

before leaving that neighbourhood, examine the White Oak.

You will then examine the New river, and the inlet at its mouth.

The board wish you, on your way to the Albemarle, to visit the works now in progress on the Roanoke; and to give to the company incorporated for the improvement of that river such advice and instructions as they may require; and, if necessary, to lay out the line of the canal yet to be cut at the Great Falls, and determine the site of the locks: it being a principal object with the board to give to the several navigation companies every aid and facility in prosecuting their works."

In pursuance of these instructions, the engineer proceeded to Roanoke island, and commenced his observations and survey, which he completed about the first of May. He has drawn up a detailed report, accompanied with a map of the Roanoke and Croatan sounds, and also of the marshes and banks. In this map the soundings at various places are laid down, with all the localities which were thought necessary to be taken into view in forming an opinion on the subject of making an inlet. The result of his survey, has been a decisive opinion in favour of the practicability of making an inlet at this place; and the engineer has set forth, in his report, the plan which he thinks should be adopted. This plan is illustrated by several drawings, which accompany his report.

The board were desirous of obtaining upon this subject the opinion of the board of the United States' engineers, who were lately on our coast. The president of the United States had instructed them to give their attention to the subject; and the secretary at war gave notice of this fact, and of the time those engineers would be on our coast. But the board not being in session, it was found impossible, notwithstanding an effort was made for that purpose, for the civil engineer of this state to meet the board of U. States' engineers on our coast. Copies of Mr. Fulton's report, map and drawings, have been forwarded to them, and their opinion solicited. Copies will also be forwarded to England and France, in order to obtain if possible, the opinions of the most celebrated civil engineers of those countries upon the subject.

As connected with a survey of our inlets, the engineer was instructed to examine the shoal in the Pamphico below the town of Washington, and report upon the deepening of the channel of this shoal. It will be seen by his report, that this channel can be deepened at a moderate expense, in such way that vessels crossing the bar at Ocracock can proceed directly to Washington.

The reports of the engineer on our inlets, contain a mass of information which is highly interesting. They present to us the obstructions which exist, the extent to which they can be removed, and the expense which must be incurred in their removal. The entire subject is thus presented, and we are no longer left in the dark in adopting measures as to any part of it.

During the present year, the engineer has examined the Tar, the Catawba, and the Broad rivers; and in his reports, has given a detailed account of the obstructions in each, and pointed out the manner of removing them and of improving the navigation of each of those rivers. He has also had a survey made between the waters of the Neuse and the Tar rivers, by the way of the Tass-not and Contentney creeks.

The engineer has visited the several navigation companies, and given them instructions for carrying on their works. Before the employment of an engineer by the state, these companies were mostly without the assistance of any person of competent knowledge to plan their works, or superintend their execution.—The consequence was, that much money was very injudiciously expended. Early in the present year, the board addressed a circular to the several companies, recommending to them to place all their works under the immediate direction and superintendance of the civil engineer to the state. This recommendation has been in part acceded to, and the engineer has drawn the plans and specifications of the works; there has been a great saving in the cost of the work; and, at the same time, the work has been much better executed.

The principal works which are now going on in the state, are those on the Roanoke, Cape Fear, Yadkin, and Catawba. As the main obstruction to the navigation of the Roanoke is at the Great Falls, the company for the improvement of that river have concentrated their efforts at that place; and, during the next year, it is expected they will complete the canal and most of the locks. The most difficult and expensive part of the canalizing is completed, and two of the locks are in progress. The civil engineer is now engaged in laying out the line for the residue of the canal, and determining the sites of the other locks. This company, being liberally aided by the state of Virginia, as well as by this state, has a decided advantage over all the other companies, in point of funds, and their work has progressed more steadily.

The Cape Fear company have carried their work below, at and above Beville. Below, they have been engaged in clearing out the logs and

sand shoals, and rendering the river navigable for steam boats. The works projected at Fayetteville, are intended to accommodate both the ascending and descending trade of the river. The town is situated at nearly a mile from the river; and the transportation of produce from the town to the river, and of merchandise from the river to the town, is carried on at great expense and inconvenience, in waggons and carts. Boats descending the river with produce from above Fayetteville, have to lie with their cargoes nearly a mile from the market. To avoid these inconveniences, the company are making a canal through the town to the river; and when completed, boats either ascending the river with merchandise, or descending it with produce, can pass up the canal, and lie alongside of the warehouses in the town. As Fayetteville is the principal commercial town of the state, this improvement seemed necessary, not only for the accommodation of merchants, but of the planters and farmers who send their produce to this market. The company have been under the necessity of extending the canal several miles from town, to get a feeder, and this has added much to the expense of the work. Nearly five miles of this canal have been completed. One mile more has been partially done. An embankment and aqueduct are to be made at Cross creek, and the locks are to be put in at the river. A drawing of the canal and locks has been made by the civil engineer, and accompanies his reports on the subject.

