

Governor Vance

Passed through this place Saturday morning, on his way to Wilkesboro, where he has been invited to deliver an address to the people of the State of the country. He will also deliver an address at Statesville on his return through that place next Wednesday. He will arrive here on Wednesday evening, and if his public duties will admit of it, will remain over until Thursday, and address the people of Rowan on that day.

Important Bills.

We give place in this paper, to the exclusion of much other matter, to two of the important Acts which have for so long a time engaged the earnest attention of the Confederate Congress, viz: The Currency Bill and the Military Bill. We reserve the Tax Bill for our next paper.

It is not expected that these important public measures will give satisfaction to every body. Most people are apt to complain of oppression whenever any law reaches them in a way requiring sacrifices. These laws are sure to affect every man, either in person or property. They were intended so to do. Our representatives in Congress have labored with a zeal worthy of the perilous condition of the country, in arranging them. Desperate diseases require extreme remedies; and if our people really desire independence, and are determined to make the necessary sacrifices to secure it, they will yield a cheerful and hearty compliance to these laws. We are all in the same ship, and must sink or swim together. If all are united in heart and hand, we shall save the ship, and anchor 'em long in a haven of security and peace. Let there be no contention amongst ourselves; but let every man work, and bear his burden with true courage unto the end, and all will be well.

SENATORIAL ELECTION.

The election held in Rowan and Davie counties on Thursday last for a Senator to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Dr. J. G. Ramsay, resulted in the choice of Hon. N. Boyden, by a majority of 148 votes. The vote stood in Rowan—

Table with 2 columns: Candidate and Votes. Davie, March's majority, 61. Total 148.

It will be seen that the vote in Rowan was very small, and although we have not seen the vote of Davie, we learn it was also small. Thursday was an exceeding cold day, and that, no doubt, accounts in part for the thin attendance at the polls.

HABEAS CORPUS CASES.

Chief Justice PRASSON has been sitting at this place to hear arguments pro and con since Friday last, in the case of a party who wishes to escape the operation of the late Confederate Act, putting the principles of substitutes in the army. We go to press before the delivery of his opinion.

Where is the Wrong?—We have failed to receive three letters, within the last three weeks, which were mailed for us at Mocksville. Two of them were written by a gentleman whose penmanship is excellent, and who has experimental knowledge of Post-office labor. The other was also carefully addressed, so that we are satisfied the fault was not in the writers. The Postmasters and carriers between this place and Mocksville should feel anxious to solve this systematic failure. One of the letters contained money, and it therefore concerns us to have the cause of failure removed.

The House of Representatives have discharged a most important duty by passing an excellent bill to facilitate the payment of deceased soldiers' claims. Up to the 31st Dec. there had been 42,433 claims filed, and only 11,651 paid off. It is hoped the new bill will enable the department having these settlements to make to perform the duty with dispatch.

Can it be Possible?—We learn that the proprietors of the Eagle Mills and the South Ferry Mills in Iredell county, are charging \$40 a bunch (5 lbs) for spun-cotton yarn. Can it be possible that these manufacturers are only charging 75 per cent on the cost of production? We do not believe it is not reasonable; and if there is any law for the protection of the people these men should be made to feel its power.

Arrest of Deserters.—The Raleigh Confederate states that among the Yankee prisoners taken below Kinston last week, there were forty-five deserters from Nethercut's Battalion. They were in full Yankee uniform, and will of course suffer the penalty so eminently due the base crime of desertion to the enemy. One deserter from the 8th regiment caught in Yankee uniform, was shot on Thursday last, with several others.

A public meeting in Greens county has recommended W. W. Holden for next Governor of North Carolina.

18. The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required, upon the application of the holder of any call certificate— which by the 1st section of the act "to provide for the funding and further issue of Treasury notes," approved March 23d, 1863, was required to be "hereafter deemed to be a bond"—to issue to such holder a bond therefor upon such terms provided by said act.

THE MILITARY BILL.

A Bill to organize forces to serve during the War.

Section 1st provides that all white men, residents of the Confederate States, between the ages of 17 and 60, shall be in the service of the Confederate States during the war.

