

REVIEW OF SCHOOL LAW BY DR. BROOKS

LAST LEGISLATURE PROVIDED REVENUE TO INCREASE THE SALARIES OF TEACHERS.

EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT

The Sum of \$650,000 Will be Expended by the State Board Improving the Smaller Normal Schools.

Raleigh. "The general assembly made generous provision for the public schools," said Dr. E. C. Brooks, superintendent of public instruction, in giving out a summary of the legislation affecting the free schools. "It provided revenue sufficient to increase the salaries of the teachers and provide for all who improve themselves in service. We will have for teachers' salaries next year around \$9,000,000 or nearly a million and a half more than the amount available this year.

"The general assembly provided also for an expansion of the department and appropriated about \$650,000 to be expended by the State board of education in improving the smaller normal schools, providing more money for high schools, and providing more liberally for teacher training and supervision of the public school system.

"The state board of examiner has laid the foundation for teacher training and the certificate of teachers and therefore it has become necessary to broaden the work of the board. In order to do that it was necessary to take the place of the state board of examiners and the institute conductors. These two departments are the division of teacher training and the division of the certification of teachers.

Partial Losses by Farmers.

Farmers in North Carolina lost a total of \$168,000,000 by reason of price shrinkage in cotton and tobacco crops of 1920 alone as compared with the 1919 crops and prices.

The 1919 cotton crop of 832,000 bales brought approximately \$154,000,000 at the current price of 36 cents while the 1920 crop of 840,000 bales at 15 cents brought only approximately \$58,000,000.

The 1919 tobacco crop, on the other hand, with the average price ranging around 50 cents, brought a total of \$163,000,000 for the 326,000,000 pounds while the 1920 crop, with prices dropped to 21-1/2 cents gave a return of only \$90,515,000 for its increased acreage and its production of 421,000,000 pounds.

Child Entitled to Protection.

"Every child born in North Carolina is entitled to the legal protection of having its birth registered, and every effort will be made to see that the law in this respect is enforced," was the statement made at the office of the state board of health in connection with the announcement of the conviction of a physician in three cases. Dr. V. W. Leggett, of Hobbins, is the latest one to have his attention forcefully called to the requirements of the law.

Blue Sky Stock Sales Reduced.

This generation will not again see blue-sky stock sold in such large quantities as it was sold last year, in the opinion of Insurance Commissioner Stacey W. Wade, whose department has charge of the enforcement of this law. The commissioner says that none of the companies whose licenses were cancelled at the beginning of this year have applied for reinstatement under the new law.

Total February Fire Loss.

The total fire loss in North Carolina during February, exclusive of forest fires, was \$432,000, according to estimates made from reports to the state department of insurance. This is a decided reduction from January with a total loss of \$617,000.

Adopt Suggestions of Governor.

Members of the newly appointed state prison board, meeting for the first time, took the oath of office, organized, elected E. F. McCulloch, former chief clerk of the state prison, superintendent; George R. Pou, Smithfield, chief clerk; S. J. Bushbee, warden; and Dr. J. H. Norman, prison physician.

Mr. Bushbee has been warden of the prison since the death of the late Warden Sales and his choice is by way of re-election as was that of the physician, Dr. Norman.

Complimentary to Appointee.

Senator R. A. Dewar, of Andrews, Cherokee county, was appointed by Governor Cameron Morrison as minority leader of the state budget commission. The appointment of a minority member on this commission was authorized by an act of the 1921 general assembly.

"In making this appointment," said Governor Morrison in a letter to the Cherokee senator, "I feel I have made a wise selection, reposing trust in your ability to perform the duties incident to the office."

Thanks to Murphy and Gallert.

