

CONGRESS IN SESSION

THE FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS RESEMBLES AFTER THE HOLIDAY RECESS.

THE CURRENCY BILL IN THE HOUSE

And the Nicaragua Canal Bill Occupies the Attention of the Senate—Forty Senators Present and Less Than One Hundred Members of the House—Mr. Black Reviews the Criticisms Against the Currency Bill and Proposes Its Passage—Full Report of the Bluefield's Affair Sent to the Senate by the President.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 3.—Less than 100 members of the House were in their seats today when the last session of the Fifty-third Congress was resumed after the holiday recess. Mr. Bagby, in his opening prayer, asked that there might be unity of opinion among the Representatives in the coming months, in order that legislation might be effected for the benefit of the whole people.

After the call of committees for reports the House went into committee on the whole for the purpose of further considering the currency bill, and Mr. Richardson (Dem.), of Tennessee, took the chair. Up to this point the consideration of the bill had occupied one hour and forty minutes more than its friends, and the chairman recognized Mr. Black (Dem.), of Georgia, to speak first in favor of the bill, and Mr. Harrison (Dem.), of Texas, who had been expected to re-open the debate.

Reviews Criticisms on the Bill. Mr. Black reviewed some of the various criticisms made against the bill, declaring that the measure had been the subject of long and earnest consideration and was not in any sense the creation of immature thought. Regarding the point that it proposed to retire the greenbacks against the wishes of the country, Mr. Black said that there were occasions to express themselves. In 1840 General Weaver was candidate for President on a greenback platform and he received about 3,000,000 votes against 8,800,000 for Garfield and Hayes.

In 1854 General Butler, of Massachusetts was the candidate of the party, and he received of the popular vote 178,000 against 2,600,000 for Cleveland and Blaine. In 1888 Mr. Steiwer received 146,000 votes against 10,900,000 for Cleveland and Harrison. We all know the result of the election of 1892.

Democratic Party and Legal Tender. The attitude of the Democratic party toward the legal tender theory engaged Mr. Black's attention for a time. He said he found no support in any Democratic platform, nor in the writings or speeches of Democratic leaders of the past for the theory now insisted upon, that this government shall enter upon the issue of Treasury notes to be legal tenders.

As to the decision by the Supreme Court, he said it shocked the public conscience and was not in harmony with Democratic doctrine. Mr. Black quoted the dissenting opinion of Justice Field in that case and an extract from a speech delivered by Webster in the Senate in 1836 as expressing his views. Mr. Webster then said: "I am unquestionably in favor of the legal tender, and there can be no legal tender in this country under the authority of this government or any other, but gold and silver, either the coinage of our own mints or foreign coins, at rates regulated by Congress."

The time had come, he said, when if the very fabric of our institutions was to be maintained in its integrity, we should return to the safe requirements and limitations of the Constitution. Mr. Black deprecated the passage of legislation in the effort to relieve business depression or any official ills. Nothing ought to be done, he said, which would lead the people to think that they wanted anything done to relieve or improve their condition if they come to Congress with confidence that what they asked would be granted. The bill under discussion, Mr. Black said, answered to a question by Mr. Walker (Republican of Massachusetts), that it did not do all that was expected, but that he was willing to vote for it as an experiment. All legislation in this line, he said, was experimental in character.

SCORCHING TAMMANY

THE NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON MUNICIPAL CORRUPTION.

REMOVALS WILL NOT SUFFICE.

The report of the Special Committee Lays at the door of Tammany Hall Many Crimes and Calls ALOUD, not Only for Wholesale Reformation, but for the Punishment of the City Officials—Many Millions of Money Squandered and the Fountain Head of Justice Polluted.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—At a regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to-day the report of the special committee on municipal reform constituted by the Legislature of all departments of the city of New York was submitted by Charles Stewart Smith.

The committee recommends that the reform be continued until January 1st, 1896, with power to investigate any and all of the departments of this city; that special powers should be given this committee to compel the attendance of witnesses and to punish for contempt of court; that grand jury in the court of Oyer and Terminer, now empaneled, should be retained for the indictment and prosecution of public officers who have been guilty of corrupt misconduct in office.

The report also says: "Six years of Tammany administration have cost the city in bonded indebtedness and expenditures for appropriations \$274,971,076, as against \$337,051,919 for the preceding six years, an average increase of over \$6,000,000 per annum, exclusive of revenue and assessment bonds.

"The jury lists have been tampered with, and the fountain head of civil and criminal justice has been polluted, and corrupt, unscrupulous and dishonest persons have in many instances taken the place of intelligent, aggressive and honest citizens on the jury rolls, to subvert the corrupt and criminal ends of law-breakers.

