

THE LENOIR TOPIC.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 1885.

W. W. SCOTT, Jr., Editor and Publisher.

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The bill to increase the number of Superior Court districts to twelve, having passed the Legislature, will necessitate a redistricting of three new judges and solicitors. This is an important matter which we have no doubt our members fully appreciate. In remodelling the districts it is of prime importance that the laws and demands of homogeneity be observed in grouping our counties together. Our district, the eighth, is most happily framed in this particular and we hope that the "status quo" will be allowed to remain as far as possible. Col. Cameron, in a letter to the Asheville "Citizen" from Raleigh, says that Buncombe, Madison and Henderson will probably be placed in the 11th district with other counties on this side of the ridge.

One of the most important measures passed by the present Legislature is the law in reference to the roads in Mecklenburg county, which allows the commissioners of the county to provide for working and keeping up the roads by taxation. Under this law Mecklenburg can and will doubtless have good roads. It is possible to do so under such a system. Whether or not the present system in force over the rest of the State ever can or ever will furnish the State with good roads is a problem that has not as yet been solved. A road system depending solely upon taxation would certainly lift the burden of road service from a large class that owes something at least, if not as much as by law it is required to give, to the roads. The great demand, the crying need, is, however, good roads and good roads we must have sooner or later and the sooner the better. North Carolina has gone forward too far to be able to tolerate much longer such roads as we now have. We must have a better road system all over the State than we have.

Treasurer Worth, in his last report, stated that there was such a surplus in the State Treasury that there would be no necessity for levying a tax for the year 1885 of more than 10 per cent on the hundred dollars worth of property. To be better informed as to the state of the Treasury, the Legislature asked for information of Treasurer Bain, who replies that on the 30th of November there were \$926,000 in the treasury, about \$310,000 of which had been collected specially for paying interest and creating a sinking fund. This leaves \$616,000, which came from the sale of the W. N. C. R. R. and which stands in place of the State tax for 1884 and will suffice to run the State government for the current fiscal year ending July 1, 1885. Treasurer Worth was of opinion that the \$310,000 interest and sinking fund could be used in the same way for diminishing the tax of 1885, while Treasurer Bain is of a different opinion and quotes the constitutional clause prohibiting the use for general purposes of a tax collected for a specific use. In this case, the tax levy for 1885, will be as large as usual.

We are prepared to applaud every step taken by the Legislature in the direction of educational reform and improvement. Our free school system is the very life of the State and we should not be niggardly in appropriations of money to it that will make due returns. Every district in this part of the State is in need of longer terms and of a better class of instruction. Not to say that our teachers are incompetent, though some of them are, but they work under difficulties, with poor pay, with no apparatus and no text books. Spelling, reading, writing, composition, arithmetic should be taught thoroughly and intelligently in every school. The children should be taught, also, to think for themselves. Outside of these subjects, which should be taught more thoroughly than they are now, the whole system of the public schools should be made flexible and practical. Each scholar should be taught something that will be of service in his or her trade, handicraft or profession. Chemistry as practically taught in every district school. Practical industrial education should be given to the advanced scholars, and if an Industrial School at some central point will help this along, we are in favor of it. We place much reliance upon the judgment of Superintendent Finger and the Legislature will do well to heed his advice.

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

SENATE—Feb. 18.

A large number of bills and petitions were introduced. The bill to require all Insurance Companies doing business in the State to pay face value on houses and other permanent structures destroyed by fire and interest on same from demand came up as unfinished business and, after a long debate, failed to pass.

Bill to improve law of evidence, allowing persons to testify as to transactions between themselves and deceased persons when an attorney of latter was present, passed third reading.

Senate went into committee of the whole on bill appropriating \$40,000 annually for relief of disabled soldiers. Committee arose and reported back the bill with a proposition to print and its further consideration postponed till Tuesday.

Joint committee ordered to consider the matter of registration of deeds.

Passed third reading: To give penitentiary 9 instead of 5 directors; to give Marshall township, Madison county, the stock law.

HOUSE—Feb. 18.

