The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1883.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE LEGISLATURE will adjourn on next Monday, its work will pass into history, and its members will return to their constituents and give an account of their stewardship. Our legislators will soon lose their importance and be merged in the common herd of humanity. The present Legislature is in no way remarkable, does not deserve unusual praise, nor should receive unusual censure. There have been Legislatures superior to this, and there have also been Legislatures inferior to this. All Legislatures receive their full share of criticism and censure, and this one will be no exception. Its members will be blamed for doing what they have done and also for not doing what they should have done. It is impossible to please or satisfy everybody. Although the members seem to have been industrious and busily engaged, yet all the important work of the session is crowded into its closing days. After the adjournment, and their work is completed, we will be better enabled to pass judgment on their acts.

The Senate seems to have become alarmed at the passage of the bill providing for the erection of a residence for the Governor, and by a very decisive vote has passed a supplemental bill forbidding any work to be done until after the meeting of the next Legislature. A sudden change has "come o'er the spirit of their dream." That body has also refused to pass the bill providing for the erection of suitable rooms for the Supreme Court and State Library. The House defeated by a large majority the bill to appropriate a certain sum to every company of the State Guard, and our military friends are very indignant thereat. The Senate also defeated the bill to extend aid to the State Board of Health. This Legislature is determined not to be extravagant, and persistently refuses to make any appropriation of the public funds, that is not absolutely necessary. For this the tax-payers are not apt to censure them.

Greatly to their own surprise as well as to the surprise of everybody else, our senators tabled the bill to create a Railroad Commission. We think this was done rather petulantly by certain senators who could not get the bill that they wanted, and the people will hold them to a strict accountability therefor. This Legislature was expected to establish a Railroad Commission, and if the action of the Senate is not reconsidered and some sort of a bill passed there will be a howl raised throughout the State. We are pleased to know that the senator from this county voted in favor of the bill, and therein he certainly represented the wishes of his constituents. While we do not think that the establishment of a Railroad Commission would or could do all that is expected of it, yet it would do much good and be of great benefit to the people of North Carolina, just as other Railroad Commissions have benefited the citizens of other States. As we supposed, the committee have at last reported in favor of seating Parker, as the representative from Northampton county, in the place of Peebles, to whom the certificate of election had been given. We presume the House has, by this time, acted on the report and given Parker his seat which another man has been wrongfully occupying all the session. We regret that the matter could not have been decided earlier in the session, instead of now at its close. It is following too closely the bad examples set us by the republicans in Congress.

The House has passed a bill by which any township in Wake county can adopt the no-fence law upon the petition of a majority of the voters therein. Quite a number of counties have applied for the benefits of the no-fence law, and several bills have passed to establish this law in different counties, showing its increasing popularity.

The Committee on redistricting the State has reported a bill that will probably pass. As stated by us last week, the only change in this (the Fourth) district will be the substitution of Alamance for Granville. The greatest changes will be in the Sixth and Seventh districts. The new Sixth district will be composed of New Hanover, Brunswick, Columbus, Robeson, Richmond, Anson, Union, Stanly, Cabarrus and Mecklenburg; and the Seventh district will be Montgomery, Randolph, Davidson, Davie, Yadkin, Rowan, Iredell and Catawba.

The House has passed by a large majority the bill that had already passed the Senate in regard to the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railroad, and we are pleased to learn that it is the intention of the syndicate to push work vigorously, so as to have the cars running through from Fayetteville to Greensboro before next Christmas. We bid our friends along the route to cheer up, for there seems to be now a reasonable certainty that their long deferred hopes will soon be realized, and this great work of internal improvement be at last constructed. We wish that there were as strong hopes of an early extension of the Midland road to Salisbury.

Mr. Dortch is one of the few Legislators who refuses a free pass from the railroad companies, and he has introduced a bill into the senate to forbid the issuing of free passes to legislators, judges and other officials. We hardly think his bill will become a law.

