

WEEKS WORK OF THE LEGISLATORS

WHAT BOTH BRANCHES OF STATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS DOING.

HOUSE PASSES LOCAL BILLS

Many New Bills Introduced by Law-makers—Long Argument in Senate on Daniel Bill For \$500,000 Highway Construction Bonds.

Senate—Tuesday.

The senate passed the joint resolution from the House for a commission of one Senator and two Representatives to investigate county officers as to failure to return inheritance and schedule B and C taxes during the past two years.

The Weaver bill, for the protection of municipality-owned watersheds from fire by requiring property owners who cut timber within 400 yards of such watersheds to remove or destroy all residue from cuttings, passed the Senate.

Senator Bryant introduced a bill for a reformatory for women.

Senator McLean's bill giving the Corporation Commission power to regulate the crossings of transmission wires was considered favorably by the Senate Committee on Corporations.

House—Tuesday.

Representative Clark's bill to prevent the manufacture and sale of cigarettes in North Carolina received its death blow at the hands of the House Committee on Public Health after that committee had been stormed with protests from the tobacco interests of the state.

The House discussed for quite a while the bill to allow the citizens of Jackson county to vote next May on the question of moving the county seat from Webster to Sylvia, with the result that it passed second reading by a vote of 75 to 36. Being a roll-call measure it had to go over for the final reading.

Mr. Williams of Hertford introduced and procured immediate passage of a bill for the relief of the Commissioners of Hertford county.

Senate—Wednesday.

The senate killed by a very decisive vote the Kellum house bill to put husband and wife on the same footing in seeking divorce on Biblical grounds and the Stewart bill allowing divorce after five-years' separation.

Petitions were presented for six teachers school from Anson, Wayne, Iredell, Pender, Nash, Rockingham and Sampson; for compulsory school law from Iredell, Gaston, Rockingham, Wayne and Sampson, from citizens of Wayne against compulsory school; from Anson and Bladen for increased appropriation for the Institute for the Feeble Minded; from Wake and Sampson for increased appropriation for Oxford Orphanage; from Junior Order Councils at Statesville, Nashville and Elkin for child labor legislation and compulsory school law; from citizens of Carteret relative to fisheries commission.

House—Wednesday.

The house passed on final reading the bill for the people of Jackson county to vote on removal of the county seat from Webster to Sylvia.

The house voted down 64 to 48 the bill to make Sabbath desecration a misdemeanor punishable by \$50 fine or 30 days in jail, instead of merely a penalty of \$1 for each offense.

The bill to allow Jackson county to vote in May on the question of the removal of the county seat from Webster to Sylvia passed final reading after another lengthy discussion, the vote being 79 to 51.

The bill to make games and other disregard for the Sabbath a misdemeanor instead of a nominal fine under police regulation was killed after a long discussion.

Senate—Thursday.

Senator Long introduced a joint resolution expressive of the thanks of the General Assembly to Ashley Horne for donating to the state a monument to the North Carolina women of the Confederacy, and this was adopted at once by unanimous vote.

The bill amending the law as to requirements for license to practice medicine, as passed by the House, was taken up and explained by Senator Evans of Bladen.

It requires the possession of sufficient literary attainments to pass the entrance examination to the University of North Carolina, or present a certificate from their county superintendent of public instruction that they have passed an equivalent examination. It was passed without opposition.

A number of new bills were introduced in the Senate.

House—Thursday.

The House bill amending requirements for license to practice medicine was passed providing sufficient literary attainments equivalent to the State University entrance examination, putting this state upon a parity with the other States east of the

Rockies. The bill is executive in 1917.

The House passed the Sykes bill to penalize telegraph companies for errors and delay in transmission as amended by Miller of Cleveland to reduce the penalty from \$100 to \$50.

After a lengthy discussion the bill to prohibit the deducting of the weight of bagging and tares from cotton bales, when it does not exceed six per cent of the total weight of the bale, was passed.

Senate—Friday.

The Senate Committee on Education took a vote on the bill to provide for a minimum school term of six-months in every county in the state, and as a result will report the measure favorably, but several members were not satisfied as to the means by which the thing could be financed, and Senators Peterson and Bryant reserved the right to oppose the bill for that reason. Of course, no Senator is against the purpose of the act.

Action on the compulsory attendance bill was deferred.

The Senate Committee on Public Health will report favorably the measure to provide for the furnishing of diphtheria antitoxin at cost.

Senator Pharr's bill to authorize the City of Charlotte to subscribe for and purchase stock in the Charlotte Fair Association was acted upon favorably by Senate Judiciary Committee No. 1.

House—Friday.

The House voted down the bill to create a State Fish Commission, which came up with unfavorable report from the House Committee and has a favorable report from the Senate Committee on Fish and Fisheries.

