

News From the Legislature

By EMMETT ADKINS

Raleigh, March 7.—With a committee stamp of approval on the back of each of the money bills, the house and senate have cleared their legislative decks in anticipation of stormy weather when the bills come before them for consideration this week.

Appropriations and finance bills were both given their final polishing off by their respective committees the latter part of last week, and are first on the calendar for this week.

The tedious process of balancing the bills, and the numerous compromises that were effected in so doing, have led some to predict that both spending and revenue measures will receive speedy consideration and passage in house and senate, but at week's end numerous solons announced that they would come back to Raleigh this week armed with amendments which they and their constituents want to see added. A large number of such amendments will be offered during the next week or two, and some of the liveliest tilting of the session will follow.

The \$154,000,000 revenue bill reached the house floor Friday, but got no further than the "explanation" stage. An effort to start it through for section-by-section approval met with opposition in the very first section, that of inheritance taxes. House members objected to having the bill summarily stuffed down their throats, decided to let it ride over the weekend, giving them time not only to study it but to prepare their amendments.

Revenue Commissioner A. J. Maxwell and others who had a say in preparing the revenue measure, have asserted more than once that the \$154,000,000 total now estimated is absolutely the maximum amount of income that can be expected from the

measure as it is. But among informed circles in Raleigh, the eagerness of this assertion is not a secret. Reliable sources contend that the revenue measure as it now stands is estimated to produce from three-quarters of a million to a million dollars a year more than is estimated in the revenue bill. The deliberate under-estimation is calculated to feather the nest of the general fund, to provide a reserve margin of safety between appropriations and revenue, and to offset any unexpected decline in business and industry.

Subjected to considerable administration pressure the early part of the week, the joint finance committee speeded up their work considerably and finished the revenue measure with a series of last minute tax boosts. In a desperate effort to up revenue, they first increased income taxes in every bracket, then rescinded the section the next day and substituted instead increases in taxes on liquor stores, on chain stores, and on gasoline distributors. The revised bill also allows the state 40 instead of 25 per cent of the yield from taxes on intangible property, extends the tax on dealers in installment paper to include banks handling such paper, and includes one or two other items for which no previous estimate had been made.

Most important changes made in the bill before it received its committee OK were a reduction of \$400,000 in revenue due to exemption of basic building materials from the sales tax, and a reduction of \$249,000 a year from a lowered railroad tax.

The present revenue act is different from all its predecessors in that it is written to be permanent law instead of expiring at the end of two years.

At the same time the revenue measure reached the floor of the house, legislators ironically reached the end of their allotted 60 days, after which pay at the rate of \$10 a day ceases. Action in both houses will doubtless be speeded from now on.

Coincident with the revenue measure's emergence in the house was the introduction of two important bills, each of which calls for substantial additional appropriations—one for \$2,000,000, the other for only \$10,000.

A pension system for teachers and school employes of North Carolina would require a \$2,000,000 appropriation with its passage. The proposal, introduced Friday, would retire 60-year-old teachers with 35 years experience and allow them a monthly benefit of approximately 51 per cent of their average salary. A five per cent cut from each teacher's salary would be matched by a contribution from the state of approximately 5.87 per cent of the teacher payroll to meet the outlay. An estimated 580 teachers in the state would be eligible for retirement immediately, necessitating a large initial liability to the state, which however, would be liquidated over a period of years and stabilized at an average of four per cent of the teacher payroll as the state contribution to the fund. Under the proposed plan retirement would be optional at 60, mandatory at 70. It would also provide disability benefits equivalent to the retirement payment for teachers of 10 years service who became permanently incapacitated.

Sponsors of the bill pointed out that a "simple amendment" would make the bill applicable to all state employes.

Introduced by Representative McBryde Friday was a bill proposing to establish a "little TVA" on the Cape Fear River, providing for establishment of an authority similar to the Santee-Cooper authority in South Carolina to erect hydro-electric power plants, promote water commerce, construct dams, canals, locks, and supervise reforestation and reclamation of swamp lands.

The authority would include a chairman and eleven members, appointed by the governor. The bill seeks a \$10,000 appropriation for organization.

Having already reported favorably and steered through the house a bill abolishing absentee ballots in primaries and greatly restricting their use in general elections, the house election laws committee during the

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MUNICH, Germany . . . Marion Daniels, American dancer from San Francisco, who appeared recently before Adolf Hitler and ranking Nazi officials at a "request" performance here. The nineteen-year-old girl played the title role in the operetta "Merry Widow" at Munich a fortnight ago and the Reichsfuehrer was one of the most appreciative spectators. "It was a great surprise to receive Mr. Hitler's request," she said.

week took another step toward completion of its "reform" program by reporting favorably a bill abolishing "markers" in North Carolina primaries. The bill had been previously reported favorably by a close vote of the committee, then re-referred to the committee. Committee members this time gave the measure their unanimous approval, and then resumed consideration of two other election bills originally recommended by the state board of elections. At week's end it appeared that North Carolinians would have a vastly reformed election system in the future, despite the skepticism and objections of western Democrats.

Nash Announces Contest in Music

High School Students in the Boone District Will Compete; Winners Will Enter State Contest

Professor Gordon Nash, chairman for the Boone district of the National Music Contest, has announced plans for a district contest which will be held here on Saturday, April 1.

The Boone district includes the counties of Watauga, Ashe, Avery and Alleghany. The contest, which is for high school students, includes events for vocal solos, duets, trios, quartets, etc.; glee clubs or boys, girls, and mixed groups; instrumental solos, duets, etc.

Winners in this division will compete in the state contest which will be held at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro about the second week in April. The Boone High School Band, directed by Mr. Nash, will be the only band from this district and will be entered at Greensboro as a Class D or first year band. Several members of the band will enter the individual contests.

The first place winners in the state contest will compete with winners from other states at the Southeastern Division Contest which will be held at Charlotte in May.

TRIPLES YIELDS

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