Above Fayetteville, at the Buckhorn falls, the company have executed a considerable work. They have made a canal nearly a mile in length, and are now engaged in erecting the locks at this place. One of the principal dams has been built, and another is in a state of forwardness. From Buckhorn to Haywood the navigation is good. The engineer has recommended to the company to improve the navigation from Buckhorn to Fayetteville, by dams and locks; and it is believed that eight locks will be sufficient for this line of the river.

The Yadkin company have contracted for sluicing that river, from Wilkesborough to the Bean shoals in Surry county, a distance of sixty miles, and the work has been commenced. At the Bean shoals, the Yadkin passes the Bushy mountains, where the company are canalizing. They have here made a canal about a mile in length, supported on one side around a precipice of the mountain, for 1200 feet by a stone wall. A dam has been built across the river, at the head of the canal, to pond the water over the shoal above, and fill the canal. From the Bean shoals to Bruner's ford, a distance of ninety miles, it is intended to sluice the river; and the work has been contracted for. A contract has been made for improving the navigation of the river from the foot of general Smith's shoals, below the mouth of the Unadilla river to the South Carolina line, a distance of sixty miles. At the falls, near the line of South Carolina, the company has made a canal nearly two miles in length, which will soon be completed.

The Catawba Company have been engaged in improving the navigation of that river by sluicing, by dams and locks, and canalizing. The obstructions in this river, and the work which has been done by the company, are particularly detailed in the report of the civil engineer, upon his late survey upon that river.

All the companies except the Roanoke, are deficient in funds to complete their works; and, as soon as the state of the fund for internal improvements will admit of it, the board recommend to the general assembly to aid them by additional subscriptions of stock. Independent of the general benefit to be conferred upon the people by the completion of those works, it is probable that this stock will become a profitable source of revenue to the state. Some of our sister states derive a large portion of the public revenue from their internal improvements, and no reason seems to exist why the same may not be expected in this state. It requires time, patience and perseverance to effect any great public work. The prosperity of a state is not the labor of a day. It is the result of a system of policy which is founded in wisdom, and reared up with toil and labor. Public works are monuments of the wisdom of the people who accomplish them, and remain blessings to them and their posterity.

The board were directed by an act of the last general assembly, by contract for opening a road through the Cherokee country. As none of the members of the board had a personal knowledge of the country, they empowered the three commissioners, who were appointed to lay out the road, to contract for opening it. They declined the service, and the board have not been able to contract for this work. It is probable, that in a short time, a contract will be made.

The board have received for the use of the state, from James Monroe, Esq. president of the United States, Mons. Hageau's work on the canal which unites the Rhine with the Maese. The superb Atlas which accompanies this work, containing splendid drawings of every part of the canal, locks, &c. was forwarded by general Stokes, one of our senators in congress.

Hamilton Fulton, Esq. has resigned his appointment as civil engineer to the state. This resignation, according to the terms of his contract, will take effect in January next. The reports, maps, profiles, plans, and various drawings of Mr. Fulton, will be found useful to all who are concerned in the internal improvement of the state.

The board have also given notice to Mr. Robert H. B. Brazier, assistant engineer, that his contract will be considered at an end three months from the date of such notice.

The board have under consideration the condition of the public highways, and a plan for keeping them in repair, and hope to be able to submit to the present general assembly a report on this subject.

JOHN BRANCH
President of the Board of Public Improvements.
J. GALES, Secretary.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, December 4.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, from the committee of ways and means, reported "A bill for enrolling, and licensing, and granting allowances to ships or vessels to be employed in the mackerel fishery, and for the government of persons concerned therein."

The bill was twice read and committed.

Mr. McLean, of Kentucky, from the select committee, to whom was referred the petition of Matthew Lyon, made a report thereon, accompanied by a bill for his relief.

[The bill directs that there be paid to Matthew Lyon, out of the treasury of the United States, one thousand and sixty dollars, being the amount of a fine and costs recovered against him in the circuit court of the United States, (under the old sedition law,) with interest thereon from the 9th day of February, 1799, until paid.]

The bill was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Darlington, it was Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury be directed to report to this house the amount of fines certified to the comptroller of that department, to have been imposed upon the militia of Pennsylvania, for neglect of duty, during the late war with Great Britain; the amount of said fines which has been levied and collected by the marshals of the respective districts in that state, or their deputies; and the amount thereof which has been actually paid into the treasury of the United States; also, what proceedings, if any, have been instituted for the recovery of the moneys thus collected within said districts, and not yet received at the treasury.

