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SATURDAY IN LEGISLATURE.

Revenue Bill Has Passed Both Houses. Special Tax Placed on Concerns That Use Coupons and Trading Checks. Bill Introduced by Barnes and Sanders Relative to Pay of Johnston County Commissioners.

We are giving the gist of the work of the Legislature for the Saturday session as reported by the regular correspondent of the Wilmington Star and published in that paper Sunday.

Except for concurrence on the part of the House in some very minor amendments made to it by the Senate, the revenue bill that is to be the basis of the revenue of the State for the next two years, is now ready for enrollment for ratification. The final reading was given in the Senate in the afternoon.

The amendment of most interest was the injection of a clause to fix a privilege tax on concerns that use coupons and trading stamps, the bill even applying to those merchants who use coupon checks on their cash registers. It will exact a tax of \$5 in towns of 2,500 inhabitants and an additional \$5 for every 1,000 inhabitants in addition. This would make the tax on a merchant in Raleigh, for instance, something like \$100.

In the House there was favorable report for the Grier bill to regulate the hours of work for women and minors in mercantile and other establishments, including laundries and hotels and cafes. It is a bill that is understood the Merchants' Association of the State has lined up against. It would, among other things, prohibit women and girls from working except the hours of 6 A. M. and 6 P. M.

The Senate set the House bill for the inspection of steam boilers as a special order for Monday morning. It was introduced by Speaker Murphy in the House and passed that body by a safe majority. The office of boiler inspector will be created under the supervision of the Department of Labor.

New bills were introduced in the House as follows:

Barnes and Sanders—Fix the pay of Johnston County Commissioners.

Noland—Construct the Asheville-Murphy Scenic Highway.

Scott, of Pender—Regulate the counting of ballots in primaries and elections.

Breece (by request)—Provide for uniform weighing and grading of cotton; Regulate the licenses for cotton seed buyers; Regulate the habits and speed of fur bearing animals of Cumberland County.

Stubbs—Provide for special emergency judges.

Holding—Provide for the adoption of high school text books in Carolina.

Beasley—Abolish corporal punishment of prisoners.

Bills passed final reading as follows:

Amend the act regulating the process of levying taxes for bonds; Bonds for Dunn; Amend the law as to the work of the Geological Survey; Regulate the duties of students who are training in medical and surgical institutions. This bill was by Representative Breece and bears especially on training nurses in hospitals. He had investigated conditions in 52 hospitals in the State and found a vast amount of overwork with work hours ranging from 8 to 22.

He had found that the hospitals at Wilmington have the best record for humane regulations as to the work imposed on the nurses.

His bill limits the regular hours of service to 12 and, in special cases, would permit 16 hours work with half that much time for sleep, subject to call. The bill passed without opposition.

The Speaker laid before the House the Page bill for Moore County to elect its county board of education.

Mr. Page moved to table as other legislation had superseded this.

Mr. Doughton called up the similar bills for Catawba, Caswell, Lee, Union and Vance Counties and had them all tabled at the same time.

The bill passed, without opposition, to abolish the State Board of Charities and create in its stead the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, with very much enlarged powers and scope of work.

Men have a right to bet if they choose, but they should choose right before they make the bet.

FOR FARM LOAN ASSOCIATION.

Let Us Take Advantage of Our New Opportunity. Do You Realize the Benefits of the Rural Credit System?

(By Thos. H. Atkinson.)

Every farmer in Johnston County, and for that matter in all our State, should certainly recognize and take advantage of the great opportunities and benefits of the new Rural Credits Law which the present Administration has enacted for the farmers of the country. Let us co-operate in this and reap the big advantages it will give us. Whether a farmer individually feels that he particularly needs it or not, he should have the good home-community spirit of helpfulness, and it is really up to each one of us to co-operate in this great system, which on such favorable terms places money at the disposal of farmers for the better carrying out of farm enterprises. (See article in Saturday Evening Post, by G. Herbert Quick, January 27, 1917.)

Under the terms of the Rural Credits Act money can be secured on long time, low interest, and small payments. To enable us to get this advantage it is necessary for each community to organize an "association." This does not involve any obligation or expense; it is simply the first step, so that if you or your neighbors want to take advantage of this you are in shape to do so. There are twelve Rural Credit banks located at different points throughout the country. It takes ten or more men to form one of the Associations above referred to, and each Association of this kind deals with the Rural Credit bank for its territory. The one for our section and county is located at Columbia, S. C. You can secure further details in regard to the system by addressing the undersigned, Selma, N. C., R. F. D. No. 1, or Farm Loan Commission, Washington, D. C.

Now, having been offered this wonderful opportunity, we certainly ought to show our appreciation to the Administration by organizing an Association in Oneals township; for in this way we can at any rate help our neighbors, and any one of us may want to borrow sometime. Some of the townships in Johnston County have already organized, and in most of the States the farmers are organizing rapidly.

