

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

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NO. 45

School Tax Limit Fixed at 39 Cts.

Many Bills Introduced Aside From Special Ones for Which "Extry" Called—Attempt to Change Property Exemption Not Popular.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TALK:

(By Maxwell Gorman.)

Raleigh, Dec. 13.—The expected has "happened" again, and the Legislature is still functioning at the end of eight days of work without anybody knowing just when adjournment of the extra session will be effected. A week ago it was thought ten days would be long enough to remain here and Senator Long presented a resolution providing for adjournment sine die on Friday of this week, 16th inst. But at this writing it looks like Friday of next week will find the "Extry" still here and some of the members will go home then, they declared today, adjournment or no adjournment. Any who remain after Christmas day will have the dogs set on them. But as pay ceases on Christmas, it is entirely unlikely that many will be rounded up in Raleigh.

The Senate is being unfavorably criticized by people and press all over the State for again attempting to make a law of the senator of Northampton's (Burgwyn) bill to change the property exemption of the "niggers and po' white folks" from \$300 to \$100. The House will probably again kill the bill, as it did last session, but the Senate's action is distasteful if unsuccessful. Long of Alamance, Hartsell of Cabarrus, Gallert of Rutherford, Cameron of Durham and a dozen other senators denounced the bill in apt and fair-minded speeches.

Senator Hartsell, for instance, contrasted the effect and principle (or lack of principle) in putting the sheriff after the pig and cow of every factory worker and small tenant farmer who couldn't hide his little livestock possessions above the \$100 limit while thousands of the well-to-do and wealthy people "dodged" taxes on wealth that could be hid and was concealed every year.

"Why," said he, "my attention was recently called to the fact that only 75 watches are listed for taxation in the whole city of Charlotte, while thousands of watches (some studded with diamonds; no doubt, and valuable intrinsically for the gold in them) are concealed from the tax gatherer."

"Yet, under this Burgwyn bill the cotton mill worker (who has been working on short time and reduced wages for the last year or more) must give in the pig and the cow milked to sustain the life of the babies in his family." That was "telling the truth with a vengeance" and it is no surprise to read notices in the state newspapers like the following taken from the Monroe Journal. The Journal says:

"FOR SHAME.—This is peanut business of the smallest kind. The same forces that are demanding that we return to the old system of levying no tax upon thousands of acres of unused land in eastern North Carolina and elsewhere held by speculators are demanding that the tax assessors be required to ransack the home of every poor white man and negro who has nothing else and find his little dab of household stuff and his cow and pig and put them upon the tax books. There is prosperity and wealth enough in this state to pay the taxes without resorting to such shameful business as this."

The author of the bill said he represented an agricultural community that has no mills or factories or other manufacturing plants, but is populated largely

by tenant farmers (mostly negroes), who pay no taxes under the \$300 exemption. But the representatives of the people of the whole state could not afford to do a thing like that to accommodate the Northampton senator or the twenty or more others who favor his bill.

Senator Cameron called attention to the "campaign pledge" made by the Democratic party (at least in the name of the state committee) about the \$300 exemption. But a little thing like a "campaign pledge" sat but lightly on the shoulders of half of the senators. Which is also something that needs to be sneezed at.

Constitutional Convention

Editor Josephus Daniels returned from a chataqua tour of lectures in the middle west last week and has launched a demand on the "Extry" to provide for the holding of a state constitutional convention in 1923. Col. Harry Stubbs tried the same thing in the last Legislature, but it didn't work. What success Editor Daniels may have is more apt to come through action by the regular session of the Legislature next winter than through the present "Extry" it seems at present.

There is argument, strong argument, to be made for a constitutional convention, but the proposition ought to be submitted to the people of a "general election" year, when state officers and president are chosen and when the people turn out more fully, at the polls than in an off year. It should be voted on in 1924, if at all, rather than in 1922, as is now proposed.

Important Measures.

The Senate and House began this week's work at 8 o'clock Monday night, no day session being held, and among the most important measures dealt with this week include the following:

In the Senate the Sams bill providing more effectual means for the prompt payment of obligations of political subdivisions of the state. The Erwin bill empowering municipalities to create planning commissions, and the Walker bill increasing the legal speed limit for motor vehicles.

School Matters.

Thirty-nine cents is set as the limit to which counties may go in levying taxes for the schools in the measure introduced in the House of Representatives by Matthews of Bertie. The bill stipulates that no mandamus will be against the county commissioners to force that body to levy a tax in excess of the 39-cent limit.

