INSURANCE BILL BITTERLY FOUGHT

Would Require Full Payment of Policies, No Matter How Large.

What was called by representatives of insurance companies a bill to put a premium upon rascality and to reward dishonesty was considered yesterday afternoon by the House Committee on Insurance and Banking. It was a measure offered by F. W. Smith, of King and Queen, requiring insurance companies to pay the full value of policies issued by them on any property.

The measure was raked fore and aft. It was said that it would encourage the coming to Virginia of wildcat companies; that it would be a standing invitation to a rogue to pile up policies on his property; would be lighting a match to a can of gasolene, and that it would be a step back toward the dark ages of disorganized and ineffective insurance.

Mr. Smith stood his ground and made amendments to meet objections that when the insurance was on a shifting stock of merchandise, only the value of the property should be paid, and if the loss was partial, the only sum paid should be the value that was destroyed. The distinction thus made between partial and actual loss, except as to merchandise, was attacked, and one after another had his say as to the injustice of such legislation.

It was incidentally said during the debate that Attorney-General Williams had ruled that there was no way to enforce an insurance policy on a horse in Virginia.

The bill went to a subcommittee composed of W. D. Peyton, of Stafford, and George L. Richardson, of Henry, although Mr. Smith asked the committee to report it, either favorably or unfavorably.

TRYING TO AGREE UPON TAX REFORM

(Continued from first page).

committee, who said that no bill looking to distribution now before the committee was either fair or just, and that it had been decided to consult the State Corporation Commission with a view to preparing a measure which would be fair. But the House would not listen to this, the men behind the bill saying that it could be amended on the floor.

Spoke Against Time.

Edwin P. Cox, of Richmond, spoke for nearly an hour on a motion made by him to reconsider the vote by which the committee was discharged. His object evidently was to consume the entire day's session and to continue his remarks to-day, with a view of tiring the opponents. He succeeded only partially, for while he took up the rest of the legislative day, he finally yielded the floor for adjournment, and the bill was placed on the calendar.

This proceeding became one of the utmost amusement in the House. Members excitedly vied with each other in trying to find rules to get Mr. Cox off the floor. Parliamentary inquiries were innumerable, and questions and comments were fired at the Richmond man from every side. But he placidly continued his way, discussing the beauty and wealth of the counties of the Northern Neck, only crossing the Rappahannock toward Gloucester just before he reached the end of his strength.

Was Wilson Day.

The event of the legislative day was the reception of Governor Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, and the short addresses made by him in both Senate and House. The Senate practically did nothing else, while the House session was taken up with the debate on the rolling stock bill.

The present grammar school book adoption will be continued for two years after the expiration of the present contracts, according to an agreement reached yesterday before the House Committee on Schools and Colleges on the Byrd-Bell bill, extending these adoptions for six years. Hereafter changes will be made only every six years.

The White bill providing for segregation is simple in its provisions. It would allow counties and cities to hereafter get their revenue from all taxes paid on real estate and tangible personal property, which they would assess and levy on to suit their own expenditures. The State would get the franchise taxes and the licenses and taxes on intangible personal property, with which to run the government. Localities would pay their own school expenses, save the income from the literary fund, and would get back the 35 cents on the $100 of real and personal property now paid to the State. In addition, counties and cities would pay their own criminal expenses except when the costs in a case exceeded $100, when they would be paid by the State. Towns are put in the same list with counties.

The other tax reform bill introduced by Mr. White would require courts, both circuit and corporation, to summon grand juries within thirty days after assessors and commissioners file their books at the times required by law, and examine the assessments. Witnesses would be summoned.

If the grand jury finds that a piece of property has been assessed at too high a figure, its judgment would be taken and the figure reduced. If it finds that any piece has received too low a value, the party affected would be required to appear and show cause why the assessment should not be raised. The court would decide after hearing. The act would not prevent the punishment for perjury of any party who has sworn falsely to a statement as to the fair market value of his property.

