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LEGISLATURE HAS GOTTEN TO WORK

MUCH DONE IN TWO WEEKS BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Tax Reform Stands Out Clearly as the Central Idea Being Chased by Both Branches

The Columbia Record, 22.

Faster work and more definite aim than have characterized any legislature for a number of years feature the present session, after two weeks of work, and with five new revenue producing bills going through the mill and with little else on surface as of state-wide importance, the South Carolina legislature seems on the high road to adjournment with the 40 days allowed for the regulation term. Both branches begin their third week with Monday night sessions.

There is one central theme running through legislation at this session, and aside from that there is little else of importance—taxation, with a special eye to tax reduction. There seems to be a pretty general understanding among the leading members that the total of appropriations can hardly be reduced, but that new revenue must be produced, and before the second week ended Friday afternoon 5 revenue producing measures had been introduced by the ways and means committee of the house.

The bill to provide a tax on inheritances is with the senate judiciary committee, where a few kinks are being ironed out.

The income tax bill has passed the house and has gone to the senate where it is now being given consideration by the finance committee, for initial approval or disapproval.

The bill to provide a tax on hydroelectric power plants has been introduced in the house and is on the calendar for second reading.

The corporation license tax bill is also on the calendar of the house, where it will probably receive attention during the week ahead.

The gasoline tax bill has passed the house and is on the senate calendar for second reading.

Representative Simonhoff's bill to require men to undergo physical examinations before marriage, passed the house last year and is on the senate calendar for third reading. The bill by Senator Bonham to regulate traffic on the highways is scheduled for third reading soon. The bill to provide a tax on moving picture films passed the house, where it was introduced by E. A. Brown of Barnwell, and is to be debated in the senate early in the coming week. The bill to enlarge the railroad commission and combine it with the public utilities commission, and the bill to require free telephone service between towns, are to be debated early in the week. There are Wightman bills to abolish the tax commission, the board of public welfare and the highway commission, but they are due to die hard.

POPE OF ROME DIED SIX O'CLOCK SUNDAY

Rome, Jan. 22.—Pope Benedict's death occurred at 6 o'clock this morning. The end had been expected for several hours. The attending physicians, Cardinal Gasparri and other members of the Pope's household were present at the bedside.

From midnight all hope had been abandoned, and at two o'clock Dr. Battistini announced that the Pope could not live longer than four hours at the maximum.

Day of Uncertainty

It was a day of great uncertainty in Rome and deep anxiety among those who watched and prayed at the Vatican, for virtually all hope of the Pope's recovery was abandoned even in the early hours of the morning.

As the hours passed, the wonder grew at the recuperative powers of the holy father, which enabled him to pass from one sinking spell to another to periods of comparative restfulness and strength. It was this changeful condition that inspired hope at one moment and gave rise to rumors of death at another.

Britannia used to boast that she ruled the waves, but now she seems to be willing to waive the rule.

NEW TAX SOURCES SOUGHT BY HOUSE

MOTION PICTURE LICENSE BILL TO THIRD READING.

Action on Measure Follows Lengthy Debate—Forty-eight Hour Bill Favored.

The State, January 20.

The search for new sources of revenue to so permit the relieving the owners of visible property of a large proportion of their present tax burden occupied the major portion of the time and interest of the house at its session last night, the sending of the motion picture license bill to third reading after a somewhat warm debate and the introduction of the corporation license bill, being the salient features of the session.

The judiciary committee returned the 48 hour week bill, which would limit the working hours in the cotton mills of the state to 48 hours a week with a maximum of eight hours a day, with a favorable report and the measure, which is practically identical with the bill killed in the senate last year, is expected to come up for consideration this morning. The favorable report of the committee was made by Representative Pearis.

The motion picture license bill, of which Edgar A. Brown of Barnwell is the author, came up for consideration as a special order. The bill had been referred in error to the judiciary committee, which normally would have considered it as it is primarily a revenue producing measure, and the first effort made on the floor was to secure the committing of the bill to the ways and means committee. Representative Sapp of Columbia leading the effort to secure the measure's being sent to the ways and means committee.

Many Voices Raised.

