The Wilmington Messenger.

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TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

THE STATE.

At Washington Hatton Perry, colored, is convicted of a criminal assault on a white girl last February——Governor Russell pardons Dr. T. B. Delamar, convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment for participation in the Beaufort county graveyard insurance swindles——Senator McCaskey has been to Washington to see Senator Pritchard about the division of offices in his state; there is a big fight before the populist national committee between Senator Butler and Tom Watson on endorsement of the action of the bolters in votingforPritchard——The society of Cincinnati meets in Raleigh; four new members are received; the Roanoke colony Association also holds a session and elects officers and receives a report from its president.——Senator Clark joins the bolting populists——Last night the republicans, populists and bolters were each holding a caucus; conference committees were passing between the first and last named as to selection of names of men for the boards of the institutions to be re-organized——The house committee on education recommends an appropriation of $12,500 for the normal and industrial school and $5,000 for the university.——The senate special committee began the investigation yesterday of President Hoffman's charges that he had no opportunity to bid on the lease of the North Carolina railroad; all the persons notified were present except Hoffman; President Alexander and several of the directors were examined; the investigation will be continued today.

DOMESTIC.

Judge William T. Thompson of West Virginia, died yesterday; in 1895 he had a vault built for his remains and predicted that he would die in 1896——The senate committee on commerce favorably reports the bill for a $600,000 bridge between Washington and Arlington——Senator Ransom, who was chosen referee in the Guatemala-Mexico boundary dispute, has resigned the position; he was to get a fee of $50,000 in gold——At Falls Village, Conn., Saturday morning, in the dining room of the Chapins, were found the dead bodies of Mrs. Chapin and Charles Meade, a young man of the town, both shot through the head; Mr. Chapin was out of town at the time——A daughter is born to ex-President and Mrs. Harrison.——Consul General Lee will investigate the death in prison of Dr. Ruiz, an American prisoner, and will demand the release of Scott; Spanish authorities claim the doctor committed suicide; his friends charge murder by his jailers——Admiral Bunce's fleet has dispersed, but the vessels are so stationed that they could quickly reach Cuba——The Ohio river at Cincinnati shows thirty-eight feet and is still rising; all the streams in that section of the country are high and trains are delayed by washouts——Archbishop Grace died at St. Paul yesterday.——Four people lose their lives in a fire at Hannibal, Mo.——The baggageman and fireman of a Norfolk and Western train are fatally injured in an accident caused by a cloudburst——The jury take the case in the indictment of John D. Hart for connection with the Laurada expedition——The Southern Ice Men's convention meets in Charleston tomorrow——Washington's birthday was recognized by the warships at Charleston by firing salutes of twenty-one guns and decorations with bunting——Ottis Smith, cashier of the Georgia Security and Banking Company, of Atlanta, is arrested on the charge of embezzlement.

FOREIGN.

A Constantinople dispatch say 27,000 Moslems have been murdered and twenty-seven villages burned in Crete——The allied powers will leave to Italy the authority to administer the affairs of Greece until autonomy is secured to her.——No Greek troops took part in the attack upon Canea Sunday——The German minister of foreign affaires says his government will endeavor to secure peace in Crete and remove the danger of war, which Greece has created; that the occupation of the island by Greece should be suppressed——The Cretan insurgents out side of Canea kept up a fusillade all Sunday morning, in consequence of which the warships of the allied powers bombarded their camp; about the same time a Turkish and a Greek warship exchanged shots with blank cartridge.

THE LEASE INVESTIGATION,

President Hoffman's Charges Taken Up by Senate Committee—The Accuser Not Present—Testimony of President and Directors of the Railroad.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., February 22.—There was six hours hearing this evening before the special senate committee on the facts as to the making of the lease of the North Carolina railway, this proceeding being at the request of the directors, who had been charged with secrecy. Senator Grant presided with marked ability as chairman of the committee, and the audience was a notable one.

James S. Manning appeared as counsel for the directors of the road and Judge Avery, W. H. Day and James C. McRae cross-examined all the directors who gave evidence. Lee S. Overman, General R. F. Hoke, President S. B. Alxander and W. C. Maxwell were examined. Their testimony was that the lease was not secretly made; that President Hoffman, of the Seaboard Air Line, was given and opportunity to bid, but said he would not do so. Judge Avery said to General Hoke "I acquit you," and General Hoke replied: "And I acquit all the other directors through myself. These gentlemen are the very soul of honor. I will swear to what they do." Judge Avery said no suspicion attached to President Alexander or any director.