By taking advantage of this "easy money" it becomes possible for every man with ability to buy land; or, if he already has land, he can improve it and work it to its full capacity, because this gives him ready cash to buy stock and fence implements, to build houses, pay off old mortgages, or buy more land.

Furthermore, it behooves the business man and every good citizen to advocate the formation of these Associations of farmers, and to spread the good news of this Rural Credits system to those farmers who may not be entirely familiar with it or alive to its benefits—for it has a rebounding influence in every line of business. It will stimulate the rural communities to a considerable degree, and make it possible for them to get bigger profits; and at the same time the merchant, the lawyer, and everybody else prospers through the general prosperity that is brought to the rural population. And so every one, in town or country, should be a "booster" for this good proposition, and give counsel to the farmers along the right line to get ready to take advantage of this great opportunity.

If one of these Associations is once organized, whether the members should actually borrow any money or not, they will reap an accumulative benefit by simply being an organization recognized by the Government. They will be put in touch with the Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural College, and receive valuable bulletins on diversified farming, better methods of making farm products, etc. The Association will thus be a constant source of information and help to its members. It will enable the Government to reach the people with reports on all the good things they have discovered through the diligent work of their trained men for many years past.

And the Association not only gives the benefit of all this without any expense, but it brings the men of the township together in social intercourse. There should be at least one of these Associations in every town-

FINAL INAUGURATION PLANS.

President Will Take Oath Privately on Sunday. Vice President Will Be Formally Inaugurated Next. Opinion of Chief Justice Marshall Cited.

Details of the inaugural plans which have been indefinite because March 4th falls on Sunday, began clearing up Friday with the official announcement that President Wilson had called the customary special session of the new Senate March 5. A plan to abandon it had been considered. The session will include the usual ceremonies of inaugurating the Vice President.

It seems to have been decided that President Wilson will take an oath of office privately in the White House March 4th, but it has not been announced whether he will take it again at the public ceremony March 5th.

It is being suggested that the President make the public ceremony merely the occasion for delivering his inaugural address. It is certain that Vice President Marshall will take his oath in the formal way at the special Senate session March 5, but it has not been determined whether he will take it before.

The State Department ruled that if the President decided not to take the oath until Monday, there would be no interim period in which the country would be without a President, and published an opinion by Chief Justice Marshall in 1821 to cover a similar situation which confronted President Monroe.

The controversy over what part women shall take in the ceremonies shows signs of quieting. Mrs. James H. Boggs, of the Woman's Wilson's Union, who announced Friday night, "the withdrawal of all women" from the inaugural parade because of a difficulty with Chairman Harper, of the inaugural committee, over a State float demonstration, said she had no further statement to make, and Mr. Harper indicated that he considered the incident closed. The chairman said he had assurances that many women's organizations would be in line.

WHEAT REVERSES ITS COURSE.

Main Trend of Opinions Upward. Though Early Gains Are Not Fully Held.

Instead of continuing their downward course, as some people expected, the wheat options displayed rallying tendencies and ended the week higher on the average. Sentiment among speculative interests was less pessimistic at the outset and scarcity of offerings was an early feature, with May shorts covering quite actively. This delivery at Chicago crossed \$1.80 and widened the difference in comparison with the later positions, which showed some hesitancy. Yet July went above \$1.52½ and September to \$1.40½, a more optimistic view of the shipping situation and reports of improved export bids largely explaining the betterment in the markets. Not all of the gain was held, however, abatement of demand and scattered liquidation prior to the holiday causing a reactionary tendency. Obstacles in overseas transportation still act as a check on export business, and it is clear that the trade continues nervous regarding international possibilities. Meanwhile, it is observed that receipts at western points run much below last year's, and the movement thus far this season is over 100,000,000 bushels smaller. Latest visible supply figures disclosed a reduction of about 1,000,000 bushels, but this was less than half the decrease in the same period of 1916.—Dun's Review.

The glass-sand production of the United States for the last fiscal year amounted to 1,884,044 tons, with a value of \$1,606,640.

ship, and the men of Oneals township could not do better than to make a move in this direction at once—and the sooner the better. Those who are interested—as we trust many are—will find blanks at Atkinson's Mill for them to sign and thus show their intention to take advantage of this opportunity. The blanks have been left at the Mill because it is a community interest and easily accessible to any one in the township. We ought to get enough signers very soon to put us where we can form our Association. Selma, R. F. D. No. 1.

SELMA HAS AWFUL TRAGEDY.

Everett Eason Shot Harry Cook Saturday Night. Cook Died Early Sunday Morning in a Wilson Hospital. Eason Gave Himself Up and Is Now in Smithfield Jail.

