

WON'T OPEN THE BIDS

FRENCH SAYS HE "SEES A CAT IN THE PUBLIC PRINTING MEAL BAG."

THE PITT COUNTY CASE AGAIN.

The Fusionists Refuse to Hear Facts, and Rush Through the Bill Peil-Mell--Cheap Figures for Public Printing Must be Concealed--A Breezy Day in the House--The Democrats put Their Opponents on Record--The Day in the Senate Dull and Uninteresting.

The House was called to order yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, Speaker Walter in the chair. Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Woodson, and the journal was read and, with minor corrections, approved.

One of these corrections was that made by Mr. Smith, D., of Gates, to the effect that the bill introduced yesterday as to free passes by Mr. L. L. Smith, Pop., of Cleveland, was in reality the bill of the gentleman from Gates. The correction was made.

Mr. Wooten, Pop., of Lenoir, referring to petitions he had offered on Tuesday in contested election cases, called attention to the case of Mr. Newsom against Winborne, of Hertford, which was not accompanied by notice of contest.

Mr. Wooten now moved that the notice be filed with the papers in the hands of the committee, which was so ordered.

Mr. Peebles, D., of Northampton, objecting on the ground that the notice should be brought here, he in writing and referred to the committee through the House.

Petitions.

Alexander of Forsyth: Hodges vs. Hooker of Beaufort.

Williams of Craven: J. E. Person vs. Monroe, of Wayne. Both referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Reports of Standing Committees.

French, of New Hanover, Committee on Rules. Report to amend the rules. Moved that rules be suspended and the recommended changes be adopted. Peebles objected, and the Speaker requested the member from New Hanover to wait until after the expiration of the morning hour, when Mr. French again moved the suspension of the rules to take up the report. Mr. Peebles asked that printed copies of the rules be furnished the members, as this would be necessary for him to get an intelligent idea of the changes contemplated. Mr. French acquiesced and asked that 200 copies of the rules be printed and laid on the desks of members, which was ordered. The changes recommended by Mr. French's report were verbal, not submitted in writing, and will be printed later.

Bills and Resolutions.

Mr. Lineback, Forsyth, H. R. 138, with regard to Justices of the Peace.

Mr. Davis, of Wake, H. R. 139, in regard to paying expenses of certain persons to the World's Fair; H. B. 140, to amend chapter 300, laws of 1893, and to allow county officers to give bond in security companies; H. B. 141, to repeal chapter 399, laws of 1893, entitled an act to establish a battalion of naval reserves, &c.; H. B. 142, to repeal chapter 374, laws of 1893, and to abolish the State Guard; H. B. 143, to repeal chapter 379, laws of 1893, and to provide for a Supreme Court Reporter; H. B. 144, to abolish Criminal and Inferior Courts, and to provide for the holding of Courts of Oyer and Terminer.

Mr. Phillips, of Pitt, H. B. 145, to reduce the official bonds of the Sheriff of Pitt county; H. B. 146, to reduce the official bond of Treasurer of Pitt county.

Mr. Crumel, of Yadkin, H. B. 147, to amend Chapter 297, Laws 1893 for uniform taxation.

Mr. Howard, of Edgecombe, H. B. 148, to incorporate the town of Liggett in Edgecombe county.

Mr. Lusk, of Buncombe, H. B. 149, to equalize assessments on all property, real and personal for taxation throughout the State.

Mr. Henderson, of Wilkes, H. B. 150, for the relief of Prof. B. T. Dodge out of certain schools funds of Wilkes county.

Mr. Mitchell, of Franklin, (by request) H. B. 151, to amend chapter 283, Private Laws of 1893.

Mr. Burnham, of Buncombe, H. B. 152, to provide for the inspection of illuminating oils manufactured from petroleum or coal oil. Ordered printed by request.

Mr. McClammy, of New Hanover, H. B. 153, to prevent diamond backed terrapins from being caught in the waters of Pender, New Hanover and Brunswick counties.

Mr. Hileman, of Cabarrus, (by request) H. B. 154, to allow testimony as to corners of land in actions of ejectment; (by request) H. B. 155, to amend the charter of the town of Concord; (by request) H. B. 156, to amend chapter 285, laws 1891.

Flack, of Rutherford, P., H. B. 157; to license physicians and to secure their payment for services?

Lee, of Haywood, D., H. B. 158; defining lard and to regulate the sale thereof; H. B. 159 defining butter and to regulate the sale thereof.

