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NOTABLE BOOKS CONCERNING GEN. LEE.

The life of General Robert E. Lee by General Long will correct many false impressions the world has got as to the character of the war and fighting. Even the North will find out how superior were Southern troops to its own and how splendid the deeds of Lee's magnificent ragged army. We see it mentioned that Lord Wolseley has written for the March number of *Macmillan's Magazine* an article on Robert E. Lee. The distinguished Col. Chesney, of the British army, soon after the war, in an elaborate paper in *Blackwood's* (Edinburgh) *Magazine*, pronounced Lee one of the three greatest military geniuses of the English speaking race —Marlborough, Wellington, Lee. Col. Freemantle, of the British Coldstream Guards, spent three months in the Confederacy during the war and witnessed several desperate battles. Upon his return to England he published his enjoyable "Three Months in the Confederacy," in which he does Gen. Lee much credit and shows a very high admiration of his splendid and rare qualities.

A very singular work is just out. It is called "The Campaign of Fredericksburg, November–December, 1862. A Study for Officers of Volunteers. By a Line Officer. London. 1886." It is by a British officer and is a study of tactics as applied to Lee's manner of fighting the battle of Fredericksburg. The author of course greatly praises Lee's generalship through the entire war, but he criticises (we know unjustly) Lee's failure to follow up his success at Fredericksburg. Longstreet has shown in the *Century Magazine* the folly of such criticism, and Gen. Long very clearly shows its absurdity. It is easy to criticise when you are not present and do not understand the situation.

Gen. Lee said that every private at Gettysburg could have fought the battle better than he did. That is, according to *after* criticism. He said the great soldiers were the editors. They knew always what was going to happen, but unfortunately for the country never turned on the light until *after* the fight had ended and the disaster had come. If you would understand his great generalship and behold what a consummate master of war Gen. Lee really was read his biography by Long. The English officer thinks well of the Northern troops and says it is a very high compliment to affirm as he does "that the soldiers of the Army of the Potomac were inferior only to Lee's veterans."

In this connection let us refer to two recent Northern books on the war.—Mr. Wilkerson, a Northern journalist who served as a private in the Northern army and all through Grant's campaigns, has published a volume in which he shows how superior were Lee's veterans to Grant's tremendous army, and how inferior was some of the material that Grant had to work up into soldiers. His book is full of personal interest and is evidently truthful. Another book, just published, is entitled, "The Camp-Fires of Gen. Lee." By Edward S. Ellis, A. M. It is by one of the enemy. We have not seen the book, but copy what the Charleston *News & Courier* says of it:

"This work, which comes from a Northern source, is intended to be a truthful narrative and vivid description of the part played by the army of Northern Virginia, under Gen. R. E. Lee, in the bloodiest and most terrific campaigns of modern times. It really contains a well-written account of the campaigns, with personal sketches of Gen. Lee and others.

"We can hardly look upon the work of Mr. Ellis as a specially valuable contribution to the history of the war, but it is of great value in the sense of marking the advent of a time when Northern writers will give as cheerful an account of Southern valor and Southern endurance as Southerners themselves would give. It must be remarked, too, that the book, on this account, is much more likely to be read than one which, while dealing with the same subject, should be of Southern origin."

All this shows that the era of friendly feeling is returning, and that the truth is being told more and more. The romances called war histories have had their day. Grant and Lee and the rest will be judged by the actual facts and not by what liars and romancers may be pleased to fabricate and palm off. What we have collated shows the deep interest

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taken in the great American war, and the profound regard in which the greatest of American soldiers is held. Lee was not only the greatest soldier of the Western world, but he was the most engaging in character and possessed of the rarest and noblest combination of qualities. To read his life by Gen. Long is a delightful employment. It is as charming as it is elevating and most inspiring. We are not acquainted with any biography that is as worthy of study, for none is so noble and stimulating. Every Southron, old and young, should read it. It will do all good by reason of the grand lessons it teaches of patriotism, of duty, of honor, of true nobility of soul, of the highest virtue, of the utmost self-repression and self-sacrifice.

MR. LOCKEY'S DILEMMA.

The STAR has always tried to treat Senator Lockey fairly and courteously. He is a young man who deserves credit for his studiousness and energy in pushing himself forward. In twenty years, if he lives, he will be a prominent lawyer and a wiser politician than he now is. He made a long speech some days ago on a substitute to the Pou Convict bill which he had introduced. He seems to have been fairly caught in the meshes of his own contriving. His legislative record was in the way of his present position in regard to leasing convicts. He is reported as saying in his recent speech that "the competition of convict with honest labor was opposed to Republican principles, and that his substitute was a party measure." But if true what will he do with his having given *two* votes in favor of leasing convicts, and thereby, according to his present theory, antagonizing "honest labor" and running full tilt against so-called "Republican principles."

