

**THE WEATHER**  
North Carolina: Fair and  
mild Friday; Saturday un-  
settled probably rain.

# The News and Observer

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## DEMOCRATIC MEET SHOWS NO DANGER OF ANY UPHEAVAL

Executive Committee Thinks  
It Unwise To Call Full  
Committee Meeting

**HOWEVER, IF MAJORITY  
WANT TO, THEY MAY**

McLean Offers Resolution Au-  
thorizing Opening of Wash-  
ington Headquarters, Which  
Is Adopted Unanimously;  
Chairman White Expected  
To Continue As He Wishes

The News and Observer Bureau,  
603 District National Bank Bldg.  
By JOE L. BAKER.  
(By Special Leased Wire.)

Washington, Feb. 17.—As predicted  
last night, the meeting of the executive  
committee of the Democratic National  
committee was harmonious, and there  
never really appeared any danger of a  
split. The executive committee did not  
meet in the morning as expected, but  
by Thomas Love, Texas committeeman,  
and a majority of other members, but  
by his opinion is not concurred in by  
a majority of the committee. After to-  
day's action by the executive commit-  
tee, then Chairman White will call that  
meeting, after being so advised by the  
different members.

## McLEAN OFFERS RESOLUTION

The sense of executive committee was  
expressed in a resolution presented by  
Mr. McLean and adopted by unanimous  
vote. This resolution covered virtually  
every angle to the situation that con-  
fronted the executive committee, and  
the unanimous vote given it shows how  
completely willing the committeemen  
and committeewomen were to bury any  
differences there may have been between  
them, which differences involved nothing  
more than methods to be employed to  
obtain certain ends, and not the ends  
themselves.

## White to Continue in Job

Today's action indicates that Chairman  
White will retain his present post for a  
while, at least. It is no secret that he  
does not care for the job as a perma-  
nent proposition, and that as soon as  
he feels that he can lay it down  
without passing on to his successor any  
burdens that Mr. White feels he should  
not pass on, and also can leave without  
the appearance of having quit under  
duress, it is generally believed that he  
will resign. But as to when that time  
will arrive will be for him to determine.  
In the meantime, the steps taken to-  
day confer upon the chairman the  
needed authority to reorganize the  
headquarters staff and begin an organi-  
zation from the ground up for the  
work that is ahead of the party.

## Simmons Tells Senate About It

Something about North Carolina's  
progressiveness in the matter of hard-  
surface road building, as well as her  
present ambitious plans for building a  
system of roads that will compare favor-  
ably with the system of any other  
State was learned by the Senate today  
from Senator Simmons. The North  
Carolina Senator made a speech apropos  
Senator Swanson's amendment to the  
postoffice appropriation bill appropriat-  
ing \$100,000,000 to continue Federal aid  
to States in highway construction dur-  
ing 1922. The necessity of this ap-  
propriation that Federal aid construction  
not be stopped at the end of the  
present fiscal year was shown by Sen-  
ator Simmons. A vote on the amend-  
ment tomorrow is expected, and it  
seems certain that it will pass. The  
House has already gone on record for  
the appropriation by an overwhelming  
majority.

## DANGER OF WAR WITH JAPAN IS POINTED OUT

Washington, Feb. 17.—Refusal of  
Japan to make any move toward disar-  
mament until she has completed her  
battleship and cruiser program was de-  
clared by Representative Miller, Re-  
publican, Washington, today to mean  
preparation by Japan for war "unless  
the cool-headed statesman and diplo-  
mats of Japan purge the demagogues,  
fiends and junkies that now appear to  
have the public eye and ear."  
Urging in a speech in the House the  
strengthening of Pacific coast defenses,  
Representative Miller declared that al-  
though "every day of the world we  
hear the rattle of the sabre from across  
the Pacific," there was no possibility of  
war between the United States and  
Japan unless the latter made it.

## Eight Per Cent Interest Measure Gets Serious Jolt In Committee

Will Go to Senate With Unfavorable Report and to House  
Without Prejudice. Chairman Barnes of House Com-  
mittee Declines to Break Tie on Report; Action of  
Banking and Currency Committee Disappointing to  
Bankers.

