

A HOT OLD TIME AMONG RADICAL LEADERS

Hampton Hops on Your Uncle Isaac Smith.

AND ISAAC HITS BACK

THEN HAMPTON SAYS HE WON'T PLAY NO MORE.

AND TAKES HIS DOLL RAGS HOME

The House Refuses to Pass the Bill Creating the Office of Treasurer for Surry County, The New in

Charter.

Things woke up with a start in the House yesterday.

There was strong talk from men with hot hearts and abiding love for their State.

It has been going dreamily along these snowy days—the House has. But yesterday, with a clear sky and crowded gallery, it was very much awake.

Quietly enough it ambled along for the first hour aying and noing the various bills put before it for action. Then it struck the act to repeal the charter of the city of Newbern.

When it did there was a slight jolt for Mr. Williams, (Rep.), of Yadkin, but a chuck under the legislative wheel by saying that several bills for this county of this kind had already been passed, and asking how many more were yet to come.

With this Mr. Gilliam, (Dem.), of Edgecombe, got down and put his shoulder to the wheel.

"The object of this bill," he said, "is to take charge of Newbern. That's all there is to it. The charter is repealed and a board of five negroes is created in whom are vested the property of the town.

"The Legislature of 1897 so amended the charter and gerrymandered the town as to put it under negro rule. This bill takes it out. Under the act of '97, the city attorney is a negro and 5 of the 11 policemen are negroes. The trustees named in this bill were selected by a mass meeting of citizens. The bill was drawn by prominent attorneys of the town."

With this the bill passed.

The next speaker, however, was to be of a much more serious nature. So serious, indeed, that the House couldn't get over it. After sticking on it for two solid hours it decided to back off and go round. And when it did so it registered a vote never to buck up against it again. For he laid a motion on reconsider on the table, and that you know, nails a thing down so that you can never get it up again.

The aforesaid snaz was a Senate bill to establish the office of county treasurer for Surry county.

Now Surry is the county from which Mr. Hampton, the Republican leader, hails; and hardly had the bill been read by its title than he put his number tens upon it with crushing force. He told the House it was unusual and unnecessary legislation; that it ought not to pass.

"The majority of the House came here pledged to White Supremacy. This it has announced as its mission, and I must say I think it is carrying it out with a vengeance."

Mr. Leatherwood, of Swain, here made the point of order that the gentleman from Surry (Hampton) was not discussing the question before the House.

Mr. Hampton: "If there's any danger of getting the gentleman from Swain over on my side I'll stop."

"As I was about to say, the first attack this great White Supremacy Party made was on Hertford county. There was not, however, a single negro officer in the county. The next point of attack was Craven county, represented in this Hall by that grand old Democrat, Isaac Smith."

"Now it was Isaac's time to rise to a point of order."

"Mr. Speaker," he said, "the gentleman calls me a 'gran' old Democrat. He's discussion things not 'fore this House."

"The point of order not being sustained Mr. Hampton proceeded."

"Not satisfied with simply restoring White Supremacy in Craven, they've come back and restored it two fold. Yesterday when the second bill came up this grand old Democrat (Smith) got up here, almost with tears in his eyes, and asked for an explanation of the measure. I sorter sympathized with him, I tell you I did."

Smith: "I rise to a 'pint o' order. That's not 'fore this House. It's 'fore this House. I'm here representin' a 'gran' people and I want him to speak 'speckfully o' me."

The point was not sustained, and Mr. Hampton continued.

"Yes, he asked for an explanation. All the explanation he got was that the bill was to restore white supremacy, and there was still another dose of the same kind, size and quality to follow. Now I shall not be surprised if bill No. 3 wipes Craven county completely from the face of the earth, leaving (pointing to Smith) only a bir, black, greasy spot."

"And now this White Supremacy crusade comes to Surry, though it has not a single negro officer. Surry—the land of the free and the home of the brave—the land of free elections and fair counts (laughter); the home of the sturdy mountaineer who loves to hunt the possum and the coon."

