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THE SENTINEL.

Legislature of North Carolina.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

NIGHT SESSION.

TUESDAY, Jan. 19, 1869.

A message was received from the Senate announcing Messrs. Lassiter and Osborne, who was referred the petition of W. F. Beasley, in reference to the manufacturing sugar from sorghum.

The Chair announced Messrs. Bowman, Hodgin and Jarvis, as the House branch of said Committee.

Another message was received from that body, informing the House, of the passage of House bill No. 77, with amendments.

On motion of Mr. Vest, the amendments were concurred in, and the bill was ordered to be enrolled.

On motion of Mr. Estes, the rules were suspended, and the House bill No. 37, (tax bill,) was taken up.

Section 20, was read and after being slightly amended, was adopted.

Section 21, was also slightly amended and adopted.

Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 28, 29 and 30 were adopted.

On motion of Mr. Estes, an additional section, to be known as section 31 was inserted sections 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39.

On motion of Mr. Estes, section 40, was stricken out.

Section 41 (as numbered in the bill) was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Estes, the further consideration of the bill was postponed, until to-morrow evening, at 8 o'clock.

On motion of Mr. Sinclair, Senate resolution No. 90 in favor of the Sheriff of Brunswick county was taken up, and referred to the Committee on Private Bills.

On motion of Mr. Sinclair, the rules were suspended, and the resolution, inquiring after the appropriation of $500, made to the Road, from John Allen's to the top of the Blue Ridge, at or near Fisher's Gap, in Surry county. [The resolution asking for a Joint Committee of five, to investigate the matter,] was taken up and adopted.

On motion of J. H. Harris, of Wake, colored, the rules were suspended, and House bill No. 117, for the better protection of debtors, was taken up.

Mr. Malone, moved to strike out, all after the word "misdemeanor."

Harris, of Wake, colored, accepted the amendment.

Mr. Malone, moved to strike out section 20, and proceeded, at some length, to give various reasons why it should be done.

Harris, of Wake, colored, accepted this amendment, also.

The bill then passed its third reading, without further debate.

On motion of Mr. Vest, the House then adjourned, until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 20, 1869.

The Senate was called to order at 11 o'clock.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Bill allowing persons to be represented in Magistrate's Court.

Mr Forkner moved its consideration be postponed until the 24 of February.

A. H. Galloway, (colored,) moved to lay the motion on the table, which was lost.

Mr Forkner withdrew his motion and submitted a substitute for the bill which, after some discussion, was adopted and the bill passed its second reading.

Senate branch of the Committee on "Sweetening" Messrs. Lassiter and Beall.

Mr Osborne was excused from serving on the Committee—circumstances compelling him to leave the city.

Leave of absence was granted Messrs. Sweet and Respass.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, from the Committee on Corporations, reported favorably on a bill to incorporate the Richland Lodge.

NOTICE OF BILLS.

By Mr. Cook: Of a bill to incorporate the Lockville Manufacturing Company.

By Mr. Shoffner: Of a bill to protect Constables from unjust liabilities on their bonds.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

By Mr. Rich: A bill to authorize the Commissioners of Pitt county to levy a special tax for certain purposes. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Blythe: A bill in relation to witnesses in civil actions. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By A. H. Galloway, (colored): A bill to amend the charter of the town of Lillington, in the county of New Hanover. Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

By Mr. Beall: A bill to amend the charter of the town of Lenior, Caldwell county. Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

By Mr. Blythe: A bill to amend the charter of the Buncombe Turnpike Company. Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

By Mr. Beall: A bill to incorporate the Yellow Mountain Bridge Company. Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

A message was received from the House transmitting the following resolutions which were ratified by the President of the Senate, to wit:

Resolution to annul a portion of a joint resolution in relation to the distribution of the rooms in the Capitol building.

Resolution in favor of Jesse R. Weaver.

Resolution in favor of the Sheriffs of Pasquotank and New Hanover.

SPECIAL ORDER.

Report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, declaring Mr Purdie, Senator from the 14th District, banned by the Constitutional amendment.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, introduced a resolution declaring the seat of Mr. Purdie vacant.

