

BOND ISSUE PROPOSED

Senator Webb would Sell Half a Million of State bonds

NEED FOR SUCH ACTION

Permanent Improvements at Various Penal Institutions—Cries of Insane People Coming up For Relief—State Duty in The Premises

Senator Webb, of Buncombe, has introduced a bill providing for the issue of \$500,000 for permanent improvements. In presenting the bill Mr. Webb fittingly remarked:

"I hope, Mr. President, that the senate will indulge me for a few moments in order that I may discuss the bill which has just been read. I know that it is unusual for a bill to be discussed before the same is referred to a committee, but as this measure is of such great importance, and for the fear that the fact that it authorizes the issue of bonds may at once create a prejudice against its passage, it is probably best for me to give my reasons why I think it absolutely necessary that some such legislation be enacted.

"The average citizen is afraid of a bond issue, especially a state bond issue. He seems, however, willing for his county to issue bonds to build a new court house, or to build a new jail, or to build public bridges; or to issue bonds to build and equip a new water system or sewerage plant, or to build graded school buildings, or to macadamize and pave the streets of his own town. But when it comes to the issue of bonds by a great state, such as the state of North Carolina for the purpose of making permanent improvements for the erection of buildings which shall stand for generations, there is objection, simply because there is an imaginary danger.

"I have considered to the best of my ability the question of permanent improvements for the state hospitals for the insane, for the various educational institutions, for the reformatory for youthful criminals, for the erection of a building for the proper storing and preservation of the records of the state or for the enlargement of the capital, and I have come to the conclusion that with the present condition of our finances it is utterly impossible for the state to begin to make the absolute necessary permanent improvements unless it issues and sells its bonds for that purpose.

"And why should it not be done? The money to be realized from these bonds is to be used for permanent improvements; for the erection and equipment of buildings which will stand for generations; and as future generations and posterity are to get the benefit of these buildings, as much as the present generation, it seems only right and fair that they should be willing to pay their part of the same. This principle has been recognized by every county, state and town in North Carolina, and why should it not be recognized by the great state itself? I do not believe that the citizens of the state should be burdened by payment for permanent improvements out of current taxes.

I honestly believe, Mr. President, and fellow senators, that the greatest duty upon the state of North Carolina at this time is the proper care and treatment of its insane. The great Democratic party has pronounced its platform, its speakers have proclaimed in most eloquent language, its newspapers have heralded far and near, that we are human and generous in the care of our unfortunate.

"And yet, Mr. President, the solemn and stubborn fact remains that we read in almost every news paper about the death of some poor, unfortunate creature, who has lost his reason, and because of inability to be admitted into the insane asylums he has spent his last days in a prison cell, without decent and proper care and attention.

"And Mr. President, the majority party has also in its platform demanded that our unfortunate insane are properly attended to. The records show that there are now over two hundred applicants for admission into the state hospital at Morganton; the records show that there are 97 applicants for admission into the state hospital at Raleigh, and the records show that there are 76 applicants for admission into the state hospital at Goldsboro; and yet, although we vainly and proudly boast of our care for these unfortunate creatures, the solemn fact remains that we are not car-

ing for them. And, if the truth were known, instead of their being four hundred applications for admission into the insane asylums, and if all of the insane who should be admitted into the hospitals, were admitted, it would be necessary to provide for from 800 to 1,000 instead of the 400 who were vainly applying for admission.

"I stand here today, Mr. President, and say in the most emphatic manner, and with bowed head, that it is a shame and a scandal upon the state of North Carolina that she is not providing for these unfortunate.

"Let us compare what we are doing for the insane with what Virginia is doing. Virginia has a population about the same as North Carolina; 1,300,000 white and 600,000 colored. The assessed value of all property in Virginia is in round numbers \$450,000,000 and the assessed value of all property in North Carolina \$442,000,000. The bonded debt of North Carolina is six and a half million, and the bonded debt of Virginia twenty-four million dollars. And yet, though both states have about the same population, and although both states have about the same property for taxation, and though Virginia has a bonded debt of four times as much as North Carolina, Virginia is caring for all of her insane, and has in her white hospitals about 2,100, and in her colored hospitals about 1,200; while North Carolina has 1,400 white and 526 negroes, and at least 1,000 are uncared for.

