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## STATE LEGISLATURE.

## EPITOME OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS

Representatives of the People Meet in General Assembly to make laws for the State.

## FOURTEENTH DAY'S SESSION.

SENATE.—The senate was called to order at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Schoolfield, the senator from the Twentieth district, appeared to take the oath. The President stated that the certificate did not state the district from which the senator was elected and did not have a seal affixed. Mr. McDowell moved, that as it was plain that Mr. Schoolfield had been elected, he be sworn in. This course was taken.

The following bills and resolutions were introduced:

Mr. Olive—A resolution looking to a more thorough listing and collection of taxes.

Mr. Pettigrew—A bill relative to securing better title to land.

Mr. Pettigrew—A bill to secure the better building of wharfs.

Mr. Battle—A bill requiring clerks of the superior courts to keep a record of the names of justices of the peace.

Mr. Olive—A bill to protect persons on lands rented or leased for agricultural purposes.

Mr. Olive—A bill to better secure the listing and payment of poll taxes.

The bill to determine conflicting claims to real property passed its second and third readings.

The bill in reference to the free passage of fish in the Catawba river passed its third reading.

The bill extending the time for funding the state debt to January 1, 1895, passed its second reading.

The bill to allow deputy clerks of registers of deeds to act in discharge of mortgages, etc., passed second and third readings.

HOUSE.—Speaker Overman called the house to order at 10:30.

Mr. Fuller, of Durham—To regulate the hours of labor in manufacturing establishments, making the legal time ten hours a day.

## FIFTEENTH DAY.

SENATE.—The senate was called to order at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Sherrill offered a petition asking the incorporation of Friendship M. E. Church, in Catawba county.

The house was called to order at 10:30 by Speaker Overman.

Mr. Barlow, resolution of instruction to our senators and representatives in congress in relation to the establishment of a national park in Western North Carolina.

The bill to abolish the present law requiring agricultural statistical blanks to be filled out, &c. was discussed at great length.

Captain Kitchen grew warm on the subject. During his speech he dashed a little merriment over the earnest house by an anecdote on lawyers. Somelawyer once remarked to a farmer in the Captain's county, "An honest lawyer, is the noblest work of God." "Yes, but he's the scarcest," was the reply.

## SIXTEENTH DAY.

SATURDAY.—The senate was called to order at 10 o'clock by Lieutenant governor Doughton.

The following bills and resolutions were introduced:

By Mr. Mercer, a bill to allow the chairman of the board of county commissioners extra compensation. Finance.

By Mr. Petterson, a bill to amend section 3752, chapter 57 of the code, regulating the fees of sheriffs. Judiciary.

Senate bill 52, to give justices of the peace jurisdiction over the of-

fence of cruelty to animals, was taken up and the bill passed its third reading.

Senate bill 129, to prohibit detectives from going armed in this state, came up and passed its second and third readings.

HOUSE.—The house met at half past 10 o'clock.

The following bills were introduced.

By Mr. McNeill, a bill to amend the Code in relation to elopement. Judiciary.

By the same, a bill to amend the Code relating to divorce. Judiciary.

House bill 143, a bill to amend chapter 142, acts of 1851, relating to the hunting of opossums, came up on its second reading. The amendment was to strike out the county of Vance.

The introducer of the bill, Mr. Watson, of Vance, yielded the advocacy of the bill to Mr. Watson, of Forsyth, who said he willingly championed the cause of his friend from Vance. The amendment to exempt Vance from the operations of the act of 1851 was just. That bill interferes with the ancient and common law rights of the people of that county. He did not know how that bill came to pass; other subjects of less importance had received better consideration. That was the first time the o'possum had been legislated upon in this body. He had been acquainted with 'possum hunting since his boyhood. He had followed it under the leadership of the only man who knew how to hunt 'possums. He described the preparations for the hunt, the torches, the noisy barking of the expectant dogs. He could give the whoop as they sallied forth, but this is not the place to give it. He does not know where the action of this legislation originated; in the prolific brain, perhaps, from the section represented of distinguished biblical knowledge from Buncombe. All traditions would point to the great abundance of 'possum in old times. They had much connection with the tower of Babel and the origination of profanity in the building of that tower. Labor was wanted and it could not be had because of the abundance of 'possum. They hung by their tails from every persimmon tree. The sons of Ham brought them in, and because there was no other way to get fiddle strings, they got them from the 'possum and danced to the music of the 'possum stringed fiddle, and wouldn't work. Cush was a greater man than Ham. He hunted 'possums in the absence of the 'possum dog; but he was smart enough to get labor, built a town and had passed laws against the hunting of 'possums. The outraged people broke for the country, and went everywhere and carried the 'possum everywhere.

