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LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

A History-Making Day SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT PASSED HOUSE BY OVER THREE-FIFTHS MAJORITY. Amid Applause, With Galleries and Lobbies Crowded With Interested Spectators, It Passed Both Readings—Great Speeches by Rountree and Winston.

It was a history-making day—yesterday in the House. A radical change was wrought in the organic law of the State, so far as the House can make such a change. The suffrage amendment to the Constitution was passed by more than the required three-fifths vote. Many have been the years since those gray historic walls have witnessed such a scene as they saw yesterday. Lobbies and galleries were crowded and there was a nervous quiet upon the floor. One need not have been told that the most important business of the entire session was about to be transacted. It was just 11:55 when Mr. Rountree, of New Hanover, called attention to the fact that the time for the special order—the Suffrage Amendment Bill—had arrived. The bill, with the report of the committee thereon, was read by Mr. Winston, of Bertie. Though the bill had been thoroughly considered in caucus, the debate on it yesterday lasted for nearly three hours. Speeches were made by Messrs. Rountree and Winston, for the bill; and by Hampton, Smith, (col.), Eaton, (col.), Wright, (col.), and Williams of Graham, all Republicans, against it. Mr. Rountree's speech was an eloquent presentation of the conditions that lead to the drafting of the amendment and now compelled its adoption. He explained the provisions of the bill in detail, the reason for each and discussed in learned and convincing manner the legal questions involved. Altogether Mr. Rountree's speech was one of the most able and powerful that has been delivered in the House this session. As for Mr. Winston's speech, more eloquence could hardly have been crowded into the brief five minutes allowed him. He realized fully the importance of the occasion and rose equal to it in every particular. Almost everyone of his terse, epigrammatic sentences were applauded. In the speeches of the three colored members—Smith, Eaton and Wright—there was a touch of pathos. For the short comings of their race, which they acknowledged, there could be but sorrow; for their services as slaves, and as freemen, appreciation; and for their hopes and aspirations, sympathy. But above it all stood the argument of their having been tried for 30 years and found wanting. As the debate proceeded the feeling became dramatic, until one could, during the roll-call, easily have imagined himself in a political convention where a contest hot and close was being waged. There were a number of prominent Democrats who had manifested a doubt as to how they would vote. There was, therefore, some fear of the result, though the required 73 were pledged to stand by the amendment. When one of these doubtful members voted for the amendment he was wildly applauded by the Democrats. If he voted against it he won applause from the Republican side. But when the three Populist members—Crumpler, Tarkenton and Johnson, of Sampson—voted for the amendment, the applause was long and deafening, shouts and yells being added to the hand-clapping. The vote on the second reading was 79 to 29 and on the third reading it was 81 to 27. Messrs. Patterson, of Caldwell, and Reeves, of Ashe, who did not vote on the second reading voted on the third, increasing the vote to 81. Messrs. Fleming and Currie, of Moore, who voted against the bill on second reading were refrained from voting on the third, cutting the negative vote down to 27. The bill was sent over to the Senate without engrossment and will probably come up for passage by that body today. The first to speak upon the bill in the House yesterday was Mr. Rountree. The bill before the House was, he said, a substitute for the original Winston bill, prepared by the committee. "Not, however, without earnest study of conditions and many concessions. It is, as all such instruments are, a compromise measure. But it is a measure approved by all the members of the committee, by all the lawyers of this body and by those outside of this House who have examined it. "It is, in short, a just, legal and effective measure for securing to North Carolina the blessings of good government for many years to come. In the early years of this young republic, under the enthusiasm caught from the French republic, men dreamed of a political millennium based upon universal suffrage. For awhile it did seem as if some day that dream might blossom into reality. But thirty years ago and more, the negro was enfranchised. No doubt many of those who assisted in this thought they were doing right. But