Mr. Brogden said he desired to submit some of the reasons which compelled him to support the resolution. On personal grounds he preferred that this cup should pass from him; but he could not forget that he had a public duty to perform. He would have been glad to have avoided this duty, but as it was to be decided, he should pursue the course which conscience and duty directed. This resolution, declares the seat of the Senator from the 14th District vacant, for the reason that he is banned by the Constitutional Amendment, and as the Senate is the judge of the eligibility of its own members, the question now under consideration, (he quoted the 3rd section of the 14th Article in relation to who are banned, and Webster's definition of "official," of aid and comfort, and of "engaged.") Now, sir, every lawyer is bound to admit that a Magistrate is a judicial officer. He holds Courts, imposes fines and penalties, and imposes taxes on the people. There cannot be the least shadow of doubt as to his being a judicial officer, and comes under the construction of the 14th Article. The report of the Committee says that Mr. Purdie was a Magistrate during the war, and was a member of the Legislature before the war. A member of the Legislature certainly comes under the construction of the 14th Article. This is a question of fact, and cannot be gainsayed by any one. The question admits of no doubt; that a man, a member of the Legislature before the war, and who held office during the war, comes under the construction of the 14th Article of the Constitution. And as to vacating the seat of a Senator, the seats of members of Parliament have been vacated, as well as divers persons holding high positions in the Government of the United States. Wm. Blount, a gentleman prominently connected with the early history of North Carolina, was impeached and expelled from the Senate of the United States. The celebrated John Wilkes was expelled from the House of Commons, and re-elected, owing to his great personal popularity, a third and fourth time, and yet he was not allowed to take his seat, and his opponent, who only received a small vote, was declared elected. He regretted that this case had to be met, but as it was a part of the duty imposed upon the Senate, it should be met according to their understanding, and in accordance with the Constitution of the United States. The case was too plain to even admit of argument on the other side. He regretted that it was so; he had great personal regard for the Senator, but could not let his personal feelings control his action in this case.

Mr. Graham said he believed that the minds of Senators were already made up in reference to this subject, and did not know that anything he might say would change them. The Senate after having once decided this question, after a thorough examination into all the facts, decided to go into another investigation. What was the causes or motives which prompted it he did not know. He felt it to be his duty as a Senator to give his reasons why he thought the Senator not banned:

"Four of the Committee have presented a report alleging that Mr. Purdie held the office of Magistrate before and during the war, was a member of the Legislature in 1858-'59, and, as such, took an oath to support the Constitution of the United States; never served in the army during the rebellion; never invested a dollar in Confederate bonds; was a private in the Home Guards, but never served unless compelled to do so. That portion of the Committee believe him to be banned by the Howard Amendment, and, therefore, not entitled to his seat. Not being aware of any evidence before the Committee of the above facts, but taking them to be true, these questions are presented to the Senate:

1st. Has Mr. Purdie engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States or given aid and comfort to the enemies thereof?

2d. Has the Senate a right to expel him, having once recognized his qualifying as a Judge upon his qualifications decided that he was not banned?

The word "engage" means to promise—to pledge oneself—to embark—to enter upon—to enlist. An insurrection is the rising up against the authority of the government; rebellion is resistance against the authority of the government with an intent to overthrow it—a violent resistance to lawful authority.

According to the opinion of Attorney General Stanbery, "an act to fix upon a person the offence of engaging in rebellion, must be an overt and voluntary act, done with the intent of aiding and furthering the common unlawful purpose. A person forced into the Rebel service by conscription, or under a paramount authority, which he could not safely disobey, and who would not have entered such service, if left to the free exercise of his own will cannot be held to be disqualified."

Again: "But officers who, during the rebellion, discharged official duties not incident to war, but only such duties as belonged to a state of peace, and were necessary to the preservation of order and the administration of law, are not to be considered as they by engaging in rebellion or as disqualified."

Again: The words "giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States" are the same used in the constitutional definition of treason, and the enemies there meant must be taken to be foreign enemies."

Can we say that the acts of Mr. Purdie amount to an actual participation? And if we have a reasonable doubt, must not that doubt be resolved against the operation of the law and in favor of Mr. Purdie? Is not this the settled rule of construction in regard to penal and disabling statutes? In the opinion of Judge Underwood, in the case of Caesar Griffin, he says: "It may be observed that no one is even temporarily excluded, who had not *actively engaged* in the war against the United States, but, in addition to this, he must have held an office previously, which made him a leading and representative man and which required him to take a special oath to support the Constitution of the United States." Under the Reconstruction Acts, the party who desired to vote had to take an oath and clear himself of all disability. Under the Howard amendment Congress is required to enforce by appropriate legislation this article. But admitting that the Senate has the right to judge of the qualification of its members, has not that right been exercised by the Senate and was not its decision final? In my opinion an exclusion in this case is equivalent to expulsion without a case.

