

FIGHT ON SALES TAX QUESTION

Hard to Predict Final Form Of History Being Written On Capitol Hill

FARMERS ARE INSTANT

By M. L. SHIPMAN
 RALEIGH, March 17.—Much history is being written on Capitol hill these days, but it is difficult to predict just now what will be its final form. The Legislature fought a finished battle on allowing horse-racing in Buncombe and finally came back to earth. It has provided for stricter control of county finances and will provide for stricter control of banking through a State banking commissioner. It has provided for a State controlled road system and has authorized a similar system for the constituted six months school term, but for weeks it has been at sea as to the source of revenue.

Marching up the hill and down again, as the Legislature has done with numerous suggestions for raising revenue, and as it did on the horse racing bill before its final burial, it has now become an endurance contest. Even with a revenue bill to start on this week, it would take two weeks at best for the Legislature to complete its work. It will in all probability take longer. Already the Legislature has done the unprecedented thing with the split between the House and Senate finance committees over the revenue bill. It will likely do many other unprecedented things before it finally adjourns.

Despite all the heat over the respective merits the Day gross sales tax bill and the Hinsdale luxury tax measure, the real fly in the ointment is whether or not there shall be a sales tax levied. Many members of the Legislature are dead against any sort of sales tax, others are for it only as a last resort and the result is a lack of enthusiasm. The House finance committee finally backed the Day sales tax bill, but the Senate was standing against such a measure. There is a difference of a couple of million dollars in the two bills, the Day bill providing for a larger sum, and the two million dollars must be found. The alternatives are taxes on electric power and larger corporation income taxes. Another is a statewide ad valorem tax, which would be looking backwards, as the State was committed ten years ago to removal of such a tax and got much advertising out of that fact.

While the Legislature was sweating over the revenue problem, the largest army of farmers since Populist days invaded the Capital for a hearing before the joint finance committees. The Capital wouldn't hold 'em and adjournment was taken to a school auditorium. Their representatives told the Legislators that their was no idle gesture, that they had to have tax relief and would have it. They set themselves down against any general sales tax, but endorsed a luxury sales tax. It would hit most of them for their chewing tobacco, but they were willing to stand for that.

The Legislature must now either provide for raising the money with which to support a six months school term or repeal the MacLean statute, which it passed soon after meeting. Many of the members voted for this measure with reservations, but woke up to find that they had helped to pass a law, which would make it illegal for any county to levy taxes for support of the Constitutional school term. A repealer was put into the legislative hopper, but few members of the Legislature expected it to get anywhere. The Legislature has taken a revolutionary step, much more revolutionary than many of the members thought when it passed the MacLean bill.

The Legislature had once gotten rid of the revaluation problem by voting to postpone it until March 15th, the idea then being that it would have the revenue bill out of the way by this time. No such good luck happened, and now it has voted to postpone the revaluation until April 1st. By that time it hopes to have the revenue bill out of the way. Some wanted to postpone revaluation until more settled times, but distressed farmers will not listen to that. They want tax values reduced this year not next year.

After letting the Seawell bill providing for a State banking committee sleep in committee for weeks, the House finally passed it by a good majority. The Senate is expected to do the same, and thus will pass from the State Corporation Commission control of the State banks. The bill is designed to provide for stricter control of the banks operating within the State.

Already harassed with more pestiferous bills than have been in any Legislature in a generation the General Assembly got one more in the Davis bill to give drug stores the right to sell whiskey on prescription. Physician members of the House favored it, but drug store proprietors opposed it, as they do not want to be bothered with keeping liquor. Some Democrats pulled

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN

By GENE BYRNES



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out the platform of the last State convention pledging strict enforcement of the prohibition law and said the bill would be going back on that platform.

The Legislature got another troublesome sister out of the way with an unfavorable report on the Cherry bill making sabotage and syndicalism unlawful. Despite the 'big words, it meant no more than to outlaw organizations whose members resort to violence in carrying out their doctrines. Labor lead said that it might mean that labor unions would be put out of business simply because some member resorted to violence over the protest of other members and that for this reason it was a dangerous bill. Representative Cherry withdrew the bill from committee.

Governor Gardner's reorganization program got under way with passage of a bill providing for the reorganization of the State Board of Health. The Legislature is ex-

pected to adopt the short ballot principle in regard to several State offices including the State Commissioner of Agriculture, the State Corporation Commission and possibly the State Commissioner of Labor and Printing. However, Governor Gardner is expected to continue the present occupants in office, it being merely provided that their successors shall be appointed and not elected.

