

Bowie Railroad Bill Gets Final Action; Becomes Law With Formal Ratification

Senate Votes Down Amendment Proposing a Referendum to the People at Next General Election.

GENERAL REVENUE BILL GIVEN THIRD READING

All Amendments Sought by Senators are Voted Down; Only One Negative Vote Against Measure, This Being Cast by Parker, of Wayne; Brown Amendment to Increase Tax on Income Loses 21 to 27; General Education Bill Passes Without an Amendment; Senate to Consider Anti-Klan Bill Today.

RALEIGH, Feb. 28.—(By the Associated Press.) Voting down an amendment proposing a referendum to the people at the next general election, the senate tonight passed the Bowie railroad bill on its third reading and the measure will be ratified and become law. It provides for \$10,000,000 for the construction of a trunk line railroad through the extreme northwestern counties, and in addition, for the participation of the state to the extent of 49 per cent of the costs of the building of five branch railroads in the northwestern portion of the state.

Shorn of all amendments which members of the senate had sought to attach to the general revenue bill, the measure passed its second reading in the upper house tonight by a vote of 47 to 1. The single negative vote was by Senator Parker, of Wayne, who declared that the measure would destroy the exemption from taxation of stock in foreign corporations held in this state.

The Harris "anti- theft" automobile bill passed the senate tonight and goes to the house for its second reading. Senator Max Gardner, of Cleveland, and W. L. Long, of Halifax, were added to the board of directors of the railroad company created by the Bowie bill by the passage in the senate tonight of a measure which already had the endorsement of the house.

The general education bill passed its third reading in the senate tonight and became a law without having been subjected to amendments. Senator Parker, of Wayne, offered two amendments, one to permit appeal of the people to the superior court in the case of consolidation of school districts by the board of education and the other to provide that the board should not issue bonds without the vote of the people of the district affected, but withdrew them and announced he would write them in a separate bill.

VARSER AMENDMENT AIMED TO KILL STOCK EXEMPTION UP

RALEIGH, Feb. 28.—(By Associated Press.) The Varser amendment to the general revenue bill intended to strike out the provision which provides exemption from taxation of stock in foreign corporations failed by a vote of 24 to 23 in the afternoon session of the senate to debate on it.

Tonight, the bill again was in order, with the Brown amendment to the income tax levying section before the senate. This amendment would change the provision which proposes a flat 2 per cent tax on incomes above \$10,000, by placing a graduated tax on incomes moving above that figure from 2 per cent for the first \$2,500 in excess of \$10,000, to the constitutional limitation of 6 per cent for all incomes in excess of \$25,000.

The Varser amendment lost by a vote of 25 to 23, with two senators paired. On the roll call the ayes were 24 and the noes, 24, but Senator Hodges of Avery, Republican, who had indicated he was opposed to the amendment, voted aye and his request that he be recorded against the measure turned the result in favor of the original bill. In the debate this afternoon Senators Hicks, Haymore, Parker, Johnson of Beaufort, and Varser spoke for the amendment, while Senators Delany, Baggott, Bellamy and Long spoke for the original bill with its exemption provision intact. Senator Varser closed the argument after Senator Long, who had led the fight for the bill, had concluded the discussion of his motion.

Judge Assails Jury in Fisher Murder Case

ASHEVILLE, Feb. 28.—After the jury returned a verdict of not guilty in the case against Walter Fisher, charged with the murder of George Revia, Judge Henry P. Lane, at Asheville, stated that he had "returned a verdict, which in his opinion was shocking to the people of the county and of North Carolina by disregarding the greater weight of unimpeachable testimony" and expressed the hope that when they were discharged in the case that "it would be forever from the court."

JOSHUA WIDDIFIELD JUSTIFIED BY JURY FOR KILLING WARRAX

Verdict Is Justifiable Homicide in Defense of Mrs. Widdifield.

