

STATE SENATE IN SNARL OVER STATE POLICE AND GAS AND OIL TAX MEASURES

Intimated That There Has Been Some Double Crossing.

GAS BILL BROUGHT BACK

Session's Most Spectacular Contest Watched by the Delegates.

CHARLESTON, March 28.—Fighting over issues involved in the bills before the extra session of the Legislature was transferred yesterday from the House of Delegates to the Senate and the House adjourned immediately upon reconvening at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon to satisfy the interest of its members in witnessing the battle in the Senate.

The Senate contest was over the public safety department or state police bill, but before it was over the oil and gas tax proposition had been drawn in, and was reinstated on the calendar.

By a vote of 16 to 12, the substitute proposed by the Judiciary committee for the state police bill was left on second reading for further decision.

Previous to that, by a vote of 15 to 12, the Senate's vote on the oil and gas tax bill was reconsidered, and the substitute bill, offered Wednesday by a minority report of the Finance committee, was placed on second reading and left there for amendment today.

To get these two things done five roll calls were necessary, and the fight extended over about an hour and a half. When the police bill was reached on the calendar, the original, and then the substitute bills were read.

As soon as this had been completed by the clerk, Senator E. H. Morton moved that further consideration of that subject be postponed for half an hour. On this motion he explained that its purpose was to permit time in which an effort could be made to get some agreement on a finance measure that would produce needed revenue for the state.

After some debate the motion was voted down by a vote of 15 to 13, those voting for it being Arnold, Bloch, Burr, Coburn, Fox, Frazier, Harmer, Hough, Johnson, Kemp, Lewis, Montgomery, Morton, Poling and Vencill. Opposed to the motion were Burgess, Chapman, Coalter, Dodson, Duty, Gribble, Harman, Hunter, Luther, Sanders, Stewart and York.

Immediately Senator Montgomery moved a reconsideration of the Senate vote, of Wednesday, by which the gas and oil tax bill was rejected. This motion prevailed by a vote of 15 to 13, Arnold voting against, Hunter voting for it, and Harman voting.

This carried. Senator Montgomery then moved that the vote by which the Senate rejected the minority report of the Finance committee offering a substitute for the House oil and gas tax will be reconsidered, and this was done by the same vote as before. The same vote the House bill was recalled from the clerk of that day.

The 30 minutes of postponement upon having elapsed, the House state police bill came up against, with the Judiciary committee's report recommending the deputy sheriff substitute. He voted on adopting the substitute for the original bill was defeated by the following vote, Sanders voting for it to move a reconsideration of today's vote if he should desire to do that later.

Against the substitute — Arnold, Burr, Coburn, Fox, Frazier, Gribble, Hough, Hunter, Kemp, Lewis, Montgomery, Morton, Sanderson, Scherr, Stewart and Vencill. For the substitute — Bloch, Burgess, Chapman, Coalter, Dodson, Duty, Harman, Harmer, Johnson, Luther, Poling and York.

The senators who voted differently yesterday on the gas and oil tax bill from their votes of Wednesday were Fox, Frazier, Hough, Hunter, Lewis, Montgomery, Vincell and York. Senator York, however, voted Wednesday to accept the minority report of the Finance committee and yesterday voted against reconsidering Wednesday's actions.

Friends of the police bill claimed they had been "double-crossed" by some of those opposed to the gas tax bill. They claimed that no sooner had they voted against the oil and gas tax bills than certain members favored thereby turned immediately upon them, by assisting in an effort to defeat the police bill.

This was hinted at by Senator Gribble, who, in a speech opposing the original Morton motion, said he had been for the police bill from the beginning, and expected to be to the end; but he did not think it was right for others to saddle a special tax on a certain interest simply because they believed certain persons connected with that interest had not played fair with them.

A number of new votes in favor of the postponement of the debt bill yesterday morning, as compared with such action in the last few days, disclosed the fact that a new element had entered into the fight. Several members who have voted consistently against the gas tax bill in the past, but who were the strongest supporters of the state police bill, voted with the gas and oil taxers for the postponement.