The Senate Committee on Banking  
and Currency yesterday ordered an un-  
favorable report on the 8 per cent in-  
terest bill by a majority of seven to  
three, and the House committee report-  
ed a similar House bill without pre-  
judice. Representative C. M. Barnes, chair-  
man of the committee, declining to  
break a tie vote of five to five, on a  
motion to report favorably.

The measure will come on the floor  
of both Houses, as Senator Oates, chair-  
man of the Senate committee, has  
stated that he will sign a minority re-  
port on the measure. However, the ac-  
tion of yesterday was a keen disappoint-  
ment to the bankers who are advocat-  
ing the raise in the interest rate, as  
the bill had been universally conceded  
to have a better chance in the com-  
mittees, composed almost entirely of  
bankers and those interested in banks,  
than on the floor of either house.

The Senate committee also rendered  
an unfavorable report on the McCain  
bill providing that payment of interest  
at a rate greater than 6 per cent  
by a corporation shall constitute a  
waiver of the usury law. J. H. Bridge-  
man, chairman of the committee, said  
the committee gave the matter a differ-  
ent interpretation.

**Committees Not Impressed**  
Both in the number of speakers and  
variety of arguments expressed yester-  
day, the proponents of the bill had all  
the best of it, but the claim that the  
bill is desired by a large majority of  
the people of the State apparently made  
little impression upon the committee.

Four of the proponents who made  
speeches were from Buncombe county,  
but when the committee went into ex-  
ecutive session Senator Erwin, of that  
county, voted for the unfavorable re-  
port. Representative Walton, of On-  
slow, furnished another instance of the  
same kind. Mr. Walton is not a mem-  
ber of the committee, but appeared  
against the bill. He was confronted  
with the fact that the petition circu-  
lated by the bankers contains a number  
of signatures from his county.

"I had never heard of this petition  
before, but I want to say that none of  
these men represent the sentiment of  
Onslow county; the officers of all the  
banks in the county are opposed to it,  
and the biggest speculators we have in  
the county are on this petition," replied  
the Representative.

Arguments advanced yesterday by  
proponents of the bill were much the  
same as those expressed at the hearing  
last week. N. Buckner, of Asheville,  
conducted the case, and speakers in-  
cluded Ex-Senator J. C. Martin and Ex-  
Representative Harry L. Nettie and  
J. Walter Haynes, all of Buncombe  
county. They laid much stress on the  
fact that the bill would benefit the  
State.

In addition to Representative Wilton,  
only three speakers appeared on the  
other side—Dr. J. M. Templeton and  
W. H. Stone representing the organized  
farmers of the State, and C. J. Cooper,  
business man of Fayetteville.

**People Already Boredened**  
Each of the speakers asserted that the  
(Continued On Page Four.)

## CARUSO FIGHTS TO CONTINUE TO LIVE

Attending Physicians Think  
Tenor May Be Victorious  
and Report Improvement

New York, Feb. 17.—The phys-  
icians attending Mr. Caruso gave out  
the following bulletin on his con-  
dition late tonight:

"Caruso is holding his own. He  
has had a better day and is resting  
comfortably. His fever and in-  
flammation continue, but they are  
lessened violence."

New York, Feb. 17.—Fighting for  
life with all the mental and physical  
power of his superb constitution, En-  
rico Caruso, world famous dramatic  
tenor, remained conscious and cheer-  
ful today while music lovers the world  
over hoped and prayed that death  
might not yet hush forever the golden  
voice.

It seemed tonight, 48 hours after Car-  
uso began waging battle against a  
severe heart attack following pleurisy,  
that he would be victorious. Attending  
physicians announced improvement in  
his temperature and pulse beat and  
said his mind was becoming clearer.

All the aid that medical science can  
offer the stricken singer was tendered  
at his bedside today. Oxygen was ad-  
ministered frequently and five phys-  
icians watched over the tenor one and  
two at a time. His wife never left his  
side.

It was mostly his virile stamina and  
his determination not to die, the doc-  
tors thought, that enabled the great  
tenor to carry on his fight and seem-  
ingly to begin improving.