Representatives Hamblin of Union, O'Rourke of Charleston, Robinson of Lancaster and Barnett of Columbia joined Mr. Sapp in asking that the bill be sent to the committee, with Representatives Brown of Barnwell, Owens of Bennettsville, Evans of Bennettsville, Binicker of Cape, Foster, Spartenburg, and Hanahan of Winnsboro opposing the proposal. The motion of Mr. Sapp to commit the bill was tabled by a vote of 40 to 24, and the measure was then taken up for consideration, Mr. Robinson and Mr. O'Rourke being chief opponents of the measure. The proposed rate, Mr. Robinson argued, was too high, while Mr. O'Rourke, on the other hand, favored the tax no matter how high it might be or what hardships it might work on the motion picture industry, expressing the hope that "God will speed the day when the 'damn things' will be wiped out." The bill was finally passed to third reading without a second reading vote by an overwhelming majority.

Would Bring Revenue

The bill would impose a license tax of \$5 per 1,000 feet on each new film brought into the state and a fee of \$2.50 per 1,000 feet on each additional copy of a film shown in the state. The measure, it is estimated, will bring into the state's coffers a sum totaling approximately \$100,000 annually.

Representatives Sheppard and Barnett again introduced their bill to make the drawing of checks, where the drawer has not sufficient funds in the bank to cover the check, a misdemeanor. The bill was referred to the committee on the judiciary.

Representative Sheppard is the author of a bill, also among the number of new measures introduced last night, to make it a misdemeanor for any person, firm or corporation to publish or circulate untrue or misleading statements in advertisements regarding the sale of any article. The bill was referred to the judiciary committee.

The emergency appropriation bill, which is a duplicate of the similar measure already introduced in the house, was received from the senate and referred to the committee on ways and means.

The judiciary committee returned a favorable report on the joint resolution, offered by Representative Bradford, to allow the amending of the state constitution so as to give the general assembly control of the state printing.

AMERICAN LEGION NOTES.

THE LEGION'S BASKETBALL TEAM WON ITS FOURTH CONSECUTIVE VICTORY WHEN IT DEFEATED THE THIRD TEAM OF THE COLLEGE IN THE COLLEGE GYM. LAST FRIDAY NIGHT. THE SCORE AT THE END OF THE FIRST HALF STOOD 17 TO 16 IN FAVOR OF THE LEGION. THE LEGION CAME BACK STRONG IN THE LAST HALF AND IN THE FOURTH PERIOD HELD THE COLLEGE BOYS TO FOUR POINTS WHILE THE LEGION SCORED 16 POINTS. THE GOAL SHOOTING OF FLOYD WAS THE OUTSTANDING FEATURE OF THE GAME, 21 OF THE LEGION'S POINTS BEING TO HIS CREDIT. HOWEVER, THE WHOLE LEGION TEAM PLAYED GOOD BALL, AND GAVE HIM GOOD ASSISTANCE.

The final score was 33 to 20.

Floyd, Graham, Bryson, Fox and Vigodsky played for the legion.

Shealy, A. Tiley, Shealy 3rd, Hal-tiwanger, and Borts, G., with Butler as substitute, represented the college.

The legion's team will meet the Little Mountain high school team on the latter's court next Tuesday evening. We are counting on making this five straight.

Florence post No. 1 has invited the South Carolina department American Legion to hold its next convention in Florence. This post holds the record of being the first to be organized in South Carolina. That our department was represented at the St. Louis caucus in 1919 was due to the fact that this post sent three of its members to the meeting. These facts, coupled with the fact that the last two conventions have been held in the upper section of the state, will give the Florence bid a strong hold on the executive committee, in whose hands the decision as to the next convention city was left.

Have you paid your dues for 1922? How about that new member? With some team work we can land the Graham membership cup.

John B. Setzler, Publicity Officer.

The legion's basketball team won its third consecutive victory when it defeated the Newberry high school team 35 to 27 Wednesday night. The game was played in the high school gymnasium. I dare say this is the best basketball court in the state. The floor is made of hard wood, and the court is 70 by 40 feet.

John Floyd played the best game for the legion, scoring 23 points, while Hardeman and Tarrant featured for the high school with 13 and 10 points respectively to their credit.

