

Where Christmas Really Began

By Sara Lockwood Williams

ASSEMBLY HAS 10 ROAD BILLS

Permanent Highway Reorganization Expected At Regular Session. Special Term Ends.

Columbia, Dec. 22.—Adjournment of a special 12-day legislative session left the enactment of permanent highway reorganization measures today to the regular session convening January 14.

The question, with 10 pending bills varying in purpose from quick abolition of the present commission practically to its continuation in office, threatened to revive issues of the heated special term next month.

A temporary highway control board created yesterday may be terminated under provisions of the act whenever the state highway commission that Governor Johnston twice ousted is reinstated by the courts.

Three of the commissioners appealed to circuit judges as soon as the governor ordered their removal, and decisions are expected before the legislature convenes. Final adjudication, however, may be prolonged by supreme court appeals.

Apparent determination of the governor and his adherents to prevent the 13 commissioners from regaining office figured prominently in prospects of action at the 1936 session.

Terms of a majority of the 13 expire by next April 15, but the emergency setup ends within 60 days and five Johnston appointees to the commission were not confirmed by the senate during the special session.

The situation was viewed officially as making some action early during the 1936 session imperative.

Possibility of a deadlock between the governor and senate over at least some of his appointments lent strength to movements for changing the appointment-confirmation system—a reason advanced for not acting on the pending appointments during the extra session.

None of the 10 reorganization bills referred to the house judiciary committee would continue the present system. Legislative and popular elections were the two basic means proposed for naming future commissions.

A resolution by Representative H. C. Godfrey, of Spartanburg, for the drafting of provisions for a popular referendum January 7 on whether the people wanted the personnel of the highway commission changed was killed, in effect, by house action yesterday continuing it to February 21.

The pending bills came roughly into two classifications—those which would supplant the present commission immediately and those which would allow its members to serve out their terms.

Five of the bills would pay the commissioners more than their present stipend of \$100 a year, one placing the figure as high as \$5,000. Three would reduce the number of commissioners from 15 to six or seven.

WORLD CRISIS

The international crisis in brief: London—Anthony Eden becomes foreign secretary as British scramble back to strong pro-League anti-Italian policy in response to nationwide denunciation of Hoare peace scheme; Eden youngest ever to hold post.

Rome—Eden appointment bitter blow to Italy, which holds him arch-enemy; peace believed killed; Ethiopian war to be pushed to military conclusion; European danger intensified.

Paris—French fear Eden dooms peace chances although favorable generally.

Geneva—League "pleasantly surprised" by Eden elevation; oil sanctions possible in January.

Berlin—Germans cool to Eden appointment.



Jesus, the Son soon to be born of Mary.

Joseph and Mary were humble and fine and they loved each other. They gazed happily across the well-cultivated terraced valleys, across the fields where shepherds guarded their flocks, noted the old stone watch towers where the farmers and shepherds could go to look far across their lands in all directions. Then they glimpsed the city of Bethlehem, a small and humble village whose rock walls, cobbled streets and stone buildings showed gray and were uninviting.

The man and woman wended their way through the throngs of tax-payers about the bazaars and found the inn where they sought lodging. The inn was overflowing. People were having to sleep by the wayside. Now Mary was with child and Joseph wanted to protect her and make her comfortable, but no room was to be had. So the couple sought shelter in the stable beside their tiny donkey. The stable was a cave or grotto in the rocks with crude wooden mangers filled with hay. Here, in the year 4 B. C., the thirty-third year of the reign of Herod the Great, Jesus of Nazareth was born. Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. Here the shepherds, to whom angels had announced the Saviour's birth, came to kneel low beside the humble bed and lay their gifts before the Babe whom they adored.

Because this Babe was born the whole world rejoices and celebrates Christmas. Joy, peace, love, humility—all the great truths of Christianity came to the world with His birth. The basis of modern civilization lies in the little town of Bethlehem.

