

NO EXEMPT BOND ISSUES
HOUSE OPPOSES THE PRACTICE.

Representatives Look With Disfavor Upon Exemption of Local Bond Issues From State Tax. Declaration of State Interest Introduced Yesterday—Meter Inspection Measure Reported Favorably by Senate Committee—Oyster Industry Discussed by Committee of Both Houses—Association of County Commissioners Proposed—Senate Sends Poem on Its Journal—Appropriation to Be Asked For Exhibit at Seattle Exposition.

Special to The Observer.

Raleigh, Jan. 15.—The House does not seem to look with much favor upon the practice of exempting local bond issues from county and municipal taxes. A bill authorizing the commissioners of Robeson county to issue bonds came up on its second reading, and the exemption section of it brought forth a serious protest from Mr. Currie, of Cumberland, chairman of the committee on agriculture, who declared that no such precedent ought to be set by the House. People ought not to be encouraged to invest their money in bonds by this inducement of freedom from taxation. Mr. Currie even believed State bonds and United States bonds should not be exempted from taxation. "If money is idle," said he, "let it stay idle rather than be brought from hiding by any such means as this."

Mr. Rascow was of similar opinion, but Mr. Burlington thought it was all right. "If Robeson wants to do that, let the other counties have to reason on the subject," he argued. "It takes not a dollar out of the State Treasury."

Mr. Shepherd, of Robeson, assured the House that the bonds would be taken up entirely by Robeson county people, and Mr. Koonce suggested an amendment to that effect.

In reply to a question by Dr. Cox, of Pitt, the Speaker thought the bill would not exempt the bonds from State taxes.

Mr. Doughton questioned the right of the House to pass such a bill under the law, and the bill was finally re-referred to the judiciary committee.

BILLS OF STATE INTEREST.

Several bills of State interest were introduced this morning. One by Mr. Connor would amend the law as to pensions of widows so as to admit those married prior to January 1st, 1870, instead of April 1st, 1865. This is according to resolution adopted by the Jesse S. Barnes Camp of Veterans in Wilson and occurred in by a number of camps in different parts of the State.

The State boundary line in the Smoky mountain region comes into notice again through a bill by Mr. Weaver to allow the Governor to prosecute suits over the disputed boundary directed in the Supreme Court of the United States, so that the whole matter in every such case could be settled finally, instead of merely the individual rights.

To perfect the organization of the State Association of County Commissioners and give it State sanction is the object of a bill by Mr. Koonce.

The expected bill embodying the Republican platform declaration in favor of a \$100 exemption from tax on personal property instead of \$50 was introduced by Mr. Grant, the young Republican member from Davie.

Mr. Bowie, of Ashe, gets the chairmanship of the committee on Federal relations, and Mr. Cook, of Camden, that of the joint committee on libraries.

POEM ON SENATE JOURNAL.

The unique procedure of having a poem read upon the Journal of the Senate of North Carolina was a feature of the session to-day. Senator Godwin, of Gates, sent forward a poem which he stated was written by Miss Bettie Freshwater Poole, of Elizabeth City, and to encourage this high art in the legislative halls of the Senate and spread upon the Journal. The reading elicited great applause, the poem being strikingly patriotic, and the order to spread on the Journal was made.

METER BILL FAVORABLY REPORTED.

A favorable report is decided upon by the Senate committee on propositions and grievances for the Manning bill empowering aldermen of cities and towns to employ inspectors of meters for water, gas and electricity and fix their compensation. Great complaint by the people of irregularity in volume of service through meters brought about the bill. For official inspection of the accuracy of meters. The bill as introduced made employment of the inspector mandatory, and for the committee amended to give the optional method. The Starbuck bill for allowing State and defendant each twelve peremptory challenges in capital trials and four in trials for lesser offenses was discussed with the Senate favorably by the Senate judiciary committee. However, other lawyer members of the Assembly signified their intention to offer bills bearing on this question, and report is deferred for the probable drafting of a "composite" bill a little later.

OYSTER INDUSTRY CONSIDERED.

The Senate and House committees on oyster interests informally discussed the needs of the oyster industry and set next Thursday for a hearing on the two bills to be submitted by Dr. J. H. Pratt, State geologist, for the cultivation of the oyster in North Carolina waters and for the preservation of the oyster on the natural rocks. These bills will embody the reports of the convention of oystermen and fishermen at Morehead City last summer, at which there were some sixty delegates elected by the oyster and fish men of eastern North Carolina. The bills, it is claimed, eliminate all friction between oystermen on public grounds and the cultivators of the oyster.