Passed third reading: Relating to the board of health; to amend election law in regard to Hyde county; to amend an act to encourage building of a railroad from Salisbury or Newton into Ashe county; to provide for furnishing fire and lights for Governor's mansion.

SENATE—Night Session. Passed third reading: To change the name of Killquick, Edgecombe county, to Hickory Hill; to establish Grassy Creek township in Ashe.

HOUSE—Night Session.

At the night session private and local bills are mostly considered. Among those that passed were one to amend Mitchell county to levy a special tax and one to allow the town of Durham to issue bonds to establish a graded school.

G. H. Parker and N. H. Rawls, contestants from Northampton, allowed per diem and mileage.

SENATE—Feb. 19.

Passed third reading: To authorize Columbus county to levy a special tax; to incorporate Cabarrus and Stanley railroad; to enable Hickory to build a town hall; to incorporate Keyville, Catawba county; to allow Dare county to levy a special tax; to amend charter of Salisbury; to amend sec. 1079 of Code in reference to selling liquor at public speaking; not to include incorporated towns; to make it a misdemeanor to mutilate or deface notes, signs or advertisements; to bring section 2020 of Code within jurisdiction of magistrates.

Bill to transfer Clemmonsville township, Davidson county, to Forsythe, failed.

HOUSE—Feb. 19.

A bill was introduced preventing felling of timber in North Fork River, Ashe county.

Passed third reading: To enable railroads to extend their lines; to allow Pender to levy a special tax.

The bill to extend aid to the University was taken and pending consideration adjourned.

HOUSE—Night Session.

Passed third reading: To give the entire county of Catawba the stock law, likewise Warren and Halifax; to better drain Lower Creek in Burke and Caldwell counties; to repeal the law relative to Caldwell and Watauga turnpike company.

SENATE—Feb. 20.

Passed second reading: To amend ch. 150, laws 1883, by adding the words, "but no costs shall be collected from the people before 15th of March in each year, except where persons are about to become insolvent or leave the county."

HOUSE—Feb. 20.

Among the bills introduced was one to tax persons erecting gates in the county of Wilkes.

The bill to provide for the maintenance of the University came up as unfinished business and was discussed at length. It finally passed all the readings and appropriates \$15,000 for this laudable purpose.

SENATE—Night Session.

Very little of public importance done.

HOUSE—Night Session.

Nearly everything done was of a local nature. Among the bills passed were: To change the line between Wilkes and Alleghany counties; to prohibit felling timber in New River, Ashe county.

SENATE—Feb. 21.

The bill to promote the objects of the Roanoke and Water Power Co. was opposed by Mr. Todd and the bill referred to judiciary committee. Passed third reading: To allow R. & A. Airline R. R. Co. to extend its line; to amend sec. 2765 of Code; to protect the merchants of the State; to prevent the introduction of distemper in Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga counties.

HOUSE—Feb. 21.

Passed third reading: To prohibit the practice of medicine unless the physician obtains a license from the medical board of the State; to give the provisions of the Mecklenburg road law to Buncombe and other counties; to establish a farmers' commission to improve the agriculture of the State; to adjourn over till Tuesday on account of Washington's birth day.

The mail carrier, a colored boy, from Spruce Pine to Cranberry in Mitchell, was perhaps fatally injured by his horse last week. He was leading his horse across Toe River on the ice when the horse broke through and, in plunging, fell on the boy and crushed him.

WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.

The United States Senate, Feb. 17, spent the session in debate on the contract labor bill, and after voting down a number of amendments adjourned, with the understanding that a vote will be taken today. In the House, Mr. Dorsheimer introduced a bill to regulate the coinage and promote the circulation of gold and silver equally. The House passed the legislative appropriation bill.

The United States Senate, Feb. 18, by a vote of 50 to 9, passed the anti-foreign contract labor bill. The House spent most of the session on the river and harbor bill, and voted down a number of amendments.

In the United States Senate, Feb. 19, the Des Moines river land bill was further discussed. The Texas Pacific land forfeiture bill was passed by a vote of 56 to 2. During the debate on the bill there was a lively passage of words between Senators Beck and Morgan. A bill was passed removing the political disabilities of A. W. Starke, of Virginia. In the House, considerable progress was made on the river and harbor bill, after which the naval appropriation bill was considered.

