

This 1923 a Good Year For Social Legislation in N. C.

General Assembly Just Past Showed Itself Socially-Minded Body Favorably Disposed Towards Public Welfare Work in North Carolina; Helped Children and Unfortunates; State Board of Public Welfare Is Pleased With Results of Session.

By NELL BATTLE LEWIS
 RALEIGH, March 10.—This has been a good year for public welfare legislation in North Carolina. The general assembly of 1923 was distinctly favorable to measures providing for the care of the unfortunate in the state and the protection of children. Prison reform in North Carolina, it is true, made but little headway. But otherwise the legislature gave progressive evidence. It was, in the main, a socially-minded group. It took no retrogressive step, but followed out the same general policies of the three preceding regular sessions by passing laws looking towards the improvement of social conditions in the state.

admit boys up to 13 years old, while the age limit at Jackson is 16. A number of superior court judges have stated that in their opinion it is necessary to have some such place of confinement for the first offender. The inadequacy of institutional facilities has considerably handicapped the operation of the juvenile court law in this state.

Consolidate Poor-Relief
 The law allowing two or more counties to unite in building a home to care for paupers is in direct line with the policy of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare to consolidate, whenever possible, such poor-relief into district homes as more efficient and economical than the county unit which it has been disclosed by investigation by agents of the state board, in a number of counties in the state has degenerated into an ill-conducted catch-all very "refuse can of public charity." The board is particularly interested in bringing about improvement in conditions in North Carolina county homes, and regards this piece of legislation as a valuable aid to this end.

Sentiment Favors Welfare Officers
 Public sentiment in various counties as expressed to representatives in the legislature appeared to be opposed to the abolition of the office of superintendent of public welfare. Bills to abolish this office in Surry, Lenoir, Johnston, Columbus and Avery counties were defeated. With reference to Warren county, the state law which made the employment of a welfare officer optional in a county of less than 32,344 in population was re-enacted as a local law. A bill was passed making the office of superintendent of public welfare mandatory in Mitchell county and raising the age of compulsory school attendance there to 16.

Prison Reform Bills Sponsored by the N. C. Conference for Social Service
 travelled a rougher road in the general assembly than the rest of the social measures. Three out of seven bills on the program of the conference introduced in the legislature passed. These were: to put the state prison on an appropriation basis; to abolish the department for the criminal insane at the state prison; and to establish a colony for tubercular prisoners. These last two were offered by George Ross Fou, superintendent of the state prison, and all three had his support. Those which failed to pass were: to abolish flogging as a punishment for prisoners; to re-organize the board of directors of the state prison; to change the personnel of the advisory board of parole and employ a parole officer; and to send to the state prison all criminals sentenced for more than three months.

The Appropriation to the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare
 was increased by the general assembly from \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year. The State Child Welfare Commission, of which the commissioner of Public Welfare is chairman and whose function it is to enforce the child labor law in this state also received an annual increase of \$10,000. Appropriations to state institutions in which the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare has special interest were: State hospital at Raleigh, for permanent improvement \$394,000, for maintenance, \$440,000 as against \$765,000 and \$320,000 in 1921; State hospital at Morganton \$415,000 and \$445,000 as against \$300,000 and \$425,000; State hospital at Goldsboro, \$312,000 and \$235,000 as against \$300,000 and \$220,000; Caswell Training school, \$500,000 and \$146,000 as against \$240,000 and \$80,000; Jackson Training school, \$135,000 and \$100,000 as against \$140,000 and \$40,000; Samarcaid Manor \$232,500 and \$100,000 as against \$165,000 and \$55,000; and for the reformatory for delinquent colored boys authorized by the legislature of 1921 but not yet established, \$50,000.

Clusters of fruit, preferably cherries or grapes, are frequently seen hanging off the brims of the coarse straw hats designed for midsummer wear. For immediate wear nothing is more popular than the small cloche of felt or combination of silk and straw.

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Never Were Spring Fabrics Lovelier Than These

WHAT a colorful season this is going to be! With embroidered and printed fabrics leading the mode, no wonder! Beauty is easy to attain when all fabrics are lovely—drab and uninteresting clothes have no excuse, whatsoever. Such exquisite fabrics as you will find here make clothes fashioning a joy—yet prices are modest for so much loveliness. Silks, woolsens, cottons—one simply lovelier than the other.

Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars Worth New Spring Silks

bought in tremendous quantities for our 33 big department stores. Wilmington's portion is here and represents all the newest weaves, colors and effects for spring. Monday will witness a silk selling, the like of which you never saw before. Come early for the best selections.

Cotton Dress Goods

The finest line of cottons to be seen this season anywhere. No excuse now for not having one, two or half dozen pretty frocks for early spring wear. Monday you'll find these goods on display moderately priced.



