

BREVARD NEWS

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Friday, January 17, 1919

PROPOSED BACKWARD STEP

In his admirable message to the General Assembly last week Governor Bickett stated it as his conviction that only the Governor and Lieutenant Governor should be elected by popular vote.

This suggestion is not in harmony with the progress of the times, or in line with the expressed policy of the democratic party in North Carolina.

When the Democracy resumed control of the State government in 1899, the Corporation Commissioners and the Insurance Commissioners, were selected by the General Assembly.

We are quite sure that it was far from Governor Bickett's purpose in offering the suggestion, but the inevitable effect of the method of making nominations proposed by him, if it should be adopted as a State policy, would be the construction of a political machine in North Carolina that could be over turned by nothing less than a political revolution.

A very plausible argument justifies a king. We all saw it exemplified in the perfect fighting machine of the German Empire the past four years, the continued selection and promotion of the most efficient and the weeding out of the inefficient.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR

Summarized by the News and Observer, the recommendations of Governor Bickett, in his message to the General Assembly of 1919, includes the following proposals:

1. To memorialize the American Peace Commission in France, asking them to incorporate in the Treaty of Peace such a League of Nations as will in every practicable way make war between enlightened nations forever impossible.

2. To charge the father of a child born out of wedlock with the maintenance and education of such child in precisely the same degree as if the child had been born in wedlock, the only difference being that the child should not be the heir of the father.

3. To prevent perpetuation of species by idiots and imbecils.

4. To require health certificates for every man who applies for marriage license.

5. To increase appropriation under amendment of Chapter 244, Public Laws of 1917, from \$10,000 to \$50,000, providing every child with the facility to have mental or physical defects corrected.

6. To make the Six Months School Law operative in every way in every county of the State.

7. To provide for compulsory school attendance during the entire term and make it unlawful for the employment of any child under the age of 14 by any mill or factory during the school term.

8. To make \$65.00 monthly for teachers holding first grade certificates.

9. To make sanitary closets compulsory for the owner of property on which a closet is located within three hundred feet of a dwelling.

10. To provide toilet facilities on or near the Capitol grounds for both sexes, white and colored.

11. To establish asphalt or macadamized highways on the basis of payment of one half cost by the Federal Government, one fourth by the county and one fourth by the abutting property owner, allowing counties to avail themselves of Federal aid as they may desire.

12. To apply the principle of the short ballot to all State administrative offices, whose election is not required by the constitution, (and all the other elective officers, except the Lieutenant Governor, as soon as the Constitution can be so amended as to permit such a course).

13. To conduct the administration of the State Prison from the State Farm.

14. To convert the State Prison building into a hospital.

15. To ratify the amendment to the Federal Constitution making it unlawful to manufacture or sell intoxicating liquors.

16. To pass an ouster law.

17. To amend the State Primary law further limiting expenditures of candidates and use of money in primary elections and make finding of canvassing board final.

18. To revise the State's system of taxation, including actual valuation and lower rate, and to provide for a budget system of State finance.

19. To compel counties which have issued bonds for road construction to levy an annual maintenance tax of not less than 3 per cent and not more than five per cent of the amount of bonds for construction.

20. To authorize a new building for the State Department of Agriculture.

SUGGESTED BILL

Section 1. There shall be annually levied and collected a tax of cents on every hundred dollars valuation of taxable property in the state for the maintenance of the public schools of the State.

Section 2. The funds derived therefrom shall be a separate fund in the hands of the State Treasurer to be known as "The State Public School Fund," and said Treasurer shall be on the days of each year certify to the State Board of Education the amount of said funds derived or to be derived from said tax

for that school year.

Sec. 3. Out of said funds the State Board of Education shall apportion annually to each county of the State on the of each and every year, a sum sufficient to pay one-half the annual salary of the county superintendent and such other supervisory officers as may be employed by the county board of education to aid in the professional supervision of the public schools of the county, and three months salary of all teachers of all sorts employed in the public schools of the county, including the teachers and superintendents of city and town public schools. If the funds shall be insufficient for these purposes, any balance needed therefor is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Any balance of said funds remaining after complying with the provision of this section shall be apportioned by the State Board of Education to the counties of the State on the basis of the proportion of the number of teachers employed in each county to the total number of teachers employed in the State.

