

News of the Day.

The Virginia Railroad war continues with unabated interest.

There has been an insurrection in the Russian provinces.

A bill is before the Kentucky Legislature to abolish the whipping post.

The Modoc Chief, Captain Jack, offers \$100 bounty for white scalps.

Snow again suspends travel in the far West.

Dr. C. F. Deems is at a work in Raleigh.

The select committee to investigate the case of Clayton, of Arkansas, exonerate him.

Hon. Alexander H. Stephens has been elected to Congress from the 8th Georgia District without opposition.

A law partnership has been formed in Raleigh between Messrs. A. S. Merrimon, T. C. Fuller, and S. A. Ashe.

"Honest John" Patterson was serenaded at his residence in Columbia on Tuesday evening, by the post band.

The Conservative caucus of members of the Virginia Legislature have decided to extend the session for thirty days from today, on account of important business.

The South Carolina Legislature adjourned on Wednesday. An explanation of this occurrence may be found in the fact that there is probably no more money in the Treasury.

On Wednesday in the city of New York assembled a national convention for the purpose of organizing for an amendment to the Constitution recognizing the Christian religion.

The Congressional committee of conference have agreed to extend the time of the Southern claims commission for four years. They have twenty thousand un- heard claims before them.

On special application of Mr. Handley, the President signed on Wednesday the pardon of Charles Howard and Jas. Blanks, of Randolph county, Ala., who were convicted as ku-klux and confined in the Albany penitentiary.

The Raleigh Sentinel thinks that Judge Tourgee occupies an impeachable position, and a committee might, with propriety, inquire into his forbidding, by injunction, the Treasurer from appealing as ordered by the General Assembly.

The committee on the affairs of the W. N. C. R., have submitted a lengthy report. A large number of witnesses were examined by the committee, among them President Tate, ex-President Mott, R. F. Simonton, R. Y. McAden, N. W. Woodfin and T. L. Clinegan.

The Senate has passed the Utah bill. It provides easy means of divorce and validates the claim of plural wife to share the property of the "polygamist, and gives the women the custody of their "mirth" children.

A Washington dispatch of the 27th says that Louisiana affairs are becoming serious. Upon a resolution of the Union Legislature to reinstate certain Courts in Orleans Parish, Gov. McEnry calls out the militia of the Parish. No danger apprehended. Up to this hour no Federal action has been taken.

In the House of Representatives of our Legislature on Thursday, the resolution for the impeachment of Solicitor R. M. Henry, of the 12th District, was, after some debate, rescinded. The resolution to rescind was introduced in the Senate, but no action was taken on it.

BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.

We have received from Col. John E. Brown, Representative of Mecklenburg, a copy of the Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Public Charities of North Carolina, and we publish some extracts therefrom, as compiled by the Raleigh News, containing valuable information in regard to the charitable and penal institutions of the State.

The Board consists of Dr. C. Tate Murphy, Senator from Sampson, Chairman, Dr. Eugene Grissom, Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, and Dr. G. W. Blackhall.

The purposes and objects of the Board are stated to be the growth and development of true public charity, humanely, intelligently and economically administered, and these objects are classified as follows:

1. The government and management of these institutions.

2. Official conduct of superintendents, trustees, directors and employees of these institutions.

3. Condition of the buildings, grounds and other property.

4. Financial management, economy and wisdom in the expenditure of money appropriated for their support.

5. The efficiency and usefulness of each institution to all parts of the State alike.

6. Compliance or failure to comply with the general and special laws relating to each.

7. Who have a claim to relief?

8. What is the basis of their claim?

9. What is its extent?

10. How, and by whom should the relief be administered?

11. What are the best methods of administration in all these departments?

12. Many other matters pertaining to the usefulness and good management of the institution under the inspection of the Board.

The Report gives an explanation of the creation of the Board, and the progress it has made since its organization.

The Board of Public Charities was created under a law passed by the General Assembly of 1862-'63, and the terms of office of the first elected were to begin on the first day of July 1863, and to hold one, two, three, four and five years, respectively, the Legislature electing successors to each for five years from the date of such expiring terms.

Dr. Murphy was chosen President of the Board in March, 1872, to succeed Rev. G. W. Walker, whose term had expired, and he was requested by a resolution adopted by the Board to visit to many of the prisons and poor-houses of the State as practicable, and report their condition.

In accordance with this resolution, Dr. Murphy visited a number of counties, and the poor houses and jails were examined as thoroughly as possible. These counties were in the western, central and eastern portions of the State, giving it, it is believed, a fair average of the accommodations and treatment of the pauper and prisoners of the State.

The results of Dr. Murphy's observations and investigations are given in detail in the Report, and as part of the history of the time, and as embodying useful and interesting information on the subjects discussed, we give the following extracts:

Some of the western counties have the poor houses built on high and steep hills, with clay or lined with split boards, some low, leaky and badly decayed, both in the roofs and floors, some filthy, but low, clean or at all comfortable. In the more central counties, frame tenements were generally occupied, and of these, only the poorest buildings were occasionally not even these were either comfortable or suited to the purpose.

