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Doings of Solons At State Capital

Governor's Ship Bill Will Pass with Some Changes--Merchants' Garnishment Bill Pronounced Dead.

BILL TO HELP SMALL FARMERS BUY HOMES

Representative E. S. Parker, Jr., Propounds Bill to Curb County Boards Spending in Excess of Income and for Publication of Financial Transactions.

(BY MAXWELL GORMAN.)

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 30th.—The fifth week of the Legislature is in full swing with most of the more interesting subjects of legislative action as yet undisposed of and some of them not yet broached.

The Governor's plan looking to the creation of a system of water transportation in North Carolina as the one available means of affording relief to our people from the high and discriminatory rail freight rates, after receiving an unqualifiedly favorable report from the Senate special committee to which it was referred, has been turned over to the Senate committee on appropriations and there are suggestions that the committee make certain changes in the provisions of the measure. It is understood that Senator Giles, a new man from McDowell County, "is opposed to the Governor's bill." The statement is made by a Raleigh newspaper. But even if true, that does not mean that a majority of the appropriations committee is "opposed" to it and that the measure will be materially changed.

Some few members of this Legislature who are temperamentally "against" Governor Morrison have watched the successful motion of the gubernatorial machinery and the popularity of the Morrison administration generally with ill-concealed displeasure and jealousy. Some of these have lately eagerly seized what they think is an opportunity to embarrass the Governor by contributing anything handy to impede the progress of the proposed water transportation measure, and the establishment of a department of commerce and shipping and ports industry. But it still looks like the Governor will clear all the hurdles and make the circuit, a winner.

The garnishment amendment to the State Constitution, asked for by the secretary of the State Merchants' Association, is already dead as a salt mackerel—but it doesn't know it. The last sad rites will be formally administered the last of this week or early next week.

The druggists' measure to prohibit the sale of drugs, medicines and patent medicines, etc., in general stores or by merchants of any class, except druggists, where are drug stores, will be materially amended and then passed. The proposition has its merits and demerits, and the legislative committee has been devoting some time in distinguishing between them. There has been a well-grounded complaint for some time of the continued high war-profit prices exacted by the proprietary medicine manufacturers—at least the retail druggists say it is the fault of the wholesalers—and if the sale of these proprietary (or "patent medicine") preparations should be confined to retail druggists, the fear is that

the prices would never come down, and might increase to even greater heights.

On the other hand, it is recognized that the indiscriminate sale of "loose" medicines like colic, and many other "family" preparations and "pills" with tar preparations and sometimes opium among the ingredients, is wrong and at times dangerous. So it is likely that, while a stricter law governing the dispensing and sale of certain character and forms of medicines and medicinal preparations, will be adopted, the bill will not lend itself to any element of profiteering beyond that already practiced on the "patents" and consumers—as we all know and realize from daily experience.

Curb County Expenditures.

Representative Parker has presented two local measures for Alamance County that will probably be amended almost to the point of becoming State-wide laws. The first provides that no board of county commissioners may go beyond the county's income in the expenditure of public money, and that all financial transactions of the board must be published in such a form as to be easily intelligible.

Notice has already been given that a number of counties will ask to come under the bill. Mr. Parker aims at the evil of piling up a deficit in county treasuries and then asking the General Assembly to authorize funding bonds to cover it. The 1922 session authorized more than thirteen million dollars in funding bonds alone to take care of floating debts. Alamance is leading the procession of living within income.

The Farm Loan Bill.

Hearing on the substitute for the Giles \$2,500,000 farm loan bill, prepared by a group of fifteen agricultural experts, resulted in the Senate committee ordering the substitute reported favorably for the purpose of having it printed, with the understanding that the bill will be referred for another hearing before the committee with the House committee sitting jointly.

The bill was repeatedly described by the experts who appeared before the committee as the most important legislation that will be presented to this General Assembly, and one, the enactment of which will raise the session above the level attained for that of 1921 by the \$50,000,000 road bill and the large appropriations for educational and charitable institutions. All of the speakers, however, discussed the need and effect of the bill rather than the provisions of the measure itself.

The original Giles bill provided for the help of the farmers all over the State, while the speakers in the substitute bill, which has been accepted by Senator Giles, stressed the trading possibilities of eastern North Carolina. The original bill provided for a State loan board of five members, the Commissioner of Agriculture and the State Treasurer being ex-officio members and the other three to be appointed by the Governor. The substitute proposes

a board of eleven members, to be composed of the agricultural economist of the State University, the agricultural economist of the North Carolina State College, a representative of the State Board of Agriculture, the State Geologist, and four men and two women to be named by the Governor.

