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THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

Fifty-Fourth Day.

SENATE.

RALEIGH, March 7.—Senate bill 754, to facilitate the transaction of business in the next General Assembly, requiring the reports of certain officers to be made before the meeting of the General Assembly, Passed.

House bill 569, Senate bill 686, to make dogs listed for taxation the subject of larceny. A motion to table was made and the bill passed its second and third readings.

House resolution 130, Senate resolution 186, to purchase Bibles and other religious books for the use of the penitentiary, passed its second and third readings.

House bill 875, Senate bill 713, for the protection of sheep in the county of Buncombe, passed its second and third readings.

House bill 690, Senate bill 763, for the support of the penitentiary, appropriating \$75,000 for this purpose, passed its second reading.

House bill 165, Senate bill 722, to authorize the State treasurer to exchange the stock of the State in the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal Company for the bonds of the State. A motion to lay on the table was lost, and the bill passed its second and third readings—yeas 18, nays 12.

House bill 580, Senate bill 801, to amend section 1, chapter 25, Battle's Revisal, limiting the number of jurors in inquests to six, passed its second and third readings.

House bill 108, Senate resolution 784, for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Motion to table was adopted.

Senate bill 441, to ascertain whether a majority of the electors of the State are in favor of or against prohibition, was laid on the table.

Mr. Davidson introduced a bill to incorporate the Asheville Gas and Motor Works, which passed its second and third readings.

Mr. Scott, of Rockingham, entered a motion to reconsider the bill regulating the sale of spirituous liquors.

The unfinished business was taken up, which was the machinery bill. The bill as amended passed its third reading.

On motion of Mr. Dorth, the school bill was taken up and considered.

The question was upon adopting the report of the conference committee. Messrs. Richardson, Finger and Scott of Rockingham opposed the adoption of the report.

Messrs. Merritt and Stowe spoke in favor of the adoption of the report.

On motion of Mr. Cunningham, the previous question was ordered. The report was adopted—yeas 17, nays 13.

House bill 885, Senate bill 813, to incorporate the Raleigh Street Railway Company, passed its second and third readings.

House bill 1,004, Senate bill 805, in regard to the collection of taxes in Robeson county, passed its second and third readings.

Mr. Davidson introduced a bill to repeal chap. 27, private laws of 1870-71, in relation to the sale of liquor in the town of Asheville. The bill was put upon its several readings and passed.

House bill 790, Senate bill 765, to incorporate the North Carolina Fertilizer Company, passed its second and third readings.

THE OUTS AND THE INS.

Possible Changes in Officers of the Government at Washington.

The Washington Star to-night has the following official gossip: "It is believed there will be quite a number of changes in the bureau offices of the different departments. General Garfield said the other evening, in talking upon this subject, that he intended to make changes, as he thought the service could be improved by so doing. He intended, he said, to put a good deal of new blood into the various departments. Hon. Levi P. Morton has accepted the French Mission and will be nominated for the place at once. Ex-Governor Noyes, of Ohio, the present incumbent, has already tendered his resignation. The story goes that Senator Hoar has requested the retention of Minister Lowell at England and he will not be disturbed. William E. Chandler will, it is thought, be made Solicitor of the Treasury Department to succeed Kenneth Raynor. No change will at once be made in the Australian Mission, not until Minister Kasson and Congressman-elect completes certain diplomatic matters which have been impending for six weeks or more. The Indiana delegation in Congress will press some one from that State to succeed Alonzo Bell as Assistant Secretary of the Interior. According to pretty good authority, Commissioner Bentley will be retained as Commissioner of Pensions. Among the rumors is that Register of the Treasury Schofield is to be sent as Minister to Russia and Hugh Young, of Pennsylvania, a brother of Governor Young, of Ohio, is to be made Register of the Treasury. General Charles Ewing, a brother of General Tom Ewing, is urged for the Governorship of New Mexico. Report says that Edward McPherson, of Pennsylvania, will be appointed First Assistant Postmaster General, to succeed Mr. T. W. Secretary Blaine is probably the most pestered public man in Washington. The impression is abroad that he is the Warwick of the new dispensation, and hence the office-seekers go to him with their appeals. An old law partner of his, Judge C. C. Linn, is said to be the chief clerk of the Interior Department. There are three candidates for the vacant Judgeship in the United States Court of Claims—Ex-Private Secretary of the War, John K. Hamilton, of Kentucky, and Ex-Congressman, William H. Hunt, of Louisiana, now of Ohio, and who was spoken of as General Garfield's private secretary and who came to Washington with the presidential party. Judge Cook, of Iowa, is said to have a good chance of being appointed to fill the vacancy on the United States Supreme bench. The Illinois delegation will press Judge Drummond. Mr. Thomas Sherman, who has long been Senator from that State, is expected to hold a confidential position in the State Department. Concerning the district officers, it may be said that Recorder of Deeds Sheridan will remain undisturbed in his office. There has been for some time a rush for the Marshalship of this district. It is thought that Marshal Douglass will be reappointed unless he can be otherwise provided for. Among the candidates are Mr. A. M. Clapp, who is strongly recommended; Mr. W. D. Dugan, who is a member of Mr. Garfield's church and who is strongly backed, and Capt. Henry, special agent of the Postoffice Department. No change is now contemplated in the present board of district commissioners. The time for delegations on this subject will not ripen until the near expiration of a commission of one of the two civil members of the board."

