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IMPORTANT ROAD MEASURES.

One Provides for Highway Commission to Handle Auto Tax. House Urged to Give Same Commission \$75,000 Annually to Be Spent in Road Building. Consideration on County Education Board Postponed a Week.

Raleigh, Jan. 24.—There were most important bills affecting road building in the State today in both houses of the Legislature. Senator Cameron, who is a member of the State Highway Commission, introduced a bill to provide that the State Highway Commission handle the automobile license tax fund so that the commission shall expend 70 per cent of the fund in the counties in which the licenses are taken out for road maintenance and that the remaining 30 per cent be used in the expense of collection with the residue, which will be considerable, to be expended in the weaker counties. The special purposes of the bill is to enable the State to get the Federal fund for road building which in process of multiplication will in a few years grow to as much as \$2,000,000.

In the House Representative Doughton introduced a bill to make the appropriation for the work of the Highway Commission \$75,000.

The Senate had its first show down as to the status of the fight over election or appointment of the county school boards and voted 23 to 22 to defer consideration of any of these bills until next Wednesday, awaiting action by the joint committee of education. Advocates of county election were trying to force immediate action on bills to give additional counties the right to elect and Senator Turner had just introduced what may be termed the administration bill to have the Legislature elect a central State commission to elect the county boards which would in turn select the county superintendents. He and other advocates of appointment of county boards, wanted all action deferred until the joint committee acts and they carried their point.

In the House the Hoyle bill to allow verdicts of guilty of capital offenses with recommendations of mercy, permitting the judge to impose life imprisonment instead of death in his discretion, came from the committee with favorable report, as did a bill to regulate artificially bleached flour.

The Senate committee on appropriations, Senator Holderness chairman, gave a lengthy hearing this afternoon on the Scales bill to reorganize the State Board of Charities into a State Board of Public Welfare and voted a favorable report unanimously leaving the matter of the appropriation open for adjustment later in the session, the plan being to appropriate \$20,000. The bill would add two members to the present board and provide a specialist to direct the enlarged work. The special work will be the improvement of living conditions in those fields not already covered by boards of education and health and others in conjunction with subsidiary county welfare organizations, and have a special oversight of the various State institutions, spending \$2,000,000 annually. The bill was advocated and explained by Senator Scales, President Graham, of the State University, and Mr. McAllister, of Greensboro.

The joint committee on health decided tonight to vote on the pending open formula proprietary medicine bill next Wednesday, there being understood to be a probability that the druggists and the State Board of Health and physicians will get together on a compromise bill by that time.—Charlotte Observer.

Provide Good Reading Matter for the Family.

Books and papers and magazines are the windows through which we look out upon the world and its progress. Five dollars a year for books and five dollars for papers and magazines for each farmer, twenty dollars for the two-horse farmer, and so on, is a safe rule and one by which we may well guide ourselves. Let's never forget that the child brought up with a love for good reading matter is most likely to develop into the educated, thinking, successful man or woman.—The Progressive Farmer.

Economy and cornmeal mush go together.—Baltimore Sun.

TO CONSIDER REVENUE BILL.

Ways and Means Committee Demands Approve Measure. It Provides Increased Inheritance Tax and New Excess Profits Tax and Authorizes \$100,000,000 Canal Bond Issue.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Democrats of the House Ways and Means committee late today approved a subcommittee's draft of the administration revenue bill, and a caucus of the House majority was called for Thursday night to consider the measure.

As it will go before the caucus the measure provides for an increased inheritance tax and a new tax on excess profits of corporations and partnerships; authorizes an issue of \$231,000,000 already authorized but not issued; and empowers the secretary of the treasury to put out certificates of indebtedness up to \$300,000,000 and to increase, if emergency demands, the income tax. By specific provision, the bill is entitled an act to raise revenue on account of army and navy.