Senator Pou thus stated the case against the Senator from New Hanover:

"Mr. Lockey's measure is wholly unconstitutional and is glaringly impractical—a scheme to scatter the convicts from valuable works about through the State and to effect no good. There is no organization which favors it. To-day Knights of Labor in the city of Raleigh told me that they detested it. I have investigated the expense it would incur by careful estimate and it would make the penitentiary cost the State $400,000 a year.

"Two years ago, in the House, there was a proposition to let a railroad have 200 convicts. There were five tie votes upon it and Mr. Lockey voted every time for the railroad, and in his several votes in the Senate he has done the same thing."

This question stares the taxpayers in the face: There are say 1,200 convicts, and the number is increasing every week, although crime is believed by some to be decreasing, and possibly is. What shall be done with these convicts? Shall they be kept in the "pen" at Raleigh to be a burden upon the State, or shall they be made to earn their own "grub" and clothing? If they are kept at the penitentiary they must learn trades. To make their labor profitable the shoes and other things they make must be sold. Will not this come directly in competition with honest labor? We suppose Mr. Lockey does not favor that. What then?

The STAR has suggested hiring half for fair pay to railroads, but not unless their health is specially looked after and they are humanely treated. The other half ought to be put to work on the county roads. But Mr. Pou opposes the latter, saying it would cost $400,000 a year. To us the figures are very wild. North Carolina, if it knows its own interests, must have good county roads. The present shameful excuses are a positive disgrace to North Carolina intelligence and civilization. The *hauling* of the State the year round costs just double what it would cost with first-rate roads in every county. We venture the assertion that Captain Southerland's two big blacks can haul from Wilmington to Wrightsville Sound, over the shell road, as many pounds as six horses can haul over most of the roads in Middle and Western Carolina. Something must be done to save this great cost and cure a standing evil.

We notice a letter from Asheville to the Charleston *News and Courier* of 18th inst., in which it is claimed that the iron in Western North Carolina is the best in the world. We hope this is true. The Cranberry ore is said to be of unsurpassed quality. The correspondent says:

"These mines are located some seventy-five miles north of the city. In the last few days some capitalists from Birmingham, Ala., interested in the manufacture of iron have been prospecting in this section. In Swain county they have purchased, near the Western North Carolina Railroad, a large area of land on which has been found a valuable vein of iron. The investments made by outside capitalists in Swain and other of the Western counties have caused the price of real estate to rise constantly from the figures which might have purchased it two years ago."

These investments show that capitalists have confidence in the richness of our mines. Wilmington is interested. If direct railroad communication is had with the iron and coal mines of North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia then there ought not to be any doubt as to this port becoming the shipping point for much of the products of those mines.

The Stonewall Jackson Monument Association of Virginia, have issued an appeal for help in erecting a monument in memory of Lee's greatest Lieutenant, the peerless Jackson. The men who fought under Lee, without reference to States, ought to help, and so ought all men and women who revere the great and *good*. The Richmond *State* says:

"We feel sure that not only the men who followed this brilliant leader over many a hard-fought field, but those who have studied his wonderful genius, and have learned to admire his spotless character not only in the South, but in the North and in European countries as well, will gladly contribute something towards the commemoration in enduring form of the rarely equalled qualities of this good and great man."

The STAR will forward any contributions for that purpose.

Gov. Hill said Jefferson lived in a "rude structure," his famous house at Monticello, which is a pilgrim's shrine. The N. Y. *Star* corrects him. It says:

"Monticello was planned and built with care, and Jefferson was proud of it. It was admired by visitors like Washington Irving, Daniel Webster and Edward Everett. Despite some defects of arrangement it was a good house."

As time passes the great ability and wisdom of the immortal Jefferson are becoming more apparent. Just in proportion as politicians depart from the grand fundamental principles taught by the great Virginian is there danger to our institutions.

Those who read Mrs. Pavy's article in the *North American Review* will not be certain that Lieut. Greely ought to be made a Brigadier General over the heads of so many meritorious officers. It is a big leap. The Washington correspondent of the New York *Times* writes:

Mrs. Pavy, widow of Dr. Pavy, who was a member of the late arctic expedition to Lady Franklin Bay, appeared before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs this afternoon to oppose the pending nomination of Capt. Greely to be Chief Signal Officer. She requested the committee to defer action on the nomination until Saturday, when she proposed to submit certain documents in opposition to confirmation."

War preparations are still progressing both in Germany and France.

Second Regiment N. C. S. G.

Col. W. C. Jones, commanding Second Regiment North Carolina State Guard, in General Order No. 1, announces the following as his commissioned and non-commissioned staff:

Commissioned—M. S. Willard, Wilmington, First Lieut. and Adjutant.

