

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Monday, Dec. 19.—Mr. Chambers introduced a bill to provide for the payment to the States therein named, of interest for advances made by them to the United States during the last war, which was read twice and referred. The election of officers of the Senate, having been gone into, in pursuance of the resolution of the 13th instant, Walter Lowry was re-elected Secretary, having received 40 out of 41 votes; and Montjoy Bayley was re-elected Sergeant-at-Arms and Doorkeeper, having received 34 of 36 votes. Mr. Shackford was elected assistant Doorkeeper on the sixth ballot; and the Rev. Mr. Durbin was elected Chaplain on the second ballot.

Tuesday, Dec. 20.—An interesting debate took place on the consideration of the report of the Committee of Finance on the memorials from New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Pittsburg, relative to a reduction of the duties on teas, in which Messrs. Webster, Smith, Clay, Hayne and Chambers took part. The report was finally laid on the table.

Wednesday, Dec. 21.—The resolution submitted on Tuesday by Mr. Holmes, calling on the President for information relative to the trade between the United States and the British West Indies, came up in course for consideration, and after a few remarks from Messrs. Webster, Holmes and Smith, was laid on the table on motion of Mr. Smith, who stated that he should call it up to-morrow.

Thursday, Dec. 22.—The resolution offered by Mr. Holmes, calling on the President of the United States for information in relation to the trade in the British West India colonies &c., were adopted. The bill to provide for the extinguishment of Indian title to land in the State of the Indiana, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Friday, Dec. 23.—Mr. Benton introduced a bill to reduce the price of the public Lands. The bill to provide for the extinguishment of Indian title to land in the State of Illinois and Territory of Michigan, was passed.

The Senate then adjourned over to Tuesday next.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, Dec. 19.—Mr. Dabridge, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported on the petitions of certain citizens of Pennsylvania, on the subject of slavery in the District, requesting to be discharged from a further consideration of that part of it which relates to the abolition of slavery. The House agreed to the report and resolution, and the Committee was accordingly discharged. A variety of resolutions were afterwards introduced, the most important of which was one by Mr. Dearborn, instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to enquire into the expediency of exempting from duty, tea, coffee, wines, pepper, spice, indigo, and wool, under certain limitations, (when the current market price of such wool shall not exceed in the United States, twelve cents per pound.) Mr. Dearborn subsequently modified his resolution by changing the reference to the Committee on Manufactures, a debate ensued, in the course of which Messrs. Hoffman, Dearborn, McDuffie, Lewis, Condict, Cambreleng, Elliott, of Massachusetts, Adams and Wayne, addressed the House. The discussion was arrested by the expiration of the hour.

Tuesday, Dec. 20.—Mr. McDuffie, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill explanatory of the act to reduce the duties on tea, coffee, and cocoa, which was also read twice and committed. The memorial of the President and Directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, praying an amendment to their charter, and an increase of aid, was ordered to be printed. Mr. Dearborn withdrew his resolution for the reduction of the duties on tea, wines, spices, &c.; and after the presentation of several other resolutions, upon the question of the reference of one of which a long debate ensued, the House adjourned.

Wednesday, Dec. 21.—Mr. Carson of North Carolina, moved the following resolution: Resolved, That the Committee on the District of Columbia be instructed to report a bill to provide for the election of a Delegate, in the said District, to the House of Representatives of the United States, with the right to debate on any question relating to the interests of said District. Which resolution, after some trivial modification, was agreed to.

Resolved, That the Committee on Internal Improvement be directed to inquire into the expediency of continuing the acts of incorporation granted by the Legislature of North Carolina to the Roanoke Inlet Company, in 1821 and 1829. And that said committee be directed to inquire into the expediency of surveying said Roanoke Inlet, with a view of reopening the same, and that the papers now before the Committee of Commerce be referred to the Committee of Internal Improvement.

Thursday, Dec. 22.—A petition was presented by Mr. Bates, from citizens of Massachusetts, praying the abolition of Slavery and the Slave Trade within the District of Columbia. Bills were reported for the establishment of an Assay Office in the gold region of the Southern States, and for making further provision for the relief of distressed American seamen in foreign countries.

