

BICKETT SAYS LEGISLATURE OF 1919 MADE "INSPIRING RECORD"

"Established New and Nobler Standards" in Three Great Fields of Legislation: Taxation, Education and Health, Says Governor in Review of Work of Session Just Adjourned--Was First in the Union to Declare for League of Nations.

Raleigh, March 12.—An inspiring record is the suggestive caption that Governor Bickett gives a special summary of important legislation that he prepared for the newspapers of the state, after reviewing the work of the 1919 legislature, just adjourned. He says that "its record will declare its glory" was the way he expressed his faith in this assembly in his message at the opening of the session and he is deeply grateful that its work had justified his "confession of faith."

The governor reviews the legislation of the session in a most gratified vein, beginning with the petition for a league of nations, ratification of the national prohibition amendment to the constitution, and in taxation, education, health and all the other avenues of legislative contact with the people, stressing especially the school, good roads, and health legislation. The Governor's summary follows:

The closing sentence of my biennial message to the general assembly of 1919 is: "My prayer to God is, and my faith is that when the general assembly of 1919 shall pass into history its record will declare its glory."

I am deeply grateful that the work of the general assembly justifies the above confession of faith. It is not a perfect record. Careful reading of the Journal will disclose errors of commission, but viewed in its entirety, it is an inspiring record.

In the very beginning the general assembly evidenced its sympathy with the new tide running in the hearts of men. The general assembly of North Carolina enjoys the noble distinction of being the very first in the union to petition the American peace commissioners in Paris to incorporate in the treaty of peace a league of nations that will deliver the world forever from the burdens and horrors of war.

The general assembly promptly ratified the federal prohibition amendment, and thus aided in cutting out of our social and political life the most fruitful source of poverty, disease and crime.

Taxation.
(1) The budget bill is abreast with the best thought of the times and will enable succeeding general assemblies to consider demands for the expenditure of public funds with a full knowledge of all essential facts.

(2) The income tax amendment to the constitution will enable the state to derive a reasonable revenue from sources well able to pay it, and will wipe out the discrimination now practiced against the man who earns a small income in favor of the man who collects a large one, and will make it possible for a succeeding general assembly to write a model tax law under which it will be unnecessary for the state to levy an ad valorem tax on real or personal property, but can leave all of this to the counties and towns.

(3) The revaluation machinery set marks the high tide in sane and progressive tax legislation in North Carolina. It is a complete abandonment of a standard luxury with age and inequity, and the establishment of a new standard of truth and justice. I can well within the bounds of conservative statement in saying that the fixed purpose of the general assembly to make all men come clean to the tax books will add more to the moral and material welfare of our people than all the tax laws that have been written in North Carolina since Virginia Dare first saw the light on Roanoke island.

Education.
(1) It was a monumental achievement to get the people of North Carolina to insert in the organic law of the state a mandate that every child shall have a

chance to go to school six months in the year. But it was a more difficult task to frame a wise and just law to carry out this constitutional mandate. This task has been accomplished so well that when the measure was fully explained many who "came to scoff remained to pray." In the beginning there seemed to be a hopeless division of opinion, but when the light was turned on these differences disappeared and practically all men of all parties now confess that the law written is the very best that can be devised under the conditions that obtain.

(2) Last year the average teacher received a salary of \$15 a month, and was employed four months in the year. Under a minimum wage law enacted by this general assembly the average teacher will receive approximately \$65 a month for a minimum term of six months.

(3) The law requiring every child under 14 years of age to go to school during the entire term of the public school in the district in which the child resides, and providing for the rigid enforcement of this law through a system of juvenile courts, gives to North Carolina a compulsory school law that ranks with that of any state in the union.

(4) The act appropriating \$500,000 to provide teacher training through a series of county summer schools conducted in every county in the state is a most vital and valuable departure.

Health.
The general assembly made tremendous strides in health legislation. The steps taken for the protection of the health of this and future generations in themselves abundantly justify the existence of the present session of the general assembly.

(1) In my opinion the most important and the most advanced step taken in the domain of health laws is the statute that gives authority to the medical staffs of our penal and charitable institutions to perform operations on inmates of these institutions that will make it impossible for incurable lunatics and imbeciles to "multiply and replenish the earth." The law carefully safeguards the patients and these operations can be performed only when in the judgment of the medical staff they will redound to the benefit of the patients. This law is the very essence of humanity in so far as it affects the individual patient, and is the only way to bring about a gradual decrease in the number of these unfortunate people.

