

Mecklenburg Times.

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51ST CONGRESS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest at the Capital, Political and Personal Gossip—Contested Election Cases, Etc., Etc.

James G. Blaine will be a candidate for the Republican nomination in 1892. This is stated upon authority which, if it could be given, would be at once recognized as entitled to credence. For the past year Mr. Blaine's health has steadily improved. The Secretary is now satisfied that there is no chronic ailment to stand in the way.

Mr. McKee of Arkansas has introduced among other bills one to declare forfeiture of all unearned land grants, also one to repeal the preemption and timber culture laws; also one to prohibit members of Congress from acting as attorneys for aided lines of railroads; also one to provide for a gradual income tax.

A bill has been introduced in the Senate to restore to the pension list re-married and divorced widows of soldiers; also one to provide for the election of two Vice Presidents of the United States.

The Blair Educational bill was reported to the Senate last Friday with several amendments. Among them are the following: 1. The quota of any State which shall be refused by the Legislature shall be covered into the treasury instead of being divided among the rest of the States. 2. The requirement that copies of school books authorized by School Boards shall be deposited with the Secretary of the Interior is stricken out; also the section giving the respective Legislatures power to distribute the funds apportioned to the several Territories. 3. It is explicitly stated that the training of persons of different colors to become teachers shall not be required in the same schools.

CONTESTED ELECTION CASES.

The sub-committee of the House Elections Committee charged with the arrangement of the contested election cases, completed its work this morning without much difficulty. After some discussion it was agreed that the Republicans should select one case and the Democrats another, in alternation until all were arranged. This course was adopted with the following resulting order for the hearing of the cases:

1. Smith vs. Jackson, West Virginia.
2. McGinnis vs. Alderson, West Virginia.
3. Atkinson vs. Pendleton, West Virginia.
4. Featherston vs. Cate, Arkansas.
5. Mudd vs. Compton, Maryland.
6. Threet vs. Clarke, Alabama.
7. Posey vs. Parrett, Indiana.
8. Bowen vs. Buchanan, Virginia.
9. Waddell vs. Wise, Virginia.
10. Eaton vs. Phelan, Tennessee.
11. McDuffie vs. Turpin, Alabama.
12. Chalners vs. Morean, Alabama.
13. Langston vs. Venable, Virginia.
14. Miller vs. Elliott, South Carolina.

15. Hill vs. Catchings, Mississippi.
16. Kernaghan vs. Hooker, Mississippi.
17. Goodrich vs. Bullock, Florida.

No order was made in the case of Baker vs. Ferman, (Ill.) as this is not a contest but simply a motion on Baker's part to be allowed the expenses of the contest which he inaugurated, and afterwards abandoned upon the receipt of the vote.

According to the arrangement, the first case—Smith vs. Jackson, West Virginia—is to be heard January 7th, and after that two cases will be heard weekly for two consecutive weeks. An intermission of a week will follow and then the regular order will be resumed. The cases are to be reported to the House in the order in which they are heard before the committee.

The Decay of the Senate.

It was once the custom of the States to select their ablest and most experienced statesmen for the Senate.

It is now the custom for them to send any sort of nobody who happens to have the money necessary to buy a Legislature.

It was formerly thought that trained ability, a long career in the public service and a conspicuously representative character were essential qualifications. The only qualification now deemed requisite is ability to secure majority in the caucus.

The dignity of the Senatorial office is so highly esteemed that no man is thought worthy of it who will in any way seek it. To ask for it is the most indirect way

to forfeit all chance of securing it by a demonstration of unworthiness.

All that is changed now. Small men "run" for the Senate with as much assurance as for a Shrivervalt, and they succeed without incurring either censure or contempt. Mr. Brice's case in Ohio is not exceptional. We wish it were so. It is merely illustrative of the methods which have reduced the Senate from its proud historic position to the level of a campaign club of managing politicians. Mr. Brice is in Ohio actively and openly seeking his own election to the Senate. He has no qualifications for the place except the ability to buy.

But he has an open headquarters. He has agents, runners, hustlers, dickers and all the other adjuncts of a ward election contest.

He will probably win, but he robs the place of all its dignity by his method of seeking it. He so dishonors it in advance that it cannot honor him when he gets it. When elected he will be only another successful political shopper who has bought a marked-down distinction on the bargain counter. The dignity of the Senate is a memory merely and Senatorial honors are matters of tradition.

Washington Notes.

