

Siftings From the Legislature

By M. R. DUNNAGAN
Special Writer for The Democrat

Raleigh—While the North Carolina General Assembly was in a sense marking time during the second week, waiting for the two measures which will contain the all-important problem of the present session, the revenue and appropriations bills prepared by the Advisory Budget Commission and promised Monday night, probably more progress than ever before has been made up to this time in a legislative session.

Delay in preparation of the two major measures, due to the late start of the commission, served the purpose of permitting the committees to organize and get set on the bills when presented, along with a second message from Governor John C. B. Ehrlich, his budget message, Monday night. Bills have been introduced but they are studied and action is delayed until the will of the Chief Executive becomes known—belief being that it will be fairly well followed.

Meanwhile, about forty Senate and 129 House bills had reached the hopper at the end of the second week of the session, dealing with many public matters, although the majority of them, as usual, are local in their nature. Only a few local bills have been ratified, in addition to such resolutions as inviting President-elect Roosevelt to address the body; respect in the death of former President Coolidge; and ratifying the "Lame Duck" Congress measure.

Revenue measures that cause talk have been introduced, one by Senator Hayden Clement, of Rowan, being a manufacturers and producers bill, levying one-half of one percent on gross sales value of everything made or wholesaled in the State. Estimates place the revenue at \$4,000,000 to \$12,000,000. Another is a straight tobacco products tax, aimed primarily at cigarettes. The amount from it is also variously estimated. A third would place a tax of one mill on each kilowatt of electric power produced for sale. If municipal plants are included, it would bring in about \$2,500,000. If not included, then about \$1,900,000. One bill would balance the budget without additional taxes, by heavier cuts in cost.

A resolution to study State government, recommend consolidations and eliminations of divisions and activities, providing for debt service and necessary functions of government, and asking the revenue and appropriations committees to report by February 15th, is proving an important measure. Its introducer, Senator Larry Moore, Craven, was named chairman, with Robert M. Hanes, Forsyth, and A. D. MacLean, Beaufort, from the Senate, and R. A. Cherry, Gaston; J. A. Bland, Lincoln; C. B. Davidson, Durham; R. B. Etheridge, Wake, and Ernest Graham, Johnston, the latter secretary, from the House. Numbers of bills are going to the new committee.

Efforts to reduce salaries of constitutional and elective officers who took office two weeks ago are continued, since the bill introduced and passed the first and second days of the session, before inauguration, is not effective, due to a minor oversight in time of ratification. Two of three other measures are in seeking an amicable agreement, to secure reductions in salaries of executive and judicial officers, while the General Assembly members will probably agree to pay of \$8 a day up to 75 days, if the session lasts that long. A reduction of 15 per cent, on legislative employees will probably be made, although much is being saved now from greatly reduced numbers of employees. One bill would reduce the salaries of solicitors to a weekly basis, \$150 a week for each week they are required to officiate in court.

Movements to help landowners appear in several bills. One would ask joint stock land banks, insurance companies and others holding mortgages and deeds of trust to declare a moratorium until November 1, 1934, on principal payments when taxes and interest are paid on property. A former bill would do likewise by borrowers from the State World War Veteran Loan Fund to buy or build homes. Another bill would allow former owners to repurchase property lost, for five years, if they keep up interest, taxes and foreclosure costs. One would let delinquent taxpayers pay on the installment plan and another would eliminate deficiency judgments on mortgages and deeds of trust given to secure the purchase price of property.

Counties and other local units now or which later may be in default on bond and interest payments would be aided to adjust their affairs by measures in the hopper. One would provide a new commission, another directs the Local Government Commission to help units of government and holders of bonds and notes to work out a refunding plan agreeable to both parties, by extending payment time.

Bills introduced would transfer the work of the Local Government Commission to the State Treasurer, making that official, now Charles Johnson, who has built up the work for six years, director, with slight commission changes.

What may prove an important bill would provide a system of unemployment insurance, setting up a State Unemployment Insurance Commission, which would operate on its own fees, without cost to the State. Admittedly a present-day need.

The uniform drivers' and chauffeurs' license law, effective in thirty-odd states, has been introduced. It provides examination of new drivers, an annual fee of 75c, or \$1.50 for a family license, and \$5 for chauffeurs. Also, a means of radio communication for patrolmen, sheriffs and police officers is asked.

The recurring war between truck and bus operators and the railroads is again on, railroads seeking to fix

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Save Trade, Says Butler



Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, Columbia University, and President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in a nationwide radio broadcast appealed to citizens to join movement to end present world-wide economic war.

