

Glancing At . . . The General Assembly

Raleigh, Feb. 18.—The Legislature hasn't yet gotten down to grips with its major problem, that of providing revenue to run the State for the next two years, beginning next July 1st. Many a headache will be developed before the legislators get the revenue bill out of the way. It is still in committee, but is expected to be reported out most any time now. Then the House will go into committee of the whole, and for days the bill will be debated. Then it will go before the House for formal adoption. Then to the Senate. Already many legislators are wondering if they will be in Raleigh until May.

Just as the joint finance committee thought it was ready to report its bill to the House, it received the McDonald-Lumpkin substitute measure which proposes to raise \$12,361,094 to take the place of the \$8,780,000 the sales tax is supposed to raise. This will necessitate a re-examination of the revenue bill. In view of the need for more funds to provide twenty-odd millions needed for schools, the committee wants to look into the substitute with a view to making additions to its bill, even if its sales tax feature is retained. Dr. R. W. McDonald, a former member of the Sale College faculty, had been in conference with numerous Brain Trusters. The committee was impressed with the seriousness with which he and his conferees went about their job.

While the McDonald-Lumpkin substitute proposes to eliminate the sales tax, it would take in a wide sweep of territory. For instance, its one-fourth of one percent license tax on merchants and its franchise tax provisions would hit the merchants without their being able to pass on the tax as they do under the sales tax, and for that reason the measure is being used as an argument against the contentions of the merchants that the sales tax is iniquitous. Governor Ehringhaus was prompt to accept the challenge, declaring that some form of sales tax is inevitable. As a matter of fact the sponsors of the new bill haven't gotten away from the sales tax, but they made some headway.

Under the franchise tax provisions the corporations would pay more tax under the McDonald-Lumpkin bill but its sponsors contend that they would still pay less than they did prior to the removal of the State ad valorem tax in 1931. The bill strikes into new territory in its license taxes on chain service stations and its ten per cent levy on revenue of theatres in excess of a thousand dollars a month. It increases occupational taxes also as well as putting a tax of six per cent on the dividends paid by corporations and increasing the taxes on insurance companies.

So much has been said about franchise taxes that some members of the Legislature asked for an explanation. They were told that a franchise tax is a tax for the right of doing business. It is based on the amount of business done, but it gets away from the idea of income. It is in fact a substitute for an income tax, and this form is made necessary if further increases are made by reason of the fact that the State Constitution limits income taxes to six per cent. Franchise taxes are already levied in North Carolina, and the substitute proposes only to increase them. The same device is used in New York and other states, and has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. The idea of the franchise tax is the same as that behind the income tax—to get the money where the money is.

While the McDonald-Lumpkin revenue bill provoked much discussion, the finance committee giving it serious consideration, it does not follow that it will be adopted by the Legislature. There will be modifications in the Administration bill, but the function of the substitute will be to provide means of chinking the holes in the appropriations bill. The appropriations committee has voted to give the University the increase of \$300,000 asked for, the committee is committed to a proposition for increasing teachers' salaries, and there is a movement on in the Legislature to give an increase of 15 per cent in wages paid workers. All of these increases mean that more revenue must be provided.

While the Legislature is getting ready to go into a huddle on the revenue and appropriations bills, it is also getting proposals to submit amendments to the State Constitution. One of these would permit classification of property for taxation purposes. This proposal was defeated at the polls in 1928. Another constitutional amendment on the way to the Legislature would give the General Assembly authority to renovate the court system of the State. There will be others, but so far there has developed little sentiment in favor of reviving the proposal to

submit the revamped Constitution prepared by a Commission last year.

The Legislature is going to be more careful about tabling bills without discussing in the future. The photographers of the State prepared a bill setting up standards, held a convention, discussed it, and then had the bill introduced. Capt. A. C. Clement, of Goldsboro, a high-minded man, elected president of the association, went to the House to hear the bill discussed. Instead of discussing it, the House voted to table it. He was so shocked that he suffered a heart attack and came near to dying on the floor of the House. Repentant legislators later called the bill back. Hereafter they will be more considerate of bills.

As is usually the case, the Senate is further along with its business than is the House. It has already passed a statute regulating the driving of automobiles, it has voted to provide a three million dollar emergency fund for highways, it has passed a bill giving sheriffs the right to make arrests of felons in other counties than their own, it passed numerous other statutes, that have not yet even been called up in the House. One reason for its more speedy action is its smallness. Another is it has more veterans.

