

French Broad Hustler

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THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1919.

The Legislature did not forget the Confederate soldiers. It found a way to increase their pensions and this year's Christmas gift will represent more evidence of appreciation for the service rendered from sixty-one to sixty-five than has ever been presented before. Surviving sons of the sixties received from the State treasury last year, all told, the sum of \$525,000. The recent General Assembly decided to bring it up to \$700,000. They ought to have a million.

Candidates for Governor are bobbing up thick and fast lately, while the office of Lieutenant Governor is not likely to go begging. For the office of Governor, Mr. Cameron Morrison, of Charlotte, was the first to break the news to the folks in a public announcement. Next came Hon. R. N. Page and now comes the news that the Honorable Rufus A. Doughton, the veteran representative from Allegheny, is almost persuaded to toss his hat into the ring. He is a former Lieutenant Governor and a former Speaker of the House. Lieutenant Governor Gardner will also try his hand in the skirmish. May the best man carry off the prize.

The Victory Liberty loan will be offered to the people of the Country thirty days hence. The campaign is scheduled to start April 21, and close on Saturday, May 10. Five billion dollars will be asked for and the bonds are to draw four and a quarter percent payable semi-annually. The new loan will take the form of notes maturing in five years and the people are urged to give the proposition their heartiest support. The expenses incident to the great victory achieved were very great and must be adjusted. It is costing a vast sum of money to bring the boys home and those who did not fight are expected to pay the bill. Of course they are going to do it.

THE GOVERNOR SCORED SOME POINTS.

The General Assembly incorporated a number of Governor Bickett's recommendations into law and ignored others. His proposition to erect a new building for the Department of Agriculture on the campus of the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Engineering was turned down flat. Likewise his idea of a highway measure. The Agricultural Department building is to be built on the present site in the city of Raleigh, and a compromise road bill was agreed upon which provides for a State system with optional county aid. The Governor was in favor of allowing the counties to pay one-fourth of the cost in the State-wide system of roads proposed and the House of Representatives voted with him. The Senate balked, however, and the result was a compromise which represents the best thought of the road enthusiasts representing the two ideas.

The recommendation of the Governor to remove the State's prison and its administration to the State farm was accepted and the prison building will be converted into a hospital. His ideas touching a revaluation of property were embodied in the new Machinery Act and a six months school has been provided for in the educational bill. A compulsory school law was also enacted and provisions requiring the examination of physically defective school children was provided for in the enactment of appropriate legislation.

Other recommendations which met the approval of the General Assembly were: Fixing a minimum salary for public school teachers; to make sanitary closets compulsory for the owner of property on which a closet is located within 300 feet of a dwelling; ratification of the Federal prohibition amendment; provide for a budget system; to prevent perpetuation of species of idiots and imbeciles, and other matters of significance.

While the Chief Executive did not get everything he wanted his recom-

mendations blazed the way for the enactment of many wholesome laws of a distinctly progressive character.

WOULD HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSING

Ten thousand dollars may be needed to properly enforce the so-called child labor law enacted by the recent General Assembly, but the House of Representatives probably did the right thing by refusing, in the closing hours of the session, to pass the Senate bill increasing the appropriation from \$3,000 to \$10,000 per annum. The proposition did not look good on its face and there is small wonder that the members shied at the idea of paying \$4,000 more a year to the commission named in the act finally enacted than was asked for in the Connor Saunders bill offered by the Department of Labor and Printing, for a similar purpose. The proposed increase in this appropriation was an admission by the proponents of the measure ratified that they had secured the passage of a bill without providing means of enforcement. But, perhaps that was the intention at the outset.

Of course a greater sum will be needed for the use of the commission created by the passage of the substitute measure, for the reason that no executive officer is named in the bill and no provision was made for renting and equipping an office. Had machinery for the enforcement of the law been placed in the Department of Labor, the Commissioner would have been the executive officer, with adequate quarters already equipped for handling the work without difficulty. One additional clerk to take care of the reports of inspectors would have been needed, perhaps, but the appropriation asked for in the Department bill was considered sufficient to make a mighty good start.

Anyway, \$6,000 is all that the Department of Labor asked for in the bill proposed and the people of the State would have been justified in protesting a seemingly unnecessary appropriation, in that the suggestion for it had been created by the untenable position of a few prejudiced legislators who failed to give a valid reason for their actions in the child labor fight. Spending, without apparent excuse, \$4,000 annually of the people's money would have been hard to explain in the next campaign and members of the House decided not to create the issue. As a matter of fact, no justification for such a course could have been made and the democratic party may congratulate itself on having been spared the embarrassment of fleeing the treasury of the State of \$4,000 annually for two years by the refusal of the House to become a party to an attempted correction of an inexcusable blunder in the enactment of a child labor law.

It is better to be safe than sorry.

