SCENTS EFFORT TO DIVERT TAXES FROM SCHOOLS

Champions of Education Are on Alert as to Pending Legislation.

WANT SCHOOL LEVY INCREASED

But Protest Against Any Plan to Divert Annual Appropriation and So Raise General Taxes Under Guise of Aiding Common Schools.

Champions of the common-school system are bitterly opposing an idea which is being discussed by some members of the General Assembly to take away from the schools, under the guise of an increased appropriation, something like $250,000, with which to cover up the State deficit which looms ahead within the next two years.

That is to say, under the present 10-cent tax on real and personal property and intangibles, the schools received last year approximately $1,400,000. In addition, there was appropriated from the general fund in the appropriation ordinance about $700,000. The proposed additional tax on real and personal property will yield about $750,000 per annum. If this tax is levied, but the appropriation is cut below that of last year, the practical effect will be to raise taxes on real and personal property claimed to have been segregated to the localities under the guise of being for the benefit of the schools, but in reality to increase the general fund and so meet the estimated deficit.

REED PROPOSES TO GIVE ENTIRE INCREASE TO SCHOOLS

The bill offered by Delegate Reed, of Portsmouth, proposes to raise the tax for school purposes from 10 cents on the $100 valuation on real estate, and tangible personal property to 20 cents, and at the same time ask for the same appropriation of some $750,000 from the general fund. In round numbers, the new tax would mean a taxation of less than one one-hundredth part of a tithe, and which is to go, as it must under the Constitution, directly to the school children of Virginia according to school population.

On yesterday the chairman of the Finance Committee of the House moved for a reconsideration of the bill. All his colleagues on the committee voted with him, but the motion was voted down.

It is learned that some members, at least, will vote for the bill, but will move to cut down the appropriation to $500,000.

ONLY METHOD TO MEET DEMANDS OF EDUCATORS

Champions of the Reed bill believe that this is the only method by which the common schools of the State can be saved at this time. The General Assembly has passed a resolution not to increase the appropriations in any department above the appropriations of 1914, and as more funds are needed, not only on account of the increase in school census, but for many other reasons, it is believed that the Reed bill can accomplish this result. If, however, the Reed bill is passed and then the appropriation has a large chunk lopped off to care for the estimated deficit, it will save the State's treasury at the expense of the school children.

At present, of the 152 school districts in the State, 101 have reached their constitutional limitation of 50 cents on the $100 valuation, and thirty-five districts have exceeded this limitation. Only in two districts, however, in Pulaski and Charlotte Counties, has there been any objection raised, and this by the railroads in both instances. It would appear, therefore, that the people are willing to pay the extra taxes for their schools.

The Albemarle County schools have closed for lack of funds, and the Rockingham County schools are trying to borrow $20,000 to enable them to finish the school term. Other schools, it is learned, will probably have to close in the near future.

STRONG ADVOCATES HERE FOR LARGER SCHOOL FUND

On yesterday it was learned that some members are hearing from "back home" by both letter and telegram, and there is a lobby of school advocates, who have come and borne their own expenses to urge the passage of the Reed bill and the new appropriation equal to the last one.

In 1914 Virginia spent $11.35 on each child enrolled in her country schools. Under the proposed law the State will increase this amount $1.13, making it $12.48. The average for the United States is $23.02 for the school children, and thus it can be seen how far Virginia stands behind the other States, whose average is far above that of the entire country. This can be seen when it is learned that some Western States spend $48.16 on each student enrolled.

During the past three years more than 61,000 names have been added to the school enrollment of the Virginia schools. The supervision of the various departments of the school system is being improved upon, and those who are most vitally interested believe that Virginia should not be compelled to lag in the educational column behind her sister States.

President A. B. Thornhill, of the State branch of the Farmers' Education and Co-Operative Union, with a committee of twenty-five other interested citizens, is bending every effort for the passage of the bill and appropriation, and the strength of his organization is behind him, having passed resolutions favoring the plan to better the school system.

INTERESTING STATISTICS GATHERED BY BOARD

Some interesting statistics are quoted from a pamphlet issued by the State Department of Public Instruction, under the heading "Legislation Needed in Virginia." The quotation is as follows:

"We ask for adequate revenue for the following:

"The people want it, and are willing to pay the taxes. The rural schools have been promised a better course of study with instruction along practical lines. Better supervision of country schools is being worked out in many counties. Anticipating these better things, the patrons have added 61,000 names of our school enrollment. They have sent in as many additional children in three years as during the preceding nineteen years.