Section 2 provides that all, between the ages of 18 and 45 now in service shall be retained during the present war in the same organization in which they were serving at the passage of this act, unless they are regularly discharged or transferred. Companies from one State, who were put into organizations from another State, shall be transferred provided, they expressed their dissent at the time they were placed in said organization. Individual soldiers are allowed the same privilege.

Section 3 provides that, at the expiration of six months from the 1st of April next, a bounty of one hundred dollars, in a six per cent Government bond, shall be paid to each non-commissioned officer and private then in service.

Section 4 provides that no person shall be relieved from the operation of this act by reason of having been discharged, where no disability now exists, nor by reason of having furnished a substitute; but no person who has heretofore been exempted on account of religious opinions, and paid the required tax, shall be required to render military service.

Section 5 provides that all between 17 and 18 years of age shall form a reserve corps, not to serve out of the State in which they reside.

Section 6 provides that the last named persons shall elect their own regiment and company officers, and be entitled to the same pay and allowances as troops in the field.

Section 7 provides that any person of the last named failing to attend at the place of rendezvous within thirty days, as provided by the President, without a sufficient reason, shall be made to serve in the field during the war.

Section 8 provides that all the duties of provost and hospital guards and clerks, and of clerks, guards, agents, employees as laborers in the Commissary and Quartermaster Departments, in the ordnance bureau and navy depots, and all similar duties shall be performed by persons who are declared, by a board of surgeons, as unable to perform military service in the field. The President may detail such bodies of troops or individuals required to be enrolled under the sixth section of this act (between 45 and 50) as may be needed for the discharge of such duties, persons between seventeen and eighteen years of age shall not be assigned to such duties.—The President is empowered to detail artificers, mechanics, or persons of scientific skill, to perform indispensable duties in the departments or bureau herein mentioned.

Section 9 provides that any quartermaster or assistant quartermaster, commissary or assistant commissary (other than those serving in the field,) or officer in the ordnance bureau, or navy agent, or provost marshal, or officer in the conscript service, who shall hereafter retain or employ any person subject to military duty, as herein provided, shall be cashiered.

Section 10 repeals all existing exemption laws, and exempts the following:

1. All who shall be held unfit for military service, under rules to be prescribed by the Secretary of War.

2. The Vice-President of the Confederate States; the members and officers of Congress, of the several State Legislatures, and such other Confederate and State officers as the President or the Governors of the respective States may certify to be necessary for the proper administration of the Confederate or State governments, as the case may be.

3. Every minister of religion authorized to preach according to the rules of his church, and who, at the passage of this act, shall be regularly employed in the discharge of his ministerial duties; superintendents and physicians of asylums of the deaf, dumb, blind and insane; one editor for each newspaper being published at the time of the passage of this act, and such employees as said editor may certify on oath to be indispensable to the publication of such newspaper; the public printer of the Confederate and State governments, and such journeymen printers as the said public printer shall certify on oath to be indispensable to perform the public printing; one skilled apothecary in each apothecary store, who was doing business as such apothecary on the 10th day of October, 1862, and has continued said business, without interruption, since that period; all physicians over the age of 30 years who are now, and have been for the last seven years, in the practice of the profession, but the term physicians shall not include dentists.

[The old law exists covering professors and teachers.] All superintendents of public hospitals established by law before the passage of this act, and such employees as the said superintendent shall certify on oath to be essential to the management thereof.

4. There shall be exempt one person as owner or agriculturist on each farm or plantation upon which there are now and were, on the 1st day of January last, fifteen able-bodied field hands between the ages of 16 and 50, upon the following conditions: 1. This exemption shall only be granted in cases in which there is no white male adult on the farm or plantation not liable to military duty, nor unless the person claiming the exemption was on the 1st day of January, 1864, either the owner and manager, or overseer of said plantation, but in no case shall more than one person be exempted for one farm or plantation. 2. Such person shall first ex-

That to pay the amount of the Government tax and interest provided for, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to issue six per cent bonds, in an amount not exceeding five hundred millions of dollars, the principal and interest whereof shall be free from taxation, and for the payment of the interest thereon the entire net receipts of any export duty hereafter laid on the value of all cotton, tobacco, and naval stores, which shall be exported from the Confederate States, and the net proceeds of the import duties now laid, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay annually the interest, are hereby specially pledged, provided that the duties now laid upon imports and hereby pledged shall hereafter be paid in specie or in sterling exchange, or in the coupons of said bonds.

7. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized, from time to time, as the wants of the Treasury may require it, to sell or hypothecate for Treasury notes and bonds, or any part thereof, upon the best terms he can, so as to meet appropriations by Congress, and at the same time reduce and restrict the amount of the circulation in Treasury notes within reasonable and safe limits.

8. The bonds authorized by the 6th section of this act may be either registered or coupon bonds, as the parties taking them may elect, and they may be exchanged for each other under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe. They shall be for one hundred dollars, or some multiple of one hundred dollars, and shall, together with the coupons thereto attached, be in such form and of such authentication as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe. The interest shall be payable half yearly on the 1st January and July in each year—the principal shall be payable not less than thirty years from their date.

9. All call certificates shall be fundable, and shall be taxed in all respects, as is provided for the Treasury notes, into which they are convertible. If not converted before the time fixed for taxing the Treasury notes, such certificates shall, from that time, bearing interest upon only sixty-six and two-thirds cents for every dollar promised upon their face, and shall be redeemable only in new Treasury notes at that rate, but after the passage of this act, no call certificates shall be issued until after the 1st day of April, 1864.

10. That if any bank of deposit shall give its depositors the bonds authorized by the 1st section of this act in exchange for their deposits, and specify the same on the bonds by some distinctive mark or token, to be agreed upon with the Secretary of the Treasury, then the said depositor shall be entitled to receive the amount of said bonds in Treasury notes bearing no interest and outstanding at the passage of this act, provided, the said bonds are presented before the privilege of funding said notes at par shall cease, as herein prescribed.

11. That all treasury notes heretofore issued of the denomination of five dollars shall continue to be receivable in payment of public dues, as provided by law, and fundable at par under the provisions of this act, until the 1st of July, 1864, east, and until the 1st of October, 1864, west of the Mississippi, but after that time they shall be subject to a tax of thirty-three and one-third cents on every dollar promised on the face thereof, said tax to attach to said notes wherever circulated, and said notes to be fundable and exchangeable for new treasury notes, as herein provided, subject to the deduction of said tax.

12. That any State holding treasury notes, received before the time herein fixed for taxing said notes, shall be allowed until the 1st day of January, 1865, to fund the same in six per cent bonds of the Confederate States, payable twenty years after date, and the interest payable semi-annually. But all treasury notes received by any State after the time fixed for taxing the same, as aforesaid, shall be held to have been received diminished by the amount of said tax. The discrimination between the notes subject to the tax and those not so subject shall be left to the good faith of each State, and the certificate of the Governor thereof shall in each case be conclusive.

13. That treasury notes heretofore issued, bearing interest at the rate of seven dollars and thirty cents on the hundred dollars per annum, shall no longer be received in payment of public dues, but shall be deemed and considered bonds of the Confederate States, payable two years after a ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States, bearing the rate of interest specified on their face, payable on the 1st January in each and every year.

14. That the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized, in case the exigencies of the Government should require it, to pay the demand of any public creditor whose debt may be contracted after the passage of this act, willing to receive the same, in a certificate of indebtedness to be issued by said Secretary in such form as he may deem proper, payable two years after a ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States, bearing interest at the rate of six per cent per annum, payable semi-annually, and transferable only by special endorsement under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and said certificates shall be exempt from taxation in principal and interest.

15. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to increase the number of depositories so as to meet the requirements of this act, and with that view to employ such of the banks of the several States as he may deem expedient.

16. The Secretary of the Treasury shall forthwith advertise this act in such newspapers published in the several States and by such other means as shall secure immediate publicity, and the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy shall each cause it to be published in general orders for the information of the army and navy.

17. The 42d section of the act for the assessment and collection of taxes approved May 1st, 1863, is hereby repealed.

[The 42d section of said act reads as follows: "That the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe regulations to enable any tax payer to pay into the Treasury, in advance, such sum as he may choose on account of taxes to accrue against him, and to obtain therefor a

THE ARMY—THE FINANCIAL.

Important Action of Congress in Secret Session—Passage of the Currency, Tax, and Military Bills.

