

# The News and Observer.

VOL. XLV. NO. 103.

RALEIGH, N. C., THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 5, 1899.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

### FEWER EMPLOYEES AND LESS PAY

### The House Begins Economy at Home.

### ALL SALARIES REDUCED

### ALL DEPARTMENTS ARE TO BE INVESTIGATED.

### THE RESOLUTION PASSED LAST NIGHT

### The Committee Will Probably be Appointed To-day. The Work Will be Through and I Will Begin at Once.

### Two Caucuses.

Though the Legislature is only one day old, two facts may be put down as certain:

It will cut down the number of employees and otherwise reduce expenses. It will investigate the public institutions and their conduct.

These things were decided upon last night in caucus.

The first caucus was a joint one of members of House and Senate. It was called to order by Mr. W. B. Council, of Watauga, and Senator Thomas G. Skinner, of Hertford, was elected chairman. After considerable discussion over the matter of enrolling clerk, it was decided to repeal the act of 1897 providing for two enrolling clerks, one to be appointed by the presiding officer of the Senate and one by the Speaker of the House. The old law will be re-enacted providing for one clerk, and it was decided to elect E. B. Norvell, of Cherokee, the Senate nominee, for the position.

The enrolling clerk matter settled, Mr. Francis D. Winston, of Bertie, introduced the following resolution, providing for an official investigation into the affairs of the penitentiary and agricultural department:

"That it is the sense of this body that the public institutions demand that an investigation be had of the conduct of the various departments of our State government, and especially the penitentiary management and the department of agriculture since January 1st, 1897."

The reading of this resolution was greeted with applause, as was also the statement that the party was not to be bound by Russell's appointments, several speakers plainly amending that no quarter was to be shown in dealing with this matter.

Before the vote was taken, though, the following substitute was offered by Mr. D. H. McLean, of Harnett, accepted by Mr. Winston and unanimously passed.

"Whereas it has been charged by the press of the State and not authoritatively denied that various sums of money have been paid out of the State Treasury as loans or advancements to some of the public institutions of the State with out authority of law and that gross irregularities in the transactions of a graver type prevail in other branches of the public service; and whereas the truth of these matters should be ascertained, to the end that proper remedy be applied thereto; whereby the interests of the people shall be jealously guarded, it is therefore the sense of this caucus that a thorough investigation be entered upon by the General Assembly of all the departments of the State, and that legislation to that end should be enacted at once if necessary."

The House caucus which met after the joint caucus elected a steering committee composed of Lee S. Overman, of Rowan; E. J. Justice, of McDowell; D. H. McLean, of Harnett; George Rountree, of New Hanover; J. Frank Ray, of Macon; Heriot Clarkson, of Mecklenburg; and W. B. Council, of Watauga.

The committee appointed at the caucus Tuesday night to fix the number of House employees, clerks and laborers, made the following report reducing the number of House employees 40 per cent and the salaries of those retained 20 per cent.

"That in view of the depressed prices of all products and in keeping with the pledges made to the people, we recommend that the salaries paid all clerks, assistant clerks, door-keepers and assistant door-keepers, messengers, laborers and all other persons employed by the House in any capacity, except as pages, be reduced 20 per cent of the amount paid during the session of 1897."

"We recommend that the number of persons to be employed now be fixed as follows:

- "One principal clerk.
  - "Two assistants to be selected as now provided by law.
  - "Nine pages—one from each Congressional district.
  - "One laborer to look after the water closets, to be appointed by the door-keeper after consultation with the Speaker.
  - "Three laborers to be appointed by the door-keeper after consultation with the Speaker.
  - "One laborer to look after the heat, to be appointed by the door-keeper.
  - "One messenger, to be appointed by the Speaker.
  - "Two assistants to the engrossing clerk, to be selected as now provided by law."
- The committee making this report is composed of Francis D. Winston, H. G. Connor, W. R. Allen, Locke Craig and T. J. Williams.
- The report was adopted and the caucus adjourned.

