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VETERAN LOAN BILL PASSES CONGRESS BY HUGE MAJORITY

Senate Receives Measure Within an Hour. Bill Carried Enough Votes With It to Override Presidential Veto. Quick Action Expected. Vote in Lower House Was 363 for and 39 Against.

Washington, D. C.—Striking hard at administration opposition, the House Monday passed the veterans loan bill by the overwhelming vote of 363 to 39.

It provides for an increase from 22 1/2 to 50 per cent. in the loan value of the adjusted compensation certificates which were approved by the House 355 to 54 in 1924.

Amid dramatic intensity, the measure was sent to the Senate within an hour after Speaker Longworth opened the way for consideration. It carried with it more than enough votes to override a presidential veto. Similar quick action is expected in the other branch.

With their leadership split, less than two-score old-line Republicans rallied behind Major Leader Tilsen and Chairman Hawley of the House Ways and Means committee.

Crowded galleries, looked on as the members balloted after forty minutes of debate.

More than 400 of 435 members were present. Under the procedure, the bill had to receive a two-thirds vote for passage.

Speaker Longworth swung 212 Republican votes for the measure against the warning of Secretary Mellon that the Treasury would have difficulty in financing it. Minority Leader Garner mustered his forces solidly with 150 votes for the bill and the farm labor member—Ewald of Minnesota—added his to make the total.

Representative Bacharach, Republican New Jersey, proponent of the measure, led the advocates with the statement that he could not understand why the Treasury should not approve the bill after conceding it was the best of all suggested. He predicted no bond issue would be necessary to finance the loans.

Garner wound up the debate for the measure with the assertion that "the only argument against this bill is the argument of the Secretary of the Treasury."

Five members spoke against the proposal. They warned against the difficulties of financing it.

Chairman Hawley, Representative Treadway of Massachusetts, Ramseyer of Iowa, Chinn of Illinois, members of the Ways and Means committee, and Fort of New Jersey, all administration followers, urged defeat.

Shortly after the shouting that cheered the passage had died, the House passed without a record vote and sent to the Senate the Revenue bill to authorize a \$12,500,000 extension of the veterans hospital facilities. Treadway was the only person voting opposition. It also passed and sent to the Senate a bill authorizing expansion of the home for disabled volunteer soldiers to cost \$2,500,000.

Earlier the house veterans committee approved the Johnson bill to provide \$26 a month pensions for widows and children of World War veterans, entailing an estimated outlay of \$131,000,000 in five years, beginning with \$19,900,000 for the first year.

The Senate is expected to vote on the loan bill Thursday.

Hunting Season on All Game Closed on 15th

County Game Warden H. Grady Farthing announces that the hunting season closed on all game on the 15th of February and that there will be no further gunning this season. The sport is over until the 15th of April, when the fishing season begins. Mr. Farthing is highly pleased with the co-operation accorded him and the department in the enforcement of game laws during the hunting season.

The report, according to the warden, has been freely circulated that carp and suckers may be taken with a gig, and the practice is likely being engaged in. Mr. Farthing points out that no species of fish may be gigned and says that violators in this connection will be vigorously prosecuted when apprehended.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY TO SELL FOOD COURT WEEK

The American Legion Auxiliary will serve sandwiches of various kinds, pies, cakes and coffee near the courthouse during Spring Term Superior Court, which convenes Monday, March 23rd. Mrs. Charles Younce, secretary, requests that visitors to Boone patronize the ladies and, in the meantime, aid a worthy cause.

Plenty of Trout in This County, Say Visitors to South-Gragg Aquarium

There are plenty of trout in Watauga County, and any reader who is the least bit skeptical can get proof by visiting the aquarium of Messrs. South and Gragg which is located in the gulch which parallels North Water Street near the courthouse. In a large pool of crystal water some thousands of rainbow and eastern brook trout, many of them "whoppers," complacently scan the surface for bits of food, and if the visitor craves a display of aquatic gymnastics, all he has to do is cast some bread out on the waters—there they come, gangs of 'em, and pretty soon nothing is left but a ruffle.

