

At the CAPITAL



By M. R. Dunnagan, The Pilot's Raleigh Correspondent

Neither the school bill nor the highway bill created more interest in any one week than did the Buncombe racing bill, which occupied the center of the General Assembly stage last week and was given an unfavorable report by the Senate committee Friday, after that committee had previously reported in favorably. The entire Senate body also reversed itself Friday night, tabling the bill and putting the "climber" on it so it cannot come up again except by a two-thirds vote.

The bill provided that racing tracks and devices might be erected in Buncombe at a cost approaching half a million dollars, to be rented at \$5,000 a day for 36 days a year for horse and dog racing and operation of pari-mutual devices—gambling machines which church and moral forces assailed as steps toward legalizing gambling and making Buncombe a Monte Carlo of vice and sin. Promoters pointed to the money Buncombe would receive, as an aid to bringing that county out of its financial slough. Women led the promoters and were a formidable lobby for it. The House passed the bill by a large majority and the Senate passed it on second reading, when it was referred to the committee on Counties, Cities and Towns, which later reversed its position.

"Embattled farmers" descended upon the General Assembly last Thursday by the hundred and from all over the state, demanding tax reduction on land. The Finance committee, which have been passing through torment in efforts to find the \$199,500,000 to operate the schools for six months without ad valorem taxes, heard them, as they had heard merchants and manufacturers who opposed sales or production taxes. While probably close, doubt is expressed even now that a sales tax can be enacted, although one would be necessary to carry out the six-months school plan. The committee is probably approaching, but has by no means arrived at a solution of the problems. It may yet be necessary to continue the present plan with an increased Equalization Fund.

While the 70th day is here, the General Assembly members are not near the return home. Most of the important bills as yet to be threshed out on the floors of one or both houses. The Local Government bill is passed and out of the way, and is to be printed and distributed at once. But amendments are being added to it. The highway measure has passed both houses, but conference committees are trying to iron out minor differences in amendments.

All of the bills relating to reorganization of the government have made some progress during the week, including those to establish a personnel department, a purchasing agent, reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, establishing a separate Banking Department, appointment by the Governor of the members of the Corporation Commission, but time will be required to get them through. A bill to create a new Department of Labor, making the commissioner appointive, and specifying divisions, is in the hopper. The Finance and Appropriation bills are by no means complete and will require fully a week after they are reported out of committees.

Prognosticators are moving up their dates of adjournment, most of them sure it will be April, or later, before the General Assembly can finish up. The bill to provide for a State insurance fund for insuring employees under the Workmen's Compensation Act was killed in the Senate, but other bills to amend the act, interpreting and modifying it in places, will probably pass.

The omnibus bill, naming members of the county boards of education, has been introduced. It usually brings out many local fights and efforts to turn out old boards by other factions. The omnibus bill naming magistrates has not yet made its appearance.

A summary shows that slightly more than 1,500 bills have been introduced, 1,056 in the House and 449 in the Senate.

Among the public laws ratified the past week were two relating to county government, one creating a commission for improvement of the laws; providing for using the \$400,000 appropriated in 1927 for a new central prison; providing for an election on allowing elections to amend the constitution to be held at times other than with general elections; authorizing declaratory judgments; requiring tobacco warehouse checks to be made payable to order; allowing

county commissioners to establish county courts with criminal jurisdiction; preventing employment of females under 18 years of age in any kind of industry at night; providing for an alternate juror to certain cases; recording instruments by photography; requiring reserve fund and regarding mutuality of E. & L. Associations; regulating sale of mixed feed oats; allowing defendant two and State one preemptory challenge in criminal trials.

Revaluation of property for taxes, postponed until March 15, has been postponed again until April 1, while bills are being considered to postpone it until 1933. This will cause another hard fight before the session ends.

THE LYRIC TRIO TO SING AT PLATFORM HOUR SUNDAY

Lovers of music will welcome the opportunity to hear a trio of ladies' voices next Sunday night, March 22d at The Platform Hour of The Church of Wide Fellowship, Southern Pines, at 7:30 o'clock.

The Lyric Trio of Norfolk, Va., was considered one of the most pleasing attractions at The Platform Hour last year. It will give a new program next Sunday night in which solo and ensemble numbers will be featured. The members of the trio are soloists in Norfolk churches, and have broadcasted over the Columbia hook-up. Everybody is invited to hear these artists next Sunday night.

CAPTURE MAN AND STILL

County officers T. N. Slack and A. W. Lambert and Federal Officer J. Q. Harris made a raid near Hemp on Saturday which netted one complete distillery and one white man, Manley Boone. A second man, Robert Moore, made good his escape. The officers had located the distil-

lery and had taken their places to watch at about ten o'clock in the morning. At one-thirty the men came up to begin their work. The officers gave chase and after a race of some three hundred yards, Boone was captured, but Moore escaped.

GREENWOOD PARTY TO RETURN FOR MEETING

The Greenwood evangelistic party, which was in Southern Pines early in the year, is engaged with the First Presbyterian Church, Miami, Florida in an open air campaign on the spacious lawn surrounding the church. This is the oldest and most conservative church in that city. The services are attracting many who nightly attend them and the influence is felt through the city. This is the first time in its history the church has ever followed the plan for outside meetings. The Greenwood party is expected to return for a short campaign at Southern Pines on its way back north some time in March.

Whistling Henry, Old Pinehurst Resident, Dies

Whistling Henry is dead. Whistling Henry was a member of one of the oldest colored families in and about Pinehurst. His name was Henry Gaddy, and most all the folks knew Henry. He was 78 years old when death overtook him Sunday. His widow and eleven children survive him. The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

WIDE FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies' Aid Society of The Church of Wide Fellowship will meet Thursday afternoon, March 26th, at 3:00 o'clock in the Ladies' Parlor of the church.

The annual Lenten luncheon will be served today, Friday, from 12 to 1:30 o'clock at the church.

The Easter sale begins at 11 o'clock Thursday, March 26th at the church. Food, candy, fancy work, aprons and hand-colored Easter cards will be on sale. Lunch will be served from 12 to 2:00 o'clock.

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