ACTION TO PREVENT FURTHER DEFAULT BY TOWNS SOUGHT

Resolution Adopted by State Senate Saturday Would Provide Committee of Investigation for All Local Governments. John Sprunt Hill Sponsors Measure. Full Text of Resolution.

Raleigh—Strenuous action to prevent further defaults of counties, cities and other local government units of North Carolina as a method of protecting the credit of the State, is sought, in a resolution adopted by the Senate Saturday, introduced and sponsored by Senator John Sprunt Hill, of Durham.

Senator Hill's resolution would provide for a commission to investigate and get reports from the Local Government Commission on the number of counties and other units now in default, those verging on default, why the default, what efforts were made to prevent the default, the numbers and amounts of outstanding obligations of these defaults and other information.

Wade E. Brown Talks On Debt Cancellation

"Cancellation of the War Debts" was the subject of an address by Wade E. Brown, of the local bar, before the Current History Club at Appalachian State Teachers College on Friday afternoon. Mr. Brown, a graduate of Wake Forest College, and secretary of the Young People's Division of the Democratic Party in this county, discussed at length the many complex problems that the world today must face in readjusting the war debts.

"The United States loaned approximately \$10,250,000,000 to the Allied powers during the war," stated Mr. Brown, "much of it raised by the sale of Liberty Bonds and public appeal to the American citizen. Now this money is coming due. The foreign nations say they cannot pay. Who is to lose?"

"Shall the American citizen forfeit his bonds? Shall he demand their payment and raise our increasing scale of taxes still higher? Shall he insist on European payment, cancel outright, or readjust and let them become a common burden to be shared by all the world? These are only some of the many problems that we must face."

"Those who would cancel say that most of these loans never left the boundaries of the United States. That most of it was kept here in payment for supplies sent over, and that we received the direct benefit of it spending. Therefore, why not cancel?"

"On the other hand, there are those who say that these debts are honest debts. That the American citizen gave until it hurt sometimes just to help the cause, and that he should not now be made to bear the brunt of cancellation."

"After all, there are two angles to the question: ours and the rest of the world. With the increasing complexity of modern existence, it behooves the world to work together in the solving of its difficulties. While there is no question as to the honesty of the debts, is it always best to try to force payment? Sometimes the good will of the nations involved is worth more than the bit of gold we exchange for it."

"The problem demands the greatest minds of the world today. It is not only a national problem, but one of pressing world-wide importance as well."

Yonahlossee Detour Is Cited by Commission

Included among the detours reported last week by the State Highway Commission is the following:

Route 28: Linville to Blowing Rock, Avery, Caldwell and Watauga counties; follow Route 181 to Newland, from Newland follow Route 194 to Vilas. From Vilas follow Route 60 to Boone. From Boone follow Route 28 to Blowing Rock. Forty-six miles paved.

RELIEF AGENCIES ARE CARING FOR 500,000 PERSONS

State Agencies Heavily Taxed to Care for Destitute. Relief Work in January 1934 100 Per Cent Greater than in October. Farm Population Hardest Hit by Economic Depression. Many Receive Only Flour.

Raleigh, N. C.—Nearly 500,000 individuals North Carolinians are being provided with the necessities of life by relief and welfare organizations in the various counties of the State, according to figures released yesterday by Dr. Fred W. Morrison, director of the Governor's Office of Relief.

A total of 122,231 families was actually given aid in the various counties during the month of December. On the basis of four to a family, 489,124 individuals were thus affected. In addition to these families, 21,912 non-family persons were given aid in December.

This represents an increase in the relief need of more than 100 per cent over October and more than 50 per cent over November. The total number aided in October was 241,784 and 352,704 in November.

The estimated relief need for January and February shows an equally proportionate increase. Careful estimates show that 143,325 families will need aid in January and 151,273 families in February. The high rate of increase is attributable to the fact that family reserves available for use during previous months have become exhausted. Particularly is this state of affairs true among families dependent upon agriculture for their living.

The amount of money spent in providing this relief has increased in practically the same ratio as the case load. During October \$441,578 was spent, \$779,319 in November, and \$1,928,926 in December, or a total of \$2,252,821 for the three months period. Of this amount \$1,147,069 was provided from Federal relief funds and the remaining \$1,105,752, or nearly 50 per cent, was provided locally, either through local government or Red Cross appropriations or private gifts.

Dr. Morrison pointed out that not all families who have been aided were completely dependent upon charity. In many instances they have been given only Red Cross flour and in the case of many rural people their aid has been confined to clothing, largely children attending school.

STATES BUSINESS UPTURN STARTED SIX MONTHS AGO

Irving T. Bush Believes Recovery Is Well Under Way. Urges Debt Settlement. International Obligations Should Go to Private Investors as Bonds, He Asserts. Unemployment Will Cure Itself.

