CONTINUE CONVICT WORK ON RAILROADS

SENATE VOTES 34 TO 7 TO KILL MUSE BILL REGULATING STATE AID.

DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People Gathered Around the State Capitol.

Raleigh.

The Senate killed the Muse bill designed to break up the state policy of airing the construction of railroads in undeveloped territory by working convicts in exchange for stock; and this ,with the action of the house more than a week ago in defeating the Page bills to repeal the acts that authized the convict work now in progress, is taken to mean that the 1915 Legislature has now fixed this state aid policy at least to the extent of carrying out the compacts that the state has wih railroad companies for his co-operative construction work.

It was a lively debate on the Muse bill with Senator Muse and Senator McLeod arguing strenuously for the bill and Senators Chatham, Ballou, Thompson of Iredell and others makin gthe fight for the continuance of the convict work as at present. The Muse bill would have required the state treasurer to credit the state's prison with the actual expense of the state's prison in maintaining the convicts at work on the roads, instead of with the par value of the stock taken in exchange for the work. The bill was killed 34 to 7.

No Child Labor Legislation Now.

An unfavorable report by a vote of 10 to 2 was the fate of the Weaver bill to amend the child labor law of the state so as to raise the age limit to 14 years and provide for inspectors to inspect factories under the direction of the Commissioner of Labor and Printing. This was after a lengthy joint committee hearing in the Senate chamber during which both sides were fully heard.

This is taken to mean that there will be no change in the child labor laws at this session.

There was a big delegation of cotton mill men here, and before the committee hearing they adopted a resolution urging that no changes be made and pledging that the individual members of the Cotton Manufacturers' Association will, if the Legislature will leave the law in force as passed two years ago, to give special attention to strict observance and report and proceed against any manufacturer who fails to observe the law.

Kill Part of Justice Act.

After more than five hours of debate on the floor, extending over two days' session, the senate passed the bill to repeal the long and short haul provisions of the Justice Act, substituting therefor the long and short haul provisions of the revisal of 1905.

The bill has already passed the House, having been voted through that body almost without opposition. In the senate, however, the bill met a hardy opponent in Senator Hobgood, who offered an amendment for relief to railroads having a mileage of less than a hundred miles. This was the identical amendment offered by Senator McRae and later withdrawn by him after adoption in the committee. The amendment of the Senator of Guilford was voted down along with the passage of the bill. However, it suffered a little better fate than absolute objection to the bill met. It was lost by a vote of 23 to 10. The bill itself passed by a vote thirty-five to seven.

Dog Tax Bobs Up Again.

The Currie bill for state-wide dog tax came up and was discussed for a short while, Representative Bowie going on record as unalterably opposed to dog taxes, saying that this is the attitude of his people. The bill went over for hearing another day, it being under favorable report from the committee.

Woman Suffrage Discussion Ended.

The opposition to woman suffrage in North Carolina was given a considerable jolt and the forces that have been fighting for the measure were correspondingly elated over the showing made in the House when, what was considered a test vote on the proposition, came before that body. The motion was made by Mr. Doughton to postpone indefinitely, action on the bill and on this motion there were 68 ayes, 39 noes, 13 absent and not voting.

Discuss Semi-Monthly Payrolls.

The House Committee on Propositions and Grievances and Senate Committee on Railroads considered quite a while pending bills for requiring railroad companies to pay employes semi-monthly, the Senate bill by Ward also including lumber companies and other corporations. The bills were opposed by Assistant General Counsel George Elliott of the Atlantic Coast Line, Henry Miller of the Southern and others as entailing immense additional operating expense on the railroads and being of no real benefit.

Lacy Replies to Critics.

State treasurer B. R. Lacy made a detailed answer before the Finance Committee to the recent sensational criticisms of the management of the of the treasury by the State Board of Internal Improvement. His statement was to the effect that the report of the board did him great injustice in representing that while he had large sums of state funds in the treasury he needlessly borrowed other large sums. It was made to appear that he had $391,000 in bank and borrowed $300,000 more at 6 per cent, the bank re-loaning it at 6 per cent more, making 12 per cent, "some velvet for the bank." He said he did nothing of the sort, but the real fact was that the balance in bank at that time was $391,973, of which $300,000 was borrowed money.

Big Flood of Petitions.

In the house there was another big flood of petitions for the State Anti-Saloon League legislation. They included petitions from Forsyth, Wake, Alamance, Mitchell, Surry, Hyde, Cherokee, Columbus, Iredell, Davie, Davidson, Guilford, Caswell, Union, Northampton, Halifax, Henderson, Greene, Gaston, Pender, Randolph, Bertie, Harnett, Duplin, Haywood, Richmond, Onslow and other counties. There came also a petition for woman's suffrage sent forward by Representative Mayo of Beaufort. He stirred much merriment among the members by covering his face with his bands feigning blushing embarrassment as the petition was being read to the house.

