The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, March 9, 1899.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE Legislature has adjourned until the Tuesday after the second Monday in June, 1900. The sixty days for which the constitution allows our legislators to draw pay expired on last Saturday, and, as a matter of course, most of the Republicans quit work and went at once to their respective homes. Sufficient Democrats, however, remained at their posts of duty four days longer without any pay, and finished up some of the most important work of the session. This is not the first time that a Democratic Legislature has remained in session without pay in order to transact the business which they were elected to do.

The work of this Legislature will now pass into history and will receive close scrutiny and criticism. Much was expected of this Legislature—probably too much—but all fairminded men must admit that it has fully met all reasonable expectations, and its session will mark a new era in the history of our good old State.

The much discussed "Jim Crow" car law has at last been passed. In another column it is published in full. There was hardly any other measure before the Legislature that was more discussed than this. It passed the Senate with only one dissenting vote, and that was cast by a Democrat because, as he stated, it gave the Railway Commissioners the power to exempt branch roads from its provisions.

An important bill that has been passed is the one repealing the Railway Commission act and establishing the "North Carolina Corporation Commission," which will succeed to the duties of the railroad commissioners with enlarged powers. This bill gives the Corporation Commission general supervision of railroad, steamboat, navigation and canal companies, express and telegraph and telephone companies, building and loan associations, banks, surety and guaranty companies and sleeping-car companies. The Commission has all the powers and jurisdiction of a court of general jurisdiction, and will consist of three members, elected by this Legislature temporarily. At the general election next year the three Commissioners are to be elected by the people, one for a term of two years, one for a term of four years and one for a term of six years. In case of vacancies the Board of Internal Improvement is to fill such vacancies. The three Commissioners elected by this Legislature are Messrs. Frank McNeill of New Hanover, E. C. Beddingfield of Wake, and Samuel L. Rogers of Macon.

By a unanimous and rising vote the Senate, on last Friday, passed a resolution to appropriate $5,000 for placing a bronze statue of Vance in the Capitol square. Eloquent speeches in advocacy of the resolution and eulogy of Vance were made by a number of Senators, Republicans as well as Democrats.

Very properly a resolution was unanimously passed by the House thanking Speaker Connor for "the able, impartial and dignified manner" in which he had presided over that body. The resolution was introduced by a Populist (Johnson of Sampson) and was seconded by a Republican (Petree of Stokes), who said that the conduct of the Democratic members towards the Republicans had been uniformly kind and that he had never known greater courtesy and consideration. This, he might have added, was in most pleasing and striking contrast to the discourtesy with which the Fusion majority in the last Legislature treated the Democratic minority. But nobody could have expected anything else from that disgraceful gang.

The Wilson matter was at last settled in favor of the Wilsons as had been generally expected. There was quite a prolonged and interesting discussion before the vote was taken. The Senate and House met in joint session to hear and decide upon the matter, and remained in session from 4 o'clock in the afternoon of last Thursday, with only a short recess for supper, until next morning at half past 3 o'clock. The vote for reinstating Maj. James W. Wilson was 84 to 56, and for Otho Wilson was 74 to 58. We note that the Representatives from this county divided on this vexed question, Mr. Giles voting for the Wilsons and Mr. Wrenn voting against them. The resignation of Otho Wilson had been tendered some days ago and was accepted as soon as the vote was taken. Still he and Maj. Wilson, each, drew the salary due during the time of their suspension, as of course they were entitled to it. This amount was nearly $[illegible], and, as the same amount had already been paid to Russell's appointees (Caldwell and Pearson), it was just that much of the people's money absolutely thrown away, in Russell's attempt to gratify his malice.

One of the best acts of the Legislature is the election of Mr. Samuel L. Patterson, of Caldwell county, to be Commissioner of Agriculture. He filled this position for several years most creditably, and his succeeding John R. Smith is a most forcible illustration of the difference between Democratic and Fusion rule.

In order to give the Democrats control of the Agricultural Department, the Legislature has elected the following additional trustees: J. B. Grimes, First district; S. M. Hart, W. D. Smith, R. H. Jones, Jno. S. Cunningham, A. L. McCallum(?), W. A. Graham, L. Y. Waugh(?), W. S. Dill. At large, J. B. Coffield, W. R. Capehart, J. A. Stevens(?), J. C. Bunch, G. F. Weston.

