

The Chatham Record

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20, 1906.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

The Legislature must rush its work day and night if all its business is transacted within the sixty days for which the members can be paid. Very few bills of any general importance have been passed as yet. The great bulk of the work is yet to be done during the few remaining days of the session.

For instance, the revenue bill has not yet been considered in either branch of the General Assembly, and not much time can now be given for its consideration. As only a few changes in the old revenue law are suggested there need not be much discussion on the new act.

The Appropriations Committee has not yet made any report, and when it does report very careful attention should be given each and every appropriation that is recommended. This report should not be delayed until the last week of the session, as is too often done. While everybody would like to see all the State's institutions receive every dollar that is needed, yet the "garment must be cut according to the cloth"; that is, the appropriations must not exceed the funds that will be in the treasury.

Much time and careful consideration have been given by the committee to the report of the Code commissioners, and yet no report on it has yet been made. This is a most important matter and cannot be disposed of hastily, for it is a compilation of all our statute laws.

The House has passed a bill to allow the prisoner on trial for his life only twelve peremptory challenges in selecting a jury, instead of twenty-four as heretofore allowed.

A bill has been favorably reported to reduce railroad passenger rates from three and a quarter cents a mile to three cents for first-class tickets, and from two and three-quarters to two and a half cents for second-class. Some of the railroads are not making any money at the present passenger rates, and some passenger trains are run at an actual loss.

Too many bills have been introduced to place persons on the pension list, and none of them ought to be passed. If a man cannot pass his county board of pensions, as other pensioners do, then he ought not to be pensioned by a special act of the Legislature. This was the policy pursued by the last two Legislatures and it is fair and just that all should be treated alike.

Two bills have been introduced to divide the State into two judicial circuits, the first to be composed of the first eight judicial districts and the second to be composed of the last eight. This would save the Judges some traveling expenses as they would not have to go so far from home. We would not object to this if we could swap off two or three of our eastern Judges.

The bill to tax dogs has been defeated, as is always the fate of such bills. By-the-way we have not noticed the usual bill, introduced into every Legislature, to protect "diamond-back terrapins."

PRESIDENT Roosevelt seems desirous of gaining the good will of the respectable people of the South, and of late has said and done several things to conciliate them. In an interview last week with Congressman Small, of this State, he is reported as expressing himself most kindly to the South. In his recent speech at New York on Lincoln's birthday he spoke in very complimentary terms of the Confederate soldiers. He said that our country "has the proud right to claim as its own the glory won alike by those who wore the blue and by those who wore the gray, by those who followed Grant and by those who followed Lee; for both fought with equal bravery and with equal sincerity of conviction, each striving for the light as it was given him to see the light."

Such language and such sentiments are highly appreciated by the people of the South, and we are pleased to note that the scales have fallen from the eyes of President Roosevelt, and that he no longer compares Confederate soldiers to anarchists!

But while we appreciate his

expressions, yet the people of the South cannot and will not forgive Mr. Roosevelt until he recants or apologizes for his false and insulting language and action against President Davis.

A Checkered Career.

Washington Special to Evening Post.

A vivid instance of the belated gratitude of republics almost escaped notice in the crush of private pension bills that passed the House yesterday afternoon. When the reading clerk droned the name of Edmund G. Ross, and the proposed bill to increase his pension from \$12 to \$30 per month, not one man in the House recognized the name, or the human interest story that lay behind the modest request. Yet Mr. Ross was at one time a striking figure in one of the great political dramas of this country. As a Senator from Kansas he was one of the nineteen men who voted against the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. He is now living in poverty at Albuquerque, New Mexico, with his son, Pitt, but the latter is very poor, and barely can support his own large family.

Ex-Senator Ross is now 78 years of age, having been born in Ashland, Ohio, in 1826. He received a limited education, and when merely a boy became a printer. Later he moved to Kansas, became editor of the Kansas Tribune, and was a member of the constitutional convention in 1859. He was appointed a United States Senator from Kansas to succeed J. H. Lane, deceased, and served from July, 1866, to March, 1871. He took a prominent part in the Johnson impeachment trial, and was one of the President's strong supporters in opposition to those who wished to remove him from the executive office.