tion of servitude? It does, and this bill was drawn with that amendment in view. "The bill does not discriminate against the black man. It is not intended to disfranchise the negro as a class—only those negroes that are guilty, by reason of their ignorance of crime, for exercising the duties of citizenship and exercising them wisely. Touching this very point the United States Supreme court, passing upon the Mississippi suffrage law, has said: [Wilmington vs. Mississippi U. S. Rep. 1791] "Within the field of permissible action under the limitations imposed by the Federal Constitution, the convention swept the field of expedients, to obstruct the exercise of suffrage by the negro race. By reason of its previous condition of servitude and dependencies, this race had acquired no habits of temperance, and of character, which clearly distinguished it as a race from the white. A patient, docile people; but careless, landless, migratory within narrow limits, without foresight; and its criminal members given to futile offences, rather than to the robustness of the whites. Restrained by the Federal Constitution from discriminating against the negro race, the convention discriminates against the negro race, the convention discriminates against its characteristics, and the offences to which its criminal members are prone. If weakness were to be taken advantage of, it was to be done 'within the field of permissible action under the limitations imposed by the Federal Constitution,' and the means of it were the alleged characteristics of the negro race, not the administration of the law by officers of the State. Besides, descendants of free negroes who could be laws is not limited by their language or effect to one race. "There is just then no discrimination against a race as a race; and in this amendment there is none. Under it all the negroes would not be disfranchised. The bill would not be disfranchised. And on the other hand white people born in other countries—foreigners—who cannot read and write can not vote. "But all white people living in North Carolina can vote, whether they be able to read and write or not. The ignorant white man and the ignorant colored man are capable of voting as you and I." Mr. Rountree read from the Constitution of Massachusetts, which State has an educational qualification, except that the descendants of all persons who could vote on May 1st, 1857, can vote. "There is not the slightest least drawn in principle between the law and the one we now have under consideration. Ours is to protect us against ignorant negroes. The Massachusetts law is to protect that State from ignorant foreigners. "The law proposed for adoption here today is modeled after the Louisiana law, which is said to have been drawn by that distinguished jurist Thomas J. Sims. It may not be all we desire, but it will be effectual. It will guarantee to North Carolina for many years to come a decent government. It is founded on conditions and principle. It does the white race justice and it does the negro no injustice. "A perfect whirlwind of applause, lasting nearly a minute, greeted the conclusion of Mr. Rountree's speech which had been delivered with powerful effect. He was followed by Isaac Smith, of Craven. Isaac, of course, spoke in behalf of his race. "Of all said thoughts, to him the saddest was that the very people whom he had held up to his race as their best friend were now about to disfranchise them. The negro, he said, regarded the right to vote as the dearest thing on earth. "He regards the ballot as the one thing in life worth having above all others. And now it is said that he's about to have it taken away. It comes down hard on this weak race. We have been slaves once and we know what it means to be free. We have been denied the rights of freedom, and now the enjoyment of those rights is sweet. "To me this is the most serious thing on earth. I ask you most kindly to consider well what you are about to do. Take away from the colored man this privilege and he will never again consider you his friend. "I tell you in four years from now you'll want to reconsider today's action, and can't. I don't know much about law, but I wouldn't give my judgment of the future for all law. (Laughter.) "I can tell you now who'll be the next President as good as after he's elected (Laughter.) "I wish, however, to address myself on the law. (Laughter.) "You may laugh, but this is a very sad thing to me, gentlemen, very sad. It's no laughing matter. "You say this law don't discriminate against the negro. Why your Democratic paper says right along it's for that and I'd swear it and sign it. You know it's done for that and you'll swear it and sign it. Is it possible then that a judge wouldn't decide it that way? "You say it's not done for that? Then bless your sweet souls, what's it done for? Not for your race certainly. "You give the white race nine years before you let the reading and writing strike them. Why don't you give my race the same time. You don't give the colored race no grace at all. Now ain't that discrimination? (Laughter.) "A Democrat paper says the negroes ain't taking no interest much in this thing and the white Republicans ain't taking none. 'Don't you know why? They know it will put you in a hole. I know it will and I tell you so. You know I've always been your friend. (Laughter.) "Somebody said the other day it wouldn't disfranchise me. But it will do it in effect and I'll prove it to you. Suppose there's a bank with ten directors and you pass a law making nine of them withdraw, don't that break up the business. (Laughter.) "This law don't get the young negro that is so obnoxious to you. It cuts out of his vote the old colored man that has served you, and cared for you; yes, and loved you." Isaac argued that the Democrats

