

THE LEGISLATURE.

For the first week or two of every session of the Legislature very little is done. It takes that much time for the committees to be appointed and get to work and for the members to become acquainted with one another and become familiar with their duties. The committees of the present Legislature have all been appointed and are now getting under good headway in their work. The main work of any Legislature is done in the committee rooms, for usually the action of a committee that has considered a bill is approved by the Senate or House.

We regret to note that many local bills have already been introduced that should not be allowed to be introduced and consume the time of the Legislature. This has been the trouble with all our Legislatures, but we had hoped that this Legislature would make an improvement in this respect. To illustrate what we mean, we will mention that one of the very first bills introduced was one to appoint a justice of the peace in some county. If any legislator wishes to reward some constituent by having him appointed a magistrate the bill for that purpose should not be a separate bill but all such bills should be consolidated (an "omnibus" bill) and all the magistrates appointed in one bill. There is no sense in passing separate bills for the appointment of magistrates, incurring the cost of having each bill engrossed and enrolled and the time of the Legislature uselessly consumed in their passage.

It is thought that a bill will be passed prohibiting the sale of "near-beer" outside of incorporated towns at least, if not anywhere in the State. The last Legislature allowed the towns to charge any sort of license tax for the sale of near-beer, and some of the towns have been charging as much as \$1,000 for such license, but a license to sell in the country (outside of any town) was fixed at only \$20 for the county and \$20 for the State. The result has been that many of these near-beer saloons have been established just outside of the corporate limits and are nuisances that should be abated. In the towns there is police protection that in a measure lessens the evils of these saloons but outside there is none. Of course at most of these "near-beer" saloons (if not at all of them) other liquors stronger than near-beer are sold and cause much drunkenness and disorderly conduct. Wipe them all out!

The most important bill thus far introduced is one for the calling of a convention to amend our State constitution. This bill provides for the people at the next general election to vote upon the question of holding a convention (as was done in 1871 when the convention was defeated), and if a majority is for the convention it will be held, but not otherwise. And then if the people vote for holding the convention the amendments proposed by the convention must be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection. The constitution needs amendment in several particulars and no constitutional convention has been held in this State since 1875. We favor the passage of this bill so as to allow the people to vote upon the question of holding a convention, and thereby give them the opportunity of deciding for themselves whether or not they want a convention.

The most prominent lawyer in the Legislature (and one of the best men in the State, Hon. R. H. Battle,) has introduced a bill, which we hope will pass, to reduce from 23 to 9 the number of peremptory challenges which a defendant may have in the trial of a capital case. As it is now (23 challenges) the prisoner has too great an advantage of the State, and enables many

a guilty murderer to escape conviction.

Death has already entered the Legislature and taken one of its members, Representative John L. Stewart, of Montgomery county, who died last Sunday after only two days of sickness, aged 68 years. As heretofore noted, another member, Representative Stainback, of Halifax, died about three weeks ago.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Governor Kitchin's message to the Legislature was read to both branches of that body on last Thursday, and it is a most excellent document, which we regret is too long to be published in THE RECORD. He refers to all the most important matters that will come before the Legislature, or that should come before that body, and makes some timely suggestions and recommendations.

The Governor urges that no backward steps be taken in our march of progress, and while urging proper economy in appropriations he also urges that proper and more liberal appropriations be made for our charitable and educational institutions and for the old soldiers. Everybody should heartily concur with the Governor in this recommendation, which is endorsed by the platforms of both political parties.

In regard to our prohibition law the Governor says that, although it has been in force a short time, yet its beneficent effects have been manifest. He says: "Morality, industry and frugality have increased, and politics and government have been to a great extent relieved of one of their most corrupting influences." He urges the prohibition of the near-beer saloons, and a majority of our best citizens will concur with him in this recommendation.

