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NOW, THE PEOPLE!

In Their Hands is the Settlement of the White Supremacy Question.

THE FRANCHISE AMENDMENT

To the Constitution Passed by the Senate and Ready to be Submitted to the Vote of the People--House Passes the Public Printing Bill; Also the Labor and Printing Commission Bill--The Insurance Bill a Special Order for Tuesday--The Local Option Bill Withdrawn, Then Replaced on the Calendar.

(Special to The Messenger.)

SENATE.
Raleigh, N. C., February 18.—The senate passed bills on third reading as follows: To incorporate the North Carolina and South Carolina railway. To incorporate Hoffman. To amend the charter of Goldsboro.

The bill to ratify the Madison county bond issue of 1887 was after discussion made a special order for Monday. There was some debate on it and strong declarations were made against bond repudiation.

The great event of the day was the special order, the constitutional amendment and limiting the negro franchise.

Senator Goodwin offered amendment, that should the amendment be adopted by popular vote, then all persons who may thereby be deprived of the right of suffrage shall be exempt from all civil and military duties, and from poll tax. The roll call vote was—ayes, 6; noes, 42, and it was, therefore, lost.

Senator Fuller (colored) spoke against the amendment. He said that it had fallen to his lot to represent the colored race. He had made a study of the senators present and had come to the conclusion that they were the brainiest men in the state—too great to stuff their consciences by an unjust act. The white man's party in North Carolina is a great party. It has out-distanced William J. Bryan and stands in a ratio to his sentiments as 49 to 1. It is not necessary to pass the amendment, because negro domination is not possible in North Carolina. Conditions here do not resemble those in South Carolina and Louisiana. The democratic party only lost power during the past four years because it failed to fulfill its pledges—special privileges to none, fairness to all—that should be the white man's motto. The negro is made the object of attack, the innocent victim of a party, when he is merely the harmless tool in the hands of those who work great harm. He believed the amendment unconstitutional, apart from its being impracticable and impolitic from an economic standpoint.

Senator Campbell said that during the last campaign the democrats in his county (Alexander) had pledged themselves against this measure; that if they had done otherwise they could not have carried a corporal's guard. The great Vance, were he here, would oppose this measure; and he added: May God forgive me if I ever cast my vote for disfranchising any one.

Senator Cooley thought it unwise to submit the amendment to the people at this time, but he yielded his wishes to those of his friends and votes aye.

Senator Field did not think his section needed the amendment, but for the best interests of his country voted "aye." We are progressive people, said he. There must be a change in the constitution as in other things. The educational and economic interests of the state demand a change in the organic law of North Carolina, and believing this, I yield some personal feeling—some belief based upon the knowledge that my section of country does not need the enactment, and, for the best interests of my country, vote "aye."

Senator Frank was opposed to the bill and voted "no."

Senator Glenn received an ovation when he rose to his feet. He was loudly applauded throughout and the galleries cheered him frantically for five minutes, when he had concluded. He said that it was the first time he ever rose to explain his vote and it was the proudest vote he ever cast. The white man had had no opportunity to enfranchise the negro. He concluded by saying: "I have come here to unfurl the banner of the white race over the capitol, and I vote 'aye.'"

Senator Travis argued that the amendment was really for the negroes' best interest.

Senator McIntyre thought the abstract principle of disfranchisement was wrong, but he knew the negro and the evils of last "Red Shirt" campaign and voted "aye."

Senators Robinson and Hicks made short earnest speeches and voted "aye."

Senator Wilson, of Guilford, said: "My name is last on the roll and last on the roll of honor. This is the proudest moment of my life, and I vote 'aye.'"

Senator Harris, populist, from Northampton, voted "aye," and was loudly

applauded, the applause lasting nearly a minute.

The vote stood—ayes 42; noes 6; those voting in the negative being Senators Campbell, Crisp, Franks, Fuller, Goodwin and Newsom.

The president then announced that the amendment had passed by a three-fifths majority, and the bill was ordered regarding the ferry over the North-east river; also to amend section 1964, of the Code in regard to refusal of railroads to receive and forward freight.

By Mr. Robinson, to provide for working Cumberland's roads by taxation. By Mr. Boushall, to allow Wake county to have two additional county commissioners. (Under suspension of rules this passed.)

Mr. Boushall presented petitions for a reformatory, with 1,100 signatures.

The bill passed to incorporate the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, of Winston, with a capital not to exceed \$12,000,000.

The house took up as a special order the public printing bill.

