The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1891.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

The Legislature will adjourn next Monday, and our law-makers will then return to their constituents to give an account of their stewardship. They will pull off their Sunday clothes and go to work like other folks, that is, those of them that have anything to do. They went to Raleigh with most patriotic motives, determined to do all they could for the dear people as long as they were paid $4 a day, but when their pay ceased their patriotism was checked and they at once return home. It is somewhat remarkable that, while this Legislature talked a great deal about economy, the appropriations made by it exceed those of any previous Legislature since the infamous radical Legislature of 1868.

The railroad commissioners will be elected today, and they will be Maj. James W. Wilson, of Morganton, Mr. E. C. Beddingfield, of Raleigh, and Mr. Thomas W. Mason, of Northampton county. These gentlemen were nominated at a caucus of the democratic members of the Legislature, held on last Tuesday night, and the nomination is equivalent to an election. They are as good selections as could reasonably have been expected, and indeed much better than was feared by many. We believe that they are all honest men and that they will try to discharge their delicate duties conscientiously and impartially. Maj. Wilson is well acquainted with everything about a railroad, having been the chief engineer and afterwards the president of the Western N. C. R. R. Co. Mr. Beddingfield is the well known secretary of the State Alliance and is one of the most influential citizens of the State. Mr. Mason is a prominent lawyer and eloquent orator. All are staunch democrats.

The Senate and House have both passed a bill to pay $250 extra to every judge, both of the Supreme and Superior court, for travelling expenses. There are twelve superior court judges and five supreme court judges, so that the total amount to be paid them every year is $4,250. This is in addition to their regular salary of $2,500 a year, and is intended to pay their railroad fare, because the railroad commission bill forbids the railroad companies giving them free passes.

The dogs have won another victory. The House has tabled, by a vote of 38 to 31, a bill to tax dogs and appropriate the tax to the public school fund. It would seem from this that our legislators think more highly of the dogs than of the children of the State?

The bill to re-arrange the senatorial districts has been passed, and we are pleased to state that it gives a senator to Chatham, making this county the 19th senatorial district. Alamance county is placed in a district with Orange, Durham and Caswell counties, which together elect two senators. As stated in the Record last week, there are several counties with a smaller population than Chatham and each elects a senator. It is only fair and just therefore that Chatham should elect a senator, as she had always done until the Legislature of 1881 placed Chatham and Alamance in the same district.

The Senate has passed the bill, heretofore passed by the House, to prohibit the selling of cigarettes to boys under seventeen years of age. So when you see one of them smoking a cigarette, inform him that it is against the law.

The Senate has passed a bill to prohibit the sale of liquor within two miles of any church in certain counties, among them being Chatham. If the House passes this bill it will amount to a total prohibition in this county. A bill has also been passed by the Senate, and will no doubt be passed by the House, to incorporate the South Atlantic University, which it is proposed to establish at Asheville by the Presbyterians of Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and this State.

The House has passed the bill, already passed by the Senate, proposing an amendment to the State constitution, so that Solicitors may be elected by the whole State, just as are the Judges, instead of each district electing its Solicitor.

The Senate has rejected by a vote of 23 to 14 the proposition of the Wilmington & Weldon R. R. Company to pay the State $20,000 a year, in order to obtain certain amendments to its charter. The committee to which the proposition was submitted, fully investigated the matter and recommended that it be accepted, and we greatly fear that the Senate has made a mistake in rejecting it. The sum of $20,000 a year would have been a considerable help to the State treasury, and the privileges asked for by the W. & W. Co. were no more than have been granted other railroad companies without any compensation.

The Direct Tax bill has at last become a law. In 1861 Congress levied a direct tax upon the citizens of every State to the amount of $20,000,000. As this tax could not be collected during the war from the States which had seceded, a large part of it was collected from those States immediately after the war. Many of our readers will remember with what difficulty they paid their share of it. The bill just passed by Congress is to return all this tax to the several States from which it was collected. The amount to be returned to North Carolina is about $377,000. It will be some time before this money will be ready for distribution among those entitled to it, but if any of our readers have any of those old tax receipts we advise them to keep them carefully for they will eventually get back every dollar of that tax.

A Drunken Kansas Judge.

Topeka, Feb. 27.—The committee appointed by the House to investigate the charges preferred against Theodore Botkin, Judge of the Thirty second Judicial District, reported today, and resolutions were adopted ordering the Senate to try him for impeachment. It will necessitate an extra session of the Senate and will cost the State $100,000.