He recommends certain amendments to our State constitution which deserve serious consideration, and which are as follows:

1. An amendment prohibiting the General Assembly from granting corporate power by special act, except to those institutions for charitable, educational, penal and reformatory purposes which are to be and remain under the patronage and control of the State.
2. An amendment prohibiting the General Assembly from passing local or special acts on any of the following subjects:

"Regulating the affairs of counties, cities, towns, townships, wards or school districts;

"Changing the names of places;

"Authorizing the laying out, opening, altering or maintaining roads, highways, streets or alleys;

"Relating to ferries or bridges, or incorporating ferry or bridge companies;

"Vacating roads, town plots, streets or alleys;

"Relating to cemeteries, graveyards or public grounds not of the State;

"Locating or changing county seats;

"Incorporating cities or towns or changing their charters;

"Establishing local courts;

"Fixing pay of jurors and county commissioners;

"Erecting new townships, or changing township lines, or the lines of school districts;

"Creating offices, of prescribing the compensation, powers or duties of officers, cities, towns, townships, election or school districts;

"Regulating the fees or extending the powers and duties of aldermen or commissioners of cities and towns, justices of the peace or constables;

"Regulating the management of public schools, the building or repairing of school houses, and the raising of money for such purposes;

"Remitting fines, penalties and forfeitures, or refunding moneys legally paid into the public treasury;

"Exempting property from taxation;

"Regulating labor, trade, mining or manufacturing;

"Granting to any corporation, association or individual any special or exclusive right, privilege or immunity;

"Extending the time for the assessment or collection of taxes or otherwise relieving any as-

essor or collector of taxes from the due performance of their official duties, or their securities from liability;

"Giving effect to informal wills or deeds;

"Legalizing the unauthorized or invalid acts of any officer or agent of the State, or any county or municipality thereof;

"And prohibiting the General Assembly from indirectly enacting such special or local law by the partial repeal of a general law; but permitting the General Assembly to repeal local or special acts.

"3. I also recommend an amendment giving the governor the veto power.

"4. And I further recommend that section 11s of Article VII of the Constitution be amended by striking out the words "the rebellion" and substituting therefor the words "the Confederacy in the War between the States."

We earnestly endorse the recommendation for the amendment prohibiting the Legislature from passing local or special acts on the subjects above enumerated, and which consume so much of the time of every Legislature which should be devoted to more important matters of general interest. We have often urged the need for such a prohibition on special legislation and hope that this Legislature will take proper action in the matter.

POPULATION OF CITIES.

The Census Bureau has at last given out for publication the population of the cities in this State that exceed 5,000 inhabitants, and great has been the disappointment in some of our cities at the result, the number being so much less than was expected. Greensboro's census population is much less than was predicted and boasted of by most of that city's citizens, some of whom had claimed a population of over 30,000, and the official announcement makes it only half that number.

The census shows the relative standing (as to population) of our cities to be Charlotte first, Wilmington second, Raleigh third, Asheville fourth and Durham fifth, but the ratio of increase since the last census (in 1900) was greater in Durham than any other city, being almost three times as much. New Bern shows the smallest increase although one of the oldest cities in the State.

Gov. KITCHIN has appointed Mr. R. R. Clark, of Statesville, a director of the Morganton Hospital for the Insane, and no better appointment could have been made. We congratulate the Governor upon his good judgment in making this appointment, and also congratulate the State upon having the services of Mr. Clark in that position.

Smokers Are Immune.

After the Paris Lancet's admission that tobacco aids digestion comes the report of an army doctor whose regiment suffered an epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis.

He found that smokers resist the disease better than non-smokers and could remain in the contaminated area without being attacked.

The national corn exposition will be held in Columbus, Ohio, January 30 to February 11. Extensive preparations are being made and it is expected to be one of the greatest national exhibitions ever held in the world.

An increase of \$897,000,000 in New York tax valuations over 1910 is shown by the report of the tax commissioner for 1911 made public Monday. This will increase the borrowing capacity of the city \$89,700,000.

A resolution authorizing an amendment to the constitution of the United States providing for election of Senators by a direct vote of the people will be reported favorably by the Senate committee.