For several years after his service in the United States Senate he supported himself by editorial work. About fifteen years ago he was made Governor of New Mexico, and after he left that office earned a livelihood by editorial work and at the printer's case—his old trade. In recent years he has become very much enfeebled, and is unable to work at his trade, or anything else. He has absolutely no means of support save his pension of \$12 a month. Though he served as captain of Company E, and as major of the Eleventh Kansas Cavalry from 1862 to 1865, he never applied for a pension under the general law, but has been, since 1897, a pensioner under the act of June, 1890, for total disability, the result of senile debility. B. S. Rodey, Delegate from New Mexico, interested himself in the old man's case and secured the increase.

South Dakota Bonds.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Members of the North Carolina delegation in Congress today conferred with a number of members of South Dakota as to a controversy between the States regarding the recovery on North Carolina bonds. Senators Simmons and Overman were informed by Senators Gamble and Yitredge that South Dakota has no intention of purchasing any additional North Carolina bonds, as Governor Glenn of that State seemed to apprehend in a letter to members of the delegation.

In explanation of the attitude of South Dakota toward a sister State in becoming a creditor through the purchase of North Carolina repudiated bonds, it was said today that the action in buying the bonds was taken by the South Dakota Legislature several years ago. The South Dakota Senators declared that their State would not use the proceeds of the sale of the bonds they now hold in order to purchase additional bonds. This assurance has been telegraphed by Senator Simmons to Governor Glenn.

Russian Duke Assassinated.

Moscow, Feb. 17.—While Grand Duke Sergius was driving today from the Nicholas Palace through the Senate quarter, his carriage was followed by two cabs. At the law courts a sleigh, in which were two men, one of whom was dressed as a workman, went quickly ahead of the Grand Duke's carriage. The sleigh then slowed up to allow the carriage to pass, and at that moment a bomb was thrown beneath the carriage. The force of the explosion broke all the windows of the law courts, and the report was heard outside the city. The carriage was blown to pieces, nothing but the four wheels remaining. The horses were not hurt, and bolted. The Grand Duke was instantly killed. His head was blown off, actually being separated from his body, which was frightfully mangled. The coachman was also killed. He was so frightfully burned by the explosive with which the bomb was charged that he died while being taken to a hospital. On the arrest of the murderers, neither of whom was known to the police, one of them coolly said: "I don't care. I have done my job."

The Teachers' Assembly will hold its annual meeting at Greensboro on the 13th of next June, that city having offered \$1,000 to pay the expenses.

Washington Letter.

Washington, Feb. 16, 1906.

The most important event of the present session of Congress—in the opinion of many prominent Democrats—is the most important incident in the present administration, was the amendment by the Senate of the seven arbitration treaties which were ratified last Saturday. The significance of the amendment lies in the fact that it was an assertion by the Senate of its constitutional right to pass upon all agreements entered into by the United States with a foreign nation. The President and his Secretary of State have taken the ground that the Senate could approve a general arbitration treaty conferring power on the Executive to conclude special agreements or treaties, defining the terms on which the arbitration of a specific case could be conducted. The Senate holds, on the contrary, that the constitution explicitly provides that all treaties (or agreements) with a foreign power shall be made "with the advice and consent of the Senate" and that it is now within the power of the upper house to delegate to the Executive powers not conferred by the constitution. This is the principle which was enunciated by a vote of 50 to 9 when the Senate amended the treaties now resting in the State Department.

The President, possessed though he is of many admirable qualities, is inclined to be precipitate and somewhat headstrong and is little inclined to brook interference with his plans or opinions by the Senate or by anyone else. The result is that he has denounced the Senate and lectured individual Senators until, under other circumstances, there would have been a decided break. That there is not one now due to the attitude of the Senate leaders toward Theodore Roosevelt. Most of the leaders are men who have closely approached the proverbial three-score-and-ten. Mr. Roosevelt is only forty-seven and to many of the white haired veterans of the upper house seems little more than a boy. He has just won a remarkable victory for the Republican party, he is fearlessly and militantly honest and he obviously intends to perform his duty to the letter. Under these circumstances gray-haired Senators look wise and say, "Theodore is a little headstrong, but he is a square man, a well meaning boy, and it would be foolish for us to cherish any resentment against him."

