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SENATOR BUTLER'S SPEECH ON

Manhood Suffrage in North Carolina and the Proposed Constitutional Amendment.

THE GRANDFATHER CLAUSE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT CLEARLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

He Quotes Abundant and Conclusive Legal Authority to Show That Section 5 is Not Only Unconstitutional, But That It Will Fail, Leaving The Remainder of the Amendment to Stand. He Discusses Judge Brown's Proposed Amendment and Shows That the Court Would Unquestionably Ignore any Attempt of the Legislature to Instruct It How to Decide This or any Other Question. He Brands the Charge of Negro Domination as a Slander on the State.--Other Features of the Amendment Discussed.--He Says That the Proposed Amendment is Not Only Unconstitutional and Dangerous to the Liberties of Fifty Thousand White Men in North Carolina, But That It is Dishonest in Its Method and Puts the South in a False Position.

(Continued from last week.)

THE CHARGE OF NEGRO NOMINATION—A BASE SLANDER.

Mr. President, I have said all that I originally intended to say in discussing the resolution offered by my colleague and the proposed amendment, but the charge that has been made in this chamber, indirectly, if not directly, that there has been negro domination in North Carolina and that it is threatened with more of it if this proposed amendment is not adopted makes it necessary for me to say something further.

No better answer is needed in reply to this unfounded and false charge than to call attention to the fact, which is a fact and which nobody will deny, that the politicians in North Carolina who have forced before the people this proposed amendment and who are today supporting it pledged the people on every stump in my State from mountains to sea in the last campaign that if they were put in power, they would not favor, support, or propose any suffrage scheme that would disfranchise anybody, white or black. I can prove out of the mouths of the men who are now supporting this amendment, by declarations and pledges officially made on the stump and in interviews, that the charge that there is or has been negro domination in North Carolina is unfounded and false and a base slander on the State.

If there was any negro domination in North Carolina, why was it necessary for these Democratic politicians to pledge the people, in order to get enough votes to elect them, that they were in favor of manhood suffrage and opposed to any disfranchisement of anybody? If there had been any negro domination—which neither the people of my State or of any other State, North or South, will permit—then the popular thing to have done to secure votes would have been the promise to the people to devise some scheme to limit suffrage as soon as they got in power. Did they do that? No. But, on the other hand, they pledged the people that they would not disfranchise a single voter in the State, white or black.

But the Senator from Mississippi, speaking on this resolution, and with an apparent effort to show that there was negro domination in North Carolina, put into the Record some matter from a political document to show that there has been recently a number of negroes elected to minor positions in my State, and used that as the text for the chief part of his speech. In defense of the State, and in order that the Senate and the country may know the facts, I will take the time to make a brief statement to brand that false charge.

THE FACTS.

The negro population of North Carolina comprises less than one-third of the whole population and less than one-third of the voting population. There are only 12 counties in the State in which the negro population is in a majority, while in the remaining 88 counties the white population is in an overwhelming majority. Unfortunately for all a number of years ago the State Supreme court, in a decision, held that under the State constitution the legislature could not give to the 85 white counties local self-government while putting the 12 negro counties under a different system.

In short, they held that the constitution required a uniform system of county government. Under that decision the legislature forced upon the 85 white counties the same kind of county government system that it seemed best to them to adopt in the 12 negro counties. Thus the people in the 85 white counties were robbed of the right and power to elect their county governing officers, but instead were forced to submit to their county governing officers being elected directly or indirectly by the legislature. This, of course, proved to be very unpopular in the 85 counties.

For many years, at every Democratic State convention, there was a contest over county government, the representatives from the 85 counties insisting that they should be allowed to elect their county governing officers and thus have direct control over the county affairs. But the State central political machine, which enjoyed the power of dictating and controlling the affairs of every county by building up local and subordinate machines at the various county seats to receive orders and do the bidding of the State machine, had, however, up to 1894, been able to force the counties of the State to submit to that odious and undemocratic system. But each year that system had grown more and more unpopular, to such an extent that it became necessary year by year to provide new methods for ballot-box stuffing, vote manipulating, and the compiling of fraudulent returns, in order to keep the majority of the people from repudiating at the polls the party organization that forced upon them such an odious machine system.

In the campaign of 1894 the revolt in the Democratic party against this machine county governing system and against the open and notorious election methods was so large that in spite of an election law under which at least 30,000 votes were stolen, suppressed, or falsely counted, a majority of 20,000 was piled up against the Democratic party as a repudiation of the machine county government system and the fraudulent election methods. The issues in that campaign were honest elections and local self-government.

