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PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUST NOT BE NEGLECTED SAYS McLEAN

Whatever Program of Curtailment or Retrenchment Necessary Must Not Fall on Education, Particularly in Lower Courses, Declares Governor

Raleigh, Jan. 21.—"Whatever curtailment there must be in the general activities of the State on account of lack of revenue, education, and particularly the public schools must not be neglected."

With this declaration, Governor Angus Wilton McLean, appearing before the General Assembly today at noon for his first message with recommendations, launched into a discussion of the State's needs, based upon observations which he has already made. He will appear before the law-making body at a later date to discuss the State's financial affairs and, in this connection, its future fiscal policy.

The Governor did not discuss bond issues today. "A newly-elected Governor," he explained in his introductory remarks, "is at a disadvantage in that he is plunged into the midst of a legislative session without having had opportunity to inform himself thoroughly as to conditions and to determine many details relating to governmental matters."

Governor McLean made no recommendations as to how future road building in North Carolina shall be financed, but committed himself to the continuation of highway construction until the entire system is completed. "I shall within a very short time," he said, "give this phase of the situation the most careful consideration and make such recommendations as, in my judgment, will be for the best interests of the State.

Beginning with the public schools, Governor McLean discussed training in agriculture, health and economical administration of government, the executive budget, the present State system of financing, law enforcement, reform in judicial procedure, freight rates and the development of water transportation, highways, treatment of the afflicted, the pardoning power, the "blue sky" law, conservation and development of the State's natural resources, industrial development, development of the coastal plain, the treatment of labor, workmen's compensation, the treatment of prisoners, the State's prison, traffic regulation on the public highways and the fish and oyster industry.

Favors Equal Opportunity

Definitely, Governor McLean recommended gradually increasing the equalization fund for the support of public schools, continued expansion of the health work of the State, the establishment of an agricultural experiment in the sand hill section for the benefit of agriculture and horticulture, the creation of an executive budget system, action looking toward the reduction of crime, a standing judicial conference, the appointment of a commissioner of pardons, converting the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey into an agency to advertise the State's resources, and the enactment of an adequate workmen's compensation law.

"We must provide for the administration of the various department, institutions and other agencies of government in such a way that they will serve the purpose for which they were created," said Governor McLean, adding, "but without losing sight of the necessity for economic administration.

"The deficit which has arisen on account of the failure in the past to provide sufficient revenue to meet expenses must be provided for," he continued, "and, at the same time, adequate steps must be taken to prevent any possible recurrence of a deficit in the future. The cardinal principle of our fiscal policy should be that our budget must be balanced for each operating period. This fundamental principle should never be violated, because its violation is certain to rise up and plague us on every future occasion, and, moreover, if such violation is persisted in, it will sooner or later create chaos in the financial affairs of our State."

New Era in State

The new Governor declared further: "With the beginning of this session of the General Assembly I believe our State is entering upon a less spectacular period, because necessarily less money must be spent upon expansion and permanent improvements.

"This is not surprising," he went on, "for the reason that the need is not so acute; and, besides, our capacity to borrow money, secured by long term bonds, should not be used to the straining point."

Governor McLean declared that the State should have a just pride in its educational progress. "If the present progress is maintained," he said in this connection, "it will be only a few years until every county will have a unified system and our rural schools, co-operating with the departments of research and extension, will become the centers of education, progress and community betterment. This is the safest basis on which to build an enduring public school system and one in which the people will have a genuine pride. Therefore, the State, in administering its public schools funds, should seek to keep alive this enthusiasm and to distribute the burden of public school support so that the desired goal may be obtained without placing an excessive hardship on any county. This can be done by gradually increasing the equalization fund distributed by the State to the less wealthy counties, to enable them to support their public schools."

The executive went from a discussion of the public school system to a plea for continued efforts in agricultural education. "If I have any particular interest in any one problem over another, it is agriculture," he declared. "I expect to co-operate actively with the Department of Agriculture and with the State College of Agriculture and Engineering in devising special means, during the next four years, to promote the agricultural industry of our State."

Training in Agriculture

"Because it is our basic industry, affording a livelihood to 60 per cent of our people, agriculture should receive preferential consideration in our system of education.

