

**THE MONROE JOURNAL.**

G. M. BEASLEY & BRO., Publishers  
R. F. BEASLEY, Editor.

Tuesday, January 17, 1911.

**Down Among the Legislators.**

Col. Wade Harris of the Charlotte Chronicle has been to Raleigh, looked upon the legislature, and presented it with a certificate of good character. After also viewing it from close range The Journal is inclined to think that Col. Harris has made a pretty fair estimate, and that the present session is likely to be safe and sane, in that it is likely to do about what it should do. But by the words safe and sane we do not mean that our lawmakers are likely to stand so straight in their conservatism that they will rear back the other way and not do the things that the times demand and a progressive people have a right to expect of them. The golden mean between extreme radicalism and over conservatism is reasonable progressiveness—the finding out of what really should be done and doing it cautiously and deliberately. We should say that this legislature is likely to be that way, rather than over cautious or over radical.

There will be some proper and needed liquor legislation. In the first place the legislature will follow the advice of Attorney General Bickett and Governor Kitchin and break up the near beer nuisance "root and branch." Near beer has no friends among the legislators or among others who reflect public opinion. As some one aptly put it, near beer has killed itself. Dr. A. A. Kent has introduced a bill to cover the State, and it will pass without opposition. Not only will near beer be knocked out, but social drinking clubs that have been organized to side step the law, will also have to go. As Judge Clark said in his dissenting opinion on the case that went to the Supreme court, these institutions are co-operative bar rooms, and were not contemplated by the people when they gave a majority of forty odd thousand for prohibition. If we are not greatly mistaken in the temper of this legislature, such clubs, which are now being rapidly organized about the State, will share the fate of near beer, and they ought to.

The legislature, including the Republican members, have given a final jolt to Mr. Marion Butler and his bond collection agency. Judge Ewart, the leading Republican member of the House, introduced a resolution thanking the Governor of Rhode Island for rejecting the bonds offered that State and scoring the whole plan. It went through with a rush. Also a bill is pending making it criminal for any public officer to accept a fee to work in any case against the State. The Republicans are evidently willing to get entirely rid of Butler.

A bill is pending that many think will pass providing for the holding of a constitutional convention to revise the constitution of the State, members of such convention to be elected at the regular election in 1912. There are important changes that ought to be made, but it is doubtful if a convention is the proper thing. It might be better to make the changes by specific vote as was done when the suffrage amendment was passed in 1898.

The new county folks are marching down to Raleigh and will be-seige the lawmakers to create several new counties. One is wanted by High Point, to be called Piedmont, carved out of parts of Davidson, Randolph and Guilford. Another is wanted with the county seat at Raeford, to be made out of parts of Cumberland and Robeson. There are others, and may be still others if the lawmakers turn a welcome ear to the petitioners.

This legislature will not increase the legal rate of interest to eight per cent. as has been asked. The measure has already died once before a House committee.

Unless the insurance companies

can block the effort there will be something done regarding the fire insurance trust that is taking millions out of the State yearly on rates that many people believe to be exorbitant. Governor Kitchin sent some strong remarks to the General Assembly on this subject and a bill is pending.

Some important step will be taken towards the equalization of tax assessments throughout the State. Real estate in the different counties is very unequally assessed and there is what is known as pauper counties, that is, counties that draw more out of the State treasury than they pay into it. Personally, we object to the phrase, "Pauper counties." The amount that a county may pay into the treasury and receive from it is no proper criterion, and a mere attempt to make these sums more equal is no adequate solution to the question. The whole tax system ought to be revolutionized. Tax on local property ought to be reserved for local purposes wholly, and let the State secure its income from less direct taxes, such as on all classes of franchises, public service corporations, etc. This would provide the State with an easier source of revenue and free the property of the counties to raise more taxes for schools, roads and other necessary improvements.

The Union county delegation was found to be in good working order and ready for making a good record. Senator Lemmond's committee appointments were given last week. Since then the members of the House have been assigned their places. Representative Sikes is chairman of the committee on salaries and fees, and member of committees on banks and currency, Judiciary No. 1, courts and judicial districts, congressional apportionments, public service corporations, and public printing. Representative Houston is on penal institutions, pensions, agriculture and roads and turnpikes. Representative Sikes and Senator Lemmond are boarding with Mrs. J. A. Bivens, and Representative Houston is also pleasantly located, boarding at the same place with his nephew, Attorney General Bickett.

They are saying around Raleigh that Union county is about to take things, having no less than seven "hands" in this legislature. Besides our two Representatives and Senator, there is Senator Sikes who is one of our boys, and in the House there is Mr. H. Craig Richardson, another native whom we have lent to Rutherford county. He is practicing law at Forest City and the people of the county have sent him to represent them. Besides these five on the floor, the reading clerk of the Senate, Mr. Mark Squires of Lenoir, is a native of Union, and last but not least, there are in the House as helpers Squire McWhorter, stationery clerk, and Mr. J. R. Winchester, now of Charlotte. Last one should not know who the latter is, it can be stated that he is the same "Bob" Winchester who lived in this county all his life till a few years ago. And should any of his old friends who have not seen him in a long time meet him, they may recognize him the same way that Col. Bill Beasley did in Raleigh the other day. Col. Bill, when a mere stripping of a boy, drilled the company that Mr. Winchester belonged to. Col. Beasley was walking down the street in Raleigh the other day, and seeing Mr. Winchester, yelled out, "Hello, Bob Winchester, I haven't seen you since the war, but I'd know that nose anywhere on earth!"

Of course everybody wants to know how Squire McWhorter is getting along in the halls of the mighty. The Squire is strictly to the good. He specially commissioned this writer to say to his friends at home that he was doing mighty well, and didn't have much to do except "brush around a little and ret up the desks." So far his work has taken up about one hour out of the twenty-four, and he has plenty of time to get around and stretch his legs. Some say that the Squire is getting real good looking since he spruced up a bit and took the whiskers off the chin, leaving only a bushy bunch of crimson Presbyterians on the upper side. He says he has one or two little measures that he expects to get through.

**Misquotations.**  
A case of misquotation that has become chronic is revealed by a passage in Habakkuk. The passage really reads, "Write the vision and make it plain that he may run that readeth it." The vision was a warning and the reader was to run from danger, but Cooper misquoted it by saying, "He that runs may read," signifying that it was easily read in haste, and this version has survived. Another instance of rewriting a quotation into something of entirely divergent meaning is afforded by the passage from Butler's "Hudibras," which really is, "He that complies against his will is of the same opinion still." Many a writer has misquoted that into "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still," as if a man that was convinced could possibly be of the same opinion as previously.

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