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## SENATE IN WHIRL OF WIND STORM

FLOOD OF WORDS SUBMERGED TWO AMENDMENTS TO MR. TRAMMELL'S BILL FOR STATE AID OF RURAL SCHOOLS—BOTH AMENDMENTS WRECKED BY VOTE OF SEVENTEEN AGAINST AND TWELVE FOR.

Words, just words, and plenty of them. For an hour and a half they flowed in the Senate like a rain in the tropics yesterday afternoon.

Flowed until every corner and cranny of the chamber resounded.

Flowed until about one-third of the members had spoken, and out of all the fog and blinding mist of debate came one clear and distinct argument—

That of Senator Buckman—that if aid was needed for rural schools the place to obtain it was by means of county taxation.

The bill about which the rain of language poured was by Senator Trammell, providing that certain public schools in this State shall receive State aid, and making appropriation therefor.

The bill was a special order for the day, and Senator Adams threw the first stone into what had been up to that time a limpid pool of legislation.

This pebble was in the form of an amendment to the bill, that the distribution of the funds be upon the basis of the school population in each county, instead of property value, as provided in the bill.

The oratorical storm followed. Senator Trammell moved at once into action in support of the bill and opposition of the amendment.

He spoke of the need for the rural schools and of the unfair distribution of the State School Fund—raised by the one mill tax provided by the Constitution. He explained why his bill would afford better education facilities for the rural schools, and that the mode of distribution of the fund was more equal and just.

Senator Trammell, in the course of his argument, found a flaw in the armor of Senator Adams, caused by Hamilton County paying in \$1.00 and getting back \$1.38 under the present system.

Senator Gilreath then played a card to the effect that he thought it was a good amendment, but did not explain why.

Senator Adams got busy then, and softly side-stepping the intimation that his county was doing quite well with the present fund, declared that the only proper way to give aid to the schools was on the basis of population and not of property, citing numerous reasons why it was so.

Hope that the amendment would not be adopted was the wish of Senator Crane, who had been loading up with figures from the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and now scattered statistics broadcast, showing the unequal distribution of the regular fund, and the necessity of distributing the fund to be raised by the proposed tax.

Senator Cone said he was surprised at the action of Mr. Crane in opposing the amendment, that if the money was put into the State Treasury and sent right out again to the counties from which it came, what was the use of the bill.

Senator Massey had been reading, too, and cited figures showing how many counties had been supporting other counties; that several counties received more than twice what they paid in taxes. In view of such condition he considered it bad policy to adopt the amendment.

Senator Crews made an appeal for the amendment, claiming that it was in behalf of the poor children, and that they should be considered above all else in the enactment of school laws.

Senator West of the First then spoke for the amendment and Senator Humphries against it. The latter declared that the present system was a fraud. It was unfair, and the amendment would render the bill unfair in the same degree.

He spoke of the percentages of attendance, and quoted from the Superintendent's report; showed that while some counties received more of the State fund than they had been taxed to produce, yet the attendance was not such as to justify the distribution.

He closed by saying that he objected to helping the black counties to such extent and that the law should be fairer to the white people.

Senator Adams replied with much sarcasm, and repeated his defense of the amendment, and was followed by Senator Trammell in opposition and Senator Cone, who wanted the amendment adopted.

Then the amendment was defeated by a vote of 17 ays and 12 yeas.

Senator West of the First then tried an amendment, providing for distribution upon the average school attendance. Mr. West explained the purpose of his amendment, claiming that under this plan an equitable distribution would be attained.

Senator Crane was opposed to this amendment also, as were Senators Trammell, Willis and Buckman, the latter saying:

"Each county should levy its own taxes and take care of its own schools."

In taking this position, Mr. Buckman declared that the rule for each county was by far the best way to conduct this matter. Then there would be no unequal taxation, because each county would get what it provided.

The people have spoken on the question of State aid for

## BILLS HAWKED ABOUT THE STATE

REESE OFFERS RESOLUTION TO KEEP BILLS IN CUSTODY OF CLERK—HEATED RESPONSE BY MacWILLIAMS, WHO CLAIMS THAT ACTION WAS INSPIRED—FIVE-MINUTE RULE WAS ADOPTED.