Floyd, Fox, Graham, C. Bryson, and Vigodsky with Murray substitute constituted the legion's team.

The same team will meet the crack third team of the college at the college gym, Friday night. At the same place and on the same night the girls' high school team will play Greenwood high. Come out and see the double-header. You will be sure to get your money's worth.

John B. Setzler, Publicity Officer.

Manager H. B. Wells of the opera house is in receipt of the following telegram from the manager of the Majestic theatre of Johnson City, Tenn., in which he recommends very highly the musical comedy, "Listen Irene," which will be here Thursday: Johnson City, Tenn., Jan. 20, 1922.

Maj. Opera House, Newberry, S. C.

Understand you booked "Listen Irene." Played my theatre tonight, capacity business and pleased every one of my patrons. By far the best musical comedy this year. Nyrta Brown and Johnnie Getz are better than ever. This wire sent unsolicited, a pleasure to recommend shows of this class.

Geo. Keys, Mgr., Majestic Theatre.

Now that Foch has seen America, he must realize what a whale of an army he commanded.

And it sometimes happens that the pictures in the theatre lobby are better than those shown inside.

One way of amusing people is to take counsel too seriously.

BILLS EXPECTED TO REDUCE LEVY

TWO NEW REVENUE MEASURES INTRODUCED

Hydro-electric Tax and Corporation License Tax Bill Reported Out

The State, 20.

Two new tax bills, calculated to bring into the coffers of the state a total of between \$275,000 and \$400,000 annually, yesterday made their appearance on the floor of the house. These measures, the corporation license bill and the hydroelectric bill, both of which are sponsored by the ways and means committee, are expected to come up for consideration today.

The corporation license tax provides for the levying of a direct tax on the capital stock of corporations, the tax being applied according to a graduated scale. The measure, it is estimated, will produce revenue totaling approximately \$100,000 annually. The tax is modeled very closely upon the present corporation license tax law, the rates being increased, however.

The ways and means committee places the estimate of the revenue to be brought in by the hydroelectric tax at \$175,000 annually, but representatives of various hydroelectric companies operating in the state consider this an understatement of the facts and place the estimated return from the proposed tax at \$300,000 annually.

These measures, with the other new revenue bills now being considered in the house and senate, it is argued by their proponents, will so reduce the portion of the state's revenues to be derived from the visible property tax as to permit a cut in the levy to five and a half mills or lower.

The hydroelectric tax bill, which is one of divers new tax measures urged by Gov. Robert A. Cooper in his annual address to the legislature this year, would provide for the levying of a tax of one-third of a mill for each kilowatt hour of electric power produced by water companies in the state on all individual companies or corporations producing electricity from water power. This tax, under the provisions of the bill, would be paid in quarterly installments, falling due on or before the last day of March, June, September and December annually. To make possible these quarterly assessments every hydroelectric plant in the state will be required by the bill to report to the state tax commission on the power produced during each quarter, these reports to be made to the commission within 30 days after the last day of February, May, August and November. Companies reporting less than 2,500 kilowatt hours for any quarter would be exempted from the payment of the tax and the tax commission is authorized to excuse all plants incapable of producing 8,000 kilowatt hours a month from making quarterly reports. The tax commission, in whose hands the administration of the tax is placed, under the provisions of the proposed measure, will be given authority to examine the books and records of any hydroelectric plant in the state to determine the accuracy of the reports made.

A penalty of \$5 a day for each day the company or individual or corporation fails to make its quarterly report after the report is due is carried in the bill, the tax commission being empowered, however, to relieve the tax-paying individual or concern of the penalty should it be proven that the delay in the filing of the report was not occasioned by negligence or an attempt to evade the tax. A 5 per cent penalty would also be imposed for each month that the tax remains unpaid after falling due.

The tax would be used in defraying the general expenses of the state, the measure becoming effective immediately upon approval by the governor.

Now that the packing house employees have accepted a wage cut, let's see what happens to the price of meat.

Probably there wouldn't be so many hard-up grocers if there weren't so many prosperous filling stations.

"SUCKERS" ON A VACATION

Calhoun Times.

