The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, February 5,.....1880

H. A. LONDON, Jr., Editor.

HASTY LEGISLATION.

Persons and papers frequently complain of the long sessions of the Legislatures, and contend that the shorter the sessions the better it is for the people. Undoubtedly members of the different Legislatures consume too much time in "clap trap" speeches and useless discussions, and thus too often unnecessarily prolong their sessions; and we think it is also true that there is too much legislation, too many new laws proposed and old ones amended. But still the other extreme is to be avoided—hasty legislation—for all public measures should be maturely considered and fully discussed. The public is as much concerned in preventing the passage of improper measures, as in the enactment of wholesome laws. Persons not familiar with the routine of legislative business think it a very simple thing to legislate, and are surprised that Legislatures cannot enact such laws as they wish in a few days and adjourn. And yet if these very persons were themselves legislators they would doubtless be equally surprised that they adjourned so soon.

The legislation of our last General Assembly may well suggest a doubt as to the propriety of the late Constitutional Amendment limiting the session to sixty days, but we do not now propose to discuss that. We merely wished to remind our readers that there is such a thing as hasty legislation, and that they should not complain too much of what they may deem protracted sessions of their Legislature. A recent instance of hasty legislation has occurred in South Carolina. The Legislature of that State met early in December and was in session scarcely thirty days, but the Governor has issued a proclamation convening them in extra session on the 10th of February. This is done in pursuance of a decision of the Supreme Court declaring the Tax act passed at the recent session invalid on account of the grave errors it contains. The general tax levy for State purposes was four and one half mills, but these figures were inadvertently altered by the enrolling clerk to four and three fourths. The act was ratified by the two houses and approved by the Governor without the errors being detected. Some days after the adjournment the mistakes were discovered by a newspaper reporter, who immediately brought them to the attention of the public. The discovery created great excitement all over the State, especially when it was announced that taxes would be collected under the bogus act. The county Auditor determined to resist the act, which induced Comptroller General Hagood to make an issue before the Supreme Court, where the case was ably argued on both sides, and the Court took more than a week to consider it. The Court has rendered the decision that the whole act is invalid on account of its errors. It is claimed that the errors were purely accidental, but blame certainly rests upon the Legislature, which is severely denounced for carelessness and incompetency by the press and people. So that a Legislature is sure to receive censure whether it has a long or short session.

The Maine Farce Ended.

Maine can no longer boast of her dual government—of her two Governors and two Legislatures—for as predicted by us in our last issue there has been a peaceful solution of the "Maine Muddle." The Supreme Court refused to consider the questions proposed by the Fusion Legislature, not recognizing them as a legal body, but deciding that the other Legislature was the only legal one. Notwithstanding this action of the Court was as partisan as was the infamous decision of the 8 to 7 Electoral Commission, yet the Fusionists accepted the situation (as did the Democrats in the Presidential fraud), and disbanded rather than have a civil war. The military have been removed from the State-house, and returned to their homes, all fears of Fusion insurrection being quieted, and all excitement has subsided.

Postal Routes.

The House of Representatives on on Thursday last, by a vote of 135 yeas to 100 nays, passed the following Bill:

"Be it enacted, etc., That all public roads and highways are hereby declared post routes while the mails are carried thereon; and the Postmaster General is hereby authorized to put postal service upon all such routes when the public necessity may require it."

Under existing laws no postal route can be established upon any highway without an Act of Congress authorizing it, so that it matters not how necessary it may be to have the mail carried over a new route and to establish new offices, yet unless Congress happens to be in session and expressly authorizes it, the people must be deprived of a great convenience and wait until Congress meets. Under the proposed law whenever any community desires a new postal-route or a new office they can at once apply to the Postmaster-General and he can establish it without delay. But it may be said that this gives that officer too much power. Not at all, for he already has this power on all rivers, railroads and plank-roads, and there is no reason why the country highways should be excepted. In the first place, a bill can be passed any Congress to establish any postal route, for every session hundreds of such bills are introduced and passed as matters of form, through courtesy to the Representative introducing them, without any debate or discussion. But after they are passed and Congress has authorized the establishment of such routes and offices, it is still discretionary with the Postmaster General to establish service upon these routes, for section 3965 of the Revised Statutes says:

"The Postmaster-General shall provide for carrying the mail on all post roads established by law, as often as he, having due regard to expeditiveness and other circumstances, may think proper."