"In 1913 the United States, as a nation, spent $28.02 on each child enrolled in the public schools. In 1913 the North Atlantic States spent $38.80 on each child enrolled. In 1913 the North Central States spent $32.89 on each child enrolled. In 1913 the Western States spent $48.16 on each child enrolled. In 1913 Virginia spent $13.03 on each child enrolled. In 1914 Virginia spent only $11.35 on each child enrolled in her country schools. In 1914 Virginia spent only $8.24 on each child enrolled in her twenty-one non-railroad counties.

"The general cost of government to State funds has increased 61 per cent since 1906. The regular State appropriations to common schools of primary and grammar grade have been increased only 23 per cent during that time. If we take into account also the graded-school fund and the one and two-room fund, which are special funds given for enlargement, the State appropriations for common schools have been increased 44 per cent since 1906.

"Our school enrollment has increased 30 per cent since 1906. The regular State appropriations for common schools in 1913-14 were $2.65; in 1914-15, $2.54; in 1915-16, $2.47. This gradual decline is due to special funds taken out of the regular appropriations and to the increase of school population. The regular State appropriations for common schools are less in 1915-16 than they were in 1909-10. The limit of local taxation has been reached.

"The only relief seems to be with the Legislature. The theory of gradual increase of State school funds appears to be a delusion and a vain hope. The regular State appropriations are the life-blood of rural schools. Virginia either is or is not able to finance her country-school problem. The question ought to be settled, so that we may no longer delude the people with false hopes. If we are to have a policy of good schools in a small number of places and neglected schools with short sessions and inexperienced teachers as a general rule, perhaps there would be less impatience if we should tell the people the truth in all frankness."

SUFFRAGE MEETS ITS THIRD DEFEAT

(Continued from First Page.)

part in their affairs. I am certain that if the women of 200 years ago had come to the ancient House of Burgesses at Williamsburg and asked the lawmakers there for what they are asking at your hands to-day, they would have received it."

INSIDIOUS DOCTRINE, SAYS HUGH A. WHITE

Delegate White, of Rockbridge, learned in the Constitution and feared of all opponents, attacked the amendment with characteristic vehemence. Already the insidious doctrine propagated from suffrage sources, he said, has had a deleterious effect on the womanhood and girthood of the State. "It has bred a boldness," said Mr. White, "which has found expression in a decadent manner of dress and in an indifference to things from which women formerly shrank. To this movement I attribute in large part the increasing social errors of the day with their train of evil, which bodes ill for society. But this, too, will pass. They tell us suffrage is coming. I tell you woman suffrage is going."

Mr. White read from a nationally circulated negro periodical. Here it was brought out that the negro race has much the same fight for recognition on its hands as have the white women. Every argument for woman suffrage, warned Mr. White, is also an argument for negro suffrage.

"Do you undertake to place the white women of the State on the same plane with the negroes?" interrupted Delegate Norris.

"I mean that this suffrage amendment stands for the enfranchisement of white women and negro women," replied Delegate White, with heat. "And I will never consent to it."

MINORITY LEADER FAVORS AMENDMENT

Delegate M. K. Lowry, leader of the minority, added his voice in support of the amendment as did also Republican member F. T. Wright, of Rockingham. While he was not prepared to say that he indorsed woman suffrage himself, he said it was only right that the voters of the State should have an opportunity to express themselves.

R. Lindsay Gordon, member from Louisa, who has a record for opposing most controversial measures of which he is not himself the patron, enrolled himself with the minority supporting the suffrage amendment. The test of civilization, he said, has been the manner in which the male has treated the female. In a state of savagery, he said, man held her in absolute subjection, compelling her to do all the menial work, while he hunted and fished. From this abject condition, he said, woman has been gradually emancipated with the enlightened march of civilization, until now she is seeking the removal of the last great brand of inequality. It was only just, he argued, that the amendment be submitted to the voters.

Last to speak was Delegate S. H. Love, of Lunenburg, whose uncompromising opposition to woman suffrage has become a House tradition. Four years ago his speech against Virginia's first suffrage bill, in which he paid a chivalric tribute to the noble women of the Commonwealth set apart from the grosser interests of life on elevated pedestals, inspired a woman writer in a national publication to describe him as a "true type of the medieval male roaming at large."

LOVE PAYS GLOWING TRIBUTE TO WOMEN

Mr. Love was received with thunderous applause by his colleagues. He proceeded with a glowing eulogy of the character of Virginia women as shown by their unselfish services in the trying days of the Confederacy and of their virtues and graces that have descended to their daughters. Not for any consideration in the world, he said, would he imperil these qualities by admitting women to the gross realm of politics, fit only for their inferiors—men.