Mr. Strong, of N. Y. submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to ascertain and report to this house the amount of individual claims upon the United States, in favour of American citizens growing out of the last war with Great Britain, the Creek war, and the Seminole war; designating the classes of the claims, and the names of the claimants; together with the sum or sums which, in their opinion, should be equitably and fairly due to each, so far as the same may be practicable; and also upon the expediency of providing for the same, by issuing scrip, receivable in payments for the public lands, or in such other manner as the committee may deem more advisable.

After some debate, the motion to lay the resolution on the table was decided in the affirmative, by a small majority.

On motion of Mr. Forrest the house proceeded to consider his motion for requiring information from the war department respecting certain loans of gun powder, &c.—and the same having been modified by striking out the preamble, was agreed to.

COMMERCE OF THE BLACK SEA.

Mr. Fuller, of Massachusetts, offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law such means as may be necessary to obtain for the citizens of the United States the navigation of the Euxine Sea and a participation of the commerce of its ports and dependencies.

Mr. F. after remarking on the expediency of affording to commerce, under present circumstances, all the facilities in the power of the government to bestow, went on to say that our commerce with Russia, it was well known, was at present almost entirely carried on through the Baltic sea, which it was equally well known, was closed against navigation for the greater part of the year by the severity of the climate. The Euxine sea, he said, afforded much greater facilities, by means of the rivers which fall into it, for carrying on the trade with Russia. But, not having any agent there, we have no means of procuring the permission to pass the Straits of the Dardanelles. From the information of others, however, Mr. F. said he had no doubt, that the requisite permission could be obtained by asking it in proper form and manner. The free intercourse with the Euxine would, he said, be of much advantage to us in another point

of view. At present, all our commerce with Turkey is carried on through Smyrna. Several ports of the Dardanelles, Mr. F. said would be more convenient for this purpose than Smyrna. Upon the whole, he thought it quite advisable to have an inquiry made into this subject through the medium of a committee of the house.

Mr. Stevens, of Connecticut, said, in reference to Mr. Fuller's intimation that permission to pass the Straits could be obtained if asked in a proper manner, that he presumed the agent who asked it must go with something in hand, and suggested the propriety of ascertaining, before they went further, what would be the cost of this project.

Mr. Rhea suggested that the mover would perhaps get more directly at his object by moving at once to request the executive to send a minister to Turkey.

The motion of Mr. Fuller was then agreed to without a division.

Mr. Mercer submitted the following: Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to lay before this house any correspondence that he does not deem it inexpedient to disclose, which may have existed between the executive of the United States and the governments of any of the maritime powers of Europe, in relation to the African slave trade.

The question thereon, being taken without debate, was agreed to without division; and a committee was ordered to be appointed to present the same to the president.

Mr. Eustis, of Massachusetts, after some introductory remarks, in the course of which he contrasted the old system of the pension establishment with that which had more recently prevailed, advantageously to the former, proposed the following resolve:

Resolved, That the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims be instructed to report a bill, providing that, from and after the 4th day of March next ensuing, no officer, soldier, seaman, marine, or other person whatsoever, shall be placed on the pension list of the United States, except by virtue of a law in which the name of the pensioner shall be inserted, together with the amount of pension to which he be entitled.

The resolution being read—

Mr. Lowndes rose, not to object to the principle of the resolution, thinking it probable that the long experience of the mover would enable him to suggest valuable improvements on the present system, but to suggest, as the resolution was affirmative, and not proposing inquiry merely, that, with a view to deliberation, it should lie on the table one day.

Mr. Eustis assenting to this course, the resolution was, after a few words from Mr. Rhea, indicative of hostility to it, ordered to lie on the table.

The speaker then laid before the house a letter from the secretary of the treasury, transmitting his annual report on the state of the treasury; and, on motion of Mr. Storrs, three thousand copies thereof were ordered to be printed for the use of the house.

And the house adjourned.

Legislature of North Carolina.

SENATE.

Friday, December 8.

Mr. R. D. Spaight introduced a bill to repeal an act passed in 1819, giving to the county courts power to regulate separate elections, which passed its first reading.

The house resolved itself into committee of the whole, Mr. L. D. Wilson in the chair, on the bill to repeal an act passed at the last session to create a fund for internal improvement, and to establish a board for the management thereof. After some debate on a motion to strike out the first section, the motion was carried, and the committee rose and reported the bill with the amendment. The house took up the bill, and on motion of Mr. A. Kinson, the bill with the amendment was indefinitely postponed, 35 votes to 21.

