

AL INVITED TO SPEAK BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ROAD FIGHT WAGED BY GOVERNOR

Nuisance Tax Bill Introduced - Other Assembly News

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—The highway reorganization plan of Governor Gardner occupied the center of the stage most of the past week and when the General Assembly reconvened Monday night the bill carrying out the changes advocated had not come from the committees. The result is that the bill will be the main consideration on floors of House and Senate this week, toward the latter part of which it may come to a vote.

Much oratory, argument and at times bitter arraignment were indulged in by proponents and opponents of the measure before the joint roads committee, providing for abolishing the present commission and naming another from the State at large and taking over maintenance of county roads.

Frank Page, former chairman and Leslie R. Aves, former engineer, set up the cudgel for Governor Gardner's plan, while chief opponents were John Sprunt Hill, fourth district commissioner; Henry A. Page, brother of the former chairman and E. T. Cansler, Charlotte. Two full afternoons were consumed in the public hearings in the House of Representatives. Governor Gardner, meanwhile, is throwing the full force of his office to the support of his measure. He issued a table showing how much each of the 100 counties would save by the State taking over the roads, showing which is expected to have great weight with the folks back home.

Meanwhile, the State Highway Commission meeting Thursday, adopted a resolution to resign if and when the bill is enacted, the resignation to be effective at the pleasure of Governor Gardner. The contract with the State's prison to furnish crushed stone for highway construction entered into consideration of the \$1,550,000 of construction on which bids were opened last week. This is the first of three lettings as a result of the emergency aid fund,

which makes available for N. C. nearly \$4,000,000, to be used primarily to relieve unemployment.

Former Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York, had hardly reached Pinehurst before the General Assembly had a joint resolution in motion to invite him to address the joint body, and a special committee was soon on its way. On their return the members reported that Governor Smith promised to make a special trip to Raleigh Sunday, March 1, and to speak Monday night. He will be the guest of Governor Gardner while here. He took occasion to commend Governor Gardner's reorganization plan having pushed something similar through in New York while Governor. He said, however, that the Constitutional Convention proposal was a hard nut to crack.

In one of the most dramatic scenes enacted in the General Assembly in many years, Speaker Willis Smith, with the House stage all set, cast the deciding vote of that body for the Constitutional Convention bill, a two thirds vote being required, at the Thursday night meeting. An amendment to submit the new constitution to a vote of the people for ratification was defeated, as was one to have the membership of the Convention elected on a basis of the present House of Representatives, that is, the 1921 census, rather than on the new 1931 census basis. About six members will move to the West and Piedmont on the new population basis.

The Senate committee emasculated the bill Friday morning, however, and has endangered its passage unless the Senate turns down committee amendments. One would have the vote on calling the convention in 1932, call a special election to name delegates in the spring of 1933, and have the convention meet that fall and then submit the Constitution to a vote of the people for ratification.

The six months State operated school measure has not been in the open the past week, but the Education committee's sub-committee is struggling with ways and means. One bill introduced would provide uniform high school books. Two bills provide for taxes, largely on production, as aids to the school measure.

Two mills per kilowatt hour for electrical energy produced is proposed in one bill. Another would provide a tax of 1 to 5 per cent on electric current and gas bills; 25c to \$7 per 1,000 on cigars; \$1.30 per 1,000 on cigarettes; 5 cents a pound on tobacco and snuff; one cent on every 10 cents admission to theaters, picture houses and the like; 10 per cent of fees and dues of social, athletic or sporting clubs, when dues are more than \$13 a year; 20 cents per crate of \$100 of capital stock issues; 50 cents per 24 bottles of soft drinks; 5 cents per \$500 on deeds, a small tax on other legal papers.

The House went into a night session Friday night to consider the divorce bills, one of which provides for absolute divorce in three years, when there are no children. It provoked much discussion and followed close on the heels of a lengthy debate on the resolution seeking to oust Bascom Lamar Lunsford as reading clerk of the House which failed of passage.

