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FIVE CENTS A COPY

REFORM BALLOT BEFORE SOLONS

Australian Ballot Substitute Gets Favorable Report; Highway Bill Given to House With Prospects Good for its Passage.

Raleigh, Feb. 5.—Two of the administration's most important bills today were shoved out of committee chambers with favorable reports attached. Now they are ready for consideration on legislative floors.

The senate gets first call at one of them, the Australian ballot legislation. The substitute bill was reported back favorably today and by special order the senate will begin considering it Friday morning.

The other, the governor's road bill, goes to the house. The committee's favorable report will be handed in tomorrow and the bill will be placed on the public calendar. Action is sure to be seen on this before the week is out.

Of the two the road bill will have the easiest sailing. The committee obviously is in greatest accord.

The situation is decidedly different as to the secret ballot bill. Though the subcommittee drafted and agreed on a substitute bill and the committee voted it favorably, differences continue to exist. Even the vote to report it favorably was not unanimous.

The substitute secret ballot is a measure of concessions by both the pros and antis. That was the only way they were able to unstrap it from committee boards. The new bill, verbally, would scarcely be recognized as the original Broughton-Johnson bill. The language in almost every section has been changed. Nevertheless, the changes in all save one particular are rather inconsequential. The chief concessions, apparently, were made by the antis to the adamant pros. But they did not concede on one point and they consider this point their saving grace.

The section provides that the secret ballot be optional in the discretion of the county boards of election as regards to election of county officers. The committee also changed the provision in the original bill that the markers appointed by the county boards of election shall be appointed in equal numbers from each political party to read that each party shall have representatives as markers without regard to proportion. It also decided that a wife might accompany her husband into the booth to fix their tickets.

It is expected that many amendments and changes will be made on the bill before it becomes law, if it ever does.

Up until Tuesday night 384 house and 285 senate bills had been placed in the legislative hopper. Following is a list of the more important measures of state-wide interest:

New Bills HOUSE

By Morgan of Perquimans: To provide for reduction of taxes and county road maintenance.

By Smith of Wake: To amend constitution so that solicitor districts may be set up.

By Boyd of Haywood: Amend the law by requiring sheriffs to file report of effort to levy on personal property for taxes.

By Hargett of Onslow, Wells of Pender, and Boren of Guilford: Fixing maximum compensation of state officials at \$10,000.

Amend the 1921 act relating to divorces and reducing the voluntary separation from five to two years.

Winston of Bertie: Limit private prosecution in North Carolina.

Hines of Sampson: Make provision for the state superintendent of public instruction to be the state purchasing agent.

Young and Leavitt of Buncombe: Amend the 1927 act relating to registration of automobiles by non-residents.

Blair of Guilford: Amend election laws.

SENATE
Alderman of Vance, Gregory and Broughton of Wake: To enable the state to participate in the preservation of valuable historical records by appropriation of \$1,500 to the Colonial Dames for the preservation of the Joel Lane house in Raleigh, where the first North Carolina legislature held its sessions.

Williams of Yadkin: Australian ballot act.

Burnett of Swain: To reduce the homestead exemption to \$300.

By Lawrence of Hertford: To amend state game law so as to change the season to run from November 20 to February 15.

By Scott of Alamance: To amend the constitution so as to authorize special methods of taxing forest lands, farm woodlands and wild or waste lands.

By Person of Franklin: To relieve the defaulting taxpayers of North Carolina from the tyranny and oppression in chapter 224 of the public law of 1927.

By Cannady of Johnston: To

A CORRECTION

Grave errors occurred in the table of figures purporting to show the value of installment stock in the Watauga Building & Loan Association which appeared as a part of the page ad in last week's Democrat. As the table appeared the true value of one share of stock in series three, for instance, was put at \$78, whereas \$78 was the amount paid in, the value as of December 31 being \$97.19. The printers were furnished a full copy of the audit report and the wrong columns of figures were set. The complete advertisement appears again this week on page three and a glance at the table will show the amount paid in on any given series, its age in months, profit and total value per share. The statement of the condition of the association appears on the same page and furnishes interesting reading matter. The Democrat regrets the error of last week.

