

WEEKLY NEWS.

CHARLOTTE:

Tuesday, November 30, 1869.

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Corruption.

The recent frauds which have come to light in the New York Custom House, says the Petersburg Index, are but in keeping with the late disclosures about the workings of "the Gold Ring." Corruption seems to be rife in all departments of the government. True, we are no worse off than other nations in this respect, but that is scarcely nothing to the unfortunate taxpayer. The historians tell us that even those tiresome Greeks "seldom had sufficient principle to resist a bribe," but this point of resemblance between the republics of antiquity and the great Republic of to-day is singularly enough passed over by the comparative ethnographers who preach unto us Grimm's Law. Nor will the promised advent of "the Celestials" help us much in this respect, if we may trust the accounts given us by travellers. "Incapacity among Chinese officials," says a writer in Blackwood's Magazine, "is very prevalent, but bad as this is, their corruption and corruptibility is a still more formidable evil. Their main science of government seems to be—to give bribes to all above them and to receive bribes from all below them. In truth the government officers from Peking to Thibet are one vast hive of peculators." Shall we read instead of Peking and Thibet from New York to New Orleans? Shall we see some noble mandarin installed as chief of the Custom House at San Francisco? Bengalais, what the Bengalais is to the other Hindoos, so would such a Celestial be to Blatchford what Blatchford is to the other Custom House officials. Mind, we do not say that he could not and would not be eclipsed by native talent. Far be it from our patriotic breasts to hazard any such narrow-minded assertion. Shall native talent though be subjected to such risk?

We can only pray with the great Roman:
—The honor'd gods
Keep Rome in safety, and the chairs of justice
Supplied with worthy men.

Municipal Rogues.

In all our exchanges from North South, East and West, we find accounts of municipal corruption, says the Norfolk Journal. From New York city to the little Western town just incorporated, the accounts are the same—roguey in every department of the city or village government. From the commercial capital of a million to the town of a thousand, every thing is worked by "rings" composed of a few sharp intriguers, into whose pockets goes the money collected from a people already overburdened with taxation. Municipal scoundrelism seems to have grown to a degree of magnitude to which there is no parallel on the face of the earth. In the cities of other lands there are instances of knavery, no doubt; but they are exceptions, not the rule, as we find it to be the case in the United States. Moreover, in those countries there is some chance of a peacemaker being punished—in this country there is none.

What is the cause of this terrible state of things? We believe one of the chief reasons is to be found in the spirit of party. So absorbing is this, that each faction puts into office the most available men, instead of the most honest ones; and these fellows thrust themselves forward into the management of every political organization, it matters not which succeeds the people are plundered.

Is there any hope of a change for the better? We fear not. In the

larger cities the tax-payers have given it up, and patiently allow themselves to be robbed. They say that there is no use to attempt to defend themselves—that all parties are equally eager for stealing, and that their professions of honesty are all a sham.

In this totally surrendering they are wrong; for if the men of character and substance in any community were to form combinations for common defence, we believe that something could be done to protect themselves from pillage; but as long as they allow men to be put into office to rob them, it will be done.

The Wilmington Journal says: We earnestly trust that Madame Fashion will prescribe that women shall wear something on their heads this winter. A postage stamp of a bonnet may look very pretty, but it won't do for cold weather.

The case of the State vs. Charles Rea, (col'd), charged with assault with intent to commit a rape, was tried last Thursday and found guilty but recommended to the mercy of the Court.

THE AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER.—We have received the prospectus of a monthly journal to be published at St. Louis, December 1st, by J. W. Melnyre, No. 4 South Fifth Street, under supervision of a committee, representing the Evangelical denomination. Its sphere is the promotion of the religious education of the young in the Family, Sanatory, Sabbath and Day School, Asylum, &c., in all sections and denominations alike.

It will have a lesson system with expository notes, illustrations, &c., with much other matter ready prepared for the use of teachers, parents, and others.

The Editorial Committee consists of leading ministers of different denominations. The publisher, would no doubt, gladly answer all inquiries.

SINGULAR CATTLE DISEASE.—A disease, new to our section, says the Bedford Sentinel, has recently broken out among the cattle in certain symptoms are described by Captain Buford, as follows: The calves refuse to eat, and are inclined to lie down all the time. Their limbs seem to be partially paralysed. When made to get up, they tremble violently. Soon the disease seems to settle in one leg, which seems to be almost paralysed. They breathe hard and the belly is drawn up. Just before death, they begin to swell, and seem to choke up and die. Decomposition takes place, even in this weather, in the course of one night. Upon an examination of the hides, of those which had died, the skin of the leg affected by the disease was found in every instance to be entirely decayed. The calves attacked, were six or seven months old.