THE FRENCH SITUATION M. Emile Loubet is the Favorite Candidate. FOR THE PRESIDENCY HE WOULD GAIN FRIENDSHIP OF EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNS. THE DEAD PRESIDENT LIES IN STATE Telegrams of Sympathy Pour in From All Parts of the Globe. Public Events Take a Dramatic Turn. The Death Scene. (Copyright 1899 by Associated Press.) Paris, Feb. 17.—Everything is very quiet in Paris tonight. There is no danger of a coup d'etat. The favorite candidate for the Presidency is M. Emile Loubet, now President of the Senate. Still the Ministers whom I saw today think Mr. Faure's death is a misfortune at the present juncture, and this is the conventional talk. They had all looked forward to his having soon to resign; and they spoke today of the possible effect of his death on the courts of Europe. If M. Loubet is elected, European sovereigns would soon transfer to him their friendly regards. He is a good unaffected, level headed man, of honest open life and far more intellectual culture than poor Faure. He is an advocate and practiced at the Montlieux Bar, in the Department of Drome. Montlieux is his native town. As a precaution against a coup d'etat, or any attempt to the sort, the troops have been ordered to sleep within barracks in all the garrison. M. Faure's body, now embalmed, is lying in state in the Salle des Fetes of the theatre built by President Carnot for concerts and dramatic entertainments. The body is dressed in an evening coat and the immaculate, well known white waistcoat, which is the broad red ribbon of watered silk of the Legion of Honor. The eyes are closed and fill out the lids. A black canopy, bordered with silver braid, overshadows the couch. Before the body was placed, in the most solemn manner, a white shroud, which was long as possible. She thanked the priest for rendering the last offices to a Christian and said that before the President lost consciousness he had prayed for forgiveness of all whom he might have offended. "His tongue was paralyzed as he spoke," she said, and the poor man have lost in his death a good friend. At her request some prayers were recited by the Abbe, who was profoundly affected by the whole scene. The German Emperor's telegram is offensive. Dowager Queen Emma and Prince William of Prussia, the Netherlands have telegraphed heart-felt condolence. Queen Victoria as yet has made no signs, but Lord Salisbury has, in a message to M. Delcasse. The Czar and Czarina are full of sympathy; and the Russian Grand Dukes now in Paris have said at the palace. M. Faure's death has calmed rather than excited political parties. The situation is grave and the people everywhere feel this. I was struck at the chamber of deputies today with the absence of wild excitement. The wish is to select the best man for President, irrespective of party considerations. M. Loubet is therefore the favorite. M. Dupuy is a candidate; and Paul Deschanel, the president of the chamber, will be a candidate, but on second ballot. He has a charm of manner, but is lacking in weight. M. De Froed, the War Minister, is clever; but he has no great following in Parliament. FOR THE PRESIDENCY. Paris, Feb. 17.—Although M. Loubet, possessing the almost unanimous support of the Senate, is so strong a favorite for the Presidency, it would be rash to predict his election. In the election of 1895, when M. Faure was chosen, M. Waldeck-Rousseau was an almost equally favorite; but in the first ballot he only obtained 185 votes against 314 cast in favor of M. Brisson. The precedents, therefore, are unfavorable to M. Loubet. Furthermore there is a large section of Deputies who are strongly in favor of M. Meline. When, at the meeting of Progressive Republican Deputies today, M. Meline announced his withdrawal on the ground that a continuance of his candidature would divide his party and perhaps cause its defeat, a noisy discussion followed. A large section firmly opposed the withdrawal. Unable to arrive at a unanimous decision, the group adjourned until tonight when it reassembled at half past nine. Resolutions were then adopted unanimously in favor of Meline's candidature and the leaders of the party in the chamber were directed to endeavor to arrange an understanding on the subject with its leader in the Senate. Apparently, as the result of this decision, there will be three candidates—Loubet, Meline and Dupuy. Meline has the support of the whole right section and of the large body of protectionists. He is an able debater a hard worker and man of great political influence and on the Dreyfus question he is anti-revisionist. It is also reported that the Vatican has decided to support M. Meline's candidature. Contracted with him M. Loubet is a (Continued on Second Page.)