(Special to the Star.) FAYETTEVILLE, Feb. 28.—Joshua Widdifield, who yesterday afternoon shot and killed his son-in-law, Ed Warrax, a former soldier from Milwaukee, Wis., and surrendered himself to the law immediately after the shooting, is tonight a free man, having been cleared by the coroner's jury, which today returned a verdict declaring that the killing of Warrax was justifiable homicide. The jury's verdict was the result of testimony by Widdifield's wife and daughter, corroborating his own testimony that he shot in defense of his wife, whom Warrax had attacked with a chair. The evidence given by the girl, formerly Inez Widdifield, who married Warrax 18 months ago, was taken at the Widdifield home on Monticello Heights as the shock of the tragedy was such that she was unable to go to the undertaking parlors where the inquest was held. She told a pitiful story declaring her husband had pawned her clothes and sold her watch and her piano.

According to the testimony of Widdifield and his wife, which was corroborated by the daughter, Warrax came to the house Monday night and declared that he was going to take the girl away with him on an 11 o'clock train, though admitting that he had no money. He returned to the house on Wednesday when Mrs. Widdifield remonstrated with him, he seized a chair as if to strike her, Widdifield, who had been cutting wood in the yard, entered just then, lifted a pistol from a table and shot Warrax three times, the last shot taking effect.

J. L. Bell, assistant ticket agent of the Atlantic Coast Line, testified that Warrax told him Monday night that he was going to get the girl or get Widdifield.

School Children Find \$2,000 in Gold Coin

SANFORD, Feb. 28.—Buried treasure in the form of gold coins to an amount approximating \$2,000 was discovered on a newly made street here yesterday by children on their way from school. The children, thinking the 20-dollar coins were large pennies scooped up handfuls and rushed home, informing their companions as they went. Two traveling men are said to have arrived on the scene and appropriated the greater portion of the treasure. The money was contained in a glass jar, which had been broken, and its contents washed to the surface by the recent heavy rains. The new street crosses the site formerly occupied by a one-time negro cafe and barroom. There is no clue as to how the treasure came to be buried, or who did it.

PROPOSE FIGHT ON KLAN.

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—A national convention to discuss the possibility of an organized country wide campaign against the Ku Klux Klan will be held in Chicago some time this spring, the American Unity league announced today after a two day anti-Klan rally here.

THE DAY IN WASHINGTON

The senate voted, 63 to 7, to lay aside the administration shipping bill and take up the fill milk measure. American delegates to the Pan-American conference at Santiago were given detailed instructions at a conference with Secretary Hughes. The French minister announced he had "reliable information" indicating an anti-French movement which threatened an "armed uprising" in the Ruhr. The Interstate Commerce commission informed the senate that the anthracite situation did not warrant price controls or an embargo against export to Canada. The British debt funding bill was signed by President Harding and treasury officials immediately went to work on final details to put into effect the refunding agreement. The senate appropriations committee recommended that an additional commission be given an additional \$400,000 to continue its work the house having refused to put such a provision in the deficiency appropriation bill. Postmaster General Work recom-

BRITISH ARE NOTIFIED U. S. WILL NOT OPEN CONSULATE OFFICES

Communication Regarding New Castle Affair Transmitted Through Harvey

INVESTIGATION FAILURE TO BEAR OUT CHARGES This Is Made Plain by the State Department's Communication

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The British government was notified today by Ambassador Harvey, in London, that the United States had issued orders that its consulate at New Castle-on-Tyne was not to be re-opened, and that disposition was to be made of the lease of the consular premises. The declaration grows out of Great Britain's cancellation of the exequatur and recognition of Consul Slater and Vice-Consul Brooks, who were charged with discriminating against British vessels. The state department was advised late in the day by Mr. Harvey that he had handed Lord Curzon, British foreign minister, a note giving the declaration of the American government and its reasons for pursuing such a course. Several notes on the controversy previously had been exchanged, the one today being in reply to a communication from Lord Curzon, dated December 27.