"I tell you here and now my people are opposed to this bill. They do not want to centralize their county government in this 'gran' elections and fair counts men so far as I know, are interested in the passage of this bill. They are the attorney who is lobbying this bill through the House, and the man who is appointed treasurer."

"Fifteen years ago the Democrats abolished the office of county treasurer,

and but for the fact that the present sheriff is a Republican you would not now be considering a proposition to re-establish it."

Mr. Carroll, of Alamance: "Does the gentleman think Surry needs a county treasurer?"

Mr. Hampton said he did not, and that the county was now in better condition than it was two years ago. He would give any man who would go there and examine into the matter a check for \$500 if he didn't come back and so report.

Mr. Gattis, of Orange, said the committee had heard both sides on this question carefully. It was in evidence that the county was badly behind in its finances; also that the present sheriff was charging a commission for receiving and paying out moneys, whereas the law expressly provides that he shall not do so; that the Democratic sheriff had done so.

"Further it was shown in committee that the sheriff has been paying county orders to partisan friends, while those of the opposite party have to wait for months and years to get their money. The school fund also is in bad condition."

"I would like just here to state, in reply to my friend (Hampton), that there were two issues in the last campaign: White Supremacy and Good Government. You may have white supremacy in Surry county, but you haven't got good government, if the evidence before us be true."

Mr. Hampton: "I'll stand by my \$500 offer as to the financial condition of the county."

Smith, (col. Rep.), of Craven: "The gentleman from Surry asks us not to pass this bill. Asks Democrats not to vote for it. An' then abuses them—abuses the very men he's askin' not to pass it—abuses me, I didn't at first know how I'd vote, now I'll vote against his bill if I get a chance, so help me God. I want this Legislature to 'lect that treasurer, an' I'm sorry it couldn't 'lect a representative from Surry. He comes here and abuses members of the Legislature, but you members who represents the grand old county of Craven, that has contributed as much to literature as any other in the State. From that county came such men as Judge Gaston, whose autograph rests in the Supreme court over yonder as an inspiration to the young men of this State."

"I am the sole representative of these people, and yet the gentleman gets up here an' refers to me as 'that ol' man.' Calls me an ol' man—an ol' Democrat; then in the next breath he asks the Democrats to kill that bill."

"Why, he's got the cheek of a brass knocker."

"I'm here representin' my race. I'm doin' it consistent. If I ain't who I am, name of God is? That's what I want to know."

"I was sent here by the colored race, sanctioned by the white race. If they hadn't wanted me they could have manipulated so as to beat me."

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ment. Here, however, it looked like creating an office simply to give it to a Democrat.

Mr. McNeil, of Brunswick, thought it a dangerous precedent to adopt.

"The Democratic party is on trial. The people are the jury. If the people approve of this Legislature it will be Democratic again. I'm perfectly willing for the people of Surry to have a treasurer if they want him, but let them elect him. They haven't delegated to this body the power to choose their officers."

Mr. Justice, of McDowell, wanted to say that the white people of Western North Carolina are going to run their own affairs, but that this bill was law. He referred to the fact that the Fusion Legislature of 1897 created the office of county treasurer for McDowell and under that act the Governor appointed the first Republican officer the county had had in a dozen years or more.

"As a proposition of law the Legislature has a right to establish the office of county treasurer. The sheriff took the office with that understanding. He has no vested right in the office of treasurer after the Legislature has divided it from that of sheriff."

Mr. Robinson, of Cumberland, didn't deny the right of the Legislature to do it, but he did deny the wisdom of doing it; and most emphatically he denied the justice of it. "The people fundamentally have a right to control their own affairs."

