

RACE BILL DIES; SCHOOL BILL GASPING

FARMERS FIGHTING MERCHANTS

Land Tax vs Sales Tax For Support Proposed State Schools

(Special To The Herald)

Raleigh, March 19.—Neither the school bill nor the highway bill has created more interest in any one week than has the Buncombe racing bill, which has occupied the center of the stage for the past week and was finally given an unfavorable report by the Senate Committee Friday, after that committee had previously given it a favorable report. The entire Senate body also reversed itself Friday night, tabling the bill and putting the "clincher" on it so it cannot come up again except by a two-thirds vote.

The bill provided that racing tracks and devices may be erected in Buncombe county at a cost approaching a half million dollars to be rented at \$6,000 a day for 36 days year for horse and dog racing and operation of pari-mutual devices—gambling machines—which church people and moral forces assailed as steps toward legalizing gambling and making Buncombe a "Monte Carlo" of vice and degeneration. Proponents pointed to the money Buncombe would receive, saying it would help bring back that county from its financial debacle. Women led the promoters and formed a formidable lobby. The House passed the bill by a heavy margin and the Senate passed it on second reading, when it was re-referred to the committee on Counties, Cities and towns, which later reversed its position.

"Embattled farmers" descended upon the General Assembly on last Thursday by the hundreds and from all over the State, demanding tax reduction on land. The Finance committee, which had been through torment in their efforts to find the \$19,500,000 to operate the schools for six months without an ad valorem tax, heard them, as it has heard merchants and manufacturers who are opposed to sales or production taxes. While probably close, doubt is expressed that a sales tax can be en-

acted, although one will be necessary to carry out the six months school plan. The committee is probably approaching, but has by no means arrived, at a solution of the problem. It may yet be necessary to continue the present plan with an increased Equalizing fund.

While the 70th day is about here, the General Assembly members are by no means near their return home. Most of the important bills are yet to be threshed out on the floors of one or both houses. The local government bill is passed and out of the way, and is to be printed and distributed at once. But amendments are being added to it. The highway measure has passed both houses, but conference committees are still trying to iron out minor differences.

All of the bills relating to reorganization of the government have made some progress during the week including those to establish a personnel department, a purchasing agent, reorganization of the Department of agriculture, establishing a separate banking department, appointment by the Governor of the members of the Corporation Commission, but time will be required to get them through. A bill to create a new department of Labor, making the Commissioner appointive, and specifying divisions, is under way. The Finance and the Appropriations bills are by no means complete and will require fully a week after they are reported out.

The bill to provide for a State insurance fund for insuring employees under the Workmen's Compensation act was killed in the Senate, but other bills to amend the Compensation act, interpreting and modifying it, will probably pass.

The omnibus bill, naming members of the county boards of education, has been introduced. It usually brings out many local fights and efforts to turn out boards by other factions. The omnibus bill naming magistrates has not yet made its appearance.

Prognosticators are moving up their dates for adjournment, most of them now believing it will be April 1 before the General Assembly can finish its work.

A summary of the activities so far shows that almost exactly 1,500 bills

have been introduced, 1,050 in the house and 450 in the Senate. Up to last Saturday only 460 had been ratified, 367 House and 103 Senate bills. Last week 150 bills were introduced and 105 ratified and of this number 81 were local and 24 were public or general, many of them resolutions.

Among the public laws ratified the past week were two relating to county government, one creating a commission for improvement of the laws; providing for spending the \$400,000 appropriated in 1927 for a new central prison; providing for an amendment to allow elections on amendments to the constitution to be held at times other than general elections; authorizing declaratory judgments; requiring tobacco warehouse checks to be made payable to order; allowing county commissioners to establish county courts with criminal jurisdiction; preventing employment of females under 18 years of age in all kinds of industrial work at night; providing for an alternate juror in certain cases; recording instruments by photography; requiring reserve fund and regarding mutuality of B. & L. Associations; regulating sale of mixed feed oats and allowing two preemptory challenges to the defendant and one to the State in criminal trials.

Revaluation, an important matter, postponed until March 15, has again been postponed until April 1, while bills have been introduced postponing it until 1933. This is to precipitate another hard fight before the session ends.

Although an effort was made to stop introduction of bills after March 10, a resolution to that end having passed the Senate, except by consent on two-thirds vote, it failed in the House and they continue to be thrown into the hopper, but not as many as formerly. The high peak was reached March 10, when 51 bills were introduced in the House and 31 in the Senate.