New York.—We have been in the first stages of economic recovery for the last six months, in the opinion of Irving T. Bush, prominent industrialist, and a realistic approach if the grave problems still to be met will hasten better times.

"It is said our present troubles are because the old economic laws have not worked," he said in an interview. "The reverse is true. We are in trouble because the old laws have worked, ruthlessly. We are paying the price of disobedience to those laws."

"We cannot borrow ourselves out of debt, nor can we collect from debtors more than they can pay. It is time to quit kidding ourselves."

Bush, as chairman of the Bush Terminal Company, with its eight piers and some 140 warehouses and lost buildings housing 250 wholesalers and manufacturers, views the depression as a world problem, to be solved only through international cooperation.

"But economic solutions are not as difficult as politics has made them seem. War debts could be transferred into the hands of private investors through converting them into bonds, and thus removed once and for all as a continuous source of international irritation. Tariffs are not impeding world trade so much as restrictions on dealings in foreign exchange."

Must Settle Debts
The immediate problem in restoring world stability, said Bush, is a definite settlement of the inter-governmental debt controversy.

The debt controversy has been made bitter by political wrangling, he continued, and it hangs as a dark shadow over every international conference. Bush has urged for some time that the debts be funded through an issue of bonds, and believes that the time is now ripe.

"The French default was unnecessary and unfortunate," he declared, "but France would not have defaulted if it had been a debt held by private investors. These debts should be removed from the field of political controversy as soon as possible, through making them a direct obligation of investors. They are now an indirect obligation to holders of our Liberty bonds, but this relationship is too vague and indirect to be a potent factor in mass psychology, so far as foreigners are concerned."

Technological unemployment, he felt, will cure itself, once economic balance is restored, and new industries are developed.

They Will Stage Inaugural Show March 4



Although plans for the inauguration of President-elect Roosevelt into office March 4th are still indefinite, here is the committee in charge of the event. It is reported that simplicity will mark the ceremonies in accordance with the wishes of Mr. Roosevelt. Those in the picture are, seated, left to right, James A. Farley, National Democratic Chairman, and Admiral C. T. Grayson, chairman. Standing, John F. Costello and John B. Colpays of Washington.

LENGTHY ILLNESS IS FLETCHER HANGS FATAL TO AGED MAN SHINGLE IN LENOIR

R. E. Greer Dies in Valley Creek Section. Last Son of Pioneer Citizen of this County. Funeral Conducted at Antioch Church.

R. E. Greer, 85 years old, died last Wednesday at his home in the vicinity of the old Watauga Falls postoffice, from a complication of ailments which began to develop more than a year ago. He had been confined to his bed for only a week, however.

Funeral services were conducted from Antioch Church by Rev. George W. Elwell and interment was in the nearby cemetery.

He is survived by three children, Ben Greer, Mrs. Laurel Farthing and Miss Ethel Greer, all residents of this county.

Mr. Greer was the last son of the late R. E. Greer, who was a member of the jury in the first court held in Watauga. The session convened in the old Henry Hardin barn east of town; it is recalled. Deceased was born and reared here, was a farmer by occupation, a member of Antioch Church for many years and a good citizen.

Hays Welborn Paroled By Gov. Ehringhaus

Hays Welborn, Stony Fork youth who was sentenced to the roads at the fall term of Superior Court on a charge of retailing, was paroled Friday by Governor Ehringhaus. Young Welborn will remain under the supervision of the county superintendent of welfare for an indefinite period.

It was stated at the Governor's office that the court record showed Welborn had sold whiskey to buy school books, and that his previous behavior was good. He had not served any of his sentence, which was to have gone into effect this spring.

JUNIOR ORDER HOLDS ITS REGULAR MEETING

The local council of the Junior Order held its regular meeting Monday night in the American Legion Hall. A large number of members and visitors were present. Three former members of the order, Ben H. Moody, George C. Greene and A. Edward Hodges, were reinstated, and the application of one new member, Dallas Shoemaker, was accepted by the Council.

A program was arranged for the installation of officers for the coming year, which will take place on the next meeting night, Monday, February 6th. This meeting will be in charge of Mr. Will Cook and it is hoped that every member will be on hand. Visiting brothers will also be given a hearty welcome.

LEES-MCRAE BASKETEERS TO MEET BEMBERG TEAM

Banner Elk—The Lees-McRae College varsity basketball team and the highly tutored Bemberg players will meet here Saturday night, January 21, in a bill which is slated to give Coach Willis' speedy and apparently powerful Bulldog outfit the hardest test to date.