On Saturday night about 7:30 o'clock, in Selma, on a street corner near the Central Telephone Office, Everett Eason shot and killed Harry Cook, a son of James H. Cook. The shooting was done with a new Winchester shot gun. The whole load took effect in his right thigh and severed some of the main arteries of the leg. Physicians did what they could for him and later sent him to the Wilson Sanatorium where he died Sunday morning at three o'clock. Eason surrendered himself and was brought to Smithfield and placed in jail. Cook was a married man only nineteen years old and lived on the farm of Mr. N. E. Ward.

Another Account.

Our Selma correspondent sends us the following account of the tragic affair, after narrating some of the work of Old Booze in Selma that day:

The trouble began about three o'clock, when, in a fist fight between two young men, there was a black eye and a busted nose, besides various other bruises. Then about five o'clock another fight in which bruises were galore.

Then about 7:30, one white man, Everett Eason, shot Harry Cook, also white. No one seems to know the cause of the shooting. Eason and Cook were standing on the northwest corner of Railroad and Raiford streets where they met, Cook coming from a visit to his wife in Smithfield, where she was visiting a sister. Eason, going to his home at the Ethel Cotton Mills, with a new automatic single barrel gun in his hand. No one can tell what their conversation was about. It is said that a colored man passed them a few minutes before the gun fired, with a small sack on his shoulder, when Eason cursed him. The colored man made no reply. Dr. Noble, who was passing about thirty feet from them, turned to look at them just as the gun fired and saw the flash, and heard Cook say "You have shot me," then saw Cook fall, saw some one help him up, when he started north calling for a doctor. Dr. Noble followed him and when he fell saw at once that he was badly hurt. He then put his hand into the wound catching the artery, and holding it, stopped the flow of blood. Dr. Mayerberg and Dr. Vick were at his side in a few minutes, Dr. Mayerberg cutting his clothes and Dr. Vick going for a tourniquette. Dr. Noble held the artery till the tourniquette could be applied. The man was then taken to Dr. Noble's office where it was decided to take him to Wilson for treatment as there was no place to treat him in Selma. Dr. Noble and a Mr. Moore went with him. When he arrived in Wilson he was taken to the Moore-Herring Hospital where it was found that the femoral artery and vein were shot in two. After ligating the artery and vein he was well cared for, but the end came about 2:30 Sunday morning. The body was brought to Selma Sunday on No. 89 and taken to the country for burial.

This injury shows the need for a hospital here. We do not know that there would have been any other result, but he would have had attention at least two and a half hours earlier. There was one and a half inches of the femoral artery shot away, and but for the prompt action of the doctors in stopping the blood, Mr. Cook would not have lived two minutes from the time he was shot.

Mr. Harry Cook is a son of Mr. James Cook, and Mr. Everett Eason a son of Mr. Lloyd Eason. After shooting Mr. Cook, Eason ran off, but soon returned, giving up the gun to the parties who sold it to him and giving himself up to Mayor R. E. Richardson, who after a preliminary examination, sent Mr. Eason to Smithfield jail where he is now. A preliminary hearing will be had on Wednesday, February 28, 1917.

Death in Oneals.

Mrs. Nettie Moore, widow of Mr. Uriah Moore, and a daughter of Mr. H. F. Glover, died at her home in Oneals township last Thursday. She leaves seven children.

Avoid temptation, through fear you may not withstand it.

LOST IN SERIES OF TORNADOES.

Much Damage Done in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. Numerous Cabins and Small Dwellings Are Swept Away.

Seven persons are reported killed and more than a hundred injured in a series of tornadoes that swept portions of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi Friday.

The most serious loss of life occurred in middle Alabama, where eleven of the deaths occurred. Hollins, Midway, Stewartsville and Whitsett were swept, seven persons being killed and more than a hundred injured in the Hollins-Midway-Stewartsville section, while at Whitsett four negroes were killed in the destruction of their cabins. In addition much timber was blown down and several residences were damaged.

Two negroes were killed at Lithonia, Ga., when the twisting wind struck that place and at least sixty small dwellings were demolished.

Six children were injured in a storm at Georgetown, Miss., two of them seriously, when a school building was blown down.

Small tornadoes also struck near Wetumpka, Ala., and Hartsboro, Ala., causing minor property damage.

COTTON AT HIGHER LEVELS.

Advances Outnumber and Outrange Declines. Aggressive Speculation Still Absent.

Not all of the cotton options duplicated the high levels of the previous week, but the list ended about 20 points net higher on this crop and 30 points on the next. Again, the upward movement was most conspicuous at the outset, when prices advanced \$2 a bale on the average in sympathy with Liverpool's rise, and subsequent gains carried May to 16.44 cents, July to 16.50 cents and October to 16.09 cents, while middling uplands once more touched 16.30 cents. Scarcity of contracts, both here and across the Atlantic, was an early feature and the market was easily lifted, with offerings light and some shorts covering. Holders were encouraged by bullish spot advices from the South, and the strength of the local situation was emphasized by a demand for the actual staple from New England spinners. Yet there were frequent periods of reaction when profits were taken, and speculators still seem wary of following the long side aggressively while foreign uncertainties continue. Some interests enthused because the week's export movement proved larger than expected, but others point out that much of the cotton represents purchases made some time ago and does not indicate the volume of current foreign buying.