his appetite. It was then he began to feel so limp in the legs that he feared to ride on horseback. Yesterday the sense of limppiness was so distressing that he gave up the idea of a center in the Bois de Boulogne. He usually went there between eight and ten in the morning, mounted on a thoroughbred. He was fond of going to small morning reviews at Longchamps and of taking up a position beside the reviewing general. I have been to see the Abbe Renault, who gave M. Faure absolution in a shop in the Faubourg Street Honore. The death was hastening, begged that messengers should be sent to see different priests and a dominican. All the priests, she thought, would be out dining, the dominican would surely be at his monastery. She also begged that, if any messenger met a priest in the street, he should bring him at once to the Elysee. Abbe Renault is the humblest of the humble, being chaplain to the House of Detention, or lockup, at the Prefecture of Police. Yesterday he had dined with some relatives who have a small shop in the Faubourg Street Honore. After dinner he was going home when suddenly a soldier on a bicycle came up, descended from the machine and caught him with visible agitation by the arm, saying, "Come with me." Father Renault went, and only learned where he was going at the palace gate. There the soldier said: "The President is dying. Do what you can for him. He is not a bad chap." At the door a porter met the Abbe and conducted him to the sitting room. The President was lying on a mattress upon the floor. He was in a flannel shirt and covered with draperies—his feet were wrapped in steaming flannels, his nostrils assailed with the mingled smells of mustard and ether and blood flowing from his temples, neck and forehead, for leeches, cupping, hypodermic injections and bleeding had been tried. The face was almost black from congestion. One doctor had drawn the tongue to keep the lungs alive; another held a bag of oxygen to the nose, a third was rubbing the hands. But no sign of returning animation was given. Dr. Lanne-Longue said: "We have done all we can. Let religion to console the now comatose patient." The Abbe dropped on his knees, all present doing likewise and gave absolution in extremis. He had no holy oil to administer extreme unction. In the next room the ladies were sobbing. The ministers came in and dropped on their knees. As the clock on the mantelpiece struck ten, the doctor said: "All is over." Some persons went into the next room to inform Mme. Faure and her daughters. She soon came out, and with great composure, as if her grief were suddenly hushed, ordered that the body be placed on the President's bier and that the doctor be called. She was long as possible. She thanked the priest for rendering the last offices to a Christian and said that before the President lost consciousness he had prayed for forgiveness of all whom he might have offended. "His tongue was paralyzed as he spoke," she said, and the poor man have lost in his death a good friend. At her request some prayers were recited by the Abbe, who was profoundly affected by the whole scene. The German Emperor's telegram is offensive. Dowager Queen Emma and Prince William of Prussia, the Netherlands have telegraphed heart-felt condolence. Queen Victoria as yet has made no signs, but Lord Salisbury has, in a message to M. Delcasse. The Czar and Czarina are full of sympathy; and the Russian Grand Dukes now in Paris have said at the palace. M. Faure's death has calmed rather than excited political parties. The situation is grave and the people everywhere feel this. I was struck at the chamber of deputies today with the absence of wild excitement. 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Strong for Gold Standard THE PRESIDENT SAYS THE COUNTRY IS COMMITTED TO IT. He Recommends That Veterans of the Spanish American War be Admitted to the G. A. R.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 17.—The last day of President McKinley's visit to Boston was spent in a continual round of pleasure, and the different events which were crowded into the few remaining hours followed each other with bewildering rapidity. The President arose and breakfasted at 9 o'clock and at 10 o'clock was en route to Tremont Temple, where he spoke to the members of the Massachusetts Department of the G. A. R., who were assembled in annual convention. During his remarks he suggested that veterans of the Spanish-American War be admitted to the Grand Army of the Republic. Immediately following this carriage were taken for the State house, where the President visited the Legislature in joint session and made an inspiring address. Here also Secretary Long created much amusement by his wit-cisms and his allusions to the time when he wielded the gavel as speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. During his speech the President said: "We may regard the situation before us as a burden or as an opportunity; but whether the one or the other, it is honest and conscience and civilization require us to meet it bravely. Desertion of duty is not an American habit. It was not the custom of the fathers and will not be the practice of their sons." After a short reception the Presidential party was taken on a tour through the subway and thence to the Algonquin Club, where a breakfast was tendered to the gentlemen by the members of the Commercial Club, composed of the principal business and professional men of the city of Boston. The President made a short address in the course of which he said: "We are fast going from a debtor to a creditor nation. I hope nothing will check it. We have cut discussing the tariff and have turned our attention to getting trade wherever it can be found. It will be a long time before any change can be had or any change desired in our present fiscal policy except to strengthen it. The differences on this question which existed have disappeared. We have turned from academic theories to trade conditions and are seeking our share of the world's markets. "Not only is our business good, but our most important industry is no longer fear of decreased currency; it has been happily dispelled. The highest

DULL DAY IN SENATE. Sympathy With the People of France—Alaska Code Bill.