The trustees of the University of North Carolina held their regular annual meeting at Raleigh on Wednesday of last week, and much important business was transacted. The most important were the steps taken for the early erection of two large buildings, and the election of ex-Judge James E. Shepherd as the Professor of Law in place of the late Hon. John Manning. One of these buildings is the "Alumni Hall," the foundations of which were laid last year. About 10,000, in addition to the fund already secured, are needed for the completion of this building, and the trustees made arrangements for borrowing this amount. The other building is to be a dormitory for the students and to be called the "Carr Building" in compliment to Col. Julian S. Carr who has given $15,000 to erect it. The addition of these two buildings will be of very great benefit to the University and will attract more students.

President Alderman read his annual report which was highly interesting and encouraging. From it we copy the following extract:

"In 1857-58, the ante-bellum high-water mark period, 461 students were drawn from every Southern State and those from North Carolina numbered only 29? or 63 per cent. of the whole. Out of 5?1 students to-day, 455 are from North Carolina, being 8? per cent. of the whole, a larger percentage, according to the United States Government statistics than shown by any other State University in America.

The University, it would seem, is doing its full duty by North Carolina. We still lead the South in the number of academic students, and are fifth in total enrollment.

Judge Womack Robbed.

Special to the Morning Post.

New York, March 1.—The apartments of Judge Thomas B. Womack, in the Nevada apartment house, were robbed Tuesday afternoon. A dress suit case, an overcoat, $7,000 in negotiable bonds of the American Tobacco Company, some deeds to property in Raleigh, N. C., and a lot of silverware were stolen. Almost all of this property was recovered, and the thieves were arrested through accident. Ex-Judge Womack had planned to leave New York for Raleigh Tuesday night. In the afternoon he went out, accompanied by Mrs. Womack, to pay some calls. When he returned he found his apartments had been looted. Not realizing the extent of the robbery, as he was in a hurry to get away, he did not report it to the police.

Two detectives were walking up Tenth avenue this afternoon when they saw a young man enter a pawnshop with a bundle under his arm. They arrested him. On examining the bundle, the detectives found a silver cream pitcher with the name, Gussie Womack, upon it, and a lot of table napkins marked Nevada. The name of the thief is George Keeley. He confessed, implicating James Nolan, from whom the bonds and deeds were recovered. Both men were locked up and the police telegraphed Judge Womack, asking him to return to New York immediately and prosecute the thieves.

The new city directory of Charlotte, just issued, gives the population of the city at 28,856.

The "Jim Crow" Car Law.

The following is a copy of the act of the Legislature, passed last week, in regard to white and colored passengers travelling in separate cars:

Section 1. That all railway and steamboat companies, as common carriers in the transportation of passengers for hire in North Carolina, other than street railways, shall provide separate, but equal, accommodations for the white and colored races on all passenger trains and steamboats carrying passengers. Such accommodations may be furnished by railway companies either by separate passenger cars, or by compartments in passenger cars, which shall be provided by the railways under the supervision and direction of the Board of Railway Commissioners or the officers succeeding to their powers: Provided, that this shall not apply to relief trains in cases of accident, to Pullman or sleeping cars, or through express trains that do not stop at all stations and are not used ordinarily for traveling from station to station; to negro servants in attendance on their employers, to officers or guards transporting prisoners, nor to prisoners so transported.

Sec. 2. The Railway Commissioners, or the officers succeeding to their powers, are hereby authorized to exempt from the provisions of this act branch lines and narrow gauge railways, if in their judgment the enforcement of this act be not necessary to secure the comfort of passengers, by reason of the light volume of passenger traffic or the small number of negro passengers traveling on such narrow gauge or branch lines.

Sec. 3. That when any coach, or compartment of a car, for either race shall be completely filled at a station where no extra coach or car can be had, and the increased number of passengers cannot be foreseen, the conductor in charge of such train is hereby authorized to assign and set apart a portion of a car or compartment, assigned for passengers of the other race to passengers of the other race.

Sec. 4. That all railway companies shall furnish first and second class passenger accommodations.

Sec. 5. That any railway company failing to comply in good faith with the provisions of this act shall be liable to a penalty of [illegible] per day, to be recovered in an action brought against such company by the Railway Commissioners or the officers succeeding to their powers in the county of Wake, and covered into the State treasury.

A [illegible] directs this law to go into force and effect on the first day of next June.—Ex. [illegible]

A Destructive Hail Storm.

Special to News and Observer.

Gibson, N. C., March 3.—The upper edge of Marlboro county, near this place, was visited by a terrible hail storm and cyclone between 4 and 5 o'clock this afternoon. The hail stones were of enormous size, the larger ones were by actual measurement found to be four inches in circumference. Window glasses were shattered, shingles of the houses were split, quite a number of fowls were killed.

