

# THE DEMOCRAT.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1891.

## THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gov. Fowle's message was read in the House of Representatives on Thursday last. After reviewing the State debt he thinks there need be no increase of State taxes if we can get a fair valuation of lands on a cash basis. He urges the appointment of a board of equalization of tax assessments in the new assessment of this year.

On the subject of education, the Governor expressed very pronounced views. He cited the provision of the constitution requiring the commissioners to keep the public schools open at least four months in each year, and referred to the obstacle in their way of doing that because of the limitation of taxation.

He indicated that the legislature might find a way out of the difficulty, as the commissioners now levied the tax for county purposes first and left the school tax for the last; and the Supreme Court has held that they cannot exceed the limit for school purposes.

The report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction showed that while the general tax in the United States was \$2.11 a head for each school child, in North Carolina it was only 40 cents. But in one township the sum of \$22,000 had been raised, and it contained only 4,548 children, being \$4.69 for each child. The general average of the money raised for school purposes is \$1.22 for each child of school age.

He recommends that the legislature should compel the public schools to be kept open the whole term of four months, and that a law be passed allowing any township to increase its own taxation and maintain its schools even for a longer period; and that the school district or township that taxed itself should be credited in the State tax for educational purposes with the amount it raised for that purpose.

The average term is now but sixty days, being three days less than in 1888. The entire educational receipts for 1890 were \$718,225. The children of school age number 588,688; the number enrolled is 332,533, and the average attendance 203,100.

Gov. Fowle warmly favors a liberal support for the University and recommended the appointment of a legislative committee to see what it would cost to make it effective.

He also recommends training schools for teachers.

He recommended a tonnage tax on fertilizers to take the place of the old law taxing fertilizers, which has been declared unconstitutional.

The Agricultural Experiment Station's work was commended and with the funds from the National Hatch act it is self sustaining.

Of the successful work of the Agricultural and Mechanical College he spoke in warm terms of praise.

He referred to the act of Congress of 1862 donating land grants to agricultural colleges, and to the act of 1890 appropriating \$15,000 to such colleges, and with an additional appropriation of \$1,000 a year for ten years, and then \$25,000 a year thereafter. But there was in this act a provision requiring instruction to both races, with

equal facilities, though not in the same institutions. He had some correspondence with the Secretary of the Interior about the portion that would be coming to this State, but as we had at that time made no provision for negro pupils, the Secretary of the Interior had concluded that North Carolina was not entitled to share in the fund. Since then an arrangement had been made with Dr. Tupper, of Shaw University, by which the professors of the Agricultural College teach at the Shaw University a course similar to that at the college. But since that arrangement was made he has received no reply from the secretary as to whether the terms of the act were sufficiently complied with. He referred the subject to the Legislature.

His review of the rapid railway progress which North Carolina is making and the interest of the State in various roads was satisfactory.

Swamp lands have been sold to the amount of \$46,000.

The fact that the Penitentiary under the able management of Col. Faison, is now self sustaining was adverted to and various plans suggested for the permanent employment of convicts.

He briefly complimented the work of the Attorney General's office and endorsed the suggestions of constitutional revision and other recommendations of the Attorney General's report.

There were 4,051 pensioners, of whom 2,522 were widows; and the amount disbursed was \$87,496. Enlarging the widow class decreases the amount the poor, indigent wounded soldiers would receive. Only one county has failed to collect the tax for the old veterans.

The status of the various State charitable institutions were reviewed.

He recommended legislation in regard to public roads. He devoted considerable space to the oyster interests and urged legislation, the details of which he outlined, to promote the oyster business and to protect our interest from the oyster pirates of Virginia and Maryland.

He complimented very highly the State Guard, which now consists of four regiments, one troop of cavalry and one colored company—in all 1,505, fully uniformed and equipped. He said that the presence of a single company at Rocky Mount in 1890 had saved the State more property than the entire Guard had cost.

He adverted to the encampment at Wrightsville, where the citizens were now erecting buildings at the cost of \$5,000, and where the United States government had erected a battery. The property was given by citizens of Wilmington.

He made mention of the old Clubfoot and Harlowe canal, which has been so deepened as to admit passage for all vessels that can approach it, and commended the report of Ed. Chambers Smith, of the Board of Internal Improvements.

He mentioned the appointment of Col. Andrews and Col. Keogh as Commissioners of the World's Fair, and said they had discharged their duties with faithfulness to the State and honor to themselves; and having enlarged upon the resources of North Carolina he recommended making an ample appropriation of not less than \$25,000 for an exhibit.

He said the Governor's mansion had all been paid for except some small balance due the penitentiary.

And he concluded with a few words of merited eulogy on the late Chief Justice Smith, Judge William M. Shipp, and Hon. Paul Cameron.

[We are indebted for the above facts to the admirable condensation of the News-Observer.—ED. DEMOCRAT.]

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## SENATORS INSTRUCTED.

The entire democratic force of the Legislature voted for the following resolution of instructions to our Senators. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Holman and amended by Mr. Patterson, Mr. Holman accepting the amendment. It reads as follows:

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that our Senators in the Fifty-first and Fifty-second Congress of the United States be and they are hereby instructed, and our Representatives are requested, to vote for and use all honorable means to secure the financial reforms as demanded in the platform adopted by the Ocala meeting of the National Farmers' Alliance, held in December, 1890.

