

The Daily Sentinel

VOL. IX. RALEIGH, N. C., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1873. NO. 121

Legislature of North Carolina.

SENATE.

FRIDAY, Dec. 20, 1873.

Senate was called to order at 11 a. m.

Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Mr. Norwood made some unimportant corrections in the Journals of yesterday.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. Murray on engrossed bills: Mr. Cunningham on education; Col. Welch on the committee on corporations; Mr. Avera on the committee on enrolled bills.

The Chair announced a message from the House of Representatives transmitting a number of bills passed, by that body, among them:

The bill to regulate the sale of spirituous liquors in the towns of Salisbury and Mackville to prohibit the sale of quantities less than one quart, but provides to submit the question to the voter of the respective town.

On motion of Mr. Tracy was taken up and passed its several readings.

Mr. Avera from corporations.

Mr. Murphy from the committee on insurance.

Mr. Merrimon announced suspension of the rules to take up a bill to amend an act entitled as not to amend the charter of the Granville and French Broad Railroad Co. Passed its several readings.

On motion of Mr. Scott, the bill to incorporate the New River Canal Company, was made special order for 14th Jan. at 1 o'clock.

Mr. Troy introduced a bill postponing the time for Battle's Repeal to go into effect until 1st February.

On motion of Mr. Seymour, all acts amendatory of Battle's Repeal shall go into effect at the same time. Agreed to.

Mr. Merrimon offered an amendment which was accepted and adopted.

Bill passed third reading, and on motion of Mr. Troy, ordered to be engrossed and sent to the House.

Mr. Dunham obtained leave to present a petition from citizens of Halifax complaining of the Weldon & Gaston Canal, as public nuisance, greatly injurious to contiguous lands, not having been used for the purposes for which it was incorporated for over twenty years.

On motion of Mr. Dunham, the petition was referred to a special committee of three.

Mr. Worth moved that the bill which passed yesterday fixing the price of Battle's Repeal be reconsidered. Agreed to. The question returned upon the passage of the bill on its third reading.

Mr. Worth moved to strike 10 per cent, discount to bookkeepers and insert 30 per cent.

Mr. Welch was opposed to the amendment.

Mr. Ellis moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill until the 15th of January, and that a committee of three be appointed to report upon a proper mode of sale. Adopted.

Mr. Avera introduced a bill to aid the Orphan Asylum at Oxford. Referred to committee on finance.

Senate bill to amend the charter of the Swannanoa Turnpike Company returned from the House with amendments.

Mr. Merrimon moved to concur.

Mr. Gardner moved to postpone until 15th January.

Whereupon, Messrs. Merrimon and Gardner indulged themselves in a long discussion upon the merits and demerits of the bill.

The motion to postpone prevailed, says 18, says 18.

Message from the House transmitting sundry bills, among them a bill to legislate meetings of the Directors of the Carolina Central Railway hereinafter held in the city of New York, and authorize the Directors in future to hold meetings in New York City.

Col. Ellis moved to suspend the rules, and put the bill on its second reading. Not agreed to.

Mr. McCleskey, upon motion, obtained leave of absence for Mr. Hill for the remainder of the session.

Mr. Norwood moved to suspend the rules and take up a bill to amend the charter of the town of Newbern, and place it on its several readings.

Mr. Seymour objected, and stated his objections at length. The Senate refused to suspend the rules.

Mr. Dunham obtained leave to report from the Judiciary committee a bill to cure defects, and amend a corporation of the rules to place it on its several readings. Agreed to. (It provides that all laws passed by the Legislature from the 15th of November, 1872, to the 24th of December, 1873, inclusive, shall go into effect in accordance with their respective dates, anything contained in chapter 117 of the laws of 1872-73, notwithstanding, passed its several readings.)

Mr. McCleskey moved a suspension of the rules to take up the bill to authorize the commissioners of Anson county to levy a special tax, was agreed to. The bill passed its several readings.

Mr. Chesnut moved and obtained a suspension of the rules to take up the bill requiring who had done at the mouth of Chowan river to take out the middle of the river, as to leave the river open and to give for the passage of the bill. The bill passed its several readings.

Mr. Craver moved to reconsider the vote by which the Senate postponed the consideration of the Swannanoa Turnpike bill.

Mr. Welch moved that the motion would not be taken up, and that the bill should not be reviewed. A long discussion followed, upon which Messrs. Merrimon, Gardner, Welch and McCleskey participated.

The motion to reconsider prevailed and the long continued session left passed its third reading.

