

Siftings From the Legislature

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Raleigh, N. C.—The General Assembly of 1933 adjourned sine die Monday afternoon, May 15, after a session of 132 days, one short of 19 full weeks, and nine short of the marathon 1931 body's duration, passing, as the final big measure the bill which provides for operation of the State-wide eight-month school term, but allowing supplements for the eight months and for the nine-month, under certain restrictions, both including a vote of the people.

The nine-month provision was made at the insistence of Governor Ehringhaus who took the position that communities wanting, as indicated by a vote of the citizens, and able to pay for a ninth month, should be permitted to have it. But not every community can get through the restrictions. No community with less than 1,000 pupil population can add the ninth month, and only those above that figure which secure approval from four sources: the county board, the Local Government Commission, the new State School Commission, and, finally a vote of the people, may levy additional taxes for the ninth month.

As finally passed Monday, the school machinery bill is not all the school folks and parents may have wished, nor is it restrictive enough to please all of the taxpayers. But it is looked upon as a fair compromise of views of those opposing forces; as liberal as conditions permit, but hardly all the paying end of the proposal would have desired.

The Revenue Bill passed its third and final reading in the Senate Friday, by a vote of 26 to 11, on the basis of the conference report previously adopted by the House. The main new feature is including the three per cent general sales tax. As a final aid to the merchants, a law was enacted providing that the tax be passed on to the consumers by the merchants. Commenting on that law, Secretary Willard L. Dowell, of the State merchants, said he, while not speaking with authority, thought the merchants would not contest the sales tax law, but, without the new law, he was sure they would have fought it.

The sales tax is expected to bring \$9,000,000 in revenue a year, and is held an emergency measure to be resorted to for only two years and not again enacted. The revenue bill will under fair conditions in conditions, produce a surplus of \$5,000,000, Henry Burke, the Governor's budget assistant, estimates, if, as he figures, about \$1,000,000 is saved in the amount that has been appropriated each year.

Three "sneak" bills, allowing parimutuel racing, have been passed by the General Assembly in two weeks. The three measures have identical captions, creating agricultural and breeders' associations, for McDowell, Pasquotank and Rowan counties. Two last week, after the McDowell bill had been "sneaked" by, indicate that both House and Senate knew what they were about, and did the same thing three times, with open eyes. Rep. W. Neal, accused of sneaking the first through, introduced a bill of identical title two years ago, after the Buncombe and Polk bills had been killed, except that he provided for a vote of the people before horse racing would be allowed. So do the other two.

Two other so-called "sneak" bills are of interest. One was the Sullivan, of Buncombe, bill to allow those owing banks which were closed to buy up depositors' interests and offset debts with these, applying to Buncombe. It passed, but its constitutionality is questioned, on "impairing contract." Another was the Taylor bill exempting Mecklenburg from provisions of the Workmen's Compensation act. It passed but was discovered and killed.

Other controversial bills, killed when considered, have been revived in closing hectic days and efforts made to pass them, with many members absent. It is the usual near-end thing and occasionally such bills are enacted.

The usual "love feasts" were held last week, by the House Thursday night and by the Senate Friday night. At such occasions gifts are presented to speaker and president, chief clerks and other officials and employees, each accompanied by laudation and praise of the individual by some member.

When the smoke of battle clears away it will be found that about 2,450 bills have been introduced this session, some 1,700 in the House and 750 in the Senate. About 135 were introduced in the House and 80 in the Senate last week, the final big spurt. Of these, 1330 had been passed and ratified, or were up for ratification. The week's ratification's reached about 345. As a final and accurate check is made it will show that about 1360, possible toward 1375 bills, public and local, and resolutions, have been enacted by the 1933 session.

New Public Laws
New public or general laws and resolutions ratified the past week. (Please turn to Page 3)

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Chief of Farm Job



George Peck, of Moline, Ill., for many years a mid-western farm leader, is chief administrator of the new Roosevelt farm relief program, working directly under Secretary Wallace.

NEW SCHOOL LAW MACHINERY YET TO BE SET IN MOTION

Supt. Hagaman Gives Brief Statement as to Radical Changes Made in Operation of School System. District Lines Abolished. No Teacher Can Be Named Until Commission is Approved.

A copy of the new school law has not yet been furnished the local board of education, states Superintendent Smith Hagaman, in answer to numerous queries addressed to him in regard to the changes in the State educational system. "However," Mr. Hagaman continues, "it is learned through the newspapers that the law provides for an educational commission composed of one member from each Congressional district, together with the State Superintendent." The law, it would appear, according to Mr. Hagaman, abolishes all district lines and removes all school committees and provides for the redistricting of all the counties by the Educational Commission. After this is done the county boards of education are directed to appoint a committee in each of these districts who shall serve for a term of two years.

