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RALEIGH LETTER

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS AND OTHER MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Since the passage of the Commission bill which forbids the acceptance of passes by the State official a law has been passed allowing to each of the Supreme and Superior court judges two hundred and fifty dollars a year travelling expenses. This is an extra drain upon the treasury of three thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars. It was eminently proper that this should be done. The Supreme court judges were included because it was not thought good policy to force them to live in Raleigh. Those who already live in Raleigh get that much extra, it is true, but there could be no discrimination.

The House refused to pass the bill appropriating \$2,000 to furnish the Governor's mansion.

The committee which had charge of the Senatorial districts under the new apportionment have made their report and it will be adopted with possibly a few minor changes. Halifax county remains as it is now—with one senator and two representatives.

The bill creating the county of Bill Saunders has been tabled in the Senate.

A law has been enacted to reduce the limits of the Littleton school district from four to three miles. This was done at the instance of the superintendent of Public Instruction of Warren county.

The revenue bill has passed. There are few changes of material importance. The tax on liquor dealers has been raised from one-half to one per cent on purchases; the Seaboard and Roanoke and Raleigh and Gaston railroads are required to pay the tax of twenty-five cents a share—the former for eight or ten years past, and the merchants purchase tax remains unchanged. The committee decided that no change in the manner of assessing this tax was advisable and it was impossible to do without it. I have reason to believe that an effort will be made to test its constitutionality. Indeed it is reported that a fund of nearly twenty five hundred dollars has already been raised for that purpose. If the courts should decide in favor of the merchants the State would lose annually between thirty and thirty-five thousand dollars.

The new law just passed prohibits the dredging of oysters. It is claimed that there is an area of about six hundred acres in Pamlico sound which cannot be reached by tongs and this supplies seed for the whole sound, and if they are broken up by dredgers the entire industry will be ruined. The oyster canners say that the tongs cannot supply them in sufficient quantities and they will have to close their factories, or at least some of them.

A bill which has passed both houses forbids the sale of cigarettes to minors.

The bill incorporating the town of Hobbogood has become a law.

The dog bill has been tabled in the House. It was the first bill of the kind ever reported to a North Carolina Legislature favorably by a committee. It provided for a tax of fifty cents on male and one dollar on female dogs annually but exempt those kept in inclosures. The vote was 38 to 31.

Senator Bowers presented a petition asking that magistrates be paid for their services, also one asking that the stock law for Halifax county be repealed. He has also introduced a bill to repeal the annual appropriation of \$10,000 to the Oxford Orphan Asylum.

The penitentiary appropriation has been settled. The appropriation given this institution two years ago was \$75,000 a year. Of this amount about \$40,000 was used to pay bills incurred before the present Board took charge. At the end of the last fiscal year, December 1, there was an unexpended balance to the credit of the penitentiary which amounted to \$35,000. These two sums subtracted from the appropriation of \$150,000 for the two years shows the cost of

institution to have been \$75,000 for that period. This does not include the earnings of the institution during that time which have been covered into the treasury. The bill which has passed both houses appropriates to the use of the penitentiary for the next two years the unexpended portion of the appropriation of two years ago (\$34,644), the earnings for the two years (\$34,644) and the earnings paid in since December 1st, (\$15,210,) total \$84,498. Of this amount about \$35,000 has already been paid from the treasury, so that for the next two years only about \$49,498 will have to be taken from the treasury for this institution. But it can all be drawn at once if the Board so desires. In addition to this the earnings for the ensuing two years will be placed to the credit of the Board instead of being covered into the general fund as heretofore. The proposition to issue bonds to the amount of \$200,000 for a working capital for the Board was rejected by the committee.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION LAW.

The railroad commission bill has at last become a law and the Legislature will on Thursday elect the commissioners provided for by the bill. I give you a synopsis of the more important features of the bill:

Section 1. The Legislature shall elect three commissioners (no member of this Legislature being eligible) whose terms of office are to begin on the first of April next, and continue for six years; the terms of office of the first commissioners shall be for two, four and six years respectively. In case of a vacancy the Governor shall appoint a successor until the next session of the Legislature. The commissioners are not to own any stock in any corporation which comes within the operation of the act, nor be the agent, attorney or employe of such corporation and no person is eligible to the office who shall have been the attorney of any such corporation within twelve months next preceding his election.

Section 2. The salary of the commissioners shall be \$2,000 a year; the salary of the clerk is \$1,200 and office, furniture and stationery are to be furnished by the State. Their office is to be at Raleigh and two constitute a quorum. The commissioners are given power to administer oaths.