Some went to Australia, the long legged kind, and became the Kangaroo, which moved so fast that its tail couldn't keep up with the body. Our 'possum came from Ireland, and there took on the prefix O. He had often wandered what was the ambrosia of the god. He had learned that it was chowan made from the 'possums caught by Diana in the hills round about Helecon. We know nothing about 'possums. We get a little knowledge of them from the songs sung to us in babyhood:

Rock a-bye baby on the tree top,  
When the wind blows the cradle will fall,  
When the tree falls the cradle will fall,  
Down comes cradle, 'possum and all.

He hopped the house will favor the gentlemen from Vance. That will carry a blessing to his house and his county. The 'possum law, as the gentleman from Vance knew,

gave great trouble during the last campaign.

Mr. Anderson moved to amend the bill by including Rockingham county.

Mr. Watkins, by adding the county of Anson.

The bill as amended passed by an unanimous vote, and was ordered to be engrossed.

## SEVENTEENTH DAY.

MONDAY, Jan. 23.—The senate was called to order at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Senate bill 133, requiring county superintendents of public instruction to enumerate the number of deaf, dumb and blind children in their respective counties, was taken up, and the bill passed its second and third readings.

HOUSE.—The house was called to order at half past 10 o'clock.

House bill 179, to provide a uniform rule of action against railroad companies for use and occupation; no suits for damages for use of land or rights of way to be brought within five years after such use, etc., on motion of Mr. Robertson, was passed over informally.

## The Next Tariff.

Our Washington correspondent says, as follows: "The Carlisle tariff bill." How does that strike you as a popular title for the democratic tariff bill which is to be passed by the Fifty-third congress? Unless a number of gentlemen who are in position to know they are in their calculations Senator Carlisle, whose resignation as senator will take effect the fourth of next month, is the man who will frame that bill. The great success of the Walker tariff bill, framed by President Polk's secretary of the Treasury, was, it is said, what induced Mr. Cleveland to follow the same plan and entrust the framing of a tariff bill which is to be strictly in accord with democratic ideas, to his Sec. of the treasury. It is not to be understood or inferred that this move is intended to deprive the Ways and Means Committee of the next house of any of its rights. The idea is merely to put into the hands of that committee a complete tariff bill, leaving its members to decide whether it shall be accepted as prepared or be amended before being reported to the house. Whatever one's opinion of this method of preparing the tariff bill may be, it cannot be denied that John G. Carlisle is by experience and ability specially well qualified to frame the democratic bill. He has for many years been a leading tariff reformer, and his name attached to the bill would of itself make it popular with the rank and file of the democratic party.

## Arson Meant Death.

There are several degrees of arson but to be in the first degree the offense must be committed at night and the building set on fire must have been inhabited. This was the degree of arson which in the antebellum days in the south was made a capital offense. The severity of the punishment was designed to deter angered slaves from resorting to this species of revenge. It was so easy to fire a house or touch a match to a barn that the utmost severity was employed in punishing such an offense, and, as a matter of fact, so effectual was the deterrent influence of the dreadful penalty that in the twenty-five years preceding the war there were not half a dozen executions for arson.

Mrs. Mary Forest, widow of Gen. N. B. Forest, one of the most famous commanders of the confederates died in Memphis yesterday.

## STATE NEWS.

Col. L. D. W. Stephenson and Mr. O. J. Carrole are candidates for the marshalship of the eastern district, of N. C.

Mr. Kope Elias, ex-senator from Mocon county, is a candidate for United States attorney of the western district of North Carolina.

Yesterday, ex-Senator D. E. McIver, of Sanford, and Miss Kate Scott were united in marriage in the Methodist Church at Sanford. The ceremony was performed at 8:30 p. m.

A few days ago Mr. G. P. Peel, reading clerk of the senate, was painfully burned. While dressing his clothing caught fire, and before the flames could be extinguished his left side and arm were severely burned.

On the 17th inst. the solicitor of the superior court of the Raleigh district, sent to the grand jury a bill of indictment against S. Ottho Wilson, who is said to be the head of the band of Gideonites in North Carolina. The witnesses before the jury were ex Senator Bell and Mr. Dunn of Henderson. A true bill has been found.