Mr. Moore, of Jackson, told the House that the sheriff of Surry county was a brother-in-law of the chairman of the board of commissioners and that this bill was controlled by this chairman. From this he argued that there might easily be collusion and great corruption in office might result and escape detection. The bill before the House he considered, therefore, not a question of politics, but of expediency. Mr. Parks, the proposed treasurer, he said, was for many years chairman of the board of commissioners and a man eminently qualified for the place.

Mr. Clarkson, of Mecklenburg, thought the passage of such a bill would be a disgrace to the Legislature.

"I remember the Fusion Legislature tried to put upon the fair city of Charlotte a police commission. I remember too, that it was the Western Republicans who prevented it. Mecklenburg people are not the kind of folk to return evil for good. Whenever you'll prove to me that these bills are necessary for the eastern counties I'll vote them, but in the West a different condition of affairs confronts us."

Mr. Craig made the point that the people, in voting for a sheriff who was also to be treasurer, had thereby voted for a treasurer. And that treasurer was a Republican and not a Democrat.

Mr. Allen, of Wayne: "Who introduced this bill?"

Mr. Craig: "Senator Glenn."

"Is Surry in his district?"

"No."

Mr. Craig: "Two years ago the Fusionists appointed a treasurer for McDowell county. A Democrat protested. He did right. A Fusion precedent is no good precedent."

Mr. Gattis: "Don't you know that the 600 negroes in Surry county hold the balance of power?"

Mr. Craig: "I hear there are only about 400 negroes in the county."

Mr. Hampton said this was correct, and that all of them did not vote the Republican ticket."

Mr. Craig: "If a Democrat had been elected would there now be a petition here from Democrats for election of a treasurer? I undertake to say there would not. I don't know whether even the Democrats want him or not. The people of Surry county spoke in the election. They sent Mr. Hampton here to represent them; let's abide the verdict."

Mr. Council thought the best interests of every county demanded that it have a county treasurer. He knew his own had suffered and was now some \$6,000 in debt because it didn't have one. But when it comes to electing him or any other county officer by the Legislature—that's a different matter. He said he would, at the proper time, amend the bill so as to create the office and give the county commissioners power to elect.

Mr. Gattis said this was the very thing they were trying to get around. "The chairman of the board of commissioners is a brother-in-law of the sheriff. He is here lobbying. Leave it to him and there'll be no treasurer. If Surry is to have a treasurer now is the time and here is the place. Then comes the question of the treasurer. Who will appoint? If not the people, then the board of commissioners. An investigation is necessary."

Mr. Gattis called the previous question.

The call was sustained and Mr. Currie, of Buncombe, called the ayes and noes.

The roll call resulted, 32 in favor of the bill and 61 against it.

THE HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

The Smallest Number of New Bills for Many Days.

The House met at 10 o'clock, Speaker Connor presiding.

Prayer by Rev. Dr. Marshall, rector of Christ church.

Reading of Tuesday's Journal was dispensed with.

Reports of Standing Committees were made as follows:

Penal Institutions—By Davis, of Haywood.

Engrossed Bills—By Oliver, of Robeson; Brown, of Stanly.

Corporations—By Gilliam, of Edgecombe; Thompson, of Onslow; Foushee, of Durham.

Cities and Towns—By Gattis, of Orange; Gilliam, of Edgecombe.

Proposition and Grievances—By Ray, of Macon.

Salaries and Fees—By Brown, of Johnston; Currie, of Moore.

Banks—By Leak, of Anson.

Judiciary—By Carroll, of Alamance.

Public Health—By Reeves, of Ashe.

Finance—By Edelman, of Iredell.

Among the fifteen bills passed on second and third readings were:

To amend section 2301 of the Code, by providing that the Legislature and not the Board of Public Buildings and Grounds shall appoint the Keeper of the Capitol.

To ratify the consolidation of the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta, and the Cheraw and Darlington and other railways, as the Atlantic Coast

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Line Road of South Carolina, and to incorporate said road in North Carolina. To amend the charter of Beaufort, giving a mayor and eight commissioners. To amend the charter of Elizabeth City.