Lynchburg Republican.

The Washington special to the Cincinnati Commercial tells this little story on Colfax:

"As a specimen of some of the testimony taken by the House Election Committee, in its investigation in Louisiana, it is noticed in the records that a negro witness from the lower counties, in answer to questions by Mr. Kerr, the Democratic member, swore that he believed that one of the Republican candidates at the Presidential election was a negro. When asked whether it was General Grant or Speaker Colfax, he replied that it was the latter, and that he knew that he, Colfax, was a negro, from his picture."

An old miser in Ireland left a will bequeathing to his sister-in-law, Mary Dennis, forty old worned stockings, which she will find under my bed," to a nephew, two other stockings, to the house-keeper, "for her long and faithful services, my cracked earthen pitcher," and other legacies of the same character to other persons. The legatees were in a high state of wrath, but one of them having kicked down the pitcher and found it full of guineas, the others examined the stockings and found them similarly lined.

JAPANESE NAVAL STUDENTS.—Two young Japanese, named Jao Satara and Mantinero Junjo, are in Washington. They will go to the Naval Academy in a few days to receive instructions in naval science, agreeably with an act of Congress, July 27, 1867, giving the Secretary of the Navy authority to instruct a limited number of Japanese subjects, no expense therefore to devote on the United States. Eight others will arrive here soon, and will be instructed with those now here.—Ex.

The Masonic Fair, which closed in Charleston on Saturday night, is said to have been a grand success. The Courier thinks the amount realized will not fall far short of \$10,000.

From the Raleigh Sentinel.

The Legislature of North Carolina. SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24th.

The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock.

NOTICE OF BILLS.

Mr. Stephens of a bill to charter a Railroad Company. Said road to run from Yanceyville to Danville, Va.

Mr. Shoffner, a bill to raise a sinking fund to purchase North Carolina bonds, also a bill to tax steam Distilleries of whiskey.

Mr. Beall, of a bill concentrating Probate, Registrar of Deeds and other instruments, also of bill relating to unsold town lots and other Public property.

Mr. Brogden, of a bill to protect the Sheriffs of certain Counties.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

By J. A. Hyman, (col.) A bill to amend an act to raise revenue, by striking out in the 15 section, after the words "and shall be paid on receiving the license," the words "and shall in no instance be less than ten dollars." Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Long, A bill to prevent the sale of spirituous liquors within three miles of Silver Hill, Davidson county. Referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

By J. H. Hyman, (col.) A resolution requesting the Representatives of the State in Congress to exert themselves to secure a loan of one million of dollars to relieve the poor of the State who are unable to purchase homes or lands. Laid over.

THIRD READING OF BILLS.

Bill to continue per diem and mileage of the officers and members of the General Assembly the same as allowed them the two preceding sessions. Passed; yeas 17, nays 15.

Bill to further protect the interests of the State in the several Railroads. (This bill provides that the officers of the several Railroads shall make full reports of their transactions quarterly.) Passed; yeas 27, nays 7.

Those voting in the negative were Messrs. Bellamy, Durns, Davis, Eppes, (col.) Galloway, (col.) Harrington and Moore, of Yancey.

SPECIAL ORDER.

Bill to be entitled an act to investigate the affairs of the Railroad Companies hereinafter named. This bill authorizes the Governor to appoint a Commission of five members to make said investigation. Such investigation shall include the period of time since the 1st day of May, 1868, said report to be made to the Governor before the 1st day of August, 1870, and shall submit the same to the next session of the General Assembly; said Commission is empowered to employ counsel, who shall receive compensation not exceeding five hundred dollars, said Commission is to receive \$5 per day, together with all actual expenses incurred for mileage or other wise, in going to or from meetings of said Commission not to exceed \$5 per day; and said Commission is authorized to send for persons and paper under the summons of its Clerk or Chairman.

This bill was discussed at length. Mr. Etheridge moved its further consideration be postponed until the 1st of December. Pending its consideration the Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Graham, from the Committee on the Judiciary reported the following bills, viz:

Bill to repeal section 11 of an act to lay off the Homestead and personal property exemptions, ratified on the 7th of April, 1869, recommends its passage.

Bill to amend an act to regulate proceedings in the partition and sale of real and personal property, recommends its passage.

Bill to repeal an act in relation to the Superior Court Judges.

Bill to authorize township trustees to take the privity examination of married women.