Section 3. If any railroad company doing business in the State shall charge or collect more than a fair and reasonable compensation for transporting passengers or freight the same shall be deemed guilty of extortion and fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000 to be recovered as provided for in section 7.

Section 4. If any common carrier directly or indirectly any device charge or collect a greater or less compensation from one person than another for the same service under similar circumstances such common carrier shall be deemed guilty of unjust discrimination, which is prohibited and declared unlawful. It is also unlawful to give one person, firm, corporation or locality any preference or advantage over others. The penalty is a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000.

Section 5. The commissioners shall make reasonable and just rates for freight and passengers or cause the same to be furnished the railroads. In making such rates the actual value of the employed capital, the earnings and the cost of operating shall be considered, unless the railroads refuse to furnish the necessary information. They shall also make reasonable and just rules and regulations to be observed by the railroads as to charges at stations for handling and delivering freight, and to prevent unjust discrimination in transporting freight and passengers.

Section 6 contains the provisions of the inter State commerce act relative to long and short hauls; gives the commissioners authority to make complaint to the inter-State commission for violations of the inter-State act, authorizes the establishment of special rates for the development of all manufacturing, mining, milling and internal improvements in the

State and special rates for excursion and other parties.

Section 7 requires schedules made under this act to be placed in conspicuous places for the information of the public. Any railroad may appeal to the courts from rates made by the commission. The rates shall not go into effect until the appeal is determined in the Superior court provided the railroad gives bond for the difference between the rates fixed by the commission and the rates changed, the excess to be refunded to shippers.

Section 8. Gives the commissioners power to investigate the books and papers of railroad companies and to make personal visitations of railroad offices, stations and other places of business for the purpose of examination, and to examine officers, agents and employes under oath in order to make just and reasonable rates.

Section 9. All contracts and agreements between railroads as to freight and passenger rates, and division of earnings by competing railroads shall be submitted to the commissioners for approval and any such contract or agreement not approved by the commissioners are illegal and void.

Section 10. If any railroad shall be guilty of violating rules and regulations prescribed by the commission and the wrong done thereby be recompensed after due notice as may be directed by the commissioners within thirty days such railroad shall be fined not less than fifty nor more than five thousand dollars, to be fixed by the courts.

Section 11. Any railroad company inflicting willful injury on any person shall be liable for exemplary damages, but suits must be brought within twelve months, but if a person is killed the time during which there is no administration shall not be counted.

Section 12. The rules of evidence under this act shall be the same as in civil actions except as provided by this act. All fines recovered shall be turned into the State treasury. The remedies given are cumulative.

Section 13. Brings within the operations of this law all railroad, steamboat, canal, express and telegraph companies. Street railways are excepted.

Section 14. Requires railroads on demand to issue duplicate freight receipts in which shall be stated the class of freight shipped, the charges over the road giving the receipt and connecting roads.

Section 15. The commissioners shall make an annual report to the Governor of the transactions of their offices and recommend such legislation as may be needed.

Section 16 gives the commissioners power to issue subpoenas for witnesses and provides for their mileage and per diem.

Section 17. Every officer of any railroad willfully neglecting to furnish any report required by the commissioners or shall obstruct the commissioners in the discharge of their duties shall pay a sum not less than \$100 nor more than \$500.

Section 18 repeals section 1961 of the code and all laws inconsistent with this act.

Section 19 authorizes the commissioners to give notice to the Attorney General whenever any railroad violates this act or the act creating it.

Section 20. Whenever a railroad shall fail to make repairs, add to or change a station which the commissioners deem reasonable and expedient in order to promote the security and convenience of the public it shall be liable to a penalty of from \$50 to \$2,000.

Section 21. No station which has been established for a year shall be abandoned without the consent of the commissioners.

Section 22 authorizes a railroad to relocate stations with the approval of the commissioners.

Section 23 authorizes the commissioners to require railroads to furnish separate accommodations for whites and negroes when they think proper.

Section 24. All railroads shall afford reasonable and proper facilities for the interchange of traffic and forwarding of passengers and shall not discriminate be-

tween connecting lines, and connecting lines are required to make as close connection as practicable.

Section 25 authorizes free carriage to certain persons and for certain purposes, but gives the commissioners power to suspend the operation of this section at any time after thirty days notice.

Section 26 gives the commissioners power to make rates for express and telegraph companies and requires them to make public their tariffs.

Section 27 regulates the issuing of subpoenas under penalties, &c.

Section 28. Provides for the expenses of the commissioners not exceeding \$2,000 a year.

