

## HOUSE APPEARS AT PRESENT BE GOING BACKWARD

National Body Which Speaker Longworth Meant to Make So Great Is Getting Stagnant

## REFUSES TO CHANGE Will Not Consider Reapportionment of Membership Though Population Has Made Many Changes

By ROBERT T. SMALL

Washington, April 10.—The National House of Representatives, which Speaker "Nick" Longworth has been hoping to make the "greatest legislative body in the world" appears at the moment to be going backward. Perhaps this is due to the extreme conservatism of the House. Ever since the Senate "went wild" some years ago and has continued to be a bit "woolly," the House has prided itself on being the conservative and stable branch of Congress.

The difficulty now would seem to be that the House is becoming so stable that soon it will be static.

The House has just refused once more to consider any reapportionment of membership in accordance with the 1920 census. It has been six years since that census was taken. The density of population has changed in many states. The House has prided itself that its membership is based upon actual population by the various Congressional districts. The House has said that the Senate is not progressive, because Nevada and its less than 100,000 population has just as many Senators as the state of New York with its 12,000,000 or more souls.

The Constitution provides that the House shall re-apportion its membership after each census, but the House refuses now to take heed of this injunction and it is further proposed even this early in the game that the next decennial census, to be taken in 1930 shall also be ignored—for several years, if not entirely.

So long as the House maintains its present attitude—which is said to be governed by the voters of that body—it not only works a hardship on several states which are entitled to more members than they have at present, but also cuts down the representation of those states in the electoral college. The voters of these states are to all intents and purposes being taxed without representation.

Not only is Congress blocking a "square deal" to the states by failing to re-arrange its membership under the Constitution, but it also is blocking the proposed Constitutional amendment which would change the date of the inauguration of the President each four years and do away with the " lame duck" session of Congress every two years. Under the present system a Congressman is elected 13 months before he takes his seat at Washington. Under the Norris amendment resolution a Congressman would be elected in November and take his seat the following January.

The significant phase of the situation is the fact that six states which would lose Representatives under a re-apportionment at this time, are represented on the committee which refuses to recommend re-apportionment. The states which would gain members by fighting the re-apportionment but they are outnumbered by the states which would lose and by the loss men which stand still and are perfectly content to let matters remain in status quo.

It is admitted on all sides that the present membership of the House is large enough—435 members. Many think it too large and unwieldy. That is why the House has such iron-bound rules. If the House rules were as loose as those in the Senate nothing ever would be accomplished in Congress.

Heretofore the re-apportionment issue has been met by increasing the size of the House to take care of the states where increases of population occurred. The House cannot go ahead pyramiding its membership. Therefore if the present membership is to be maintained, certain states must be lost which will stand still to other states.

The present Congress, by refusing to go ahead with a re-apportionment cannot bind future Congresses, it is true, but it is establishing a precedent behind which future Congresses can seek shelter if they, too, want to flout the Constitution.

**DIRECTORS TO MEET**  
Appointment of a National councillor and of three delegates to the annual convention of the United States Chamber of Commerce, to be held in Washington May 11 to 13, are scheduled for the monthly meeting of the directors of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce at the Woman's Club tea room Tuesday at 12:30 o'clock.

## FIVE MEMBERS OF ROYAL FLYERS KILLED IN FALL

Hendon, England, April 10.—Five members of the Royal Flying Corps were killed when two airplanes collided over the airfield here today.

The planes fell 800 feet and burst into flames, burning the occupants, two officers and three enlisted men.

## "Jimmy" Alderman Dies In Edenton

Sudden Heart Attack Proves Fatal to Popular Former Local Resident

Stricken with a heart attack when apparently he was well along the way to recovery, J. B. Alderman, of Edenton, died suddenly Saturday morning at 10:55 o'clock at his home there. He had been ill for about two weeks from pneumonia and complications after an attack of influenza.

Mr. Alderman, who was known to his intimates as "Jimmy" Alderman, was 42 years old, and had been connected with the Norfolk Southern Railroad freight office here for a little over six years, until the first of last February, when he was transferred to Edenton as agent of the company, succeeding W. S. Harney, who moved to Florida. Mr. Alderman was exceedingly popular both here and in Edenton.

The heart attack occurred while Mr. Alderman was sitting up in his room. He had made considerable improvement in the last few days that his mother, Mrs. J. L. Alderman, and one of his sisters, who had come to visit him a few days before, left Saturday morning to return to their home in Chapel Hill, thinking he was out of danger.