Mr. Lassiter, from the Committee on the following bills, viz:

A bill in relation to the payment of officers' fees, and

A bill to be entitled an act to repeal certain acts, passed at the session of 1868 and '69, making appropriations to Railroad Companies. (The latter introduced by Mr. Graham,) as follows:

Sec. 1. That all acts passed at the last session of this Legislature making appropriations to Railroad Companies, be and the same are hereby repealed.

Sec. 2. That all bonds of the State, which have been issued under the said acts, now in the hands of any President or other officer of the corporations be immediately returned to the Treasurer.

Sec. 3. That this Legislature will not recognize as valid the sale of any of the Bonds issued as aforesaid, after this date.

Sec. 4. That innocent purchasers of bonds issued under authority of said acts, shall be entitled to the actual cash value paid for the same, upon proving their claims against the State before the Supreme Court, as required by Section 11, Article IV of the Constitution, and upon the surrender of said bonds.

Sec. 5. That all moneys raised as special taxes, under the act mentioned in section 1, be and the same are hereby appropriated for the payment of said claims when allowed by the Supreme Court.

Sec. 6. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Bill introduced by Mr. Lassiter from the Code Commission to investigate the affairs of the several Railroad Companies, was taken up and amended, by directing the Superin-

tendent of Public Works to make said investigation, and passed its second reading.

On motion of Mr. Davis, its further consideration was postponed at present, the bill as amended was ordered to be printed and made the special order for to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

On motion of Mr. Brogden the rules were suspended and the bill to protect the sheriffs of certain counties, was taken up. This bill suspends the collection of tax on the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, until the constitutionality of said tax is ascertained.

Mr. Jones, of Wake, moved to amend so as to extend the same privileges to the sheriffs of Halifax, Warren, Franklin and Wake counties, so far as taxes due by the R. & Gaston R. R. Company are concerned, which was lost, and the bill was rejected.

Resolution requesting the Representatives of this State in Congress to use their influence to secure the Loan of \$1,000,000, to be appropriated in the purchase of lands, to be divided into farms of 20 acres each, for those who are unable to furnish homes for themselves.

A. H. Galloway, (col.) moved to amend by inserting after "20 acres of land," and a "mile," which was lost.

Mr. Lassiter, moved to amend by inserting after "\$1,000,000," "or its equivalent in Public lands" which prevailed, and the resolution was adopted.

Resolution proposing to raise a Joint Committee to take into consideration the burdens of taxation, and to report some measure for the relief of the people. Adopted.

SPECIAL ORDER.

Report of the Special Committee to revise the Senate rules of order was taken up, amended and adopted.

On motion of Mr. Sweet 100 copies were ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate.

On motion the Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26th.

The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Richardson, presented a petition from Col. Walter F. Leak, setting forth: That some time in 1862, he purchased a couple of \$1000 bonds from a Director of the W. C. & R. R. R., at a premium of 5 per cent. That said bonds were issued under an act to secure the completion of said Road, the 16th day of Feb. 1861.

The petitioner states further that some time during the same year he purchased from the State of N. C., five bonds of \$1000 each issued under an act to provide ways and means for supplying the Treasury, issued the 20th of December 1862. He asks the Legislature to consider this subject, and give him what is right in the premises.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Bill to amend and co-solidate the several acts for the organization and government of the University, recommending that it do pass.

Bill to charter the Granville Railroad Company, reported amendments.

Bill to provide for the funding of the Public Debt, recommending that it do pass.

Bill to authorize the Commissioner of Perquimans county to issue bonds, recommending its passage.

Bill to amend an act relating to salaries and fees, recommending that it do pass.

A message was received from the House transmitting a joint resolution relating to the special tax on brandy and tobacco, urging the Representatives of this State in Congress, to use their influence to have said tax reduced, placed on Calendar.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

By Mr. Respass A bill requiring the old Banks of the State to receive their own bills in payment of judgments obtained by said banks, placed on Calendar.

The President ratified an act fixing the per diem and mileage of the officers and members of the General Assembly, the same as the two preceding sessions.

Mr. Forkner moved a reconsideration of the vote by which an act to investigate the affairs of the several Railroad Companies passed its second reading on yesterday. The motion prevailed.

He then moved to reconsider the vote by which the Governor's Commission to investigate was stricken out, and the duty assigned to the Superintendent of Public Works, and it was agreed to: Yeas 23, nays 19.

Mr. Etheridge moved that the bill be referred to a special committee to be composed of three Senators.

