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LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

Bill Introduced in the House to Reduce Homestead Exemption.

SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE.

A Resolution Introduced Instructing Senators and Representatives to Secure Appropriation for Beacon on Pamlico Sound.

THE SENATE.

SIXTH DAY.—A petition of the citizens of Sampson county for the appointment of a cotton weigher was presented by Senator Robinson. A bill to investigate the agricultural and other departments was reported favorably, as were also a bill to repeal the act regarding the distribution of dead bodies. Bills were introduced as follows: To re-establish the Criminal Court of Hertford; to appoint a cotton weigher at Dunn; allowing Reidsville to issue bonds for water-works reported favorably; to repeal chapter 311, laws 1895; to protect fish in Alleghany county; to appoint tax collectors in Hertford; for the better government of Hertford county; to regulate the duties and powers of constables and to validate proceedings based on processes served by them; to appoint a tax collector for Salem; to amend the charter of Salem; to amend section 2,831 of The Code; for the relief of A. T. Houser; to amend section 148 of The Code. Senator Cock's resolution, that United States Senators be elected by the people, was unanimously adopted. At the request of Senator Wood, a bill introduced by him to establish a fish cultural station in North Carolina, passed its readings. It is to be a United States fish hatchery. Senator Glenn introduced the following: "Resolved, That no bill of a private nature be introduced until after February 15th." Upon motion, Mr. E. B. Norvell was voted for enrolling clerk, the vote being 45 yaes and no noes.

SEVENTH DAY—The Senate met at 10 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Marshall. A petition to place the names of Everett Dobson and Mike Byrd on the pension list was received. A favorable report was made as to Senator Franks of the thirty-first district, holding his seat. Bills were introduced as follows: To amend chapter 522, laws of 1891; to amend chapter 168, laws of 1897; to repeal chapter 158, laws of 1895, and to repeal chapter 189, laws of 1897; by Mr. Murray, to abolish the chain-gang system in Madison county. A resolution was adopted to investigate the Agricultural Department and the charitable institutions of the State. A bill to repeal section 1,906 of the Code passed its third reading. A bill repealing the law providing for the procuring and distribution of dead bodies came up. It was placed upon immediate passage, passing its third reading. A bill to repeal chapter 259, laws of 1895, with the amendment that it shall not apply to taxes levied prior to 1899 passed its final reading. A resolution to appoint a joint committee on judicial districts was adopted. Senators Glenn, Travis and Speight were appointed a joint committee on judicial districts. A bill was introduced by Senator Skinner, to amend the public school law as found in chapter 108, laws of 1897.

EIGHTH DAY—In the Senate reports of committees were favorable as to the following bills: To establish a fish cultural station; to repeal chapter 159 of the laws of 1895, and to increase the number of commissioners in Jones county; and unfavorable as to bills to amend chapter 522 of the laws of 1891; to amend chapter 168, laws of 1897; to amend section 1906 of The Code; to repeal chapter 316, laws of 1897; to amend section 2831 of The Code. From the Governor a report was received regarding the executive salaries and expenditures and also his nomination of the following members of the board of directors of the Asylum for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind; Pulaski Cowper in place of R. C. Rivers; W. M. Boylan in place of J. C. L. Harris, and C. B. Edwards to succeed himself. The report was referred to the committee on finance. The following bills were introduced: For better protection of laborers and mechanics; to amend section 108 of The Code; to amend section 3685 of The Code; causing restrictions in case of larceny. A report from the elections committee deciding that Senator Franks, of the thirty-first district should retain his seat, was adopted. Upon motion Senators Osborne and Newsome were appointed to meet three members from the House, to form a committee to request the Governor to produce evidence as to the dismissal of the railroad commissioners, J. W. and S. Otho Wilson.

NINTH DAY.—The Senate met at 10 o'clock, and prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Skinner. The committees reported favorably on the following bills: To amend chapter 69, laws of 1897; to unite the Richmond, Petersburg and Carolina Railroad, and a number of local bills; and unfavorably as to bills to force criminals convicted of larceny to make restitution; to amend section 3,635 of The Code; to repeal chapter 168, laws of 1897; to amend chapter 522, laws of 1891, and a bill to change certain school districts in Chatham county. The introduction of bills was next in order, the following bills being introduced: Jerome, to extend powers of justices of the peace, and to amend sections 872 and 873 of The Code; Bryan, to provide for the cross-indexing of wills, also for the relief of William Watson; Hairston, to license foreign corporations, companies and associations; Coolie, to repeal chapter 222, laws of 1897; Justice, (by request), to ratify the organization of the South Carolina and Georgia Railroad. The calendar was next taken up, and the following bills passed first reading: That no bills shall be introduced after the 15th of February, 1899, unless by a two-thirds vote of the house in which it is to be introduced; to repeal chapter 15 laws 1895; to repeal chapter 185, laws 1897. Upon motion of Justice, the Senate went into the nomination of a committee on appropriations, and the following Senators were elected to form the committee: Travis, Mason, Bryan, Jerome, Thomas, Campbell, Lindsay and Skinner.

