

### THE LEGISLATURE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina convened in its regular biennial session at noon today, as prescribed by our State constitution. The Senate was called to order by Lieutenant-Governor W. C. Newland who is ex-officio the presiding officer of that body, and after the senators had been sworn in an organization was perfected by the election of R. O. Self, of Jackson county, as principal clerk; Mark Squires, of Caldwell, reading clerk; R. M. Staley, of Wilkes, doorkeeper, and W. G. Hall, of Cumberland, assistant doorkeeper. Senator H. N. Pharr, of Charlotte, was elected president pro tem.

The House of Representatives was called to order by Mr. T. G. Cobb, the principal clerk of the last House, and after the members had been sworn in the following officers were elected: Hon. W. C. Dowd, of Charlotte, speaker; Mr. T. G. Cobb, of Moranton, principal clerk; D. Scott Poole, of Cumberland, reading clerk; G. L. Kilpatrick, of LeNoir, doorkeeper, and D. H. James, of Halifax, as assistant doorkeeper.

As usual at the opening of every session there were many applicants for various positions in the gift of the Senate and House, most of whom were of course disappointed, for only a few of the many could be successful. In this connection we cannot refrain from urging this Legislature not to have so many employes as are usually given positions by our Legislatures. For years past more men and boys have been employed in the Senate and House than were necessary, simply because nearly every member of the Legislature insists upon one or more of his constituents getting a place. This was notoriously true of the Populist and Republican Legislatures in 1895 and 1897, when there were so many employes loafing in the lobby that they were actually in the way of the members and visitors.

We hope that our lawmakers will have a session that will be pleasant to them and profitable to the State. They will, of course, be criticised, sometimes unjustly, and will not be able to please everybody, but we hope that they will give as little cause for complaint as possible and so act that they will deserve and receive the plaudits of their constituents.

### CITY COMMISSION GOVERNMENT.

Among other acts which the present Legislature will be called on to enact is one providing for government by commission in any city of this State that may desire that change. This method of government was started in this country only a few years ago at Galveston, Texas, and it has proved so beneficial there that many other cities have since adopted it and it will no doubt be adopted by a majority of the cities of the United States.

The object of the commission method of government in cities is chiefly to get municipal governments out of politics and conducted on business principles. By it the affairs of the city are committed to a commission of five of the city's best men, to each of whom is entrusted the specific responsibility for certain departments and all share a general responsibility and are on their good behavior, since they are elected for a short term and are therefore subject to frequent expression of the popular will.

It will be generally conceded that our municipal governments need some reform and improvement. It can hardly be expected that this commission form of government can be established (at least for some years) in such large and corrupt cities as New York and Philadelphia. In those cities graft and corruption prevail to an alarming extent, one city (New York) being

controlled by the Democrats (Tammany Hall) and the other city (Philadelphia) being controlled by the Republicans. In many of our small cities there is almost as much corruption in proportion to population as there is in New York or Philadelphia.

This subject of commission government in the cities of this State will be discussed and considered at a meeting of the North Carolina Municipal Association to be held at Raleigh on the 18th of January, and no doubt a bill will be prepared for introduction in the Legislature to allow any city or town to vote upon the question of a commission form of government.

### HASTY LEGISLATION.

There is an old saying that "advice is cheap," and no doubt very much advice will be given our lawmakers now in session, and yet at the risk of being presumptuous we would most earnestly urge upon the members of our Legislature not to delay until the closing days of the session the passage of most of their laws. It has become the custom of our Legislatures to enact most of the laws in a rush near the close of the session, and this is a custom which we hope the present Legislature will not follow. During the rush of legislation in the closing days of the session many bills are passed without due consideration and which ought not to be passed and would not be passed if the members knew their contents. We know this to be true from personal experience, and attention has recently been called to it by Secretary of State Grimes.

In his forthcoming report Secretary Grimes says that the Legislature of 1907 passed 1,535 acts, of which 1,245 were ratified during the last twenty days of the session, and that actually 237 were ratified on the very last day. He says that 66 per cent of the laws of the session of 1909 were enrolled and ratified during the last ten days. Of course most of those bills were never considered by committees, and it is a physical impossibility for the committee on enrolled bills to have read them after being enrolled. In such a rush not only are many bills passed that ought not to be passed, but many that are meritorious are not properly enrolled and are defective.

Of course more bills are passed necessarily near the close of any session than near the beginning, because all bills are, or should be, duly referred to committees for full investigation and the committees rarely report many bills until some time after the session has begun. What we now urge is that the committees do not delay their work but promptly consider and act on all bills referred to them, so as to avoid the rush near the close of the session.