FOR COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION.

The House committee on propositions and grievances this afternoon considered the bill introduced to-day for giving the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners State sanction, considerable opposition to the bill being developed during the meeting on the part of several influential members. However, friends of the measure insisted that the opposition will be cleared away when the bill is explained by its framers, among whom are C. E. Poy of Newbern, president of the association which was formed during the past summer and fall. A feature of the

THE "WATERPOWER TRUST"

Chief Executive Vetoed His Bill to Construct a Dam Across James River in Missouri, Declaring That the Control of Waterpower Should Be Taken in Hand and a Monopoly Prevented—Such a Trust Would Be More Disruptive to the People Than the Trust of the Oil Industry—Congress Has the Power and Should Impose Conditions for the Protection of the Country's Natural Resources.

Washington, Jan. 15.—President Roosevelt sent a special message to the House to-day with his veto of the bill providing for the construction of a dam across James river, in Stone county, Mo., the purpose of the dam being to get water to create electric power. He declared that the movement to secure control of the waterpower of the country is still in its infancy but that it "unwittingly controlled the history of the oil industry which is repeated in the hydro-electric power industry, with results far more oppressive and disastrous for the people."

"I consider myself bound," he continued, "as far as exercise of my executive power will allow, to do for the people in prevention of monopoly of the resources, what I believe they would do for themselves if they were in a position to act."

The message was presented at the close of the day and was received in the House after its reading. It was referred to the committee on interstate and foreign commerce.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's message in its essential parts was as follows:

To the House of Representatives:

I return herewith without my approval the bill introduced by Mr. William H. Standish to construct a dam across James river, in Stone county, Mo., and divert a portion of its waters through a tunnel into the said river again to create electric power. My reasons for not signing the bill are as follows:

The bill gives to the grantee a valuable privilege, which by its very nature is monopolistic, and does not contain the conditions essential to protect the public interest.

The fact that the proposed project is new in itself, no ancient arguement against its adoption. As we are met with new conditions of industry seriously affecting the public welfare, we should not hesitate to adopt measures for the protection of the public merely because those measures are new. When the public welfare is involved, Congress should resolve its reasonable doubt as to its legislative power in favor of the people and against the seekers for a special privilege.

CONGRESS HAS THE POWER TO REGULATE COMMERCE.

My reason for believing that the Federal government, in granting a license to dam a navigable river, has the power to impose any conditions it finds necessary to protect the public interest, is that its consent is legally essential to an enterprise of this character. It follows that Congress can impose conditions upon its consent.

Believing that the national government has the power, I am convinced that its power ought to be exercised. The people of the country are threatened by a monopoly far more powerful, because in far closer touch with their domestic and industrial life, than anything known to our experience. A single grant of license for water power alone, if fully developed and wisely used, is probably sufficient for our present transportation, industrial, municipal and domestic needs. Most of it is undeveloped and is still in its infancy or control.

To give water without restriction, this, one of the greatest of our resources, would be an act of folly. If we are guilty of it, our children will be forced to pay an annual return upon a capitalization based upon the highest prices which the traffic will bear. This will tend to increase to face with powerful interests entrenched behind the doctrine of "vested rights" and strengthened by every device which money can buy and the ingenuity of able corporations to make a law. Long before that time they may and very probably will have become a consolidated interest, controlled from the great financial centres, dictating the terms upon which the citizen can conduct his business or earn his livelihood, and not amenable to the wholesome check of local opinion.

COMBINATION ALREADY STARTED.

The total water-power now in use by power plants in the United States is estimated by the Geological Survey at 5,300,000 horse-power. Information collected by the bureau of corporations shows that thirteen large concerns of which the General Electric Company and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company are most important, now hold water-power of approximately 1,645,000 horse-power where the control by these concerns is practically admitted. This is a quantity equal to over 19 per cent of the total now in use. Further evidence of a very strong nature as to additional intercorporate relations, furnished by the Bureau, leads me to the conclusion that this total will be increased to 24 per cent, and still other evidence, though less conclusive, nevertheless affords reasonable ground for enlarging this estimate by 3 per cent. In other words, it is probable that these thirteen concerns directly or indirectly control development water-power and advantageous power sites equal to more than 33 per cent of the total water-power now in use.

