

AT THE CAPITOL

News of Interest From the Legislature Now in Session

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Raleigh, February 23.—"Monkey business" has had the center of the stage in the General Assembly the past week and no great amount of progress has been made in the enactment of general legislation. The Revenue Bill has been whipped into shape and is now under consideration by the committee of the Whole in the House. The bill providing appropriations to the State educational, charitable and penal institutions, pensions for the Confederate soldiers and widows; for the payment of the interest in the State debt; equalizing fund for the public schools, etc., is to following due course. The finance committees have raked every available source of revenue with a fine tooth

comb in an effort to comply with the demands of the appropriations committees. But "the call is not sustained." There is an appreciable difference between the two which is not likely to be "reconciled" at this session.

Two days were given to the consideration of the Poole resolution outlawing the teaching of evolution in State institutions, which had been made a special order for Tuesday night. The bill was displaced, however, on account of the crowded condition of the hall and galleries of the House which were jammed with people eager to hear the discussion. The question for debate was: "Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that it is the sense of the General Assembly of North Carolina that it is injurious to the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth for any officer or teacher in the State, as a fact, to teach either Darwinism or other evolutionary hypothesis that links man in blood relationship with any other lower form of life."

The resolution came up on the House calendar Thursday morning as unfinished business and the "fire works" started without difficulty. The forces in favor of the resolution were directed by Representative Turling-

ton, of Iredell; the opposition by Representative Murphy, of Rowan. Mr. Turlington could see no harm in prohibiting the teaching of theories as facts and paid his respects to the heads of State institutions who had appeared before the committee in opposition to the resolution. He was sustained in his contentions by Messrs. Madison of Jackson, Hunter of Polk, Braswell of Nash, Neal of Caswell, Miss Alexander of Mecklenburg, and Poole of Hoke, author of the resolution, who pointed out the dangers to young minds of theories that are now being promulgated through the camouflage of science in the high schools and colleges of the State. Mr. Turlington declared he had parted company with Dr. Chase and the University under his management after hearing the doctors speech before the committee on Education in opposition to the resolution. Representative Madison sought to refute the suggestion of the abridgement of freedom of thought, freedom of the press and freedom of speech. Other proponents of the measure took much the same view.

Representatives Ervin of Burke, Connor of Wilson, Everett of Durham and Yelverton of Wayne, concurred in the opinion of Mr. Murphy in his appeal for religious freedom and kindred influences. Freedom for everything was the slogan of the opposition. Besides, they contended that the legislature is not the proper forum before which to bring the issue and the House finally concurred in this view by voting to table the resolution. Following is the vote on the motion to table. Ayes: Speaker Pharr, Barber, Barker, Bellamy, Brinson, Broughton, Byrd, Cates, Chamblee, Christian, Connor, Cook, Coulter, Council, Cox, Crawford, Davenport, Ervin, Erwin, Eure, Everett, Falls, Ferree, Fountain, Franklin, Graham of Orange, Grant, Grier, Hawfield, Higgins, Horn, Hurley, Johnson, King, Leggett, McKinnon, Marshall, Massenburg, Matthews, Moore, Moss, Murphy of Pender, Murphy of Rowan, Neal of McDowell, Nettles, Paxton, Pittman, Pruden, Raper, Revis, Rogers, Rouse, Spruill, Sutton, Townsend, Turner, Tyer, Wade, Wakefield, Ward of Duplin, Watson, Whittaker of Guilford, Wilson, Womble, Wright, Yelverton—67. Noes—Miss Alexander, Bailey of Washington, Batten, Beatty, Black, Bowie, Boyd, Baswell, Bray, Brown of Wilkes, Brown of Stanly, Cobb, Currie, Daves, Dowlin, Eddleman, Galoway, Gann, Goodson, Graham of Graham, Green, Harmon, Harrison, Hart, Hayman, Horton, Hunter, Lucas, Madison, Makepiece, Neal of Caswell, Norman, Poole of Alexander, Poole of Hoke, Rideoutte, Simpson, Smith of Rockingham, Swann, Tarkington, Thompson Turlington, Ward of Craven, Watkins, Whitaker of Jones, Whiteside, Woodley—46.

Defeated but undaunted is the situation in which the author of the resolution finds himself. But he declared that the fight has just started.

The Humphrey resolution introduced in the upper branch by Senator Humphrey of Wayne, "encountered" no difficulty in running the gauntlet of the two houses of the legislature and the assembly will soon be in possession of a list of the employees of each State department and institution and the amount of compensation "doled out" to them on the first of each month. The statement is to be filed with the chairman of the Senate and House finance and appropriation committees and with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The number of automobiles purchased by the departments and institutions for State purposes, with cost of up-keep, is to be included in the statement which the resolution calls upon the State Auditor to prepare for the information of the General Assembly.

The Senate declined to compel John Smith to exhibit a light on any of his horse drawn vehicles when driving at night, or at any other time. In less time than is required to relate the story the House bill by Neal of McDowell, requiring wagons moving along the State highways at night to carry lights, found itself on the table, after consideration of the measure began in the Senate. The House passed it by a good majority and proponents of the bill expected the Senate to concur in its provisions. It was intended as a protection to those employing ancient modes of travel, but "Johns" friends in the Senate balked.