The American note today reiterated that a thorough investigation had shown conclusively that "the charges preferred can not be substantiated." The text as made public at the state department follows: "On behalf of my government I have the honor to inform your lordship of the receipt of your lordship's note of December 27, 1922, in which you state the decision of your lordship and the cancellation of the exequatur and recognition, respectively, of Mr. Slater and Mr. Brooks, consular and vice-consular at New Castle-on-Tyne.

"In the circumstances, I am instructed to inform your lordship that orders have been issued not to re-open the consulate and to dispose of the lease of the consular premises.

"May I call once more to your attention the fact that a thorough investigation of the British government has been fully conducted and that the evidence as to my government and that the evidence so far convinced my government that the charges preferred can not be substantiated.

Explosion Kills Six On Destroyer Hulbert

MANILA, Feb. 28.—Six persons are reported to have been killed in an explosion on the destroyer Hulbert. The craft, in command of Lieutenant Commander F. A. Braisted, is attached to the Asiatic fleet. Her crew numbers about 125 men.

THOMAS FINLEY PASSES

BELFAST, Feb. 28.—Thomas Finley, who was killed in the charge of the gallant light brigade at Balaklava and thus started the wild ride immortalized by Tennyson, died yesterday at Drogheda.

Finley's death followed closely that of Thomas W. Shaw, a member of the famous brigade, who died at London, Oct. Sunday night.

HARDING'S SHIPPING MEASURE FORMALLY KILLED BY SENATE

Administration Subsidy Bill was before the Upper House One Year to a Day.

MOTION TO LAY ASIDE IS MEDIUM OF DEATH The Vote was 63 to 7; House Had Previously Passed Same Measure

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The administration shipping bill died today just a year to the day after it was born. On February 28, 1922, President Harding, appearing at a joint session of congress, urged enactment of legislation designed to build up an American merchant marine through government aid, and identical bills embodying the views of the administration were introduced in the senate and house. Today the bill then introduced, after having passed the house in the meantime, met its death in the senate through adoption of a motion to lay it aside.

The end of the legislation, which the President has advocated with all the powers at his command, leaves the administration where it was a year ago in dealing with the three billion dollar investment in war-built ships. The ask of liquidating this investment already has been made the subject of study and the plans under consideration are to be announced soon after congress adjourns Sunday.

The death of the shipping bill came quietly and without the bitter discussion which marked its hectic career. Under agreement previously reached yesterday, the senate promptly, at 1 o'clock, proceeded to vote on the motion of Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, the acting Democratic leader, to send the ship measure back to committee. Administration leaders, including Senator Jones, Washington, who has been in charge of the legislation in the senate, had indicated their opposition to this course, and the motion was voted down 48 to 36.

"I am glad that we do not deal the bill which was brought to the floor Friday by its supporters after a four-day filibuster," Senator Lead, Republican, of North Dakota, moved that it be laid aside and motion carried 63 to 7 with the Republican leaders voting with the majority. The action meant the death of the shipping measure in as much as Senator Jones had told the senate he would not further efforts to call the bill up before adjournment.

The action was also taken to mean the end of such legislation for years to come for President Harding has let it be known that the administration plans no attempt to obtain reconsideration for the bill at the next regular session of congress. The bill, which prohibits the shipment in interstate commerce of evaporated or condensed milk when made from skimmed milk and such oil substitutes for the withdrawn butter fat as cottonseed and coconut oil, was debated intermittently through the remainder of the day. Agreement was reached for a vote late tomorrow on the measure which has passed the house.

Arrested in New York for Embezzlement in Leaksville in 1920

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Carl Countryman, of Leaksville, N. C., who described himself as a lecturer on prohibition, was arrested today as a fugitive from justice in Rockingham county, N. C., where he is under indictment for embezzlement from the Bank and Trust company of Leaksville. He was found letters addressed to members of the Ku Klux Klan of Hoboken, N. J., in Countryman's possession.

