The Chatham Record

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H. A. LONDON, Editor.

The Legislature has now been in session four weeks—about half of its allotted time—and yet the millennium seems as far distant as ever. Yes, strange to say, the price of cotton is no higher—indeed it is lower—than when our legislators were elected. Money is as scarce as ever, if not scarcer, except in the pockets of the legislators themselves, many of whom now have more money than they ever before handled and who no doubt think that the millennium has come at least to them!

But there is no telling what they may not do before the session closes, for they may yet bring to us the promised millennium. Certainly the RECORD will not prejudge them, but will patiently await the great reforms and blessings which have been so solemnly promised by our reform legislators.

Strange as it may seem, yet true it is, that our populist and republican legislators cannot agree upon the greatest measure of reform—that of county government. It was confidently believed that by this time a bill would have been passed by both the Senate and House to change our present and much-abused system of county government. This was expected to be done almost on the very first day of the session. In the campaign last fall every "fusion" candidate waxed warm and eloquent in his denunciations of our county government system, and he vowed that, if elected, he would wipe it out as soon as he got to Raleigh. And yet thus far no bill has been agreed on, even to be introduced, although several caucuses on the subject have been held and a number of "visiting statesmen" have been called in consultation. The republicans are said to be solidly in favor of returning to the same system adopted by them in 1868 (which well nigh ruined so many counties), but the populists oppose this and think that some safeguards or protection should be thrown around the white people of those counties.

No bill has yet been passed by either the Senate or House to carry out another "reform" promised by our legislators, and that is the reduction of the fees allowed to county officers. Every populist speaker in the last campaign contended that the salaries and fees paid our public officers were too high and that they ought to be reduced. They insisted that, as the prices of all farm products had been so greatly decreased, the salaries and fees of our officers should be correspondingly reduced. Of course, therefore, it was supposed that this Legislature during its first week would promptly pass a bill to reduce the salaries and fees of all public officers (including its own *per diem* and mileage), so as to correspond with the low prices of cotton, wheat and other farm products. But thus far, although the session is half gone, no such bill has been passed by either branch of the Legislature.

One of the members of the House, died on last Friday morning and the Legislature took holiday that day in respect to his memory, but of course draw pay for the day. Gov. Carr has ordered a special election to be held on next Thursday to fill the vacancy.

The flood of bills that poured into the Legislature in the beginning of the session still continues without any abatement. It would be a waste of time to publish them, as of course most of them will not be passed. As soon as any bills of importance are passed (that is if any are passed) the RECORD will publish a synopsis of them. Thus far the Legislature has done nothing of any public interest, but the members are most faithfully drawing their pay.

THE annual session of the National Woman's Suffrage Convention was held last week at Atlanta, Georgia, and it was the first time that body has ever met in a Southern city, which just at this time seems quite significant, in view of the fact that the national platform of the People's party favors woman suffrage. There were present at this meeting the noted female cranks from all parts of the United States, and they "orated" quite eloquently over the wrongs of their oppressed sex. On last Sunday, one of them, the Rev. Anna Shaw, preached a notable sermon, in which she repeatedly alluded to the Deity in a feminine as well as in a masculine sense. She also stigmatised as "a brute in the pulpit" the Rev. Dr. Hawthorne, the distinguished Baptist preacher who spoke slightingly of the convention and its objects.

For several years the Federal government, in pursuance of an Act of Congress, has been compiling and publishing in book form the official records of the Union and Confederate armies, being the official reports of the officers of each army of every battle in which they were engaged. In the last volume just issued are the official reports of the Union and Confederate armies in Virginia of their operations during the last days of the war. They include the reports of the battle at [illegible], Fort Stedman in the Spring of 1865, the evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond, the battle of Sailor's creek and the surrender at Appomattox. Although all these surrenders occurred but thirty years ago, yet the reading of these official reports of them recalls them to our memory with painful distinctness, and we can scarcely realize that so long a time has intervened since they occurred. Those of us who were then mature men are now decrepit with age, and the young and vigorous are now old men, and quite a many have crossed over the river. No one, who himself was not a participant in these events, can imagine the hardships and dangers endured by the Confederate soldier during those closing scenes of the war, nor shall we attempt to recall them now.

From the official list of paroled prisoners, published in this volume, we find that the total number of Confederates surrendered at Appomattox was 28,231. The greater part of these were without arms, being unarmed stragglers and extra duty and detail men of every description. Gen. Lee, in his report, states that on the morning of the surrender there were only 7,892 organized infantry with arms and about 2,100 cavalry, and all of these "depraved on account of hunger and were worn out and exhausted".