From every land and every sea where  
the wireless flashed came messages of  
hope and cheer to his hotel suite,  
princes and paupers alike voicing their  
hopes for his recovery.

From the White House came a tele-  
gram and message over long-distance  
telephone. The king of Italy sent his  
expressions by the Italian ambassador  
who visited the sick room, and the  
brotherhood of music lovers—which  
knows neither border nor birth—sent  
its inquiries to everywhere.

Caruso was fully conscious of the  
severity of his illness and his nearness  
to death. He reaffirmed his determina-  
tion not to give in, and told Ambassa-  
dor Ricci that he wished to die in the  
land where his voice was born and  
nurtured, sunny Italy.

## ARREST UNION LEADERS FOR CALLING A STRIKE

First Test Under Criminal Sec-  
tions of Kansas Industrial  
Court Statute

Pittsburg, Kan., Feb. 17.—Alexander  
M. Howat, president, and August  
Dorcy, vice-president, respectively,  
of the Kansas district of the United Mine  
Workers, were arrested late today on  
warrants charging them with criminally  
violating the Kansas industrial court  
law in connection with the calling of the  
Mackie strike.

The arrest of Howat and Dorcy is  
the first under the criminal sections of  
the industrial court law in the Kansas  
mine fields.

If held for trial on the criminal  
charge, Howat and Dorcy will face  
the Cherokee county district court at  
Columbus. Imprisonment in the peni-  
tentiary for not less than one year  
upon conviction is provided.

"I welcome the chance for a direct  
test," Howat said.

The Mackie strike began February 5,  
from a controversy over the age of a  
miner. The complaint alleges that  
Howat and Dorcy, using their power  
and influence as union officials, induced  
miners to quit work.

Both men were sentenced to jail last  
April for contempt of court and again  
yesterday on a similar charge.

## STORMY SESSION BREAKS OUT OVER BLANTON ATTACK

Texas Congressman Leaves  
Sick Bed To Deliver Broad-  
side Against Colleague

APPLAUDED BY MEMBERS  
FROM BOTH PARTIES

Representative Blanton Sent  
Letter To Lone Star State  
Newspapers Charging Con-  
certed Plan To Raid Treas-  
ury By Increasing Salaries;  
Claimed To Be Watch Dog

Washington, Feb. 17.—Hoots, cat-calls  
and the word "liar" were shouted on  
the floor of the House today in the  
stormiest session in years. The uproar  
started when Representative Summers  
of Texas, having left a sick bed, ap-  
peared in the House and, supported by  
most members of his own State dele-  
gation, launched an attack on his col-  
league, Representative Blanton.

Rumors had been circulating about  
Blanton's intention to make an attack  
on his fellow members, but it was held  
off until Mr. Summers was physically  
able to direct it. When he stepped for-  
ward, with a faded newspaper clipping  
in his hand, nearly every member was  
on the floor.

**Takes All The Credit**  
Read by the clerk of the House, the  
clipping revealed that Mr. Blanton, in  
a letter to Texas newspapers, had  
charged members with a concerted plan  
to raid the Treasury and obtain salary  
increases, which he alone had prevented  
heretofore. The press was asked to  
help, and many papers to which appeal  
was made responded with bitter as-  
saults upon those charged with back-  
ing the alleged salary grab.

There was a tense moment in the  
chamber as the reading clerk concluded,  
and Mr. Summers, stepping close to  
where Mr. Blanton was seated, shook  
his fist in the latter's face and dramati-  
cally shouted:

"And when you sent that statement  
to Texas you knew it was as false as  
hell!"

The House broke into a wild shout,  
half the membership rising. Blanton,  
jumping to his feet, and trying to make  
himself heard above the din, demanded  
the right to speak. He was howled  
down, the chair sustaining a point of  
order that he could not be heard at  
that time on a question of personal  
privilege.