Mr. Thompson, of Onslow, offered an amendment reducing the cost of binding, which Mr. Hoey, who was in charge of the bill accepted.

Mr. Justice, of McDowell, offered an amendment, to give the printing to the lowest bidder in North Carolina.

Mr. Boushall opposed this amendment and defended the bill, saying the experiment of letting the printing to the lowest bidder had proved a failure. He said the bill reduced prices as fixed by the Code. During the four years of fusion rule the printing had cost the state \$8,000 more than under democratic rule.

Mr. Justice said that all other things being equal he was for Edwards & Broughton. He asked Mr. Boushall if the latter did not have a favorite. Mr. Boushall said he did. Mr. Justice said he had none. Mr. Boushall said he was speaking in the interest of skilled labor; that he had protests of all labor organizations in the state against the unfair treatment of organized labor.

Mr. Stevens said while preference ought to be given to North Carolinians, yet he did not want to bind it down to North Carolina.

Mr. Boushall asked Mr. Stevens if he was willing to go outside the state. Mr. Stevens replied yes if the people of North Carolina said so and that he was speaking in the interest of the taxpayers. He was more in favor of disorganized rather than of organized labor and opposed paying a bonus to organized labor.

Mr. Justice had his amendment again read which provides that the cost of freight is to be taken into consideration, and that the printing is to be done by a firm which delivers it here in Raleigh at the lowest price.

Mr. Boushall said he spoke for skilled labor, which would not sell itself at less than it was worth.

Mr. Justice said the bill provided for paying 16 2-3 per cent. more than was necessary. He said the taxpayers were not interested in paying fancy price for organized labor.

Mr. Justice said his amendment put the burden upon the committee. Mr. Winston offered an amendment to the Justice amendment, that in every contract regard is to be had to the character of the work and the quality of the material providing the public printing and passing on bidders' responsibility. Mr. Justice accepted this.

Mr. Foushee said H. E. Seaman, a practical printer of Durham, assured him that the giving of the public printing to the lowest bidder was a delusion and a snare and that there ought to be a public printer. Circulars had been distributed by Nash Bros, of Goldsboro, offering to do the printing for 16 2-3 per cent. less than under the bill.

There were several allusions to this in the speeches. Mr. Boushall said the committee had deemed it best not to award the contract to Nash Bros. He said it was following a democratic precedent to decline to award the printing to the lowest bidder. He declared there was no bonus in the bill; that the rate was lower than in any other state

and lower than any this state has ever had.

Mr. Justice demanded ayes and noes upon his amendment that the work should be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder and be confined to North Carolina. The amendment was adopted—ayes, 83; noes, 18.

The bill as thus amended passed its readings.

The next bill taken up was one to establish a bureau of labor and printing under charge of a commissioner with an assistant, who is to be a practical printer. This was pendant to the bill just disposed of. The democratic caucus will select the commissioner and the assistant. Actual traveling expenses were allowed in collection of statistics.

Mr. Williams, of Iredell, offered an amendment, which was adopted, reducing the salaries to \$1,200 and \$700 respectively.

Mr. Overman offered an amendment striking out the provision allowing employment of assistants to collect statistics. This amendment was adopted. He then made a motion to reduce the \$3,500 appropriation for expenses to \$3,000. This was adopted.

Mr. Clarkson offered an amendment, providing for election after 1901 by the people of the commissioner of labor. His amendment was accepted. The bill then passed.

The revenue bill was made a special order for Tuesday and the state guard bill a special order for Wednesday.

The third special order taken up was the insurance bill. Mr. Allen, of Wayne, interrupted the reading to say he hoped there would be a postponement as he favored a combination of the duties of railway commissioners, insurance control and supervision of banks and building and loan associations. He, therefore, moved that the consideration of the bill be deferred until next Tuesday.

Mr. Boushall made his solemn protest against the crowding together of duties of railway commissioners and insurance commissioners. He said the postponement meant a purpose to put power in the hands of the railway commissioners. He said the persons insured in North Carolina favored an insurance commissioner but not the placing of that duty upon the railway commission.

Mr. Carroll wanted delay so the caucus could discuss the matter.

Finally the bill was made a special order for Monday.

The bill was taken up to allow the holding of local option elections in towns and counties at any time of the year, but not oftener than once in two years and not in a year in which a general election is held.

Mr. Robinson opposed the bill, saying a temperance agitator was going over the state stirring up this matter. (By this he meant Evangelist J. W. Lee promoter of this bill.) He said local prohibition was a humbug.

