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OPENING SESSION OF GEN. ASSEMBLY

Dawson Chosen Speaker of The House; No Legislation Opening Day

North Carolina's General Assembly met Wednesday at noon and after a brief session adjourned for the day without starting the grind of the mass of legislation which is said to be slated. The following extracts from the Raleigh letter to the Greensboro News give the gist of what transpired in the brief sessions of both the House and Senate:

"Chief Justice Walter Clark administered the oath of office to 110 members of the house, 92 counties answering the rollcall. Rev. Arthur Huffman, of the Lutheran church, led in prayer.

Principal Clerk Alex Lassiter called the body to order. Speaker Dawson was in the speaker's room awaiting his election, which began with the nominating speeches of Connor, of Wilson, and Parker, of Alamance. Jackson of Surry and Coffey of Watauga, named Owen, of Sampson, as the minority leader and candidate for speaker. Dawson received 93 votes and Owen four.

"Messrs. Doughton, of Alleghany, Warren, of Beaufort, and Peterson of Mitchell, were named to notify Mr. Dawson of his election and to escort him to the chair. Mr. Lassiter presented the speaker with a new Bible and gavel. On the book Mr. Dawson took the oath and with 'I thank you, gentleman,' as his only speech, he took the chair. Judge Clark administered this oath and Speaker Dawson swore in all clerks.

Mr. Alex Lassiter was selected as chief clerk; D. P. Dellinger, as Reading clerk; L. F. Burkhead, sergeant-at-arms, and Miss Rosa Munds, as engrossing clerk.

"Associate Justice Stacey administered the oath to 48 members of the senate, James L. Griffin, of Chatham, and Rufe Haymore, of Surry, being the only absent members. Mr. Griffin is ill and Mr. Haymore, one of the three Republican senators, sent the request for an indefinite leave of absence.

"Rev. W. W. Peele, pastor of Edenton Street Methodist church, offered prayer immediately after Lieutenant Governor Cooper swung the gavel formally opening the session.

"Contest by Senator Harry Stubbs of the election by acclamation of the president pro tempore and senate clerks led to a roll call election of the list from W. L. Long, the Democratic caucus's choice to Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms J. A. Bryson. The Republicans nominated Senator Haymore to oppose Senator Long but they had no candidates for the clerical places. Fred Hackett, of Wilkes, was formally elected principal clerk, Judge Phillips Coker, of Buncombe, reading clerk, Joe Mackey, of Buncombe, engrossing clerk, and W. D. Gaster, of Cumberland, sergeant-at-arms. Judge Coker received the votes of the two Republican senators present, but they voted negatively on the other Democratic nominees."

Lieut-Governor Cooper announced before adjournment, the appointment of 43 committees and the chairmen. Messrs H. B. Parker of Wayne and Paul D. Grady, of Johnston were both given chairmanships. Senator Parker was appointed chairman of the committee on game laws, and Senator Grady, chairman of the committee on judicial districts.

KENLY LIVELY STABLES BURNED THURSDAY

Fire Discovered About 3:30 Thursday Morning; Twenty-four Mules Burned.

KENLY, Jan. 3.—The lively stables here in charge of Mr. C. I. Lawrence were burned Thursday morning about 4 o'clock, resulting in a total loss. The night policeman first detected the fire about 3:30 a. m., and made an alarm, although every effort to blast the flames was in vain since the fire had made such headway before aid could be secured. Besides the loss of the building there were 24 fine mules owned by Mr. Lawrence which could not be saved that succumbed in the flames. This was a real tragedy and one which will remain in the minds of the people for some time. The loss is heavy.

NORTH CAROLINA HAS HIGH RANK IN CROPS

State in Fifth Place Among All Those of Union in Value of Its Products.

RALEIGH, Jan. 1.—North Carolina holds her high position in the total value of field crops for 1922. With a rank of fourth at \$293,094,000 for the value of the 22 most important crops of the United States and fifth in rank of all crops valued at \$342,637,090. North Carolina, with a cultivated area of less than 25 others, surpasses 43 states in the value of crops.

This official announcement was made today by officials of the North Carolina and U. S. departments of agriculture. In the crop value indicated livestock, timber and improvement of land are not included. Forecasts that the state would maintain its position were made several weeks ago, but the final figures were not obtained until today.

"Such a high rank is of considerable credit to the Tar Heel state," reads the announcement, "even if most of the credit is due to cotton and tobacco. It should be recalled that the middle western progressive farming states had good crops and better prices for grain than in 1921. That we also improved is evident from the \$80,000,000 increase in crop value over last year—a gain of about 20 per cent. 1921 crops showed a decrease of \$90,000,000 from the 1920 value. The 1919 census valuation was \$503,229,000, when we ranked 11th in total value.