### FATALITIES IN AVIATION.

While wonderful progress was made last year in aviation yet there have been many fatalities, the list numbering thirty of the most noted airmen in the world.

On last Saturday two of the most famous aviators in the world were killed while flying through the air in their machines. One was Moisant, who had made the noted flight from London to Paris, and who was killed at New Orleans Saturday, and the other was Hoxsey, who only on the preceding Monday had broken all records for altitude, having flown to the height of 11,474 feet, over two miles!

The continued attempts of men to fly after so many have been killed shows a wonderful determination to succeed or a most daredevil spirit that amounts to recklessness and a tempting of Providence.

The American public pays the six big packery concerns of Chicago the colossal sum of \$945,000,000 a year for meat.

### WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent

Washington, Dec. 30.—With the close of the holiday season, here is a renewal of activity in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government in Washington. Barely two months of the life of the present Congress remains, for at the hour of 12 m. on the 4th of March the 61st Congress will expire by limitation. Then nearly twelve months must elapse before the Congress elected last November can assemble and begin the work for which it was elected. This is an exceedingly clumsy arrangement, for it not only puts off till tomorrow what ought to be done today, but multiplies the delay by nearly four hundred days. However, let the beathen rage because inasmuch as the remedy must be through legislation, it is almost impossible of attainment.

A measure of prime importance which will be urged by the President, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of State and by members and Senators in both houses of Congress, is the prompt fortification of the Panama canal, especially at the western end. Defenses against modern dreadnoughts cannot be improvised in a night, and it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of protecting a work upon which so much money has been spent and which is so vital to the protection of the Pacific coast.

The new year opens with the United States at peace with all the world, but the words of Patrick Henry, "Gentlemen may cry 'Peace, peace,' but there is no peace, no peace, no peace in the apartment house, no peace between owners of adjoining farms, and the United States having extended its borders to Panama, the Hawaiian Islands, the Philippines, Guam and the Aleutian Islands, is in perpetual rasing attrition with the rest of the world. It might be better if we could give away or sink the Philippines and let the Japanese poachers have all the seals on the Pribilof Islands and escape quarrels by confining ourselves to antebellum boundaries, but we are in a situation of having and holding and can't let go. Therefore it is wisdom to strengthen our hold with warships and fortifications.

It is doubtful if the Mikado's government knows anything about the alleged wireless stations that certain Japanese are said to have built on the lonely coasts of the Philippines; or that Japanese merchants are smuggling arms and explosives to our always more or less rebellious dependents. What a stupid contratemps it was, anyhow, of the Spanish war for us to have forfeited Cuba and to have fastened the Philippine millstone around our neck.

Representative Longworth, of Ohio, has come back to Washington with the complete draft of a bill creating a tariff commission, and it is said that Payne, Aldrich, Dalzell and the rest of them are in favor of such a commission and that legislation on the subject will be completed before the 4th of March. The bill as drafted creates a commission of five members each with a salary of \$7,500, and of the membership not more than three are to be of the same political party. The central office is to be in Washington, but the commission is empowered to meet anywhere and is given wide powers of collection and collation of facts. The bill authorizes the commission to go into the cost of production of all articles and to investigate the wages paid at home and in foreign countries, also the prices paid for raw materials, whether imported or domestic. The maximum and minimum clause of the present tariff law is re-enacted in the bill. The members of the commission are to be appointed by the President.

### Killed in Foolish Play.

Special to the Charlotte Observer.

Spartanburg, S. C., Dec. 30.—Having returned from a hunt to-day and while pointing the guns at each other in playful manner, the gun in the hands of Alex. Donahoe was accidentally discharged and O. B. Lynch was instantly killed.

The entire load took effect in the top of his head which was literally blown off. Both boys are about 17 years of age and both sons of well known and prosperous farmers. The accident occurred just over the North Carolina line and the coroner of Polk county held an inquest.

### From Ocean to Ocean at Panama.

According to a time-table of transits which Colonel Goethals has prepared, twelve hours will be allowed the slowest ship in passing through the canal. This allows three hours for passage through the locks. The canal, from deep water to deep water, when completed will be 50 1-2 miles long and the distance on land will be 40 1-2 miles.

In passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific side, the ships will enter the canal from Limon Bay, passing through a channel 500 feet wide to Gatun, a distance of about seven miles. Here it will enter a series of three locks in flight, and will reach at once the highest elevation of the canal, 85 feet, and will find itself on the surface of Gatun Lake. This is the immense lake formed by impounding of the waters of the Chagres river by Gatun dam and will cover an area of 164 square miles. Over this lake, steamers will move at full speed for a distance of 24 miles until they reach Bas Obispo, the entrance to Culebra cut. The length of Culebra cut is about nine miles, the minimum width of the channel being 300 feet at the bottom. At Pedro Miguel, one lock will lower the ship to the level of 54 2-3 feet above the sea level. The descent from Pedro Miguel is to a lake 1 1-2 miles long ending in the Miraflores locks. Two locks will lower the vessel to the sea level. Passing through a bottom channel 500 feet in width, the vessel will then pass out to the Pacific, covering 8 1-2 miles in the sea-level channel.—From "Realizing the Dream of Panama," by George F. Authier, in the American Review of Reviews for January.

When buying a cough medicine for children bear in mind that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is most effectual for colds, croup and whooping cough and that it contains no harmful drug. For sale by all dealers.

Notwithstanding this country has the best fire fighting equipment in the world, it each year loses more than two hundred millions of dollars by fire. This is four or five times as much as is lost in all the European countries.

### Saved at Death's Door.

The door of death seemed ready to open for Murray W. Ayers, of Transit Bridge, New York, when his life was wonderfully saved. "I was in a dreadful condition," he writes, "my skin was almost yellow; eyes sunken; tongue coated; emaciated from losing forty pounds, growing weaker daily. Virulent liver trouble pulling me down to death in spite of doctors. Then that matchless medicine—E-lectric Bitters—entered me. I regained the 40 pounds lost and now am well strong." For all stomach, liver and kidney troubles they're supreme. 50c at all druggists.

A Greensboro firm has a contract with the Southern Bell phone company for half an hour with New York at noon each day. For this service the firm pays \$300 a month. The service is worth thousands of dollars, because the firm is thereby enabled to run two big businesses in both New York and Greensboro by this half hour conversation with both offices each day.

Medicines that aid nature are always most effectual. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy acts on this plan. It attacks the cough, relieves the lungs, opens the secretions and aids nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition. Thousands have testified to its superior excellence. Sold by all dealers.

A thousand voters in a single Ohio county have pleaded guilty to the charge of selling their votes at the recent election.

### A Wretched Mistake

to endure the itching, painful distress of piles. There's no need to. Listen: "I suffered much from piles," writes Will A. Marsh, of Siler City, N. C., "till I got a box of Bucklen's Azaica Salve, and was soon cured." Burns, boils, ulcers, fever sores, eczema, cuts, chapped hands, chilblains vanish before it. 25c at all druggists.

The twenty-sixth annual session of the North Carolina Association of City Public Superintendents and Principals will be held in Raleigh January 26, 27 and 28.

### A Wild Blizzard Raging

brings danger, suffering—often death—to thousands, who take colds, coughs and grippe—that terror of winter and spring. Its danger signals are: "stuffed up nostrils, lower part of nose sore, chills and fever, pain in back of head, and a throat-gripping cough. When grip attack, as you value your life, don't delay getting Dr. King's New Discovery. "One bottle cured me," writes A. L. Dunn, of Pine Valley, Miss., "after being 'laid up' three weeks with grip." For sore lungs, hemorrhages, coughs, colds, whooping cough, bronchitis, asthma it's supreme. 50c. \$1. Guaranteed by all druggists.

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### The Value of Trees.

From the New York Evening Mail.

An Indiana man who recently chopped down a noble walnut tree belonging to a neighbor was sued for damages by the owner of the property, and a local magistrate gave judgment for \$25 against the offender. The verdict was evidently based solely on the estimated commercial value of the tree, and the figure seemed ridiculously low, even from that point of view. They look at such things in a different way over in New Jersey, as a brief narrative will prove. Mr. Mary V. Nevins, of Merchantsville, had growing in front of her residence a row of five beautiful maples, which formed part of the landscape and possessed an enduring charm for their owner and her neighbors. These trees were all killed by gas escaping from a main which, it appears, was not properly cared for by those responsible. The court took the same view of the case, too, for when Mrs. Nevins sued for damages the other day the jury promptly awarded her a judgment for \$2,000. Manifestly the New Jersey estimate is something like the real thing.

France is making unbreakable glass.

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Raleigh, N. C.

## Tutt's Pills

After eating, persons of a bilious habit will derive great benefit by taking one of these pills. If you have been DRINKING TOO MUCH, they will promptly relieve the cause, SICK HEADACHE and nervousness which follows, restore the appetite and remove gloomy feelings. Elegantly sugar coated. Take No Substitute.

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