Sec. 4. Upon the requisition of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Auditor shall issue his warrant upon the State Treasurer payable to the treasurer of the county school fund for the apportionment made under section 3 of this act to each county. The State Treasurer is hereby directed and required to pay said warrant promptly upon presentation by the treasurer of the county school fund, and, if necessary, to borrow in the name of the State, the funds needed for such payment.

Sec. 5. On or before the first Monday in of each year the county board of education of each county shall submit to the State Board of Education on blanks furnished for that purpose by State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a sworn itemized statement by district, showing number of teachers employed in each district, including town and city districts, the grade or class and the salary of each teacher, the salary of the county superintendent of schools and such county supervisory assistants as may be employed by the county, the salary of each superintendent of town or city school and such other information as may be required. Said statements shall further show under oath, that adequate provision has been made as required under this act for a six months school term in every district of said county, the rate of special county school tax levied therefor, and this aggregate fund derived or to be derived therefrom. No county shall receive any part of the funds appropriated by the State by this act until it shall have levied the special county school tax herein required of it for a six-months school term in every school district.

Sec. 6. On or before the first Monday in June of each and every year, the county board of education of each county shall ascertain the amount of money needed to maintain the public schools of such county for six months in every school district thereof during the succeeding school year, using as a basis of the estimate the receipts for school purposes during the current school year ending June 30th thereafter. The county board of education shall ascertain the amount that will be available for school purposes from fines, forfeitures, penalties, and poll taxes from the State appropriation under this act and from all other sources except special taxes levied and collected in special school tax districts. The county board of education shall submit to the county board of commissioners on or before the first Monday in June of each and every year, this itemized statement, together with a itemized statement of the amount needed for supervision, for administration, for buildings and repairs, for salaries of teachers, for necessary incidental expenses for fuel, supplies and all other expenses authorized by law. Said statement shall also set forth the number of teachers, white and colored, employed in each district and the salary fixed for each teacher, and such information as may be required by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in the blanks to be

furnished by him to the county board of education for said statement. Said statement shall be sworn to and subscribed by the ch'm'n of the county board of education and the county superintendent of schools. A copy thereof shall also be filed in the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. It shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners to levy annually a special tax on all property, real and personal, and on all taxable polls, subject to the constitutional limitation of the poll tax, in said county, sufficient to supply the deficiency shown by said statement to be needed for the support and maintenance of the public schools of said county for six months in each school district. The said tax to be annually levied and collected at the same time and in the same manner as other county taxes are levied and collected, and the funds derived therefrom, together with other school funds in their hands, shall be apportioned and expended by the county board of education for maintaining one or more public schools in each school district for a term of six months in each year.

In the event of disagreement between the county board of education and the board of county commissioners as to the amount to be provided by the county for the maintenance of a six-months school term, and as to the rate of tax to be levied therefor, or in event of the refusal of any board of county commissioners to levy said tax, the county board of education shall bring action in the nature of a mandamus against the board of county commissioners to compel the levying of such special tax in the manner and form as provided in sections 822 and 824 of the Revisal of 1905 of North Carolina. And it shall be the duty of the judge hearing the same to find the facts as to the amount needed and the amount available from the sources herein specified, which findings shall be conclusive, and to give judgment requiring the county commissioners to levy the sum which he shall find necessary to maintain the schools for six months in every school district in said county. Any board of county commissioners failing to obey said order and to levy said tax shall be guilty of a misdemeanor

and shall be prosecuted therefor in the Superior Court by the solicitor of that district.

Sec. 7. The number of teachers for each school, except one-teacher schools, for which salaries shall be apportioned and paid under this act, shall be fixed upon the basis of not more than one teacher for every twenty pupils in average daily attendance during the preceding school year, as shown by the report of each school for that year and set forth in the sworn itemized statements of the county board of education submitted to the State Board of Education and the board of county commissioners under this act.

Sec. 8. Chapter 33 of the Public laws of 1913, as amended by subsequent acts of the General Assembly, and all other laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. This act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification.

What do you think of the above suggested Bill? Express yourself to me or to the State Legislature. The blanks are to be determined for the best interest of all concerned. The purpose of the bill is to do away with all the State taxes for school purposes and just make one direct levy for three months.

A. F. MITCHELL, County Supt.

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