Eleven Senators in the Senate last week voted against confirming the nomination of Brewer as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The combined opposition to Judge Brewer presented four reasons why he should not be confirmed: First, that he is an anti-prohibitionist; second, that he is a corporation attorney; third, that he punished a white man for abusing a negro, and fourth, because he appointed the officials of the Dakota courts from the States of Kansas and Nebraska, instead of from Dakota. The last reason is the one which led to the opposition of the Dakota Senators. They dislike the Judge because he ignored Dakota altogether when selecting the Court officials. Mr. Moody endeavored to have the nomination postponed so that he could telegraph for proofs of this awful charge. Twenty-five Senators voted with him in favor of giving him time to prove his case. Forty-three Senators, however, deemed the matter too trivial for serious consideration and voted against postponement.

The Great Wealth of the United States.

The World has obtained from the treasurer of each State the value of property as assessed for taxation. The Census Office in 1886 made a report of its exhaustive and laborious inquiry into the proportions existing in each State, between taxed property and actual wealth, which ranges between 25 per cent. in Illinois and 68 per cent in Wyoming.

The World's report shows an increase in taxable property of \$6,903,000, and an increase in actual wealth of \$18,162,000,000, since 1880. The total wealth is \$64,059,000,000, exclusive of the public property, and \$3,093,000,000 of property invested and flowed abroad. The wealth of the United States now exceeds the total wealth of the whole world at any time previous to the middle of the eighteenth century, and the amount invested abroad is alone equal to the national wealth of Portugal and Denmark. The total wealth of only five nations is equal to the mere increase of the United States in the past nine years.

The Blair Bill.

From the Salisbury Watchman.

The mischievous bill has been again brought up in the Senate. It is a radical measure, a Pandora's box from which should it become a law, more evils will spring than it will be in the power of the people to control. It is the most potent measure for the destruction of State Rights and for the centralization of all power in Democracy ever yet enacted. The bill grants have fought it heretofore, but only a partial understanding of its evil power for evil. It is evident that the Republicans will include it in their next clap-trap of a platform in the Democratic general election, and that the Democrats will be obliged to fight it, and, as we hope, with decisive effect.

Jefferson Davis's Estate.

The whole assessed valuation of late Jefferson Davis' property in Harrison county, Mississippi, is \$458,794. The personal assessment was \$300,000. Beauvoir is assessed at \$4,500, and the signatures which appear on the will are those of parties who were called into the probate clerk's office to testify to the handwriting of the deceased, and the parties were not witnesses to the signature, as might be supposed.

FARMERS AND KNIGHTS

SOMETHING NEEDED FOR AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

Words of Encouragement for the Alliance—Farmers as a Class are an Eminently Sensible Set of Men—Other Notes.

From the Salisbury Landmark.

The recent confederation formed between the Farmers' Alliance and the Knights of Labor is a notable event. We hope much good will come of it. The men who work with their hands are entitled to more of the fruits of their toil than they ordinarily get. Of the two elements forming the new confederation the farmers are today in the worse plight. The prices of his products are going steadily down, down. This enables the mechanic to live the more easily, yet while this is the case the tendency of his wages is upward. The farmer needs legislation which will make cheaper the things he has to buy, yet the Knights of Labor are told that that condition which would be helpful to the farmer would be ruinous to them. Really the interests of the two classes are identical, but can the Knights be brought to see it? There have been some signs of late that they are beginning to understand that the "protection" which they have been voting for goes, after all, to their employers and not to themselves, and it may be that the tariff reform which the farmers will bring to the confederation will after awhile leave the whole lump. We do not understand clearly the ends in view but doubtless those who effected the union do. We have always found farmers as a class an eminently sensible set of men, as keenly alive to their own interests and as quick to perceive what is best for them as any other class among us. We have therefore never tendered them any advice about their Alliance business, confident that they know what they are doing, and feeling very hopeful always that it would redound to their benefit, which is the benefit of all. If the Knights of Labor can help them to better their fortune, God speed them. Certainly something needs to be done for our agricultural interests—the manufacturing interest can take care of itself. But with corn 14 cents per bushel in Iowa, and the Kansas farmer using it for fuel because it is cheaper than coal; with wheat 50 cents per bushel, and meat 3 cents per pound—with these figures prevailing in the West, rendering Southern competition out of the question, and with Southern cotton at a price only a cent or two above the cost of production and the crop failing one year out of three with us who live near the mountains, truly it seems to be getting time to look about us. The western farmer is poverty stricken with all the food products at his feet in profusion, and the Southern farmer makes enough home supplies to feed him and sells his cotton for enough to pay the fertilizer bill, the sheriff and the preacher. The much vaunted "home market" is not strong enough to pay the Western farmer a living price for wheat and corn and meat, and the Southern farmer sells his cotton at prices fixed in New York and Liverpool before the crop is pitched. It is this condition that we would like to see the Alliance overcome, for until it is overcome the farmer will languish and all the balance of us continue poor.

