

SENATE AND HOUSE ACTIVE TUESDAY

MANY BILLS PASSED TO THIRD READING, NEW MEASURES PROPOSED.

Real action featured the opening session of the senate after a week-end holiday Tuesday afternoon. This body slaughtering Senator Wightman's bill to decrease the salary of every state employee from governor to coroner and doorkeepers of the senate by 20 per cent., and passing to third reading the Saluda senator's measure to abolish the state tax commission.

Senator Johnstone's joint resolution providing that the state loan Clemson college money to tide the institution over in case the college runs short of funds was passed to a third reading. The measure limited the amount to be loaned to \$150,000.

Senator Wells introduced a bill to abolish the offices of state supervisor of rural schools, mill school inspector, high school inspector, adult school supervisor, negro school supervisor, state supervisor of agricultural instruction and the state supervisor of trade and industrial instruction. The bill provides that the duties of these officers shall devolve upon the several county superintendents of education and further provides for a \$300 increase of salary to all county superintendents of education, to be paid by the state.

Senator Pearce offered a measure making the liability of telegraph companies in South Carolina unlimited, when these companies send messages wrong or make mistakes that cost the customer considerable sums. Senator Pearce explained that at present the telegraph companies are only liable for the amount of the message under ordinary circumstances when an error is made and only up to \$50 when the customer has the message repeated. His bill would allow the customer to take the matter to courts and let the courts say how much damage the customer is entitled to.

Senator Wightman's bill to abolish the state tax commission and devolve the duties thereof on the comptroller general with a commission appointed to assist him was passed to third reading by a vote of 15 to 14. Debate on this measure was rather warm on the part of Mr. Wightman, he holding that the commission had failed to do its duty and pointing out that no equalization had come about from the commission's work. He said Saluda county now has a much worse tax system and equalization than it did before the tax commission was created. Senator Young moved to strike out the enacting words and this motion was lost by a 15 to 14 vote. The bill was then passed to third reading and it is scheduled for a hard fight before getting by the senate.

The Saluda senator's bill to decrease the salary of every employee of the state, including everybody of all classes and colors, met with stiff opposition, and upon a roll call vote the only votes cast for the measure were by Mr. Wightman and Senator Hubbard.

Senator Padgett said he would not allow Mr. Wightman or any other man to dictate to him what salary ought to be paid to his county officers and charged Mr. Wightman with being more autocratic than the former kaiser of Germany.

Senator Johnstone's bill to curtail the acreage to be planted in cotton in South Carolina to one-third of all other crops was passed to third reading with the understanding that a amendments and debate would be in order when the bill came up again.

Senator Smith's bill to exempt Horry county from the statewide stock law was killed in the senate Tuesday night after a prolonged debate, the vote being 23 to 13. By the action of the senate Horry county is forced to comply with the statewide law prohibiting animals to run at large in the state and this ends a fight started the first day of the session by the Horry senator.

After disposing of the free range bill the senate then entered into a warm discussion of Mr. Wightman's bill to abolish the state board of public welfare. An unfavorable committee report was laid on the table and Senator Wightman launched into an attack on the board claiming that when it was created supporters of the movement declared all evils would be cured and that now conditions were just as bad as he saw it. He charged

FISH AND OYSTER INDUSTRIES.

Growing in Quantity and Quality Yearly in South Carolina.

Big increases in the oyster and shad industries of South Carolina are reported for 1920, by the state board of Fisheries, in its annual report, made recently to the legislature and the governor. The oyster industry of the state is growing each year, in quantity, quality and size says the report. During 1920 there were planted 200,000 bushels of oysters on the South Carolina coast. "There is no scarcity of oysters in our state" says the report; "all we need to make this a more profitable industry is to get the people interested in settling on our coast, for we have everything but the people.

As to commerce in shad in South Carolina, the report shows that during last year the catch was the biggest in many years, 85,736 shad being caught and bringing in revenue totaling \$3,000, not counting the shad caught for personal use, of which the board has no records.