"Research and experiment are fundamental needs in any well balanced system of agricultural education and, in my opinion, we need to devote more attention to this brand of agricultural work. Efforts to control the boll weevil, which has wrought such serious damage, better method of distribution in marketing, the application of better business methods in the conduct of our farms, are all necessary if our farmers are to become more prosperous and contented.

"I have long urged the establishment, in the coastal plain section of the State, where the need is greatest, of a research laboratory for experimental work in boll weevil control. I also favor the establishment of an experiment station in the sand hill region for the purpose of experimentation in the agricultural and horticultural problems peculiar to that region. Another most important consideration, in connection with any effort to improve the condition of our farm dwellers, is the matter of better credit facilities. Definite steps should also be taken to mitigate and reduce the evil of farm tenancy.

"Good health is more than the concern of the individual; it is an important requisite of good citizenship, and, therefore, it is the duty of the State to do its part in preserving and protecting the health of the individual citizen and the communities also. An intellectual and industrial competency, as well as civic efficiency, is of little avail if there is any serious impairment of the health of the citizenry. Good health is not only essential to the progressive development of the State, but is now generally admitted to be one of the most important aspects of modern conservation. No state in the Union has made greater progress in public health service than has North Carolina.

"We must not rest upon what we have achieved, but push onward. Greater efforts must be made to render the children in our public schools physically fit to benefit from the more abundant advantages offered them.

"In my opinion you can make no more profitable expenditure than to continue and gradually increase this branch of our public service."

Executive Budget Commission

Urging the establishment of an executive budget commission, Governor McLean said: "The commission, through the Governor as its executive head, should perform some or all of the following functions: (a) awaken a spirit of economy and efficiency in the public service; (b) scrutinize and subject to the test of necessity and public welfare all items of proposed expenditures; (c) eliminate waste and extravagance, if any exist; (d) prevent duplication of effort and outlay by the various agencies; (e) constantly supervise any fiscal operations of the State in respect to both revenues and expenditures; (f) formulate and recommend plans for better co-ordination, or organization and administration, of the various institutions; (g) prepare and submit, for action by the General Assembly, a budget of estimated receipts and expenditures for the State as a whole, after receiving, examining and passing upon the reports and estimates of the various departments and institutions, to the end that current operating expenses shall, at no time, exceed current income applicable thereto."

He continued: "An antequated system is largely responsible for many aspects of the ever increasing cost of government. It is stated that there are approximately seventy-five departments, commissions, bureaus and other agencies comprising the State administration. Many of these have been given overlapping duties and responsibilities, so that there is much duplication of effort and waste of time and money—generally due to the system itself, without fault upon the part of the officials in charge.

"We have no central organization and no adequate control is lodged anywhere under our present system. An impression exists in some quarters that the Governor controls the administration of the State government, but you know this idea is wholly erroneous. The encyclopedias and other authorities usually single out North Carolina as a state that possesses an anomalous system, in that the whole effort seems to have been to create diffusion and lack of responsibility, rather than executive authority and accountability.

Where State Lags

"Practically all progressive states except North Carolina have long since realized that the number of elective officers must be reduced if democracy is to produce efficiency and sound economy. It is generally conceded by students of government that responsible executive authority should be reposed somewhere, that the people may know who to hold responsible for any shortcomings. Democracy is the best form of government, only when machinery is provided, whereby the people can effectively exercise the sovereignty vested in them.

"The remedy for these defects is a shorter ballot, and the need therefor was never more apparent than today, especially under the system of nominating all candidates in a State-wide primary.

"The sole objection urged against the short ballot is that it lodges too much power in the hands of the Governor. If this be true, then our national democracy is a failure, for under the Federal system all executive power is lodged in the President. The effective answer to the objection is that in case of abuse of power, the people have a prompt and effective remedy in the power to remove.

"Our system of county government is just as unadapted to present day needs as our system of State government. For example, we have had several instances in the past where county officers have been short in their accounts. This condition, sometimes involving large sums, is a constant menace to well-ordered government. In many cases the officials in default are not entirely to blame. Often they are inexperienced in accounting and in handling large sums of money. It seems to me the main trouble is the lack of a proper system of county government, due to the failure of the State to provide by general law some simple standards of accounting and administration whereby the people and the officials in the various counties may adopt more up-to-date and efficient methods.