Conditions at Morganton.
"It is also absolutely necessary for the state to increase its appropriation for pensions for Confederate soldiers; the senate has in most emphatic manner possibly assented to this by the action in this matter.

"It is necessary that we provide for our educational institutions.

"It is absolutely necessary in my opinion—and it would be a burning shame and disgrace for the state not to do it,—to appropriate at least \$300,000 for the state hospitals in order to erect sufficient buildings to provide for the insane.

"It is estimated by the auditor that if the revenue act as reported by the sub-committee on finance is passed by the general assembly, then there will not be as much money realized from taxation as under the revenue act of 1903.

"With the increased demand for maintenance. I ask fellow-senators; how is it possible to make these appropriations without a bond issue? In my judgement it cannot be done. And I say that every one of these appropriations ought to be made.

The bill just read provided for a reduction of the tax rate of five cents on the one hundred dollars worth of property. This copy of 16 cents would, in my opinion, with the proposed issue of bonds create sufficient amount of revenue to make these improvements and to carry on the business of the state, and it would be most joyfully received by the people of North Carolina, who have been for several years complaining of high taxation, and when these permanent improvements are made the annual demands from them will cease.

"The bill proposed also removes the much complained of merchant's tax and other special taxation, such as the tax on wood dealers, brokers, physicians, lawyers and dentists: All of these features would make the bond issue popular.

"The bill also provides that not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars shall be issued, and be issued as the money is needed; and it also provides that the amount of money to be realized from the sale of these bonds shall be appropriated among the several institutions by an act to be adopted by this legislature.

"It does seem to me, Mr. President and fellow-senators, that this is the only possible course that this legislature can pursue, and I ask your careful consideration."

Reflections of a Bachelor

The devil knew what he was about when he invented politics.

A woman wants either herself to have a lot of jewels or her friends to have none at all.

A man isn't an optimist when he doesn't imagine a toothache is as nice as eating apple pie.

When a girl doesn't eat too much candy it is a sign she lives in a country where they don't have any.

It's an awful nice surprise to try to kiss a girl on the cheek and miss it because her lips are in the way.—New York Press.

Blackburn Versus Price.

Salsbury, N. C., Feb. 9.—Special. There is every indication of a lively tilt between Representative-elect Blackburn of this district and A. H. Price, assistant district attorney. In an interview today with the Evening Post, Mr. Price declared Mr. Blackburn's purpose, as he puts it to enroll every federal officeholder in the state as a member of the Republican club at Greensboro, Mr. Price learns that Blackburn has declared that he must walk the plank, and he announces his purpose to personally visit the president and attorney general and present to them his record as a public official and loyal Republican.

THE WARD BILL

Fight Being Waged General Temperance Legislation.

THE WHISKEY FIGHT IS ON

A Bill to be Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 233 of the Public Laws of 1903, Regulating the Manufacture and Sale of Liquor in North Carolina.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION 1. That section one, chapter 233 of the Public Laws of 1903 be amended by striking out the word "manufacture," in line two thereof, and that said chapter and section be further amended by striking out the words "or manufacture," in line five thereof, and that said chapter and section be further amended by adding after the words "special statute," in line seven of said section, the following: "It shall be unlawful for any person or persons, firm or corporation, to manufacture or rectify, for gain, any spirituous, vinous or malt liquors, or intoxicating biters, within the State of North Carolina, except in incorporated cities and towns having not less than fifteen hundred population within the manufacture of liquor is not, or may not hereafter be prohibited by law or regulated by special statute."

SEC. 2. That section four of chapter 233 of the Public Laws of 1903 be amended by inserting after the word "manufacture," in line two thereof, the words "or rectification."

SEC. 3. That section nineteen of this chapter be amended by striking out the words "manufacture and," in lines two and three thereof, and inserting at the end thereof the following: "That nothing in this act shall be construed to repeal, alter or amend any special act prohibiting or regulating the manufacture of liquors in any incorporated city or town having not less than fifteen hundred population."