It will be observed by this arrangement that it will be impossible for any teacher to be employed until the State Educational Commission shall have been named. The Governor will perhaps do this before the week-end, and school machinery will be set up.

Federal Officers Make Liquor Haul at Deep Gap

Federal Prohibition Agents, Cooper, Hall and Prevette captured ten gallons of moonshine whiskey, and took into custody four Watauga citizens, J. R. Miller, Tom Pennell and wife, in a raid at Deep Gap early Friday morning. The prisoners were brought to town and given a hearing before United States Commissioner S. C. Eggers at 3 a. m. and bound to Federal Court under bonds of \$500 each. All promptly filled bonds with the exception of Tom Pennell, who was remanded to jail in default of same.

JUDGE CLARKSON PILOTS MODEL T THROUGH BOONE

A dilapidated Model T. Ford sedan parked in front of a local garage Monday for a familiar quarter job. The flivver looked very much like all the rest, carried all the well-known rattles, and the fenders flopped more or less like the wings of a bird in flight—but a passerby noted that the license tag was No. 12, indicating a member of the State's official family. Investigation revealed that the man at the throttle was none other than Associate Justice Herriot Clarkson of the State Supreme Court, who, with members of his family was passing through from Little Switzerland where he owns a cottage.

When his identity had been established the genial Jurist chatted with a small group under The Democrat's maple tree, and chuckled good naturedly as attention was called to his dingy and ancient vehicle. "The best points about the old Ford are that it's paid for and that it will get you there," said Justice Clarkson, whereupon he cranked up Lizzie, and with a wave of the hand and a cheerful smile, he "gave her the gun" and went rattling down the road. "A prince of a fellow," said one and a "darn good auto" said another, as the vehicle jogged away into the distance.

BANK DIRECTORS HOLD MEETING ON TUESDAY; HOPEFUL

Watauga County Bank Officials Report Depositors Are Signing Rapidly and Urge Renewals and Collections of Notes. Go to Raleigh to Confer With Hood, Commissioner Wants no Question as to Safety.

The directors of the Watauga County Bank, in session last Tuesday, reported that the signing of depositors to the reorganization agreement has been going on in a very satisfactory manner, and it was urged that borrowers keep their notes renewed and that payments be made as regularly as possible.

It was moved that President B. B. Dougherty, Cashier G. P. Hagaman and Baxter M. Linney go to Raleigh immediately to confer with the banking Commissioner as to an early opening of the institution. The officials left Tuesday for the capital city and belief is that permission may be granted to open the bank soon, as it appears that the requirements have been pretty thoroughly complied with.

Mr. Hood's requirements, state bank officials, are extremely exacting. He is in line to look at the situation from the viewpoint of a depositor, they say, and wants no question about the safety of any bank when permission to open is granted.

Watauga Boys to Leave For Reforesting Camps

Watauga's quota of recruits for the President's reforestation army, 27 in number, will leave for Winston-Salem early Friday morning, where they will undergo a rigid physical examination preparatory to their admission to Camp Bragg, where they will be physically conditioned for a short period of time. In perhaps two weeks they will be removed to forestry camps, probably in the Smoky Mountain Park area.

County Superintendent Smith Hagaman, who is also director of public welfare, and under whose office the Wataugans were recruited, will accompany the boys to Winston-Salem. He stated that these boys from Watauga constitute an unusually fine group of young men, averaging in age about 19 years.

Decrease Is Shown in Watauga Relief Cases

A decrease of 93 families who received aid from public relief funds in Watauga during the month of April as compared with March was revealed in figures released Monday from the Governor's Office of Relief. The total number of families aided was 614 in April as compared to 707 in March.

The total number of families aided in the state was 128,000, as compared with 164,000 during March, a decrease of 16 per cent.

Relief officials had anticipated that there would be some decrease during April, due to improved business conditions generally and to the return of many destitute families to farms, but the decrease of 16 per cent, was even better than had been predicted.