The committee at 11 o'clock took recess until noon tomorrow. Chairman Grant anounced it would report next Friday.

The hearing will be resumed tomorrow. All the persons notified to be present, save President Hoffman, were here today, anu his counsel said he was unavoidably detained.

President Alexander in his testimony said Governor Carr had never urged him to make a ninety-nine year lease; that all Governor Carr had ever said was that the road ought not to be leased for less than 7 per cent; and Alexander added that he acted on his own business judgment and favored the ninety-nine year lease.

Convicted of Criminal Assault.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Washington, N. C., February 22.—Hatton Perry, colored, was found guilty of criminal assault this evening at 6:30 o'clock. Perry has been on trial here since last Friday for an assault committed in February 1896 upon Annie Smith, a white girl 12 or 14 years old. He escaped immediately after committing the crime and was found and arrested in Wilmington several months later. He was brought back to Washington last June and lodged in jail, where he has been ever since, awaiting trial. He was ably defended by Hon. Charles F. Warrn. The state was represented by Solicitor Leary, assisted by Messrs. John H. Small and Stephen E. Bragaw. The verdict was not a surprise, for almost everybody believed him guilty. The jury was out only about forty minutes. A motion for a new trial was over-ruled. It is thought the defense will appeal. His Hon. Judge Bryan will pass sentence tomorrow morning.

A PARDON GRANTED

TO DR. DELAMAR, CONVICTED OF GRAVEYARD INSURANCE.

The Governor's Reasons Therefor—Senator McCaskey Goes to Consult Senator Pritchard About the Division of Offices. The Fight Before the Populist National Committee—Meeting of Society of Cincinnati and Roanoke Association—The Provisions of the Insane Asylums Bill.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., February 22.—Governor Russell today pardoned Dr. T. B. Delamar, one of the noted Beaufort county graveyard insurance swindlers, who was sentenced to two years' jail imprisonment. The following is officially given as the reason for the pardon:

"The pardon in this case was recommended by T. J. Jarvis, Judge H. Allen, 200 citizens of Carteret county, Representatives Duncan and Hancock and other gentlemen. It appears by the certificate of Dr. Duffy, chairman of the state board of charities, and Dr. Robert S. Primrose, acting superintendent of health of Craven county, that the applicant for pardon is slowly dying, in Craven county jail, and that further confinement would soon bring about his death."

Senator McCaskey, chairman of the bolting populists, returned today from a visit to Senator Pritchard at Washington, on business connected with the division of offices. It is said that there is a great fight before the populist national committee between Butler and Tom Watson on the question of endorsing what the bolting populists did in voting for Pritchard for senator. Important matters hinge on the result.

It is intimated that T. R. Purnell will be judge advocate general of the state guard.

The North Carolina Society of Cincinnati met here today. It heard full reports, including one from the committee appointed to memoralize congress to appropriate $10,000 for monuments to Generals Davidson and Nash. Four new members were received—S. A. Ashe, Lieutenant T. L. Jenkins, of the revenue marine service; William H. Bell, of New York city, and Walter D. Carstarphen, of Washington, N. C.

Roanoke Colony Memorial Association also met today, Benehan Cameron presiding. Graham Daves was elected president; W. D. Pruden, vice president; A. B. Andrews, Jr., secretary; Mrs. R. R. Cotton, Rev. R. B. Drake, John G. Wood, Bishop Cheshire, Dr. T. J. Boykin and Dr. W. R. Capeheart, directors. The report of the president showed that the land on Roanoke island had been paid for and carefully surveyed and the old fort marked by stone pillars and a stone monument placed in its centre.

The insane asylum bill, which is to be reported by the committee changes the names as follows: State hospital for colored insane, Western hospital for insane, and Central hospital for insane, each to be under the management of five directors, to serve four years, to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate; office of superintendent of asylums abolished; trustees to elect the principal and resident physician, to serve four years at salary of $2,500; trustees to assemble March 9th at Morganton, Raleigh and Goldsboro and elect officers of the asylums. It is declared not to be the intention that trustees shall be officers within the meaning of section 7, article 14, of the constitution, and they are declared to be special trustees for the special purpose of this act. The provisions of chapter 2, volume 2 of The Code, as modified by this act, are reenacted.