Section 29 makes the fiscal year end the 30th of June and gives the right of appeal to the courts in all cases.

Section 30. The commissioners may investigate the causes of any accident resulting in the loss of life or which they may deem requires investigation.

Section 31 authorizes the commissioners to act as arbitrators in controversies between two railroads where the parties request it.

Section 32 provides that this act shall go into effect on and after the first day of April next.

A BUNDLE OF IFS.

If life were not really such a very serious business there would be no funny papers.

If politicians were not what they are politics would be different.

And also: If the public were only the ideal public for whom the Constitution was written "practical politicians" would be at a discount.

If all the heathen were suddenly to become converted, where would the man with a mission be?

If all the successful men of to-day were great men what a heritage this century would have.

If marriages were made in Heaven where are the divorcees—but no; some one will say Chicago.

If matrimony did not involve increased rent and expenses, love would last longer than it is ordinarily supposed to do.

If our millionaires were in the true sense of the word honest, we could count them off on one hand.

If you have brains and no money, pat yourself heartily on the back day and night. It is all the only recognition you will get in this world.

If all men married their first loves the demand for lunatic asylums would be appalling.

If a man always followed the advice of his best friends he would have no friends at all, for he would soon lose every dollar.

If the dear modest girls never could get their beaux into solitary corners occasionally, there would be an alarming decrease of this charming quality.

A THEOLOGICAL FACT.

"What is the devil?" asked an Austin Sunday-school teacher of the new boy, who is quite small.

"I don't know what it is, but it can't run as fast as my pa can."

"How do you know that the devil can't run fast?"

"Because I heard pa say he always catches the devil when he comes home late at night from the lodge. I reckon I'll be able to catch it, too, when I get to be as big as pa."

"I've no doubt of it," remarked the teacher, with a sigh.—Texas Siftings.

Shiloh's Cough and Consumption Cure is sold by us on a guarantee. It cures Consumption. For sale by W. M. Cohen.

For lame back, side or chest, use Shiloh's Porous Plaster. Price 25 cents. For sale by W. M. Cohen.

Shiloh's Vitalizer is what you need for Constipation, Loss of Appetite, Dizziness and all symptoms of Dyspepsia. Price 10 and 75 cents per bottle. For sale by W. M. Cohen.

ACROUND HOG CHILD.

PECULIAR FREAK OF NATURE NOW LIVING IN TENNESSEE.

One of the queerest and most wonderful freaks in the world was seen in Chattanooga by the Times correspondent.

Only five like it have ever been born according to the best medical authorities, and this is the only one that has ever lived. The freak is known as Jack Lacey, "the ground hog child."

At first sight of the half human being a person is struck with the peculiar animal motion which the child keeps up as it stands on its feet; also with the two bow-shaped hickory twigs about four inches long, which it plays with and balances on its peculiar stub-like hands. The twigs have been worn slick by its constant handling, and he is never without them when awake.

The wonderful monstrosity was born in the wilds of Sand Mountain, DeKalb county, Alabama, on Washington's birthday in the year 1875. Consequently on the 22d of this month the freak will be sixteen years old. The boy stands three feet seven inches and exactly twelve inches of his height are taken up by his abnormally shaped head. He has no cheek bones, but he possesses one more bone in every limb than a human being.

The pupils of his eyes are twice the size of those of ordinary persons and a prominent Chattanooga physician who examined him says it receives five times as much light in his eyes as a human being. At night it can see just as well as any wild animal. His feet and hands are solid bones with no joints. The fingers and toes are knitted together and run out to points, and are covered with one broad nail.

The birth of the freak is accounted for as follows: Its mother seven months before its birth was soundly sleeping one night when some mischievous and thoughtless boys threw into the bed a ground hog they had captured. It bit the woman and frightened her terribly, and left its impression upon her unborn babe.

Mrs. Cynthia Lacey, the mother of the freak says that the monstrosity was her eleventh child and that she was forty-two years old at its birth. Her other ten children were well formed and grew up strong and healthy. She is a native of Jackson county, Ala.

One of the greatest peculiarities of the freak is its method of feeding. His mother, whom he never allows to get farther than two feet from him, chews up all his food and puts it in his mouth. Jack removes this food with his right stub hand and plasters it on his left hand. He then uses his hands in again putting the food in his mouth, as a plasterer uses his trowel and board in doing a delicate piece of work. The curious animal being will not wear shoes, and has never chewed or spoken a word in his life. The only sounds it ever emits, are those of a ground hog.