The majority of the legislature elected was composed of Republicans and Populists, who were elected on their pledge that they would establish a system of county local self-government. It was well known to the people when they voted that as long as that strange and anomalous decision of the court to which I have referred should stand that under local self-government there would necessarily be more or less negroes elected to minor positions in some of the twelve eastern counties; but there was at the same time strong hope that the Supreme Court would reverse that troublesome and, I might say, what seemed to be an unnecessary and an uncalled-for decision.

It was not, however, until 1897 that the supreme court reversed the county government decision and held that it was constitutional for the legislature to provide one system of county government for one county and another system for another county. This decision was so just and so in accordance with the constitution that no lawyer of any party in the State has ever criticised the court for rendering it or even questioned that it was according to the constitution. Now, this decision having been rendered, the way was perfectly clear for the 85 counties to have their local self-government and for the legislature to provide a different system for the 12 black counties by which no negro would ever be put in a position of power or authority over white people.

Now, it is true that until this decision some negroes were elected to minor positions in these eastern counties, as everybody knew there would be until the decision of the court could be reversed, but not in a single one of these counties were the negroes in control; in not a single one were they in any position of power to dominate or dictate. Indeed, the legislature that adopted this local self-government scheme, while unable to prevent the election of any colored man to any place, yet did devise a scheme which was constitutional that made it impossible for the county legislative board, known as county commissioners, in any county to ever be controlled by colored men; and the fact is that no county or town or township has ever had or could have a majority of negroes on any controlling board or committee. Now, that is the "negro domination" that certain politicians have attempted to advertise to the world under false and lurid coloring.

But even that imperfection in the new system of local self-government has been removed, and who removed it? An undemocratic decision by a Democratic court made it necessary. I will not question the motives of the court in rendering the decision and in refusing to reverse it, but I will say that it was not necessary under the constitution to render such a decision, and that it resulted in building up a State political machine to control county affairs that was so undemocratic and odious that the people elected a legislature pledged to repeal it and at the same time defeat the Democratic supreme court for re-election and elected a nonpartisan supreme court. This new supreme court at the first opportunity reversed the old county government decision, and in doing so it has had the approval of the people of the State, and has not been criticised by a single lawyer, as far as I know; nor has anyone ever suggested that the decision was not in accordance with the constitution.

What has been the result? The people got the system of local self-government that they wanted, and the supreme court, by its decision, has removed the only defect to the system by reversing a former decision of the same court. The only trouble there has ever been under the system was that between the time when the legislature adopted it and the time when the decision of the court referred to was rendered. During this short period there were necessarily some negroes elected to some minor places in a few of the negro counties, as everybody knew there would be. But that condition is now and forever removed by the decision of the court.

Mr. President, when the last campaign was on, did our Democratic friends denounce this new county government system that gave to the people the control of their local affairs? No. Did they denounce the present court for the decision that removed the only defect in the system, or rather make it possible for the legislature to do it? No. Why? Because the people indorsed both and would never submit to going back to the old system.

Then what did they do? Why, they joined the People's Party and every other political party in pledging themselves to the people that they would keep that system of county government which we had established; and, in addition, they pledged themselves to enact legislation in accordance with the recent decision of the supreme court to remove the only defect in that system (under which some negroes had been elected to office) by establishing a different system of county government in the twelve negro counties referred to. This is exactly what the fusion legislature promised the people they would do as soon as the court would reverse that county government decision, and this was the only remedy offered by the Democratic party for what they called negro domination.

I repeat, every political party in the State in this last campaign made this same pledge, and that was the remedy and the only remedy offered by anybody, because it was what was necessary and all that anybody demanded.

Mr. President, so clear and patent was it to every voter in North Carolina that that remedy was all that was needed to establish forever permanent white supremacy and at the same time local self-government without disfranchising anybody that when it was charged in the campaign that if the Democratic party got into power they would go further, and submit a disfranchising amendment, every Democratic paper and speaker in the State made haste to declare that the charge was false.

SOLEMN PLEDGES TO THE PEOPLE NOT TO DO THIS THING.

The Democratic leaders knew that if they declared in favor of disfranchising a single voter in the State, or allowed or permitted a suspicion to that effect to rest in the mind of the voter, there was no hope for them to carry the election. Realizing this, they pledged their party officially, from their State committee down to their humblest candidate, that if placed in power they would attempt nothing of the kind.

They put it officially in their handbook and declared that all their candidates, from the highest to the lowest, would make the pledge on every stump. Yes, the handbook issued by the Democratic State committee not only denounced the charge, but also declared that they were not in favor of disfranchising a single voter, white or black, and further declared for manhood suffrage and that they were in favor of upholding the fifteenth amendment in good faith, and further pointed out that as long as that amendment stood it was impossible to disfranchise a single colored man without at the same time disfranchising a white man for the same reason.