Nelson, of Caldwell, D., H. B. 160; to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors within two miles of Conway's Church in Caldwell county.

Reinhardt, of Lincoln, H. B. 61; to prohibit the sale of liquors within one half mile of Turkey Grove camp ground in Lincoln.

King of Graham, H. B. 162; for the relief of the bondsmen of W. W. Fleming late sheriff of Graham county.

Pace, of Vance, R., (by request) H. B. 163; to relieve the members of the State volunteer fire association.

Mr. Harris, of Hyde, H. B. 164, to authorize the commissioners of Hyde county to levy special tax; H. B. 165, to give notice of applications for pardon.

Mr. Williams, of Craven, H. B. 166, to amend charter of the city of Newbern.

Third Readings.

H. B. 75, to amend section 80, chapter 307, to consolidate and revise the charter of Winston. Mr. Lineback said that he had explained the bill Wednesday. Ayes and noes taken. Bill was passed, 115

ayes, no noes, and sent to the Senate without engrossment.

H. B. 84, to appoint cotton weighers for the city of Wilson. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

Second Readings.

H. R. 104, the resolution introduced by Smith, of Gates, on Wednesday for the opening of bids for public printing by the Secretary of State before a committee of two from the Senate and three from the House and the return of checks enclosed therein.

Mr. French: The bidders may not want them opened. They can go there and identify them.

Mr. Smith: I had no idea that there would be any objection to this resolution. It is a plain act of duty on our part to place the Secretary of State in proper relations on this matter. As to the repeal of the law, of which the gentleman has spoken, that repeal has the effect of stopping the operation of the law repeated only since the repeal took effect, but these bids were sent in during the operation of the law. These bids are the property of the Secretary of State, and are a part of the records of the State. The committee referred to in the resolution, I intended to make two instead of three from the Senate and three from the House. These bids belong to the State and no reason has been given why the terms of this resolution should not be carried out.

Mr. Hileman, P. P., of Cabarrus: I don't object to having the checks returned, but there is no necessity of a committee to open the bids. It is only necessary for the Secretary of State to open them and return them.

Mr. Alexander, R., of Tyrrell: I am willing to vote for the resolution with the committee left off.

Mr. Peebles, of Northampton: Well then strike out the committee, and simply let the Secretary of State open the bids.

French, of New Hanover: Offered a substitute to let the Secretary of State return such bids as can be identified and those that cannot be, to be opened and returned when they are identified.

Young, of Wake: Some of the bidders don't want their figures made known; people can go to the Secretary's office and identify them.

Mr. Smith, of Gates: I am willing that the Secretary of State should open the bids and return them without having any committee. I believe it is the deliberate purpose of the other side to conceal the cost of printing, so that they may make contracts in excess of the amounts ascertained, and I am determined that they shall be put on record.

Mr. White, of Bladen: As the law has been repealed, on what authority can these bids be opened?

Mr. Smith, of Gates: But they were in the hands of the Secretary of State before the law was repealed.

French, of New Hanover: "Wouldn't the lowest bidder, in case these bids were officially opened by the Secretary of State, have a claim for the contract? I see a cat in the meal-bag."

Lusk, of Buncombe: "Could not the owner of any bid have withdrawn it?"

Smith, of Gates: "But he did not do so."

French, of New Hanover: I will join the gentleman from Gates in a request to the bidders to make the bids public."

Mr. Smith: we can't enforce that request, but as a compromise I am willing to allow the Secretary of State, in the presence of his clerk, to open them.

Mr. Young, of Wake, spoke in favor of the substitute.

Mr. Winborne, of Hertford, offered an amendment to the substitute of Mr. French that the Secretary of State open the bids in the presence of his clerk and make a record of these bids not to be made public until after the contract shall have been made for the next public printing.

Mr. McClammy, of New Hanover, moved to refer the whole matter to the committee on judiciary. Rejected by a vote of 58 to 40.

Mr. Monroe, of Wayne, was excused from voting, saying the nice points of law involved rendered him unable to come to a decision as to the full merits of the matter.

Mr. Alexander, of Mecklenburg, took the position that the Secretary of State should open the bids and make them public with the names of the bidders.

Mr. Campbell, of Cherokee, said that the Secretary of State had no right to open the bids, and that the House now had nothing to do with this matter. He said this was all campaign matter for two years hence, and was not high-toned legislation.

Mr. Peebles said the Secretary of State was the custodian of the bids and had no right to open them and make known the bids until the day for them to be opened.