THE FORTY-SEVENTH Congress will expire, by constitutional limitation, at twelve o'clock M. on next Sunday, and nobody will regret it. This body has covered itself with disgrace and received such a rebuke at the last election as will deter future Congresses from following its example. The House came into existence with a large republican majority, but has acted in such a manner as to make the people take away their power and elect a House with an overwhelming democratic majority. Notwithstanding the popular demand for a reduction of taxation, in which event the President joined, and although there is such a large surplus or excess of receipts over expenditures, yet this Congress with a republican majority in both houses has persistently refused to relieve the people and continues a burden that is not only oppressive but is needless. It is full time that such a Congress was stepping down and out.

During this last week the Senate has remained over-crowded with business cases to be disposed of by the House of Representatives, in all of which the Electoral Committee have recommended that the contestants be seated. This seems almost incredible and yet is a sad truth, and is a disgrace upon the nation that tolerates such injustice!

Our Raleigh Letter.

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 27, 1883.

DEAR RECORD: The Legislature has decided to adjourn next Monday, March 5th. That honorable body is still over which to possess itself and dispatching business now at a very rapid rate, and that is a good manner. They reached the Code like a dog hunts bees on Wednesday, and a way of flapping legislative Mr. Clarke, of Craven, as the representative republican Senator needed upon reading the entire bill. After much discussion and many points of order the clerks began the reading with relish. After reading an hour or two Mr. Sutton, liberal from Lenoir, arose and said he was sent here to represent farmers and mechanics and he could not support the bill. He said he would be pleased to see his colleague with Mr. Speaker. Before he sat down Mr. Winston, of Wilkes, moved to lay the bill on the table. Mr. Winston's motion was carried by a vote of 26 to 24. Mr. Speaker then announced that the bill was defeated by the action of twelve of the democratic members. Mr. Winston's motion was carried by a vote of 26 to 24. Mr. Speaker then announced that the bill was defeated by the action of twelve of the democratic members.

Our Washington Letter.

(From our regular correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24, 1883.

Since it became evident some time ago that the house neither could or would pass a tariff bill all eyes have been turned upon the senate. It was felt that no change in the tariff was likely to take place at the present session unless through the action of that body. Two weeks since the senate took up the bill which it had been debating for months in the committee of the whole, and it was announced that rapid work would be made with it. The discussion in committee had been very thorough, and in many respects a more liberal bill had been secured than was reported by the finance committee. There was a general impression that the senate, yielding to the pro-tariff executive public demand, was willing to make at least a commencement of substantial reform in the fiscal system which now weighs so heavily on the industries and resources of the country. But when the bill came out of the committee of the whole it was taken in hand by another committee, not known to the country at large, not appointed by the senate, not responsive to the people, and yet more influential than the people's representatives, and more powerful, for the time being, than the people themselves. This committee consisted of the lobby of the favored manufacturers, and particularly of the iron and steel interests. They were not satisfied with the bill. They pass orders that it should not be passed unless it could be changed to suit them. Under their direction senators from various parts of the country mutilated the bill, and proposed its modifications, and two weeks have been consumed in enabling the representatives of private interests, while the great body of the people have waited impatient at the delay, which threatens the continuance of the burdens for another year. To-day the bill has passed with the mutilations, and we presume some morning what the house will do with it.

There is every indication that the new senate will have a session immediately after the adjournment of the present Congress. What a beautiful array of senators the far west now presents. Bowen for example, and Jones and Miller and Stanford and Sabin and a few others. I looked and suggested Jones not long that some real money could be got out of the treasury on the heads of mill certificates from the United but Senator Chet Sabin will like his seat under the firm conviction in the minds of his steady-going brother senators that he got there by selling out to Mr. Mark H. Dalton. Mr. Dalton is effective with a voting combination that calls many offices ready, he would like the speaker and dispatching business now at a very rapid rate, and that is a good manner. They reached the Code like a dog hunts bees on Wednesday, and a way of flapping legislative Mr. Clarke, of Craven, as the representative republican Senator needed upon reading the entire bill. After much discussion and many points of order the clerks began the reading with relish. After reading an hour or two Mr. Sutton, liberal from Lenoir, arose and said he was sent here to represent farmers and mechanics and he could not support the bill. He said he would be pleased to see his colleague with Mr. Speaker. Before he sat down Mr. Winston, of Wilkes, moved to lay the bill on the table. Mr. Winston's motion was carried by a vote of 26 to 24. Mr. Speaker then announced that the bill was defeated by the action of twelve of the democratic members.