TENTH DAY.—The Senate met at 10 o'clock, and prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Branson. Reports from committees were favorable as to bills to extend the powers and duties of justices of the peace and to amend sections 872 and 873 of The Code. A report was read by Senator Osborne, stating that the specially appointed committee had called upon the Governor and asked him to produce evidence in the case of the dismissal of J. W. and S. Otho Wilson from the railroad commission; that the Governor stated that he would submit all the papers in the matter. A resolution was offered by Senator Cocke to the effect that there should be an investigation as to $25,000 claimed to be due by the State for the equipment and mustering in of the troops of the three North Carolina regiments. The following bills were introduced: By Senator Mason, in relation to bankruptcy; by McIntyre, to amend chapter 114, laws of 1895; by Black, to amend section 2815 of the stock law elections; by Speight, to amend section 1308 of The Code; by Bryan, regarding certain oaths; Bills passed their final reading as follows: T provide a permanent system of government for Craven County; to unite the Richmond, Petersburg & Carolina Railroad; to amend chapter 67, laws of 1897. The matter of $360.60 allowed Cannon, the losing contestant in the election contest case from the thirty-fourth district came up and occasioned a debate. It was finally decided that before a final vote was taken upon the account a bill of particulars should be filed and considered. By leave McIntyre introduced a bill to repeal chapter 190, laws 1897; a bill to repeal chapter 464, laws of 1897 (passed by the House), which Justice explained as a bill to repeal the printing laws enacted by the last Legislature, was placed upon immediate passage and passed its final reading. The Senate committee on finance reported favorably the House bill to repeal the law of 1897 establishing a State board of tax equalization.

ELEVENTH DAY.—The Senate met at 10 o'clock and prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Carter. Bills to make inquiry as to payment of money out of the State Treasury and to repeal chapter 510, laws of 1897, were favorably reported by the committees. The following bills were introduced: Speight, to revise, amend and consolidate the insanity laws of North Carolina; by Miller, to repeal chapter 51, laws of 1897; by Thomas, to repeal chapter 421, laws of 1897, concerning the special school tax. The calendar was taken up and the following bills passed final readings: To abolish the chain-gang system of Madison county; to amend the charter of Bingham's school; to amend sections 872 and 873 of The Code, relating to the retention of power of justices of the peace. By leave Lowe introduced a bill to extend the time for working the roads as provided for in chapter 364, laws of 1893. A bill giving permission to the Bagley Monument Association to erect a monument at the capital square was placed upon immediate passage, and upon a motion of Brown, was passed by a rising vote; Brown rose to protest against the number of employees now engaged by the Senate. He said that authority had been given to employ only six pages and five laborers, and he noticed that there were on the pay-roll twelve pages and eleven laborers; that there were many more than we needed, and that it was now just as it was in 1893—one could not walk around the capital anywhere without running up against a servant. Smith, Brown and Williams were appointed a committee to investigate the matter and report to the Senate.

THE HOUSE.

SIXTH DAY.—A favorable report was made on the bill, raising a special committee to look at the acts of 1895 and 1897 and decide which of them are meritorious. There was also a favorable report on the resolution providing for a complete investigation of the penitentiary. There was an unfavorable report on the bill to repeal all the acts of 1897, and on the one prohibiting the employment of convicts on State farms. Resolutions were introduced as follows: Requesting information of the Secretary of State as to fees allowed county officers; Inviting J. B. Avirett to deliver before the Legislature January 19th, "Lee's birthday," his address on Gen. R. E. Lee; Regarding the printing of constitutional amendments, requiring all of these to be printed. Bills were introduced as follows: To allow Morganton to buy electric light plant; To amend the charter of St. Mary's School, Raleigh, putting it in charge of the South Carolina, as well as the North Carolina Episcopal Diocese; to incorporate the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati; to amend section 590 of The Code, in regard to evidence (it exclude evidence of any person directly or indirectly interested in any transaction between himself and a dead man, unless the dead man's relatives offer evidence); to allow McDowell to levy special tax; to authorize Durham to issue school bonds; to allow exemption from taxation manufacturing enterprises which come to North Carolina; to make it a misdemeanor for railroads to kill cattle in Pitt county; to amend section 35 of The Code, by making bastardy a civil action, allowing a woman to appeal from a magistrate's decision. The calendar was taken up. There was quite a debate on Julian's bill to repeal the act of 1897, which requires all officers of State banks, railroads and other corporations to take and file oaths. The bill failed to pass second reading, yeas 40, nays 71. A resolution declaring that Senators should vote directly for United States Senators, was taken up. It was adopted without discussion. A resolution raising a special joint committee to examine the public laws of 1895 and 1897 and ascertain which of them are of value, was adopted. A bill was passed amending the act in regard to the working of convicts on roads in Anson county, amending chapter 252, public laws 1897. A bill to repeal all public acts of 1897 was tabled. The bill repealing the act of 1897, providing for working Northampton roads by taxation passed. A resolution to raise a special joint committee of five to investigate the penitentiary came up. (To investigate the management for the past four years, the committee being given wide latitude and full authority). There was no debate. The resolution was adopted. A resolution was adopted asking the Secretary of State what fees are allowed county officers under existing laws. (It is all in the fee bill.)