House Bill Pass Final Reading.

To amend the charter of South Mills, to amend the charter of Gibson; to amend the charter of Benson; to incorporate Oaksboro, Stanly county; to authorize the commissioners of Pitt county to order election in certain school districts; to amend the law as to the boundary lines of Hertford county; to allow school bonds and special tax levies in Wilson; to provide recorder's court for Madison county; to regulate primary elections in Newbern; to authorize the Lee County Highway Commission to use certain books; to change the name and boundary lines of Higgins township, McDowell county; to require certain reports of Hoke county officers; .o allow Halifax officers full fees in certain convictions.

Insurance Bill Passed By House.

The House passed the Seawell bill for 12 1-2 per cent flat and 12 1-2 per cent contingent fee for fire insurance agent, contingent fee to be based on profits of the company. It was discussed for nearly two hours with vigorous speeches against it, but passed by a large majority. Representative Grier, in strenuous opposition, declared that he thought the recent insurance investigation was " to slay the great insurance octopus" but now he feared that the Legislature was, on the advice of the investigation committee simply strangling a little jelly fish. The bill was sent to the senate.

Increase Salary of Adjutant General.

A bill introduced by Representative Nettles, of Buncomb would increase the salary of the Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard from $2,000 to $3,000 on account of the great work and responsibility of the officer the past four months, especially by the requirement by the War Department that the Adjutant General must have direct charge of the properties of the guard in the State.

Land and Loan Associations.

The bill introduced in the Senate by Senator McRae of Mecklenburg county to amend the law as to building and loan associations so as to provide for land and loan associations would provide for this without in any way affecting or changing the laws governing the operation of the regular building and loan associations in the cities and towns.

Anti-Liquor Bill to Be Printed.

A resolution was passed ordering that 500 copies of the anti-liquor bill now before the House committee be printed, but the House defeated a resolution to print 300 copies of the State game bill.

Among new bills introduced was one by Laughinghouse to provide increased pensions for Confederate veterans so that they can remain at home with wives, instead of being forced to "desert their wives," as he expresses it, "to come to the Soldiers Home."

Bills Passed Final Reading as Follows.

To amend the charter of High Point; to authorize a special tax in Alexander county for a county home; to pay solicitors and witnesses full fees when defendants are sent to the roads; to allow Shaw University to hold property to the value of $500,000; to amend the charter of Mount Holly; to amend the charter of Cherryfille; to amend the charter of Smithfield; to amend the charter of Greensboro College for Women; to repeal the charter of North Edenton.

Representative Darden offered a bill to authorize county commissioners to pay $10 rewards for information convicting violation of the prohibition law and making the minimum punishment three months on the roads.

The Asheville commission government bill was introduced in both houses; and is expected to have smooth sailing, being an agreed measure that gives the people of the mountain metropolis the right to vote on adoption of the commission government.

DR. SHAW SPEAKS TO HOUSE AND SENATE

LEADER OF EQUAL SUFFRAGE PLEADS CAUSE BEFORE LEGISLATORS.

THE VOTE IS 4 TO 3; 6 TO 3

By Such Majorities the Bills Were Reported Unfavorably to the House and Senate.

Raleigh.—Three hours of equal suffrage, oratory, equal suffrage fact, and equal suffrage energy could not convince sixteen men of the efficacy of the cause. These sixteen men were the seven of the Senate Committee on Election Laws and the nine of the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments. They reported the bills before the General Assembly unfavorably, at the end of the public hearing and the vote was four to three for the Senate committee and six to three for the House committee.

It was a hearing, too, like none other of the present session. A crowded hall, with a sprinkling of men, but otherwise overwhelmingly feminine listened with rapt attention

DR. ANNA HOWARD SHAW.

throughout, while Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, president of the National Suffrage Association, expounded the principles of a complete democracy, perfect freedom, and thorough representation. They not only listened; they applauded, the logic, they laughted with the ridicule, and they drank in the wisdom of the leader of the cause. With sharp analysis, with sound reasoning, pounding straight to the fundamental principles of government, she floyed custom, she laid prejudice in the shade, and hanged the chivalry that represses rather than frees.

Other Speakers.

She was not the only one either. Mrs. Archibald Henderson, president of the Equal Suffrage League in North Carolina; Mrs. T. W. Lingle, of Davidson; Mrs. T. Adelaide Goodno, of Raleigh; Mrs. Al Fairbrother, of Greensboro; Mrs. Eugene Reilly, of Charlotte,—all of them spoke and in full fearlessness, cutting away the non-essentials with the keen edges of their discernment, and attacking the problem with earnestness to convince, and to achieve what they believe to be their just rights.

Long time before the hour of the meeting came practically all the seats in the hall of the House had been occupied. When the hour had approached and even passed for the hearing to begin, ladies had to turn the tables of courtesy, and resign chairs that the committee before whom they were supposed to appear, should have seats. This kept many legislators who would otherwise have been present from gracing the hall in person.

