

## AT THE CAPITOL

News of Interest From the Legislature Now in Session

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Special to Franklin Times.

Raleigh, March 9.—The 1925 General Assembly goes down in history as one which followed the Governor more than any other in recent years. Other Legislatures have been influenced by Governors but scarcely to the extent that the one just ended has been led around by Governor McLean. The 1921 and 1923 General Assemblies were led "up the hill" by Governor Morrison and the 1925 body was "led down the hill," in the path of economy, by Governor McLean. And as if to atone for the action of its predecessors in following Morrison, the present body went even further than any before it had done and gave to the Governor greater powers than any executive in North Carolina has ever

had and enacted measures at his bidding which will revolutionize the administration of the State government. Governor McLean sponsored or endorsed 23 measures which were presented to the Legislature. Most of these were enacted into law as originally written, one or two were slightly amended, but all of any importance except one, got through during the last two days of the body and those which came up this week were expected to be put across before adjournment Tuesday night.

Chief among the Governor's recommendations were the creation of an executive budget system placing all departments and institutions on a budget basis and making the Governor the head in fact of the State's financial policies; transferring the auto license bureau, and the insurance department revenue collecting powers to the Revenue department in order to co-ordinate the revenue collecting agencies of the State and to eliminate unnecessary employees; creating a state department institution out of state prison hitherto operated as a private corporation; creating a State department of conservation to take over the functions of the economic and geological survey; appointing an official executor to

relieve the warden of State prison of that duty; deposit daily with the State Treasurer of all funds instead of monthly as heretofore so as to obviate to an extent short term financing and save interest; creation of a pardon attorney to assist the Governor in investigating clemency cases; an educational commission to investigate the educational system of the State; a wage investigation commission to go into the salaries paid State employees, eliminate useless employees, bring salaries into line with actual work done and establish a standard salary scale; a \$20,000,000 bond issue for roads; and other measures of more or less importance.

The Governor so recommended a constitutional amendment creating a pardon commission but this was put off last Saturday until the next session after some difficulty over its term arose, the Governor saying he would try out the pardon attorney for the next two years.

Other measures which had the Governor's "Okay" were to limit the time in which checks issued by the auditor would be paid by Treasurer; to declare transfer of claims against the state void if made before actual adjustment and allowance of such claims had been made; to place all charitable state institutions on the same basis and requiring those able to do so to bear the expense of their care; to create a Judicial Conference to study methods of practice and procedure; to create an Advisory Commission to investigate and report on freight rate discrimination; to reduce cost of public printing, and a number of proposals having to do with his program of economy in governmental affairs.

The outstanding fight of the session developed during last week when Senator Seawell of Lee led the move to increase the equalization fund for public schools. This fight was largely responsible for the tie-up in the Senate of important legislation necessitating extra days of the session, although the failure of the House and Senate conferees to present a satisfactory report on the revenue bill amendments also delayed the sine die adjournment.

Senator Seawell's fight for education resulted in the Governor's first defeat in the Legislature. Aided by other sympathetic Senators, the Lee county orator opposed the action of the Governor in seeking to have the funds from the control of busses placed in the General fund so as to be able to present a balanced budget. The Lee county Senator said education was more important than a balanced budget for Mr. McLean and declared against the policy of Mr. McLean in allowing education to suffer in order that his balance sheet might be evened up. The Lee county Senator was victorious and the measure was sent to the House for concurrence, that body having in the meanwhile acceded to the Governor's request in giving the money into the general fund. No decision on the difference had been made up to late Monday.

Seeing possible defeat of his measure in the House, when the appropriations bill came up the Lee county Senator again led a fight for increase of the appropriation for education and the appropriation for the public school equalization fund. These measures were pending before the Senate Friday, Saturday and Monday with the oratory of the session being unloosed in their defense and against them. Whatever the outcome the Senator from Lee will go down as the champion of education in the 1925 session.

Discussion on the educational system which took place the last part of the week brought forward amendments to the revenue bill to take away the power of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to set the standard for teachers in schools and to fix a salary standard scale. These amendments would drastically cut the powers of the State in education and in the opinion of many would destroy the state educational system. They were pending before the Senate Monday.

Another fight which occupied considerable time was that for Confederate veterans. Both the Senate and House debated at length measures designed to tax auto drivers \$2 to \$3 a head for the benefit of the remaining of "the fast thinning line of Grey" and both bills were defeated after one of the most moving oratory of the session. Then the House humped into the breach and overwhelmingly passed a bill to tax motion picture admissions for the benefit of the veterans and sent it to the Senate where it was on Monday. The chances are that it will die there.

The delay in passing the revenue bill came about when the Senate refused to concur in the conference report which did away with its important amendments. These amendments would have exempted from a tax on judgments and actions in courts all courts of jurisdiction lower than Superior Court. This dispute was finally settled Monday when the House agreed to the Senate amendment.

The bill to retire Treasurer Lacy, if he wished it, on 2-3 pay had rough sailing during the week. After being defeated in the House, that body on Saturday night reconsidered its vote 20 to 23 and set it as a special order for reconsideration Monday morning. It was only to finally dispose of it however, for it was killed and the clincher put. The chief argument was that it would set a precedent to pensions for State officials.