The bill was voted down 84 to 18. The Committee on Public Service Corporations reported favorably a substitute bill for putting electric power companies, gas companies and public service corporations under the control of the Corporation Commission and the bill for uniform bills-of-aiding.

The House made a special order of the six-months term school bill for Tuesday night.

A number of new bills were introduced in the House.

Senate—Saturday.

The Senate, by a rising unanimous vote, passed the bill for the establishment of a home for wives and widows of Confederate veterans, Senator Ivie having withdrawn his substitute for \$15,000 to be appropriated annually for pensions, so that the needy wives and widows might be left with their kindred. He will introduce the pension bill as a supplementary measure.

After the adoption of an amendment by Senator Gilliam clarifying the provision that all concealed weapons taken from convicted persons, or those failing to answer, be destroyed the bill was passed on final reading without division.

Bills passed final reading as follows: House bill providing rural policemen for Scotland county.

Senate bill raising age limit from 15 to 19 for prisoners sent to reformatories.

Senate bill requiring officers of Sampson county to make reports of receipts and disbursements.

Senate bill authorizing the Pineville school district No. 1 to issue bonds.

House—Saturday.

The House passed the Senate bill placing \$5,000 at the disposal of the Corporation Commission for litigation before the Interstate Commerce Commission against freight discriminations against North Carolina.

The Senate resolution of gratitude to Mr. Ashley Horne for his gift to the state for a monument to North Carolina women of the Confederacy was adopted by the House by a unanimous rising vote.

There came from the Educational Committee favorable report for the compulsory attendance bill, to apply to children from 8 to 14 years.

Senate—Monday.

The Senate had a long argument over whether the Daniel bill for the state to issue \$500,000 bonds each year to take county bonds for highway construction on the plan worked out by W. S. Wilson, corporation clerk in the Department of State, should go to the Finance Committee, after going with favorable report from the Joint Committee on Highways or take its place on the calendar.

House—Monday.

Representative Witty, Woolen and Sheek were named as the Committee on the Journal for the week.

Bills reported enrolled for ratification and signed included:

Rural policemen for Robeson County; to amend the charter of the Wainwright Railroad Company; to provide funds for freight-rate prosecutions through the Corporation Commission; to regulate pay of jurors in Hertford County; to regulate the pay of jurors; to regulate Superior Courts for Forsyth County; to establish the Asheville police court; joint resolution enlarging the powers of the commission to confer with the railroad officials in amicable adjustment of freight-rate discriminations; to extend the time for organizing the North State Central Railway Company; joint resolution of thanks to Colonel Horne for the monument to Confederate women.

A number of new bills were introduced in the House.

FRANCISCO DE LA BARRA.



PICK DE LA BARRA TO HEAD MEXICO

Washington Relieved by Situation, but Preparation of Troops for Active Service Goes On

MOVE AGAINST MADERO

Mexico City.—Francisco I. Madero placed his resignation in the hands of Congress, and it was arranged for Francisco de la Barra to become President of the Republic.

The U. S. cruiser Colorado reached Mazatlan, the vessel's arrival being reported almost at the same moment it was announced that Madero would quit office.

De la Barra made an address when on his way to the Senate, assuring the citizens that an early settlement is assured and peace will soon be restored.

Madero's abdication followed another day of heavy fighting, in which there was much carnage and terrible destruction of property.

The President made a desperate effort to redeem his pledge to crush the rebellion, but utterly failed, some of the Federal troops revolting and going over to the revolutionists.

With the Senate of the Republic in session, it is now stated on positive authority that Francisco I. Madero has agreed to permanently retire only in the event that such a course be dictated by the Senate.

The British Legation reiterated its announcement that Madero had resigned. Senor de la Barra held conferences with General Felix Diaz and President Madero urging a quick settlement.

The activity of the foreign representatives led to the rumor that they joined in a note to the Government demanding that Madero fix the limits of the fighting in order that non-combatants might not be endangered.

There can be no question, however, that developments of the most tremendous importance will follow the conferences in the National Palace. The public belief is that Madero, whether willingly or not, will turn over the Government to some one favored by General Diaz, who undoubtedly controls the situation.

The most interesting story is that Madero's Ministers and Generals are urging him to sacrifice his pride for the sake of his country, and that the President has maintained an obstinate refusal.

In Chihuahua, 3,000 regular troops, holding all of the principal towns and in possession of the artillery, revolted and declared for Diaz.

In the states of San Luis, Potosi and Durango, the revolt is spreading like a prairie fire. The Federal troops are declaring for Diaz. There has been hard fighting in San Luis Potosi. Madero's property in Granaderos has been sacked or destroyed.

machine guns shortly after 2 o'clock p. m. But with the arrival of 700 fresh troops, commanded by General Blanquet from Toluca, the Federal began blowing up buildings between the San Juan market and the arsenal to secure a range for direct artillery fire on General Diaz's stronghold.

