

The Smithfield Herald

VOLUME 38.

THE SMITHFIELD HERALD FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1919

Number 15.

HOUSE PASSES EDUCATION BILL

Representative Bryant, of Durham, Eloquent Champions Measure on Floor—Not Single Vote Against it Durham Member is Opposed to Popular Election Boards of Education.

(News and Observer, 20th.)
Victor Bryant's eloquent championship of the department bill to provide a six months' school term in North Carolina sent that measure through the House yesterday afternoon without a negative vote, and right afterwards the House passed the bill to guarantee a uniform raise in salary for the school teachers.

His speech took rank with that State Superintendent Brooks made before the committee that considered the bill, and it was about the most understandable thing yet said in explanation of the measure. When he finished, Hiett Sinclair Williams lauded the effort and announced that he would vote for the bill in the interest of the children of North Carolina.

Seven different amendments were added to the bill before it passed, only one of which made material change in original draft. This is a section taken bodily from the Coon bill. Mr. Bryant explained, and requires the county to make its levy before obtaining State aid and provides against State aid until the State Tax Commission certifies that the county property is fairly and equitably valued.

The Principle of Education.

The Brooks-Bryant bill, as it is known, came up on second reading during the afternoon session, a number of local measures passing ahead of it.

Mr. Bryant introduced it. He gave the House the figures showing the cost of operating the public schools of North Carolina for six months, \$5,800,000. The State can run them three months with the 32-cent levy which the revenue bill will carry. The county must levy enough to run them the other three months within a tax of thirty-five cents on the \$100. The county levy, in some cases, will be raised from what it is now and the weaker counties will enjoy a six months school by reason of the increase.

The principle of education, insisted the Durham man, is State-wide and the neglect of the country district would mean to deprive North Carolina of one of its most valuable assets—the brains and strength of manhood in weaker counties.

Guarantees Equitable Valuation.

No portion of the 32-cent levy, which goes into a special school fund, is to be turned over to any county until that county makes its own levy to provide for three months of the six months' school term. And no State aid is to be given any county until that county, by the certificate of the State Tax Commission, shows that its property has gone on the tax books at a fair and equitable valuation. Machinery for determining "fair and equitable" valuation, Mr. Bryant explained, would be written into the machinery act before the General Assembly adjourned. He referred to undervaluation in the counties that boast of wealth as well as those that the State elects to call pauper.

Mr. Bryant answered the charges made by advocates of the Coon bill before the committee as to centralization of power and bringing too much money to Raleigh. He didn't attribute serious consideration on the part of the House to either; however, there is nothing in the departmental bill that adds any concentration of power to that the State Superintendent already has. State Treasurer Lacy was willing to, and does, distribute the State's revenue among the different banking institutions of the State in which he can repose sufficient confidence. Eighty banks now handle the State's account.

Gets on Record Early.

Absolving the bill under discussion from any relation with the bill to provide for the election of boards of education by the people, Mr. Bryant went on record as opposed to the Warren bill in the Senate. Such a course seemed to him to mean the substitution of a State-wide policy for a county policy. He thought the counties that elected their boards now ought to be stripped of the privilege.

Arguing that every county should be on the same footing, he favored minority representation on the board of education where the voting strength of the party justified. Conscription of good men by the State would keep the schools out of politics and benefit a State-wide administration. In fact, he insisted, politics ought to be removed all the way down from the election of trustees of the larger institutions to township committees.

Mr. Williams, minority leader, followed Mr. Bryant. He wouldn't venture so far as to approve the departmental bill in detail; neither did he care to match his ability to devise a plan to provide for a six months' school term against that of Dr. Brooks. It had been reported favorably and he intended to vote for it and when it became a law, he would be thankful in behalf of the children of North Carolina, for its guarantee. He was given a hearty hand by House members, who rejoiced with him in the passage of the bill.

WANT CONVENTION CALLED NEXT YEAR.

State Committee Moves Up Time for Proposed Election One Year—Separate Time is Considered Best. Would Wait Until People Vote on Convention Before Calling Election.

(News and Observer, 19th.)

