The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1890.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE SENATE of the United States is making itself ridiculous and the laughing-stock to all intelligent persons by its ludicrous attempts to preserve the secrets of its executive sessions. It is a fictitious supposition that the proceedings of the Senate when in executive session are secret, and are known only to the Senators themselves. And yet by some means these proceedings become known and are telegraphed all over the country, and are published with as much regularity and accuracy as the proceedings of the open sessions. The Senate having determined to stop this has appointed a special "smelling" committee, for the purpose of finding out how their secrets are divulged and stopping the leaks. Accordingly several newspaper correspondents have been brought before the committee and questioned as to the sources of their information, and all of them refused to answer. Thereupon the committee reared back on its dignity and threatened to punish these contumacious correspondents.

The most amusing feature of this comedy is the fact that at every session of this committee, whose proceedings are supposed to be strictly secret, all that is said or done is that night telegraphed all over the United States. The idea of the United States Senate trying to evade the vigilance of newspaper reporters!

THE SQUABBLE among the republicans over the appointment of the postmaster at Raleigh has at last been decided, and Col. Shaffer is the victor. This is another verification of a statement made to us by a prominent republican to the effect that the present national administration cared nothing for a Southern man, even if he is a republican, and that in the appointment to Southern offices a Northern republican is always preferred to a Southern one. This very forcible illustrates and proves the truth of the charge made by democrats, that the republican party is a sectional one and cares only for the people of the North. Col. Shaffer is a Northern man, was an officer in the Union army during the war, was appointed Register in Bankruptcy in 1867 and made quite a fortune out of that office. For several years past he has been unpopular with his party in Wake county, and although bitterly opposed by its leaders he has been appointed postmaster at Raleigh.

THE GRAND JURY of Davidson county refused, last week, to find a true bill against the men who had been bound over to court by Judge Philips for lynching Berrier. This was generally expected, for it was understood that the citizens of Davidson sympathized with the lynchers and opposed having them punished.

We have heard it intimated that the next Legislature will be asked to pass a law authorizing the grand jury of any county in a district, in which a lynching occurs, to indict the lynchers. As the law now stands a man can be indicted only in the county in which the offense is committed, and to change this would be a dangerous innovation, and yet in no other way does it seem possible to punish lynching.

THE HOUSE suits against the rail road companies have been decided against the plaintiff. Our readers will remember that last summer a man in Wake county, named Hodge, brought suits against forty railroad companies to recover from each the penalty of $500 for not making certain reports, as required by law. At Wake court last week Judge MacRae dismissed the suits, because in his opinion the suits must be brought in the name of the State and for its use, and not for any person who might sue for the penalty. He held that the State was the party injured, if anybody, and not Hodge or any other particular individual. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court.

WILMINGTON will celebrate, on the 26th and 27th of this month, the completion of the C. F. & Y. V. railroad. An excursion on those days will be given to the merchants residing along the line of that road, and Wilmington will entertain them with that refined and generous hospitality so characteristic of her citizens. A banquet will be given the excursionists, and also a trip to Carolina Beach and Wrightsville. It will no doubt be a most enjoyable occasion, and we advise everyone who receives an invitation, to be sure to accept it.

Our Washington Letter.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1890.

Senator Reagan uttered a sound truth, and one that is worthy of the most careful consideration when in opposing a bill to increase the pension of a general's widow to $100 a month, he said: "Instead of this Government being one of the people for the people and by the people, it is rapidly becoming a Government of the classes for the classes and by the classes". This is a true bill, there is entirely too much class legislation in this country, and it is on the increase all the time and it remains for the people to stop it. Now they have the power, but if the interference is delayed too long the classes will be stronger than the people.

Again there are whispers to the effect that the republicans will report no tariff bill this session because at the end of the session the Treasury surplus it is expected will have been turned into a deficiency. The rumor may possibly be true about no bill being reported, but it will be solely because the republican protectionists have not been able to throttle the demand for tariff reform among their republican colleagues. The very low free raw material is becoming a head one, particularly from the Eastern manufacturers. Within a week Senator Hale, who has been as pronounced a protectionist as Mr. Blaine, presented a long petition from New England manufacturers asking that raw materials used by them be admitted free of duty.

The first year of the Harrison administration has closed, and one naturally looks around to see what has been accomplished, and is compelled to answer nothing worthy of even a single line in the history of the country. The year has been devoted mostly to removing democrats from office and settling disputes among republicans as to which of them should be fed at the public crib.

The Senators are some of them talking of boycotting the newspaper men because they refuse to tell how they find out what is done in the alleged secret sessions. The Senate will do well to go very slow in this matter because there is a possibility that the newspapers of the country might retaliate by boycotting the Senate, and if they did the temperature would be pretty low in the room out of the Capitol building. The newspapers can exist without the Senate, but it is by no means certain that the Senate can exist without the newspapers.

Mr. Harrison has issued another lunkum proclamation warning all persons against illegally taking for hearing animals in Benrings sea. He issued a similar one soon after he entered office and the Canadian vessels seized under it and turned loose with prize crews of one man each made the United States the laughing stock of the world. The farce is presumably to be repeated this year.