The rank of fourth in the value of our 22 important crops, is of course, very creditable, but with the advance of the boll and the damage we will lose an advantage. Our yields per acre of the cotton and feed crops are distressingly low. If we eliminate the increased usage of commercial fertilizers, our yields will perhaps be more than they were 10 or 12 years ago. The fertilizer practices in North Carolina offer opportunity for vast improvement.

"If we were to give more consideration to the basic practices, of 'feeding the soil,' growing our feed and food, making much more of the livestock products and then make the cash crops net, we would soon be better off economically and would hold a higher rank in farm prosperity.

"In traveling through Pennsylvania on December 26, the statistician noticed quite a contrast in the pleasing pasture lands, the livestock and general indications of neatness and efficiency. With our longer seasons, greater diversity of crops available, freedom from continued winter conditions, the convenience of all year automobile and road travel there is no reasonable excuse for the present backward conditions in North Carolina.

"We cannot possibly hold our 1922 rank if we do not become agriculturally more efficient by working more effectively and safe.

"Co-operative methods of farm production and distribution must be incorporated. We have unlimited advantages, but we are carelessly abusing these privileges. We neither think nor apply thoughts and hands effectively enough. Is it just laziness, ignorance, or simply because we don't have to?"—Associated Press.

FLYING CONGRESSMAN LANDS AT WILMINGTON

WILMINGTON, Jan. 2.—Manuel Herrick, Representative of the 8th Oklahoma District in Congress arrived here this morning in an airplane from Americus, Georgia, en route to Washington. He will resume his journey toward the capital at noon today. Mr. Herrick is accompanied by another plane driven by S. W. Crane. Herrick's plane is piloted by J. W. King, formerly with the 65th Squadron, British Royal Flying Corps.

Taft a Grandfather.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 1.—Chief Justice Taft, of the U. S. Supreme court, became a grandfather for the second time in as many days when a son was born tonight to Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Taft, of this city. Charles P. Taft, 2nd, another son of the chief executive announced the birth of a son yesterday. Robert A. Taft is a representative in the Ohio general assembly.

INFLUENZA CAUSE OF THREE DEATHS

Mother and Daughter Victims in One Week; Two Two Sisters Pass Away

Influenza is still prevalent in parts of Johnston county, and while not as bad as the epidemic during the World War, the disease continues to take its toll of human lives. Mr. J. L. Stafford, who lives on Smithfield R. F. D., two, was in the city yesterday and told us of the death of three of his relatives which occurred in less than a week—all victims of pneumonia following influenza. His niece, Miss Martha Thompson, aged eighteen years, died on Tuesday of last week. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Deb Thompson who live near Princeton. The death of one so young is always sad and the fact that she was soon to have been married adds pathos to her passing.

On the following Sunday, Dec. 30, the young girl's mother, a sister of Mr. Stafford, also passed away about three o'clock in the afternoon. She was confined to her bed less than a week. She leaves a husband and several children. The interment took place in the Thompson family burying ground, Monday, Jan. 1.

While Mr. Stafford was attending the burial of his sister, news was brought to him of the death of another sister, Mrs. Eliza West, who lived in Wayne county. She also died on Sunday, December 30.

During the epidemic in the World War, it was a frequent occurrence for influenza to wipe out even whole families, and these deaths reported to us remind us forcibly of past experiences.

SECRETARY FALL WILL QUIT HARDING CABINET

Chief of Interior Department Leaves Public Office Next March 4

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Secretary Fall of the interior department will retire from office March 4, it was announced today at the White House, to return to the practice of law and the conduct of private business affairs in New Mexico. President Harding, who is not yet prepared to name his successor, was declared by an administration spokesman to have made every effort to retain the cabinet officer in service, and to have tendered him, without avail, an appointment to the Supreme court bench, to fill the vacancy caused by the recent retirement of Justice Pitney.

Secretary Fall said later that the only impelling cause for the step was the condition of his own affairs, and took occasion to deny report that he had resigned to accept a place as counsel for an oil corporation, or that any friction existed between himself and associates in the administration. He will go to his cattle ranch in New Mexico immediately upon leaving office and after a short vacation, resume the practice of law, and the administration of his business interests.

FIRST GERMAN AIRPLANE SINCE WAR IN ENGLAND

Of Only 185 Horsepower, Brings Four People Across Channel.

CROYDON, England, Jan. 1.—The first German airplane piloted by a German airman to land voluntarily in England since the war, arrived at the airfield here this morning. The machine, built by the Zeppelin Company was the first all-metal plane to cross the channel. It carried three passengers, but is built to accommodate six besides the pilot, although it has an engine of only 185 horsepower.

Owing to the Interallied control of German aircraft the Germans have been compelled to experiment with low-power engines, and as a result have developed planes with 185-horsepower, able to carry the same number of passengers at the same speed as British machines with 400-horsepower.

