

LEGISLATURE

Weekly Happenings in North Carolina General Assembly

By M. L. SHIPMAN

Raleigh, March 25.—The expected happened when the House re-enacted the three per cent sales tax. But it is not at all certain that the Senate is going to agree to remove all exemptions. It was the Senate that put in the exemptions two years ago. Doubtless it was knowledge of this fact that prompted the House to vote out the exemptions. For it is going to be necessary to have something to trade with in the conference committee of the two houses. If the Senate votes out the exemptions or reduces the rate to two per cent instead of three, then it will have to find other sources. House members feel that they have come pretty near to balancing the budget.

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The closeness of the vote in the House on reducing the sales tax to two per cent was surprising to many observers of the legislative scene, but not to opponents of the sales tax. Many members of the House came to Raleigh with the determination to vote against the sales tax in all forms and falling in that to reduce it. There were others who were so dead against any form of the sales tax that they voted present on the question of reducing the rate. They did not want to be recorded as favoring it in any form. Some absented themselves from the House. The vote was 49 for reduction and 57 against. That was a closer call even than the result indicates, for if all opposed to the sales tax had voted for reduction, then it would likely have carried.

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It is easily possible that the Senate will vote for a reduction in the sales tax. If it does, then there is certain to be an insistent demand that the Hill liquor bill be brought out to aid in balancing the budget. That is the last card its supporters will play. They hope to win on that basis. Pass the Hill bill and balance the budget. That will be the slogan. Opponents will bear down on the fact that they do not want to balance the budget by taxing misery, need and poverty. There is the making of a large sized battle on this issue. Even if the Senate votes for exemptions in the sales tax, there will be a demand for the Hill liquor bill to balance the budget.

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While the Senate swept clean its calendar preparatory to receiving the revenue bill on Monday, it left the five per cent beer bill out because that is one of the cards in the battle between Wet and Dry forces. The Drys can't consistently demand action on the Palmer beer bill any more than they can on the Hill liquor bill as their contention is that no further legislation is necessary. That leaves the proponents of these measures in charge of calling them up for action. The idea now is to keep the beer bill in reserve, and to bring it out in the event that the Hill liquor bill has no chance. If the Hill bill should pass the Legislature, then there would be no difficulty in putting the Palmer beer bill through. As it stands, it has some trading value but with it out of the way there would probably be an end to the chances for the Hill liquor bill.

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Such rapid progress was made by the House in disposing of the revenue bill during the past week that it is now hoped to get the Legislature adjourned within three weeks. This would make the closing date the middle of April. This is two weeks earlier than seemed possible ten days ago. The moving up of the adjournment date was due to the acceptance by the House of most of the provisions of the bill reported out by the finance committee. The House got out of hand as supporters of reduced sales taxes pressed amendments for increased taxes on power companies, telephone companies and insurance companies, but Chairman Gregg Cherry soon had the situation under control again. This was accomplished by tremendous administrative pressure combined with the efforts of an army of lobbyists which descended upon Raleigh. The lobbyists were able to show many members of the Legislature that the taxes had been placed at a maximum by the finance committee.

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The House retained a heavy license tax on chain oil filling stations, which it is estimated will raise a half million dollars or more in revenue. This tax is along the lines of a tax imposed in West Virginia, which was upset by a District Federal Court judge but which was upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. It levies a maximum tax of \$200 on each filling station beginning with the 75th, and is designed to break up the larger chains as well as to raise revenue for the State. It had the support of the House finance committee chairman, Gregg Cherry.

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While the Legislature is battling over the revenue bill, the appropriations bill rests on the calendar. It is improbable that it will be taken up before the revenue bill is enacted. The revenue

bill will probably be in the Senate all of this week, then it will likely take the conference committee a week to straighten out the kinks, and then a final week will be required for final passage. However, the appropriations measure can be considered while the revenue bill is going through on its final passage, as the appropriations measure does not require three separate roll calls in each house, or rather two separate roll calls and a reading on separate days, as does the revenue bill. It takes three days in each house to get the revenue bill through but the appropriations bill could be put through both houses in a single day.

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As the time for adjournment of the Legislature draws night, it appears that it has enacted comparatively little State-wide legislation of importance. It has passed a state drivers' license law which is not expected to make any drastic changes in the present set-up, and it has provided an emergency appropriation of three million dollars for repair and improvement of roads and bridges. It has outlawed slot machines and walkathons. It has changed the qualifications for professional beauty parlors operators and made it a little harder for an applicant to get law license by making him pay ten dollars for taking the examination "whether he passes or not. There have been a variety of other matters receiving attention, but none of them of general public interest. The Legislature has turned thumbs down on many proposals.

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As was expected the chief interest of the Legislature has in taxes and appropriations. It had a doubled barreled duty to perform. The last Legislature balanced the budget and State bonds had gone up to the point that the State's credit is firmly established and assets of banks rendered sound. With bonds restored to a sound basis, it has been the job of this Legislature to see that something was done for school teachers who took the brunt of the depression, and also for other State employees. Otherwise there would be a general desertion of public work, for one cannot keep up appearances such as a public employe is supposed to maintain without funds.

Complete in One Lesson
A golf professional, hired by a big department store to give golf lessons, was approached by two women. "Do you wish to learn to play golf, Madam?" he asked one. "Oh, no," she said, "it's my friend who wants to learn. I learned yesterday."