The new excess profits tax would be at the rate of 8 per cent, and is designed to produce \$220,000,000 to \$226,000,000 annually. The bill makes a flat exemption of \$5,000 of annual net income and an additional exemption of eight per cent of the profits on the actual capital invested. Incomes derived solely from agriculture and solely from personal services like professional duties also would be exempt.

The inheritance tax would be raised by a scale beginning with an increase from one per cent to one and one-half per cent on the minimum taxable estate of \$50,000 and extending to a fifty per cent increase in the rate on all estates valued at \$5,000,000 and over. The inheritance tax increases are expected to produce \$22,000,000 annually.

Momentous Statement of John Dillon.

Dublin, Jan. 24.—John Dillon, nationalist member of parliament for East Mayo, in a statement to the Associated Press today, said:

"The speech of President Wilson is unquestionably the most remarkable and momentous uttered by the ruler of a great power for more than 100 years. There cannot be the slightest doubt in some definitions of the principles laid down that he is speaking for liberals and the friends of humanity in every nation. No peace can last, or ought to last, which does not recognize and accept the principle that governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed.

"Coming at such a crisis from the President of the United States, these words will strike deep into the hearts of all lovers of liberty throughout the world. The President quotes the case of Poland. Surely the case of Ireland is much stronger and more to the point. Reaction in Russia is but fierce pressure on the emperor to break his pledge to Poland; reaction in Great Britain has dominated the government so far as Ireland is concerned.

"The only criticism I feel called on to make of the President's great utterance is that the world is very far from being ripe for the great ideals it sets forth. The policy of the conference at Paris is absolutely consistent with any general league for the maintenance of the world's peace. Reaction is still strong in Europe and is inevitably growing stronger as the war goes on and people become more militarized. We must wait to see after this war is over to what extent democracies will be able to emancipate themselves from the yoke of militarism before it will be possible to judge whether any progress can be made in our time towards the realization of the great ideals of freedom and peace held up by President Wilson before the tortured peoples of Europe."

Sets Light on His Stomach.

A tired old darkey who had returned from 'possum hunting placed his game on the fire to cook and went off to sleep. A friend came in and ate the 'possum and smeared some of the gravy on the old darkey's lips and fingers. When he awoke he tasted the gravy on his lips and said: "Well, if I've done eat dat 'possum it sets lighter on my stomach and gives me less satisfaction than any 'possum I've ever eat."—State Journal.

BILL FACES ROUGH SAILING.

Druggists and Proprietary Interests Oppose; Medical Profession Support Secret Medicine Measure. Special Committee to Probe Alleged Deplorable Conditions Existing on State Farm.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 23.—The joint committee on health gave the opening hearing this afternoon on the Scales bill for requiring proprietary medicines to show medicinal contents on the label and to create a State inspector for drugs and levy a license tax. The bill evidently will have rough sailing, with the State Board of Health and the medical profession supporting it and the druggists and the proprietary medicine interests lined up against it.

Senator Scales explained his bill to the committee and pleaded earnestly for it, insisting that this inspection and publicity of contents should be required as a protection to the people.

Dr. W. S. Rankin, secretary of the Board of Health, spoke at considerable length, insisting that it is a fight to the death for the "secret remedy" evil.

Senator Jones, of Buncombe, spoke in the interest of the position assumed by the druggists. He charged that the bill was largely in the interest of the physicians rather than for the protection of the people.

H. B. Thompson, as counsel for the National Proprietary Association, spoke in opposition, insisting that the bill bears no real relation to health, in that to have the contents on the label would mean nothing to the average user, and that the Federal laws already afford every needed protection.

Dr. Cyrus Thompson, member of the State Board of Health, made a stirring speech for the bill, backing up the arguments presented by Dr. Rankin in his presentation of the necessity for such legislation.

The committee announced that the public hearings are closed and that the committee will meet later to vote on favorable or unfavorable report.