OFFICIAL PARTY PLEDGE IN THE DEMOCRATIC HANDBOOK.

In spite of that, Mr. President, the People's Party handbook made the charge that there were many leaders of the Democratic party in favor of a disfranchising amendment. The Democratic State committee thought it was necessary to reply to that charge. What did they do. They issued a second handbook, a supplement to the first handbook, in which they denounced the charge made in the People's Party handbook as false.

They went further, and said that a Democratic convention would spit upon any man who would make such a proposition. They went further, and said that the men who made the charge ought to be ashamed of themselves for willfully lying, because their whole record had shown that they would not do anything of the kind. Here is the language; it is official; it will speak for itself.

It is as follows:

The Democratic party is the poor man's party. Nine-tenths of its members are poor men. How utterly absurd, then, is the false charge that the Republicans are trumping up to deceive the unwary. In order to give some color to it, they quote something from a Yankee newspaper, whose owners and editors are, we have always understood, Republicans, that Gen. W. R. Cox, who lives in Washington, told a reporter if the Democrats succeeded they would disfranchise the ignorant negro. But General Cox publishes over his own name a declaration that he never said that and never said anything like it, for he well knew that if even the Democrats should succeed and should have control of the legislature they would be powerless to disfranchise anybody. The Constitution forbids it.

The Constitution gives the right of suffrage to all male persons over 21 years of age not disqualified by crime, and the legislature can not add or take away a letter from that. That can only be done by the people themselves, and the Democrats will never submit any proposition to the people to take from a man his right to vote. No Democrat has ever proposed such a thing. The charge is only intended to mislead, to deceive, and to make political capital. It is entirely false. There is not a Democratic convention that would not spit upon the man who might make such a proposition. There is not a Democratic candidate for office who would not pledge himself most solemnly against it.

PLEDGE BY DEMOCRATIC STATE CHAIRMAN.

Later on in the campaign, on December 27, Mr. Simmons, the Democratic State chairman, realizing that there was some doubt as to their sincerity and some suspicion that they intended to submit a disfranchising scheme, thought it necessary to issue an address. Here is his address: He not only repeats the pledges in the Democratic Handbook, but he makes them even stronger and more emphatic. He declared strongly and unequivocally for manhood suffrage, white and black; that "never under any circumstances under the sun" would he or the Democratic party favor or consent to the passage of any law that would in any way lessen their present rights and privileges of voting. So solemn and positive were these pledges that not only were the white people fooled but even thousands of negroes were made to believe that the Democratic party was their best friend; and the result was that the Democratic party in the last campaign got more negro votes than their majority at the election amounted to. Listen to the following extract from that address:

For the past twenty years or more just before every election, the Republican speakers, at their midnight meetings, have been in the habit of telling the negro if the Democrats came into power their right to vote would be taken away from them.

First, they told them if the Democrats got the State government they would disfranchise them. The Democrats got the State government and did not disfranchise them. Then they told them if the Democrats elected a President they would disfranchise them. The Democrats elected a President and they did not disfranchise them. Then they told them if the Democrats got control of Congress they would disfranchise them. The Democrats got control of Congress and did not disfranchise them.

All along the honest white men of the State laughed at these lies, and marveled that the negro did not have sense enough to see that he was duped. Finally the negro himself began to see through the trick. He had seen the Democrats in full power in the State for twenty-two years, and had learned through experience that that party did not propose to disfranchise him, and he, too, began to laugh at those liars, and finally refused to be frightened by their rot any longer. So the old Republican scarecrow had to be hauled down and put away.

They know that the Democratic party has always stood for manhood suffrage, and they know that the Democratic party will never, under any circumstances under the sun, consent to the passage of any law which will take from them, however poor and ignorant they may be, the right to vote, or which will in any way diminish or lessen that great privilege.

Mr. President, could pledges be more direct and solemn?

PLEDGE BY THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS.

Not only this, Mr. President, but every Democratic newspaper in the State denounced the charge that their party had any such intention in most vigorous language. The following is an extract from an editorial in the Daily Wilmington Messenger of September 18, 1898, which is a sample of the editorial utterances of the Democratic press of the State on this question.

