

N. C. LEGISLATURE.

Tuesday, Jan. 24.

SENATE.—Mr Wright, from the committee on the judiciary, reported unfavorably on bills to allow the making of certain contracts by soldiers...

Mr. Leitch introduced a bill to allow citizens to consolidate their lands. Mr. Bryson, a resolution as follows: "That the committee on propositions and grievances be instructed to enquire into the practicability of supplying the families of soldiers in the field..."

Mr. Ellis, a resolution proposing a committee of enquiry as to how many railroad companies in the State have forfeited or violated their charters and in what way. Postponed till to-morrow.

Mr. Hall, a resolution that the Senate go into secret session this evening at 3 p. m., and that the House be informed thereof. Agreed to.

Mr. Ellis, a bill to prevent the collection of debts in specie. Resolutions protesting against emancipation for public service were discussed until adjournment.

HOUSE.—Mr Little presented a memorial from citizens of Richmond county praying the enactment of a law making land trespass a misdemeanor.

Mr. Love introduced a resolution of enquiry as to whether the Judgeship of the 8th Judicial District be not vacant, he not residing in said district.

A communication was received from the Secretary of State showing the number of Magistrates in the State, etc.

Mr. Brown moved it be printed. Not agreed to. Yeas 46, nays 52, and on motion of Mr Fowle the report was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr Griesom a bill to exempt employees of newspapers from Home Guard duty was taken up, and, under a suspension of the rules, passed, the vote being upon its third reading yeas 57, nays 32.

An election for Engrossing Clerk being held, Mr Davis was duly elected to that office.

At 3 p. m., the two Houses met in joint secret session in the Commons Hall. At 6 o'clock the Senate retired to its Chamber and went immediately into secret session, continuing there till after 7 o'clock.

Wednesday, January 25. SENATE.—After the reading of the journal, Mr Courts moved that the Senate go into secret session.

Mr Wiggins said he did not like the idea of secret sessions and desired some information of the purpose for which the secret session was to be held.

Mr Courts said it was for the purpose of appointing Commissioners; and the Senate then went into secret session.

After being in secret session about an hour, the doors were again opened.

The consideration of the resolutions in regard to the arming of slaves, &c., was resumed. The 2d and 4th resolutions were stricken out. The 1st resolution and the 2d (3d of the series) were adopted.

Mr Ellis, by leave, introduced a resolution recommending that a bounty of lands and negroes be given to soldiers.

Mr McCorkle introduced a bill to more effectually prevent the sacrifice of property sold under execution.

HOUSE.—A message was received from the Senate, which was deemed by the chair to require consideration in secret session, whereupon, on motion of Mr Love, the House proceeded to sit with closed doors.

Mr Fowle introduced a bill to explain certain exemptions from Home Guard duty. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr Carter, a bill to establish Military Courts. Referred to the same Committee.

Mr Costner introduced a resolution in favor of Willis J. Palmer, which passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

A communication from the Public Treasurer relative to the collection of claims of the State against the Confederate Government was read and transmitted to the Senate.

Mr Waugh introduced a bill allowing further time for perfecting titles to lands heretofore centered.

A bill to authorize administrators to advance funds for the support of minor distributees of estates, was laid on the table on its 2d reading.

FROM WILMINGTON.

From the Wilmington Journal.

We are really unable to find anything new from below. Occasionally heavy shelling is heard from the sea. This is said to occur at each time the enemy releases his pickets, whose relative positions towards our does not appear to be much changed for many days.

The enemy has succeeded in getting no iron-clads into the river that we know of. It was said that there were sixteen or seventeen light boats in the river, and it was even surmised that the enemy had transferred or was transferring a large portion of his force to the West side of the river, with the view of turning our works at Fort Anderson, or of taking them in the rear so as to allow of the passage of his gunboats.

We do not think it as at all likely that the enemy's land forces have re-embarked and gone off. We will be woefully mistaken if we lay that flattering unction to our souls, we think.

In all likelihood at least eleven thousand of them there yet, if not more. It is true they have stopped blockade-running, and thus accomplished one of their objects, but there are three railroads and a large river here yet, of which they probably seek the control.

The enemy wants to make this influence complete, so far as our Legislature now in session is concerned. He no doubt thinks that by alternate menaces and blandishments, he may procure such action as will cause the State to drift from her moorings and to carry others with her.

The latest dispatch from Sugar Loaf reports all quiet.

NORTHERN ITEMS.

Northern papers of the 20th, state that Wall street was excited on the 19th, by the report that Blair had returned to Richmond with a programme from Lincoln in favor of commissioners to meet at City Point.

The N. Y. Herald says: It is said that the rebels have a new and very formidable ram nearly completed up the Roanoke River, in North Carolina, which they design to shortly move down that stream simultaneously with the descent of the Neuse River by the one which they have at Kingston, and it is probably intended that while the latter makes an attack on the Union forces at Newbern, the former shall attempt to regain possession of Plymouth.

General Ord having been placed at the head of the army of the James, he has been succeeded in the command of the twenty-fourth corps by Major General John Gibbon, lately commanding the second division of the second corps.

THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.—The New York News, of a recent date, says: "The Confederate General Lyon's raid through Kentucky has been concluded. From Western Tennessee he crossed the Cumberland, and moved through Christian county to Hopkinsville."

The movement of Lyon into Western Kentucky appears, however, to have taken the form of permanent result. Guerrillas appear to have sprung up along his track as fire starts out in the Heavens in the wake of a comet.

Fred. Douglas—a runaway negro, who left Maryland some years ago, and has been a pet of certain strong-minded abolition women of the North—made a speech the other day, in New York, which we are bound to say, was a very sensible speech; and in the course of it he said—

"I am of opinion that such is the confidence which the master can inspire over his slave, if Jeff Davis goes about in earnest to raise a black army, making them suitable promises, they can be made very effective in the war for Southern independence. If Jeff. Davis will hold out to the blacks of the South their freedom—guarantees their freedom—the possession of a piece of land—the negroes of the South will fight, and fight valiantly for this boon."

We believe that this negro speaks truly the sentiment of his people; and we are satisfied that Congress and the States, had taken steps early and decided, would have seen Lee two hundred thousand negroes, we should scarce to day have had a Yankee foot print on Southern soil.

FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA FRONT.—Charleston, January 24.—The enemy have made no advance movement. Scouts report the railroad between Salkahatchie Bridge and Pocotaligo destroyed, the ties burnt and the iron taken away.

THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS.—Richmond, Jan. 24.—Frank Blair is again here, endeavoring to initiate negotiations for peace. Singleton started for Washington to-day, but the flag of truce-boat was compelled to return.

NORTHERN ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE OF FORT FISHER.

The Northern papers are full of accounts of the fall of Fort Fisher. Column after column is devoted to the feats of the soldiers and sailors, until the reader wonders that the fort did not fall upon the first approach of such magnificent warriors, and how it held out during six hours of desperate fighting. The Yankee loss was heavy.

The loss of life by the explosion, I learn, is about two hundred, besides quite a number wounded. The magazine that exploded was in the very centre of the fort, and it has scooped out a deep crater to a depth of fifty feet around, and added to the desolation that reigns in this vast monument of engineering ability.

THE N. C. INSANE ASYLUM. From the report of the accomplished Superintendent of the Insane Asylum of North Carolina, we call some facts which will, no doubt, interest our readers.

On the 31st of October, 1862, there were in the Asylum 195 patients. Since that time there have been admitted 81. There are now in the institution 180, of whom 96 are males.

The following table will show the forms of insanity under which the patients suffered:

Table with 2 columns: Disease Name and Number of Patients. Includes Mania, Dementia, Imbecility, Melancholy, Suicidal, Puereral, and Homicidal.

The losses of the naval brigade were not less than two hundred and fifty killed and wounded. The number of officers wounded is unprecedented.

The Military Assault. We could see from the fleet but little of what was going on west of the fort, further than the occasional glimpse of the prolonged contest which had not closed when darkness set in, and could then only be inferred from the flashes of the musketry observable on the ramparts and in the interior of the work.

Acting Master's Mate S. W. Kempton, of the Santiago, was sent on shore in charge of a boat placed at the service of General Terry, and being invited by one of the staff to join them in the assault, actually entered the fort with General Curtis, acting as his aid. He represents that the assaulting party advanced while the garrison was repelling the naval assault, and had succeeded—by suddenly capturing the guard of thirty men at the sally-port, manning two howitzers loaded with grape, and shooting down and driving back the sharpshooters on the ramparts—in gaining an entrance and a footing on three of the mounds directed to them.

Forty Hours Devotion for Peace.—Bishop Bayley, of New Jersey, having obtained authority from Rome, has issued instructions for "Forty Hours Devotion" in all the churches under his control, and continuing in the various churches until June next.

GEN. LEE SANGUINE.—The Richmond correspondent of the Charleston Mercury says: "A distinguished member of Congress called on General Lee a few days ago, to talk over the state of the country. General Lee said he saw nothing in the military situation to justify despondency, much less despair."

THE UNITED STATES SLOOP OF WAR SAN JACINTO was lost off the Bahama Banks on the night of the 1st, in a terrible gale. The U. S. gunboat Narcissa was blown up by a torpedo near Mobile a few days since.

When it is remembered that the assault was commenced at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and that the full possession of the fort was not obtained until after 9 o'clock in the evening, a period of six hours, some idea of the fierceness of the hand-to-hand encounter may be imagined.

Explosion of the Magazine.—200 Yankees killed.—The American correspondent, writing the day after the fall, says: "Whilst we were looking at Fort Fisher under the Federal flag, and rejoicing over its down fall, a tremendous explosion took place in its very centre, sounding louder than the boom of a 15 inch gun."

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learned that the destruction of life was not less than two hundred, including many sailors from the fleet who had not yet returned to their ships. It was occasioned by the carelessness of some of the colored troops in carrying candles into the magazine.

A large quantity of corn meal had been found stored in a magazine, which the colored soldiers had freely used for their breakfasts, not knowing that it also contained a ton or more of powder, underneath the meal.

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LETTER FROM PRESIDENT DAVIS.