Two important administrative measures hit the hopper the past week, one on the consolidation of the three educational institutions into the "University of North Carolina," the other enlarging and extending State control of city, county and district finances and bonds and notes.

The institution bill provides that the trustees of the three institutions continue until January 1, 1933, and the 1933 General Assembly name 100 trustees for the combined institution, and the executive committee continue until August 1, 1933. Governor Gardner is directed to name a reorganization committee of nine, the three heads of the institutions, and not more than one from the trustees of the three, to present a consolidation plan, unifying the educational program, etc., by July 1, 1932, after which the Governor is to call the executive committee together to adopt or revise and adopt the plan.

The "Local Government Commission" takes the place of the County Government Advisory Commission in the new bill, which extends the commission's authority to all cities, towns and districts, as well as counties, without exception. All bonds and notes, as well as bond elections, will be passed upon by this body and all bond and note sales will be

made through it instead of locally. The board consists of nine members, the State Treasurer, Auditor and Commissioner of Revenue, and six named by the Governor, including two county and two city officials. The bill provides strict regulations for deposits of public funds and investment of sinking funds. It permits refunding indebtedness, a provision designed to aid some of the units over approaching rough places.

While the General Assembly has been in session almost six weeks, nearly three-fourths of the usual time, doubt is expressed if the session has come to the middle point in work. The bills in the House now exceed 400, of which only 81 have been through the mill to ratification, while the Senate bills so far have so far passed the 200 mark, of which only 21 have been ratified. Practically all of the bills so far ratified are local, only a few being State-wide in scope or interest, except a few resolutions early in the session.

Bills introduced and of general interest follow:

Highway: Require sheriffs to distribute and collect for motor vehicle tags and list automobiles at the time for ad valorem taxes; create grade "AA" class of prisoners to work on the highways.

Legal: Permit clerks to appoint jurors to allot dower; to expedite trials in criminal cases and dispense with jury trial in certain cases; provide for 13 jurors or alternate juror, in some cases; permit and require delivery of itemized accounts and requiring specific denials as to admission for the items; to validate deeds issued by liquidating agents of defunct banks; provide for renewal of bonds of guardians; protect money held in trust by clerks.

Agriculture: Require numbering of cotton bales by public ginners; to ask Congress to prevent sale of butter-yellow oleomargarine, regardless of tax; to place a farmer on the Advisory Budget Commission; requiring monthly reports of tobacco sales to show the amount sold for fertilizer or extracting nicotine.

Pensions: Require clerks of court to publish lists of names and amounts of pension vouchers received from the State.

Welfare: Providing for a State institution for delinquent colored girls at Effland; limiting work of women in industry to 55 hours a week; regulating the placing of juvenile delinquents and dependents in homes; permitting newspaper carrier boys to carry routes between 5 a. m. and 8 p. m.

Railroads: Name a commission to investigate Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad properties to see if Norfolk-Southern Railway, lessor, is keeping up repairs and see if traffic is being diverted via Norfolk and from North Carolina ports.

Insurance: To regulate mutual burial and mutual assessment associations; stricter licenses for insurance agents; requiring notices to clerks of court of insurance companies licensed by the Insurance Commissioner.

Fire Sales: Require those selling out fire or bankrupt stocks to file an inventory with the clerk of the court, preventing them from restocking with lower grade goods and prevent fraud in advertising such sales.

Max Claims Plan Would Save Halifax \$174,235 Per Year

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—Halifax County would save \$174,235 a year on its road bill if the State takes over and maintains its roads, according to a table issued by Governor Gardner in support of his program of reorganization of the State Highway Commission and taking over county highways. The figures based on the survey made last fall by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, the State Highway Commission and the Tax Commission, show this county would save in taxes on the total divided into items, as follows: overhead, \$17,274; convicts, \$30,436; maintenance, \$82,753; equipment, \$23,585, and gas and oil, \$20,187.

