

GOV. BICKETT COMMENDS WORK OF LEGISLATURE

"An Inspiring Record" Was Made By the 1919 Legislature, Declares the Governor—A Summary of Its Important Acts.

"An inspiring record," Governor T. W. Bickett characterizes the work of the 1919 General Assembly just adjourned in a statement issued for the newspapers of the State.

"The General Assembly was singularly free from personal and political animosities," the Governor adds.

"The closing sentence of my biennial message to the General Assembly of 1919 is: 'My prayer to God is, and my faith is that when the General Assembly of 1919 shall pass into history its record will declare its glory.'

"I am deeply grateful that the work of the General Assembly justifies the above confession of faith. It is not a perfect record. A careful reading of the journal will disclose errors of omission and of commission, but viewed in its entirety, it is an inspiring record.

**Sympathy With New Tides.** "In the very beginning the General Assembly evidenced its sympathy with the new tides running in the hearts of men."

**Taxation.** "The budget bill is abreast with the best thought of the times and will enable succeeding assemblies to consider demands for the expenditure of public funds with a full knowledge of all essential facts."

"The income tax amendment to the constitution will enable the State to derive a reasonable revenue from sources well able to pay it, and will wipe out the discrimination now practiced against the man who earns a small income in favor of the man who collects a large one, and will make it possible for a succeeding General Assembly to write a model tax law under which it will be unnecessary for the State to levy any ad valorem tax on real or personal property, but can leave all of this to the counties and towns."

"The revaluation machinery act marks the high tide in sane and progressive tax legislation in North Carolina. It is a complete abandonment of a standard hoary with age and iniquity, and the establishment of a new standard of truth and justice. I am well within the bounds of conservative statement in saying that the fixed purpose of the General Assembly to make all men come clean to the tax books will add more to the moral and material welfare of our people than all the tax laws that have been written in North Carolina since Virginia Dare first saw the light on Roanoke Island."

**Education.** "It was a monumental achievement to get the people of North Carolina to insert in the organic law of the State a mandate that every child shall have a chance to go to school six months in the year. But it was a more difficult task to frame a wise and just law to carry out this constitutional mandate. This task has been accomplished so well that when the measure was fully explained many who 'came to scoff remained to pray.' In the beginning there seemed to be a hopeless division of opinion, but when the light was turned on these differences disappeared and practically all men of all parties now confess that the law as written is the very best that can be devised under the conditions that obtain."

"Last year the average teacher received a salary of \$45 per month, and was employed four months in the year. Under a minimum wage law enacted by this General Assembly the average teacher will receive approximately \$65 per month for a minimum term of six months."

"The act requiring every child under fourteen years of age to go to school during the entire term of the public school in the district in which the child resides, and providing for the removal of children from the courts, gives to North Carolina a 'producer school' law that ranks with that of any State in the Union."

"The act appropriating \$50,000 to provide teacher training through a series of county summer schools conducted in every county in the State is a most vital and valuable departure. Health. "The General Assembly made tremendous strides in health legislation. The steps taken for the protection of the health of this and future generations in themselves abundantly justify the existence of the present session of the General Assembly."

tion of every child who attends a public school in order to ascertain the existence of either physical or mental defects and the appropriation of \$50,000 per annum to correct these defects in indigent children breaks a new ground in this field of legislation. This law is bottomed on the sound principle that a Christian civilization cannot allow a child to stagger through life under the handicap of a curable physical or mental defect simply because the parents of that child may be stricken with poverty."

"The law making it mandatory to maintain in all towns and thickly settled communities sanitary closets in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by the State Board of Health means the saving of nearly a thousand lives a year, the prevention of ten thousand cases of sickness, together with all the suffering and expense incident to sickness and death."

"North Carolina has for several years been the leading State in the Union in the development of rural health work. The appropriation for this work was practically doubled and this means increased activity and efficiency in this great field."

"A series of acts was passed for the purpose of co-operating with the Federal government in the suppression of vice and the prevention of diseases incident to vice. These measures are as follows: "The education of the public by suitable means regarding the cause and prevention of unhygienic sex life and venereal diseases."

"The furnishing of free salvarsan, the specific for syphilis, for the treatment of all syphilitics of the State, and making provision throughout the State for free treatment of persons diseased with gonorrhoea, and syphilis, in order that these diseases may not be transmitted to others."

"Making prostitution a dangerous practice in North Carolina by enacting laws that will reach the prostitute, and providing the necessary law enforcing agents to see that the laws are properly applied."

**The Warehouse Act.** "This act is designed to benefit the cotton growers of the State. It was those most deeply interested in the welfare of cotton growers. I hope that much good will result from the act, but I frankly confess that in my opinion the only way the cotton grower can win in his perpetual war with Wall street is to fight his battles behind breastworks of bread and bacon. A warehouse may enable him to win a single fight, but it can never make him win a war."

"A reading of the Journal would value, and of importance, but I am doubtless disclose many other bills of writing from memory, and the bills have mentioned are those that come into my mind in reviewing the work of the General Assembly. These bills make a robust body of sane, progressive legislation, and in addition to all these one cannot forget Ray's 'literary gem'—the dog law."

"The General Assembly was singularly free from personal and political animosities. The members had a mind to work and during the sixty days gave the very best that was in them to the building up of the State."