The bolting poulists received an accession tonight in the person of Senator Clark, of Halifax.

The republicans, the majority populists and the minority populists are each holding a caucus tonight. Conference committees are going back and forth between the republican and the bolters' caucus, selecting names of persons for all positions in public institutions. Developments during the past four days have made this course necessary. It was the plan at first not to name any persons to hold offices until all bills making places for them had been passed.

The house comittee on education this evening unanimously decided to recommend additional appropriation of $12,500 to the state normal and industrial school. It also decided with only one dessenting vote to favorably recommend an appropriation of $5,000 to the university.

The populist majority caucus tonight nominated John Graham for railway commissioner.

The cause of Clark's leaving the populist majority is said to be its antagonism of his Halifax stock law which has got him so deep in trouble.

The republican caucus was in session until very late. Matters discussed indirectly bore upon appointments by the governor. His supporters declare the caucus indorsed him and will let him name the aldermen and police boards. There are people who say quite the reverse of this.

While the republican caucus was discussing this matter the bolters' committee came in and interjected a new question. This was as to the division of districts in the matter of making appointments of directors of insane asylums. The bolters said they had no men in the Ninth district and hence wanted the republicans to take three men from that one district and give them in exchange some from other districts.

The bolters met in the court house and took up the matter of naming their men who were to be electd and it is undrstood made selections.

Raleigh, N. C., February 23, 1 a. m.—The bolters at their caucus nominated Theo White for shell-fish commissioner and say there is no opposition to him and his re-election is sure. Bolters were sour after their caucus adjourned and are very angry. They say they are likely to hold several more long meetings before they get done. Babbitt said: "We are tired of dilly-dallying. We want Governor Russell to keep faith. Faith broken on one side is not binding on the other side. We are displeased with Governor Russell's behavior. He could never have gotten his railway lease bill through the house but for us."

The bolters sent as their committee to the republican caucus Clark, Abernehty, Bryan, Parker and Bryan.

CRETAN CAMP BOMBARDED

By the Fleet of the Allied Powers—Greek Vessel Loaded With Supplies Captured. Firing With Blank Cartridges Between Turkish and Greek Warships.

Canea, February 22.—All yesterday morning a fusillade was kept up by the insurgents, despite the warnings of the foreign admirals. The united squadrons bombarded the insurgent camp outside of Canea.

British torpedo boats have captured and brought into this port the small Greek steamer Laurium, which was carrying victuals and tents for the insurgents.

The forts fired two rounds of blank cartridges yesterday at the Greek gunboat Peneus. A Turkish frigate also discharged blank shots at the Greeks. The Greek gunboat Peneus quickly replied to the blank shots fired by the Turkish frigate. The frigate then withdrew from the scene of operations. The German flag was hoisted on the ramparts here on the arrival of the cruiser Kaiserin Augusta.

The foreign admirals have warned Colonel Vassos, the commander of the Greek forces on the island of Crete of their intention to attack his troops with four men-of-war anchored off his camp, Aghiol Theodorol, should he attempt to advance to the interior of the island.

An engagement has occurred just above the village of Mournies, between the insurgents and a Turkish band. At 4:45 o'clock the insurgents at Akrotiri having attacked the Turkish garrison, at Halepa, the joint fleet bombarded the Cretans for twenty-five minutes. The insurgents fled, taking their flag with them.

THE DEATH OF DR. RUIZ.

General Lee Investigating It, but He Has Not Called for Warships at Havana—To Demand Scott's Release.

Washington, February 22.—It can be stated on the best authority that so far, at least, there is no reason for apprehension that the case of Dr. Richard Ruiz, who was found dead in his cell in the jail at Guanabacoa, Cuba, will lead to any international complications.

The matter was brought to the attention of the state department in the latter part of the past week through complaint of some of the friends of the doctor in this country. The allegation was that the man had been imprisoned beyond the period allowed by treaty by an American citizen to be kept in jail without the lodgment of charges, and that he had been murdered by his jailers.

Consul General Lee was immediately directed by cable to investigate the affair, although it appeared from dispatches that he had already had his attention directed to the case. The official reports of the Spanish officers are said to show that Ruiz committed suicide while in jail, but this has not yet been communicated to the department of state. Meanwhile Consul General Lee is investigating the matter and the state department is awaiting his report.