Some Counties Mismanaged

"There are instapces in some of the counties and towns where the principles of thrift and sound economy have been disregarded. For example, there are cases where public buildings, including schoolhouses, have been built upon too extravagant a scale, with the result that they have cost a great deal more than was necessary to afford substantial, commodious and durable structures. In some districts schoolhouses have been erected upon too elaborate a scale, with the result that some of these districts have to bear too heavy a burden of taxation for the construction of such buildings.

"I am strongly in favor of substantial, comfortable and commodious schoolhouses, but that does not mean that districts should engage in contests with each other for the purpose of seeing which can build the most artistic and elaborate school building without regard to the actual need.

"Another example of the lack of thrift and business economy in local affairs occurs where small towns undertake to pave, at great expense, the full width of streets in residential sections. Business thrift and economy should dictate that such streets be paved for a width of perhaps 30 feet, thereby providing an ample roadway, saving a large part of the cost of paving and, at the same time, supplying every reasonable need, besides providing parkways for plant trees and grass.

"These examples afford an explanation of what I mean by thrift in the conduct of public business.

"It should be remembered that the system of county government now in force is the same our forefathers brought to this county 336 years ago.

"I mention the matter now in order to call it pointedly to the attention of the General Assembly and the people generally.

Law Enforcement

"One of the most pressing problems confronting America today is to find some adequate remedy to prevent the astounding increase in crime, and the general disregard for law that seems to exist.

"It is evident that there is a growing tendency to disregard that class of laws usually referred to as general welfare or police regulations. Unless this tendency is checked, it will have the effect of gradually destroying the law-abiding morale of the people and thus do injury to our whole government structure. It must be remembered that ours is essentially a government of laws; that all sovereignty resides in the people themselves; and that they can assert their sovereignty through the laws alone. The laws, therefore, should be respected and observed by all the people.

"Notwithstanding, as stated in the undeniable fact that in the last few years there has been an unmistakable increase in the number of major crimes, particularly homicide. Lawmaking America is acquiring the unenviable reputation of being among the most law-

Continued on page 4

CROWD GALLERIES TO HEAR GOVERNOR

Raleigh, Jan. 21.—Legislative interest today centered about the appearance of Governor McLean before the General Assembly for the first message spoken in the hall of the House of Representatives which was delivered to a joint session at noon. The galleries and floor were crowded.

The message is expected to set the wheels of the legislature running rapidly.

Meantime the Budget Commission continues to search data for its report, and conferences held today by commission members tended to strengthen the placing of all departments on the budget.

The House roads committee today ordered an unfavorable report on the bill designed to repeal the collection of automobile titles. Action was deferred on the measure requiring all automobile drivers to carry $1,000 liability insurance.

Royalty Worships Her Eyes!

These eyes have vamped all Europe. They belong to Alix Darnne, young French actress. She is visiting the United States now. Royalty and nobility worship them.

Financing Chowan Bridge Proving Serious Problem

Governor Not Recommending Legislation for Bonds for This Project and if $35,000,000 Additional Bonds Issued First District's Money Not Build It

The financial condition of the State is the biggest obstacle in the way of the erection of a bridge across the Chowan river.

This was made clear when the Ways and Means Committee of the Coastal Highway Association made its report at a meeting of this body held at Edenton last Tuesday afternoon.

This committee was named at Windsor, at the barbecue held there on December 31, to draft the bill necessary for the erection by the State of a bridge across the Chowan river.

Speaking for this committee, Charles Whedbee, chairman, declared that in a conference with the Governor and Mr. Page the committee had found them very sympathetic toward the bridge movement. "However," Mr. Whedbee said, "the Governor is not going to advocate the erection of this bridge in his message to the General Assembly. An array of bills for other bridge projects that are waiting to be introduced is responsible for the Governor's decision. Mr. Page says that he does not favor an equalization measure because it would simply bring about a clamor from any section for a quota. If the $35,000,000 in bonds is voted the amount allowed for the first district then would hardly build this bridge, is the opinion of Mr. Page. But Governor McLean and Mr. Page are anxious for us to work out some plan through which the State can build this bridge and still conserve the credit of the State."