"God made woman, not out of man's head, that she may rule over him," said Delegate Love, "nor yet from his foot that he may tread on her, but He made her from a rib of the man's side, in order that she may be his companion and soothe him with her refining companionship. Almighty God! forbid the day that Virginia shall adopt this suffrage heresy and drag her women down to the soiling cesspool of political strife."

Delegate Gordon offered an amendment limiting the exercise of the ballot to women possessed of property valued at $100 or more. His purpose in offering this amendment, he said, was to provide protection for the "black counties." The amendment was rejected.

SUFFRAGE LEADERS REGARD BIG VOTE AS VICTORY

At 1 o'clock Delegate Green, of Danville, moved the pending question, and the motion was carried. The bill was put on its passage, and was defeated by a recorded vote of 52 to 40. Delegate Stephenson announced that he was paired with Delegate Steck. The latter, had he been present, would have voted in the affirmative, while Mr. Stephenson would have voted against the bill.

The size of the vote polled by the amendment occasioned general surprise. While the defeat of the amendment had been accepted as a foregone conclusion, it was commonly believed that it would not receive more than twenty votes. The announcement of the result was received by the suffrage army with applause.

"It was a most satisfactory vote," said Mrs. B. B. Valentine, president of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia. "We are gaining rapidly. We will be back again two years from now, and if we don't win then, we will be back again two years later, and again and again until we win our fight. It is only a question of time."

HOW THE MEMBERS VOTED ON AMENDMENT

On the roll call the members voted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Adams, A. S.; Baker, W. W.; Baum, Birrell, Bend, Bonham, Buck, Buhrman, Commins, Cook, Cornett, Cousins, Cox, Davis, Edwards, Goodwin, Gordon, Green, Henley, Hundley, Jett, Jones, Lowry, M. K.; Mann, Meetze, Musgrave, Noland, Norris, Parr, Pence, Phillips, Pitts, Price R. W.; Russell, Sutherland, Williams, Willis, Winston, Wright, F. J.; Wright, Thomas—40.

Nays—Messrs. Adams, B. D.; Baker, H. P.; Beale, Beattie, Bristow, Brown, Browning, Burke, Cato, Clement, Coldiron, Crockett, Dodson, Epes, Floyd, Fuller, Gatewood, Gilpin, Hall, Harris, Harrison, Hobson, Horsley, Hudgins, Jordan, Kent, Leedy, Love, Lowry, H. C.; Moss, Myers, Owen, Page, Price, J. H.; Ramsey, Reed, Rew, Roberts, Rolston, Shumate, Smith, Stant, Stubbs, Swift, Taylor, Tiffany, Turner, Valentine, Walton, White, Witten, Mr. Speaker—52.

THE SENATE

Engrossed in the question of prohibition, the Senate spared enough time yesterday to sustain the action of the Governor in vetoing three bills passed by that body.

Senate bill No. 3 was returned with the Governor's veto at the request of the member of the House from Fairfax, the only county affected by the measure. It provided that members of the Board of Supervisors, with the consent of the judge of the Circuit Court, draw a salary of $200 a year.

Senate bill No. 30, providing for the submission of the question of issuing $40,000 of bonds for the installation of an electric lighting plant to the qualified voters of Winchester, was vetoed for the reason that an identical measure arising in the House had already been approved.

The bill, providing for the appropriation of $50,000 for temporary government of Hopewell, was returned with the recommendation that the amount be reduced to $25,000, and its expenditure be better safeguarded. The Senate concurred in the recommendations.

The Senate will convene this morning at 10 o'clock, to resume consideration of the Mapp prohibition bill.

THE HOUSE

In spite of the earnest pleas of its patrons, the House refused yesterday to pass the Adams-Sproul bill providing for the creation of a bureau of markets within the Department of Agriculture and Immigration. On Thursday the body had refused to pass the bill by a vote of 47 to 36. The measure came up again yesterday on the motion made the day before to reconsider the vote by which it was lost.

In order to give the friends of the bill a fuller opportunity to explain its benefits, the House reconsidered the vote by which it defeated the bill the day before. Delegate Sproul thereupon launched into a description of the benefits that would flow from the enactment of the bill into law, pointing to the success scored by the Eastern Shore Produce Exchange, privately maintained, which, by maintaining selling agencies in various parts of the country and providing a ready market for farm products, had increased the value of comparatively worthless Eastern Shore lands until they are in many cases worth as much as the lands in the famous blue-grass sections of the State.

Apparently the members were impressed with the desirability of leaving the market bureau function to private enterprise. On the roll call forty-six members voted for the bill and thirty-six against it. The bill was declared lost because it failed to poll the fifty-one votes required to carry an appropriation measure.