**Summers Continues Attack**  
Mr. Summers, walking back and forth,  
continued the attack. Mr. Blanton's  
eyes following every step. The speech  
was constantly interrupted with shout-  
ing at the conclusion of almost every  
sentence of denunciation. Mr. Summers  
declared the record showed that no ef-  
fort had been made to slip through a  
salary increase bill, and that Mr. Blan-  
ton's claim that he was forced to re-  
main constantly on the floor to block  
it was utterly absurd and untrue. The  
question had come up twice in the pres-  
ent Congress, Mr. Summers said, and  
it was knocked out on both of those  
occasions. Mr. Blanton, he asserted, was  
not even "in on the wack."

The demonstration reached remark-  
able proportions when a top of the  
gavel marked the close of the time  
allotted for the speech. Democrats,  
first on their feet in a body, were  
joined at the same instant by every  
Republican. There was a rush to the  
front, as members struggled to grasp  
Mr. Summers by the hand. Above the  
tumult Blanton strove vainly to make  
himself heard. As Mr. Summers turned  
toward his seat another group of mem-  
bers started toward him to offer con-  
gratulations. Mr. Blanton again at-  
tempted to gain a hearing. Again he  
was howled down as a dozen Republi-  
cans insisted on enforcement of the  
rule that he take his seat.

**Blanton Starts More Racket.**  
After the hub-bub had kept up for  
several minutes, Chairman Sloop, of  
the sub-committee in charge of the for-  
tification bill which was before the  
House, gave the Texas three minutes  
to reply, but nobody could hear half  
he said. Right at the start Mr. Blanton  
caused a row by charging that Repre-  
sentative Campbell, Democrat, of Penn-  
sylvania, had asked him to keep away  
when the salary bill was called up.

Fake with anger, Mr. Campbell  
jumped to his feet and shouted an in-  
dignant denials, declaring there was not  
a word of truth in the statement. Ap-  
parently unruffled, Mr. Blanton turned  
toward the Republican side and charged  
that Representative Strong, of Kansas,  
had requested him not to demand a roll  
call on the measure.

Also angry, Mr. Strong walked toward  
Mr. Blanton and told the House the  
statement was false.

In the last minute of his time, Mr.  
Blanton declared that Mr. Summers  
wanted to run for the Senate from  
Texas and that this desire was the basis  
of the attack on him.

**Ladies' Horse Show at Pinehurst Sat-  
urday from 10:30 a. m. to 4 p. m.—  
189 entries.—Adv.**

## SENATOR SIMMONS PREDICTS PROMPT VETO BY PRESIDENT

Washington, Feb. 17.—Prompt  
veto of the Fordney emergency tariff  
bill by President Wilson when it goes  
to the White House next week, was  
forecast today by Senator Simmons.  
The Senator said the President would  
send the bill back with "a sharp  
veto message," and the Senate will  
never be able to pass it over his  
veto, he predicted. In fact, said  
Senator Simmons, many of the Re-  
publican proponents of the bill do  
not want it to become a law; it was  
passed as a piece of politics, and to  
allow the bill to become a law would  
hurt them almost as badly as it  
would for the President to tell to  
veto it.

## DR THOMAS DIXON PLEADS AGAINST CENSORSHIP BILL

Distinguished Novelist Makes  
Caustic Attack On Pro-  
posed Measure

ACCEPTS INVITATION TO  
ADDRESS LEGISLATURE

Speech To Joint Session Gen-  
erally Reminiscent of Times  
When He Was a Member,  
But He Looses Invective  
When He Appears Before  
Committee Later in Day

Thomas Dixon told the General As-  
sembly and as many people as could be  
packed into the hall of Representa-  
tives yesterday that North Carolina  
was the birthplace of democracy in  
America, and yesterday afternoon he  
told the Joint Committee on Education  
and again as many spectators as  
could be crowded into the chamber  
that censorship of moving pictures was  
the antithesis of democracy.

It was at the time of the trial of  
Mrs. Varner that Dixon was invited  
yesterday, an invitation to address a  
joint session of the General Assembly,  
and a desire to appear before the  
education committee to fight cen-  
sorship of moving pictures in North Car-  
olina. And in coming, he disproved, as  
he himself acknowledged the ancient  
proverb that a prophet is not without  
honor save in his own country.