Admitting that he was a member of the Legislature in 1858-'59 and for the sake of argument that it is a judicial office. Did he engage in rebellion, after once deciding that he is not banned? Have you the right to try him again and reverse your decision? If you do you say sitting upon your solemn oaths that you have committed a great wrong. Again, we have no right to make ourselves the arbitrators in this matter. Until Congress makes the law giving us the power, will the government of the United States allow North Carolina to punish treason. Some say the amendment is not a punishment. He held that it was; and if it was the opinion of Judge Chase, and when we attempt to punish men for treason we transcend our powers. These cases have been decided repeatedly. No Court but the Courts of the United States can punish a man for counterfeiting money. The Senator from Wayne alluded to the expulsion from the English Parliament of Mr. Wilkes. If the Senator is familiar with history he will recollect that it created a howl of indignation throughout the borders of England, and such an experiment has not been repeated since. The people should say who shall be their representatives.

Mr. Blythe followed in support of the resolution.

Messrs. Osborne and Robbins opposed the resolution. [We regret that we have not space to publish their remarks in full.]

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, called the previous question, which was sustained, and the question recurring on the adoption of the resolution, it was adopted.

Ayes—Messrs. Barrow, Bellamy, Brogden, Burns, Brythe, Colgrove, Cook, Davis, Eaves, Etheridge, Faulkner, Galloway, Holden, Hayes, Harrington, Hyman, colored, Jones, of Wake, Lassiter, Martindale, Moore, of Carteret, Moore, of Yancey, Smith, and Stephens—22.

Nays—Messrs. Barnes, Beall, Graham, Lindsay, Love, Mason, Melchor, Osborne, Rich, Robbins, Welker, Wynne, Winstead, and Wilson—14.

Mr. Beall offered the following explanation of his vote: First, he did not believe that the term "office" applied to a seat in the Legislature: Second, he did not believe that Mr. Purdie had "engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States": Third, it was doubtful, to say the least, whether "Article Fourteenth" was a part of the Constitution considering the arbitrary manner in which it was forced upon the country after several Western States had withdrawn their assent; and several Southern States had given their assent under compulsion, and lastly a *liberal* construction of all laws imposing penalties and disabilities for *political* opinions and acts is the wisest policy of an enlightened government. For these reasons he voted no.

Mr. Love offered the following explanation of his vote:

This Senate sits here as a State Court.—A State Court has no right to pass upon a *purely* Federal question. This is a question of that character. I do not believe the Senator from Bladen, ever voluntarily engaged in the rebellion. I do not believe he ever was a "judicial or executive office of *the State*."

Messrs. Welker and Lindsay, could not see any additional fact brought out in the report of the Committee; they were obliged to retain their former opinions, that the Senator is not banned, consequently they voted against the resolution.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, introduced a resolution vacating the seat of Jas. A. Oates Senator elect from the 12th Senatorial District.

The President decided the resolution out of order.

On motion, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 20.

[The crowded state of our columns compel us to greatly abreviate the proceedings of the House to-day.]

Mr. French introduced a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the Supreme Court to give their opinion as to the Constitutionality of the Homestead Exemption.

On motion of Mr. Estes, the rules were suspended, and the resolution authorizing the Treasurer to pay witnesses summoned before the Fraud Committee, was taken up and passed.

Mr. Sinclair's resolution in favor of the Sheriff of Brunswick, was passed under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Malones resolution forbidding imigration, was taken up, debated, and lies over to be printed.

The Special order, to consolidate the Atlantic and the North Carolina Railroads, was taken up, and a lengthy debate insued, a report of which we have, and will publish at another time. The bill finally passed its second reading, by a vote of 68 yeas, nays, 37

House then adjourned.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, Jan. 21, 1869.

The Senate was called to order at eleven o'clock.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Question being a motion of Mr. Winstead, to reconsider the vote by which the bill, concerning the settlement of the estates of deceased persons, was postponed, the vote was reconsidered and the bill taken up, pending its consideration, on motion of Mr. Barrow, it was postponed until to morrow, at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Welker presented a memorial from the Trustees of the University, asking an appropriation of $12,000.

Mr. Welker offered, with the memorial, a resolution concerning the amount. Placed on calendar.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Osborne, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported favorably on a resolution in favor of Messrs. Caldwell, Bridgers and Arendell.

Mr Robbins, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported back a bill to the Senate, authorizing the Commissioners of Pitt county to levy a special tax.