WINSTON-SALEM, Feb. 28.—Carl Countryman, arrested in New York today, is charged with the embezzlement, three years ago, of \$425 from the Boulevard Bank and Trust company, of Leaksville. He was engaged in teaching, being superintendent of the public school at Stoneville. Then for a while he was on the lecture platform, later going to Spray where he organized a stock company and started a weekly newspaper known as The Signal, in which John M. Morehead, for years leader of the Republican party in North Carolina, was a stockholder.

It is stated that he secured a loan from the Boulevard Bank and Trust company, putting up government bonds as collateral, and that later he presented a check on another bank taking up his note and sending the government bonds, the reputation disappearing. The check, it is said, proved worthless, and the bank immediately took steps to have him arrested on an embezzlement charge. At one time, it appears, Countryman was heard from in Europe where newspapers are said to have printed many articles about him, announcing him at one time as a former candidate for vice-president, and at another time as an official of the Boy Scouts of America.

A telegram was received this afternoon by H. H. Gwynn, president of the Boulevard Bank and Trust company, notifying him of Countryman's arrest and informing him that Countryman had declared that he would resist coming to North Carolina. President Gwynn is quoted as saying that his bank will take every possible measure to have the accused brought to the state to answer to the charge against him.

Calendars of Both Houses Congested But Adjournment Is Looked for by Saturday

Morning Star Bureau. 312 Tucker Building. By BROCK BARKLEY RALEIGH, Feb. 28.—With both houses running in high, adjournment sine die Saturday night of the general assembly was looked upon today as within the scope of possibilities, although the calendars are still congested with multitudes of state and local measures.

The revenue, appropriations and machinery bills and the educational bill are well on their way now and with the fight over the Parker amendment to the revenue bill settled this afternoon, no unusual delay is expected in getting them through to ratification.

The Velsand bill and the Bowie railroad bill are finally out of the way, and the Ku Klux Klan measure stand out as occupying the most conspicuous position on the legislative program for the latter half of the week.

Grist Bill Providing Aid For Ex-service Men Passes Second Reading in House

Measure Provides Vote of People on Issuance of \$2,000,000 Bonds to Provide Necessary Funds

PROPOSES ADVANCE OF \$3,000 TO VETERANS

General Omnibus Supreme Court Bill Passes with Several Amendments

RALEIGH, Feb. 28.—(By the Associated Press.) The grist bill, which provides aid for ex-service men of the world war, passed its second reading in the house today by a vote of 91 to 13. The bill would provide a vote of the people on the issuance of \$2,000,000 in bonds from which sum derived, ex-service men would be entitled to loans after proper investigation, to an amount not to exceed \$8,000 on interest of 6 per cent.

The bill was explained by Representative Grist and after Representative Prudden, of Chatham county, opposed the bill, Representative Connor, of Wilson, chairman of the house finance committee, pleaded that it be submitted to the people; said he thought the people were entitled to vote on the issue and passed by an overwhelming majority for it at the polls.

Representative Parker, of Alamance, also supported the bill and Representative Park, of Halifax, attacked the measure, declaring it dangerous and likely to set a precedent which would pave the way for raids on the state and national treasury.

The record, in the first division of the regular army, of Carl Grist, author of the bill, was read by Representative Gaston, of Gaston county, who declared Mr. Grist was one of the greatest soldiers North Carolina gave to the world war.

With the Grist bill out of the way, the house then took hold of the general omnibus supreme court bill as next in order and passed it with several amendments. Around one of these, however, more than an hour of debate was sustained. Representative Rankin, of Rockingham county, offered the amendment to strike out the name of E. D. Pitcher, Republican, certified to as a member of the board of education in the primary and insert name of E. Frank Mebane, former member, also a Republican. Representative Townsend, of Harnett county, chairman of the educational committee, opposed the amendment, charged that the name of Pitcher had been maintained because of the influence of a number of members interested in Mr. Mebane since the opening of the session, and that he knew of votes being swapped on measure to secure enough votes to pass the Rankin amendment. Representative Rankin of Rowan county, declared that in as much as the senator from Rockingham and one representative favored Mr. Mebane, while the other representative favored Mr. Pitcher, he desired to abide by the convictions of the majority in the general assembly, and a vote on the amendment carried it by a majority of two.