The path of the cyclone was about seventy-five yards wide, and so far as heard from about three miles long. It destroyed several tenant houses on Mr. D. J. A[illegible] property and severely damaged his residence, completely demolished the residence of Mr. Joseph Newton. Mr. Newton himself was badly injured. It next struck Mr. C. D. Newton's residence, which was also wrecked, but no one was injured.

Finding Gold.

Lexington, N. C., March 4.—One day this week a daughter of Charles Leonard discovered a bright object imbedded in a clay bank by the roadside in the suburbs. Pulling it out and carried it home. Upon examination it was found to be a bar of gold of 135 pennyweights.

Many years ago a mine operator named King, whom the older people of Lexington still remember, started from here to Philadelphia by stage with a trunk containing several bars of gold obtained from his mine, the Conrad Hill. Before he was well on his journey the boot of the stage was cut and the treasure was stolen. Since that time gold bars have been found at intervals in this locality, and it is supposed that the one found this week was a bar of King's gold.

Smithfield Herald: During the recent snow a party of neighbors, who had gathered at G. T. Boyette's in Boon Hill township to aid in building a tobacco barn, were astonished to see a cat come from the barn yard with 10 full grown rats in her mouth. Upon examination it was found that the tails of each and every rat was so securely and closely plaited together that one rat or one tail would support the others. How and why these tails were thus plaited is a profound mystery. No human agency is responsible for it. If the rats did it—how did they do it?

A dealer in Savannah, Ga., has just shipped 1,000 dozen eggs to Havana for which he will receive $1.00 per dozen.

Washington Letter.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 3, 1899.

Nothing more significant occurred during the closing days of this Congress than Mr. McKinley's recognition of the rapidly increasing sentiment against an indefinite continuation of the nobody-knows-what-we're-going-to-do policy towards the Philippines, which has been making rapid headway among prominent members of his own party and which is practically held by all the democrats in Congress. Heretofore he has acted as though it were treason to even hint that the whole business should not be left to his discretion. This week he took another tack, and talked of the necessity for Congressional action on the Philippine question, and intimated, although he took particular pains not to definitely promise, that an extra session of the Fifty sixth Congress would be called to deal with it, soon after the treaty of peace goes into official effect. Of course, he may have been talking for fear that Congressional sentiment would force an immediate extra session, in order to settle the matter quickly.

Czar Reed didn't succeed in his effort to kill the Nicaragua Canal amendment to the River and Harbor bill, but he scotched it.

The new Army bill, with which the democratic Senators called the extra session bluff of Mr. McKinley, which gives the administration the number of men asked for, but limits their service to two years from the first of next July, was a bitter pill to many of the imperialists in Congress, but they had to obey orders from the White House and swallow it.

Mr. McKinley still lacks the nerve to follow the advice of some of his best friends and demand the resignation of Secretary Alger, but he had enough to compel Alger to announce the abandonment of his intended junket to Cuba and Porto Rico at public expense. It is creditable to the democratic members of the House and Senate Military Committees that almost without exception they declined Alger's invitation to themselves and family to accompany him on the junket, before they knew that it had been called off. He had figured that democratic criticism could be silenced if he could carry a few prominent democrats with him, but they were not to be caught in such a palpable trap.

Secretary Allen didn't throw any bouquets at the Senate in a little farewell speech he made. He told the Senators that any single state in the Union could easily produce ninety men who were their peers in ability.

The impression in Congressional circles is that the administration did much more hurrahing than there was any occasion for over the action of the German government in announcing that it had ordered the single warship it had at Manila away and its request that this government take all German citizens in the Philippines under its protection. It is a good guess that this move on the part of Germany was actuated by a desire to make it easy for its citizens in the Philippines to collect money from the U. S. for damage done to their property by the Filipinos.

Representatives Champ Clark, of Mo.; J. Hamilton Lewis, of Washington; Jerry Simpson, of Kansas, and James G. Maguire of Cal., were among the speakers at a public meeting held under the auspices of the Washington Single Tax Club. It was a sort of farewell so far as Simpson and Lewis were concerned, as they will retire from public life at noon tomorrow.

The democratic members of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections—Turley, Pettus and Caffery—declined to join in the Scotch verdict of "not proven" rendered by the majority of the Committee on the charge of bribery brought against Senator Hanna, and submitted a minority report, taking the ground that further investigation should be made, as one attempted case of bribery had been fully proven. Of that case the report says: "$1,750 was paid in cash by Boyce to Campbell as attorney for Otis. Boyce agreed to pay $1,750 more when Otis reached Columbus, and a balance of $6,500 if Hanna was elected."

