

Senator Christensen Resigns As Chairman

Christensen Would Quit as Finance Chairman

SAYS BUSINESS WINS

Declares Senate Against Agriculture in Crisis—Upper House Refuses to Accept.

Declaring that the senate was opposed to his views on the important tax program and that "business has won in the senate against agriculture in a crisis when agriculture is in desperate straits," Senator Niels Christensen, chairman of the upper house finance committee, last night handed in his resignation as chairman of this important committee, but the senate by a unanimous vote refused to accept it.

Following urgent pleas from Senator Johnstone of Newberry, Senator Watkins of Anderson and Senator Duncan of Union that the resignation not be accepted, the upper house refused to accede to the request of Mr. Christensen that he be allowed to retire from the chairmanship and also extended a vote of confidence to Mr. Christensen unanimously.

After the senate had refused to accept the resignation and had extended the vote of confidence, Senator Johnstone moved that further consideration of the matter, if there was to be further consideration, be postponed until today, which was agreed to.

Senator Christensen plainly told the senate last night that he would insist upon being relieved as chairman, but after the upper house had adjourned a number of senators gathered around the chairman and urged him to press no longer his resignation. Senator Christensen said the matter was final with him.

In submitting his resignation, Mr. Christensen said:

Position in Detail.

"When the chairman of any leading committee here finds the senate opposed to his views on an important program, the situation becomes embarrassing. The only solution may be his resignation, so that he may exercise his judgment free from the restrictions of a chairmanship, and so that the senate will be free to choose a leader in accord with its views.

"Some weeks ago the senate showed itself opposed to the constitutional amendment allowing classification of property for purposes of assessment. I advocated this amendment. It would leave the way open for the legislature to tax notes, bonds, stocks and other intangible property which now escapes taxation. The so-called 'Marion report,' which I signed, presented this amendment as the most important tax reform measure, and holds it to be fundamental to a fair distribution of tax burdens.

"As chairman of a special legislative committee appointed last winter to recommend relief from our intolerable tax situation, I have advocated of this floor a series of revenue measures designed to relieve real estate and other tangible property from the support of the state government. This committee recommended that the state appropriations be cut \$1,000,000 and five new tax measures: A gasoline tax, an inheritance tax, a luxury tax, a water power tax and an income tax, designed to raise over \$3,500,000 annually. The finance committee has condemned the luxury tax, the senate has defeated the water power tax and the kind of income tax for which I stand. This is a breakdown of the program of the legislative committee, of which I was chairman, and makes impossible the relief we proposed for the overburdened land holders unless the senate reconsiders its actions. I wish to be in better position to advocate this reconsideration.

Business in Control.

"Business has won in the senate against agriculture in a crisis when agriculture is in desperate straits. I am a business man and know from experience the reason business protests against shifting the burden. But as a legislator I maintain the interests of all demand this shift. We need to even up. It is time to ease up on those who are losing each year, and to bear heavier on those who are making profits and on those who are spending for what are not necessities. I do not impugn the motives of those who hold that capital must have its

way in these matters, but I differ with their judgment. Some hold that agriculture as well as industry and business will go to smash unless capital has control of fiscal legislation. There are many patriotic and sincere men who have that conviction. But it is not my conviction, and I can not be true to my convictions and act longer as chairman of the senate's finance committee which should represent the senate's purpose in fiscal matters. I propose to be free to champion the 'Marion report' and the report of the joint committee on economy and consolidation.

"Do not let any one imagine I am in a fight. I am getting in better terms with you."

"For these reasons, Mr. President, I do now resign as chairman of the finance committee."

"I trust that my services in this position since 1914 have shown my deep appreciation of its very important duties and the honor your confidence betokens. I hold each member of the committee in affectionate regard and thank them for the hearty cooperation and support given whenever they could consistently support me."

Senator Johnstone, president pro tempore, who was presiding, called Senator Black of Bamberg to the chair, and then moved that the senate not accept the resignation. Senator Johnstone said the senate had chosen Mr. Christensen as the leader of its most important committee because of his peculiar fitness for the place and that it had the utmost confidence in Mr. Christensen as leader of the committee. Mr. Johnstone said he seldom differed with Mr. Christensen, but pointed out that he had opposed the hydro-electric tax while Mr. Christensen had favored such a tax. He said he did not for a moment think the defeat of the hydro-electric tax was a triumph of business over agriculture. He said he was a friend of agriculture and would ever be, and declared that nothing but death's hand could obliterate the friendship between Mr. Christensen and himself. He said Mr. Christensen's patriotism for South Carolina had ever been spotless and stainless and that he would ever remember the friendship and great work of the senator from Beaufort.

Would Be Great Loss.

Senator Christensen said the commendation of Mr. Johnstone was reward enough for any service in the state. He said his statement was not made in any way in regard to Senator Johnstone's vote on the hydro-electric tax bill.