Mr. Townsend then asked that the bill be passed on its third reading that he might draw an amendment to provide election of county boards by direct vote of the people.

"I hope the house does pass this bill tonight, if the gentleman from Harnett wants to show his temper," Representative Bowie, of Ashe, shouted and Representative Connor took the floor, but failed to make his point concerning Mr. Townsend's action when Mr. Townsend withdrew his request and announced he would abide by the vote of the house.

Senator Heath of Union, colleague of the introduction of the house measure, Mr. Milliken, was expected to ask consideration of his bill tomorrow. The senate committee on secret societies has a substitute bill which it recommends over the Milliken bill, but Major Heath is seeking to get the house measure through. It strikes directly at the Klan, while the senate bill virtually exempts it from the provisions of the measure.

A bill increasing judicial districts and placing the solicitors on a salary have been causing worry to both houses. The house has been holding the judicial districts bill to see what the senate would do about the salary bill, while the senate has been waiting with the salary bill to see if the house will put through the judicial districts bill. What humor the two bodies are in as to these measures is a matter of uncertainty.

New bills slumped materially both in the house and senate today, but tonight a mass of local measures were shot through on second and third readings.

BILL AUTHORIZING COURTHOUSE ANNEX PASSES IN SENATE

Proposed Bond Issue Also Provided for New County Home—Other Bills

MORNING STAR BUREAU. 312 Tucker Building. By BROCK BARKLEY RALEIGH, Feb. 28.—The senate tonight passed on third reading the bill authorizing the commissioners of New Hanover to issue bonds and build an annex to the courthouse and to issue bonds for the construction of a county home, while the house today put through third reading the bill creating a boxing commission for Wilmington, providing the Australian ballot system for New Hanover and Craven counties and regulating the fees of New Hanover officers.

Other bills passing the two houses on third reading included the bill amending the charter of Whiteville and provide a penalty for delay in the payment of taxes.

In the house: Authorizing Goldsboro to establish a street railway; providing for road construction in Bladen county; fixing the salary of Robertson superintendent of schools; providing salary of weights inspector.

Representative Lewis introduced a bill amending the road act of Pender county. The Australian ballot system for New Hanover leaves the county under the state primary system, but accepts the Australian system for balloting and as to classification of ballots.

Credit Legislation In the Senate Well On Way to Passage

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Farm credit legislation was put well on its way to passage in the house tonight, but a final vote was deferred until tomorrow because of the absence of a number of members. After the house acts the bill went to conference for adjustment of differences with the senate.

The measure, a combination of the Capper, Lenroot-Anderson and Strong bills, limiting general debate for four hours and at a night session it was considered section by section for amendment under a rule limiting discussion of each amendment to five minutes.

Chief opposition was voiced by Representative Crowder of eastern states, with members from the west and south giving almost solid support. Representative Luce, Republican, Massachusetts, while leading the supporters in the debate were Chairman McFadden of the banking committee, which reported the bill; Representative Wingo, of Arkansas, ranking Democrat on that committee, and Representative Anderson, of Minnesota, Teacher of Kansas, Republicans.

Charlotte Concern Suffers Fire Loss

CHARLOTTE, Feb. 28.—Fire discovered here shortly before midnight tonight damaged the stock and buildings of the Charlotte Waste company, on West First street, to the extent of \$25,000. Firemen, aided by a fire wall, prevented the building from being entirely destroyed.

The fire is believed to have been caused by a spark from one of the cleaning machines used by the company.

ENGLAND SET RIGHT REGARDING BRITISH OBLIGATIONS TO U. S.