REFUSES TO RECOMMIT BILL INCREASING SCHOOL LEVY

Chairman Baker, of the Finance Committee, made an unsuccessful effort to secure the recommittal of the Reed bill, which provides for an increase of the State school levy from 10 cents, the present rate, to 20 cents. It was the unanimous desire of the committee, he said, to take the bill again under advisement.

In view of the strenuous opposition of merchants, bankers and manufacturers, said Captain Baker, to the several plans for increasing their taxes, his committee is considering seriously the advisability of increasing the personal-property and realty levies, and in this manner eliminating the necessity of increasing the revenue from the industrial and business sources.

Delegate Reed, patron of the school levy bill, strenuously opposed its recommittal. Delegate Pitt, a member of the Finance Committee, said that he was informed that the committee desired the bill recommitted for the purpose of looking into its constitutionality. For this purpose alone, he said, he would support a motion to recommit. The House, however, defeated this motion by a vote of 46 to 36, and the bill remains on the calendar.

Under the joint resolution making yesterday the final day for the introduction of bills, about twoscore measures of local and general significance were sent to the desk—the largest crop of any day of the present session.

Here and There in the Legislature

For the purpose of increasing its harbor, port and transportation facilities, a bill was offered yesterday by Delegates Jones and Hobson, of Richmond, authorizing this city to acquire by purchase, gift or condemnation a strip of land not exceeding 300 feet in width extending from the present city limits, through the counties of Henrico, Hanover, New Kent and King William to some point at or near the town of West Point; and to acquire a tract of land having a deep waterfrontage, on the Pamunkey, York or Mattaponi Rivers not exceeding 500 acres; with the privilege, however, of leasing the properties when acquired for transportation or transmission purposes until such time as the city of Richmond may contract for the construction and opening of the proposed water way from Richmond to West Point, or until the construction and opening may be otherwise provided for.

Reviving the plan rejected by the special tax session of the General Assembly of 1915, a bill was offered yesterday by Delegate Moss, of Lynchburg, providing for a State tax commission, with two salaried members, in addition to the three ex officio members who now compose the State Advisory Board of Taxation. The two "expert business men" described in the bill are to draw salaries of $4,000 a year each, and are to be appointed by the Governor, with the approval of the Senate, for six-year terms, after initial short-term appointments for two and fours years, respectively.

The powers and duties of this board shall be to collect, preserve, digest and report to the General Assembly all possible facts, schedules, information of any and every character and to present measures looking to equalization, uniformity and justice in assessments and rates of taxation throughout the State on all classes of property; with powers to require that assessors and commissioners of the revenue shall correct unreasonable high or low assessments or manifestly unjust assessments to conform to law, and to remove assessors for incompetence, plain evasion of law or oath, and by action before courts to induce the removal or suspension for cause of commissioners of revenue, local boards and examiners of records. Mr. Moss explained that the State Corporation Commission is in no way to be abridged or changed as to its present duties on subjects of taxation now committed to it by law. The bill carries an appropriation of $15,000 annually, and in all other respects closely follows the wording of the State tax commission bill presented last year.

SENATE BILLS

The following bills were offered in the State Senate yesterday and referred:

By Mr. Rinehart—S. B. No. 367, to enable the Boards of Supervisors of counties and the Councils of the incorporated towns of this Commonwealth to authorize the levying of a special road tax upon the taxable property in said counties and towns of 20 cents on the $100 of the assessed valuation of such property, to be used for the purpose of building public roads in such counties and for the purpose of permanently improving and maintaining existing roads in such counties, the said special levy to be in excess of any other road levy that now exists in any such county or town. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Rinehart—S. B. No. 368, to authorize the sum of $20,000 to be used in the building of public roads in said county. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Rinehart—S. B. No. 369, to submit to the qualified voters of Alleghany County and of the incorporated towns of Covington and Iron Gate the question of whether or not the Board of Supervisors of said County shall borrow the sum of $100,000 to be used in the building of public roads in Alleghany County. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Saunders—S. B. No. 370, to amend section 3657 of the Code, relating to sedition. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Jordan—S. B. No. 371, to abrogate the common law doctrines of dower and courtesy, and the incidents thereof as heretofore prevailing in this State, and to give each spouse a vested right upon the death of his or her consort as a fee simple title in one-third of the real estate, or interest therein, of which such consort died seized. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Stroud—S. B. No. 372, providing for the election of members of the State Corporation Commission by the qualified voters of the State. Referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

By Mr. Early—S. B. No. 373, to establish a bureau of markets for agriculture products within the Department of Agriculture and Immigration, providing for the administration of said bureau and defining the duties and powers of same. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Mining and Manufacture.