Mr. Carroll said this bill had been before the senate and that Senator Glenn had withdrawn it. Now the committee had amended it so as to make it satisfactory. He said prohibition was conducive to morality.

Amendments excepting counties were passed in. At this stage Mr. Carroll asked consent to withdraw the bill. It met therefore the same fate as in the senate.

Bills passed as follows: To establish a dispensary at Clayton. To allow Tarboro to establish waterworks and sewerage; also bill to allow it to establish electric lights.

Mr. Gilliam was asked if this matter was now in litigation and said yes.

Speaker Connor, calling Mr. Council to the chair, said he could not see how the house could take cognizance of any trouble between the town of Tarboro and the contractors. He said the contract could not be carried into effect because it had never been submitted to the people.

The bill to give Mecklenburg a dispensary was taken up, with a unanimous favorable report. Mr. Ranson said he favored the bill and hoped the house would unanimously pass it.

Mr. Clarkson said he heartily concurred in what Mr. Ranson said and that a majority of 200 of the white citizens of Mecklenburg demanded the passage of the bill.

Mr. Stevens said he doubted the wisdom of the measure, particularly at this time, but he deferred to the wishes of the people of Mecklenburg.

The bill passed second and third readings by a unanimous vote.

At Mr. Leatherwood's request Mr. Carroll withdrew his request for leave to withdraw the local option bill so the latter remains on the calendar.

The house then took a recess.

For relief of sureties of A. H. Bell, tax collector of Waynesville.

Mr. Winston introduced a resolution, which was adopted, that the governor be requested to furnish a list of trustees of the Agricultural and Mechanical college and the vacancies on the board.

Mr. Leatherwood's bill to appropriate \$1,000 for James L. Robinson institute at Brison City, Swain county, caused discussion. An amendment was offered to strike out the appropriation.

Mr. Stevens offered an amendment to appropriate \$500 to the monument to the memory of Andrew Jackson at his birthplace in Union county. This bill goes over until Monday.

Bills passed: To establish graded schools at Lexington. To allow Wilmington to fund its debt. To allow Lincoln county to levy a special tax. To prohibit leaving felled timber in streams in Iredell county.

BEFORE THE COMMITTEES

Important Matters That are Now Under Consideration by Committees of the Legislature

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., February 18.—Speaker Connor today received a gold pen with which he will on Monday sign the bill creating Scotland county. On it is engraved "Scotland County, 1899, Connor."

The constitutional amendment, limiting the franchise will be ratified by noon Monday.

John H. Pearson is here to turn over his office as railway commissioner to Otho Wilson, he says. He evidently does not really think the legislature will adopt the report of its committee in favor of J. W. and Otho Wilson. Some prominent members of the legislature say the report will be adopted 40 to 1. One of the leading democratic members said tonight it would certainly be adopted as to J. W. Wilson, but that Otho Wilson might be left to test his right in the courts.

Before the joint committee on penal institutions, today Senator Brown, chairman of the sub-committee on investigating the penitentiary stated that \$86,000 in claims had been filed against the penitentiary and this amount would be increased to \$110,000 in a month's time. He advised that \$250,000 in bonds be issued at once and put in the hands of the new board or commission, or else given to the new executive committee of the state's prison, with an express clause in the statute creating the enactment of the issue that exclusive control of the money derived from the sale of bonds be retained by such commission. It would be advisable, he declared, to buy the Halifax, Northampton and Butters rice farms and to immediately dispose of all the interest in other state farms, as they are worthless. Senator Brown severely condemned the management of the penitentiary and said quite recently 5,000 bushels of wheat was ruined by carelessness.

Mr. Foushee, of the committee, suggested this was wheat in Major Wilson's mill at Weldon and said he understood Day had instituted proceedings against Wilson for damages.

The committee favors Brown's proposition, and after the decision in the suit of the executive committee against Day, it will instruct Shepherd and Busbee, and Burton to prepare a bill authorizing the issue of bonds, with a reservation clause as to disposition of the money.

The senate committee on propositions and grievances will report favorably the bill establishing a dispensary at Greensboro. Halstead did not vote and may file a minority report.

The smallest things may exert the greatest influence. DeWitt's Little Early Risers are unequalled for overcoming constipation and liver troubles. Small pill, best pill, safe pill. R. B. Bellamy.

