

NO CHANGE IN TAX ON INSURANCE CO'S IN NORTH CAROLINA

Joint Finance Committee Rejects the Proposal to Reduce Tax

WOMAN SUFFRAGE MEASURE TABLED

MANY WOMEN GALLERIES SEE EQUAL SUFFRAGE CAUSE FAIL SENATE FLOOR—JUDGE CARTER AND SOLICITOR ABERNETHY CASE IS AIRED IN THE HOUSE

Raleigh, Feb. 18.—The joint committee on finance reached a decision this afternoon to leave tax on insurance companies the same it has been for the past two years, instead of changing it to a license tax of \$100 on each company, 250 on each life company and premiums. The tax that will be left as heretofore is \$200 on each fire company, \$250 on each life company and 1 1/2 per cent on premiums.

A joint caucus of the Democrats of the Senate and House is called for February 2 to consider the disposition of pending bills to allow certain counties to elect county boards of education by the people.

Carter-Abernethy Case

The appeal of Solicitor Chas. L. Abernethy, solicitor in the fifth judicial district, to the House of Representatives for an investigation into the sensational contempt case at New Bern in which Judge Frank Carter fined him \$50 for contempt and entered orders on the records of the court considered detrimental to his official and personal character, came in the House this morning when a lengthy communication from Solicitor Abernethy was read appealing for the appointment of a committee to investigate. This was followed by resolutions by Representatives Davis of Carter and Clark of Bladen for the appointment of a committee for such an investigation and communications from members of the Craven county court through Representatives Whitford and Craven commending the conduct of Judge Carter in the holding of the regular and special terms in Craven, for Judge Connor and making the following special declaration: "We feel that it becomes the express duty of lawyers in attendance upon the courts to aid the presiding judge in controlling and observing necessary decorum. And most especially do we feel that it was the duty of the solicitor of the district to aid the judge in the exercise of his authority rather than oppose his command and by an open challenge of such authority place the presiding judge in the position of enforcing his power, or admitting to the public that the prosecuting officer of his court possessed the power equal to that of the presiding officer or an exemption shared in by no other officer, litigant or juror." The communications, resolutions and petitions were referred to the judicial committee No. 1.

Senator White introduced a bill to prohibit delivery of more than one quart of liquors at one time to any person in North Carolina. Three hundred copies were ordered printed. A bill introduced by Hobgood will

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THREE HELD FOR KILLING BANKER

Alleged Slayers of Georgia Bank President Are Now in Jail

Leesburg, Ga., Feb. 18.—Roy Black, J. C. Webb and Roy Jones, all living in Sumter county, Georgia, were arrested late today and placed in jail here, charged with the murder of A. D. Oliver, president of the Farmers' Bank and Loan Company of Leesburg. The banker was shot and killed last night while standing in front of his institution.

The warrants for the arrests were issued at the conclusion of the coroner's inquest. The defendants deny any knowledge of the killing. It is alleged that they had financial relations with Oliver when he operated a bank at Smithville, Georgia, some time ago.

FRANCE WILL FIGHT UNTIL DECISIVE VICTORY IS WON

Paris, Feb. 18.—Premier Viviani today declared anew to the Chamber of Deputies that the French government was determined to prosecute the war until the victory of Allies is fully attained. He added that the government is determined to bring about the restoration of Belgium and retake Alsace and Lorraine. His statements were warmly cheered.

SIGNED BY MOBILE

Mobile, Ala., Feb. 18.—Manager Charles Schmidt of the Mobile Southern Association club has signed today W. B. Powell of the Northwestern League, who has a batting average of .275 and fielding of .930.

TWIN-CITY MERCHANTS ARE OPPOSED TO AN INCREASED INTEREST RATE IN STATE

Board of Directors Yesterday Declared That it Will Work Untold Hardships on the Smaller Business Men of State—Also go on Record as Opposing Ry. Mileage Plan Advanced

The bill recently introduced at Raleigh proposing to make the legal rate of interest in North Carolina eight per cent, is meeting with no little disfavor with the merchants of the Twin-City. At a meeting of the board of directors of the Retail Merchants' Association of this city held in the association rooms yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, Secretary F. E. Griffith of the association was instructed to send the following letter of protest against the measure to Hon. Hugh G. Chatham, Senator from this county:

Letter to Mr. Chatham, Feb. 18th, 1915. Hon. Hugh Chatham, Senate, Raleigh, N. C.

My Dear Sir: In accordance with the direction of the board of directors of the Winston-Salem Retail Merchants' Association, in session Thursday, Feb. 18th, I am writing to notify you of the unanimous resolution passed by that body opposing the present bill to increase the rate of interest in North Carolina.

The directors are of the opinion that the law is unwise, that it will work a hardship on, not only the mercantile interests of this city and the entire State, but upon the small manufacturer and those engaged in all lines of business upon a moderate or small scale, as well as all citizens who have not direct communication with the Northern money markets.

