

THE NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

N. KNIGHT & SONS,
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"This Argus, or the People's Rights doth an Eternal Vigil Keep; No soothing Strain of Maia's Son can Lull His Hundred Eyes to Sleep."

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WADESBORO, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1874.

NO. 37.

THE LEGISLATURE.

MONDAY, NOV. 30th.

Senate.—The Judiciary Committee asked that the bill for the call of a Convention to revise the Constitution be referred. A bill to regulate the delivery or receipt of cotton in quantities less than is now required, either in lint or seed, before sunset and sunrise, being in amendment of former law, was introduced after some discussion as to the expediency of it, on motion of Mr. Sheriff, Mr. Marler moved the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Morehead asked a suspension of the rules to consider resolution to repeal an act making the Governor a Judicial officer for the trial of Solicitors. Resolution adopted.

House resolution in regard to the collection of public arms was concurred in.

House.—By Mr. Strong, a bill to repeal part of section 135, chapter 3, of Battle's Revised, in regard to the trial of solicitors by the Governor.

On motion of Mr. Strong, the bill introduced by himself this morning, to repeal section 135, chapter 3, of Battle's Revised was taken up under a suspension of the rules.

The bill is in relation to the trial of Solicitors, by the Governor, and proposes to repeal the act that authorizes the same.

Mr. Strong said that the law, as it was, was unconstitutional, and therefore nugatory. The constitution made no provision for the Governor to sit as a judge or justice in peace, and the trial now going on was a mere nothing, a perfect farce, and would not amount to a cypher.

He said that the law, as it stood upon the books, was an emanation of the Legislature of 1839, and a fair specimen of the ignorance of that body. The repeal of the law would transfer the trial of J. C. L. Harris, now progressing in the Governor's office, to the House, the only power that had the constitutional right to act. Bill passed and sent to the Senate without amendment.

On motion of Mr. Walker, of Richmond, a resolution providing for the appointment of a select committee of five to enquire into the alleged misconduct of J. C. L. Harris, as Solicitor of the 6th Judicial District, was taken from the calendar and put upon its passage.

Mr. Norment asked some information in regard to the constitutionality of the House of Representatives.

Dr. E. W. Walker, Strong and Glenn, of the Judiciary Committee, not only gave the required information, but urged the passage of the resolution.

On motion of Mr. McKee, the rules were suspended and his bill to regulate the time of holding the Superior Courts of Cumberland County was taken up.

Mr. Walker, of Richmond, opposed the bill, on the ground that if it is contemplated by law for a regular term of court, it would be according to Cumberland County privileges not enjoyed by any other county in the District, and moved to refer to the Judiciary Committee.

Messrs. McKee and Spears advocated the bill and opposed the reference.

The motion to postpone was lost and the bill passed its readings.

House bill No. 80, to extend the time of sheriffs and tax collectors to collect arrears of taxes, passed its readings.

House bill No. 85, to repeal chapter 52, laws of 1871-'72, appointing a financial agent to adjust and settle the county debt of Robeson, passed its readings.

House bill No. 88, to amend chap. 104, laws of 1871-'72, which requires the removal from roads all loose stones, as well as "runners," passed its readings.

House resolution of instruction to Committee on Finance, providing that said Committee prepare the Finance Bill at once, passed its readings.

Mr. Pinnix said that at the request of Solicitor J. C. L. Harris he would state that he had entered a protest against his trial before the Governor, and that it would be properly brought before this House. He was not for or against Mr. H. in the matter, and the only purpose of his remarks is to state that Mr. H. showed no opposition to the removal of the trial to this body.

The following Select Committee was appointed to investigate the charges against Mr. Harris: Messrs. Walker, of Richmond; Strong, of Wadesboro; and Glenn, of Salisbury.

Senate.—On Dec. 1, 1874, the Senate adjourned.

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House resolution relating to the Civil War, congratulating the country for its victory and expressing its confidence in the future of the Republic, was adopted.

House resolution to express the regret of North Carolina desired to express its regret to the people of the other States, was adopted.