Casualties of 1889.

January—1st. Fielding McLain, aged 75 years, dropped dead in his field while plowing.—3rd. Explosion of boiler of Col. John Ashford's hoop factory, at Clinton, killing Col. Ashford, two sons and a colored man.—23. Miss Charity McAllister, Cumberland county, brutally murdered in her house by George Brewington (col.) and Brewington killed by Alexander McAllister her kinsman.—25th. Corn mill, cotton gin and six bales of cotton of W. L. Williams, Cumberland county, burned.—Mrs. Joshua Richardson, of Alleghany county, burned to death in the flames that destroyed her dwelling.

February—2nd. Buck Wilkins and Dave Hodge, (col.) disputing over cards, killed each other in Stokes Co.—5th. Works and machinery at Crowell mines and the mills, grist mills, etc., Cabarrus county, burned.—8th. Mail train of R. & G. railroad derailed by a misplaced switch at Raleigh; engine and several flat cars smashed.

—14th. Estell Johnston a little girl in Salisbury, died from strychnine pills taken in "playing sick" with other children.—17th. Cyclone in Rutherford county; houses unroofed and trees and fences blown down.—23rd. James McDonald killed by passenger train on Central Railroad, near his home in Richmond county.—24th. Burning of smoking tobacco factory of D. G. Reese, at Hickory.—W. E. Battle killed by jumping from a moving train on W. N. C. R. R., at Top-Long, Cherokee county.—25th. James B. Crawley killed Richard Harris with an axe handle at Bath, Beaufort county.—Miss Bettie Love, aged 15 years, Davidson county, killed at R. S. Adderton's grist mill, by entanglement of her clothing in the machinery.—28th. Burning of B. W. Bergeron's store and other buildings at Washington, loss \$40,000.

March—1st. Suicide of Joseph Lee, Wake county, by shooting himself through the heart.—Burning in Union county, of house with Judith Jordan, said to be 120 years old; she was born in Africa.—7th. Jewelry store of John Farrior, at Charlotte, broken into and robbed of \$4,000 or \$5,000 worth of jewelry.—Thomas Brotherton shoots and kills Junius Summers, a tenant, in Iredell county.—11th. Sidney Mitchell, of Iredell county, run over by a loaded wagon and killed.—15th. Mrs. Eliza Haden, of Davidson county, died from morphine given by mistake for quinine by her physician.—Two freight trains collided on the Piedmont Air Line, at Clifton, S. C., and two men killed and four injured, an engine and four cars wrecked.—20th. Collision of freight train on R. & D. R. R., near Salem Junction; one engine and ten freight cars wrecked.

April.—3rd. Sash & Blind factory of Mr. Wilson, and railroad depot at Wilson's Mills, Johnson county; loss, \$20,000.—7th. Burning of the town of Smithfield; loss, \$100,000.—8th. Chas. Hamilton, Salisbury, fireman on the W. N. C. R. R., killed in a collision of freight trains near Marion.—Drunken man in jail at Leesville fires the building and is burned up with it.—W. H. Woodell, Harnett county, attempts to save his furniture in his burning dwelling, burned to death.—17th. Depot, A. & N. C. R. R., at Newberne, burned.—20th. Robert Burton, 11 year-old son of R. C. Burton, of Durham, drowned while bathing in a pond.—Fire in Reidsville; loss, \$25,000.

May—1st. Warsaw and vicinity visited by a cyclone; Presbyterian church and other building destroyed; loss, \$12,000.—7th. Windstorm in Forsyth county. A tobacco factory blown down and one man killed and another wounded at Kernersville.—15th. Burning of the factory at Durham.—16. Suicide of Wm. Pryor, aged 25 years, by 40 grains of morphine on Western train near Asheville.—26th. Millions of 17-year locusts in the forests and groves of Vance and Buncombe counties.—A terrific hail storm in Rowan county; heavy damage to crops.

