

REMARKABLE SESSION OF LEGISLATURE ENDS

COUNTIES HAND OVER AUTHORITY

Length Is Due Partly To Revolutionary Changes In The State Government

GIVE TAX RELIEF

(Special To The Herald) Raleigh, June 4.—The North Carolina General Assembly which adjourned sine die at 9:00 o'clock on the evening of May 27, was, in many respects, one of the most remarkable sessions ever held by a lawmaking body in North Carolina not only in the length of the session, but in the

type of the legislation and deviation from normal policies which it achieved.

No other session has lasted 141 days or 121 legislative days, except the 1868-69 reconstruction period session of 146 days from which 12 days of Christmas recess must be taken, leaving only 136 days. It establishes a new record for length and developed into an endurance test.

No other session has taken from the local units and vested in the state more authority, particularly in the maintenance of roads and schools and in the administration of county, city and local district fiscal affairs. These local units gave up authority and autonomy to a greater extent than ever before, trading, in their distress much loose, inefficient and ineffective administration for what is expected to be a greater centralized and more effective handling of governmental affairs.

No other session has taken back

to the property owners of the State a greater measure of tax relief, for which real estate owners were clamoring. All taxes were not removed, but the operation of the highways, the schools and the local government laws will bring a reduction of an average of 57 cents to the property owner, or almost half of the tax bill in many counties.

No other session has placed upon big business the amount of taxes that was levied against such business by the recent General Assembly, a tax that would not have been reached but for the insistent demand for land tax relief. The burden has, in a large measure, been placed on more successful business, that most able to pay, and, while apparently more than a just share, may not be an onerous burden.

The closing day of the session marked the passage and enactment of several of the most important pieces of legislation of the entire session, chief of which were the Revenue, Appropriations, Machinery, School and several others.

The Revenue Act provides for collection of nearly \$30,000,000 a year. Of this, \$17,350,000 is for schools, including \$15,700,000 for the six months term, to be supplemented by the approximately \$1,300,000 from fines, forfeitures, penalties, poll and dog taxes, to be collected and used locally \$1,500,000 for the extended term and \$150,000 as an emergency fund. This sum includes the estimated \$1,500,000 from the 15-cent ad valorem tax for the current expenses of the six months school operation.

A cut of ten per cent in amount paid for salaries, wages and fees of employees and officers, in all State departments, a cut of not more than 10 per cent for teachers and a cut not exceeding that of the teachers for the State institutions, are included in the Appropriations Bill. The University's appropriation was cut to \$721,000 for each of the two years, while the other State institutions general

Boring First Helium Gas Well



The first well in America in search of helium gas is being sunk in the San Fernando valley near Los Angeles by A. F. Mercer, who is seen above examining matter brought up by the test drill.

cut some to help lessen the expected deficit of \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 a year, on the basis of present business conditions.

The Machinery Act provides for no revaluation of property, the 15-cent ad valorem tax being on the basis of the 1930 valuation. The shool bill put into effect the operation of the

six month term by the State with the aid of the 15-cent tax from the counties and provides for some of the desired economies in school operation and management. State Supt. A. T. Allen is not at all displeased with the outcome of the school measure, which gave promise at times of resulting in crippling the school work.

The last act passed provides for continuing the activities of the State Tax Commission, specifying a study of the listing and assessing of property for taxation. This measure was about to be killed because of the requirements of a two-thirds majority to pass it on its three readings in the face of the opponents, allowing the measure to pass.

A last day act was the filing of the report of the committee investigating

reports of attempted bribery and corruption, instigated by Senator H. S. Ward. The committee's report was that no Senator had been found to have violated his oath of office, that no competent evidence was introduced to show that S. Clay Williams and W. N. Reynolds, president and official of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company had tried to bribe a Senator, but the difference in testimony of Senator John Hinsdale, Wake County, and D. H. Pope, chairman of the Wake Board of Commissioners, should be called to the attention of the solicitor. Senator Ward filed a supplemental report, in which he vented his spleen on "big business" and particularly the Reynolds company, which was referred to the committee without public reading.