The only issue raised in the discussion of the motion, however, was that of revenue. The motion was supported chiefly by Delegate W. S. John, of Monongalia county, who declared that while he expected to vote for the Virginia debt settlement bill he was not in favor of passing that measure until proper revenue measures were in sight.

He referred to the substitute oil and gas tax bill that was offered yesterday in the Senate by the minority re-

port of the finance committee—rejected by the Senate—and declared that bill to have been drawn with all of the expensive features of the original bill objected to by the gas people stricken from it.

He further hinted that he believed the fight over revenue in the Senate was now getting to a stage when something practical might be expected to be the outcome, whether a gas tax or some other indirect taxing measure.

An effort was made in the House yesterday morning to recall from the Senate the circuit judges' salary bill, passed by the House so that it might be reconsidered, but the motion failed by a vote of 43 to 34.

The House then passed the bridge levy bill, already approved by the Senate, no votes being cast against it. The consideration was started on the McClintic excise tax bill.

ARMY DWINDLING.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Enlisted men discharged from the army from November 11 to March 15 numbered 1,357,294. A War department statement says incomplete daily reports to March 19 brought the total to 1,381,698. Discharges for the week ending March 15 were 55,497, the largest weekly total within a month.

Evening Chat

Why Not Happy Ending?

French people say most American people want their tragic stories to have a happy ending, and that we refuse to face life as it is; that, like the child in the nursery, we must go to bed at night lulled by comforting words of reassurance which place us in a position where we never grow up. They say that until we learn that life is not all we would like it to be, we don't grow spiritually and mentally, and that there are people in the world who never do grow up—who never do see life as it is. This is undoubtedly true; but whether it is necessary to know life just as it is without frills or furbelows in order to grow spiritually, remains a question in my mind. Some people may surmount disappointments and the fact that the lovely things in the world are merely dream inventions, but there are others who might very easily go down into such depths of despair because of the awakening, that spiritual growth is ever afterward impossible. I truly believe that the man and woman who sees life through the delicate veil of a beautiful soul and who cannot see the evil and ugliness of existence, reaches heights impossible for another type of individual to reach. Perhaps we do want happy endings to our tragic stories. Why not happy endings? At least all the happy endings we can. If we believe in another world, there will surely be all happy endings there, so why not practice on them here.

That Queer Imp—The Weather.

The weather took a sudden notion to do something startling yesterday, and those who forgot after a night's sleep that snow fell just the day before, were strangely affected by the white roofs this morning with a faint suggestion in fence corners and on telegraph wires.

It sort of put out of the mind the plans for that garden. Rather carried one back to winter days again. I saw a beautiful sight yesterday noon. Coming along the street many a tree held drops of rain, each drop hanging in just the place the bud should have been. In the dull light, every drop glistened like jewels suspended. It didn't require the sunshine in that case to bring into prominence something very pretty.

Why Must We Be Different?

It sometimes seems a pity that we are all so different in this world. Just at present many divorce suits are pending, which is one of the strongest proofs of this fact. Everywhere I go I find different people with different ideals and different beliefs. Every person is striving to the utmost to work out his special beliefs, too. Sometimes I laugh, and again I want to cry. We came into the world alone and we're going out of it alone—so it is perhaps natural for us to work out our own ways of believing alone. But sometimes the dreadful loneliness of this manner of living strikes into my heart. I like the friendliness of joint

BAKER SAILS APRIL 6.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Secretary Baker now plans to sail for Europe about April 6. The time of his stay abroad has not been determined, it was said today, but the secretary expects to be gone only a few weeks.

Yes, the ladies of the Presbyterian Legion are holding an Apron Exchange Saturday morning in the Fleming building, Main street.—Adv.

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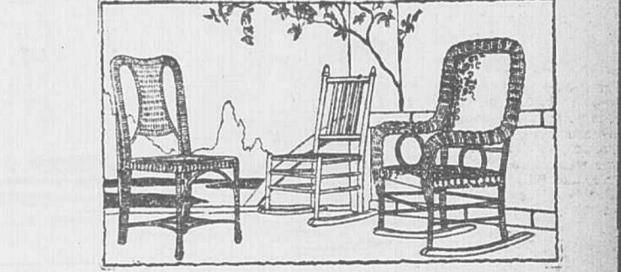
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