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WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE

Republicans Secure Three Amendments to Australian Ballot Bill, Constitutional Convention Causes Fight

Raleigh, Feb. 13.—After three hours of debate in the senate yesterday, the Australian ballot bill is in the best shape it has yet been in, from the standpoint of those who seek a real secret ballot law. The measure will be voted on today.

Features of the session yesterday were the adoption of three amendments offered by Senator Broughton of Wake, the same amendments that had been advocated by Governor Gardner, and the defeat of all other major amendments considered.

The Broughton amendments, supported by Senator Johnson, co-author of the bill, and others who are backing the administration, provide for:

The county chairman of each political party may provide a list of ten names from each political party for each precinct, from which the marker of markers of each political party in the general election is or are to be selected.

There shall be no markers in primaries; the election officials, being of the party holding the primary, are to render assistance in preparation of ballot or voting requested by the voter.

The provision in the committee bill by which county election boards could hold primaries under the old rather than the new law is cut out, making the Australian ballot apply to all elections and primaries in the state, be they municipal, county, state or national.

The amendments had the solid backing of the 13 Republican members of the senate.

In the House

The Winston bill for submitting to a vote of the people the question of calling the first constitutional convention since 1875 passed second reading in the house, but was held over for final action on objection of Mull of Cleveland, to third reading yesterday. The bill passed by a vote of 94 to 15, but it requires two-thirds vote of the members of the house and a tight lobby for today that makes it not at all certain that the bill will get by on its final reading.

The house passed the Smith bill to re-submit to the voters a constitutional amendment for judicial relief by creating solicitor districts separate and distinct from judicial districts. This would permit increasing the number of judges without a corresponding increase in solicitors.

The house also moved to cut the penalty on redemption of lands sold for taxes from 20 to 12 per cent for the first year and from 10 to 8 per cent for the second year by passing the finance committee version of the Ewing and Lumpkin measures.

House—New Bills

By Gwyn of Rockingham: To appoint a commission to determine if there is duplication and wasted efforts in the various state departments. Representative Winston of Bertie had previously introduced a similar measure.

Provision for relief of dependents of police officers killed in line of duty is contained in a bill by White of Robeson. His bill would require the state, county or municipality employing the officer to give \$1,000 to his dependents within 60 days after his death.

Price of Mecklenburg: To change the time of tax listing to January 1 and collection of taxes to begin July 1, instead of October, under the present law.

Gill of Scotland: To exempt railroads operating buses from the law requiring bus operators to carry insurance to cover any personal damage judgments secured against them.

President elect Hoover will be invited to address the general assembly of North Carolina on his return from Florida to Washington. The Democratic majority in the senate Friday joined with the republican members to pass unanimously the resolution asking the president elect to address the legislature in joint session.

Hancock of Granville: Protect and propagate fish in privately owned waters.

Alexander of Union: Amend the consolidated statutes relating to indemnity for cattle slain for disease.

By Flannagan: To extend the jurisdiction of cities to include laying out of street.

By Mull of Cleveland: The machinery bill providing listing and valuing of property.

By Halstead of Camden: Provide for a tax on non-essentials and luxuries for the support of schools.

By Johnson of Currituck: Amend the highway act.

By Cox of Randolph: Prohibit the obstruction of the view of motor vehicle operators on curves and inter-

T. H. Coffey Improving in Statesville Hospital

Blowing Rock, Feb. 14.—Some improvement was reported Tuesday morning in the condition of Thomas H. Coffey, who is seriously ill in a Statesville hospital. Members of the family, however, expressed the hope that the next news would show that Mr. Coffey is improving more rapidly, and they were joined in this hope by the many friends of the family in Blowing Rock.

Mr. Coffey went to Charlotte last week on business connected with the receivership of Mayview Manor. While there he fell suddenly ill and on Saturday was removed to the Statesville hospital.

J. E. Holshouser has returned to Blowing Rock from Chapel Hill after having passed the state bar examination and is now ready for the practice of law. He has not announced his plans for opening his law office.

Collis Moore, 17-year-old boy of Collettsville, who formerly lived at Aho, was buried at the latter community Sunday in the family cemetery. He died of pneumonia at Collettsville. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Moore of Aho.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Holshouser left last Friday for Florida, where they will spend a short vacation.