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cross requires that the Committee on Finance enquire and report how much, if any, of the money deposited by the colored people of this State, in the Freedman's Savings Bank established at Wilmington, Newbern and Raleigh by Gen. Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., Commissioner in charge, in 1867, has been loaned out by the officers thereof, upon unencumbered real estate, &c., and resolving that it is the opinion of the Senate that the United States should assume the obligation of the said Bank.

Mr. Linney opposed the Senate committing itself to a proposition that would be recommending or endorsing the payment of money to parties who had been robbed by dishonest officials.

Mr. Busbee offered an amendment that "of all the swindles ever perpetrated upon an innocent people, the Radical Freedmen's Bank swindle is the most infamous."

The resolution was tabled.

Mr. Marler called up the bill for the general relief of Sheriffs. Passed its several readings.

Resolution permitting insolvents to waive the ten days' notice in certain cases. Passed its several readings.

Resolutions concerning the removal of cases from one county to another.

Mr. Morehead moved an amendment that all orders heretofore made by any Court of competent jurisdiction, removing actions, civil or criminal, and all proceedings in any action so removed, are hereby legalized and made as valid as if that act had been in force at the time such order was made and proceeding had. Adopted, and resolution passed.

House.—By Mr. Pinnix, a resolution of inquiry, concerning the funds received for the lease of the North Carolina Railroad. Referred.

By Mr. Richardson, a resolution of instruction to our Representatives in Congress to use their influence to secure a law for the refunding of the tax on spirits of turpentine soon after the war.

By Mr. Stephenson, a bill to authorize and empower the Government of the United States to purchase and hold lands in North Carolina for the purpose of a National Cemetery.

At the hour of 12 o'clock House bill No. 26 was announced as the Special Order for that hour. This is a bill concerning the homestead and personal exemption law. The bill reads as follows:

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION.—Every homestead and the dwellings and buildings thereto, not exceeding in value one thousand dollars, to be selected by the owner or his agent, or in lieu thereof, at the option of the owner, any lot in a city, town or village, with the dwellings and buildings belonging thereto, owned and occupied by any resident of this State, not exceeding one thousand dollars in value, shall be forever exempt from sale under execution or other final process obtained on any debt contracted after the ratification of this act. But no property shall be exempt from sale for taxes, or the payment of obligations contracted for the purchase of said premises.

Sec.—Nothing in this act shall prevent a laborer's lien for work performed for the person desiring such exemption, or a mechanic's lien for work done on the premises.

Sec.—This act to take effect from and after its ratification.

The yeas and nays were called on the second reading, and the bill passed by 99 yeas to 6 nays.

The bill then passed its third and final reading.

On motion of Mr. Means his bill for the more effectual prosecution of offenders against the criminal laws of the State, was taken up under a suspension of the rules.

Pending discussion on the bill, the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 2, 1874.

Senate.—Mr. Waring, a bill concerning the conveying of convicts to the Penitentiary. Grants the sheriff or other person conveying the prisoner the actual expenses of said person and mileage. Referred.

The President presented to the Senate a communication from the Board of Directors of the Cape Fear Agricultural Association, through Col. S. L. Fremont, the President of the Association, inviting the General Assembly to be present at its annual Fair to be held on the 15th, 16th and 17th inst., which communication stated that the Carolina Central Railway would probably be completed to Charlotte at that time, and a "good time" was promised on the occasion.

Mr. Albright moved that a resolution of thanks be tendered the Cape Fear Agricultural Association for this invitation.

Mr. McMillan moved that the invitation be accepted.

Mr. Stanford hoped the invitation would be accepted and the General Assembly visit the Fair in a body, as he wanted his Western friends to see what we had on our season.

Mr. Cantwell also advocated its acceptance.

Mr. McMillan withdrew his amendment, and the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Hargrove, a resolution to take a recess on the 15th inst., and meet again on the 4th of January next.

Mr. Bell agreed with Mr. Busbee as to the necessity of many of the members being at home on the first of the year, but he thought the members of the Legislature could obtain the views of their constituents on the Convention question without going home. He had sent circulars to every portion of his district, asking the views of his people, and he thought the end could be served best in this manner.