On motion of Mr. Rich, the rules were suspended and the bill passed its several readings, and

On motion of Mr. Cook, it was made the special order for to-morrow, at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Smith, from the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, reported favorably on a bill for the relief of F. M. Pittman, and favorably on a bill for the relief of W. H. Gentry.

A message was received from the House, transmitting the following bills, to wit:

Bill to amend the charter of the Union Manufacturing Company in the town of Fayetteville. Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Bill in relation to a plank road leading from High Point to Salem. Referred to the Committee on Townships.

Bill for the better protection of certain debtors. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Resolution authorizing the arrest of W. A. Mann, late of Cumberland. Placed on Calendar.

Resolution instructing the Public Treasurer to wit:

Whereas: The Public Treasurer has in his possession funds belonging to several Sheriffs of the State and for which he is personally responsible,

Therefore be it Resolved, (the Senate concurring,) That the Public Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to use for the payment of the members of this Legislature and other expenses of the State, such funds as may be in his hands to the credit of Sheriffs and that the State shall guarantee the said Treasurer from all loss that may come to him from any points that may be brought under the plea that he has unlawfully paid out such money.

Mr. Love moved to amend the resolution, by prohibiting the Treasurer from paying out of said monies anything on the Stock Trade or Penitentiary contract.

Pending its consideration, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, at 10 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, Jan 21, 1869

According to adjournment, the House was called to order at 10 o'clock.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Franklin, of the House.

Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Boddie and Smith, of Wayne.

Mr Pou moved to suspend the rules, and take up Senate bill, repealing the purchase of the Penitentiary site, &c.

Mr Downing said that the bill would be nugatory if passed, therefore, he hoped, the order of business would not be interfered with by a suspension of the rules.

J. H. Harris, of Wake, colored, argued at length against a suspension of the rules. He wished to know why the proposition refunding the $100,000 to the State had not been accepted.

Mr. Pou said that whenever this matter was mentioned, members of that Committee, seemed to think they were individually aimed at. He had not, and would not, impute motives to any one, unless he had proof at his command. He intended to go forward in this matter, and discharge his duty, as a Representative of the people, regardless of the feelings of any body. He believed that part of the bill issuing bonds to the amount of $100,000 was unconstitutional, as no special tax had been levied to provide for their payment, &c. He wished the bill repealed in order that they might go ahead and have a Penitentiary, &c.

Mr. Downing argued for some time against the motion, and in conclusion moved to lay it on the table.

J. S. Leary, colored arose to a point of order, saying that it had heretofore been the ruling of the Chair, that a motion to lay a motion to suspend the rules, on the table, could not be entertained.

The Chair sustained the point.

J. H. Harris, of Wake, colored, again took the floor. He at he stood prepared to vote for the repeal of the bill, but before that was done, he and other members of the Penitentiary Committee, asked that the matter might be laid over until the proposition of Mr. Downing, might be accepted or refused, and that proposition be sent to the Senate to allow the House to raise a Committee to investigate the whole matter, and publish the facts to the world.

Mr. Downing characterized the report of the Senate Committee, as being unfair and one sided, and not by any means making a full statement of all the facts, &c.

The question recring upon the motion to suspend the rule the yeas and nays were called, and resulted in a vote of yeas 61 nays 35.

The motion was lost, two-thirds not voting in favor of it.

On motion of Mr Welch, the rules were suspended and the bill amendatory to the bill incorporating the Western North Carolina Railroad, was taken from the Calendar, and recommitted to the Committee on Internal Improvement.

By consent Mr. Dixon: A resolution in favor of E. Merrell, Sheriff of Onslow County. Referred.

By consent, Mr. Leg, of Richmond: A bill in relation, to thissuing of $2,000 in bonds, to W. L. Steele of Richmond County. Referred.

By Mr. Bowman: A bill concerning public roads in Watauga County. Referred.

By Mr. Ingram: A resolution having night sessions.

Mr. Ingram moved to suspend the rules, and adopt. Lost.

The resolution was paced on the Calendar.

Mr. French from the Committee on Counties and Townships, reported favorably, upon the bill, authorizing the Commissioners of Anson County, to levy a special tax.

By Thos. Sykes, colored: A bill authorizing, the County Commissioners of Pasquotank, to levy a special tax, for certain purposes. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Lilin, the rules were suspended, and the bill establishing a Turnpike Road, from Marion, McDowell County, to Asheville in Buncombe County, was taken up.

The bill was read, when,

Mr. Pou moved to petpone the bill until to-day two weeks.

Mr. Laflin said he hoped the motion would be voted down, as this was merely a dodge of the anti-internal improvement men.