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Mr. Jones of Caldwell, rose to a question of personal privilege, and sent to the clerk, desk to be read, the correspondence as published in the News of this morning between Gov. Caldwell and Maj. Thomas in regard to furnishing arms to the Charlotte Military Institute.

Mr. Jones characterized the conduct and correspondence of the Governor as "small, malicious and scornful." The Governor of a great State, and below report his remarks in full as furnished by Mr. Jones.

Mr. SPEAKER:—His Excellency, the Governor takes advantage of the public print to explain his reasons for not issuing arms for drill to the Cadets of Charlotte Military Institute. I send the paper containing the correspondence to the Clerk's desk, to be read for the information of the House.

In making public this correspondence, the Governor can have only one of two motives, either he intends to malign a gentleman of character and standing, a citizen of the State of which he is Chief Magistrate, or else he proposes by it to show that the strictures passed upon his official conduct by the gentleman from Mecklenburg (Mr. Brown) and myself were unjust and unwarranted. In either event, I call upon the House and the people of the State to decide between us. Briefly then the facts in the case as follows: Col. J. P. Thomas, wrote a letter to the Governor, which was as it shows for itself respectful and dignified, asking him to issue to the Cadets of the Charlotte Military Institute arms for drill. The Governor refused upon the ground that one of the Professors of the school (Gen. D. H. Hill), was disloyal to the government of the United States, and desires "that the whole people of this State and the United States should have an opportunity to know of such reason for his action."

It is something novel in the Executive history of North Carolina for the Governor, in an official correspondence, to go out of his way in order to impute base principles to any citizen of the State. What part of his official duty is it to pass judgment upon character or motives? The Congress of the United States has formally declared that it was proper that Gen. Hill should be restored to all the rights of a citizen, and has so restored him. He, by the laws of the land, the Governor's political equal in so far as his rights and privileges as a citizen extends. Behind this act of Congress no man has a right to go. Furthermore, there is a man in the State outside the lunatic asylum who for one moment seriously supposes that the Governor is afraid Gen. Hill, with forty-one schoolboys at his back, armed with old muzzle-loading muskets, will rebel against the United States and plunge our country once more into the midst of all the horrors of civil war. Mr. Speaker, the reason assigned for his action by the Governor is too preposterous and absurd to be discussed in this House.

The only motive actuating his Excellency was one of spite and spleen against a man whom he politically hated. I cannot understand by what process of reasoning the Governor supposes that Gen. Hill could not render his Cadets fit for the arduous duties of the cadet school, as well without as with guns. The Governor says he to issue guns to the Cadets of the Swannanoa school. Nay more, it was all right and proper when he issued arms to an undisciplined negro military company in the city of Wilmington, as one result of which latter issue let me call the attention of the House to a local article in the Wilmington Journal of the 18th inst.

Last night, about 8 o'clock, as officer George Davis, of the police force, was in the neighborhood of the intersection of Third and Walnut streets, a woman by the name of Annie Jones approached and claimed his protection. Her face was covered with blood from a wound on the head, about two inches in length, which she stated had been inflicted by a bayonet in the hands of Solomon Nixon, a member of one of the colored military companies, who was then on his way to drill, with his side arms slung around his neck. Officer Davis took her to a room in his private house, where she made her complaint, and was then sent to her home. Nixon was arrested and gave bond for his appearance before the Mayor.

This is one of the beautiful results of the Governor's policy as to issue of arms. He is not willing to place the Cadets at Charlotte on an equal footing with the negroes of Wilmington. I regret to state that, that he rather wishes to retard the progress of civilization in the State, by withholding his aid in this essential article. Let me call the attention of the members here to another thing connected with this matter. A part of the correspondence between Col. Thomas and his Excellency was suppressed by the latter. I ask why was this? Why did the Governor see fit to suppress Col. Thomas' first letter and not his last? I am informed that the last letter was exceedingly courteous and respectful, and would, as far as to help the Governor's pardon, if any offense had been given, as the last letter, which he did not desire to be published, was, in fact, a letter, yet it was not published, and it is a curious circumstance, in the contents of the Governor's letter, a very serious one. I call for the publication of the suppressed letter, that the people may see how fully whether the Governor's action was justified in the premises. Mr. Speaker, I have sent the matter before the House as briefly as may be. I have nothing to retract or modify in any remarks I have made yesterday. It is a melancholy thing to see the Chief Magistrate of this State, which we regard as the most civilized in the Union, and I think that we are not justified in pronouncing the action of the Governor malicious and becoming the dignity of his high office.

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