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ON HOME STRETCH

LAST WEEK OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA. LAWS ENACTED.

SOCIAL CLUBS WILL STAND.

Wilkes County Officers on Salary—School For Feeble Minded—Bonds For County Road Improvements—The State Fire-Proof Building.

Raleigh.—The house passed on second reading the committee bill that would authorize the state to endorse county bonds for road improvements to the amount of not exceeding \$200,000 for any single county. Members gave notice that, while they voted for the bill on second roll-call, they reserved the right to oppose it on final reading after investigation.

The senate passed the bill to establish a state school for the feeble-minded, providing a \$50,000 bond issue and an annual maintenance appropriation of \$50,000; also the bill amending the general state drainage law and the bill to incorporate the Greensboro, Roxboro & Norfolk railroad company.

The house refused to advance on the calendar the bill to prohibit whiskey lockers in clubs displaced by the state building bill. "Equal rights to all bills and special privileges to none" was declared to be the rule for the remaining week of the session.

Wilkes Officers on Salary.

The house spent over an hour on the Wilkes county bill for putting officers on salaries, being fought so strenuously by the Republican representatives from Wilkes, finally passing the bill 53 to 17 in such shape that it makes salaries effective December 1, next, the sheriff at \$2,200 and the other officers at \$2,000, and created the office of treasurer, naming a Democrat for the place and appointing a county finance committee. The bill is yet to run the gauntlet of the senate.

The senate passed a large number of bills on their final readings, among them being acts relative to non-resident license to hunt, authorize probate and registration of deeds by corporations, relative to free transportation to widows and orphans of deceased employes of railroads, define duties of sheriff or other officers in capturing illicit distilleries and prohibit putting felon's stripes on persons convicted only of misdemeanors.

Among the bills passed and sent to the house were: Prohibit use of dynamite or other explosive in killing fish in North Carolina, amend law relative to foreign executors, prescribe procedure for removing trust funds from the state, relative to service of summons in dissolution of corporations and appointment of receivers, and amend the revival relative to distribution of personal property.

Senator Baggett's bill to punish persons for appearing in public places or assemblies in a drinking or boisterous condition was tabled after an hour's debate.

Changes in Reappointment.

The committee bill for reappointment of the members in the house of representatives of the general assembly was introduced in the house by Quikkel of Lincoln and put through immediate passage and sent to the senate. This bill gives Guilford, Mecklenburg and Wake three members each; Buncombe, Durham, Forsyth, Gaston, Halifax, Iredell, Johnston, Nash, Pitt, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Union and Wayne two members each and the remaining counties one each.

The Parham bill, placing all graded schools under the state text-book commission and adding seven teachers as members of the text-book commission, received a favorable report from the senate committee on revision, with an amendment striking out the provision which would place the graded schools that are now operating under special charters under the text-book commission, thereby leaving the law as it now is in this respect.

The State Fire-Proof Building.

The house passed the bill for the site for state fireproof administration

Want Law Prohibiting Cartoons.

"Please pass a law against cartoons in newspapers. Lots of cartoons have a tendency to make a bad impression on the reading public."

This was the context of a petition presented to the senate by a senator representing a number of petitioners who have decided that the privilege of the pencil and the pen in the Old North State is going beyond the limit when it comes to cartoon work. No mention was made of the class of work submitted nor was it stated whether the moral or artistic effect

building with amendments cutting down the bond issue to \$25,000 from the \$50,000 that the senate had allowed as compared with \$100,000,000 that the original bill carried. The amendments for \$250,000 and limiting the expenditures for the building to this amount were offered by Speaker Dowd, who argued that it would be a mistaken policy for the legislature to concentrate the building for the state in one great building, but that the policy followed by the national government of different buildings facing the capital square as they are needed was the wise course. Therefore, he wanted the building proposed in the bill to be fixed for the state's lot at the corner of Salisbury and Morgan streets at the southwest corner of the capital square. The bill as passed was made to do this by the senate.

Senator Ivie's bill to reduce the hours of work in manufacturing industries from sixty-six to sixty hours a week came up in the senate with a favorable report by the committee and a minority unfavorable report signed by Senators Reinhardt, Hawkins and McDonald; also a committee amendment for the law to become effective October 1. Senator Ivie offered an amendment January 1, 1912, as the time for the law to go into effect.