The members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy desire to make it clear that they divide their gratitude equally between Representative Walter Murphy and Senator Sol Gallert for their activity in the fight in the recent legislature for increased pensions for Confederate veterans, return thanks in equal measure to the leaders in both houses. Mrs. Henry London, chairman of the legislative committee, U. D. C., and Mrs. T. W. Wilson, state president, say in a letter sent out to the state papers:

"A letter was written some days ago to the Rutherfordton Sun in behalf of the U. D. C., of North Carolina expressing our unbounded thanks and gratitude to Hol. Solomon Gallert, for his splendid work for Confederate pensions.

"He introduced in the Senate at different times three bills for increased pensions, and he worked untiringly to this end from the very first of the session.

"Finally his bill for \$1,000,000 passed the senate and the house and became a law. The veterans, as well as the Daughters of the Confederacy and every woman in North Carolina owe Senator Gallert a debt of gratitude."

No Time for Ex-Soldiers.

The legislature that has just adjourned did not waste any time considering measures of importance to ex-soldiers. The Kanipe bill, providing for free tuition and help obtaining an education at the University of North Carolina or at the N. C. State College, Raleigh, did not get going before it was smothered.

The measure introduced by Representative Gosney of Wake, to appropriate \$5,000 to assist in the production of a history of the Thirtieth Division was championed before the joint finance committees of the house and senate by Col Albert L. Cox, president of the Old Hickory association and by Col. J. Van Metts, adjutant general of the state and was turned down cold.

State Leads in Tobacco.

With a total of 395,000,000 pounds of the farmers' sales of tobacco reported to March 1st and enough in evidence to make 420,000,000 pounds as having been produced in North Carolina last year, averaging 21 1/2 cents per pound, the Tar Heel state does the impossible. Last April, a prospectus of the intended acreage was published to forewarn the farmers; also a forecast of 415,000,000 pounds was estimated.

Kentucky said: "Impossible," but the evidence is now available.

To Adjust Insurance Matter.

Following a conference between Insurance Commissioner Stacey W. Wade and J. Frank Foose, secretary of the peanut growers' exchange, who was arrested at the insurance of the North Carolina insurance department for selling stock without a license, it was announced that the hearing of the case, would be continued. It is now believed that a satisfactory adjustment will be made.

Commissioner Young is Appreciated.

The general assembly along with its many other forward-looking enactments evidenced appreciation of the work of ex-commissioner Young and the recommendations of Insurance Commissioner Wade by adopting in nearly every instance their recommendations for amendments to old laws, and for most of the additional appropriations needed to keep the ever-growing work of the State Insurance Department up to standard.

Manning Endorses Recent Act.

Attorney General James S. Manning said that there is no doubt about the effectiveness of the bill passed on the last day of the session, wiping out the state building commission, the state architect, and placing the work in the hands of several heads of the state institutions.

State is One of Forty-three.

North Carolina is one of the forty-three states joining in the appeal to the Supreme Court. Attorney General James S. Manning filed a brief in the case, but is not attending the hearing in Washington. An order was recently issued directing that railroad rates in this state be raised to the interstate rate basis.

Druggist Need Not Apply.

"Druggists are no longer required to secure a permit from the clerk of the superior court to obtain alcohol for medical purposes," says Frederick O. Bowman, attorney for the North Carolina Pharmaceutical association. "The law requiring this unnecessary and expensive procedure," the statement continues, "was repealed at the late session of the legislature, and became effective upon ratification, March 9th. To secure alcohol, druggists now deal direct with the federal prohibition director.

Fertilizer Buyers are Warned.

Five merchant establishments at Wake Forest, have received warnings to send fertilizer purchased by them back to the manufacturers or "take the consequences." Notices were posted on their buildings a few days ago, signed by "The Farmers' Friends," and have so far been ignored. Two customers who purchased fertilizer from one firm received similar warnings on the night following the purchases and returned the fertilizer to the dealer.

A GERMAN VICTORY IN UPPER SILESIA

POLAND SECURED ONLY ABOUT ONE FOURTH OF VOTE IN RECENT PLEBISCITE.

AREA IS 5,000 SQUARE MILES

Election Will Go Down in History as a Momentous Event in Adjustment of European Boundaries.