Damage to Truck in Norfolk Section
Norfolk, Va., February 18.—The Virginian-Pilot will say tomorrow: We have interviewed the leading truckers in this section in regard to the effects of the late storm upon growing crops. The consensus of opinion is that the radish crop is totally destroyed and will have to be re-planted. Kale is looking tough and has turned yellow, but may possibly be reclaimed. Cabbage are looking badly and were, it is believed, injured to a large extent. The cold, freezing, weather anterior to the late snow storm did the damage. Nearly everything in the ground was injured.

Mr. S. A. Fackler, Editor of the Micanopy (Fla.) Hustler, with his wife and children, suffered terribly from La Grippe. One Minute Cough Cure was the only remedy that helped them. It acted quickly. Thousands of others were this remedy as a specific for La Grippe and its exhausting after effects. Never fails. R. R. Bellamy.

An Entire Family Drowned
Charleston, S. C., February 18.—Mr. W. L. Wilson, of Bishopville, reports a terrible story of suffering which has taken place at Robbins, on the Pee Dee river, in Darlington county. Thursday a negro named Ned Bostic found that the water of the river was rising around his house. He got an old boat and placing his family, consisting of his wife and four children in it, tried to reach a point of safety. As he neared the bridge on the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta railroad, however, the boat went to pieces and the entire party was drowned. The bodies were caught under the ice and were not discovered until yesterday.

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THE NEW FRENCH PRESIDENT

Election Held at Versailles—M. Loubet Elected—His Return to Paris—Mob of Opposing Factions in the Streets, Rioting on a Small Scale

Paris February 18.—M. Loubet was elected president of the French republic this afternoon. He received 483 votes against 270 votes cast for M. Me-line, and 50 scattering.

The national assembly met at Versailles at 1 o'clock this afternoon. M. Loubet, president of the senate, declared the sitting open, amid the applause of the leftists, during which M. Loubet proceeded to drawing from tellers.

When M. Paul Deroulede, organizer of the League of Patriots, and deputy representing the Second district of Angouleme, voted he attempted to speak from the tribune where the urns were placed; but M. Loubet forbade him to do so, which called forth protests from the rightists and applause from the leftists. M. Deroulede, however, persisted in speaking and repulsed the ushers and others who rushed up to expel him from the tribune, which he finally left. While in the tribune M. Deroulede said: "The president of the republic ought to be elected by the people. I will not vote here." Then turning to M. Loubet, M. Deroulede cried: "Do you deny what M. de Brieux has written?"

To this M. Loubet replied: "I am not called on to answer you."

In the meantime the voting continued. While the checking was in progress the members of the assembly left the hall and assembled in the galleries and corridors, where they discussed the chances of the election. M. Melline loudly announced that he had voted for M. Loubet.

Apart from the Deroulede incident, the voting passed off quietly, the members returning to their seats after voting and chatting on the events of the day.

The progressists insisted on voting for M. Melline, although he had withdrawn his candidature in favor of M. Loubet which explains the vote cast for him.

When the sitting of the assembly was resumed the public galleries were crowded. The tellers entered headed by M. Chauveau, who announced that M. Loubet had been elected by a vote of 483 to 270 cast for M. Melline, amidst applause from the leftist and centre groups.

Senator Chauveau added: "M. Loubet, having obtained an absolute majority, I proclaim him president of the republic."

The announcement was greeted with prolonged applause mingled with violent protests from the rightists, and the leftists shouting "vive La Republique." M. Chauveau then declared the sitting closed.

After the announcement of the result M. Chauveau and many members of the assembly repaired to an adjoining saloon where M. Loubet awaited them. The result of the election was communicated to him and he received the congratulations of his friends. The premier, M. Dupuy, then formally transferred the executive power to M. Loubet and congratulated him upon his election.

M. Loubet left the place in a carriage accompanied by M. Dupuy and followed by the ministers. The crowds along the route acclaimed President Loubet with cries of "Vive La Republique," "Vive L'Armee," "Vive Loubet."

President Loubet arrived here from Versailles at 5:08 p. m. and was received with military honors. As the presidential carriage left the St. Lazare, a band of thirty or forty persons ranged themselves on either side of the landau, under the leadership of a couple of individuals who kept giving signals for shouts of "Down with Loubet," and "Resign! Resign!" The general public was apparently indifferent and no active hostility was displayed. Many in the crowd saluted the president and cried "Vive Loubet," and "Vive L'Armee," but the shouts of the demonstrators running beside the carriage drowned the friendly salutations.