Just above the main pool lies a rearing vat of concrete, and five thousand junior members of the finny tribe are here being fed preparatory to joining their big brothers in the main pond. They are all the same size, about four and a half inches, and scuttle around their water home just like "grown folks." Yes, there are lots of fish in Watauga!

F. C. MILLER CO. SUFFERS A GREAT LOSS FROM BLAZE

Popular Dry Goods Store Is Gutted by Daytime Flame of Unknown Origin. No Estimate of Loss Given Out. Miller Disposes of Usable Merchandise and Will Reenter Business. Some Insurance.

A blaze of unknown origin partially destroyed the building occupied by F. C. Miller and Company last Wednesday afternoon, and burned away a large portion of the complete dry goods line being handled by the local firm. But for the prompt action of the fire company in subduing the flame, the building, as well as two adjacent ones, would have been a total loss. The fire was discovered after Mr. Miller had closed the store for the day and seemed to have originated in the rear, where a stove was used. Much of the ceiling was burned away before the fire was forced under control and all merchandise in that section of the room was a total loss. The windows were all broken and the fire burned through the walls in many places. The building which was the property of Mr. J. A. Barnett, is said to have been unburned, while the loss of the merchandise was partially covered. No estimates concerning the monetary losses have been given out.

Mr. Miller found after examination of the stock with the insurance adjuster that a large portion of the merchandise, although water soaked, was saleable and on Monday opened the doors. However, before the day was done Messrs. A. E. Hamby and Earl Cook purchased the damaged stock, which is being arranged for quick sale at five prices. The store is expected to be opened on Friday and the merchandise disposed of as rapidly as possible.

Miller and Company has enjoyed a wide patronage since the opening of their store here several years ago and at the time of the fire, a buyer was in Chicago shipping out spring goods. While Mr. Miller has made no definite plans for the future, it is his intention at present to reopen his store at some other location at as early a date as possible.

Farmers Hardware in Get-Together Meeting

The Farmers Hardware Company announced Tuesday that an unusual "get-together" meeting of the farmers of this region would be held at their store Tuesday, February 24, from 9:30 a. m. to 3 p. m.

This meeting is in celebration of the centennial of the invention of the reaper and commemorates one hundred years of agricultural progress. Representatives of the International Harvester Company will be present and will have on exhibit an exact reproduction of the world's first reaper. The showing of a motion picture, "Romance of the Reaper," will add materially to the enjoyment of the occasion and will be presented without cost.

Several short talks of interest to farmers generally will be made and the local concern is anxious that as many as possible come to their place of business next Tuesday. They will be instructed and highly entertained.

BANKS CLOSED MONDAY

Announcement has been made from the two local banks that neither will open its doors next Monday, it being the occasion of the celebration of the birth of George Washington.

Institute Opens With Over Five Hundred in Sessions

The second annual Farmers Institute opened at the State Teachers College, with high enthusiasm, when more than five hundred farmers of Watauga County gathered together to be "schooled" in the most modern methods of agricultural endeavor. The big college auditorium was filled with farmers and their wives, and it is agreed that the first day of the session drew even more interest than that of last year.

Following a song by a colored quartet, Rev. P. A. Hicks of the first Baptist Church said the invocation and Tuesday's program commenced with an address by Mrs. Cornelia Morris, of the State College Extension Department on the general subject of "Living at Home." Mrs. Morris' able discourse was of particular interest to the ladies of the assembly. She thoroughly discussed the making of the home garden and scientific methods of canning and preserving.

H. R. Niswonger, of the State College, followed Mrs. Morris with an address on Horticulture, singling the subject down to the culture of potatoes, cabbage, beans, the home garden and marketing. This latter subject is perhaps causing the most concern among the farmers at the present time and several wholesale produce dealers are attending the sessions with a view to assisting in working out a systematic means of marketing the produce of the county. A representative of the A. & P. grocery chain is also here to advise with the farmers as to their selling problem.

After dinner, Mr. O. F. McRay, of State College, went into the general farming outlook and suggested ways and means of making money on the farm in addition to a "living."

Waltonians to Name Warden This Evening

Daniel Boone Chapter, Izaak Walton League, will hold an important session at the Daniel Boone Hotel Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock, at which time the most important business to come up for consideration will be the naming of a warden to patrol the trout waters of the organization during the coming fishing season. It is understood that several worthy citizens have applied for the position, but officials said Tuesday that no prediction as to who the warden would be could be advanced. They did say, however, that the appointment would undoubtedly go to a member of the League.