If you are afflicted with rheumatism, neuralgia, gout or other bodily pain, or if you have a sprained wrist or ankle you ought at once to procure a bottle of Salvation Oil, the greatest cure on earth for pain. It only costs 25 cents a bottle.

"Lo! the poor Indian!" dying with cold. Won't some "good Samaritan" send him a bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup?

BEFORE the bald spot comes the head contains about 120,000 hairs.

Croup, Whooping Cough and Bronchitis immediately relieved by Shiloh's Cure. For sale by W. M. Cohen.

Catarrh cured, health and sweet breath secured by Shiloh's Catarrh Remedy. Price 50 cents. Nasal Injector free. At W. M. Cohen's drugstore.

Sleepless nights, made miserable by that terrible cough. Shiloh's Cure is the remedy for you. For sale at W. M. Cohen's drugstore.

That Hacking Cough can be so quickly cured by Shiloh's Cure. We guarantee it. For sale by W. M. Cohen.

Will you suffer with Dyspepsia in Liver Complaint? Shiloh's Vitalizer and guaranteed to cure you. For sale by W. M. Cohen.

CANADA'S STRONG MAN.

HE HAS BEATEN THE WORLD AT LIFTING—LONG HAIR LIKE SAMSON'S.

The Montreal Witness has the following: Louis Cyr, who has beaten the world at heavy weight lifting, is a French Canadian. He was born in St. Johns, Quebec, twenty seven years ago. He is a large man, lacking but an inch and a half of six feet, and weighing 318 pounds. His last and biggest lift was 3,993 pounds. "My first lift," he told a reporter, "was in this way: There was a load of bricks—over a ton, I guess—stuck in a hole in the road and the horse couldn't pull it out. I was only seventeen, but was a big fellow, weighed 240 pounds, and I got underneath the cart and lifted it off the ground and got it out."

"Then I tried to see what I could do, and have never had any difficulty in lifting 2,500 pounds since then. My mother was very strong. She could always carry a barrel of flour up stairs to the second flat. She weighed 265 pounds. My father weighed 220, but could not lift more than other men. None of my brothers are stronger than other men. My temperance principles? I abstained two years ago from liquor and tobacco; before that I used to take them regularly. I am three times better off since then. I gained in strength enough to lift 700 pounds more in these two years. Liquor is a bad habit anyway. Tobacco, too much of it, is bad, I am three times better off since I gave them both up."

"I eat five or six pounds of meat a day, eat as much as three woodchoppers. It would make you hungry, perhaps, to see me at dinner. They charge me double board; never mind, I pay it. I am always gaining in strength—I guess I was born that way—and I guess I will lift 4,500 before I get through. The record for lifting? Well, you know I lift everything without a harness; that is, just with my hands, and not with a strap slung over my back. The record for lifting with harness is 3,239 pounds, made by W. R. Curtis, of New York, in 1862. You see that I got ahead of that, even without harness. I have lifted 535 pounds with my forefinger, and have put a barrel of cement, over 300 pounds, on my shoulder with one hand."

The champion wears his hair long. It is yellow and curly. Asked whether he believed as much in the value of hair as the ancient Samson, he replied: "No, but it's attractive when exhibiting." When not on show Mr. Cyr makes a neat Psyche knot of the hair, using hairpins liberally, and with his hat over it he looks exactly like the ordinary innocent fat man.

"Once upon a midnight," while suffering from an abominable influenza, I took it into my head to try Old Saul's Catarrh Cure, and in twenty minutes time I was relieved.

The right thing in the right place is without doubt Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup, the best remedy for babies while teething. Only 25c.

On the day of General Sherman's death the mother of Henry C. Work, who wrote "Marching Through Georgia" also died at her home in Hartford.

An Attractive POCKET ALMANAC Combined with MEMORANDUM BOOK advertising BROWN'S IRON BITTERS the best Tonic, given away at Drug and general stores. Apply at once.

Specimen Cases.

S. H. Clifford, New Cassel, Wis., was troubled with Neuralgia and Rheumatism, his Stomach was disordered, his Liver was affected to an alarming degree, appetite fell away, and he was terribly reduced in flesh and strength. Three bottles of Electric Bitters cured him.

Edward Shepherd, Harrisburg, Ill., had a running sore on his leg of eight years' standing. Used three bottles of Electric Bitters and seven boxes of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and his leg is sound and well. John Speaker, Catawba, Ohio, had five large c'ever sores on his leg, doctors said he was incurable. One bottle Electric Bitters and one box Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured him entirely. Sold at W. M. Cohen's drugstore.