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FOREIGN PRODUCT INTRODUCED HERE

Remarkable New Medicine Given a Novel Test by Specialists Yesterday

Some interesting experiences took place at the Polk Miller Drug Co. yesterday morning. At this store specialists are explaining to the public the purposes of the tonic, "Tona Vita," now being introduced in Richmond.

The strain of living among modern conditions has produced nervous debility in a big percentage of the population in the larger cities of to-day. This fact has been recognized by the medical profession both here and abroad, and some time ago a tonic was introduced in Europe to combat the disease. The medicine proved highly successful, and a company has been formed to put a similar preparation on the American market.

The experiments were made to show the immediate effects of "Tona Vita," as the medicine is called, upon cases of nervous debility. The principal symptoms of debility as explained by the specialists are as follows: A continual dull, tired feeling, lack of ambition, irregular appetite, poor digestion, nervousness, mental depression, poor memory. One of the chief characteristics of a sufferer from nervous debility is a gloomy mental attitude, extreme timidity and susceptibility to coughs and colds. The victim is constantly under the impression that some calamity is about to occur.

From among the callers the specialists selected twenty or so, and after questioning them closely as to their symptoms, gave them the correct amount of the medicine to be taken at a single dose. About five minutes later these people were questioned as to the effect of the medicine, and all stated that relief had been almost immediate.

Some of the replies were remarkable. One elderly woman said: "I have been dead on my feet for ten years past. This is the first drop of medicine I have taken that has helped me at all. I felt like a different person two minutes after taking it."

A man about 30 said: "I am a bank clerk, and my health has been poor for two years. have not known what is the matter with me exactly, but I have been little good to myself or any one else, as I just dragged myself around. I don't know whether this medicine will make me feel like my old self for good, but this one dose has helped me more than all the other stuff I have taken. It seemed to take right hold and put new life in me."

The specialists will be at the Polk Miller Drug Co., No. 834 East Main Street, from 9 A. M. to 8 P. M. daily. A free trial of the tonic will be given those who desire it. The medicine is sold at the Polk Miller Drug Co. only in Richmond. It must prove entirely satisfactory or the purchase price is refunded.

HOUSE

Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, led the House in prayer at the opening of yesterday's session.

Among the bills reported from committees was that of Colonel A. M. Bowman, designed to require physical connection between the properties of the Norfolk and Western and Virginian Railways at Salem, from the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation.

Judge Williams arose and made what he said was to him always a regretable motion—to discharge a committee. He gave the history of the bill to divide the rolling stock taxes of railroads among the cities and counties through which they run. It had been introduced by him the first day of the session, argued at different periods, and finally submitted to the committee on Friday night of last week. He had been unable to get a report, and feared that delay of another day or two would kill the bill, in view of the crowded condition of the calendar, and the hearings which must be had in the Senate. He therefore moved to discharge the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation from further consideration of the bill.

Bill Not Satisfactory.

C. W. Throckmorton, chairman of the committee, said that on the preceding evening the committee had adopted a resolution to the effect that the present system of payment of this tax was inequitable. But that, further, the bills before the committee did not provide a fair system, and it had been decided to ask the members of the State Corporation Commission to advise with the committee as to what would be a fair distribution.

Mr. Weaver wanted to know what the Corporation Commission had to do with it.

The debate was here interrupted by the arrival of Governor Woodrow Wilson. After the House had returned to the hall from the picture taking, Judge Williams renewed his motion. He agreed with Mr. Weaver as to the Corporation Commission, and said every time he had gone to the committee there had been some excuse.

Hill Montague suggested that the special order—the State Tax Commission bill—was now due, and the Speaker agreed with him, but the House adopted a motion of Judge Williams to suspend the special order for ten minutes.

Tax Bill Rereferred.