All tax levies that have been directed by the State Department of Education for the present year, of whatever rate, are validated in the provisions of the bill, and counties that have resisted the mandate of the department to levy above 30 cents are directed to levy up to 39 cents. Three counties in the state have held out against the state board, and out of this opposition grew the litigation on which the Supreme Court handed down its decision during the past week.

If the Matthews bill passes, State Superintendent Brooks will have consolidated all that he has won in his fight to have the counties levy sufficient taxes to support the schools on his enlarged program, but restrictions are thrown around him in fixing the limit at 39 cents and withdrawing the mandamus provision that, it is believed, satisfy the critics who charge reckless extravagance.

Section 3 of the bill directs the Department of Education to reduce special appropriations from the school funds from approximately \$500,000 to \$642,750. The present schedule of teacher salaries will be maintained, but not increased. County boards of commissioners shall not be required to levy more than seven and a half cents for the building fund. Retrenchment and economy, without crippling the schools, is the declared intent of the framers of the bill. It was drawn after extended conferences between administration leaders and that wing of the General Assembly led by Representative Bowie opposing Dr. Brooks.

Daniels' best advertising comes from people who have actually used it. Sold by Farrell Drug Co., Graham, N. C.

A SIMPLE TREATY.

That's the Way The Daily News Speaks of It.

Sunday's Greensboro Daily News has diagnosed and analyzed the treaty affecting the Pacific. The Daily News is somewhat drastic, but hear what it says:

"The mountains are in labor and a ridiculous mouse is born." With ruffles and flourishes, tucks and fanfaronades, with the thunder of oratorical great guns, and the explosion of all sorts of verbal pyrotechnics, the coming of the four-power treaty governing the Pacific was announced. Yesterday Senator Lodge, having for the moment assumed Senator Johnson's regular role of "herald with trumpet," strutted into the Washington conference and with a mighty preliminary blast from his bugle-horn, finally introduced the thing.

And here is what it provides: "We, being virtuous, hereby highly resolve to respect our own rights in the Pacific; and, by way of further proof of our exceeding goodness, we promise never to knock a neighbor's block off without first informing everybody that we are mad at him."

Thus is the collective wisdom of western civilization summed up. Thus is declared the international morality of the most enlightened nations of the world in the twentieth century of the Christian era. Never a word is there suggesting that there may exist anything but ideal conditions in the Pacific.

Nowhere is there a hint that the five great powers of the western world perhaps cherish the hope that their rule of the Pacific may be used for the establishment of justice and prosperity in those regions. Not an intimation is given that the five nations have any desire to base their control of half the world on righteousness, honesty and truth. There is not the faintest shadow of an admission that the people who inhabit the regions involved have any rights that anyone is under even a moral obligation to respect.

Each nation agrees to keep what it has, including what it has stolen; which each intended to do before any treaty was written. Each agrees, before attempting to snatch another's spoils, to find out how the other three stand; and each would certainly have done, had no treaty ever been written.

Mr. Lodge announces with swelling pride that the treaty is exceedingly simple. It certainly is. It is simple as the law of the wolfpack. It is as simple as the rules of the Forty Thieves. In so far as essential morality goes, it is as simple as Simple Simon. It is as simple as

the good old rule, the simple plan—let him take who has the power; let him keep who can. It is as simple as theft, as simple as greed, as simple as conquest and tyranny. It is as simple as hell.

No threat of force, no implication of a binding agreement to support any nation in anything lurks in this document, says Senator Lodge. An admirable speech this senator has made—he is always right. No threat of force "lurks" anywhere in this document. It sticks out all over it. It is based on force, it is absolutely unintelligible unless the existence of force be assumed, and with it the justification of the use of force to protect particular interests. It makes no threat of force because it calmly assumes that all the five nations are agreed that force is, and of necessity must be, the final argument in international disputes.

It is impossible to find in this treaty any genuine, honest endeavor to bring about a more enlightened method of conducting international relations. Not a solitary one of its provisions but has been in actual practice for years. Germany did not call the various nations into conference before her assault on civilization, it is true, but nevertheless she thought that she had ascertained exactly how each of them would stand. She erred; but the chances are that a conference would have given her no more reliable information than that which she possessed. This treaty does not raise even a timid

protest against the use of force for the advancement of national interests, does not put the contracting powers even on formal record as opposing the exploitation of backward regions and backward peoples for the exclusive benefit of the exploiter, does not mark the gain of a solitary inch in international morality, hardly puts the additional weight of a straw in the way of wars. Its sinister philosophy is the dreary utterance of Vance in 1881: "The thing that has been is the thing that shall be."