That is the situation just now and if the President does not lecture the Senate so severely the present friction will pass away. If he is injudicious it may assume proportions which will mar his entire second administration. Leading Democrats regard the checking of the President's inclination to conduct foreign affairs with a high hand as a most salutary occurrence. They declare that had there not come just such a check in the beginning of his administration he would in all probability have gone so far eventually as to involve himself in some serious trouble which might even have occasioned talk of impeachment. It is singularly unfortunate for Mr. Roosevelt that he has lost Attorney General Knox and Secretary Root from his Cabinet. Both were strong men of calm judgment and fearless demeanor. Both were respected by the President and both exerted a powerful influence over him. Close observers of public events in Washington can clearly distinguish the instances where their restraining influence and wise counsel would have saved the President from mistakes of one character or another.

The San Domingo incident affords an example of the danger in which the President is when he acts on the advice of incompetents. Secretary Hay was ill at the time the San Domingo protocol was concluded and Secretary Loomis was "acting Secretary of State." Mr. Loomis asserted that there was no intention of submitting the protocol to the Senate for ratification and that the United States would take possession of all San Domingo ports without consulting Congress. The President did not confirm or deny this statement for the reason, perhaps, that he did not discuss the subject at all, and as soon as Secretary Hay had recovered sufficiently to resume his duties he announced that it had always been the intention of the administration to negotiate a treaty and submit it to the Senate. Numerous changes were cabled to San Domingo which were incorporated in a treaty which has now reached Washington and been submitted to the Senate. It is too early to make predictions regarding the Senate's action on this treaty, as it has not been read to that body, having been referred immediately to the committee on Foreign Relations. In a general way, however, it may be said that Republicans seem to approve the principle they understand to be involved in the treaty, and that Democrats are inclined to regard it as of doubtful propriety.

Lewiston, Bertie county, a town of 175 people, with ten or twelve stores, was totally destroyed by fire Friday, with loss of over \$50,000, and only one building, the store of Baker & Hoggard, is left standing.

The Japanese-Russian War.

From the Chronicle, October 21, 1905.

Once more the scene has shifted and the world is gazing upon Russia instead of Manchuria. The cause being the assassination of Grand Duke Sergius, an uncle of the Czar, and the one individual who, more than any other, is believed to be responsible for the recent bloody scenes in St. Petersburg and other Russian cities. He was regarded as the most powerful of the influences behind the throne, and the people looked upon him as their enemy. He was marked for slaughter by the plotters who are continually endeavoring to overthrow the present government, and their plans, so far as the death of Sergius is concerned, worked to perfection, the official being killed instantly. It is hard to predict what effect this crime will have upon the political situation in Russia. It seems likely, however, that it may hasten steps to bring about peace with Japan. A conference was held between the Czar and the Ministers Thursday, at which the matter of bringing about an end to the hostilities is said to have been considered. In connection with this meeting, it is stated in a dispatch from St. Petersburg that the suggestion is given out that an intimation of the terms upon which Japan would end the war have reached the Russian authorities. A dispatch from Tokio emphatically denies that Japan has indicated anything of the kind. The dispatches from St. Petersburg since the assassination of Friday emphasize the belief that the Russian autocracy has at last realized the futility of continuing the war, in view of the serious situation at home. The world at large seems to regard Japan as already the victor, despite the fact that Russia has an army of something like four hundred thousand men in Manchuria, and the claim is put forth that this number is some fifty thousand greater than the force of Field Marshal Oyama.

There has been no important fighting in Manchuria during the past week, although the reports indicate that Kuropatkin continues his artillery attack upon Oyama's centre. It seems, however, to have little effect. Another squadron of warships left Lihau last week, ostensibly for the Far East, but their movements are doubtless not taken seriously by anybody. According to a dispatch from Tokio, the sailing of Admiral Togo from Kure with a secret destination transfers the interest in the campaign, at least temporarily, from the vicinity of Mukden to the Indian Ocean, where it is expected that Togo will meet the fleet under Admiral Rojestvensky. There are a number of foreign collieries accompanying this fleet, and to remove any doubt about their fate the Japanese have given it out that no matter what flag they may be flying they will be snuk when Togo's ships get within range. All non-combatants have been ordered by the Russian authorities to leave Vladivostok, this indicating that a Japanese attack on that port is expected soon. There is little doubt that the ice is the only thing that delays the beginning of the siege of the remaining Russian port in the Far East.