August.—1st. Flood destroys Cape Fear and Yadkin R. R. Bridge at Walnut Cove; loss \$100,000. Dan River at Milton, 35 feet above low water mark; two feet higher than ever known, great damage to crops.—5th. Lightning struck the home of C. A. Reid, Catawba county, and killed Miss Addie Reid, aged 18, and James Trolinger, aged 21.—19th. Robert Parker assassinated in his garden at Connelly Springs by some person unknown.—17th. Burning of lumber mills of Stinson & Co., with a million and a half feet of lumber at Newberne; loss \$50,000.—18. Death of W. K. Perry, the aeronaut at Charlotte. At Mt. Holly fair he fell with his balloon when 700 feet high.—25th. A cloud burst near Rockingham, Richmond county; damage to mills, railroad track and crops \$200,000; 500 mill hands thrown out of employment.

Sept. 5th. Moore county court house burned at Carthage; the work of an incendiary; loss \$4,000, including all the county books and papers. 11th. A mob of one hundred citizens of Burke county, broke open the Jail at Morganton at midnight, taking out Franklin Stack, white, and David Boone, colored, and hung them.

Duel to Death Between Farmers. Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 23.—Meager reports reach this city of a terrible tragedy enacted in Norwalk township, nine miles northwest of here this afternoon. Two farmers named Holman and Gill were neighbors and sworn enemies. Trouble had been brewing for some time. To-day Holman went to a neighbor and secured a gun, loaded it with bird shot and went over to Gill's farm. Meeting him Holman instantly raised the gun and emptied both barrels into Gill's body. A terrible struggle ensued, in which Gill, in a last effort, secured the gun, and sent it crashing through Holman's skull. Neighbors hearing the shooting, ran to the scene of the horrible affray, only to attend the men in their death agonies.

REFORM MOVEMENT.

GROWTH OF ALLIANCES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

Straws that Show the Wind—Items of Interest to Citizens Interested in the Welfare of the People and of the Nation.

The Farmers' Assembly of Virginia recently in session at Richmond, called for an adjustment of the "present unjust, unequal and unbearable tariff laws." They also call on Congress to make in the census of 1890 a report on real estate mortgages.

The State Farmers' Alliance of South Dakota says in its memorial to Congress: "The cost of all of our farm machinery is enhanced by reason of high duties on iron and steel, while the prices of the products of the products of our wheat fields is fixed in a market where it must compete with the cheapest labor in India and Europe."

The New York World, speaking of an abuse believed to be quite current, says:

The purchase of Senatorships is the robbery of the people of their dearest possession. Like bribery in elections, it is a crime against Liberty which no honest man can look upon except with loathing and a deadly righteous hatred of its perpetrators. The man or the party that consents to it is already leprous to the very marrow.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 23.—The Convention of Miners of the competitive district, comprising Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, met in this city last Wednesday. John McBride, President of the Miners' National Progressive Union, presided. Practically but little was done on the first day. The second day John B. Roe, Master Workman, and Robert Watchem, Secretary of District Assembly 135, K. of L., spoke in favor of a coalition of the two bodies, which have been at outs so far so long. A resolution was finally passed favoring the proposed consolidation.

The York County Alliance met at the court house last Saturday. We are without information as to the result of the meeting. Col. W. D. Camp represented Buffalo Alliance, Mr. E. M. Tate represented Cherokee Alliance, and Mr. E. B. Sepaugh represented Holly Grove Alliance.

The Cabarrus county Alliance will meet in the Hall of Rocky River Alliance January 2d and 3d. Capt. S. B. Alexander, W. A. Graham, and State Lecturer Long have promised to be present. There will be no public exercises, only members of the Alliance are invited. Business of great importance to be transacted. Secretaries of Sub-Alliances are requested to send list of delegates to Dr. S. A. Grier, Secretary of Rocky River Alliance, Harrisburg, N. C.—Concord Standard.

The Anson County Alliance will meet at Wadesboro Friday January 3, at 10 o'clock.

Alliance Items from the Asheville County Home: Rowan county contains about 40 Sub-Alliances with a total membership of about 1,500. Capt. Jake Fisher, the President of the County Alliance is a man of sense and energy. We have not heard of a single Alliance being suspended in Western North Carolina.