The directors also believe public sentiment in Winston-Salem, not only among the merchants, but among all classes of people as well, is that if the law is passed, as proposed, it will sound the death-knell to the six per cent interest rate in North Carolina, for could any one be expected to lend money at six per cent, when it is possible to secure eight?

Hoping that you will see fit to use your influence in opposing this measure, which we hold is dangerous to the interest of the State at large, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly, F. E. GRIFFITH, Secretary Winston-Salem Retail Merchants' Association.

Oppose Ticket Scheme During the course of the meeting of the directors yesterday afternoon, one of the members called the attention of the body to the fact that there is in town a representative of a company trying to arrange with merchants of the city to give with each \$1 purchase a one mile coupon good on any railroad or steamship line operating in the United States.

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BUSINESS INTERESTS HERE LOOK WITH CONFIDENCE ON THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK NOW

Healthy Condition of Winston-Salem Reflected in the Multitudinous Building Operations in the City at Present—The City Bonds Will Also Help to Relieve Tension

Winston-Salem is the busiest city of any size in the United States today. Indeed, the depressed business conditions of which so many cities and sections have complained have thus far been practically unnoticeable in this city. The traveling men, who touch all points in the Nation, serve as authority for this statement. They declare that in no city they have visited have conditions seemed to be so healthy as in this city. They come into intimate contact with all of the cities of any size in the Nation, and they unhesitatingly declare that the hum of industry is more pronounced here than anywhere else. That is splendid news for the people of this section—where the citizens are so noted for their thrift, and for their energy. The factories here have continued to run with good orders in advance, notwithstanding the general business depression in other sections. And the prospects for next few months are altogether brilliant. Not only have the factories good orders in advance for their commodities, almost without exception, but other agencies combine to make the future rosy, as far as Winston-Salem is concerned. Within the next few days, over \$400,000 will be secured from the sale of municipal bonds. Half of that amount will be expended in beginning public improvements of various kinds which will make work plentiful in this section for the next few months at least. Thousands of dollars will be turned loose for needed public improvements. It was during the panic of 1907 that

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Both Break Their Engagements to Elope



New York, Feb. 18.—James L. Knox, publisher, formerly a Harvard athlete and later a coach, has eloped with Miss Florence Caroline Moll and after being married in this city, has sailed for Italy with his bride. Knox was engaged to wed the sister of Miss Moll's mother, Miss Leonora Edie, of Washington, and Miss Moll was engaged to be married to another man. Her wedding was set for January 18, last, but was postponed on Miss Moll's plea of poor health. Miss Edie is said to have suffered a nervous collapse at the news, and is now in a sanatorium. Knox, through his association with Miss Edie, and her sister, Mrs. Moll, had known Florence since she was a child. He now is 42, and she is 22.

BIG HIGH SCHOOL DESTROYED BY FIRE

Jamestown School, Guilford County, Was Burned Yesterday

High Point, Feb. 18.—The Jamestown State High School of Guilford county was burned today at noon. Very little of the contents of the building were saved, though no students lost their lives. The loss is twelve thousand dollars and the insurance is eight thousand.

The Jamestown school was the second largest high school in North Carolina and one of the best schools of its class.

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NORTH CAROLINA LOSES NOTHING

Sundry Civil Bill Retains Appropriations for This State

(By George H. Manning). Washington, Feb. 18.—The sundry civil bill as reported to the Senate today from the committee retains all the North Carolina items included, as it passed the House and increases the appropriation for commencing construction on the public building at Waynesville from \$1,000 to \$21,000. Another item added is \$3,000 for temporary quarters for the government at Charlotte while the Federal building is being reconstructed. As the result of the protests made against the appointment of J. B. Cullipier as postmaster at Saluda, Congressman Gudger has asked the Post-office Department to withhold action on the recommendation he made for Cullipier two weeks ago until he secures additional information.

HEAVY BOMBARDMENT OF BELGRADE BY THE AUSTRIANS

Belgrade, Feb. 18.—The Austrians today carried out the heaviest bombardment of Belgrade since the evacuation of that city. The Monitor and Semlin batteries participated. Several houses were wrecked and many persons were killed and injured. The Serbians replied by bombarding the Semlin for the first time. They did much damage and forced the Monitor to retire.

