

THE LAW-MAKERS.

Bills General, Local, But All of Some Importance.

THE LEASE ANNULLMENT

Of the North Carolina Railroad Falls by a Vote of 26 to 24--Tax Rate Fixed.

SENATE.

MONDAY.—Senate met at 12 o'clock. There was a large batch of new bills and resolutions introduced, but all were of a local nature, principally.

To incorporate the City of Clyde, in Haywood county; to provide for marking the public roads of Halifax county; to establish a system for working the public roads of Vance county; to authorize the Board of Public Works of Wake County to levy a special tax; to amend chapter 10, in Wake Forest township; to allow Greensboro to issue bonds; to allow Brunswick county to levy a special tax; to provide for printing the law of 1897; to allow Duplin county to levy a special tax; to provide for the additional equipment, repairs, and support of the University of North Carolina; to amend chapter 194, Laws of 1895, relating to the improvement of public roads; to amend chapter 194, Laws of 1895, relating to the improvement of public roads; to amend chapter 194, Laws of 1895, relating to the improvement of public roads.

TUESDAY.—Senate met at 10 o'clock. Among the new measures were:

To amend the charter of Forest City in Rutherford county; to incorporate the town of Redmond in Madison county; to issue bonds and levy a special tax; to amend the charter of Southern Pines; to amend Transylvania county to levy a special tax; to amend the charter of Forest City; to amend the charter of Southern Pines; to amend Transylvania county to levy a special tax; to amend the charter of Forest City; to amend the charter of Southern Pines; to amend Transylvania county to levy a special tax.

At the night session the following bills were passed:

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FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

The Proceedings Briefly Told From Day to Day.

SENATE.

MONDAY.—In the Senate Washington's farewell address was read in the presence of a large audience by Daniel, (Dem.) of Virginia. The principal part of the day was occupied in the consideration of the Indian appropriation bill.

The bill reported back from the postoffice committee with amendments, including one for one-cent letter postage. The bill and report were antagonized by two Populist Senators—Butler, of North Carolina, and Stewart, of Nevada.

FRIDAY.—The entire day of the Senate was practically consumed in a discussion of an amendment in the Indian appropriation bill for the opening to settlers of the Uncompaghe Indian reservation in Utah, containing one of the amendments.

FRIDAY.—The House, after a five-hour struggle passed the anti-railroad ticket scalping bill by a vote of 142 to 51. The bill only applies to interstate commerce transportation.

FRIDAY.—The Senate discussed the bill to amend the act to provide for the purchase of the land of the person claiming to be an American citizen, who were captured on board the Competitor.

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WORLD OF TRADE.

Cotton Exports Fall Off—Prices Advance.

Below is Messrs. R. G. Dun & Co.'s review of trade for the past week, along with Saturday's Chicago grain and produce, Liverpool and New York cotton futures, and Winston tobacco markets:

"Genuine improvement in business does not come with a rush like the breaking of a great dam. The growth for some weeks past has been more encouraging, because in nearly all lines it has been gradual and moderate. The rupture of the steel rail and other combinations in the iron business has brought out a vast quantity of trade which had been held back and has set many thousands of men at work, while the slow but steady gain in other great industries has given employment to many thousands more, but the full effect will not appear until the increased purchases by all these swell the distribution of goods. This comes more slowly and later, but is already apparent. Certainly regarding the future will help it mightily and is by multitudes expected with a confidence that is well warranted. A substantial ground for confidence that months which were regarded by many in the money market with serious apprehension have passed without disturbance and with steady confidence in the bank and in the country and of the treasury. It was not to be expected that the excess of exports over imports would continue as large in January as it had been in previous months, and yet it was surprisingly large. This fact, which has been naturally been less favorable as cotton exports fall off at this season, and yet the decrease compared with last year is trifling, while the increase in imports has exceeded that of last year by \$29,040,000, compared with last year, or about 2 per cent. Nothing in the State of foreign exchanges indicates that the heavy credits in favor of this country have been liquidated or postponed. The iron bars are unchanged, but orders for 900 cars by one railway, with numerous others, increase the demand, and plates are required for two great elevators in Chicago. Important contracts for export continue and American makers undersell foreign in tin plates by 70 cents, and are selling cotton ties below 75 for which \$1.10 was charged by importers a year ago. With less rapidity but with steady order in durable goods. Although brown four-year shirtings are an eighth lower and print cloths a sixteenth lower, it is found that several cotton mills are started, not covered by the restriction as to print cloth work, which is carried out. Increasing demand has also started quite a number of woolen mills, including many making dress goods and hosiery. The demand for men's wools is also somewhat better, especially for heavy wools, which is carried out. Improving sales of better qualities. In boots and shoes also, growing belief that prices will not give way has started many more shops, although many others still shrink from the press asked.