ADMINISTRATION WOULD MAKE CONDITIONS.

The great corporations are acting with foresight, singleness of purpose, and vigor to control the water power of the country. They are demanding legislation for unconditional grants in perpetuity of land for reservoirs, conduits, power houses and transmission lines to replace the existing statute which authorizes the administrative officers of the government to impose conditions to protect the public, when any permit is issued. Several bills for that purpose are now

TALKS ALONG THE WAY.

"Talking through Georgia" is a literal description of his trip to-day from Augusta to Atlanta. And wherever the special train, which Atlanta provided, passed, there were cheering crowds evidencing their cordiality by floral tributes, by cheers, bands and speeches in which the President-elect was told that he was respected, admired, loved.

A little bunch of violets plucked from the grave of Alexander Stephens and presented by a grandniece of the distinguished Georgian, touched a tender cord and brought forth a warm tribute to the memory of Stephens at Crawfordsville.

The young men of Emory College were cheered on their way at Covington and the girl students of Agnes Scott Institute at Decatur were addressed as "My Girl Friends" and talked to pleasantly. When Mayor Butler, of Madison, predicted "a term of eight years for Taft" the big Ohioan returned the compliment by saying the mayor was a true prophet.

Atlanta's welcome to Mr. Taft began in the railroad yards where all locomotives tied open their whistles and ceased only when he had retired for the night at his hotel. Thousands were at the station, and Mr. Taft followed him through the streets as he was drawn by four cream-colored horses to the Capitol. Governor Smith and a committee of seventy gave him a formal reception, after which the speaker, table set before him, and the mayor, who once more voiced his reciprocity of cordiality and good feeling at his reception. He was at once escorted by a squad of mounted police to the Piedmont Hotel, where he was tendered a reception by the chamber of commerce, the Ohio Society and Yale alumni.

SPRINKLES TO NEGROES TO-DAY.

Governor-elect Brown came with Mr. Taft and the officials of the city and State generally participated in his welcome.

Mr. Taft will speak to the negroes here in the morning, so to Athens to make an address at the State University and to Federal Springs in the Capital City Club to-morrow night.

On his trip here he made speeches at Thompson, Crawfordsville, Greensboro, Madison, Social Circle and Decatur.

The features of the banquet included not only the striking appearance of the high, pillared room, with its white walls, and flag scheme of decorations, but a quaint programme of old-time negro songs illustrating the primitive life and latter of slave days, sung as solos by preachers, doctors and judges.

The tables were the streamers of two huge flags, the field of each being formed by the guests, and set before a forest of palms and ferns. Directly behind the guest of honor was an electric flag which not only waved but flashed forth a likeness of Mr. Taft when the President-elect spoke.

A "BILLY" POSSUM.

After the "possum," taters and "simon" beer had been served, and the many other courses of the feast, the guests, led by the orchestra, broke into song. Judge Taft joined heartily in the merriment. He was presented with a "possum" constructed after the manner of the "teddy bear" to be the emblem of his administration.

He was also made the recipient of a silver pocket watch fob, bearing the coat of arms of Georgia, the gift of Mrs. James Longstreet.

Besides Mr. Taft, the speakers were Ana G. Candler, toastmaster; Governor Hoke Smith, Mayor Robert F. Haddox and Judge Thomas G. Jones, of Alabama, of the Federal bench.

What was taken as the most lasting and satisfactory feature of Mr. Taft's speech was his expressed desire to appoint to Federal positions in the South only such men as stand high as citizens in the localities in which they live.

Judge Taft had given care to the preparation of his inaugural speech, regarding it as his important utterance of the day, and in its delivery he followed his manuscript closely. He had come South for rest to tired nerves after a strenuous political campaign, he began, but when he realized he had fallen into the hands of strenuous Atlantans he began to realize that his rest was to be seriously broken.

Mr. Taft said with feeling that he was proud to have been the first Republican candidate for the presidency who had carried his canvass south of Mason and Dixon's line.

