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# Watauga Democrat

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## Bills for Parks Have Been Passed in House

**With President's Signature Measure Will Become a Law—State Led Movement—Due Investigations to be Made in Mountains.**

A Washington dispatch of the 16th to the Greensboro News gives us the following "park news."

In the house today the Templar-Parker Bill passed. It had already passed the senate and is now ready for the signature of the president, which it is believed will be forthcoming, as it is understood President Coolidge is heartily favorable toward the bill.

### Leaders in the Movement

Representatives Weaver, Doughton and Bulwinkle all introduced bills providing for national parks in the State of North Carolina, and Representative Temple introduced one providing for a park in Virginia. Agreement was finally reached between the North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia delegations and the Temple bill was so amended as to embrace the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee and other areas including Grandfather Mountain and the Linville Gorge. This amended bill was introduced and passed in the senate. When it came to the house it was substituted for the original bill and passed.

### Weaver an Advocate

Mr. Weaver who has of the foremost advocates of park projects, and is doing credit for the passage of any man in Congress planning the provisions he said. "This bill confers upon the secretary of the interior preliminary steps toward the selection of one or more national parks in the eastern Appalachians. The bill itself does not establish or create such national parks but provides that the secretary of the interior may appoint a commission on five members composed of a representative from the interior department and four national park experts, who shall serve without compensation, to examine the Shenandoah Valley area of the Appalachian Mountains in Virginia, and the Great Smoky mountain area in North Carolina and Tennessee, and such other Appalachian areas as the commission may determine upon in North Carolina and elsewhere.

### May Investigate

"The Secretary of the Interior through this commission may investigate suitable areas, receive definite offers of donations of areas of land secure options and determine the boundaries of lands which he may recommend for the purpose of national parks.

"I have introduced H. R. 10893, which embraces the Smoky Mountain area. Representatives Doughton and Bulwinkle of North Carolina have introduced bills presenting the Linville Gorge and Grandfather and the Roan Mountain areas. The present bill provides an appropriation of 20,000 for the purpose of investigating all these areas by the secretary of the interior with a view to determine more exactly the necessary boundaries and lands which may be recommended and all other data and information relative to the establishment of these great parks.

"North Carolina has a number of areas that are well worthy of consideration in this respect. The great Grandfather and Roan mountain area including the Linville Gorge would undoubtedly meet the requirements of a national park. The Great Smoky mountain area is the most primitive of all the vast range in mountains in the Appalachians. It has now become accessible through the construction of highways by the state of North Carolina and the state of Tennessee. It is the greatest mountain mass east of the Rockies. The eastern United States has no national parks. To visit any great national park one must now almost cross the continent. It would seem but wise and just that the national government should now undertake the project of establishing for the health and recreation of the people some great parks in the congested areas of the east.

"The project of establishing these parks initiated by Dr. Hubert Work, the present secretary of the interior. He is to be commended for his foresight in this respect.

Assurances have been given by those who will have much to do with choosing the areas that the Grand-

## MRS. ELIZABETH GREENE PASSED AWAY SATURDAY

Mrs. Elizabeth Greene, widow of the late Rev. David Greene, died at her home on Meat Camp last Saturday after an illness covering a period of two years. Interment was made in the burying ground at Meat Camp Church on Sunday, the funeral services conducted by Rev. L. C. Eggers and L. A. Wilson. Mrs. Greene was seventy eight years of age, and 59 years of her long life was spent as a consistent and devoted member of the Baptist church, and her Christian influence will be greatly missed in her community.

She is survived by two children, Mrs. H. S. Jones of Zionville R. F. D., and Mr. R. M. Green of Boone. She numbered her friends by her acquaintances and her departure has brought sadness to many hearts.

## Comrade Sunday School Class Holds Quarterly Meeting

The Comrade Sunday School class of the M. E. Church held their quarterly business and social meeting on last Friday night at the Critcher Hotel.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. A. E. South, after which Miss Billy Todd presided. The treasurer Mrs. A. E. South read a very pleasing report for the past year. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

Mrs. A. E. South, president; Mrs. W. G. Hartzog, vice president; Mr. A. E. South, Secy-Treas.

There were several discussions as to something definite to work for in the coming year. After the business meeting a social hour was enjoyed, followed by refreshments.

## REV. W. M. BAIRD DEAD

Rev. W. M. Baird of Matney a local minister of the Seventh Day Adventist church died at his home last Monday in the 68th year of his age. Mr. Baird was a native Watauga, and has always been considered an upright, honest Christian gentleman. He leaves two children, Mrs. Ples McGinnis of Vilas, this county, and Miss Libbie Baird, who has been holding a position at Albemarle this state, for a number of years. Both were present when the end came Miss Libbie arriving Sunday evening.