"Public contracts are awarded to a few favored contractors, while, as a rule, the departments are filled with employees appointed at the dictation of political bosses, and of a class generally unfit for positions. Thousands of men are upon the pay rolls of the various departments who practically do no work.

"The committee believe that an examination of special grand juries will not alone answer the purpose.

"The removal of the heads of departments to be replaced with better men will not suffice. Wholesale removals will not suffice, though necessary. Wholesale punishment must follow, until it has drawn into the meshes of the law not only the correspondent official, but the corrupt contractor as well. Blackmail and bribery must stop. In order to work the legislature should do its part."

MRS. CLEVELAND NOT QUOTED.

She Knows When to Talk and What to Talk About.

DURHAM'S MURDERESS

ELLA NORWOOD SEEMS BUT LITTLE AFFECTED BY HER LUPENDING FATE.

A PETITION IN HER BEHALF.

Very Few People Think That She Will be Hanged—Durham County Has Never Had a Lynching or a Hanging—Talk of Extending Durham's Corporate Limits—Many Candidates in the Field for Mayor—Official Inspecting the Seaboard Air-Line—Change of Schedule on the Southern.

DURHAM, N. C., Jan. 3.—Your correspondent called on Deputy Sheriff C. G. Rose this morning and was shown the death warrant, issued yesterday by Gov. Carr, in accordance with which Ella Norwood is to be hanged on the 8th of February. Ella was notified this morning by her counsel, Mr. F. A. Green, of the action of the Supreme Court in her case. She seemed but little affected, and only asked her counsel about getting a petition. He told her he would make every effort to secure the commutation of her sentence. Mr. Green has already secured the signatures of the members of the Supreme Court bench except one to a petition asking the governor to commute the sentence. He will get up a very strong petition, and will give up very few people seem to think she will be hanged. Durham county has, I am told, never had either a lynching or a hanging.

The present board of town commissioners has already appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Leo D. Heatt, C. L. Linn, and J. B. Mason, to investigate and make to them some recommendations as to changes in the town charter. The most important features of their report will be to recommend biennial elections and that appointments to the police force shall be during good behavior.

There are already a great many candidates for mayor in the field and a lively campaign is certain.

Mr. H. A. Walker, pastor of the Presbyterian Church announced last night of the regular Wednesday night prayer meeting that one night in each month would be given up entirely to the discussion of missionary work, and he has invited Mr. J. B. Mason, of this city, to be his subject. He has traveled in that country and could speak of many things in that country from personal observation.

After prayer meeting a large Bible class of young men was organized. It will meet every Tuesday night in the Sunday school room and from the character of the work outlined will be very interesting.

The congregation of the First Baptist church have found that it will be necessary to have their church building enlarged in order to accommodate their large and growing congregation. They have a committee now at work raising the necessary funds and expect to be able to let the contract for the work early in the Spring.

MORE TROUBLE AT HONESTAD

But it is Believed That the Strikers will Resume Work To-day.

HONESTAD, Pa., Jan. 3.—The trouble last night at the Honestad steel works of the Carnegie Company was caused more particularly on account of a number of Hungarians having been assigned to that department than it was by the reduced wage scale.

The regular crew in the 11 inch mill refused to work at the Hungarians and quit. The fact remains, however, that one of the men was able to earn but 60 cents, another 72 cents for their day's work. This was because the mill was not worked to its capacity and not on account of fault in the wage scale. This morning the 150 men comprising the day crew in 18 inch also quit work.

Superintendent Schwab met the strikers, and after guaranteeing certain wages for the rest of the week, whether or not the mill was worked to its capacity, the men returned to work.

It is understood that the same proposition was submitted to the men of the counter in B. H. Thompson's store at Idalia, and four men were guarding him, the door was burst open and a large crowd of disguised men with guns and pistols rushed in, shouting, "Give us money!"

When peace had been restored another leader, who took charge of the meeting and a committee of seven was appointed to confer with manager Gray. The meeting continued with great disorder until 1:30 this afternoon.

The committee has some difficulty in deciding on what demands they would make at the conference with Manager Gayley, but finally determined to demand eight hours for a day's work at \$1.45 per day, or a twelve hour day at \$1.70.