However, Speaker Byrd said from the chair, that unless there was objection, the Tax Commission bill would be recommitted to the Committee on Finance for further consideration, along with new measures which had been offered. No one objected, and Mr. Bowman made the necessary motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Montague then opposed the motion of Judge Williams to discharge the committee on the rolling stock bill. He said the House had standing committees for the purpose of considering measures, which should be permitted to do it. The chairman had said that no bill before it was fair and just, and it should have time to prepare a fair and just bill. All it wanted was light.

Appealed to as to the position of the Corporation Commission, Mr. Throckmorton and Judge Prentis had agreed to consult with the committee, although he had no opinion to express on this matter of public policy.

Mr. Throckmorton added that the Williams bill was as grossly unfair to all localities except giles county as the patron thinks the present law is to that county.

The motion to discharge the committee was carried on roll call—72 to 19.

Filibuster Begins.

Mr. Cox moved to reconsider this vote, and there ensued one of the funniest scenes the House has witnessed for many a day. For nearly an hour he held the floor, while questions were fired at him, at first indignant, later humorous. Parliamentary questions without number were asked, and the rules of the House invoked time after time. Doubtless the rules were never before read by so many members, in the effort to find some way to take Mr. Cox from the floor.

He said there was only one chance for the individual to be heard before committees. If there was only one plan before this committee, then the House might discharge it, but there were several.

After a few minutes, Judge Williams asked if Mr. Cox intended to speak until adjourning time. He replied that he would speak for several days until he made himself clear.

Advocates of the bill then busied themselves among the members to see that all stood fast and refused to adjourn until Mr. Cox relinquished the floor. Especially active were S. H. Evans, of Caroline, and H. A. White, of Rockbridge.

Judge Williams, Mr. White and Mr. Love tried various points of order.

Begins on Northern Neck.

Mr. Cox proceeded to discuss the effect of the bill on the county of Lancaster, with its fishing and oyster industries. After a minute description of the county he passed on lingeringly to the county of Richmond.

By this time the House appreciated the humor of the thing. Several members sent out for lunch, expecting to stick it out all day. On a question by Mr. White, Mr. Cox expatiated on the characteristics of the Scotch-Irish people of Rockbridge, until the member from that county protested that he sought no eulogy for his heroic conduct in listening to Mr. Cox's speech. The latter then referred to the assaults of Claverhouse's dragoons on the Covnanters of Scotland, and Mr. White said that the torture of those Scotchmen was as nothing to the torture of the House.

There was talk of adjournment, and Mr. Cox narrowly missed making a parliamentary inquiry as to his position the next day in that event, which might have cost him the floor. He said if he had a friend on the floor, he would ask the question, which Mr. Montague did for him. Mr. Oliver, who occupied the chair, said it would be morning hour business to-day. This did not suit the advocates of the bill and Mr. Cox proceeded.

Scorns Fleshpots.

The county of Northumberland was accurately described by him, and he passed on to Westmoreland. Mr. Weaver's lunch arrived, and he invited Mr. Cox to partake, the latter saying he would never desert his people for the fleshpot of Egypt.

At last, after Mr. Stephenson, of Bath, had implored him not to leave the Northern Neck, and he had shown a disposition to devote himself to the glories of Gloucester, Mr. Cox said he had a note with the suggestion of a compromise, and he yielded the floor, after complimenting the House on remaining until 2:15 in order to hear him speak.

The motion to reconsider was then put and lost, and the rolling stock bill was placed on the calendar, as House bill No. 175. The House then adjourned.

SENATE

Little progress was made in the Senate yesterday, most of the time being taken up in discussions on bills which were later passed by for further consideration, and with the visit of Governor Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey. Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Ellyson convened the upper House at the noon hour, and Rev. F. T. McFaden, D. D., of the First Presbyterian Church, offered prayer.