The Hill State alcohol control bill is due to come up this week, and the Palmer beer bill is expected to be reported out. There is so far no great interest in either bill. The Legislature may possibly increase the alcoholic content of beer but it is doubtful. There is now little likelihood that it will submit a prohibition referendum to the voters.

Recommends Methods For Growing Cotton

Five factors essential to the profitable production of cotton have been outlined by C. B. Williams, head of the State College agronomy department, as follows:

Use of a suitable crop rotation in which adapted legumes are grown and, after growth, are used to build up the supplies of organic matter and nitrogen in the soil.

Following the best methods of breaking and preparing the land, of planting the seed, of spacing the plants, and of cultivating the crop.

Planting only those varieties and strains which have been established as best suited for growing in the community where the farm is located.

Selecting for cotton production only those soils on the farm which are best adapted for producing high yields and good quality.

Using the type of fertilizer needed to make each particular type of soil produce large quantities of the best quality cotton.

The important issue before North Carolina farmers is not the use of fertilizer but the selection of the right mixtures, Williams said, since each soil must be supplied with the nutrients which it lacks in sufficient amount.

On a general average, soils in the Piedmont section should be treated with 50 pounds of 4-10-4 to the acre and soils in the coastal plain area should receive 500 pounds of 4-8-4 per acre, Williams pointed out.

However, he cautioned, each soil is a problem by itself and the correct fertilizer mixture best suited for an individual farm should be ascertained from research data available.

Adjustment Payments Amount To Huge Sum

North Carolina farmers who are participating in the crop adjustment programs have received a total of \$13,141,978.98 in rental and benefit payments.

These payments include all checks disbursed from the beginning of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in 1933 up to December 31, 1934, according to Dean I. O. Schaub, of State College.

However, the figure above does not include all the payments due the growers for their part in the 1934 program, the dean says, since some of the payments are still being made.

Cotton growers received the largest amount of the total payments, having gotten \$7,090,603.16.

QUICKEST WAY



"Did you get that recipe on how to prevent your hair from falling out you sent the dollar for?"
"I did. The recipe read: Quarrel with your wife and get it pulled out."

Highest Yield?



MOST cotton and corn growers in the South will envy the records made last season by Mr. A. P. Johns of Toccoa, Georgia, pictured above. On an acre, of cotton 1-1-16 staple, he obtained a yield of 1,276 lbs. of lint and 2,394 of seed. The result was a net gain of \$105.38 on the acre.

On his cotton, Mr. Johns used 400 lbs. of a 4-10-4 fertilizer at planting and side-dressed with 100 lbs. of American nitrate of soda. With the same application on an acre of corn, he made 159 bu. of Hastings Prolific at a net gain of \$140.65.

Both demonstrations were conducted under the supervision of the American Cotton Association and Better Farming Campaign. Col. Harvie Jordan, Managing Director of the Association said that all of the Association's results last season prove the value of intensive culture. "There are two things I'm sure of," Col. Jordan remarked, "and they are that we Southerners have to adopt intensive culture in the field and have to support our home industries. When I look at a result like this, made with our own Southern nitrate of soda, I think we have a combination the whole world can't beat."

Says Seed Shortage Is Not So Severe

The program for growing more legumes and building better pastures should not be handicapped by a

shortage of seed this year, according to a recent survey by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, says Dean I. O. Schaub, of State College.

It has been rumored, the Dean says, that the severe drouth in the mid-West last year so reduced the seed

supply that there would not be enough to plant the needed grass and legumes for 1935.

The drouth did reduce the supply, he adds, but not enough to cause a shortage which would prevent farmers from sowing the pasturage, soil-building, and hay crops they should have.

Although the supply of timothy, forage sorghums, millet, Sudan grass, and alsike and red clover is lower than usual, Dean Schaub points out, there is a sufficiency of lespedeza and other legume and grass seed.

Importations of seed from foreign countries is relieving the slight shortage in millet, Sudan grass, and a variety of timothy suitable to northern states, the Dean says, and there will be enough of these for the 1935 sowing, he is informed.

The rise in seed prices should not materially affect those farmers who will have to buy seed, he observes, if they prepare their seed beds carefully and distribute the seed evenly so there will be no waste.

The need for more and better pastures and for soil-building crops, particularly on land retired from the cultivation of other commodities, such that the agricultural extension service is advocating all farmers to plant legumes and grasses wherever possible.

"I hear Fred's on the football team."
"Yes, he's cut out cigarettes and is carrying his heaviest pipe around."

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