The House started business with a jump yesterday morning, indicating that the carburetter was primed for a swift run.

Mr. Kilgore offered prayer in the absence of the chaplain, and immediately following he offered a resolution that speeches should be limited to five minutes unless the House voted permission for a longer time.

Mr. Kilgore stated, in support of his resolution, that the business was being seriously impeded by long speeches on comparatively unimportant matters; that there were few subjects that could not be concisely presented in a five-minute speech, and if on occasion arose for longer time, the House could grant permission if the circumstances seemed to warrant.

Mr. MacWilliams objected "seriously and strenuously" to any sort of rule that sounded like a gag-rule. He said few of the bills were passed and it was impossible to discuss any measure of importance exhaustively in five minutes, and all measures should be thoroughly sifted out before they were acted upon. The resolution was passed by a 26 to 17 vote, but the rule was not applied in the discussions which followed during the day.

The next resolution brought on a heated debate—one which developed considerable feeling on both sides. The resolution was offered by Mr. Reese that after bills were acted on by committee and returned to the bill clerk they should not be permitted to go out of his possession. Mr. Reese stated that original bills had been obtained by certain members and sent to different parts of the State. He thought this practice wrong.

Mr. MacWilliams was instantly on his feet, and said with easily discernible warmth that he knew what had inspired the resolution—that he had received a request for a copy of House Bill No. 425, had obtained the same from the clerk, had given him receipt for it, and had given it to a stenographer to make a copy of it, and had returned the bill. He did not know what House Bill No. 425 was, and didn't care; but he had it to be a right of the people to know what bills were being introduced, and when bills were introduced the people had no way of obtaining copies except through the courtesy of some member. He had been guilty of nothing wrong in doing this, he said; he did only what he had a perfect right to do; he had never heard of such a radical proposition as the gentleman from Escambia had put forth, and said it was done merely to justify an act of a few days previous, which was without rhyme or reason. Mr. MacWilliams said he was in favor of the greatest publicity.

Here Mr. Richbourg asked Mr. MacWilliams if his vote for secret sessions of the Investigating Committee was consistent with his expressed desire for publicity.

"Perfectly so," replied Mr. MacWilliams. "In voting for closed sessions of the committee I showed myself to be a better friend to the administration than those members who voted against it. I don't think there is anything for the Investigating Committee to find out and the making public of ex parte evidence before the investigation is concluded would be unfair and might reflect on officials where there is no real foundation for it. I am in favor of the freest and fullest investigation, and I say again as I said then, that the avowed friends of the administration have put it in an unenviable light by refusing to give the committee the assistance asked in order that there might be the fullest investigation. "Yes, my attitude is perfectly consistent."

Mr. Reese urged his resolution on the ground that it was not businesslike to let out the original bills after the committee had returned them to the desk. "We are here for business," he said, "and we can't do business in a business way until we get down to a business basis. You can't go into any court of record and get the original papers, and the bills offered here are of just as much importance as court papers. If any member wants a bill printed he can make request and have it printed for distribution to send out to his constituents, but after a bill has been returned by a committee it should not be taken out."

The resolution was lost by a vote of 25 to 22.

The bill referred to No. 425, was introduced by Mr. Reese, providing that all railroad companies before issuing stocks or bonds shall apply to the Railroad Commission for permission to do so, and that no railroad company shall issue any stocks and bonds in excess of double the cost of construction of its road-beds, tracks, stations and terminals.

It is understood that an application was made to Mr. Reese for a copy of the bill Saturday, who refused to give it, and afterwards it was furnished by Mr. MacWilliams. This was the action which Mr. MacWilliams claims to have been without "rhyme or reason."

the schools and have refused to do more than the one-mill tax provided by the Constitution," continued Mr. Buckman. "When the Constitution was framed there was need for some State aid for the schools on account of conditions then prevailing, but one mill was considered sufficient."

He was asked by Senator Adams if he intended to vote for the bill, but smilingly the Senator from the Eighteenth replied that he was not ready to say, and besides the Senator from the Thirtieth had no right to ask the question.

