

At the CAPITAL



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

Sales tax or no sales tax has been the all-absorbing problem in the General Assembly for a week, particularly in the House of Representatives side. The question of, if a sales tax, then which, was answered by the House committee and later by the House, as a committee of the whole, in favor of the general sales tax as against the so-called luxury tax, by the close margin of four votes.

This vote, of course, was not decisive. In fact, proponents of the luxury tax, in some instances, voted for the general sales tax, with a sort of reservation that they would re-introduce it when it comes to a final vote in the House, or that the Senate, when the Revenue bill reaches that body, would substitute the luxury sales tax and send it back to the House for concurrence.

Lines established when the so named MacLean bill was enacted to require State support of the six months school term, and when the later Johnston-Jolly bill, providing machinery for operating the six months term, was passed in the House, both by overwhelming majorities—these lines are all broken up over methods of financing the term. It might seem that the legislators would incline toward the luxury tax on tobacco products, soft drinks, cosmetics, playing cards, automobiles and other articles listed as non-essentials. Instead, they have turned to a tax on general sales which would be collected by merchants on all articles sold to all kinds of people.

If the general sales tax finally gets to the Senate, it is freely predicted that it will meet death there. In fact, belief is that the Senate will not adopt any form of sales tax, general or luxury. A poll of the members in that body is said to show 26 members opposed to all forms of sales tax. If so, then the sales tax is doomed. If the general sales tax had been passed in the House by a good majority, the force of that larger vote may have carried it over in the Senate, but, with a majority of only four, the Senate is expected to take the position that the small majority can be overcome and thus vote it down.

Several factors have entered into this apparent change in line-up and breaking away of the earlier supporters of the MacLean act. Governor Gardner appeared before a joint session of the two houses last week and gave strong opposition to the sales tax as being uneconomically sound, a tax on poverty and should not be imposed except as a last resort. His speech, said by many to have been the best he ever made, had sound logic and carried conviction to many of those formerly supporting the tax.

Representative A. D. MacLean, sponsor of the six months bill and general sales tax, characterized one part of the speech by saying that the Governor must be a "damned ass or thinks you are one." It has caused much comment and not a little criticism.

Opponents of the general sales tax argued that it is shifting the tax bur-

den from the big property owner to his employers. They pointed to the lining up of Mr. MacLean, supposedly representing the small landowners and home owners, with the Forsyth representatives, referring to it as not a legalized marriage, but a companionate marriage. The tax proposed is one per cent, which, it is pointed out, is five times larger than any general sales tax in any other state. The case of running across a state line to make purchases to avoid the tax, with the accompanying loss to merchants at home and thus to the community, was stressed.

Those favoring the tax said it was fair and just, that all receive aid from the government and all, rich and poor alike, should help support it. The \$3 a year average would work no hardship on the poor, they argued.

Great pressure is being brought to bear on the legislators from home to support the MacLean measure, but great pressure is also brought against the sales or luxury tax. It is not considered improbable by close observers that the efforts to raise about \$13,000,000 additional revenue will fail and the result will be increased equalizing fund. That fund of \$10,000,000, will really bring more relief than complete operation of the six months term, if the sales tax accompanies it, they argue.

The revenue bill will probably come to a vote in the House early in the week and may reach a vote in the Senate the latter part of the week. After it will come the Appropriation bill, which will consume several days. Some of the important measures, those proposed by Governor Gardner among them, are still to be considered in one or both houses. Reorganization of the Agricultural and Labor departments, establishing of personnel and purchasing departments, are not finished, although the last two have passed, lacking only minor concurrence. Two weeks more will probably be required before the General Assembly can adjourn.

New bills are dwindling, only about 50 having been introduced the past week, bringing total introductions to about 1665. Ratifications so far this session have reached 700, about 40 resolutions and 660 laws, public, public-local and private. In 1929 1104 bills, including 34 resolutions, were ratified. The number this year is decreased in one important respect. There have been few local bond and indebtedness validations. These are taken care of largely in general laws.

The most important bill enacted last week was for consolidation of the University of North Carolina, State College of Agriculture and Engineering and N. C. College for Women into one institution, to be the University of North Carolina. Only slight changes were made from the original bill, one providing larger representation from the institutions on the committee, another postponing actual consolidation until 1932.