GREER URGES VAGRANCY LAW FOR TOWN OF BOONE

Prof. I. G. Greer, of the Appalachian State Normal, had charge of the program at last week's meeting of the Civitan Club, speaking on the subject, "Making the Community Safe for our Children."

In his talk, Prof. Greer enumerated several things that would go to make a more ideal community here, among them being a vagrancy law that would put every able bodied citizen without visible means of support, to work, or make him move. There are three kinds of citizens, he said—a positive, a negative and the "zero" citizen. "I have no fear of the bootlegger," he said. "He is not as dangerous to the community as the 'zero' citizen who does not care what is going on about him."

Prof. Greer urged his hearers to be active for those things that go into the building of a better community. If we will do this, he said, there will be no room in Boone for the criminal, and people seeking a better place in which to educate their children will be attracted here and Boone will become what it should be—a cultural community.

CENTRAL TIRE CO. WILL ANNOUNCE OPENING SOON

The new building adjacent to the Miller-Moretz Motor Company is getting its finishing touches and an announcement will soon be made through the columns of The Democrat of the opening of Boone's newest firm therein, the Central Tire Company. Mr. W. R. Winkler, successful garage proprietor and large stockholder, will be the active manager of the new business, and says that already shipments of tires, parts and accessories have arrived totaling more than three thousand dollars. A full line of the leading brands of tires and tubes will be handled, as will repair parts and accessories for all makes of cars. Soon after the opening it is the plan of the company to install complete vulcanizing equipment and also specialize in battery repair work. The management will give full details of the business in the early announcement.

New York, Feb. 5.—Louis Ore-fice, hailed to court for beating his wife, was allowed to go by the judge after obeying a command to kiss his wife and his mother-in-law to show his gratitude to them for deciding to drop the charge of assault.

abolish absentee voting in primaries. Bloant of Pitt, and others: To require the state highway commission to reimburse counties for money spent on state highways.

Clark of Mecklenburg and Wadd of Craven: An act regulating the guardianship of insane and shell-shocked veterans.

Bills Passed SENATE

To make administrators and guardians liable for failure to file reports.

HOUSE
Requiring instruction in the public schools of North Carolina in the evils of alcoholism and narcotics.

By Williams of Warren: Relating to the advertisement of judicial foreclosures of sales.

Williamson of Bladen: Amend the consolidated statutes relative to judgments entered by clerks of the court.

Ewing of Cumberland: Relative to notices filed by candidates and pledges made by candidates.

Senator Person of Franklin: Repeal the 1927 act taking power of the United States senatorial appointment from the governor.

Shaw of Mecklenburg: Change the punishment for malicious injury to property and increasing the gravity of certain offenses.

Senate Bill Killed
Hobbs of Sampson: To change the date of the primary from the first Saturday in June to the first Saturday in August.

NEWS OF WEEK AT BLOWING ROCK

Two Are Severely Burned When Coal Oil is Poured in Hot Stove; Oyster Supper for Library Fund Was Successful

Blowing Rock, Feb. 6.—Forrest Clawson and his small sister are suffering from severe burns as a result of an explosion of oil fumes in the stove in the Clawson home last Sunday. Mrs. Clawson told Forrest to put some coal in the stove, but he understood her to say coal oil. Before his mother realized what he was doing, he got the oil can and poured it into the stove. The flash of flames burned Forrest and his little sister about the face. It is hoped that the burns are not deep enough to disfigure their faces. It was feared at first that Forrest had inhaled the flames, but Dr. Hagaman said that he had not, examination revealed no burns in his mouth.

Excellent co-operation was shown last week by the townspeople in responding to the oyster supper and dance to raise funds to pay for the new books added to the library. Enough money was raised to finish the payment.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Story furnished the steaks and potatoes for those who did not eat oysters. A. M. Criteher donated the cabbage for the salad, and other citizens donated the milk and cream. Mrs. Nellie Hartley donated the use of the Central hotel dining room and kitchen and supervised the preparation of the supper. Mrs. N. C. Greene helped to cook the oysters. The lady teachers of the school acted as waitresses. Mrs. W. P. Penley and others who could not be present sent donations in cash.