By Mr. Gayle—S. B. No. 374, to amend section 1067 of the Code, relating to conveyances of land to benevolent associations. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Gayle—S. B. No. 375, to amend section 1069 of the Code relating to quantity of land benevolent associations may hold. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Pilcher—S. B. No. 376, to authorize the Boards of Supervisors of the several counties to compromise controversies with taxpayers, in reference to local taxes or levies. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Messrs. Byrd and Goodrick—S. B. No. 377, to amend section 8 of an act to establish and regulate the holding of primary elections, and to prevent and punish any corrupt practices in connection therewith. Referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

By Mr. Trinkle—S. B. No. 378, to authorize and empower the Board of Supervisors of any county to appropriate out of the general funds of said county to the public schools thereof a sum not to exceed 25 per cent of the amount collected for county purposes during the next preceding year. Referred to the Committee on County, City and Town Organization.

By Mr. Allen—S. B. No. 379, to prevent persons entering into contracts for employment, for the sale of water, or for electric current or power under any other than their lawful names, and to provide penalties for the violation of this act. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Allen—S. B. No. 380, to define interstate messages and what is held not to be such a message. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Lucy—S. B. No. 381, to amend section 1279 of the Code, with reference to grain to be ground, in turn. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Mining and Manufacture.

By Mr. Buchanan—S. B. No. 382, to amend chapter 295 of an act to provide a new charter for the city of Bristol. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Conrad—S. B. No. 383, authorizing district or city school boards to borrow money on short time loans at any time during the years 1916 and 1917. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Buchanan—S. B. No. 384, to declare to be common carriers all persons, firms and corporations engaged in the carriage of passengers for hire in certain vehicles upon the streets and highways of this State, and to subject such persons, firms and corporations to the control of the State Corporation Commission, and to provide a tax on certain of such persons, firms and corporations, and to provide for the collection of such tax. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Jeffreys—S. B. No. 385, to authorize and empower the Board of Supervisors of the several counties to appropriate money for the purpose of the care, treatment and transportation of persons bitten by animals suspected of having rabies. Referred to the Committee on County, City and Town Organization.

By Mr. Moss—S. B. No. 386, to provide for submission to the people for approval and ratification the proposed amendments to section 46 of article 4 and section 50 of article 4 of the Constitution of Virginia. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Cannon—S. B. No. 387, to amend sections 2 and 4 of an act to regulate the statistics of leaf tobacco sold upon the floors of the leaf tobacco warehouses, also by any tobacco association in the State of Virginia. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Mining and Manufacture.

By Mr. Cannon—S. B. No. 388, to provide for the issues of capital stock of corporations organized under the laws of this State without nominal or par value. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Cannon—S. B. No. 389, to amend subsections C and E of section 784 of the Code, in relation to salaries of coroners and officers of the General Assembly. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Mathews—S. B. No. 390, to amend sections 38, 39 and 55 of an act, providing a charter for the city of Norfolk. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Mathews—S. B. No. 391, to amend and re-enact an act, providing a charter for the city of Norfolk, and to add an independent section thereto to be known as section 61b prescribing rules and regulations for the bringing of actions against the city of Norfolk for damages for injuries to persons or property alleged to have been sustained by reason of negligence of the city or any officer, agent or employee thereof, and to require from the payment a written verified statement of the nature of his claim and of the time and place at which the alleged injury was received. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Mathews—S. B. No. 392, to amend an act of the General Assembly of Virginia, providing a charter for the city of Norfolk, and to add an independent section thereto to be known as section 61a empowering the Council of the city of Norfolk to provide for and maintain an employment bureau. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Mathews—S. B. No. 393, to amend the charter for the city of Norfolk. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Holt—S. B. No. 394, to authorize the issuance of $20,000 of bonds by the city of Newport News for constructing and equipping an armory and convention hall all in the city of Newport News. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Holt—S. B. No. 395, to authorize the issuance of $50,000 of bonds by the city of Newport News for street improvement. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Holt—S. B. No. 396, to amend the charter of the city of Newport News, and to provide for the adoption by the qualified voters of the change in form of government and for a special primary election for Mayor and Councilmen. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Early—S. B. No. 397, to regulate the operation of certain vehicles for hire within the cities of this Commonwealth, to require indemnity bonds for such privilege, to authorize the collection of municipal license taxes therefor, to prescribe certain conditions, and to impose penalties for failure to comply with the terms and requirements of this act. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Garrett—S. B. No. 398, to provide for the keeping a record of proceedings of the Legislature in certain books and files to be under the custody of the Legislative Reference Bureau, and to require certain officers of the General Assembly to furnish carbon copies of journals, records and reports of committees and other documents, and to further provide that said bureau may be permitted to secure or retain codes of all bills and resolutions introduced in either branch of the General Assembly for the purpose of recording progress of the same. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Garrett—S. B. No. 399, to amend and re-enact section 253 of the Code of Virginia. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Goodrick—S. B. No. 400, changing rules of evidence with reference to parol contracts for the sale of lands made prior to January 1, 1895, where parties have been in open, notorious possession since said date. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Wendenburg—S. J. R. No. 17, granting permission to the city of Richmond to construct a driveway through Capitol Square, together with automobile parking space and public comfort station between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets. Referred to the Committee on Public Institutions and Education.