"In the presence of Democrats and Republicans here at a non-partisan banquet expressing the welcome of the whole community, it would neither be courteous nor appropriate for me to go into a partisan discussion," Mr. Taft continued. "I can only refer to the fact with gratification and congratulation that to-day the expression of any political view in the South is possible without in-

ATLANTA WELCOMES TAFT

ALL FORMER EVENTS OUTDONE. After "Talking Through Georgia," Making a Half Dozen Speeches, the President-Elect is Greeted at the Georgia Capital in True Atlanta Style—Local Live Whistles are Tied Down and Thousands Crowd the Station and Line the Streets, Cheering Until Mr. Taft Disappears From View at His Hotel—Did Not Come to Capture the South, But Has Been Captured by It—Policy of His Administration Briefly Discussed.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 15.—President-elect William H. Taft has been in the cordial and hospitable embrace of Georgia all day. Recognizing the climax of the varied and continuous demonstrations in the brilliant and imposing scene presented at the banquet here to-night, he exclaimed with evidences of great feeling:

"I had not hoped to win the South, but the South has won me."

The banquet was the most ambitious event of its kind the city has ever undertaken. Though participated in by more than 500 of the city's representative men, it was gloried in by the entire population. It, and the preceding eloquence of welcome of the varied and continuous reception at the Capitol and at the Piedmont Hotel, where he was sought by thousands, constitute a brilliant chapter in his record of achievements south of Mason and Dixon's line.

TALKS ALONG THE WAY.

"Talking through Georgia" is a literal description of his trip to-day from Augusta to Atlanta. And wherever the special train, which Atlanta provided, passed, there were cheering crowds evidencing their cordiality by floral tributes, by cheers, bands and speeches in which the President-elect was told that he was respected, admired, loved.

A little bunch of violets plucked from the grave of Alexander Stephens and presented by a grandniece of the distinguished Georgian, touched a tender cord and brought forth a warm tribute to the memory of Stephens at Crawfordsville.

The young men of Emory College were cheered on their way at Covington and the girl students of Agnes Scott Institute at Decatur were addressed as "My Girl Friends" and talked to pleasantly. When Mayor Butler, of Madison, predicted "a term of eight years for Taft" the big Ohioan returned the compliment by saying the mayor was a true prophet.

Atlanta's welcome to Mr. Taft began in the railroad yards where all locomotives tied open their whistles and ceased only when he had retired for the night at his hotel. Thousands were at the station, and Mr. Taft followed him through the streets as he was drawn by four cream-colored horses to the Capitol. Governor Smith and a committee of seventy gave him a formal reception, after which the speaker, table set before him, and the mayor, who once more voiced his reciprocity of cordiality and good feeling at his reception. He was at once escorted by a squad of mounted police to the Piedmont Hotel, where he was tendered a reception by the chamber of commerce, the Ohio Society and Yale alumni.

SPRINKLES TO NEGROES TO-DAY.

Governor-elect Brown came with Mr. Taft and the officials of the city and State generally participated in his welcome.

Mr. Taft will speak to the negroes here in the morning, so to Athens to make an address at the State University and to Federal Springs in the Capital City Club to-morrow night.

On his trip here he made speeches at Thompson, Crawfordsville, Greensboro, Madison, Social Circle and Decatur.

The features of the banquet included not only the striking appearance of the high, pillared room, with its white walls, and flag scheme of decorations, but a quaint programme of old-time negro songs illustrating the primitive life and latter of slave days, sung as solos by preachers, doctors and judges.

The tables were the streamers of two huge flags, the field of each being formed by the guests, and set before a forest of palms and ferns. Directly behind the guest of honor was an electric flag which not only waved but flashed forth a likeness of Mr. Taft when the President-elect spoke.

A "BILLY" POSSUM.

After the "possum," taters and "simon" beer had been served, and the many other courses of the feast, the guests, led by the orchestra, broke into song. Judge Taft joined heartily in the merriment. He was presented with a "possum" constructed after the manner of the "teddy bear" to be the emblem of his administration.

He was also made the recipient of a silver pocket watch fob, bearing the coat of arms of Georgia, the gift of Mrs. James Longstreet.

Besides Mr. Taft, the speakers were Ana G. Candler, toastmaster; Governor Hoke Smith, Mayor Robert F. Haddox and Judge Thomas G. Jones, of Alabama, of the Federal bench.

What was taken as the most lasting and satisfactory feature of Mr. Taft's speech was his expressed desire to appoint to Federal positions in the South only such men as stand high as citizens in the localities in which they live.