Harvey Clears Up Misapprehension at Dinner Given by the Pilgrims

CHANCELLOR BALDWIN IS ALSO A SPEAKER

Occasion in Celebration of the Funding of British Debt to United States

LONDON, Feb. 28.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Pilgrims gave a dinner this evening in honor of Stanley Baldwin, chancellor of the exchequer, who headed the British funding mission to Washington. Lord Dunsborough acted as chairman and the principal speakers were the American ambassador, George Harvey and Mr. Baldwin. The Prince of Wales surprised the Pilgrims by dropping in unexpectedly. He is a member of the Pilgrims, and he explained he did not want to make a speech or to be toasted, but came simply as a member to hear the speeches and to have dinner.

Ambassador George Harvey, speaking at the dinner, said in part: "We have met to celebrate a great achievement. I do not think I exaggerate when I pronounce it the first conclusive settlement of a really vital world problem since the armistice. It involves far more than the great financial transaction reported in history; it bore with it enough announcement of mutual respect and I firmly believe the everlasting friendship of the two great nations with which the undertakings he added could of solvency and stability which are essential to the prosperity and happiness of all mankind."

"The task was one of appalling magnitude," said Mr. Harvey, "and the adjustment of terms relatively minor, the world looks for the preservation not have been regarded in any other light than that of a devastating failure if the great nations had not with the approbation and measurable satisfaction of the millions of the people who comprise the British empire and the American republic. That object has been obtained."

"The great majority in congress presented conclusive evidence of unmistakable gratification in the United States and the unanimity manifested in Great Britain afforded eloquent testimony of the sense of relief, even joy."

Ambassador Harvey combated the assertion that the United States had refused to make huge advances to the other allies unless they were guaranteed by Great Britain, declaring: "Great Britain was never asked to guarantee and never guaranteed the payment of a single dollar loaned by the United States for the use of any country other than Great Britain herself."

"The United States, according to the ambassador, voluntarily gave a pledge that Great Britain should be held to account for any portion of the supplies delivered to her representatives for transportation to or to be used by another ally."

"In point of fact," he continued, "a very considerable percentage of the debt of Great Britain to the United States was incurred in the purchase of food and clothing for people living in England."

"He pointed out the interesting fact that the cost of the great war in money to the United States and Great Britain was about the same ten billion sterling in cash and ten billion in goods."

"The human mind cannot comprehend a sum so colossal, but nobody here, I am confident, will deny that the outcome was worth the money and probably—God pity us all—the lives. Another misapprehension regarding the United States he wished to remove—"

"It is said that we wriggle out and dunned Great Britain. We did neither one nor the other. The expiration of the three years during which we had agreed to bear the entire burden of approaching, and on the same day our government gave notice to all our debtors to that effect, which was merely the customary preliminary to payment or negotiations of terms. One or two appeared and talked about the matter, but Great Britain arrived and talked business. The outcome was the completed settlement of this greatest financial transaction in less than a month."

The ambassador mentioned the official statement of the British government promulgated August 1 last, containing the specific assertion that under the arrangements arrived at, the United States insisted, in substance, if the United States be to spend the money, it was only on our security that they were prepared to lend it.

"The ambassador expressed the opinion that at some suitable time the British government will, with equal formality and explicitness, remove the misapprehension created by this unfortunate allusion.

"The simple fact is," he continued, "that barring Russia, which could not get our product, the allies owe the United States more than they owe Great Britain."

Three Men Held For Death of Thornberg

SALISBURY, Feb. 28.—A coroner's jury decided this afternoon that Robert L. Thornberg, who was injured while a member of an alleged drinking party last night, and who died shortly thereafter, came to his death from a blow on the head, caused by the blow of a brick. Three men, also members of the party, were held without bail until the inquest was completed. Evidence introduced tended to show that the blow may have been inflicted by some one by a fall, an autopsy having been performed this morning.