F. T. Atkins, Clinton, Quartermaster, with rank of Captain, vice N. F. Parker, resigned.

J. F. Bishop, Maxton, Commissary, with rank of Captain.

Dr. J. A. Hodges, Fayetteville, Surgeon, with rank of Captain, vice Dr. G. G. Thomas, resigned.

Dr. J. T. Stevens, Clinton, Assistant Surgeon, with rank of First Lieutenant, vice Dr. J. A. Hodges, promoted.

Rev. James Carmichael, D. D., Wilmington, Chaplain, with rank of Captain.

Non-Commissioned—W. A. Willson, Jr., Wilmington, Sergeant-Major, vice O. P. Meares, Jr., resigned.

B. F. McLean, Maxton, Commissary-Sergeant, vice Charles J. Ahearn, resigned.

W. T. Thorpe, Smithville, Quartermaster-Sergeant, vice F. T. Atkins, promoted.

W. C. McDuffie, Fayetteville, Hospital Steward.

Another Salvage Case Settled.

In the latter part of October last, the schooner *Fairfield*, a small vessel of about twenty tons, belonging to Capt. S. B. Price, of this city, was abandoned on the coast of Georgia. She was on the way to this port with a cargo of rough rice and when off Hilton Head Island, on the afternoon of the 29th of October ran aground on the outer edge of the Gaston bank, about half an hour before sundown. The crew, composed of negroes, refused to put down the hatches and took at once to the boats. The master, quite a young man, was afraid to remain on the vessel alone and without any small boat in the event of distress, and went with the crew. During the night of the 29th the *Fairfield* drifted out to sea and was boarded next morning by the crew of the pilot boat *Mary Odell*, who found her hatches open and the water washing over her decks. The vessel was then eleven miles out and was drifting seaward. A crew was placed on board and the vessel taken to Savannah, where she was libeled for salvage. She was sold recently under an order of the United States Court.

Last Wednesday, in the U. S. Circuit Court at Savannah, Judge Speer rendered a decree that the sum of $500 be allowed the petitioners for salvage services, and that the balance of the proceeds of the sale of the vessel and cargo, amounting to $1,178, be paid to the owners of the vessel. The court also awarded the salvage as follows: $250 to the owners of the *Mary Odell*, $25 to W. J. Thompson, master of the tugboat, $10 to the master of the *Fairfield*, who conducted her into port, while the remaining $215 were divided among the master and crew of the pilot boat in proportion to their rank and wages.

Richmond's Election.

Richmond county voted yesterday upon the question of subscription by the county to the capital stock of the South Atlantic & Northwestern Railroad Company—the road from Smithville to Bristol, Tenn. Advices from Laurinburg up to 3 p. m. state that the vote for "no subscription" at that place was 488. The total vote of the place is about 600, which it was thought would be cast before the close of the polls. The negroes were voting solidly with the whites, for the first time in their history. There was very strong opposition to "subscription" in Laurinburg.

No advices have been received from other places in the county.

A Pointer for Speculators.

The Dutch and their descendants living in Cleveland county, have a superstition as to Ash Wednesday. They say that if that day is fair and bright it will be a good wheat year, but if dark and cloudy little wheat will be raised, and if some of these farmers are asked to sell flour they will put the purchaser off until after Ash Wednesday, so that they may know how the day will turn out.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Pearson's County Government Bill Passed by the House—The Debate on the Measure—Bureau of Labor Statistics Bill Passed by the Senate—The Revenue Bill, &c.

[Special Star Report.]

SENATE.

RALEIGH, Feb. 24.—The following bills were introduced:

To prevent setting fish traps in Cape Fear river and Baldhead creek.

To amend the charter of Durham

To reduce the appropriation to the University from $15,200, to $7,500.

To provide for the redemption of lands sold for taxes.

To amend the Code relating to registration of conditional sale.

To provide for the erection of a monument to Nathaniel Macon.

To incorporate the Cherokee Lind Mining Company.

In relation to certain confessed judgments.

The House bill to establish a Bureau of Labor Statistics was taken up on second reading. Alexander's motion to strike out the words "raised from tax on fertilizers" was lost. Field's amendment to attach Bureau to Agricultural Department was lost—ayes 19, nays 33. The bill passed second reading—ayes 33, nays 14—and was then placed on third reading. An amendment to reduce the salaries of offices was lost—ayes 10, nays 35. The bill passed third and final reading.

Bill to increase the number of Supreme Court Judges to five, to be submitted to the people at the next general election, passed second and third reading unanimous.

HOUSE

Very few bills were introduced to-day. The principal ones were the following:

To authorize local option in Reidsville.