Friday, Dec. 23.—Bills were reported for the organization of the Ordnance Department and of the Corps of Topographical Engineers; and making appropriations for the support of Government for the year 1832. Mr. Carson, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of the widow of Commodore Stephen Decatur. The House adjourned over to Tuesday next.

State Legislature.

SENATE.

Thursday, Dec. 22.—On motion of Mr. Ginn, the Committee on the Judiciary were instructed to enquire into the constitutionality of taxing any Estate in lands and tenements less than a freehold; and whether the holders of certificates legally authenticated by the Commissioners appointed by virtue of the law of this State, are freeholders within the meaning of the Constitution.

The engrossed Bill to repeal an Act, passed in 1830, to amend an act to alter the time of holding two of the Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Lincoln county, was read the second time, amended and passed, and ordered to be enrolled.

Some time was spent in the consideration of the Bank Bill, during which considerable discussion ensued, but no question was taken.

Friday, Dec. 23.—Bills presented.—By Mr. Elliott, giving longer time to register grants of land, in this State, deeds of means conveyances, &c. By Mr. Massey, to incorporate the Charlotte Engine Company. These Bills were read the first time.

Mr. Brownrigg, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom a Resolution on the subject was referred, reported a Bill to prevent Slaves from attending General Reviews, Regimental Battalion and Company Musters, Camp meetings and Election grounds. Read the first time.

The Bank Bill was again taken up, and discussed, and after various amendments had been proposed and agreed to, it passed its second reading 38 to 27. The Ayes and Noes being demanded by Mr. Moxe of Pitt, were as follows:—

For its passage. Messrs. Allen, Bell, Brownrigg, Caldwell, Cooper of Martin, Cowper of Gates, Davonport, Dishop, Dabson, Gilmore, Ginn, Hibb, Hall, Hoke, Hoover, Kendall, McDaniel, McEntyre, McFarland, Marshall of Anson, Martin of Rockingham, Matthews, Massey, Montgomery of Orange, Parham, Pool, Rafter, Sherard, Skinner, Tyson, Underwood, Vaphook and Wilson.

Against it. Messrs. Askew, Bateman, Brittain, Campbell, Dick, Elliott, Hawkins, Hayley, Howell, Kerr, Marshall of Carteret, Martin of Wilkes, Melhor, Montgomery of Hertford, Mosely, Moxe of Green, Moxe of Pitt, Ray, Rowland, Spaight, Seawell, Selby, Simmons, Sneed, Thompson, Toomer and Williams.

Saturday, Dec. 24.—Bills presented. By Mr. Hawkins, to incorporate the Catawba Gold Mine Company. Read the first time.

Mr. Seawell, from the joint select committee on that part of the Governor's Message relating to Slaves, &c. reported a bill which had its first reading for the better regulation of the conduct of free negroes and slaves.

Mr. Kerr submitted the following Preamble and Resolution, which were read and adopted:—

WHEREAS, many acts of malicious mischief have been recently committed by slaves or free persons of color, on the horses and cattle of some of the citizens of Caswell; and whereas, it is believed, that the said outrages were the consequence of a vigilant and faithful performance of duty on the part of the Patrol in the due execution of the law; and whereas doubts exist as to the punishment prescribed by law for such offences, and also as to the adequacy of the punishment for the suppression of the evils. Be it resolved, that the subject be referred to the joint select committee on that part of the Governor's Message, which relates to Slaves, &c. with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The Bank Bill passed its third reading 32 to 29, and was ordered to be engrossed.

Monday, Dec. 26.—Mr. Seawell, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a Bill altering the laws in respect to the allotment of widow's dower. [Provides that five Commissioners shall be a competent number to lay off Widow's dower.] This Bill was read the first time.

On motion of Mr. McFarland,

Resolved, That the Committee of Finance be instructed to enquire into the expediency of compelling all persons in the State to give in all the stock owned by them in Bank or Company Corporations, at a fair valuation, under the same rules as govern other tangible property.