To repeal the charter of Newbern, appointing five trustees, who will take charge of all property, etc., which is held by said city, the trustees being Wm. Dunn, G. H. Roberts, L. H. Corder, R. K. Jones and T. A. Greene, the act to take effect seven days after its ratification.

Of the less than a dozen petitions presented, none were of more than local interest.

Among the twenty-nine new bills were the following:

By Hart, of Edgecombe: To make \$25,000 annual appropriation for the State Guard, and making it of three regiments of twelve companies each. (Besides the Naval Reserves and Artillery detachment.)

By Holman, of Iredell: To remedy the conflict in dates of court in Iredell and Randolph counties, so as to make Iredell court fall on the first Monday in December.

By Powell, of Wake: To protect hotels and boarding houses by forbidding transient guests from taking away their trunks or other baggage before they pay their bills, or give proper security for payment.

By Julian, of Rowan: To amend section 872 of the Code relative to service of process, so that in case of debt process can be served through a magistrate in the creditor's county, and debtor be brought to trial in such county if he resides in another.

By Patterson, of Caldwell: To promote the dairy interests of the State by appropriating \$500 to pay the expenses of an annual meeting of the State Dairy Association.

By H. B. 828, Act to amend chapter 2, Private Laws of 1874 and 1875, in regard to the Bank of Reidsville. By Lane, of Rockingham. Committee on Banks.

H. B. 829, Act to pay Samantha Lyon, a teacher in the public schools of Wilkes county. By Sharp, of Wilkes. Committee on Education.

H. B. 830, Act in relation to Joseph C. Waters, a Confederate veteran of Mecklenburg county. By Henderson, of Mecklenburg. Committee on Pensions.

H. B. 831, S. B. 211, Act to amend chapter 340, Private Laws of 1895, relating to the charter of Jonesboro. Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

H. B. 832, S. B. 212, Act to incorporate the town of Mt. Gilead, in Montgomery county. Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

H. B. 833, S. B. 218, Act to re-enact chapter 93, Private Laws of 1889, incorporating the "Bank of Madison," in Rockingham county. Committee on Banks.

H. B. 834, S. B. 295, Act to pay Mrs. R. E. Full \$21.25 direct land tax. Committee on Finance.

H. B. 835, S. B. 298, Act to allow Greensboro to issue bonds. Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

H. B. 836, S. B. 394, Act to incorporate the Thompson Institute, Robeson county. Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

H. B. 837, S. B. 396, Act to re-enact an act to extend the charter of the Youngsville and Reidsville Railroad. Committee on Railroads.

H. B. 838, S. B. 320, Act to protect the Fries electric and power plant in Forsyth county. Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

H. B. 839, Act to incorporate the town of Oriental, in Pamlico county. By Dees, of Pamlico. Committee on Corporations.

H. B. 840, Act to repeal chapter 230, Private Laws of 1895, to compel timber-getters in Tyrrell county to establish their lines before cutting timber.

H. B. 841, Act to protect hotels and boarding houses. By Powell, of Wake. Committee on Judiciary.

H. B. 842, Act to amend section 872 of the Code, relative to the service of process. By Julian, of Rowan. Committee on Judiciary.

H. B. 843, Act to incorporate the town of Gibson, in Richmond county. By McLean and Wall, of Richmond. Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

H. B. 844, Act to repeal act creating a public school district for Rockingham, Richmond county. By Wall, of Richmond. On calendar.

H. B. 845, Act to charter the Moncure Manufacturing Company. By Wren, of Chatham. Committee on Corporations.

H. B. 846, Act to supplemental to an act to improve the roads of Anson county. By Leak, of Anson. Committee on Roads.

H. B. 847, Act to promote the dairy interests of the State. By Patterson, of Caldwell. Committee on Appropriations.

PASSED THIRD READING.