Shortly after midnight the Federals concentrated their forces on two sides of the arsenal and began a concerted attack. The rebels under the leadership of General Diaz poured a destructive fire from machine guns into the solid columns, causing great loss of life.

Rebel field pieces on the other side of the arsenal renewed their bombardment of the National Palace and other Federal positions. The roar of the battle was nothing short of appalling. This attack came almost without warning to thousands of non-combatants who were in the streets.

During the afternoon there was a long cessation of firing at the request of White Cross officials, during which time they were enabled to remove the dead and care for the wounded. There has been some loss of life, although it has not been as heavy as in previous days' fighting.

The banks have been closed for days. The public markets are deserted. Even the general postoffice is shut.

The Government has not been whipped, nor have the rebels. Diaz is not attempting to whip the Government at present, but merely to resist it, and for six days he and his forces did that in an eminently brilliant manner, although the methods employed resulted in a ruthless bombardment of the capital by two heavy forces of artillery.

The loss of life in the last day's fighting was heavier than any previous. Rebel shells entered a convent to the eastward of the palace, killing several nuns and killing and wounding women and children. An American woman, the mother of Harry Greenfield, an employe of the Mexican Light and Power Company, was killed by a shell.

The centre of the city was a waste place, deserted by the people, who sought refuge in the churches and prayed for peace.

Gen. Diaz gained so much confidence from his successes that he advanced his lines widely, placing batteries in the Avenida de San Francisco, the Calle San Juan de Letran and the Avenida del Inco de Mayo—three thoroughfares of strategic importance in that they permitted Diaz to shell the National Palace at closer range.

The red flag of the rebels waved defiantly in sections of the capital that had been for four days under the control of the President's troops. At mid night the situation of the Maderistas was discouraging to their leaders. Instead of a quick victory over Diaz they had been steadily pushed back, losing practically all of the ground they had gained.

These reverses were suffered in spite of a greatly superior force. The Federals numbered perhaps 7,000, while Diaz had less than 3,000. But the rebels were immensely superior as marksmen. Possessing at least sixty heavy cannons and more than one hundred rapid-fire guns and holding the enormous supply of ammunition that Madero's government had stored in the arsenal, General Diaz was able to defeat a force twice as strong as his own.

The Third Secretary of the United States Embassy has been held up and robbed in the street in Mexico City.

PEACE NO NEARER THAN A WEEK AGO

DIAZ REVOLUTION INVOLVES UNCLE SAM IN GREAT DEAL OF EXPENSE.

OFFICIALS ARE KEPT BUSY

Denying Reports That Administration Changed Policy Regarding Mexico and Would Intervene.—Sustains Ambassador.

Washington.—The Diaz revolution in Mexico has now dragged out for over a week; has resulted in great loss of life and enormous damage to property; has involved the United States in a great deal of expense through the dispatch of warships to southern waters, for the purchase of large quantities of supplies for troops; and the commissioning of transports. Yet officials are ready to confess that peace seemed no nearer than it did a week ago. Military men believe that if Diaz had pressed his advantage that day instead of intrenching himself in the arsenal, he would have prevailed very soon.

The latest report was one of rumors and speculations and the State Department officials were kept busy denying that the Administration had changed its policy regarding Mexico and was about to intervene.

With a degree of freedom quite un-diplomatic, the reports of Ambassador Wilson and the American Consuls in Mexico, even including caustic comment upon the conduct of the war, were given publicity, so that it is probable that if Congress should adopt any of the pending resolutions, calling for the official correspondence regarding the Mexican revolution there would be little additional to what already has been given to the press by the State Department.

Ambassador Wilson is being sustained and encouraged in his efforts to remove Americans and foreigners from the danger zone in the Mexican capital.

President Madero, as well as General Diaz, is denied arms and ammunition from the United States. This necessarily adds to the desperation of the Federal forces. The American Government is rigidly enforcing the neutrality proclamation issued by President Taft several months ago.

Gives Ideas of Judicial Recall.

New York.—James Bryce, British Ambassador to the United States, suggested to members of the New York County Bar Association that appointment by the Governor and appointment by popular vote were not the only methods to be considered for the selection of State Judges. Much of Ambassador Bryce's address at the association's annual dinner was devoted to this subject, although on account of its political aspects, he disclaimed any desire to discuss the question of "judicial recall."

"Hands Off" is Policy of Congress.

Washington.—"Hands off Mexico," is the policy of congress—at least under present circumstances, according to party leaders at both ends of the Capitol. To leave the entire impregnable in President Taft's hands, without any interference from the senate or house, is the congressional policy generally expressed. Unless Taft, on his own motion, suggests need for intervention to congress, the legislative branch intends to "keep its skirts clear" of the entire situation.