Revenue Bill Considered.

The house considered the revenue bill in committee of the whole. Section 65, imposing a tax of \$10 on photograph enlargement agencies, was stricken out as imperative; sections 66 and 67 were stricken out as absolute; sections 68, as to insurance companies, and 69, as to dealers in pistols, were adopted without change. Representative Williams of Durham procured the reduction of the tax on dealers in pianos and organs from \$100 to \$50, with a provision that will prevent duplicate licenses for agents. Judge Ewart tried to get through amendments to Section 71, as to cigarettes, increasing the license tax of dealers graduated so that the increase be from \$250 to \$500 minimum up to \$2,500. Carr of Durham, Connor and others opposed this and the amendment was lost. The retail license tax was left at \$5 and the section adopted. An amendment to increase the tax on cigarette manufacturers was adopted, making the tax \$2,000 instead of \$1,000, the vote being 33 to 25. Sections 72, 74, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81 and 84 and up to 93 were adopted without change. Section 75 was amended so as to exempt Confederate soldiers from license taxes for peddling eyeglasses. An amendment by Battle to Section 84 allows cities and towns to collect a telephone tax. With these changes the revenue bill passed final reading and was sent to the senate.

Salaries Increased.

The house received favorable reports on the bills to make the pay of the supreme court reporter \$1,500 and the supreme court justices \$4,500. A favorable report was also received on a bill to safeguard the interest of the state in turnpike and railroads through convict labor, the bill carrying an appropriation of \$3,500.

The senate voted to increase the expense allowance of superior court judges from \$250 to \$750 in addition to the \$3,250 salaries.

The Democrats of the joint committees on congressional appointments decided to transfer Catawba county from the ninth to eighth district and Wilkes from the eighth to the seventh. Hoke county was placed in the seventh and Avery county in the ninth.

Reformatory For Negroes.

The house committee on penal institutions decided to report favorably the bill to appropriate \$5,000 for the establishment of a reformatory and training school for negroes to be located near Charlotte.

Senator Hobgood's bill for a State primary law for both politics and parties and to prevent corrupt practices in election contests gets a report without prejudice from the senate committee on election laws. This committee also reports without prejudice Senator Sikes' bill to prevent corrupt practices in election contests.

Raleigh.—The Tri-State medical association adjourned to meet next in Columbia. Dr. J. Howell Way of Waynesville was elected president and Dr. R. E. Hughes of Laurens, S. C., secretary-treasurer.

Collector of the Eastern District.

A gentleman in Raleigh, who had been in Washington, brought the news that the matter of the collectorship of the western district had been settled, and that the internal revenue department had returned to Collector Brown his resignation which he sent to the department last year, and he said it was now understood that Brown would be continued as collector. "You may put this down as certain," he said, "no matter what may be said to the contrary. Brown will continue as collector."

\$27,000,000 EACH YEAR IS SAVED FOR SHIPPERS

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION DECLINES TO ALLOW INCREASED RATES.

RAILROADS WILL APPEAL

The Commission Asserts That Railroads Failed to Show Necessity For Freight Increase.

Washington.—The interstate commerce commission refused to grant increased freight rates on both Eastern and Western railroads. Proposed advances in class freight rates in official classification territory, aggregating among all the railways in the territory approximately \$27,000,000 a year, were disapproved by the commission.

This is a sweeping victory for the shippers. The commission instructs the Eastern and Western roads to withdraw the proposed tariff increase. If such action is not taken by March 10, 1911, the commission will further suspend the rates for a term of three years.

In the Southwestern rate cases the railroads are allowed a substantial increase in rates on any commodity.

In allowing these increases of the Southwestern roads the commission takes the ground that they are permitted because Southwestern roads have not prospered in proportion to their business and revenues, compared with the Western and Eastern roads.

The commission before declined to disturb the commodity rates on Southwestern roads, a schedule of which was filed some time ago by the Southwestern roads.

New York.—The shippers' victory over Eastern and Western railroads in decision of the interstate commerce commission enjoining increased rates, was the axis about which the financial world swung both here and also abroad, and was responsible for a period of demoralization on the New York Stock exchange.

Railroad heads continued to express pessimistic views of the situation and both here and in Chicago railroad officers, together with their bankers and counsel, discussed the situation. Plans will be made looking to an appeal to the new commerce court.