Among the bills of general interest introduced last week are the following:

Legal: Permit removal of land from provisions of the "Torrans Act", to set up methods of acquiring real and personal property, selling it and conveying title for failure to pay taxes; to protect the inchoate right

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MRS. EMMA DUNCAN

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of dower and prohibit sale of home site by husband without written consent of the wife; defining jurisdiction of administrators of estates; making law as to receivers apply to liquidation of insolvent banks; defining rights of receivers; liability for criminal costs before justices of the peace; to preserve the fiduciary powers and liabilities of consolidating banks; punishment for fraudulent disposition of crops; relative to the right to perform an autopsy on the human body; authorizing a commission to study N. C. laws on property and inheritance rights of husband and wife; prevent justices of the peace from trying criminal cases after 6 p. m.; provide payment of physician's bills for a year before death, and undertakers, out of estate of the decedent.

Local Government: To permit renewal, as well as funding and re-funding notes of counties, cities and towns and local units; allowing units, by contract, to anticipate and take up notes and bonds before maturity, and permitting levy of a proper tax to replace needed funds tied up in failing banks; authorizing counties and road districts to pay costs of jails and courts; providing for manner for settlement of sheriffs, tax collectors; authorizing court clerks to use photostatic copies of maps, plats and blueprints with records of need proceedings; provide for a study of listing and assessing property for taxes by the State Tax Commission; relative to temporary loans of municipalities; validating certain notes of counties.

Motor Vehicles: Provide for mechanical or electrical signals to show left turn, right turn, or stop, as well as hand signals; to make N. C. motor vehicle laws to conform with those of the National Conference of Street and Highway Safety.

Pensions: Require that pension rolls be checked with vital statistics records; create a State retirement fund for State employees who have worked 20 years for the State, reach-

ed 65 years of age by saving out three per cent of their earnings; move up date of marriage of widows of Confederate veterans from 1899 to 1901, making them eligible for pensions.

Taxes: Provide for State tax on mortgages, deeds of trust or other instruments as a pledge, mortgage or conveyance in trust of real or personal property in N. C.

Incorporate the State Association of County Boards of Education.

Name a new board of directors of State Industrial Farm Colony for women.

Regulate age certificates to children under 18 years of age.

Require notice of nonpayment of insurance premiums before forfeiture.

Prevent loans to employees of banks without unanimous approval of stockholders.

Repeat five-day marriage bans notice.

Authorize North Carolina to participate in the International Exposition at Chicago in 1933, appropriating up to \$30,000 for the purpose of displaying North Carolina made products and natural resources.

MRS. RACHEL GREEN BUTTS

Mrs. Rachel Green Butts died at her home near Hawkins Chapel on Tuesday, March 3, 1931 at 1 p. m.

She was the oldest daughter of Mrs. Robert Green and was a granddaughter of the late Mr. Ambrose Green. She was born on Feb. 26, 1897. In April, 1917, she was married to Mr. Bert Butts, who departed this life during the influenza epidemic of 1919, leaving her with an infant son, Bert, Jr., who was not two months old. How tenderly she has reared this child, until now at 12 years of age, is the pride of his teachers. She was ever a devoted mother, a kind sister and a loving and obedient daughter and home will no longer seem the same since Rachel has passed on. She was ever ready to lend a helping hand where sickness and sorrow abounded.

She was a member of Quankie Baptist Church and for sometime was organist there.

The funeral was held in Thursday March 5, from Hawkins Chapel M. E. Church. The services were in charge of Rev. J. E. Kirk of Rosemary Baptist Church assisted by Rev. P. E. Bingham of Hawkins Chapel M. P. Church.

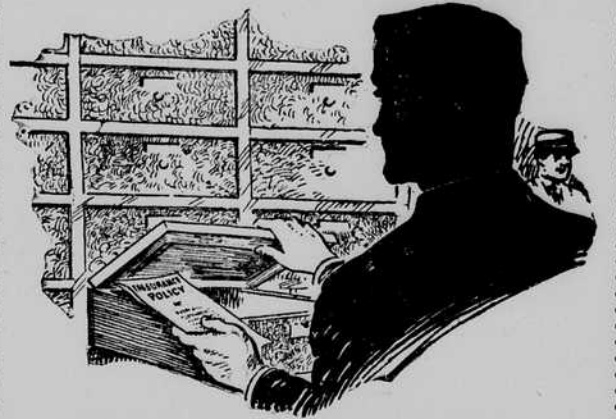
She leaves behind a heartbroken mother and the following brothers

and sister: Mr. R. E. Green and Miss Gaynelle Green of Thelma and Mrs. Herbert Harris of near Enfield. Another sister, Bessie Green Butts, preceded her to the grave by three years. Several aunts, two uncles and a grandmother, Mrs. Mollie Hawkins of Rosemary, N. C., who is 84 years of age, also survive.

Amidst a large concourse of sorrowing friends and relatives we laid her body to rest in the Green cemetery nearby the body of her father, under a mound laden with beautiful floral tributes.

No care up yonder,
There the skies are fair;
No tears up yonder,
Peace everywhere.

No voice of weeping,
In that happy land;
No strife up yonder
God is in command.



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