NEW JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

The following were appointed justices of the peace for Henderson county by the recent General Assembly, on whose recommendation this paper is not advised.

Hooper's Creek—Press Fletcher, E. E. Lance.

Crab Creek—G. N. Sentell.

Edneyville—G. B. Hill, Leander Laughter, Ernest Jackson, G. W. Ledbetter.

Clear Creek—L. P. Pittillo.

Mills River—Frank Cathey, John Whitaker, T. B. Allen, J. W. Morgan.

Green River—J. T. Staton.
Blue Ridge—Harley Justice, W. S. Young.

Hendersonville—F. A. Ewbank, C. P. Rogers, R. P. Freeze.

Perhaps Representative Jackson may be able to explain the need for these additional magistrates and how they happened to be named by the Legislature instead of the people at home.

THE LEGISLATURE—ITS RECORD.

The General Assembly of 1919, which is due to complete its work today, will be known in history as the Great Tax Reform Legislature. In some respects it failed to measure up to all that was expected of it, but its record on taxation is without flaw. No one can deny that its legislation dealing with this subject is founded on justice and progress, and marks the highest order of achievement. The General Assembly of 1919 has done for our tax system what no other Legislature in all the State's history has ever dared to attempt. But its achievements by no means stop with that. A careful review of its work reveals a record of progress that will be hailed with delight by all forward-looking citizens. The important measures passed may be summarized as follows:

1. **Taxation.** A bill submitting an income tax amendment to a vote of the people; and an act providing for revaluation of property, incorporating the questionnaire method of determining values. The machinery for enforcing this act is almost identical with that of the Selective Draft System. It will be so effective in operation that, as the Governor says, "any person who endeavors to conceal his property or the real value of the same will be in very grave danger of going to jail in this world and to hell in the world to come."

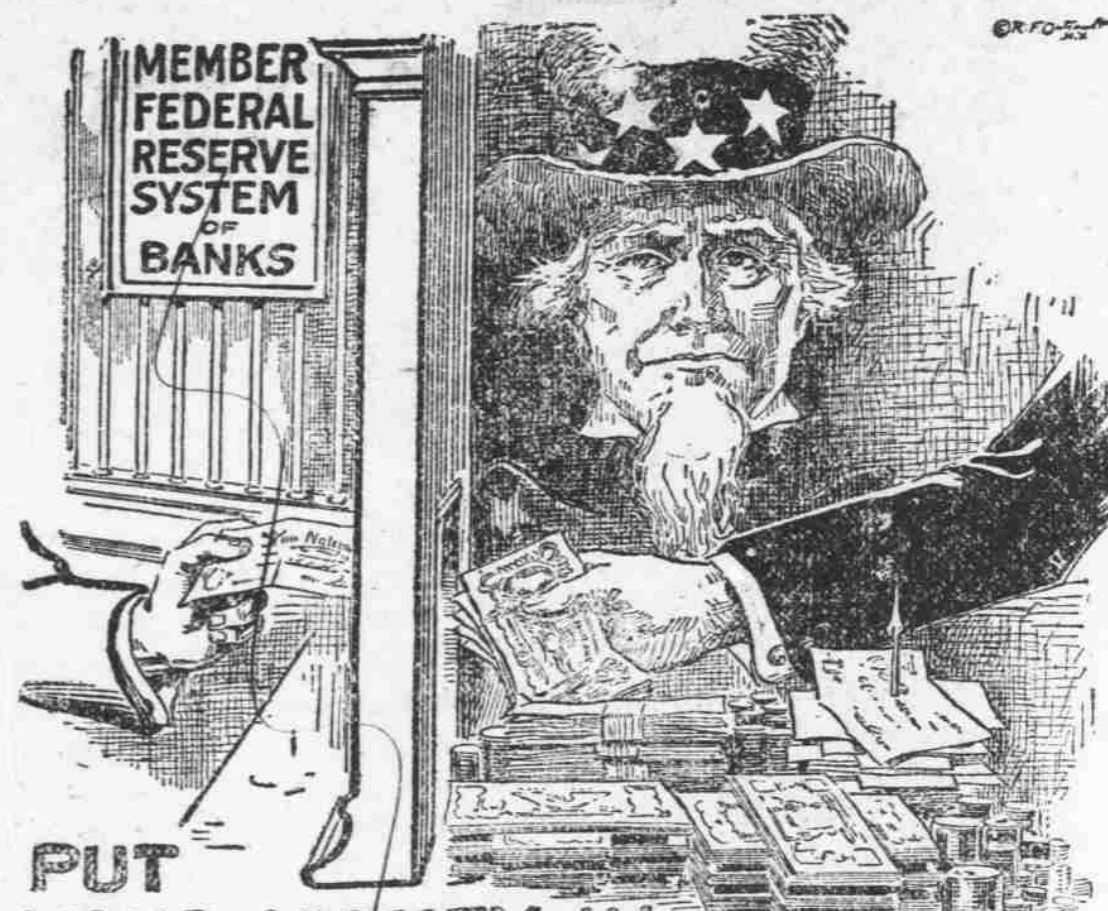
2. **Education.** A bill insuring a six months' term in every school district in North Carolina and increasing the salaries of all teachers, making a minimum increase of twenty-five percent for a vast majority of teachers; a compulsory school law with "teeth," requiring children to attend school until they are fourteen years old; also an act providing for a better system of vocational education in co-operation with the Federal Government. All this educational legislation was in obedience to the command of the people who spoke at the last election by a hundred thousand majority in favor of better schools. This Legislature, therefore, deserves little credit for its record on education, but rather should the glory be given to the General Assembly of 1917 which, in response to the Governor's appeal, submitted the Six Months' School Amendment.