The report also shows that during 1920 a total of 45,400 pounds of sturgeon and 344 pounds of caviar was caught and shipped. This industry, the report says, gives employment to hundreds of people during the summer months.

The report also says that the clam industry in South Carolina shows slight increase; but that commerce in terrapins is on the wane in South Carolina, E. W. DuRant Georgetown; E. C. Epps, of Kingstree, and Thos H. Rainsford, of Edgfield constitute the State Board of Fisheries.

About the first duty to fall into the hands of Probate Judge Snowden upon entering office was the performance of a marriage ceremony. The contracting parties were of the colored persuasion. On Monday, however, Judge Snowden was called upon to "tie the knot" for a white couple, the parties to the nuptial ceremony being Miss Alma Sports who became the bride of Mr. Benj. F. Gamble, both of the Greelyville section. It is hoped that the Judge's duties, in this particular line will multiply, inasmuch as there is a possibility of he himself being influenced thereby to "follow suit."

That the secretary, G. Croft Williams, was not content to receive a salary of \$3,500 from this source but in addition taught Bible at the university and received \$400 for two months of this teaching. Two big offices in skyscrapers had been opened and numerous persons employed to assist the secretary, all to no avail as far as work was concerned, Mr. Wightman said.

Senator Hart heartily agreed with Mr. Wightman and read from the budget report where this board had expended \$29,000 last year, he said, to "discover that some convicts in York county had left the lid off of a slop bucket."

Atkinson Succeed Cothran
J. Buford Atkinson, Spartanburg county was Tuesday elected speaker of the house to succeed Thomas P. Cothran, who was recently elevated to the supreme bench to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Associate Justice Daniel Hydrick. Representative Atkinson was holding the office of speaker pro tem. when elected to preside over the sessions of the house.

The house of representatives yesterday adopted a resolution expressing sympathy for Governor Cooper in the loss of his sister, who passed away near Ware Shoals Monday afternoon.

Representative C. D. Nance of Anderson, Tuesday introduced a bill which requires that all vendors of books, medicines, toilet articles and other merchandise, who travel from house to house in making sales, pay a license for so doing. The bill was sent to the committee on judiciary.

Letters from South Carolina's representatives in Washington were read in the house yesterday in which acknowledgement was made of the receipt of the resolution favoring a continuation of federal aid to South Carolina in road building.
Representative W. D. Ballard of Anderson Tuesday introduced a bill in the house which would prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons in a vehicle used for unlawful purposes. Representative Ballard in speaking of his measure, said that it was aimed especially at the whiskey traffic carried on in automobiles which sometimes also carry weapons. The bill was referred to the committee on judiciary.

EUGENE V. DEBS NOT DISAPPOINTED

DECLARES HE WOULD HATE TO BE INDEBTED TO WILSON FOR FREEDOM.

Atlanta, Feb. 1.—Eugene V. Debs, Socialist leader now serving a ten-year sentence in the federal prison here for violation of the espionage law, was not "surprised nor disappointed" over the President's refusal to commute his sentence, according to a statement he issued here today through his counsel, Samuel W. Castleton of Atlanta.

"It was my only fear," the statement said, "that I might be indebted for my liberty to Woodrow Wilson. My record, good or bad, is at least consistent and that is the only way it could have been smirched."

The statement refers to the President as the "most pitiful figure in history." "No man in public life in American history," it said, "ever retired so thoroughly discredited, so scathingly rebuked, so overwhelmingly impeached and repudiated as Woodrow Wilson. Shortly after the November election his private secretary made a pitiful plea for him, saying that all he craved was the love of the people. This plea was stamped by the American people with the one word 'denied,' the one word he wrote on the back of the recommendation for my pardon."

After stating that Debs was "never in better physical condition in my life than I am at this hour," the statement continues:

"Mr. Palmer called attention to the fact that I shall be eligible to parole August 11, 1922. In answer to this I have to say that I shall not apply for parole, nor accept it. I shall serve my term to the last day or leave here with an unconditional pardon. I came for my convictions and I shall not betray them for a paltry consideration such as a parole. I may be in prison, but unlike the man who keeps me here, I am not an exile from my own country. When I leave this prison I shall go unrepentant."