AN EARTHQUAKE'S VICTIMS.

Two Hundred Lives Lost and an Immense Amount of Damage Done.

LONDON, March 7.—Ischia, where the earthquakes of Friday occurred, is an island of Italy, in the Mediterranean, at the northern entrance of the Bay of Naples, and has a population of some twenty-five thousand souls. The greatest destruction was at Casamacciola, noted for its warm baths. The first shock occurred at 1:30 on Friday afternoon, and the second an hour later. The whole upper part of the town was destroyed and two establishments damaged. The details confirm the damage to property and loss of life and injury to people previously mentioned in these dispatches. The Syndic and Sub-Preceptors are making preparations for the recovery of the bodies of the victims. The royal steamers Naguna, Pagona and Esploratore have arrived from Naples with soldiers and physicians. The soldiers have rescued many from the ruins. The population have fled to the surrounding country and along the sea coast. The King and the Minister of the Interior have sent a contribution for the relief of the sufferers. The second and fatal shock lasted seven seconds, accompanied by noise like subterranean thunder. Then came a crash of falling houses, accompanied by shrieks of the victims. The probable loss of life will reach 200. The damage to house property is 1,000,000 francs. It was at first supposed that the disaster was connected with the partial eruption of Mount Vesuvius on the 3d inst., but Prof. Palmieri says that the seismographic instrument gave no indications of a disturbance on the 4th inst. He says he thinks the catastrophe was due to some local phenomenon, possibly to a sudden sinking of the ground in consequence of corrosive action of the mineral springs.

Mr. Manning introduced a joint resolution concerning the interests of the people of this State in the Piedmont Railroad. Referred.

Mr. Glenn, of Stokes, introduced a resolution providing that all public bills be put through before any private ones be taken up.

Quite a warm debate sprung up, Mr. Glenn speaking to his resolution, saying his reason for it was to keep a quorum here till the last. The motion to suspend was lost.

House bill to amend article 5, section 1, of the constitution.

Mr. Manning sent forward an amendment in regard to the machinery of the election when this act should be ratified by the people. Adopted.

The bill as amended was placed on its second reading and the roll called.

Mr. Foy explained his vote, saying he was opposed to tampering with the constitution, and thought this Legislature had done very well so far. He voted no.

Mr. Spahnour voted no, as he did not think the amendment was needed.

The bill failed to pass its second reading by a vote of 48 to 18.

Senate bill to amend the time to redeem land sold to the State for taxes was taken up and passed its second and third readings and was enrolled.

Mr. McClure here submitted a report from the committee of investigation in the case of alleged forgery. The committee exonerated all the employees of the General Assembly, and found that the forgery had been committed by W. W. Watson, the member from Edgecombe.

Mr. Manning moved to postpone the matter, and make it the special order for 11 a. m. on Thursday, and in the meantime that the evidence be printed.

Mr. Manning's motion was adopted and the matter referred to a special order for Thursday at 12 m.

Senate bill to amend the charter of the town of Statesville, in Iredell County, was taken up and passed its third reading under a call of the roll.

Mr. Webster here submitted a report from the committee of conference on the school bill, which was adopted.

Mr. Day, by consent, offered a bill to promote the cause of temperance. (This bill prevents the practice commonly known as "treating," when applied to intoxicating drinks in public places.) Referred.

House bill to amend the charter of the town of Shelby, was taken up and passed its third reading.

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