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RADICAL LEGISLATION THE ORDER OF THE DAY

Hard on Promiscuous Fathers and The Venerally Diseased—Saunders Answers Main Objection to Abolition of Electric Chair

BY W. O. SAUNDERS

Women will be allowed to vote in primary elections in North Carolina if a bill introduced in the Senate Tuesday, by Senator Scales, of Guilford, becomes law. This is a long way from granting full suffrage to women, but it is legislation in the right direction and may get more favorable consideration at this session of the General Assembly than an unqualified suffrage bill.

Two radical and timely measures, both of which were suggested by Governor Bickett in his biennial message, are now before the General Assembly. One of them, by Senator Burns of Moore, would give to every child born out of lawful wedlock in North Carolina ample protection through the assistance of the State, and the father will be charged with its maintenance and education. Senator Burns would go further and require the child to bear the surname of the father.

The other not less radical social measure, by Representative Nichols, would prohibit the registering of deeds in any county issuing a marriage license to any person with a venereal disease. A clean health certificate would be required of every applicant for a marriage license.

Here's A Hot One

The passage of the Nichols bill would create an interesting situation for Elizabeth City. Elizabeth City is now the Gretna Green of hundreds of Virginia couples. Virginians come to Elizabeth City, obtain a marriage license from the Register of Deeds J. W. Murden, and without leaving the Register of Deeds office, are quickly joined in wedlock by Justice of the Peace W. A. Saunders. It takes about 15 minutes to get a license and get the knot tied in Elizabeth City. Such little time is consumed in the marriage transaction here that there is time left to forestall an undesirable wedding. Bigamy is greatly facilitated under the arrangement by which our Register of Deeds is permitted to issue his own licenses in matrimony.

But there will be some delays when couples applying here for marriage licenses are required to show health certificates. It will be interesting to see those Virginia couples come in on the morning train and look for a doctor's office before going to the court house. This procedure is calculated to cause delays and will mean that many a couple will miss the afternoon train back to Norfolk and will have to stay in Elizabeth City over night. That will help the hotel men. Doctors and hotel men should endorse the Nichols bill.

The Saunders Bill

The bill introduced by your representative, W. O. Saunders, to abolish capital punishment in North Carolina, was reported out of the committee on the Judiciary without prejudice Wednesday morning. This is the first time any previous bill of this nature ever got in the North Carolina General Assembly. But your representative is in earnest about this measure and is committed to a program of progressiveness to deny this bill a hearing.

A great obstacle in the path of the passage of this bill is the inherent notion that some form of punishment other than life imprisonment should be provided in rape cases. Your representative will introduce a bill providing for the sterilization of persons convicted of rape, provided the bill abolishes capital punishment because of the fact that your representative has such a sterilization bill drafted and is ready to present it if the General Assembly will abolish capital punishment.

CHAMBER ENDORSES PROPOSED DAM

If the bill to Dam Knobb's Creek is passed by the General Assembly, and which has already been endorsed by the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce, to permit the Elizabeth City Water Co. to erect a dam to shut off back water from the Pasquotank river from rising in the Creek above the present intake; it will prevent the Knobb's Creek water from becoming brackish and with a modern and up-to-date filtration plant, to eliminate vegetable matter, Knobb's Creek will then be able to supply satisfactory City water. The construction of the dam would be of such a nature as to permit the passage of water or logs down stream.

NITRATE APPLICATION CLOSES JANUARY 25TH.

The time for making application for Government nitrate or soda clones Saturday, January 25th.

If you are interested in securing Nitrate of Soda from the Government, see or write your county Agricultural Agent not later than Saturday afternoon, January 25th.

See page eight of this issue for the great underpriced sale of the People's Bargain Store on Poindecker street. They are offering some especially fine bargains at greatly reduced prices.

STATE IS PREPARING FOR SOLDIERS' RETURN

Endeavoring to Suppress Vice And To Educate People Regarding Venereal Diseases. Will Establish Free Clinics

To see that the returning soldier and sailor does not meet conditions that will cause his demobilization to become his demoralization, is to be the first peace responsibility of any community, says the Government. The first reconstruction work that any city town or community undertakes after the war should be to protect the soldier from the social vices, from which he has been more or less free in the army. The War Department has announced that it is returning the soldiers to their families and to civil life uncontaminated by disease, and that it holds the community in which they live responsible for their future protection and welfare.

There must be no peace with prostitution, no truce with the red light district, no armistice with venereal disease," says the Government. While many war institutions will go to the scrap heap as a result of the close of the war, war on venereal diseases will continue. Unconditional surrender is the Government's demand from this enemy at home.