The January meeting of the Haywood County Alliance will be at Clyde, and a two day's session held. All over the county the farmers are taking hold of the order and working with renewed zeal and energy. It is highly important that every member be impressed with the fact to remember our motto, and to obey its injunction is essential to success in all our undertakings, matters not how great or small. "United we stand, divided we fall," or "In union there is strength."

Notice to Alliances. The second quarterly meeting of the Mecklenburg County Alliance will meet with Providence Alliance on the first Thursday in January, 1890, at 10 o'clock promptly. A full representation is desired. From 11 o'clock until half-past one will be devoted to public speaking, to which the public is invited. T. J. REXFORD, Prest. Mecklenburg Co. Alliance.

Old Hickory's Birthday.

At a meeting of the old soldiers and the personal friends of Andrew Jackson, at Nashville, Tenn., last week the following appeal was issued: Soldiers and citizens of the Republic: We who are soon to die, salute you. In the name of the immortal Jackson, we ask you to celebrate his victory of the 8th of January, a day memorable in the history of the nation and dear to us members of the Old Guard. We respectfully request the Governors of every State in this glorious Union, the Mayors of cities, officers and military commands, civil societies and all loyal American citizens to unite in commemorating this day. As Old Hickory was born in Mecklenburg county would it not be well for us to join in celebrating his birthday?

A prominent Kansas City physician kissed his wife at a theatre in Washington City and the management had him removed from the house. This has naturally aroused considerable attention and called out a variety of comment and confession, which, in this period of frequent travel, it were well enough to know. When in Chicago you may kiss your wife only at parting at the railway station; never when leaving her on a street car. Denver forbids kissing one's wife anywhere except in the theatre, church, or a shop. St. Paul forbids the rite beyond the limit of the front doorstep, while Bismarck, N. D., with the characteristic liberality of the great golden West, says, says a man may kiss his wife whenever he pleases, and in fact seems to indicate that it is rather willing than otherwise to encourage men in domestic rather than foreign osculation, even at the expense of rigid propriety. Washington as the capital city and ultimate authority on matters of social etiquette insists that no kisses shall be delivered or received except those which are walled in and curtained off from the street. Nothing less than an unexpected meeting after three years' absence will justify a Washington man in kissing his wife in public.

Geo. Johnston, porter for the Central Hotel, died in the bus at the C. C. depot, Tuesday morning at 7 o'clock. He was a polite and faithful darkie.

Bill Weddington, the ring leader of the burglars last winter, has finally escaped the gallows. Gov. Fowle has commuted his sentence to life imprisonment.

THE TIMES would have reached its readers one day sooner, but for the fact that two of its printers got on a drunk in celebration of Xmas.

In a private letter of Jeff. Davis', recently published, he says the story of his romantic elopement is a "baseless scandal."

C. A. Dixon & Co., of Charlotte, made an assignment Tuesday. The liabilities are about \$25,000.

List of New Advertisements.

- Farmers' Alliance Agency—F. S. Neal, Agent.
- The New York Sun for 1890.
- Don't Suffer—Richard Moore.
- Pure White Lead—T. Lewis & Bros.
- The Standard—Henry George.
- Monuments and Headstones—I. W. Durham & Co.
- The Charlotte Oil and Fertilizer Co. Furniture, Pianos and Organs—E. M. Andrews.
- Christmas Candles, etc.—Mayer & Ross.
- New York Life Insurance Co.—Church & Lane, General Agents.
- Monuments and Headstones—R. H. Morse & Son.
- Hardware, Stoves, etc.—R. Moore.
- N. C. Home Insurance Co.—Thos. H. Haughton.
- Sanitary Plumbing, etc.—Hyland and Oxenham.
- Attention Farmers and Alliances—E. H. Springs.
- Groceries.—L. J. Walker & Co.
- Painting.—Pritchett & Pettus.
- Cause and Effect.—R. E. Blakey.
- Jewelry, etc.—John Farrior.
- Photographs.—H. Baumgarten.
- Stoves, etc.—J. N. McCausland.
- Mecklenburg Iron Works.
- Job Printing—Ed H. DeCamp.

Notice to the Public.

Notwithstanding the report of some of our "Friends" that our announcement to sell out was only intended to "catch the trade" (as has been done by other concerns), we have greatly reduced our stock, and those who favored us with a call have found out that we meant what we said. We now announce again that we shall positively close out our entire stock AT AND BELOW COST, and intending purchasers of Boots and Shoes should not let this opportunity pass without securing some of the bargains. Very respectfully, MOYER & CO. 36 East Trade Street.