

THE GLEANER.

E. S. PARKER, Editor. GRAHAM, N. C., OCT. 12, 1875.

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THE SPECIAL TAX BONDS.

We were sorry to see that the Convention voted down every proposition looking to a final disposition of the indebtedness of the State, known as the special tax bonds. That these bonds are the result of fraud and bribery is too well established to need denial.

The past three legislatures occupied much time, and expended thousands of dollars in considering this matter. A legislature can do nothing really definite and binding in regard to it; for what one legislature enacts, another may repeal.

Then the question would seem to be, not so much what action should be taken as whether any action at all. But, it is objected that so odious a thing as repudiation should find a place in the Constitution.

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There was no more reverence for Constitutional law in issuing greenbacks than there was in emancipating slaves. Both deeds were flagrantly illegal and in defiance of the Constitution.

And it may be, though we trust not, that in the uncertain future North Carolina will be again cursed by another legislature susceptible to the influence of money.

Col. P. Downan formerly of the New York Metropolitan Record, and more recently of the Lexington (Mo.) Caucus is now sole editor of the Raleigh Sentinel.

Col. A. M. Waddell member of Congress from the Wilmington district, has written two interesting letters to the Wilmington papers, in which he sides with the Ohio democracy, and takes the ground that Congress passed the act to resume specie payment, on the 1st of January 1875, for the purpose of embarrassing the democratic party.

REPUBLICAN SINCERITY.

During the late campaign the republican candidates and their friends professed a lively interest in behalf of the people, and were full of fears for the cost a convention would bring upon them.

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DEMOCRACY AND HARD MONEY.

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same power in time of peace, but there is no longer any question of constitutionality and it was hardly worth while for the Administration to pack the Supreme Court for the purpose of declaring the legal tender act to be constitutional.

"Constitutional or not, the paper money exists, and the currency issue is a mere question of expediency and possibility. The Democratic party is a hard money party in so far that it would never consent to the substitution of a paper currency for coin, if it were permitted to choose, but it is obliged to look facts in the face, to deal with affairs as it finds them.

The logical result of their plan is ruin. We have seen how ruinous have been their ineffectual efforts thus far, in the mere passage of the resumption bill, and we can judge the effect of continued contraction and of forced attempts to resume.

There is little needed in addition to this clear statement. The Republican have involved the country at large in financial distress by their issue of paper money and abrogation of the Constitution, and abrogation of making the best of a monstrous policy, they propose to repudiate their bantling and choke it to death.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION.

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY.

The ordinance to strike out sections 15, 16, and 17, art. 4 and insert the following was taken up;

"Sec. 1. The General Assembly shall have no power to deprive the judicial department of any power or jurisdiction which rightfully pertains to it as a co-ordinate department of the government; but the General Assembly shall allot and distribute that portion of this power and jurisdiction which does not pertain to the supreme court among the other courts prescribed in this constitution, or which may be established by law in such manner as it may deem best, provide also a proper system of appeals, and regulate by law when necessary, the modes of proceeding in the exercise of their powers, of all the courts below the supreme court, so far as the same may be done without conflict with other provisions of this constitution."

This ordinance under a suspension of the rules passed its second reading. Under a suspension of the rules an ordinance was passed amending art. 3 of the constitution by adding a section requiring the General Assembly to establish a department of agriculture, immigration statistics.

An ordinance, declaring that secret political societies are dangerous to the liberties of the people and should not be tolerated, passed its second reading. A resolution was adopted to pay Messrs. Norment and McNeill, the contestants from Robeson county, per diem and mileage up to the day when the case shall be decided.

The several justice of the peace shall have exclusive original jurisdiction, under such regulations as the General Assembly shall prescribe, of all civil action founded on contract, where in the suit demanded shall not exceed two hundred dollars and wherein the title to real estate shall not be in controversy; and of all criminal matters arising within their counties where the punishment cannot exceed a fine of fifty dollars, or imprisonment for one month.

This leaves the jurisdiction of magistrates which will thus have power to arrest and to be seized by the legislature, extend that jurisdiction as necessity or occasion may require.

After lengthy discussion all the propositions in regard to the special tax bonds and public debt were voted down.

