

The session of the present Legislature is rapidly drawing to a close, and if our "reform" legislators are going to afford any relief to any body else, besides themselves and their numerous employees, it is high time that they are doing it.

This session of our Legislature has been very remarkable and will be memorable in our State's history, even more so than the last notorious "Douglas" Legislature. Never before, since the enactment of the Constitution of 1868, have so many charges of bribery, corruption and extravagance been publicly made against members of a North Carolina Legislature. And these charges are made by men and papers belonging to the Populist party, and are called "Democratic lies."

Among the bills introduced and defeated was one which would have authorized the passage of such a bill could hardly have been expected to be legislators, so many of whom have themselves had responsibilities at that time in their pockets.

There is one thing which the Legislature to a greater extent than more of it, than by any previous Legislature, and that is economy. During a goodly part of this session, there was a cautious and hesitating two, nearly every

Republican in the House, and a number of members of the Democratic party, and a still greater number of Populists, fight the majority and minority "Populists" would have their own

foremost cause. And it does seem so strange that such an unprecedented number of charges should have been held by a set of so-called "reformers," whose chief stock in trade (at one time) was the denunciation of corrupt legislators.

The House has given us a new and arbitrary and unbecoming power, and before the present Legislature, it has given them the power to "limit or cut off discussion or debate" whenever he wishes. As Speaker Johnson had already before this annual session, there is no telling what he may now do. The idea of one man even in the Speaker or of the House having the power to stop debate on any great question affecting the rights and interests of all the people of North Carolina!

No bill has yet been passed reducing the fees and salaries of our public officers, so as to correspond with the new prices of "tar products." Whether any such bill will be passed.

MAJ. GUTHRIE published an address to the Populists of this State, a few days before the last session, advising them to vote for Judge Avery (a true silver Democrat) instead of Col. Douglas (a gold standard Republican), and for voting to give this advice he was denounced by the leading Populists, and this advice was indignantly rejected.

Now, how can those same Populists consistently denounce the Populist legislators who voted for Senator Pritchard? And especially after a contract had been made previous to that Pritchard could be re-elected by this Legislature?

And another reason given by Maj. Guthrie why Populists ought to vote for Judge Avery against Col. Douglas, was that the election of the latter would give the Republicans a majority (three out of five) of our Supreme Court, and that tribunal would no longer be "non-partisan." And yet the Populists rejected Maj. Guthrie's advice and chose their preferred principle of "non-partisan" judiciary, and elected a Supreme Court composed of three Republicans, one Populist and one Democrat.

And our Gov. Russell has been unmercifully abused for his high courage and great legal ability by retaining him

as his legal advisor and attorney in the case of the North Carolina Railroad to the Southern Railway Company. Yes, of all the able lawyers in this State Judge Avery has been selected by Gov. Russell as the one best qualified to lead in the State's great fight to end that issue. And yet our Populist friends voted to reject the contract which would have re-elected him.

Narrow Escape from Drowning.

A Mrs. Spencer and five little children were near getting drowned in the case of the North Carolina Railroad to the Southern Railway Company. The boat was full of passengers, and the children were playing on the deck. The boat was struck by a log, and the children were in danger of drowning. The mother was very brave and saved them all.

Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1897. The country is indebted to the Senate for its action on the proposed bill for the reorganization of the Executive Department. The bill was passed by a large majority.

Romance in Real Life.

General Pritchard, who was elected to the Senate, has a very interesting story to tell. He was once in a very dangerous situation, but he was saved by a very timely intervention.

The Legislature's Scape-Goat.

The Legislature has spent \$1,500,000 to do \$20 worth of work. So says the Evening Star, and his statement has not been denied by anybody. It is a very sad state of affairs.

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JOHN G. L. BOWMAN, Condensed Schedule.

Table showing condensed schedule for John G. L. Bowman, including routes and times.

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W. L. LONDON & SON'S, General Managers and Time Agents.

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