This statute will not in any way be affected by the proposed law, for it will still be at the discretion of the Postmaster General to say whether service shall be placed upon the routes or not. At the last session of Congress bills were passed establishing over two thousand new routes, and yet service was put upon scarcely more than one-half of them. So that, under existing laws, the people of a community desiring a new postal route must wait until Congress meets and petition their Representative to get a bill passed a most tedious process), and after all this it remains with the Postmaster-General to say whether or not service shall be placed upon the route thus finally established. It certainly will save much time and trouble to apply at once to that officer and get him to establish the route and put service on it.

We hope the Senate will also pass the bill so that it may become a law. We are in favor of giving the people as many post offices and post routes as the public convenience demands, and we think the proposed law will aid them in obtaining proper mail facilities.

Radical Philanthropy.

The Washington Post gets off the following biting sarcasm upon the philanthropy of the Radicals in inducing negroes to remove to Indiana.

"It was pure philanthropy that urged the Emigration Aid society to bend its efforts to getting the colored people out of the South before the census of 1880. It was mostly generosity that induced Radical committees and emissaries to expatiate on the importance of depriving the South of political strength. It was nothing but the Christian statesman's way of "relieving the miseries of his fellowmen" when the colored voters of North Carolina were shipped like hogs or cattle to re-inforce the suffering Radical minority in Indiana. One might possibly believe in the honesty of the man who murdered innocent children in order that they might be sure of heaven. One might stretch charitable credulity so far as to take stock in the sincerity of the party who stole his neighbor's money for fear that the neighbor would make a bad use of it, and thereby imperil his salvation. One might be induced to subscribe to the true goodness of the Western judge who sentenced a murderer to be hung on the day after his trial, because the weather was cold and there was no chance for a fire to keep him comfortable in jail. One might be so carried away with enthusiasm as to take a few shares of stock in a telephonic connection of the planets of our system or a bridge to the moon. But when this crew prate their pusillanimous platitudes about philanthropy and talk of "relieving the miseries of their fellow-men," they defy the maximum stretch of human credulity and make honest cowhide itch for a chance to pay its respects to their persons."

Politics are becoming interesting now, so subscribe at once for your county paper, and keep posted.

Garden City.

Some years ago the late A. T. Stewart, of New York, determined to build a city with his own money, and selected as the site Hempstead Plains on Long Island, and called it Garden City.

The idea of one man owning a whole city! From the New York Herald we copy the following interesting account of this novel enterprise:

"He bought 10,000 acres and in the beginning it was said that he would erect from twenty thousand to thirty thousand dwellings, each well supplied with water and lighted with gas and surrounded by an ornamental garden. What he did was first to make about twenty-seven miles of finished roadwards, eighty feet wide and crossing each other at right angles, and then to plant 50,000 trees. Then he began to erect dwellings, set back in the grounds seventy-five feet from the street lines. It is believed that the merchant prince actually did contemplate 10,000 houses for clerks and the moderate of business men, and it is known that he intended that not one shingle should be sold in Garden City. It is conjectured that he desired to bequeath to the world a city that should own itself—a city where every inhabitant should pay home rent to the city treasurer direct—a city that should ultimately become so wealthy that it might support schools and encourage art, and at length rival the European metropolises. There is little doubt, however, but the executors of the great trust will eventually sell houses in Garden City as a means of attracting the class that will be welcomed there.

Meantime, as a means of making the city self-supporting, long before it gets the expected rent that will pay the expenses, Mr. Hinsdale, the manager of the property, is making the most hasty of the unexploited crops of vegetables and hay. Of oats he raised 14,000 bushels last year; of potatoes, 15,000 bushels, and of hay he cut 300 tons. He kept on the farm 8 horses and 500 head of stock, which, when all the employés, numbering 150 men, and eight steam engines, two of them traction engines. He has not one dog to bother all his stock. It was a wonder to me to see how well and cheerfully they worked. This is only the beginning of Mr. Hinsdale's labors. He has more than eight thousand acres of soil at an elevation of 150 feet above the tide, so arranged that the ordinary rainfall of 40 inches passes off in the streams and leaves the soil in the best condition for the seeds and other people natural dependence. Undoubtedly making it the richest farm west of the prairies. Planting operations are not, however, to be confined to the hinderance of the progress of the city. The water and gas pipes are to be extended, and just as Mr. Hinsdale is beginning to heat the city with steam he has already had two and a half miles of steam pipe and has in use five miles of water pipe and four and a half miles of gas pipe. His book in regard to heating the city is simple enough. The water works are a tank on the Garden City Hotel, the largest of the sheets but in the hotel yesterday, and in the Cathedral of the Incarnation near by it was possible to elevate the temperature to an uncomfortable heat by turning a cock in the pipes that were but a mile away. In Garden City the proposed system of heating cottages with steam has already been demonstrated beyond peradventure.