3. **Health.** (1) A bill which, according to the Secretary of the State Board of Health, gives us the best State law for medical inspection of schools in the United States. It will result directly in the dental treatment of fifty thousand school children and the treatment of twelve thousand for diseased tonsils and adenoids during the next two years. (2) A sanitary privy bill which Dr. Dankin estimates will prevent more than twelve thousand cases of sickness and upwards of a thousand deaths between now and the next session of the General Assembly. (3) A bill increasing the appropriation for county health work from \$15,000 to \$27,500. (4) A bill that it is believed will effectively control venereal diseases and eventually wipe

them out, and another making prostitution a dangerous practice in North Carolina. (5) A bill that will prevent incurable lunatics and imbeciles from propagating their species. In fact the Legislature of 1919 passed every measure recommended by the State Board of Health and by so doing did more for the protection of human health and life and for increasing the vital efficiency of the average citizen than any previous General Assembly.

4. **Roads.** Here was the knottiest problem of all, but out of all the wrangling and conflicting views there has come a law that will mean a State system of highways touching every community in North Carolina. These splendid roads will be constructed by the State, the Federal Government and the counties, each sharing in the cost, the Federal Government putting up one-half, the State one-fourth and the county one-fourth. Under this Road Act upwards of twelve million dollars will be spent in building roads in the State during the next two years. At three thousand dollars a mile this will construct four thousand miles of road, or more than enough to link up every county seat in the State with a splendid highway. Another bill was passed making it mandatory for county authorities to levy a tax sufficient to maintain roads, the amount of the tax so levied to be in proportion to the amount of bonds issued for road building.

5. **Child Labor.** We come now to one of the failures of the Legislature. A careful study of the child labor law enacted by this General Assembly convinces us that it is not adequate and is but little better than the law we already had on the subject. The new law creates a Child Labor Commission and appropriates six thousand dollars for enforcement. The State Commissioner of Labor is not on this Commission, and the law names no executive officer. It virtually establishes a new State Department. We do not believe it will be possible for the Commission to employ an executive officer, equip him for business, maintain his office, give him inspectors and other assistants with the meager appropriations of six thousand dollars. Another very serious objection to the new law is that it does not conform to the present Federal Law on the subject and as a result the Labor Department in Washington will take over the work in this State that should be done by our own Labor Department. The General Assembly blundered ter-



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rially when it accepted in toto a Child Labor Bill drafted by and ardently advocated by certain manufacturers and as vigorously opposed by leaders of labor. At least a compromise measure should have been passed. It was certainly a great injustice to the Commissioner of Labor elected by the people to leave him off of a Commission charged with the duty of enforcing a labor law. Labor resents it, nor do we believe the people in general sympathize with this apparently uncalled for action on the part of the Legislature. And when Federal inspectors begin to swarm as thick as flies in North Carolina searching every mill and factory for children under fourteen years of age we have no doubt the little coterie of manufacturers who are responsible for the Neel Child Labor Law will regret that it was ever enacted.

6. **Prohibition.** The Federal Prohibition Amendment was ratified by an overwhelming vote, but no legislative State law on the subject. The bill to create a Prohibition Commission was defeated and the proposed outlaw law unborn. A very meager same fall.

7. **Budget System.** One of the important measures of the session was the bill establishing a modern budget system for the State. This will save the State thousands of dollars annual-

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City Taxes!

City Taxes have been due since October 1st and the books close April 1st. After that date a penalty must be added to the amount of the tax, and property on which taxes have not been paid will be advertised in this paper Thursday, April 3rd, 1918.

Only 11 Days Left to Make Payments

Don't wait until the last minute. You may forget it and incur a penalty, and the City must make reasonably prompt collection to take care of its business. The City's business is your business. Please pay your taxes NOW.

Smith, Jackson & Morris
Company
AGENTS

G. W. BROOKS,
CITY TAX COLLECTOR