The noise and excitement was redoubled when the carriage stopped at the Elysee. Here two compact hostile groups were massed, hooting and blowing whistles. MM. Loubet and Dupuy spent ten minutes with the Mme Faure and then proceeded to the Quai d'Orsay. On his journey thither M. Loubet was more favorably received by the public. The nationalists gathered about the statue of Joan of Arc and M. Deroulede made a fiery address to them.

The appearance of President Loubet in a carriage was the signal for hostile demonstrations and cries of "Panama, Panama." In opposition to cries of "Panama" the supporters of the president raised shouts of "Vive Loubet."

At this stage of the demonstrations detachment of mounted cuirassiers appeared and cleared a passage for the president's carriage. The noise was then redoubled and the police had great difficulty in restraining the mob.

Weekly Bank Statement
New York, February 18.—The weekly bank statement shows the following changes: Surplus reserve, decreased \$1,138,000; loans, increased \$8,567,700; specie, increased \$3,634,000; legal tenders, decreased \$2,493,700; deposits, increased \$9,113,200; circulation, decreased \$21,300.

The banks now hold \$34,333,825 in excess of the requirements of the 25 per cent. rule.

Suddenly MM. de Roulede, Milevoje and Habert appeared. The mob surrounded M. Milevoje, who donned his deputy's belt, which is his usual method of signaling to his friends, and from 400 to 500 of his supporters ranged themselves around the three deputies, shouting "Down with Loubet," "Resign! Resign!" and "Panama." When this body of men reached the Palace de l'Opera, there was not sufficiently strong force of police there to bar the way and the demonstrators finally returned to the statue of Joan of Arc where the deputies mounted upon a sand heap. M. Milevoje then waved a tri-color flag above M. de Roulede, while the latter harangued the crowd.

The demonstrators then marched to the Rue des Pyramides, shouting and flouting tri-colors. The police attempted to stop them and tried to seize the flags; but the mob resisted and finally returned to the avenue de l'Opera, where a large force of police was stationed in front of the military club. This detachment of police succeeded in dispersing the demonstrators, a downfall of rain assisting in the work.

Later in the evening bands composed of members of the League of Patriots, nationalists, and others, paraded the boulevards blocking traffic. Viva shouts of "Resign" and "Revision" were raised and some fighting took place between the members of the opposing factions, but order was gradually restored. A number of arrests were made.

Loubet this evening requested M. Dupuy to retain the premiership and the present cabinet.

Paris, February 18.—Telegrams received from the provinces this evening show that the announcement of M. Loubet's election has been received with satisfaction.

The Duke of Orleans seems to be going away from France rather than coming to this country. He arrived last night at Turin from San Remo.

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS

Both Houses Spend Most of the Day Discussing Appropriation Bills

SENATE.
Washington, February 18.—The senate spent most of the day on the post-office appropriation bill, but failed to complete it. After an animated discussion of the pneumatic tube system, Senator Culiom's amendment, increasing the appropriation for this purpose and designed to extend the system to Chicago, was tabled.

A spirited controversy arose over the senate amendment that star route bidders shall reside on the route where the service is to be performed.

Senator Money, of Mississippi, said this would result in leaving many star routes without service, as there would be no local bidders.

Senator Pasco, of Florida, said steps should be taken to break up this speculative bidding in star routes. He had seen the service carried on in Florida in a manner unworthy of the government, as a result of the system of sub-letting.

The amendment was allowed to stand, with a suggestion from Senator Jones, of Arkansas, that the conferees provide against sub-letting of star route bids.

A number of bills of minor importance were passed early in the day.

At 4 o'clock tributes to the memory of the late Representative Simpkins, of Massachusetts, were pronounced.

At 4:50 o'clock p. m. the senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
The house today spent two hours upon the naval appropriation bill without making any progress and devoted the remainder of the session to eulogies upon the life and public services of the late Representative Northway, of Ohio.

The paragraph in the bill relating to the naval academy against which Mr. Mudd, republican, of Maryland, raised a point of order yesterday, was struck out, the point of order being sustained.

Mr. Mudd then moved an additional appropriation of \$720,000 for the completion of the buildings at the academy authorized in the last naval bill. The amendment was not voted upon.

During the morning hour a bill was passed for the relief of George A. Dickel & Co., of Nashville, Tenn.

At 2:20 o'clock p. m. the house adjourned.

Coughing Injures and Inflames Sore Lungs. One Minute Cough Cure loosens the cold, allays coughing and heals quickly. The best cough cure for children, perfectly harmless. R. R. Bellamy.