Pupils in the Blowing Rock school are receiving their report cards this week with their grades for the first time. Parents are requested to examine the grades carefully, as these mid-year grades have an important bearing on the pupils' progress for the whole year.

The Blowing Rock high school's first graduating class is making preparations for class day. Diplomas and invitations have been ordered. Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, state inspector of high schools, has accepted the invitation of Principal C. O. Mudge to be the commencement speaker. It is probable also that a class play will be presented.

The first graduating class will be composed of eleven members: Bynum Crisp, Beulah Wooten, Corinne Knight, Elizabeth Sudderth, Lucile Reid, Harley Mudge, Lucille Coffey, Velma Cannon, Edna Miller, Pema Robbins and Christine Johnson.

Lucile Reid has been kept away from school for the last week by illness of her mother.

Preparations are being made to enter four pupils of the Blowing Rock high school in the debates of the state debating union. The headquarters at Raleigh has been requested to Triangle Blowing Rock with Lees-McRae Institute and Oak Ridge Institute, but no word has yet been received as to whether this has been accomplished. Those who will probably compose the Blowing Rock teams are Bynum Crisp, Lucile Reid, Paul Foster and Jay Knight.

Harry Klutz, who has been working near Charlotte, spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Klutz.

J. A. Panella has returned from Statesville and reopened his plumbing business here.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Coffey and little son, Earl, Jr., were week-end visitors of Mrs. Coffey's mother, Mrs. Mattie Story.

H. C. Hayes spent the week-end with Mrs. Hayes and his daughter Dorothy, who are spending the winter in Raleigh.

Rev. Perry Morgan made an interesting lecture to a good audience at the Baptist church Sunday night.

Mrs. John Green of Blowing Rock spent the week-end with Henry Green of Johnson City, Tenn.

Fred Mays spent the week-end here with his mother, Mrs. Alice Mays, and sisters.

Paul Underdown has gone to Charlotte, where he will work for the rest of the winter.

Miss Ruby Richards spent the week-end at her home in the Boone Fork section.

Charley Spann is building a new house for himself and family. He has lately returned home from the northwest. The new house is on the old Boone road.

Dewey Mitchell delivered an interesting address last Sunday on the Sunday school lesson at the Cool Springs church.

News has reached here of the death last week of C. Roy Coffey of Patterson. He died of influenza.

How to Make More Money on the Farm

BY REAL FARMERS

A definite plan of planting crops is necessary if the farmer is to make the most of his land, according to R. T. Greer, who follows this system on his farm between Boone and Blowing Rock.

Mr. Greer began by saying that he did not want his article captioned "By Real Farmers," because, he maintained that he was not a real farmer, though everyone knows that few farms in the county are more successful than the Greer farm.

"Before the plow ever touches the ground in the spring," Mr. Greer said, "the farmer should know exactly what he wants to plant and exactly how much acreage he wants to put in each crop. This is always determined by the capacity for cultivation. Most of us are too ambitious; we like to think of ourselves as going into farming on a large scale, and, as a result, we often plant more than we can cultivate."

"That is one of the greatest mistakes of the farmers in this section, in my opinion. It is better for the farmer and better for his land to raise 500 bushels of potatoes on two acres of land than to raise the same amount on five acres. It is better to let the land lie fallow than for it to be only half cultivated. We have enough acreage under cultivation; what we need most is greater production on each acre."

"How much land a farmer shall put under cultivation each year should be determined by three factors: first, how much money he has for buying seed and other supplies; second, how much fertilizer he has; and third, what proportion of fair weather he can count on for cultivation."

"As for the first factor, it stands to reason that a farmer should not put himself too much in debt in planting his crops. The very first thing I do in the spring before I plant a crop is to see how much money I have in the bank and to calculate how much I can spare for a particular crop, when all other necessary expenses are considered. A careful calculation of this kind will often save some financial embarrassment later in the season."

