

SOLONS SEEKING NEW TAX SOURCE

Finance Committee Wrestles With Problem of Finding School Funds

A BATTLE OF LOBBYISTS

By M. L. SHIPMAN

RALEIGH, Feb. 8.—The Legislature is now marking time while a sub-committee of the joint finance committee is wrestling with the problem of finding some twelve or thirteen million dollars with which to maintain a school term of six months in every county in the State. The joint appropriation committee has finished its hearings and is now redrafting the budget appropriation bill, but it must wait until the final action of the legislature before it can fix definitely the items in its bill. While conducting hearings with a view to securing needed data for its deliberations, the joint finance committee can fix no definite tax policies until its sub-committee reports.

Headed by Senators John H. Folger, of Surry, and Representative A. D. MacLean, of Beaufort, chairmen respectively of the Senate and House education committees and leaders in the fight for a State supported school term of six months, the sub-committee starts out on the assumption that the sources of the needed revenue can be found, or rather that they must be found. In view of the general depression and the vigorous fights against taxation by every interest in the State, the sub-committee faces the most troublesome problem before the Legislature. It will be no easy job to frame even a tentative bill, and then after revision it must be piloted through committee and through both houses with still further revisions being then inevitable.

While the Legislature comparatively speaking may be said to be marking time, it has plenty of controversial subjects to consider and act upon, the one now to the front being Governor Gardner's bill to have the State take over county roads under a reorganized highway commission of five members. County officials met in Raleigh last week to voice their protest. Commissioner John Sprunt Hill, of Durham, and Col. T. L. Kirkpatrick of Charlotte have on their war paint, and the Legislature is about equally split on the proposition. It will be debated at length this week, two bills embodying the two views having been reported out.

The opposition of some of the counties to the Governor's reorganization road bill is a revival of the fear that they may be swallowed up, so far as their road management is concerned, by a State bureau. While desiring to share in the revenue from the gasoline tax, these counties prefer to spend it under local supervision. The argument then is on the method of operation, not as to the desirability of having the State share in the upkeep of a larger proportion of the highways with a view to lightening the property tax burden.

The Legislature is certain to pass more stringent laws for the regulation of banking in this State. Governor Gardner's bill providing for a State banking commissioner at a salary of \$8,000 a year and an attorney at \$7,500 was dropped into the legislative hopper the past week by Representative Seawell of Lee. The banking commissioner would take over the duties now administered by the State Corporation Commission, the idea behind the change being to fix responsibility more definitely for regulation.

The Legislature now has before it five sales tax bills, all of them having been referred to the joint finance committee. Representative McSwain of Cleveland, dropped in the latest bill, which is aimed at chain stores. It provides for a graduated license tax from \$15 to \$500, but on stores doing a business of \$800,000 or more the bill would levy a tax of one per cent on gross sales. Representatives Day and Hinsdale already had bills in the hopper, both of which were modeled closely after the South Carolina sales tax bill, and Senator Baggett put in one patterned after the West Virginia act. Representative Day also put in one levying a gross sales tax. Senator Lovill joined Representative Day in introducing in the Senate the South Carolina act, imposing taxes on so-called luxuries to which Representative Hinsdale added automobiles, the luxuries being shotguns, shells, candy, manufactured tobacco, soft drinks and theatre admissions. Senator Baggett's bill provides for a gross sales tax, but allows an exemption of \$10,000.

The strenuous hunt for revenue, which is engaging so much of the time of the Legislature continues to draw lobbyists to the Capital as has the proposed changes in the administration of the State highway funds. Hotel lobbies are thronged with legislators and those interested in legislation. Although thirty days has gone by, there has been little more than jockeying or skirmishing. Not since 1921 when

the cotton manufacturing interests and the late James B. Duke and associates staged a notable battle over the question of increased rates has there been such a battle of lobbyists as is now in Raleigh. The end is nowhere in sight. It will be a battle royal from now on, according to veteran political observers.