The counties which use convicts would save \$4,967,652, while those which do not use their own convicts would save \$1,599,495, the compilation shows, or a total of \$6,567,147 for the 100 counties.

Meessers Robert Hudson and Roy Taylor spent Sunday in Seaboard with Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Taylor.

State Income Tax Man Here Feb. 26

The following notice has been received from A. J. Maxwell, Commissioner of State Revenue: J. H. Norman, deputy commissioner, will be

at Cherry's Cafe at Roanoke Rapids, February 26, to assist tax payers in filing State income tax returns. Persons unmarried with an income during 1930 of \$1,000 and married persons with an income of \$2,000 should file returns on or before March 15, 1931.



What Is Your Garage Worth?

Your garage surley needs insuring as well as your house. Adequate protection for all your property is absolutely essential if you plan to make a permanent investment in establishing your home and its surroundings.

Talk with us and get the benefit of our experience. Our advice has saved many a property owner from loss. Why not let us help you too?

National Loan & Insurance Co.

24 Second St. Dial R-444-1

Opportunity Say's "TAG, YOU'RE IT"

Most people are waiting for their great opportunity — most remain waiters. Earnestly, to ask the meaning of every opportunity, and then see if it fits you may be wisdom. But this method of delaying, this idea of not doing will accomplish as much as the average person accomplishes — he waits.

Opportunity belongs to the man, to the

human who has the presence of mind to improve it.

In this great campaign conducted by The Herald, opportunity has literally reached out and said "tag you're it," and it's YOUR MOVE NEXT.

Perhaps obstacles have brought on a laxity of effort. In this world of ours, there is no merit

where there is no struggle.

Trials are but a stimuli to real men and women.

We preserve in a thing in proportion to our pride and earnestness.

And now the procession is moving on. WILL YOU BE AMONG THE WINNERS?

FALSE . . . HOPES

No doubt every member of the Circulation Drive hopes to win one of the automobiles when the final count is made by the official judges. But it is plain that everyone cannot. Only those who fight their way to the top will share in the big awards.

To those who feel that they have done enough—that nothing remains but to claim

their prize—let there be warning. Do not slip on the banana peel of "over-confidence." The campaign is REAL. The prizes to be given away represent VALUE. And it is reasonable to assume that a proportionate measure of effort will be put forth to win them. Just a few subscriptions would hardly suffice.

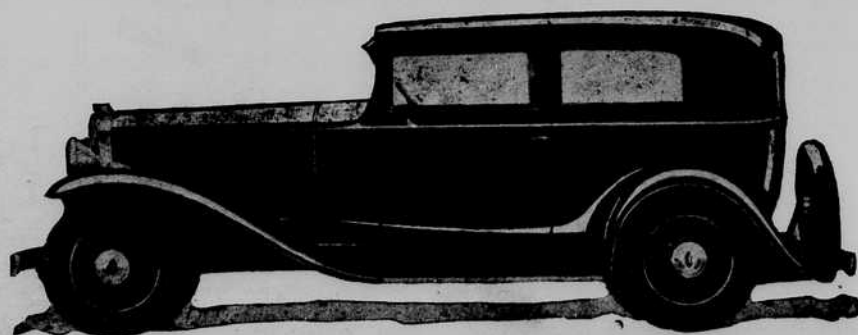
Things worth while come to us only by going after them hard. Do not let your past efforts go for naught. Build on! Arouse yourself to ACTION these last days. Fight hard today and figure on tomorrow.

It's the bent-on, the eager for, the hankering human that WINS!

WHO'LL WIN?

FIRST GRAND PRIZE

NEW 1931 PONTIAC TWO DOOR SEDAN CASH VALUE \$790.00



SECOND GRAND PRIZE

NEW 1930 CHEVROLET SPORT ROADSTER CASH VALUE \$592.50

