

GOOD ROADS COMMITTEE HEARS BOND ISSUE PLAN

R. Goodwyn Rhett and Others Appear Before Legislative Committee in Interest of the Big Good Roads Bond Issue.

Columbia, Feb. 7.—Hearings were held by the good road committees of the House and Senate Tuesday afternoon on the pending legislation in the House and Senate looking to the construction of a permanent highway system in South Carolina. R. Goodwyn Rhett, of Charleston, F. M. Burnett, of Greenville, R. A. Wilson, of Rock Hill, John T. Stevens, of Kershaw, and others appeared before the committee in behalf of the bills that have been introduced in the House and Senate providing for an election on the question of issuing bonds in the sum of \$25,000,000 for the construction of a statewide system of hard-surfaced roads and companion legislation preparing for the same.

After the hearing, the above named gentlemen, who represented the state highway campaign committee, declared that they felt very hopeful as to the outlook for the passage of the legislation at this session. "We were given a most courteous hearing by the members of the committee," said Mr. Wilson, "and were impressed with the earnest desire of the legislators to take steps at this session looking to the lifting of the state out of the mud. Mr. Rhett in a very able and very convincing speech urged the passage of the bills that have been introduced in the Senate by Mr. Christensen and in the House by Representative Burgess."

Two amendments to the bill were discussed Tuesday and seemed to meet with general favor. One provided that work on the state highway system should start at every county seat in the state at the same time and the other provided that the roads should connect with the principal highways of adjoining states.

One interesting fact brought out at the hearing dealt with the viewpoint of the autoists of the state towards the proposition. Mr. Wilson of Rock Hill testified that he had received from autoists with petition asking the passage of the legislation. Every one of the 149 was opposed to the bill when he first approached them but every one of them had signed it to be his belief that 95 per cent of the autoists would favor the proposition after it is explained to them.

F. M. Burnett of Greenville, a county that has spent a million dollars on permanent roads, declared that his county wanted the pending legislation passed.

SEN. DIAL OPPOSES SIX BILLION LEVY

Believes Bill Has Gone So Far, However, That It Cannot Be Revised.

Col. Nat. B. Dial of Laurens, Senator-elect from South Carolina, was a visitor to Greenville yesterday while en-route from Washington to his home. He has just made a trip to the capitol to look after the procuring of his offices which he will occupy on March 4.

"I am heartily opposed to the proposed tax levy of six billion dollars," he said yesterday, "but think the matter has gone so far that there is little chance of its being revised. The tax will certainly cripple industry to a large extent and I am not in favor of burdening business with a load that should be spread over many years instead of one or two." He expressed himself as favoring the distribution of the debt in short time loans which would not impair the prosperity of the country, which could be borne sufficiently without restraint on the part of our industries. Business is above any party politics and Congress should consider the matter very thoroughly before it enacts the bill in its present form, he stated. However, the bill has gone so far and conjectures have been made so largely on its prospects that there seems to be little hope of any revision on the part of the main legislative bodies.

Another thing that Senator Dial was very much interested in during his trip was in the matter of discharging soldiers from the training camps. He urged that every soldier who can possibly be released be given his discharge at once, for they are badly needed in the reconstruction work. He cited one instance of a farm in his home county in which six of seven employees are still in army camps. No what the war has ended there is a dual reason why the government should disband its military forces immediately, first, be-

GERMANY TRIES TO APPEAR BANKRUPT

Noted Frenchman Advocates Financial Society of Nations to Collect Debt. Indemnity Must be What Germany Can Pay.

Paris, Feb. 6.—(By the Associated Press).—Germany is making utmost efforts to have the Allies believe that she is nearing bankruptcy, declared Raoul Peret, chairman of the budget commission of the Chamber of Deputies and former minister of justice, in discussing today the financial problems facing the peace conference. The first measure of the conference along financial lines, he added, should be to take measures to prevent Germany from declaring herself an insolvent debt or a bankrupt state.

"Then," Peret continued, "we should immediately fix the amount of our account against Germany which must be made to pay to the full limit of her financial ability without consideration for her feelings. It will be time enough then to decide about the method of payment. She may pay either in capital immediately or in yearly installments."

"I do not believe that Germany at the present time is in a position to pay a large amount in cash. We must not demand from her a too heavy payment now, so as not to place her in a position where she might argue that we are strangling her and killing the goose that is to lay the golden eggs."

"Whether the installments we shall demand from Germany be twenty, thirty or fifty billions of francs yearly depends entirely upon our decision, after an investigation as to what amount Germany will be able to pay. These payments would be guaranteed by custom tariffs decided upon at the conference, reserving for ourselves the right to raise such tariffs should Germany fail to meet her obligations."

"This would act as means of coercion because I do not believe that we should occupy Germany with a military force until her debt is paid. It is my opinion that once our armies of occupation return from Germany, all measures should be taken to make her pay."

"I believe in the creation of a financial society of nations and that all expenses incurred by each nation should be put in common and an international tax levied upon a nation until such debts are paid. Neutrals should be included in this financial society of nations, especially those neutrals who profited by the war."

Discussing the question whether Germany should be permitted to import raw materials so as to enable her to resume her manufacturing industry, Mr. Peret said:—

cause of the enormous expense, and, second, because of the need of the soldiers in their work and homes. Senator Dial said he urged this action especially and received favorable response from those who are in position to act.

The proposal of the government to give every soldier who served during the war a bonus of \$50 was criticized by Col. Dial who said that they should be given an opportunity and not money. He thinks the government should see that they get good positions and are given the same chances in life as those who remained behind and improved while the ing men money is exactly the same as that of giving children money, he said, since it breeds dependency and is not conducive to the industry that is necessary for development. He thinks that farms should be rented these returning men and that they be allowed to pay for them from the profits that they accumulate.

The Smith-Lever bill, which will regulate the grade of cotton to be sold under contract, is meeting popular accord in Washington, said the senator, and there are large possibilities of its passage. It is one of the very best bills that has been introduced regarding the cotton situation, and will be beneficial to the South in many ways, he believed.

Senator Dial is a great believer in the future of the South and said that he intends to make it one of his most important works in Congress the business of bringing its advantage to the eyes of the nation. He told recently of writing to the National City Bank of New York City regarding the possibilities of trade development in the South and received an answer from them that they had already looked into the matter very carefully and were inclined to be of the same opinion as he.

"I do not believe that all importations of raw material to the Germans should be forbidden, because their industry would then be at a standstill and they would be unable to pay."

"I would suggest that preferential treatment be given to the Allies countries, as France, Belgium and Serbia have suffered the greatest damage. Raw material from America should be sent to these three countries first, the overflow being allowed to revert to Germany so as to enable her to keep her machinery working without enabling her to undersell us."

"The financial problem is the most momentous one before the peace conference and I am greatly surprised that it has not been considered before this. The first thing usually done when a society is founded is to elect a treasurer. Thus, if a society of nations is formed, a treasurer should at once be appointed by the creation of a financial society of nations. The solution of the problem, to my mind, is the foundation of a financial society of nations in which all expenses of every belligerent opposed to Germany shall be compiled into one sum. An inventory of Germany's resources should then be made and she should be made to pay by every mark she can get together. Then there should be international taxation, including the neutrals to make up the balance."

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