Mr. Ingram said that the finances of the State were suffering on account of the disarranged system of taxation. He regarded the tax and revenue bills as more important than these internal improvement bills, and should have the immediate attention of the House; therefore he hoped that the motion to postpone would prevail.

Mr. Welch said it was necessary to pass these Railroad bills, in order to ascertain the amount of money to be raised.

The motion to postpone was then put to a vote, and rejected.

The question then recurred upon the passage of the bill on its second reading, when,

Mr Bowman (the introducer of the bill) took the floor and advocated the passage of the measure at some length.

Mr. Hodget said he was a friend to a judicious system of internal improvements, at the proper time, but at the present juncture of our affairs, the people were in no way able to bear these large appropriations—Pass all these bills, and you increase the State debt to some thirty seven millions. The expenses of carrying on the State government amounts, annually, to some 400,000. Add this to some $400,000 for school purposes, and you have $800,000. Now this $800,000, added to the $2,220,000 interest upon the debt of thirty-seven millions, will leave the people the sum of $3,020,000 to be raised, to meet the current expenses of the government and to pay the interest upon her debt. Now, the people are in no condition to bear this enormous taxation, and he now, at the beginning of these measures, would enter his protest against them all. Here was the youth of our country, growing up in total ignorance, and this Legislature, by their reckless extravagance in these Railroad matters, were incapacitating the State for years, from providing a thorough and ample system of education. He thought education of much more importance than these Railroads, and they should husband the resources of the State, in order to accomplish this end.—Here were gentlemen, from different sections, having, each, various projects in view to get through this House, therefore, combinations were formed, and a system of borrowing and voting obtained, unequaling anything he had ever heard of or seen in his life, to the utter disregard of the impoverished condition of our citizens, thus turning a deaf ear to their cries of distress. He, in the name of all that is fair and just, protested against the sacrifice of the interest of the whole people to this combination of certain sections.

He opposed these measures upon the ground, that he wished to preserve the honor of the State intact. He had always abhorred the doctrine of repudiation, and regarded a man who favored repudiation as a thief and a rascal.

But he would warn the House, that, by their unconstitutional, oppressive and reckless appropriations, that they were rapidly educating the mind of the people to the doctrine of repudiation. He would warn, now, the bloated bondholder, that the people did not intend to pay these bonds, not because they were dishonest, but because their Legislature has declared war upon industry, and has, and is, inaugurating measures to oppress property hold rs in such a manner as will eventually result in what may be well called a complete confiscation of their lands, and throw it up for a general scramble.

How do gentlemen propose to raise all this money asked for. The whole taxable property in the State amounts only to about $25,000,000, which will give a tax of about $125,000, and adding to this the tax on polls, incomes, &c., the whole possible revenue that the State can command, will amount to about $1,725,000. Where then is all the money coming from? Was it to be wrung from the hard earnings and labor of our poor people, by a system of onerous and oppressive taxation?

Messrs. Sinclair, Malone, Candler and Laflin urged the passage of the bill.

On the passage of the bill, on its second reading, the yeas and nays being called, resulted in a vote of 89 yeas to 16.

On motion of Mr. Laflin, the rules were suspended, and the bill separating and dividing the Eastern and Western divisions of the Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Railroad, was taken up.

Mr. Justice, of Rutherford, advocated the bill in a speech of some length.

Mr French argued for some time against the measure.

Mr. Ingram gave various reasons why he opposed the contemplated division of the road.

Mr. Sinclair moved that when this House adjourn, that it adjourn until ½ past 7 o'clock, this evening.

Mr. Jarvis moved to amend, by saying 10 o'clock, to morrow morning. Lost.

The question then recurred upon Mr. Sinclair's motion, and it was lost.

The House, then, on motion, of Mr. Sinclair, adjourned.

PHENOMENON.—The night gangs of men employed in the silver mines near Virginia City, Nevada, witnessed a beautiful celestial phenomenon, at four o'clock on the morning of the 27th November. The sky was perfectly clear in every direction, and the Eastern horizon was peculiarly blue and bright, not the slightest sign of mist about the ridges of the distant Eastern ranges; yet the morning star rose of a blood-red color, and with a bright white halo, apparently five or six feet in diameter, surrounding it. From the lower part of this halo extended downward a tail apparently eight feet long and two feet in breadth at the upper part. This tail was slightly curved, of a sabre shape, bluntly rounded at the lower end, and both it and the halo appeared to be filled with thousands of small and exceedingly brilliant stars. This strange light lasted some fifteen or twenty minutes, or until the star had risen so high that the tail of the halo appeared to be two or three feet above the crest of the distant range, when it suddenly faded out.