Mr. Busbee moved to adjourn on the 21st of December to the third Monday in January.

It was agreed that the Legislature adjourn on the 21st instant and assemble again on the third Monday in January, by a vote of 25 yeas to 12 nays.

Mr. Standford recalled up bill for the relief of the sheriff of Bladen county, granting him until first of January to settle with the Treasurer. Passed its several readings.

House.—By Mr. Walker, of Richmond, a petition and counter-petition to incorporate the towns of Laurinburg, Richmond county.

By Brewington, colored, resolution in regard to depositors in the Freedman's Bank of Raleigh.

By Mr. Walker, a bill to incorporate the town of Laurinburg. Referred.

By Mr. Bennett, a bill for the relief of Edward W. Taylor, tax collector of Brunswick county.

By Mr. Pinnix, a bill providing for the enforcement of decrees in suits in equity referred prior to a certain act of 1866. Referred.

By the same, a bill declaring the shares of stock in corporations to be personal estate.

By Mr. Hicks, a bill to prohibit the carrying of side arms. Referred.

The bill for the more effectual prosecution of persons against the criminal law of the State was taken up as the unfinished business of yesterday and passed its readings.

House bill for extending the time of taking out grants from the State, passed its readings.

House bill to punish offenders for the springing of houses, laid on the table.

Spontaneous Combustion in Hay.

There are doubtless many farmers who have experienced sudden and destructive conflagrations in their hay lofts, which could not be ascribed to any exterior agency.

It is a well known fact that hay, when piled up in large masses, and left to rot, emits a strong odor, and for a few days previously, around the places where the hay was stored, and a summer's harvest is swept away in as many minutes as it has taken days to gather it. These unexpected conflagrations are generally ascribed to tramps who have made the hay loft their sleeping resort, but it is now asserted that such calamities are frequently due to the spontaneous combustion of the hay, a circumstance theoretically quite possible, but rarely considered.

Abbe Moigno, in *Les Mondes*, gives the following as the theory of the phenomenon: Hay when piled damp, and in too large masses, ferments and turns dark. In decomposing, sufficient heat is developed to be insupportable when the hand is thrust into the mass, and vapors begin to be emitted. The water is almost entirely evaporated, and the decomposition continues, and the hay becomes carbonized little by little.

Then the charred portion, like peat, peat cinders mixed with charcoal, sulphurous pyrites and lignite, etc., becomes a kind of phosphorus, by virtue of its great porosity and the large quantity of matter exposed to high oxidation. Under the influence of air in large amount, this charcoal becomes concentrated on the surface to such a degree that the mass reaches a temperature which results in its bursting into flames.

The preventives for this danger are care that the hay in the lofts is kept perfectly dry; that it is well packed, and that it is stored in small heaps rather than in large masses.

Corn and Hogs.

Fully conducted experiments, by several persons, has been ascertained that one bushel of corn will make a little over ten and a half pounds of pork, gross.

Taking the result as a basis, the following deductions are made, which all our farmers would do well to lay by as a convenient reference:

When corn sells for 15 cents per bushel, pork costs 14 cents per pound.

When corn costs 17 cents per bushel, pork costs 2 cents per pound.

When corn costs 25 cents per bushel, pork costs 3 cents per pound.

When corn costs 33 cents per bushel, pork costs 4 cents per pound.

When corn costs 50 cents per bushel, pork costs 5 cents per pound.

The following statement shows what the farmer realizes on his corn when in the form of pork.

A Husband Without a Fault—And a Wife That Was Still Better.

After having been married some weeks, it came into the head of a young husband, one Sunday, when he had little to occupy his mind, to suggest to his wife that they should plainly and honestly state the faults that each had discovered in the other since they had been man and wife. After some hesitation the wife agreed to the proposition, but stipulated that the rehearsal should be made in all sincerity and with an honest view to the bettering the other, as otherwise it would be of no use to speak of the faults to which marriage had opened their eyes. The husband was of the same mind, and his wife asked him to begin with her faults. He was somewhat reluctant, but his wife insisted that he was the first to propose the matter, and as he was at the head of the house it was his place to take the lead. Thus urged, he began the recital. He said:

"My dear, one of the first faults I observed in you after we began keeping house was that you a good deal neglected the tinware. You didn't keep it scoured as bright as it should be. My mother always took great pride in her tinware, and kept it as bright as a dollar."