TAR HEELS HOLD ANNUAL BANQUET IN WASHINGTON

250 North Carolinians, Holding Office in Washington Attend

CLAXTON, DANIELS AND OTHERS SPEAK

NO SENATORS OR CONGRESSMEN ATTEND, EXCEPT MAJOR STEDMAN, WHO MAKES FINE SPEECH—IN CLASSIC PHRASE HE SINGS THE PRAISE OF HIS NATIVE STATE

(By Geo. H. Manning)

Washington, Feb. 18.—The North Carolina Society of Washington held its annual banquet tonight. About 250 members were in attendance. Neither of the Senators and none of the North Carolina Congressmen attended, with the exception of Major Stedman, who made a speech. The attendance consisted almost wholly of Tar Heels holding offices in the government department here. Speeches were delivered by Secretary Daniels, P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, P. D. Gold, Jr., of Wilson and Congressman Stedman.

Major Stedman's Speech Congressman Stedman spoke in part as follows:

"The name of North Carolina signifies to all her children, innocents for childhood, joy for youth, heroism for manhood, defence for women, humanity for the world," said Major Stedman. "To them she is still the well-beloved mother and sovereign regal in the virtues of elder and better days, when chivalry and honor were the cardinal traits of manhood, when grasping and cruel avarice stalked with coward visage in the rear. To her exiled son forced from home by the decree of fate, her name ever brings that poetry of youth of the early happy days which neither gold, nor place, nor power can buy.

"It would ill become me tonight to attempt to give all the reasons why her children love her. The child loves its mother because nature so ordained it; the youth loves the maiden because he cannot help it; the friend loves his comrade because of kindred sympathies of mind and heart; the patriot loves his country because the highest and noblest impulses bind him to his home. North Carolina is to us mother, maiden, friend, and native land.

"Shall I attempt to sing her praises? It would be useless for me to tell you of her jurists, scholars, orators, exploits of her sons of war, beauty of her daughters and unrivalled beauty of

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BIGGER GUNS FOR COAST DEFENSES

Congress is Asked to Change 12-Inch to 16 Inch Guns

Washington, Feb. 18.—Guns of a greater range and power than any that could be arrayed against them was asked for the American coast defenses in the army board report, submitted by Secretary Garrison and made public today by the House appropriations committee.

The board advised that the old type of twelve-inch guns and mortars are "not equal in range power to the major calibre guns afloat." Garrison recommended immediate improvement in some coast defenses, so that the range of the old twelve-inch guns will be increased to twenty thousand yards. The board suggested that wherever it is necessary to construct new works that the larger guns should be sixteen-inch weapons.

REPEAL ANTI-CAPITAL PUNISHMENT LAW

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 18.—A bill to repeal the 1913 anti-capital punishment law was favorably reported today in the State Senate.

CARRANZA HAS NOT QUIT MEXICO CITY

Reports at Washington Deny Evacuation of Mexican Capital

Washington, Feb. 18.—Reports of the evacuation of Mexico City by the Carranza forces were discredited late today, when a dispatch, dated last night, was received at the State Department from the Brazilian minister there making no mention of any change in the situation. Earlier in the day officials received, through border sources, what they considered an authentic report that General Obregon had withdrawn; and that Mexico City was again in the hands of the Zapata troops. Recent information has indicated that the capital is likely to change hands at any time.

BRITISH STEAMERS BOLDLY PLOW THE DEEP AND GERMAN SUBMARINES HAVE NOT MADE GOOD THE VIOLENT THREAT

Delay Strengthens Bernstorff Removal Rumor



Washington, Feb. 18.—The Amsterdam rumor that Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador to the United States, has been summoned back to Berlin, has gained strength in diplomatic circles since the report that the ambassador's wife, who was to have sailed for America, has cancelled her passage, and announced she is not coming to this country. This is taken to mean that she expects to rejoin her husband in Germany at an early date. The countess was Miss Jean Luckemeyer of New York.

SHIP PURCHASE MEASURE IS SENT TO CONFERENCE BY A GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT

Democrats and Republicans Take up Appropriation Bills by Common Consent—Republicans Agree Not to Filibuster—Ship Bill Will be Considered Again on February 27

Washington, Feb. 18.—Blocked in their efforts to get a vote on the House ship purchase bill, the Democratic Senators today agreed to take up the appropriation bill and sent the ship measure to conference until February 27, when it must take chances on being filibustered to death until March 4. The Republican Senators entered into a "gentlemen's agreement" with the Democratic leaders to let the bill go to conference on condition that the appropriation measures would be passed with in the next few days to avoid an extra session. It was reported that the Democrats agreed to a reasonable reduction in the rivers and harbors bill and the Republicans in turn gave assurances that they would not filibuster against any appropriation measures.

The Democrats further agreed that when the ship bill comes out of conference, if any agreement is ever reached, the Republicans will be given an opportunity to renew their struggle against it. The revolting Democrats and other Senators opposed to the measure refused to let it go to conference when the time came to put the agreement in effect until votes could be had on their amendments. All the amendments were voted down.

FRANK JAMES GOES TO BE WITH JESSE

The Aged Ex-Bandit Passes Away at Home in Missouri

Excelsior Springs, Missouri, Feb. 18.—Frank James, one of the notorious James gang, died at his farm near here late today. He had been in ill health for several months and was stricken with apoplexy early today. His age was 71.