In the absence of this the department officials feel no apprehension of any complications, and all stories that warships have been called for by General Lee or that this government is making ready to take forcible measures in the case are without foundation.

Dr. Ruiz was a naturalized American citizen. He studied and practiced dentistry in Philadelphia for some time and returned to Cuba about the beginning of the present insurrection. The charge upon which he was arrested was conspiracy in having participated in the derailing of a train carrying Spanish troops, as a result of which two Spanish officers were captured by the insurgents.

Havana, February 22.—The report that United States Consul General Fitzhugh Lee has requested his government to send a warship to enorce his demands in regard to the killing of Ruiz and the arrest of Scott, both American citizens, is denied by General Lee himself. The case of Scott will be the subject of an interview between Consul General Lee and the Marquis of Almunda, acting captain general, today, when General Lee will demand Scott's release, or at least, that he be freed from the state of "incommunicado" in which he is now placed.

It is said at the state department that Consul General Lee, who is investigating the Ruiz affair at Guanabacoa, Cuba, under orders of the department, has not yet reported the results of his inquiry; also that there is no truth in the report that General Lee had notified the department that he would resign unless the administration should support him with a naval demonstration in Cuban waters.

There has always been some friction between the Spanish officials in Cuba and Consul General Lee whenever the latter was obliged to intervene in favor of arrested American citizens. This has grown out of a radical difference in construction placed upon the organic law. The state department has instructed the consul general to insist upon his right to have arrested Americans released at the end of a period of detention of seventy-two hours, or else that they be confronted with formal charges. But on occasions when the consul general claimed this privilege for an imprisoned American citizen, the Spanish officials, from the captain general down, set up the plea that in times of strife like this the civil code was suspended and with it the privileges claimed. The state department has consistently disputed this plea, because to concede the soundness of it would be to renounce all right to protect American citizens in a disturbed country. It is said that the Spanish officials are at no pains to take notice of an appeal based on American citizenship, nor to report the fact that they have arrested an American citizen to the American consular officers

Senator Wolcott's Mission Abroad.

London, February 22.—The mission of Senator Wolcott to Europe in the interest of bimetallism is the subject of a long article in The Pall Mall Gazette today in which the paper says there is not a bit of evidence that Mr. McKinley is in sympathy with Senator Wolcott's mission, nor is there the slightest indication that his visit to Europe had even unofficial sanction. In conclusion, The Gazette says: "Senator Wolcott came as a private advocate of a cause discredited by a majority of his fellow countrymen. Under such circumstances to expect he would receive official support from the foreign opponents of such a cause, required a degree of childlike simplicity rare anywhere, and which no one would expect to find in Colorado. On his return Senator Wolcott will find that the newspapers alone will display any anxiety regarding the result of his personally conducted European tour. He has met many distinguished people in England, France, and Germany, but in not one of these countries did he find that bimetallism was considered necessary to its welfare. Though the mission was absolutely fruitless, it was quite as successful as it deserved to be."

Washington's Birthday on the Warships

Charleston, S. C., February 22.—All the warships in the harbor here, the monitors Puritan, Terror and Amphitrite, the cruiser Vesuvius and the dispatch boats Dolphin and Fern, participated in the celebration of Washington's birthday. All of the ships were handsomely decorated and at noon a salute of twenty-one guns was fired from each of the three monitors, the Dolphin and the revenue cutter Colfax. The ships were drawn up in line off the eastern water-front, and the tribute which they paid to the father of his country was heard and witnessed by a 10,000 people who lined every pier-head and wharf. The harbor was filled with pleasure craft and a number of handsome private yachts from northern and southern cities. During the afernoon the annual inspection of the fourth brigade of South Carolina militia was held and tonight large banquets are in progress at every armory in the city. During the day the first division of Georgia naval reserves, Lieutenant H. S. Colding commanding visited the moniters and took part in the parade.

Southern Ice Men's Convention.

Charleston, S. C., February 22.—The advance guard of delegates to the seventh annual meeting of the Southern Ice Exchange, which assembles here tomorrow, arrived today. At 11 o'clock the ice men will be welcomed to the city by Mayor Smith, and then the visitors will be taken for a visit around the harbor. The business sessions will not begin until Wednesday. About 100 delegates to the convention are on the ground tonight and some fifty others are expected to arrive tomorrow. Nearly every large city in the south is represented.

Telegraphic Sparks.

