

Co-op Measure Draws Legislature's Largest Crowd

Advocates of Bill Releasing Co-ops From Contracts Overflow House

COMMITTEE VOTES DOWN BILL 23 TO 11

One Hour Given To Each Side In Spirited Argument On Merits of Bill

Raleigh, Feb. 28.—Twenty-three to eleven was the vote of the House committee on agriculture for an unfavorable report on the Braswell bill to permit members of co-operative selling associations to withdraw by filing notice, after three hours of discussion in the House chamber yesterday afternoon.

Present at this hearing before the committee was the biggest crowd of any that has been to Raleigh since the legislature met and the most orderly and well behaved. The majority of those in the hall were friends of the Braswell bill and they cheered lustily when points were made by their champions but there was no disorder.

Woman Impresses Crowd

An hour for each side was agreed upon and every minute of that time was taken up with discussion of law and economics. Human interest there was in plenty and this reached its climax when Mrs. M. O. Winstead, of Nash county, was introduced by George Ross, chief of the State division of markets, to make a statement. In black dress and an old-fashioned bonnet, she spoke to the committee and the audience in a real human way and while there were many eloquent addresses, none were more striking or impressive than hers.

Braswell Opens Argument

Dr. J. C. Braswell, introducer of the bill, explained that while he had introduced the bill "by request," as he had all other bills he had introduced in the legislature, yet he had after studying the situation wished that he had not put this bill as being by request. In the name of common justice and of common honesty he asked the committee to remove what he declared was rank injustice. He paid his compliment to high salaried officers of co-operatives who sit in cushioned chairs, fanned by electric fans in summer and protected from the cold in winter.

Argue Points of Law

Representative H. G. Connor, of Wilson, argued the constitutional law for the proponents of the measure and J. Bayard Clark, of Fayetteville, for the opponents. George Ross, floor manager for the opponents of the measure, opened for his side with a brief statement of why he opposed the measure, declaring that it was a broadside at the forty associations in the State because of the dissatisfaction of some members of the tobacco association. A member of two of these associations and a servant of the people, he could not do less than oppose such a proposal, he declared.

U. B. Blalock, general manager of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Association, next took the floor for the opponents of the bill, declaring there was neither common sense nor reason in such a law. If the committee was going to be influenced by crowds and hand clapping, he suggested that adjournment for twenty-four hours be taken to Riddick field or the Raleigh city auditorium, and he would guarantee to have a bigger crowd.

Says Live Up To Contract

It became almost an experience meeting as E. L. James, of Forsyth, and A. H. Oliver, of Duplin, added their testimony to that of the lady from Nash that if those who were seeking relief from their contracts would go back home and live up to their contracts they would be satisfied members instead of dissatisfied members.

Decorated With Ribbons

There was plenty of applause for the co-operatives as points were made in their favor but more the anti as there were more of them in the hall, each of them wearing a ribbon upon which was inscribed "For the Braswell bill." There would be occasional "whoops" that would break the tense stillness that obtained during most of the argument.

"You can even kill yourself if you want to, but the only way you can get out of one of these associations is to

kill yourself," declared Tobe Connor as he drove home the fact that the President of the United States or the King of England may resign their offices, but not so a co-operative member. That pleased the anti greatly and they applauded.

Then came F. E. Wallace, Kinston lawyer, who said that he was proud to represent as attorney the dissatisfied members of his section of the State. He admitted some of them were contract breakers but said they had been driven to it. He represented petitions that he said were signed by six hundred farmers in Nash and one thousand in Lenoir, who were asking for relief.

Ex-Senator Brock, of Jones, followed with another plea as a member of the cotton association for some law that would permit dissatisfied members to get out, and then came J. J. Croom, of Lenoir, who said he loved his wife and children more than he did his contract and that there had been a wide difference in the prices received by members of the tobacco association and those outside of it.

G. Vernon Cowper, Kinston lawyer, devoted his remarks to stressing the point that the tobacco association became the first contract breaker by insisting on delivery of tobacco by tenants, which the Supreme court said they had no right to do. "Yet they have the audacity to come here and say that those here are almost thieves, if not thieves," he exclaimed.

COOLIDGE SIGNS POSTAL PAY BILL

Action Means Increase of About \$300 a Year to Postal Employes and Raises Rates.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The postal pay and rate increase bill was signed tonight by President Coolidge.

Announcement at the White House that the President had signed the measure came as a surprise, as earlier indications were that he would send it to the post office department and the budget bureau for study before taking action.

The bill, which was received today at the White House, provides for an average increase of about \$300 annually in postal employes salaries, effective as of January 1, this year, and increases postal rates, effective April 15, next, to raise about \$60,000,000 of the \$68,000,000 required for the pay advances.