North Carolina's taxable property is \$613,000,000. The lowest valuation of land is \$1.45 an acre in Dare county, and the highest is \$26.11 in Gaston. The average is \$6.90.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Washington, Jan. 6.—With the exception of the death of Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, no event of very great importance has occurred in Washington since the adjournment of Congress. The death of Mr. Elkins makes it certain that there will be two Democratic Senators from his State. Senator Scott, of West Virginia will be succeeded by a Democrat, and the Legislature being Democratic will elect a Senator of that party to succeed Senator Elkins. The late Senator was one of the wealthiest of what has been called the "American house of millionaires." His death is generally explained in the press as caused by overwork at the late Congressional session, but anyone at all familiar with the facts will not be slow to attribute his illness to high living. He no doubt had a powerful constitution, but no constitution can forever withstand a perpetual banquet.

The President has announced that he will not take the initiative in bringing together in holy accord the belligerent wings of the stand-patters and the insurgents. He says that he will address himself to the business of the country and leave any peace-making program to the contending parties.

When it was announced some days ago that Senator-elect Lorimer had been given a clean bill of morals with reference to his election as Senator, there were many who said, "How will Col. Roosevelt feel now for refusing to sit at table with him and having the refusal published over the world?" But now that the Senate has refused to approve the clean bill prepared by Senator Burroughs and others and proposes to take up the matter again, it is quite possible after all that history will justify President Roosevelt's action.

If appearances are to be trusted, something will be done at this session of Congress to prevent the influx of undesirable people from Europe. Surely if there is any choice in undesirable the Asiatics by way of the Pacific are less vicious than some who have been recently coming across the Atlantic. A deputation of American newspapers numbering 32 called on President Taft to protest against the hardships encountered by immigrants landing in this country. Their spokesman, Louis Hammerling, told the President that they objected to the suspicion with which immigration officers looked upon those arriving in this country. President Taft told them that he went last fall to Ellis Island and remained there during the forenoon listening to the cases presented to the immigration commissioners and that once or twice, moved by compassion, he intervened in behalf of immigrants whom the commissioner would have turned back, and that he had since followed those cases in which he had been influenced against his better judgment, but that he had to make the humiliating confession that the outcome vindicated the commissioner and showed that his experience was better than the President's compassion.

Capt. J. J. Thomas, one of Raleigh's most prominent citizens died there on last Saturday, aged eighty years.

Solves a Deep Mystery.

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart," wrote C. B. Rader, of Lewisburg, W. Va., for the wonderful double benefit I got from Electric Bitters, in curing me of both a severe case of stomach trouble and of rheumatism, from which I had been an almost helpless sufferer for ten years. It suited my case as though made just for me." For dyspepsia, indigestion, jaundice and to rid the system of kidney poisons that cause rheumatism, Electric Bitters has no equal. Try them. Every bottle is guaranteed to satisfy. Only 50c at G. R. Pilkington's.

Davis Elkins, son of Senator Stephen Elkins, of West Virginia, who died in Washington Saturday, succeeds his father as Senator. The West Virginia Legislature, which is Democratic, elects a Senator today.

Death in a Roaring Fire

May not result from the work of fire-bugs, but often severe burns are caused that make a quick need for Bucklen's Arnica Salve, the quickest, surest cure for burns, wounds, bruises, boils, sores. It subdues inflammation. It kills pain. It soothes and heals. Drives off skin eruptions, ulcers or piles. Only 25c at G. R. Pilkington's.

Money Thrown Away.

The Durham Herald says that those counties that have been spending their money for dirt roads have had an opportunity during the past two weeks to see how they will stand traffic.

When buying a cough medicine for children bear in mind that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is most effective for colds, croup and whooping cough and that it contains no harmful drug. For sale by all dealers.

President Hill of the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, says the winter course in agriculture has opened up with exceptional success. This is an eight-weeks course. Fifty men have already entered for this course, which is especially for farmers, who can manage to get away from their farms for that period to take special instruction in farming methods.