CHILDHOOD TRAGEDIES
Seventh and final painting of a series by Percy Crosby, distinguished American artist and creator of "Skippy," will be reproduced in all its original colors in the American Weekly, issue of March 31, the big magazine which comes every Sunday with the BALTIMORE AMERICAN. On sale by your favorite newsdealer or newsboy. 3-29-11

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CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced open competitive examinations as follows:

- Senior stock clerk, \$1,800 a year, stock clerk, \$1,620, departmental service, Washington, D. C.
- Junior graduate nurse, \$1,620 a year.
- Junior biologist (wildlife research), junior entomologist (man and animals), junior forest ecologist, junior forest pathologist, junior meteorologist, junior neomatologist, junior plant physiologist, junior plant quarantine inspector, junior pomologist (fruits), junior pomologist (plant propagation), junior seed botanist, junior soil scientist (erosion), junior soil surveyor, \$2,000 a year, Department of Agriculture.
- Junior forester, \$2,000 a year.
- Junior range examiner, \$2,000 a year.
- Range examiner, \$3,800 a year, associate range examiner, \$3,200 a year, assistant range examiner,

\$2,600 a year, Geological Survey. Local inspector of boilers, \$3,200 a year, local inspector of hulls, \$2,200 a year, assistant inspector of boilers, \$2,900 a year, assistant inspector of hulls, \$2,900 a year, Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection. Full information may be obtained from J. A. Wheeler, Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners, at the post office in this city.

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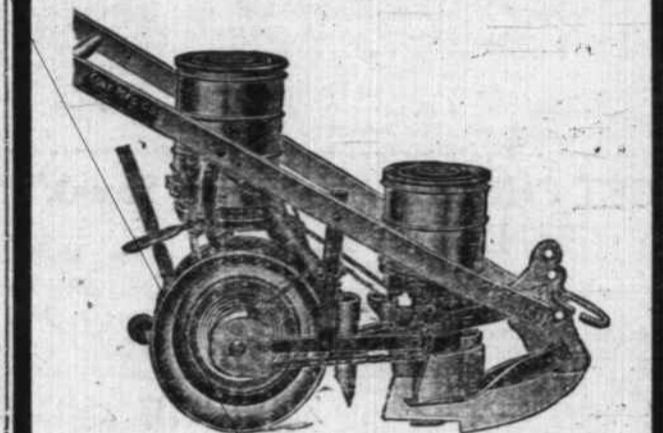
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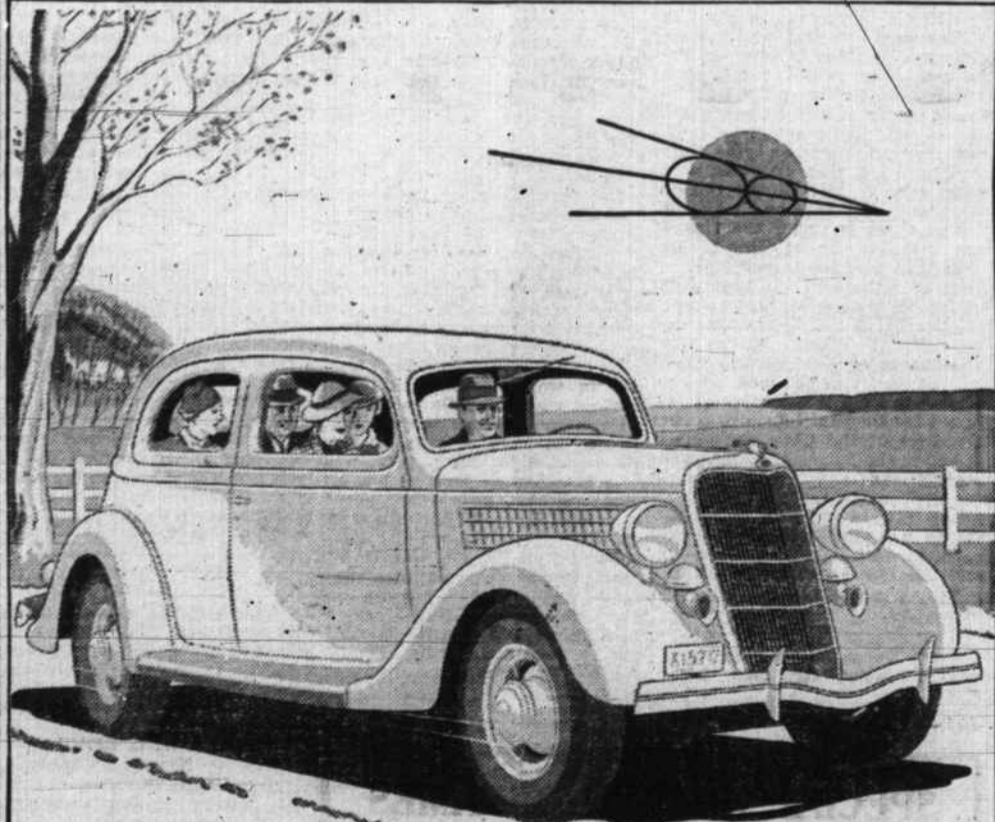
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