The bill also carries a "rider" recommended by the senate campaign fund committee strictly limiting campaign expenditures of congressional candidates. The salary increases are similar to those carried in the measure passed at the last session which was vetoed by President Coolidge on the ground that no provision was made to meet the expense incident to such a raise in salaries.

Veterans Loan Act Is Invalid

Raleigh, Feb. 28.—The Veterans' loan fund act of the 1923 general assembly, designed to aid the ex-service men to acquire homes and providing for two million dollar bond issue, is invalidated for the reason that the authorization to issue bonds has not been approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the state, the supreme court decided yesterday in passing on the test case sent up from Wake superior court.

"The authority to issue bonds has not been approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the state, as required by the express provisions of said act, and said bonds, if issued, would not be valid and binding obligations of the state of North Carolina," the opinion set forth.

Associate Justice Heriot Clarkson filed a dissenting opinion, holding that a majority of those voting had approved the act.

Accordingly, of that section of the act providing for a referendum developed the uncertainty as to its validity and prompted the test case. The section was so worded that state officials could not determine whether a majority of those voting on the act was necessary for ratification or a majority of the qualified voters. A majority of those voting on the proposal were favorably, but the measure got little more than a third of the total votes cast in the election.

EARTHQUAKE IS FELT THROUGH NORTHEAST

Tremors Lasting About Two Minutes Through Thickly Populated Sections

New York, Feb. 28.—Mother Earth shook herself just a trifle tonight, sending a vigorous little earthquake pell mell throughout the northeastern part of the United States and Canada.

The tremors were noticeable for about two minutes at 9:23 o'clock this evening, and, although not strong enough to cause damage, they shook the country from northeastern New England to the Mississippi and from the province of Ontario as far south as Florence, S. C., Richmond, Va., Louisville, Ky., and Wheeling, West Virginia.

At 10:30 a report from Gainesville, Fla., said tremors had been felt there at that time.

In the country's great centers of population—New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Boston, Detroit and others—the quake was severe enough to alarm millions of people. In some cities, notably Detroit, hotel guests hurried into the street. In others, theaters and movie halls were vacated their patrons mistaking the quake for a serious explosion. New York's many storied canyons of steel and concrete felt the shock, too. In fact, reports from observers at Fordham university said that the tremors, lasting for more than two minutes, were the strongest ever felt in the metropolis. The needle of the Fordham seismograph jiggled over an amplitude of seven inches.

The disturbance appeared to have been of varied intensity. Described by seismographic experts at Georgetown university in Washington as "very severe," the quake was said to have lasted 15 to 20 seconds in Hartford, Conn., but for more than two minutes in several other cities, including New York.

Although the Georgetown instrument traced the disturbance in a northerly direction from Washington, a report from Florence, S. C., was received saying that a slight tremor was felt there at 9:25.

Paint tremors continued to be recorded on seismographs throughout the evening, but these shocks were so slight that they passed unnoted by the millions of people who had been frightened by the more intense vibrations between 9:23 and 9:25 o'clock.

The shock played many pranks. Bells rang in church steeples, books toppled from shelves and pictures from walls, doors slammed and windows rattled. Plastering fell in rooms and in scattering points telephone and electric light wires were snapped.

New Yorkers, accustomed to the ceaseless vibration of trucks and trains, were worried, especially those who make their homes in Chinatown, the lower east side and the negro quarter of Harlem.

Police and newspapers were obliged in many cities to detail men to answer queries of frightened citizens, who hastened to their telephones to learn what it was all about.

Scientists at the Fordham station estimated that the center of the disturbance was at least 400 miles from New York with the period of greatest intensity, six seconds.

The Fordham records showed that the shocks were first noticeable here at 9:21. The tremors continued vigorously for about four minutes, and then trailed away.

Found Dead on Floor;

Revolver By His Side

Burlington, Feb. 28.—Sheriff Charles D. Story and Coroner Dr. R. M. Troxler were Thursday morning summoned to the Thompson Mill section in South Alamance, where they found John Moser, an unmarried man of 42, lying dead on the floor of his one-room house, in which he lived alone. Beside his body lay a 32-calibre pistol with which he had evidently blown his brains out.

He owned a large farm and had tenants who lived in the large home some distance from where the body was found. He had been missing several days but it was thought he had gone away until the body was discovered. He had been dead several days, the coroner said. In his pocket was found a roll of bills amounting to several hundred dollars, and in his room were found several mortgages. Some time ago he was injured while working on a bridge and was confined to his bed some time. It is thought this injury affected his mind.