"Mr. French," continued Mr. Peebles, "says he sees a cat in the meal bag; yes the cat in the bag is that they don't want the people to know what is the lowest price this printing can be done at. I want the people of North Carolina to know what they can get the work done for. If the committee fail to justify the confidence I have in them, the people should know it."

Mr. White, of Bladen: "If suits were brought by these men, could not these bids be recovered?"

Mr. Peebles: "With the checks in them; but they must be opened to get evidence of the checks."

Mr. Lusk: "Suppose there was a secret in the bids to damage the bidders, wouldn't an injunction be in order?"

Mr. Peebles: "I never heard of an injunction to make a man keep a secret."

"The (ayes and noes being called for) amendment of Mr. Winborne was put to a vote and defeated--ayes, 40; noes, 73, as follows:

Ayes--Alexande of Mecklenburg, Baker, Crawford, Daniel, Duffy, Edwards, Etheridge, Gallop, Grizzard, Harrelson, Harrington, Hoeker, House, Howard, Julian, Keli, King, Lawrence, Lee, Lyon, McCall, McClammy, McKeezie, Mewborne, Nelson, Payne, Peebles, Rascoe, Ray, Reinhardt, Robinson, Saunders, Smith of Gates, Smith of Stanley, Squires, Stevens, Vick, Ward, Winborne, Woodard--Total, 40.

Noes--Aiken, Alexander, of Tyrrell, Bagwell, Bateman, Bean, Bryan, Brown, Buchanan, Burnham, Campbell, Chilcutt, Cox, Crumpler, Crumel, Currie, Darden, Davis, Drew, Duncan, Elledge,

Elis, Ewart, Flack, French, Gentry, Harris, of Gaston, Harris of Hyde, Henderson, Higgins, of Alleghany, Hileman, H-pkins, Huffman, Hunter, Johnson, Keathly, Leary, Lineback, Linney, Lusk, Mayes, McCanley, McKinney, McLean, McLeod, Michael, Mitchell, Morrow, Norman, Peace, Petree, Phillips, of Pitt, Phillips, of Randolph, Pool, Reynolds, Self, Smith, of Caswell, Smith, of Cleveland, Speas, Strikeleather, Strickland, Sutton, Taylor, Turner, of Mitchell, Turner, of Polk, Vickers, Walker, White, Whitener, William, of Craven, Williams, of Warren, Wooten, Yates, Young. Total 73.

Mr. Monroe was excused from voting.

Mr. French's substitute was then taken up, ayes and noes called, and adopted by a vote of--ayes, 70; noes, 40. The vote was a party one and practically the same as that on the amendment of Mr. Winborne.

Mr. Phillips, of Pitt, asked that H. B. 145 be taken from the calendar and be put upon its several readings.

The bill is as follows: The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the sheriff of Pitt county shall be required to give the three official bonds prescribed in Section 2073 of The Code in sums not exceeding in the aggregate sixty thousand dollars.

Sec 2. That the sheriff shall have right of immediate appeal to the Superior Court of Pitt county from any action or proceedings of the county commissioners of said county, whereby they fail, neglect, delay, or refuse to approve the said bonds or the sheriff or any of them, and they shall make no appointment of his successor unless and until directed by the Judge.

Sec 3. That immediately upon the service of notice of appeal upon the said county commissioners or any of them, the clerk of the Superior court of said county shall cause the said appeal to be docketed, and the same shall stand for trial at the next term of the Superior court of said county and shall take precedence of all other trials.

Sec 4. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec 5. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Sec 6. That this act shall apply to Pitt county alone.

Mr. Robinson: "The bill was yesterday before the Committee on Judiciary and its consideration was postponed until this afternoon at four. I move to refer the bill to Committee on Judiciary."

Mr. Cox, of Pitt: "This is not the same bill; there are no private features about it, which were the points of objection yesterday."

Mr. Ray was surprised that this bill should be brought up now. Changes had been made without proof--appealing to passions and prejudices. These men should have an opportunity to answer these charges. Why all this nervousness and haste? Why not wait?

Mr. Cox, R. If it is not passed upon Monday the Democrat will give bond and be put in.

Mr. Ray R: This is only Thursday.

Mr. Phillips, P., said that the bond was not raised \$18,000 as stated by him Wednesday, but only \$7,000.

Mr. Winborne, D., said that the taxes on the Wilmington and Weldon railroad alone being \$1,500 would account for \$3,000 of the increase.