SEC. 4. That chapter 233 of the Public Laws of 1903 be further amended by adding after section nineteen the following, numbered as "section twenty": "That every incorporated city or town in which spirituous, vinous or malt liquors or intoxicating biters are permitted to be sold or manufactured, under the provisions of this act, shall maintain a town or city government as provided in its charter of incorporation, and a police force of not less than two policemen, and it shall be the duty of some member of said police force to visit each place where liquor is sold or manufactured in said city or town at least once every week and make a careful and thorough inspection and examination thereof, with a view of ascertaining whether the laws regulating the manufacture and sale of liquor are observed and obeyed, and whether the said business is conducted in an orderly and lawful manner, and to make a written report setting forth the result of said visitation to the mayor and Board of Aldermen of said city or town, which report or several reports the said mayor shall deliver to the Solicitor of the District on or before the assembling of the ensuing term of the Superior Court of the county in which said town or city is situated, and in case such town or city shall fail to maintain a city government, or provide the police force, or Commissioners of the county in which the same is situated may revoke and cancel the license and permission authorizing the sale and manufacture of liquor in said town or city."

SEC. 5. That said chapter 233 of the Public Laws of 1903 be further amended by adding thereto another section, after the preceding section, to be numbered "section twenty-one," as follows: "That the possession of or issuance to any person, firm or corporation of a license to manufacture, rectify or sell, at wholesale or retail, spirituous or malt liquors, by the United States government or any officer thereof, in any county, city or town, where the manufacture, sale rectification of spirituous or malt liquors is forbidden by law of this State, shall be prima facie evidence that the person, firm or corporation having such license, or to whom the same was issued, was guilty of doing the act permitted by the said license, in violation of the laws of this State."

SEC. 6. That chapter 233 of the Public Laws of 1903 be further amended by changing the figures, "21," in line one, section twenty, thereof, to the figures "23."

SEC. 7. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

TO RELIEVE KUROPATKIN.

Grand Duke to be Sent to Manchuria.

PRESIDENT URGED TO MEDIATE

Impending Battle to be Fought Soon—Russian Disasters Attributed to Lansdorff, Alexieff, Rosen and Stoessel.

Washington, Feb. 9.—President Roosevelt was urged today to take some action looking to the termination of the Russo-Jap war. The request was made by the inter-parliamentary union through the president of the organization, Representative Bartholdt of Missouri. Dr. Bartholdt explained to the members of the union and among European parliamentarians with whom he is in correspondence was that the President of the United States was the one man, with the possible exception of the Emperor of Germany, who indicated no disposition to try to bring the war to an end, who might be listened to on the subject with favor by Russia.

The President gave Dr. Bartholdt no definite assurances beyond promising to consider the matter with Secretary Hay. It is known to be quite unlikely that this movement will take any action looking to mediation until some assurances have been received from both parties to the proceeding conflict that such action would be welcome.

Tokio, Feb. 9.—Entry to Vladivostok from the sea is now limited to Tushima straits and Tsugauru straits. The Soya straits are barred by ice. Reports received here from Hokkaido and also from coasting vessels says Soya straits not frozen over but are filled with floes and bergs making navigation practically impossible. To further increase the difficulty of reaching Vladivostok the Japanese government announces that the light houses in the vicinity of Tsugauru straits will not be lighted except occasionally. An official says this announcement was necessary for strategic reasons and warns coasting and neutral navigators that in passing Tsugauru straits they must exercise the greatest care. The Japanese continue to patrol Tahushima and Tsugauru straits and it is believed that the blockade of Vladivostok is effective.

It was reported from Vladivostok under date of February 1 that the Russian armored cruisers Rossia and Gromboi had been repaired, but it is doubted whether they will emerge from the harbor on account of the extensive seizures by the Japanese of coal ladenships bound for Vladivostok. Large stocks have been purchased by Japan which has now ceased purchasing coal.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—The army organ publishes official statistics of Field Marshal Oyama's forces based on regimental numbers on the uniforms of the Japanese killed during the engagements with General Kuropatkin's forces. According to this report the total of Field Marshal Oyama's regular troops is placed at 265,000 cavalry and infantry and 800 guns. The total number of reservists is probably 100,000. Military men estimate General Kuropatkin's superiority at about 50,000 men without including the Sixteenth army corps which is not yet in the far east. These figures are likely to dash the hopes of the peace party which has distinctly been acquiring influence in high quarters during the last few days.

