluid that cheers the heart of an inebriate!" Crisp told the story of Samuel Coleridge and Charles Lamb and the latter's declaration, "Yes I am drunk but I will get over it, but you are a damned fool and won't get over it." Saunders joined in the uproarious laughter. But Crisp was not done. He denounced Saunders as having had to be called down on the floor of the house for using unfit language and having run the only newspapers in the state that had to be suppressed.

The house divided its closing hours between a fish-fight on the part of eastern members and the biennial eastern feast. Speaker Brummitt and the house workers were all remembered.

The senate wouldn't concur in the conference report on the education bill so the house sent the committee into a further conference.

The second conference report urged the house to concur in the senate amendments. Failure to adopt would leave the appointment of members for 94 boards up to the governor or the state superintendent of public instruction.

Time counted and the house, voting 54 to 18, adopted the report of Geo. F. McAllister of Concord prevailed over that of W. J. Weddington of the same place.

House and Senate.

March 11.—The general assembly at 1:55 o'clock this morning found the work in the enrolling office so thoroughly up that the sine die adjournment could be taken without waiting for the noon hour, which, under resolution adopted previously, was the time set for the final adjournment. At 1:15 the last batch of enrolled bills were laid before President Gardner and Speaker Brummitt for their signatures of ratification and at 1:55 the great doors between the legislative chambers were thrown open, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house faced each other in their respective stations and gavels fell as they declared the 1919 session at an end.

This legislature passed and ratified 1,130 acts, compared with 1,215 for the 1917 session and 1,498 for the 1915 session. There were 63 legislative days, the legislators, of course, receiving pay for only the constitutional limit of 60 days. The last bill ratified was an act to place on the pension roll a widow of a Confederate soldier in Surry county.

The senate took up the bill from the house for sterilization of idiots, lunatics and imbeciles, who are hopelessly in such condition. Senator Thompson offered an amendment that was adopted requiring the approval of the governor and the secretary of the state board of health before the operation could be performed. This was adopted and the bill passed.

Celebration on Big Scale.

Elaborate plans are being made here for the reception of the 11th field artillery of the Thirtieth division, which will be paraded soon after its arrival from France. In addition to a fund being raised by popular subscription, the North Carolina legislature appropriated \$5,000 to aid in giving the returning troops a welcome.

The 11th Field artillery is commanded by Colonel Albert Cox, of Raleigh, who resigned a superior court judgeship here to take the command.

Commission Files Complaint.

There has just been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission, the complaint on the part of North Carolina Corporation Commission, in the suit the North Carolina commission has instituted seeking to readjust freight rates in the southeastern territory on a basis more equitable for North Carolina shipping points, as compared with the rates to and from the Virginia cities to southeastern points. It is filed by Edgar Watson, counsel for the corporation commission.

STEADY CLIMB IN TOBACCO SALES

INCREASE IN SALES OF LEAF TOBACCO DURING YEAR IS \$7,000,000 POUNDS.

WINSTON-SALEM THE LEADER

Rocky Mount and Wilson Are Close Seconds, and Oxford Ran Over the Million Mark.

Raleigh.—Increase in sale of leaf tobacco in North Carolina in February, 1919, over February, 1918, was about 7,000,000 pounds, according to the reports filed with Major W. A. Graham, commissioner of agriculture. There were 9,327,856 pounds sold in February, 1918, and 16,637,896 in 1919.

The sales by markets follow: Burlington, 335,218; Durham, 528,638; Enfield, 142,727; Elkin, 26,155; Farmville, 242,273; Greensboro, 81,269; Greenville, 81,269; Henderson, 821,280; Kinston, 330,718; Louisburg, 97,367; Leaksville, 51,376; Mebane, 314,767; Mt. Airy, 259,927; Madison, 23,897; Oxford, 1,226,231; Reidsville, 460,120; Robersonville, 120,542; Roxboro, 473,856; Rocky Mount, 2,561,533; Stoneville, 57,605; Smithfield, 49,268; Warrenton, 437,716; Winston-Salem, 2,949,594; Williamston, 149,659; Wilson, 2,440,199; Wendell, 168,482; Washington, 39,993; Youngsville, 311,535; Zebulon, 44,469.

Taking Time by Forelock.

Charlotte.—With the January exhibition of the Mecklenburg Poultry Club declared the most successful in every respect in the history of the county, plans for development of this annual exhibition into an event of interest to the Southeastern States were launched at a meeting of the officials and directors. President R. L. Simmons announced that January 6, 7, 8 and 9 were selected as the dates for the 1920 exhibitions.

Encouraged by the success of the recent exhibition, when it was declared that the best quality and the greatest quantity of birds were shown, as compared with previous shows, plans for enlarging the membership of the club, and increasing its prestige and the importance of the shows were decided upon. The premiums will not be determined until summer, the announcement of the lists coming probably in July. Mr. Simmons said the members of the club had agreed upon plans, the carrying out of which should have the result of making the club's 1920 exhibitions the most important event of its nature in the state and equal to any in the Southeast.

Physician's Certificate Necessary.

Raleigh.—In consequence of a measure passed by the general assembly during the closing days of the session providing eugenic marriages, register of deeds offices expect a physician's certificate as to the physical fitness of every man applying for a license to marry.

The new law makes it practically impossible for those affected with so-called social disease to secure marriage licenses in North Carolina. Every marriage bureau in the State will be expected to demand that a physician's certificate as to the physical fitness of the man accompany every application for a license.

As the law is understood, before a man may obtain a license he must undergo a physical examination by a reputable physician. The measure makes it a violation for the register of deeds to grant a license to a man who does not present the physician's certificate.

Not Formally Transferred.

Camp Greene.—Camp Greene will not be formally turned over to the owners of the camp site, who recently purchased all equipment there, by March 15, as was previously intimated, it was stated. C. B. Bryant, one of the landowners, said the property likely would be released by the government in "peace-meal" and that it would be several days before all the troops have left.

Purchase Lot for New Church.

Lincolnton.—At a business meeting of the First Baptist church of this city, the congregation passed a resolution directing the trustees of the church to purchase the Lipsey lot on East Main street to be used for the proposed new church building. At this meeting the congregation raised more than half of the money for the purchase of the lot and a committee was appointed to canvass the remainder of the amount, which is considered an easy task.

Dam Breaks in Burke.

Morganton.—The Southern Power Company's great dam at Linville river has burst and a gaving hole 200 feet long and 40 feet deep washed out. The new power house, below the dam was inundated and it is thought the machinery on the first floor will be greatly damaged. The loss to the company is immense. Great excitement prevailed along the river as the great mass of water rushed down but the water was largely confined to the banks and little damage was done.