"It is a fine thing," said J. C. B. Ehringhaus, "to have the promise of leading members of the General Assembly that they are behind this bridge proposition but we must realize that these gentlemen represent a very small part of the General Assembly. If this bridge is to become an accomplished fact we must keep a delegation in Raleigh to work out with the co-operation of the Highway Commission some measure that will be agreeable with that body. A provision for the erection of this bridge that has the sanction of the Highway Commission, I believe, will go through."

Upon a motion made by Wesley Foreman a finance committee was named by the chairman to raise funds to finance the fight for the erection of the Chowan River bridge.

Other than Mr. Whedbee, members of the Ways and Means Committee are: R. O. Bagley of Moyock; W. I. Halstead of South Mills; J. C. B. Ehringhaus of Elizabeth City, T. S. White of Hertford, and Frank Wood of Edenton.

The association passed a resolution expressing confidence in the committee and pledging the wholehearted backing of the members of the Coastal Highway Association to any measure which the committee may deem practical for erection of the Chowan river bridge.

W. I. Halstead of South Mills, referring to the large number of bridge measures proposed, stressed the fact that no other measure presented would affect so large a territory. Our legislators need to realize that this bridge would not only make possible the linking of the First District with the rest of the State but also the opening of this great section to tourists who are not willing to travel through this section of the State as long as they have to be retarded by the present ferry service," Mr. Halstead said.

C. S. Vann of Edenton spoke strongly in favor of a special appropriation for the Chowan bridge.

SENATORS GUESTS CHAMBER COMMERCE

Senator Carroll of Alamance and Senator Stedman of Cumberland were the guests of the Chamber of Commerce here last night. They conferred Edenton and the Chowan bridge business to see what they could see in Elizabeth City. The chamber of Commerce committee who entertained them included W. L. Cohoon, Wesley Paul, Lloyd Hunter, Sam Ehringhaus, J. Shuford, M. Leigh Sheep, Fred Pool and R. C. Job, secretary.

MRS. VANDERBILT WILL SPONSOR HORSE SHOW

Raleigh, Tuesday, Jan. 21.—Mrs. Edith Vanderbilt, F. W. Hood, J. E. Cox, and J. G. Adams, all of Biltmore Forest, Biltmore, are among the incorporators named in a certificate of corporation issued by Secretary of State W. N. Everett. The corporation will be known as the Biltmore Forest Horse Show Association and is a non-stock organization.

The object of the corporation, according to the charter, is to promote and foster interest in horses and to conduct horse shows in Western North Carolina. The charter is granted for an unlimited period and the corporation will be conducted on a non-profit basis, the net income of the association to be used in furthering the purposes of the association.

NO TICKS BY 1925 IS YEAR'S SLOGAN

Raleigh Jan. 21.—"No ticks by '26" is the slogan of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture according to a statement issued by the State Veterinarian Dr. Walter Moore. At the request of Walter Graham, commissioner of agriculture who has recently received a number of inquiries on the tick situation in North Carolina Dr. Moore gave out the following statement.

"In 1906 the line of demarkation was at the foot of the Blue Ridge mountains. Today ticks have been eradicated in all but seven counties which are Columbus, Brunswick, Onslow, Jones, Craven, Pamlico and Carteret, in these cats have been built and the tick must go by next year.

"The law of 1923 divided the then remaining tick territory of 39 counties into three districts. The work was laid out for 1923, 1924 and 1925. The first two years' work has been completed and we are starting on the home stretch."

Commissioner Graham a member of the senate in 1923 when the law was passed was chairman of the committee on agriculture and fostered the bill.

REV. R. H. WILLIS DEAD

News reached here today of the death of Rev. R. H. Willis, presiding elder of the Fayetteville district, in a Fayetteville hospital Wednesday morning. Mr. Willis was presiding elder of this district from December, 1918, to December, 1922. He is the brother of Mrs. J. P. Kinney and Miss Emma Willis of this city.

CONVENTION CALLED OFF

The district convention of I. O. O. F., which was to be held at Shiloh at 2 o'clock today, has been called off for about four weeks on account of the condition of the roads.