"I am glad that you have mentioned it, dear," said the wife, blushing a little; "hereafter you shall see no speck on cup or pan. Pray proceed."

"I have also observed," said the husband, "that you use your dish rags a long time without washing them, and then finally throw them away. Now when at home, I remember that my mother always used to wash out her dish-rags when she was done using them, and then hang them up where they could dry, ready for the next time she would need them."

Blushing as before, the young wife promised to amend this fault.

The husband continued with a most formidable list of similar faults, many more than we have space to enumerate, when he declared that he could think of nothing more that was worthy of mention.

"Now," said he, "my dear, you begin and tell me all the faults you have observed in me since we were married."

The young housewife sat in silence; her lamp came in her throat, which she seemed to be striving hard to swallow.

"Proceed, my dear," said he, "tell me all the faults you have observed in me, spare none!"

Arising suddenly from her seat, the little wife burst into tears, and throwing both arms about her husband's neck, she cried:

"My dear husband, you have not a fault in the world. If you have even one, my eyes have been so blinded by my love for you that so long as we have been married, I have never once observed it. In my eyes you are perfect, and all that you do is to me to be done in the best manner."

"But, my dear," said the husband, his face reddening and his voice growing husky with emotion, "just think I have gone and found all manner of fault with you."

"Now, do tell me some of my faults; I know I have many—ten times as many as you ever had or ever will have. Let me hear them."

"Indeed, husband, it is as I tell you; you have not a single fault that I can see. What ever you do seems right in my eyes; and now that I know what a good-for-nothing little wretch I am, I shall at once begin the work of reform, and try to make myself worthy of you."

"Nonsense, my dear, you know sometimes I go away and leave you without any wood cut; I stay up town when I ought to be at home; I spend my money for drinks and cigars when I ought to bring it home to you."

"No you don't," cried his wife; "you do nothing of the kind. I like to see you enjoy yourself; I should be unhappy were you to do otherwise than just exactly as you do."

"God bless you, little wife!" cried the now thoroughly subjected husband; "from this moment you have not a fault in the world! Indeed you never had a fault; I was but joking—don't remember a word I said!—and he kissed away the tears that were still trembling in the little woman's eyes."

Never again did the husband scruple to examine the tinware, or to mention one of the faults he had enumerated; and soon after the neighbor women were wont to say:

"It is wonderful how neat Mrs. — keeps everything about her house. Her tinware is always as bright as a new dollar and I do believe she not only washes, but irons her dish-rags!"

And the neighbor men were heard to say:

"What a steady fellow M. — has got to be of late; he don't spend a dime where he used to spend dollars, and can never be kept from home half an hour when he is not at work. He seems to worship that wife of his."

When I got home last night, said Squills, the old lady was up waiting for me. I knew there was something in soak. There always is when she sits propped up in bed reading, and I knew it.

I wasn't feeling pretty good, said Squills, for I had been whitewashed in the convention, sold out, body, boots and breeches, and I felt like a board-yard he-cat, with his back hair curled the wrong side up.

"Have you got the nomination, Squills, dear?"

I knew she had seen the evening paper, but I said "No, love," as mildly as if conventions and all such snares were beneath my notice.

"Not got the nomination, Mr. Squills?"

"No, Mrs. Squills, not that the court is aware of it at this present writing. Certainly not."

"Then, what do you expect to get for all the whiskey you've been pouring down those fellows' throats?"

"What fellows' throats?"

"Your friends who have been trampling in and out of my house, Mr. Squills, and borrowing your poor children's money, and running you into all kinds of disreputable places to hunt up votes, and sneaking you off into the country to barbecues and other infamous resorts, paying for boggies, &c., making ridiculous remarks which I know you paid the reporters to work up into a speech. A nice thing you have done for yourself and me and the poor children, and then, after all, not get anything for your pains."