A bill by Senator Vance to erect a monument on the Guilford battle field to Gen. Nathaniel Greene has been reported favorably in the senate. The bill asked for an appropriation of \$50,000; but as reported grants only \$25,000. We suggest that \$25,000 be raised by private subscription, and added to the congressional appropriation that we may be enabled to erect a monument somewhat commensurate with the fame and services of Gen. Greene, who was among the most eminent of the military heroes of the American revolution.

## The Columbian Stamp.

In the United States senate the other day Senator Woolcott called up a joint resolution he had previously introduced directing the discontinuance of the sale of Columbian postage stamps, and made one of his brief, breezy speeches on the subject.

He was at a loss to understand, he said, why those stamps had ever been manufactured. He noticed that the Postmaster General suggested in his annual report that he expected to receive \$1,500,000 extra profits out of their sale by stamp collectors. That was a trick that might suit some of the little Central American States, when they were a few thousand dollars "shy," but the United States was too big a country to unload crude and unusual stamps upon stamp collectors.

Since the resolution was introduced he had from many sources letters showing good reasons why it should be passed. Railroad clerks complained that the one-cent Columbian stamp was so like the registration stamp that constant mistakes were being made by them and he had one from a physician who said that if the sale of those stamps were stopped the stamps might be used for chest protectors (general laughter). He hoped that the post-office committee would take speedy action in the matter.

## Phillips Brooks Dead.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 28.—Bishop Phillips Brooks died 6:30 this morning, of heart failure. It was quite unexpected, the bishop having been sick only since Thursday.

Hon. Lucius Q. C. Lamar, associate justice of the United States supreme court, died suddenly in Macon, Ga., night before last. He was a great man.

## THE ELECTORAL VOTE.

It will not be shown on the face of the Returns

WASHINGTON, January 21.—The certificate of all the states of votes cast for President and Vice President ought to be in the hands of the President of the senate by Monday next. As a matter of fact, 14 states have failed so far to comply with the law by sending on their electoral certificates by messenger, and many of these states which have complied with the law have done so in so slipshod a manner that if the late election had been in any way close official ascertainment of the result under the constitution and laws might have been made almost impossible and the whole government might have been thrown into chaos. One of the first things to be noted is that many of the messengers purporting to bring on the action of their states have come utterly unprovided with credentials. Kansas is one of the most conspicuous offenders in this respect. An eminent Populist, delegated to bring on the vote of his "bleeding" state, was presented to the president of the senate by Senator Peffer, Congressman Jeremiah Simpson and one of his colleagues, who vouched for him but their voucher, in the absence of the slightest scrap of writing from the electoral college, was not the kind of voucher that the Treasury Department required in order to give him his mileage and per diem for bringing on the vote. As Senator Peffer finally and sorrowfully said: "The only thing left to us is to pay his way back to Kansas ourselves and trust to the state to reimburse us."

This is not the only case of the kind. Many of the packages brought by the messengers have had nothing on the outside to indicate their contents. Two states sent their votes to the President of the United States instead of to the President of the senate. Idaho sent her vote to the secretary of state. It was a marvel of good luck that none of these packages were torn open and thus rendered invalid.

Many states have failed to endorse on their package what it contained. Some messengers have been able to say that there was a sealed and endorsed package inside the outer envelope; in that case, the President of the senate has opened the outer casing and found the duly certified package inside. In other cases messengers have said they did not believe there was any sealed inner package; in these instances the envelope have been put in the senate safe and left untouched. They may contain electoral votes or they may not. The President of the senate has only the words, of the messengers to assure him that these packages actually contained votes of states as represented. Some one might have changed the packages on them.

## Appointment of Magistrates.

The magistrates whose places will be filled by the present legislature are: Newton, J. M. Browa, H. A. Forney, W. C. Caldwell; Hickory, J. Bruns, S. E. Killian, Abel Whitener; Clines, Q. M. Smith, P. K. Little; Catawba S. C. Brown, O. F. Abernethy; Mountain Creek, M. M. Gabriel, Sid Wilkinson; Caldwell, J. D. Caldwell, S. L. Huit and two vacancies; Jacobs Fork, G. M. Yoder, S. T. Wilfong; Bandy's, John Johnson, M. F. Hull. Of the above W. C. Caldwell was appointed to fill a vacancy in a term which does not expire until 1895 and Sid Wilkinson one that expires in 1897.

"Oh if there were but fewer,  
The griefs that us distress so!  
Oh, that blue skies were bluer,  
And the milk a little less so!"