It has been suggested by a prominent democrat that instead of consuming four days time in swearing a democrat, as was done by the House this week in the case of McCarty of Arkansas that the majority should get Speaker Reed to make a ruling compelling the House to vote as soon as the report of the committee on Elections is received. The result would be the same and it would save lots of time.

The members of the Texas Alamo Congress are to make a tour of the principal cities of the State and a committee of Congressmen, which it is thought will be all in April.

The public, after coming to the conclusion that the charges had been sustained, seem to have lost interest in the proceedings of the investigation of the Civil Service Commission. Siddy was the witness that settled things.

D. B. Bates, formerly Superintendent of the Baltimore Telegraph company and a representative of the Knights of Labor made arguments this week before the House committee on Post offices in favor of Wanamaker's postal telegraph scheme.

Some surprise was caused among democrats when ex-Governor Warmouth was confirmed by the Senate as Collector of the port of New Orleans by democratic votes. If the democrats had voted solidly against him his nomination would have been rejected.

Ex-Congressman Faulkner, who was shot at the Capitol by Corporation Counsel Kimball, is in a critical condition and his death is hourly expected.

Senator Barbour, of Virginia spoke for, and Senator Spooner against the Blair bill this week.

A naval court of inquiry will investigate the alleged cruelty of Capt. McCalla, of the U. S. S. Enterprise to his men.

The bill transferring the weather bureau to the War department has been favorably reported to the Senate.

Secretary Windom's silver letter is having a hard time in the hands of the House committee on coinage.

Killed With Morphine.

HENDERSON, N. C., March 8.—John L. Adams, a machinist about 56 years old, hailing from Pitt county, N. C., died yesterday at the Henderson Hotel in this place from the effects of an overdose of morphine, taken while recovering from a drunken spree. He was found in his room in a dying condition, when no local aid was at once given. He said he did not intend to kill himself, but took the morphine to quiet his nerves. He was in the habit of taking the drug in quantities ranging from twelve to sixteen grs. He bought eighteen grains here probably took all of it at one time the empty bottle was found in his room.

To Ex-Confederate Pensioners.

Regulations adopted by the State Board of Pensions for the Guidance of Applicants, &c.

In order that the true intent and purpose of the Pension Act may be more certainly carried into effect the following rules and regulations were adopted by the State Board of Pensions under the authority conferred upon it in sect. 3 16 of the act.

1. That the applicant must allege and prove that he, or she, has been for twelve months, immediately preceding his or her application a bona fide resident of North Carolina.

2. That the soldier or sailor was enlisted and served in that capacity, either in the service of the State of North Carolina or in that of some other State in the Confederacy, or in the Confederate States service.

3. The time, place and circumstances in which he served was received, and the nature and character of the wound, particularly in relation to disabling the applicant for manual labor, must be clearly set forth. Applicants are required to make their proofs as full and conclusive as possible on these points, and as nearly in the same with the affidavits of one or more creditable witnesses, and the certificates of well known medical practitioners as upon these proofs will depend the amount of the pension under the classification provided in the statute.

4. When the widow of a soldier or sailor is the applicant, in addition to the requirements mentioned in the preceding rules, satisfactory proof will be required, if not that the death occurred during the war, or that the husband was in the discharge of his duty as soldier or sailor at the time of the receipt of the wound or the contracting of the disease, or that the death was the probable consequence of such service, and if that the applicant is "indigent", that is, destitute of property or means of support, and is not provided with the proper means of subsistence by any parent, child, relative or friend. These facts must be established by the evidence of at least two creditable witnesses, and further, must be certified by the County Board to be true.

5. That the applicant does not own property—and in the case of a soldier or sailor entitled to the right of homestead exemption, property not exceeding the sum of two hundred dollars, or one hundred and fifty dollars in March, 1885, does not own if the same by gift or va[illegible] conveyance.

6. [illegible] applicant shall [illegible] under the State, [illegible] or county, from which he is receiving the same of three hundred dollars a month.

7. Every person who desires [illegible] upon the pension roll of the State must make application to the county board of Pensions on or before the first Monday in July of the year in which the application is made; that the Clerk of the Superior Court shall forward to the Auditor of the State duly certified applications on or before the first Monday in August following and that no warrant for the payment of the pension shall be issued by the Auditor until after the first Monday in September following.

10. No application will be audited or pension paid to any applicant who resides in a county where the county authorities, charged with the duty, have failed or refused to levy or collect the taxes imposed by the General Assembly, in addition to the taxes necessary to meet the ordinary expenses of the county, for the purpose of paying pensions, and no applicant will be entitled to receive more than the amount of taxes collected from the property owned by him or her, and assessed for the purpose of paying pensions.

11. Any person who shall knowingly and wilfully make any false statement in his application for pension, or who shall knowingly and wilfully receive any pension to which he is not entitled, or who shall knowingly and wilfully receive any pension in excess of that to which he is entitled, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both, in the discretion of the court.

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