

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1895.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

OUR Legislators are still busily engaged in introducing bills of every kind and description in their patriotic efforts to save the State. Thus far over four hundred bills have been introduced, but of course the greater part will not be passed, nor were they intended to be passed. Like all legislatures nearly every member feels it his duty to introduce some one or more bills so as to appear to be doing something. The truth is the fewer bills that are passed by any legislature the better it is for the people.

Considering the prejudice which our populist friends have heretofore professed against lawyers having anything to do with the making of laws, it seems quite strange, if not inconsistent, that they should have now appointed a committee, composed *only* of lawyers, to shape the legislation and tell them what laws to enact. And yet that is what our republican-populist legislators have done. And this committee of lawyers was appointed not from the members of the legislature, but from outsiders, and their names are Marion Butler, of course the "Boss," must be at the head of this steering committee. Harry Skinner, Richmond Pearson, Thomas R. Purnell and Daniel L. Russell.

Yes, for the first time that we can recall in the history of this State, this legislature has a committee of outsiders in shaping its legislation—to prepare their bills; and, in other words, to tell them what to do. Wouldn't it have been much cheaper for our legislators after appointing such a committee to have gone home and authorized their committee to enact such laws as they might deem proper?

Quite a novel debate occurred in the Senate, on last Saturday, on the proposition of a populist to elect women on the district school committees throughout the State. After a long discussion the proposition was adopted by a vote of 25 to 18, but finally, after several counties had been excepted, it was laid on the table. This, however, indicated the tendency and inclination of the populists to carry out the recommendation of their national platform in favor of women suffrage, and this is the first and only instance of either branch of any legislature in this State voting in favor of women holding office. Is it only the "entombed wedge"? Are the populists of North Carolina really going to follow the example of their brethren in Colorado and other States where women are allowed to vote and hold office?

The bill to change the present system of county government will probably be introduced tomorrow, and will be passed expeditiously. This is the bill prepared by Boss Butler's "steering committee" of five lawyers (above mentioned) and agreed on by the republicans and populists in caucus. It is said to be quite a different bill from that introduced by Mr. Ewart. In the first place it does not abolish the office of county commissioner, as the lawyers' committee finally realized that the constitution would not allow them to do that. Therefore our present commissioners will hold their offices until the first Monday in December, 1896. It is said that this bill allows the people to elect the county commissioners, but that the magistrates will be appointed by the legislature. We hope to publish the bill in full next week.

The Senate has passed a bill for bidding the charging or paying a higher rate of interest than six per cent. This bill was passed almost unanimously in the Senate, and will no doubt be passed by the House. The Senate on last Tuesday tabled a bill to reduce the tax on marriage licenses, which is quite a heavy tax for a poor man. It has always seemed strange to us that our legislators should be in favor of fining a man for getting married, for that is exactly what the tax on a license amounts to. We had hoped that this legislature would make a "reform" in this matter.

One startling "reform" made by the House was the passage, on its second reading, of a bill to change the name of "Hanging Dog" township in Cherokee county. Tomorrow night the members of the Legislature will hear an address on woman's rights by Mrs. Lilly Dvereaux Blake, a noted female lecturer.

As in previous legislatures so in this, too many private bills are introduced, and the time of the Legislature is

the people of North Carolina are it was cited and proclaimed as a conservative and fair-minded, and striking illustration of the purpose therefore we have an abiding faith and power of the People's party in their condemnation and repudiation of the revolutionary and radical course now being pursued by their legislators. Some of the acts of our Legislators in such a strongly republican Senator in such a strongly republican State to destroy forever republican supremacy in "bleeding Kansas". Having elected a populist called on the populists of the Southern States to emulate their example, and to elect populist senators in our democratic States. Accordingly the populists of North Carolina have elected as the successor of Vance, not a populist, not a democrat, but a republican. And, by a singular coincidence, on the same day, Kansas returned to her old love and also elected a republican!

And this is the way our populist friends are destroying "both the old parties!"

#### Durham's Mayor Dead.

GREENSBORO, Jan. 26.—A sudden and very sad death occurred at the Southern depot this morning. Mayor L. N. Link, of Durham, while waiting in a carriage for the south bound train, suddenly expired without a word.

Captain Link began to act very strangely some days ago, and as he had been sick for some time, it was decided to take him to Keeley Institute at this place. On arriving here a few days ago, the physician in charge examined him and pronounced him insane, and told him that it would be useless to give him the treatment. This morning he refused to consent to be sent to the Governor of Neurological and a half million to the Government of Costa Rica, and the remaining twenty-two and a half millions to the mining companies. The plank itself is to be cut through the mountain of stock and tools of the company.

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