To change the name of Brown Marsh township, Bladen county

To provide for calling a constitutional convention

To survey and locate the line between Brunswick and Columbus counties.

THE CALENDAR.

The bill relating to the boundary line of the town of Maxton passed its second and third readings.

THE REVENUE BILL

This bill was taken up again. The Republicans were sick of their bit of work yesterday in reducing the income exemption from $1,500 to $300. York moved to reconsider, and actually claimed that he voted for Lindsay's amendment to that effect in order that he might do so. York said his party had supported the amendment and put itself in a false position.

Holt said that the Republican party had put itself on record in this matter.

Pritchard, (Rep.) admitted that this was a fact, and favored reconsideration. So did Williams, who yesterday spoke in favor of the amendment.

Ewart did not think the section applied to mechanics and laborers, but only to such persons as received "salaries." He made a distinction between "salaries" and wages. It was very interesting to see the Republicans' eagerness to retrace their steps in this matter. York called the ayes and noes on the motion to reconsider. The vote was ayes 71, noes 27.

Holt moved that the section be adopted as recommended by the Finance Committee, placing the amount of exemption at $1,500.

Pritchard offered an amendment that the words "salaries or fees" shall not apply to wages of laborers or operatives, but that these shall be exempted. He said he considered all persons who worked as clerks, &c., to be laborers.

Lindsay offered an amendment to make the amount of exemption $500 and the tax on incomes derived from salaries or fees one per cent., instead of one-half of one per cent. This was lost—31 to 69.

Mills offered an amendment to strike out all of the sections taxing salaries or fees or granting exemptions.

Lindsay said the Legislature was making a gross distinction against the farmers, who were taxed in every possible way. He said the people would certainly hold the Legislature to account for what they were doing in this matter.

The Speaker at this stage of the proceedings said he did not wish to lecture the House, but that if there were not less talking and more work, the House would never get through its work.

Mills' amendment was voted down.

On Pritchard's amendment the ayes and noes were taken. It was adopted—ayes 60, noes 34.

Doughton's amendment, to make the amount of exemption $1,000, was adopted —54 to 30.

The section, as amended, was then adopted—69 to 10, and is as follows:

Sec. 5. On the incomes and profits derived from any property not taxed, during the year preceding the first day of June in each year, there shall be a tax of one per centum, without exemption. On incomes derived from salaries or fees during the same time there shall be a tax of one-half of one per centum. The taxpayer, in returning his salary or fees, shall be allowed to deduct fifteen hundred dollars as necessary expenses for conducting his business or for the support of his family. *Provided, however*, that the words "salary and fees" shall not be construed to mean the wages earned by any laborer or operative, but that the wages of laborers and operatives, whose earnings do not exceed fifteen hundred dollars, shall be exempted from the provisions of section 5.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT BILL

This bill was taken up as a special order, displacing the revenue bill, in the face of a protest from Sutton, and by a party vote of Republicans and Independents. It is Pearson's bill.

Pritchard offered an amendment, which Pearson accepted, that the amount of penalty of bond in section 5 shall not exceed $5,000.

An amendment was offered by Leazar that the amount of penalty should be two-fifths instead of one fifth the county tax.

Pearson spoke on the bill. He said the abuses of the present system of electing county commissioners were very great. If each member would only tell of those he knew of the pile of evidence would reach as high as the dome of the Capitol. He was strongly in favor of divorcing the joint boards of magistrates and county commissioners. The gist of the matter was, each party says the people are with it on this question, and he wished to submit it to the people. Never in the West has the system been popular. It has been tolerated as intended to serve a purpose only. As long as matters stand in their present shape they give the Republican party a cudgel with which they will eventually beat down the Democratic party. The only argument in favor of the present system, save the one that it was used by our forefathers for a hundred years. But convictions are changed. The people want more liberty. Changes must be made to meet the new order of things. Our grandfathers imprisoned for debt; who favors such a system? Once there was a property qualification; now it would not be tolerated. The people of the West demanded this change. If they could not get it they would go on in their demands until an entire change was secured. They regard this bill as a compromise.

Overman asked Pearson if he (Pearson) had not stated in his campaign that he did not desire to change the system of county government for the East but for the West. Pearson said that this was substantially his view and the view of his people on the matter. He went on to attack "county rings," as growing out of the system. As to negro supremacy, he anticipated no trouble. He felt sure that every Republican here knew that that party was far different from that of 1868, which went down, as it deserved to go down. Now every one of these Representatives is a native North Carolinian. He said satirically, that the county commissioner was the highest officer in this country; that is, he was farther removed from the people. If the people of the French Broad valley were given the choice of voting for President or for their county commissioners, they would take the latter every time. He was willing to say frankly that one of the main purposes of the bond was to protect the people from any irresponsible men. He had been told that a good many of the negro members would vote and intended to vote against this bill because they had been told it was a fling at their race. He assured them that this was not a fact. He had no fear of the adoption of a system of popular government having any effect in the way of social equality. He said frankly that enfranchisement was too sudden; it should have been partial. He said the negro was not yet fitted to exercise judicial functions. He complimented the negroes upon their progress, and said that very few of the generation now coming of age were unable to read the ballots they cast. In conclusion, Pearson said the people demanded popular rights and honest democratic government. The people of the West demanded it; their cry for it was higher and higher.