The total number of North Carolina troops paroled at Appomattox was 5,022 and they were embraced in 12 regiments of infantry, 5 regiments and 1 battalion of cavalry, 5 battalions of artillery, and three companies being mere skeletons and would not have been. Major-General Bryan Grimes was the ranking officer from this State, and the Brigadier Generals from North Carolina were Matt W. Ransom, J. H. Lane, William MacRae, J. R. Cooke, W. R. Cox and W. F. Roberts.

Joe Turner's Speech.

From the News and Observer.

The first act that was passed in Raleigh, said a Republican on the quiet yesterday, was the speech of Josiah Turner in the Farmers' Convention a few nights ago. The old man arose to make a speech. He began by denouncing the Democratic organization, and this pleased the Republicans very much. After a while Mr. Turner reached the climax of his speech, and began to denounce Lieutenant-Governor Russell, Superintendent Grimes and kindred leaders.

(French was sitting by hearing this denunciation. Presently Lieutenant-Governor Russell [illegible]

"Mr. Turner, I [illegible]

"Certainly," replied the orator of Buncombe.

"What did Chief Justice Shepherd?"

How in the h—l I know," was his response.

The deepened the grief of Judge's auditors. Somebody asked who admitted him to the caucus, and in the general excitement that followed the orator of Buncombe found himself left to [illegible]

Negro Colonists For Mexico.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 2.—A special train of six cars, with 350 negroes aboard, reached here today from Atlanta, over the Queen and Crescent road, bound for Mexico. Most of the negroes were picked up along the line in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

The negroes go to Mexico under the management of the Mexico Colonization Association, which, it is said, has contracted with thousands of negroes in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi to settle them in the northern States of Mexico along the Rio Grande, where lands will be sold to them on long time at low prices.

Another Republican Senator.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Another addition was made to the ranks of the Republican Senators today in the person of Lee Mantel, elected Senator from the State of Montana. This makes the total number of Senators 86 and leaves the political complexion of the Senate as follows: Democrats 42, Republicans 39, Populists 5. The Senators comprised in the last named class are Allen, of Nebraska; Jones, of Nevada; Kyle, of North Dakota; Peffer, of Kansas, and Stewart, of Nevada.

A Lucky Find.

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 30.—Sixty thousand dollars in gold was found yesterday by J. J. Drew at his sawmill, near Hollandale, Washington county.

The treasure is supposed to have been buried during the civil war by Captain Barfield.

The destruction of a barn by fire at Plum Tree, Mitchell county, a few nights ago resulted in a loss of $1,000. Twelve horses perished in the flames.

Nearly Four Hundred Drowned.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—The North German Lloyd steamship Elbe, bound from Bremen to New York, was sunk in a collision in the North Sea shortly before daylight this morning.

About four hundred persons were on board. Only twenty were saved so far as known. It is reported that one of the lifeboats, containing [illegible] has been [illegible]

The Elbe was [illegible] miles off Hollum Light, [illegible] by the British steamer Spartan, and [illegible] Amsterdam. The Elbe is a large vessel.

No [illegible] passengers [illegible] and one of [illegible] are known to be among the rescued.

From the [illegible] it appeared that the Elbe was [illegible] at her usual rate of speed [illegible] keeping the [illegible] when [illegible]

Suddenly the lookout [illegible] the Elbe [illegible] was [illegible] that the collision was [illegible] over the [illegible] before the course of the Elbe could be changed even to slow [illegible] approaching vessel struck [illegible] the engine room [illegible] passengers [illegible] board, and [illegible] completely through the hull of the Elbe.

For a time the Crathie held the Elbe on her nose, then her engines were reversed and she backed out of the aperture she had made. As she did so the water rushed into the Elbe in a torrent, and she began to [illegible]

The officer in charge of the ship [illegible] saw that the vessel was [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] clear away the [illegible] lifeboats. Three boats were cleared, [illegible] could [illegible] and [illegible] of them, [illegible] of the steerage, reported, [illegible] thought that all the occupants were drowned.

The first boat [illegible] the Elbe [illegible] Engineer, Jansen and about twenty [illegible] the passengers who were picked up [illegible] and taken to Leeuwarden.

From conversation [illegible] it seemed that the Elbe was [illegible] along