The much discussed racing and pari-mutuel betting bill made its third appearance last week, in the guise of an agricultural and stock-breeding organization, wanted by Representative W. W. Neal for McDowell County. It was passed in the House but killed in the Senate. A like bill for Buncombe County met a like fate earlier in the session and one for Polk County, passed by the Senate at first, was brought back to the floor and killed by that body.

The usual last minute rush attended the closing hours of the session. A number of bills assigned to the table or other burial places, sought to get out and fly, but most of them went back to a long resting place. The Session was noticeably free from last minute legislation, although a few measures got by. A last day slaughter was not large, due to the long time for such activity, but the bills to redistrict the State as to senatorial districts and to reapportion the members of the House of Representatives, went to the table, despite the constitutional requirement, because of personal ambitions and sectional squabbling.

The 1931 General Assembly passed 1206 measures, 1147 laws and 59 resolutions, out of 2102 bills and resolutions introduced, leaving 896 which failed to pass. Probably 900 public bills were enacted, and 100 of those were probably amendments, changes, corrections and minor measures, leaving 200 of general and State-wide interest. Probably 900 are local measures, or an average of about nine to each of the 100 counties.

State wide measures of general interest passed last week follow: Permitting municipalities a n d

counties to provide for making bonds and notes become due before maturity. Make uniform pleadings and proceedings for all courts except courts of justices of the peace, inferior to the Superior Courts, when summons from such inferior courts is issued to run outside the county by such inferior courts.

Providing for an additional member of the State Board of Equalization on account of creation of a new congressional district.

Promote standardization of transportation systems for school children and to provide for economical transportation.

Amendment relative to reciprocity extended to non-resident auto owners.

Reducing ad valorem taxes in county-wide special charter and local tax school districts of the State.

Amendment relative to auditing of county accounts.

Amendment to act providing for incorporation and maintenance of cooperative organizations.

Revise law as to establishing cartways to make it conform to new road law.

Repealing the Judicial Conference. Amendment relative to compulsory school attendance.

Prescribe powers and duties of N. C. Corporation Commission, permitting a complete report of holdings, investments and revenues of public service corporations.

The Womans Club held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. W. F. Coppedge Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Edwin Coppedge as assistant hostess. Mrs. T. S. Dickens and Mrs. Willie Dickens gave an interesting program on slenderizing the stout and becoming styles of the thin. Mrs. Hazel Wheeler gave a talk on art.

NORFOLK to DURHAM

Via: Roanoke Rapids, Rosemary and Weldon

BUS



TO NORFOLK

Lv. Durham -- 11 a.m.—6 p.m.
Roa Rapids -- 1:45 & 8:45 p.m.
Weldon ----- 1:55 & 8:55 p.m.
Ar. Norfolk -- 5 p.m. & 12 p.m.

TO DURHAM

Lv. Norfolk -- 8 a.m.—4 p.m.
Weldon ----- 11 a.m.—7 p.m.
Roa. Rapids 11:10 a.m.—7:10 p.m.
Ar. Durham 1:55 p.m.—9:55 p.m.

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—typical comments from owners of the Chevrolet Six



Chevrolet's 152" frame supports the body throughout its entire length

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1. **Efficient Engine Design** makes Chevrolet fuel consumption so low that 20 miles to the gallon of gasoline is nothing unusual for a Chevrolet owner.

2. **Modern Chassis Design**—as evidenced by Chevrolet's long heavy frame, four parallel-mounted springs, and smooth-running six-cylinder engine—increases the ability of the Chevrolet Six to run dependably, day after day.

3. **Excellence of Manufacture** also adds to Chevrolet dependability and long life. Chevrolet pistons, for instance, are built so carefully, and held true to such close limits of pre-

cision, that many owners have gone 20,000 miles or more without having their motors opened for major servicing.

4. **High-Quality Materials** are used throughout the Chevrolet car—costly nickel steel, chrome-vanadium steels, chrome-nickel steels—to assure trouble-free, low-cost service for tens of thousands of miles.

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Remember—in addition to all these basic economies—Chevrolet offers the extra dollars-and-cents advantage of one of the lowest delivered prices on the market. And this cost may be spread over a period of many months by the liberal G.M.A.C. plan.



Chevrolet's pistons are built to close limits of precision



Chevrolet's Owner's Service Policy is the most liberal ever offered in connection with a low-priced car

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