Parsons attacked Pearson for inconsistency, for having voted against Plunkett's bill to allow the people to elect county commissioners and magistrates; thus saying in effect that the people were not qualified to elect their officers. He termed Pearson a "trimmer," trying to steer his boat between the two parties. Only an Independent could vote for such a bill; neither the Republican nor the Democratic party could support it. Both opposed it on principle. He said that Pearson's avowed object in the bill was to break up court house rings, but his bill simply made the ring to consist of the five commissioners instead of the seventy-five magistrates, and a ring of five was much easier to control than a ring of seventy-five. This bill, too, proposes to increase enormously the powers of the commissioners. The five men are to absolutely, imperiously, manage county affairs. The bill, too, limits the office to rich men, for only such are eligible. The poor man is barred, for he cannot give a $5,000 justified bond. This is an embargo upon honesty and poverty. The present law lays no such embargo. If any political party wants to go before the people upon this question, why let the independents, the mugwumps, do it. They are the only ones who can do so. The requirement of a bond for such officers is a piece of folly. The county commissioners handle no money. As to Pearson's remark that a vote on this bill would show how the people stood, Parsons said that Pearson wanted such a test, so as to see how the people stood, and find out on which side to get himself. Now he had no position at all. The bill is nothing more or less than a worthless piece of paper. Both parties are here for other purposes than to find out for the Independents how the people stand on this question.

Pritchard said that if the Republicans had introduced the bill they would have included the magistrates in it. The Republican party would vote for any measure of the kind. He attacked the Democrats for fraud and mismanagement in county government. He said that one Democratic official had drawn pay for the support of a female pauper who had been dead two years. He said the whole system was born in fraud. The convention of 1875 was a fraud. Republicans must vote for any measure of relief.

Holt said the bill was a "rich man's bill." He spoke of the record of the Republican party; that dreadful record. He severely denounced Pritchard. The Democrats punished misdeeds. The man Pritchard spoke of was now in the Penitentiary. He attacked the Republican party for its disfranchisement of a free people. His arraignment was very powerful.

Pritchard, in reply, attacked the Democratic party as the Ku Klux party. He called the previous question at the conclusion of his remarks.

Dougherty's amendment to change the words "probate judge" in section 5 to "judge of the superior court riding the circuit" was lost.

Doughton's amendment making the date of election in 1888 the same time as the regular election was voted on. The ayes and nays were demanded. The vote stood: Yeas 54, nays 59. The Republicans and Independents voted solidly in the negative, the Democrats in the affirmative.

Leazar's amendment to make the penalty two-fifths was withdrawn.

The bill then came up on its second reading, and Pearson demanded the yeas and nays.

There were many explanations. Fuller, Democrat, rather favored the bill but voted no. Holman rather favored something in this direction, but voted no.

Williamson said he hated to vote for this bill, but it was a party question and he had to vote for it. His honest convictions were against it, but York, Pritchard and other party leaders were cracking the whip. He would, the Lord knew, rather be crucified than vote for the bill.

The vote was as follows: Ayes 66, noes 51.

There was objection to the passage of the bill on its third reading, but this was finally withdrawn and the bill came up.

Parsons offered an amendment providing that justices of the peace be included in the provisions of the bill as well as magistrates.

On this amendment the ayes and noes were demanded.

Pritchard called on the Republicans to vote for this bill, saying it was just what the Republicans wanted. They laughed at the Democrats, thinking they had them in a tight place, and said the Democrats had put themselves on record. Parsons had, however, only offered the amendment to test Pearson. The vote on the amendment was, ayes 60, noes 46. Parsons voted aye, saying he wished to make the bill as odious as possible. Pearson voted aye. Oakley tried to dodge, but was called on to vote and required to do so. The Republicans forced him to do it, but would not allow him to explain. It raised quite a sensation. He voted for the amendment, but said he would not vote for the bill. For that reason he had dodged.

Parsons said the Republicans thought they had him in a tight place, but they were in one themselves.

Pearson said while he favored his bill as originally introduced, he would vote for the bill as it now stood.

At this point a motion to adjourn was voted down.

Pearson said he wished the bill amended so as to make the election of magistrates by townships, instead of by the whole county.