FIRST PRESIDENT OF GERMANY DIES

Former Saddle-maker of Heidleberg Held in High Esteem By His People

Berlin, Feb. 28.—Theatres and operas were dark throughout Germany tonight, concert halls were closed and cafe orchestras silenced in mourning for Germany's first president, Friedrich Ebert, the former saddle-maker of Heidleberg, who succeeded Kaiser Wilhelm as the chief executive of Germany and steered the new republic through six stormy years.

President Ebert died at 10:15 o'clock this morning from peritonitis following an operation for appendicitis five days ago. His system had influenza preceding the operation and his heart was not equal to the burden imposed which spread throughout his system.

Dies at Sanitarium

The president's death came as a shock, as earlier bulletins had indicated a marked improvement in his condition. He died at the West Sanitarium, where he was operated upon early Tuesday morning after being taken there from his official residence.

This afternoon Germany's war flags on land and sea were all at half-mast by order of General Von Seeckt, commander of the German army and no military band will play throughout the republic except at Ebert's funeral in the country's Socialist president has been laid to rest. Republican flags of black, red and gold, looped with crepe, line the streets of Berlin and Potsdam and the saddened public quietly awaits the morrow which already had been named a general day of mourning throughout the republic for those who fell in the war.

Chancellor Luther will deliver the oration at the funeral Wednesday, which will be held in the executive mansion in the Wilhelmstrasse at Frau Ebert's request. As Germany has no precedents for a presidential funeral, the officials who are arranging the ceremony are having a difficult task and were unable to complete plans today.

The palace which is used as the executive mansion is not large enough to accommodate many mourners, but it has a large court and, if the pleasant weather continues, seats will be arranged in the open air.

Stop Your Car To Let Children Cross Street

Listen, Mr. Motorist! Have you ever had this experience? You came to a corner and noticed a child, or maybe two or three children, on the sidewalk about ready to cross the street. Have you every thought of the thoughts that might be turbulently disturbing the little one's mind?

He has been told to be careful in crossing the street, and has been warned of all the dire mishaps that might occur to him. He has been told also that he must get to school on time. The child stands on the corner and when he sees an opening, gets ready to dash across. Then your car looms up like some gigantic ogre barring his pathway. The child darts back to the curb, almost ready to cry with vexation and disappointment, and no doubt with his heart pounding rapidly.

Now is your chance to prove that you are human! Step on the brake, throw the clutch out and put the gear in neutral; then wave to the child to pass across.

Immediately afterward you will have a remarkable feeling of satisfaction that will more than repay you for the few moments that you may have lost. There is something about a child's smile that cannot be measured in terms of this world's goods.—Hygeia.

Gambling Away Big Fortunes

New York, March 1.—Mayor John F. Hylan, upon his return from a month's vacation at Palm Beach, announced that he would be a candidate for a third term.

"I am in the hands of the people if they want me to run," the mayor said. "I am a candidate for mayor and I am for the five-cent fare. I am against those who want to increase the fare."

Discussing the transit situation, the mayor said he was certain the subways could be operated on a five-cent fare basis.

"Some of the traction people who are making the profits," he added, "are gambling it away as high as \$25,000 a night down in Florida."

Great Cypress At New Bern Is At Least 700 Years Old

May Be 1,000, Tree Experts, Repairing Damage of Ants, Say. Linked With History of State and Nation—Washington, General Greene and Others Stood in Its Shade.

New Bern, Feb. 28.—Among the historical possessions of North Carolina, ranking as most notable of all trees now in the state and comparing favorably in importance with other trees of the nation, is the great cypress of New Bern, the wide-spreading boughs of which near Neuse river join colonial history to present times.

Always the tree has been justly valued in New Bern for its sacred associations and memorable events. Beneath its towering limbs Indians held war dances, later signing there with the first whites a peace treaty; under it the first vessel of the state was built and launched; important conferences have been held there; statesmen and leaders, George Washington, Nathaniel Greene, Edward Everett and numbers of others have stood admiringly beneath its leafy shade.

Will Prolong Life

Particularly at just this time interest is being re-aroused in the tree and efforts are being successfully made by its owner to preserve its condition and prolong its life. Although it is still in excellent condition, a cavity, 20 feet long, with a maximum width of three feet, has been discovered at its heart, caused by erosions of carpenter ants. Tree surgeons are at present getting out the decay, sterilizing the holes, and putting in braces and surgical fillings that will keep the tree for many more years.

Two thousand ants, some of them three-quarters of an inch in length and some with wings, have been removed from the hollow, having tunneled passages there in the last three years. Two more years of inattention might have caused the tree to become so weak as to blow down during a bad storm. Over a ton of cement is being used to fill the cavity.

While working on the wood, the surgeons found two bullets on the inside, about six inches from the bark. No holes were evident, having been completely healed by time. They were probably shot into the tree scores of years ago.

