

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

(Continued from the News and Observer)

The Legislature has refused to pass the bill appropriating funds for the York town celebration. Congress has made an appropriation, others of the old thirteen States have given funds and we believe the French government has made an allowance for the French military who will visit this country on that occasion; but North Carolina cannot do likewise. Our Legislators are too zealous for the interest of the people. It is far too extravagant to give the small sum of three thousand dollars to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the most important victory of the revolutionary war.

The Democratic party is actually so afraid of doing something the Republicans want like that it cannot even spend three thousand dollars to maintain the respectability of the State.

A State official in New Jersey, who has been in prison for corruption as a public officer, procured the passage of a bill through the Legislature to pardon him. The Governor vetoed the bill, giving his reasons there for, and the New York Herald speaking of the veto, says:

The action of the Governor deserves commendation. There is no class of criminals who deserves punishment more severely than those who use their places as public officers to cheat and rob the people. And yet there is no class for whom sympathy is more apt to be felt. They have friends, associates, interests—persons whom they have befriended. They are "good fellows" and talk in tears about wives and children. But, on the other hand, they are men of intelligence, who have been highly honored. Their station aggravates their crime.

The Governor of New Jersey deserves commendation for his manly, wholesome words.

We publish this that our people may see what is thought of such matters in other places. North Carolina is not the only State that has punished malfeasance in office, but it seems to be the only one in which any great number of people want to pardon such criminals.

The Legislature has refused to establish criminal courts although more courts are much needed in some parts of the State. A plan is or will be before that body for increasing the number of Superior Courts Judges and Districts. We care not particularly what plan is adopted so some relief is given, but rather preferred the criminal courts. The Republican party created twelve judicial circuits and a judge and solicitor for each. The Democrats came into power and said this number was too large. The expenses of the government must be retrenched in every possible way; and they reduced the number of Districts to nine. That was one of the many things done to lessen the flow of money from the State treasury. Now they want to restore the original number of Districts. We are not at the centre and cannot tell what are the plans or motives of the party, but it seems to us that the Legislature does not give very mature deliberation to the bills which are brought before them. The members of that body with some exceptions do not seem to be in sympathy with the people.

GARFIELD in his actions and words since his election has, without saying so positively, fore-shadowed a policy of conciliation and friendly feeling for the South. Mr. Garfield may wish to pursue this course, but he has not the power. He will be overpowered by his advisors. The Cabinet, no matter which faction of the New York Republicans had favor with the President will be composed chiefly of slaveholders. Blaine who is conceded by all to be Secretary of State is and always has been a bitter enemy of the South and will as a consequence of his position have much to do with shaping the policy of the administration. Besides this whole course of the Republican party shows that it will not brook any overtures towards the South. The machine men in all the Northern States are stalwarts and the machine men are always successful. Crippling the control of Pennsylvania are all powerful notwithstanding the boasted independence of the new Senator from the latter State. And lately the opposition to the appointment of an ex-confederate soldier as assistant marshal for the inauguration ceremonies shows the feeling of the Republican party.

Those at the South who hope for an era of good will and fellowship between the North and South during the next four years are in our opinion destined to be disappointed. We do not expect it ourselves and advise others not to be over sanguine. The Republicans have control and intend to keep it and to do so they will keep up the bloody shirt doctrine notwithstanding that garment is faded blue.

SENATE

Mr. Newcomb: Bill to appropriate \$500 to the Old Roanoke Institute, situated at Weldon.

Mr. Faison: Resolution of sympathy for Ireland.

House bill 27, Senate bill—authorizing the employment of convict labor on the public highways and on the streets of cities and towns, passed third reading—yeas 31, nays 0.

Senate bill 264, in relation to the execution of prisoners in capital felonies, was tabled.

HOUSE

A bill was reported favorably by the Judiciary committee in favor of establishing criminal courts.

Mr. Hynes: To prevent bribery at elections by giving intoxicating liquors while a candidate. Referred.