The roll was called and the amendment of Mr. West got the same treatment received by the amendment of Mr. Adams, and by the same vote, 12 for and 17 against.

## CARTER PLAYS ROLE OF COURT JESTER

AMUSES GALLERIES WITH LUDICROUS PERFORMANCE ON FLOOR OF HOUSE—LAMPoons WITH SATIRE SUPPORTERS OF BULK SALE BILL.

Colonel Nat Walker brought a new box of cough drops to the House yesterday morning, and before the session was half hour out from the tie up over Sunday a talk fest was going at such a rate that Col. Nat looked into his box and found just two drops left.

Colonel Nat's prescription is of the graduated scale, like this: Bills on first reading, one drop; bills on second reading, two drops; bills on third reading, three drops. For members, ordinary spiel, one drop; explanatory talk, two drops; greater effort, three or more drops.

When the afternoon session was half advanced Col. Nat recollected that Mr. Carter of Alachua had taken three drops, and settled himself for a half holiday.

Hurling the lampoon of satire into the foibles of the supporters of the bill to regulate the sale of merchandise in bulk, the member from Alachua, from his seat and in the aisle, yesterday afternoon played the role of jester to the court of the people and wrung from the floor and the galleries the unrestrained merriment, which the performance impelled, only to be sat upon by a vote of 41 to 17 when action was taken on his motion to indefinitely postpone.

The bill was offered by Mr. Reese, who stated in explanation that the wholesale men and jobbers of the State were wholly at the mercy of unscrupulous retailers, who would load up with a stock of goods bought on credit and then sell out without giving notice to their creditors. The Representative from Escambia said that the measure would not operate to the disadvantage of any honest man, but it would make it more difficult for dishonest men to pursue the practices referred to.

The bill was reached shortly before the noon hour and Mr. Carter in proposing indefinite postponement said it was wrong in principle, wrong in the abstract and concrete, and he would never support it. He desired to deliver himself at length and made a motion to adjourn, which was amended by Mr. Wilson of Hernando by a motion to take a recess, which prevailed.

The bill was supported by Mr. Farris and Mr. MacWilliams, and, in referring to his effort to get a chance to oppose the bill in committee, Mr. Carter said he had been unable to find these members when he looked for them. Addressing Mr. MacWilliams, who was in the chair, he said in part: "It appears to be one of the ironies of fate that we cannot see people when we want to. It will be one of the ceaseless sorrows of my life, Mr. Speaker, that I was not permitted to attend the Ponce de Leon celebration in St. Augustine during the early days of the session and see you leading the parade with cocked hat, flaunting sash and sword valiantly drawn for the fray. But, sir, this was denied me, and I shall have to be content."

"It is also a deep regret of mine that I did not see the young Adonis from Duval (Mr. Farris) as he outshone in splendor all others at the Governor's reception—a tall silk hat covering his classic brow, bedecked with jewels that a queen might envy, with such magnificence as would have made King Solomon in all his glory look like 30 cents. And it is a good thing, Mr. Speaker, that the gentleman from Escambia (Mr. Reese) was elected but two days before his coming to Tallahassee, for if he had been elected a month in advance it would have required a special train to bring all his bills."

Mr. Carter contended that the effect of the measure would be to set at naught the provisions of the Constitution and the rulings of the Supreme Court as to right of exemption and homestead. "My God," he exclaimed, "are you going to write such a law as that into your statute books? If you pass this bill it will mean that every little country grocer who has a fly-blown stock of goods will have to go to Savannah and approach some knob-nosed Jew, seated in his back office with his feet on the desk, and, with hat in hand, apply at the throne and say, 'My Lord Swettenham-Guggenheimer, I have an offer to sell my little stock of goods; have I your lordly permission to do so?'"

"There is no use to attempt to make this bill decent by writing amendments into it, because it is bad in principle, and the demand for this comes beyond the borders of our own State. It is inherently wrong, because it would operate harshly and injuriously upon our own people. It seeks to evade the constitutional provisions, and makes a felony of mere negligence or failure of memory."

Mr. Farris said in reply that it was very well known

(Continued on Fourth Page.)



Just an Amendment by Mr. Malone.