Compensation Awarded Widow of James Coffey

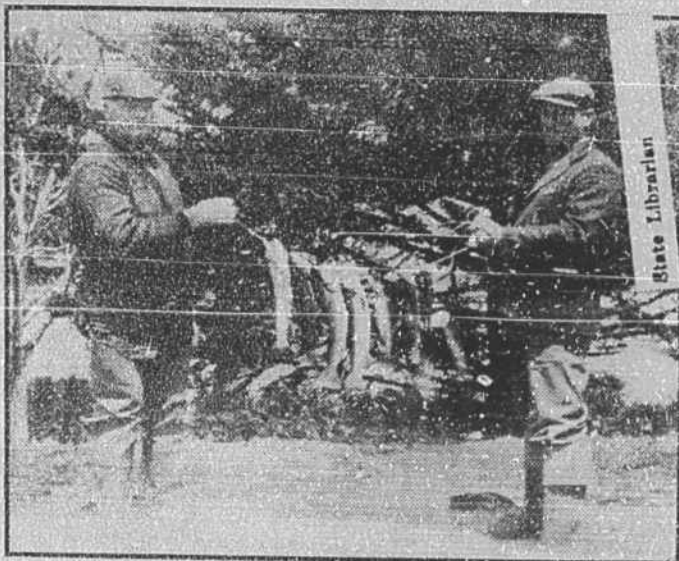
Raleigh, N. C.—In one of the several cases arising out of unemployment relief work of thousands of North Carolinians, the North Carolina Industrial Commission has awarded to the widow of James Coffey, Blowing Rock, killed while at work under the Governor's Office of Relief, workmen's compensation at the rate of \$7 a week for 350 weeks, in addition to medical and hospital bills and not exceeding \$200 for funeral expenses.

The award by Commissioner Dewey Dorsett directs the Governor's Office of Relief to pay this compensation, as the deceased was regularly employed by it and that he died on February 3, 1933, as the result of an injury by accident while so employed. An attorney's fee of \$200 is also allowed.

Baseball Players Win Their Acquittal

Nine residents of the Mable community, arraigned Saturday before Justice of the Peace Chauncey Moody on a charge of playing baseball on Sunday, were acquitted, and Rev. J. A. McKaughan, who signed the warrants for their arrest, was assessed with the court costs. The minister appealed to the recorder's court as to the cost.

Elk River Angler's Paradise



Left to right, J. P. Givens and W. T. Combs, of Leakville, N. C., and part of their day's catch in the Elk River, near Banner Elk. Brown and speckle and rainbow are all included. The biggest fellow at the left is well over twenty inches.

Visiting fishermen, by the records of the Elk River Fishing Club, are at least 25 per cent. more numerous than last year, which was the banner year previously. They all say the Elk River is stocked to the saturation point.

Two Elk River clubs, the Banner Elk organization and the Elk River Falls Fishing Club, Inc., of Elk Park, are conducting a joint fishing contest, to last through August 31st, with handsome prizes for the biggest catches.

Many Bills are Passed During Closing Days

Raleigh.—The North Carolina General Assembly, before sine die adjournment Monday, officially at 12 noon, but actually at 5:30 p. m., after heaving a farewell message of thanks from Governor Ehringhaus, imitation of Senator J. W. Bailey by Tom Bast, newsmen, laudations and compliments freely exchanged, ratified public bills and resolutions as follows:

- Prevent buildings, except by State approval, on shores of State lakes.
- Repeal the law relating to and providing for convict-made lime.
- Have State Highway Commission designate certain roads as light traffic roads.
- Repeal the law making the "Chickadee" the State bird.
- Require passing the general sales tax on to the consumer.
- Transfer Weights and Measures Division to Revenue Department.
- Pay small balance due teachers for teaching last few days of six months term.
- Permit Corporation Commission to allow removal of trains from railroads when traffic conditions justify it.
- Limit time for bringing foreclosures on deficiency judgments.
- Amend law on obtaining entertainment at hotels and boarding houses without paying for it.
- Amend law on tax sales.
- Change rates on motor vehicles.
- Provide for purchase of new automobile for the Governor.
- Prevent fraud and deception in sale of rebuilt electric storage batteries.
- Amend Senate Bill 160, allowing units to refund tax sales certificates.
- Joint resolution to print the acts of the 1933 General Assembly.
- Preventing kidnapping, making it punishable by life imprisonment.
- Amend law on chain store taxes, covering departments in a department store.
- Consolidate under Motor Vehicle Bureau all inspections of gas and oil and collection of gasoline tax.
- Amend law relative to unclaimed deposits in closed banks.
- Amend law on payment by county for damages to persons and property by dogs.
- Permit investment of trust funds in Building and Loan Associations.
- The school machinery act.
- Permit New Hanover, Haywood and Polk counties, subject to a vote of the people, to operate parimutuel race track betting. Previous laws permit the same in McDowell, Pasquotank and Rowan counties.