Botkin is charged with drunkenness, gambling, and profanity while on the bench. He is the same Botkin who created such a sensation at Paris Tex., last Spring by denouncing Jefferson Davis at a banquet given visiting Kansans. He was compelled to leave the banquet room and narrowly escaped being lynched. On his return to Kansas it was stated that he had defended the memory of Abraham Lincoln, and on his record, ran for the Republican nomination for Congress, but was defeated. The Investigating Committee examined a number of witnesses, all of whom testified that Botkin was drunk when he made the speech at Paris. Botkin filed a protest against the findings of the committee, claiming that the prosecution grew out of his opposition to the peoples party. None of the Republican members voted against the resolution providing for an impeachment.

Unfaithful Guards.

Boston, Mass., March 2.—Governor Russell has unearthed a big scandal in connection with the management of the Massachusetts State prison, which will result in the decapitation of eight or ten guards and a retention of a greater number of prisoners.

For two months past the convicts have been cutting their way out of the prison. The Governor started an investigation and unearthed the fact that the prisoners were furnished with the means of escape by the very guards who were sworn to keep them in confinement. For a long time past certain of the guards—about eight or ten out of fifty, have been making money out of the convicts by selling them saws, files and revolvers. The state authorities have been wondering all the time, why the convicts were escaping so easily.

Reunion of Old Soldiers.

Monticello, Ill., March 2.—Col. E. T. Lee, of this city, aide-de-camp to the Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R., received today the plans of the Confederate veterans of Mississippi for the grand reunion of the blue and gray to be held at Chicago during the World's Fair. The State is to help build a grand blue and gray pavilion, where all the war relics are to be stored during the Fair, and each State is to furnish tents and rations to all, and the troops are to camp by States. The reunion is to last thirty days, and is intended to show to the world that the old veterans are united under the flag of one common country.

The Confederates have appealed to President Harrison and the Southern Senators and Congressmen, and the G. A. R. is to assist in making the reunion a success.

Increase of Pensions.

(From the New York World.)

In 1886 there were 365,783 pensioners costing $65,000,000; last year 537,944, costing $104,457,954. In four years the pensioners increased 172,1[illegible] or 47 per cent., and the appropriation $38,437,954, or 58 per cent. For the fiscal year 1891 the Commissioner estimates 602,713 pensioners, calling for $121,411,745, and for 1892 estimates 706,717 beneficiaries, at a cost of $135,669,685. In 1886 the average pension was $180.43; for 1892 it is estimated at $206.34—an increase everywhere. Between tariff and pension the candle burns at both ends.

Burned to Death.

Florence, S. C., Feb. 28.—Ben O'Neal Townsend, a prominent young lawyer, who was well connected in this state was burned to death in his residence last night. Two [illegible] discovered in his house about 1 o'clock. Every door was unlocked except that of Townsend's chamber, where the fire originated. His wife and children were away from home at the time. He was 30 years old. His book of poems was warmly commended by Longfellow and Howells.

Our Washington Letter.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

Washington, Feb. 27, 1891.

Czar Reed is in the saddle, backed by a quorum of republicans in the House, and anything is liable to happen during the remaining four days of the session; but there is consolation in the fact that the regular appropriation bills will leave little time in either House or Senate for political legislation. The ship subsidy "job" is to be railroaded through the House this evening, thanks to Reed's outrageous code of Rules. When the resolution for the consideration and calling of the previous question on this republican "job" was reported to the House by Reed's lieutenant, McKinley, Representative McMillan, a democratic member of the committee on Rules stated that the replies he had made in the beginning of this Congress had been verified. "I stated," continued he, "that these Rules had been adopted for four reasons: To pass the election bill, which subjected the ballot box to the bayonet—that has been done; to pass the tariff bill that would rob the people—that has been done; to pass the direct tax bill—that has been done; to pass bills placing further taxes upon a depressed and burdened interior for the benefit of the shipping interests—that is about to be done."

Mr. Mills suggested sarcastically that the republicans pass acts of Congress by proclamation instead of by legislation, but he caused them to understand that the democrats would avail themselves of every moment of discussion to expose to the American people the wrongs which were being perpetrated upon them. Mr. Dockery mentioned the fact that up to the present time the net increase of appropriations made by the present Congress as compared with those made by the last Congress was $1[illegible]. The republicans could not reply, so they yelled "chestnuts."