Mr. Jones, of Mecklenburg, expressed his surprise at the course of the opposition party and of those personally interested in the investigation, in attempting to avoid or stave off a full and fair investigation of this whole matter; he thought that if came with very bad grace from those who represent these roads to have pursued would be voted down. He favored the next best that he could get, that the matter shall be referred to the Superintendent of Public Works, but this was not his choice, and if the gentlemen against whom these charges are made are innocent and wish to clear their skins they should insist, ye demand, a legislative investigation, and the least their friends could have done would have been to have let the bill remain in the form it passed on yesterday. Something had been said in reference to the necessity of this investigation. He heard a prominent member of the Republican party assert in a public speech, only a few nights ago, that the people were

alarmed, there were rumors about and they were almost universal that there was a misappropriation of the funds placed in the hands of certain parties to construct three Roads and that they ("the people") demanded an investigation, was not this sufficient evidence to induce the Senate to go into an investigation. Then why is this investigation pressed with such persistency in one direction? If it does nothing worse it will have a direct tendency to arouse the suspicions of the Public more fully against those who are directly interested.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, moved to lay the whole subject on the table. The motion was lost.

Mr. Respass moved that the further consideration of the bill be postponed until the 8th of December. Though, he said, he had no preference as to the bed the bill should sleep in, in the hands of the special Committee or through his motion.

Mr. Lindsay said he desired to make only a few remarks before the vote was taken. There had been a plain and simple resolution to investigate the affairs of only one Road, introduced by Mr. Graham, with surprise and astonishment he saw it voted down, and another similar to the first, by Mr. Walker, that was also voted down, and on yesterday, by the unanimity of action in the Senate he thought the question had been disposed of not suiting the views of all the Senate but as a compromise and to-day there is a proposition to reconsider the action of yesterday.

He regretted to think so, but it looked as though there were Senators on the floor who intended to avoid a full and fair investigation, he was sorry to see such a disposition manifested when the people of the State are alarmed in all sections at these rumors of corruption. The Senator from Wilkes living in some obscure valley, perhaps where the sun don't shine even in August more than an hour during the day may not have heard of these charges, but nevertheless they are made, he hoped the reference would not be made.

The motion to refer to a special committee prevailed, and the President designated Messrs. Etheridge, Love and Respass as the committee. On motion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25th.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

J. H. Harris, of Wake, for Committee on Propositions and Grievances, reported favorably on bill to repeal tax on tobacco.

Mr. Dixon for Committee on Salaries and Fees favorably, with amendment, on bill compensating school Committee men—gives them \$1, instead of \$2 a day, while on duty referred to Committee on Education.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The resolution was then taken up. The resolution was passed.

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ascending by inserting "political and civil" before "equality."

The question was then put on the adoption of the resolution, and resulted, yeas 66, nays 15.

In voting against the resolution as amended Mr. Durham said that this preamble not only said "political" but absolute "civil equality." He wished to know if gentlemen did not recognize marriage as a "civil" relation, and that in voting for the resolution and preamble, gentlemen did commit themselves to the recognition of the validity of such civil relations. Further, that he would not stultify himself by saying that the time had now come for the removal of disabilities, for that would imply that they should not have been removed long ago.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following are the Resolutions for calling a Convention of the people to form a Constitution for the State—introduced into the House of Commons, by Mr. Malone, of Caldwell, last week.

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of this General Assembly that the present Constitution of the State is not adequately adapted to the improvement of the people of the State of North Carolina; nor to the existing state of the country; and whereas, no movement tending to the formation of a different Constitution should be tolerated except in the peaceable and legal mode established by law, and recognized by precedents, therefore

Resolved 1. (The Senate concurring) that the people of the State of North Carolina be, and they are hereby ordered to meet in Convention, at the City of Raleigh, on the 5th day of April, 1870, for the purpose of forming a Constitution of the State, to be submitted to the people for ratification.

Resolved 2. That said Convention shall consist of a number of delegates equal to the joint number of members of both Houses of this General Assembly to which they were entitled by the law, prior to the year 1868; to be chosen by the electors of the State, now entitled to vote, for members of the General Assembly.

Resolved 3. That the Governor is hereby directed within twenty days after the ratification of this Resolution, to issue writs of election to the Sheriffs of the various counties of the State, commanding them to open and hold an election for said delegates at the several precincts; and to be held and conducted in all respects as by the law in existence prior to the year 1868; that each Senatorial District and Representative District respectively shall be entitled to a delegate in said Convention.

Resolved 4. That any Elector eligible to a seat in this General Assembly shall