Senator Frank Watkins of Anderson said to accept the resignation at this time would be an irreparable South Carolina and he urged that it not be accepted. He said Mr. Christensen had the full confidence of the senate and he didn't see any obligation upon Mr. Christensen to resign because of any disagreement.

Senator Duncan said the matter was purely one of business and he thought a vote of confidence would cause Mr. Christensen to think over the matter and reconsider. He said no committee could run the senate and declared that a unanimous vote of confidence was all that the senate could do. He declared to secure a chairman in place of Mr. Christensen would be a very hard matter. The resignation was not fair and not right to both Mr. Christensen and the senate, Mr. Duncan declared. It was upon motion of Senator Duncan that the unanimous vote was extended. When the vote was taken, only about half of the senators were present, and this caused Senator Duncan to remark that the senate seats were well filled, but not y senators. Visitors occupied the seats.

Senator T. H. Pearce of Richland didn't think action should be taken with so few members present and when the entire finance committee was not present. He wanted to postpone action until today.

The ways and means committee 1922 appropriation bill was received and referred to the finance committee. Hearing will begin this morning at 10 o'clock.

Senator Goodwin withdrew his resolution providing for a session of 40 days only. The 40 days ended yesterday and Mr. Goodwin smiled as he moved to table the resolution. At least two more weeks will be necessary, if not three.

The Richland delegation bill authorizing an election on the question of issuing bonds by the city of Columbia school district was advanced to third reading upon motion of Senator Pearce.

COMMITTEE PLACE

GIVEN TO GROSS

Following dramatic speeches by Senators McColl, Bonham and Hamilton in which they strongly resented what they termed implications, if not charges, brought by Senator Christensen in his resignation, that "business had won in the senate," the senate yesterday accepted the resignation of Mr. Christensen as chairman of the finance committee and then elected Senator H. H. Gross of Dorchester to succeed him as the leader of the most important senate committee. The Beaufort senator made it plain that he would insist on his resignation.

Senator Gross was the second ranking member of the committee, Senator Johnstone of Newberry being the ranking member, but he declined to serve, telling the senate that he did not feel that he could bear the work regardless of the honor and pleasure it would bring to him to lead the committee.

After the morning session had gone for about an hour, Senator Johnstone called the resignation of Mr. Christensen to the attention of the senate, declaring that Senator Christensen had made it plain to the finance committee that he would not withdraw his resignation.

Exception to Words.

Senator McColl of Marlboro took exception to the language used by Mr. Christensen in submitting his resignation, declaring that this was the third time a four years that the senate had been condemned by a person of high responsibility. He said the statement that business was dictating to the senate was unjustifiable and not true and put the senate in an improper and false light before the people of South Carolina. Mr. McColl said because the senate failed to agree with the finance committee of the chairman was no reason why the chairman should withdraw.

Senator McColl said the chairman of a great committee had no right to withdraw on the eve of the consideration of the appropriation bill and he went into an explanation of how the appropriations had increased in the last few years and how he had opposed these increases. The fact that the senate did not agree with Mr. Christensen was no reason for his resignation, Mr. McColl said. To say that the senate was servile to one interest was not true, Mr. McColl declared.

Senator Bonham said he agreed largely with the remarks of Mr. McColl and declared he couldn't see how the senate could be made up of more representative men. He said he resented the statement that the senate had forsaken the soil and surrendered to business an although this statement meant that the senate "had sold out to business," Mr. Bonham said that after such remarks and attitude on the part of Mr. Christensen he thought the only thing to do would be to demand the resignation of Mr. Christensen if he had not resigned. Senator Bonham said when such discord arose in a committee it was time to seek a new leader and that he thought there was more than one good mind in the senate.

Not for Business.

Senator Johnstone said he refuted the statement Monday night that business had won over agriculture and that Mr. Christensen had said that he did not mean the words in the light they had been taken. He said he agreed with Mr. Duncan that no one man or committee could run the senate. He entered into an explanation of past appropriation bills and said he accepted his share of the responsibilities in increasing the bills and did not want to throw his part of the responsibility on Mr. Christensen.

Senator Hamilton said he was not representing any class of business, but the people of Chester county. He said it looked to him like the senate had not lost confidence in Mr. Christensen, but that Mr. Christensen had lost confidence in the senate. He declared that he would not be willing to swallow a tax program that might be framed by just anybody, one that he didn't agree with, and that might have been proposed by "somebody" in Chicago who did not know conditions here. He declared that he could not accept the statement that the senate had been won by business.

LEGISLATURE NOW DOING OVERTIME

Columbia, Feb. 21.—While the regular 40 days which are supposed to be allotted for the legislative session have slipped into history the legislature is still bravely talking away and getting nowhere.