Mr. Patterson moved to amend so that the resolution should read: That our Senators in the 51st and 52nd Congress of the United States be and they are hereby instructed, and our Representatives are requested, to vote for and use all honorable means to secure the objects of the financial reforms contemplated in the platform adopted by the Ocala meeting of the Farmers' Alliance, held December, 1890.

Mr. Holman accepted the amendment.

## A MISTAKE.

At the last meeting of the City Council the office of Sanitary Inspector was abolished, in order to reduce expenses. This is a mistake, and ought to be remedied at the next meeting. It would be poor economy should an epidemic break out in Asheville through the neglect of the city to guard against such a thing. The visitors in our city would leave, while it would deter others from coming, and would work an incalculable injury that it might take years to overcome and might destroy Asheville's reputation altogether as a health resort. Can we afford to run such a risk? In order to save a few hundred dollars a year we run the risk of losing thousands. Economize in some other direction and let us have an energetic, fearless sanitary officer.

## EDITORIAL PARAGRAPHS.

Dr. Abernathy announces that he has contracted for the rebuilding of Rutherford College. He has raised half the money necessary and calls confidently on public spirited citizens to raise the rest. The doctor is a "hustler" and will get there.

We have received the annual report of Attorney-General Davidson. It congratulates the State upon the successful issue of litigations, strongly urges constitutional revision and suggests the creation of two degrees of murder to give doubtful cases more latitude for verdicts. The report is full in detail and wise reflection.

We learn that many of the Texas cities in convention have called upon the Legislature to appropriate \$1,000,000 in order to show the Texas products at the World's Fair and convince the world in the language of one of the Texans that the State can raise something outside cotton and h-l. North Carolina is asked to give only \$25,000.

The caucus on Monday night last of the democratic members of the legislature unanimously nominated Zebulon B. Vance to succeed himself in the United States Senate. The election by a joint session of the house and senate was held on Tuesday, Vance receiving the entire democratic vote and Jeter Pritchard, of Madison, the republican vote.

Europe is having the severest weather known for many years. There have been snows

over northern Italy from which the people, unaccustomed to and unprepared for it, have suffered keenly. There is much suffering also in Spain, and it is said some have perished from the cold on the streets of Paris. Over the United Kingdom the long freeze has caused the greatest distress, and it is said many have perished for want of food and shelter.

Gov. Fowle gave the first reception in the newly completed Governor's mansion at Raleigh. This is the first thing of the sort in Raleigh for twenty-six years, since which time the old Governor's "palace," as the Raleigh people used to call it, facing the capitol at the lower end of Fayetteville street, has been abandoned by the executive.

Evidently, says the New York Star, Senator Quay feels it incumbent upon him to endeavor to free himself from the imputation of being a weak-kneed republican on account of his reputed opposition to the Fraud and Force Election bill. The new Election bill that he has introduced in the Senate seems to be even more drastic than the Hoar and Lodge measure. This bill gives the President power to suspend the habeas corpus writ and to employ the army and navy for its enforcement whenever he wishes so to do. There can be no question about the bayonets in this bill. It makes the President an absolute dictator. Of course Senator Quay does not expect to secure the passage of this measure. He only brings it forward to rehabilitate himself as an Imperialist among Imperialists. No one will question his success in that effort. He has out-Heroded Hoar in the expression of a desire to slaughter free institutions.

## Buncombe Alliance.

At the meeting last week of the Buncombe county Alliance, at which twenty-five sub-alliances were represented, a resolution was agreed to favoring a railroad commission for the State, and recommending A. D. Jones, of Wake, Elias Carr, president of the State Alliance, and S. R. Kepler, of Asheville, as commissioners.

Resolutions were passed by the meeting as follows:

Demanding the full and unlimited coinage of silver.

Endorsing the St. Louis platform as amended by the National Alliance at Ocala, Fla., in December.

Instructing Alliance representatives and Senators to urge upon the United States Senators the necessity of pushing the sub-treasury bill, or something better.

Recommending that the law regarding the carrying of concealed weapons be changed so that the penalty will be \$50 fine or thirty days' imprisonment for first offence, double for second offence, and for third offence imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Demanding the imposition of a \$500 tax on dealers for the privilege of selling concealed weapons.

Favoring the remuneration of jurors and witnesses at the rate of \$2 and \$1.50 per diem, exclusive of mileage.

Favoring a better system of working and maintaining the public roads by taxation.

Demanding a change in the law so as to adopt a graduated income tax.

Endorsing Senator Stanford's scheme for the relief of the people.

Favoring a law making dogs taxable property.

Demanding the repeal of the law taxing mortgages.

There are now thirty-five sub-alliances in Buncombe county and the meetings are made interesting by the discussion of questions looking to the betterment of the condition of the farmer.

These demands will be sent at once to the Alliance legislative committee at Raleigh, that they may be brought to the attention of the legislature.

The county Alliance will meet again on Friday, Jan. 23, at which time the idea of a Western North Carolina fair will be thoroughly discussed.

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## Board.

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## A WORD TO THE WISE.

Even the wise are not so wise but that words "fitly spoken" to them should be as "apples of gold in pictures of silver." The best posted of us are not so full of knowledge but that a little observation would lead to larger and broader intelligence. We desire here to direct the attention of the wise, and the unwise for that matter, to the fact that

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