Tuesday, Dec. 27.—Mr. Sneed, from the Committee of Finance, to whom was referred the resolution instructing them to enquire into the expediency of compelling all persons in the State to give in all the Stock, owned by them in Bank or Company Corporations, at a fair valuation, reported that it is inexpedient to legislate upon the subject—in which Report the Senate concurred.

Mr. Sneed, from the same Committee, to whom was referred the Resolution advising a transfer of the claim of the State against the United States, when collected, to the Literary Fund, reported that legislation upon the subject is inexpedient. Concurred in.

Mr. Sneed, from the same Committee, made a report adverse to the passage of the Bill, referred to them, for the relief of the citizens of this State. The Bill was laid upon the table.

Wednesday, Dec. 28.—The most important matters transacted in the Senate, were the presentation, by Mr. Dick, of sundry resolutions to the call of a Convention, a duplicate of which will be found in the proceedings of the House of Commons of that day.

Mr. Dishough also presented sundry Resolutions in relation to the Tariff, denouncing it as unconstitutional and oppressive, and proposing to instruct our Senators and request our Representatives to use their best efforts to obtain a modification of it. [We will publish these hereafter, being compelled on account of the great length of the Convention Resolutions, to omit a more detailed account of the business transacted on this day.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, Dec. 22.—Mr. Folk, from the committee of Pensions and Grievances, reported a favorably on the petition of sundry citizens of Mecklenburg and Anson, for the erection of a new County out of part of those counties. Concurred in.

Mr. Webb, from the same committee to whom was referred a petition and counter petition, in relation to the opening of Crane Creek in Rowan county, reported that the subject matter is not worthy of legislative interferences, and prayed to be discharged from the further consideration thereof. Concurred in.

Mr. Nicholann, from the committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to repeal the act passed in 1827, reducing the number of petty musters to two in a year.—Read the first time.

The House then proceeded to the unfinished business of yesterday, being the consideration of the bill appropriating money for rebuilding the Cape Fear Bridge. Mr. Leak took the floor in opposition to the bill and was followed by Mr. Beagy in favor of the measure. He was succeeded by Mr. McQueen in opposition to the bill and was followed by Mr. Long in favor. Mr. Haywood then rose in reply to the opposition who had preceded him in opposition to the bill. When Mr. Haywood had concluded, Mr. Gaston rose and spoke at great length, in favor of the appropriation. At near 5 o'clock, on motion of Mr. Henry, the House adjourned.

Friday, Dec. 23.—Bills presented. By Mr. Leake, to amend the act of 1830, to prevent obstructions to the passage of fish up the Pedee and main Yadkin Rivers. By Mr. Mebane, to establish a Bank, by the name and style of the President and Directors of the Bank of Albemarle. [Provisions similar to the proposed Farmers' and Merchants' Banks.] By Mr. Bonner, to extend the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace. [Gives them jurisdiction of all cases under \$200.]—By Mr. Barringer, to incorporate the Cabarrus Gold Mining Company. These bills were read the first time.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Governor, covering the Annual Report of the Trustees of the University. The Governor informs the Legislature, officially, in his message that the Trustees of that Institution have declined accepting the loan of the State on the conditions prescribed by the Act of last session.—There are five vacancies in the Board to be filled by the Legislature at the present session.

The House proceeded to the unfinished business of yesterday, being the Appropriation Bill. Mr. Henry rose in opposition and spoke for about three hours.—He was followed by Mr. O'Brien, who advocated the measure. The debate was closed by Mr. Gaston, in reply principally to Mr. Henry. The question on the passage of the bill, at its second reading, was taken about dark, and resulted in its rejection, by a vote of 68 to 65.

Those who voted for the bill, were: Messrs. Arrington, Beckwith, Bell, Boddie, Bonner, Bragg, Broadhurst, Chambliss, Cherry, Colman, Cox, Crump, Daniel, Davis, Dozer, Flowers, Freeman, Gillespie, Glenn, Grandy, Gaston, Harper, Haywood, Hartley, Houdier, Howell, Hunt, Jackson, Jarvis, J. B. Jones, J. P. Jones, Jenkins, Long, Moody, Moore, McQueen, Nelson, Nicholson, Outlaw, O'Brien, Pittman, Rand, Riddick, Robertson, Sanders, Sawyer, Sauser, Simmons, Singleton, J. H. Skinner, J. M. Skinner, Speight, Spruill, Stallner, J. M. Swanner, L. Thompson, Hogg, Semper, Swanner, L. Thompson, G. A. Thompson, Toole, Townsend, Wilson, A. W. Wooten, C. Wyche.—65.