The joint committee on penal institutions heard this afternoon a remarkable series of charges and comments on the conditions at the State Farm and arraignment of the management of convicts there, by Roy Trawick, of Union County, presented through Representative Beasley of Union. It was to the general effect that the convict quarters are unfit for human habitation, that the white prisoners are made to use a water-pail in common with negroes, eat in the same room, and that the supervisors and guards are cruel and that the whole atmosphere of the place hardens the convicts and intensifies their hatred of society, making them worse than when they were sent to the farm.

Trawick is a young white man who became involved in some insurance high financing in Union County with others and received a penitentiary sentence. Forgery was among the charges involved in the conviction and sentence. He was pardoned by Governor Craig just before Christmas.

Chairman Turner, Senator Jones and others commented on the representation of conditions, and all agreed that investigation should be made. A special committee was appointed to investigate and report, this being Senators Brenizer and Holderness, Representatives Grier, Beasley and Renfrow, of Mecklenburg.—W. J. Martin, in Wilmington Star.

A Fine Example of Thrift.

Fransyskak Sodlowska, a young Polish-speaking woman, earning \$13 a week in the mill of the Manhasset Manufacturing Company, Pittman, has just completed a \$5,000 four-tenement house not far from the mill in which she works.

The young woman does not speak English. She has seen the possibility of renting tenements in Putnam, where tenements are scarce. She lived frugally, saved every penny she could and as soon as she had \$1,000 to her credit began her building. To complete the structure she sought assistance from a building and loan association, which loaned her \$4,000.

Miss Sodlowska has tenants already in her building.—Worcester Telegram.

Small portable electric generating plants are used to supply electric lights to the German troops in the trenches.

THE CITIZEN'S MASS MEETING.

Good Attendance at Court House Tuesday Night to Hear the Street Paving Matter Discussed by Mr. Gilbert C. White. Some Estimates of Probable Cost Given. Kind of Paving Recommended.

The Mass Meeting of the citizens of the town was held in the Court House Tuesday night to consider the paving proposition. Quite a good crowd of the men of the town were present.

Hon. J. W. Stephenson, Mayor of Smithfield, in calling the meeting to order, said that Smithfield was one of the oldest towns in the State; that if the people who settled Smithfield were here tonight they would be on the river bank eating supper by lightwood knot fire and drinking spring water. Instead, those people have passed away—peace to their ashes—and a more progressive spirited set of men are filling their places and tonight we have river water coursing through our homes and ate our supper by electric lights.

The Mayor then presented Mr. Gilbert C. White, of Durham, as principal speaker of the evening.

Mr. Gilbert C. White, consulting Engineer for Durham, in rising to address the meeting, said: "Six years ago I was here to address the people of your town on the question of lighting your town with electricity and putting in a water and sewage system. I rather hesitated in presenting the matter—for there were more people in the audience who were opposed to this than there are here tonight who are opposed to paving your streets, as I can judge from the discussions I've heard. I knew Neuse river water could be made fit for use, but I doubted my ability to convince the people of Smithfield of this fact."

Mr. White called attention to Chapter 56 of Public Laws of 1915 providing methods for improving streets, and he stated that Kinston was the first town in the State to take advantage of the provisions of this Act and has spent \$600,000 in street paving. Durham, Raleigh, Burlington, Wilson, Rocky Mount, Dunn and other towns have taken up the matter and built miles of streets.

Mr. White entered into general discussion of different kinds of pavement, dwelling at length on sheet asphalt for street paving, arguing that sheet asphalt is the best pavement and most satisfactory in every respect; that Vermont Avenue in Washington, paved with sheet asphalt in 1878, is still in good condition; that Fifth Avenue in New York is paved with sheet asphalt; that pavement is being used in Dunn, N. C. They started out in Dunn to pave four blocks. They now have contracted for \$150,000 of pavement. Two or three years ago we had a price of \$1.53 per square yard for sheet asphalt. In Kinston last year we had a price of \$1.65 per square yard. At Dunn we pay \$1.39 per square yard. Prices are up now and I use \$1.50 per square yard as unit for my discussion. From the question of prevention of dust alone, pavement is worth the cost. The following figures were then given:

On a 37-foot street, 25 foot lot would be \$51.25, or \$5.12 per year for 10 years.