SEVENTH DAY.—The House met at 10 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Eugene Daniel. A favorable report was made on the resolution appointing a committee to ask the Governor for his reasons for removing J. W. Wilson and S. Otho Wilson as railroad commissioners; also all the evidence in that matter. Resolutions were introduced as follows: Directing the State Treasurer to pay the employes of the penitentiary for October, November and December, 1898, and set apart $5,000 for this purpose; instructing Senators and Representatives to secure an appropriation for a beacon in Pamlico Sound. Bills were introduced as follows: To give Swain county the Supreme Court Reports from volume 1 to volume 85; to incorporate the African Aid and Burial Society of North Carolina; to abolish the Cumberland county dispensary at Fayetteville; to repeal the laws regulating elections in North Carolina; to amend chapter 135, acts of 1897, to provide for revising and digesting the public statutes; to amend the constitution, by reducing the homestead to $150 personal property and $500 real property; to equalize pay of State's witnesses, sheriffs and clerks; to amend section 21 of The Code so that a will may be caveated upon certificate that the caveator give bond. A bill was taken up to repeal chapter 163, public laws of 1897, requiring fire insurance companies not to charge a higher rate of insurance on farm property than is charged in Virginia. Many members joined in the discussion for or against the pending bill. Finally it was referred to the committee. Bills were passed incorporating the Southern Conservatory of Music and amending the Anson county road law, so roads will be worked by convict labor; increasing to five the number of commissioners of Edgecombe county; to pay special veniremen in Lincoln county; to amend the charter of St. Mary's School, Raleigh; to repeal chapter 316, private laws of 1895, in regard to a turnpike between Buncombe's and Hickory Nut Gap; to allow Louisburg to issue bonds for public improvements. A resolution was adopted giving the Bagley Monument Association leave to place a monument or statute in memory of Worth Bagley in the capitol square; also a resolution asking the government to erect beacon lights at Hatteras and in Pamlico Sound, in the cape channel. The following was announced as the special committee on judicial districts: Justice, chairman; Rountree, Allen, Stubbs and Craig.

EIGHTH DAY.—In the House bills were introduced as follows: To provide white committeemen for white schools and negro committeemen for negro schools; to repeal section 22, chapter 168, public laws 1897, this being the section of the revenue act imposing purchase tax on merchants; to authorize the publication of the "Sketches of North Carolina Troops;" to make desertion for 12 months ground for divorce; to give magistrates final jurisdiction in cases of carrying concealed weapons. By leave Mr. Hoey introduced a bill in regard to libel. It provides that any action against a newspaper for libel shall be brought in the county of publication and that in criminal action a retraction given equal prominence shall be sufficient, while if the action be civil damages can be agreed on. The bill also makes persons leable for misdemeanor who wilfully give libelous matter to a newspaper. (This bill was drawn by H. A. London at the instance of the State Press Association.) By leave Foushee introduced a bill to exempt roller flour mills from the provisions of section 1837 of The Code, fixing tolls.

