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General Assembly Transacts Much Important Legislation

Was Shortest Extra Session Held in Many Years—Ship and Water Program to Be Voted on by People.

Raleigh, Aug. 24.—The general election in November will be one in which referendums, as well as candidates will be voted upon, as the results of the legislation enacted by the general assembly, which was called into extraordinary session by Governor Morrison for the purpose of acting upon the report of the State Ship and Water Transportation commission, which was authorized by the 1923 general assembly, and to correct an error in the proposed amendment to the constitution, providing for the inviolability of the sinking fund, which was passed by the same session.

The general assembly, after passing favorably upon the matters it was called to consider, adjourned, sine die, at noon Saturday, after being in session exactly 16 days and one hour. Though it was the shortest extra session that the North Carolina general assembly has held in many years, much important statewide legislation was enacted and a mass of local bills were handled.

Even national legislation was affected at this session, when the proposed amendment to the federal constitution giving Congress power to regulate the employment of minors under 18 years of age, was almost unanimously rejected.

The chief objection to the proposed federal amendment, as expressed by the members of both houses, was that it interfered with states' rights and had no regard for the needs of the respective states, especially those of the agricultural section.

Questions that will be submitted to the people by referendum at the November election are:

The ratification of the act, known as the port commission bill, that provides for the establishment of ship and water transportation along the coast and the inland waterways of North Carolina, creates a port commission to direct the affairs; and authorizes the state treasurer to issue \$8,500,000 in bonds to procure funds for this purpose. Only \$7,000,000 of the appropriation will be used for the construction of ports and terminals while the remaining \$1,500,000 will be held in reserve for the construction of a merchant ship line, should it be deemed necessary for the success of the project.

The proposed amendment to the state constitution, relative to the inviolability of the sinking fund, allowing the use of revenue collected from taxes on automobiles and the sale of gasoline, for the retirement of highway bonds.

The Patterson bill, which provides for an increase of the salary of the members of the general assembly, from \$4 per day to \$10 per day. This too is a constitutional amendment.

The soldier homestead act, introduced by Representative Frank Grist of Caldwell, and passed by the 1923 regular session, which provides for the issuance by the treasurer of \$2,000,000 in bonds to secure funds to be lent for the purchase of homes, in sums not to exceed \$2,500, to soldiers of the world war, who are residents of North Carolina.

As a companion to the port commission bill, a joint resolution was passed authorizing the appointment of a commission to investigate the Atlantic and Yadkin railroad, successor to the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railroad, with a view to re-establishing the continuous east and west line, from Wilmington to Mount Airy, and to report to the 1925 general assembly.

Regarding Railroads
The resolution stated that the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railroad, which was sold by the state in 1899, had been illegally dismembered. It instructed the commission to appeal to the Interstate Commerce commission, should the proceedings now before the supreme court fail to unite the dismembered railroad into one continuous line the commission should ascertain at what price the roads could be bought by the state.

While the two houses rejected a

proposed amendment to the federal constitution dealing with labor of children under 18 years of age, they amended the present state child labor law to prohibit the employment of children in any occupation, even during vacation periods, when the child was less than 14 years of age.

With the exception of the port commission bill, the Buck drug bill, popularly known as the Buck "paragoric bill," was probably debated more than any other measure introduced during the session. The measure as finally passed provides for the sale of home remedies in country grocery stores. Twenty-three counties are excepted from the provisions of the bill. The measure was debated in both houses in an extended fashion and was amended beyond recognition. It was then reconsidered and passed practically in its original form except for the counties eliminated eliminated by amendment and towns where there are regularly established drug stores.

Highway Legislation

The highways of the state received considerable attention during the session. The North Carolina stop law was amended so as to require automobiles to stop only at crossings where there are four or more trains daily and to allow arresting officers to take \$10 cash bail for the appearance of the alleged violator. The prior law had provided for vehicles to stop at all railroad crossings.

The highway commission was empowered to increase the salary of the chairman to any amount to \$15,000 annually.

It was enacted that it shall be a misdemeanor to be intoxicated on the state highways.

It was also classed as a misdemeanor to break off limbs or damage trees and shrubbery along the highways and provisions were made for the closing of county highways while under construction.

A penalty was fixed for "road hogs," for those who place commercial signs on the property of others, including automobiles without the consent of the owners.