Mr. Wellborn, from the committee of finance, reported, that the amount of small treasury notes in the treasury, unfit for circulation, amounts to 7,710 dollars. Ordered to be burnt.

Saturday, December 9.

Mr. Locke, from the judiciary committee, reported the bill to limit the time of bringing suits against executors, administrators and guardians, without amendment, which passed its first reading.

Mr. L. from the same committee reported it to be inexpedient to pass any law on the subject of persons clandestinely removing their property, &c.

On motion of Mr. Walton, the judiciary committee were instructed to inquire into the propriety of passing a law for the general regulation of county finance; of passing a law placing each county on an equality in the payment of jurors and witnesses; and into the expediency of taxing all suits for the purpose of paying jurors.

On motion of the same gentleman, a select committee was appointed to inquire into the expediency of altering and amending the patrol law.

The bill to authorise the trustees of the Milton female academy to raise a

certain sum by way of lottery, was passed the third time and ordered to be enrolled.

On motion of Mr. Calloway, the committee on internal improvements were instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation to aid in opening a road from Jonathan Woody's blacksmith's shop to the Tennessee line.

The bill to repeal an act passed in 1819, giving to the county courts power, to regulate separate elections, was taken up for a second reading and rejected.

Mr. Locke, from the judiciary committee, to whom was referred a resolution touching the duty of sheriffs, and proposing to raise their fees, reported that it is inexpedient to increase the fees of sheriffs for the service of writs and other process; but that it is expedient to increase the penalty on sheriffs, failing to make due return of all process to them directed; and recommended the passage of a bill for this purpose, which passed its third reading.

Mr. Gilchrist introduced a bill fixing the sum recoverable in any court of law by slaves who may hereafter recover their freedom; and

Mr. Shober, a bill to amend an act concerning clerks of courts passed in 1819. Both bills passed their first reading. The first was afterwards referred to a select committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, December 8.

The following bills were presented: By Mr. Cameron, a bill to require sheriffs to settle with wardens of the poor earlier than they now do.

By Mr. McLean, a bill concerning the public roads in this state. These bills were read the first time—the latter referred to the committee on internal improvement.

On motion of Mr. Graham, Resolved, That the judiciary committee inquire into the expediency of making some provision that may secure infant female wards against being drawn into premature marriage by the interested views of unprincipled guardians.

Mr. Spelcer reported a bill, which was read the first time, appointing commissioners to fix on a suitable place for the court-house in Hyde.

The house took up the order of the day on the bill to divide Rowan. [The blank for the name of the new county, on motion of Mr. Henderson, was filled with Davidson, in honor of gen. George Lee Davidson, a distinguished officer in our revolutionary war.]

The bill was read the second time, and rejected, 58 in favour, and 62 against it.

After some time spent in committee of the whole, Mr. A. Moore in the chair, on the revenue bill, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Saturday, December 9.

The following bills were introduced: By Mr. Roberts, a bill to compel the clerk of Surry county to keep his office in the town of Rockford.

By Mr. Poindexter, a bill to authorise John Frost, of Rowan county, to erect a dam across Mitchell's river in Surry county.

By Mr. Pope, a bill to prevent the fishing with nets at the mouth of Great Contentnea.

By Mr. Hampton, a bill allowing jurors in the county and superior courts of Wilkes to receive pay for services.

By Mr. Bell, a bill to appoint a committee of finance for the county of Carteret.

Each read the first time and passed. The house proceeded to the order of the day and took up the bill to amend the act laying duties on sales at auction of merchandise.—Also the bill allowing additional compensation to the attorney general and solicitors for the state.

Read, amended, and passed the second time.

A balloting was had for a board of commissioners for internal improvement. Alfred Moore, Thomas Turner, Archibald D. Murphey, John D. Hawkins, Durant Hatch, and Charles D. Connor, Esquires, were elected.

The bill to authorise county courts to alter separate elections, &c. was referred to Messrs. Hillman, Bateman, Martin, Blount and Carter.

The resolution presented on Thursday last by Mr. Iredell, to appoint a committee revise the laws now in force relative to executors and administrators, &c. was taken up, and the blank filled with the names of Wm. Gaston and John R. Donnell, of Newbern. The resolution was engrossed and sent to the senate.

The bill for regulating the pilotage at Ocracock.—The bill prescribing the time within which mortgages, deeds of trust, &c. shall be registered, and the bill to provide for the payment of costs when slaves are convicted of capital offences, were each read the second time and passed.

Mr. Alston, from the committee appointed to examine the public accounts of the treasurer, made a report, which was unanimously concurred with in both houses.

Mr. Mebane, from the committee, reported unfavorably on the proposition