Some wit has said that a "sucker" is born every hour in the day. He is easy prey when times are normal but the boll weevil has given him a rest in Calhoun county, at last. Not even the perennial Bible agent has been able to exploit him this fall.

His county was never so free of agents, living on their wits and a gullible public, as now. When the going was good there were hardly any hard-billed philosophers left to study the psychology of human nature. Everybody was in the "sucker" line up. We remember a good many years ago when there was a sale of town lots in town, up near the graded school building. An immense crowd was on hand and a brass band discoursed delightful music. An auctioneer, of exceptionally high merit, kept the "boys" in high humor. Some of us who had no more need of a town lot than a brass monkey fell to the inspiration and exhilaration of the surroundings. The lots went like hot cakes and have been going ever since. Then came the Seminole crowd. They promised at least 20 per cent dividends on every dollar invested. They traveled in pairs, were handsome as Alcibiades, splendidly dressed and with diamonds, sparkling from stick pins to rings on their well-groomed fingers. Some of the old war horses who had dodged "greasy pig" schemes all their lives were caught in the brilliant net set for the "suckers." One of these victims scenting danger from afar journeyed up to Columbia, and with an air of innocent and exuberant anxiety to satisfy his notes, asked to see them. When accommodated, he liquidated by tearing them to tatters. George Johnstone, the noted criminal lawyer of Newberry, pronounced him the finest equity lawyer in South Carolina. It would be interesting reading to see all the transactions of the speculators in the various grades by the big, medium and little fish, chalked up on a huge bulletin board for every county in the country during the last five years.

The regular, old line and legitimate earnings are too slow for the "suckers." They plunged for big and easy stakes. As a result, nineteen of every twenty threw their candy in the sand. The great back wash of the panic has strewn the beach with many a wreck. Some of the "suckers" ended it all by suicide; others flew the coop when the eagle swooped down for its meat; while a great multitude, unaccustomed to the pangs of a pinched pocket book, are hoping and anxiously yearning for a better day to dawn. After all, the good old Bible has laid down in Genesis the only safe rule for the vast majority to follow: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

And so the house turned from its labors of law making to listen to the praises of General Lee, sung by two men, who had served with the great Virginian. Both Mr. Bramlett and Mr. Greer praised General Lee as a great military leader and a great and good man and citizen. "Never has there been a greater man born in the country," Mr. Bramlett said. "He was true to his country, true to his men." Mr. Greer also held General Lee up as a character to be emulated by the youth of the land and at the same time paid high tribute to the men who fought with him under the Stars and Bars. The Confederate army, he said, was "one of the greatest armies that ever marched."

Representative Eugene S. Blease of Newberry made a short address of thanks in the name of the house to the two veterans, reminding the members that not very much longer would they have the veterans of the Confederate armies with them and calling upon them to see that in the short time that remains every honor should be accorded them in memory of their valor and sacrifices. "They fought," Mr. Blease said, "in behalf of what has oftentimes been called 'The Lost Cause,' but it is not lost. Those principles for which the men of the Confederacy dared death and some gave up their lives will never die, but living, will lead the country on to higher and greater achievements. The wearers of the gray came back to their homes with their flag furled, but there was no stain of dishonor upon it. They were defeated, but they were defeated in glory and with honor."

Tribute to Confederates

Representative McMillan then moved that the house rise out of respect to the Confederate veterans and General Lee, and Representative Hanahan suggested an amendment that the house, as a tribute to General Lee and his followers, recess until the night session. The motion was carried.

During the short session devoted to the consideration of the measures on the calendar few matters of more than local import were considered outside of the fraternity bill. The bill, introduced by Representative Sheppard, Bonham and Moore, to make it unlawful to bribe, intimidate or in any manner seek to prevent the institution of criminal prosecution or

LAYS ASIDE WORK IN HONOR OF LEE

LOWER HOUSE PAYS TRIBUTE TO GREAT LEADER

Hydro-electric Companies Would Furnish Additional Revenue to State

The State, 20.