Parsons said this suited him. It would make the bill even more odious.

Doughton again offered an amendment to change the date of the election to 1888. This was lost—52 to 58.

Pearson accepted an amendment, offered by Pritchard, to make the election by townships, instead of by counties.

On the third reading Lindsay, Independent, voted no.

The vote on the third reading was—ayes 59, noes 54. The Republicans applauded, as did the colored people in the lobby on that side of the House.

At 2.30 the House adjourned.

SENATE.

RALEIGH, Feb. 25.—The following bills were introduced:

To provide for the support of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind.

To amend chapter 2971, volume 2, of the Code, relating to insolvent debtors.

To amend the charter of the Suffolk Land and Lumber Company.

To allow the people to elect commissioners and justices of the peace.

To amend chapter 234, Laws of 1881.

The bill for the support of the Asylum for the Insane was taken up as the special order. It appropriates $56,000 per annum for the asylum at Raleigh, for sustenance of patients, &c., and $38,000 per annum for the next four years, for the purpose of building two wings. Appropriates $30,000 for the year 1887 and $90,000 for the year 1888, for the Western Asylum, besides fifty convicts to build a road from the depot to the asylum. An amendment was offered to strike out the appropriation for the wings. And also an amendment offered to strike out convicts for the road. An amendment to insert $25,000 in place of $38,000 was lost. The amendment to strike out convicts for the road was adopted. On the previous question—vote by sections—the bill passed its second and third readings.

HOUSE.

A resolution was adopted fixing the following as the hours of work from next Monday to the close of the session: 9 a. m. to 1 p. m., 3 p. m. to 6 p. m., 8 p. m. to 11 p. m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Concerning pilots of the Cape Fear river and bar.

To establish a normal school at Burgaw.

To change the line between Pitt and Greene counties.

To provide for working the public roads in Edgecombe.

To establish the St. Andrews Home, for aged and indigent colored people.

THE CALENDAR

McMillan made a motion to reconsider the resolution, adopted Wednesday night, to instruct the Attorney General to bring suits against certain railways for failure to report annually to the State Treasurer since 1871. McMillan said he had voted for the resolution "in fun."

Ewart said the resolution ought not to be reconsidered. The Governor and the Attorney General favored the resolution. The resolution was a just and proper one. There is $125,000 due by the railways for penalties under this law. The roads have a lobby at work here. They wish to defeat this resolution, of course.

Pritchard asked if the statute of limitations did not bar. Ewart said it did not.

Fulton said the time had come when the State must enforce its laws and get from under the thralldom of the railways. He spoke of the power of the latter; their contempt for the law, their powerful influence as political conventions and otherwise. He moved to table the resolution. On this Ewart demanded the yeas and nays. The vote was—yeas 63, nays 28. So the motion to reconsider was tabled.

A SPECIAL ORDER.

The House took up the bill to provide that in cases of suspected poisoning two competent physicians shall examine the stomach, intestines, &c., and if in their judgment there exists cause, shall send the stomach, &c., to the State Chemist. After some debate the bill was put upon its second reading and failed to pass—40 to 44.

THE AGRICULTURAL BILL.

The House next took up, as a special order, the Agricultural bill.

The bill was read by sections. Fries explained it and spoke in favor of the bill. He gave in detail the work of the department in all its branches. He said that the bill was drawn in accordance with the views and recommendations of the Farmers' Convention. The department, he asserted, had advanced and fostered every interest of the State—East, West and centre.

King moved to insert the "Master of the State Grange" in the first section. He attacked the farmers' convention.

Fries said that the purpose of the bill was to exclude all ex-officio members of the board save the Governor. He defended the farmers' convention.

The result of the vote on the amendment was—ayes 51, nays 43.

To section 2 Ewart offered an amendment to make the meetings of the board four times a year and no more, and to pay only actual cost of travel to and from meetings, and not ten cents a mile. The amendment was adopted.

White, of Perquimans, moved to strike out section 10. He said the expense of a geologist should be borne by the Agricultural Department.

Holt said the section was drawn up at the express request of the farmers' convention.

Fries said that if the section were stricken out the State could never have a geologist.

The vote on White's amendment was 45 to 49, so it was lost. The section was then adopted.

To section 14 White, of Perquimans, (Republican) offered an amendment to reduce the amount appropriated to $20,000. He said the Senate had made the appropriation $20,000.

Macon said he did not believe in following the example of the Senate. He said the latter body was not mindful of the interests and wishes of the people.

Williamson opposed the amendment, saying that the committee had given the bill the most careful and thorough consideration, and every calculation had been made. The estimates could not be further reduced.

On the amendment Crawford (a Republican) called the yeas and nays.