NO DOUBT OF IT.

In the last "Occasional" letter, Forney has the following:

"I hope I do not disredit Congress when I say that I think the Colored Men's Convention, now in session here, contains an average intelligence that makes it no ordinary competitor with the men who deliberate between the marble walls of yonder Capitol."

We haven't the least doubt that "Forney" is right in his estimate of the comparative intelligence of the members of the negro convention and the members of the present radical Congress. Indeed, we doubt very much whether the negroes will consider themselves complimented by the comparison.

The Warrenton *Courier*, in speaking of the county of Warren, very truthfully says:

No county in any State boasts of a better society or a more intelligent, industrious people than old Democratic Warren, and while, as every other community does, we have certain turbulent, ill-disposed colored men, we feel a pride in saying, that like their former masters, the colored population have taken, and preserve a high position in point of morals and general good conduct, for which a just credit is due to them.

Our county and town government is in the hands of Conservative, high toned white men, against whom there is no shadow of reproach or complaint.

With these recommendations, to which are added, a good soil, a healthy climate, good water and convenient to Railroad communications, we can consciously invite strangers from every quarter to locate among us, being satisfied that there will never be a regret for following our advice.

MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY.—The *Prairie Farmer* gets off the following:

Buckle, in his "History of Civilization," says that marriage does not depend upon love, but upon the price of corn. It is evident that children have long known this, and have even measured love as men measure corn, as appears from their common expression: "I love you two bushels and a peck."

The statistical lover does not now say, as he used to: "Amanda, I love thee—but, Amanda, provisions are cheap." There is no telling what fine novels and plays a man thoroughly imbued with this idea might produce, and particularly would he give us good songs. How imaginative would be one like this:

The heart bowed down with price of beef,
To weakest hope will cling.

With the melancholy refrain:

For beefsteak is the only friend
That grief can call its own.

The following text has been selected for Butler's funeral, when he dies:

From Jeremiah lii., 19: "And the basins, and the firepans, and the bowls, and the cauldrons, and the candlesticks, and the spoons and the cups; that which was of gold and that which was of silver, the captain of the guard took away."

DEBATE ON CONSOLIDATION.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20, 1869.

The special order, was anounced, to wit: The bill to consolidate, the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Company and the North Carolina Railroad Company.

The question recurred upon the motion of W. T. Hayes, colored, to indefinitely postpone, the bill. After some discussion, the yeas and nays, were called upon the motion, and resulted in a vote of 15 yeas to 81 nays.

Mr. Sinclair moved to amend, by inserting in section 21, line 5th after the figures "49," by inserting "and the Western North Carolina Railroad, Chartered in the year —"

Mr. S. said if gentlemen would have consolidation why not carry out the programme and consolidate all the way through to Paint Rock, &c. During the course of his remarks, in opposition to the principle of consolidation, said that he had no free pass, he had not been invited to excursions and feasted upon fish and oysters.

Mr Bowman, said, he was one of the party, that recently had the pleasure of visiting the coast of his native State, and partaken of the fish and oysters, that abound in such plenty, in that locality. But if the gentleman, (Mr. Sinclair) meant to insinuate that he (Mr. Bowman) would be bought from the path of rectitude, by such bribes, that he (Mr. Sinclair) judged him (Bowman's) by motives derived from his (Sinclair's) own experience.

Mr. Sinclair, wish did to know if the gentleman meant to say that he had ever been bought by "rings."

Mr. Bowman said he would reply by asking the gentleman another question. Did he (Sinclair) mean to charge him (Bowman) with being bought up.

Mr. Sinclair: No, Sir, I do not mean to say anything of the kind!

Mr. Bowman then disclaimed any intention of reflecting upon Mr Sinclair.

Mr. Welch said the attack of Mr. Sinclair, upon the gentlemen who lately visited Morehead City, was extremely unjust.—Most of the gentlemen were Western men, and had never visited the coast in their lives, and feeling that they were guardians of the interest of the people in this matter, thought they should acquaint themselves, by personal observation of the general features of that section. If he had come back with "shells upon the brain," and "sand upon his coat-tail," he could say that his nerves were in a better condition than some one's who had visited that locality once upon a time, for that person left in such a hurry that the sand would not stick.

Mr. Welch then continued for some time upon the merits of the bill. He said that there were birds of prey from Virginia, hovering around this Capital, endeavoring to buy up an influence against this consolidation measure. He was surprised that men had so little State pride. He was a North Carolinian and would go for building up the cities and towns of his own State.