Age Estimated

For the first time the heart of the tree has been examined by experts and its age estimated accurately. Judging by the number of rings on small surfaces of wood from the heart, George A. Stover, of York, Pa., and his assistants, Hugo Holmstrom, of Duluth, Minn., and M. D. Smith, of Cleveland, O., trained and experienced workmen, say that the tree is unquestionably at least 700 years old and that it is possibly a thousand years old.

The tree is a handsome specimen of cypress, growing in the back yard of Mrs. Samuel W. Smallwood, near the banks of the Neuse. Its circumference at the base is over 17 feet; its diameter is 44 inches; the greatest extension of its limbs is almost 100 feet; it is about 70 feet high.

Such trees have always been valued by nations of the world. In the United States there have been the Charter oak, the Washington elm and the apple tree at Appomattox Court House. The notorious dram tree at Wilmington, too, has received much publicity. In a magazine article published some time ago, the New Bern cypress was classed as one of the twenty most important trees in the United States, the only other tree mentioned in North Carolina being the one at Davidson planted by Woodrow Wilson.

New Bern has been particularly fortunate in the past in having had several important trees. Two other original forest trees grew there until recently; one an old hickory in Christ Episcopal church yard; the other, a cedar tree in the yard of the late Mrs. F. C. Roberts.

There used to be also two large willow trees in the yard of the First Baptist church, at New Bern, coming from a Raleigh tree planted by Mrs. John H. Bryan from a small slip of a willow that grew above the tomb of Napoleon on the island of St. Helena. The oldest and only remaining important tree in the city, however, and probably the oldest tree in the state, is the Smallwood cypress.

Indian Treaty Signed

The facts that an Indian treaty had been signed there and that the first boat built in the state had been

constructed there had always made the tree valued. It became much more renowned, though, by Revolutionary events.

In 1781, when the place was owned by Governor Richard Dobbs Spaight the elder, there came to him for advice and aid General Nathaniel Greene patriot leader, right hand officer of George Washington. The time was ominous. The Americans had been almost hopelessly defeated by Lord Cornwallis. The patriot army was in dire need of money, food and equipment. The American cause seemed lost.

A long conference between Governor Spaight and the discouraged and disheartened General Greene took place beneath the cypress. On that spot the governor pledged the resources of the state as well as his private means for the cause of liberty and freedom.

Turning Point

Another conference ensued between General Greene and his host, John Wright Stanley, famous jurist and orator who lost 14 vessels during the Revolution and who later killed Governor Spaight in a duel fought at New Bern. Stanley lent the soldier \$200,000 for the half-famished American army. Greene and his men took heart. The army was reorganized immediately and victories resulted, important crises in the final winning of the war.

While George Washington was president of the republic, he came on a visit to New Bern town. Gay receptions and entertainments were planned in his honor at the Stanley home, the Col. Joseph Leech home on East Front street and other places. All Washington seemed to enjoy; but he was not satisfied until he had been shown the spot where Greene had held such momentous meetings with local patriots. An additional significance for the tree came then from the visit of Washington.

The present care of the tree by its owner and the interest of present New Bernians insures its preservation if Providence permits, for hundreds of years. Looking down for ages upon the progress and advance of coming citizens will be the monarch, heritage of the past, pride of the present and harbinger of the future.

Mrs. J. F. A. Cecil Nee Vanderbilt, Bears Baby Son

Asheville, N. C., Feb. 27.—A son was born early today to Mrs. John F. A. Cecil, formerly Cornelia Vanderbilt, at Biltmore House. Mr. Cecil was formerly First Secretary of the British Embassy in Washington. The child weighed eight and one-half pounds. Both mother and son were said to be doing well.

The child is George Henry Vanderbilt Cecil. George is for Mrs. Cecil's father, Henry for Mr. Cecil's brother and in compliment to Henry Anderson of New York, counselor of the Vanderbilt estate.

Mrs. Cecil, a daughter of Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt, was born at Biltmore and there made her debut, celebrated her twenty-first birthday and was married in the little Episcopal Church.

Mr. Cecil whose father is Lord William Cecil, third son of the Marquis of Exeter, entered the British Diplomatic Service in 1913. He came to Washington in September, 1923.

Policeman Kills Boy When Trying to Stop Speeders

Rock Hill, S. C., Feb. 28.—R. M. McFadden, Rock Hill policeman, attempted to stop a speeding automobile by firing at its tires late last night, one of the bullets instantly killed Dewey Simpson, young member of a prominent Chester family who with three other Chester youths occupied the automobile.

McFadden told his story to a coroner's jury today and was held without bail pending completion of the inquest which was adjourned until additional testimony could be obtained.

Simpson was struck below the eye, the bullet emerging from the back of his head, according to the statement of a physician who testified at the inquest. The nature of his wound, it was said, indicated that he was looking backward when the bullet struck him.