"Senator Capper showed the other day that out of four billions annual expenditures for this country that 97 per cent is spent on war, the result of war and preparation for war and that 3 per cent. is spent on education and constructive work. That's where Wilson stands. I stand for construction instead of destruction and devastation."

Santee Bridge Commissioners Meet.

Mr. P. G. Gourdin was in Charleston Tuesday to attend an important meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Santee Bridge district, at which meeting the bids submitted for the \$200,000 worth of Santee bridge bonds, were opened and all rejected for the reason that the prices offered were below par, the members of the commission feeling that a better offer can be secured. In fact an offer at private sale has been made, which it is expected, will be concluded very shortly, the purchaser paying a price a little above par.

The law authorizing the sale of these bonds provides for a total issue of \$500,000, bearing interest of 6 per cent per annum, but for the present only \$200,000 worth are to be sold.

Mr. Gourdin is one of the seven commissioners appointed by Governor Cooper to direct this undertaking, which when completed will aid greatly in opening up undeveloped portions of Williamsburg and Berkeley counties, and will make it possible for motorists to run down to Charleston and back within a few hours.

Make Your Tax Returns

February 20th is the last day for making tax returns. After that day, according to law, 50 per cent. penalty may be applied to all those who have not made their returns to the county auditor. All the property in the county, including personal property, such as household furniture, watches, etc., should be returned, in which case the tax rate would be materially reduced.

Recommendations by the Department of Justice that Eugene V. Debs, long a prominent Socialist leader and now serving a ten-year sentence at Atlanta, Ga., for violation of war-time espionage laws be pardoned on February 12 next, was rejected by President Wilson Monday.

CHARGED WITH KILLING AT PAMPLICO

E. D. BIGHAM HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR DEED BY CORONER'S JURY.

That E. D. Bigham was the perpetrator of the crime which cost the lives of three members of the Bigham family and the two adopted children of the late Mrs. Black, is the opinion of the jury of inquest which rendered its verdict at eleven o'clock last night after hearing at Pamplico Thursday the testimony of thirty witnesses including the re-examination of Mrs. Bigham, the wife of Edmund Bigham, and the oldest daughter.

The jury found that Mrs. M. M. Bigham, Mrs. Margie Black, the two McCracken children, aged three and six, and L. S. Bigham, had come to their deaths at the hands of E. D. Bigham.

Coroner Smith officially issued a warrant charging E. D. Bigham with the murders. Bigham is now being held at the Florence county jail on a warrant sworn out by John McCracken, the father of the two murdered children. This warrant was served and Bigham arrested on January 20th, five days after the tragedy at the Bigham home two miles from Pamplico.

It was at first believed that L. S. Bigham in a fit of despondency over alleged financial troubles had committed the murders and then killed himself, but following up the strong sentiment in the community that such could not have been the case, Coroner Smith continued his investigation and has built up a case the circumstances of which, based on the evidence adduced, are believed by the jury of inquest sufficiently strong to warrant the placing of the deed on Edmund Bigham.

Philip H. Arrowsmith conducted the investigation for the coroner at the hearing Thursday. He dug deeply into the case and it appears from the verdict completed a chain of circumstantial evidence which is responsible for the verdict against E. D. Bigham.

The two Singletary negroes who have been in the Florence county jail, at Florence for several days as material witnesses and the wife of Andrew Singletary were important witnesses. Andrew Singletary testified that after the wood cutters had been paid off on Saturday January 15, E. D. Bigham and L. S. Bigham remained in the woods. Later he passed the house with his wife and son going to Pamplico and he saw E. D. Bigham emerge from the woods alone and after looking up and down the road proceed to the house. This was after Mrs. Bigham had sent a vest out to him by one of the McCracken children. Bigham went toward the house with the child. The time was about three o'clock. His testimony was corroborated by his wife and son. Robert Foxworth testified that Edmund Bigham with his family in his car, had swept up to his house which was only a short distance from the Bigham home, and had a hurried conversation with him, so hurried in fact, that the witness did not remember much about it, and that Bigham had then turned his car in the direction of the Bigham home.