King attacked the Republicans for their antagonizing the bill.

Fries said the farmers had requested that this bill pass as it stands. It met their requirements.

White's amendment was lost—ayes 26, nays 60.

Saunders, Republican, moved to amend by striking out the latter portion of section 14, after the word "named," thus diverting the remainder of the fund for the Agricultural College into the State treasury. He antagonized such a college, and did not care for the farmers's demands. He called the yeas and nays upon his amendment.

Fries said the amendment was not constitutional.

Williamson and Oakley antagonized the amendment.

The amendment was lost—ayes 27, noes 62.

The section was adopted.

At 2.10 the House adjourned.

LAST NIGHT'S SESSION.

The Senate was in session last night until 11 o'clock, but disposed of no bills save those of a private character.

At last night's session of the House the consideration of the Revenue bill was completed, and it passed its third reading, with an amendment taxing every lawyer $10 per annum.

The bill to create the county of Lillington, out of parts of Rowan and Iredell, was taken up, with adverse committee report. On a vote the bill was defeated—57 to 24.

The bill to create the county of Badger, out of parts of Wake, Nash, Johnston and Franklin, was tabled.

The House was in session until nearly 12 o'clock.

SENATE.

RALEIGH, Feb. 26.—Senator Bryan rose to a question of personal privilege. He said that after his remarks yesterday concerning the cost of patients in the asylum at Raleigh, Dr. Grissom came to his desk and told him that unless he took back what he (Bryan) had stated, he (Grissom) would see to it that it would hurt him with his constituents. He denounced Grissom as a man who took advantage of his official status to bulldoze Senators, and said that he would retract nothing.

The following bills were introduced:

To incorporate the Western Land Company.

To incorporate Southern Pines.

To change the time of holding courts in Franklin and Wilson counties.

To amend the charter of the South Atlantic & N. W. R. R.

CALENDAR BILLS.

To allow Transylvania county to erect a poor house.

For the relief of sureties of E. R. Outlaw, sheriff of Bertie county, passed second and third reading.

Bill supplementary to act regulating freights on railroads passed second and third reading.

HOUSE.

The session at night was a long one. The following resolution was adopted almost unanimously:

Resolved, That before any county, city, town or other municipal corporation can contract any debt, pledge its faith, or lend its credit, or authorize the levy or collection of any tax, except for ordinary expenses, it must be sanctioned by a majority of all the qualified voters thereof.

The bill to establish the Agricultural and Mechanical College was taken up and was discussed with considerable spirit. It was finally decided to postpone its further consideration until next Tuesday, when it will be taken up in connection with the special orders, bills to repeal the appropriation of $15,000 to the University and to abolish county scholarships thereat.

Holloway submitted a favorable report on the bill to incorporate St. Andrews' Home for aged and infirm colored people at Wilmington.

The principal bills introduced to-day were the following:

To incorporate the Asheville & Greenville Railroad Company.

To provide for the support of the Penitentiary.

To protect mechanics.

There was a very funny bill by Turner, of Mitchell, to regulate the sale of Jamaica ginger in that county.

BILLS PASSED SECOND READING

To incorporate the towns of Rufe, Greene county; Wadesboro, Anson county; Silver City, Chatham county; James City, Craven county; Williamsburg, Vance county; Hickstown, Durham county.

To charter the Asheville & Tennessee Railway.

To charter the Salem, Dan River & Winston Railroad.

To charter the Murfreesboro Railroad Company.

To allow townships in Surry and Yadkin to vote subscription to railways.

To allow Montgomery county to levy a special tax to build a court house.

To extend the corporate limits of Fremont, Wayne county.

To incorporate Harnett county railway.

To authorize Harnett county to levy a special tax.

To allow the town of Shelby to issue bonds.

To incorporate Hamilton, Martin county.

To amend the charter of the Yadkin Railroad.

To extend the corporate limits of Selma.

To incorporate Atlantic, Virginia and Henderson Railroad.

To incorporate the New Bern graded schools.

BILLS PASSED THIRD READING

To authorize Ashe county to levy a special tax.

To amend the charter of Burgaw.

To incorporate the North Carolina Estate Company (limited.)

To incorporate Benson, Johnston county.

To incorporate the Central and Northwestern Railroad Company.

To incorporate Conetoe, Edgecombe county.

To incorporate Merry Oaks, Chatham county.

To incorporate Asheville Military Academy.

To incorporate Cranberry and Piedmont Turnpike Company (allows it 100 convicts at $125 each, to be paid for in cash.)

To incorporate the Albemarle and Pantego Railway.

To incorporate the Wilmington and Seacoast Railway Company.

Dr. Worth gave notice that the machinery act would be called up next Tuesday.

SENATE FRIDAY NIGHT.