### THE SEABOARD DEAL

### It Will Doubtless be Consummated To-night.

### BALTIMORE THE PLACE

### S. A. L. TO BECOME PART OF THE G. AND A. ROAD.

### JOHN SKELTON WILLIAMS TO CONTROL

### Price Agreed on \$200 per Share for 8,300 Shares of Stock par Value \$100 Each.

### Syndicate Baltimore, and Other Capitalists

### Baltimore, Md., Jan. 4.—The report concerning the proposed purchase of the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad Company, parent corporation of the Seaboard Air Line system, is officially confirmed. The syndicate which has bid for the property, subject to the approval of the owners of three-fourths of the stock owned by Messrs. Lewis McLean and Leigh R. Watts, is composed of Baltimore, Richmond and New York capitalists.

John Skelton Williams, President of the Georgia and Alabama Railroad Company, is the moving spirit in the transaction, and it is understood that he will be president of the company when control is transferred to the syndicate.

The price agreed upon is \$200 a share, which is \$75 a share more than was offered for a controlling interest in the property two years ago by Thomas F. Ryan.

A member of the syndicate said to-day that it is the intention of the new owners to continue the company as an independent system, though he admitted that a line might ultimately be built from Atlanta, the Seaboard's Southern terminus, to Montgomery, where connection would be made with the Georgia and Alabama. The distance between these points is 175 miles. This would make a through line from Washington to Jacksonville.

### ROAD'S OFFICERS IN THE DARK.

### Norfolk, Va., Jan. 4.—The Associated Press dispatch this morning, with respect to the deal of Mr. John Skelton Williams, of Richmond, and associates for a controlling interest in the Seaboard Air Line stock, fell upon Norfolk with the startling effect of a thunderclap from a cloudless sky.

Both towns have been stirred from centre to circumference all day.

A representative of the Virginia-Pilot, called upon Mr. E. St. John, Vice-President and General Manager of the S. A. L., in the company's building in Portsmouth. He, too, was in search of information. The dispatch was a great surprise to him. Other general officers were as much in the dark.

Later in the day the reporter ran across a gentleman who does know. He is largely interested in Norfolk enterprises and vouched for the accuracy of the statements made in the dispatch. The syndicate has offered \$200 per share for \$8,300 shares of stock of the par value of \$100 each, and are absolutely certain of securing the system of roads and Bay Line.

The syndicate of Baltimore, Richmond, Philadelphia and New York from Washington.

### THE DEBARAS' HEARING.

### They Are Positively Identified as Two Clever Chicago Swindlers.

Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 4.—Baron and Baroness Edgar DeBaras, alias George B. Henschel and Miss E. Wilson, who were arrested at St. Augustine on Tuesday charged with using the mails for fraudulent purposes, were given a preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner Goodell today. Decision was reserved till tomorrow morning.

### THE LEWIS RESOLUTION.

### Providing For Rigid Investigation Into the Beef Scandal.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Representative Lewis, of Washington, to-day introduced a resolution providing for an inquiry by a House committee appointed to investigate the conduct of the war, into the beef contracts made by the Government, whether the beef was in all cases wholesome, and "whether the facts disclosed should not demand the submission of the subject matter, and persons connected therewith to an appropriate grand jury of the United States to enquire into and present such indictment or presentment for obtaining money by false pretenses or for the cheat and swindling of the United States, or of any other departments."

### SYNDICATE'S FIRST MOVE.

### The Completion of the Road From Richmond to Ridgeway.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 4.—The Sun to-morrow will say:

"The offer of \$200 a share, made by the syndicate headed by the banking house of John L. Williams & Sons, of

### THE TREATY OF PARIS

### Sent by the President to the Senate.

### TREATY WAS NOT READ

### REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

### MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON FRIDAY

### Resolutions then Probable for Publication of Both Treaty and Proceedings. House Considers Bill to Define and Punish Crimes in Alaska.

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Before the presiding officer's gavel fell on to-day's session, the Senatorial members of the peace commission appeared on the floor and were given a hearty greeting by their colleagues.

In the absence of the Vice-President, Mr. Frye, of Maine, the president pro tem called the Senate to order. The chaplain in his invocation made a touching reference to the death of Senator Morrill.

Scarcely had the clerk begun to read the journal of the last session of the Senate when Mr. Day moved that the further reading be dispensed with. The motion prevailed.