Congress Honors Sherman's Memory.

Washington.—The memory of the late Vice President James S. Sherman was honored in Washington by services in the Senate chamber at the Capitol. Abandoning legislative work for a day, the Senate and House by special order gave up their sessions to the memorial exercises, joined in by President Taft, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court and prominent members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Federal Jurist Sets Castro Free.

New York.—Cipriano Castro is free to come and go in this country at will. Judge Ward, sustained the writ of habeas corpus in his behalf, overruling the immigration authorities. Castro has been out on bail pending a decision in the case. The Government bitterly opposed the entrance of the former Venezuelan President, on the ground that he was an undesirable, in that he refused to answer certain questions concerning the internal affairs of Venezuela and the murder of General Parades.

Might Have Saved Scott's Life.

Chicago.—Capt. Roald Amundsen came near leaving 10 gallons of oil at the South Pole. The fuel might have saved the lives of Lieutenant Scott and his companions. Captain Amundsen spoke of the oil by chance. "The day was bright and not very cold," according to Captain Amundsen. "There was an inspection of the outfit before we started and for some time I debated with myself whether or not to leave behind two five-gallon cans of oil I did not expect to need. In the end I did not leave the oil."

HAVE NO CONTROL OF WATERPOWERS

PROPOSAL TO GIVE GOVERNMENT RIGHT TO IMPOSE CHARGES KILLED.

THE NEW RIVER DAM BILL

The Hydro-Electric Companies and the Common Carriers Are Made Subject to Interstate Commerce Laws.

Washington.—The proposal to give the Federal Government the right to impose a reasonable annual charge upon water-powers was defeated in the Senate by a vote of 53 to 29. In the final vote on the issue, as raised in the Connecticut River dam bill, the amendment of Senator Bankhead was adopted, striking out of the bill the Federal tax plan, which had been warmly advocated by the conservation forces of the Senate.

The Connecticut River bill then was passed by a vote of 74 to 12. Another section of the bill which would have required the Government to pay the power companies the full cost of reproducing its power plant, in case it should be refused a renewal of the Government lease, also was stricken from the bill by a vote of 55 to 27.

In its present form, the dam bill, simply permits the Connecticut River Company to reconstruct a dam near Windsor Locks under the usual terms, in which the Government protects its rights of navigation. As passed it contained an amendment incorporated by Senator Borah making hydro-electric companies and common carriers subject to the interstate commerce laws and an amendment by Senator Jones, providing for the cancellation of the Government lease to the power company if it ever becomes part of any water-power combination or monopoly.

"I do not believe such position is good law or good business or good politics and I venture the prediction that in spite of this apparent belief, the day when these valuable water-powers will be given away for nothing is over."

This was the declaration of Secretary of War Stimson when advised of the action of the Senate in striking out of the bill the provision for a Federal tax which he strongly advocated.

Amendment to Canal Bill Killed.

Washington.—Senator Root's proposed amendment to the Panama canal law to repeal the provision giving free passage to American coastwise ships was rejected by the senate committee on inter-oceanic canals. A motion to table it, carried 7 to 3, Senators Brannage, Page and Percy supporting it. The decision of the committee, it is believed, will prevent action in the senate at this session. No report will be made and there will be no opportunity for supporters of the Root amendment to put in a minority finding.

Strike Order Held "For Reale."

New York.—Judge Martin A. Knapp, of the United States Commerce court, is in Washington for a final conference with officers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, in the hope of averting a strike against 54 eastern railroads. Though the strike order, it is understood, has already been distributed to the locals of the union, it is being "held for release" pending the outcome of the talk with Judge Knapp.

Rebels Get Matamoros.

Brownsville, Texas.—Without any bloodshed or serious resistance, Matamoros, the Mexican town across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, passed into the hands of the Mexican rebels. This is the second Texas border town to be occupied by rebels since the Diaz revolt, the other being Nuevo Laredo. In other cases the revolt was peaceful.

Japanese Cabinet Meets Opposite

Tokio.—The new Japanese cabinet under the premiership of Count Yamamoto is meeting with great opposition from the old constitution party. At a meeting the old constitutionalists resolved not to support the government unless all the members of the cabinet adhered to the party. In consequence the position of Count Yamamoto is as untenable as premier Prince Taro Katsura. Premier Yamamoto will not yield to pressure brought to bear by the constitutionalists.

Would Override President's Veto

Washington.—Supporters of Burdett-Dillingham Immigration bill vetoed by President Taft, renew their canvass as congress convenes for an attempt to override the president's disapproval. It would require a two-thirds vote in both houses. House leaders thought the bill could be repassed there, and that the question seemed to lie with the senate. Senator Lodge, however, was most among those who declared repassage could get the necessary two-thirds vote in the upper house.