The House bill providing for a constitutional amendment to permit city treasurers to succeed themselves, was a special continuing order set for 12:30 but was passed by on motion. Senator Featherston's deadly weapon bill came up for its third reading, and met again with opposition. In an effort to meet the important objections raised, the patron offered a substitute bill, and requested the Senate to vote to reconsider the original bill in order to bring it back to its amendatory stage. A motion to reconsider was voted down, but another motion to have the substitute bill printed for the consideration of the Senators was carried.

Hypnotizing Bill Up.

Senator Bowers's bill to prohibit hypnotizing or attempting to hypnotize, which had been carried over from day to day after being voted down for engrossment by the Senate, came up on the patron's motion to reconsider. Senator Bowers introduced a letter from a prominent Richmond physician approving of the proposed law, and appealed to the Senate to reconsider its action of last week, in the name of a helpless public imposed upon by pretenders to this occult power.

Senator Smith thought that a law of such wide application should make clear just what it regarded as hypnotism, and where it drew the line between hypnotism as practiced by professionals and the various forms of suggestion employed by physicians, nurses and other persons. The chair put the motion to reconsider before the Senate, and it carried by a small majority. A motion by Senator Bowers that the bill be ordered engrossed, was set aside by another motion which was carried, to pass the bill by.

The rest of the time was occupied in a discussion of Senator Blanks's bill providing that partnership real estate shall be treated as personal property unless a different intention shall appear; and Senator Hart's measure amending the present law in relation to the fees of attorneys for the Commonwealth. Both bills were passed by.

The Senate took a recess from 12:10 to 12:30 to hear a short address by Governor Wilson, and to pose for a group photograph on the Capitol steps. Adjournment took place at 2:05.

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LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

By LEWIS H. MACHEN.

TAXATION—IV.

Whether or not the discussion of assessments, and other phases of the taxation question, which has been raging in the committee of the whole of the House of Delegates, results in the passage of a bill, it will, at least, serve to acquaint the members and the public with many facts which have heretofore been known only to a few.

Those patient and persistent souls who have been in the habit of wading through the annual reports of the Auditor of Public Accounts have been aware of the glaring inequalities that have existed in the assessments of certain classes of property in the several cities and counties. In a vague way it has been suspected that in some sections this inequality has been deliberate and systematic. There has been a general impression that by this means some localities were shifting a portion of their share of the burdens of taxation upon others, and that some counties were getting from the State treasury more than they paid into it.

Now, however, the information has been collected and collated, and the situation has been shown to be worse than was popularly supposed. In brief, it is such as to call for prompt and vigorous legislative action. So far we have had mainly only vigorous, emphatic—almost passionate—legislative declamation.

Every one admits the existence of the evils which the Byrd Tax Commission bill is intended to remove. The measure is supposed to embody in the main, the recommendations of the temporary Tax Commission, whose valuable report, with the able and exhaustive appendix of its secretary, is now before the General Assembly. The measure was drawn carefully and its details considered thoroughly.

Yet it has never been pretended that it was a perfect bill, or that it was in such shape as to commend itself to the full approval of the majority of the Legislature. Far less was it ever supposed that this measure, or any effective measure of any kind would be permitted to pass without strenuous opposition from the very persons and localities that profit by the present unjust condition, as well as from others holding honestly different views.

The most astonishing feature of this opposition is that it should have taken the form of a clamor for immediate segregation, in the face of the findings of the Tax Commission that segregation at this time would bear hardest upon those localities which are now escaping the largest relative proportion of the present tax burden.

Since these localities have a minority of the legislative representatives, it would be easy for the majority, if they chose, to force segregation upon them. But those most anxious for segregation hesitate to impose it upon those counties which, even through their own default, are not prepared for it.

The crucial fact is, that no segregation scheme has been prepared. The Tax Commission in two years has been unable to figure out one that would have even a semblance of plausibility. How, then, is the Finance Committee of the House, pressed as it is with other matters and with the appropriation bill yet to be considered, to be able in a few days to accomplish what the Tax Commission could not do in two years?