In Reply to a Separate State Action. The Richmond Whig publishes the following reply of the President to sundry Senators of Georgia, on the topic announced in the above caption. The Whigs say that is "a clear, forcible and cogent document."

RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 17, 1864. To the Hon. Senators of Georgia—Messrs. A. R. Wright, President of the Senate, and others:

GENTLEMEN: I answered by telegram this morning your letter of 11th instant, as requested, and now respectfully comply with your desire that I should express my views on the subject to which you invite my attention.

In forwarding to me the resolutions introduced into the House of Representatives of Georgia, by Mr Stephens, of Hancock, you state that you are not inclined to favor the passage of these or any similar resolutions, believing them to have a tendency to create divisions among ourselves, and to unite and strengthen our enemies, but that it is asserted in Milledgeville that I favor such action on the part of the States, and would be pleased to see Georgia cast her influence in that way.

The objection to separate State action which you present in your letter, appears to be so conclusive as to admit no reply. The immediate and inevitable tendency of such distinct action by each State is to create discordant instead of united councils; to suggest to our enemies the possibility of a dissolution of the Confederacy, and to encourage them, by the spectacle of our divisions, to more determined and united action against us.

When the proposal of separate State action was first mooted, it appeared to me so impracticable, so void of any promise of good, that I gave no heed to the proposal, but upon its adoption by citizens whose position and ability give weight to the expression of their opinions, I was led to a serious consideration of the subject.

If all the States of the two hostile federations are to meet in convention, it is plain that such a meeting can only take place after an agreement as to the time, place and terms on which they are to meet. Now, without discussing the minor, although not trifling difficulties, of agreeing as to time and place, it is certain that the States would never consent to a convention without a previous agreement as to the terms on which they were to meet.

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You will observe that I leave entirely out of view the suggestion that a convention of all the States, of both federations, should be held by common consent without any previous understanding as to the effect of its decisions; should meet merely to debate and pass resolutions that are to bind no one.

It is not supposed that this can really be the meaning attached to the proposal by those who are active in its support, although the resolutions to which you invite my attention, declare that the function of such a convention would be simply to propose a plan of peace, with the consent of the two belligerents; or, in other words, to act as negotiators in treating for peace.

It is only to be held with the consent of the two belligerents, that consent cannot be obtained without negotiation. The plan then would resolve itself into a scheme that the two Governments should negotiate an agreement for the appointment of negotiators to make proposals for a treaty.

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After this statement of objections, it may appear superfluous to add others of less gravity; but, as you invite a full expression of my views, I will add that history is replete with instances of the interminable difficulties and delays which attend the attempt to negotiate on great and conflicting interests, when the parties to the negotiation are numerous.

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in the time of profound peace, when the most cordial brotherhood of sentiment existed, and when a long and bloody war had been brought to a triumphant close, it required two years to assemble a convention and bring its deliberations to an end, and another year to procure the ratification of their labors.

Again, how is the difficulty resulting from the conflicting pretensions of the two belligerents in regard to several of the States to be overcome? Is it supposed that Virginia would enter into a convention with a delegation from what our enemies choose to term the "State" of "West Virginia," and thus recognize an insolent and violent dismemberment of her territory?

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Very respectfully, yours, &c., JEFFERSON DAVIS.

AUCTION HOUSE, And Brokerage, Charlotte, N. C. Third Door from Springs' corner. C. F. HARRIS & CO., Will buy and sell on consignment and commission...

On Consignment. Star Candles; 60,000 English Percussion Caps; small lot of fine French Broad Cloth, black; 800 feet heavy English Sole Leather Belting, 12 inches wide; 125 feet do. 6 inches wide; 200 feet do. 4 inches wide.

TAX-IN-KIND NOTICE. We will attend at the following places for the purpose of taking the Returns of the Second Class Crop, which consists of Corn, Buckwheat, Rice, Irish Potatoes, Cured Fodder, Sugar, Molasses, Peas and Beans, Ground Peas, and Cotton:

OAK GROVE ACADEMY, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N. C. The undersigned, a Graduate of the South Carolina College, hereby respectfully informs the public that he has opened an Academy, for the reception of pupils, six miles below Clover, convenient to the C. & S. R. Railroad, in a pleasant and healthy locality.

CARRIAGE WORK, Wagon-work and Wood-work of all kinds, and Blacksmithing. The subscriber has removed his Workshops to the stand formerly occupied by Charles Overman, near the Presbyterian Church, where he is prepared to do all kinds of work in his line.

NOTICE. I positively forbid all persons from haunting my land. I can no longer bear the degradation that have been committed on my premises. A. A. ALEXANDER, January 9, 1865.

REHOBOTH FURNACE, In Blast. 3 miles north-east of Iron Station, Lincoln Co., N. C. The proprietors are prepared to do Casting of all kinds. Address, SHIPP & REINHARDT, Iron P. O., N. C. Dec. 3, 1864.

Wm. F. Davidson, ATTORNEY AT LAW, CHARLOTTE, N. C. Will resume the practice of Law in the Courts of Mecklenburg county, and will attend to the collection of claims, &c. January 9, 1865.