The Western Floods.

In order that our readers may have a modicum of the destruction and suffering caused by the recent floods in the West, we copy the following from the New York Herald:

The waters have now receded from the flooded districts in the valleys of the Ohio and Wabash rivers, and something like an adequate idea can be formed of the damage done. At Lawrenceburg about six hundred houses were either destroyed or so wrecked as to be uninhabitable and 4,000 people are homeless and destitute, dependent upon charity for support. Every boat on sale in the city is absolutely rented, and during the past ten days men who have been employed as prospectors and level-headed business men have been compelled to call upon the relief committees for food for their families. Down the river for 150 miles the country is devastated to a width of three or four miles. Fences, sheds, barns and houses are swept away. The farmers have lost all their stock and agricultural products. Their property is greatly damaged, and it will take them years to restore their property to the condition it was before the flood. At Madison, Indiana, not much over $200,000, and the wave fell generally upon the manufactories, although the residences were either inundated or swept away.

At Jeffersonville the destruction was most appalling. Every one of 9,000 inhabitants was completely submerged to an average depth of twelve feet. The people were fortunate to escape with their lives, but in no case was their personal property saved. The stock of every business house was ruined, as far as water could do it. The suffering here was the greatest the people was terrible. All usual laboring men, mostly with families, not employed, are thrown out of employment for months to come, for their houses and household goods are ruined. Out of the government employés here, who have been receiving here and nearly five hundred soldiers' widows who were employed as seamstresses in making clothing were rendered homeless. The widows in subsisting themselves and children by their needles, and the loss of their machines and tools has fallen very heavily upon them. The force of the waters as they swept in from the Ohio.

Two miles below Jeffersonville the appearance of Charleston was such as to cause one to think the body of water covered the whole country, the houses on the hill only being visible, a thriving business town, second to only the state. At New Amsterdam the loss of property is estimated at $100,000, and 200 horses were taken from their stables and carried over the river. Further down the damage was more extensive. At English, Lewis county, the seat of Crawford county, was almost destroyed. Of the following county between Jeffersonville and New Amsterdam the loss is as follows:

Jeffersonville	$ 425,000
New Albany	700,000
Madison	200,000
Aurora	150,000
Intervening country	300,000
Total	$ 1,775,000

At Jeffersonville there are many people without a place. At New Albany, Carnival at Shipp & Matson's lofty, at Aurora 500, at Lawrenceburg nearly 1,000, and in the intervening country 2,500, a total for the whole of about 21,000.

When these facts are taken into consideration it will be seen that the appropriation of $1,000,000 asked for is not at all unreasonable, and it is to be hoped that Congress will not delay action upon it.

A Receiver Appointed.

From the News and Observer.

In the suit brought by the A. & N. C. R. R. Company against Mr. Best and the Midland N. C. R. R. Company, alleging that the lease has been broken and forfeited and in which application has been made for a receiver of the leased railroad, Judge Phillips yesterday announced his decision that a receiver ought to be appointed, and that he would make the appointment. This is, we suppose, the beginning of the end of Mr. Best.

The judgment requires that the receiver shall enter into a bond of $100,000. He is to take possession of all the property, rights and franchises of the road, with power to manage, control and exercise all franchises; to prosecute suits brought by said road, and to defend suits brought against it.

It requires the Midland N. C. R. R. Co. to immediately deliver and transfer to the receiver all property belonging to the A. & N. C. R. R.

The receiver is to ascertain by means of a skilled expert or experts the true condition of the property, and report the same to this court within 30 days after he shall have received possession thereof.

He is authorized to expend the necessary amount to put the rolling stock, motive power, road-bed, &c., in such order as to facilitate the dispatch of the trains, &c.

He is to make to this court quarterly reports of all his acts and doings under this judgment, keeping full and accurate accounts of all the business and transactions of the said road.

He shall, from time to time, as occasion may arise, have power to apply to this court for further orders in the premises.

A Brutal Mother.

From the Charlotte Journal.

In a rear room at Mrs. Brown, the wife of James Brown, living on the farm of Maj. J. G. Hood, near Davidson, College, almost a mile from Davidson, College, almost a mile from Davidson, College, almost a mile from