Senator Lodge vaunts himself on having produced a treaty of a crass simplicity in the year 1921. Does the man really lack the ability to think superficially? Surely, even superficial thought must have convinced him that reducing the existing chaos to order is no simple task, and to be accomplished by no simple agency. The very fact that a treaty made in 1921 is simple is prima facie evidence that it is inadequate.

But, after all, the feebleness, the hopeless futility of this document is not the sinister element of the situation. The sinister thing is the naive pride that the framers of the treaty possess in their work. They are still worshipping phrases in Washington, still believing in some magic abracadabra, still looking for some formula of enchantment mere pronouncement of which will conjure all our troubles away like phantasms of an uneasy dream. And in the meantime the world is steadily slipping toward the edge of the abyss.

It is bad news that comes out of Washington this morning. The conference has failed. It may have gained some trifles toward the reduction of our naval expenditures, but in so far as setting the world on the upward path is concerned it has failed utterly and ridiculously. Thoughtful men must regard the future this morning with heavy hearts.

Alamance's School Tax Rate Compared With Other Counties.

The following interesting figures showing valuations of property and tax-rate for schools in a number of counties were furnished by County Supt. of Schools M. C. Terrell:

Now that the Legislators are in session and a good deal is being said about schools and school taxes, it may be of interest to the people of Alamance county to make comparisons of tax rates for schools and valuations of taxable property in some of the counties somewhat similar to Alamance. For this reason below is given several of the counties in the State, showing tax rates for schools and the total valuation of taxable property:

County	Val. of Prop.	Rate	\$100
Halifax	\$ 53,000,000	62c	
Johnston	43,000,000	60c	
Vance	22,000,000	56c	
Union	22,500,000	50c	
Granville	22,400,000	50c	
Warren	15,000,000	47c	
Wilson	47,495,695	46c	
Alamance	38,000,000	44c	
Edgecombe	29,562,488	43c	
Roberson	45,000,000	40c	
Catawba	32,500,000	40c	
Wake	80,000,000	40c	
Lenoir	31,647,760	39c	
Cleveland	34,000,000	38c	
Rockingham	41,000,000	37c	
Buncombe	93,500,000	37c	
Iredell	44,000,000	35c	
Richmond	29,534,897	34c	
Guilford	139,000,000	32c	
Forsyth	137,000,000	24c	

The reason a man scratches his head when puzzled has never been satisfactorily accounted for by scientists.

Cactus flower expands by night and blooms only a few hours.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other places put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists; See Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

TOBACCO GROWERS FOR COOPERATIVE MARKETING.

Alamance Farmers Signing Up—Big Meeting Held at Cedar Grove in Orange.

County Agent W. Kerr Scott, writing last Saturday, has the following to say of what Alamance farmers and others are doing about the cooperative tobacco marketing proposition:

From all sections of the county signed contracts are coming in. Increased interest was shown last week in Woodlawn, Cross Roads and Texas. Over 100,000 pounds of tobacco was signed in these communities.

Starting at the farm of Mr. John Baker at Haw River, every man visited on the road from there to Stainback's store except two signed the contract. Messrs. Baxter Sellars and Ed. Tate both signed. Mr. Sellars feared for a time that the association would not receive proper financial backing. However, he states that when he learned that the Federal Reserve was backing the association, he was from that time a booster. "Texas" is waking up and it now seems that they will give a large majority. Several signed at a meeting at Martin's school house and others joined there a few days previous.

A meeting was held in Orange county at Cedar Grove with over 200 present. Every man in the house had signed, or signed that night, except four. According to an editorial in the Progressive Farmer of this week "The warehouses in Kentucky have already closed out forever as scenes of auction sales and will be used hereafter as grading and receiving stations for the associations. The same condition is likely to face the remnant of Virginia and Carolina growers next summer."

Local warehousemen are of the opinion that there will not be enough tobacco outside of the association to send buyers on the market. For the first time in the campaign people have come to the office of the county agent to sign. Several came in today and from conditions all over the county it appears that we will have from 75 to 85 per cent sign up before January first.

If you have not signed, why not? North Carolina Birth Rate Highest in United States.

A latest dispatch from Washington gives the following about the birth rate in the U. S. in 1920:

North Carolina has the laudable distinction of having "the highest birth rate (31.7) for the white population of any other State for 1920," according to a census report issued today. California had the lowest, with 18.3 per thousand population.

North Carolina stands third in the birth rate of other colors; she is exceeded by the District of Columbia, where the negro flourishes, and California, where Orientals are increasing.

The average birth rate for the 23 States covered was 23.3 per thousand. North Carolina, therefore, is far ahead.