North Carolina has already begun to assume her responsibility to her soldiers, sailors and private citizens as regards venereal diseases. The State Board of Health is waging an active campaign for the eradication of the great health menace by endeavoring to inform and educate as far as possible every citizen as to the nature and danger of the disease and by suppressing the prostitute and the near prostitute. By its efforts, several of her largest towns have appropriated funds for establishing venereal clinics. The citizens of Asheville have voted to establish a free clinic and have purposefully set about to make their home a safe home for all their people as well as for the returning soldiers and sailors. Wilmington has also appropriated funds for a free venereal disease clinic and it is understood that Greensboro and Winston-Salem will do so in the near future.

NEW BOAT LINE BETWEEN ELIZ. CITY AND NORFOLK

The Virginia-Carolina Transportation Co., have completed arrangements to resume Water Transportation between Elizabeth City and Norfolk, Va., which has been interrupted since the destruction of the steamer Annie last spring. The steamer Greensboro, has been secured by this Company, and arrived in this city on Thursday; and after some needed repairs, will make the first trip. The Elizabeth City Shipyard has taken an active part in this new Water Transportation, and are now building at their shipyard here, a steamer of 160 tons capacity, for the transportation company, which will be put on as soon as completed.

HAWAIIAN QUINTETTE IS COMING AGAIN

The Hawaiian Quintette which gave such a splendid entertainment here in November has been secured to again appear in Elizabeth City Monday night the 27th at the High School Auditorium under the auspices of the local Y. M. C. A.

The entertainment given by these musicians was perhaps more generally liked by the audience than any similar concert ever given here and we can assure our readers that the coming entertainment will be enjoyable to the last notch.

Standing room only was available the other time they were here so advise the early reservation of seats at Selig's.

The proceeds will be used to reduce the indebtedness on the Y. M. C. A. building.

AN UNUSUAL SERVICE

The country is full of good eye specialists and there are hundreds of good eye glass manufacturers, but it is worth something to Elizabeth City and vicinity to know that both can be found in this town. Dr. Hathaway is not only a reputable and skillful optometrist, but he grinds and fits glasses on his premises. This unusual service is seldom found except in much larger cities.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY OPTOMETRIST

Over McCabe & Glrice Elizabeth City, N. C.

Younger Leaders in N. C. General Assembly



HON. O. MAX GARDNER
MR. GARDNER is Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate. His friends are grooming him for gubernatorial honors.



HON. D. G. BRUMMITT
MR. BRUMMITT is the speaker of the House of Representatives and made good from the first rap of his gavel.



HON. LINDSAY G. WARREN
MR. WARREN, of Washington, N. C., is President pro tem of the Senate and one of the most popular young men in that body.

THE Y.M.C.A. AS A COMMUNITY HOME

Directors Finally Take a Start In The Right Direction

If the plans of the directors do not go awry, the present Y.M.C.A. will soon be converted into a community house, open to every one and memberships will not be necessary. This plan was recently arrived at and should do much toward making the present "Y" a building of usefulness to every one instead of to the few as heretofore.

Mr. A. B. Houtz, president of the Y. M. C. A. states that as a community house the "Y" will get the co-operation of the entire business element of the city for part of the funds for its maintenance must come from that source. The merchants of the city will be asked to make regular financial contributions and the city at large will be canvassed so that those desiring to render assistance will be able to do so.

It is said that the different churches in the city would lend financial assistance to this new venture. The Y. M. C. A. being more or less a religious institution it seems no more than ordinary decency that the churches contribute to its support, especially since the "Y" is supposed to be the melting pot of the various Christian denominations. Doubtless, contributions of this kind would do much to abolish that antagonistic feeling toward the "Y" which is harbored by a few of our Christian brothers.

The plans, which are now more or less in a formative state, will soon be discussed more fully.



HON. STANLEY WINBORNE
MR. WINBORNE, Representative from Hertford county, ran Mr. Brummitt a close second for the speakership. He will be the next speaker of the House if he wants the post.

A HELL OF A BUNCH

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Aldermen held in May, 1918, the following unique and most righteous resolution was adopted:

Whereas the Board of Aldermen in regular session on the 17th day of May, 1918, felt it THEIR DUTY TO GOD and in response to the desire of the people to discontinue the pool rooms in the town after January 1st, 1919.

And now further IN ORDER TO SAVE THE BOYS OF THE TOWN FROM BECOMING GAMBLERS, we respectfully ask the trustees of the Y. M. C. A. to discontinue the pool tables in their place of business and substitute some other form of amusement in their stead.

It is further ordered that a copy of this order or resolution be sent to the chairman of the Y. M. C. A. and to the papers of the town for publication.

The same Board of Aldermen has recently decided to help the boys of the town to be gamblers by granting licenses to pool rooms. Can Mack Sawyer and his Board look the people of Elizabeth City in the face and defend their conduct? Incidentally, what has become of Mack Sawyer's gang's duty to God?