NINTH DAY.—The House met at 10 o'clock. The following bills were introduced: Overman, to authorize clerks of Superior Courts to issue execution against sureties upon bonds to stay execution; Nicholson, to tax upon a convicted defendant in a larceny case the value of the stolen property, to be taxed as other costs in the case; Ray, to strike out section 6, chapter 169, public laws 1897, which creates county board of equalization; Davis, to amend chapter 484, public laws of 1897; Trotman to amend section 1797, of The Code, so as to constitute a lien on the mare for season of her colt; Moore, to amend section 2,079, of The Code, by striking out the words "in his county;" Moore, to amend sections 1,119 and 1,200 of The Code, by reducing from 23 to 8, the number of peremptory challenges; Yarboro, to repeal the $10 license tax on horse and mule dealers; Thomson, to amend chapter 425, laws 1891, allowing executions in the stay law; Curtis, to amend sections 1846, and 1,847, The Code, so as to fix the same tolls for roller flouring mills as for other mills; Nicholson, to repeal section 1,333, The Code, in regard to buying or selling pretended rights or titles; Justus, to amend chapter 345, acts 1895, by striking out "French Broad;" McIntyre, to amend section 1,906, The Code, so that no clerk of court shall appoint himself or his deputy to make sale of any property in any proceedings before him; also to give consent for acquirement by the United States, of any lands needed for a fish hatchery. The calendar was taken up, and the following was tabled: A bill to repeal chapter 203, public laws 1897. The following bills were passed: To allow the treasurer of school fund of Haywood county to pay school fund; to repeal chapter 510, public laws 1897, which created the State board of tax equalization; to change the name of Chocowinitty creek in Beaufort county to Choco river; to allow Bertie county to issue bonds and levy tax. The bill was taken up to remove the inscription on the corner stone at the white institution for the blind and for the colored deaf mutes and blind, and to place in these buildings bronze or marble tablets having the names of the directors who planned said buildings. The bill passed second reading. Mr. Carroll then added an amendment, making it a misdemeanor for the directors to fail to carry out this law. This was adopted. Petree, Republican, offered an amendment that only the name of James H. Young be removed. This was voted down. A resolution was introduced by Smith, of Craven, regarding the committee on constitutional amendments, asking that one colored member be placed on that committee. The resolution also asked that the negroes may have an opportunity to go before the committee and have a hearing in regard to the matter of the bill to give white taxes to white schools and negro taxes to negro schools. Ray, of Macon, said he could speak for the majority of the House and say that no such amendment would be submitted to the people. The resolution was referred to the committee on constitutional amendments. Smith said that if Ray expressed the sentiments of the majority of the House he was entirely willing to withdraw the resolution, save that as to negro representation on the committee. By leave, Hoey introduced a bill to repeal chapter 464, acts 1897, which gives the power to the Council of State to award the contracts for the public printing. He said the bill was introduced at the request of the two committees on printing. The bill passed.

TENTH DAY.—The House met at 10 a. m. and prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Eugene Daniel. The following bills were introduced: By Leatherwood, to change the time of holding Superior Courts in the twelfth district; by Ray, to change the time of the meetings of county commissioners to the first Tuesday in each month, and to prevent exorbitant charges by merchants on chattel mortgages or other securities; by Moore, to so amend section 25 of The Code as to make bastardy proceedings a quasi civil action. Bills passed to improve the roads in Washington county; to allow Charlotte to issue bonds with which to pay for water-works purchased from a private company. A resolution came up reducing the pay of various employes 20 per cent. The reduction is based on the pay of 1897. It does not affect the clerks, which were cut to $4, or to laborers, who get $2 a day, or to the pages, who get $1 a day. Lowery offered an amendment that this should apply to members also. Hampton demanded the yeas and nays on this. The point was made by Justice that the amendment was not germane, as the constitution fixes the pay of members. He then offered an amendment that Lowery's amendment apply to Forsyth county alone. This was adopted amid much laughter, in which the Speaker heartily joined. This put Hampton in a hole. Petree then moved to table the amendment. Carter, of Forsyth, said he and his colleague were willing to have their pay reduced. Hampton's motion to table was lost. Julian offered an amendment that the resolution should not apply to laborers who are getting $2.50 a day. Justice said the resolution was entitled to apply to certain assistant clerks who are now getting $5 a day. Williams, of Iredell, said that the $2.50 a day men are working only two to four hours a day. He declared they ought not to be paid over $2 a day, as farmers get only 50 cents a day. Ray, of Macon, said the resolution ought to be re-committed, so the committee could look into it and see that the pay of the various classes of laborers is equitable. Julian withdrew his amendment. Robinson, of Cumberland, said the purpose of the caucus action was to reduce the pay of clerks to that of the members. Williams said he had discovered that nearly all the laborers were getting $2.50 a day. Watson, Populist, said he favored a general reduction of members' pay to $4.00 as moved by Lowery. The resolution was by this time in a very complete tangle. Overman first suggested a reference to the committee on rules, but later said that it was perhaps best to adopt it as amended by Lowery and let it go to the Senate. But finally all the amendments were reconsidered. Craig made a motion to table them, but found that it would carry the resolution with it, and withdrew it. Then Lowery withdrew his amendment. The original resolution then came up and was adopted, amid laughter. Bills passed to allow Bertie county to levy a special tax; to amend the law as to caveats to wills; to allow Reidville to issue bonds; to allow persons in Lincoln and Catawba counties to pay poll tax by road work; to amend the charter of Fayetteville.