Mr. Smith, of Gates, offered the following amendment: "That nothing in this act shall affect any suit now pending in connection with the office of sheriff of Pitt county." Mr. Smith said there was a suit now pending affecting the very points at issue, and that the increase of \$7,000 lacked \$400 of being up to the limit allowed by law. "If I find," said he, "that the other side is right, I shall discard every political feeling and sentiment to stand by it."

Mr. Phillips moved to call the previous question.

Mr. Peebles offered an amendment striking out all of Section 2 after the word "them" in the third line from the bottom and to strike out Section 4 and 6. He said that Section 4 made the bill general in its application and Section 6 was unnecessary as Pitt county was understood by the context.

The Smith and Peebles amendments were lost and the bill passed its several readings and was ordered sent to the Senate without engrossment.

The vote stood 74 to 38, the Democrats voting no, with the exception of Messrs. Nelson (excused from voting), McClammy and Monroe, the two latter voting aye.

Mr. McClammy said that the other side had taken the position of not being able to get justice before their own judge for two years and, therefore, he would vote aye.

Mr. Monroe said H. B. 26, introduced by Mr. Ewart gave the Commissioners the same power on the points involved here, as the Democratic Commissioners have, and he would vote aye.

Mr. French said he would introduce a resolution that no member in explaining his vote should be allowed more than two minutes.

The following announcement was made by the Speaker:

Added to Committees.

DEAF AND DUMB--Burnham, Hoffman.

COUNTIES--CITIES AND TOWNS--McCauley, Harrelson, Wooten.

CLAIMS--Strikeleather withdrawn and Cheek substituted.

BLIND--Young.

Brown on Corporations, in place of Smith of Jones.

Adjourned at seven minutes to 8 to meet this morning at 11.

The clerk announced after adjournment the meeting this morning at 9 o'clock of the committees on Finance and Insurance.

SENATE.

Lieut. Governor Doughton called the Senate to order at 11 o'clock.

Prayer was offered by Rev. J. L. Foster, of the Christian Church.

The Journal of Wednesday was read and approved.

Petitions Presented.

By Mr. Candler, R., of Jackson, for a bridge to be built across Tuckaseegee river, in Jackson county.

By Mr. Brown, R., of Yadkin, in refer-

ence to the Iredell County Teachers' Association.

Report of Committees.

By Committee on Education, resolution asking information from State Treasurer, with reference to disbursements to educational institutions, with recommendation that it pass.

By Judiciary Committee, H. B. No. 4, to amend chapter 137, Laws of 1893; also bill to legalize the marriage of A. J. and Mary Prevatt.

By Finance Committee, S. B. No. 32, to repeal license tax on piano and organ dealers, unfavorably; S. B. No. 31 to amend chapter 58, Laws of 1891, favorably.

By Committee on Selection of committees, report of the selection of the following Joint Standing Committees:

LIBRARY--Sharp, Chairman; White of Perquimans, White of Alexander, Moody of Stanly, Bellamy, Black, Abell, Green, Mercer, Mitchell.

PRINTING--Westmoreland, Chairman; Starbuck, Lindsay, Dalby, Ammons, Brown, Marshall, Sigmon, Mewborne, Dowd, Abell, Green.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS--Snipes, Chairman; Dalby, White of Alamance, Shaw, Hoover, Starbuck, Dula, Candler, Norris, Mercer, Mitchell.

ENROLLED BILLS--Starbuck, Chairman; Rice, Bellamy, Black, Moody, Parsons, McCaskey, Green, Mercer, Abell.

ELECTION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE--Dalby, Chairman; Dula, Parsons, Fortune, Westmoreland, Hurley, Shaw, Moody of Haywood, McCaskey, Rice, White of Perquimans, Wicker, Sharp, Mewborne, Abell, Adams, Dowd, Green, Mercer, Mitchell.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES OF UNIVERSITY.--Shaw, Chairman; Cook, Mewborne, Hamrick, Brown, Frank, Starbuck, Black, Hurley, Long, Hoover, Adams, Dowd, Green, Abell.

COLONIAL RECORDS--White of Alamance (Chairman), Norris, Carver, Cook, Lindsay, Herbert, Farthing, Fowler, White of Alexander, Adams, Dowd. Adopted.

Bills and Resolutions.

By Mr. Wicker, P., of Chatham, bill to prohibit the printing or circulation of false or bogus election tickets.

By Mr. Candler, R., of Jackson, bill to levy a special tax for building a bridge across Tuckaseegee River.