GOOD ROADS CAMPAIGN ON IN PASQUOTANK

The Good Roads campaign in Pasquotank began on Thursday. The first lecture occurred at Forks school house. Those speaking at these lectures are W. L. Cohoon, P. S. Vann, County Superintendent of schools and L. D. Case, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Tonight the lecture will be held at Riverside church; and Saturday night at Salem. The following Tuesday at Union church, Wednesday night at Newland High School, and Thursday night at Mt. Hermon. These lectures will be beautifully illustrated with stereoscopic slides, which will contain some very good and interesting views

NEVER SURE OF WHAT THEY WANT

Good Law Repealed, And Now Some Want It Back

Four years ago Walter L. Cohoon secured the passage of a bill, in the General Assembly of North Carolina, penalizing tax payers who failed to pay their taxes promptly. The sheriff of Pasquotank county used that bill as a club over Mr. Cohoon's head and made him one of the most unpopular men in the county. Two years ago the sheriff, using his influence with Eugene Scott who was then representing this county in the General Assembly, had Cohoon's bill repealed. As a result of the repeal of that bill the sheriff of Pasquotank is now behind in his tax collections for the year 1918. No one is hurrying to pay taxes and the sheriff isn't getting out and hurrying any one. Every department of the county's affairs is suffering for lack of funds because the sheriff can't get in the money. And now our good citizens who let Reid and Scott repeal one of the best laws ever enacted for this county are urging Representative Saunders to restore the Cohoon act with modifications. If Saunders restores the act and enables the sheriff to get in his money, the sheriff and his friends will use the act to cuss Saunders up and down the county for the next two years. The act has been suggested by attorney E. P. Ayldett and one has been drafted by attorney C. E. Thompson. Both of these gentlemen are imbued with a desire to render a real service to the county, but Representative Saunders is not going to introduce the bill until he has definite expressions from the mass of the people of Pasquotank. Here is the bill:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF TAXES IN PASQUOTANK COUNTY."

The General Assembly of North Carolina do Enact:

Section 1. That all taxes, except license taxes, in and for the county of Pasquotank shall be due and payable on the first Monday in October of each year at the office of the sheriff of said county.

Section 2. That on all taxes due and unpaid on the first day of December of each year there shall be and is hereby levied and imposed a penalty of one per cent; that on all taxes due and unpaid on the first day of January of each year there shall be and is hereby levied and imposed a penalty of one per cent in addition to the penalty hereinbefore imposed; that on all taxes due and unpaid on the first day of February of each year there shall be and is hereby levied and imposed a penalty of three per cent in addition to the penalties hereinbefore imposed; that on all taxes due and unpaid on the first day of March of each year there shall be and is hereby levied and imposed a penalty of five per cent in addition to the penalties hereinbefore imposed.

Section 3. That it shall be the duty of the sheriff of Pasquotank county to collect the said penalties and additional penalties in the same manner as other taxes are collected and his official bond shall be responsible for any failure to collect the penalties on such delinquent taxes herein provided for.

Section 4. That the Board of County Commissioners for said county may, in its discretion, extend the time for the settlement of such taxes until the first Monday in July in each year.

Section 5. That all penalties collected by virtue of the provisions of this act shall be paid to the school fund of said county for the use of the school in the township in which the tax upon which such penalty is collected, is assessed.

Section 6. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Section 7. That this act shall be in force and effect from and after the first day of July, nineteen hundred and nineteen.

Among other things the Chamber of Commerce is going to ask the Norfolk Southern to put track payments between the Railroad and Main street where the tax is a disgrace to the City and makes a most unfavorable impression on new comers.

SAUNDERS' BILL CALLS ELECTION ON STOCK LAW

Pasquotank's Representative Will Let The Voters Decide Question For Themselves—Says Stock Law Advocates Lack Courage

After giving the matter most careful consideration Pasquotank county's Representative in the N. C. General Assembly has decided to submit the question of stock law to the qualified voters of the county. Pasquotank is about due a little excitement and a stock law election probably will provide excitement enough.

Representative Saunders is in favor of stock law; he believes that the best interests of the county demand abolishing the free range; he believes that sanitation, good roads, hog cholera and tick eradication; the improvement of live stock and drainage maintenance demand stock law. But Mr. Saunders states emphatically that he is representing the people of Pasquotank county in the General Assembly and that he is as much a representative of those who voted against him as he is the representative of those who voted for his election. In the interest of fairness to all of his constituents he does not feel like imposing a stock law upon the county simply because his position in the General Assembly probably would enable him to do this. And so Saunders will let the people of Pasquotank settle the question for themselves if he can, providing an election at such a time and under such rules as should meet with the approval of all parties.