The situation was very near to being presented in a sentence when Senator Caffery asked in the course of a speech against allowing the President to govern the Philippines under a military despotism after the formal proclamation of peace with Spain has been made, "Are the American people going to tolerate for any length of time the usurpation of civil authority on the part of the President of the U. S?" Mr. Caffery contends that as soon as the treaty of peace goes into effect the Filipinos will become American citizens and that the President will have no more authority to keep them under military control than he would have to put Oklahoma or New Mexico under military rule.

Most of the testimony taken by the Military Court of Inquiry this week has supported the charge of Gen. Miles that beef unfit to eat was issued to the soldiers.

Butler's Pitiful Exhibition.

Washington, March 4.—Senator Butler, of North Carolina, made a pitiful exhibition of himself throughout last night's session of Congress. His windy and empty elocution was on tap all the time, wasting hours of the Senate's time. At last Senator Hawley lost all patience and interrupted to implore him to give the Senate a chance to attend to public business. After this Mr. Hawley moved off toward the cloak room, and Butler yawped out: "The Senator is whipped and is running away."

Mr. Hawley strode back to his place, his eyes flashing: "I am not whipped," he exclaimed, "I am not running away. Both terms are offensive. I have suffered my share of injustice here, because it could not be helped and because I would rather take some disappointments for myself than waste the time of the government with a stream of everlasting words."

This last phrase poor Butler could not get over during the rest of his speech. He kept ringing the changes on it again and again, till at last Mr. Pettigrew whispered in his ear a warning that he was making more vote for the other side than for his own.

Adjournment of Congress.

Washington, March 4.—An outburst of patriotic song in the House was the only incident that broke the spirit of dignity and decorum in which the life of the Fifty-fifth Congress came to an end today. The Doxology followed songs about the flag, the honorable singers joining hands and forming a circle, and as the last notes died away members, officers and employes disappeared through the many doors and the great hall was deserted. In the Senate there was no singing of songs, but the Vice-President made a graceful little speech of farewell, as Speaker Reed did in the House, and then as Mr. Hobert stood shaking hands with Senators, a man came quietly in and unscrewed from the desks of those whose official life ended with the stroke of 12 the light metal name plates. The "exs" will keep them as souvenirs, and at the next session new plates with different names will take their places.

Riotous Negro Soldiers.

Atlanta, Ga., March 4.—Sheriff Henry, of Walker county, wired Governor Candler yesterday that he wanted some militia to help preserve order there. The Eighth Immunes, which is composed mainly of negroes from Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, is being mustered out and threatened to burn the town and sheriff became alarmed. The Governor sent Colonel Obear, a member of his staff, to Lyttle last night to investigate, and ordered the four Atlanta companies of the State militia to be ready to move. Meanwhile, as a precautionary measure, Gov. Candler wired President McKinley regarding the trouble and asked him to send a company of regulars to the scene.

Killed by Falling Earth.

Special to the Charlotte Observer.

Morganton, March 2.—Information has been received here today of a sad accident which occurred on John's river yesterday. Mr. Thomas Perkins keeps his sweet potatoes in a horizontal tunnel cut into a hill. Many of the farmers of Burke and Caldwell keep their potatoes in these tunnels. Yesterday one of Mr. Perkins's sons went into the tunnel. His brother, who stood at the door of the tunnel, saw that the earth was cracking over the spot where his brother stood, and rushed in to save him. He succeeded in pulling his brother out of danger, but was himself caught under the falling earth and killed.

A Countess' Tragic death.

London, March 4.—The Countess Sefton, whose eldest son is recovering from a terrific blow while playing cricket recently, met a tragic death on Thursday last. Her foot caught in her dress while outing, throwing her with such force to the ground that her bracelet crushed into her wrist so deeply that an effort to extract it caused blood poisoning, resulting in her death.

Lincoln Journal: Joe Linton, the 15-year old son of Harriet Linton, colored, was out hunting robins Monday with a cheap shotgun. The barrel of the gun bursted as he was firing at a bird, and the boy was badly hurt. At first it was thought both eyes had been destroyed, but it now appears that only one is seriously injured and that can probably be saved.

A Sudden Death.

Special to the Charlotte Observer.

Elkin, March 4.—Mr. J. W. Williams died suddenly on Wednesday last at his home near Rockford. He was in the woods with a surveying party when death came without a moment's warning. He was quite a prominent man at the time of his death and was supervisor of the public schools in Surry county.

It is estimated that the total saving as to clerical work, etc., by this Legislature over the cost of the session of 1897 will be in the neighborhood of $7,000.

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