

The Wilson Advance.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1881

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAWS

The present generation of law-makers, seem determined, that the reproach which attached to the laws of the ancient Medes and Persians, shall not be cast upon them. The daily reports of Legislative proceedings bear witness to the industry with which changes in our existing laws are being made. Before the people have time to test a system, or to become familiar with the laws passed by one Legislative body, another commences the work of change, amendment and repeal.

We can conceive of few greater misfortunes to any people, than the uncertainty of the laws by which they are governed. It is a legal maxim, that ignorance of the law excuses no one. Every citizen should therefore, have a reasonable opportunity of knowing the law which is expected to govern, and by which, his life, liberty and property are protected. Now, new laws are passed, old ones amended or repealed in such quick succession, that they fit before the mind like the ever-varying colors of the Kaleidoscope—our progressive legislators not suffering them to remain long enough upon the statute book to be understood when plain and easily comprehended, so to fix their meaning by judicial construction, when it is doubtful.

This is a growing evil of the times, and about which just complaint is being made by the people. They demand more stability—fewer changes and less experimental legislation. They feel apprehensive and not without reason, that unless some check is put upon the progressive spirit of Legislation, all the venerated institutions of the past will soon be swept away, and our laws so changed and altered, that outside of the legal profession, it will be impossible to obtain a reliable opinion upon subjects of vital interest to every citizen.

The carpet baggers have left us, but not before engraving upon our institutions features in accordance with their notions of progress and great moral ideas. For these we are fast abandoning our old systems and laws, while with strange inconsistency we rejoice over their departure. We are ready to teach our children to hate the carpet baggers, as the old King of Carthage taught his son to hate the Romans while we live under what they taught, and impose upon us as a more enlightened system of jurisprudence.

Not contented with this system so subversive of all our past experience, and so unsuited in many respects to the genius of our people, our lawmakers are continually reaching out after novelties in legislation, which are to be found only in the most advanced stages of New England civilization. Forgetting that with these advanced thinkers, the wisdom of centuries is regarded as little better than mere rubbish, out of which may be eliminated a few principles, worthy of their acceptance. Is it not time to pause in this heedless race after questionable improvement, to cast an anchor in the sure haven of experience when so many successive generations have been securely protected against the storms of life. The world moves we know, but it moves according to fixed laws. And as far as may be the laws which govern human society should be fixed, certain and as little subject to change, as the ever-varying circumstances of human life will allow.

THE FREEDMAN'S BANK.

This bankrupt institution, which was unquestionably one of the darkest stains upon the career of the republican party is at last, by the action of a democratic Congress, about to have its assets honestly administered. Its affairs have recently been turned over to the comptroller of the currency, with an allowance of \$1000, for special pay, instead of \$9000, a year paid to three commissioners for the last seven years.

The original charter of this institution required the trustees to make investments, in bonds of the United States, for protection of depositors. But when the deposits became large from the earning of more than sixty

thousand men, women and children fresh from slavery and ignorant of the methods of banking, and trusting blindly to the pious hypocrits, who professed the utmost friendship for the "colored brethren," a republican Congress amended the charter, so as to destroy the protection which it afforded.

Then it was that the philanthropic Gen. O. O. Howard, Henry D. Cook and other noted republicans, loud champions of a "broader humanity," began to fill the vaults of the banks with worthless scrip—with notes only fit for waste paper, and with fraudulent transactions that should have sent the trustees and their confederates to the penitentiary.

After years of wholesale robbery by republican rings, Commissioners, three in number, were appointed in 1874 at salary of \$3000 each per year. In addition to this scandalous plunder of the defrauded depositors, the sum of \$360,000 has been consumed in expenses and charges since the act of June 1874 was passed.

So much for the friendship of republican philanthropists for the "colored brother." Whatever of their hard earnings may be saved and returned to the colored people, they should remember, that for it, they will be indebted to a democratic Congress. A few will doubtless make the distinction as to who are their best friends, so hard apparently for the average colored voter to realize, but the large majority will continue to vote "de publican ticket" as heretofore.