The death of Senator Wilson of Maryland, which occurred suddenly of heart disease Tuesday night, removed a good and conscientious legislator, who was beloved by all. The Senate adjourned Wednesday in his honor but not before Senator Spooner, who stated that he would not be a member of the Senate when a day would be set apart for eulogies on the dead statesman, had paid a most loving tribute to his colleague who had entered the Senate the same day as himself and who had served on the same committee with him ever since. The funeral took place here yesterday morning, after which the committee in charge of committees of the House and Senate, left on a special train for Snow Hill, Maryland, where the interment will be made today.

Secretary Foster, has always been known as a thrifty man. Having been confirmed by the Senate he came here at once and yesterday took the oath of office in order that his salary might begin, although he will not take actual charge of the Treasury department until he straightens up his business affairs in Ohio. Although the Senators concerned have denied it, I have reason to believe that certain republicans tried to get the democratic Senators to vote with them to reject Foster's nomination, and that the democrats refused, on the ground that the President should be allowed to select his own cabinet officers and that no Senator was justifiable in voting against the confirmation of such a nomination, unless charges were made and proven against the character of the nominee.

Time is a good friend of the people, and his friendship was particularly timely when he compelled the Senate to abandon the bill for the guaranteeing of $100,000,000 of the bonds of the Nicaragua canal company. That settles the scheme for good and all, and if the news received here be correct it probably settles the canal too for some time to come, for it is certain that the next House will not pass this or any other subsidy scheme.

It is a noticeable fact that every one of the Farmers Alliance Representatives elect that has been to Washington, and a number of them are here now, favors free trade out and out, with no ifs ands or buts.

One of the neatest little steals ever proposed to Congress is that amendment the Senate put in the Diplomatic appropriation bill granting a subsidy of $3,0[illegible] to a company which proposes—[illegible] is the subsidy—to lay a cable between San Francisco and the Sandwich Islands. It has now transpired that the subsidy is considerably more than it would cost to lay the cable, and also that another company stands ready to lay the cable without a subsidy if Congress will give it the authority to do so. Ordinarily this would be sufficient to kill the "job," but this being the last chance of a lot of very hungry republicans there's no telling how they'll vote.

If an extra session is escaped it will be by as close a shave as it would be possible to make, and all sorts of errors, some of them intentional, are almost certain to occur in bills that will be rushed as everything will be from now until the end.

The public debt was increased $2,994,759.58 during the month of February.

During a heavy gale last Thursday night, twenty oystermen were drowned near the mouth of James river.

Aimed Appearances.—A worthy gentleman, having an unusually red nose, was long suspected of being a tippler on the sly, by those not well acquainted with his strictly temperate habits. His unfortunate disfigurement was finally cured by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

A Destructive Flood.

Yuma, Ari., March 1.—Yuma today is a city of desolation. Over two hundred and fifty houses are in ruins from the flood, and 1,400 people are homeless. Not a single business house remains standing. The river above the town is seven miles wide and below the town, in places, the water covers the country in one grand lake over fifty miles across. The town has provisions still left for eight more days, and the Southern Pacific Hotel is feeding a thousand people a day.

A party just in from Jaguna, fifteen miles above here, report all hands at work at the head of the Mohawk Canal, seventy miles east of here. They left there Sunday night when the flood first came. As they passed along the edge of the valley they saw men and women, negroes, and horses, cattle, pigs and chickens pass them on boxes, pieces of fences and piles of poles. There were no boats nor any means to rescue the people. The water was seven to ten feet deep. These men travelled fifty miles without food or sleep, when they reached a herd of cattle, caught and milked some cows and drank the milk. They believe that not less than a hundred people must have perished in the flood, as most of them live from five to seven miles from the highlands. There is no doubt here now that hundreds of thousands of dollars in homes and stock and many lives have been lost. Costly houses and barns have been washed away like playthings, while stock and others have been carried down by the flood, leaving the country as bare as a desert. Men who ten days ago were wealthy are now homeless and penniless. Ninety miles south of here, where 7,000 Cocopah Indians live, the country is flooded for eighty miles square, and as there are no boats for refuge it is reported that over one hundred of them have been drowned. The great valley of the Colorado is one vast sea of water as far as the eye can see in every direction.

A Mill Washed Away.

Waterbury, March 1.—The largest pulp mill of the Remington Paper Company, about two miles below the city, was almost totally destroyed late last night by the high water, causing damage which it will cost $30,000 to repair, and killing John Murphy, an employe, aged sixty-eight. Eleven pulp grinders, the wheel and various other machinery were carried down the river.

When the machinery had been shut down for a few moments to make some repairs the flood suddenly [illegible] building, in which [illegible] with a crash a part of the building and machinery fell into the river and the roof fell down on the remaining machinery.