The waters of Howard's Creek, Norris Fork and Mead Camp have been thoroughly stocked with trout by the League, which has absolute control of the waters during the season. Licenses have been prepared which will be sold to anglers at the rate of one dollar per day. Revenue will thus be secured to pay the warden to patrol the streams, and so that fishermen are provided with license, as well as to observe the regulations as to size and creel limit.

All members and prospective members are urged to be present tonight as many important matters are expected to be disposed of at that time.

DR. WATSON BEGINS DUTIES AT BROOKLYN HOSPITAL

Dr. Hugh Watson, who several weeks ago entered King County Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., writes interestingly of that institution, said to be the largest of its kind in the United States. In a letter to his mother, Mrs. Annie Watson, who resides on Route 7, the young doctor states that the twenty buildings contain more than two thousand beds and that a new addition will soon be completed with a capacity of around 1,800 beds. Dr. Watson has begun active duty at the hospital, where he will remain for a year before entering the practice of his profession. He recently passed the medical examinations of both North Carolina and Virginia.

PROFESSOR ASKEW PREACHES STRONG SERMONS IN N. MEX.

Professor R. H. Askew, a former student at Appalachian State College and teacher in Blowing Rock School, who is now principal of Clovis Junior High School, Clovis, N. M., has been preaching some wonderful sermons in that far western state, according to a news story received by friends here. Mr. Askew recently closed a revival at Ranchvale, during which fifteen young men and women were converted. One of his eloquent sermons, "Feeding Christ on Mexican Beans and Clothing Him in Rags," has attracted the attention of New Mexico newspapers, and many favorable comments have been made on the forceful manner in which he appeals to the youth of the country.

A graphic chart was used to show the history of past business depressions, and it was pointed out that according to the past, the present depression has already reached its lowest ebb and business is now on the slight up-grade. He gave expert advice to the agrarians as to how they might best serve themselves during the period of business revival. The ladies enjoyed another meeting with the visitors at the same hour.

This (Wednesday) morning, the program has been altered so as to provide a space for a discourse by Dr. J. H. Squires, capitalist and world-wide traveler, who recently returned to the home of his brother, Mr. Mark Squires, in Lenoir, following an absence which has taken him in various capacities to the four corners of the earth. He was instrumental in the recent reorganization of the First National Bank of Lenoir. Dr. Squires has not announced his subject for this morning, but it is understood that he is most versatile both in mind and speech, and will address the assembly along practically any line which may be suggested after his arrival. His address will be at 10 o'clock.

L. I. Case, of the Research Department of State College, will follow Dr. Squires with a lecture on beef cattle, sheep and the present outlook as regards the livestock industry.

At 1 o'clock the final discussion will be engaged in, when Mr. Povich of Raleigh, A. L. Brown and Harry Fay of Greenville and Johnson City, Tenn., and other authorities will give out information as to the culture of budley tobacco, Watauga County's newest cash crop, which was first cultivated commercially last season.

Miss Eva Brown Dies At Neva, Tennessee

Miss Eva Brown, 31 years of age, died at her home near Neva, Tenn., Sunday morning, following an illness which had confined her to her home for several months. Miss Brown was a daughter of the late James Brown and a sister of Captain Roby Brown, whose death occurred more than a year ago. She was born and reared on the Roans Creek farm where the grim specter of death claimed her, and during a career which covered many of the most epochal decades of America's history this noble daughter of the Old South packed away in her fertile mind a vast store of knowledge, wrought many charitable deeds, and cushioned herself in the hearts of a multitude of admiring friends. Hundreds of Watauga people knew Miss Eva, and news of her demise brings bitter grief.

She was a member of Pine Grove Baptist Church, where she had worshipped for more than fifty years, and was keenly interested in matters of a spiritual nature. Burial took place Monday in the Brown family cemetery near the old home. One of her last requests was that no ostentatious accompanying the last rites, as the body was placed in a plain, unadorned casket and consigned to the earth without ceremony. And today no flowers adorn the fresh mound, but sorrow and grief in the hearts of her friends and relatives give lasting proof that a useful life had been lived.