Even as the Wise Men 2,000 years ago made their way to the shrine, so pilgrims, tourists, believers and non-believers journey today across the self-same road, still the main artery of communication between Jerusalem and all the southern part of Israel. They see the Well of the Magi, the terraced gardens, the shepherds' fields, and the old, old watch towers. The highway is now smoothly paved. The travelers all too often ride in luxurious motor cars. But they still pass caravans of camels and asses and see pedestrians garbed in costumes of many lands. For pilgrims come from near and far to the Holy Land, particularly to ancient Bethlehem, whose grayness has increased with centuries of dust and erosion on its sladen-hued stones. But dull as is its outward appearance, few approach the city without a thrill of reverence and awe, without renewing acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures and gaining inspiration and faith. Today they cross the lively bazaars where "objects of piety" made of shells, mother-of-pearl and olive wood have wide space among the food-stuffs and goods for sale. They go to the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem's greatest relic of antiquity. In 330 B. C. Constantine built this basilica above what is believed to be the grotto-stable in which Christ was born. The church looks like a fortress and its entrance door is so small even a short person must stoop to enter. It was made thus not, as some say, to cause thoughts of humility and reverence upon entering so holy a place, but to prevent the ancient Saracens and Turks when they were in power from desecrating the place with cattle. Five

TWO THOUSAND years ago Augustus Caesar issued a decree that all the world was to be taxed.

Thus Joseph took Mary, his betrothed, from the home of her mother Ann in Jerusalem and journeyed to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. Now the way was six miles. Mary, seated sidewise on a small donkey, with their few belongings tied in a cloth hanging across the donkey's neck, and Joseph trudging beside her, found their way through the narrow streets of ancient Jerusalem, through the Joppa or Jaffa Gate down into the Valley of Gihon, then up to the ridge or watershed of Palestine's hill country and on to the "Plain of Rephaim. Midway on the plain they probably paused beside the road to drink from a well. They did not know this well would some day be called the Well of the Magi because the three Wise Shepherds following "God's bright star" would stop there to drink and to see the star reflected in the water's depths as they traveled by camel to Bethlehem in search of

"Behold, I Bring You Tidings ..."

So spoke the Angel of the Lord to the shepherds on a hill in Judea. "Tidings" means "news" and the news which they heard that winter night two thousand years ago was the news of the greatest event in the history of mankind.

"Behold, I Bring You Tidings ..."

Each week throughout the year, THE CHRONICLE brings you the tidings of this community—the news of your relatives, your neighbors and your friends.

It brings you all the news—the news of community activity and achievement, the news of the everyday life of the men and women and children who make up this community.

It brings you clean news, constructive news, hopeful news, wholesome news—the kind of news that makes this newspaper a welcome visitor in your homes.

"Behold, I Bring You Tidings ..."

And now as this year draws to a close, in this spirit and in appreciation of the tokens of friendship from its readers and advertisers, THE CHRONICLE extends to all the compliments and felicitations of the season and wishes for you a Happy Christmas and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year.

County Relief In Indefinite Shape

Says The Laurens Advertiser:

Relief of unemployables in Laurens county after January 1 was left in an indefinite shape Monday morning when the county delegation, acting on a memorandum laid before it by the board of county commissioners, refused to grant funds to supplement

different nationalities of Christians now guard this church and hold services there. The place is strikingly simple. The Greek Orthodox and the Armenian and Syrian churches occupy the main floor. Two circular stairways lead to the dark caves below. There is a chapel in the grotto. On the floor is a great silver star with silver nails over a hollow where Mary is said to have given birth to Jesus. Around the star is the inscription: "Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est."

Fifteen silver lamps unceasingly burn day and night over this holy place. Four belong to the Latins, six to the Greek Orthodox, and five to the Armenians and Syrians. Representatives from many Christian nations kneel in common before the little altar. Seldom is the grotto without worshippers. Whether or not they believe this to be the authentic spot of the Nativity, it carries the atmosphere of holiness and spirituality. The handsome, proud natives of Bethlehem seem always a happy people, but at Christmas time Bethlehem radiates joy.

other funds which State ERA Administrator J. D. Fulp offered for relief purposes in the county during the months of January, February and March.