State Office Building

The two houses passed favorably upon the bill authorizing the erection of a new \$500,000 state office building opposite the capitol for, the housing of the auto license department; providing treatment for indigent tubercular patients; increasing the pensions of blind Confederate veterans to \$300 annually; to allow boards of county commissioners to issue bonds without votes of the people for highway construction, bridge building and school erection; appropriating \$25,000 for the state school for the blind; and empowering corners to issue warrants and requiring that proceedings of inquests be taken by stenographers.

"Old Home Day" to Bring North Carolinians Back

Raleigh, Aug. 19.—Although North Carolina has received much advertising in many forms during recent years, the general assembly has been asked, through joint resolutions placed before it, to aid in bringing the state before the people of other sections of the country. The resolutions one officially recognizing "Old Home Day," in 1925, and "Letter Writing Week," and the other appropriating \$20,000 for giving the state adequate representation at the Southern exposition in New York in January, have been prepared.

The Southern exposition appropriation measure was introduced in the senate recently. It provides for the geological and economic survey of the state to gather a suitable exhibit of products of the state. The survey is authorized to retain the material and equipment unchanged purchased, for future exhibitions.

The "Old Home Day" resolution is in the hands of Representative Cox, of Forsyth county. It recites that there were at the last census 106,000 former citizens of North Carolina living in other states and 111,000 natives of other states living in North

TWO CABLES TO SUPPORT THE DELAWARE BRIDGE

25,000 Miles of Wire to Compose Cables to Hold Up 36,000,000 Pounds

Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 19.—Twenty-five thousand miles of wire, the strongest of its kind ever made, which tempered, cuts ordinary steel as diamonds cut glass, will be used in the two cables supporting the world's longest suspension bridge, now being erected across the Delaware river to link Philadelphia Pa., and Camden, N. J.

The wire, long enough to girdle the globe is shown by tests to have as tensile strength of 225,000 pounds per square inch of gross section, and after assembly into the cables, it will hold at anchorages against a pull of 36,000,000 pounds.

The entire engineering scheme of the bridge is built around the strength of the cables. Engineers supervising the manufacture of the wire with the aid of new equipment and processes at the Monessen, Pa., mills of the Page Steel & Wire company, declare that the impregnation of unprecedented strength into the slender strands of wire that are only 192-1000 of an inch in diameter, opens new possibilities for erection of larger and longer suspension structures.

The total length of the Delaware river bridge, including piers, is 9,700 feet, as compared with the 5,989 foot length of the Brooklyn bridge, which was considered an engineering wonder of the world when it was erected. The main span of the Delaware river bridge—the span directly supported by the cables—is 1,750 feet. The river span of the Brooklyn bridge is 1,595.5 feet long.

An idea of the progress effected in suspension bridge construction is given in the fact that four cables 15.5 inches in diameter are used to support the Brooklyn span while only two 29 inches in diameter will be used to hold up the Delaware span.

Each of the two Delaware bridge cables, after assembly in the field, will be 3,550 feet long with a sectional area of 562 square inches. Each will weigh 3,500 net tons, and be comprised of 61 strands of 306 wires each, or 18,666 wires per cable. The assembly will be effected in the field by stringing the wire continuously from anchorage via the foot-bridge recently completed between the two main towers that extend 385 feet above the water and support the cables.

Upon completion the bridge will include a vehicle traffic way 67 feet wide which will have a capacity of 6,000 vehicles per hour, four rapid transit lines and two 10-foot sidewalks for pedestrians, and it is this load that the cables must hold via the 310 suspended ropes while will connect them with the span.

Bandits Get \$100,000

New York, Aug. 23.—Defying the police "dead line" in the financial and jewelry district, three hold-up men Friday entered the wholesale jewelry establishment of Feldheimer and Jacoby, on the ninth floor of 170 Broadway, and escaped with \$100,000 worth of gems.

COUPLE GUILTY OF INFANTICIDE

Mollie Wagoner and Glenn Jarvis Admit Burying Their Infant in Yadkin River.

Winston-Salem, Aug. 21.—In Yadkin superior court this morning Mollie Wagoner and Glenn Jarvis, charged with infanticide, entered a plea of guilty of murder in the second degree which was accepted by the state. The courtroom was filled with spectators and the evidence presented was heard with close attention. After hearing the evidence and arguments of counsel, Judge Long sentenced the two defendants to state prison for a term of twenty-five years.

Mrs. J. S. Culler, of Winston-Salem was the first witness introduced by the state. She conducted a boarding house, and stated that in April Mollie Wagoner and Glenn Jarvis secured board at her home, stating they were man and wife. Two weeks and two days later a baby was born to Mollie Wagoner, and Mrs. Culler made the clothes for the infant. A little more than three weeks later the couple left with the child. This was on Friday, and on Tuesday the body of an infant was found in the Yadkin river. The following Friday Mrs. Culler came to Yadkinville and identified the clothes on the body found as the ones she had made for Mollie Wagoner's infant. She stated that she had not seen Mollie until today.