Mr. Alderman is survived by his wife, who was formerly Miss Hilda Moran, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Moran, of this city; his parents, the Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Alderman, and four sisters and two brothers, all of Chapel Hill.

The body will be brought here Sunday, arriving by 11:30 or 12 o'clock, and will be taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Wright, on West Main street, instead of to the nearby Moran residence, because of the torn up condition of the street in front of the latter.

Funeral services will be conducted at the First Baptist Church Sunday afternoon at 3:20 o'clock. Dr. S. H. Tompkins, pastor of the church, will officiate. Burial will be in Hollywood Cemetery.

## Mann's Condition Still Is Critical Surgeon Reports

Little or no change in the condition of Tommie Mann, of this city, who is under treatment at the Elizabeth City Hospital for injuries sustained when he was shot down mysteriously on the roadside in the vicinity of Berea Baptist Church, five miles from here, late last Sunday night, was reported late Saturday by Dr. John Saliba, surgeon in charge at the hospital. Mann is attended by Dr. Saliba and by Dr. Zenas Fearing, also of this city.

Mann has developed localized pneumonia in the left lung from a bullet wound inflicted by his assailant, and his condition quickly became critical. He was neither perceptibly better nor worse Saturday. Dr. Saliba stated, adding that there was scant possibility for his recovery.

Meanwhile, Mann has made no statement as to the shooting, other than his original assertion that he was fired upon by some one he didn't see while he was in the act of removing a flat tire from his car. He has manifested a decided inclination to talk of the affair, and this has led many to believe that he could tell more about it, if he would. Thus far, County authorities at work on the case have reported no progress toward solution of the mystery.

In discussing the wound, Dr. Fearing explains that the bullet, entering slightly below the heart, passed through the stomach and the liver, and then struck the tissue of the left lung, finally lodging under or near the shoulder blade. The lung tissue had profusely, he stated, and this blood formed what might be likened to a puddle in the lower area of the lung cavity. The pneumonia which has developed, he continued, is entirely local in character and results from the presence of this blood, which has formed something approximately a clot in the lower part of the lung.

There is little or no likelihood that the pneumonia will spread to the other lung, according to Dr. Fearing, and Mann's recovery will depend wholly upon whether Nature can remove the offending clot still withstanding the ravages of pneumonia.

## H. L. MENCKEN'S MAGAZINE NOT BE SOLD IN STATE

Recent Action Post Office Department Automatically Places It Under Ban in North Carolina

## ISSUE IS CLEAR CUT

Some Talk of Having Mencken Test Law in Raleigh But Believed That It Is Unnecessary

Raleigh, April 10.—H. L. Mencken's American Mercury magazine is persona non grata in North Carolina, as far as the law is concerned, by its debarment from the United States mails, and news dealers who have not yet taken advantage of the advertising taken the publication through the newspapers and disposed of all of their copies had better watch their step, for a sale will constitute a misdemeanor.

The recent action of the Post Office Department in barring the magazine from the mails as "obscene," because of an article carried in its current issue, automatically places it under a strict ban in North Carolina, under the provisions of an act passed by the 1924 special session of the state legislature.

The act, entitled "An Act to Prevent the Sale and Distribution of Obscene Literature," reads:

"It shall be unlawful for any news agent, news dealer, book-seller, or any other person, firm or corporation to offer for sale, sell, or cause to be circulated within the State of North Carolina any magazines, periodicals or other publication which is now or may hereafter be excluded from the United States mails.

"It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to offer for sale, sell or give to any person under the age of 21 years any such magazine, periodical, or any other publication which is now or may hereafter be excluded from the United States mails.

"That this act shall not be construed in any way to conflict with or abridge the freedom of the press, and shall in no way affect any publication which is permitted to be sent through the United States mails.

"That any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

The American Mercury has been barred from the mails, and regardless of the attitude of persons who have read the article on the question of its propriety or decency, it cannot be denied that it falls within the category set forth by the state law and is a fugitive in the State.

The act was introduced in the special session of the legislature by Representative Frank D. Grist, now commissioner of labor and printing. Mr. Grist was, at that time, a member of the legislative committee of the American Legion.

Prior to the enactment of the bill in question, which was ratified August 21, 1924, there were no restrictions upon the sale of publications allegedly or actually obscene or tending to corrupt the public morals.