"Opinions differ in regard to the second factor, fertilizer, because some farmers favor one kind of fertilizer, and others prefer another. Hence, this element will have to be determined by the kind of fertilizer used and the funds available for buying it. I am not condemning any other man's fertilizer, but personally I find that all in all manure is the most satisfactory fertilizer. Consequently, I do not plant to put into cultivation any more land than I can cover with the manure available."

"The third factor, the amount of fair weather to be counted on, is not by any means the least important. A crop needs a certain amount of cultivation, and it will not do well unless it has it. In this county, a farmer can calculate that at least one-third of the growing season is rainy weather when he cannot work in the field. Now, if he plants crops that will require enough cultivation to consume three-fourths of the days in the growing season, he is going to lose money, because the crops will almost certainly be undercultivated."

"I want to insist upon these three points, because I am firmly convinced that what we need most is not more acreage, but better production on the acreage we have. A business-like plan for the crops, so that all growing plants can be well cared for, will do more toward increasing the general farm income of the county than an increased acreage, involving a correspondingly increased expense and labor."

"If you will pardon an illustration from my own experience, last year we raised 2,500 bushels of potatoes on nine acres, an average of a little more than 277 bushels an acre. We might have planted twice that acreage and got a not much better yield, because we should not have been able to cultivate it properly."

"We raise our own seed potatoes. It is all right to buy the certified seed, but a farmer may certify his own seed if he has the necessary facilities. We have a special field of bottom land on which we grow our seed potatoes—about two acres. We find that by selecting the best potatoes from this crop we have an excellent supply of seed potatoes for the next spring."

"One mistake that I have noticed among some farmers in this county is plowing the land while it is wet. Along in the latter part of March one might travel the length of the county along Highway No. 60 and see a hundred plows in operation, with the ground almost mud. This

is bad for the land, because land plowed while it is too wet will pass as hard as a roadbed when it gets dry.

"I have one little corner of land that had to be used as a detour while the highway was being built past my home. I had no objection, of course, to allowing its use for that purpose, but the cars and wagons going across that land plowed it, as it were, while it was wet. To this day, that land is not so productive as it was before it was used for a detour. No man could pay me for the privilege of plowing my land while it was wet, because I know that I would lose money on it because of its decreased production."

"If a meadow land is to be productive, it requires care, just as other lands do. Livestock should never be allowed to run over meadow land during April, for two reasons: they will break it up while it is wet, and thus have the same effect as plowing wet ground, and they will trample the young grass just when it is getting a start. The stock should be kept up during this month, so that the grass can get its start for the summer. After it gets its start, they may be turned on the pasture again."

"Farmers should not worry about what I have said in regard to reducing acreage if they are not in a position to cultivate all their land thoroughly. The chances are that the smaller acreage will be as productive under the more intensive cultivation as the larger acreage would be. Moreover, the land not in crops can be used as grazing land for livestock. And livestock is perhaps our most productive crop. A few sheep will bring as much profit from the land as a good crop will."

"At any rate, whatever the farmer raises, he should not do about it in any haphazard way. Farming is a business, and it requires as much attention to production costs as does the largest manufacturing concern."

PREACHERS ARE ASKED TO MAKE DRY APPEAL

New York, Feb. 3.—A statement on behalf of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America tonight said that the council had appealed to pastors of the United States to preach sermons on March 3 urging support of the Hoover administration in prohibition enforcement.

"In view of the fact that a federal administration pledged to the support of prohibition, assumes office on March 4," said the statement, "the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America appeals to pastors throughout the country to take occasion on Sunday, March 3, the Sunday before inauguration day to speak to their people, either briefly or at length, urging total abstinence and voluntary observance of federal and state laws for the suppression of the liquor traffic."

"The federal council recommends that this appeal be made on three grounds: first, out of loyalty to our country and its institutions; second, in order to stem a tide of lawlessness which has manifestly become harmful to national welfare; third, because of the power of sobriety in a people, and the very great social importance of a successful handling of an evil, the menace which is recognized by every nation and which all are struggling to control."

"The federal council believes that men and women who are members of churches, and thousands who are not, will respond generously and unselfishly to these considerations. Those who do social drinking will stop it if rightly approached and for the reasons mentioned. They will also give their voice and personal influence to the support of national and community officials who are joining hands in an effort to make the 18th amendment effective."