H. B. 620, S. B. 139, Act to repeal the charter of the city of Newbern.

H. B. 478, Act to confer jurisdiction of probate of deeds in certain cases.

H. B. 808, Act to amend section 2-301 of the Code, by putting the election of keeper of the capitol in the hands of the General Assembly.

H. B. 556, Joint resolution paying the expenses of the Dees-Paul contest (Dees, \$187.58, and Paul, \$98.55).

H. B. 444, Act to prohibit hunting, in Halifax county except by written consent of land-owner.

H. B. 476, Act to amend chapter 314, Public Laws of 1897, by substituting the county of "Pender" for "Duplin."

H. B. 479, Act for the government of the town of Beaufort.

H. B. 450, Joint resolution for payment of costs in the Sugg-Mitchell contest (Sugg, \$170.90).

H. B. 844, Act to repeal the act creating a public school district for Rockingham, Richmond county.

H. B. 490, Act to amend chapter 426, Public Laws of 1893, in regard to working of county convicts in Graham county.

REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

The Stuff From Which Laws Are to Be Made. Bills were reported from Standing Committees as follows: With recommendation "that they do pass": To regulate the probate of deeds and other instruments relating to the property examination of women. To allow the county of Greene to levy a special tax. To authorize the commissioners of Moore county to fund the county indebtedness. To incorporate the Pee Dee News Transit Company. To change the name of Levy Bank to Merchants and Planters Bank. To compel timber-getters in Tyrrell county to establish their lines before cutting timber. To prevent obstruction of Ward's creek and its tributaries in Cleveland county. To repeal the charter of the city of Newbern and all amendments thereto, and vest all the property of the city in five trustees. To establish the office of treasurer for Surry county. To incorporate the Raleigh Storage Warehouse Company. (Amended.) To regulate working of convicts and to establish county farms. (Substitute.) To incorporate the North Carolina and South Carolina Railroad Company. (Amended.) To repeal chapter 66 of the Code. (Substitute.) To authorize the commissioners of Clay county to borrow money, issue bonds and levy a special tax. To incorporate the town of North Breward. With recommendation "that they do pass": To exempt ex-Confederate soldiers from payment of the peddlers' tax. To relieve certain telephone companies. To pay State's witnesses, sheriffs and clerks in certain cases. To regulate fees of registers of deeds. To make an appropriation for Pickford Sanitarium at Southern Pines. To provide a financial committee for Stokes county. To relieve the tax collector of Buncombe county. To change the incorporation of the town of Elon.

THE DAY'S BUSINESS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED. Petition from the people of Washington county asking incorporation of the town of Creswell, by Yarborough, of Caswell. Committee on Propositions and Grievances. Petition from the people of Moore county asking incorporation of Red Sign Board School House and Needham's Grove Quaker church. By Currie, of Moore. Committee on Propositions and Grievances. Petition of citizens of Elizabeth City against removal of the colored normal school. By Leigh, of Pasquotank. Committee on Education. Petition from citizens of Lilesville for repeal of the Merchant's Purchase Tax. By Leak, of Anson. Committee on Finance. Petition from citizens of Camden county asking appointment of Henry C. Lamb as Shell Fish Commissioner. By Abbott, of Camden. Committee on Oysters. Petition asking amendment of chapter 77, Private Laws of 1883, charter-

ing the town of Mt. Pleasant. By Hart-

settlement for the incorporation of Bushy Fork Baptist and Bushy Fork Methodist churches and Mountain View church, in Ashe county. By Reeves, of Ashe. Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Petition of citizens of Elkin for repeal of the Merchants' Purchase Tax. By Hampton, of Surry. Committee on Finance.

Petitions of people of Henderson county for incorporation of Cross Roads Baptist church, Oak Grove Baptist church, Refuge Baptist church, Upward Episcopal church and Gallamore School House. By Craig, of Buncombe. Committee on Propositions and Grievances.