The testimony of Mrs. Bigham and of the oldest daughter is said to have varied considerably from that given at the hearing on Sunday, January 16th, and although the two were together in the car on the trip to and from Foxworth's, their stories of what had occurred conflicted at several points.

It was stated that the deed which Mrs. Bigham presented to Clerk of Court Singletary for recording and was later withdrawn by her for some reason, has not yet been recovered. Mrs. Bigham is said to have stated that she had delivered the deed to her husband at the jail. This deed according to Mr. Singletary who read it closely while it was in his possession, was signed by Mrs. M. M. Bigham, Mrs. Margie Black and L. S. Bigham and conveyed the entire Bigham property to E. D. Bigham for a consideration of \$42,000. Mr. Singletary declares that the deed bears every appearance of having been tampered with; that it is evident that the names of the original grantees had been erased and the name of Edmund Bigham written therein. It was executed at Charleston originally and was probated by Sam Rittenburg, Notary Public. According to Mr. Singletary the consideration also appeared

THREE BILLS FOR BRIDGES.

Introduced in Senate by Dial—Passage is Expected.

Senator Dial, on Monday, introduced three bills to authorize the construction of bridges across South Carolina rivers. The measures were referred to the committee on commerce of which the senator is a member. All of the bills have already been introduced in the House, two by Representative Stoll and the other by Representative Mann. They authorize the state highway commission in operating with the local authorities to build drawbridges across the Santee at or near Murray's Ferry, between Berkeley and Williamsburg counties and across the Pee Dee at or near Mars Bluff Ferry between Florence and Marion counties and a highway bridge across the Wateree at or near Garner's Ferry between Sumter and Richland counties.

HONOR ROLL.

Union High School for Month Ending January 7th

First grade: Edward Sanders, J. P. Baxley, Dudley Cook, Teddy Williams, David Sanders, highly distinguished; James Munnerlyn, Annie May Wall, Mary Baxley, Loyall Carraway, Walter Britton, Herman Sessions, John Small, Itly Cribb, Willie Powers.

Second grade: Mary Sue Britton, Eva Sanders, Liston Cribb, Junius Baxley, Azalee Avant; highly distinguished; John Lawrence Altman, Oliver Wilder, Lawrence Fenters, Ollie Baxley.

Third grade: John Fenters, Kirk Avant, Alec Owens; highly distinguished: John Wesley DuRant.

Fourth grade: Laurice Rhem, Jr., Bethel Rhem, Johnnie Thomas, Harvey Gorman, Ethel Tanner, Lucile Wilson, Kate Williams, Annie Baxley, Hortense Wilder.

Fifth grade: John S. Rhem, Wallace Tart, Allen Johnson, Margie Altman, Edaphell Richardson.

Sixth grade: Ellerbe Baxley, Maggie Britton, Virginia Munnerlyn, Manning Thomas, Clyde Tart, Capers Williams.

Seventh grade: Mary Louise Munnerlyn, Jettie Wilder, Emma Britton, Davis Williams, Ollie Avant.

Eighth grade: Fulton Strong, Rena Wilson, Omy Wilder, Frances Snow.

Ninth grade: Annie Carraway, Louise Carraway, Louise Cribb, Nell Wilson.

Eleventh grade: Rufus Cribb, Gertrude Haddock, May Williams.

Mass Meeting Tomorrow Night

There will be a mass meeting of citizens at the Town Hall tomorrow (Friday) night at 8 o'clock. The object of this meeting is to decide upon the present vexed question of lighting the town of Kingstree and is an outcrop of the council meeting held last Friday night when officials of the Kingstree Electric Light and Ice Company appeared before the body and made it plain that their company could no longer light the town at the present price of \$300 the month and at the same time gave notice that lights would be discontinued after Friday (tomorrow) night unless an increase is granted.