By Mr. Cannon—S. J. R. No. 18, proposing an amendment to section 56 of the Constitution of Virginia. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Bison—S. B. No. 401, to amend section 2 of an act to define dentistry, and to regulate the practice of the same and to provide penalties for the violation of the provisions of this act. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Saunders—S. B. No. 402, to amend section 2509 of the Code, in relation to fees of coroners and constables. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Buchanan—S. B. No. 403, to authorize county, district school trustees, or other public officers having authority for the purpose, to acquire title to real estate for school purposes upon condition that whenever the property so acquired shall cease to be used for school purposes it shall revert to the grantor or his heirs, and to authorize money to be loaned from the literary fund for the purpose of building schoolhouses upon such property. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Mapp—S. J. R. No. 19, requesting the president pro tempore, Speaker of the House and director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, to report to the next General Assembly of 1918 rules and customs of other States pertaining to introduction of bills. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. Wendenburg—S. B. No. 404, authorizing the Circuit and Corporation Courts, the judge of the city of Richmond, the Chancery Court of said city, or the judge of said courts in vacation to appoint delinquent land commissioners in the several counties and corporations of Virginia, and authorizing and empowering said delinquent land commissioners of the several counties and corporations of Virginia to institute suits and sell real estate for the purpose of collecting delinquent taxes, levies and assessments due the Commonwealth and the several counties and corporations thereof. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

HOUSE BILLS

The following bills were presented and referred in the House of Delegates yesterday under rule 37:

To the Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns:

By Mr. Jordan—To authorize and empower the Board of Supervisors of any county to appropriate out of the general funds of said county to the public schools thereof a sum not to exceed 25 per cent of the amount collected for county purposes during the next preceding year.

By Mr. Winston, by request—To require counties, which have imposed and collected a county road tax, bridge tax or poor tax on property situated within the corporate limits of a town which is exempt from such taxation by charter or general law, to refund to the said town the amount of tax so collected and to authorize the bringing of suits to enforce said liability.

By Mr. Goodwin—To enable the Boards of Supervisors of counties and the Councils of the incorporated towns of this Commonwealth to authorize the levying of a special road tax upon the taxable property in said counties and towns of 20 cents on the $100.

To the Committee on Finance:

By Mr. Moss—To amend and re-enact an act to create a State Advisory Board on Taxation, and County and City Boards of Review of Assessments, so as to provide for a State Tax Commissioner.

By Messrs. Cousins and Cox, by request—Joint resolution proposing an amendment to section 130, article 12, of the Constitution.

By Mr. Reed—To create the office of State tax commissioner; to define his powers and duties; to fix his compensation, and to appropriate money to carry out the provisions of this act.

By Mr. Reed—To amend and re-enact section 441 of the Code, relating to the assessment of lands and improvements.

By Messrs. Brewer, Leedy and Kent—To declare to be common carriers all persons, firms and corporations engaged in the carriage of passengers for hire in certain vehicles upon the streets and highways of this State, and to subject such persons, firms and corporations to the control of the State Corporation Commission, and to provide a tax on certain of such persons, firms and corporations, and to provide for the collection of said tax.

By Mr. Leedy—To provide a uniform standard system of bookkeeping and accounting for the treasurers of the State.

To the Committee on General Laws:

By Mr. Baker, of Cumberland—To amend section 1067 of the Code, relating to conveyances of land to benevolent associations.

By Mr. Baker, of Cumberland—To amend section 1069 of the Code, relating to quantity of land benevolent associations may hold.

By Messrs. Kent and Owen—To amend section 1279 of the Code, with reference to grain to be ground in turn; amount of toll; penalty for violation.

By Mr. Willis—To prohibit the Board of Supervisors of any county from shortening or lengthening the open season in any county for the hunting or taking of wild birds and animals.

By Mr. Price, of Richmond city—To provide for the issue of shares of capital stock of corporations organized under the laws of this State without nominal or par value.