The memorandum was laid before the delegation by County Commissioners Powers and Wharton, following a conference they held with Col. Fulp last Thursday in Columbia. The commissioners, it is understood, passed the memorandum on to the delegation without making a recommendation.

Col. Fulp, it is understood, told the commissioners that his office would match dollar for dollar up to a sufficient amount necessary to take care of the county's unemployables.

Under the plan of Col. Fulp a new state department of public welfare is being set up, which will appoint a county board of public welfare in each county. In Laurens county an administrative personnel would be appointed to consist of a director at \$90 a month, two visitors at \$70 and \$65 a month, a chief clerk at \$70 and another clerk at \$65.

WINS APPOINTMENT

Dill Ellis was notified Monday that he has been awarded a four-year scholarship appointment to the United States Military academy, West Point, N. Y., beginning next July. Dill is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Ellis, of this city, and a member of the junior class at Presbyterian college where he is making an outstanding record. His friends will learn with genuine pleasure of the high honor he has received.

SOUTH BACKS "NEW DEAL"

Other Sections Tabulated So Far In National Poll Are Opposed To Present Administration.

New York, Dec. 21.—The South is almost solid for the New Deal, but all other sections of the nation represented so far in the Literary Digest's current straw vote are against the present Democratic administration, tabulations indicate.

Representing 819,320 votes from thirty-four states, mainly in the South and West, the poll shows 57.69 per cent of voters answering in the negative to the controversial question: "Do you now approve the acts and policies of the Roosevelt New Deal to date?" A week ago, the anti-New Deal percentage was given as 57.24.

Eight states shown in the poll for the first time were evenly divided, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and South Carolina favored the New Deal. Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Washington and Oregon were opposed.

Seven other states favor the New Deal. They are Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Texas. Oklahoma and Florida have slight anti-New Deal Deal majorities.

Other states showing negative majorities are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

The thirty-four states reported on to date contain approximately three-fourths of the population of the nation and far more than a majority of electoral college votes.

The twenty-three states registering opposition to the administration represent 265 electoral college votes, one vote less than a majority. The eleven Southern states shown favoring the New Deal have 128 votes in the electoral college balloting, which names the president. The fourteen states yet unheard from represent 138 votes.

Comparison of current straw vote figures with the vote President Roosevelt received in 1932 indicates he has lost popularity in all states heard from except Kentucky, where a gain in New Deal sentiment is shown.

B. P. Templeton Dies In Texas

From The Spartanburg Herald.

B. P. Templeton, of Del Valle, Tex., 90, believed to be the last survivor of Company F, 14th regiment, South Carolina volunteers, died Tuesday morning at his home after several months of declining health.

Mr. Templeton was born in Laurens county on Feb. 2, 1845. He volunteered his services to the cause of the Confederacy on August 19, 1861, and served in Company F through the war.

In the fall of 1867 he left South Carolina and settled in Del Valle, Travis county, Texas.

He married Miss Addie Harris of that community, who died about 28 years ago.

Surviving are the following children: Mrs. Emma Young of Austin, Texas, Lee Brook of Del Valle, Edmund Giles of Del Valle, and Miss Claiborne Templeton of Del Valle; also one sister, Mrs. Mary Ellis Templeton Lockman of Spartanburg.

His youngest son, B. P. Templeton, Jr., died during the World war.

Clinton Plans Quiet Yuletide

Clinton is doing her last-minute shopping today in preparation for a quiet observance of Christmas Day tomorrow.

Santa Claus is expected tonight to visit thousands of homes in this section leaving presents for deserving boys and girls on his list this year.

The city will rest tomorrow with the cotton mills, stores, offices, banks, post office, and business establishments all closed for the day.

The spirit of Christmas is in evidence everywhere with crowds on the streets, buying and carrying gifts to loved ones and friends, receiving in turn other appreciations of love and friendship. Many are spending Christmas out of the city visiting relatives, while others have returned to their homes here for the holiday season.

Merry Christmas