ELEVENTH DAY.—At 10 o'clock the House met and was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Levi Branson. Patterson, of Caldwell, introduced a resolution of instructions to North Carolina Congressmen against seating B. H. Roberts, polygamist from Utah. The following bills were introduced. By Brown, to reduce the price of Supreme Court reports to $1.50; by Moore to repeal chapter 535, acts 1897, which requires that 50 qualified voters must reside in territory for which a stock law is asked; by Davis, to protect buyers and sellers of leaf tobacco; by Wilson, to regulate the holding of courts in the twelfth district; by Winston, to amend The Code, as to trespass on lands after being forbidden; by Thomas, to repeal the law of 1897, requiring annual elections on local tax and in aid of schools; by Williams, to provide for the turning into the State Treasury of all school funds, these then to be paid out to counties on the basis of their school population; by Boushall, to repeal chapter 543, acts 1897, which forbade persons to be directors of public institutions who dealt in any articles such as was purchased by such institution; by Allen, to repeal chapter 224, acts 1897, and restore the act of 1893, which provided a uniform rate for limitations against railroad companies for damages for or on account of occupation of lands; by leave Leatherwood introduced a resolution creating a committee to leave in charge changes of congressional districts; and Boushall a resolution allowing payment of drug bills due by the penitentiary to New York firms. Bills passed amending the charter of Fayetteville; to allow Reidsville to issue improvement bonds, and to give the town of Columbus, Tyrrell county, protection against hogs. Bill passed repealing charter of the Chapel Hill graded school; Hoey made a report for the joint committee on printing, recommending that the joint committee be given authority to contract for the printing and binding, at a rate not in excess of that of 1893-'4. None of the public printing to be done outside the State; this to be done until the Legislature passes a law regulating the public printing; the resolution was adopted, yeas 69, nays 23. Republicans and Populists voted no, except Smith, of Craven, (col.) who voted yea. A resolution, introduced by Winston, was adopted giving the use of the hall to the North Carolina Confederate veterans on the evening of January 25. Davis of Haywood, Leatherwood, Council, Kerr and Clarkson were appointed as the committee on congressional districts.

Tarheel Notes.

George Maney was lynched at Murphy the other night. A crowd of unknown men came to town and represented that they had a horse thief, and Deputy Sheriff Axley opened the jail, when they took Maney out. He was hanged on Valley river bridge. Maney had confessed to killing Sherrill, from Graham county, most brutally. Feeling was very high there against him. He was jailed at Murphy for safe-keeping."

Rev. Jesse A. Cunninggim, a member of the North Carolina Methodist Conference for 43 years, and who never missed a roll-call until last December, died at his home in Greensboro last week. A number of ministers from other parts of the State attended the funeral.

Mr. M. W. Enoch, of Stokesdale, Stokes county, was run over by the through freight, No. 72, in the Southern yard, in Charlotte and died from his injuries. Mr. Enoch was a brakeman on the Southern, and ran between Spencer and Greenville.

The tobacco acreage will be wonderfully increased in Johnson county this year. The average farmer can afford to plant three or four acres in the weed.—Smithfield Herald.

The first station on either side of Marion has quarantined against that town on account of the small pox scare.

The Tri-State Medical society will meet at Charlotte on the 18th, 19th and 20th inst.

Norfolk's Confederate Monument.

Ground for a Confederate monument at the head of Commercial Place, has been broken in Norfolk. The foundation will be six feet deep, 23x23 feet and the monument 66 feet 4 inches high, exclusive of the statute. it will be erected parallel with Main Street and at an angle with Commercial Place. The money for it was raised by Pickett-Buchanan Camp, Confederate Veteans.

Critical Stage Passed—Otis in Control.

General Otis was heard from again Monday, from Manila, and the contents of his cablegram were so reassuring as to the situation there and at Iloilo that the officials in Washington have come to accept without question the correctness of his statement that the critical stage is past, and that he has control of the situation.

Decided Against Mr. Ryan.

Judges Wickes and Stockbridge, in the Circuit Court at Baltimore, decided against Mr. Thos. F. Ryan in his suit to enforce an alleged contract for the sale to him of between 3,000 and 4,000 shares of Seaboard & Roanoke Railroad stock, at $125 a share. The court ordered that the demurrer to the bill of complaint be sustained with costs to the plaintiff.

New Building for the Department of Justice.

The Senate committee on public buildings and grounds has authorized favorable reports on the following bills: For the erection of a building for the Department of Justice; for the enlargement of the public building at Asheville, N. C.

WAS GIVEN A STATE FUNERAL

Obsequier Over Mr. Dingley Almost Majestic in their Impressiveness.

THOUSANDS VIEWED THE BODY

The Senate Attended in a Body—The President and Cabinet Diplomatic Corps and Distinguished Persons Present.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special).—A State funeral, almost majestic in its impressiveness, was given the late Representative Nelson Dingley, at noon Monday, in the House of Representatives, where he so long had been such a commanding figure. The President, his cabinet, distinguished men from the diplomatic corps, members of the Supreme Court, Senate and House, and distinguished men in military and civil life, were ranged about his bier on the floor of the hall, while the galleries, to which admission could be obtained only by card, were occupied by the families of those who sat upon the floor and other prominent personages invited to be present. Some of them, like a delegation from the New York chamber of commerce, had come from a distance to pay their last tribute of respect to the dead statesman. The casket was placed on a bier in the area in front of the marble rostrum of the Speaker, and for an hour the public, which would have no opportunity to witness the official ceremonies later, was allowed to view the remains as they lay in state. Thousands of people streamed through the main door past the casket and gazed upon the calm, serene features of the dead during that hour. Some could, with difficulty, be induced to move away from the casket. The decorations of the hall were simple, but strikingly beautiful, and there was a profusion of flowers. The services were conducted by the Rev. S. M. Newman, of the First Congregational church, of this city, assisted by Rev. Dr. Couden, chaplain of the House.