The introduction of a bill to tax hydro-electric companies, the killing of the Ellerbe fraternity measure and the holding of exercises in honor of the birthday of Gen. Robert E. Lee were the salient features of the somewhat brief morning session of the house yesterday. The session, which was limited to allow time for the meeting of the joint assembly, was cut short upon the motion of Representatives McMillan of Charleston and Hanahan of Winnsboro that the house recess out of respect to the great Confederate commander and in honor of the brave soldiers who fought under him.

The hydroelectric tax bill, which is sponsored by the ways and means committee, will probably be taken up for consideration today as the second of the new revenue measures to come before the house, the first, the income tax bill, having been sent to the senate Wednesday.

The special exercises in honor of General Lee's birthday were held immediately after the reconvening of the house at the conclusion of the meeting of the joint assembly. Representatives J. T. Bramlett and John G. Greer, both of Greenville county, the only Confederate veterans in the house, being invited to make addresses of tribute to the great man and commander under whose leadership they had fought in the armies of the Confederacy. The motion, providing for the holding of the exercises and the extending of the floor to Representatives Bramlett and Greer, was made by Representative Jennings K. Owens of Bennettsville.

In Honor of Lee

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SOLDIER SLAIN BY FIRING SQUAD

ALABAMA SCHOOL TEACHER TESTIFIES AT HEARING

Intelligence of George Washington Yarborough Makes Impression on Colonel Bethel

Washington, Jan. 19.—George Washington Yarborough, a high school teacher of Roanoke, Ala., and rated as the welterweight champion of the American expeditionary forces, told a senate investigating committee today that he had witnessed the shooting of American soldiers by a firing squad near the Chateau Thierry region in July, 1918.

Regarded by the committee as probably the most clear headed of all the former service men testifying concerning alleged hanging of soldiers without trial, Yarborough, himself a reluctant witness, declared the sight of the man being led to his death, with hands tied behind his back, made him forget for the moment the screeching of enemy shells flying overhead. The witness said he was close enough when the officer commanding the squad gave the order to fire to hear the soldier, barely 20 years old, plead to be allowed to die with his eyes unbound.

Members of the committee and Col. Walter A. Bethel, assistant judge advocate general of the army, listened closely to the recital, for evidence from war department sources heretofore presented failed to show where men had met death in that way. Yarborough was passed by Colonel Bethel, who declared the witness was extremely intelligent and that he was not attempting to break down his story, but seeing to obtain some data which might enable him to check up on the shooting. The witness explained that he could give the names of none of the men with him at the time because they were not attached to his outfit.

There had been camp reports, the witness said, that the soldier was shot for neglect of duty in battle. Asked by Chairman Brandegee if the shooting led him to believe there had been abuse of power, Yarborough replied, "None whatever," as he assumed that the officer handling the squad was carrying out orders. But he thought then and now, he added, that if the army had detailed a squad to shoot a comrade it might have detailed another squad to pick up the body and bury it.

Much testimony relating to alleged abuse of enlisted men cropped out again today, along with further references to the conduct of "Hard Boiled" Smith. Two former service men testified they had seen three public executions at Is-Sur-Tille, at which station war department records show only two men were hanged.

The hearing was adjourned until next Wednesday.

COMMUNITY MARKET HAD GOOD DAY ON SATURDAY

The community market had a good day on Saturday. The sales were \$89.25. Orders were left for two live rabbits, three prepared abbits, squash, dressed hens, prepared frying sized chickens, cream. A beef has been promised for the next Saturday.

Those in charge would be glad to have the following people call and get the amount due them. Each amount has been placed in an envelope and sealed: Miss Louise Wedeman, Mrs. W. C. Sligh, J. W. Kinard, O'Neill club, Mrs. Jas. Hentz, R. E. Livingston, Mrs. G. W. Suser, Mr. Smith.

"People have quit believing in hell" says an exchange. But why? Look at the condition the country is in.

It is more than eleven months until another Christmas, glory be!

to prevent witnesses from testifying in any case, was recommended to the judiciary committee.

The bill to prohibit the use of cut-outs on motor driven vehicles in the state was given its second reading and was advanced without debate. This bill, which was introduced by Representatives Nance of Cross Hill and Dickson of Anderson, is practically identical with the measure killed last year.