Mr. President, before reading the extract I desire to call attention to its language. It will be noticed that the editor denounced as a liar, and used many adjectives to strengthen that word, any and every man who dared to make such a charge against the purposes of the Democratic party. He wrote a long argument to show that any attempt to disfranchise the negro voters, unless at the same time illiterate white voters were also disfranchised, would be unconstitutional and would not stand the test of the court. I read the following extract from the editorial referred to:

The most stupid lie of the campaign is the Populist lie put out by the Skinner and Thompon gang and slyly repeated by the black radicals, the bald-faced lie that if the Democrats should carry the State they would disfranchise the negroes. If they desired it ever so much, they have no power to effect it. The lie is so stupid that it could not have been started and repeated but for the profound ignorance of the niggers generally. If they knew anything, they would know that North Carolina has no power under heaven to abridge the political rights and to deprive of the privilege of voting the negroes any more than the whites. The franchise is a right secured under the Constitution of the United States, and it takes the same power to abrogate the right as to confer, to repeal a law as to make it. So it is all bosh and falsehood to try and bewilder and befool the poor, ignorant negroes in the way it has done. It is pitiful and mean to so work upon them by lying and deception. Their right to vote is as absolutely secure as the white man's right to vote.

As we stated yesterday, the three amendments to the Constitution introduced and adopted soon after the war fixed the status of the negroes as citizens equal with that of the whites in their rights. The only way to rid the country of the negro ballot is by the same means and processes that were gone through with to enfranchise him in his stolid and stupid condition. So it is a lie out of whole cloth when the dirty tricksters imposed upon the ignorant, credulous negroes by telling them that a Democratic victory means depriving them of the right to vote.

Mr. President, that editor is now contending that it is constitutional to do the very thing that he proved then would be unconsitutional. He is now freely using the words "lie" and "liar" to denounce those who question the constitutionality of section 5, and he piles up the adjectives and foams and raves when anyone calls attention to his editorials of 1898 or to the other solemn pledges made in that campaign.

PLEDGES ON THE STUMP BY DEMOCRATIC SPEAKERS.

Not only this, but every speaker put into the campaign by the Democratic State committee, so far as I can learn, made the same pledge. Hon. James H. Pou, ex-chairman of the Democratic State committee, not only made the pledge in his speeches, but he also made an affidavit to that effect. It seems that at one of his speakings some person in the audience doubted his intention and asked him if he would make an affidavit to support what he said in his speech. He agreed to make the affidavit, and he did make the affidavit, and here it is:

State of North Carolina, County of Wake.

James H. Pou, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

"I have never said that if the Democrats regained control of the State they intended to disfranchise the negroes and illiterate white voters. I never have said anything like this, and I know that such is not the intention of the Democratic party. I have never heard a single Democrat give utterance to such a sentiment, and I do not believe, if such a proposition comes before the general assembly, that it would receive a single Democratic vote. I believe that a majority of the uneducated white voters of North Carolina are Democrats. The Democratic party is appealing to them for aid in preserving white supremacy in the center west and in restoring it in the eastern part of this State.

"They are responding to our appeal, and to repay them for their aid with a disfranchisement of their votes would be folly and ingratitude indeed. The men who make these charges know they speak falsely, but their campaign this year is run upon the idea that the people of North Carolina would rather believe a falsehood than the truth, and they would rather hear libels upon the honored dead than to hear arguments based upon truth.

"JAMES H. POU."

Sworn to and subscribed before me this October 1, 1898.

(Seal) GEO. W. THOMPSON, Notary Public.

Mr. Pou is the only speaker, so far as I know, who made an affidavit himself to try to convince his audiences that he was telling the truth when he was making these pledges. But I have on my desk a number of affidavits from voters, who testify that other Democratic speakers made on the stump the same pledge that the party organization officially made in their campaign handbook. I will read one of them:

State of North Carolina, Hertford County:

A. W. Simons and Jack Everett being duly sworn, depose and say: That they heard Hon. R. A. Daughton, one of the Democratic speakers who was speaker in the senate of 1893 and 1895, make a speech at Harrellsville, in Hertford County, on or about October 1898, in which Mr. Daughton denounced the charge made upon the Democratic party by Populists and Republicans, that they would pass a franchise law or a disfranchising scheme. He, Daughton, further declared and assured every voter in the audience, both white and black, that the Democratic party had no such intention and did not want to take any privilege from any voter, it made no difference how humble or how literate; that if the Democrats got control of North Carolina, they should have their political rights and they would soon see that all such charges were utterly false, and that no

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR.)

ON TO PRETORIA.

That is the Objective Point of Robert's Move.

THE BOERS WILL MOVE BACKWARD.

The Head of the Army Now 21 Miles North of Bloemfontein—Why Methuen Was Recalled.