Judge Taft had given care to the preparation of his inaugural speech, regarding it as his important utterance of the day, and in its delivery he followed his manuscript closely. He had come South for rest to tired nerves after a strenuous political campaign, he began, but when he realized he had fallen into the hands of strenuous Atlantans he began to realize that his rest was to be seriously broken.

Mr. Taft said with feeling that he was proud to have been the first Republican candidate for the presidency who had carried his canvass south of Mason and Dixon's line.

"In the presence of Democrats and Republicans here at a non-partisan banquet expressing the welcome of the whole community, it would neither be courteous nor appropriate for me to go into a partisan discussion," Mr. Taft continued. "I can only refer to the fact with gratification and congratulation that to-day the expression of any political view in the South is possible without in-

BLOODY CLOTHING FOUND

LOOKS LIKE MURDER MYSTERY. Ghastly Discovery Made at Fayetteville by Section Master, Pointing to Terrible Murder—Bloodstained Clothing of Man Found, But No Body—Faded Police Investigate, Owner as Being Ana Eddie Skinner, Jr.—Negro Wearing Trousers Matching Coat Arrested, and It is Believed He Knows Something of the Mysterious Affair—Is Sent to Roads For Vagrancy, and the Police Go to Work on the Case.

Special to The Observer.

Fayetteville, Jan. 15.—A ghastly discovery that seems to point to a terrible murder has been made here, and by a strange coincidence the police have in their custody the man who, they are certain, knows something of the affair.

Yesterday morning Capt. P. Murray, section master of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, found near the A. C. coal chute, in the southern outskirts of the city, lying by a pool of water, a pair of trousers, a collar attached to the neck band. The collar and shirt were covered with fresh bloodstains, while not far away was a coat, the collar of which was stained with blood, two pairs of trousers, a white vest, some socks and underclothing.

NEGRO IS ARRESTED.

On being notified the police took possession of the clothing and instituted a search for a man who was rounding district, but no trace of anything suspicious could be found, until the officers were notified this morning that some one had attempted last night to break into the building of the Atlantic Bituminous Company. The tracks led from that place to the Washington Hotel, a negro establishment on upper Hay street, and thence to the residence of a man whose name was Paul Vinson, of Atlanta, Ga., and who when searched was found to be wearing two suits of clothes. One of the pair of trousers match the bloody coat found at the coal chute. A comparison established the fact beyond doubt. Bloodstains were also found on the right sleeve of the canvas coat worn by Vinson, though closely questioned, would say nothing but that he bought the trousers in Bishopville, S. C.

PAPERS IN POCKETS.

A bundle of papers found in the pockets of the clothing found at the coal chute tend to prove that the man who was wearing the trousers, a coal-chute man, was a man named James R. Garfield and dated May 1907. Among the papers were a pension certificate signed by James R. Garfield and dated May 1907, and a check on the Savannah postoffice addressed to Paul Vinson, of Atlanta, Ga., a pension voucher dated December, 1908, enclosed in an envelope addressed to A. E. Skinner, box 15, Bishopville, S. C., which had been forwarded to 706 Jackson street, Savannah, Ga.; and a check on the Parkton Mercantile Company, Parkton, N. C., payable to S. B. Timmons and dated January 14, 1909.

The police, who are hard at work on the case, are certain that Vinson knows something of the affair. He was tried by the mayor to-day and sentenced to 31 days on the roads for vagrancy.

National Militia Board Meets.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The national militia board created under the provisions of the bill amending the Dick act and consisting of Brigadier General and Inspector General, Infantry, Boardman, Wisconsin; District of Columbia, and Graves, Alabama, met here to-day to discuss questions respecting the needs of the organized militia of the States and its relation to the general government. The board will report to Congress the national guard work made a second line of defense and as such will receive greater consideration at the hands of the War Department and of Congress than ever before.

Duke and Duchess Entertain Officers.

Malta, Jan. 15.—This evening Rear Admiral Potts, Captain Beatty, of the Wisconsin, and Captain Hutchins, of the Keosauque, Lieutenant Commander, and Mrs. Oble and two other guests were entertained at dinner by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

The British sailors tonight entertained the American jacks at the Canterbury and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

Shoots His Wife, Then Kills Himself.

Allamore, O., Jan. 15.—Albert Lavinwood, 55 years of age, a farmer living near Bergesola, shot and killed his wife, 55 years old, and then himself on the road near Annapolis last night. Jealousy is supposed to have been the cause. Lavinwood and his wife had been estranged and living apart for several months.