History is repeating itself, as it has during every re-curring session of the General Assembly since the Democratic party resumed control of the legislative branch of the State Government in 1899. Representative Klutz of Catawba, was the first member of the minority to feel the heavy hand of the majority at this session. The fight started when two local bills introduced by Senator Shifford, reached the House calendar, one to increase the salaries of county officers and the other to provide a special election law for Catawba county. Senator Shifford hails from Catawba county, is a Democrat, and the House passed the bill over the strongest kind of protest from the member from Catawba who had pledged himself in the campaign to permit no salary increase by the legislature if in his power to prevent. But "politics is politics," in the estimation of Tam Bowie, and Representative Klutz probably feels the same way about it now.

Representative Moore of Martin, recently introduced a bill in the House entitled "an act to create an advisory commission to investigate and report upon the question of freight rate discrimination and the question of the development of waterways." The bill, sponsored by Governor McLean would create a special commission composed of twelve business men and shippers authorized and directed to work in cooperation with the Corporation Commission towards the adjustment of exorbitant freight rates. The members of the commission would receive the same per diem paid the members of the General Assembly and have the right to expend the sum of \$25,000

for purposes of investigation. This General Assembly does not appear to think well of legislative commissions, but the Governor's prestige may pull the Moore bill through. Mr. McLean promised to aid in the development of the State's waterways during the primary campaign last summer and he wants to make good that pledge.

The State wide game bill is having rough sledding. It has been kicked and cuffed around from the moment Representative Wade, of Newhanover and Senator Blue of Scotland, dropped it into the legislative hopper. The proponents and opponents of the "poor thing" do not appear to be any nearer in agreement than they were three weeks ago and the proposed measure has been placed in the custody of a "special committee" with the view of ironing out the differences. It is expected to bob up again when the average layman in the Assembly least expects it.

That the number of judicial districts will be increased is a question yet undetermined. A bill by Senator Dunlap, which would authorize the Governor to appoint special judges to relieve congestion, has presented a brand new issue in the fight for four additional districts. The district bill is yet in "status Quo" and there it may remain. "for keeps."

Public Bills

The following public bills have been presented during the week.

To amend public laws of the extra session of 1921 relating to tax the protection of animals and game in parks and game reservations; to amend consolidated statutes relating to hunting deer by firelight; to amend consolidated statutes of 1919 relating to lien on crops for advances; to amend consolidated statutes relating to foreclosure of tax certificates of county and other municipal corporations; to amend consolidated statutes relative to the amendment of charters of corporations and to the creation of classes of stocks; to amend consolidated statutes in reference with the work on the annoyance of the students of the schools and colleges for women in North Carolina; to amend consolidated statutes relating to eminent domain; to amend the banking laws of the State of North Carolina as set forth in chapter five, volume three of the consolidated statutes; to amend the law in reference to rural communities; an act for the construction and maintenance of public roads in Ashe and Watauga counties; to repeal chapters of the consolidated statutes of 1919 relative to tax on water companies; to amend consolidated statutes relative to lien on crops for advance; regulating the licensing of attorneys at law by prescribing a high school educational prerequisite; to amend article 4 of the constitution relating to the judicial department; to create an advisory commission to investigate and report upon the question of freight rate discrimination and the question of the development of waterways; to amend consolidated statutes so as to provide a license tax on motor vehicles owned by the United States officers and soldiers stationed in North Carolina; to amend consolidated statutes pertaining to recorders court; to renew religious liberty in North Carolina; an act to amend chapter twenty seven article nine section 1564 consolidated statutes pertaining to the compensation of judges and solicitors of county recorders courts, to call a convention of the people of the State of North Carolina; an act to amend chapter 255 of the public laws of 1923 in reference to stop law; an act to amend subsection two of section 1079 consolidated statutes relating to free carriage of passengers on railroads; an act to amend section 203 consolidated statutes relating to argument in civil trials; an act placing all state charitable institutions in the same basis and to protect the interest of the State and to require those who are able to pay to bear the expense of their cars, maintenance and treatment, and to enforce the same policy in all such institutions and to provide machinery relating to the same; an act to amend section 7693 of the consolidated statutes relating to the examinations of the amount and vouchers of the Treasurer and Auditor by a legislative commission; to repeal section 3557 of the consolidated statutes, and for other purposes; an act to provide for court stenographers and to promote accuracy in settling appeals to the supreme court; an act authorizing the Federal Government to acquire lands in North Carolina for National Park purposes; to change the name of the Slater State Normal School at Winston Salem to the Winston Salem Teachers College; to amend statutes relating to the licensing of orphanages and other institutions; to amend statutes relative to foreclosure of mortgages on personal property; to amend statutes relating to the North Carolina Agricultural Society; to amend statutes so as to change their corporate names; to amend statutes of North Carolina and index relating to motions and orders for removal in civil actions; to abolish corporal punishment of school children; to call attention of congress to the significance of the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in the War of the American Revolution and requesting that Moore's Creek Battle Ground be erected and maintained by the Federal Government as a National Park; to require the deposit of all funds belonging to the State of North Carolina daily with the State Treasurer; to extend the time for registration of State Grants; resolution requesting the Attorney General to investigate the fisheries products company; to prohibit the careless and promiscuous use of camping sites along State Highways; to amend chapter 87 of the public laws of 1921 entitled "an act to encourage the co-operative marketing of farm products and to authorize the incorporation of cooperative marketing associations so as to provide for withdrawal of members; an act prohibiting the making of any false statement in writing respecting the financial condition of any person, firm or corporation with

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