The Come-Back.

First Boy (contemptuously)—Huh, your mother takes in washin'.
Second Boy—Sure she does! You don't s'pose she'd leave it out all night so lon's your father ain't in jail, do yer?

BUSY MEETING OF TOWN BOARD TUES.

Parking Ordinance Passed; State Health Dept. Says City Water Is Pure

The regular monthly meeting of the town commissioners are always busy occasions, but the session held Tuesday night had an unusually full program, and several things of general interest were discussed. The matter of parking cars on Third st., between Johnston and Bridge streets came up, and by request of Mr. Northcot, representing the State Highway Commission, an ordinance was passed requiring all cars on the street designated to park only on one side of the street. The ordinance carries with it a provision for parking first on one side and then on the other—a ruling which no doubt meets with the approval of the merchants on that street, and one which will prevent the pavement from wearing more in one place than another.

In connection with the discussion as to automobile traffic it was decided to instruct the chief of police to enforce the law already enacted which requires all cars to stop at the painted lines at the First and Citizens National Bank corner.

Dr. H. E. Miller of the State Department of Health was present at the meeting and made a report on the city waterworks system. He reported the water to be fine. Twice each month the water is examined, to see if disease germs are present, and the report given by Dr. Miller commends the town management of this department which has such a vital bearing upon the health of the community.

Before adjourning the commissioners decided to retain a civil engineer who will look after the interests of the town when the State Highway Commission shall lay the hard surface road through its borders. Mr. Geddens, of Wilson, was chosen to fill this place.

TO PIERCE MONT BLANC WITH NINE-MILE TUNNEL

Plans Complete for Passage Connecting France and Italy.

GENEVA, Jan. 1.—Plans of the French and Italian engineers for the proposed double tunnel under Mont Blanc, which have just been announced, contemplate the opening of the tunnel to traffic within five years. It will be nearly nine miles long, entering Mont Blanc at Chamonix and emerging at Mont Chetif, in the Valley of the River Dora, with seven short tunnels on the French side and six on the Italian side leading up to the main passage.

The new tunnel will afford the shortest route between Paris and Milan and be a direct competitor of the Simplon tunnel.—Philadelphia Record.

HOUSES RAZED AT WAGRAM BY CYCLONE; MAN INJURED

LAURINBURG, Jan. 1.—The storm which crossed Scotland county did considerable damage at Wagram this morning about 4 o'clock. S. H. Dunlap, who owns the telephone company there, had three ribs broken and his leg badly bruised. He was sleeping on his sleeping porch which was torn from his dwelling, and the house was slewed around. The Wagram Mercantile building had its roof rolled up and blown off. The stock of goods, belonging to Blacker Brothers was considerably damaged by the rain. The front of the bank was blown out. The large warehouse of J. P. Shaw was damaged. The store building belonging to S. S. Thrower, was partly turned around. J. R. Bundy's windmill could not stand the pressure and was bent double. Several small buildings were blown down or blown from their foundations. The storm made about a 300-yard path in which it did most damage.

It Seems Peculiar.

Our elevator boys says:
"Newspaper guys are funny. Whenever they meet they always ask, 'What do you know?' The other says, 'Nothing,' and then the paper next morning is filled with news."—Chicago Ledger.

Renew and get a Turner's Almanac.

PROPOSED CALENDAR WITH 13 MONTHS IN YEAR PROPOSED

Congressional Bill Stirs Debate in New York; 365th Day Would Be January 0.

A resolution endorsing the Congressional bill providing for an international conference to improve the Gregorian calendar and establish a fixed international calendar of thirteen months of four weeks each will be discussed at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York on Thursday. The bill provides that the extra day to make 365 be designated as Jan. 0.

The International Congress of Chambers of Commerce has voted resolutions urging calendar reform since 1908, the Committee on Foreign Commerce and the Revenue Laws, of which William E. Peck is Chairman, reported. Mr. Peck's report said:

"It is the purpose of those in this country seeking an international conference to recommend a calendar reform which will divide the year into exactly thirteen months of twenty-eight days each, that is a month of four weeks of seven days each, the extra day to make 365 to be Jan. 0, a holiday; leap day to be an international holiday, and transferred from February to a month when the weather is likely to be pleasant, as June or July. It is proposed also to insert the new month between June and July.

"The present calendar presents many inconveniences resulting from its irregularities as to the number of days in the month. We never know on what day of the week New Year's Day or other holidays fall, only by consulting the calendar.

"By making uniformity in the number of days in a month, statistics can be made truly comparative, resulting in better facilities for efficiency and economy in all business affairs."—N. Y. Times.