Those who voted against the bill, were: Messrs. Abernathy, Allison, Barclay, Batringer, Bogle, Brevard, Brooks, Burt, Callaway, Canler, Clayton, Courts, Cummingham, Davidson, Doherty, Edmondson, Emmett, Faddie, Fleming, Garland Gause, Glass, Gwyn, Hart, Henry, Hill, Hogan, Larkins, Laspeyre, Leake, Little, Lyon, Mark, Melbane, Miller, Monk Morris, M'Crin, M'Laurin, M'Lean, M'Milian, M'Neil, M'Queen, Pearson, Peoples, Petty, Polk, Powell, Seawell, Settle, Sherwood, Sloan, Smith, Stephens, Tatham, Thomas, J. B. Thompson, Wadsworth, Watson, Weaver, Webb, Whitaker, Wepetoo, Wicher, Worth, W. Wright, W. J. Wright.—68.

Resolved, That the Committee of Finance be instructed to enquire into the expediency of compelling all persons in the State to give in all the stock owned by them in Bank or Company Corporations, at a fair valuation, under the same rules as govern other tangible property.

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Saturday, Dec. 24.—Bills Presented. By Mr. Outlaw, to incorporate the Bertie Legion. By Mr. Daddie, to encourage the publication of a History of North Carolina. [Provides that Judge Murphy, who is engaged in compiling a History of the State, may raise by way of lottery for the purpose of enabling him to complete the same, the sum of \$50,000.]—By Mr. O'Brien, to exempt from execution, growing crops, and to secure to debtors a certain portion of the same after they have been severed from the freehold.

The Bill to abolish the punishment of cutting off the ears, was read the second time. Mr. Pearson moved that said Bill be indefinitely postponed. On this motion, considerable debate arose, but it was ultimately rejected 44 to 57, and the Bill was ordered to its third reading.

Monday, Dec. 30.—Petition Presented. By Mr. Mebane, of sundry citizens of Orange, in relation to the establishment of a central Rail Road. Read, laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Bills presented. By Mr. Doherty, to incorporate the Charlotte Gold Mining Company. By Mr. Singleton, for revising and digesting the law of Executors and Administrators. [Authorizes the Governor to appoint some competent person to revise and digest the law on this subject, to be laid before the next Legislature.]

Tuesday, Dec. 27.—Mr. Gaston, from the Committee on the Judiciary, who were instructed to enquire into the expediency of amending the Act of 1826, so as to limit further the period within which Trespassers, Misdemeanors and other offences shall be prosecuted, reported that the Committee believe it inexpedient to alter the said Act in the manner suggested—which report was concurred in.

The Bill to amend the 5th section of an Act, passed in 1816, Ch. 912, for the more speedy trial of Slaves, in capital cases, was read the third time and passed, Yeas 65, Nays 58.

The Bill to appoint a Superintendent of Public Works was taken up, considered, and passed its third reading.

The engrossed Bill to establish a Bank on the funds of the State, was read the first time. Mr. Boddie moved that said Bill be indefinitely postponed. On this motion, considerable debate arose, but it was ultimately carried, Yeas 64 Nays 62.

Wednesday, Dec. 28.—Mr. Whitaker, of Macon, presented, the following Preamble and Resolutions which were read, ordered to be printed, and made the order of the day for Tuesday next:—

WHEREAS, many of the good people of North Carolina entertain the opinion that the Constitution of the State is defective in some of its fundamental provisions, and requires amendment; more especially in the present mode of Representation, which instead of being on the just and equitable basis of taxation and population, is according to counties, unequal in size and greatly disproportionate in wealth and numbers:—

Resolved, That the Committee of Finance be instructed to enquire into the expediency of compelling all persons in the State to give in all the stock owned by them in Bank or Company Corporations, at a fair valuation, under the same rules as govern other tangible property.

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