The original bill created county farm loan boards to be composed of county officers, acting ex-officio, and made no provision for colonization of immigrants to other settlement plans. On the contrary, the substitute disregards the county plan and most of its provisions deal with plans for settlements, the bill giving the board authority to condemn land for settlements and putting it into the real estate business generally.

All of the speakers stressed the fact of 22,000,000 acres of idle farm land and that 45 per cent of those living on farm land are tenants. State aid was declared to be necessary to relieve the situation, and the speaker described their men as undesirable in form because it seems to take advantage of se. Some plans that have worked in California, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

FORDNEY TARIFF HELPS MANY ESCAPE TAXES.

Over Two Billions of Dollars of 328 Beneficiaries' Escape.

Washington Correspondence.

In a list compiled by the Federal Trade Commission of 328 corporations which during 1922 declared stock dividends aggregating \$2,490,151,425, about a hundred are among the concerns that are the largest and most direct beneficiaries of the Fordney-McCumber profiteers' tariff law.

Practically every consumer commodity—food, clothing, medicines, machinery, utensils, furniture and equipment—is represented in the products of the corporations which have been accumulating surplus profits while farmers, small business men, wage workers, and others have been feeling the effects of the Republican panic.

The seven principal Standard Oil companies have released surpluses of \$869,324,311 as stock dividends, and subsidiaries of Standard Oil have done proportionately well. The makers of sewing machines, for whose products the Fordney-McCumber act imposed a tax of from 25 to 30 per cent upon the women of the country, set aside an aggregate of \$2,750,000, of which \$1,000,000 was earned by the Singer Company.

Hundreds of millions in stock dividends were divided among the stockholders of the corporations engaged in the manufacture of cotton and woolen textiles. The makers of metal wares, drugs and chemicals, electrical apparatus and supplies, paper and machinery are reported to have prospered by authorizing many millions of stock dividends. The day of 10 cents a hundred-weight loaf of salt is a hundred-weight loaf of salt by the Fordney-McCumber law. It appears to have been necessary to the financial success of the salt producers to have a certain amount of salt in the market. They will have to furnish books and papers and documents and water to the satisfaction of a proper investigating committee that they are withdrawing these assets in the public interest and as a contribution to those committees whose representatives here are opposed to ship subsidy bills.

Senator Fletcher described the statement attributed to the Shipping Board "as a species of propaganda and the culmination of efforts, by publicity and otherwise, which the Shipping Board has been putting forth for months in order to gain support for the ship subsidy bill."

A drydock on wheels transports vessels over land in East Prussia.

SOUTHERN SENATORS FACED BY A THREAT.

Shipping Board Intimates Will Abandon Southern Ports Unless Senators Vote for Subsidy Bill.

Special Correspondence.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Intimations that the U. S. Shipping Board intends to abandon the operation of its lines to several important ports on the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico unless Southern senators vote for the passage of President Harding's ship bonus bill were made the subject of caustic rebukes by Senator Fletcher (Dem., Fla.) in a speech in the Senate. The statement of the Shipping Board's alleged intention to withdraw its vessels from the southern trade after March 4, next, and thereby transfer shipment of cotton were contained in an article sent broadcast by a Washington correspondent who serves many leading newspapers.

After reading into the Congressional Record the correspondent's account of the Shipping Board's alleged designs, Senator Fletcher said:

"So we have here the threat virtually that the South Atlantic and Gulf lines established by the Shipping Board must be abandoned immediately after March 4 if the ship subsidy bill is not passed. It seems to me not a very creditable thing on the part of the Shipping Board to take that position and give out information to be spread over the country and be published as it has been published, along the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts, a threat that if the Senators from those states do not vote for the ship subsidy legislation, the ships serving the ports of the Gulf and South Atlantic will be withdrawn from that service after March 4."

Senator Fletcher then showed that the Shipping Board's vessels are carrying about 52 per cent of the tonnage leaving the South Atlantic and Gulf ports, and that as this commerce is increasing, there is no warrant for discontinuing the several lines mentioned.

"The statement I have quoted is simply intended to influence the commercial bodies, boards of trade, chambers of commerce, and merchants along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to bring pressure to bear upon their Senators to support the ship subsidy bill, because if they do not they are to understand the ships will be withdrawn from those ports. It is possible that we have come to that pass when threats of this kind must be resorted to and when promises of immediate benefit are to be offered in order to gain votes for the ship subsidy bill."