It was a very simple service. Dr. Newman's eulogy of the dead statesman was touching and beautiful. When Rev. Mr. Newman delivered the benediction, the entire assemblage arose, the gallaries as well as those on the floor. President McKinley, in passing out, paused while he gazed sadly at the features of his dead friend. When all had departed save the members of the House, Mr. Boutelle, of Maine moved that the House adjourn as a further mark of respect. The motion was adopted and accordingly at 12:55 p. m., the Speaker declared the House adjourned.

Talk of a Big Swap.

LONDON (By Cable).—Diplomats refuse to take seriously the revival of the report cabled from Washington, that the United States is willing to exchange the Philippine Islands for the British West India Islands. A high official of the Foreign Office characterizes the statement as absurd. He said that while the continental powers appear to be willing to permit the United States to hold the Philippines as spoils of war, they would not be likely to remain passive spectators of a change of balance of power in the far East, which would result from Great Britain's acquirement of those islands, particularly so at this critical time, when the struggle for domination in China is on.

The Philippine Commission.

The commission which the President is about to appoint to proceed to the Philippines will not be subject to confirmation by the United States Senate, but will be named under reserved authority of the President, and its expense will be paid out of the war funds. It is not expected to commit the United States government to recognition of the natives, nor it is to frame a government for the islands, as was the case with the Hawaiian commission.

Row Between Negroes and Soldiers.

A special from Newport News, Va., says a clash occurred in Phoebus, near Old Point between negroes and a few soldiers from Fort Monroe, which threatened to prove serious, but fortunately no fatalities resulted. It was reported that one man was shot, but the report could not be verified. A guard from the fort scooped the soldiers and hustled them back to the post.

Canadians Inspecting Norfolk Harbor.

Mayor Johnston, Barton Myers, British consul, and other leading citizens, of Norfolk, took the mayor and harbor commissioners of Montreal, Canada, to all points of interest in that harbor Monday. The Dominion of Canada has appropriated $3,000,000 to improve the harbor of Montreal and the visitors are on a tour of inspection of wharves, harbors and shipping facilities of the United States.

Gen. Brook's Cabinet Announced.

Governor General Brooke, of Cuba, has announces the following appointments to the new constituted cabinet of advisors: Department of Government, Domingo Mendez Capote; Department of Finance, Pablo DeSerrine; Department of Justice and Public Instruction, Jose Antonio Gonzales Lanuez; Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works, Adolfo Saenz Yanez.

Admiral Sampson's Squadron for Havana.

The Navy Department has designated the following warships to form the squadron of evolution, which is to go South under command of Admiral Sampson: Flagship New York, Brooklyn, Indiana, Texas, Chicago, Newark, Machias.

Gen. Wheeler in Richmond.

General Joseph Wheeler was the lion of Richmond, Va., Monday night. He reached the city late in the afternoon and shortly thereafter was escorted to a meeting of R. E. Lee Camp, No. 1, Confederate Veterans, where on behalf of the camp he accepted a handsome portrait of Major John Pelham, presented to the organization by the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp of Richmond. The Governor, several Virginia members of Congress and an immense crowd were in attendance, and the distinguished visitor was vociferously applauded.

Joy in Santiago.

At Santiago Major Becard has received a cable dispatch from Dr. Castillo, the representative of the business men of that city who accompanied General Wood to Washington, announcing that complete autonomy will be granted the province.

A number of Virginians contemplate making application for commissions in the regular army provided the bill for its enlargement is passed by Congress. Some of those who want commissions are men well known in legal and other professions.

THE FILIPINOS DISCUSSED.

Senator Mason Delivers a Notable Speech in the Senate.

LIMIT DEBATE ON CANAL BILL

The Diplomatic Appropriation Bill Passed by The House—The Bill as Passed Carried $1,705,533.

SENATE.

SEVENTEENTH DAY.—Senator Mason, of Illinois, occupied the attention of the Senate for nearly an hour and a half, with a speech in support of the resolution declaring that the United States will never attempt to govern the people of any country without their consent. In many respects the speech was one of the most notable utterances in the Senate thus far this session. Bacon, of Georgia, secured the passage of a bill for the construction of a bridge over the Savannah river, from the mainland, in Chatham county, Ga., to Hutchison's Island. At the request of Mr. Morgan the Senate unanimously agreed to the limitation of the debate on the Nicaragua Canal bill to 15-minute speeches, after 3 o'clock next Thursday. Mr. Turley was then recognized to speak on the Nicaragua Canal. He announced himself as an advocate of a canal, but said that he was opposed to the pending bill. A bill was passed directing the President to appoint Paymaster General T. H. Stanton a major general and retire him at that grade. The Senate at 4 o'clock went into executive session. At 4:15 p. m., the Senate adjourned.

