

**BLEASE TO BLOCK BOND SALE**

**SAYS HE WILL CARRY CASE TO U. S. SUPREME COURT.**

Bleasie and Peoples, of Sinking Fund Commission, Vote to Rescind Action of Former Commission to Refund Bonds this Year, but Lose 4 to 2 — Bleasie Declares He Will Fight Refunding Act—Sends Message to Legislature.

Columbia, Jan. 31.—At a meeting of the sinking fund commission late this afternoon Governor Bleasie offered a resolution to rescind the action of the former commission, providing for the refunding of the \$5,622,000 bonds of the State debt. The motion was lost, 4 to 2, Attorney General Peoples voting with the Governor for the resolution and Comptroller General Jones, State Treasurer Carter, Chairman Hardin, of the finance committee, and Chairman Dick of the ways and means committee, voting against it.

The Governor was reported as stating to the commission that there would be no bonds sold before the next session of the General Assembly, for he was going to carry the case against the Refunding Act to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Governor sent the rejected resolution to both branches of the Legislature tonight with a message asking that it be referred to the judiciary committee of each house.

In his message he said that it was for the best interest of the State for the two factions of the sinking fund commission to get together.

**Work on Turn Table.**

The force of men at work installing the new turn table and coal chute in the western part of the Atlantic Coast Line freight yard is progressing steadily, but slowly with their work. The concrete for the turntable has been put down nearly half the way around, but there is still a great deal more work to be done. The workmen engaged in excavating for the coal chute have had serious difficulty on account of quicksand.

**THE LEGISLATURE.**

**CLIFTON BILL ALLOWING VOTE ON DISPENSARY PASSES SENATE.**

**Will Be Taken Up in House Later—Senate Named a Committee to Arrange a Reception for Secretary Wilson.**

Columbia, Jan. 31.—The Clifton bill permitting Sumter and other counties to vote on the dispensary question passed the Senate today and went to the House.

The Senate named a committee to arrange a reception to Secretary of Agriculture Wilson tomorrow.

**FORTNER RESOLUTION PASSED.**

**Calls For an Investigation of Railroads and Free Passes—House Takes Recess.**

Columbia, Jan. 31.—The House passed the Fortner resolution providing for a joint committee to investigate railroad officials and attorneys in reference to a free pass and campaign contributions with an amendment allowing the committee to examine any one on these subjects.

In respect to the memory of the late Congressman George S. Legare, the house recessed at 1.30 o'clock until 8 o'clock.

**HIGH LICENSE BILL.**

Columbia, Jan. 31.—A determined effort, made to kill on third reading the Charleston high license bill failed, after two hours of stormy debate. By a vote of 60 to 53 the bill went to the Senate.

**Memorial Tablet Erected.**

The Memorial Tablet to mark the site of the Battle Dingle's Mill was erected at the new concrete bridge over the stream Thursday. The unveiling will take place in April at the anniversary of the battle. Prof. Goode Homes, who has superintended the construction of the bridge and the erection of the tablet returned to Columbia Thursday afternoon.

**HOUSE PASSES LICENSE BILL.**

**LIQUOR LAWS FOR CHARLESTON GOES OVER TO SENATE.**

Passage of Special Bill Affecting Liquor Situation in City of Charleston Regarded as Remarkable Development—For Years Other Similar Bills Have Failed—Varying Sentiment of Members.