On a 50-foot lot \$102.50, or \$10.25 per year.

On a 60-foot street, cost for 25-foot lot would be \$83.00 for each third, or one-third to property owner on each side and one-third to town.

On a 24-foot street 100-foot lot, \$167.00 and \$85.50 for 50-foot lot. This includes granite curb.

This to be divided into 10-year payments.

There is much interest here in the street paving proposition. A committee had already been appointed by the Mayor to ascertain what steps are to be taken to get the matter in the proper shape to be brought before the Town Commissioners at an early date. The plan as outlined at the meeting Tuesday night is to proceed under a law passed by the Legislature of 1915. This plan provides that where a majority of the owners of property abutting on the streets of a certain district may petition the town authorities and ask them to pave streets of the district, taxing said property owners with one-third cost on each side of street with the town paying the cost of paving the remaining third, that the town authorities may grant the petition. To do this the town would have to issue bonds and

MORE WHISKEY IS CONSUMED.

Greatest Amount Drunk the Past Year by Americans Than During Any Year Since 1909, So Tax Returns Show. Consumption of Cigarettes About 40 Per Cent Over 1915.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The amount of whiskey consumed by the American people in 1916 apparently was greater than in any previous year since 1909, according to tax returns to the treasury department, compiled today, and the amount of revenue collected by the government on whiskey, beer and cigarettes during the year was the greatest on record.

While returns show that the tendency toward prohibition has not lowered the government's revenue from whiskey, officials believe that the portion of the increase—nearly \$24,000,000 more than in 1915—is attributable to the fact the government is at present collecting taxes on all the whiskey produced in the country, whereas, because of extensive frauds, such was not the case a few years ago.

Consumption of cigarettes in 1916 reached the highest market ever recorded. The tremendous increase, more than 40 per cent over 1915, is attributed to two main causes: Increased prosperity of the country and growth of the cigarette habit among women. Many millions of cigarettes made for feminine users were produced in this country and imported during the past year, whereas a few years ago production and importation of such cigarettes were negligible by comparison.

The number of paper-wrappers cigarettes upon which the government levied a tax during the year reached the grand total of 25,232,960,928, as compared with 17,939,234,208 in 1915. These figures cover only manufactured paper-wrapped cigarettes and do not include tobacco used by smokers who roll their own cigarettes.

Records show that the government collected a tax of \$1.10 per gallon on 146,355,146 gallons of whiskey during the year, a total of \$160,990,660, as compared with 124,549,210 gallons and a tax yield of \$137,004,131 in 1915. Beer consumption, according to the records, was 61,145,583 barrels, or 1,895,513,073 gallons, in 1916, as against 57,805,869 barrels, or 1,791,981,939 gallons, the previous year. The tax yield on beer during 1916 was \$91,718,375; in 1915, \$86,708,803.

Total revenue on beer and whiskey during 1916 was \$252,708,935 as compared with \$223,712,934 in 1915. Cigarettes yielded internal revenue to the amount of \$31,541,200 last year and \$22,424,042 the year before, making the total revenue to the government from these three sources \$284,250,235 in 1916 and \$246,136,976 in 1915, an increase last year of \$38,113,259.

Beer consumption, although greater last year than in 1915, fell nearly 5,000,000 barrels below the high level of 66,000,000 barrels in 1914, and was exceeded by the consumption of beer in 1911, 1912 and 1913. The nearest approach since 1909 to last year's consumption of whiskey was in 1913 when consumption reached a total of approximately 143,000,000 barrels.

Monthly comparison of records disclosed that the American people apparently drink nearly 80 per cent more whiskey in November and December than in midsummer and 50 per cent more beer in summer than in winter. Wide fluctuations in the number of cigarettes consumed from month to month also are disclosed, the minimum, in April, being 45 per cent below the maximum, in August.