Senate bill with regard to digesting the statute laws of the State was put on its third reading.

Mr. Bedson offered an amendment to strike out the name of W. T. Durich and insert the name of W. P. Bynum.

Mr. Rose called for the previous question, and the call was sustained.

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 23 J.

The school bill was amended and adopted in committee of the whole. And the bill then passed its second reading.

The resolution appropriating \$9000 to be expended in the York town celebration was tabled.

HOUSE

Mr. Day: Bill to revive and renew the charter of the Roanoke and Company.

Mr. Green, of Craven: To allow females of the age of 18 to vote on all questions of prohibition. Referred.

Mr. Hellman: For the better protection of creditors.

Mr. Carter: To increase the number of Justices in the several counties of the State. Calendar.

Mr. Hastings: To increase the number of Superior Courts Justices to twelve. Referred.

Bill to codify the laws passed its third reading.

SENATE

THURSDAY, Feb. 24th.

The bill to revise and consolidate the public school law, and to make more efficient the system of education in this State, was placed on its third reading.

Mr. Davidson stated that inasmuch as it seemed to be the settled view of the Senate to make changes in this bill, he moved the Senate take a recess of a few minutes for the sake of hearing the views of the Superintendent of Public Instruction upon the subject.

On account of the objection of certain Senators the motion was withdrawn.

Amendments were offered to section 9 by Mr. Gleas, providing that the county board of education shall determine the books to be used instead of the State board, as approved in the bill.

Mr. Finger: That the State Board of Education shall recommend a series of text books to be used in the public schools when adopted by the county board of education. Adopted.

Section 62—Amendment was proposed by Mr. Finger fixing the rate of taxation at 12 cents on property and 37 on the poll. This amendment provoked a good deal of discussion.

Messrs. Finger, Merritt, Whitaker and Mebane favored the amendment. Messrs. Luskhart, York and Richardson opposed it. The amendment was adopted.

Several amendments were offered by Messrs. Williamson, of Edgecombe and Carke, increasing the salaries of the teachers, which were lost.

The bill as amended passed its third reading by a vote 49 to 2.

A motion was made to reconsider and lay that motion on the table, which prevailed.

HOUSE

Mr. Sewell: To compel parents to send children to school. Referred.

The bill establishing the maximum rate of freight and fares was taken up as unfinished business and after much discussion was tabled.

House bill 335, introduced by Mr. Thomas, was put on its second reading. It provides for the election of three commissioners every two years, who shall have power to regulate freights and fares.

The bill after much discussion and many amendments was passed.

SENATE

FRIDAY, Feb. 25th.

Mr. Battle: From certain citizens of Warren county, asking the appointment of Mr. W. M. C. Drake justice of the peace.

Mr. Cunningham: Position of certain citizens of Warren county against the new county of Vance.

Mr. Tucker: Bill to prohibit the sale and manufacture of spirituous liquor within the State. This bill was offered as a substitute for all preceding bills upon this subject. Ordered to be printed. Referred.

HOUSE

Mr. Smedes, by consent, presented a petition from citizens of Warren asking a no fence law; and from the grand jury of Wake against criminal districts in the State.

House bill to establish three criminal districts in North Carolina was put on its second reading.

On motion of Mr. Bedson, the bill was recommitted to the Judiciary committee, with instruction to report a bill providing for an increase of judges.

Senate bill to donate an acre of State land to the Shaw University for the purpose of erecting a colored medical college. Several gentlemen made remarks in favor of this bill, and Mr. Gettry opposed it, and called for the

yeas and nays, after which the bill passed by a vote of 66 to 2.

SENATE

SATURDAY, Feb. 25th.

Mr. Dutch: Bill to encourage the investment of foreign capital in the State. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Whitaker, Senate bill 401 was taken up, bill to incorporate the Bank of Halifax. An amendment was proposed by the committee, making stockholders liable in twice the amount of their stock. This amendment was opposed by Mr. Whitaker as being an innovation in granting such charters in this State. The amendment was lost. The bill passed its second and third readings.