Long years have gone since Thomas  
Dixon was an active Tar Heel, and but  
for that bond of acquaintance that he  
has maintained through his contribu-  
tion to literature during the past 20  
years, he would have been a stranger.  
Very few knew him when he walked  
into the Hall of Representatives yester-  
day. As an individual he was a stranger,  
but as a man of letters, he had an army  
of worshippers.

Personally a stranger,  
Seldom do pictures of him get in the  
papers, and it is not surprising that so  
few, even among those who know him  
36 years ago when he came to the Gen-  
eral Assembly when scarcely out of his  
teens, knew him yesterday. A tall, up-  
standing, thick shouldered man he is,  
with heavy iron gray hair, and black  
eyes hidden under blacker eyebrows.  
In the vigor of speaking, he looks  
nothing short of fierce, but the eyes  
are kindly and smiling other times,  
and the voice that speaks out words  
like a whip is smooth and musical when  
he is listening.

## HOUSE PASSES ROAD MEASURE ON FINAL READING 102 TO 11

Proponents Bring It Through  
Without Vital Change to  
Provisions

WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE  
CALLED TO CHAIR WHEN  
FINAL VOTE IS REACHED

House Votes Down Templeton  
Amendments Giving Final  
Authority On Commission's  
Rulings To Governor; Twen-  
ty-Two Votes Polled By Op-  
position Wednesday Night  
Out In Half On Final Read-  
ing; Matthews of Bertie, and  
Fountain Vote for Measure;  
Tumult of Shouting Greet  
Announcement of Victory for  
Doughton - Connor - Bowie  
Measure; Fight Now Goes  
To Senate.

## MRS. VARNER SOBS AS SINK TESTIFIES

Fred Sink, Star Witness For  
Defense, Gives His Version  
of Lexington Affair

Greensboro, Feb. 17.—Mrs. Florence  
C. Varner broke down and sobbed  
audibly in Federal court today when  
she heard Fred O. Sink, star witness  
for H. B. Varner, defendant in Mrs.  
Varner's suit for "reasonable sub-  
sistence" tell how news of Mr. Varner's  
wife alleged relations with Baxter Mc-  
Carthy, negro, affected Lexington man.  
"Oh God, why didn't you bring me  
a message that she was dead," Sink de-  
clared Mr. Varner exclaimed when he  
told him in Greensboro of alleged oc-  
currences in Lexington on August 9, in  
the presence of Mrs. Varner.

It was at the time of the trial of  
Mrs. Varner that Dixon was invited  
yesterday, an invitation to address a  
joint session of the General Assembly,  
and a desire to appear before the  
education committee to fight cen-  
sorship of moving pictures in North Car-  
olina. And in coming, he disproved, as  
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with heavy iron gray hair, and black  
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In the vigor of speaking, he looks  
nothing short of fierce, but the eyes  
are kindly and smiling other times,  
and the voice that speaks out words  
like a whip is smooth and musical when  
he is listening.

As a Tar Heel, as a Democrat, and  
as an author he is implacably opposed  
to censorship, but he made no men-  
tion of it when he was a guest of the  
General Assembly at the joint session  
at noon yesterday. That he saved until  
the afternoon when he appeared be-  
fore the committee to inveigh against  
the proposed legislation that would  
subject every picture exhibited in  
North Carolina to rigid inspection be-  
fore it is shown.

A genial, neighborly, reminiscent  
speech running far back into his  
youth was the noon time speech, and  
vigorous, implacable and at times in-  
terly caustic was the address to the  
committee. But very evidently the  
throng that waited all the morning to  
hear him, and again took up vigil right  
after the lunch hour liked both kinds.  
They applauded him with vigorous  
abandon, and afterwards, when leaving  
the building he was stopped many  
times by admirers. One enthused mem-  
ber of the House wrung his hands and  
declared "you are the greatest man in  
the world."

**Was House Baby Once.**  
Not even Representative Doughton  
remembered back to 1885 when Thomas  
Dixon came to the General Assembly,  
but three days short of being 21 years  
old. He told the folks about it, and  
about his campaign, and his running  
for Speaker, and finally withdrawing  
in favor of the now Senator Lee S.  
Overman. The House laughed heartily.  
He dealt facetiously with these  
memoirs, and in passing, asserted that  
he was going to surpass his grand-  
mother's record for longevity by nine  
years and live to be 115.