The usual bills to cut down the time for separation for divorce have been introduced into the Legislature. Representative Brooks, of Durham, would cut the time from five to three years in the case of couples without children while Representative Gwaltney, of Alexander, would cut down the time without reference to children. The Brooks bill got a favorable committee report, but with prospects of a vigorous fight both bills were referred back again for a public hearing this week.

Bills are sponsored by the North Carolina Bar Association for regulating the courts of the justice of the peace and cutting down the number in each township from three to two and allowing only one for each 20,000 population in cities instead of one for each thousand as at present. Favorable committee report was given the regulation bill, and a sub-committee is redrafting the other one.

While not much has been heard recently about the Governor's proposal for cutting all State, county and municipal salaries ten per cent, it is understood that it will be pushed vigorously and promises to be the center of a big fight. Difficulty is being experienced in getting by the constitutional provisions prohibiting the reduction of judges' salaries during their term of office and also fixing salaries of certain State officials.

Other controversial matters engaging the attention of the Legislature include the taxing of foreign stocks, the Brummitt proposal to tax foreign corporation holdings in this State upon the basis of the market value of their stocks, plans for reapportionment of the Congressional districts, and proposed increase in income taxes.

The Legislature now has before it the Administration bill providing for submitting to the voters the calling of a constitutional convention in 1933. The House gets first crack at the bill. There is plenty of sentiment in its favor, and it now seems probable that it may go through. The voters would elect delegates at the same time that they vote on the question of calling a convention. The Legislature is in no mood to meddle with the absentee voter act. It allowed Buncombe to abolish the act, but would allow no amendments.

A visit by Lieut. Gov. J. O. Shepard, of South Carolina, was one of the interesting features of the sessions of the Legislature the past week. He had no advice to offer except to suggest that it would be a good idea for legislatures of the different states to get acquainted with each other.

Many members of the legislature are looking forward to hearing Chairman Alexander Legge, of the Federal Farm Board, at the annual meeting of the Raleigh chamber of commerce on Thursday evening. Chairman Legge has the reputation of being plain and outspoken, and his remarks are expected to arouse interest, especially in view of the recent caustic criticisms of its policies by members of Congress.

N. L. Stedman of Halifax has purchased 600 feeder pigs in Georgia to fatten on his surplus corn under the Shay plan of feeding.

"System Seemed Full Of Poisons"

"For five years I could hardly digest anything and I'd have such awful smothering attacks at night I couldn't sleep a wink. My torpid



MRS. HERNIE MASSEY
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LORD BYRON COLLARS AND BARE KNEES SUGGESTED MEN'S STYLE

LONDON, Feb. 10.—Bare knees and Lord Byron collars will be the fashion adopted by progressive men this spring, the Men's Dress Reform Party decreed today inaugurating its annual campaign against Britain's dictators of male fashions.

Sombre black evening clothes will be replaced by bright washable materials the party announced. Business wear will consist of a soft-collar shirt open at the neck trunks open at the knees and light Roman sandals.

The party's campaign this year is directed chiefly against mens evening clothes. To prove that it is possible to dance in comfort, the organization is arranging a number of "Dress Reform Dances" at which types of the evening dress which it favors will be exhibited.

Dr. Alfred C. Jordan, founder and secretary of the party, believes that men's clothes are not only uncomfortable and unclean, but also unsightly.

"At present color in men's clothes is confined to pyjamas and dressing gowns, garments which are worn only in the privacy of the

bedroom," he told the United Press. "Why shouldn't man emancipate himself from his dismal evening clothes and appear in bright, washable garments?"

Dr. Jordan has designed a "reform" evening dress resembling the holiday costume of a mountaineer. It consists of a biege-colored shirt of soft silk with open collar, a light blue sleeveless coat with blue knee breeches to match.

The dress reform party strongly recommends blouses for everyday wear.