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.

Some twenty members offered a protest to the action of the convention yesterday in allowing per diem and mileage to Norment and McNeill the claimants of seats from Robeson county. The protest was ordered spread upon the journal.

An ordinance for the financial relief of the people of the State introduced and referred.

[The ordinance provides that the state shall raise \$500,000, to be invested in U. S. bonds, and banks to be established in each county of the state, and money to be loaned to citizens upon good security and at reasonable rates].

A resolution in regard to completing the railroad from Old Fort to some point on the Tennessee line was introduced and referred. This resolution provides that all the available means of the state should be applied to complete this work, and that the General Assembly, ought to have it done.

A resolution instructing the principal clerk to prepare the journals of the convention after adjournment and to give him \$200 for his services.

On motion the rules were suspended, and the resolution was taken up and adopted.

There was a motion to reconsider the vote by which the substitute in regard to the special tax bonds was voted down yesterday. The substitute provides, in substance, that no legislature shall ever have power to levy any tax to pay either the principal or interest upon these bonds without first submitting the proposition to levy the tax ratified by them. The motion to reconsider was tabled by a vote of 52 to 49.

By Mr. Boyd: A resolution of instruction to the committee of the judicial department to inquire and report whether this convention has the power to require the treasurer to refund about \$20,000 of taxes to the county of Alabama of which it had been defrauded by an unconstitutional act of the General Assembly.

On motion of Mr. Boyd, the rules were suspended and the resolution was adopted.

By Mr. Manning of Chatham: An ordinance concerning the public debt. Referred. [The ordinance provides that the General Assembly shall not levy a tax to pay the public debt without first submitting the question to the people.] The ordinance to abrogate sections 15, 16, and 17 of art. 4 passed its final reading. Upon a motion to reconsider, the

republican side of the house commenced filibustering, and interposing all sorts of captious points of order, dilatory motions of every conceivable character, and motions to adjourn, pending this disorder the Convention took a recess till 4 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention called to order at 4 o'clock. The question was the reconsideration of the vote by which the ordinance passed striking out sections 15, 16, and 17. Here ensued on the part of the republicans the most disorderly scenes of filibustering. All sorts of irrelevant motions were made,—frivolous points of order were raised and debated in the most disorderly manner—appeals from the Chair in every decision almost was taken, and every possible thing was done to create delay and hinder the business of the Convention.

The substitute reported by the Committee on Suffrage and Eligibility to Office for ordinances No. 39 and 292 was considered. It requires ninety days' residence before a person can vote, and prohibits any person convicted of felony or other infamous crime from voting.

Pending the consideration of this measure the convention adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a. m.

TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY.

The ordinance to amend section 1 art. 6, in reference to disfranchising felons, convicted hereafter, and making 90 days residence in a county necessary for voting was taken up. Here the republicans commenced filibustering, and numbers of motions to adjourn to various days and various times were made.

Mr. Turner presented a petition from citizens of Wake against paying special tax and penitentiary bonds, and asking the passage of an accompanying ordinance to that effect. It provides that the question of paying these bonds shall be submitted to the people as a separate amendment.

Mr. Turner moved to suspend the rules and put the ordinance on its second reading. The yeas and nays were called and the motion failed by a vote of yeas 60, nays 42, it requiring 61, a majority of the whole number of delegates. The petition and ordinance went on the calendar.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Ordinance giving the legislature power to remove judges under certain circumstances, and judges the power to remove clerks of the Superior Court passed its third reading.

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY.

Mr. Turner presented a petition from citizens of Wake against paying special tax and penitentiary bonds, and asking the passage of an accompanying ordinance to that effect. It provides that the question of paying these bonds shall be submitted to the people as a separate amendment.

Mr. Turner moved to suspend the rules and put the ordinance on its second reading. The yeas and nays were called and the motion failed by a vote of yeas 60, nays 42, it requiring 61, a majority of the whole number of delegates. The petition and ordinance went on the calendar.

Resolution introduced to adjourn on the 18th of this month.

By Mr. Thorpe, an ordinance abolishing all moral religions and sexual bars to suffrage and office.

