

The Herald and News.

VOLUME LVIII, NUMBER 14.

NEWBERRY, S. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1922.

TWICE A WEEK, \$2.00 A YEAR

GOVERNOR PLEADS FOR SCHOOL AID

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Chief Executive Urges Legislature to Provide for Advancement of Work

The State, 17.

Governor Cooper last night sent a special message to both houses of the general assembly in which he said he was gravely concerned in the proposed appropriations for the public schools. The governor called attention to the advancement of the school system and how the appropriations recommended in the ways and means committee bill would seriously cripple the work. He urged the legislature not to reduce the common school work as a sacrifice for the institutions of higher learning.

In the senate the message, upon motion of Senator Goodwin, was referred to the finance committee. The house received it as information. The message follows:

Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

I have not annoyed you with special communications. It has been my policy to submit to you my views as to needed legislation, in my annual message. At the beginning of the present session, I presented recommendations covering what I conceived to be matters of pressing importance. I congratulate you on the progress already made towards a modern revenue system. If the bills now pending before the senate, which have already passed the house, are enacted, we have the beginning of an up to date and equitable system of taxation. In the nature of things, it will require several years to perfect any plan on this difficult and complex subject.

I am constrained to address you on another matter. A careful study of the annual appropriation bill submitted by the committee on ways and means causes me grave concern. I refer especially to the provision for public schools. I appreciate the difficulties with which the committee has to contend, and what I shall say is not in a spirit of unfriendly criticism, but is due to my conviction as to the best policy to pursue at this time. I would be unfaithful to my trust did I not state my position to you.

Wants Adequate System

It has been my purpose in having the state definitely committed to a program of education which will, in a few years, provide for every section of the state adequate educational facilities. The general assembly has given its approval to a number of measures carrying out this idea. I refer to acts giving state aid to high schools, the inspection of rural schools, vocational education, adult and night schools, term extension, rural graded schools, guaranteeing seven months' term and the erection of school buildings. In the budget submitted to you I recommended for these purposes appropriations which will enable the state to meet its obligations as expressed in these various acts, to the various school districts which have complied, and which are now ready to comply with these various legislative enactments. It is proposed by the appropriation bill as submitted, to reduce the appropriation for high schools \$159,200. If this is carried out it means that the high schools of the state will be crippled and unable to function, and the people in the various high school districts deprived of the service which they have a right to expect and which they certainly need.

The inspection of rural schools and mill schools for which no appropriation is made, is a matter of very serious importance. Failure to provide for this work will be a serious handicap in these fields. Without adequate supervision and inspection progress is impossible and the usefulness of any expenditure diminished.

The item of \$90,200 recommended in the budget for vocational education and eliminated from the appropriation bill, is to match an appropriation by the federal government for this particular class of work. With this appropriation we have now established in various schools of the state about 100 classes in agriculture. My information is that the work is

satisfactory and growing in favor and efficiency. It is the policy of the state to provide, as a part of its educational system, special training in the professions, and for this purpose we have a law department in the state university and a medical college. We train teachers at both the university and Winthrop college, especial emphasis is given at Clemson and domestic science at Winthrop. How is it possible for this particular work at Clemson and Winthrop college to reach the masses who can never hope to attend either of the colleges unless it be through the local schools? The farmer's son, who must be denied the benefit of a college education, ought not to be denied by the state the special training which can be given him through these various classes in agriculture. The importance of this work is recognized by the federal government and congress has provided liberal appropriations for it. In the various mill districts we have established 105 textile evening classes for mill operatives. These classes are for the especial benefit of adult operatives and this work has the approval of the mill executives as well as the operatives.

Gratifying Progress

We have made gratifying progress in the operation of our adult and night schools. This, as you know, is an effort on the part of the state to do something for that class of citizens who have reached manhood and womanhood without the rudiments of an education. The response of the people in need of this work has been encouraging and to reduce the appropriation requested not only means a failure to go forward, but is a positive injustice to those who are ready and willing to make the personal sacrifice involved in this effort to rid the state of adult illiteracy.