The record for North Carolina was: White births, 57,054, and colored, 24,353, for 1920, and 51,832 and 24,022 for 1919.

The birth rate for whites last year was 31.7 per thousand, and colored, 31.3.

South Carolina's white birth rate last year was 28.8, and colored, 27.7.

There is no indication of race suicide among the old settlers of the Tar Heel State. The birth rate was higher in 1920 than it was in 1917.

Compensation claims for losses or injuries to former service men, amounting to \$7,142,416 a year, are being sent by the United States Treasurer to 86 foreign countries. Italy receives the largest proportion of money on claims and Ireland ranks second.

"Stunt" Night at Elon.

Elon College, Dec. 14.—"Stunt" night was observed by the Sophomores of the college last evening. In the presentation of their "stunt" a miniature Keith's Vaudeville production was prepared, which pleased the large audience.

Attractive programs were distributed, from which were seen six acts as follows: Scene at Photographer's, Red-headed, Rolling Bones, A Gala Day in Magazenez, Madam Olga, and All by Myself. S. M. Lyman heralded the coming of the Keith's production and welcomed the audience.

The Nevelle Club met Monday night with Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Corboy, Miss Florence Fisher and Miss Katherine Strum assisting the Corboys. A social good time was enjoyed by the members, sewing, and the usual items of the club were engaged in, at the conclusion of which a very delightful course of refreshments was served.

The Music Lovers' club met last evening at the West End Hall with Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Vaughan, Mr. Alexander, and Miss Hendricks entertaining.

It was announced at this meeting that the guarantors for the concert course would be relieved of any financial responsibility, enough tickets having been sold to cover all expenses.

The following program was rendered: Story by Faust—Gounod—Dr. Newman. Duets—Flower song from Faust, Miss Kirkland. Waltz song from Faust—Mr. Betts. If Happy Fortune—Gounod—Mr. Vaughan. Story of Carmen—Bizet—Mrs. Kennett. If I am not faint hearted, Miss Fisher. Toreador Song from Carmen, Mr. Alexander.

SHORT COURSES IN AGRICULTURE.

Will be Given at State College in January—No Tuition Charge—Farmers Should Take Advantage of These.

Beginning with January 19 there will be given at State College two Two-Week's Short Courses in Agriculture, one in General Agriculture and the other in Cotton Grading. Dean C. B. Williams says these two courses this year have been made so that they will deal with the practical problems of the farm. Those who take the work will be offered an opportunity to learn both by doing things as well as studying under the guidance of competent instructors.

The course in General Agriculture will deal mainly with soil fertility, field and garden crops, livestock, poultry, crop and livestock diseases, and farm implements and equipment problems. The one in Cotton Grading will be given over chiefly to intensive practice work in cotton classing, with the idea of familiarizing farmers and others who may take it, with the different grades of cotton and their relative commercial values.

These courses have been arranged to come at a slack time in farm work so that farmers may experience no difficulty on this account in getting away from home. The college makes no charge for tuition, the only expense necessary to incur being railroad fare, room and board.

Farmers from all sections of the State should plan now to take one of these courses at State College. Those who have taken similar courses in the past have been unflinching in their expressions of the value such courses have been to them. A reasonable amount of time spent in preparation for life work in any profession is always the part of wisdom. Interested parties should communicate with Dean C. B. Williams, State College Station, Raleigh.

666 is a prescription for Colds, Fever and LaGrippe. It's the most speedy remedy we know.

Two Things.

From The Uplift. There are two things that are just now very evident: North Carolina has her "head over the moon" and her tail over the dashboard," going up the road like a thorough-bred. That's one; the other is a cracker-jack State Treasurer, who has the ability, the pep and the dope to put across a bond sale of \$2,872,000 at a premium of \$70,000. And all this is happening in the Administration of Governor Cam Morrison.

Stick insect of Borneo is the largest known. There are now 10,000 known varieties of orchids.

BACK GIVES OUT

Plenty of Graham Readers Have This Experience.

You tax the kidneys—overwork them—They can't keep up the continual strain.

The back may give out—it may ache and pain; Urinary troubles may set in. Don't wait longer—take Doan's Kidney Pills.

Graham people tell you how they act. Mrs. J. B. Farrell, N. Maple St., Graham, says, "I can recommend Doan's Kidney Pills highly, as they certainly are a fine kidney medicine. I was troubled with severe pains across the small of my back and my kidneys acted irregularly. Doan's Pills gave me wonderful relief from the backache and regulated my kidneys. I tell my friends who are troubled with kidney complaint to use Doan's."

Price 60c at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the kind Mrs. Farrell had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfgs., Buffalo, N. Y.

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