"The blouse was originally a man's garment," Dr. Jordan said, "but it has been considered effeminate since women lifted it from us. I wonder that we do not also give up pyjamas since women adopted them."

The men's dress reform party has over 3,000 members in 10 countries. Its slogan as stated by Dr. Jordan is:

"Fewer clothes,
Lighter clothes,
Cleaner clothes,
Brighter clothes."

Woman Senator Puts School Bill Across

RALEIGH, Feb. 10.—By the use of humor, sarcasm and an accurate knowledge of what the bill was about—something her opponents did not have, she said—Mrs. E. L. McKee, Senator from Jackson, yesterday won a distinct victory over several more experienced male legislators and secured the passage by the Senate of a bill that seemed doomed to postponement, if not defeat—the women's bill to tighten the laws of compulsory school attendance.

The bill, which was introduced by Senator Baggett of Harnett, provides that children between the ages of 14 and 16 must continue school through the sixth grade unless they or their families are in need of their possible earnings, or unless they are physically or mentally incapable of profiting by further education. It is particularly aimed at street loafing by boys under 16 and provides that regardless of how many grades they have finished, if they don't find a job they must return to school. The present law allows children of 14 who have finished the fourth grade to stop school.

Senator Baggett spoke first for the school attendance bill yesterday. The night before he had concurred in the request that it go over in order that the Senators might have more time to study it but from the questions asked him, it seemed that

few had used the opportunity. A number of the Senators confused the law with the child labor law and asked about provisions already made in the existing law and not changed by the bill.

Senator McSwain of Cleveland sent forward an amendment to make the bill not apply to the children of farmers. Senator Baggett told him that the needs of the farmers in certain seasons was already cared for in the regulations now operative.

Senator Grier of Iredell was the chief antagonist of the bill on the ground that it deprived children of their right to work in order that they might live, or that their families might live. He sent forward an amendment to provide that nothing in the bill would prevent children from working at "wholesome labor" where the money was needed for their sustenance. After much talk it seemed that the bill was in grave danger. Senator Lawrence moved that the bill and its amendments be re-referred to the committee. At this moment Mrs. McKee's patience gave out.

Knew Her Subject
"I said at the beginning of the session that I would not talk about anything I didn't know about," she declared. "And I want to say that I know more about boys and girls than all of you put together."

Carefully, as if she was explaining the matter to the same boys and girls, Mrs. McKee explained it to the Senate just what the bill provided. "I am surprised at all this

controversy over this bill," she said. "It is so flexible that I don't think it can do much good but certainly it can do no harm. It applies to those children who are now not at work and not in the schools. I am not in favor of re-referring it. Why all this delay? We are acting like children. Mr. President, I move the previous question."

And not only did the previous question carry but every amendment, except the committee amendment to clarify, was voted down and the bill itself passed by a substantial majority.

Says It Will Pay To Feed Corn To Hogs

"The most profitable method of marketing corn this year, and probably for the next two years, is by feeding it to hogs and then marketing the hogs," W. W. Shay, swine extension specialist of State College, says, in speaking of the low price of corn and the profit to be made in hogs at the present time. "Feeding corn to hogs is the safest farm investment and the surest way to make a profit in farming this year."

If the corn is produced at a low cost per bushel, Mr. Shay says that it is always profitable to feed such corn to hogs. Even, if the corn is high in price per bushel or the yield per acre is low, the feeding of corn to hogs will increase its bushel value. "When the farmer has a big loss in the cost of corn, due to low production per acre, this loss can be cut down by feeding to hogs, but not always eliminated."

The person who cannot produce at least 30 bushels of corn or more to the acre had best stay out of the hog raising business.