It is still a little early for new crop prospects to be a prominent market influence, yet many people are following weather conditions in the South with close attention. Thus far, the reports have not made particularly cheerful reading, except for some speculators, as there are complaints of insufficient moisture in Texas and too much of it elsewhere, with farm work hindered. If a handicap in some ways, however, wet weather has its compensations, for it tends to put the soil in good shape to withstand possible drought in mid-summer, and conservative men do not begin to calculate the probable size of a crop until some time after it is planted.—Dun's Review.

Submarines Torpedo Eleven Vessels.

Including the seven Dutch vessels torpedoed in the English Channel by German U-boats, 11 steamers are known to have felt the frightfulness of the German under-sea warfare, from Saturday's reports. At least four British vessels were sunk, while three of the Dutch vessels torpedoed were sunk and the others badly disabled.

The tonnage of the Dutch vessels destroyed approximated 40,000, while the British were given as totalling 24,292 tons. This brings the tonnage since February 1 up to 354,445, and the number of vessels destroyed has now reached 163, counting only three Dutch vessels sunk of the seven torpedoed.

This is the second largest day's work of destruction accomplished by the Teutonic submarines since the under-sea campaign was renewed.

Have order, system, regularity, liberality and promptness.

FRIDAY TOTALLED 13 SHIPS.

Including French Steamer Athos, the Aggregate Tonnage as Reported Was 25,456. Review of the War News.

German submarines continue to sink entente ships. The total tonnage sunk as reported Friday was 25,456. This includes the French steamer Athos, of 12,000 tons, which was sent to the bottom in the Mediterranean while carrying troops to France and under guard of warships. One American, Robert A. Haden, a missionary in China, lost his life in the torpedoing of the Athos, from which 1,450 persons were saved. All the 13 vessels reported sunk were of entente registry, except one Norwegian and several of unestablished identity.

There has been no activity of importance on the battlefields of Europe. In the Somme and Ancre sectors, additional small gains of ground by British troops are recorded by London. The repulse of German raids in the vicinity of Armentieres also is reported. Artillery bombardments continue as usual along the remainder of the western front.

In Galicia the Germans and Russians have been engaged in isolated fighting at Zlochoff. Berlin records the destruction of four mine shafts and the capture of 250 prisoners. Petrograd says the attackers were driven back to their positions after breaking through the Russian lines.

A battle for the possession of Sannaiyat, northeast of Kut-el-Amara on the Tigris, is in progress. British troops were successful in the opening engagement, London reports, but fighting is being hampered by high water in the Tigris.

PROPOSES FORCE OF 4,000,000.

Army General Staff Universal Military Service Bill is Submitted to House. Wide Publicity Suggested.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The army general staff universal military service bill was transmitted to the House military committee today by Secretary Baker without a definite expression by the administration, either on the general subject or the specific proposal.

The secretary suggested that wide publicity be given the staff plan "to the end that both Congress and the War Department can, in any subsequent consideration given to the subject, have the benefit of an enlightened, thoughtful public opinion upon the needs and wishes of the country."

In round numbers, the staff plan would supply a trained force of 4,000,000 men, with one year of intensive military instruction. It is estimated by the War College that approximately 500,000 boys in their nineteenth year would be available for training annually.

They would, under the plan, be liable to call to the colors until 32 years of age and then would pass into the unorganized reserve until 45 years of age.

The bill's purpose is to constitute a first reserve of 1,500,000, ready to respond instantly to a call to arms. A second reserve of equal size, but only partially equipped, would require some time to take the field. Eventually, there would be 1,000,000 additional men ready to fill in gaps at the front.

In addition, there would be a regular army of 24,000 officers and 285,886 enlisted men. Of these 97,000 would form the overseas forces and 29,000 the frontier forces, the remainder composing the permanent training personnel, which could take care of the instruction of reserve recruits annually. If the proportion of available men for training was greater than estimated, the permanent training force would have to be proportionately increased.

In Sunday School 66 Years.

If there are still any who believe the old saw that "the good die young," we invite their special attention to Hon. William M. Paxton of Platte, Missouri, who holds the world's record for Sunday-school attendance. For sixty-six years Mr. Paxton has not missed a Sunday, his total being, according to our correspondent, 3444 consecutive appearances. Those readers who would rather die young than attend Sunday school 3444 times are welcome to their choice: every man to his taste.—Every Week.