Surviving are two sisters, Miss Nannie Brown, with whom she resided, and Mrs. Norman Wills of Laurel, Blount.

SENSATIONAL EVENT IN VA. RECALLED BY MAN'S ILLNESS

Statesville, Va. James W. Davis was called to Hillsville, Va., Saturday night on account of the serious illness of Dexter Goard, an attorney of that town and former clerk of Carroll County court. Dr. Davis was called in consultation with other physicians in regard to the case.

The illness of Mr. Goard, who was clerk of court in 1912, at the time of the noted Hillsville, Va., massacre, recalls the sensational story of the Allen clansmen shooting up the court, killing the sheriff and the commonwealth's attorney, and fatally wounding the presiding judge, a member of the trial jury and a young girl, witness in a case in which Floyd Allen was a defendant.

Clerk of Court Goad distinguished himself by shooting down two members of the Allen clan as they were making their daring attempt to clean up the courthouse.

Washington, D. C.—The value of American foreign trade last month reached its lowest point in almost a decade. Figures made public Tuesday by the Commerce Department placed the value of exports for January at \$250,000,000 the smallest since February, 1922. Imports were valued at \$183,000,000, lowest since September, 1921.

Former Watauga Man Charged With Murder In Cabarrus County

A news dispatch from Kannapolis, N. C., states that Henry Norris, former Watauga man, is held in bond of \$3,000 at that place for the fatal shooting Sunday of Bill Etheridge, his 50-year-old partner in a grocery store.

Norris, as one of seven witnesses heard at the preliminary hearing Monday, testified he killed Etheridge in self-defense, shooting after his partner attacked him with a knife. Prior to the fight, he declared, the two had been drinking together and playing poker. Norris will be called to trial at the same time of court at which Etheridge was scheduled to face a murder charge in connection with the fatal shooting last fall of John Hensley.

Norris, who is 35 years old, was reared on Mead Camp, this county, but has been a resident of Cabarrus for several years. He is a son of Joe Norris.

GARDNER'S ROAD PLAN WOULD SAVE WATAUGA BIG SUM

State Maintenance of County Roads Would Relieve County of \$15,268 Burden, Says Report. Figures Do Not Include Million and a Half Dollars to Be Used for Construction in North Carolina.

According to a report issued last Thursday by Governor O. Max Gardner, showing in itemized detail the tax relief that each county would receive by the State's assuming the complete burden of county road maintenance, Watauga would be relieved of a total of \$15,268 annually.

The figures contained in the Chief Executive's report are based on expenditures of each county for the year ending June 30, 1930, as compiled by the survey of the financial operations of each county's road fund. The data for this survey were gathered from the official records of the county accountants, county road superintendents, and township road commissioners, etc., and the Governor. The survey was made under direction of the United States Bureau of Roads and represents actual transactions for one year, as nearly as information on file in the county offices would indicate.

The table shows, under the appropriate heads, the tax relief for expenditures for salaries, convicts (if any), maintenance, equipment, and gas and oil, and in the last column the total tax burden which would be removed from the counties if the entire cost of maintenance were assumed by the State.

The figures do not include the \$1,500,000 for construction, interest, and miscellaneous expenditures, which would also be removed from the property taxpayers in the one hundred counties. These figures represent only the relief which property would receive from the maintenance of county roads by the State.

The amounts of taxes taken off range from \$359,480 of expenditures in Mecklenburg County, all the way to \$6,580 spent in Clay County.

The table shows that the forty-seven counties which maintain their roads through working convicts spend the bulk of the \$6,600,000 spent annually for maintenance. These forty-seven counties having convicts spend almost \$5,000,000, while the fifty-three smaller counties, not having convict camps spend a little less than \$1,600,000. The counties with convict camps spend more than three times as much as the larger number of counties without convict camps. The report of the tax commissioner shows that convict counties spend an average of \$182 a mile for maintenance for each mile of road maintained, whereas the smaller counties average only \$90 a mile.