"Failures for the past week have been 296 in the United States against 278 last year, and 50 in Canada against 68 last year.

GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT.

The Cost of Road-Making in the State of North Carolina.

The State of North Carolina has been very progressive in the movement for good roads. Prof. J. A. Holmes, State geologist, has prepared a report on the subject, which shows the money raised in North Carolina for road purposes to be \$109,000. The largest amount (\$28,000) is raised by Mecklenburg county; the next largest (\$12,000) in Buncombe, and third (\$9,000) in Forsyth. The total number of counties that have adopted a road tax is about thirty. They are working their roads now, this system either wholly or in part.

Reports from a number of counties working convicts on their roads show that it costs less to work them on the public roads than it does to feed them in the county jails. In Wake, for instance, it costs twenty and one-half cents in Mecklenburg, Forsyth, Durham and Alamance it costs twenty cents per day per convict to work them on the public roads. This cost includes clothing, medical attention and salaries of the guards. Whereas in these same counties, when these prisoners are kept in jail, it costs on an average of 28 cents per day per prisoner to support them.

The report shows, furthermore, that the convicts enjoy better health when working on the public roads than when in jail. The report will be a valuable addition to the literature on the employment of convicts and the good roads movement.—Manufacturers' Record.

RAN A CORPSE TRUST.

A Cemetery Sexton Sells Corpses to the College.

At Lynchburg, Va., N. J. Farmer, sexton of the city's burying grounds, was arrested and bailed for his appearance in the police court to answer the charge of unlawfully disintering the body of Ella Jameison, the white woman who committed suicide by drowning.

The woman was buried at the city's expense and the body was disintered and packed in a barrel and sent to the depot for shipment to the University of Virginia.

The police authorities believe that Farmer has been engaged for some time in the practice of disintering bodies for a money, and that a careful watch was kept on the cemetery, with the result as stated. Farmer admitted that he had been shipping bodies to the University but claims that he had a right to do so under the law.

UNJUST IMPRISONMENT.

A Georgia Negro Granted a New Trial, But Never Given.

It has just come to light in Savannah, Ga., that a negro named Major Lee has served 15 years in the Georgia penitentiary on conviction for murder, has never had a new trial which was granted him by the Superior court on the grounds that he is not guilty under the evidence that was submitted in the case. Lee was convicted in 1881 and the verdict was contrary to the law and the evidence. In the meantime Lee was sent to the penitentiary, and is there today and has never had his new trial.

When sent up he was a little 14-year old boy. He is now a big, burly negro of 30.

In Cow Island, La., where the alligator abounds, the tame villatic hen of a lady residing there has just hatched out several of the reptiles along with her own brood. The most curious thing about the incident is that the young saurians discern nothing irregular in their parentage and follow the mother hen around in company with her chicks apparently in entire contentment with their lot. The indifference of the placid domestic fowl as to what the eggs beneath it bring forth has long engaged the attention of naturalists, who finally ascribe it to the nature's composure for its own tranquility and peace of its posterity. It brings up a brood of turkeys or muscovy ducklings with the same care that it bestows on the fluffy chicks of its own breed, which it is natural to suppose that it contracted for. How it may be with the nursing saurians of Cow Island is another matter, but there is no reason to suppose that the hen will fall in any reasonable point of duty toward them. Cow Island now ought to produce the tale of an alligator hatching out and nursing to maturity a brood of buff cochin or Plymouth Rocks. It would be equally interesting and almost as plausible.

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Naval Appropriation Completed.

Washington.—The Senate committee on appropriations has completed consideration of the naval appropriation bill. Among the changes made is one fixing in specific terms \$400 per ton as the maximum price to be paid for armor plate and providing that in case the plate cannot be produced at this price, the government shall establish a plant and make its own armor. The Senate committee also made provision for three additional torpedo boats. The armor plate contract is increased over the total of the House appropriations amounting to \$365,300, and bringing the total of the bill up to \$728,234.