## LIVINGSTON CLUB MEETS WITH MISS AVETT

On Monday afternoon February 16, the Livingston Club, the young ladies Missionary Society of the Methodist church met with Miss Louise Avett and Miss Annie Lee Trivett at Miss Trivett's home. The reports of the treasurer and the secretary were encouraging, showing a balance in the treasury and an increase in membership.

Miss Ruth Avett, a student at Davenport College, Lenoir, N. C., and Miss Virginia Jenkins of Lexington, N. C. were visitors. Miss Jenkins talked very interestingly on activities at Scarritt and on various phases of the Sunday School work.

A pleasant social hour followed the business meeting and at that time Misses Avett and Trivett served delicious refreshments.

## BLONDE BESS OPINES

"Fellow at our boarding house circles the globe several times every day it's Mike—the goldfish."

father and Linville Gorge sites will have the most careful consideration. Competent men will be appointed on the commission to inspect the various sites, and it is believed the entire proposed park area, including vast territory in the Appalachian range of mountains, will be inspected with a view of recommending the best of these to be constructed into national parks.

Representative Doughton, who has been deeply interested in the proposed projects, today declared that all the sites in his state should be considered. He said:

"Dr. Temple who was a member of the unofficial commission and who will undoubtedly be a member of the park commission yet to be appointed, assured me personally that all the sites proposed in North Carolina, including the great Grandfather and the Linville Gorge sites will have adequate consideration. He said the commission would make a careful inspection of all the proposed park areas. His assurance is gratifying to me and my section of the state."

## OUR WEEKLY RESUME OF LEGISLATIVE EVENTS

(By M. L. SHIPMAN)

Raleigh, Feb. 17.—The fight over restricting the state discussion of the election bar measure, the forward march along legislative paths of the \$20,000,000 bond issue for roads bill together with a companion measure to increase the gasoline tax from three to four cents a gallon, decision of the house committee not to recommend the establishment of a state constabulary, and various other matters of more or less importance occupied the time of the General Assembly during the past week.

The road bond issue passed in the senate on all readings. A companion measure introduced by Sams of Forsyth who also introduced the bond bill, provides for revision of the regulations having to do with the control of the highway fund for an increase in the gasoline tax from three to four cents to finance the new road bond issue. Passage of similar measure in the house is expected without any difficulty, thus carrying out with out any difficulty Governor McLeans plans in this particular without any change.

"Evolution" was discussed at length before committee last week and finally a vote revealed that the education committee was deadlocked 16 to 16. Representative Tobe Connor stepped into the breach with a negative vote, he being chairman of the committee. The bill was thus sent back to the house with an unfavorable report. Its proponent, who aver that evolution should be taboo in the schools of North Carolina entered a minority report and the measure will have a special hearing on this report Tuesday night at eight o'clock, when the subject will be up on the floor of the House.

Redistricting the state was provided for in a measure finally passed by the House creating four additional judicial districts with judges and solicitors. The bill when first introduced provided for seven new districts but was killed by the house on its second reading. Representative Pete Murphy of Rowan succeeded in getting a motion to reconsider the vote by which the original bill failed on second reading adopted. When the bill again came up in the house it was amended to provide four instead of seven additional districts and was passed by a safe majority. Chief among the arguments presented against it was that of economy, it being averred that the extra districts will increase the cost of the state government by more than \$50,000 a year. Its proponents argued that the conditions of the dockets in various counties made an increase a necessity.

The proposal to establish a state constabulary was made by Representative Wade who introduced a bill in line with recommendations of the social committee which investigated this subject. An unfavorable report on the bill was returned but it will be up again on a minority report. However the House does not appear to think well of the proposition and will more than likely sustain the majority report.

A sales tax independent of the revenue bill was sent up in the House by representative Jackson of Madison on Saturday who would tax cigars, cigarettes, candies, cosmetics, and other minor purchases. The bill providing what are commonly termed nuisance taxes went to the finance committee. It is well named in the opinion of a formidable group of legislators and others.

The senate passed a bill which reduced the personal property tax exemption from \$300 to \$50, over the protest of many senators. It is predicted that this bill will have a hard road in the house which will probably show greater consideration for the "ninety and nine."

Financial legislation is expected to occupy the center of the stage during the coming week. The revenue bill, it was indicated, will provide for a fifty per cent increase in the income tax rates, but the other changes in the bill from the report of the state board of assessments have not been made public. The budget report for the next biennial period containing the appropriations for departments and institutions, is also expected to be presented by the appropriation committee of the House.

### OF LOCAL INTEREST

**Br. Mr. Greer, a bill to be entitled an act to repeal chapter 154 Private Laws, section 1923, relating to the corporate limits of the town of Blowing Rock.**

which has had it for some time.