On motion of Mr. Whitaker, the bill to increase justices of the peace was reconsidered, that he might add an amendment increasing them in Halifax county.

Mr. Williamson offered an amendment increasing them in Davie county. Adopted. Passed third reading.

HOUSE

Mr. Bowman, for prohibition, reported unfavorably on the bill to submit the question of prohibition to the people.

Mr. Bowman, for the joint committee on prohibition, reported a bill to regulate the sale of liquors in this State. The bill was read at length and made the special order for Monday at 12 m.

SENATE

MONDAY, Feb. 28th.

Bill to establish Durham county passed its third reading.

A bill in relation to the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind passed second and third readings.

House bill 282, Senate bill 448, in relation to scales, weights and measures, passed second and third readings.

House bill 102, Senate bill 385, to amend chapter 325 of the laws of 1879, to provide a fund for the payment of jurors.

House bill—, to empower county surveyors and their deputies to administer oaths, passed its second and third readings.

House bill 305, Senate 504, to prohibit the sale of ardent spirits to minors, passed its second reading. The bill makes the dealer responsible for all damage done. Passed third reading.

HOUSE

SPECIAL ORDER

was Senate bill to regulate the sale of liquors in this State.

After several amendments had been sent forward, Mr. Bowman called for the previous question. The call was not sustained.

Mr. Bedson moved to indefinitely postpone, and address the House on the merits of the bill. The bill strikes directly at the common school system of the State. Although the bill was entitled an "Act to regulate the sale of liquors," it was simply prohibition in its strongest form. He was opposed to it entirely.

Mr. Bowman thought the question resolved itself into one item, viz: whether liquor dealing re-founded to the benefit of the State and the citizens thereof, and he was willing to risk the success of the bill on that proposition. The bill simply provided that those who danced must pay the fiddler. Had studied the matter thoroughly and was prepared to do his duty, and hoped each and every member on the floor would do the same and do it at once.

Mr. Grainger moved to amend by correcting certain typographical errors and omissions, and addressed himself to the bill. He had studied the matter well, and, in fact, had prepared most of the bill under discussion. He stated that an absolute prohibitory law, to be submitted to the people would be reported during the week. He then spoke to the details of the bill. If the present General Assembly did pass this bill they would be blessed by future generations.

Mr. Glenn, of Stokes, sent forward several amendments, and stated that though his amendments might be voted down, he would vote for the bill at its final passage, although in doing so he signed his own political doom, as his constituents were opposed to anything approaching prohibition. The committee were mistaken if they thought that a high tax would keep all persons from going into the business. Dealers did not pay the high tax; it was the consumer who paid it, and his wife and children who suffered from it.

Mr. Day approved of the bill in all its provisions. It was a clearly cut and defined issue between the fraternal part of man and the women and children of the State, and in such an issue he was, regardless of consequences, on the side of his mother, his sister and his wife. This is the first step in the right direction, and he supported it with all his soul and all his heart.

Mr. Manning believed that this legislation was in the right direction and would do much good, though not much as its particular friends thought. If there was not a public sentiment behind this law, it was worthless and would accomplish nothing; but he believed public sentiment was in favor of the bill. He did not have any fears for the political effect upon himself or his party. He knew that whatever good ever came to this country must come from the Democratic party.

Mr. Page thought it would be as right to legislate against hardware merchants who sold deadly weapons as against the liquor dealer. He believed he would best do his duty to his people by voting against the bill, which he intended to do.

Mr. Bowman here called the previous question, which was sustained.

The motion to indefinitely postpone failed, and all the amendments except Mr. Grainger's, which simply corrected the typography, were voted down, and the bill passed its second reading by a vote of 67 yeas to 34 nays.

Mr. Day introduced a bill to establish a criminal district in North Carolina. Calendar.

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