He understood that there was a proposition, shortly to come before this House, to dispose of the State interest in the various Railroads. If such a measure was considered, he would venture to predict that the heaviest bids would come from men in Norfolk, &c. He was utterly opposed to any man, or set of men, who would legislate for, or advocate any measure in which the interest of our own State is sacrificed to that of any other. He thought this consolidation eminently proper, and one which would redound greatly to the interest of the State.

Mr. Sinclair arose to a question of privilege. He said his remarks upon the gentlemen, recently visiting the coast, was only meant as a little raillery, but he supposed Mr. Welch's allusion in regard to the nervous and hurried manner that some one, on a former occasion, left the coast, was intended for him.

In regard to the behavior of both himself and regiment, at the battle of Newbern, all that he would say that his regiment was made the rear-guard in the retreat, &c.—As far as his record, during the war, was concerned he could refer any one to the Adjutant General's office without a blush.

After a long discussion, Mr. French moved to insert in section 2, line 2, after the word "stock," "belonging to the private Stockholder," and in section 4, insert after the word "vote," the words "of the private Stockholds."

Mr. Welch argued for some time against the amendment. He said that this would leave the matter completely in the hands of a few men who were also interested in the Raleigh and Gaston, to such a degree that made a continuance of the present system highly desirable to them, &c.

Mr. French gave several reasons why he offered the amendment. He wished to allow the private Stockholders to express their opinion in the matter, &c. He thought that if a private Stockholder in either Road should object to the consolidation he could sue out an injunction and prevent a consumation of the measure, &c.

Mr. Pou next took the floor and argued at length in support of the amendment.

The Chair ruled Mr. French's amendment out of order, as there was an amendment to the bill pending at the time the amendment was offered.

Mr. Sinclair, by general consent, withdrew his amendment.

Mr French urged his amendment.

Mr. Durham offered the following substitute for the amendment, to-wit: In determining and deciding for or against consolidation by the respective companies, the State shall have a right to cast a number of votes, equal to the whole number of votes cast by private stockholders.

Mr. Seymour said that those who were in favor of consolidation, could not support Mr. French's amendment, but had no objection to accepting Mr. Durham's substitute as a compromise, &c.

Mr. Seymour continued for some time in advocation of the bill. During his remarks, he said that this was a State measure. If the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad was taken out, the measure would not have a single opponent, &c.

Mr. Seymour was interrupted by Mr. Downing, who asked him, if this bill were to pass, what would be his (Seymour's) opinion in regard to other Railroads.

Mr. Seymour: Mr. Speaker, I *suppose* the gentleman *don't intend to offer* to buy my vote upon other bills.

Mr. Downing: No sir my question is simply to get your opinion upon other bills.

Mr. Seymour: But are the purport of your question, was that if I pledge myself to vote for one of or measures, some of your friends will vote for the rest.

Mr Downing: I deny that sir the object of my question is simply to get your opinion on the other bills.

Mr. Seymour: My opinion upon other bills, is never all relevant to the matter now under discussion.

Mr. Laflin called the previous question.

The call being sustained, the question recurred upon Mr. Durham's substitute for Mr. French's amendment. On its adoption the yeas and nays being called, resulted in a vote of yeas 61 nays 41.

The question then recurred upon the passage of the bill, as amended on the second reading. The yeas and nays were called and resulted in the following ballot:

Yeas—Messrs. Allison, Ames, Argo, Armstrong, Boomer, Barnes, Boddie, Bowman, Candler, Carson, Casey, colored, Cherry, colored, Clayton, of Transylvania, Davis, Davidson, Dixon, Durham, Ellington, Estes, Farrow, French, Gahagan, Gatling, Gibson, Gilbert, Green, Grier, Hawkins, Hicks, High, Hodnett, Hodgins, Ingram, Justice, of Henderson, Kelly, of Davie, Kelly, of Moore, Leary, colored, Malone, McCallum, Mills, Morris, colored, Nicholson, Painter, Parker, Peck, Profit, Ragland, Robbins, colored, Seymour, Shaver, Siegrist, Simonds, Smith, of Alleghany, Smith of Wayne, Snipes, Stanton, Stevens, Stilley, Sweat, Thompson, Vestal, Yest, Welch, White, Whitley, Wilkie, Williams, of Barnett, and Wilson—68.