Self-feeder demonstrations in the eastern part of the State this past year showed that corn will increase enormously in value if fed to hogs. One demonstration showed a profit of 485 per cent on corn by such feeding, despite the death of one hog during the demonstration. The hogs, in this case, ate 209 bushels of corn, which would have brought \$188.10 if sold as corn. After paying all other charges, and deduction the value of the hog which died, \$19.75, the hogs still paid a profit of \$285.94 for the corn and left plant food worth \$49.35 on the farm, whereas \$31.35 worth of plant food would have gone out with the corn, had it been sold. The other two demonstrations proved the same thing. In the demonstrations, the hogs were put on self-

feeders half the time and then turned in on standing corn, supplemented with fish meal.

The raising of plenty of corn and hogs will be a great boost for the "Live-at-Home" movement, Mr. Shay believes. He wants many hog feeding demonstrations this year, with accurate records kept.

Finds New Data On An Old Practice

Tests made by G. M. Garren, cereal agronomist of the North Carolina Experiment Station, at the mountain and coastal plain branch station farms last season indicate that intercropping corn with soybeans depresses the yield of corn and cuts the yield of soybeans as compared with yields secured when either of the two crops is grown alone.

Mr. Garren reports that this is a rather startling statement to make since most good farmers have practiced the inter-cropping of cowpeas or soybeans with corn but he presents facts to back up his statement.

In making the tests on the two farms last year, Mr. Garren measured his land into one-tenth acre plots. In the first, he planted corn alone; in the second, he planted soybeans between the hills of corn; in the third, he planted a row of soybeans alternately with the rows of corn, and in the fourth, he planted soybeans alone.

Results secured on the mountain farm will give a fair example of what yields were secured. Taking round figures, he secured a yield of 56 bushels of corn per acre when the corn was planted alone. Where soybeans were planted between the hills, he harvested 50 bushels of corn an acre and where the soybeans were planted in alternate rows, he harvested 37 bushels of corn an acre.

Where the soybeans were grown alone, he harvested 30 bushels of the beans an acre; where the beans were planted between the hills of corn, he harvested only 7.5 bushels an acre and where the soybeans were planted in alternate rows, he harvested 26.6 bushels of the beans an acre.

In this test, of course, no account was taken of the soil improving qualities of the soybeans nor of the value of the beans as compared with the corn yield that was cut down.

Anyone who likes to get things done soon gets tired of going to committee meetings.

To Hold Farmers Meeting At Raleigh

The North Carolina State Farmers' Convention and the annual meeting of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs will be held during Farm and Home Week at State College, July 28 to 31, immediately following the summer session of the College.

Announcement of the annual meeting was made last week following a conference between college and convention officials. A new departure in convention affairs for the year will be the meeting of all organized farm groups. H. G. Ashcraft, of Charlotte, president of the Convention, has expressed a desire for all farmers' organizations to have a meeting during the week.

Especially does he extend an invitation to such groups as Grange, Cotton Association, Dairy men's Association, Hatcherymen's Association, Crop Improvement Association, Farmers' Alliance and others. Mr. Ashcraft also called for a larger attendance by men in summer. Of the 1,500 persons registering at the Convention last summer more than two-thirds were women. It is recognized, says Ashcraft, that the men are busy with their farms during late July, especially those who grow tobacco. Therefore, one of the questions to be decided at this meeting will be a possible change of dates for the late in the summer so that more farmers might attend.

For the western farmers, the present end dates will be maintained on alternate years but the program will be made to more nearly meet the needs of the western landowners.

The present president of the State Farmers' Convention is to be one of the most successful dairymen and farmers in the North Carolina. The president of the Home Demonstration Clubs is N. L. Stedman of Halifax, who has been prominent in organized work for farm women for more than 15 years.

C. R. Pope of Cedar Creek, Cumberland County is cutting down the acreage to cotton and tobacco on his large crop farm and is planning to grow feed crops and pasture for sheep, hogs and cattle. There are 75 ewes now on the farm.

T. D. Temple of Scotland has started another 25 head Angus beef cattle on feed following his success with two cars of beef cattle last year.

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No. 1

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