Midshipman Arrowood Arrested.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Midshipman Milton W. Arrowood, of Burlington, N. C., now a prisoner on board the receiving ship Hancock at the navy yard, New York, will be sent to the naval station at Guantanamo, Cuba, on the first naval vessel bound to that port, and turned over to the commandant for "such action as he deems proper." This is the first case where a midshipman has been called to face trial on the charge of desertion. It is said the young officer bases his desire to leave the service on the alleged ground that he could not be a Christian gentleman and officer of the navy at the same time. He will be tried on the general charge of desertion and on the special charge of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline and reflecting upon the moral character of his associates in the service.

Over 100 Miners Entombed.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 20.—By

an explosion in the Cassin mines about 18 miles southwest of Birmingham at 1 o'clock this afternoon, between 100 and 120 union miners are entombed and it is believed that the entire number suffered death. Scores of vigorous rescuers are at work digging into the mines to relieve their friends and comrades on the inside.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by an accumulation of dust although the mine has heretofore been noted for being entirely free from such. It is also believed that as the entire quota has probably been killed the details of the cause of the disaster will never be known. The news spread like wild fire throughout the whole district. The camp is almost isolated from the rest of the world, as there is no telephone station at Virginia and the only wire running to the place is a dispatchers wire of the Birmingham Mineral Railroad, on which Virginia is located. Details of the disaster were slow to come in, but each man who arrived in the city from the scene told a more gruesome story of the horror.

The class of miners employed was the best in the district, and all belonged to the United Mine Workers of America. Since the strike has been on in the Birmingham district many of the most industrious and thrifty miners of Pratt City and other important mining points have removed to the Virginia mines, so that the mines were being worked to their full capacity by the most skilled miners of the community. Relief trains with surgeons and workmen were dispatched from Birmingham and Bessemer as soon as the news of the disaster was learned. They began the work of succor in earnest before six o'clock and at midnight had not gotten half way through the mass of debris. It is thought that it will be ten o'clock tomorrow morning before the interior of the slope is reached. The slopes are well arranged and there has never been the least trouble in the mines before. They are owned by the Alabama Steel & Wire Company, but are leased and operated by Reid & Company.

Murder at Wilson.

Special Cor. to the Evening Times.

Wilson, N. C., Feb. 18.—Our whole community is in bitterest sorrow over the atrocious murder of Mr. R. O. Pickard, one of the cleverest and most excellent gentlemen that ever lived in Wilson. While drunk yesterday afternoon Wiley House and Chas. Norton went to the cotton mill, of which Mr. Pickard is general superintendent, and being ordered by him to leave, they refused, and Mr. Pickard attempted to put them out by force. A scuffle ensued, in which House drew his pistol and shot Mr. Pickard through the heart. Mr. Bissett, an employe, ran up and caught House just as he was making an effort to shoot again, and did shoot just as Mr. Bissett caught his hand and threw up the pistol. Mr. Pickard attempted to go to his office, but fell and died before reaching it. House attempted to escape but was soon captured and lodged in jail. Norton was also arrested and lodged in jail. Our whole community is thoroughly indignant and outraged at this terrible deed, and loud and bitter are the threats that have been made.

\$138,250,100 For Pensions.

Washington, February 18.—The House today passed the pensions appropriation bill carrying \$138,250,100. The minority, led by Mr. Underwood, made an ineffectual effort to reduce the aggregate of the appropriation so as to exclude pensions allowed under "Order No. 78," which, it was stated, would involve about \$4,500,000. It was contended that the order was without authority of law.

Fired Four Shots.

Durham, N. C., Feb. 20.—At an

early hour yesterday morning there came very near being a homicide in the northern part of the town, the quarrel being over an account of ten cents. William Dickerson and another negro known only as "Kid" got into a dispute over ten cents. They had been to a dance in the country and the trouble started while at the dance. When the matter came to a show down the strange negro known as "Kid" backed off a few feet and after saying "watch out" fired four shots. One of these shots took effect in the shoulder of Dickerson and was located about four inches from the place where it entered. The one using the gun has made his escape. It is not thought that the wound will be of a serious nature.

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March 2nd to 7th.
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