Nays—Messrs. Ashworth, Blair, Cawthorn, colored, Downing, Ellis, Forkner, colored, Graham, Gunter, Harris, of Franklin, Harris, of Wake, Hayes, colored, Hendricks, Hunant Hodgin, Horney, Jarvis, Kinney, Long, of Chatham, Long, of Richmond, Mays, colored, Mendenhall, Moring, Pou, Proctor, Rea, Rainbow, Robinson, Reynolds, colored, Sinclair, Sykes, colored, Williams, of Sampson, Williamson, colored, and Wiswall.

On motion, the House adjourned, until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

We have been visited by our old friend and late comrade-in-arms, Col. Wm F. Beasley, late of North Carolina, but now of Louisville, Kentucky. It gave us pleasure to again grasp our friend's hand, and to find that his Western home has served him so well, in physique, as well as in good things of this life. Col. B. visits our cities in the interest of the Louisville Sorgho Company, for the purpose of selling to our merchants the patent right for North Carolina, for the manufacture of syrup and sugars from the sorghum cane. The company, of which he is the agent, has succeeded to a highly flattering degree, in solving the problem of granulating the sorghum syrup. Col. B. has placed in our office samples of the sugar, and several grades of the syrup, which we unhesitatingly pronounce equal to any that is made in the sugar sections of our country. The sugar compares favorably with the prime grade of New Orleans make. Of course the common grades can also be made. The sugar and syrup is wholly free from that flavor peculiar to the old sorghum molasses used so much by us during the war.

And what is more surprising, is the cheapness with which it can be made. We have an estimate before us for thirty acres of Kentucky land—which is much stiffer than our Virginia or North Carolina soils, which, including rent of land, at $7 per acre, hiring of hands, horses, cutting wood, making hogheads, barrels, &c., every expense necessary, only amounted to $1,719.91.

As our farmers already have the land, wood, horses, &c., of course a great portion of the expenses will be saved. The mills, pans, &c., will be the only expense necessary to incur, which, at the highest estimate, will not exceed $500. The yield of syrup, minimum figures, is 500 gallons. Each gallon contains from 5 to 7 lbs. of sugar, say 5, making 22,500 lbs. Also 5 lbs. of syrup, per gallon, besides the sugar, which make 2,045 gallons. The sugar sells readily at 13c, making $2,925.00; syrup sells for 70c, making $1,431.50; Total receipts, $4,356.50. Expenses, as we have shown above cannot, if everything has to be purchased, exceed $2,000—leaving a clear profit of $2,356.50. This off thirty acres of land.—Of course if all this expense is not incurred, the profit will be greater.

As this cane is very prolific in North Carolina, it is evident that a vast deal of money is in store for the party who enters upon its cultivation and manufacture it into sugar and syrup. The sugar can be made for from 6 to 8 cents per lb. and the syrup at from 26 to 28 cents per gallon, leaves a very handsome margin to the manufacturer. We hope that our cities will take hold of the matter. To buy and to sub-sell, county rights, will pay well.—*Portsmouth, Va., Courier.*

CAN SUCH A THING BE?

The Freedmen's Bureau was established as a sort of recruiting station for the Radical party. Its agents have generally reported the basest of falsehoods regarding the Southern white people. It seems, however, that the colored people of the North have taken to holding conventions. On this subject the Jackson (Mich.) *Citizen* says:

We are entirely overcome by some startling developments in the proceedings of a Convention of colored people at the Capitol of Indiana, as we find them published in the Cincinnati *Commercial* and other orthodox Republican journals.

These "colored people" met to consider their wrongs and sufferings, which are fully set forth in a petition that they addressed to the Legislature of their State. They represent that "there are thousands of poor colored children in that State who are growing up in ignorance because of the want of facilities," and they ask the Legislature to afford means by which the colored children can obtain a pro rata share of the common fund, to support separate schools from those now provided for the education of the white children of the State; that you so change the common school law of the State as to tax the property of the colored people of the State as the property of the white people is taxed." Meaning that no provision is now really made for the education of the "thousands" of negro children that are growing up in ignorance in Indiana, and that the colored people are nevertheless taxed in excess of their just proportion to provide education for others.

It will be seen that these suffering colored people in the community in which they live do not presume to ask for suffrage—nor the right to sit on juries—nor the privilege of making laws for "the white folks," but they ask only that the rulers will not dip their fingers in the pool of knowledge and therewith cool their parched tongues. And all this in the western and temperate State of Indiana, where Radicalism reigns supreme, and whence the godly Hubbard and other pious missionaries came forth to teach the Southern white men how to deal with the blacks in their midst.