Chicago.—Railroad officials in Chicago made no effort to hide their disappointment at the ruling of the interstate commerce commission, which denied them the right to increase their freight rates.

President William A. Gardner of the Chicago and Northwestern was authority for the statement that the commerce commission's decision did not mean the end of the fight. "We will keep right on trying to secure permission to increase rates," he announced. "Railroad earnings are not keeping pace with expenditures, and an increase in the near future is absolutely essential."

FIRE SWEEPED FLORIDA TOWN.

Two Hundred Thousand Dollar Loss at White Springs, Fla.

Jacksonville, Fla.—White Springs, a resort city on the Suwanee river, was practically destroyed by fire which started in the Baptist parsonage and spread rapidly through the business district.

A total of 23 structures, a majority of them mercantile establishments, and including four large hotels, were destroyed before the flames burnt out.

A very high wind was blowing at the time and the fire spread with such rapidity that the guests of one of the hotels were threatened and several slightly burned before they could possibly reach a place of safety.

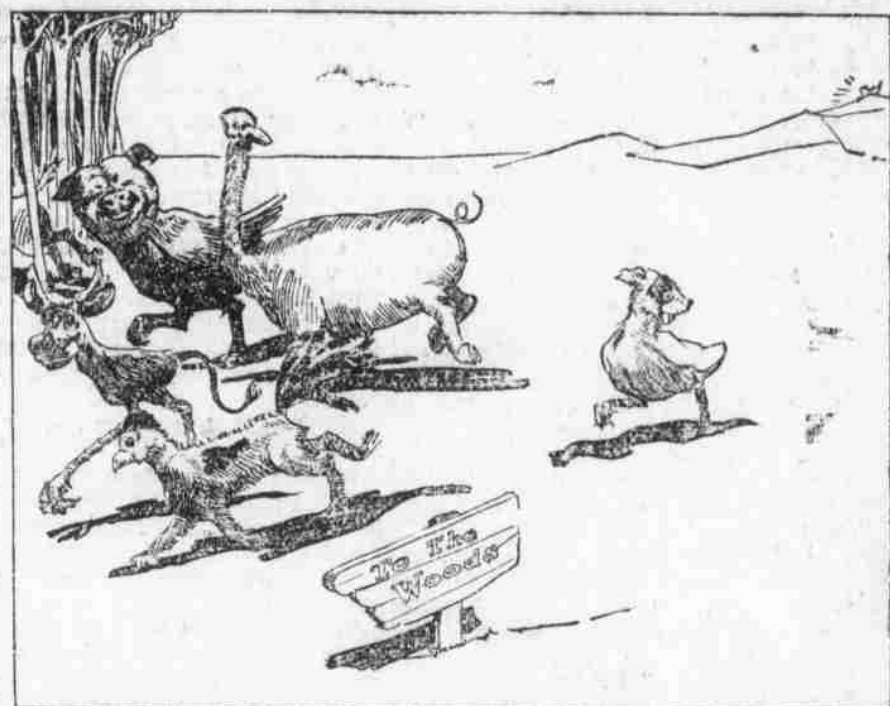
The absence of a fire department made the town helpless, and, once the fire started, although the Lake City department was rushed to the city by special train, it was of no help on account of the absence of a water supply.

The residents and visitors of White Springs were panic-stricken and it was with difficulty that shelter was found. Many left for adjacent cities to get accommodations. The damage is conservatively placed near two hundred thousand dollars.

Extra Session Seems Sure.

Washington.—An extra session of congress, to be convened the first week in April, is the prospect here. The delay or intermission of one month has been practically agreed to by President Taft, in the event of an extra session, but unless congress sends its eyes and the senate agrees to appropriate about \$75,000,000 without reading the bills passed by the house, an extra session is inevitable. The tariff will be the main, but not the only thing that Democrats will tackle in the extra session.

NATURE FAKES BEWARE



Col. Roosevelt is Preparing for a Trip Through the West.

TRAIN ROBBERS CAPTURED

Men Who Held Up Southern Train Caught in Georgia With Their Booty.