Decision of the people as to a constitutional convention will be submitted to the voters of North Carolina on the first Tuesday in next November, if the recommendation of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments is adopted. It has been decided to move up the time for an election a year on the question in order that it may be considered entirely on its merits without regard to other issues. It was first proposed to have the election in connection with the general election next year.

Senator Connor introduced the proposed substitute bill which will be reported by the committee for the measure proposed by Senator Brown, and it is his idea that changing the fundamental law of the State is of sufficient importance to be considered entirely separate from any other issue and hence he has provided that instead of electing delegates to the proposed convention when this question is voted on, that this shall be held later in the event the people favor a convention.

How Convention Would Work.

He would have the Governor call the election to name delegates in not less than 60 nor more than 90 days after the first election. The bill provides that 120 delegates shall be chosen. The delegates so chosen would assemble in Raleigh on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in May of 1920, and would be called to order by the chief justice of the Supreme Court. After having the oath administered, the delegates would proceed to business by electing a presiding officer, etc.

Powers of Convention.

The powers of the convention are expressed in the following language: "The convention shall have power to consider, debate, propose and adopt amendments to the present constitution or an entire new constitution, except such as would be in conflict with the constitution of the United States.

The substitute differs in several important aspects from the first one introduced by Senator Brown. Not only does it separate the election on the question of calling the convention from all other issues, but it gives to the convention the power to close its deliberations at one sitting, while the first bill provided that there should be a recess of 60 days between the submission or amendments or a new constitution and its adoption.

HUNS PLANNED TO STARTLE WORLD WITH GIANT PLANE

Huge Flying Monster Has Six Motors, Four Propellers, and Total of 1800 Horsepower.

Berlin, Feb. 16.—If the war had lasted a few months longer, Germany was prepared to surprise the world with an enormous airplane. The new giant of the air, which was planned by Harold Wolf, an engineer, will have its first trial at Doberitz within a few days.

The new machine is nearly 165 feet from wing tip to wing tip, and stands more than 23 feet high. It has six motors with a total of 1800 horsepower, driven by four propellers, two of which are forward and two aft. Each of the propellers has four blades. Two of the motors, it is said, can stop simultaneously without affecting any of the propellers or having any result except to reduce the speed of the airplane.

Apart from its dimensions and power, the new airplane is not only equipped with devices enabling the pilots to know at all times their altitude and angle of elevation, but also with devices to tell the absolute, as well as relative direction, which, it is believed, will make flying possible on the darkest night and in the thickest fog. The device for determining the absolute direction consists of an instrument adapted to receiving messages from various wireless stations and capable of such adjustment that a message from any particular station can be heard only when the device is turned in that direction.—Philadelphia Record.

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POINDEXTER AND FESS CRITICISED

Proposed League of Nations Charter Attacked in Senate and House—No Formal Reply Made—Prepared Speech By Ohio Congressman Unexpected; Poin Dexter Speaks Three Hours.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Vigorous criticism of the proposed constitution of the league of nations was voiced today in both branches of Congress.

Speaking for three hours before crowded galleries, Senator Poin Dexter, of Washington, Republican, precipitated a discussion in the Senate which embraced other subjects and consumed practically the entire session. However, there was no formal reply to the Washington Senator from the Democratic side.

Discussion in the House was unexpected and was not general. Just as the members were settling down for a night session Representative Fess of Ohio, chairman of the Republican Congressional campaign committee, delivered a carefully prepared address in which he took up the constitution section by section and denounced the whole as abridging the sovereignty of the United States and containing "vicious possibilities."

First Prepared Speeches.

The addresses by Senator Poin Dexter and Representative Fess were the first prepared ones made in Congress since the constitution of the league was published and since President Wilson requested that discussion be postponed until he could confer with members of the Senate and House foreign relations committees at the White House next week.

When Representative Fess concluded there was no further discussion in the House, but during Senator Poin Dexter's address Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska; Republican Leader Lodge and Senators Knox, of Pennsylvania, and Brandegee, of Connecticut, all members of the foreign relations committee, briefly interjected comment on questions involved in the league. Senator Reed, of Missouri, Democrat, spoke in criticism of the proposal and also vigorously denounced delay in demobilizing American troops.