JOE FOR EVERY MAN WOULD STOP UNREST

Henry Ford Tells Delegation of League of Nations Money Will Not Bring About Peace.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 2.—Henry Ford believes that "the one sure cure" for world unrest is "to create for every able bodied man in the world a job of some sort," the manufacturer told a delegation representing the international labor office of the league of nations whose members held a long conference with him at his Dearborn offices.

The delegation which came to this country recently to obtain ideas that might be introduced in other countries for the benefit of workers, is headed by Albert Thomas, of France, director of the international labor office.

During the interview M. Thomas deplored the present unstable conditions in many parts of Europe and suggested that equalization of exchange rates might have beneficial results.

Mr. Ford replied that in his opinion the question of bringing the world back to peace and prosperity could not be solved through money, declaring his belief that the solution rested in expansion of industry, improvement of agricultural methods, and education of the workers of the world.

"The solution is 'a job for every man,'" the manufacturer said, "Let the people of the world once get the idea that all they need is to do a good day's work six days every week and that in this way they can make their own prosperity, and there will be no more talk about unstable conditions for instability will cease to have existed."

BERNHARDT VERY WEAK FOLLOWING A RELAPSE

Failure to Heed Physicians Puts Life in Jeopardy.

PARIS, Jan. 1.—The condition of Sarah Bernhardt, whose convalescence from her recent breakdown was halted this morning by a series of fainting spells, was said tonight to continue unchanged, the actress remaining very weak.

Bernhardt's reluctance to obey her doctor's instructions for absolute repose and quiet is greatly hampering her recovery, according to her intimate friends.—Associated Press.

RECORDER'S COURT HAS FULL DOCKET

Report of the Day's Proceedings; Only One Blockade Case Before Judge

The Recorder's Court here Tuesday had a full docket, twenty-five cases or more coming before Judge A. M. Noble, who presided over the court for the second time since his induction into office. About half of the cases were continued but the following were disposed of before the day was over.

State vs. C. B. Byrd, charged with obtaining money by means of a worthless check. Found guilty and fined \$30 and costs.

State vs. Ruffin Hill charged with trespass. Found guilty but judgment was suspended upon payment of cost.

State vs. Allen Altman and Phereby Clark—adultery. Not guilty.

State vs. Tom Matthews, charged with cruelty to animals and wanton and willful destruction to personal property. Matthews, who is a colored man, was indicted for shooting two mules belonging to different parties. On each count he was found guilty. He was fined \$50 in each count charging cruelty to animals and was sentenced to three months in jail for each count charging destruction to personal property. The jail sentence was suspended on condition that the defendant report every six months for two years good behavior. An appeal to the Superior court was taken.

State vs. John Exum charged with blockading. Found guilty and sentenced to four months on roads and payment of costs. The defendant appealed to the Superior court.

State vs. J. C. Richardson charged with slaughtering and selling diseased meat. Not guilty.

State vs. George Atkinson, charged with carrying concealed weapon. Found guilty and fined \$50 and costs.

State vs. Grant Alvin charged with carrying concealed weapon. Guilty. Fined \$50 and costs.

State vs. Earp Dublin charged with larceny. The defendant was charged with stealing \$50 worth seed cotton from J. C. Ennis. Probable cause found and defendant bound over to Superior court under a \$300 bond.

State vs. Haywood Day charged with stealing lumber from the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Plant at Selma. Found guilty and sentenced to four months on the roads.

State vs. John Hill and Rebecca Best charged with fornication. Guilty. Fined \$10 and sentenced 3 months in jail. Jail sentence as to Hill suspended upon condition that he shows good behavior for 12 months. Capias to issue as to Rebecca Best on Jan. 9.

State vs. Willie Green and Fessit Hackney, charged with fornication. Found guilty and same sentence imposed as in State vs. John Hill and Rebecca Best.

State vs. Wooten and Lizzie Taylor charged with fornication. Found guilty and same sentence imposed as in State vs. John Hill and Rebecca Best.

FATHER DRIVES CAR OVER OWN DAUGHTER

Little Girl Falls Through Open Door Underneath Machine; Lived Only Short Time.

LUMBERTON, Jan. 1.—A horrible accident occurred at McDonald, Robeson county, Sunday afternoon when Grace Greyard, 3-year-old daughter of T. S. Greyard, was run over and killed by a Buick auto driven by her father. The child was in the front seat of the car with her father. He was backing the car when the door came open and the child fell out, the front wheel of the car passed over her body before it could be stopped. She lived only a short time. The funeral was conducted this afternoon.

How Papa Was Betrayed.

Mother—Come, Bobby, don't be a little savage; kiss the lady.

Bobbie—No, she's a naughty lady. If I kiss her she may give me a slap just as she did to papa.

A subscription to some good farm and home journal makes a good Christmas present for the boy and girl on the farm.