

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

The harsh revenue law, enacted by our late "reform" Legislature, has created such an excitement and aroused such intense indignation throughout the state that all kinds of excuses are being made for it. It is the first time that any North Carolina Legislature has ever said that a man must be imprisoned if he failed to pay his poll or property tax by a certain time, and it is natural that so sweeping a "reform" should be vigorously discussed and also "sounded."

When it was first published that the new revenue law contained so harsh a requirement, the statement was denounced as "a Democratic lie." But when the law, as officially published, was seen to contain this harsh provision, then some of the "reform" papers and leaders tried to lay the blame on the hands of Democrats who were in the last Legislature. But this was utterly ridiculous that nobody could be deceived by such an absurd excuse. Out of the 170 members of the last Legislature only 34 were Democrats, and of course no sane man could hold them responsible for the acts of the other 136. And then it was proven that out of the 120 members of the House, only one Democrat voted for this revenue law!

And now the late excuse is that offered by Attorney General Walker, who in a letter to Representative J. S. Heyan, says that he is informed by members of the Legislature that this harsh provision of the revenue act (fine and imprisonment) was "intended" only for license and other privilege taxes. And so at last "the baby act" is pleaded!

That is, our legislators were too ignorant to know what they were doing, and did not "intend" to do what they did!

And next year, when they ask the people to react them, they will promise (like the little boy when his mother was spanking him) "to do so no more!"

CONGRESS has at last passed the bill which Gen. Wheeler very properly introduced as "the most vicious and barbaress ever proposed for American people."

The report of the conference committee was adopted by the House at midnight, on last Monday by a vote of 185 to 118. We are pleased to know that the Representative from this district (Mr. Stowdy) voted with the Democrats against this iniquitous bill, and we regret that the other Populist Congressman from this state did not also vote against it.

This new tariff bill is the only "relief" that this Congress has attempted to give the people.

And what sort of relief is it? Its rates are higher than ever before levied by any previous tariff law. And this at a time when the people are demanding a reduction in taxation!

And not only are its rates higher than those of any previous tariff law, but they are so unequal and unjust—and especially so to farmers. This bill even goes so far as to place a tariff tax on cotton ties and cotton bagging.

What do our Southern farmers think of this kind of "relief"? Was it for this that so many of them have been fusing with the Republicans and trying to destroy the Democratic party?

A peculiarly sad and distressing tragedy occurred in Charlotte, one day last week. Two boys—one only ten and the other twelve years old got into a quarrel and the younger stabbed and killed the elder. The young murderer was at once arrested and confined in jail to await trial for murder. He was most frantic with fright at being put in jail and sobbed himself to sleep the first night in prison. His parents are heart broken and spend much of their time in jail with their little boy. Indeed their condition seems more sad and distressing than that of the parents of the dead boy. What an awful warning to boys not to give way to their anger!

The last annual report of the State Auditor for the fiscal year ending November 30th, 1896, gives some interesting statistics as to the population and property of this State. It shows that, according to the last census, there were 1,035,342 whites and 561,065 blacks in this State—and quite twice as many whites as blacks—and yet 171,815 white men were listed for poll tax and only 65,097 colored men were listed for poll tax.

This report also shows that the tax paid on property for the public schools by the two races was as follows: Whites \$2,972,245 paid by the whites and only \$447,888 paid by the blacks.

Opposed to Stealing Railroads. An effort was made last week to get the Railroad Commission to investigate the situation of the railroads and to make a report on the matter.

Among those who appeared before the Commission were Messrs. W. H. A. Gurney, the Populist candidate for Governor for next year, and Mr. J. S. Heyan, the Populist candidate for Governor for next year.

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the private owners of them; but no honest man, whether Populist or otherwise, wants to see railroad property under the same (or rather degrees) of increasing taxes and at the same time cutting down the only sources of income in operating a railroad. Railroads should be treated fairly and justly, and capital invested in railroads should be treated in the same way as capital invested in any other business enterprise.

Washington Letter.

From our regular correspondents.

WASHINGTON, July 15th, 1897.

Another disgraceful episode in the disreputable history of Congress occurred last week when the House of Representatives passed a bill to amend the act relating to the poll tax. The bill was introduced by Mr. W. H. A. Gurney, the Populist candidate for Governor for next year, and it was passed by a vote of 185 to 118.

The bill provides that any person who fails to pay his poll tax by a certain time shall be imprisoned for a certain period of time. This is a most oppressive and unjust provision, and it is natural that it should be vigorously discussed and also "sounded."

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Abundant Harvests. An extraordinary crop of wheat is being raised in the West, and the harvest is expected to be a record. The yield is expected to be 20 bushels per acre, and the total crop is expected to be 100,000,000 bushels.

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TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL. AT NASHVILLE. MAY 1ST TO OCTOBER 31ST.

The Billings and grounds of the Tennessee Centennial, in numbers and architectural beauty surpass Atlanta's and nearly equal Chicago's. The exhibits are all ready, and are interesting and instructive. The live stock display exceeds any exhibition of the kind ever made. The Midway is great.

THE WESTERN AND GREAT NASHVILLE CHATTANOOGA AND LENOX RY. runs solid vestibule trains with Pullman's sleepers for cars, from Atlanta to Nashville.

Buyer's Impressed upon the fact that their ticket will be good for the full amount of the fare.

THE TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION. Opens at Nashville, May 1st, and closes October 31st, 1897.

Excursion Tickets. At VERY REDUCED RATES, the following being total rates from points named:

Table with columns A, B, C and rows for various destinations like Knoxville, Chattanooga, etc.

SEABOARD LINE. Will sell Excursion Tickets at VERY REDUCED RATES, the following being total rates from points named:

Table with columns A, B, C and rows for various destinations like Norfolk, Portsmouth, etc.

GO TO J. C. WILLIAMS, SANFORD, N. C., for Pianos and Organs, Music, Furniture &c.

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PATENTS. C. A. SNOW & CO. OFF. PATENT OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

VESTIBULE LIMITED TRAINS. DOUBLE DAILY SERVICE. To New York, Atlanta, Richmond, Norfolk, and all points NORTH and SOUTH.

Trains Leave Pittsburgh at 9:30 a. m. and 3:20 p. m.

Trains Arrive at Pittsburgh at 11:45 a. m. and 5:25 p. m.

General Pass Agent, Portsmouth, Va. Vice Pres. and Gen. Manager, Norfolk, Va.

C. P. & Y. V. RAILWAY. JOHN GILL, Receiver.

North Bound. No. 2 DAILY. In effect May 30th, 1897.

Table with columns for destinations and times for North Bound No. 2.

South Bound. No. 1 DAILY. In effect May 30th, 1897.

Table with columns for destinations and times for South Bound No. 1.

South Bound. No. 4 DAILY. In effect May 30th, 1897.

Table with columns for destinations and times for South Bound No. 4.

South Bound. No. 3 DAILY. In effect May 30th, 1897.