Senator Shaffroth, of Colorado, Democrat, in defending the War Department, after Mr. Reed's attack, spoke briefly in support of the league charter, declaring it would stop nineteenth of future wars.

TO REDUCE COTTON ACREAGE.

Cut of One-Third Decided Upon at New Orleans Meeting—Holding of Present Crop for Higher Prices Embodied in Program Adopted.

A program for the reduction of the 1919 acreage planted to cotton and the holding of the present crop for higher prices was embodied in resolutions unanimously passed at the closing session of the conference of growers, bankers, merchants and farmers from all of the cotton producing States at New Orleans Tuesday.

The salient features of the resolution are:

1. Reduction of the 1919 cotton acreage by one-third as compared with 1918.
2. A pledge not to sell any part of the present crop for other than remunerative prices, and to hold this crop until the demand calls for such prices.

3. Formation of State cotton acreage associations, whose business it will be to secure written pledges to carry out the first two provisions from every cotton grower and cotton producer in the United States.

4. To brand any man who refuses to co-operate as "so lacking in public spirit as to forfeit the confidence of the community in which he lives."

5. A future convention of cotton producers before which a detailed report of the progress of the plans outlined above is to be made by every cotton-growing State.

The resolutions, which were drawn up by the committee composed of a banker, farmer and merchant from each of the cotton growing States, headed by former Governor Manning, of South Carolina, as chairman, further declared that "the accumulation of large stocks of cotton in the hands of farmers and merchants of the South and the drastic decline in the price to figures below the cost of production due to past war trade disorganization, the scarcity of ocean tonnage, to the restrictions on trade imported by foreign nations have precipitated upon the cotton producing, mercantile and banking interests of the South a crisis fraught with grave menace to the present welfare of the section as well as to the future prosperity thereof."

STACY SUBSTITUTE HIGHWAY BILL

It Passes Senate With Amendment Which Cuts in Half Truck Tax. Scales Amendments Lose—House Adopts Additional Sections Revenue Bill—Committee Favors Warehouse Bill.

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—The Senate passed today, on final reading, the Stacy substitute highway bill with an amendment by Senator Thompson cutting in half the tax on trucks. Two amendments by Scales were voted down. One would have added the State geologist and president of A. and E. College to the highway commission and the other would have stricken out section 12, allowing counties to proceed with road building under approval of the State and Federal authorities and have the latter refund the government share of the cost of construction when funds became available. Scales fought hard for both amendments but those in charge of the bill insisted that the State geologist is in France indefinitely in reconstruction work and there is no assurance the president of the A. and E. College will always be a civil engineer and that if, as Scales insisted, section 12 was inoperative as not allowable under Federal regulations then it could at least do no harm.

The bill was ordered engrossed and sent to the House, where there is promise of a multitude of amendments or substitutes. The House was in committee of the whole on the revenue bill two hours and adopted sections, including 22, and with no important changes in any of the sections adopted. An amendment by Gold to make income of a married man exempt up to \$1,500 instead of \$1,250 was lost. The appropriations committee of the Senate reported favorably the bill by Cooper, of New Hanover, for a State system of cotton warehouses to be organized under the auspices of the State Department of Agriculture. But it cut out the provisions that the State guarantee the certificates of the warehouses and any provision for a State appropriation. It leaves the measure providing for warehouses to be organized with bonded officers.

The joint committee on agriculture voted tonight 18 to 14, to build the new agricultural building on the site of the present old building and against moving the department to the A. and E. College; also the woman's division will remain here instead of being transferred to the State Normal.

The committee on education heard argument for pending child labor bills tonight. Mrs. Clarence Johnson and Labor Commissioner Shipman advocated the labor department bill. Commissioner Shipman denounced criticism of his friendship to the manufacturing interests and pledged to furnish law enforcement.—W. J. Martin in Charlotte Observer.

Shipped Whiskey as Dolls.

Aunt Jimima tried to smuggle whiskey into Michigan. It would seem that this was not contrary to law, as she carried it in her innermost inwards and her polka dot apron bulged where the load was loaded. Don't be shocked, Aunt Jimima was and is a doll. She was mailed to a Detroit, but her breath was stronger than a trust, and a postoffice inspector subjected her to search and seizure.