The Bulldogs held the Cranberry Commodore to a 31-19 score last Saturday night. In an exciting battle at Weaver the previous week, Weaver came out with a 34-31 win. Last year the Bulldogs lost one game to the Bemberg independents on the Bemberg court and took a victory from them on the Banner Elk court. So the stage seems to be set for one of the best contests of the early season Saturday night.

ERROR IN TOBACCO STORY

Spencer Miller, local letter carrier, calls attention to an error last week wherein it was made to appear that he received \$109.96 from less than one acre planted in tobacco. Fact is he received that much for the product of two poles less than one-half acre.

GREER IS ASKED TO CONSIDER NAMING NEW SCHOOL BOARD

Letter Forwarded to Representative from Secretary of Republican Committee Urging New Appointments, in Accordance with Resolution of Convention, Sherwood, Coffey and Farthing Mentioned.

A letter, signed by Clyde R. Greene, secretary of the Republican Executive Committee, has been forwarded to Hon. R. T. Greer, member of the General Assembly, asking that a new board of education be named for Watauga County, in accordance with a resolution passed by the Republican convention last September. The communication is as follows:

"Hon. Roby Greer, Representative in General Assembly, Raleigh, N. C.

"Dear Mr. Greer: At the Republican Convention for Watauga County held in Boone, N. C., September 10, 1932, a resolution was unanimously passed endorsing the following citizens for membership on the Watauga County Board of Education for the years 1933-34:

"Mr. W. F. Sherwood, Sherwood, N. C.; Mr. D. P. Coffey, Blowing Rock, N. C.; Mr. W. D. Farthing, Boone, N. C.

"All these gentlemen are well qualified for membership on the Board of Education and we urgently request, in the name of a large number of Watauga Citizens, that they be appointed.

"Yours very truly,
"CLYDE R. GREENE,
"Secretary Republican Convention."

Mrs. Hettie Green Dies At Home on Stony Fork

Mrs. Hettie Green, 34 years old, died last Friday at her home in the Stony Fork section after an illness of two weeks, which had its beginning with a nervous breakdown. Funeral services were conducted from the Stony Fork Baptist Church Sunday at 11 o'clock by Rev. W. C. Payne and interment followed in the nearby cemetery.

Surviving are the husband, six small children, one brother and three sisters.

Mrs. Greene was a daughter of the late Jarkin Wellborn and had spent much of her life in the community in which she died. She was a devoted mother and a good citizen.

She was the third child of the family within thirty days of her mother and a brother, Sherman Wellborn, having succumbed within that period.

GREER AND McNEIL NAMED ON IMPORTANT COMMITTEES

Raleigh. Lieutenant Governor A. H. Graham, as president of the Senate, gave each of the 48 Democratic Senators a committee chairmanship, and had three others to give, causing three senators to head two committees, while the two Republican members had to be content with membership on committees. Appointments announced by President Graham include the following:

Senator P. T. McNeill, Ashe, of the 29th Senatorial District, is chairman of the committee on Corporations and is a member of the following committees: Public Health, Senatorial Elections, the Journal, Justice of the Peace, Agriculture, Caswell Training School, Quairs, Corporation Commission and Election Laws.

Speaker of the House Reginald L. Harris had the same number of committees to name, but had 120 members to select the 51 chairmen from. Among his appointments was the following:

Watauga—R. T. Greer, Blowing Rock, is chairman of the Library Committee and a member of the following: Counties, Cities and Towns, Finance, Game, Salaries and Fees, Congressional Districts, and Banks and Banking.

AUTO BURNS

The fire department was called out Wednesday morning about 1 o'clock when a blaze was discovered in the garage of John W. Hodges. It was found that an automobile of W. F. Miller stored there had caught on fire. The vehicle was taken from the building and the flames extinguished after the top had been greatly damaged. It is supposed that the fire originated while miscreants were taking gasoline from the tank, probably lighting a match. It is reported that Mr. Miller had previously noted the loss of gas. The building was not damaged.

WELCH CHILD DEAD FROM PNEUMONIA; BROTHERS ILL

Mary Kathleen, 15-months-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Welch of Stony Fork, died Sunday night from pneumonia. A brother, Clemeth, 12, is seriously ill with the same malady at his home and a second brother, Hanson, 8, is in the Wilkes Hospital, North Wilkesboro, seriously ill with pneumonia, which was contracted following an operation for appendicitis performed there last week.

CHANGES IN TAXI BUSINESS

Mr. A. E. Hodges has disposed of his taxi business in Boone to Mr. Tom Lowrance, who is giving service from the old stand near the Cricher Hotel. Meantime Fletcher Teague, who was employed by Mr. Hodges, has gone into the taxi business "on his own" and is headquartered at Boone Drug Company.