The bill to reduce the legal rate of interest to six per cent. (introduced by Williamson) was taken up on its third reading, and failed to pass.

The bill to return to Louisburg and Louisburg township $6,400 in railroad bonds, held by the Penitentiary for convict labor, passed.

A similar bill, for the return of bonds of Carthage township, Moore county, failed to pass.

The Senate was in session until 12.30 this morning, and nearly cleared its calendar.

WASHINGTON.

An Extra Session of Congress Highly Probable on Account of the Failure to Perfect the Appropriations Bills—Opinions Relative to the Power of the President to Appoint Inter-State Commerce Commissioners.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Despite the wish of the President and of the members of both houses of Congress to avoid the necessity for a called session of the two houses, or a special session of the Senate, the opinion is entertained this morning that matters in respect to the appropriations bills are rapidly drifting into a position, if indeed they have already reached it, which make a called session inevitable.

Mr. Allen says that in all his service in both houses he has never known such a state of backwardness in regard to appropriations bills, and for this condition of things he declares that neither the Senate nor its committee on Appropriations is responsible in any way.

Mr. Beck, member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, declares his belief that it will be impossible during the remaining days of this session to finish the appropriations bills.

The matter of appointments and confirmations, while probably sufficient of itself to bring about a special session of the Senate, contributes to influences which may produce a called session.

Opinions respecting the power of the President to appoint Inter-State Commerce Commissioners during the recess of the Senate are widely variant. Messrs. Edmunds, Pugh, Harris and other Senators of prominence, declare without qualification that the President has no shadow of constitutional or legal right to fill an office newly created when the Senate is not in session to give its advice and consent; and that his power in the matter is limited to filling vacancies temporarily which may happen during the recess. It is held that should he do so they could not qualify, draw their salaries, or legally perform any duties.

A Large Prize Won by a Norfolk Club

Learning that one-tenth of ticket No. 91,960, which drew the capital prize of $150,000 in the drawing of The Louisiana State Lottery on the 11th inst., had been collected through the Marine Bank, a reporter of *The Virginian* determined to find out whom fickle fortune had so favored, and soon discovered that Capt. I. Cain, of the steamer "Bonito," was one of a party to whom the ticket belonged. Captain Cain was sought, but as his steamer was in North Carolina, he could not be seen until last night at 5 o'clock, when his boat arrived. At that hour the reporter went to the wharf and asked for Captain Cain, and was directed to the boat, where he was found leaning out of the pilot-house window directing the landing of his cargo. Upon asking a few questions, it was learned that Captain Cain is one of thirty residents of our city, who for about two years have contributed monthly one dollar each to a club for the purpose of buying tickets in The Louisiana State Lottery, and during this period several prizes have been won, but none over $200, which amount has been drawn by them three or four times. Just before the drawing of the 11th inst. the club bought tickets, and among them was the tenth-ticket numbered 91,060, and on examining the official list of numbers drawn, the club discovered that they were the fortunate winners of $150,000. They deposited the ticket in the Marine Bank for collection, and on Thursday received their money. Captain Cain said the club would still continue to purchase tickets monthly, as before. Congratulating the Captain on his fortune, and thanking him for his information, the reporter bade him good evening.—*Norfolk (Va.) Virginian, Jan. 30.*

PENNSYLVANIA.

Six Boys Horribly Crushed and Instantly Killed.

[By Telegraph to the Morning Star.]

EASTON, February 26.—Seven boys, of ages ranging from 12 to 15 years, who had been hunting musk rats, were walking home on the track of the Lehigh Valley Railroad to day. They saw a coal train approaching them on one track and stepped to the other to avoid it, when the fast passenger train ran into them at a moment when the coal train was opposite them. The boys were all struck by the passenger train. Some were knocked against the coal train and some on the opposite side of the road. Six were horribly crushed and instantly killed, and one escaped unhurt, having been struck by the body of his brother and knocked off the track.

COTTON.

A Summary of the Crop to Date.

[By Telegraph to the Morning Star.]

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Receipts of cotton for all interior towns, 42,934 bales; receipts from plantations, 74,846 bales; total visible supply of cotton for the world, 3,148,764 bales, of which 2,607,374 bales are American, against 3,049,307 and 2,628,907 bales respectively last year; crop in sight 5,806,593 bales.

Spirits Turpentine.

— Raleigh *Visitor*: W. E. Hight, deputy sheriff of Vance county, brought four convicts to the penitentiary this morning.

— Durham *Recorder*: We learn that a negro woman living near Staggville killed her husband with an axe last Monday. We have not heard the particulars and know nothing of the circumstances nor cause of the killing.

— Greensboro *News*: Mr. Martin Calvin Dixon died in this city yesterday morning about 6 o'clock, of