"I'm ashamed of you, Mr. Squills; I would blush for you, but I can't, and what's more, I won't. Don't tell me, Squills, that you don't want me to blush for you, and you sitting there just as mad as a hat full of horsets. After you telling me, too, and the dear child, that she should have a new silk when you got the nomination. A nice nomination you've got, and those fellows who took your money and your whiskey just laughing at you, and thinking what a fool for believing them. That's what hurts me in the tenderest point, Squills."

I put out the light, tumbled into bed and prepared to go to sleep, but Mrs. Squills still kept at it with forty-Squills power.

After a time exhausted nature gave away and she was silent.

Then I felt a singular itching of the leg and I turned around and said: "Mrs. Squills, is that you? What in the world are you doing that for? If you want to laugh, laugh, but don't shake as if you had the buckague."

"Oh, what a politician you are, Squills!" said she. "Two weeks canvassing, and then to be skunked by a tadpole!"

"To keep peace in the family," said Squills, "I had to promise that dress, or something else, and as for the tadpole business, what can you explain to a woman?"

Table Etiquette.

1. See that those about you are helped before you commence eating yourself.

2. Do not eat soup from the tip but from the side of the spoon.

3. On passing your plate to be replenished retain the knife and fork.

4. Wipe the mouth before drinking.

5. Remove the teacup from the cup before drinking tea or coffee.

6. Use the knife only in cutting food—do not raise it to the mouth.

7. Eat slowly; fast eating is unhealthy.

8. If you find anything unpleasant in your food, avoid calling the attention of others to it.

9. Close the lips when chewing.

10. Keep your elbows off of the table.

11. Do not speak with food in your mouth.

12. When asked to help your neighbor do not shove, but hand the plate to him.

13. Do not turn your head and stare about the room.

14. If any one makes a mistake do not take the least notice of it.

15. If you would be considered respectable never belch at the table.

A Test of Man's Human Nature.

One day two men in Xenia, Ohio, were engaged in a discussion as to Beecher's guilt or innocence. From this our debaters branched off upon the subject of human nature in general, its foibles, weaknesses, and instability under crucial tests; and, growing earnest, one offered to bet that there was not a dozen men in that city who would stand a certain test which he specified.

The State debt is receiving considerable attention at the hands of the legislature. Already several bills have been introduced in each house. The New thus epitomizes the bill of Mr. McD. Tate, of Burke, introduced in the House, on the 20th ult. Col. Tate is chairman of the Committee on Finance.

The bill is supplemental, with a preamble, in which is recited the reasons for not paying all the debt—destruction of the property upon which the bonds were based, and the reckless legislation and management of finances at a time when the tax-payers had no control in public affairs.

The bill provides for a new State debt to be called the "Consolidated Debt," and carries a tax levy to pay interest on it, and a reserve for sinking fund. It then declares all bonds issued under legislation before the war as of equal dignity, and also includes the bonds issued under the funding acts of 1866 and 1868, as they were interest on first-class or old bonds. It then provides that the Treasurer shall issue the new bonds to the holders of this first-class or old bonds at 83 1/2 per cent. on the principal, or, in other words, give one bond for three old ones with past due interest attached.

All other pretended bonds are ignored. It then authorizes the North Carolina Railroad Company to buy the "construction bonds," so-called, and gives that company the right also to buy the stock of the State in the company, and turns over all right of the State to representation by proxy or directors in the company to the private stockholders, with a proviso that the State may, within ten years, purchase that interest again by paying cost and 6 per cent interest.

Another section provides for the purchase, by the Public Treasurer, of the Western North Carolina Railroad if the same can be done, at the sale for eight hundred thousand dollars, payable in State bonds, with ten years to run, interest guaranteed.

And it provides for the Governor appointing five commissioners, with the concurrence of the Senate, who shall hold complete the Western North Carolina Railroad with convicts and the earnings of the road. It is a very long bill with many details.

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