Totals for the counties using convict camps, as shown by the tables, are: Tax for overhead taken off, \$204,464; tax for convicts taken off, \$1,289,300; tax for maintenance taken off, \$1,692,072; tax for equipment taken off, \$1,094,067; tax for gas and oil taken off, \$687,647; total tax for maintenance taken off, \$4,967,552.

Totals for counties not using convict camps: Tax for overhead taken off, \$1,034,032; tax for maintenance taken off, \$277,584; tax for gas and oil taken off, \$220,497; total tax for maintenance taken off, \$1,532,113.

NEGRO HELD FOR OLD CRIME

Kinston, N. C.—James A. Powers, Sixth District solicitor, Tuesday announced that "Petty" Teachy, negro, charged with killing W. S. Teachy, white, in Duplin County twelve years ago, is being held in New York for extradition to this State. The negro is alleged to have shot the white Teachy in an attempted robbery near Wallace in 1919.

DROUGHT RELIEF CHECKS COMING IN EVERY MAIL

More Than 150 City Farmers Have Already Received Initial Installments of Government Loans for Farm Work. One Hundred and Fifty Applications Have Been Forwarded to Department.

Seventy-two checks were in the Watauga County Bank Monday for delivery to farmers who had applied for drought relief through the agency of the newly-created government loan fund, and the Treasury drafts continue to arrive in practically every mail. The amounts of the loans being made locally are said to average a little more than \$100, while the highest amount asked by a Watauga farmer is said to be \$600.

The offices of W. H. Gragg, a member of the central committee, were crowded Saturday with tillers of the soil, who had suffered from the blazing heat of last summer and who came there for assistance in filling in the manifold blanks required by Uncle Sam preliminary to the issuance of the relief checks. At last report, 150 applications had been made.

The payments are being forwarded the farmers in installments, the checks now on hand being for the purpose of supplying fertilizer and seed for the oats and potato crops principally, and for fuel for the work stock employed, or feed for the tractor as the case might be. The other installment will be tendered about the middle of April, it is understood, when preparations for corn and other later crops will be the order of the day.

The administration plan for the relief of the drought regions, is being received with favor here. Mr. G. P. Hagaman, cashier of the Watauga County Bank, and also member of the local loan committee, is even more optimistic over the agricultural outlook than usual. He feels that the government funds will be of untold benefit to the farmers here, and points out that the list of applicants for the most part is made up of the best citizens and most experienced farmers, and with a reasonable year he predicts the payment of the loans next fall without difficulty.

The funds received from the government must be used for the specific purposes as outlined on the application, and should they be diverted to other uses, it is said, the borrower may be liable to prosecution. Again, it is stressed, however, that no mortgage is required, no security whatever, other than a lien on the particular crop upon which the money is used.

Mrs. Arlie Hodges Dies at Lenoir Home

Mrs. Arlie Hodges, 24 years old, died at her home, Lenoir, R. F. D. 1, last Friday after an illness with pneumonia of four days' duration. The remains were brought to Boone Sunday and funeral services were conducted from the Oak Grove Baptist Church, one mile west of the city, that afternoon by Rev. F. C. Hodges, following which burial was in the Hines cemetery.

Mrs. Hodges was a native of Watauga County, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Berry, and was reared in the Oak Grove community. She had made her home in Caldwell for the past two years. She was a member of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church for more than seven years, was well and favorably known throughout this section where news of her passing brings sorrow.

Surviving are the husband, three small children, father and mother, and five brothers, S. M. and I. S. Ayers of Boone, and Stanford, Granville and Loftin Berry, also of this section.

BOONE... SKETCHES

A young gentleman nonchalantly combs his hair as parked car in which he and lady friend sit drifts backward down hill... Twenty-three of those three-cornered affairs which babies are prone to wear hanging on one clothes line... Cullud lady in raccoon coat struts down the street... Antiquated Lizzie, sans top, sans fenders, sans windshield, clucks along the main stem bearing a cargo of youngsters... Young married lady in local theatre, nudges her husband during mob scene and in agitated voice exclaims, "O-h-h, here comes the sheriff!"... A gentleman lugging a basket of eggs and a baby, his face bearing an expression of deep-seated concern... A strip of snow on Lovell's Pinnacle, which has withstood sun and rain for the past two months