Columbia, Jan. 31.—The most remarkable thing that has happened in twenty years in legislation was the passage today by the House of a bill which undertakes to provide a license system for Charleston. It was distinctly the result of the appeal to reason by Mr. Whaley, Mr. Barnwell, Mr. Rittenberg and other members of the Charleston delegation and was a tribute to the reasonableness of the members of the House. There were a number of appeals to the prohibition sentiment and several unsuccessful efforts were made to stir the smouldering embers, but the members evidently appeared to believe that the situation in Charleston needed particular treatment and they, by their votes, indicated their willingness to let Charleston have a trial. Last night the bill was passed by a decided majority and today, upon two record roll calls after the most insistent importuning to kill the bill and dire predictions that the license system would lead to bar rooms, that is to say, with eyes wide open, the members on a direct vote refused to recommit the bill and then again voted affirmatively to pass the bill. Year after year and time after time a similar bill has been proposed and the same heroic efforts made to get Charleston from under the dispensary system has been fruitless. The fact of the matter is that when Mr. Rittenberg introduced his bill this year there was little hope of its passage. It soon became apparent that many of the counties that are disgusted with the present alleged prohibition situation wished to join hands with Charleston, and then the Charleston delegation took a hand in the situation and the delegation has suggested numerous amendments that were favorable to Mr. Rittenberg, and the bill had the undivided support of the Charleston delegation. Yesterday, through a misunderstanding, Mr. Barnwell was quoted as saying that the wholesale license privilege was to be stricken out. What was really done and what Mr. Barnwell stated was that the wholesale license contemplated did not permit of the shipment of liquor outside of Charleston County.


The bill passed by the House permits retail and wholesale license and retains the beer and bottling privileges upon a graduated scale, based upon the number of barrels bottled. The onslaught on the bill this morning was started by Mr. Nicholson, who has been a consistent prohibitionist. He argued that this was only the opening wedge and the members had better think before they committed themselves on the bill. Mr. Epps and Mr. Irby joined in the chorus of opposition to the license bill. Mr. James, of Bishopville, thought there was merit in the bill and was rather inclined to give Charleston a chance to redeem itself. "Many years ago," he said, "men grew to be old in Bishopville, but now there was only one old man at Bishopville and this may be accounted for by the fact that in olden days men got their liquor from Charleston." At all events he would not favor the bill unless the Charleston delegation agreed to allow 10 per cent of the license fees to go into the State treasury. This they would not consent to do. Mr. Bowers, of Greenwood, was in favor of recommitting the bill, while Mr. Miley insisted that he was a progressive Democrat and in favor of allowing Charleston to run its own affairs to a large extent.

Mr. Whitehead thought that the time had come when the State ought to refuse to bow to corrupt influences that he had no sympathy for the open and flagrant lawlessness in Charleston and thought the people there ought to be made to enforce the laws before they ask for any concessions. Mr. Sturkie, of Calhoun, thought that Charleston ought not to have any different privileges from any other counties in the State and he wanted the counties to be considered alike.

Dr. Wyche, of Newberry, offered a new phase to the situation and said the open and flagrant violation of the law against racing as applied to Charleston ought to make every one take notice of the spirit that prevailed in Charleston. It looked to him that the State was shackled with the spirit of law-breaking in Charleston and no one undertook to remedy it, and the more he thought of this situation and the open violation of the law in Charleston, particularly as to racing, it made him think of the proposed measure with sadness and sorrow. He is a prohibitionist.

Mr. Whaley closed the argument in favor of the bill and took up some time in presenting with forcefulness the position of himself and his associates. He insisted that neither he nor his colleagues were in favor of

lawlessness, and that it was unbecoming for members to make that accusation. The fact of the matter, however, is that the dispensary law is not now and has not been, within his recollection, enforced and that he and most of the people of Charleston are in favor of the change to the license system, because it will result in improved conditions and regard for the law. He was not yet prepared to advocate the return to the barroom system, and that was not now the question, so far as he was concerned. The man that he was after was the man who said "to hell with the law." Charleston, he believed, could and would enforce a properly restricted license system, and he believed it would lead to the lessening of the consumption of liquor because it would confine the sale of liquor to the original package and the closing of the establishments at sundown. In his opinion this proposition was the only way to stop the illegal sale of liquor in Charleston. On the original motion to recommit the bill the House voted 53 to 56, which was a refusal to recommit. Mr. Irby then moved to refuse to let the bill pass to its third reading. The House, however, maintained its original position and by a vote of 60 to 53 the bill was ordered over to the Senate, where it will be considered next week. Practically the entire vote of the Assembly was cast as a number of pairs were announced.



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