The Congress of the Confederate States completed its labors, yesterday, on the three important subjects which have occupied its attention during the session, viz: The Currency, the Revenue, and Army Bills. The two Houses, being unable to agree upon the provisions of the several bills, referred them to Committees of Conference. Yesterday, those Committees submitted their reports, which were respectively ratified by the two Houses. The injunction of secrecy was then removed, and we are thus enabled to lay before our readers, this morning, copies of the several acts.

We have no space for comment, and, if we had, would not employ it in criticism; for, whatever might be said in way of objection, we cannot overlook the fact that these measures are now beyond recall, except in a contingency not to be expected—that of their veto—and that, constituting as they must the policy of the Government, it is the duty of all good citizens to do what they can to make them successful. In this spirit we commend them to the cheerful acquiescence and support of the people.

THE CURRENCY BILL.

AN ACT TO FUND, TAX AND LIMIT THE CURRENCY.

1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the holders of all Treasury notes above the denomination of five dollars, not bearing interest, shall be allowed until the 1st day of April, 1864, east of the Mississippi river, and until the 1st day of July, 1864, west of the Mississippi river, to fund the same, and until the periods and at the places stated the holders of all such Treasury notes shall be allowed to fund the same in registered bonds, bearing interest at the rate of four per cent, per annum, payable on the 1st day of January and July of each year.

2. The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to issue the bonds required for the funding provided for in the preceding section, and until the bonds can be prepared he may issue certificates to answer the purpose. Such bonds and certificates shall be receivable without interest in payment of all government dues payable in the year 1864, except export and import duties.

3. That all Treasury notes of the denomination of one hundred dollars, not bearing interest, which shall not be presented for funding under the provisions of the first section of this act, shall from and after the first day of April, 1864, east of the Mississippi river, and the first day of July, 1864, west of the Mississippi river, cease to be receivable in the payment of public dues, and said notes, if not so presented at the time, shall, in addition to the tax of thirty-three and one-third cents imposed in the 4th section of this act, be subject to a tax of six per cent per month until so presented, which taxes shall attach to said notes wherever circulated, and shall be deducted from the face of said notes whenever presented for payment or for funding, and said notes shall not be exchangeable for the new issue of treasury notes provided for in this act.

4. That on all said treasury notes not funded or used in payment of taxes at the dates and places prescribed in the 1st section of this act, there shall be levied at said dates and places a tax of thirty-three and one-third cents on every dollar promised on the face of said notes. Said tax shall attach to said notes wherever circulated, and shall be collected by deducting the same at the Treasury, its depositories, and by the tax collectors, and by all government officers receiving the same, whenever presented for payment, or for funding, or in payment of government dues, or for postage, or in exchange for new notes as herein after provided; and said Treasury notes shall be fundable in bonds as provided in the first section of this act until the 1st day of January, 1865, at the rate of sixty-six and two-thirds cents on the dollar.

And it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury at any time between the 1st April east, and the 1st July, 1864, west of the Mississippi river, and the 1st January, 1865, to substitute and exchange new Treasury notes for the same, at the rate of sixty-six and two-thirds cents on the dollar, provided that notes of the denomination of one hundred dollars shall not be entitled to the privilege of said exchange; provided further, that the right to fund any of said Treasury notes after the 1st day of January, 1865, is hereby taken away, and provided further, that upon all such Treasury notes which may remain outstanding on the 1st January, 1865, and which may not be exchanged for new Treasury notes as herein provided, a tax of one hundred per cent, is hereby imposed.

5. That after the first day of April next, all authority heretofore given to the Secretary of the Treasury to issue Treasury notes shall be and is hereby revoked; provided, the Secretary of the Treasury may after that issue new treasury notes, in such forms as he may prescribe, payable two years after the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States, and new issues to be receivable in payment of all public dues except export and import duties, and to be issued in exchange for old notes, at the rate of two dollars of the new for three dollars of the old issues, whether said old notes be surrendered for exchange by the holders thereof, or be received in the Treasury under the provisions of this act; and the holders of the new notes or of the old notes, except those of the denomination of one hundred dollars, after they are reduced to sixty-six and two-thirds cents on the dollar, by the tax aforesaid, may convert the same into call certificates, bearing interest at the rate of four per cent per annum, and payable two years after the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States, unless sooner converted into new notes.