Mrs. J. H. Winkler returned last Friday from a visit with her mother, Mrs. Reid, at Brevard.

A. M. Critcher and son Cecil Critcher plan a trip to Florida soon, the former to see the country, the latter to see the "big fight."

Sections

By Winston of Bertie: Appropriate \$25,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of chapter 26 of the public laws of 1927 relating to Andrew Johnson memorial.

By Hood and Andrews of Wayne: Amend the statutes relating to work on Sundays.

By Herbert of Clay: Amend statutes relating to punishment for first degree burglary.

By Herbert of Clay: Amend statutes relative to punishment for murder in the first degree.

Senate—New Bills

By Clark of Mecklenburg: To require applicants for law licenses in the state to either be a student at one of the state law schools or to be a bona fide resident of North Carolina.

Senator Alderman of Vance introduced a bill Thursday to provide a whipping post in North Carolina. The bill requires the post to be used in the punishment of bootleggers, drunken automobile drivers, blue sky stock salesmen and others.

By Williams of Yadkin: Provide for a sales tax on all commodities except food, ranging from 20 per cent on luxuries to five per cent on certain commodities. The bill would tax 24 classes of articles, and no tax would be placed on the sale of farm and food products or clothing sold for less than \$2. It would relieve real estate and personal property from all road and school taxes and would repeal the state income tax.

Included in the bill was a tax of an additional one cent on a gallon of gasoline, to be turned over to the state highway commission to tax ever and maintain all public roads and bridges.

By Lawrence of Hertford and Blount of Pitt: Provide for a state drivers' license and a state highway patrol. The bill would require an annual fee of \$1 for driver's license and calls for the establishment of a highway patrol force of not more than 250 men.

By Beam of Rutherford: Provide that all trucks must stop at grade crossings.

By Tapp and Ward: To amend law relative to tax sales and redemption.

By Reynolds of Rockingham: Constitutional amendment to prohibit filling elective offices by the governor or legislature, except for the unexpired term due to vacancy.

By Broughton and Johnson: Provide that capital cases, the jury may bring a verdict of guilty in the first degree with recommendation for mercy in which case the sentence shall be life imprisonment. Rape and attempted rape are exempt from the operation of this bill.

By Person of Franklin: To investigate State college.

By Wheedbee of Perquimans: Relieve tax payers by giving 24 months for payment of taxes.

By Womble of Forsyth: The 1929 machinery act.

By Broughton of Wake: To provide for licensing of mouth hygienists to teach mouth hygiene in public schools.

House Bills Passed

Road bill increasing gasoline tax and creating a county aid fund.

To increase the payment of mon-

(Continued on Page Eight)

JURORS DRAWN FOR MARCH TERM

Superior Court Will Convene Here March 25, With Judge James L. Webb of Shelby Presiding

Judge James L. Webb of Shelby will preside over the spring term of Watauga superior court, which will convene here on Monday, March 25th for a two week's session. At a called meeting of the board of county commissioners Monday the following jurors were drawn for the term:

First Week

Ron Davis, Bald Mountain; W. Y. Farthing, Alvin Hagaman; Donley Hagenan; Beaver Dam; John Lentz, E. G. Underdown, Richard Hollers, J. H. Winkler, Blowing Rock; Nile Cook, N. L. Harrison; Blue Ridge; W. D. Farthing, Horace Greer, I. G. Greer, W. Hardin Brown, W. L. Brown, M. P. Critcher, Chas. E. Vannoy, R. L. Clay, W. H. Gragg, Boone; E. W. Cannon, Hiram Greene, Chas. Proffitt, A. A. Perry, Alfred Thomas, Cove Creek; Jim Cook, Joe Wheeler, Elk; A. N. Thomas, North Fork; O. J. Phillips, Laurel Creek; Vance Masten, Shawneehaw; I. S. Greene, W. S. Moretz, Stony Fork; D. W. Cook, D. C. Penley, H. C. Beach, Meat Camp; Everett Fox, J. M. Calloway, George Eggers, Watauga.

Second Week

R. M. Ward, B. S. Dugger, Fred Cook, Alex South, F. M. Thomas, D. C. Coffey, D. L. Greene, Chas. G. Lewis, C. M. Watson, Z. T. Watson, J. G. Storie, E. N. Hahn, R. K. Hartley, Spencer Collins, C. D. Taylor, Wm. M. Hodges, A. M. Mills, D. L. Glenn.