London, By Cable.—The head of the army of Lord Roberts is now about 21 miles north of Bloemfontein. It occupies a cluster of hills won from the Boers after a stiff fight, in which the British lost seven officers and 100 men. The Boers had been using these kopjes as a base for marauding bands that have been beating up the country adjacent to Bloemfontein for supplies, driving off cattle and forcing non-resistent Free States into their ranks again. The enemy must have been in considerable force, as Lord Roberts sent 8,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry against them. Lord Roberts' progress to Pretoria will probably consist of a series of such forward movements, in which Boer positions will be attacked by a portion of the army advancing rapidly with wheel transport the main army coming up as the railroad is repaired. Lord Roberts is stripping the forces in the minor sphere of operations of their wagons and transport animals in order to hasten the advance. This is understood to be the reason why he recalled Lord Methuen from Barkly West to Kimberley. Lord Roberts had to have Methuen's transport.

The reason why a hot chase was not made after Commandant Olivier is that Lord Roberts did not wish to wear out the cavalry transport. General French lost 3,000 horses in the relief of Kimberley and the pursuit of General Cronje. Lord Roberts lost 3,000 transport cattle at Waterval drift, and it is estimated that he has lost 4,000 other animals since he forward movement began, on February 13th.

The rebellion throughout the Northwestern district of Cape Colony is almost suppressed.

The Goth will sail Saturday with 600 men for St. Helena to guard General Cronje and 4,000 prisoners.

A Uniform Bale.

Savannah, Ga., Special.—The Savannah cotton exchange is sending out a circular letter respecting cotton baling, giving a new rule with respect to bales which is to go into effect with the beginning of the next cotton year. The circular says that on and after September 1, 1900, "all sales of cotton in Savannah in bales shall be based on packages of standard size (24x54 inches) and when bales of other dimensions are tendered for delivery, an allowance of 25 cents per bale shall be made to the buyer by the seller on such cotton." Copies of the above rule are being sent to the various exchanges of the United States, requesting their co-operation, and to farmers, ginners, merchants, newspapers and others interested in the general adoption of a uniform size cotton bale. The Galveston cotton exchange has practically adopted the rule.

Another Fire.

New York, Special.—The steamship Old Dominion, formerly of the Old Dominion Line, now the property of the Joy Steamship Company, plying between New York and Boston, was damaged by fire. She reached her pier Thursday night and about 3 o'clock in the morning fire was discovered in the cargo of general merchandise, near the engine room. The crew, which rushed to the pumps, were driven away by the heat, but the fire department, which was then summoned, confined the flames to the lower deck. The total loss was $15,000.

Telegraphic Briefs.

The Postoffice Department, by instruction of President McKinley, has issued an order directing that mail addressed "Governor of Kentucky" shall be delivered to Taylor.

Gen. Piet J. Joubert, commander-in-chief of the Boer Army, died at Pretoria Tuesday from peritonitis.

Congressman J. W. Bailey, at Cameron, Texas, opened his campaign for the United States Senate in opposition to Hon. Horace Chilton. A large number of prominent public men of Texas were present to hear him speak. The senatorship will be decided in the primaries for members of the Legislature, a direct vote being taken.

All the Boers who were in the Orange river region of Cape Colony are said to have escaped northward.

Hard Day for Bryan.

Spokane, Special.—Friday was a day of hard campaigning for Wm. J. Bryan He made six speeches in Whitman and Spokane counties and addressed 35,000 people. At Colfax he addressed an audience of 7,000; at Graffeld 2,000. At Tekoa he spoke for 30 minutes to 4,000; at Farmington 1,500 heard him for 10 minutes and at Spokane he addressed two audiences of 10,000 each, speaking afternoon and evening in the big tent of the exposition.

On a Trial Trip.

Newport News, Va., Special.—The battleship Kearsarge left Old Point Friday morning at 9 o'clock and went to sea for a preliminary test of her superimposed turrets. Rear Admiral Sampson and some of the members of the trial board of inspection were on board. The tests of the Kearsarge's new style turrets will be watched with great interest. It is not known here when the Kearsarge will return.

Small Damages.

Pittsburg, Special.—The jury in the case of Assistant District Attorney Walter E. Billows, colored, against W. J. McCarthy, a prominent restaurant keeper, who refused to serve a meal to Billows and his companion, Congressman George White, of North Carolina, also colored, returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for 6 1-4 cents. Billows asked for $5,000 damages.

Business failures in Great Britain during 1899 were 8,600, against 8,895 in 1898.

CONGESSIONAL.

What Our Lawmakers are Doing from Day to Day.

SENATE.

Eighty-fifth Day.—The Senate has agreed to vote on the Porto Rico government and tariff bill next Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. An important utterance was made later in the day on the bill by Davis, of Minnesota. He advocated free trade between the United States and Porto Rico and urged that the necessary money to be raised by taxation be by an internal revenue tax, levied upon rum and tobacco produced on the island. This system, in his opinion, would better suit the people of the United States and those of Porto Rico, than the proposed tariff, and would be just, equitable and constitutional.