Neither the educational advantages nor the benevolent institutions, the schools, colleges and asylums, which the democratic party has provided for them, make any impression upon the solid mass of ignorance and prejudice upon which they have been lavishly expended. The patience and forbearance which has been shown towards such ingratitude, is without a parallel in the history of the world.

THE LEGISLATURE.

PROCEEDINGS.

Condensed from the News-Observer.

IN THE SENATE.

SATURDAY, February 19th. Several petitions for prohibition were offered.

Mr. Tucker—Bill to amend Chap. 163 laws of 1871-2.

Senate Bill 15—To amend the Constitution in relation to the common school fund providing that "the proceeds of the State and county capitation tax shall be applied to the purposes of education." Discussed by Messrs. Dortch, Davison, Barwell, York and others.

No motion of Mr. Cunningham the bill to establish Durham county was postponed until Thursday 12 M.

On motion of Mr. Finger, his bill relative to education was made a special order for Tuesday 12 o'clock.

Mr. York—Bill appropriating \$133,000 for the Insane Asylums of the State.

IN THE HOUSE.

Petitions on the subject of prohibition were presented.

Mr. Raysdale—Bill concerning the sale of real estate by administrators.

Mr. Grainger—bill relative to the larceny of money.

Mr. McAnby—bill to extend the time for registration of land grants.

By same—Requiring a seal to be affixed to deed of probate.

Mr. Boykin—In regard to the crime of Burglary.

House resolution requesting Congress to pension the Mexican Veterans was tabled as Congress had already passed said law.

Mr. Grainger—Bill to establish a graded School in Goldsboro Township.

Senate bill to amend Chap. 329 laws of 1879 in regard to the funds for the payment of jurors passed.

MONDAY, February 21st.

IN THE SENATE.

Mr. Davison—Bill to provide for the election of an associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Judge of the Superior Court and a Solicitor for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, judicial districts at a general election to be held the first Tuesday in November 1882.

On motion of Mr. York the bills relative to the Government of the Insane Asylum were taken up and after explanation passed their second and third readings.

Senate bill 25 to change the rules with regard to taking depositions—amended by committee and passed its second reading—Explained by Mr. Davison and passed its third reading.

Senate bill 62 to devote the poll tax to the public school fund was laid on the table.

House and Senate resolutions appropriating \$5000 instead of \$3000 to the Oxford Orphan Asylum passed its third reading.

House and Senate bills to authorize the employment of convict labor on the highways and streets of Towns and Cities in this State passed its third reading.

Senate bill to prevent blind legislation, passed its several readings.

Senate bill to protect inebriates, declaring that it shall be unlawful to sell or give any liquor to any person who may have been declared to be an inebriate. On motion referred to Judiciary Committee.

IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. McClure—Resolution to adjourn on the 7th of March at 12 M. passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Click—To devote the evening session to local legislation and the day sessions to general business.

Mr. White—Directing the Secretary to

transmit the criminal acts passed, to the several Judges of the State.

Mr. Manning—To organize the compensation of Judges of the Superior Court by giving \$100 per week for each additional term held.

Mr. Blaidell—To provide for the transfer of criminals sentenced to be executed to the Penitentiary for their execution after 90 days and to pay expenses.

Mr. Worthington—To amend the Code of Civil Procedure with regard to the verification of pleadings.

House bill to repeal the law abolishing the tax fees of attorneys was put on its second reading—Mr. Ray moved to table—Motion failed for want of a quorum.

Mr. Ray—moved to indefinitely postpone Mr. Manning favored, that portion of the bill which related to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Winstead opposed the bill, and said he wanted the court to hear and determine all the cases for the people whether they were poor or not.

Mr. Manning said poor people had a right to have their causes heard wherever they were not able to pay costs without bond and without pay costs without bond, and without paying costs to any one.

Mr. Rose argued with Mr. Manning, that so much of the bill as related to the fees in the Supreme Court should pass.

Mr. Carter offered an amendment providing that the bill should only apply to the Supreme Court, and spoke in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Day said that the lawyers had been so far gone in some cases of themselves, and were going to be doing that every body who named lawyers to start with, by the large order during that time would get the top of the head, and the lawyers would be the most to suffer.

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