Mr. Boyd moved to suspend the rules and take up his resolution instructing the Committee on Judicial department to prepare and report a suitable ordinance declaring that the general assembly shall not have power to levy a tax to pay special tax and penitentiary bonds, without first submitting it to the people. The yeas and nays were called and the motion to suspend the rules was carried by a vote of yeas 63 nays 41.

Resolution was adopted.

The ordinance to amend section 1 art. 6, in relation to suffrage and eligibility to office came up on its third reading. (We published the ordinance upon its second reading.) The negroes in the convention spoke against it. Crosby col. said that the negroes were a power in this land and would remain so. Dockery, Barringer and Badger also opposed the ordinance in speeches.

The various pending amendments were voted down and the question recurred on the ordinance on its third reading.

The question was divided and it recurred on the first proposition, the 90 days residence, the yeas and nays were called and it was adopted by a vote of yeas 57, nays 49.

Question recurred upon the second proposition of the ordinance, the disfranchisement on account of conviction of an infamous crime, and it passed.

Question recurred upon the passage of the ordinance as a whole on its third and final reading. Yeas and nays were called and it passed by a vote of yeas 58, nays 49. Convention took a recess to 4.30 P. M.

TWENTY-NINTH DAY.

Ordinance to amend article 7 of the constitution by an additional section, was taken up as the unfinished business. The proposed section reads in substance as follows:

Sec. 14. The general assembly shall have full power by statute to modify change or abridge any or all the provisions of this article, and substitute others in their place, except sections 11 and 18.

(This is a substitute for the original report of the committee on municipal corporations, introduced by Mr. Shepherd, of Beaufort and adopted yesterday afternoon.)

Question was on second reading. An amendment offered provided that township officers shall be elected as now.

It provides in substance, that it shall be the duty of the legislature to provide for the government and organization of cities, towns and incorporated villages, and to restrict their power of taxation, assessments, borrowing money, contracting debts, and loaning their credit so as to prevent abuses in assessments and in contracting debts by such municipal corporations; and further provides that the legislature shall regulate all county government.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Ordinance in relation to jurisdiction of magistrates was amended, giving the right of appeal in all cases decided by justices of the peace, and extending their jurisdiction to civil actions other than those founded on contract where the value of property in controversy does not exceed \$50.00. The ordinance thus amended passed its final reading.

The convention refused to suspend the rules to consider resolution in regard to the Western North Carolina Railroad for the reason that restriction contained in oath taken by members prevented any legislation upon this subject. Convention also refused to suspend rules to consider an ordinance relating to the disabilities of Gov. Holden.

Ordinance to add three sections to article 4 of the constitution, so as to provide for the removal of judges by the legislature and clerks of the courts by the judges.

Mr. Jarvis called the previous question, which was sustained.

The ordinance then passed its second reading by a vote of 58 to 33.

Mr. Badger asked that substitute striking out sections 26 and 27, article 4 of the constitution be read. The substitute provides that judges be elected by the people. passed its second reading.

THIRTIETH DAY.

Committee on judicial department reported that it was of opinion that the convention had no power to grant divorces. Ordinance introduced to establish salaries of state officers, &c. Referred.

Petition of grand jury of Wake county, asking that legislature hereafter be prohibited from paying special tax bonds without first submitting question to the people.

The following ordinances passed their several readings.

Ordinance to amend section 1, art. 9.

Ordinance to strike out sec. 31, art. 9, and add additional section.

Ordinance that officers of such inferior courts as may be established by law, are to be elected in a manner to be prescribed by law.

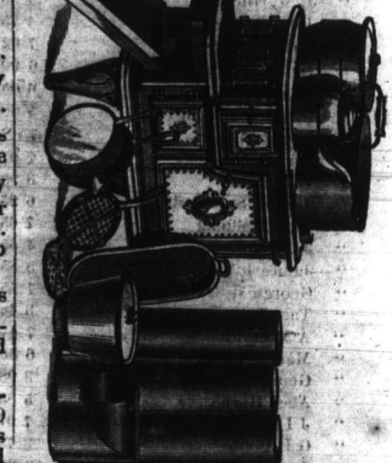
Ordinance prohibiting marriage between white persons and negro persons to the third generation.

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