Such threats, Senator Fletcher said, would not only be effective but would be resented by the individuals and interests to whom they were addressed.

If the Shipping Board predicted its withdrawal of ships on the ground of "heavy losses," as he is quoted as saying, Senator Fletcher declared there would be an investigation of its action.

"I advise those gentlemen (of the Shipping Board) if they pursue the course as threatened in the article they will have to see the line, or that action. They will have to furnish books and papers and documents and water to the satisfaction of a proper investigating committee that they are withdrawing these assets in the public interest and as a contribution to those committees whose representatives here are opposed to ship subsidy bills."

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TOBACCO CO-OP ONE YEAR OLD.

To Celebrate Birthday of Largest Co-operative in America Feb. 9.

The thousands of tobacco growers in three states who are members of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association are asked to celebrate the birthday of their association next Friday, February 9th, just one year after its incorporation.

The Carolinians and Virginians who formed their marketing association for tobacco one year ago have seen it forge to the front as the largest of all co-operative marketing associations in America.

Next Friday they will celebrate its growth within a year from 65,000 to over 85,000 tobacco farmers; the acquisition of the majority of warehouses in the country; the marketing of over 1,000,000,000 pounds of tobacco; cash payments to its members of close to \$20,000,000 and the assurance of future cash payments, which began this month in South Carolina.

Organized tobacco growers of the South Carolina belt, who are now engaged in a successful campaign for new members, are being urged to make a special birthday present to the association, which many claim has doubled their receipts within a year, in the form of a new member.

George A. Norwood, president of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association, in a special birthday message to its members this week, says: "Millions of dollars added to the incomes of farmers this past year is your work. Let there be some question as to who gets the most of the benefits. I believe there is no one who questions the fact that the price of tobacco is higher and that you made it higher. Business may in the main be done for gain to the doer, but we must take a broader view and see that the gain of one is the gain of all and the gain of all is the gain of each."

"Your directors feel that the acquirement of the warehouses for you on easy terms, the financing and sale of a large part of the crop already is a success. More uniform and profitable prices are now sure. Nearly everybody will get more good out of their income if it is in installments rather than all at once. Co-operative marketing makes for thrift."

Harding's Non-Interference Promise Violated 11 Times.

Washington Correspondence.

Eleven important instances in which President Harding has used his great executive influence to compel the Republican majority in Congress to abdicate its views and prerogatives and accept his dictation were enumerated by Senator Pat Harrison (Dem., Miss.) in a speech in the Senate. Senator Harrison quoted President Harding's declaimers of a desire to interfere with Congress and then gave some of the particulars in which executive action has been exerted.

The following cases were cited by Senator Harrison:

1. The President wrote a letter and sent emissaries to Congress to prevent the House of Representatives from changing the joint resolution declaring the war with Germany at an end.

2. Interposed to force Congress to reduce the surtaxes on large incomes from 65 to 40 per cent, but succeeded in getting a decrease to only 50 per cent.

3. Threatened a veto of the Packers' Control Bill if it were made as stringent as certain Democratic and progressive Republican Senators wished it to be; and finally frightened the Republican Congressmen into emasculating it.

4. Exerted powerful influence to include in the Fordney-McCumber law a provision giving the President authority to fix the rates of duty on imports, thus usurping the taxing power constitutionally vested in Congress.

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

Has Helped Many Women Save Money and Aided in Other Ways.

Correspondence.

Since the home demonstration work has been under discussion, it might be well to place a few facts before the citizens of our county. Alamance county has a population of something over 30,000. The value of the property is \$33,000,000. Last year the tax was \$1.20 on every \$100 worth of property. One fifth of a cent or less on every \$100 worth of property was appropriated by the commissioners for the Home Demonstration work—the value of a 2-cent stamp per person per year. And yet it has been suggested that the commissioners do away with the work.