To give up the idea of equalizing assessments and endeavor to evolve a segregation plan at this session, is simply to sidestep the whole matter and permit the continuance of existing indefensible conditions for at least two years.

Problems of taxation in some form we shall never be without; but here is one definite phase—namely, the inequality of assessments—which is capable of being dealt with at once. The information is at hand; the duty of the Legislature is clear, and it should hesitate to confess to the people of Virginia its incapacity to deal with it.

HOUSE BILLS

The following were presented and referred to under Rule 37.

To the Committee on Finance.

B Mr. White, of Rockbridge: A bill to require a special grand jury at a regular or special term of a circuit or corporation court of each county and city in the State, to inquire into the assessment of property by the State, counties and cities, and to correct any erroneous assessments, so that the same may be assessed according to the Constitution and laws of the State.

By Mr. Tabb: A bill to amend the general pension act.

By Mr. Ewing: A bill relative to the contents of the personal property tax book.

By Mr. Utz: A bill to require taxes levied upon dogs to be put under the same tax bill with taxes levied upon personal property, and to give the same remedies for collecting such taxes in certain cases.

By Messrs. Tiffany, Kent and Meetze: A bill to relieve doctors, physicians and surgeons who served in the Confederate or Union armies or navies, as such, from paying a license tax from practicing their profession.

By Mr. Rolston: A bill to amend and re-enact section 613 of the Code of Virginia.

By Mr. Rolston: A bill to amend and re-enact section 614 of the Code of Virginia.

By Mr. Montague: A bill in reference to the pay of coroners and constables in certain cases.

By Mr. White, of Rockbridge: A bill to provide a separation of the subjects of taxation for the purpose of raising revenue for the support of the State government, and support of the government of counties cities and towns.

To the Committee on Schools and Colleges.

By Mr. Kent: A resolution in relation to adoption of free school books.

To the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Wissler: A bill to amend an act to provide for the working of and keeping in repair the public roads and bridges of Smyth county.

By Mr. Rew: A bill to authorize and direct the State Board of Veterinary Examiners of this State to register Mitchell J. Hunt as a veterinary surgeon with permission to practice veterinary medicine and surgery in Accomac and Northampton counties, and not elsewhere.

To the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

By Mr. White, of Albemarle: A bill to amend and re-enact section 58 of the Code of Virginia, for the apportionment of the State for the members of the House of Delegates.

By Mr. Webb: A bill to amend an act to provide for lists of all persons who have paid their State poll taxes and for posting the same, and for providing compensation therefor.

To the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation.

B Mr. Grant: A bill regulating contracts of surety between common carriers and their employes and sureties upon such contracts.

By Mr. Roberts, of Mecklenburg: A bill to provide a repair fund for public roads to be known as a wheel tax.

By Mr. Bowman: A bill to amend and re-enact section 4 of chapter 3 of an act concerning public service corporations.

To the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Banks: A bill to amend and re-enact section 2785, of the Code of Virginia, as heretofore amended, so as to provide for terminating a yearly lease on property situated in any subdivision of suburban or other lands divided into building lots for residential purposes, by either party giving notice, in writing, three months prior to the end of any year.

By Mr. Coleman, of Norfolk: A bill to amend an act to authorize the sale of lots purchased by the Commonwealth for delinquent taxes and not redeemed, within four years or more.

By Mr. Coleman, of Norfolk: A bill to make any person an incompetent juror to serve at more than one term of any court any one calendar year.

To the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Utz: A bill to prevent the sale or giving of cigarettes, cheroots or cigars to persons under eighteen years of age, and providing punishment for violation of the same.

By Mr. Rakes: A bill to provide the minimum length of true meridian lines.

To the Committee on Chesapeake and Its Tributaries.

By Mr. Rew: A bill to amend the fish codification law.

To the Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

By White, of Albemarle: A bill to authorize the payment of salaries to the chairmen of the boards of supervisors of the State.