THORNTON HAINS SET FREE

JURY OUT TWENTY-TWO HOURS. After Long Deliberation the Hains Jury Acquits the Defendants of the Murder of William E. Annis—A Demonstration Follows the Announcement of the Verdict and the Court Room is Cleared—Defendant's Wife With Tears and He Shakes the Hands of the Jurors—Mother Nearly Faints From Joy—Verdict Means That Captain Hains Will Never Be Tried, Say County Officials.

Flushing, N. Y., Jan. 15.—After reviewing the evidence for 22 hours and taking fifteen ballots before all were agreed, the jury in the trial of Thornton Hains for the murder of William E. Annis, a principal with his brother, Captain Peter C. Hains, Jr., in the killing of William E. Annis.

For the second time in his life Thornton Hains has been found not guilty of the charge of murder, as he was acquitted of murder in shooting a companion named Edward A. Hains, in an open boat in Hampton Roads 17 years ago.

Thornton Hains had an affecting greeting with Captain Hains in the Long Island jail, whether he hurried in a motor car after the verdict to meet his brother, who telephoned to Hains and his wife, who had been anxiously waiting to learn the verdict in the Hotel Astor, in Manhattan since the jury went out at 5 o'clock last night, had the news from their son, Thornton, who telephoned his parents as soon as he left the court room. Mrs. Hains nearly fainted from joy.

VERDICT GREETED WITH CHEERS.

After spending nearly an hour with Captain Hains in the jail Thornton Hains went to the Hotel Astor, where he remained through the evening and night with his father and mother.

The verdict came unexpectedly and at a time when Justice Crane, believing that a disagreement was likely, had sent for the jurors to learn what progress had been made toward a finding. The former declared himself amazed and filled his eyes, and hurrying to the jury box after Justice Crane had discharged the jurors, he seized their hands and thanked them for their verdict.

Rarely in any court of law has such a demonstration for acquittal as that which occurred when the jury made known its verdict. The packed court room of spectators rose as one man and cheered and applauded with such mighty vigor that the gavel falls with a syndicate of which he was the head and of which his brother-in-law, J. Lamb Perry, of Charleston, S. C., was a member.

In Florida, the Duke said, the Italians would be given five acres of land by their own right, but would be asked to develop a second farm for the benefit of the syndicate, retaining the first as a payment for the work done on the land.

He expected that a series of co-operative stores would be established at which the colonists might buy their material, food, clothing, hardware, machinery, etc., at low prices and upon easy terms, or pay for them in labor if they so desired. Duke Litt said that he was a practical agriculturist.

He says the Florida lands cover an area of 200,000 acres, and that he plans to colonize there 5,000 families of 20,000 individuals. He expects that the Italian government will endorse the movement.

England Furnishes Greatest Number of Immigrants.

Washington, Jan. 15.—For the year ended October 31st, last, the number of aliens arriving in this country was 655,263, while the departing aliens that same period number, 701,833, a net loss to the country of 46,570, according to a statement made by Secretary Straus, leaving the Cabinet meeting to-day. Another interesting fact to Secretary Straus, who spoke to the President regarding it, was that in the month of October, 1908, the immigration to this country was larger than Great Britain than from any other country of the world, amounting to 8,234. From British North America there came the second largest number, 6,501. Mr. Straus thought these figures indicated a tendency toward new arrivals of the best class for some time to come.

To Manufacture Paper From Pine Stumps.

Gainesville, Fla., Jan. 15.—Eastern and English capitalists have bought a site here and will invest \$2,000,000 in mills for the manufacture of paper from the stumps obtained from pine stumps, thousands of which may be had in the immediate neighborhood.

PALMETTO STATE NEXT

FOR STRAIGHT PROHIBITION. Bill to Make South Carolina "Dry" After July 1st Will Be Introduced in Assembly To-Day—Indications Are That It Will Be Passed—Strong Opposition of Former Opponents and Dispensary Advocates With the Prohibitionists—No Outstanding Leaders Yet on Opposing Side—Prohibitionists Have Strong Force to Fight Bill Through Both Houses—E. P. Jones, Moderator of Sandlapper Commonwealth.

Observer Bureau, 1230 Berkeley Building, Columbia, S. C., Jan. 15.