James had been living the life of a farmer for more than 30 years. He was one of the last members of the robber band whose career of crime during the war between the States and unsettled period that followed kept the people of half a dozen States in terror.

In 1882, after Jesse James had been shot and killed at his home in Saint Joseph, Missouri, by Bob Ford, also a bandit, for a reward of fifty thousand dollars, Frank James surrendered in Jefferson City, Missouri. He has, however, never been convicted of any of the charges against him.

INCREASE FRUIT TARIFF

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 18.—Because of competition from American fruit growers, the provincial Legislature has asked the Dominion government to increase the fruit tariff.

FOURTEEN FRENCH GENERALS GO TO RESERVE LIST

Paris, Feb. 18.—General Joffre today transferred 14 generals of brigade to the reserve list. The vacancies will be filled by younger men. Among those promoted is Count Edouard de Mucenac, son of the former president of France, who has been a colonel of infantry.

Vessels Cross Irish Sea Flying British Flag and Sail Into Port Unharm-ed, But Precautions Are Being Taken

RUSSIANS RALLY ON THEIR OWN SOIL

Reinforcements Are Being Hurried From Interior to Check the German Advance—Allies Have Taken Offensive

EMPEROR WILLIAM TO DIRECT BLOCKADE

London, Feb. 18.—The Daily Mail dispatch from Copenhagen says that Emperor William and his brother admiral, Prince Henry of Prussia and Admiral Von Tirpitz, minister of the navy, and their respective staffs, left Berlin Thursday for Wilhelmshaven, Helgoland and other naval stations, to direct the arrangements for blockading England. It is reported that the Germans have built 120 big mine laying submarines during the last six months. Each is said to have a carrying capacity of more than a hundred mines.

As the beginning of a plan to furnish a comfortable place in which its vast army of employes can eat their meals without having to eat on the side-walks and in the streets where the sanitary conditions are not of the best, the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company has started a room at factory No. 256, where the white girls employed by the company there are able to eat the noon-day meal amid splendid surroundings.

The company has been at work on the idea for some time, and, doubtless, after it is worked out more thoroughly further features will be added to the plan. It has been started experimentally at No. 256, where the white girls eat their meals, but it is the plan of the big local company to also make provisions for similar rooms for the colored people in their employ as well as the remainder of the white people employed. It is not unlikely that as the plan unfolds, the company will make arrangements to serve hot coffee or hot chocolate to its employes to go with their lunches. The movement as yet is in its infancy, but those familiar with the purposes of the company along that line say that it will, undoubtedly, develop to such an extent that it will be a great boon for the large number of people who eat their noon-day meal at their work.

Heretofore, the employes have eaten their lunch in the streets, on the side-walks, and at points near the factories at which they work, but the indications are that within a comparatively short time, arrangements will be made for pleasant and convenient places for the employes to eat their lunch. The matter is one that is greatly appreciated by the employes, and that will make their daily life much more attractive.

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NATIONAL PARK FOR GUILFORD

Major Stedman Wants Park at N. C. Battlefield Like Gettysburg

(By Geo. H. Manning). Washington, Feb. 18.—The establishment of a National Military Park at Guilford Court House Battlefield similar to that at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chickamauga and Shiloh is provided for in a bill introduced in the House of Representatives today by Congressman Stedman. The Guilford Battlefield Company, formed about 20 years ago, owns the battlefield land now in addition to the several monuments erected thereon. The battlefield consists of about 125 acres on which all the active fighting took place. It was purchased several years ago by the corporation and has been maintained since with the aid of \$750 given to the company annually by the State of North Carolina. The battlefield is now open to the public except on each Fourth of July when admission of 25 cents is charged each person. Major Stedman's bill provides for giving over control of the battlefield to the Federal government for its establishment as the "Guilford Court House National Military Park." and for the appointment of a commission of three and a secretary to control it, to be named by the Secretary of War. The salaries of the commissioners are not to exceed \$1,000 each annually, and that of the secretary \$750. It is provided that one of the commissioners shall be a resident of Guilford county, and that the commission shall have an office in Greensboro. \$15,000 is to be appropriated to begin the construction of roads through the park, and the marking of the lines of battle of the troops engaged.

BERLIN PUTTING LID ON CABARETS AND CAFES

Berlin, via London, Feb. 18.—While proprietors of large cafes are pleading for extension until 2 o'clock of the recent 1 o'clock closing order, the police are reported to be considering forbidding all afternoon cabarets and vaudeville teas. Failing to obtain result merely by making appeals, the police have issued an order operative tomorrow, forbidding sale to soldiers of all heavy intoxicants. Virtually everything but beer is placed under the ban.