EIGHTEENTH DAY.—A climax was reached in the debate on the question of expansion which is in progress in the Senate. Heretofore, all of the speeches, with the notable exception of that of Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, have been in opposition to what is presumed to be the policy of the administration with respect to the acquisition of the Philippines. Mr. Foraker, of Ohio, addressed the Senate in opposition to the declaration of the Vest resolution that the United States has no constitutional power to acquire foreign territory to be maintained as colonies. Mr. Foraker laid down the broad proposition that to adopt the Vest resolution was to declare that our fathers had brought forth a nation that was inferior to all nations regardless of the generally accepted idea that one nation was the equal of another and all equally restricted.

NINETEENTH DAY.—Little business was transacted by the Senate in open session. Sixteen bills on the private pension calendar were passed, and a joint resolution extending the thanks of Congress to Miss Clara Barton and other officials of the Red Cross Society for their beneficent work in Armenia and Cuba, was adopted.

TWENTIETH DAY.—In the Senate McLaurin, Democrat, of South Carolina, took strong ground in a carefully prepared speech against a policy of expansion by this country. In the course of his remarks Mr. McLaurin said: "Better than wealth, better than a territory upon which the sun never sets, is the transmission to our children of a republic built upon the indestructible rock of constitutional government." Mr. McLaurin occupied the attention of the Senate for an hour and ten minutes and was accorded good attention by both Senators and people in the galleries. Allen, of Nebraska, introduced the following resolution: "That a committee of five Senators, no more than two of whom shall be members of the same political party, shall be appointed to make full inquiry into the conduct of the late war between the United States and Spain." The resolution was referred to the committee on military affairs. The Indian appropriation bill was taken up, but its consideration was not concluded before the hour of adjournment.

TWENTY-FIRST DAY.—A resolution of more than ordinary significance and importance was introduced in the Senate by Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts. It is as follows:

"Resolved, That the people of the Philippine Islands of right ought to be free and independent, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the crown of Spain, and that all political connection between them and Spain is and ought to be totally dissolved, and that they have therefore full power to do all acts and things which independent States may of right do; that it is their right to institute a new government for themselves, laying its foundation or such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness, and that with these rights the people of the United States do not propose to interfere."

"I should like to have it adopted immediately," said Hoar. "I object," said Davis, of Minnesota, chairman of the foreign relations committee, and the resolution went over. A message was received from the House announcing the adoption of resolutions on the death of Repesentative Dingley. Fitting resolutions of respect to the memory of Mr. Dingley were adopted, and then Hale, of Maine, delivered a brief eulogy of the distinguished statesman, moving that the Senate adjourn. Prior to the putting of the motion to the Senate, Gallinger, in the chair announced the committee of Senators who are to join a like committee of the House to accompany the remains of the distinguished statesman to Maine. The Senate then, at 12:43 p. m., adjourned.

TWENTY-SECOND DAY.—The Senate held no session for the transaction of business. The body at 12 o'clock proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to attend as a body the obsequies of the late Representative Nelson A. Dingley. At 1 o'clock the Senate returned to its chamber. After the reading of the journal, Proctor, of Vermont, presented the credentials of Jonathan Ross, prepared by Governor Smith, of Vermont, to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Justin S. Morrill. The credentials were read and then, escorted by Mr. Proctor, Mr. Ross proceeded to the clerk's desk, where the oath of office was administered to him by Vice-President Hobart. At 1:07 p. m., on motion of Allison, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

NINETEENTH DAY.—The House immediately after the reading of the journal, resumed the consideration of the bill for the codification of the criminal laws of Alaska. A good many minor amendments were adopted and about 60 additional pages of the bill were disposed of. Only ten pages remain. At 4:25 p. m., the House adjourned.

TWENTIETH DAY.—The House completed and passed the bill for the codification of the criminal laws of Alaska. An amendment was adopted providing a high license system in the Territory, with a species of local option. Liquor dealers by its provisions are to pay a license of $1,000 per year and the consent of a majority of the white citizens residing within two miles of a liquor dealer's establishment must be obtained before a license can issue. The Speaker laid before the House the resignation of Mr. Pitney, Republican, of New Jersey.

TWENTY-FIRST DAY.—The House passed the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill without amendment. This is the sixth of the regular appropriation bills to pass the House. The bill as passed carries $1,705,533. Seven budgets yet remain to be acted upon. During the general debate two set speeches were made against imperialism by Messrs. Cummock and Gaines, Democrats, of Tennessee. On motion of Mr. Lacey the bill to extend the scope of the fish commission to game birds was sent to conference, after a motion to postpone the bill indefinitely had been voted down, 89 to 71.