The appropriation provided for by the bureau of examiners will seriously handicap this work. The work of this bureau is fundamental if the standard of instruction in our schools is to be improved. It is absolutely impossible to do the work required in a reasonable, satisfactory manner with the reduction in appropriation provided in the bill. This subject is discussed in the report of the state superintendent of education on pages 17 and 18, and 167 to 213, inclusive. The chief criticism of this bureau has been the delay in gradation of papers and the failure to provide some additional clerical assistance means to aggravate this condition.

I come now to what I regard the most important state appropriation for our public schools to wit, guaranteeing a seven months' term. The state took a step forward when the legislature enacted this law. For the first time we fixed a definite standard for our country schools; it is true the standard is low, but it is nevertheless a decided improvement over the absolute lack of any standard. The requirements of the law are logical and simple, any district in order to participate in this guarantee must first vote a local school tax of eight mills for teachers' salaries. A great many of our people did not believe that such a local levy would be favored in rural communities and for about 3 years the country patrons and taxpayers could not be persuaded to take advantage of this provision to aid their schools. But during the scholastic year 1920-21, 607 districts qualified for equalizing aid, while applications from 73 other districts could not be approved. These districts have voted a local tax levy of eight mills in order to meet the state standard and secure state aid. The voting of these levies continues, notwithstanding the depressed condition, and a great many people are determined to educate their children even if it requires a personal sacrifice to do so.

There are about 800 localities almost entirely rural now in position to receive the benefits of this appropriation during the scholastic year of 1921-22. The farmers of these districts have a right to expect a seven months' school term for their boys and girls. They would be glad to have eight months or nine, if possible, and to disappoint them is nothing short of a repudiation of the solemn obligation of the commonwealth. I can not remain silent when I am convinced that there is danger of injury to public education in communities where it is most needed. If you will examine

HOUSE DEBATING APPROPRIATIONS

PLEASE PROPERLY DEFENDS GOV. COOPER

Official Paper on Education Causes Warm Discussion Early This Morning

The State, 17.

At 2 o'clock this morning the house of representatives adjourned debate on the annual appropriation bill, having agreed to 17 of the 69 provisions of the bill and made only one cut in the measure as presented to the house Tuesday by the ways and means committee. This lone reduction was at the expense of the University of South Carolina, the appropriation of \$2,500 for the holding of a summer athletic coaching school being eliminated upon the motion of Representative R. J. Wade of Aiken and O. A. Hydrick of Orangeburg. The bill was under fire six hours last night and this morning.

The majority of the sixteen sections passed without amendment were each advanced only after considerable debate and action on the bill was interrupted frequently by efforts of various members to secure an adjournment and postpone action on the bill. The house clock had been stopped at 11:44 o'clock and it was the purpose of the ways and means committee to extend the legislative day so as to permit the passage of the bill to second reading and then the reconvening of the house immediately to give

the report of the state superintendent of education, pages 399 and 409, inclusive, you will see in detail how this fund was distributed during the year 1920-21. It is principally limited to rural communities. Cities and towns with corporate wealth, railroads, banks and mercantile establishments do not need any assistance. It should be borne in mind also that practically every city and town in the state runs its schools for nine months. The people of these urban communities will not tolerate anything else. Most of the towns and cities also have state aided high schools. The bulk of our population is rural. Can the state afford to neglect the country children on the plea that their education costs money and requires tax? Wherever white population is dense and tax valuation low, this law is most beneficial. It taxes the wealth of the state wherever it finds it and uses the proceeds to educate the children where they are. The property of the state is thus made responsible for the education of our children. Any other standard or policy is incompatible with the true spirit of Americanism, democracy and Christianity.

For Community School

I am appealing to you, gentlemen, in behalf of that portion of our population whose community school is the only university they can ever enjoy. If you must reduce the appropriation necessary to support our educational activities why is it that the reduction must be made against the rural school and the high schools rather than the institutions? Do not misunderstand me. I would protest against any reduction in appropriations to our higher institutions. In making my budget recommendations for this year I was as liberal with the institutions as with the public schools, but if it is absolutely necessary in the opinion of the legislature that the recommendations be reduced, I suggest in all fairness that all the reductions should not be made from the high schools and the rural schools. By what principle of ethics or statesmanship can South Carolina claim to have a public school system for the training of all her children, if this discrimination against the farmer's child be tolerated for a moment?