The general appropriation bill passed final reading in the house last Friday night and is now before the senate finance committee, which is daily holding hearings and preparing to shape the bill to meet the senate's approval.

No progress has been made in the senate towards final disposition of the various revenue measures passed by the house. The income tax bill was referred to a special committee, which is reporting tonight. The luxury tax bill, which received an unfavorable report from the finance committee, was tonight recommitted to the finance committee. This may mean a disposition on the part of the senate to give more favorable consideration to the measure than was at first thought.

The legislature will certainly be in session two weeks longer and present prospects are that the session will go three weeks more.

SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN SOMETHING NEW IN LEXINGTON

Mr. C. A. Herlong has built an up-to-date filling station for the convenience of the public, on the Meetze Hotel lot, in the center of the town, something that adds to the town in the way of business and otherwise, a long felt want and a necessity. He comes and invests his hard earned dollars in the Red Arrow Filling Station, because he has confidence in Lexington and his investment, as being a success, and asks of the public a liberal share of the patronage.

He will carry in stock all kinds of oils, greases and auto accessories; will also furnish the public free air, water, battery-testing, distilled water, etc. You will be served promptly, promptly and satisfactorily. Be guided by the big red arrow. Drive in and you will go on your way rejoicing.

We are glad to see that Mr. C. A. Herlong has verged into the auto filling business. He is an affable and business gentleman, and we are glad to know that he may make Lexington his home. We greet him with a hand of fellowship and wish him all the success he deserves in his new enterprise. At present he is the manager of the Job Printing Department of The Dispatch-News.

During the remarks of Senator McColl, Senator Padgett of Colleton suggested that the remarks might be more appropriate if Mr. Christensen were present. Mr. McColl said it was a source of regret to him that Mr. Christensen was not present, and that he had so stated at the outset. Mr. McColl then reiterated that he thought the resignation a "slay" at the senate, made unwisely, ill advised and when Mr. Christensen was "under fire."

Prior to the speeches of Senators McColl, Bonham and Hamilton, Senator Hart declared he did not want to see the resignation accepted. He said Mr. Christensen had done a great work and he did not believe that the defeat of any of the tax measures was a repudiation of the chairman of the finance committee.

Several motions to have a committee confer with Mr. Christensen were made, but the motion of Senator Bonham to accept the resignation with regrets prevailed.

Immediately after the resignation of Mr. Christensen was accepted Senator Laney nominated Senator Alan Johnstone of Newberry to succeed Mr. Christensen. Several senators seconded the nomination, but Mr. Johnstone asked to be relieved from serving and his request was granted.

Senator Gross was then nominated and elected by a unanimous vote. Senator Gross was the next ranking member after Senator Johnstone.

Senator Gross is a banker and planter of Dorchester county and has been a member of the senate since 1913. He has been chairman of the committee on fish, game and forestry for a number of years and is one of the most popular members of the senate.—The State.

NEWS OF EDMUND BRIEFLY TOLD

Mother Nature must have overturned her rain-barrel, either accidentally or intentionally, right over the middle of Edmund last Wednesday; it poured, and it rained, and it drizzled the entire, "teetotious" day, and such a slushy, slucey, sloppy time as we had for a day or two.

Mr. J. A. Griffith wears the honors of having bagged the largest hawk killed in this section in some time. Last Friday he killed one of the species known as the turkey hawk, which measured four feet seven inches from tip to tip and weighed four pounds. His little daughter, Caroline, being of a mathematical and statistical turn of mind, ascertained the last two facts.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Shumpert and their son, Shafter, were in Lexington and Columbia Monday shopping and looking over business affairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Sharpe attended services at Bethel Sunday, dining with Mr. and Mrs. Perry Goodwin afterwards, and in the afternoon went to Gaston to view the ruins of the boiler explosion, which occurred there recently with such fatal results.

Thos. W. Sharpe of Columbia arrived in Edmund on the 4:40 Saturday afternoon to see the homefolks, and spent Sunday with relatives (?) in Springfield.

Solly Slowstep seems somewhat surly since Sunday; Solly's small sister, Sarah, says Solly stays surly since Sammy Smallshanks stole Solly's sweetheart, Smantly Simplexis. Somewhat sad, surely.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Smith and A. G., Jr., of Columbia, after spending the past three months in Florida, have returned and Mr. Smith is out daily looking after his extensive orchards and farming interests here.

Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Williams and Miss Elizabeth Reeder of Pelton visited Mr. H. W. Reeder and family here Sunday.

Mr. Melton L. Monts, the very efficient carrier on route 1 out of Edmund, spent the week-end with his father, Mr. W. A. Monts over on the Saluda.

Mr. J. P. Clark and daughter, Miss Annie Julia, and J. P., Jr., of Lexington visited the former's sister, Mrs. G. W. Reeder, Saturday.