Berlin.—Germany won an overwhelming victory in plebiscite held in Upper Silesia to determine the future national status of that region, according to official returns received here. Two districts were still missing at 9 o'clock the morning after, but the count showed that 876,000 votes had been cast for Germany and 389,000 for Poland.

Reports from Breslau state that the plebiscite was generally without untoward incidents.

Palm Sunday, the day of the voting in upper Silesia, seems likely to go down in history as one of the most momentous days in the adjustment of European boundaries growing out of the world war. The day had been looked forward to with intense interest by all Germany and Poland as well, while evidences of world-wide attention upon the balloting were not lacking in advices from abroad.

The area involved, comprising some five thousand square miles, was the largest section of territory to have its fate submitted to a plebiscite under peace treaty, but even more important than the size of the district was the material wealth contained in its varied mineral resources, mainly coal, but also including iron, zinc and lead.

Sixth Largest Cotton Crop.

Washington.—The largest cotton crop since 1914 and the sixth largest in the history of the country was grown last year. Ginning statistics for the 1920-21 season, announced by the Census Bureau, show a total of 13,365,754 equivalent 500-pound bales, compares the 1920 crop. That is about 2,769,000 equivalent 500-pound bales less than the record crop of 1914 and is slightly smaller than the 1904 crop.

Density of Population.

Washington.—The average density of population throughout the United States exclusive of outlying possessions was 35.5 per square mile of land area in 1920, as against 30.9 in 1910, the Census Bureau announced.

The density figures for Southern states were: Alabama 45.8; Florida, 17.7; Georgia, 49.3; Louisiana 39.6; Mississippi 35.6; North Carolina 52.5; South Carolina 55.2; Tennessee 56.1; and Virginia, 57.4.

Plans Coalition Government.

Copenhagen.—Negotiations looking to the formation of a coalition government for soviet Russia have been opened by Nikolai Lenine, bolshevik premier, with leaders of the Menshevik and social revolutionaries.

New Shingle is Hung up.

Washington.—Formation of a partnership between Joseph P. Tumulty, who served as secretary to former President Wilson, and Representative Randolph Perkins of Woodcliff Lake, N. J., for the general practice of law in New Jersey was made.

Revenues Exceeded by Costs.

Washington.—Governmental costs, including interest and outlays for permanent improvements for the 227 cities of the country with a population of 30,000 or more, exceeded total revenues by \$8,991,000 in the year 1919.

Let Out Many American Seaman.

Manila, P. I.—Eleven hundred American seamen were discharged from American merchant ships here during the year 1920, according to reports of acting United States shipping commissioner, Francisco Corrales, just issued.

Negro Labor Conditions.

Atlanta, Ga.—Investigation of conditions among negro labor on farms in southern counties as conducted by Federal District Attorney Alexander is commended in a statement issued by Governor Dorsey.

Reichstag Favors Disarmament.

Berlin.—The reichstag passed all three readings of the disarmament bill which was adopted by the reichstag committee in a form differing from the government's original draft of the bill.

Typothetae Federation Meets.

Pensacola, Fla.—The Southeastern Typothetae Federation opened its annual session here to take up among other questions that of the 44 hour week.

Case of World War Veterans.

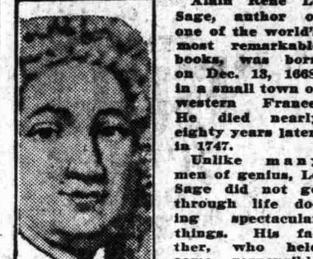
Indianapolis.—A nationwide survey of conditions surrounding the case of disabled world war veterans has been started by the 800 Rotary clubs of the country, according to a letter received at the American Legion's national headquarters.