By Messrs. Land and Ivey: A bill to abolish county and city poorhouses, to authorize the sale and conveyance of all real and personal property belonging to the several cities and counties for the care and maintenance of the poor, and requiring the authorities of said counties and cities to purchase farms of suitable size, fertility and location, and in each congressional district of the State to erect suitable buildings to be called district homes, to which all of the counties and cities in said district must send its poor and care for the same; providing for the appointment of boards of control, superintendents, physicians and necessary employes.

SENATE BILLS

Mr. Lesner: A bill to amend the Code of Virginia in relation to appointment of registrars. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Watkins: A bill to repeal an act to authorize and empower the State Corporation Commission to close or discontinue any private dock or wharf affected with a public use or easement in certain cases. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Harman: A bill to regulate the sale of wagons and other vehicles for use in this State, and to prescribe the kind of tires to be used on such vehicles and wagons, and to forbid the sale of any other than those prescribed.

By Mr. Gravatt: A bill to amend an act to license and regulate the sale and inspection of condimental stock and poultry foods and powders intended for domestic animals and poultry. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Mining and Manufacturing.

By Mr. Gayle: A bill to amend the Code of Virginia for the apportionment of the State for the members of the House of Delegates. Referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

By Mr. Bowers: A bill to amend an act to provide of the opening and working of roads and keeping the same in repair, and to provide for erecting and maintaining bridges in the county of Culpeper. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

Here and There in the Legislature

If the bill offered by Judge Martin Williams, and reported favorably yesterday afternoon by the House Committee on Insurance and Banking, becomes a law, it will be possible for the State Banking Department to hereafter give out such information as will help to apprise the public of what has been going on in banks, and to bring criminals to justice. The bill adds to the law on the subject of examining State banks the following: "Provided, that in its discretion, the State Corporation Commission may make public all such records, reports and information concerning any bank, if fully satisfied that the public interest will be promoted by allowing public inspection of such records, reports and information."

During the past two years, the mouths of the commissioners and the bank examiner have been closed by the construction placed on the original law. At least one bank wrecker, it is said, is now a fugitive from justice as a result, who would have been apprehended had the press been given the information regarding his actions. It is argued that after a bank has gone into the hands of a receiver, there is no further reason for concealment of its embarrassment, for it is a definite and hopeless failure. It has been impossible for the examiner to even say that he has examined a bank, under the law, and as a result he has been blamed for failures when in reality, it is understood, he has saved depositors by arresting officials in their career before all assets are gone.

Prospects are now good that the House Committee on General Laws will report a game bill providing for a State warden and a hunters' license. Sentiment in the committee, it is said, has grown in this direction. The committee on yesterday morning reported favorably the bill offered by S. H. Evans, of Caroline, allowing the appointment of additional local game wardens on the application of five freeholders.

A bill introduced in the House yesterday by Messrs. Tiffany, Kent and Meetze would exempt physicians who are Confederate or Union veterans from payment of license taxes.

A new redistricting bill as to House districts was offered in the House yesterday by John S. White, of Albemarle. Not many changes are made, and they are as follows:

Bedford is given one direct member, and Franklin one, with one as a floater between them; Buckingham is given one by itself; Buchanan and Dickenson, one; Wise, one; Cumberland and Powhatan are put together, while Chesterfield is given one member. The bill puts Essex and Middlesex together, King and Queen and King William together, and Gloucester and Mathews together. Norfolk city gets three members, Portsmouth one, while Portsmouth, Princess Anne and Norfolk county are put together for one. Richmond gets six, and Roanoke city and Floyd county are put together, in addition to Roanoke's one man. The representation of Washington county and Bristol is reduced to one.

In consideration of the fact that there is much talk of free school books and no statistics on the subject, sets forth a joint resolution offered in the House yesterday by Dr. S. T. A. Kent, the State Board of Education is instructed to require teachers to report the total amount expended by each child for books each term.