The United States Senate, Feb. 20, passed in a slightly amended form the agricultural appropriation bill, and then entered upon the consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill. In the House, after an hour's consideration of the river and harbor bill, the naval bill was taken up and discussed. The conference report on the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill was agreed to. Dempsey and Kirkwood, tried for presenting false vouchers for stationery in the Navy Department, have been found not guilty.

Saturday in Charlotte.

Saturday morning at 4 1/2 o'clock, when the thermometer registered only 7 degrees above zero, the fire alarm was sounded in Charlotte and it was found that Schiff & Bro's store, on Trade Street, just east of the Central Hotel, was on fire. Cold as it was the fire companies all turned out and worked manfully at the flames which were kept from spreading beyond the building east of it which caught and was consumed. The principal loss fell on Schiff & Co., William Wilson & Co., wholesale druggists, and Reese & Co., retail druggists. The loss was \$70,000 and \$40,000 in insurance.

The fire originated in a room on the second story of Schiff & Co.'s building, occupied by a woman named Grace Howard, who had come out on a balcony and came home after midnight drunk. In making a fire she evidently set the floor afire but was too drunk to notice it. After the whole building was aflame she appeared at a window and screamed for help. A plank was leaned against the wall for her and she came down on it, but was so badly burned that she died in an hour or two.

The firemen were at work nearly all day, Saturday, minding the well and the colored firemen acted well. As they worked they kept fires burning in the streets and those who were drenched stood before them and thawed out, and some drank whiskey. Sam Richardson and Isaiah Bronson, two negro firemen, met in a bar room. Richardson slapped playfully on Bronson's pocket, in which was an egg and broke it. Bronson, being drunk, went to the door to call a policeman when Richardson struck him. Bronson struck back and they got into a fight when Richardson ran out and ran into Wilder's drug store. He had scarcely reached the counter before he dropped dead and it was found that his throat was cut. Bronson was arrested and placed in jail.

STATE TOPICS.

The University gets \$15,000.

Hickory is moving for a graded school.

A railroad is to be built from High Point to Randleman factory.

Gen. Bob Vance is said to be booked for Commissioner of Patents.

E. G. Ghio, Master of Transportation of the S. & R. R. R., died at Portsmouth on the 17th.

Mr. A. M. Peeler died suddenly in Hickory last Wednesday, of apoplexy. He was in his 61st year.

Died at Salisbury, Md., Feb. 20, Rev. Alexander Sinclair, a distinguished Presbyterian divine formerly of Charlotte.

Married in Raleigh on the 16th, Mr. W. G. Martin, of New York, to Miss Lavine Haywood, daughter of Dr. R. B. Haywood.

Mr. James W. Rimple, of Salisbury, has been appointed by Judge Schenck his assistant counsel for the R. & D. R. R. Co.

On the 2nd of March there is to be a big railroad meeting in Shelby to take steps to build the C. O. R. R. from Shelby to Spartanburg.

The question of equalizing assessments of land and providing a better system of listing taxables should be investigated by the Legislature.

Thomas Womack, an employee of the W. N. C. R. R., was found dead in a well at Salisbury last week with his neck broken and skull crushed in.

The "Farmer and Mechanic" says that Major John Robinson, (of Ansonville, we believe), President of "Dixie Fair" and member of the State Board of Agriculture, is mentioned in connection with the Collectorship of the 6th Revenue District and that he is backed by Congressman Bennett, Judge Ashe, Governor Seales, Speaker Holt and other prominent gentlemen.

Major W. S. Dunn, general superintendent of the Virginia M. & N. Railroad, resigns and takes the same position on the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley.

On the 17th Thomas L. Shields, on trial at Statesville for the murder of J. G. Sitton in Mecklenburg, was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to the penitentiary for five years.

The President nominated to the Senate, on Friday, Jas. E. Boyd to be U. S. District Attorney for the N. C. Western District; Thos. B. Keogh to be U. S. Marshal in the same district; and Patrick H. Winston, Jr., to be Registrar of the land office at Lewiston, Idaho.