Eighty-third Day.—A direct vote was taken by the Senate on the proposition to strike from the Porto Rico measure the provision levying fifteen per cent. of the Dingley law duties upon Porto Rico products. The proposition was defeated by a vote of 16 to 33.

While the vote is regarded as presaging the passage of the pending measure it is not regarded as indicating the final vote on the bill.

The feature of the debate was the speech of Mr. Beveridge, of Indiana. While he advocated reciprocity between the United States and Porto Rico, he announced that if all efforts to secure free trade should fail he would support the pending bill. The bill was under discussion throughout the session, several important amendments being agreed to.

The conference report on the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation Bill was agreed to by the Senate soon after it convened.

Eighty-fourth Day.—Merriment swept the traditional dignity of the Senate. Staid sticklers for senatorial decorum literally held their sides and shouted with laughter, while the crowded galleries joined in the laughing tumult, which not the faintest effort was made to restrain. Senator Pettus, of Alabama, the oldest member of the body—his age being only a few months short of four score years—delivered the funniest speech heard within the Senate chamber in many years. It sparkled with wit and bubbled over with humor. Its sarcasm was keen, but not bitter; and even those who were the victims of it could not but enjoy its perfect good humor and its unalloyed fun. Throughout it all, Mr. Pettus was as solemn as if he were delivering a funeral oration. Mr. Proctor, Republican, of Vermont, delivered a forceful argument in support of free trade with the Island of Porto Rico. Considerable progress was made with the Porto Rican measure during the day, most of the committee amendments and several offered by Senators being disposed of. Mr. Depew, of New York, and Mr. Spooner, of Wisconsin, gave notice that they would speak on Monday on the Porto Rican bill. Consideration of the Porto Rican bill was then resumed and Mr. Proctor spoke.

HOUSE.

Eighty-third Day.—After four days of stormy debate the house passed the Army Appropriation Bill. As passed the bill is only slightly modified from the form in which it came from the committee. One of the last amendments adopted opens the Soldiers' Homes to the officers and men of the volunteer and regular armies incapacitated by service during or since the Spanish War. The chief incident of the day was a defense of the War Department by Mr. Parker (N. J.), against the charge of reckless extravagance in the fitting up of the transport Sumner made by Mr. Driggs, of New York, yesterday.

Mr. McRae (Dem., Ark.), moved to strike from the provision for the "manufacture or purchase" of small arm ammunition the words "or purchase," he declared that the government had ample facility for the manufacture of ammunition. Mr. Hull vigorously opposed the amendment. It might be necessary to purchase ammunition and the hands of the government should not be tied. He called attention to our helpless condition for lack of ammunition at the opening of the Spanish War and said he favored the accumulation of munitions of war.

Mr. Underwood (Ala.), favored the amendment. He was opposed to placing discretionary power to purchase in the hands of the War Department. He was inclined to think it led to extravagance and jobbery, and called the attention of the House to the facts elicited yesterday regarding the transport Sumner. This referenc to the Sumner aroused Mr. Parker, who detailed the history of the vessel, which, he said, had been wildly distorted.

He said the Sumner was an old collier rented and produced itemized figures from the War Department to prove that there was no undue extravagance. The alleged solid silver service $8,000 was plated ware and cost all told but $1,200. The amendment was lost.

The provision for firing morning and evening gun at State Soldiers and Sailors' Homes went out on a point of order, made by Mr. McRae (Ark).

This completed the bill and the committee then went back to several points temporarily passed over during the reading of the measure.

An amendment was adopted changing the eligibility for admission to soldiers' homes so as to admit all volunteer and regular soldiers incapacitated since the outbreak of the Spanish War. An amendment was adopted to give to officers and men of the volunteer army who did not receive extra pay when mustered out one month's pay if they served within the United States and two months' pay if they served beyond the limits of the United States.

Without further amendment the bill was passed.

The resolution unanimously reported from Committee on Election No. 2 in the contested election case of White vs. Boreing from the Eleventh Kentucky district, confirming Mr. Boreing to his seat was adopted without division. Both the contestant and the contestee are Republicans.

At 4:25 p. m. the House adjourned.

Eighty-fourth Day.—The House devoted the day to war claims. The bill to remunerate the British Cable Company for expenses incurred in repairing the Manila cable, cut by Admiral Dewey, which was under consideration several weeks ago, was consigned to oblivion, as was the bill to refer to the Court of Claims the claims of citizens of certain border counties of Pennsylvania who suffered losses during the various incursions of rebel forces into that State during the civil war. This bill has been before Congress for over 15 years and involves about $3,450,000.