Do you know that fully nine out of every ten cases of rheumatism are simply rheumatism of the muscles due to cold or damp, or chronic rheumatism, and require no internal treatment whatever? Apply Chamberlain's Liniment freely and see how quickly it gives relief. For sale by all dealers.

The seventh annual session of the North Carolina association for the prevention of tuberculosis will be held in the city of Raleigh January 31, under the presidency of Dr. Richard H. Lewis.

Old Soldier Tortured.

"For years I suffered unspeakable torture from indigestion, constipation and liver trouble," wrote A. K. Smith, a war veteran at Erie, Pa., "but Dr. King's New Life Pills fixed me all right. They're simply great." Try them for any stomach, liver or kidney trouble. Only 25c at G. R. Pilkington's.

The year 1910 is remarkable for the large number of philanthropic gifts for educational and charitable purposes. Substantial pecuniary aid in many cases has come from unknown donors. The total benefactions were \$150,000,000, which exceeds the year 1909 by \$30,000,000.

Saves Two Lives.

"Neither my sister nor myself might be living today, if it had not been for Dr. King's New Discovery," writes A. D. McDonald, of Fayetteville, N. C. "It. F. D. No. 8," for we both had frightful coughs that no other remedy could help. We were told my sister had consumption. She was very weak and had night sweats but your wonderful medicine completely cured us both. It's the best I ever used or heard of." For sore lungs, coughs, colds, hemorrhage, lagrippe, asthma, hay fever, whooping cough, croup, all bronchial troubles, it's supreme. Trial bottle free. 50c and \$1. Guaranteed by G. R. Pilkington.

Claud Sanders, a negro, was lodged in the jail of Wake Monday charged with setting fire to his house and burning up his wife and two children.

In Edgecombe county, Friday afternoon, one negro shot and killed another negro for a gambling debt of \$1.50.

So Tired

It may be from overwork, but the chances are its from an inactive LIVER.

With a well conducted LIVER one can do mountains of labor without fatigue.

It adds a hundred per cent to ones earning capacity.

It can be kept in healthful action by, and only by

Tutt's Pills

TAKE NO SUBSTITUTE.

Sale of Land for Taxes.
Notice is hereby given that at a sheriff's sale of land for taxes on the 2nd day of May, 1910, I bought eight acres of land in Gulf township, listed in the name of Minor Pashall, for delinquent taxes for the year 1908, and if not redeemed by May 1st, 1911, I will apply for a deed for the same. L. E. T. LANE, January 4, 1911.

Sale of Land for Taxes.
Notice is hereby given that at a sheriff's sale of land for taxes on the 2nd day of May, 1910, I bought eight acres of land in Lee Oldham, for delinquent taxes for the year 1908, and if not redeemed by the 2nd day of May, 1911, I will apply for a deed for the same. G. N. SMITH, Pedlar's Hill, N. C. This 11th of January, 1911.

J. I. Nissen Round Hound Wagon.

The Best Made.
All Sizes in Stock.
W. L. LONDON & SON.

JOE W. MANN AT BYNUM

Extends New Year's Greetings to his customers and friends and solicits a continuance of their patronage.

FROST PROOF CABBAGE PLANTS

GUARANTEED TO SATISFY CUSTOMERS FROM THE ORIGINAL CABBAGE PLANT GROWERS.

Established 1865. Paid in Capital Stock \$30,000.00

Wm. C. Geraty Co., Box 153 Yonges Island, S. C.

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A full stock of Coffins and Caskets always on hand and sold at all prices. All kinds and sizes.

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EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

Having qualified as executor of the last will and testament of Trumble D. Horton, dec'd., I hereby notify all persons holding claims against said decedent to exhibit the same to me on or before the 7th day of December, 1911. This Dec. 5th, 1910. J. N. HAMLET, JUNIUS E. WOMBLE.

NOTICE.

Application will be made at the next session of the General Assembly for the passage of a bill amending the charter of the town of Merry Oaks so as to extend the corporate limits and for other purposes. R. J. YATES, Mayor. Dec. 21, 1910.