From October 1921 to December 1922 the following amounts have been brought into the county:

Cash—1921 and 1922 (one-half county premiums)	\$ 500.00
Women's Canning Exhibit	10.00
Individual Canning Exhibit, 1922	40.00
Sales (outside of county)	75.00
Fancy preserves	15.00
Total	\$ 640.00

Saved by women:
Hats, 425 hats, saving of \$3 per hat \$1275.00
Toys, dolls and furniture 150.00
Candy, 200 lbs. at saving of 25 c per lb. 50.00

Total \$1475.00

This does not include the amount of home canning done, nor the large amount of commercial canning done as a direct result of the Home Agent's work, nor the saving on home made dress forms, nor the amount of chickens and eggs sold as a result of Poultry Club work, nor to speak of the many other things. Beside this, sixty-two people,

5. Forced Congress to amend the Smoot bill creating a Congressional committee on reorganization of Government departments so that the President might appoint as a member and chairman of the body a man who was neither a Senator nor a Representative.

6. Injected himself into the consideration of the soldiers' bonus bill when it was on the verge of passage and compelled its recommittal against the wishes of its advocates.

7. Wrote a letter and applied pressure to compel changes in the Debt Funding bill to suit his own views.

8. Sought to drag Congress into passing the ship bonus bill after its repudiation by the people and in the face of strong disinclination on the part of Republican Senators.

9. Opposed Senator Borah's resolution calling a conference on disarmament, arrayed Republican Senators against it, and caused it to be pigeon-holed until public sentiment forced its adoption.

10. Fought Senator Borah's resolution looking to an international economic conference and succeeded in killing it by intimating that a similar undertaking was in contemplation on the President's part—and then let the whole proposition die.

11. Resisted the Robinson resolution authorizing the appointment of an American on the Reparation Commission and wrote a letter urging its rejection.

Senator Harrison quoted from Mr. Harding's speech of December 6, 1920 (a month after his election) the following:

"When my responsibilities begin in the Executive capacity I shall be as mindful of the Senate's responsibilities as I have been jealous for them as a Member. . . . Our governmental good fortune does not lie in any surrender at either end of the Avenue, but in the co-ordination and co-operation which becomes the two in a great and truly representative popular Government."

club boys and girls, with a few chaperons had a wonderful trip to the western part of the state covering 700 miles at a cost of less than \$10 per person. Think of the educational value of such a trip to our county boys and girls.

Should this work not be carried on this year taxes will not be lowered—a statement made by one in authority. And so much has been said about the need of good roads. No one wants good roads more than the country women. But for every one hundred and twenty-five cents put into good roads one cent is put into the woman's work. Why take that one cent away? And will that one cent be put into good roads? Besides the women help to make the money that pays taxes. Should it not be their privilege to say that some of the money should go into making home life better?

Is the work worth while? Think what the nutrition campaign will mean to our children. There are cases on record of children whose lives have been saved by the faithful work of Home Agents along this line. Think what the Room Beautifying Contest will mean to the young sisters and daughters and to future homes. Are we not crying, "Keep the boys and girls on the farm." Who can help do this better than those who come and assist us in solving our perplexing problems. Doesn't our Home Agent assist in solving financial problems, and the best methods of keeping a sufficient food supply. Doesn't she help us develop stronger children through the food campaign, and by personal work. We all need some help along these lines and we realize that by meeting together and discussing things with our agent we gain much information.

Joseph Daniels says: "No doubt there are inefficient Farm and Home Agents. But when these agents are efficient they better earn their pay than any other officials we have. Maintaining an efficient Farm and Home Agent is a wise investment for any county. It will bring in for the county much more than the county pays in agents' salaries."

666 quickly relieves Colds and LaGrippe, Constipation, Biliousness and Headaches.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

LOVICK H. KERNODLE,

Attorney-at-Law.

GRAHAM, N. C.

Associated with John J. Henderson. Office over National Bank of Alamance.

THOMAS D. COOPER,

Attorney and Counselor-at-Law.

BURLINGTON, N. C.

Associated with W. S. Coulter.

Nos. 7 and 8 First National Bank Bldg.

S. C. SPOON, Jr., M. D.

Graham, N. C.

Office over Ferrell Drug Co.

Hours: 2 to 3 and 7 to 9 p. m., and by appointment.

Phone 97

GRAHAM HARDEN, M. D.

Burlington, N. C.

Office Hours: 9 to 11 a. m. and by appointment.

Office Over Acme Drug Co.

Telephones: Office 416—Residence 264

JOHN J. HENDERSON

Attorney-at-Law

GRAHAM, N. C.

Office over National Bank of Alamance

J. S. COOK,

Attorney-at-Law

GRAHAM, N. C.

Office Patterson Building

Second Floor.

DR. WILL S. LONG, JR.

DENTIST

Graham, N. C. North Carolina

OFFICE IN PARIS BUILDING