Cleveland county brags about having better mines than Mitchell and is terribly exercised over new railroads. The northern part of the county wants a road to Marion or Morganton and thence to Chamberlayne. They want the C. C. road extended to Spartanburg. They want one from Alston, via Black Station to Shelby. And then they want one from Gaffney, via Rutherfordton, to Marion. If "wanting" were all—well, we would have one to the top of Grandfather mountain.

There is a mysterious case in Charlotte. On Saturday night, about 9 o'clock, of week before last, a pistol shot was heard in the gun shop of Mr. B. Allen Freeman and parties, running in from the rear, saw a slightly built man running out of the door. Freeman was found with a ghastly bullet hole entering the forehead and going through the head. He spoke weakly and said he thought it was an accident. A .42-calibre Bull Dog pistol was lying close to him as he lay behind the counter. He died Sunday morning but spoke no more. A coroner's jury has investigated the case but nothing more can be made out of it.

TIMELY TOPICS.

No more one-cent and five-cent coins will be issued from the mint.

Mrs. Lowell, wife of Minister Lowell at the Court of St. James, died last week.

The House refused to place Gen. Grant on the retired list of the army with a salary of \$13,500.

There was a big crowd present at the New Orleans "Hardy Gr. S." and it was a successful pageant.

W. W. Astor, American Minister to Italy, has resigned because he does not wish to serve under President Cleveland.

Ben Butler left Washington last week for his home and said he should not be back again soon unless Cleveland puts him in his cabinet.

The Washington Monument, the tallest on earth, was dedicated Saturday. Hon. John W. Daniel, of Virginia, delivered the memorial address.

The English Parliament convened Thursday. The opposition is preparing to haul the ministry over the Africa and gave notice of resolutions of censure to be introduced later.

An effort will be made in the next Congress to repeal the silver coinage act of 1878, by which silver certificates were issued for as much silver as was offered, and it is said that Mr. Cleveland will favor it in his inaugural address.

Great excitement was caused in London on the 16th by the parade of 3,000 unemployed workmen, headed by several bands of music, who acted riotously in front of the local government office and even attempted to gain access to the room in which Mr. Gladstone and the cabinet council were meeting. They were repulsed and disbanded by the police.

Years ago Gen. Gordon came across a slave named Farag in the Sudan and effected his liberation. The fellow was so grateful to his benefactor that he joined himself to his fortunes and became his body servant. Being a man of parts Gen. Gordon instructed him in the art of war and conferred a military command upon him. This miserable wretch it was who betrayed his master and benefactor, let the Arabs into Khartoum and hounded them on to Gordon's assassination.

Last Thursday night the through mail train from Charlotte to Washington City was running at the rate of 40 miles an hour and at Four-mile run, in sight of Washington, crashed into a freight train meeting it at about the same rate. Four train hands were killed, including the freight conductor, and 27 freight cars and 9 passenger coaches destroyed either by fire or the crash. The Northern bound mail was burned and, as the express safe was open, \$200,000 it contained was burned.

SALE.

On MONDAY, the 2nd day of March I will offer for sale on the premises:

THE PERSONAL PROPERTY belonging to the Estate of the late GUSTAV WESTMAN, consisting of:

THE STOCK OF GOODS REMAINING; STOCK FIXTURES, such as SHOW CASES, SCALES, KNIVES, CUTLERY, FURNITURE; A lot of FANCY PLANK and LOCUST POSTS and many articles incident to a MERCHANTS BUSINESS.

S. L. PATTERSON, Adm'r.

CENTRAL HOTEL, -LOCATED IN CENTER OF TOWN.-LENOIR, N. C.

W. H. RAMSEUR, Prop'r.

Refitted and Refurnished.

SPLENDID ACCOMMODATIONS, COMMODIOUS SAMPLE ROOMS.

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A. W. ALEXANDER,

TUTTLE'S OLD STAND,

Next Door to Central Hotel.

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Dealer in—

Family Groceries and Confectioneries.

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