**Social Welfare.** "For the first time in the history of the State we have the machinery for a unified State and county system of social welfare work. The State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, which has oversight over the State's charitable and penal institutions, has been given the right to appoint three persons in each county to act as a local welfare board and to advise with the local authorities on all matters pertaining to local conditions. In addition to this the legislature made it the duty of the board of education and the county commissioners in each county to elect, not later than July 15th next, a county superintendent of public welfare, who shall be an officer trained in all matters pertaining to constructive social work. This officer will be the chief school attendance officer and the chief probation officer of the county, charged especially with the duty of looking after delinquent and neglected children. His position is made to fit in with the compulsory attendance law and the new juvenile court law."

"The juvenile court law marks the most wholesome advance in child welfare legislation ever accomplished in this State at one stroke. It provides that all children under sixteen years of age who may be infractors of the laws shall not be treated as criminals, but as wayward children needing parental control, education and discipline, which must be supplied by the State since it has not been provided by natural guardians. The law provides that every clerk of the Superior court in the State shall be a juvenile court judge and shall have exclusive jurisdiction over children of less than sixteen years. Every city of more than ten thousand population must establish a juvenile court or make provision for combining with the county court. Any towns of five thousand population which are not county seat towns, and therefore of easy access to the county clerk, may provide courts if they choose. The design is to guarantee that every child shall be within the jurisdiction of a juvenile court, no matter whether he lives in town or country. The

law provided the manner of procedure for carrying out the juvenile court principles as it is known in the most modern legislation of the country and is not behind any State in the Union. This law was perfected and carried through at the earnest solicitation of the Commission of Public Welfare and the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare and the law in the several towns and counties.

**Good Roads.** "The General Assembly did good work in public road legislation: "A bill of vital importance was passed so quietly that it was scarcely mentioned in the press, and yet it is essential to the very existence of good roads. The sin in North Carolina has not been our failure to build good roads but our criminal negligence in failing to keep them up. The General Assembly has enacted a law making it mandatory for county commissioners to levy an annual upkeep tax where bonds have been issued for the construction of roads. This applies to every county in the State and hereafter will be no excuse for any road in North Carolina that it has built on bonds to be allowed to go to the bad."

The road act passed by the General Assembly for the purpose of meeting the requirements for obtaining aid from the Federal government is not a perfect piece of legislation. It does not represent the views of any one member of the General Assembly, but in the hands of a wise and fair commission it can be made the instrument of great good in the State. The work of the appropriation committee reflects great credit upon the intelligence and patriotism of that committee. It is a well balanced appropriation bill, and meets the requirements of our education and charitable institutions in so far as they can be met in the present financial condition of the State."

**A WORTHY NEGRO SOLDIER.** Sgt. Jasper J. Elliott Died at Camp and Remains Interred at Parkton—

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Parkton.—Sergeant Jasper J. Elliott, son of Geo. W. and Mary Eliza Elliott, was born in Cumberland county, Flea Hill township, November 11, 1888, age 30 years, 3 months, 11 days, to his death. His parents moved to Parkton, Robeson county January 1896. His mother died March 31, 1904. His father married again to Bessie Jane McNair, 1905. Jasper was very mindful and obedient, never gave his parents a minute's trouble. In 1906 Jasper went to work on the trestle force on the A. C. L. R. R. with Capt. W. W. Elkins. Capt. Elkins thought there was nobody like Jasper, said he was honest and industrious. Jasper worked with Mr. Elkins two years, he then got a job with the Pullman company. He decided to go to school and take up pharmacy. He told the company his aim and object, and as the school term each year was eight months, the company

agreed for him when school closed to have his job each year. He would go to school and continue his runs as pullman porter as before, until he had gone 7 years. He lacked one year of finishing his course in pharmacy. He spent 4 weeks at his home in Parkton April 1918. He was called to camp Meade first of May, 1918. From there he went to France on or about the first of July. He spent about 7 months over seas, came to New York February 10th. The date taken sick unknown. February 14 his father received notice that he was seriously ill in U. S. Embarkation hospital No. 1, Hoboken, N. J., and on Saturday February 22, he died, and on Tuesday p. m. his remains were brought to Parkton. His funeral was conducted by his pastor, Rev. A. C. Steele, in the A. M. E. Zion church assisted by Revs. C. M. Mason, ex-pastor and Rev. G. W. Humphrey, former pastor, under whom he joined the church in 1906 and Rev. A. D. Brewington and at 2 p. m. his remains was deposited in the cemetery at Mt. Hebrew church, Cumberland county, N. C.

He leaves his father, 5 brothers, 5 sisters and a very devoted step-mother to mourn their loss. The funeral procession was one of the largest of the kind ever left our town. A new auto hearse from Fayetteville was used, while several automobiles were in the procession. The casket was draped with U. S. flags. C. D. W.

In a statement issued in Washington Tuesday, William Jennings Bryan endorses the league of nations and declares it is the "greatest step towards peace in a thousand years."

**MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY.** "Worth less than aught beneath the sun, The deed that never is, but always to be done." —Unpublished philosophy of Ye Olde Booke Man.

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"It was certainly a lucky day for me when I got my first bottle of Tanlac," said Mrs. John O'Connor, of 538 East Oldham St., Knoxville, Tenn. "For five or six years," she continued, "I had been in a dreadfully rundown and nervous condition, was awfully weak and suffered with spells of dizziness. I had terrible nervous headaches and my stomach was so weak I couldn't digest even the lightest kind of food. I could sleep very little and became so despondent that I was afraid nothing could help me regain my health."

"I wouldn't have believed it if anybody had told me any medicine would cause me to gain eight pounds in ten days, but that is exactly what Tanlac has done for me. Soon after I started taking it I began to eat better, sleep like a baby and feel just fine and my steady improvement has simply been wonderful. I have thrown away all my other medicines and will stick to Tanlac, for I think it is the finest medicine on earth."

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