Small Docket Disposed of In County Court Tuesday

The recorder's court disposed of its criminal docket Tuesday and Wednesday began the civil calendar. The docket this week was rather light, there being only six cases tried. Of particular interest to those whose poultry houses have been systematically entered, was the case against Lee Hodges and Ode Dugger, convicted on a charge of larceny of chickens. Judge Sudderth sentenced them to 4 and 3 months respectively on the roads.

REV. L. F. KENT RETURNS FROM TRIP TO ALABAMA

Rev. L. F. Kent returned to Valle Crucis Monday from Birmingham, Ala., where he had been attending the conference of the Episcopal Clergy, Diocese of Alabama. Mr. Kent took occasion to present the Valle Crucis School to the clergymen while there and states that it appears many Alabama students will be enrolled at his school this year.

While in Birmingham, Mr. Kent conducted the services on three occasions at St. Mary Church, the rector being in Arizona at the time recovering from an illness.

A large increase in the amount of dolomitic limestone used in fertilizer this season is reported by North Carolina farmers. The limestone is used as filler and as a supplement to the usual plant food materials.

LOCAL MEN CATCH HUGE BIG STRING OF FISH IN WATAUGA

Dr. J. M. Gaither and J. B. Brewer exhibited one of the finest strings of trout seen in many years Tuesday afternoon. There were perhaps twenty-five of them, both rainbow and speckle, ranging in size from ten to eighteen inches. They were taken from the waters of Watauga River.

PIE SUPPER

There will be a pie supper at the Blue Moon Service Station, six miles west of Blowing Rock on the Linville road, Saturday night, May 27, 8 o'clock. Proceeds will be used for benefit of the ball team. You are invited to come and bring someone with you.

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BILL TO INCREASE SALARY OF BOONE MAYOR IS PASSED

Representative Greer's Local Measure Becomes Law in Closing Days of Session. Board of Aldermen Has Power to Regulate Salary of Official Up to \$1,000 Per Year. Full Text of Bill.

A bill recently introduced by Representative Greer, and enacted into law during the closing days of the General Assembly provides that the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Boone may have the power to fix the salary of the mayor at from three hundred to \$1,000 dollars per annum. At the same time, under the new law, the aldermen would each receive not more than \$100 per annum for their services. An additional \$100 per annum is provided for the clerk of the board. The full text of the law follows:

Full Text of Law
"The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

"Section 1. That section of chapter one hundred and eighty-seven of the Private Laws of one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one, be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. That the mayor of the town of Boone, North Carolina, shall receive for his service such sum as may be fixed by the Board of Aldermen, in their discretion, to be not less than three hundred nor more than one thousand dollars per annum, and the aldermen of said town shall be entitled to receive the sum of not exceeding one hundred dollars each per annum for their services; provided, however, that the clerk of said board may be paid in addition to his regular salary, for his services as clerk, a sum not to exceed one hundred dollars per annum, to be fixed by said board."

"Section 3. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

"Section 4. That this act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification."

Power Dam Stocked With Rainbow Trout

Mr. G. T. Robbins of Blowing Rock, district manager for the Northwest Carolina Utilities Corporation, was a visitor in Boone Monday, and told the Democrat of the fine progress being made in stocking his company's power dam on Watauga River with rainbow trout. The work is being done by the newly-formed Blowing Rock Fishing Club, which controls angling rights in the waters, and several hundred rainbows, ranging in size from 10 to 21 inches, have been released this season. Daily permits are being sold rapidly and several large catches have been reported. Mr. Robbins states that all money received by the club is being used to purchase trout, and declares that there's plenty of big ones for all those who care to test their skill with rod and line.

City Cemetery Is Being Beautified

The work of beautifying the city cemetery is still going forward and visitors declare the burying ground is really a credit to the town. Messrs. J. S. Stanbury and B. J. Council are in charge and a caretaker has been secured to keep up the good work. These gentlemen especially invite visitors to inspect the work which they have done, and those who have plots there are asked to make donations with which to pay the caretaker. The cemetery fund is running pretty low, it is stated, and doubtless it will be replenished readily from the purses of those directly concerned.

RECORD CROP OF LAMBS

Mr. John H. Mast, of Zionville, visited with The Democrat the other day and believes that he has the record for lambs this spring. From forty ewes Mr. Mast has 67 lambs, and, strange to say, there has been no fatality in the flock. He believes that prices will be much better this year, and states that he has already been offered 17 cents for his wool, as against eleven last year.

TWIN CALVES A SECOND TIME

"Dandy," a Shorthorn cow belonging to Mr. Fred Winkler of Poplar Grove, gave birth to twin calves on Tuesday. This is not so strange as is the fact that last year the same bovine presented her owner with two offspring. The calves are just like the other twins with the exception that one of them made its appearance without a tail.