Secretary Herbert has ordered 500 sailors to take part in the naval section of the inaugural parade with the United States marine corps.

The annual meeting of the Association of Virginia Bankers was held at the Chamerlain hotel yesterday. A large number of delegates from all parts of the state were present.

THE LEGISLATURE.

THE ASSIGNMENT ACT UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE HOUSE.

Text of the Bill—A Bill Providing for a Public Printing Contract to be Made With Gay V. Barnes—Assistant Enrolling Clerks Appointed—Providing for Additional County Commissioners—New Hanover Society for Prevention of Crime—Few Bills Introduced.

(Special to The Messenger.)

SENATE.

Raleigh, N. C., February 22.—The senate met at 12 o'clock. Bills and resolutions were introduced as follows.

By Senator Person, to lesson the cost of maintenance of prisoners.

By Senator Hardison, to amend the stock law in Craven.

By Senator Henderson, to protect public schools in the state.

By Sentor Butler, to repeal chapter 180, laws 1885; also to amend the laws relating to cotton weighers for Sampson county; also to regulate public printing.

By Senator Moye to repeal the law relating to fees of the clerk of the court and the register of deeds of Pitt.

The following bills passed:

To allow Brunswick, Duplin, and Nash counties to levy special tax.

For working public roads of Chatham.

To provide for a change of circuit criminal courts and to employ stenographers.

By leave Senator Maye introduced a bill for the relief of women and children in cotton mills, and Senator Butler one to regulate state printing, which provides that the act of 1895 be and the same is repealed. That the joint committes on printing are directed and instructed on the part of the state to make, execute and deliver a contract with Guy V. Barnes for public printing at such rates as they think to the interest of the state, not exceeding those of the contract of 1893, the work to be done in Raleigh and with union labor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The house met at 10 o'clock. Only a few bills were introduced, these being as follows:

By Mr. Crumpler, to allow Sampson county to employ convicts on public roads.

By Mr. Johnston, to provide for public foot ways in Sampson.

By Mr. Burges, to prohibit the shipment of white shad out of the state between April 15th and July 1st., the penalty being $50 fine or thirty days' imprisonment.

By Mr. Ward, to incorporate the United Sons and Daughters of Mutual Friends.

By Mr. Johnson, to provide for the appointment of additional county commissioners upon petition of twelve electors (half to be free holders) and the statement that the county affairs are being improperly managed.

By Mr. Lusk, to amend the charter of Asheville so that the people will elect all officers.

Bills passed as follows:

To allow Charlotte to issue $300,000 in bonds to pay for water works.

To incorporate New Hanover Society for the Prevention of Crime (composed of mayor, county commissioners and a committee of five chosen by the board of public charities of New Hanover.

To allow Robeson county to levy increased tax.

To forbid ex-confederate soldiers who are inmates of the soldier's home from receiving pensions while therein and giving them the option as between remaining in the home or receiving pension.

To give part of White Oak township, Bladen county, the stock law.

To allow Johnston county to levy a special tax.

To amend the charter of Enfield.

To establish a stock law in Cross Creek township, Cumberland county.

The speaker announced the following as assistant enrolling clerks to begin February 22nd: J. R. White of Bertie, James C. White of Randolph, W. H. Quick, W. F. Young and James Blythe. The house confirmed the appointments.

The bill passed to second reading to incorporate Dudley, Wayne county. It was stated that there were petitions against this. Mr. Person had two.

By leave Mr. Sutton, of New Hanover, introduced bills to incorporate the Bladen and Columbus Railway and Lumber Company and the Duplin and Wayne Railway and Lumber Company.

The bill introduced by Mr. McCrary to regulate assignments and other conveyances, which was tabled February 2nd, but which was several days ago taken from the table, was taken up and provoked considerable discussion. Messrs. McCrary, Ward and Lusk spoke in support and Mr. Cook opposed it. The text of the bill is as follows: it being a substitute recommended by the judiciary committee February 19:

"That all conditional sales, assignments, mortgages, deeds in trust or confessions of judgment executed, made or given by any debtor in favor of a creditor either upon account or other obligation, which are executed, made or given to secure or have the effect of securing any debt, obligation, note or bond, which gives preference to any creditor of the maker, shall be absolutely void as to pre-existing creditors, provided such acts or conveyances shall be valid when executed, made or given for new, present and bona fide consideration."

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c.

A New Baby Harrison.

