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At the CAPITAL

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

New Sales Tax Plan
 Comedy, tragedy, strategy and beauty relief were given in the General Assembly circles last week by the wet-dry forces, the "beauticians" and other groups, but the serious business continued to be centered in the Finance committee handling the revenue matters, and the Appropriations committee, both of which were battling all the week with troublesome matters.

The Finance committee had before it early in the week amendments coming from the McDonald-Lumpkin proposals to eliminate the sales tax, and the joint committees heard from many groups during the five days of hearings. Several corporations and other groups opposed the amendments on the ground that they would throttle industries and activities in the state.

Directors of the N. C. Merchants Association, led by Willard L. Dowell, secretary, endorsed the McDonald-Lumpkin plan "in purpose and principle," in resolutions unanimously adopted at a meeting here; before which Mr. McDonald, of Forsyth, leader of the plan, appeared. The proposal includes a license (sales) tax of one-fourth of one per cent on gross retail sales, in addition to franchise, occupational and other taxes.

Divergent views are expressed on progress of the McDonald-Lumpkin plan, some saying it is gaining in favor with the committee, others that it is losing ground. Just how much of it, if any, or all, will be adopted, is yet to be seen. Hope is expressed that the Revenue measure can be reported out of committee by the end of this week, but many doubt if that can be done.

Appropriation Measures
 The Appropriations committee, meanwhile, have almost finished their work and with occasional hearings of groups—a new one on \$25,000 for the N. C. Symphony Orchestra, now supported by federal funds—is marking time. It has approved appropriations of two or three million dollars more than the Budget Commission recommended, and may have to back-track. However, the Revenue and Appropriations groups will attempt to strike an estimated balance.

The Hill Bill
 Interesting aftermaths are developing from the hearing last week on the Senator Hill liquor control bill. Former Governor - Senator Cameron Morrison, as chief spokesman for the dries, jumped on Senator R. R. Reynolds, who defeated him, and the Young Democrats, who, he thinks, contributed to that defeat.

Later a joint resolution inviting Mr. Morrison to address a joint session of the assembly was proposed. The Senate adopted it with one "no" vote after questions of what he would talk about were answered by "national affairs." In the House his Young Democrat references were repeated, and amendments were proposed. One was to have him speak Saturday night, when the legislators were away. Another would include former Governors McLean and Gardner in the invitation. It was adopted, however, naming the time as 8:30 o'clock Wednesday night of this week.

The largest group yet to attend a hearing was that on the Hill liquor bill. Proponents were in the minority. A heated debate continued for more than two hours. The committee decided to wait until this week to take

it up. It will probably receive a favorable report, but the Senate vote on it will be close, that body being about 50-50 on it, apparently.

Out Go Slot Machines
 The law outlawing slot machines was enacted. A bill to postpone its becoming effective until May 31, when the tax year ends, instead of at once, was promptly tabled by the House. Commissioner of Revenue Maxwell cited that the licenses were issued and refunding it prohibited if the operation is later prohibited. Operators have no come-back. However, reports are that in many places the machines are still operating.

Drivers' License Law
 The automobile drivers' license law passed the House and went back to the Senate for concurrence in minor House amendments. The bill to vaccinate dogs against rabies will be considered Wednesday. The one to vaccinate six months old children against diphtheria is moving slowly. The optometrists' and photographers' bills are taking a step now and then; double liability on bank stock may be removed, city streets may be maintained by the State when they have State numbers, and Confederate pensions may be paid oftener than semi-annually, committees having taken favorable attitudes toward them.

171 Bills Passed
 In the 46 days since the session convened, up to Saturday about 675 bills had been introduced and 171 had been passed, including public, public-local and private laws and resolutions. The House had received 445, of which 111 had been passed, and the Senate 236, of which 60 had been passed. A spurt of new bills Friday caused lawmakers to wonder if they are really going to get to go home by April 1, which has been a favorite guess up to this time.

A dozen public bills and resolutions and 71 local and private laws have been enacted within the past two weeks. In this time public bills that have become law follow: \$3,000,000 for immediate road and bridge work; outlawing slot machines; allowing Historical Commission to receive gifts; providing time for docketing appeals from J. Ps.; reducing refund to applicants for law licenses who fail, allowing compensation and expense to law examining board members, councillors and disbarment committees; allowing Conservation and Development board to regulate fishing appliances and apparatus; validating real estate sales made by administrators; validating judgments under which sales of contingent remainders have been made; amend law on duties of solicitors in discharge of State witnesses; amendment to fix venue in actions on sales of real estate to make assets; amend law on domesticating foreign corporations.

D. A. R. MEETING POSTPONED
 On account of the State D. A. R. conference, the meeting of the Alfred Moore Chapter of the D. A. R. in this section has been postponed until a later date, announcement which will be made in next week's Pilot.

ABERDEEN NEGRO KILLED WHEN CAR LEAVES ROAD
 Ed Brown, negro, on the Will Roscy farm near Aberdeen, was killed about 4 o'clock last Sunday afternoon when his coupe leaped the embankment on the Pinebluff road one mile from Aberdeen.

Witness claimed Brown was coming towards Aberdeen descending the hill at a rapid rate of speed when apparently he lost control of his car. Tracks of the car showed he left the highway swerving towards the left and plunging down a 25-foot incline.

Brown was thrown a distance of about 50 feet and his head struck the top of a seven-foot sign. Apparently he died instantly. The coroner deemed no inquest necessary after viewing the wreck.


41 Percent Gain
Farmers Get Much More For 1934 Tobacco Than in '33, Despite Acreage Cut
 Crop values for 1934 placed North Carolina third in rank among the states. Tobacco, the state's major money crop, brought \$122,142,000, an increase of 41 percent over the 1933 value and 245 percent increase over 1932. This is significant in view of the 25 percent decrease in the acreage harvested last year.
 The flue-cured tobacco situation shows much improvement compared with a year ago. With July 1st stocks in the United States estimated at 770,000,000 pounds and foreign stocks of United States flue-cured estimated at 580,000,000 pounds, the total carry-over into the 1934-35 marketing season amounted to 1,350,000,000 pounds. The carry-over, combined with the 1934 flue-cured production of 564,520,000 pounds, makes the total supply 1,915,000,000 pounds which is about 4 percent below the supply a year earlier. The consumption of United States flue-cured tobacco during the year ending June 30, 1934 showed little change from the preceding year.
 The average price of producers' sales for the entire season to date was \$28.46, as compared with \$15.93 on this date last season. A total of 394,994,876 pounds of produce of producers' tobacco has been sold in the state. All markets are closed at this date.

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