TWO BILLIONS A YEAR PAID FOR TOBACCO

Washington, Jan. 31.—Two billion dollars a year for tobacco! That is the bill the American people paid last year for their favorite pastime, habit, vice or what have you, treasury experts estimated today from consumption and tax figures issued by the bureau of internal revenue. It amounted roundly to \$16.80 for every man, woman and child in the country.

The bureau's figures, with the expert's estimates of value, made up the bill this way:

Cigarettes smoked, 105,915,200,080; cost, \$927,500,000; cigars smoked, 6,453,000,000; cost, \$645,300,000. Manufactured tobacco chewed, pipe-smoked and consumed by those who still "roll their own," 343,000,000 pounds; cost, \$343,000,000. Snuff, dipped, rubbed and sneezed, 40,000,000 pounds; cost, \$80,000,000; cigarette papers and tubes, quantity unreported; cost \$12,200.

Except for a slight decline as to cigars and smoking and chewing tobacco, the use of the fragrant weed flourished astonishingly. Nearly 9,000,000,000 more cigarettes were smoked than in 1927. Experts credited women with having a lot to do with this.

For those who view smoking with a jaundiced eye there was the consoling crumb of \$111,000,000 on tobacco and the related products. This was the largest tobacco tax ever collected. It exceeded Uncle Sam's entire annual revenue, from all sources up to the time of the Spanish-American war.

The bulk of the cigarette taxes was paid in North Carolina, whose manufacturers turned in to the treasury \$193,000,000. Virginia was second with \$59,000,000 and New York third with \$27,900,000.

MISS RANKIN ON CONCERT TOUR OF THE STATE

Miss Ruth Rankin of New York, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Rankin of Boone, is spending this week on a concert tour in North Carolina. She is appearing at the following places:

Cherryville, February 12.

Atlantic Christian College, February 13.

Salem College, February 14.

Davenport College, February 15.

Brevard Institute, February 16.

Asheville, broadcasting at 4:45 o'clock, Sunday afternoon, February 17th.

Miss Rankin is head of the piano department of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, New York City.

A number of Boone music lovers plan to hear her at Davenport College, Friday.

SOUTH-WILSON

Married in Mountain City, Tenn., last Friday, Miss Bina South to Mr. Sidney Wilson, both of the Meat Camp section. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. F. South, while Mr. Wilson is the youngest son of Rev. L. A. Wilson.

The young couple will make their home for the present on Meat Camp.

with nature." Of course, how else could they always pick a rainy day to move?

How to Make More Money on the Farm

BY REAL FARMERS

DOES SCIENTIFIC FARMING AND STOCK RAISING PAY?

Editor Democrat:

I am not an old and experienced farmer, nor a special tiller of the soil. I know enough to know that agriculture is the basis of all wealth, prosperity and luxury. I realize from personal observation that a great change has taken place with the farming class in the last quarter of a century. I have heard the older men tell about the conditions that prevailed when they were young men.

How the farmers lived in houses where the rain held the roofs in perfect contempt, and the snow drifted joyfully on the floors and beds. In many instances they had no barns and the stock was exposed to the blasts of winter, and in the spring it took all the corn and oats that could be stuffed into the cattle to prevent actual starvation. The wagons stood in the sun and rain, the plows rusted in the fields.

The women were supposed to know the art of making fires without fuel. During big deep snows, the farmer became a hunter, and while chasing foxes over the mountains, and the rabbits over the hills, the women folks were busy pulling pickets from the garden fence, clap boards from the house, and every stray plank was seized upon for kindling. Everything was done in the hardest way. Everything about the farm was disagreeable. No wonder the farmer's boys became disgusted when they saw that everything worked together for evil.

By the time they were 21 years of age, they left the desolate and dreary farm and rushed to the towns and cities, where they desired to become bookkeepers, doctors, merchants, railroad men, insurance agents, or anything to avoid the drudgery of the farm. The boys wanted to engage in something that offered quick returns. They built railroads, established banks and insurance companies. They speculated in stocks in Wall Street, and gambled in vain in Chicago. They became rich. They lived in palaces. They rode in carriages. They pitted their poor brothers left on the farm.