The federal council believes that the bootlegger may thus be largely put out of business by stopping his patronage."

CARNES GETS FIVE YEARS

Atlanta, Feb. 5.—Clinton S. Carnes, former treasurer of the Southern Baptist convention, pleaded guilty here today to embezzlement and was given an indeterminate sentence of five to seven years imprisonment. He is alleged to have embezzled nearly a million dollars from the home mission board of the Southern Baptist church.

If a resolution indorsing the Ten Commandments were introduced in the senate it would be loaded down with 110 reservations.—New York Evening Post.

MILLER SETTLES WITH THE TOWN

Municipal Authorities Very Secretive Concerning Details of Settlement of \$10,000 Account With High Point Broker

The indebtedness of Claude E. Miller, High Point broker, to the town of Boone has been cleared up according to information made public by A. Y. Howell, town clerk. No details were given out as to what terms the adjustment was made, other than that the "municipal authorities were satisfied."

It will be remembered that Miller appeared at the September term of Watauga superior court to answer charges of giving bad checks in payment for a note of \$10,000 which he was to have negotiated for the town. He alleged that a New York bank had promised to buy the note and that he sent checks to the local bank as a result, not being able to stop the checks when he found the banker had laid down on the contract. It developed later, however, that Miller had cashed the note at the First National Bank of Thomasville and appropriated the money. The case was continued until the spring term of court to give him an opportunity to make settlement.

POWER TO NAME SENATORS RESTORED TO GOVERNOR

The general assembly Friday restored to the governor the power to fill vacancies in the United States senate from this state that it took away in 1927. Senator Person's bill to repeal the 1927 act, already passed by the senate was passed in the house Friday without discussion. The vote was put without a roll call and legislation now becomes law.

Before getting around to Senator Person's bill, the house passed, 77 to 33, a bill by Representative Ewing, Democrat, of Cumberland, to require candidates in the state primary to pledge support to all nominees of the party. Under the present law they are required to promise support only the nominees of the office for which they are a candidate.

The vote on the bill was drawn on almost strict party lines. No Republican voted for it, and only one Democrat, Boren of Guilford, against Representative Suttleson of Caldwell, elected on an independent ticket, also voted against it.

WHITE ILLITERATES IN STATE TOTAL 104,844

The state literacy commission, appointed last year by Governor McLean to make a study of illiteracy in North Carolina and to devise ways and means of helping improve the illiterates, reports that North Carolina has 104,844 white illiterates, or more than the total number of illiterates in nine states. These states are Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Iowa, Oregon, South Dakota and Utah.

"There are nine counties in North Carolina, says the report, that have more than 15 per cent illiteracy, according to a study made by the commission on the basis of the 1920 census. 'In our total population,' says the report, '13.1 persons in every 100 are illiterate.'"

In transmitting the report to the general assembly the members of the commission say this to the legislators: "These facts and figures on the serious problem of illiteracy are submitted for your consideration because many of your constituents are hopeful that you will make possible, during this session of the legislature, a vigorous state-wide literacy program."

SENATE PASSES CRUISER BILL

Washington, Feb. 4.—Overriding the expressed wish of President Coolidge, the senate by a vote of 54 to 28 refused late today to eliminate from the cruiser construction bill the stipulation that the sixteen ships shall be laid down before July 1, 1931.

Party lines went to smash on the proposition with a Democrat, Senator Harrison of Mississippi, offering the amendment to give the president a free rein over the naval program and twenty-six Republicans voting against the Coolidge request. This disposed of the dominant issue in the cruiser fight and the senate will vote tomorrow on the measure authorizing 15 cruisers and an airplane carrier at a cost of \$274,000,000, passage of which is regarded as assured.

Washington, Feb. 5.—An increase in the navy by 15 cruisers and an airplane carrier was voted today by the senate, 68 to 12, with the stipulation that the ships be laid down before July 1, 1931.

You can tell a civilized country. It's one where people kill the birds and then spend millions to fight insects.—Portland Express.