To Hard Surface 50 To Moore Co. Line

Old Highway Board Retires by Law After Letting Number of Contracts

The old State Highway Commission has held its last meeting. It went out of office on Wednesday April 1st, after letting some final contracts.

The members of the commission whose terms expire under the new road law are: R. A. Doughton, chairman; F. C. Kugler, Washington; C. R. Wheatley, of Beaufort; W. A. McGirt, of Wilmington; John Sprunt Hill of Durham; J. Elwood Cox, of High Point; J. L. McNair, of Laurinburg; Alex S. Hanes of Winston-Salem; A. M. Kistler of Morganton and J. H. Stikeleather of Asheville.

Governor Gardner has given no intimation as to the personnel of the new commission of seven members. Several of the members of the present board are expected to remain, including Mr. McNeir, who Governor Gardner appointed to succeed the late W. C. Wilkinson of Charlotte.

Others mentioned as possible successors to themselves are C. R. Wheatley, and J. Elwood Cox of High Point. The new law requires one member of the minority party on the commission.

Among final projects let were the following of local interest:

No. 6670, Richmond county, \$138,201.40, by R. G. Lassiter and Company of Raleigh, for 8.68 miles of hard surface on Route 50 from the Moore county line to intersection with Route 204.

No. 6813, Scotland county, \$199,193.50, by Blythe Brothers, of Charlotte, for 16.61 miles on Route 241 from Hoke county line to Laurinburg.

New Congress District Created by Assembly

North Carolina Now Divided into Eleven Parts to Provide Extra Representative

North Carolina now has 11 Congressional districts, to take care of the extra representative allotted this state under the 1930 census reapportionment.

The redistricting bill which has passed the Senate, was approved by the House without debate. An amendment by Representative Crudup of Vance to number the new district the eleventh and for all other districts to retain their present numbers was withdrawn.

The new district—part of the old "imperial fifth"—will be composed of Guilford, Alamance, Orange and Durham counties.

The 11 districts follow:
First—Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Beaufort, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Perquimans, Pitt, Pasquotank, Hyde, Tyrrell, Martin and Washington.

Second—Bertie, Edgecombe, Halifax, Greene, Lenoir, Northampton, Warren and Wilson.

Third—Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Pender, Pamlico, Sampson and Wayne.

Fourth—Franklin, Johnston, Nash, Wake, Chatham, Randolph, and Vance.

Fifth—Caswell, Forsyth, Granville, Person, Rockingham, Stokes, and Surry.

Sixth—Alamance, Durham, Gliford and Orange.

Seventh—Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, New Hanover and Robeson.

Eighth—Anson, Davie, Davidson, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Union, Wilkes and Yedkin.

Ninth—Ashe, Alleghany, Alexander, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Iredell, Rowan, Stanley, and Watauga.

Tenth—Avery, Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Madison, Mecklenburg and Yancey.

Eleventh—Buncombe, Clay, Graham, Cherokee, Henderson, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford Swain and Transylvania.

MRS. ELDER AND MISS ABEL SLIGHTLY INJURED IN WRECK

Shortly before 12 o'clock Sunday morning a Packard sedan driven by Mrs. V. C. Taylor of Pinehurst passing up Connecticut Avenue in Southern Pines grazed an Essex passing through Ashe street and this car driven by Mrs. Robert Elder, a winter resident of Southern Pines, swerved into the curb and turned over. Mrs. Elder and Miss Alice Abel were carried from the badly wrecked car into the home of Mrs. Smiley where they received surgical attention. Alice having sustained numerous cuts and bruises. Both cars were proceeding at a slow speed, the accident being caused, it is understood by misunderstood signals.

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All of the natural advantages are brought out in Mr. Manning's plans, while his skill as a landscape engineer is given the widest scope. Maps will be ready in a short time to indicate the location, character and general features of the different pieces of ground that will be available for rural home sites on the Midland Farms tracts, but meanwhile interested persons can be shown the general plan of the neighborhood, with the probable main road sites, the basic scheme of the project, and the main possibilities of that neighborhood. It is wise to have a finger on something in this section when the details are concluded.

For information, or for a study of the situation on the ground confer with—

MIDLAND FARMS, Inc. Pinehurst, N. C.

or accredited Real Estate agents in Pinehurst or Southern Pines.

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