A bill for the abolition of county poorhouses and the establishment of congressional district institutions, was proposed yesterday in the House by W. A. Land and W. S. Ivey. The counties are given representation on the boards of control.

A wheel tax for the support of roads is proposed by F. B. Roberts. He would allow supervisors to charge two-wheeled vehicles 50 cents, four-wheeled, 75 cents; two-horse farm wagons, $1; four-horse farm wagons, $2; automobiles, $3; two-horse vehicles constantly hauling lumber or similar heavy commodities, $4; four-horse vehicles of the same class, $6.

A bill to raise the age of consent for females in Virginia from fourteen to sixteen years, offered by Daniel Coleman, of Norfolk, is still being considered. It is backed by religious and social workers. In some quarters the penalty is regarded as rather heavy, and this may be amended.

A bill to prohibit the sale or giving away of cigarettes in Virginia to persons under eighteen, instead of sixteen, as at present, was offered yesterday in the House by John C. Utz.

Berkley D. Adams, who has a bill providing for purity of turpentine and paints, has many letters from manufacturers all over the country. Somewhat to his surprise, many of these approve his bill, saying they are sick of frauds and deceptions in the paint business, and want the public to know what their products contain.

Discussion of the prohibition bill will be concluded to-night at 11 o'clock before the House Committee on Privileges and Elections. The opposition will have two hours and the advocates of the bill one hour.

Hearings on rearrangement of congressional districts will be had this afternoon at 4 o'clock, before the Senate and House Committees on Privileges and Elections. The Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Districts will be taken up.

BOOK CONTRACTS GET EXTENSION

No Changes Will Be Made in Grammar Grade Text-Books Until 1914.

Grammar school books now in use in Virginia will be continued for two years beyond the present adoption, so that there will be no more change before 1914. In that year the high school adoption now in force will expire, and there will be a new adoption. Thereafter book selections will stand for six years.

This was agreed upon yesterday afternoon between all parties, at the meeting of the House Committee on Schools and Colleges. R. C. Stearnes, secretary of the State Board of Education, was present.

Alden Bell, who was co-patron with Speaker Byrd on the bill to extend the grammar school adoption six years and the high school four years, agreed to the compromise and the bill was so amended, with the concurrence of Chairman Walter Tansill Oliver.

As a result of this action, there will not be the usual activity during the coming summer among representatives of publishers, and the excitement over the quadrennial adoption. There was opposition to the Bell-Byrd bill from educators on the ground that some elasticity must be provided with regard to schools where students finish a book and should not be required to go back over the same ground.

FIGHT BILL AIMED AT COLD STORAGE

Men in Business Say It Would Work Injustice—Goes to Subcommittee.

Many objections to the Fitzhugh cold storage bill were aired yesterday morning before the House Committee on General Laws. William Bullitt Fitzhugh, the patron, was somewhat surprised, since at a conference held on the previous night he had understood the cold storage people to be satisfied with amendments which he put in the bill at their suggestion. He made the maximum period of storage of food products twelve months, without permission from the State Board of Health. In his original bill it was put at ten months.

Maurice A. Powers, opposing the bill, said it would work an injustice to Virginia cold storage interests, since owners would patronize establishments in other States where no such laws exist. Should Congress pass such a bill and make it uniform, his people would not object. The measure was said to be impractical in some respects, such as the marking of each individual egg with the stamp, "cold storage." A United States expert was quoted as saying that beef kept frozen for a year was in better condition from an edible standpoint than fresh meat, and just as nourishing and healthy.

E. A. Stumpf said the cold storage business was made the scapegoat for high prices; people did not know what caused increase in the cost of living, and blamed it on cold storage. It was said that prices are kept standardized and are made lower at times because of the supply kept in readiness.

Mr. Fitzhugh stood by his guns and was helped by Deputy State Dairy and Food Commissioner B. L. Purcell. They thought people should know what they were eating and how long it had been kept.

The bill went to a subcommittee of four.

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