The farmer's boys who loved father and mother, and remained at home and had an honest pride in their business grew prosperous and happy. They saw the railroad president a bankrupt, and the road in the hands of a receiver. They have seen the bank president abscond with a handful of stolen money, and the insurance company a wrecked and ruined fraud. By these experiences and observations these boys have learned that the only solvent people, as a class, the only independent people, are the tillers of the soil.

Our country is filled with the idle and unemployed, and the great question asking for an answer is: What shall be done with these men? Send them to the roads? Hold them in everlasting contempt? No, educate them to cultivate the soil, and teach them the value of manhood and character; that is able to stand four-square against every wind that blows.

Education is a splendid asset to any young man, but the young man must not suppose that education is thrown away upon them unless that become lawyers, doctors, vendors of peanuts or sewing machine agents. They must get rid of the idea that a little education unites one for work. Most young men seem willing to do anything that can be done in a town, in a house, in an office, but they avoid farming as they would a bad case of leprosy. Nearly every young man educated in this way is simply ruined. Such an education ought to be called ignorance.

Examine the market reports and note the fancy prices paid for cattle and sheep. Good cows are bringing from \$50 to \$100 each, and sheep and lambs bring almost unheard-of prices. If idle lands and idle hands were joined in mutual partnership, the question: "Does farming pay?" would be answered.

There is a quiet about the life of the farmer, and the hope of a serene old age, that no other business or profession can promise. A professional man is doomed sometime to feel that his powers are waning. He is doomed to see younger and stronger men pass him in the race of life. He will be last when once he was the first. But the farmer goes on, as if he was in partnership with nature—he breathes the sweet air of the fields, and lives with the trees and flowers. There is no constant and frightful strain upon his mind. His nights are filled with sleep and rest. He watches his fat cattle graze upon the hills, and hears the pleasant rain falling upon his waving corn, and the trees he plant-

ed in your rustle above him as he plants others for the children-to-be.

For my part, I envy the man who has lived on the same broad acres from his boyhood, who cultivates the fields where in youth he played, and lives where his father lived and died.

When the darkening shadows are gathering around the peaceful old farmer, and the dew of life's evening is condensing on his brow, may he pass away to the great beyond as calmly and serenely as the autumn dies.

ARLIE BROWN.

Laxon, N. C.

Will Pave 10 Miles of Boone Trail Highway

The Wilkes Journal quotes District Highway Engineer Currier as saying that the contract for paving a 10-mile stretch of highway on the Boone Trail from Millers Creek west will be let on February 19th.

According to the Wilkes paper the 10.4 miles of highway will be hard-surfaced and the cost of grading and structural work will cost approximately \$225,300.

It is further stated that a few days will lapse for the highway commission to consider the bids and that a short period of time is then granted the construction company awarded the contract to go on the grounds so the first work on the new project is expected to get under way by the middle of March at the longest.

The following story regarding the new road project appeared in a recent issue of the Winston-Salem Journal:

"In the next North Carolina highway commission letting, on February 19, will be a project from the 5th district, a ten-mile stretch of highway between North Wilkesboro and Boone for grading and structural work, the estimated cost to be \$250,000, Captain Charles S. Currier, district engineer, said yesterday.

"This project is the first section of the new road on highway 60, from the end of the present paving for ten miles and then surveying is going on further for 18 miles, on a second section.

"The first section work will be between Millers Creek and Deep Gap, and the second will be from that point on toward Boone. Eventually all of this section of the highway will be surfaced—at present it is top soil and sand clay."

PROGRESS WITH LIVESTOCK DEPENDS ON PASTURE

To make progress in developing a balanced system of farming where livestock is to have a rightful place, it is necessary to have a sufficient area planted to first class pasture.

"Almost any land will produce some pasture," says S. J. Kirby, pasture specialist at State College. "But the more fertile the soil, the better pasture it will produce. Cultivar land, rill cleared land or land too rough or too steep for clearly cultivated crops may be profitably used. Where the soil has been well cultivated, it may be easily prepared by disking or breaking and disking. All crop residues should be plowed under and the seed bed left level. It is important to have a good seed bed for grass and clover plantings."