The crypt of the cathedral has been already shorn of the remains of Alexander and Mrs. Stewart were to have been laid to their long repose, and the lofty towers will soon be in readiness for the carillon that has been cast for it. The crypt, whose exquisitely proportioned pillars of rare marbles for which the globe has been ransacked—and which is to cost a round $100,000—needs only the laying of its white marble floor and the placing of the superb sarcophagi. The casts for a statue of Hope that is to occupy a niche behind the sarcophagi have been sent to Europe to be worked in marble. St. Paul's Cathedral School, for which ground was broken on April last, has been completed so far as its exterior is concerned. The contractors of Philadelphia have made on the premises and the triumphal arches of stone. It is four stories in height, and has towers and other roof ornaments of the renaissance style. It is to be heated with steam for a hundred pupils as boarders and 500 more as day pupils are to be accommodated. In addition to the ordinary bathroom appliances the institution has a marble swimming bath, seventy feet in length by thirty in width. The structure is fireproof throughout—every floor being double and a perfectly fireproof lining being carried between the two floors. Every ceiling is of fireproof material, and so is every partition that is not of brick."

White Mice.

A negro man had some white mice in a cage in Kinston, on Saturday, which he said he caught last week—ploughing them up in the field.—Kinston Journal.

Radicals Dissatisfied.

We publish below this the proceedings of the Republican State Executive Committee at their late meeting in Raleigh. Their action has produced great dissatisfaction in the ranks of their party, for it is charged by the Grant men that Sherman has used his official position as Secretary of the treasury to influence the Committee in selecting delegates to the National Convention. Already an indignation meeting has been held by the Republicans of Wilmington denouncing the action of the committee. The following extract, from a letter to the New York Times (a Republican paper) from its Raleigh correspondent, will show the deep dissatisfaction existing among the brethren:

"Upon investigation it was found that the State had been for three months past overrun with Special Agents appointed by Secretary Sherman at six dollars per day, for the purpose of seeing the members of the committee and controlling it in his interest. It is openly boasted that by the same tactics the Sherman men expect to carry 5 of the 8 Congressional districts—no convention in the district will be called. The district committees will appoint the delegates; the appointments as Special Agents are to be freely used to control them. Great indignation is felt at this bold and unwarranted misrepresentation of the Republicans of the State. There are not a dozen Sherman men in the State who are not office-holders. There is strong talk of calling a State Convention and of sending another delegation to Chicago. The action of the lies for the present destroyed all hope of carrying North Carolina. It is possible that indignation meetings will be called to protest against the State being sold for Sherman, and I apprehend that Grant shall be nominated. The prostitution of the Treasury Department for the ends now gained, and the misappropriation of the public money, in direct violation of law, will have stimulated the Democrats to renewed exertion."

Republican State Executive Committee

(From the Observer.)

This account to meet at Raleigh at noon on the 20th of January.

Col. Keogh tendered his resignation as chairman of the committee, a position which he has filled for several years. Having been elected Secretary of the National Republican Committee, his duties prevented his retaining the chairmanship.

An election was held to fill the vacant chairmanship, which resulted in the choice of C. W. Grandy, Esq., of Elizabeth City.

The election of delegates to the national convention was then held, resulting as follows, there being four delegates and a like number of alternates: Rufus Barringer, of Mecklenburg; D. H. Starbuck, of Forsythe; James H. Harris, of Wake; and W. P. Canaday, of New Hanover.

W. W. Holden tendered his resignation as a member of the committee from the State at large, and Col. A. W. Humphrey, of Wayne, was elected to fill the vacancy.

The various district committees will be requested to hold conventions as early a day as possible to choose delegates to represent their districts in the national convention, each district being allowed two delegates and two alternates.

Some other minor business was transacted and the committee adjourned.

The result of the election of delegates to the national convention at Chicago is looked upon by the majority of the committee as a victory for the Sherman element in the party here. It is understood that the committee stood six for Sherman and four for Grant. The composition of the committee shows the leaning at a glance. One is a collector of customs, another holds a position in the Treasury Department at Washington, and another is a collector of internal revenue. It is asserted that James H. Harris, one of the delegates, holds a Treasury appointment. Two other Republicans, Gen. J. C. Abbott, of New Hanover, and one Elliott, of South Carolina, who were given at, but as outsiders, are said to hold similar appointments. There were some rather amusing features of the election of the delegates. One was the nomination by one of the most stalwart of the Sherman men of a Greenbacker. Of course the nomination failed to "pass," but it indicates the position some of the Sherman friends occupy.

The delegates and alternates are understood to be nearly all for Sherman, but a few are Grant men.

Keeping the Sabbath Holy.