Washington, Feb. 17.—At its session today the Senate adopted a resolution instructing the Vice President of the United States, as President of the Senate, to express to the Government and the people of France the sympathy of the Senate in the bereavement that has fallen upon the French Republic in the death of President Faure. The naval personnel bill for which the Navy Department has been contending for so many years, was passed by the Senate this afternoon. It was under discussion for several hours, but was passed practically in the form in which it was reported by the Senate Committee. Its provisions have heretofore been fully given. The remainder of the day's session was devoted to the passage of bills on the private pension calendar, 74 in number, and to the reading of the Alaska Code Bill. The agreement under which the Alaska Bill was read provided that no other business than the formal reading should be transacted. Mr. Tillman presented to the Senate a letter from Octavins A. White, of New York City, offering to the Senate three notable paintings of Revolutionary War scenes by Mr. White's father. Mr. Tillman said he had referred the matter to the Committee on Library of the Senate, which had considered the subject. The paintings had been sent to this city and were pronounced to be really works of art. Mr. Hansbrough, acting chairman of the Library Committee, offered a resolution accepting the paintings and providing for suitably hanging them in the Senate wing of the capitol. The resolution was adopted. Among the bills passed was one granting authority to the Pensacola and Northwestern Railroad Company to build bridges over certain rivers in Alabama. Mr. Hawley, chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, gave notice that on Monday at the close of routine business, he would move to take up the army appropriation bill. The Senate adjourned at 6:15 p. m. SENATORIAL DEADLOCKS. Washington, Feb. 17.—No material changes were reported today from the several States in which Senatorial contests are being waged. The deadlock in none of them shows any signs of being broken.

EMBALMED BEEF INQUIRY. The Taking of Testimony Will Begin Monday.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The court of inquiry to investigate the allegations of the Major General's report of the quality of the beef furnished the army during the war with Spain met today at the rooms formerly occupied by the war investigation commission in the Lemon Building. A full membership was present and the court went into session to discuss the preliminaries of the proceedings, and to conduct a sketch out the line of inquiry to be pursued. At 1 o'clock Colonel Davis the recorder gave out a statement as to the court and its work. Today and probably all of tomorrow he said, will be occupied with an examination of reports of regimental and other commanders who participated in the Cuban and Porto Rico campaigns, the object being to select witnesses to be summoned. In addition to these reports the proceedings of the war investigation commission will be looked to for suggestions of witnesses to be summoned. The taking of testimony hardly will begin before Monday. The sessions then will be open. General Miles it is expected to testify first, presenting his charges and their foundations. The investigation will be limited strictly to canned roast beef and refrigerated, but the scope of the inquiry will be so comprehensive as to follow the beef from Packer's to private soldier, so that the action of the packers and all war department officials connected with the beef supply will be investigated. Colonel Davis said the inquiry would continue indefinitely and he could give no idea as to the time of its termination. Speaking further of the investigation and probable testimony, Colonel Davis said the court was not limited in its sittings to Washington but under the order conveying it could travel from place to place. This statement is considered significant, for while the court has announced no determination to go elsewhere, there is a possibility that it will visit the Chicago and South Omaha packing houses where the beef in question was prepared. The list of witnesses will include many civilians as well as army officers. Suggestions as to witnesses from any quarter, Colonel Davis said, would be considered and all would be summoned who it might seem likely would throw any light upon the controversy. It was learned this afternoon that the court has practically determined to visit the packing houses in Western cities, Chicago, South Omaha, Kansas City and perhaps St. Louis.