There was some talk in Raleigh yesterday of inviting H. L. Mencken into North Carolina to test the law, as he did in Massachusetts. It is considered doubtful if the popular intelligentsia editor and author would accept, however, as there seem to be no loopholes in the North Carolina statute such as he was able to escape through in Boston. There, the question of obscenity and the probability of the articles corrupting public morals were the issue; always controversial matters. Here there is but one issue, and that clean-cut. It is considered certain that the editor would stand small chance of escaping without a fine.

It is doubtful if the law will be invoked in the State in connection with the American Mercury, however, if the publication has proved as popular in other cities in the State as in Raleigh, for not a single one of the news stands canvassed yesterday evening had a single copy unsold.

The state library had one copy in its magazine racks, but it is not for sale, nor is the library circulating it or causing it to be circulated in any noticeable extent.

## FARM RELIEF BILL READY NEXT WEEK

Washington, April 10.—After a conference with Secretary Jardine today, Chairman Haggen of the House agricultural committee declared his committee would conclude its hearings Monday night and report the Farm Relief bill during the week. Similar action has been promised by the Senate committee.

## PLAYMAKERS AT HIGH TONIGHT

They Will Present "The First Year," One of Their Best

## "TELEGRAM"

New Bern, N. C., April 9, 1926. Elizabeth City Rotary Club, Elizabeth City, N. C. Playmakers staged wonderful performance before delighted audience here last night. J. M. SHIELDS, Principal, High School.

"The First Year" which will be given at the High School tonight by The Carolina Playmakers is considered one of the best productions presented by the Playmakers within the past year or so. Scheduled to play two nights in Chapel Hill, its success was such that a third performance was necessary to satisfy the popular demand.

The curtain will rise at 8:15 and a delightful evening is assured the audience. Since production in Chapel Hill, The First Year has been carried on a week-end trip to Fayetteville and Red Springs, and in both of these places the play was enthusiastically received by large audiences which gave it much favorable criticism. The press comments were especially good.

As The Tar Heel critic says: "The First Year" is a superb play, at least for the average American citizen, and it is to whom the Playmakers cater. It proves that drama can be manufactured for our mundane everyday life. The people of the play are real people doing the real things that all of us do every day.

It is the story of the modern girl who wished to get away from the little one-horse town. With two ardent suitors to choose from, she finally chose one, left home, and began the first year of married life. The trials, the troubles, the fun and the successes of that first year are woven together in a most enthralling and rollicking comedy.

"To those who have had their 'first year,' and to those who still look forward to theirs—and surely that includes all of us—the play speaks with undeniable truth. 'You two are just suffering from matrimonial measles,' Dr. Anderson wisely avers, 'troubles that look terrible but don't amount to anything. Everybody has them and, like the measles, it's better to have them young and get over them. Years from now you're either going to laugh at this or cry over it. If you let it take you apart, you're going to cry—so let's laugh at it. What do you say?' And of course we all choose to laugh!"

## CANADIANS BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE

Washington, April 10.—Canada's experiment with prohibition was drawn upon today for evidence to support the wet cause before the Senate liquor committee. Rounding out the week of hearings and with several days to go before exhausting the time allotted, wet leaders gave most of their session to questioning Canadian who have had active contact with the Dominion's prohibition controversy.

Francis William Russell of Winnipeg, president of the Moderation League of Manitoba, told the committee that Western Canada "never had such a crime wave before as we had during the last two years of prohibition."

## REAPPORTION MADE COTTON SHIPPERS

Washington, April 10.—Rates on cotton in effect between October 7, 1922, and January 12, 1924, for North Carolina points to Danville, Virginia, have been found unreasonable and reparations awarded complainants by the Interstate Commerce Commission examiners report.

## PROPERTY DAMAGE RUNS TO MILLIONS

New Orleans, April 10.—While authorities of the Federal Government and operating companies today investigated the causes of the series of Mississippi River disasters in the vicinity of New Orleans Thursday, searchers continued hunting for the bodies of the 28 missing seamen. Property damage will run into millions with estimates from two millions up.

## EDENTON CENSUS SHOWS GROWTH

Edenton, April 10.—The special census of Edenton is completed and Supervisor Koch has returned to Washington, D. C., after giving a preliminary report showing that 4,152 people are now living within the city limits. This shows an increase of 588 persons within the old city limits since the 1920 census and 788 in the annexed territory, in total 1,376 more people are citizens of Edenton now than in 1920, when the census gave 2,777.

## BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEET IS SUCCESSFUL

Institute at Blackwell Memorial Church Closes With Lecture by Prominent Norfolk Minister

## SCHOOL TO BE HELD

Preparations Begun for Four Weeks' Vacation Course for Children of All Denominations Here

A Baptist Young People's Institute, described as one of the most successful ever held here, both in attendance and in the work accomplished, closed at Blackwell Memorial Baptist Church Friday night with a lecture by Dr. Howard I. Stewart, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Norfolk. The institute opened Monday and continued through the week with sessions each afternoon and night.

Speaking from the subject, "The Enchanter's Wand," Dr. Stewart emphasized the value of the attributes of vision, enthusiasm, conviction and courage in changing for the better the lives and conditions of young people generally. A good sized crowd attended the lecture.

Institutes of the type just closed have been held annually at Blackwell Memorial Church for the last four years, and have been adopted as a unit in the educational policy of the church, according to Dr. James H. Thayer, the pastor, who declares that they have been productive of much good in revitalizing the work of the young people, and of the church as a whole.

Instructors in the institute just closed were The Rev. R. W. Upton, pastor of Corinth and Heceta Baptist churches, this county; the Rev. M. F. Bone, pastor of Calvary and Riverside Baptist Churches, this city; Prof. A. B. Combs, principal of the Elizabeth City High School, and Mrs. R. S. Harris, of this city. Dr. Thayer was director of the work in general.

The average attendance at the institute sessions was 55 persons, and its main function was the training of B. Y. P. U. workers. Preparations have been begun for a daily vacation Bible school to be held at Blackwell Memorial Church from June 21 to July 16. Dr. Thayer announces, stating that all children of the city, regardless of denomination, will be invited to attend, entirely without expense to themselves. The first school of the kind was held at the church last summer, with an enrollment of 300 boys and girls representing virtually every congregation and denomination here.

Last year's daily vacation Bible school was one of 300 in the South conducted by the Baptist denomination, according to Dr. Thayer, and was among a representative group of 42 which were given special mention in a survey of the work. The school here ran for three weeks only, but this year it will continue through the standard term of four years.

Among Southern states, North Carolina ranked second last year in daily vacation Bible schools, with a total of 22. Georgia was first with 73.

## WASHINGTON HAS A REGULAR TORNADO

Washington, N. C., April 10.—Washington was partially paralyzed Friday as a result of a tornado that struck the city at 6 o'clock Thursday afternoon, blowing down electric power and light poles, putting all lights, elevators and appliances out of commission, and causing injury to poultry and live stock.

Every home and business house was plunged into darkness Thursday night, theaters were obliged to remain closed, hotels and drug stores worked under difficulties, about a dozen telephones were put out of commission.

All night the city was without electric light and those having gas were proudly demonstrating the fact. The street lights being extinguished the city became a relatively safe place for burglars and thieves to work in but with the single exception of an attempt at entry of a home no crimes have been reported.

## OFF ON HIS THIRD ALTITUDE FLIGHT

Dayton, Ohio, April 10.—Lieutenant John A. MacReady, McCook Field flyer, took off on his third altitude flight here at 9:58 o'clock this morning.

Dayton, April 10.—Lieutenant MacReady came down at 11:59 this morning after having reached an altitude of 34,000 feet, according to his mark on the altimeter. Shortage of gas caused his descent, the officer stated. The entire trip down was made without gas. Sixty three gallons of fuel were taken aloft but this was insufficient.

## Drives 4,700 Miles to Be Queen



Miss Virginia Herberman drove the 4700 miles from Seattle, Wash., to St. Augustine Fla. with her mother. Then, after she had been there a while they elected her Queen of the spring Ponce de Leon celebration.

## Bus Line From Here to Lower Currituck Points in Prospect

Formation of a bus line between Elizabeth City and points in lower Currituck County, as a means of relieving the present lack of satisfactory transportation facilities between the two points, is announced as an early probability, through the cooperation of McPherson Brothers, owners of all similar lines between Edenton, Hertford, Elizabeth City and Norfolk.

Every by land, and on schedules which have been arranged in advance with a view to handling freight, both to accommodating passengers, lower Currituck has been cut off from Elizabeth City each winter for several years because of very bad roads, the latter resulting largely from high water construction activities. Road building from Elizabeth City outward in the direction of Currituck and Norfolk now has reached the point where it is believed that a bus line would be practicable, and would fill a long felt need.

Paving on the Camden-Biles road is now going down between Camden station and Belvidere and the rate of from 7.50 to 1,000 feet a day, with bright prospect.