WEEHAWKEN CASE TO THE JURY TODAY

Jersey City, Jan. 21.—The case against ten members of the Weehawken police force and two civilians charged in the county court with conspiracy to violate the prohibition law is expected to reach the jury today.

Both sides rested today after a week in which two prohibition agents accused United States Senator Edwards of New Jersey of backing those on trial.

Senator Edwards was invited by the defense counsel to testify and the judge said he would reopen the case if the senator appeared.

The defense counsel announced today that Senator Edwards declined to appear at the trial. The attorneys are expected to begin their addresses this afternoon. Lionel Wilson, one of the three prohibition agents who yesterday accused Edwards of accepting $3,500 in a protected bootlegging deal, admitted on cross examination today being convicted of petit larceny in New York several years ago.

TEXAS GOVERNOR TAKES UP DUTIES

Austin, Tex., Jan. 21.—Governor Miriam A. Ferguson today took up the work of directing America's largest commonwealth.

She sent her initial address to the legislature by a messenger.

FLOOD SITUATION IS REPORTED IMPROVING

Atlanta, Jan. 21.—An improvement in the general flood situation was reported from the water stricken areas of Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisana and Mississippi last night.

Mrs. Harry Henderson of Norfolk is visiting Rev. and Mrs. E. F. Sawyer at their home, 208 Pearl street.

Ehringhaus Wants Shot In Shell With Powder

Former Solicitor One of Most Popular Speakers at Chowan Bridge Rally—Other Warm Supporters Murphy, Heath, Cameron, Doughton, Free, Hart

SIX MILLION IS STATE'S DEFICIT

Raleigh, Jan. 21.—The general fund of the State Treasury shows a total overdraft for June 30th last of $6,567,880.24, according to the annual report of Treasurer Durham today.

The cash "overdraft" on June 30, 1924, was $106,974.80 for the year ending June 30.

SENATE SEEKS TO STUDY REPARATIONS

Washington, Jan. 21.—The Senate today adopted the Johnson resolution asking Secretary Hughes to send the Senate a copy of the Paris reparations agreement together with such information about negotiations as would be necessary for a full understanding of its terms.

BUNCOMBE WOMEN PRISONERS ESCAPE

Asheville, Jan. 21.—Eight women prisoners escaped from the county jail here last night. It was learned today that a woman trusty who had access to the keys unlocked the gate releasing them. Three returned today, saying that Marie Powers, trusty, enticed them. The women left in automobiles. Ella Huntley, a federal prisoner serving 18 months, and a sick negress were the only ones who remained.

VOTAW RESIGNS AND THERE'S NO COMMENT

Washington, Jan. 21.—Heber H. Votaw, brother-in-law of the late President Harding, has resigned as superintendent of the Federal Prisons of the Department of Justice. Officials declined to make any comment. No few was appointed by Attorney General Daugherty just prior to that he was a prisoner. He is now in the hospital recovering from an operation.

MRS. CATT COMING TO RALEIGH MEET

Raleigh, Jan. 21.—Mrs. Gertrude Weil, President of the North Carolina League of Women Voters, has announced the tentative program for the fifth annual convention of that organization, to be held in Raleigh, February 3-4. The principal feature will be an address by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, at 3 p. m., February 3.

SENATE FINISHES NAVAL OIL STORY

Washington, Jan. 21.—The Senate today had written its final word in the naval oil lease inquiry by approving late yesterday the majority report of the investigating committee sharply criticising the leases and certain official acts connected therewith.

By a vote of 50 to 30 the Senate rejected the minority report presented by Senator Spencer of Missouri.

DR. J. L. NEILL TO SPEAK THURSDAY

Dr. J. L. Neill, who has been in Central Europe for the past three years, will speak at the First Methodist Church Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. The community is invited to attend.

WANT TRY CHAPMAN ON MURDER CHARGE

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 21.—States Attorney Hugh M. Alcorn, armed with a first degree murder indictment brought Tuesday by an extraordinary grand jury against Gerald Chapman, will leave today for Washington for a conference Thursday with Assistant Attorney General Donovan for the purpose of effecting the transfer of the notorious robber from Federal jurisdiction to the custody of this State for his trial on a charge of slaying policeman Skelly.