It now seems practically certain that this present Legislature will swing this State into line for State-wide prohibition. Drafts of a prohibition bill to-day will be presented to-morrow. In the House it will be fathered by ex-Speaker M. L. Smith, of Camden, Mr. C. A. Smith, of Timmonsville, and other moderate members of the State Baptist convention, J. P. Carey, one of the authors of the present Carey-Cochran local option dispensary act, and J. P. Richards, Jr., of Camden, Mr. L. J. Richards, Jr., of the State dispensary leaders, and both are understood to be grooming for Governor to succeed Mr. Ansel, Mr. C. C. Featherstone, of Laurens, avowed "state-wide" prohibitionist, and other moderate prohibitionists. The proposition, however, will be vigorously fought by the delegations from those counties which are satisfied with the present system on account of its relieving the tax situation so well, and a curious fact, which the coming annual report of the dispensary auditor of the State will show, that more dispensary liquor was sold last year with half the State population than in any year since the old bar-room regime. The gross sales amounted last year to something over three and a half million dollars, about the same as it was the first year of the county dispensary system with less than a third of the State population.

BILL COMES UP TO-DAY.

The new bill which will be presented to-morrow calls for absolute prohibition after July 1st of this year, the deferred prohibition made by the dispensary act, and present stocks of liquor. Druggists may sell alcohol or wine, but only on the certificate of the person buying stating purpose for which he desires it. Alcohol may be used for medicinal purposes and sold only to ministers. All certificates go on file in the county clerk's office. The penalty for violation of any of the provision of the new law will be a fine of \$100, but imprisonment only for a second offense.

The plan advocated by the State anti-saloon league as urged by State Superintendent Harley, of that name, to have a special election on the subject in the spring appears to have been entirely abandoned. The old prohibition leaders have not looked kindly upon Mr. Harley's promise and activity, and it is thought that no leaders appear to have developed for the anti-prohibitionists.

THE PURCHASE APPROVED.

Southern Commercial Congress Pleaded With the Office Building Site in Washington—Plans Laid For the Promotion of the South's Interests.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 15.—To vivify the business of the South by an organization embracing 15 States and backed by an almost inexhaustible fund, contributed by leading business men of those States, was the proposition laid before the executive committee of the Southern Commercial Congress in session here to-day. State organizations were mapped out and the million dollar office building in Washington approved.

A call was issued to one thousand members of the South to contribute \$1,000 each to a fund for permanent investment to carry out the work.

Methods for raising the balance of the necessary fund of \$1,000,000 were considered and it was unanimously decided to add to and to strengthen the executive committee by the appointment of representative men from various sections, who are willing to contribute their time and energy to the furtherance of the purposes of the congress.

In a statement to-night the committee says:

"The plan of the Southern Commercial Congress involves the practical establishment at Washington of a Southern department of commerce and labor, managed by practical business men, directed to the development of the South's resources, and the exploitation of localities; directing immigration to a whole section rather than to a single community and bringing to the attention of investors from the sections of our country and abroad the magnificent opportunities awaiting them, all to be done by concerted action."

For the site of the proposed building the Southern Commercial Congress has obtained one of the most magnificent locations in Washington with the northeast corner of Fifteenth and H streets, on the crest of the hill, overlooking the Treasury building, block away, and the White House two blocks away.

Adventists of Asheville Complete Church Building.

Special to The Observer.

Asheville, Jan. 15.—The congregation of the Church of the Seventh Day Adventists of this place has just completed a handsome new church building and Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock the dedication services were held. The sermon will be preached by Rev. Dr. W. A. Wentworth, president of the Southeastern Union Conference, whose territory includes the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. Rev. D. A. Parsons is pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist church here and the congregation has grown rapidly during the past few years.

Colonel Tucker to Be Examined.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Col. William F. Tucker, assistant paymaster general, a son-in-law of the late John A. Logan, has been ordered before an army retiring board at Chicago for examination to determine his fitness for further active duty. Colonel Tucker is still at Hot Springs, Ark., where he was ordered for treatment.

SAVANNAH AND NEAR-BEER

DEALERS MUST PAY STATE TAX. Defiant Attitude of Savannah's Near-Beer Dealers May Lead the Governor to Declare Martial Law, Though Such a Course, It is Believed by Many, Will Not Be Necessary—Public Sentiment is Against Prohibition and Few Attempts Have Been Made to Enforce the Law—Dis-meners Will Doubtless Pay the Tax Without Being Forced and Continue to Deal Out Intoxicants—Bonds Have Served For Licenses.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 15.—Upon the refusal of the dealers in near-beer in Savannah to pay the State tax of \$200 rests the blame for the present agitation in Georgia and elsewhere which has caused the prediction that Governor Hoke Smith will send troops from other portions of the State into the country and declare martial law in effect in Chatham county to enforce the observation of the Georgia prohibition law here.