The Charlotte Democrat says that the authorities of that town have adopted the following ordinance:

"That it shall not be lawful for any person or Railroad Company, or any agent or employe of a Railroad Company, to do any kind of office or other work on the Sabbath day within the corporate limits of the city of Charlotte, except such as shall be absolutely necessary for delivery, receiving or transferring United States mails, baggage and express freight to and from the passenger and mail trains, selling tickets to passengers and shifting cars and engines for the regular mail and passenger trains. Any person or Railroad Company violating this ordinance shall forfeit and pay fifty dollars for each and every offence, to be collected as other fines and penalties."

Agriculture in Common Schools.

Nothing is clearer to our mind than that the elements of agriculture should be taught in our common schools. In every other pursuit in life it is conceded that education is necessary, why not then farming? The prosperity of a country is in proportion to its intelligent husbandry and much as we desire the agricultural development of our State, it will never be accomplished without a race of educated, enterprising farmers. The subject is one of the first importance and is receiving some consideration in other countries. By a recent act of the French Senate, adopted by a majority of 254 votes, agriculture is made an obligatory study in all the elementary schools of the State. France has agricultural schools even for girls, one of the chief is near Rouen, which has 300 girls from six to eighteen years of age upon a farm of 400 acres which is entirely cultivated by them under a staff of female teachers and more than one medal has been awarded this establishment by the French agricultural society. The pupils are in great demand all over Normandy, on account of their skill. They go out as stewards, gardeners, farm managers, dairy women, etc. The National Grange at their last meeting adopted a resolution recommending to the Patrons of the several States that they demand the introduction of study of the elementary principles of agriculture by legislation into the public schools of their respective States. We hope the subject will receive attention at our next General Assembly, and in the mean time let our farmers think of it in selecting their representatives.—N. C. Farmer.

Boiler Exploded.

On the 28th of January, the boiler of the engine "Swannanoa," which passed here at 2:21 o'clock going east, drawing the regular train on the Western North Carolina Railroad, exploded when the train was at a point about 300 yards this side the residence of Mr. John Engle, four miles from Statesville. All the upper works of the locomotive were torn away, the smoke stack being carried a great distance, along with the steam-dome covering the boiler. Engineer Mark was lifted out of his seat and thrown backward into the tender, receiving a cut behind one ear and a gash over the eye. The colored fireman was tossed to the top of the forward car next to the engine, and Mr. Joseph Gordon, son of ex-Governor Charles Gordon, who was sitting on the fireman's seat, was fearfully scalded and cut about the face and head. The train rolled 200 yards after the explosion, and stopped almost immediately in front of Mr. Engle's house. At the time the boiler burst the steam gauge showed only 120 pounds pressure, and the train was making about 20 miles an hour. The engine and boiler were very old, the "Swannanoa" being the first locomotive that was ever upon the road. It is fortunate that none of the passengers on the train were injured in the least. This was because of the fact that the force of the explosion was outward instead of inward. Otherwise very considerable fatality must have resulted.—Statesville Landmark.

Roof Fell In.

We learn that quite a serious accident occurred at what is known as Parr's Station, on the Cheraw Central Railway, in Robeson county, on Sunday last. It seems that a building had just been erected there which was intended to be used as a passenger house, being constructed on pillars and took about four feet high. On Sunday last religious services were held in the building, and while the preacher was in the midst of his discourse the foundation on one side of the house suddenly gave way, the frame and weatherboarding going out that side and the roof tumbled in upon the astonished congregation. Several persons who were in the building were badly injured, and two of them are not expected to live. There were about sixty men, women and children in the house at the time, and their fright and consternation can be better imagined than described.—Wilmington Star.

Wholesale Butchery.

We learn of a most horrible butchery which occurred on Spring Creek, in Madison county, on Wednesday night last, whiskey being at the bottom of the affair. It seems that a crowd had been collected together during the day, engaged in what is known as a "working," during which liquor had been freely drank. After supper Mr. Stewart Thomasons came upon the scene, and some of the party got into a row with him, because of the fact that he had, at some time or another, "informed" on them as illicit distillers, and the friends of the two parties generally waded in with the knife. Result: nine men more or less butchered, some of them possibly fatally. A man named Dockett, who was endeavoring to part the combatants, having one eye cut out and his hands literally cut to pieces.—Asheville Citizen.

A Useful Woman.

A correspondent of the Bear Mountain (N. C.) Republican says that there is a lady in Robersville, who is the mother of eight children and does all her sewing, no machine, cooking, washing &c, and has woven eighty yards of linsey, and made it into clothing since the first of October, besides knitting stockings for her children. Her seat is scarcely ever vacant in church and she is always ready to help her neighbors.

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