Box Party.

There will be a box party at the Massey school house district No. 11, Boon Hill township, near J. T. Massey's, Friday night, February 2, 1917. Girls, bring baskets; boys, come with a purse filled with silver and green backs.

(Miss) PAULINE GARDNER, Teacher.

do the work, taxing the property and collecting the amount assessed against the owners during a certain period of time in equal annual installments, just as other taxes are collected. Before such a course can be taken there must be a majority of the lineal feet abutting the streets in question, as well as a majority of the property owners, in favor of the proposition.

CZAR'S FORCES WIN AND LOSE.

Russia's Men Badly Beaten by Germans but Win Success Over Bulgarians. Austrians Storm Italian Position. Take Trench on Gorizia Front and Capture Prisoners.

Wednesday's war summary is thus given in yesterday's Columbia State:

Victories of considerable proportions have been achieved by the Germans over the Russians and by the Russians over the Bulgarians.

The German success occurred in the region of Riga, where in violent fighting they drove back the Russians for a distance of a mile and a half between the Tirul swamps and the Aa river and east of the village of Kalnzen. Russians to the number of 1,500 were made prisoners during the fight.

A night surprise attack gave the Russians the victory over the Bulgarians. The scene of this fight was the southern arm of the Danube estuary near Tutcha, where the Bulgarians had made an advance Tuesday with Bessarabia their object. While Berlin only mentions the abandonment of the position Petrograd says the Bulgarian force, a battalion strong, was destroyed except five officers and 332 men, who were made prisoner.

Bombardments and operations by raiding parties continue to feature the fighting on the other fronts, although in the Austro-Italian theatre the Austrians, in the vicinity of Gorizia, in an attack have captured an Italian trench, made prisoner 137 men and captured three machine guns.

Considerable aerial activity has been in progress on the front in France in which both sides lost machines in fights in the air.

President Wilson's address in the senate has received its first official notice from Andrew Bonar Law, the British chancellor of the exchequer. The chancellor, in a speech, said the president's peace aims were shared by the entente allies, but that in view of Germany's manner of conducting the war and the fact that neutral nations had failed to protest against her methods, other steps than those outlined by the president were necessary to obtain peace.

An unofficial dispatch from Berlin says the American ambassador to Germany has conferred with the imperial chancellor respecting the president's address and that later the ambassador at the "urgent request of the German government" sent a long wireless dispatch to Washington.

PRODUCTION OF QUICK SILVER.

Large Increases in Quantity and Value for the Year 1916.

The domestic output of quicksilver in 1916, according to preliminary figures collected from the individual producers by H. D. McCaskey, of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, was 28,942 flasks of 75 pounds each, valued at the average domestic price for the year at San Francisco (estimated at \$125.90 a flask), at \$3,643,800. This was the greatest output in quantity since 1905 and not only the greatest in value since 1875 but, except the value of \$4,228,538 for that year, was the greatest in the history of the domestic industry, dating back to 1850. Compared with the Survey's final figures of output for 1915, which gave a production of 21,033 flasks, valued at \$1,826,912, the preliminary figures for 1916 show an increase of 7,909 flasks, or 38 per cent, in quantity and of \$1,826,888, or 99 per cent, in value.

The productive States, named in order of rank, were California, Texas, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona, all of which increased their output except Nevada, although Arizona has produced only a nominal quantity to date and Washington had produced none prior to 1916.

Practical Farmer in Durham County.

Miss Lillian Fuller, a practical woman agriculturist of Durham County, and daughter of Frank L. Fuller, a former chief counsel of the American Tobacco Company of New York City, is among the members of Durham County's agricultural board. Miss Fuller is conducting a scientific farm three miles out from Durham, near Bragtown. She was trained at Cornell University and by her own volition adopted diversified farming as her vocation.—State Journal.