BRITISH ADVANCE

Will Probably be Resumed Early Next Week.

GEN. JOUBERT'S SKILL PRAISED.

One Hundred and Thirty-five Miles to be Covered by Lord Roberts Before He Reaches the Boer Position.

London, Cable.—General French, who has arrived at Bloemfontein from Thaba'Nchu, says that Commandant Olivier has 6,000 men and is north of Ladybrand. Immense quantities of stores have now been accumulated at Bloemfontein, and Lord Roberts' infantry is seemingly about to move. An impression, which can be traced to the War Office, is abroad that the advance will begin next Monday. Boer observation parties are hovering near Bloemfontein, but Lord Roberts has 135 miles to cover before reaching the great position which the Boers are preparing at Kroonstadt. Moving ten miles a day is probably the best he can do with field transports. Therefore he can hardly engage the Boers in force for two weeks. The reconstruction of the railway behind him may even delay an invasion of the Transvaal until May. Meanwhile, all the important towns in the Free State, within Lord Roberts' reach, are being garrisoned. Trabal'Nchu, Phillipolis, Fauresmith, and Jagersfontein are thus held. Sir Alfred Milner is touring in the disturbed newly acquired territory, investigating conditions and arranging the administration. He is understood to be getting materials for a report to Mr. Chamberlain concerning a plan of civil government.

All the London morning papers print singularly kind editorials concerning General Joubert. They praise his military skill, uphold his chivalrous conduct and regret that so strong and moderate a mind should be absent from the final settlement of the dispute. Although some of the younger commanders thought the old soldier wanting in dash and enterprise, his raid into the country south of the Tugela is considered the best piece of Boer leadership during the whole war. It is now known that he crossed the Tugela with only 3,000 riflemen and six guns, but so bold and rapid were his movements that the British commanders thought 10,000 Boers were marching on Pietermaritzburg. For a few days, although in the presence of greatly superior forces, he isolated General Hildyard's brigade at Estcourt and at the same time threatened General Barton's camp at Mooi river. Then, as British re-enforcements were pushed up, Joubert re-crossed the Tugela without losing a prisoner, a wagon or a gun. General White's estimate of him, pronounced on Tuesday before he died, as a gentleman and a brave and honorable opponent, strikes the tone of all British comment.

The Foreign Office, according to the Portugal for some thousands of British troops to be landed at Beira and sent by the Rhodesia railway from Massi-Kesse to Umtali. A permanent arrangement is understood to exist for the use of this route to transfer the Rhodesia police. The possibility of foreign protest is suggested by the Daily Chronicle. Among the items cabled from Pretoria is a statement that prominent residents there object to a defense of Pretoria and desire that President Kruger should retire to Lydrberg. It is expected the principal buildings at Johannesburg had been undermined by order of Kruger.

Another Cot on Mill.

Columbia, S. C., Special.—Another cotton mill was incorporated Tuesday, carrying the total capitalization for the year over $5,000,000. The last is a $100,000 mill at Meinona, S. C., near Augusta, Ga.

Russia and Japan.

London, By Cable.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Kobe, dated March 28th, says: "Renewed trouble between Russia and Japan in Korea is imminent. The movements of the Russian fleet indicate the probability of the seizure of a Korean port. The War Office officials at Tokio are holding conferences and there has been considerable military and naval activity in Japan this month.

Cannot Interfere.

Washington, D. C., Special.—The President has informed Kentucky Republicans that while he cannot interfere in affairs to the extent of disarming the militia of either faction, he is willing, so far as he can legitimately do so, to recognize the Republicans officials of that State as the de facto officials. He told them in the same connection that he would give directions that mail addressed to an official by title only, as to "the Governor" or "the Secretary of State," should be delivered to the Republicans holding those offices, and not to the Democrats.

News Notes.

The wrangle over the Philadelphia exposition building has ended by the Philadelphia Museum buying it. Preparations to fit it for the Republican convention will begin immediately.

It is stated by the New York World that Lawyer Dill will receive a fee of a million dollars for affecting the Carnegie-Frick settlement.

The State executive committee of the Populist party of Texas has selected Waco, July 24th, as the time and place for holding the State convention.

A widow named Knorr, of Gleiwitz, Silesia, has been sentenced to ten years imprisonment at hard labor after having been convicted of poisoning her daughter-in-law, with tarts, in which arsenic had been placed.

The vaccine farm of D. D. Moss, located east of Columbia, Mo., says the Herald, on the Ashland gravel road, is doing an unprecedented business. Thousands upon thousands of points are being shipped from Columbia every week to all parts of the United States. The scope of the business knows no bounds. But recently he shipped a consignment to Africa.