Mr. Elbert Rish went to Lexington on business Saturday.

Messrs. T. W. Reeder and R. W. Sox spent last Friday hunting up in the Boiling Springs community. There wasn't a thing wrong with the hunting, but the "findings", with the exception of the excellent dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor, Mr. Sox's brother-in-law and sister, weren't worth mentioning.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Crout of Gilbert spent Friday in Edmund with their son, Mr. F. W. Crout and family.

CHAPIN NEWS.

On last Monday night the store house and entire stock of goods together with fixtures and warehouse of J. S. Wessinger and Sons was destroyed by fire.

The entire loss was estimated to be \$25,000 while they carried only \$5,000 insurance.

Lightning is supposed to have caused the fire.

They at present have their office in rear of bank building.

Mr. Wessinger is preparing to rebuild at same location.

Miss Maud Farr, who holds a position in Columbia spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. Ada Farr.

G. M. Eleazer, Richland county superintendent of education, spent Sunday with his brother, R. W. M. Eleazer.

Mrs. Lawrence Shealy spent a few days last week with relatives at Little Mountain.

The young people of Mount Horeb congregation organized a Luther League last Sunday.

Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Merritt spent last Sunday with Mrs. Nannie Goza and family.

Mrs. Claud Creson and little son spent last week-end in Columbia.

BOX HOUR CLUB.

Mrs. Karl E. Oswald will entertain the Box Hour Club Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

BATESBURG NEWS OF PAST WEEK

Batesburg, Feb. 21.—On last Saturday February 18th, the regular meeting of the Lexington county teachers association was held in the Batesburg-Leeville high school auditorium. The president Mr. Addy of Lexington being necessarily delayed, superintendent W. F. Scott of the Batesburg-Leeville schools acted as chairman of the meeting. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. T. W. Munnerlyn. Misses Divers, Setzler, Hendrix and Richardson of Summerland college rendered a vocal quartette. Prof. J. W. Ballentine led in the discussion on Problems in Discipline. This subject was thoroughly discussed by a number of the teachers and trustees. Miss Bessie Bean brought out many problems confronted in teaching English. Miss Margaret Scarborough gave valuable information in teaching reading in primary grades.

Rev. T. W. Munnerlyn spoke on what the parent expects of the teacher. Dr. P. E. Monroe, president of Summerland college gave a splendid talk on the attitude of the community toward the teacher which was highly appreciated by the audience. A vocal solo was rendered by Miss Myrtle Hendrix of Summerland college. It was moved and carried that the next meeting be held in the Lexington High school auditorium on Saturday following the meeting of the state teacher's association.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned and the teachers and guests were directed to the Cafeteria where lunch was served by the domestic science department of the high school. A number of teachers, trustees and parents attended the meeting.

Mr. M. E. Rutland recently shipped a carload of hogs from this place from which he realized a handsome profit. This was the largest shipment of hogs at one time in the history of the town. Mr. Rutland has shipped livestock to many points in this state, North Carolina and Georgia. He finds that thorough breeds are the best pay and urges others interested in the business to use none but the best breeds if they want to make a success. Mr. Rutland has tried all the different breeds of hogs and he finds that the Duroc Jersey is the best he has found thus far and makes a specialty of this hog.

Our farmers are beginning to realize that under boll weevil conditions diversification is their only hope and with this object in view a call meeting was held in the town hall last Saturday afternoon to discuss the sweet potato to supplement the diminished revenue from cotton. Dr. C. M. Cain, president of the board of trade, stated that a movement was on foot to build in this town a warehouse with a capacity of 20,000 bushels provided the farmers would guarantee the growing of enough potatoes to fill the warehouse. About 150 acres was pledged at this meeting that would be planted in potatoes this season in this community. J. M. Eleazer, demonstration agent for Saluda county, was present and explained the growing of potatoes from the bedding to the marketing. The meeting was attended by a number of the most prominent farmers of Saluda and Lexington counties and much interest was manifested in the carrying out of the new project.

Deputy Sheriff H. J. Westmoreland of Lexington county was in town Saturday afternoon.

The town authorities purchased last week a young bloodhound for the use of the public. Chief of Police D. L. Kirkland will have the management and training of the dog.

Mr. Sam J. Hare, a prominent farmer of the Sardis section of Saluda county, who is quite sick, was brought to the Leeville Infirmary Sunday night.

Dr. J. A. Watson made a business trip to Lexington Monday afternoon.

Hon. Ira C. Carson and Mr. D. E. Etheredge motored to Columbia Monday.

Miss Eunice Ford, one of the teachers in Limestone college visited her sister, Mrs. A. C. Jones, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair Asbill of Ridge Spring spent Sunday with relatives in town.

Mrs. C. M. Rhodes visited her brother, Dr. W. F. Youmans, who is sick in Columbia, last Friday.