Gainesville, Ga.—George Anderson, alleged leader of the band which held up Southern passenger train No. 36 near here, was committed to jail here by Judge Sims in default of \$10,000 bail. Charles Hunter and James Hanford, other bandits who have confessed their part in the robbery, waived the preliminary examination, but were held for \$10,000 bail. Railway officials have wired the authorities at Ball Ground, Ga., to release two men held there as suspects.

Everything stolen has been recovered with the exception of two hundred dollars in money, and it is now thought that it will be found.

The three bandits—who gave their names as George Anderson of Virginia, aged 65 years, the leader of the men; L. C. Hunter of Michigan, aged 31 years, and James Hanford of Nebraska—now occupy separate cells in the Gainesville jail and are not allowed to communicate with each other.

The detectives took two of the bandits out to White Sulphur and had them find all the documents, valuables, torn open envelopes, the lost mortgages and everything which they could not conveniently carry with them through the country without attracting attention.

MONUMENT TO DAVIS.

New Orleans Dedicates Shaft to the Only President of Confederacy.

New Orleans.—New Orleans paid tribute to the only president of the Confederacy by unveiling a monument to Jefferson Davis in the parkway recently named by his name. A picturesque feature of the unveiling was the formation of a living Confederate flag by the school children.

The honor of drawing the cords which bared the shaft to view was given to Mrs. J. F. Spearling, treasurer of the Jefferson Davis Monument association, which is responsible for the tribute to the Confederate leader. The principal address was delivered by Gen. Bennett H. Young of Louisville. The monument is of granite, with a bronze statue of Jefferson Davis, and represents one of the best efforts of Edward Virginia Valentine. It stands at the corner of Hagan avenue and Canal street.

In addition to the popular subscription collected in New Orleans, a small surplus of the general Southern fund raised for the Jefferson Davis monument in Richmond, which was unveiled in 1907, was turned over to the local monument association.

The statue is of heroic size, the president of the Confederacy being represented in a standing position, as though he were addressing an audience.

Plague Killed Everybody.

St. Petersburg, Russia.—A telegram from Murin reports the gruesome discovery of a Chinese village near there, in which the entire population was dead from the plague. Many bodies lay in the open air and were covered with snow.

May Choose Death Medium.

Reno, Nev.—Condemned men in Nevada will have their choice of death by hanging, shooting or poison if a new law is approved. Hydrocyanic acid is the poison alternative mentioned. One drop on the end of the tongue is sufficient to produce instant death. The measure provides that at the time of the sentencing the condemned man may choose his way to die. If by poison he is to be supplied by the prison physician with enough to cause instant death and is to be instructed in its use.

JAPANESE TREATY RATIFIED

SENATE CONFIRMS NEW AGREEMENT WITH THE NIPPONESE GOVERNMENT.

Labor Situation in the West Will Not Be Menaced by the New Treaty.

Washington.—The new Japanese treaty of trade and navigation was ratified by the senate. While the apprehension of Western senators that the treaty might let down the bars to coolie labor was not entirely removed, these senators contented themselves with expressing their solicitude, they interposed no objection to ratification.

The action of this government in promptly confirming the new agreement is expected to do more to prove the feeling of cordiality this country has for Japanese than anything that has been done for many years. It is regarded as a manifestation of highest confidence in the advanced civilization of that nation. The effect will be to permit Japan to enter at once upon a reorganization of its fiscal system and the making of new tariffs with all nations.

Japan's treaties with other powers are to expire July 17, next. That with the United States by reason of its later ratification, would have continued until the same date a year later had not this government consented to its expiration at the same time as the others.

When the new treaty was received from the president, it became the subject of wrangles. Pacific coast senators feared it might have an effect upon the labor situation on the western slope by reason of the omission of the clause in the treaty of 1894, which it supersedes, recognizing the right of this government to pass an exclusion law.

An alien without a passport would, of course, be liable to deportation. The California senators, it is said, became satisfied early that the change would not menace the labor situation in their state.

Carrie Nation Crazy. Franka Springs, Ark.—Mrs. Carry Nation, who is in a sanitarium at Leavenworth, Kan., has completely lost her mind, according to messages received from physicians at the institution by friends of the drink crusader here. It is believed her mental condition is due to overwork in her fight against liquor and tobacco. The messages say that while Mrs. Nation's mental condition is of the worst, her physical health is sound.