In brief, the poor houses as a class are property and appropriately named, they are "poor houses," indeed. The beds and bedding are in keeping with the houses, old and dilapidated, the bedsteads and mattresses so filthy and lumpy as to suggest the idea of a sort of poor house Asylums, and the inmates of other hay or straw, and instances were noticed where, on account of the want of clothing, the inmates were compelled to cut up the ticking of the mattresses for the purpose of covering their nakedness. This condition of things was found to exist in counties where clover, hay, and the grasses are successfully cultivated, and prosperity and plenty in other respects prevail.

In two or three counties only were brick houses found. In one of these the floors were badly decayed, and in one only did we find a building well suited to the purposes of an almshouse. This was the county of Guilford, and was erected under the supervision of that noble patriot and statesman, Ex-Gov. Morehead, who, in this respect as well as others, was far in advance of his State and times, and whose benevolence and sagacity in this providing for the poor and destitute of his county, ought surely to be imitated by others.

We found some sort of medical attention allowed by most of the County Boards, but was let out generally awarded sometimes to incompetent men. In certain counties this poor boon was denied even where the inmates suffered severely with both acute and chronic diseases. In one county we found in a filthy room a woman suffering with an extensive scrofulous ulcer, covering almost the entire neck, shoulders, and one side of the face, and emitting the most insupportable effluvia, was domiciled in the same room with an aged paralytic, unable to raise himself in bed, and no treatment was afforded either and no physician had visited them in the poor house for two years.

We found but in two counties medicines kept in the poor house, and no such thing as a dispensary or any room set apart for the physician, where he could weigh or dispense the medicines needed by the inmates. It is needless to state to any one, ever within the wards of a hospital, the importance of this arrangement.

As a class, we found the overseers (of the poor) either imbeciles or soulless mercenaries, taking the positions at prices so ruinously low as to preclude the possibility of fair dealing or honest provision for the inmates, their greatest anxiety appearing to be to keep on satisfactory terms with the County Board. From 11 to 16 cents per day, with the privilege of working the inmates on the poor and unproductive farms, was for their support. Only in one county visited we found the keeper charged with harsh treatment or requiring the paupers to labor on the farms when unable to do so. In this instance the County Commissioners stipulated to furnish support, and allowed the overseer the proceeds of the farm, by which it was claimed he realized over fifteen hundred dollars per annum profit. This being the only conspicuous instance of an energetic overseer, and being in such striking contrast with those so indolent and efficient, we were inclined to look upon him with favor and commendation.

PAUPERS—INSANE, PARALYTIC, IDIOTIC, EPILEPTIC, ETC.

With regard to this class, almost a volume might be written; but the space only here permits to recite a few facts somewhat illustrative of the treatment of these unfortunate.

Who, that ever passed through the wards of an insane asylum, even the best regulated hospital, for the care and keeping of this pitiable class, but has had his heart crushed into gloomy sadness, and his tenderest sympathies aroused for these afflicted, forlorn and helpless creatures will not say to himself, "God grant it may never be thus with me or mine," and reason again with

himself and wonder if all these mind-

lost fellow-beings, are treated, not

manely, kindly and gently, and think

how cruel indeed it would be to neglect

them, and to injure them, or treat

them as they would up in his soul to ask

him to wish us if his place is in the

county poor house, and work

with us through these wards, and we

will perhaps see an epileptic that, by

the often recurring convulsions the

brain has sustained, or many shocks,

has lost reason and intelligence, driv-

en out and is gone forever. In an-

other corner is the poor old paralytic,

crying for some one to raise him up

to enable him to take his thirst

with cold water, or to partake of his

scanty meal. Just beyond is the idiot,

with his vacant stare and tattered

clothing, and a little further back,

in a separate ward, you hear loud

cries, with pelting and banging

against the walls, alternate cries and

laughs, imprecations and songs. Look

into the little huddle of a cell, and you

see the shivering naked form of an

insane man or woman, whom the

keeper will tell you will not wear

clothing, nor have bedding, nor even

straw upon which to lie, who is

sometimes violent, and breaking out,

near to death some poor

man, woman or child. No

skillful physician is here to prescribe

even a palliative dose to soothe and

compose the irritable nervous system,

no quiet chamber to be left

alone to sleep; no careful watching

and blissful ignorance, disorder

and confusion.

This is indeed a sad picture, but

true to life, of our poor houses this

day. Beside the insane inmates, as

already described, in the poor houses,

many are confined in jails, some

chained in the dungeons, without

anything around them or about them

but cold, bleak, dreary darkness,

wallowing in mouldy filth, and in

chains, and some we had good

reasons for believing, were often stinted

for food, and even were deprived of

sufficient cold water to quench their

thirst.

FOOD, COOKING, &c., FOR PAUPERS.