Other damaging evidence was given against the defendants. Mollie Wagoner took the stand, testifying for more than 30 minutes. She said that she had been married to William Porter, now dead, and her testimony corroborated that of Mrs. Culler's, relative to the birth of the child. The infant died before she and Glenn Jarvis reached the Yadkin river, said Mollie.

They drove off of the main road and remained there till sunset, when they decided to bury the infant in the river. She carried the child to the river bank, wrapped it well and Glenn Jarvis put it in the river. They returned to Winston-Salem that night, she said, going to the home of Jarvis' brother, and stayed there until the following Friday, when they went to Independence, Virginia.

Mollie said that she attended high school through the tenth grade, and is now 22 years of age.

On cross-examination she said that they had moved their boarding place to Mrs. Culler's so that the child would not be born at the home of Jarvis' brother, where they had been staying. Under cross-examination she held to the statement that the child died and that neither she nor Glenn Jarvis killed it.

The baby was in her arms when they discovered it was dead, she said, and she took all the blame for the death.

EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS IN AUTO AND GAS TAXES

Total Cost of Operating Department for Year Little More Than \$300,000.

Raleigh, Aug. 22.—Approximately \$8,000,000 in automobile and gasoline taxes were collected in North Carolina during the year 1923-24 by the automobile department, under the management of Joe E. Sawyers, according to a statement issued here today by Secretary of State W. N. Everett, under whose general supervision the department operates.

To be exact the figures of the secretary show that \$7,954,000 was collected. Of this amount \$3,975,000 was the taxes collected on motor vehicle licenses and \$3,979,000 was the taxes collected on gasoline sold. The motor vehicles operating under paid licenses were given as 260,667 passenger cars 24,879 trucks, and 1,488 motorcycles.

The total cost operating the automobile department, including permanent improvements, the cost of license plates and postage used in delivering the plates to the purchaser, was \$316,561, Mr. Everett stated.

DREADED CHESTNUT BLIGHT REPORTED HEADED SOUTH

Asheville, Aug. 19.—Chestnut blight, the scourge that has been attacking the chestnut trees wholesale throughout the eastern forests, is headed south. E. F. McCarthy, of the Appalachian Forest Experiment station here has found in Georgia at Blairville and near Young Harris, two distinct and apparently rapidly developing instances of the blight. This is the southernmost section in which the blight has been reported, although it has already reached North Carolina and Tennessee.

Iredell County Sets Pace in Conservation of Timber

Looks To Future Methods Adopted Will Result in In- creased Production to Equal Present Cut

Statesville, Aug. 23.—Iredell county is setting the pace for other counties in the movement which has as its object the conservation and production of timber. This was clearly demonstrated when County Agent R. W. Graeber and District Agent E. S. Millsaps conducted a group of state and national foresters, farm agents and leading farmers from various sections in this district, and other interested parties, on a tour which covered four demonstration plots in Iredell county. The newspaper correspondent who accompanied the party was an intensely interested spectator as his eyes were opened to the marvelous possibilities of the work of forest preservation—a business which can easily be carried along in connection with the regular routine work of landowners and farmers everywhere, with little or no additional expense, but with immense profit to the present generation and the generations that are to follow. The idea is an exceedingly practical one, and it is passed along for the consideration of others interested in the future happiness and prosperity of our country as a whole.

Since statistics show that we are cutting soft timber eight times as fast as the timber is growing one can readily see the necessity for wise and judicious conservation. The simple methods outlined by the foresters will result in increased production to the point where it will equal the present cut.

Demonstrations in 12 Townships

County Agent R. W. Graeber is conducting demonstrations in pine timber in 12 townships of Iredell, and a number of farmers are taking up this work on their own farms as a result of the demonstrations. Experts who inspected the local forests this week found that more interest has been shown in the care of farm timber, and especially in the work of thinning the thick stands of pines, in Iredell than in any other county in the state.

The first demonstration plot visited was on the Iredell county home property, about five miles south of Statesville, where the supply of firewood for the institution is secured by thinning out the dead timber and that which is crooked, forked or otherwise defective, leaving only the smooth trees which are already or can become of value for lumber or other commercial purposes. Before conservation was begun by Mr. Graeber on this plot three years ago, one section of it was cut clean, all the timber, good and bad, being used for firewood; adjoining this is the demonstration plot, which stands out in pleasing contrast: just beyond is a section of woodland where nature alone is doing the thinning and pruning, and this shows how helpful the ax in the hands of expert foresters can be in the elimination and conservation process.