A BOLD ROBBERY. On Friday, December 29th, an inquest was held over the body of James F. Bergeron, who was found hanging to a tree on Thursday morning. After viewing the body the following evidence was taken: R. H. Thompson was first sworn and testified that he was the officer deputized to bring the arrest of Bergeron, that he made the arrest on the morning of the 25th, about daylight, that he took him to his residence at Idalia, that the examination took place before Justices Mayo and Littlefield, that he received the mittimus to bring him to jail at Washington late that evening, and was expecting to start with him next morning, that next morning it was raining and Bergeron wanted to see his wife and children, so he was allowed to go to Washington to delay carrying him until the next day, and another reason was that he, Bergeron, had heard reports that a large party of men were watching the road about Idalia, and he wished to get to Washington as soon as possible, and he was taken to the jail at Idalia, that he did not anticipate any trouble that night; that the night before he had some fears that he might be lynched, as always he was somewhat nervous, but he remained up with him all night, but as no attempt was made he had no further fears as to Bergeron's safety whilst at his place, but the next day, as he was to go to Washington, he was taken to the jail, and in his judgment it was the best and safest to all concerned to wait for the steamer the next day.

Shot With Guns and Pistols. Frank Outdell, sworn, testified that he was on duty on the night of the 26th, that about 12 o'clock, as he was seated at the stove about the middle of the store with the other three guards, he heard the door click, and a looking up he saw a large crowd of disguised men, rushing in, the lights in the room were turned down very low and in an instant some three or four pistols were placed at his head and he was ordered "hands up," which he obeyed immediately, and he was seized by each arm with another man at his back and forced from the room, whilst this was going on the other guards were threatened in the same manner and soon saw Bergeron walk to where Bergeron was sleeping on the counter and took him out of the store. The whole party was then rushed at a very fast gait down the road towards the swamp, about a quarter of a mile, when they turned out into an old field in which was a large mulberry tree, he was then taken a few steps from the tree, the lynchers still hold of him with pins at his head. He saw some persons, but did not know who they were. Then the lynchers all went to one side and commenced firing at the body, some one or two gun shots were fired and many pistol shots, then they were told to get up and carry the body. The crowd then dispersed, could not tell which way they went, it was a very dark night with some flashes of lightning. I then went with the rest of the guard as fast as possible to the residence of B. H. Thompson and informed him of what had been done. On cross examination, said could not tell whether they were white or colored, there were three guns and one pistol in the store, did not try to get up, but as there was no time, pistols were at my head before I could get up, and could not recognize any one, either by dress or voice; their face and heads were covered and they spoke in some strange voice.

BEAUFORT'S TRAGEDY

PARTICULARS OF THE RECENT LYNCHING OF JAMES F. BERGERON.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CORONER.

It was at Bergeron's Own Request That he was Kept at Idalia Over Night Before Being Carried to Jail—The Lynchers Were Disguised and Spoke in Assorted Voices. It is Not Known Whether They Were Black or White—Bergeron's Guards Forced to Attend the Hanging—The Victim's Body Riddled With Bullets.

The Progressive Age, published at Aurora, near the scene of the recent lynching in Beaufort county, gives the following account of that deplorable tragedy.

James F. Bergeron was taken from the custody of the guards on the night of December 26, about 12 o'clock; taken to an old field about one mile from this place and hanged to a limb on a large mulberry tree. He was taken there by several other places with a gun loaded with buck shot, and in about the same place he shot Watson.

The officers and guards make the following statements: Bergeron had his examination on the 25th and on his request was not conveyed to jail then on account of his fears that he would be lynched on the way, but he wished to go by steamer next day. That about 12 o'clock that night, when he was sitting at the counter in B. H. Thompson's store at Idalia, and four men were guarding him, the door was burst open and a large crowd of disguised men with guns and pistols rushed in, shouting, "Give us money!"

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THE CURTIS MEMORIAL

A Committee Appointed in Charleston to Solicit Contributions.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 3. A committee was organized in Charleston this evening to cooperate with the New York committee in erecting a suitable memorial to the late George William Curtis. Judge Charles H. Simonton, of this city, was named as chairman of the committee, and Authur L. Jones secretary. The general committee consists of thirteen prominent men of this city.

The following resolution was adopted: "That this committee take pleasure in acting in concert with the New York committee and in assisting to honor the memory of Mr. Curtis, thus testifying their appreciation of his many high traits of character as a representative American."

A special committee of five was appointed to solicit subscriptions to the memorial funds.

MARRIAGES AT MADISON. Special to the News and Observer. Mr. Richard L. Brewer and bride (nee Miss Bickett, of Monroe), arrived by the Atlanta special last night. They were accompanied by the bride's brother, T. W. Bickett. The party are the guests of Prof. Chas. Brewer, brother of the groom.

Mr. Bickett leaves to-day for Louisville, where he will enter upon the law practice of Judge E. W. Timberlake.

Robbers Captured. WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 3.—The chief postoffice inspector is in receipt of a telegram from Houston, Texas, announcing the arrest of Jim Martin, Jim Morgan, and Al Reid, as "Big Jim," for the robbery of post-offices at Bastrop, Breun, Navasota and other places. This is the gang of professionals who have been blowing safes in post-offices, express offices and banks, and the papers consider the arrest a most important one.

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