It was found where the County

Boards furnished provisions there

seemed to be no complaint as to the

quantity of food, but where the com-

missioners had let out to the lowest

bidders, contracts with keepers, at

one dollar per day for entire

keeping and support, there was not

a sufficient quantity allowed, and no

care taken as to variety or health-

fulness of food. In fact, we can state

with the fewest exceptions, the food

provided for the poor is almost uni-

versally of the same nature, and

consists of a few pounds of wheat

bread, a few pounds of meat, and a

few pounds of butter, and a few

pounds of sugar, and a few pounds

of coffee, and a few pounds of

tea, and a few pounds of

rice, and a few pounds of

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penitentiary as to food, clothing,

medical attention, &c., with the half-

starved, half-clad sick and suffering

inmates of the poor houses of the

State is so painfully great as to cause

a feeling of humiliation to those who

can sympathize with affliction, or

to pity and want.

LEGISLATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

SENATE.

Wednesday, Feb. 26.

NIGHT SESSION.

Senate met at 7 o'clock, Lieut. Gov. Brodgen in the chair.

The calendar was taken up and the following bills passed their third readings:

Bill to authorize the Commissioners of Mecklenburg county to sell their present jail, and to levy a special tax for the erection of another jail and other purposes.

Resolution for the relief of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Co., refunding \$1,900.23 of taxes paid by that Company under protest—the U. S. Supreme Court having decided in favor of the Company in a similar case, was taken up.

The bill failed to pass by a vote of 30 yeas to 5 nays.

Bill refunding the taxes paid by the Atlantic, Tennessee & Ohio R. R. during the years 1871-'72. Failed to pass second reading by a vote of 18 to 20.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, Feb. 26.

NIGHT SESSION.

At 7 p. m. Speaker Robinson called the House to order.

The bill to incorporate the Cincinnati and Great Southern Railway Co. was taken up as the special order, and passed its third reading.

The bill to amend the act to incorporate the Granite Railroad Co. was taken up and passed its second reading—yeas 68, nays 23.

The joint resolution in reference to the appeal in the case of the Western N. C. Railroad passed its third reading—yeas 50, nays 34.

Mr. Settle introduced a resolution to rescind the resolution impeaching Solicitor R. M. Henry.

Upon motion of Mr. Skinner the bill to incorporate Mooresville, Irregular county, and prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors, passed its several readings.

The bill to amend chap. 167, laws of 1869-'70, in reference to idiots and lunatics, was taken up and passed its several readings.

The House then adjourned.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, Feb. 27.

Senate met at 10 o'clock, Lieut. Governor in the chair.

Mr. Walker presented a petition from citizens of Rutherfordton asking authority to levy a special tax for educational purposes.

Bill concerning the conveyance of convicts, lunatics and persons to the deaf and dumb asylum—provides that the sheriff or others conveying such persons shall be allowed 20 cents per mile for one person, and 12 cents if two are conveyed at the same time. Passed its several readings.

Mr. Price, a bill relating to the fees of coroner in Davie and Mecklenburg. Referred.

Bill for regulating writs in forma pauperis was amended and passed its several readings.

Mr. Walker, a bill authorizing the levying of a special tax in Rutherfordton for educational purposes.

Bill repealing chap. 136, laws 1871-'72, relating to clerks of Superior Courts, was adopted.

Bill incorporating the North and South Air-Line Railroad Co. Tabled.

Bill to establish a hospital for the insane in North Carolina, appointing Dr. Eugene Grissom, Maj. J. E. Engelhard, and others, a committee to purchase a suitable site, to contract for a building, &c.

Mr. Cowles opposed taking this step at present, owing to the already heavy taxes imposed upon the people.

Mr. Ellis, of Columbus, favored it. Mr. Murphy warmly advocated the measure, believing that the State should take some steps in this direction. The great need for more accommodations for the class of sufferers who ought to be benefited was most apparent to the members of the Board of Public Charities, and something should be done for the relief of those who could not be accommodated in the present Asylum.

Mr. Love thought the State was too poor to take this step now.

Mr. Cramer offered a substitute to the effect that a commission of five be appointed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, two on the part of the Senate and three on the part of the House, whose duty it shall be to visit different portions of the State, where indications have been offered for the location or site for a "Hospital for the insane of North Carolina," and examine into the advantages and inducements offered and submit the same to the General Assembly for their action at its next meeting.—Adopted.

Mr. Welch, in explaining his vote, said he was opposed to any measure looking to anything more than the improvement and enlargement, if necessary, of the present Asylum.

Bill passed its second reading by a vote of 20 to 18.

Failed to pass its third reading by a vote of 16 yeas to 23 nays.

The omnibus prohibition liquor bill, as amended by the House, came up for consideration, and caused considerable debate, some of the amendments that had been adopted by the House being objectionable to various Senators. The difficulty was finally surmounted by the non-concurrence of the Senate in the House amendments and the calling for a Committee Conference of the two Houses.

Bill to amend section 29, chap. 29, laws 71-'72.