- PRINTED CREPE DECHINE**—This is a soft, crepe silk, very pretty for the new spring dress. In lovely patterns of both floral and Egyptian designs, 40 inches wide, at **\$2.69**
- CANTON CREPE**—A pretty quality all-silk crepe, just the weight to drape softly, nice for street or dress wear, all leading colors, 40 inches wide, at **\$2.95**
- FLAT CREPE**—Absolutely the season's newest and best. It has a soft, smooth, crepe effect, drapes very prettily and is very individual for street or dress, 40 inches wide, at **\$2.95**
- MALLINSON'S "THISLUDU"**—This heavy all-silk tweed is the novelty of the season. Is very effective for street, sport or suits, 40 inches wide **\$3.98** and **\$6.95**
- MALLINSON'S HOTTENTOT**—A lovely soft, heavy crepe; a pretty material for blouses and combinations, a pretty Paisley in navy and gray, 40 inches wide **\$3.98**
- MALLINSON'S PONGEE**—This is a soft all-silk material and is extremely pretty for suits, dresses or skirts, 40 inches wide **\$2.98**
- CREPE SATIN**—A lovely soft, smooth silk-satin with crepe back, drapes prettily and is also very attractively used for tailored wear, 40 inches wide **\$3.50**
- MALLINSON'S "HOOS-HOO"**—A very handsome crepe is this, with a nice, heavy weight; splendid for sport or street, in either plaid or stripes, 40 inches wide **\$6.95**
- ALLIGATOR CREPE**—Another of the newest crepes is this heavy all-silk material, for dress or tailored wear. It is also splendid for capes or coat dresses, 40 inches wide **\$3.98**
- CORKSCREW CREPE**—This is a crepe very much like the cantons, but is a heavier weight, just the thing for the dress without a wrap. It is also attractively used for capes, in navy, brown and gray, 40 inches wide **\$3.48**
- CREPE DE CHINE**—We have "just filled in" on our new colors of crepe, all the pretty shades for lingerie and also darker colors for dress, 40 inches wide **\$1.69** and **\$2.48**
- SATENÀ BROCADE**—Something different in brocades; very pretty for blouses and combinations, also makes very attractive linings for capes, coats, etc., 36 inches wide **\$1.69**
- KIMONO SILK**—A very soft Paisley material for kimonos, linings etc., in all shades, 36 inches wide **98c**
- RADIUM SILK**—A soft, smooth silk that launders and wears beautifully; splendid material for lingerie or washable silk dresses, in all leading colors, 40 inches wide **\$1.79**
- SIBERIAN CREPE**—36 inches wide. New material, new goods. With the new silk stripe. Colors come in tan, orchid, pink, Copen, Turkais gray, rose, burnt orange, white. The yard **85c**

- IMPORTED RATINE**—36 inches wide, in the new plaid effect. This is a very pretty material and the new weave. The yard **\$1.89**
- IMPORTED RATINE**—36 inches wide, in the new and wanted colors. These are all new. Per yard **\$1.59**
- RATINE CREPE**—36 inches wide. This is a new fabric you have not seen; in wanted colors. The yard **98c**
- RATINE EMBROIDERED VOILE**—36 inches wide. This is very new and rich looking. Colors, burnt orange, rose, tan. The yard **98c**
- BOLIVIA SUITING**—36 inches wide. This is another new number. A soft silk-like fabric and very pretty. The yard **85c**
- DRESSWELL SUITING**—36 inches wide. These have just been put on the market and are very attractive. The yard **85c**
- POLO CLOTH**—36 inches wide, with the new lockstitch and very pretty fabric. Colors, burnt orange, white, navy brown. Per yard **75c**
- RATINETTE SUITING**—36 inches wide. They are so pretty they are selling very fast while they last. Colors, burnt orange, new green, tan, gray, rose, henna, white. The yard **75c**
- VOILE! VOILE!**—36 and 40 inches wide. These were bought for 33 stores and bought to sell at the low price we put them on. Per yard **39c**
- RATINE VOILE**—40 inches wide. This is a new number. Very attractive. The yard **48c**
- RATINE**—36 inches wide. These are a \$1.00 value. While they last we will sell them, per yard **59c**
- ALL PURE LINEN**—Glendale all linen, 36 inches wide after it has been shrunk. Just the thing for spring dresses. Per yard **98c**
- HANDKERCHIEF LINEN**—36 inches wide, in all the new and wanted colors. The yard **\$1.25**
- IMPORTED ORGANDY**—45 inches wide. The new transparent kind, permanent finish, which will retain its finish. Per yard **75c**
- LADLASSIE CLOTH**—For children's suits—fast to sun and suds, for little tots' rompers for little ladies. You can wear the year round. Per yard **25c**
- SOCIETY SATIN**—A pretty washable silk for lingerie in perfectly exquisite shades of blue, gold, orchid, flesh and white, at **\$1.98**

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ALL-SILK SPANISH SCARFS, \$3.65
 Positively the newest novelty is this Spanish scarf, developed in all the new shades, each—
\$3.65

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In the new Egyptian figures and colors. Very smart for the younger set. See these Monday. The prices are—

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HAND-MADE BLOUSES

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Hand-embroidered and daintily hand-drawn, the dainty sheer, splendidly tubbale, hand-made that tune in with and tone up so many costumes; business and school tailored suits, sweaters and sport skirts materials, dainty voile batiste in several styles to select from with Peter Pan and tuxedo collars, sizes 34-46.

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Egyptian printed overblouse fashion in flate crepe and crepe de chine, in the gayest colors, with the new square neckline, three-quarter sleeves, trimmed with piping buttons and buckles. Some tie models, others jacket and the hipband overblouse—

\$5.98 - \$9.95

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