(2) The act that calls for the regular examination of every child who attends a public school in order to ascertain the existence of either physical or mental defects and the appropriation of \$500,000 per annum to correct these defects in indigent children breaks new ground in this field of legislation. This law is based on the sound principle that Christian civilization cannot allow a child to stagger through life under the handicap of a curable physical or mental defect simply because the parents of that child may be stricken with poverty.

(3) The law making it mandatory to maintain in all towns and thickly settled communities sanitary closets in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by the state board of health means the saving of nearly a thousand lives a year, the prevention of 10,000 cases of sickness, together with all the suffering and expense incident to sickness and death.

(4) North Carolina has for several years been the leading state in the union in the development of rural health work. The appropriation for this work was practically doubled, and this means increased activity and efficiency in this great field.

(5) A series of acts was passed for the

purpose of co-operating with the federal government in the suppression of vice and the prevention of diseases incident to vice. These measures are as follows:

(a) The education of the public by suitable means regarding the cause and prevention of unhygienic sex life and general diseases.

(b) The furnishing of free salvarsan, the specific for syphilis, for the treatment of all syphilitics of the state, and making provision throughout the state for free treatment of persons diseased with gonorrhoea, and syphilis, in order that these diseases may not be transmitted to others.

(c) Making prostitution a dangerous practice in North Carolina by enacting laws that will reach the prostitute, and providing the necessary law enforcing agent to see that the laws are properly applied.

Social Welfare.
For the first time in the history of the state we now have the machinery for a unified state and county system of social welfare and public welfare, which has oversight over the state's charitable and penal institutions, has been given the right to appoint three persons in each county to act as a local welfare board and to advise with the local authorities on all matters pertaining to local conditions. In addition to this the legislature made it the duty of the board of education in each county to elect, not later than July 15 next, a county superintendent of public welfare, who shall be an officer trained in all matters pertaining to constructive social work. This officer will be the chief school attendance officer and the chief probation officer of the county, charged especially with the duty of looking after delinquent and neglected children. His position is made to fit in with the compulsory attendance law and the new juvenile court law.

The juvenile court law marks the most wholesome advance in child welfare legislation ever accomplished in this state at one stroke. It provides that all children under 16 years of age who may be infractors of the laws shall not be treated as criminals, but as wayward children, needing parental control, education and discipline, which must be supplied by the state since it has not been provided by natural guardians. The law provides that every clerk of the superior court in the state shall be a juvenile court judge and shall have exclusive jurisdiction over children of less than 16 years. Every city of more than 10,000 population must establish a juvenile court or make provision for combining with the county court. And towns of 5,000 population which are not county seat towns, and therefore not of easy access to the county clerk, may provide courts if they choose. The design is a guarantee that every child be within the jurisdiction of a juvenile court, no matter whether he lives in town or country. The law provides the manner of procedure for carrying out the juvenile court principles as it is known in the most modern legislation of the country and is not behind any state in the union. This law was perfected and carried through at the earnest solicitation of the commissioner of public welfare and the state board, and the plans are to afford every help in working out the practical operation of the law in the several towns and counties.

Good Roads.
The general assembly did good work in public road legislation.

(1) A bill of vital importance was passed so quietly that it was scarcely mentioned in the press, and yet it is essential to the very existence of good roads. The sin in North Carolina has not been our failure to build good roads, but our criminal negligence in failing to keep them up. This general assembly has enacted a law making it mandatory for county commissioners to levy an annual upkeep tax where bonds have been issued for the construction of roads. This applies to every county in the state and hereafter there will be no excuse for any road in North Carolina that has been built on bonds to be allowed to go to the bad.

The road act passed by the general assembly for the purpose of meeting the requirements for obtaining aid from the federal government is not a perfect piece of legislation. It does not represent the views of any one member of the general assembly, but in the hands of a wise and fair commission it can be made the instrument of great good in the state. The work of the appropriation committee reflects great credit upon the intelligence and patriotism of that committee. It is a well balanced appropriation bill, and meets the requirements of our educational and charitable institutions in so far as they can be met in the present financial condition of the state.

The Warehouse Act.
The act is designed to benefit the cotton growers of the state. It was passed upon the earnest insistence of those most deeply interested in the welfare of cotton growers. I hope that much good will result from the act, but I frankly confess that in my opinion the only way the cotton growers can win in his perpetual war with Wall street is to fight his battles behind breast works of bread and bacon. A warehouse may enable him to win a single fight, but it can never make him win a war.

A reading of The Journal would doubtless disclose many other bills of value, and of importance, but I am writing from memory, and the bills above mentioned are those that came into my mind in reviewing the work of the general assembly. These bills make a robust body of sane, progressive legislation, and in addition to all these one cannot forget Ray's "literary gem"—the dog law.