Men in Minority.

"I wasn't afraid to go in," said a legislator who passed by the door with a mere look. But I was in such a hopeless minority I was discouraged."

The committee seemed to be in a minority too, at first. With the resounding applause which greeted the address of Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, the committee was almost swept off its combined feet by a motion to report favorably. Before the House had time to catch its breath in the wild hubbub of comment and pleasure, there came a hitch in the proceedings. The joint session resolved into executive sessions of each committee. Behind closed doors the vote was taken, the die cast, and the fate of the equal-suffrage bill for this session of the General Assembly at least, was determined.

Vote in Committees.

In the Senate committee the vote was as follows: Cohoon, Gardner, Hobgood for the favorable report; and McNeely, Giles, Chatham, and Gilliam against.

The House committee voted as follows: Eure, Thomas, Long for favorable report; and Page, Allen, Roberts, Vann, Winburne, Bynum against it.

This doesn't end the discussion of the bill by any means. Although, it is judged to be the test by which the fate for the bill this session will be judged there is to be further and perhaps more heated debates.

DR. R. T. VANN TO LEAVE MEREDITH

RESIGNS TO BECOME SECRETARY BOARD OF EDUCATION NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST.

PRESIDENT FIFTEEN YEARS

The College Has Flourished Under His Administration Being a Power For Good and Work.

Raleigh.—Meredith College is to lose the services of Dr. R. T. Vann as its president. He gave out the statement that he had tendered his resignation in order to accept the position of the secretary of the Board of Education recently created by the Baptist State Convention.

Dr. Vann's resignation is not to become effective till the close of the present session of Meredith College. At an early date there will be held a meeting of the board of trustees of the colloge to take up the matter of the college to take up the matter of he knew of any one in view as president of the institution Dr. Vann said that he knew of none.

That Dr. Vann is to leave Meredith College will be a source of regret to all the friends of that great Baptist college for the education of young women. Dr. Vann has been an educator for many years. For fifteen years he has been president of Meredith College, and that institution has grown and flourished under his administration, being a power for good in its work and influence. Raleigh will regret that he will be taken from the city, as his new position will take him to Durham.

As secretary of the new board Dr. Vann will be its executive head. His duties will have to do with the correlating of the work of the Baptist high schools and colleges of the state, a position of the greatest importance in the educational work of the Baptists of the state. That the board has made a wise choice is the opinion of those who know of the work to be done and the qualifications of Dr. Vann. He is in close touch with the Baptists of the state and he will be a tower of strength to the board which as one of its duties is to have charge of the collection of funds for the four Baptist institutions of the state, with charge also of the matter of ministerial education.

$2.50 the Pupil in Henderson.

Hendersonville. — The Henderson County Board of Education has apportioned the school fund for the coming school year. The school fund in addition to the appropriation from the state amounts to $19,818.24, minus the contingent fund of $5,000 required for the high schools and general expenses of the board and superintnedent, leaving a balance of $14,818.24 to be apportioned among the school children. There are 5,905 children in the public schools and the per capita apportioned amounts to $2.50.

Fifty-Eight New Lawyers.

Raleigh.—Fifty-eight of the class of sixty-four which made application before the Supreme court recently for law license, passed a successful examination. Miss Theodosia Ham, the only woman applicant, was among the successful ones. She is a native of Pikeville, but is at present a resident of Charlotte. Miss Ham is the fourth woman to receive a law license in this state. The first woman to receive a law license was Miss Laura Holton, of Yadkin, a sister of former District Attorney A. E. Holton. She is dead.

Bion H. Butler Talks to Youth.

Chapel Hill.—In accordance with its plan of inviting some of the leading men of the state to speak before the North Carolina Club, the club had the pleasure of hearing Bion H. Butler, of Southern Pines, deliver the first of these talks. His subject was "The Land of Opporunity for Young Men Today is North Carolina."

C. W. Harty, formerly of Spartanburg, has accepted management of the Tryon water plant.

Wage War on Fly Hatcheries.

Kinston.—Kinston's new meat and milk inspection service will include another bit of public usefulness in its lines of endeavor after March 1, if an ordinance now being prepared by an alderman committee goes through. It is proposed to put it up to Dr. J. F. Foley, at the head of the inspection service, to search out the pest spots where flies congregate and propagate and "kill off the young" and the embryo. Dr. Foley saw the army clean up Vera Cruz last summer and will practice some of the principles.

Durham Road Builders' Equpped.

Durham.—The county commissioners have given an order for twenty mules and about $15,000 worth of other machinery, which will be used on the roads of the county. It is the intention of the board to establish another camp in the county. At the present time there are two convict camps. The county commissioners now have under construction two roads. These are the New Hope Valley road, which will strike the Chatham county. The other leads out northwest and taps Orange county.

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