History was called into evidence  
when he stated that North Carolina  
was the birthplace of Democracy, and  
has been the abiding place of Demo-  
cracy through the years since South  
Carolina on the one side and Virginia  
on the other were the nesting places  
for the colonization of European ideas  
of estate. North Carolina was the  
frontier of Democracy to which the young  
men of Virginia and South Carolina  
came to escape the tyranny of auto-  
cracy. He traced the career of the  
State's democracy briefly through its  
history, coming down to the time  
when "a North Carolina was called  
to command the navy," when the coun-  
try went out to the last battle with in-  
trouced autocracy.

But it was another Thomas Dixon  
who spoke in the afternoon, a Thomas  
Dixon with two fists and not afraid  
to hit with them. He was against cen-  
sorship and he took no measure of the  
terms with which he scored the system  
of supervision contemplated for North  
Carolina. He talked in plain language,  
and with that clarity of expression and  
that faultless choosing of words that  
have made him among the first of the  
country's novelists.

**Nobody to Fit Job.**  
He was against censorship because it  
was undemocratic. He himself had  
suffered by it. He went back to the time  
when John Gutenberg invented the art  
of printing and the established power  
saw that if the masses were allowed  
to read, ruin would be upon them. An  
intelligent people, gaining their intelli-  
gence through reading, would be  
dangerous. He followed the thought  
down through its history to John Mil-  
ton and his fight for the freedom of  
the press. And then, he pointed out,  
the moving picture is but a new means  
of printing, a new sort of book.

"God never made a man nor a woman  
with a brain that could not be used."  
He quoted a saying of a woman who  
was a great help to him.

Witness stated that he met Mr. Var-  
ner in Greensboro Tuesday when he  
was returning from New York.

"What's trouble Sink," he stated Var-  
ner asked him. "I told his facts as  
I knew them," Sink said. "Oh, God,  
if you had only brought me a message  
that she was dead," Varner cried out,  
Sink declared.

At this juncture in trial Mrs. Varner  
sobbed aloud. It was the first sign of  
grief since the trial began.

Mr. Sink said that at request of Mr.  
Varner he had made all preparations for  
Mrs. Varner's trip; had purchased her  
ticket, given her upwards of \$1,000,  
she denied it; that he told her it was  
best to allow him to search, as a mob  
had gathered outside and they wanted  
an answer. While at first refusing, she  
later permitted Sink, Policeman Smith  
and Anna Miller, negro, to search  
house, which they did.

Failing to find McCarthy they told  
Sink and Sink said he retired only to be  
called out about 1 o'clock the same night  
by friends who stated that McCarthy  
had been dragged out from under the house  
shortly before that he again arose; im-  
mediately called Mr. Varner over tele-  
phone; told him to come home immedi-  
ately, he said he had had unpleasant  
parleys with Mrs. Varner ensuing morn-  
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ner in Greensboro Tuesday when he  
was returning from New York.

"What's trouble Sink," he stated Var-  
ner asked him. "I told his facts as  
I knew them," Sink said. "Oh, God,  
if you had only brought me a message  
that she was dead," Varner cried out,  
Sink declared.

At this juncture in trial Mrs. Varner  
sobbed aloud. It was the first sign of  
grief since the trial began.

Mr. Sink said that at request of Mr.  
Varner he had made all preparations for  
Mrs. Varner's trip; had purchased her  
ticket, given her upwards of \$1,000,  
she denied it; that he told her it was  
best to allow him to search, as a mob  
had gathered outside and they wanted  
an answer. While at first refusing, she  
later permitted Sink, Policeman Smith  
and Anna Miller, negro, to search  
house, which they did.

Woke Forest Drops Gun.  
Woodbury Forest, Va., Feb. 17.—  
Woke Forest College today lost to  
Woodbury Forest basketball team in  
a closely fought basketball game, 25  
to 22.

(Continued On Page Four.)

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