BUATON LINE STEAMSHIP CAPSIZES IN JAMES RIVER

Norfolk, Jan. 21.—The steamship Casinon, the largest of the Boston Line, capsized in the James River near Claremont today. Her two passengers and 18 crew members escaped.

COTTON MARKET

New York, Jan. 21.—Spot cotton closed quiet, middling 24.00, unchanged. Futures, closing bids: Jan. 23.47, March 23.71, May 24.03 July 24.25, Oct. 23.90.

New York, Jan. 21.—Cotton futures opened today at the following levels: Jan. 23.50, March 23.70, May 24.02, July 24.24, Oct. 23.85.

New York, Jan. 21.—At two p. m. today cotton futures stood at the following levels: Jan. 23.41, March 23.65, May 23.97, July 24.21, Oct. 23.86.

"When we fire our gun for the building of this bridge, let's be sure that there is some shot in the shell as well as powder," said J. C. B. Ehringhaus upon leaving a brief speech in response to a request from Chairman Vann for an expression from the former member of the First District, at the Chowan bridge rally at Edenton today.

Remarks of "Ehringhaus" came late in the audience when the Elizabeth City man was called upon, and he was greeted by a round of applause as great as that received by veterans of the General Assembly who preceded him.

"After you have completed this bridge over the Chowan river," said "Pete" Murphy of Salisbury, "I want you to come to a barbecue in my home town, which was also once a lost province and on that glorious day sing with us the old song "I once was lost but now I'm found." Mr. Murphy explained that when he first began to go to the Legislature it was necessary for him to go by Virginia in order to get to Raleigh."

Senator W. C. Heath of Monroe, was the last speakers called upon. He insisted that the time for speaking was up and that he was "hungry." "I can't speak on an empty stomach," the Piedmont Senator said. "But when this bridge measure reaches the Senate, if you need a man to lead the right fight, call on me and I'll show you a boy who can talk."

Henshaw Cameron, of Raleigh, responded to the address of welcome by Frank Wood of Edenton. Mr. Cameron reviewed the highway work of the State since 1915 and stated that it was his plan years ago to make provision for the building of a bridge over the Chowan River, "but you people were not interested as you now are and I didn't receive any co-operation from you," he said.

No speaker who appeared on the platform seemed more anxious to see some plan devised to build the bridge than did Commissioner of Revenue, R. A. Doughton. "I cannot tell you how this bridge is going to be built or should be built," he declared. "That will depend largely on the message of the Governor. But whether we vote bonds or no bonds, some means should be devised—possibly short term notes whereby this bridge can be constructed. We have started a system of road building in North Carolina. A. and B. have had their roads built—but C. has not. It is the duty of the State to further develop its roads. This is a North Carolina project and must go forward."

"The construction of this bridge would provide for this section of North Carolina another crop—about the only one that it does not now grow," said Congressman Free of California. "This crop I refer to is a crop of tourists. In California it is the most profitable crop that we have. Build highways all over North Carolina and tourists will flock to your State—one of the greatest States in the Union from the standpoint of historic scenery. Why if California had the mineral springs that you have, we would have ten thousand North Carolinians to visit our State within a year's time."

"I feel more like we are going to get this bridge than I have ever felt before," William A. Hart, Highway Commissioner from the First District, told the audience when called upon after most of the speakers had been heard from.

Other members of the General Assembly who made brief remarks and who intimated that they would do all in their power to see the bridge project go through were O. A. Shuford of Hickory, J. A. Long of Roxboro and Clem G. Wright of Greensboro.

The barbecue served by the ladies of Edenton was handled in a very efficient manner and it was declared by many to be the best barbecue they had ever tasted.

The big Elizabeth City delegation was a feature of the day. Every person who got off the Elizabeth City chartered train wore a cap in the band of his hat with the words "We want a bridge across Chowan River" printed across the bottom of a map showing where it is proposed that the bridge is to be built.

Hertford also had a good delegation on hand but few of them took the trip by train, as the road all the way between Edenton and Hertford is paved.

The sentiment of everybody present seemed to be that the bridge must be built as a part of the State Highway system—and that some means must be discovered whereby it may be constructed. "If there is no other way to get it," said W. J. Berryman of Edenton, "the ladies will have another tea party."

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brumsey of Currituck spent Wednesday in the city.