She is only one of many weird methods used to get liquor into the State via the mails. One enterprising and grimly humorous man sent a pint in a flask enclosed in a cut-out book, the title of which was "Report of the Fish Commissioner," but the book could not stand its own contents, and burst its binding.

Another chap dug a hole into a loaf of bread and filled it with a bottle of whiskey. The wrapper came off and even a private detective would know that it was not necessary to mail bread from Toledo.

And when a package marked "Corsets" came along, weighing five pounds and marked "Handle with care," it took an inspector one minute to open it. Four pounds of the package were glass and whiskey.—Detroit News.

President Wilson is returning home on the steamer President Washington. His ship was in the neighborhood of the Azores Wednesday. The President's physician is advising him to take a much needed rest on the homeward bound voyage. Mr. Wilson is expected to reach Boston next Tuesday.

Elon College is laying plans to raise \$125,000 for an endowment for the college. A committee of five has been appointed to aid President Harper, in the work of raising the endowment. Elon College is thirty years old and has an enrollment of 400.

SEVEN SHOTS FIRED AT FRENCH STATESMAN

Clemenceau Only Slightly Wounded. Will Soon Be Out—Assailant is Arrested—His Name is Cottin, and is Regarded in Europe as Dangerous Anarchist.

Paris, Feb. 19.—Georges Clemenceau, the French premier, was struck three times by bullets in an attempt to assassinate him today. One bullet entered the right shoulder and lodged under the left shoulder, missing the spinal cord and the lungs. The other two bullets caused scarcely more than abrasions of the skin on the right arm and the right hand.

In all seven shots were fired at the premier point blank by the assassin, Emile Cottin, known in anarchist circles as "Milou," who was arrested directly after the shooting. Two bullets passed through the clothing of the premier.

As the first shot struck the automobile, Premier Clemenceau leaned forward and began to open the door. It was in this clearly visible position that Cottin fired the shots which took effect. The premier continued his movement to open the door which he did with his wounded arm. The chauffeur, although slightly wounded, stopped the machine, and the premier stepped to the roadway. The police agents already were struggling with the premier's assailant.

After getting out of the automobile in which he was riding when shot, the premier, without a glance in the direction of Cottin, started to walk toward the front door of his home. Before he reached the door a number of persons came running up to assist him.

"It is not serious this time," said the premier, in reply to a sympathetic inquiry.

Leaning on the shoulder of one of the domestics of his household, the premier walked up one flight of stairs to his bedroom. M. Clemenceau sat down on the big armchair and began to joke with his servants, who were in tears, saying to them:

"Co n'est rien" (it is nothing).
Marshal Foch arrived at the premier's residence about 10 o'clock and took a seat in an adjoining room to await developments. The marshal had a few words with the premier and M. Clemenceau said: "I have dodged bigger ones than that at the front."

About noon the doctors informed newspaper men that the premier's condition had been satisfactory up to that time, and that no complications were feared.—Associated Press.

NEW POTENTATE OF OASIS TEMPLE

The selection of Dr. R. J. Noble, of Selma, to be illustrious potentate of Oasis Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at a special meeting held in Charlotte last Monday, was in keeping with the policy and custom of the Temple to advance or promote competent officers from year to year, in token of appreciation of services rendered the Shrine in their various stations.

The new potentate is one of the most prominent Masons in the State. He served through all the offices of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Masons, directing the affairs of that body one term as Grand Master.

Dr. Noble, as is remarked by those who know him, was born a Noble, and in addition to that Oasis Temple of the Shrine added the Arabic degree of nobility on May 17, 1898, at a ceremonial held at Raleigh, at which time W. S. Liddell, the first potentate of Oudis Temple, presided.

At the business meeting held in Charlotte December 29, 1910, Dr. Noble was appointed to the official divan by A. J. Crampton, elected potentate at that meeting. He took the lowest position in the divan, that of outer guard.