**Ratified Bills**  
The following bills have been duly ratified and sent to the office of the Secretary of State:

An act to define and regulate group life insurance; an act authorizing the sale of life estates in Capital stock of foreign corporations; an act to establish a highway commission in Wilson county which shall have charge of the construction, improvement and maintenance of the public roads and bridges in Toisnot township, Wilson county and the State Highway system in Wilson county, for other allied and relating purposes; to amend

chapter 309 of the private laws of 1903 the charter of the town of China Grove; to amend sections 4309, 4310, 6136 consolidated statutes relating to Forest fires; to create a state sinking fund commission, and to provide the duties thereof, and to provide penalties; and to repeal or amend certain sections of chapter 188 public laws 1923; to amend the Road law of Transylvania county and to provide for a more effective system for the upkeep of said roads; to validate certain bonds in Bladen county; to re-establish the office of county treasurer in the county of Watauga; to regulate elections in the town of Reidsville and to give privacy to voters while preparing their ballots; to amend the charter of the city of Hickory the same being chapter 68 private laws of 1913; to amend section 1443 of consolidated statutes prescribing the time for holding the courts of the 15th judicial district in so far as the same relates to Transylvania county; to require the Board of Education of Stanly county to make and file with the Board of County Commissioners of Stanly county an annual itemized statement of receipts and expenditures of said board; to appoint trustees and fix the title of certain school property in district one of Pigeon township, Haywood county; to authorize the working of certain prisoners of Stanly county at the home of the aged and infirm of said county; to regulate and fix the fees of the sheriff of Wilson county; to empower the commissioners of Duplin county to renew certain outstanding notes; to allow the sheriff of Clay county one-half of one per cent for his services; to amend section 1443 of the consolidated statutes of North Carolina, so as to make the January term of Bladen Superior Court for the trial of Civil cases only; to authorize the Board of Commissioners of McDowell county to invest sinking fund; to repeal chapter 168 of the Public local laws extra session 1920, relating to Recorder's court in Union county; to increase the number of members of the Board of Education of Moore county from three to five; to amend statutes relative to the salaries of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the city of Salisbury; to authorize the Board of Education of Orange county to transfer an amount not to exceed \$1500 from the Bond fund of Carrboro School District to the maintenance fund; to amend section 1443 of consolidated statutes and index relating to terms of Court for Yadkin county; to authorize the Road commission of Robeson county to levy a special tax in certain townships for road purposes; to require the register of deeds of Moore county to certify to the county auditor, statement of all conveyances registered in his office; to authorize the Board of Commissioners of Wilson county to install a modern system in the office of the clerk of the superior court and cause a modern up-to-date and complete index to be made of the records thereof; to prevent the Board of trustees of the Board of Education of the New Bern Graded Schools contracting indebtedness without the approval of the Board of Aldermen of said city; to amend section 1443 of consolidated statutes relative to terms of court in Vance county; to allow Justices of the Peace and Mayors of incorporated towns in Union county to sentence persons to jail to be worked upon the public roads; act relating to the salary and travelling expenses of the superintendent of public instruction of Pamlico county; to amend statutes relating to the recorder's court of Leaksville township in the county of Rockingham; to reduce the number of members of the Board of Education of Haywood county from five members to three; to amend chapter 108 private laws 1909 relating to the issuance of bonds for improvement of sidewalks of the town of Hillsboro and to create a sinking fund for the retirement of said bonds; to authorize and empower the commissioners of Columbus county to pay premiums on official bonds of certain Columbus county officers; to authorize W. V. Allbright, tax collector for the town of Troy, Montgomery county and his successors in office to collect back taxes; act relating to the validating his acts as clerk to the county auditor of Columbus county said county and providing for his Board of County commissioners of bond; to amend chapter ninety of the private laws of 1917 relative to the schools of Columbus county; to authorize the investment of the sinking fund of Fair Bluff supplementary school district Columbus county; to amend section 2650 of consolidated statutes so as to make the General Municipal election laws applicable to the town of Dunn; to amend chapter 505 public local laws of the session of 1917 relating to the appointment of Treasurer of Hertford county; to repeal statutes relating to the Wayne county court; to provide for twelve months service for grand juries in Hertford county; to validate a bond issue of Apex graded school district in Wake county; act making it unlawful for clerks of the superior court, notaries public and magistrates to charge confederate pensioners for taking acknowledgements in connection with said pensions; to amend section 329 chapter 126 public laws 1923 so as to prohibit local distributing agencies for State adopted textbooks from deducting from the sale price of books purchased a penalty for return of books; to amend chapter 106 of the consolidated statutes being the insurance law of the State of North Carolina; to repeal chapter 176 public local laws, session 1923 relative to salaries of public officers in Person county; act authorizing the Board of county commissioners of Caswell county to levy a special tax; to amend chapter 443 public local law, session 1921, relating to election of county commissioners of Rutherford county; to repeal chapter 154 of public local laws—of extra session 1921; an act making it unlawful for public authorities or governing bod-

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