I am sure you will not misunderstand what I have said. I am in favor of and stand ready to defend every appropriation asked for our educational work, including the institutions, but our fundamental need is to improve the rural school. No patriotic taxpayer will complain against any reasonable appropriation for the improvement of the educational facilities of all the people throughout the state, and especially those who heretofore have had practically none of its benefits.

it its third reading and send it to the senate.

At 10:30 o'clock, just when the house was in the midst of its consideration of the measure, a special message from Gov. Robert A. Cooper was governor urged upon the general assembly that if any reductions must be made in the appropriations as suggested in the budget that in fairness these reductions should not all be made at the expense of the high schools and rural schools. The report was received as information and ordered printed in the journal.

Governor's Message

At about 1:30 o'clock this morning the section of the appropriation bill providing for funds for the superintendent of education's office was reached and here the question of the governor's message was again brought to the fore. Representative J. K. Hamblin of Union moved to amend the section so as to eliminate an appropriation of \$15,000 for the "betterment of negro schools," this proposal being lost, however, by a vote of 59 to 24. Practically every one of the numerous amendments which had so far been proposed to the bill had excited lengthy debate and Representative J. W. Hanahan then moved the previous question on the entire matter. This proposal would have cut off further debate upon amendments and would have killed all proposed amendments that were not on the speaker's desk when the motion was passed.

This proposal evoked a storm of disapproval, several members calling the attention of the house to the fact that the governor had sent a special message to the house on the section of the bill under consideration at the time. The motion, it was argued, would be construed as a refusal on the part of the members of the house to regard the opinions of the governor on this question.

Mr. Hanahan withdrew his motion to order the previous question but rose to a point of personal privilege to voice his criticism of the act of Governor Cooper in sending a special message. "When I have to be told by the house that the subjects covered by the governor or any one else how I shall vote on any question," Mr. Hanahan said, "I should not be here in this general assembly." The governor, Mr. Hanahan thought, when he sent the special message to legislate at the time he did "did a most inappropriate thing." "The message coming in the midst of the consideration of the question discussed in the governor's communication," Mr. Hanahan said, "leads me to believe that the message was intended to influence votes on this question."

To Governor's Defense

Mr. Hanahan's address brought Eugene S. Blease of Newberry to his feet in defense of the governor. "I know," Mr. Blease said, "that Robert A. Cooper is an honest man and I know that he did not intend to influence unduly the house. He is not that kind of man. If you will reflect you will recall that though the state constitution provides that there shall be three separate departments of the state government, this same constitution also gives the governor the right to furnish the legislature with the information. This same constitution gives the governor the right to veto a bill passed by both houses and not even a majority of the members of the two houses can override this veto.

"Your governor and my governor, the chairman of the board of trustees of the highest institution of learning in the state, has addressed this communication to you. I hold that if he thought we were driving in the wrong direction that it was not only his privilege but it became his duty to inform us of it. He had the right to send this communication, a communication that is important because it affects every home and fireside in South Carolina and we who are presumed to represent the homes and firesides of the state should give it due consideration. The public school system of the state may depend upon this measure."

Mr. Blease then moved to adjourn, this proposal being opposed by Representatives J. K. Owens, E. T. Hughes, Claud N. Sapp, all of whom contended that proper consideration could be given the governor's message without adjournment. There was nothing

UNABLE TO SERVE ON TRUSTEE BOARD

REPRESENTATIVE McINNES NOT TO QUALIFY

Says He Thinks He Should Not Accept Place While Member of Legislature

The State, 18.

Representative Julius S. McInnes of Darlington, recently elected by the legislature to be a trustee of the University of South Carolina, yesterday informed the general assembly through a letter to both houses that he would not qualify as a trustee and asked that the joint assembly elect some one in his stead.

In his letter Mr. McInnes says he does not think he should serve as a trustee while a member of the general assembly.

Several days ago Solicitor T. C. Callison of Lexington, elected a trustee along with Mr. McInnes, notified the general assembly he could not accept the place, as he did not feel that he should while being solicitor. These two refusals make two vacancies on the board that are to be filled at this session.