The company now asks the town council to pay \$500 per month for street lighting. This the council has refused to do, hence the citizens mass meeting has been called for tomorrow evening.

For some time past the exorbitant if not prohibitive rate of about 25c the K. W. hour has been charged for current for home and commercial purposes, plus a \$3.00 per month minimum charge. An opportunity will be afforded the citizens of Kingstree tomorrow night to thrash out this particular utility question to its satisfaction.

However, to our mind, there is little of real merit ever comes as a result of mass meetings. The citizens had confidence enough in the members of the aldermanic body to elect them to office as guardians of the town's interests, and the welfare of its taxpayers, and this matter should be settled by that body in the best way possible for the town and its citizens.

Governor Frederic Hale Pankhurst, of Maine, died Monday of pneumonia at Augusta, Me.

to have been changed, eliminating reference to the mortgage covering the bond for Cleveland Bigham. Mrs. F. D. Bigham took this deed to the clerk of court but did not leave it with him for purposes of record.

AMERICA TO PROSPER STATES GARY

HEAD OF STEEL CORPORATION BELIEVES NOW THAT NORMALCY IS IN SIGHT

Elbert H. Gary chairman of the United States Steel corporation, discussing economic conditions, expressed the opinion that the United States was bound to be prosperous because of its unequalled resources. Judge Gary said:

"I am only repeating what many are at present saying when I assert that there are many things in the general atmosphere which are disquieting. And yet, I am as hopeful and confident of the future as I have been at any time.

"Conditions are no worse than many months ago it was predicted would probably be the case. With others I have for a long time hinted at the possibilities.

"The wonder is times have not been much worse.

"Conditions are abnormal. The minds of men throughout the world are distorted. This of course, is the result of the terrible war through which we have passed.

"Criminal outbreaks in large cities, revolutions in various countries, quarrels between sections the disposition to get something for nothing, even by force are all direct results of the military conflicts which have been raging.

"The exhibition of hate, greed, passion and distrust come from the abnormal condition of the minds of people. During the war men had been thinking of power and force. Demoralization, envy, cupidity have been developed. The capitalist has been using his wealth to unreasonably if not unfairly increase his fortune. The workmen have been trying to secure larger compensation for less service. The tradesmen has been buying for lowest obtainable prices and charging the highest profits which would be tolerated.

"There has been indifference on the part of many to the rights and interests of others. The golden rule in business has been temporarily suspended. There has been an orgy of extravagance and profligacy.

"I am, of course speaking of the inclination of the majority, recognizing that there are always large numbers of exceptions.

"So far as the majority of the people are concerned they have some excuse for they have been influenced by the examples of their national administrations. Public authorities, or some of them, have been guilty of many of the offenses to which I have alluded.

"Future generations looking back to the present will be amazed when contemplating how nearly insane large numbers of public officials and private individuals seem to have been. To kill people by the millions when not absolutely necessary or to steal property in large quantities, or to appropriate property or territory of another of large value, is just as bad as to murder a single individual or to steal a small amount of money, or to rob another of a single horse, although not generally so considered.

"For governments to waste money by millions or billions for war purposes unnecessarily is as inexcusable as for individuals to waste small amounts.

"I am not now proposing to apply the general principals to any individual nation or nations or to any classified people, or to do more than make the point that in view of what the world has been passing through during the past few years we should be thankful that there has not been, since the war closed, more crime, disorder and dishonesty than we have witnessed.

"There is another side to this picture. I wish to refer particularly to the United States—to our own situation, our opportunities and prospects.

"I have before referred to the pecuniary resources of the United States. Others have frequently done the same. Newspapers have published the facts and figures. They are startling. No one familiar with them can doubt the potentiality of our country.

"In addition to that we have the spirit and determination which can and will overcome all obstacles with the greatest success.

"The country which within a year and a half can mobilize five or six millions of men for its army and navy

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