Confederate Generals Disappearing. Washington.—The death of Gen. W. L. Russell of Dallas, Texas, leaves but about half a dozen general officers of the Confederate army still alive. Among them are Gens. S. H. Backner, Ky.; J. I. Walker, South Carolina; Clement A. Evans, Georgia; Marcus J. Wright, Washington, D. C.; George W. Gordon, Tennessee, and T. T. Munford, Virginia.

"Boss" Cox Indicted for Perjury. Cincinnati, Ohio.—George B. Cox, head of the Republican organization in Cincinnati, a prominent factor in state and national politics, was indicted by the grand jury on a charge of perjury. The basis of the charge is that Cox testified falsely before a grand jury on March 21, 1906, in denying he had received any of the interest money which several banks, according to disclosures before the Drake investigating committee, paid to county treasurer for the deposit of funds.

NO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE FRUIT CROP

FRUIT WAS SAVED BY HIGH WINDS DURING RECENT COLD WEATHER.

HEAVY DAMAGE IN ALABAMA

Half a Million Dollars' Loss Reported in States of Alabama and Texas.

Atlanta.—In spite of a temperature several degrees below freezing, which prevailed, it is generally believed by fruit growers that dry weather and high winds have thus far saved the fruit crop from total destruction or from very serious damage.

While it is admitted that the fruit crop has suffered considerably from the cold and in several localities may have been practically destroyed, it is not believed that the damage has been general or of sufficient magnitude to result in serious loss. But most encouraging reports are being received from many stations in the center of the peach-growing belts.

Many fruit dealers and fruit growers have expressed the belief that the high wind which followed the rain and which preceded the cold wave by several hours has played an important part in lessening the damage to the fruit, because it dried out the buds and the blossoms and left small opportunity for them to freeze.

The freezing temperature has been general throughout the Southern states, and it is possible that in numerous sections the crop has been entirely destroyed or so stunted that it will be valueless, but those in close touch with the situation are optimistic that there are few points where such conditions exist.

Dallas, Texas.—Twenty degrees above zero was the point touched by temperatures throughout a large portion of northern Texas. The 20 degree line appears to have extended east and west through about the latitude of Dallas and Fort Worth.

The loss to the fruit crop has been heavy, but not total.

Birmingham, Ala.—Reports from various parts of the state show that frost and continued cold weather has damaged the fruit and produce crops considerably, an estimate placing the amount to be at least half a million dollars.

Bay Minette, Ala.—All early strawberries in this section have been killed by the cold. Thermometers registered 20 degrees. Tree fruit has been damaged.

Albany, Ga.—The temperature fell to 23 degrees here and the effects are visible in blackened vegetation which marks the practical extinction of some truck gardens.

While all vegetables were not killed, the effects generally were disastrous. It is feared that the pear crop was ruined, though some fruit men are hopeful that the blossoms had dried out sufficient not to have been killed. Such fruits as figs and plums were completely destroyed.

Marshallville, Ga.—Though the mercury fell here to 24 degrees, the fruit crop is not killed.

Mount Airy, Ga.—Although the thermometer registered 15 degrees in an exposed place, the damage to the peach crop in this section is very slight.

Montgomery, Ala.—Reports from over this section are to the effect that the entire fruit and vegetable crop has been killed by the present cold wave. Experts claim that the wind has caused the sap in the trees to freeze, killing the buds. English peas were in full bloom and Irish potatoes coming up. These are dead. Young oats are in danger and corn has been killed in the ground.

Adairsville, Ga.—The minimum temperature was 20 degrees. The commercial orchards of peaches are about half in bloom. Growers differ as to the amount of damage done. Some claim as much as two-thirds killed while others think the loss is total.

Commerce, Ga.—The temperature went the lowest of the recent cold spell here, registering 20 above zero. There was ice and frozen earth, but practically no frost. Close observers here say that a freeze does not kill fruit unless the sap freezes.

Cornelia, Ga.—The freeze was unprecedented. The thermometer went down to 15 degrees and still peaches are safe. This is probably due to the high elevation of this section and the clay soil which keeps the buds dormant. Only a few blossoms show, but those that are fully open were undoubtedly killed. Fortunately, scarcely a blossom is out, but a few seedling trees and a few plum trees that were out will be ruined. The peach belt, as a whole, suffered no injury. A high wind, which has kept us constantly, dried out the buds and saved the crop.