The Legislature finally disposed of the Constitutional convention problem by adopting a measure to submit to the voters of the State a proposal to have the revamping done by a Commission, as Virginia recently did, the results of the Commission's labor then being submitted to the people for adoption or rejection.

The Legislature backed away from putting the State into the insurance business. The Whedbee bill would have had the Workmen's compensation Commission take over the

insurance of employers, as Ohio has done, but members of the Senate objecting to putting the State in business and buried it. Lawyers argued in vain that they had lost fees and that the insurance agents might as well suffer also. The Senate would have none of it.

A disastrous fire resulting in the burning of eleven convicts in Duplin county insured passage of an act to appropriate \$400,000 from a bond issue for the erection of a new central prison. The bill went through with little debate.

The House killed the Haynes bill to repeal the law requiring physical examinations for marriage licenses. Border counties complain that many couples cross the state line to marry, and that thus they lose the revenue. The women who lobbied against repeal promised to use their influence to get Virginia and South Carolina to pass similar acts. Tennessee already has such an act.

Governor Gardner faces a difficult job in naming his new State highway commission. Appreciative as many citizens are of the honor of serving on such a board, it is realized that a big task is ahead, one for which not much thanks will be received.

Josephus Daniels, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, heard recently that he was being considered for a job of editing a dry newspaper in New York City. Too busy with problems before the Legislature to give outside matters attention, he said that he had heard nothing. His friends hardly expect him to leave his first love for an adventure in the great city. He likes North Carolina too well to try his fortunes elsewhere.

The army of merchants who came to Raleigh to fight the sales tax bills made a vivid impression upon the Legislature. Until they came, it was for one conclusion that such an act would be passed. They halted the movement for the time being at least.

Gives Tips On Care Of Baby Chicks

There will be some crippled and weakling chicks in every hatch despite utmost care in selecting breeding stock and hatching eggs. Such chicks should be removed at hatching time to prevent their giving trouble later.

"Culling will be practiced by the alert poultryman every day in the year," says N. W. Williams, poultryman at North Carolina State College. "The watchful poultryman will

detect any unthrifty chicks in his flock and remove them as detected. Chicks that are slow in growing should be removed to a separate house or placed in a brood of similar size. These should be marked for the market as soon as of sufficient size. Otherwise they might find their way into the laying house and possibly later into the breeding pens. If any chick shows signs of sickness, it should be taken from the flock and destroyed. Cremation is the safest and most satisfactory method of destruction."

Mr. Williams does not believe that chicks should ever be helped out of the shell. Sometimes this is done where the eggs are partially piped and the chick is unable to get out of the shell by its own efforts. When a chick has to be aided in this way, it is usually a weakling, will develop poorly and will likely die before reaching the laying stage.

Weaklings can usually be traced back to the breeding flock, says Williams. The breeding birds need to be well cared for as the season for hatching comes. This care should not be relaxed at any time. Exercise, a balanced ration and a liberal amount of green feed or cod liver oil will aid in maintaining vitality and breeding ability.

The eggs for hatching should always be carefully selected. Abnormal eggs usually mean a poor hatch.

Corn Crop Means An Added Profit

Having a good crop of corn, to hog down by pigs farrowed between January 1 and March 1 will mean that these pigs can be carried until the new corn is ready and will then make sufficient growth to market

around September 1 when the market is highest. "An early maturing variety of corn will be sufficiently mature to turn the hogs on by August 1 in most of the State lying east of Raleigh," says W. W. Shay, swine extension specialist at State College. "If this corn is spaced for a yield equal to the capacity of the land, any inter-planted crop will reduce the yield as shown by results of this and other experiment stations. If the corn is supplemented with fish meal, the amount of pork produced will be increased over that produced without such supplementary feed. Hogs cannot balance their feed with standing corn and soybeans only and if they did, they would be worth one or two dollars less per hundred pounds owing to the resultant soft or oily condition of their bodies." Judging from present indications

there will be more corn hogs down this year in North Carolina than during any previous year, says Shay. This is an economical way to harvest a good crop of corn, to save considerable labor and to leave much valuable fertility on the ground. However, corn to be hogged down should not be inter-cropped with soybeans. Not only does this depress the corn yield but eating soybeans lowers the quality of the pork of the hogs. Soybeans also depresses the acre yield of corn. The more soybeans produced, the less corn and the less corn, the less hard pork Mr. Shay says.

Twenty-two Craven county growers sold five cars of Shays hogs on the Richmond market week for \$4,600.36.

PROTECTION

The day-by-day work of a life time, given to building a business, may be swept away in hours time by a fire. Good will is the only thing that can't burn, but your good will not profit you very much if you are not in a position to carry on. That's when insurance comes in.

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