The workmen rushed for the doors and all escaped except Murphy and Thomas [illegible], who were struck by the shafting and crushed to the floor. [illegible] succeeded in extricating himself and made a perilous trip over the broken roof hanging over the water. Murphy was terribly crushed and probably died instantly.

A Blizzard.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 28.—The coldest weather of winter is sweeping down over the northwest. At Prince Albert yesterday the thermometer registered 45 degrees below zero. [illegible] had temperature of 40 degrees below, and Winnipeg 38 degrees.

Arkansas City, Feb. 28.—The blizzard last night was the worst of the season here, and [illegible] people in the Cherokee Strip [illegible] A messenger from [illegible] River reports that seven families [illegible], and a woman lying in a tent south of the city will probably die as the result of exposure. Many tents and wagons in the boomers' camps were blown over and the people wandered about in the bitter cold for hours.

A Village Almost Destroyed.

Watertown, March 1.—Hermon, in St. Lawrence county, a village of about one thousand inhabitants, was visited this morning by a terrible conflagration. About midnight fire appeared in the business part of the town in a store owned by J. H. Thapes. It spread rapidly, and had soon destroyed about twenty buildings, entailing a loss of about $75,000. Most of the losers had little insurance and some had none. The only apparatus for fighting the flames was a hand engine, but the water froze in the hose and made it useless.

The flames were carried on by a strong northwest wind until they had destroyed everything in their path. The thermometer marked 3 degrees below zero today and there is much suffering and destitution.

Two Children Burned to Death.

Lakeville, Conn., March 2.—The house of Henry C. Rowe was destroyed by fire this afternoon and his two children were burned to a crisp. In the morning Mrs. Rowe left home, locking the children, aged three and five years, in the house. When she returned three hours later she found the house reduced to ashes and the two little inmates had perished. Their charred remains were found in the evening.

Senator Hearst of California died at Washington, on last Saturday, after a long sickness. He went to California a poor miner and died a millionaire Senator.

"Don't put on so much coal as to put out the fire," and don't try everything for catarrh or influenza, but buy and try Old Saul's Catarrh Cure, the quickest and safest remedy known. The best is the cheapest. Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup is acknowledged to be the safest and most reliable medicine for babies. Price 25 cts.

Starving Confederate Prisoners.

(From "Plain Living at Johnson's Island," in March Century.)

As the months passed on a marked change was noticeable in the appearance of the men. They became depressed and listless, and unsuspected traits of disposition cropped to the surface. The parade ground was dotted with gaunt, cadaverous men, with a far-away look in their eyes and with hunger and privation showing in every line of their emaciated bodies. It was believed by many among us that this mode of treatment was enforced as a retaliatory measure, and this belief certainly received strong support when, looking across the bay, we saw a city whose waste alone would have supplied our wants. I have seen a hungry "Reb" plunge his hand into the swill-barrel of some mess, and, letting the water drain through his fingers, greedily devour what chance had given him—if anything. Speaking for myself, and well aware of what I say, I assert that for months I was not free from the cravings of hunger. One half of my loaf and the meat portion of my ration was eaten for dinner. I supped on the remaining piece of bread, and breakfasted with "Duke Humphrey." I sometimes dreamed of food, [illegible] a sort of [illegible].

When we arrived on the island the rats were so numerous [illegible]. Many of the prisoners [illegible] [illegible] a rat [illegible] [illegible] would have eaten [illegible].

Negroes Starving in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma City, March 2.—A deplorable state of affairs exists among the negroes who have been enticed to this Territory. They have come to the number of several thousand with the understanding that the Government would feed them and give them a piece of land and they are now opening their eyes to the fact that the land is taken up. While in Oklahoma the Government will not feed them. They have no money, there is no work for them to do and [illegible] starvation's door, with not a friend within a thousand miles.

Fifty Persons Killed.

St. Petersburg, March 2.—A horrible railway accident occurred near Marchinsk, in the Government of [illegible]. Two express trains came into collision, demolishing the carriages of both. Fifty persons were killed outright and a great number were seriously injured. The scenes about the wreck were described as sickening. Many of the bodies of the dead were literally ground into pieces. [illegible] wounded [illegible] several hours in the most intense agony.

Two Killed, Eleven Injured.

W[illegible], Tenn., Feb. 28.—The [illegible] at the coal mines [illegible] and the [illegible] Two [illegible] killed [illegible]. Several of the latter, it is thought, will die.

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[illegible] —[illegible], Druggist, Fort Wayne, Ind.

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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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