CONDENSED CLASSICS

GIL BLAS

By ALAIN RENE LE SAGE

Condensation by Nathan Haskell Doles



Alain Rene Le Sage, author of one of the world's most remarkable books, was born on Dec. 13, 1668, in a small town of western France. He died nearly eighty years later, in 1747. Unlike many men of genius, Le Sage did not go through life doing spectacular things. His father, who held some responsible legal positions, left a considerable fortune when Le Sage became an orphan as a child. His guardians either stole or invested with criminal carelessness the lad's money, but he was given a good education and was admitted to the bar. Fees came in slowly and Le Sage faced extreme poverty. Yet he dared to marry and turned to the stage for means of support. For years he wrote, never really successful, but never actually in want. He was nearly forty years of age when a comedy gave him a Parisian reputation, and a novel made him known to France. The first two parts of "Gil Blas" were published in 1715, but they were not liked so well as his earlier story. Le Sage, however, knew how good it was, and he labored over it as devotedly as a great sculptor over a block of marble. The third part was not published until 1724, and not until 1735 was the last part put forth. During these twenty years he had also turned out play after play, and numerous books. He did not cease to write until his seventieth birthday had passed. Outside of France Le Sage will always live because of his one book that ranks among the world's masterpieces. "Gil Blas" is life itself, an animated picture of Spain in its most colorful period. "It is a work," says Sir Walter Scott, "which renders the reader pleased with himself and mankind."

GIL BLAS, the only son of an old soldier, had reached the age of seventeen when his uncle, the village priest, who had taught him a little Latin, Greek and logic, sent him off with 40 ducats and a bad mule to study divinity at Salamanca.

His adventures began immediately. At his first stop he was cheated out of his mule; as he was eating his dinner a wily flatterer invited himself to be his guest and showed his gratitude by the good advice never to be taken in by praise. He had to pay an exorbitant reckoning and went on his way, "giving to as many devils as there are saints in the calendar, the parasite, the landlord and the inn."

He soon fell into the hands of bandits, who made him join them on their raids. In one of them they captured Dona Mencia, wife of the Marquis de la Guardia, and brought her to their cavern. Gil Blas pretended to be ill and escaped with the grateful lady. He was arrested as one of the bandits and as he was wearing clothes recognized by one of their victims, and his pockets were full of money, he was thrown into jail. After several weeks' imprisonment his innocence was established, but the jailer had robbed him of everything.

At Burgos he sought out Dona Mencia who presented him with a hundred ducats and a costly ring.

He bought a pretentious outfit for twice its value and decided that instead of becoming a licentiate, "he would make his way in this world rather than think of the next." A second gift of a thousand ducats from Dona Mencia confirmed him to his resolve.

He bought two mules and hiring a servant, set forth for Madrid. His servant conspired with several rogues to make a fool of him. One of them, Camilla, pretended to be related to Dona Mencia, invited him to hired lodgings as if to her own home, and there he was feasted and flattered. As a mark of special favor she exchanged her ruby ring, which she declared was worth 300 pistoles, for his, and procured him an invitation to a great country seat for hunting and fishing.

But when he arose in the morning, his servant, his two mules, his portmanteau and Dona Mencia's pretended relatives had vanished. The ruby ring was a cheat.

Fortunately he fell in with a boyhood friend, Fabricio, at Valladolid, and by his advice became a servant to a clergyman, the canon Sedillo, at whose house he led an easy life. The canon soon died, leaving him his worthless library, and the good fortune of becoming assistant to his physician, the famous Doctor Sangrado. Under him Gil Blas became particularly proficient in his method of practice, which consisted of nothing but blood-letting and "drenching of water." He declared that he made as many widows and orphans as the siege of Troy; one of his victims was the betrothed of a giant Biscayan, who threatened him with dire vengeance, and he fled to Madrid, where he became valet to a mysterious and wealthy Don Bernardo, his only duty being to keep the wardrobe brushed and to tend door. But he happened to fall in with Rolando, captain of the brigands; and Don Bernardo, seeing him in such sus-

picuous company, discharged him with six ducats.