Loss by Forest Fires

J. S. Holmes, state forester, called attention to the great loss by forest fires; the soil gets richer when the leaves are left and it grows poorer when the leaves are burned; fires also destroy all reproduction of trees and render the ones left weaker and less able to withstand tree diseases that follow in the wake of forest fires. Diseases attack trees, as in the case of the human body, when trees have their vitality reduced. If trees have a vigorous growth, they will keep ahead of the bugs and worms. The pine beetle, it was pointed out, is the most destructive enemy.

On E. J. Troutman's farm, two miles west of the county home, a body of pines was thinned a year ago last winter, and a second thinning is now needed, according to experts, in order to give the trees greater diameter. The first thinning was to get height. Mr. Troutman goes through every winter and takes out the dead timber and other trees that have no lumber or commercial value, and uses it for firewood. On this tract, containing six or eight acres, on which Mr. Troutman recalls that he cultivated corn 30 to 40 years ago, the owner is taking a perpetual growth of firewood and eventually will get valuable financial returns in saw logs.

On one typical forest area, used for demonstration purposes, the usual

observer would see nothing but trees and a few scattering weeds and grasses. Some one suggested that the forest should be used for pasture for sheep, cattle or hogs. "How many wild legumes can you find" asked Mr. Graeber, addressing the members of the party. There was a prompt response, and in five minutes actual count revealed the astonishing fact that 10 different wild legumes, valuable for feed or soil improvement, were gathered on an area of less than half an acre.

Nature by the law of the "survival of the fittest," is trying to eliminate the worthless trees and to grow timber that will be of commercial value. Modern foresters are endeavoring to assist Mother Nature in this great work.

A suggestion for tobacco growers: Take the thinnings from your forest lands and convert it into fuel to be used in curing tobacco, thus saving your future timber crop that will become more valuable every year.

Fee of Wilson is Rebuked at Polls

Knoxville, Tenn., Aug. 23.—Woodrow Wilson Democrats of Tennessee are jubilant over the defeat of Senator John K. Shields by Gen. Lawrence D. Tyson for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator, for it is regarded as a complete vindication of the ideals of Wilson by the voters of the Old Volunteer State.

When Tennessee went into the Republican column in the 1920 Presidential election opponents of the League of Nations heralded the defeat of the Democrats as a decisive repudiation of Mr. Wilson's plan to establish world peace. But now opponents of the League have nothing to say. Woodrow Wilson and the League of Nations was the only issue in the Senatorial race and Gen. Tyson was victorious by a 15,000 plurality over Senator Shields.

The only issue in the campaign was the attitude of Senator Shields toward the League of Nations. Gen. Tyson bitterly arraigned him for his unfaithfulness to the Democratic party and to Woodrow Wilson. The senior Senator was accused of betraying the cause of Democracy in the hour of its greatest need and of sending the party into a Garden of Gethsemane to mourn the loss of its martyred leader, Woodrow Wilson.

Senator Shields, while Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, was elected Senator in 1912. During his first term he failed to support Wilson as the Democrats of Tennessee thought he should and he was re-elected only upon his promise and the promise of his friends that he would give his allegiance to Mr. Wilson.

Hardly had he returned to Washington for his second term, however, before the League of Nations was brought up in the Senate. Mr. Shields joined forces with the irreconcilables and steadfastly voted and worked against adoption of the League of Nations by the United States. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge and Senator Shields were two of the bitterest enemies of the League and it was largely through the efforts of these two the League was defeated.

Woodrow Wilson, a few months before his death, declared that Senator Shields "was one of the least trustworthy of my professed supporters." This statement of Mr. Wilson was used by Gen. Tyson during his campaign, and it always produced the desired result.

Indicted for Holding Two Offices

Raleigh, Aug. 22.—Suit was filed in the city court of Raleigh Thursday against Horace V. Grant, of Onslow county and George R. Ross, of Moore county, members of the house of representatives charging them with holding two offices. The suits were filed by Roscoe E. Parris, of Raleigh.

The suit was brought under a section of the state law which provides that any person caught holding two offices at the same time shall pay \$200 to any person suing him, together with the costs of the action.

Mr. Grant, according to the petition in the suit against him, is a member of the "fisheries commission board." Mr. Ross is employed by the state board of agriculture, according to the petition in the case against him.