The general assembly was singularly free from personal and political animosities. The members had a mind to work, and during the 60 days gave the very best that was in them to the building up of the State.

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restores vitality and energy by purifying and enriching the blood. You can soon feel its strengthening, invigorating effect. Price 60c.

MEMORIAL TO STATE COLLEGE MEN LOST IN THE WAR.

The Alumni of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering at Raleigh are raising money for the erection on the college campus of a memorial to 29 former students who have lost their lives in the great war. The campaign which began on March 1st is starting off well and the committee in charge of it who have set their goal at \$10,000 are hopeful that the amount desired will be secured.

The memorial executive committee is composed of six Alumni living in or near Raleigh, with Prof. C. L. Mann as chairman, and Mr. E. B. Owen, Registrar of the College, as secretary-treasurer. The advisory committee consists of representative alumni living in various centers in this state and outside the state where alumni live. The member of the advisory committee for Gaston county is Mr. R. K. Babington.

The total enrollment of the college since its opening in 1889 is 4,951, exclusive of new men in college this school year. Of this number to date 1,285 are known to have been in the service, while information is still coming in and the number is increasing daily. This count does not include about 550 men who were enlisted and in training at the college when the armistice was signed. It is evident now that the proportion will be well above 25 per cent. Among the men who have been in college in recent years the proportion has of course been very much higher, but these figures cannot readily be obtained. The figures for graduates are pretty definitely known, and they furnish a most creditable record.

Among the graduates who were nearly all commissioned officers, 36.2 per cent of the 1,956 men were in the service. Of 632 men graduated in the last ten years, 59.1 per cent wore the uniform. Of the 324 men graduated in the last five years 63.6 per cent were in the service. The per cent for the last ten years, by years are: 1909, 28.65; 1910, 19.3; 1911, 33.3; 1912, 42.9; 1913, 47.1; 1914, 49.5; 1915, 55.1; 1916, 74.3; 1917, 77.5; 1918, 79.6.

WINSTON-SALEM DEFEATED BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Chapel Hill, March 11.—Winston-Salem triumphed over Belmont here to night in one of the scrappiest and most exciting basketball games ever seen on the local court and thereby won the western championship and the right to contest with Wilmington for state honors Thursday night.

The final score was 27 to 25. The contest was nip and tuck throughout. Both teams showing excellent form, the score being 13 to 11 in favor of Winston at the end of the first half. Leeper for Belmont, and Simpson, for Winston, were the outstanding players. The lineup: Winston-Salem: Emmart, Simpson, Patrick, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson. Belmont: Leeper, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson, Simpson.

NEW YORK, March 12. All trans-Atlantic lines and government transports at this port are tied up today as a result of the sympathetic strike of 2,500 coal barge and tugboat workers employed by the Berwind White Company, which handles nearly all coal for local shipping.

This year will see the greatest peace in history concluded. Keep up with the progress of the peace conference by reading The Gazette three times a week.

Stella-Vitae THE GUARANTEED TONIC FOR WOMEN

Stella-Vitae has been in successful use in the treatment of those diseases peculiar to women for more than a third of a century.

For nearly ten years it has been sold under a plain, positive guarantee to benefit. Less than one bottle out of every one thousand sold has been refunded for, and every claim for a refund has been satisfied. Thousands of letters like this praising Stella-Vitae and telling of benefit to suffering women have been received.

"I was in a most wretched condition; had palpitation of the heart and would swell and bloat in a most distressing way. When I began using Stella-Vitae I weighed 108 pounds. Now I weigh 135. I am more thankful than I can ever tell you for the great good this wonderful medicine has done me."

Mrs. Russell was at that critical period, the "change," and her sincere gratitude for the blessed relief will be understood and appreciated by every woman who reads her letter. Stella-Vitae has proved a boon to suffering womanhood, to young girls approaching their first vital period, to women approaching the anguish of childbirth, to women approaching the "change of life." Stella-Vitae strengthens the female organs and promotes regularity in the monthly function. No risk of loss is taken by any suffering woman who tries Stella-Vitae on our guarantee of the first bottle. All dealers sell Stella-Vitae and will return your money if it does not benefit you. Don't put off a trial. FOR SALE IN GASTONIA BY: J. H. KENNEDY & CO. J. LEAN ADAMS. TORRENCE DRUG CO. FOR SALE IN DALLAS BY: P. D. SUMMEY.

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(From a letter to Dr. Caldwell written by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Robbins, 2207 So. A St., Elwood, Ind.)

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