Few citizens of Chatham believe that the troops will be sent or that the Governor will be driven to this last extremity in an effort to collect the near-beer tax of which the State stands so much in need. Rumor is regarded merely as a means to cause the speed of paying of the tax, which will probably be paid and will amount to \$125,000 or \$30,000, and the result will probably be that liquor of the sort that is tabooed under the prohibition law will be sold as before, in Savannah, with probably greater concealment.

Savannah's geographical position—that of a sea port—renders her condition dissimilar to that of other Georgia cities and is in part responsible for whatever laxity there has been in rounding up, punishing and ending the activities of sellers of liquor. Sentiments here are very largely opposed to prohibition and is probably but little decreased by the statute that makes the sale of liquor the act of an outlaw.

INTOXICANTS ARE SOLD.

Should the question be continually agitated and the local dealers continue in their refusal to pay the near-beer tax—a condition that it is not believed will exist—then it is believed that Governor Smith will send troops and enforce the collection of the tax and, if possible, put an end to the sale of liquors, outside the weak variety provided for in the prohibition law.

It has been reiterated in local newspapers, but not been denied and is generally known to be true that with the full cognizance of city officials, a plan has been followed that while it pours a revenue into the city's treasury, does not stop the sale of intoxicants. The city has received already many thousands of dollars from the plan that the alleged "blind tiger" operators have agreed to willingly and that has left in existence a hundred or more regularly appointed saloons in the city.

This plan was inaugurated many months ago. The police department is in quiet but active denial and report to police headquarters. There they were freed after depositing a bond of \$100 for their appearance in police court the following day. They failed to appear and the bonds were forfeited to the city. It was understood, and has proven to be fact, that for a period, probably commensurate with a period covered under the old regime by a license tax of \$100, the operators would be allowed to sell through saloons without interference by the police. This plan has been followed since.

CONFIRMATION DOUBTFUL.

H. F. Seawell's Appointment May Be Held Up By Several Reasons—Senate Hopes to Be Appointed by Taft.

Observer Bureau, Congress Hall Hotel, Washington, Jan. 15.

It develops now that H. F. Seawell may not be confirmed by the Senate for the judgeship of eastern North Carolina. This comes from several reasons. He is said to be too young and inexperienced; he was a Populist; he got damages from a railroad for being rotten-egged by bad boys. The Senate is not anxious to confirm any more of Mr. Roosevelt's appointments than it can help, and several others would like to have the job. The appointment, Mr. Loeb said to-day, would not be made until Monday.

The friends of Mr. Thomas Settle believe that if the confirmation of Seawell can be blocked until Mr. Taft is inaugurated, Settle will be appointed. No one has thus far said anything against Seawell's character or ability. Republicans in the Senate are talking about defeating the confirmation.

Representative Poy, who is on the ways and means committee, has been given two important subjects for the tariff discussion. He will study the subject and discuss the tariff, on them from a Democratic standpoint.

H. E. C. B.

President is Considering Several Names For the Judgeship.

Washington, Jan. 15.—At the White House to-day it was stated that the President is considering the names of several men which have been presented to him by the Senate to the Senate the nomination for Federal judge of the eastern district of North Carolina. No action will be taken on the matter until Monday or Tuesday. It was expected that President Wood would send the nomination of H. F. Seawell, of Carthage, N. C., to the Senate on Thursday.

Three Negroes Killed in Boiler Explosion.

Laurens, S. C., Jan. 15.—Three negro men and a mule were instantly killed to-day by a boiler explosion which occurred at Barnes' saw mill, four miles from this city. The mule used in the operation of the mill had been out of repair and John Woody, a machinist of this place, was employed in mending it when the explosion occurred, killing him and two others. The bodies were horribly mangled.

Rockefeller Arrives in Augusta.

Augusta, Ga., Jan. 15.—John D. Rockefeller and party, numbering fourteen persons, arrived to-day for a stay of several weeks. The party included Mrs. S. L. Spillman and Miss McCormick.