Considerable discussion has been heard on the idea of electing members of the general assembly as trustees on boards and some opposition has already been voiced, so much so that the bill increasing the number of trustees at the university has a proviso added by the senate that members of the assembly shall not be eligible to serve under the act. This bill is still in the hands of the free conference committee with chances for an agreement rather slim, it was indicated. The house is not willing for the senate proviso to stand and the senate insists.

Representative McInnes' letter to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house follows:

"I beg leave herewith to notify you that I shall not qualify as a trustee of the University of South Carolina, and will, therefore, request the joint assembly to elect some one to serve in my stead in this position. "After careful consideration I am of the opinion that as a member of the general assembly I should not at the same time serve as a trustee of the university. My first duty is to the university and I desire carefully to refrain from any act which even in the remotest degree might reflect upon her. "I hereby express to the members of the general assembly my deep appreciation of their action in electing me a trustee. I have always had a real desire to serve as a trustee of the university, and it is my sincere regret that conditions are such that I can not serve at this time."

Representative M. R. Cooper Dead

Columbia, Feb. 11.—Marion Reed Cooper, aged 73, member of the house of representatives from the county of Beaufort, died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Lizzie Clark, in this city, this morning at 9:20, after an illness of several weeks. The immediate cause of his death was pneumonia.

Mr. Cooper was for years a prominent figure in South Carolina politics. He was a man of strong opinions. Although not in the best of health for the past few years, he was an outstanding figure in the general assembly, and the long tenure of his service for his state made his counsel valuable to his contemporaries.

Henderson-Wedaman

Miss Mildred Henderson of Blairs and Mr. Jno. D. Wedaman of Pomaria were married on the 7th instant by Rev. John Sproles Lyons, Jr., at the residence of the bride's brother, Mr. Lewis Henderson of Blairs.

set forth in the special message, they argued, that was not contained in the budget, which has been in the hands of members of the house since the opening of the session. The motion was finally carried at 2 o'clock after half an hour's argument on the question.

The House will meet again at 10 o'clock this morning, section 18 of the bill, the superintendent of education appropriations, being still under consideration.

APPROPRIATION BILL REPORTED OUT

Reduction of More Than Million Dollars is Recommended—State Levy Five Instead of Twelve Mills

Columbia, Feb. 14.—The ways and means committee of the house reported out the general appropriation bill tonight carrying a total appropriation of \$5,671,684.67 or a total reduction from the 1921 appropriation of \$1,095,450.65. The total state levy as provided in the bill is five mills as compared with 12 mills in 1921.

This big reduction in millage is made possible by the new revenue measures already passed and those that the legislature believe will be passed. If the revenue measures are not passed the levy will have to be increased.

Indications are that the bill will come up this week and be passed by the house late in the week. When this bill is sent to the senate the house will have discharged practically all its work and the rest of the work will be upon the senate, which is already overloaded with legislation.

In 1921 a total of \$6,767,155.32 was appropriated for all state purposes, this including an extra half mill for the Citadel. Governor Cooper recommended in the budget that \$6,466,240.15 be appropriated, but the ways and means committee sliced this figure off considerably.

As usual the biggest appropriation this year is for the public schools, this figure being \$1,186,700 but this is a big drop from 1921 when the appropriation was \$1,528,930.

The recapitulation of the appropriation bill as introduced by the ways and means committee is as follows:

- The legislative department, \$107,592.
- The judicial department, \$156,888.65.
- The governor's office department, \$18,469.24.
- Secretary of state's office, \$7,450.
- Comptroller general's office, \$808,576.34.
- Attorney general's office \$14,081.25
- State treasurer's office, \$257,496.62
- The adjutant general's office, \$31,202.50.
- University of South Carolina, \$249,903.70.
- The Citadel \$161,419.86.
- Clemson college (public service) \$242,862.85.
- Winthrop college, \$396,296.23.
- State Medical college, \$84,955.
- State Colored college, \$67,650.
- John de la Howe Industrial school \$38,222.04.
- School for the deaf and blind \$104,620.
- Superintendent of education's office, \$1,186,700.
- Historical commission, \$4,200.
- State library, \$3,960.
- Confederate museum, \$100.
- State relic room \$1,000.
- Confederate home college \$4,000.
- South Carolina state hospital, \$699,972.73.
- State penitentiary, \$93,426.
- Board of public welfare \$25,604.50
- Board of pardons, \$300.
- Training School for Feeble Minded \$45,203.
- Industrial School for Boys, \$70,786.23.
- Industrial School for Girls, \$13,459.50.
- Reformatory for Negro Boys, \$28,532.
- Catawba Indians, \$7,700.
- Committee on deaf and blind children, \$500.
- Law enforcement department, \$12,000.
- Board of health, \$128,055.
- Tax commission, \$40,475.
- Tax board of review, \$1,500.
- Insurance commissioner's office, \$19,226.25.
- Bank examiner's office, \$23,725.80.
- Railroad commission, \$24,447.20.
- Chief game warden's office, \$11,125.
- Budget commission, \$5,975.
- Board of medical examiners \$3,000
- Board of law examiners, \$450.
- Board of fisheries, \$10,500.
- Board of conciliation, \$1,000.
- Joint committee on printing, \$76,321.
- Commissioner of agriculture's office, \$76,665.70.
- Warehouse commissioner's office, \$54,205.
- Board of pharmaceutical examiners,

HOUSE MEMBERS ANSWER GOVERNOR

HOLD THAT IMPLICATIONS IN MEASURE ARE "UNFAIR."

Common Schools Suffer Only Three Per Cent Reduction Through Bill

The State, 18.

Inferences drawn from the governor's special message sent to the house Thursday night, when that body had under consideration the annual appropriation bill, yesterday morning brought denials from two members of the ways and means committee that the committee had discriminated against the public schools of the state, R. B. Belser of Sumter and Claud N. Sapp of Columbia making references to the message.

"There has been what I consider an unfair inference drawn from the special message of the governor that the ways and means committee in drawing up the appropriation bill has seen fit to discriminate against the public schools in favor of the higher institutions of learning. The committee did not discriminate, and the truth of my statement can be proven by facts and figures." Approximately \$11,000,000 Mr. Belser said, is now appropriated through the state appropriation bill, the three mill constitution levy and the numerous special school levies for the public schools, while only approximately \$960,000 is appropriated for the higher institutions. The ways and means committee in drawing up the appropriation bill reduced the higher institutions approximately 25 per cent Mr. Belser said, while examination of the reductions proposed for the common schools would show, he contended, that these cuts would be found to total only about 3 per cent of the funds available for public school purposes. "This, I think," Mr. Belser said, "shows conclusively that there is no discrimination." Of the \$18,000,000 paid in taxes in the state, Mr. Belser contended, approximately 60 per cent goes to the use of public schools and, he argued, no reduction in state appropriations can possibly be made without education being affected. "You can not hope to relieve the taxpayers of the state," he said, "until you make the department of education bear its just proportion of the decrease necessary."

Representative Sapp took up the various cuts made by the ways and means committee in the department of education section in detail, arguing that the largest reduction was for the elimination of an appropriation for past indebtedness, which has now been paid. None of the reductions, Mr. Sapp thought, would cripple the schools, all having been made after careful study. "You can not grant all of the requests of the heads of the departments," he said, "citing the fact that this year the appropriation request totaled \$8,097,442. "We have cut," he said, "but we have cut where it will hurt least and I resent any implication that we have discriminated against any department, whether this implication comes from the governor or any other source."

ENTERTAINMENT TO BE AT BETHEL-GARMANY

The teachers of Mt. Bethel Garmany school announce the engagement of Miss Burr Leitzey and Mr. Jimmie Sease—the wedding to take place at the school house on Friday night, February 24th, at 8 o'clock. Immediately after the ceremony there will be a meeting of the Darktown Social Betterment Society. Admission, 15 and 25 cents.

ers, \$2,000.

Electrician and engineers' office, \$33,433.

Highway department, \$88,115.75.

Sinking fund commission, \$3,462.50

Confederate infirmary \$30,778.80.

Confederate veterans' association, \$1,500.

Commission on state house and grounds, \$4,685.

State contingent fund committee, \$68,000.

State fair society, \$5,000.

Committee on approval of claims, \$7,948.42.

Grand total, \$5,671,684.67.