By Mr. Jett—To amend and re-enact an act to require the license and adequate inspection and supervision of persons and corporations conducting maternity hospitals and lying in asylums.

By Mr. Brown, by request—To amend chapter 333 of the acts of 1914, in relation to the ventilation of foundries.

By Mr. Willis—A bill to prohibit the use of automatic shotguns in hunting.

By Mr. Willis—To amend and re-enact chapter 95 of the Code.

By Mr. Moss—To provide who may have custody, services and earnings of legitimate unmarried minor children.

By Mr. Jett—To require persons driving vehicles on the highways in this State to have lights on the same in the night time.

To the committee for Courts of Justice:

By Messrs. Epes and Murray, by request—To validate certain deeds made by clerks of courts for lands sold for delinquent taxes.

By Mr. Harrison—To amend and re-enact section 275 of the Code.

By Mr. Stant—To make it a misdemeanor for a husband to desert his wife or for any person having children dependent upon them to wilfully neglect to furnish food, clothing, shelter and medical attention for such children.

By Mr. Gordon—A bill to provide for submission to the people for approval and ratification the proposed amendments to section 46 of article 4 and section 50 of article 4 of the Constitution of Virginia.

By Mr. Moss—A bill to amend and re-enact section 2677 of the Code, relating to seduction.

By Mr. Davis—Joint resolution proposing an amendment to section 46 of the Constitution.

By Mr. Stant—To amend and re-enact section 623 of the Code.

To the Committee on Schools and Colleges:

By Mr. Williams, by request—To promote the teaching of practical horticulture in the rural schools.

By Mr. Rolston—Authorizing district or city school boards to borrow money on short-time loans at any time during the years 1916 and 1917.

By Mr. Rolston—To authorize the district school boards to borrow money.

By Mr. Bristow—To prohibit interference with church or school fairs, festivals, entertainments or exercises, under certain conditions and providing penalties.

By Messrs. Ches. Burk, Williams and Valentine—To authorize the Boards of Supervisors to supplement the public school fund by an appropriation.

By Mr. Russell—To amend and re-enact sections 2, 3 and 4 of an act to establish and maintain a system of public high schools and to appropriate money therefor.

To the Committee on Agriculture and Mining:

By Mr. Browning—To provide for analysis of foodstuffs for cattle, stock and other domestic animals in certain cases by the Chemical Department of the State Agricultural Department.

By Mr. Adams, of Franklin—To amend and re-enact sections 2 and 3 of an act to protect and advance agriculture by regulating the sale and purity of commercial fertilizers.

By Mr. Kent—To amend and re-enact sections 2 and 4 of an act to regulate the statistics of leaf tobacco sold upon the floors of the leaf tobacco warehouses, or sold by any tobacco association in the State.

To the Committee on Appropriations:

By Mr. Walton, by request—To appropriate $10,000 to complete the construction of an automobile road from Richmond to the birth place of Patrick Henry, in Hanover County.

By Mr. Rolston—To provide for State insurance of public property against fire.

By Mr. Willis—To amend and re-enact section 333 of the Code, in relation to payment of fees to officers out of the treasury in criminal cases.

To the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation:

By Mr. Gordon—To amend and re-enact sections 2 and 3 of an act to establish a State highway commission, to define its powers and duties.

By Mr. Price, of Petersburg—To regulate the operation of certain vehicles for hire within the cities of this Commonwealth, to require indemnity bonds for such privilege.

To the Committee on Insurance and Banking:

By Mr. Price, of Richmond city—To amend and re-enact section 34, chapter 2, of an act concerning the Bureau of Insurance.

To the Committee on Privileges and Elections:

By Mr. Clements, by request—Joint resolution proposing an amendment to section 22 of article 2 of the Constitution of Virginia.

To the Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation:

By Mr. Stant—To amend the charter of the city of Bristol.

By Mr. Goodwin—To submit to the qualified voters of Alleghany County and of the incorporated towns of Covington and Iron Gate the question of whether or not the Board of Supervisors of said county shall borrow the sum of $100,000 to be used in the building of public roads in Alleghany County.

By Mr. Goodwin—To authorize the Board of Supervisors of Alleghany County to borrow the sum of $20,000 to be used in the building of public roads in said county.

By Messrs. Cousins and Cox—To amend the charter of the city of Norfolk, empowering the Council to provide for and maintain an employment bureau.

By Mr. Sutherland—To authorize the school board of Lebanon Magisterial District, No. 5, of the County of Russell, to borrow money for the purpose of school improvements in said districts, and to issue bonds therefor, not exceeding $40,000 in amount.

By Mr. Murray—To authorize the issuance of $50,000 of bonds by the city of Newport News for street improvements.