By Mr. Fowler, P., of Sampson, bill to amend chapter 520, Laws of 1891, in regard to prompt dispatch of freight by railroad companies.

By Mr. Moody, R., of Haywood, bill to define lard and butter and to regulate the sale thereof.

By Mr. Marshall, R., of Surry, bill to abolish county boards of education and to reduce salaries of county superintendents of education.

By Mr. Starbuck, R., of Guilford, bill to incorporate the Stock Mutual Insurance company.

By Mr. Hamrick, P., of Cleveland, bills to require railroads to pay taxes as other companies; to amend game laws so as to protect crops.

By Mr. Ammons, R., of Madison, bill to repeal Chapter 103, Laws of 1893, relative to election of tax collector of Madison county by commissioners and justices of the peace.

By Mr. Paddison, P., of Pender, by request, bill to make education of blind children compulsory.

By Mr. Starbuck, R., of Guilford, bill to amend charter of the Piedmont bank of Greensboro.

By Mr. Forbes, P., of Pitt, bill to amend section 4, chapter 78, Laws of 1887.

By Mr. Cook, R., of Warren, bill to facilitate trial of causes to reduce expense of courts.

By Mr. Norris, P., of Wake, bills to extend time for beginning work on Cape Fear and Northern Railroad; to extend time of organization of Holly Springs Land and Improvement Company.

By Mr. Sigmon, R., of Catawba, resolution providing for inviting immigration by advertising the mining, mineral, timbered and other resources of North Carolina.

By Mr. Carver, R., of Cumberland, a verbal resolution asking the committee on public health to look more carefully after the proper heating and ventilation of the Senate chamber. Mr. Carver said he had caught a cold, something he hadn't had for years, and he attributed it to improper temperature of the chamber.

By Mr. Grant, R., of Wayne, bill to amend chapter 98, laws of 1889, for the relief of certain soldiers in the late war.

By Mr. Starbuck, R., of Guilford, resolution requiring the Secretary of State to forward certified copies of laws enacted by this General Assembly to judges and solicitors immediately after the ratification of these laws.

The Calendar Taken Up.

Bill to prevent the sale of low grade and adulterated kerosene oil, or any grade of less than 150 proof, was taken up.

Mr. Hoover, P., thought this bill would put our merchants in jeopardy, as they had no means of ascertaining the quality of oil.

Mr. Lindsay, P., said 150 was only a test of combustibility of oil; that adulteration was by means of compressing water into oil by hydraulic pressure, and he did not think the bill would remedy the matter.

The merits and demerits of the bill were further discussed by Senators Fortune, White of Alexander, Carver, Marshall, and Moody of Haywood. On motion of Mr. Starbuck it was referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

House Bill No. 4, to repeal chapter 137, laws of 1893, the charter of the State Farmers' Alliance, passed its second and third readings.

S. B. No. 47, to legalize the marriage of A. J. and Mary Prevatt, of Robeson county, who were related within the prohibited degrees, passed its second and third readings, after some discussion, during which considerable opposition was manifested.

A message was received from the House announcing the passage by that body of sundry bills and resolutions, and asking the Senate's concurrence therein.

Passed Third Readings.

The resolution requiring the State Treasurer to furnish statement of all disbursements for the State University, the Agricultural and Mechanical College, at

Raleigh, the Normal and Industrial School at Greensboro, and the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the colored race, at his earliest convenience.

Bill changing the time of holding the Superior Courts of Craven and Bertie counties.

On motion of Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Long, P., of Columbus was added to the committee on Deaf, Dumb and Blind students.

Mr. Westmoreland asked to withdraw his bill to repeal tax on piano and organ dealers, it having been unfavorably reported by the committee.

On motion of Mr. Carver, Mr. I. W. Taylor, P., was added to the Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

By permission, Mr. Long, P., of Columbus, introduced a bill for the relief of Confederate soldiers.

The Senate adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock to day.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by John Y. McRae.

Johnson's Tasteless Compound Cod Liver Oil with hypophosphites gives tone to the nerves; strengthening, stimulating and producing healthy flesh like magic. For sale by John Y. MacRae.

We guarantee Johnson's Magnetic Oil; it has no superior for all aches and pains, internal or external, man or beast. \$1 size 50c; 50c size 25c. For sale by John Y. MacRae, Raleigh, N. C.

Buckingham's Dye for the Whiskers can be applied when at home, and is uniformly successful in coloring a brown or black. Hence its great popularity.

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