For one reason or another he kept changing employers; he served now a dissipated hidalgo, then an intriguing actress, then an aged libertine whose daughter, in gratitude for aiding her to win back her recreant lover, Don Luis Pacheco, gave him a hundred pistoles, and, on her father's death, got him a place with still another aged rone, Don Gonzales, whose dressing operations, when he arose at noon, reminded him of the resurrection of Lazarus.

Here again he acted as intermediary in a love affair, but when he told his infatuated employer that he was being duped, he was turned off, though given a recommendation to the Marquesa de Chaves, reputed the cleverest woman in Madrid, because she was as solemn as an owl, and rarely spoke. Her salon, called "the Fashionable Institution for Literature, Taste and Science," was the resort for the wits and notables of Madrid.

Here again he had easy work, but getting into trouble about a girl, was compelled to leave the city. On his way to Toledo he rescued a young nobleman, named Don Alfonso, from arrest. They became friends and after Don Alfonso reached home, he and his father became Gil Blas' patrons, placing him as secretary to their relative, the archbishop of Granada, who was inordinately vain and as broad as he was long.

Gil Blas praised his sermons and was regarded as a young man of excellent judgment until after the prelate's mind was affected by apoplexy and his homilies became discordant ravings. Gil Blas obeyed the archbishop's command to tell him if he fell short in his preaching and was indignantly packed off. Reduced to extremities once more, he passed as the brother of a disreputable actress and thus secured the position as secretary to a Portuguese grandee, the Marquis de Marialva. The trick was discovered. He returned to Madrid and after many amusing and not always creditable adventures, was appointed under secretary to the duke of Lerma, prime minister to the king. His duties may be gauged by his comment: "One makes a merit of any dirty work in the service of the great."

His experiences with the upper and the lower world, with actors, poets, libertines, physicians, bandits, adventurers, and hidalgos and their servants, had sharpened his wits, and his native ability and smattering of education gave him growing influence. He was courted, flattered and bribed; his conceit and avarice became colossal. He declared that "a court had all the soporific virtues of Lethe in the case of poor relations" and confessed that "every trace of his former gay and generous temper had disappeared."

Pride came before a fall. Having been employed to procure a questionable mistress for the heir-apparent, he was arrested by the king's orders and thrown into the dungeon of Segovia. The prince intervened, but he was exiled from the two Castiles. All his property was seized and his mercenary engagement to a wealthy jeweler's daughter was broken.

Then his friend, Don Alfonso, whom he had got appointed as governor of Valencia, presented him with a small estate near that city.

On his way thither he stopped at his birthplace and found his uncle a mental wreck and his mother worn out in caring for his dying father. He gave his father a pompous funeral, and settled an annuity on his mother, but the town's people were so indignant with him for his neglect of his family that they threatened to mob him.

Glad to escape with his life, he reached Valencia, where he was received at his new home by seven or eight servants provided by Don Alfonso. He got rid of most of them and lived frugally, marrying Antonia, daughter of his farmer, Don Basilio. But his idyllic happiness ended with the death of his wife in childbirth.

Soon afterward the crown prince came to the throne and offered him a place of high responsibility. Gil Blas who had learned wisdom, replied that "all he wanted was a good situation, where there was no inducement to violate his conscience, and where the favors of his prince were not likely to be bartered for filthy lucre."

He was made confidant to the prime minister, who entrusted him with the education of his illegitimate son and heir. This brought him a title.

After some years when the duke lost the king's favor, Gil Blas followed him into retirement, and on his death was remembered with a bequest of 10,000 pistoles. He returned to his beautiful estate, made a second marriage, and lived, happy and respected, training his children wisely and confiding to his memoirs all his errors, crimes, joys and sorrows, together with his opinions of literature, society and the stage. His narrative is interspersed with long and fascinating stories related by various characters whom he had met; these and his own adventures furnish a vivid picture of the romantic Spain of the seventeenth century.