The following public bills have been presented during the week:

An act to amend sections Chapter 136 public laws of 1923, and certain sections Consolidated Statutes relating to public schools; act requiring vaccination of dogs against rabies; act creating a department of state police, providing for the appointment of a superintendent thereof together with the personnel which will constitute the force defining expenses connected therewith; act providing for the construction of a bridge across lower Chowan river and to provide for the issuance of \$600,000.00 bonds of the state to pay the cost of the same; act to amend section 948 Consolidated Statutes relating to service of subpoenas and summonses of jurors; act to regulate the sale of bent tobacco and seed cotton; to repeal chapter 395 Public Local Laws of N. C. session 1921, relating to a highway commission for the county of Pamlico; an act to authorize the issuance of highway bonds of the State, to provide for apportionment of highway revenues and to increase the same and to amend Chapter two Public Laws of the regular session 1921 providing for construction and maintenance of state highway system and to amend section 4 chapter 188 Public Laws 1923 providing for certain sinking fund payment; act to amend banking laws of the state as set forth in chapter 5, volume 3 of Consolidated Statutes, being also chapter four of the public laws of 1921 as amended; to amend article ten of chapter five, volume three Consolidated statutes of 1924; to refund to domestic corporations income taxes for the years 1921 and 1922, to prohibit insurance of the lives of infants under six years of age; to amend section 7407 Consolidated Statutes by dispensing with the fee for the registration and transfer of state bonds and certification; to authorize temporary bonds and notes to state exchangeable for definite bonds and notes; act creating a department of state police, providing for appointment of superintendent with personnel which shall constitute the force defining their powers and duties, making appropriation for the expense connected therewith; to amend section 2295 and 2290 of Consolidated Statutes relative to advancement to children from estate of insane persons; an act authorizing the transfer of certain of the dangerous insane from the state hospitals to the veterans bureau of other department of the United States Government; an act to allow counties, cities and towns, in any county in North Carolina, to charge and collect license and privilege taxes for selling or otherwise disposing of horses or mules therein by non-residents of said county, in addition to the license and privilege taxes now charged by the state, or that hereafter be imposed in Bertie county; to repeal chapter 440, Public Local Laws of 1921 which amended chapter 118 private laws of 1919, prohibiting the sale of certain drinks within a half mile of Mount Gould landing in Bertie county on the day of the annual Farmers' Union or Farmers' Alliance picnic held there every year; an act to regulate the profession of public accounting in the state, to prescribe its practice so as to afford protection to the public; to repeal chapter 157 Public Laws of 1923, entitled, "an act to create a State Board of Accounting and prescribe its duties and power to prescribe for the examination and issuance of certificates to qualified applicants, with the designation of certified public accountants and to provide the grade of penalty for the violations of the provisions thereof; an act to prevent the operation of garages in the same building where a livery stable is kept; to amend chapter 82 section 4285 Consolidated Statutes in reference to reinstating mortgages and deeds of trust in case of fraud, to prohibit the use of pub-

(Continued on page three.)

## Watauga Potato Acreage To be Greatly Increased

**County Agent States That Large Numbers of New Members are Coming in Daily.—Price of Seed Shows Steady Advance**

The farmers of this county are going into the potato business this year in a business-like proportion. The Potato Growers Association is planning this year to market a considerable percentage of its potatoes as eating stock as soon as dug. The probability is that more seed will be required for the county than the Association now has in storage.

The county agent has been working on the freight rate from Boone to various points in the south during the two years that he has been here and he has succeeded in getting the freight rate from Boone to principal cities in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, a rate that is cheaper than hauling by truck to the nearby towns. Our freight rate to the cities in the states named run from 30 cents to 60 cents per hundred which will enable our farmers to dispose of an unlimited amount of potatoes at a time when that section of the country cannot produce for themselves. Florida begins shipping in April and May South Carolina in May and the first of June, eastern Carolina in June and July and Virginia in July and the first of August. The next largest producing section in order is New York which does not begin to ship until the latter part of September leaving the latter part of August, and the first of September with a scarcity of potatoes on the market. It is the purpose of the Association this year to grow not only seed potatoes but also eating stock to place on the market just as soon as they are ready to dig.

The marketing of table stock potatoes will in this way furnish the farmers an outlet for any off grade potatoes or some that do not come up to the perfection of seed. It will also enable him to dispose of enough of his crop to cover produce cost. The Association plans to get a potato grader and pass all potatoes over it before they are shipped, thereby placing on the market standard brand product and ship in standard bags. In this way Watauga will be able to get on the map as a potato-producing section. We have always known that potatoes could be grown here but our production has been limited to the number of bushels that could be wagoned or trucked down the mountain.