## Leonard Makes Hit Ailing Life Savers In Rotary Speech

J. Paul Leonard, secretary of the North Carolina Merchants Association, made out a good case for the merchant when, as speaker of the day before the weekly luncheon of the Elizabeth City Rotary Club Friday, he gave his time to a defense of the modern system of distribution of the goods of the country.

Mr. Leonard challenged the idea that the country is going to the dogs as a result of high prices and the spending of money for automobiles, luxuries, and real luxuries. A higher standard of living, he assured his hearers, meant just so much the more work for wage earners and the betterment of conditions in all walks of life.

Mr. Leonard's talk abounding in wit and illustrated by good stories, effectively told, was heard with marked interest by members of the club and their guests and was the occasion for a good deal of favorable comment.

## WILLIAMSON WILL BE FILED FOR PROBATE

Charlotte, April 10.—The will of William H. Williamson disposing of an estate of approximately \$200,000 was filed for probate here today. Half a million was left to his two children and the remainder in trust for various charities.

## POLICE BREAK UP CHILDREN'S PARADE

Pasadena, N. J., April 10.—Trouble developed today when the police broke up two parades of children organized by textile strikers. It started as the officers were attempting to remove several adults who had been arrested while heading parades without permit.

## FARM RELIEF MEASURE MUST BE CONSIDERED

Otherwise Western States Would Make It An Issue in Congressional Elections in the Autumn

## IN SENATE TUESDAY

Senator Norris of Nebraska Says It Has Been Before His Committee Quite Long Enough

By DAVID LAWRENCE

Washington, April 10.—Decision of Senate and House leaders to make room on the legislative program for a bill to handle the export problem of agriculture is the direct result of pressure from Western states where the omission of farm legislation would certainly have been made an issue in the Congressional elections this autumn.

The inclusion of a farm relief bill is dependent, of course, on the harmonizing of viewpoints in the Senate and House committees on agriculture, for the leaders threaten to adjourn Congress by June 1 if there is no measure before them for action.

The Senate committee on agriculture under the chairmanship of Senator Norris of Nebraska will report a bill to the Senate next Tuesday, Mr. Norris declares. The question has been before his committee for years it should be reported to the Senate one way or the other at once. This is only another way of saying that the framework of a new measure may be prepared in committee but the differences of viewpoint will have to be worked out in actual debate and probably voting on specific amendments.

The export controversy involves complicated economic doctrines. They have already been debated for the last three years by farm organizations at considerable length and if the question is to be settled in the Senate it will mean prolonged debate. The upshot may be a compromise measure with the various factions content in the end to get as much as they can in this session hoping to build on it when the proposal has been put through experimental stages.

The nub of the problem is the question of who shall determine the price of export—shall it be the Government or the private cooperative organizations? Opinion now seems to favor letting the cooperative organizations do it. Then there arises the matter of collecting funds from the farmers to finance the revolving scheme of crop handling. And the Government is as a rule asked for funds in most of the bills proposed.

Whether Mr. Norris will agree to such a provision depends entirely on how the matter is presented. The Government has been making advances to farm organizations through the war finance corporation so there is ample precedent for straight loans but since the corporation has been liquidating, the administration could prefer that some institution like the credit corporation organized in the Northwest two years ago with capital from all parts of the country be used again. The Government is willing to lend its supervisory and regulatory power but does not wish to be in the position of directly financing an export monopoly. Some bill, however, which the President can approve is expected by the White House and there will be every encouragement given to the compromise movement in the hope that the impossible sections will be eliminated for the present and that those provisions on which there is a chance of agreement be embodied in a bill as a start toward farm relief.

## BIDS ARE CLOSED FOR MUSCLE SHOALS

Washington, April 10.—Seven bids for the least of the entire Government property at Muscle Shoals and two bids for part of it have been received by the joint congressional committee. Bids were closed at noon.

## One Seen Perish In Hospital Fire

Raleigh, April 10.—Fire which started at the State Hospital for the Insane at 1 o'clock was still raging furiously at 2:30 o'clock and little hope for saving the institution was held out. It is not known yet how many were in the building as several hundred were marched out when the blaze was first noticed.

One man was seen by attendants to perish on an upper floor in attempting to escape.

The Adjutant General had called out the National Guard to aid in fighting the flames at 2 o'clock, while the Durham fire department was also called.

The water supply, which was low at the time, handicapped the fire fighters.