"Gil Blas" is one of the wisest and most amusing of romances, and though it is not free from the coarseness permitted at that time, vice is not depicted attractively and its teaching is generally moral.

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CONDENSED NEWS FROM THE OLD NORTH STATE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS.

Hickory.—Walter S. Taylor, a well known cotton mill man, died at home here at the age of 58 years, following a stroke of paralysis.

Red Springs.—Helen Pugh, 17 years old Asheville pianist, appeared in concert at Flora MacDonald College delighting a large audience with her musicianship.

Greensboro.—A big bull dog belonging to the dog's master made his getaway from a still in Summer town, Guilford county.

Wilmington.—The Japanese steamship Yeifuku Maru, 2,170 tons, sailed from this port with a cargo of fertilizer for Europe during the past few days.

Winston-Salem.—The question of issuing bonds in the sum of \$750,000 for enlarging city schools, water light systems, is being discussed. Election is expected to be called at an early date.

Wadesboro.—Rev. John Jones Douglass, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of this city, will deliver the literary address before the graduating class of Mitchell college, Statesville, on the evening of May 16th.

Charlotte.—B. A. Helms, 40, of Mecklenburg, died on the operating table at Presbyterian hospital. He was being operated upon in an effort to save his life, but he died before the operation was over.

Rocky Mount.—Although it was thought for awhile that the local high school might not put out a basketball team this season, this fear appears to have been dissipated as the R. M. S. aggregation has already named a manager and assistant manager.

Elizabeth City.—Sam Crane of Currituck county, was shot in close range with No. 4 shot when he is alleged to have tried to gain access to the home of Ben Boyner, near Baseco, in that county. Thirty shot took effect in his arm and side, but physicians say he will recover.

Greensboro.—The executive committee of the North Carolina Bankers' association advises the farmers to reduce the acreage in cotton and tobacco by at least 50 per cent, the advice being in the form of a resolution.

Belmont.—Mr. F. P. Hall, Jr., has completed the organization here of a troop of Boy Scouts.

Lenoir.—Three copper stills and plete outfits have been located and destroyed by Sheriff Triplett and his assistants.

Lumberton.—Six rural policemen have been elected in Robeson county. This is two more than have been employed in the county heretofore.

Salisbury.—A. B. Lofin of High Point, is in a Salisbury hospital with a broken leg, the result of a moving van leaving the roadway at Second Creek.

Mount Airy!—Lala Dockery, the four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dockery, formerly reported to be recovering nicely from her severe burns, died.

Rocky Mount.—Mrs. R. T. Edwards, wife of one of the city's leading business men and prominent in local social circles, fatally shot herself, presumably intentionally, at her home.

Charlotte.—Fifty gallons of liquor in five-gallon cans, hid in a gulley between the Providence and Monroe roads, three or four miles from Charlotte, is the first big haul made by Mecklenburg's rural policemen.

Kinston.—Pink Hill, literally the "roughest town in the world" because of its circular corporate line, has acquired an added distinction. Health bureau workers here say it bids fair to be a "flyless town" this summer.

Concord.—Vernon Brumley, of Newton, spending the day here in the interest of the Belk store at Newton, was injured when he was struck and knocked down by a car driven by Sam O. Eddleman. The accident, eye-witnesses state, could not be avoided.

Durham.—In a statement made by Dr. R. L. Felts, attending physician at the bedside of Dr. William P. Few, president of Trinity college, who is seriously ill with pneumonia at his home, carries with it encouragement for complete recovery.

Elizabeth City.—J. Paul Spence, former supervisor of schools in Norfolk, Va., and later superintendent of schools in Elberton, Ga., shot himself through the temple at the home of his brother, Joseph C. Spence, in this county.

Beaufort.—The board of county commissioners awarded the \$150,000 road and bridge bonds to Seasongood and Mayor, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and the American Bank and Trust Co. of Wilmington, N. C. The successful bidders pay par.