NORTH STATE GULLINGS.

The Next State Fair.

The executive committee of the North Carolina Agricultural Society held an important meeting Friday afternoon. Those present were: Chas. McNamee, president; R. H. Battle, A. M. McPheeters, J. S. Wynne, George Allen, W. E. Ashley, R. B. Raney, J. C. L. Harris, F. A. Olds, W. C. McMackin, J. B. Hill, Frank Stronach, H. W. Ayer, Perrin Busbee, Julius Lewis, Walter Clark, Jos. E. Pogue, secretary, and C. B. Denson, assistant secretary and treasurer.

The president made a statement of the work now in progress and reports from the various committees were read and acted upon.

The recommendation to move the east fence so as to provide more room, and to open a new carriage way was adopted.

The Committee on Races made a preliminary report, and after discussing the sum of $2,500 was appropriated for premiums for that department at the next fair.

Messrs. Jos. E. Pogue and Perrin Busbee were appointed a committee in charge of the detention of the base ball grounds in the fair grounds.

Communications were read in reference to gun contests and a new department was created, and E. P. McKissick chosen as director of it.

The committee on advance premium list for agricultural products reported through Mr. George Allen, chairman, and their report was adopted, and an edition was ordered to be printed and distributed to farmers in advance of the regular list to be issued in the summer.

Some aditional by-laws were adopted as recommended by the committee, through its chairman, Mr. R. H. Battle.

Preparations for additional improvements at the grounds were referred to appropriate committees to report to an adjourned meeting.

Great interest was shown in the coming fair and the officers are in active correspondence to make it eclipse anything ever known in the State. The co-operation of the west from its fine fruit and other interests, will be most gratifying. Never has the work been so well advanced at this early period of the year.

That part of the report of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds recommending enlarging the grounds so as to accommodate a large midway, was adopted. The matter of the grand stand was referred to experts. It is hardly probable that it will be moved to the west side of the track. The question of enlarging the buildings was referred to the Secretary to ascertain the cost.

Many attractions for the next fair were considered and will soon be contracted for. Negotiations are pending to secure many new and novel attractions never before seen in a North Carolina fair. Particulars will be announced later.

The advanced premium list for field crops will be printed and distributed at once. Liberal premiums will be offered.

President McNamee and the other officers are very enthusiastic and energetic, and are determined to make the fair of 1900 the greatest ever held.

The committee appropriated $2,500 for trials of speed, $500 more than heretofore.

Interest in the Keeley Cure Revived.

The recent death of Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, who discovered the Keeley Cure for drunkenness and nervous diseases, has revived interest in that treatment. "I never argy," said Josh Billings, "agin success." In North Carolina the cures effected at Greensboro at the Keeley Institute embrace men of influence and usefulness in all callings. Their restoration to the control of their will power is seen in every town and county in the State, and stands as proof that the Keeley Treatment does cure drunkenness.—News and Observer, Feb. 27, 1900.

News Notes.

A new postoffice has been established in Davie county, called Kurfees, with J. L. Kurfees as postmaster.

The Central hotel at Asheboro, the property of United States Marshal Millikan, has been leased to A. E. Lewis, formerly of Liberty. A $2,000 addition and other improvements will be added o he building, making it a first class hotel.

The body of George Smith (col.), who died last week at Jefferson City, Mo., where he was teaching in the State normal school, was yesterday brought here for burial. He formerly resided here. He was a graduate of Dartmouth college and a young negro of promise.—Raleigh News and Observer.

News was received here Sunday that Miss Mary Troy Kluttz, daughter of Congressman Kluttz, who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis in Baltimore, is much worse. She had improved so much recently that she was thought to be out of danger, but it is supposed that she suffered a relapse.—Statesville Landmark.

Eugene Penny, the Wake county farmer who in December left his wife and children and went on a jaunt with Miss Chamblee, a young lady of the neighborhood, but who came back about three weeks ago, has gone again. It is said that his family and neighbors gave him the marble heart and this is the reason for his second departure.

Six directors representing the Pennsylvania and New York Central Railroads were elected by Chesapeake and Ohio stockholders at a meeting in New York.

The Baltimore Manufacturers' Record says: "The Patterson Textile company has completed the building for its silk manufacturing plant, reported last fall as to be established at Roanoke Rapids, N. C. The structure mentioned is two stories high, 78x268 feet, and the equipment of machinery is being installed now. The raw material to be worked up into marketable goods will be shipped to the mill from China, Japan and other silk-producing countries. The company expects to commence operations within thirty days; its capitalization is $400,000. Sam Patterson is president.