Rear Admiral Nebogostoff's warships forming the third Russian Pacific Squadron, have been painted a blacker war color. Two more transports accompanying this great squadron will be sailed within a week.

Tokio, Feb. 9.—A report from Manchurian headquarters says that the Russians have continued their bombardment in the direction of the Shakhe river since the night of February 7. They continue intrenching in front of Liuchenpose and in the vicinity of Heikoutai.

Tokio, Feb. 9.—The impression prevails here that the impending battle between the armies of Field Marshal Oyama and General Kuropatkin will occur before any material thaw takes place, which would convert the count.

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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The House of Representatives adopted the following resolutions of respect to the Memory of the deceased member:

"Resolved, by the House of Representatives the Senate concurring: "That it having pleased God in His infinite wisdom to call to Himself the spirit of our associate, the member from Watauga, Dr. C. W. Phipps—

"Resolved that in his death we are called to mourn the loss of a brave and honest and faithful Representative. Be it further resolved that a committee of four from the House and a like committee of two from Senate, be appointed to attend the body to its last resting place, and that the Treasurer of North Carolina be and is hereby ordered and directed, out of any funds not otherwise appropriated, to pay all expenses of said committee in attendance upon the funeral rites and all funeral and other expenses of transporting said body to its last resting place. Be it further resolved that the committee so appointed, at once notify His Excellency, the Governor, of the vacancy in this body. Be it further resolved that this House do adjourn, and all business of the body be suspended for the day, in memory of our deceased brother. Resolved that the keeper of the capitol be directed to keep the flags upon the dome at half mast for twenty four hours. Be it further resolved that a copy of the resolution and of the proceedings of this body be sent to the family of our departed colleague."

My Sand House.

I built me a house one day,
Down on the sands by the sea,
To watch for my good ship sailing home,
With beautiful things for me.

I built while the sun shone hot,
And I built while the winds blew cold
Building against the day and hour
When I should be worn and old.

And the stars smiled fair at night,
And the sun smiled bland in the day,
And all were silent and warned me not
That my labor was thrown away.

The sea sang low at my feet,
And the sand shone white and wide,
And never a voice in earth or sky,
To warn me against the tide.

And my house rose goodly fair,
White-gabled against the sky,
I laughed at the sea-weed's warning touch,
And the gray gulls screaming by.

I dreamed my beautiful dreams,
Of truth and trust that endure,
I slept and dreamed like a foolish child,
That my Sand-House was secure.

And oh, while I slept, the tide
Crept in like a thief to me;
And lo, in the hastily dawn my house
Had crumbled into the sea.

—Will Allen Dromgoole.

That Funny Irishman.

Judge Brady, for many years a popular city judge in New York, says an exchange, could tell hundreds of legal stories, especially about Irish witnesses.

"One day," said the Judge, "O'Rafferty was up before me for assaulting Patrick Murphy.

WALKED IN HIS SLEEP FOR TWO MILES

Winston, N. C. Jan. 23.—Near Fiddler's Creek, Forsyth county, last week, a stranger named Reid, of Iredell county, stopped at the farm house of Mr. C. B. Crews for the night. Mr. Crews chatted with the stranger until bed time and then showed him to his room. About 5 o'clock the next morning the good wife had the breakfast prepared and suggested to Mr. Crews that he call his guest. He accordingly opened the room door and was horrified to find that the man's clothes were hanging upon a chair and his shoes sitting on the floor, but the bed was deserted. He called his wife, and together they searched the yard, the barn and all the strawstacks, but no man could be found. Mr. Crews gave the alarm and a general search was instituted. About 8 o'clock they found their man away down the Greensboro road, two miles distant, at Mr. Harris Smith's, where he had showed up about 12 o'clock the night before in his underclothes and stocking feet. He had arisen in his sleep and walked across the fields, until awakened by the snow and cold, and seeking the first house, begged Mr. Smith to take him in, which he reluctantly acceded to.

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR

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BLACKBURN VERSUS PRICE.

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