By Messrs. Jones and Hobson—To authorize the city of Richmond to acquire by purchase, gift or condemnation a strip of land not exceeding 300 feet in width extending from the present city limits through the Counties of Henrico, Hanover, New Kent and King William to some point at or near the town of West Point, and also to acquire by purchase, gift or condemnation, a tract of land not to exceed 500 acres having deep water frontage on the Pamunkey, York, or Mattaponi Rivers, in order to increase and enlarge transportation facilities.

By Messrs. Cousins and Cox—To amend the charter of the city of Norfolk.

By Messrs. Tinder and Russell, by request—To amend and re-enact section 2 of an act to authorize the trustees of New London Academy to lease said building to county superintendents of schools of Bedford and Campbell Counties for school purposes.

By Mr. Handley—To authorize and empower the Board of Supervisors of Essex County to sell the timber on the Poorhouse Farm in said county, and to permit the county school board of said county to use the proceeds thereof for educational purposes.

By Mr. Murray—To authorize the issuance of $50,000 of bonds by the city of Newport News for constructing and equipping an armory and convention hall in the city of Newport News.

By Mr. Tiffany—To appropriate money to the Virginia State Dairymen's Association.

By Mr. Murray—To amend the charter of the city of Newport News, and to provide for the adoption by the qualified voters of the change in form of government and for a special primary election for Mayor and Councilmen.

By Mr. Beattie—To authorize and empower the Board of Supervisors of Henrico County to sell and convey the Poorhouse Farm, belonging to the said county, or any part thereof, and to employ land agents to make sale of the said farm.

By Mr. Harrison—To amend and re-enact section 5 of an act entitled an act to create a commission to consider the compensation of court clerks.

By Mr. Green—To amend the charter of the city of Danville.

At the Movies To-Day

ISIS—H. Cooper-Cliffe, in "A Parisian Romance."
BIJOU—"The Green Swamp," with Bruce Mcltae and Bessie Barriscale, and Mabel Normand and Roscoe Arbuckle, in "He Did and He Didn't."
LITTLE — John Barrymore, in "Nearly a King."
ODEON — Mary Pickford, in "Madame Butterfly."
REX—Jack Richardson and Anna Little, "According to St. John."
VICTOR—Ruth Roland and Frank Mayo, in "The Red Circle."
COLONIAL—"The Ballet Girl," with Alice Brady and Holbrook Blinn.

Alice Brady at Colonial.

Alice Brady, supported by Holbrook Blinn, was the Colonial's feature attraction yesterday in "The Ballet Girl." Miss Brady's marked emotional gifts and winning charm were never displayed to better advantage than in this photoplay. "The Ballet Girl" will again be the Colonial's offering to-day.

Bijou's Feature Bill.

"The Green Swamp," the feature play on the Triangle program at the Bijou comes to a close to-day. Bessie Barriscale and Bruce Mcltae are the leading actors in this play. Mable Normand and Fatty Arbuckle thrill and thrill through two reels of Keystone fun under the guiding hand of Mack Sennett.

Barrymore at Little.

John Barrymore, in "Nearly a King," is the attraction at the Little Theater again to-day.

Mary Pickford Again To-Day.

Mary Pickford, in "Madame Butterfly," is the attraction at the Odeon Theater to-day. This picture was booked for the first four days of the week, but was held over for two days more.

New Picture at Isis.

The last of the Fox plays to be seen at the Isis this week will be presented to-day, when the screen version of the late Richard Mansfield's success, "A Parisian Romance," will be shown, with H. Cooper-Cliffe in the leading role. He will be assisted by Dorothy Green.

SOARS TO 10,000 FEET

Thousands Watch Carlstrum's Feat Above Clouds Over Hampton Roads.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., February 18.—Victor Carlstrum, holder of the long-distance-flight record for America, which he established in a flight from Ottawa to New York, to-day circled over this city and Hampton Roads at an altitude of nearly 10,000 feet.

Carlstrum is an instructor in the local Curtiss Aviation School. The flight this afternoon was the highest since the school was established. The aviator went above the clouds and, for a time, was lost to the view of thousands who thronged the city streets to watch him. The flight was made in one of the military tractor biplanes, with only the pilot aboard.

Carlstrum recently ascended 6,000 feet, carrying a young woman as a passenger on her first flight.

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Fine Sheer Voiles and other beautiful materials are shown in these Blouses, cut on lines to fit trimly, with a suggestion of the military precision favored by well-dressed women.

New low collars, sleeves with the new snug-fitting cuffs, hemstitching tucks and the discriminating use of fine laces and embroideries, are features that you will admire. Many different styles are in