Mr. Frye who was in the chair, immediately recognized Major Pruden, Assistant Secretary to the President, who presented a message from the President of the United States. The message contained the treaty of Paris.

On motion of Mr. Davis the Senate went into executive session, in order that the treaty might be referred to the committee on Foreign Relations.

In a few minutes the Senate reconvened in open session and Mr. Allison announced the death of Senator Morrill. In the course of his brief remarks Mr. Allison said that Mr. Morrill had come to the Senate at the opening of the session in December and had taken part in the proceedings until the day of the holiday recess. Although he was enfeebled in body, said Mr. Allison, his brain was active and his mental vision undimmed. The fact that his activity was undiminished led his colleagues to believe that he was to remain with them yet a long time, but an inscrutable Providence ordained otherwise and he was called away suddenly.

Mr. Allison alluded briefly to the funeral arrangements which had been carried out and then presented the usual resolution expressive of the sorrow of the Senate. The resolution was adopted.

Then Mr. Allison presented another resolution providing as a further mark of respect that the Senate adjourn. This, too, was adopted, and the Senate at 12:15 adjourned until to-morrow.

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### A WEIRD WHISTLING CASE.

Man With Fractured Skull, Lying Unconscious, Whistles 95 Hours.

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### CABLE COMPANIES CLAIMS.

### Growing Out of Suspension of Their Business By Our Forces.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Another disagreeable consequence of the late war has been the presentation to the Government of claims of cable companies for damages sustained through the suspension of their business by the United States military and naval forces. What the aggregate amount of these claims will be cannot be foretold. The companies in each case base their claims upon the number of days of interruption to business, estimating the loss each day by the records of business transacted in corresponding periods in former years. The State Department is puzzled in dealing with these claims. There is no exact precedent for them, and it is realized that we must make some new international law to meet the case. The companies believe they have a precedent for their demands in the attitude assumed by the United States in the claim of the Central and South American Telegraph Company, whose cables were cut off the coast of Chile by the Congressional party, which succeeded in overthrowing the Balboa cable. The Chilean claims commission allowed the cable company about one-fourth of its claim.

The principal argument against the allowance of the claims in the pending cases is based upon a denial that they are parallel with the South American case. It is also asserted that at Manila for instance, the cable was being used as a weapon by the Spanish government, and that the United States was justified in destroying this weapon.

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Much interest is manifested in the Governor's message which will be read to-day. It has been many a day in North Carolina since a Democratic Legislature listened to a message from a Republican Governor. It is therefore safe to say that the message to-day will be listened to with great interest and curiosity. The message is much shorter than usual, and its reading will occupy only a half hour or so.

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For these reasons the opening session yesterday was of unusual interest and importance. And yet, if truth be told, this opening day lacked in dramatic features. Of course there was the element of interest in the swearing in of members, the election of a Speaker, and the choice of new officials. But the first was rather tiresome, and the two last had been determined upon long ago.

There was an picturesque, though, there as the new member from a back-country section making his first essay in public debate, there were distinguished men from all over the State; candidates defeated and successful; their faces long or short, accordingly; there were gaily dressed women in the galleries lifting the occasion out of the dull level of ordinary days.

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### A Cut in Salaries the First Bill Passed, Reading of Gov.-mor's Message Takes Place

### To-day, A Bill to Oust Public Printer Barnes Introduced.

The curtain was rung up at noon yesterday upon the opening scene of the first Democratic Legislature since 1893.

Again the halls of North Carolina's capitol are filled with men who have the interest of the State at heart, and who have sacrificed much to come here. The air was crisp yesterday, and the sun was shining brightly upon the white dome of the capitol when the General Assembly of 1890 was called to order. It was an auspicious day.

The hall hummed with life and the staircases were crowded with people, hurrying to lobbies and galleries to witness the assembling of another Democratic Legislature—the first for many years.

Judge Connor spoke first when he said, in his speech accepting the Speakership, it will be a history-making session.

The elimination of the ignorant negro vote is one of them any problems that the Senators and Representatives now in Raleigh must solve.

This is only one of the many important items of legislation which the people of the State expect to see enacted at this session.

The Democratic leaders at both ends of the capitol realize the grave responsibility that is upon them, as was evidenced yesterday in their agreement in the business-like methods in which the work of the session was begun.

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