Mr. Kirby says also that pasture responds to good treatment. Lime and phosphate are beneficial to grasses and clovers and are necessary for animals. These may be supplied to the livestock through grazing. Throughout the western part of the state, Mr. Kirby advises the use of one ton of limestone and from 300 to 500 pounds of a complete fertilizer such as a 12-3-3 or a 12-4-4. The application of stable or barnyard manure as a top dresser the second or third year after the sod has been established is a good practice.

It is also practical to improve old pastures at low cost. Sometimes these areas may be reseeded; again top dressings with lime, fertilizer and manure may be necessary, but in any case, these treatments should be given in winter so that the plant food materials might be incorporated into the soil by the alternate thawing and freezing of the ground.

LINDBERGH ENGAGED

Mexico City, Feb. 12.—Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh and Miss Anne Spencer Morrow, it was learned authoritatively tonight, will be married either in May or June in Mexico City or New York. The principals still have under consideration the exact time and place.

STATE AID ROAD BILL PASSES HOUSE

Watauga County Would Receive \$17,250 For County Highway Under Measure Passed Saturday; \$3,000,000 to be Collected

The lower house of the general assembly last Saturday passed the roads committee highway bill carrying a \$3,000,000 fund for county highway maintenance. The bill increases the state gasoline tax from four to five cents a gallon.

The bill as passed had been amended in only one particular from the original bill reported by the committee. This amendment changed only the language of one section and was offered by Chairman Woodward of the roads committee in order, he said, to clarify the section.

The only vote cast against the bill was that of Representative D. Scott Poole of Hoke. He opposed the increase in the gasoline tax.

In addition to the \$3,000,000 county aid fund created by the highway bill, a half million dollar equalization fund to be used in the discretion of the highway commission would be set up under the provisions of the measure. This fund would be used to aid counties where road building is unusually expensive because of topographical conditions.

The county aid fund would be allotted to the counties in proportion to their area and population, and they would be required to reduce their ad valorem levies so that the total levy and the amount received from the fund shall not be more than 10 per cent above the previous year's levy.

Watauga county will receive \$17,250 under the law. Wake county would receive the largest amount, \$69,000, and Clay the smallest, \$9,000. The amount estimated for other counties in this section was:

Alexander, \$1,500; Ashe, \$25,320; Avery, \$13,280; Caldwell, \$20,220; Mitchell, \$13,170; and Wilkes, \$41,760.

BABE IS FOUND CRYING BESIDE DEAD MOTHER IN WOODS

Asheville, Feb. 12.—A dead woman, about whose body a baby crawled, whimpering with cold, was found in the mountains three miles west of Swannanoa late last night by a passerby.

Coroner's jury today found the woman's death resulted from natural causes.

The woman was Mrs. Estelle Digges, 24, wife of Carl Digges. She had been calling on a neighbor, it was disclosed at the inquest and had taken a short cut in going to her home through the mountains. She was carrying her baby and fell dead of cerebral hemorrhage, the inquest disclosed.

WINNERS WILL BE FETED

The winners of the three cash prizes offered by the local Civitan Club for the best essay on "Citizenship" will be honor guests of the club at a special program to be given at the Daniel Boone hotel on Thursday of next week.

Mr. Henry Reynolds of North Wilkesboro will be the speaker of the occasion, and while his subject has not been announced it is likely he will intersperse his remarks with some of the high lights of his recent tour of foreign countries. Musical numbers will be a feature of the evening's program.

Forty-two essays have been submitted to the committee and the names of the winners will appear soon. A committee composed of Attorney T. E. Bingham, Mrs. I. G. Greer and Professor Norton of the Normal will determine the successful contestants.

Civilians are reminded that the regular monthly business meeting of the club will be held this (Thursday) evening at 7:30 o'clock at the Daniel Boone hotel, and a full attendance of members is urged.

NORMAL NOTES

Of interest to those who may be planning to attend the spring term of the Normal is the information that one wing of the new dormitory is expected to be ready for occupancy at that time. The structure is entirely fireproof throughout and is the most modern addition to the campus. Heat comes from the recently completed central heating plant and the radiation is excellent.

Mr. Perry Morgan of Raleigh, Miss Gladys Beck of Raleigh and Miss Alice Ditty of Nashville, Tenn., who conducted a Sunday School institute at the Baptist church last week, held some exercises at the Normal after class hours in the afternoons. In company with Rev. P. A. Hicks they attended chapel exercises several times and conducted the devotionals.