Advocates of stock law in this county are woefully lacking in courage. They want stock law and are perfectly willing to have their Representative in the General Assembly lynched provided they can get what they want. Hundreds of those opposed to stock law have petitioned your representative to that effect. Not a man in favor of stock law has had the nerve to state the fact in writing to your representative and not a single petition in favor of stock law has reached your representative at the time of this writing. Persons who want new laws should be honest enough and courageous enough to publicly support their law makers.

Here then is the bill introduced in the House of Representatives this week:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED "AN ACT TO SUBMIT TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF PASQUOTANK COUNTY THE QUESTION OF STOCK LAW."

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Pasquotank county are hereby authorized, empowered and directed, and it shall be their duty to provide a special election to be held at all voting precincts in said county on Tuesday, the fifth day of August, nineteen hundred and nineteen, and at which time there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of Pasquotank County the question of "Stock Law" or "No Stock Law," and at said election those in favor of a general stock law for Pasquotank County shall vote a ballot on which shall be the words "For Stock Law" and those opposed to a general stock law for said county shall vote a ballot on which shall be the words "Against Stock Law," and which said election shall be conducted under the laws provided for the election of members of the General Assembly, as near as may be, and the vote cast in said election shall be returned and canvassed in like manner as is provided for members of the General Assembly, and the results shall be made out and certified to the Register of Deeds of Pasquotank County.

Section 2. If upon the canvass of the returns of said election it shall be found that a majority of the votes cast in said election be for stock law, the stock law shall be in full force and effect in Pasquotank County on and after the first day of January, nineteen hundred and Twenty, and it shall be unlawful for any stock as defined under Section six hundred and eighty-one Revised of Nineteen Hundred and Five to run at large in Pasquotank County under the pains and penalties applicable to stock law territory in North Carolina, as set forth in Chapter thirty-five of the Revised of Nineteen Hundred and Five; and sections three thousand three hundred and nineteen, three thousand three hundred and twenty, three thousand three hundred and twenty-one of the Revised of Nineteen Hundred and Five.

Section 3. The Board of Commissioners of Pasquotank County are hereby directed to provide registration, poll book and all papers necessary for such election and to pay all necessary expenses for such an election out of the general County Fund.

Section 4. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 5. That this act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification.

MID-NIGHT ATTACK MADE ON THE "Y"

Front Line Trenches had Nothing On This

Occupants of the Y. M. C. A. thought they were in "No Man's Land" last Monday night when they were awakened around mid-night by a cannonade of billiard balls flying over and around them. The Elks Club being directly back of the "Y" naturally suffered the blame for this unusual act of boyhood pranks and because some of the members of the Club happened to be there at this hour the police force did work which would have made Scotland Yard look like a piker. They actually succeeded in finding out just who was in the club. This remarkable piece of sleuthing was made possible by the said members coming out to investigate the noises in the rear of the club building.

Our contemporary, the Advance, went into hysterics and heaped loads of calumny on the local lodge. Over a column of editorial space was devoted to this attack. It is a known trick among the newspaper profession, the kind with a Hearst tinge that an editorial must be something that makes an impression upon the reader regardless of the absolute necessity of sticking to the facts in the case. Editorials of this nature "pied" the type for yellow journalism years ago.

We are sure that the real offenders for this act of destruction will soon be apprehended and that the hasty criticism of the Elks will be recalled. And THE INDEPENDENT will not fail to publish the names of the offenders when they are found out.

IMPOSE HEAVY PENALTY FOR HAVING BOOZE

The house of representatives of the state legislature Saturday unanimously passed the bill introduced by Representative Wilson, Republican, providing that any person caught with a quart of whiskey be arrested on a charge of blockading, and if found guilty be given a year in the state prison and a fine of \$50, or a fine of \$25 and an equal prison term for having whisky in possession.

The measure as it passed the house was amended so as to give court discretion in the first offense. It now goes to the senate.

W. T. WILLIAMS DEAD

W. T. Williams died at his home yesterday corner Pearl and Martin Sts. at one o'clock. Mr. Williams was sixty-three years of age and is survived by his wife and three sons. Hershey Williams, Township Constable, of this city, Tom Williams now with the Norfolk and Western Railroad, located at Raleigh, and William Williams, who is with the American Express Co. Washington, D. C., also two brothers and one half brother. Mr. Williams was one of the most prominent merchants of this city.

SAUNDERS BILL PASSES IN HOUSE

Will Partially Abolish Use of The Electric Chair

The House of Representatives adopted, Thursday, the Saunders Bill by a vote of eighty to eighteen. This bill was adopted with an amendment which abolishes capital punishment in arson and burglary and retaining it in murder and rape.

When the Saunders Bill was brought up for debate Thursday morning it occasioned much spirited discussion and warm debate. The leading orators of the House took much time in expressing their views on this bill and its amendment. Representative Saunders himself, though an amateur debater, made a splendid showing and conducted a fight which has put capital punishment in this state on the defensive.