The farmers of the county are showing their appreciation of this situation by buying seed and planting operations on a much larger scale than heretofore. Several car loads of seed have been shipped this week and several cars have also been sold to the local farmers of this county. Mr. Blair, secy-treas. of the local branch of the Association states that at the present rate it will only be a few days before all their seed is sold. It is probable that a car of Maine seed will have to be shipped in to supply the local demand.

Due to the tremendous production of potatoes over the United States during 1924 and the consequent low price at which they sold on the market, the large producing sections are reducing their acreage this year so that the price of seed has remained unusually low just at this time. However the demand is increasing at a rapid rate and the price has advanced more than \$1.00 per bag so states the county agent. Because of this advance it will also be necessary for the local association to advance its price. However Mr. Steele states that due to the fact that a large number of farmers have spoken to him for seed they will wait until the 23rd day of February before raising the price to local growers. This week the price is \$3.00 per bag, next week it will be \$3.25. The price of Maine seed delivered in Boone just now is around \$4 per bag.

The banks of the county being interested in increasing the money flow in Watauga county are interested in the development of this potato industry. The Watauga County Bank in a letter issued the first of the month states:

"According to the usual trend of things, 1925 is going to be the low-production year for potatoes with the price correspondingly high. The present demand for seed potatoes and the consequent low price is evidence

## NEWS ITEMS FROM THE APPALACHIAN SCHOOL

A snow storm came to Boone on Wednesday and Thursday and on the former day was accompanied with rather severe thunder and lightning.

Some unknown persons broke into Mr. Dock Mast's store on night the past week while he was attending church, and stole \$1200 to \$1500 in goods and clothing, with perhaps other things.

At the Training School Rev. F. M. Huggins, conducted devotional service and made a very timely and impressive talk to the student body. On Friday afternoon from 3:30 to 5 o'clock the First Year Cooking Class with Miss Dale in charge, gave a Valentine party in the Home Economics department rooms with the faculty and Mr. E. A. Poe, architect, as guests. In a contest of cutting candy hearts, Miss Ruth Dotson of the Art Department, won first prize. Delicious refreshments were served and talks were made by Professors B. B. Dougherty, J. M. Downum, J. D. Rankin and Mr. Poe.

A number of friends of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sproles from Wilkesboro gathered to Boone on Sunday and spent the day with them, and were invited to the Critcher Hotel for dinner.

The following interesting announcement about two of Boone's fine young people has been sent out: "The honor of your presence is requested at the marriage of Miss Carrie Horton to Mr. Dean Brown Bingham on Saturday the twenty eighth of February at eight o'clock in the evening, Methodist church, Boone, North Carolina." Miss Carrie Coffey gave a Valentine party on Thursday evening in honor of Miss Horton at which one of the principal features was a linen shower of most beautiful embroidery for the bride-to-be. A musical program was given and a contest was put on in which the prize was won by Miss Ruth Cottrell, the prize being a silver thimble which she presented to the bride-elect.

In a basket ball game here on Saturday night between Lenoir High School girls and the Training School girls the score stood 16 to 14 in favor of the Boone girls.

J. M. Downum.

## DYNAMITE USED IN SEALING HIS GRAVE

Cave City, Ky., Feb. 18.—Sealed in his perpetual tomb, Floyd Collins sleeps tonight in peace. Buried alive he endured for days the terrifying solitude, praying that somehow, he would escape the impending doom. Unable longer to withstand the tortures of body and spirit he died alone trapped in the jaws of the cave, the wonders of which he discovered.

Realizing perhaps that the valiant efforts of scores of persons to rescue him would be in vain, he met death gamely, his jaws set. A few hours, or maybe a day or two after death had ended his sufferings, rescuers broke open his sarcophagus.

Plans were made to bring out the body, but the risk was too great and the caverns he knew and loved so well became his crypt. With simple funeral services yesterday his body resigned to the cave that would not release him.

The boom of detonating dynamite, the dull thud of huge boulders; loosened from their centuries old bed on the desolate hillside, as they tumbled in and sealed the new pit, was as a drawing of a colophone to the heroic work of the rescuers.

Today a few flowers strewn about the mouth of Sand Cave and a few spectators wandering aimlessly about had replaced the mechanical equipment and the jaded workers of yesterday.

Boss: "I'm smoking a terrible lot of cigars these days."

Stenog: "I'll say you are—if that's one of them."

that the growers in the large planting centers are cutting down their acreage. All these signs may fail but they indicate strongly that 1925 is going to be an excellent time to plant. Plant potatoes for seed and if they fail to pass inspection ship them as table stock. We shall be glad to have you talk this matter over with us or with your county agent. Either of us will lend you every assistance possible.

This sounds like a farmer who is not able to make his start is going to have an opportunity to, if he will