In 1911 he was advanced to the office of captain of the guard and the following year he was made marshal. Then he became second ceremonial master, and first ceremonial master, by appointment, in regular order, the last being by Potentate John L. Dabbs in 1914. The next year he was elected oriental guide, and in 1916 he was elected chief rabban, the second office in the Temple.

The inability of James O. Walker, of Charlotte, to act as illustrious potentate for 1910, after having been elected at the December meeting, caused a special election to be held here February 10, which resulted in the advancement of Dr. Noble to the highest office within the gift of the nobility of the State.—Leake Carraway in News and Observer.

Ex-Congressman James J. Britt, of Asheville, has been notified of the death of his second son, Will Britt, in France. He died February 3, of pneumonia. His brother, Capt. James J. Britt, Jr., is with the 30th division.

HELGOLAND AND KIEL FORTS TO BE RAZED

This is Supposed to Be a Part of the Conditions of the Final Armistice. The Kiel Canal to Be Opened for Civil Transports—Germany to Be Left With Fleet Large Enough for Defensive Purposes.

A London dispatch dated February 18 says that the final armistice conditions which the supreme council is considering will be made public before the end of the month, according to various newspapers, and they will include among the naval conditions the demolition of the forts on Helgoland and the Kiel canal, the surrender for purposes of destruction of the German warships now interned, and the opening of the Kiel canal for civil transports. It is stated that Germany will be left with a fleet large enough for defensive purposes.

The naval correspondent of The Daily Mail, writing of the strong fortifications on the Island of Helgoland, says:

"The summit of the island is one immense bomb-proof, and the batteries are so placed as to be invisible from the sea. The heavy guns there—11 inch and 12 inch weapons—probably were reinforced during the war by 15 inch guns. The guns are mounted in steel turrets of great thickness. All the batteries and observation posts are connected by subterranean passages and the roads leading up to them run along galleries which are shell proof.

"The guns are mounted after the usual German fashion so as to give them an immense range, probably from 10 to 12 1/2 sea miles. To enable the island to stand the concussion of their discharge and resist fire directed against it, 6,000,000 pounds is said to have been spent before 1910, and subsequently other large sums were allotted.

"The immense seaplane sheds are said to have been of the disappearing type, which could be lowered as a protection against long range fire. There are store shops and repair works with all the usual equipment of a naval base. The fortifications presumably will be blown up, but their destruction will be no easy business. They are of armored concrete and steel, and a very large quantity of explosives will be required.

"The fortifications at each entrance to the Kiel canal are of immense strength and are lavishly supplied with the heaviest guns in steel turrets."

RISE FOR MEAT WORKERS.

Packers Must Pay \$13,000,000 More Yearly to 85,000 Employees.

Chicago, Feb. 17.—Packing house employees were given a 10 per cent advance by the decision of the arbitrator, Judge Alschuler, who announced the award today.

The advance is retroactive to November 10. In addition the award grants 2 1/2 cents an hour raise to all workers under 21 years of age whose earnings are less than 42 1/2 cents an hour.

Time and a half is given for overtime, with double time in certain instances. Overtime begins after eight hours, and there is compensation also for men, who are required to be at work before 5 o'clock in the morning. The overtime scale becomes effective March 2. The award applies to the plants of Armour & Co., Swift & Co., Morris & Co., Wilson & Co., and the Cudahy Packing Company throughout the country.

Counsel for the packers estimated that the award would cost the packers \$13,000,000 a year. About 85,000 employees will receive the retroactive advance.

Judge Alschuler said that, while there was a slight decline in some items of the cost of living, rents have gone up.—Philadelphia Record.

Twenty-one thousand soldiers have been discharged from the army as tubercular since the beginning of the war, the Senate buildings committee was told by Dr. W. G. Stimpson, of the United States public health service. He said the history of tubercular patients indicated that they would be in hospitals one-third of the time. Tentative plans of the public health service adding 2,000 beds to existing hospitals were described.

Herman Bernstein, an American writer who spent some time in Russia, says that that great country is more down-trodden under the regime of the Bolshevists than it ever was under the Czar.

Raleigh's municipal farm, located just outside the city, netted the city \$5,700 last year.