TWENTY-SECOND DAY.—The House entered upon the consideration of the naval personnel bill. It developed much less opposition than was expected. Berry alluded to the situation in the Philippines, and referring to the backing Aguinaldo was supposed to be receiving from Germany said: "we may yet have to whip Germany as we did Spain," a amid whirlwind of applause. He also read a poem on the Santiago battle, entitled, "Was it Sampson, or was it Schley.

TWENTY-THIRD DAY.—The House assembled under circumstances of deep and universal sorrow, in the death of Representative Nelson Dingley, of Maine. As Speaker Reed entered the chamber, a hush fell upon the members as they rose and with bowed heads listened to the eloquent tribute from the chaplain, Rev. Dr. Couden. Boutelle, the senior member of the Maine delegation, was then recognized for a brief and feeling announcement of the demise of his colleague. Mr. Boutelle then offered a resolution providing that a committee of nine members of the House be appointed to attend the funeral at Lewiston, Me. At 12:20 p. m., as a further mark of respect, the House adjourned.

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY.—The session of the house was brief and no business was transacted. At 12:55 Boutelle, of Maine, moved that the House adjourn as a further mark of respect to Mr. Dingley. The motion was adopted.

Finest Section of the South.

Progressive people wishing to find homes or make investments in any kind of enterprise in the finest section of the South will learn something greatly to their advantage by addressing John Patrick, Pine Bluff, N. C., or Dr. Bright, Ellenboro, N. C. A postal will bring the information.

RAILROADING IN CHINA.

Its Difficulties and Humors Apropos of Recent Riots.

Mr. Cox, who was recently assaulted near Peking, China, has had many similar experiences during the dozen years he has been railroad building in the Chihli Province, and has only extricated himself by dint of tact, pluck, and good humor. He has practically for years carried his life in his hand.

In 1890, for instance, during floods, a mob, led by the soldiery of Lutai, a military camp near Tien-Tsin, cut the railway embankment and destroyed seven miles of line, their officers encouraging them, and the enlightened Viceroy Li Hung Chang, in his Yamen a few miles off, "layin' low and sayin' nuffin." The cause alleged was that the embankment prevented the flood water from running off, which, as there were frequent outlets, was utter nonsense. Previous to that, attempts had been made to wreck trains, and the lives of the foreign employes were constantly threatened.

The life, too, of the foreign guard on a train is not always a happy one. Mandarins' servants without tickets take possession of a first-class carriage; eat, drink, sleep, and perform other functions in it. Perhaps they light a pan of charcoal to warm themselves if the weather is cold. Charcoal has certain asphyxiating effects; the other passengers complain, and the servants have to be ejected. Too much violence might lead to a general attack on foreigners and another Tien-Tsin massacre; while too little would not be effective. The unhappy guard has to follow the "happy" mean between a good hard push and a mild knock-down blow.

There have, of course, been many ludicrous as well as dangerous incidents on the North China Line. When it was first opened Chinese would come to the booking office and try to bargain for tickets. When told the fare they would offer half and gradually raise their bid, much disgusted that they should not, in a business spirit, be met half way.

One day a country gentleman on his first ride in a train seeing his house midway between two stations flying past deliberately opened the door and stepped out into space. At the pace the train was going a European would certainly have been killed, but the supple Celestial, after a prolonged series of somersaults, was seen to pick himself and bundle up, dust his clothes, and set off home across the fields—much pleased with his short cut and the convenience of the "fire-wheel carriage."

An unfortunate railway coolie, equally ignorant of the laws of mechanics, did not get off so well. Seeing two trucks coming at a snail's pace down a siding he placed his foot on the rail to stop them. To his astonishment it was cut off, and he learned, like Stephenson's cow, that momentum is made up of mass as well as velocity.

But in spite of everything, railways are bound to prosper in a country where traveling is otherwise so slow and so difficult, carts and ponies in the north and boats in the south never doing more than thirty to forty miles between dawn and dark.

Straight News from Otis.

The War Department officials were very much encouraged Saturday, upon the receipt of news from General Otis at Manila, that indicated a distinct improvement in the situation there. The General's despatch completely negatives the absurd story from Madrid that the American troops at Manila had mutinied and refused to proceed to Iloilo, necessitating the withdrawal of General Miller's expedition against that port.

Representative Stokes, of South Carolina, has introduced a bill extending free delivery to star routes.

A Champion.

Mrs. Ipsley—"They say your husband is one of the best golf-players in this town." Mrs. Wanston—"Oh, yes, he is a thorough master of it. Why, he can actually talk the language in his steps."—Chicago News.

TO COLONIZE NEGROES

Leading Colored Citizens of Chattanooga Behind the Movement.

LARGEST SHIP IN THE WORLD

**Launched at Belfast, Ireland—Sorrow Over Mr. Dingley's Death—Chin