Indianapolis, Ind., February 22.—A baby girl weighing eight and one-half pounds was born to ex-President and Mrs. Benjamin Harrison at 5:30 o'clock Sunday morning. Mother and child are doing well. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison were married in St. Thomas' church, New York, April 6, 1896. The ex-president, who is in his 64th year was then a widower, his first wife having died when he was in the White house. His present wife was Mrs. Mary Lord Dimmick and was formerly the widow of Benjamin Dimmick. She was a niece of the former Mrs. Harrison.

THE PRESIDENT CRITICISED

For Vetoing Pension Bills—Observance of the Day—The Loud Postal Bill Reported. One Cent Postage Recommended—The Naval Appropriation Bill Taken Up.

SENATE.

Washington, February 22.—The annual senatorial observance of Washington's birthday by hearing his farewell address read by one of the leading elocutionists of the senate took place today in the presence of a large audience, Senator Daniel being the reader chosen for the occasion. The remainder of the day was occupied in the consideration of the Indian appropriation bill, which was not concluded at the time of adjournment.

Another of President Cleveland's vetoes of private pension bills drew out from several senators a rather virulent condemnation of the president—Senator Morgan contrasting the small aggregate amount of all the private pension bills passed at this congress with the large sum paid to "the bond syndicate," and Senator Gallinger, of New Hamshire, characterized such vetoes as "trivial and foolish." The veto was referred to the committee on pensions.

Just on the eve of adjournment for the day, the Loud bill (to amend the postal laws) was reported back from the postoffice committee by Senator Chandler with amendments, including one for 1 cent letter postage. The bill and report were antagonized by two populist senators—Butler, of North Carolina, and Stewart, of Nevada. There is no chance of definite action upon it during this congress.

The senate at 6 o'clock p. m. adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A few weeks ago the house was the scene of a prolonged debate full of bitterness and personal accusation concerning the Pacific railroads refunding bill. Today another opportunity for a display of temper and recrimination on the same subject was given in the consideration of a paragraph in the deficiency bill appropriating $1,300,000 to pay a judgment of the court of claims in favor of the Southern Pacific, but the matter was considered in a rather dignified manner with merely a suggestion of feeling.

Mr. Sayers, of Texas, led the opposition to the appropriation, taking the ground that the Southern Pacific controlled the Central Pacific road and should not be paid any money while the latter stood so deeply indebted to the government. The house, in committee of the whole, refused to strike out the paragraph in question and also declined to make some minor amendments designed to curtail the benefits conferring by the bill on the Pacific railroads. Later on Mr. Sayers endeavored to have the deficiency bill sent back to the committee on appropriations, with instructions to strike out the Pacific railroad paragraphs, but was defeated. The deficiency bill was passed with a few changes in its provisions. The appropriation of $12,000 to refund to members sums deducted from their salaries for absence was eliminated, as were likewise items providing for the payment of annual salaries to the special employes conceded the democrats by the majority.

Mr. Boutelle, the chairman of the naval committee, succeeded in getting up the naval appropriation bill before adjournment and after he had explained its special provisions, considerable progress in its reading was made before the end of today's session, which came at 5:20 o'clock.

No exercises in celebration of Washington's birthday took place in the house.

In his explanation of the naval appropriation bill, Mr. Boutelle referred to the armor plate question and told how the committee had arrived at its conclusions regarding the plate. Congress had provided at its last session that no contracts should be made for armor for the three battleships then authorized until the secretary of the navy could investigate and make a report on the cost of manufacturing armor. That report had been made at this session, and the committee on naval affairs, by providing that the total cost of armor plate for the three ships should not exceed $400 a ton, had followed the report. It was fair to say that the manufacturers of armor plate did not agree with the secretary's conclusions. But the secretary said he had given his best judgment, and the committee, without attempting to fix the price themselves, had most wisely accepted the report of the secretary of the navy as coming in the nature of a departmental estimate.

Concerning the action of the committee in leaving out an appropriation for new ships, Mr. Boutelle explained that that omission represented in no possible sense any laxity on the part of the committee in pushing forward the building of the new navy. The comittee had done so out of consideration of the rational finances, primarily; out of consideration of what it believed to be the present temper of the house, and on account of the inability to obtain armor for the three battleships now on the stocks.

Significent Disposition of the Atlantic Squadron.

Washington, February 22.—According to advices at the navy department, Admiral Bunce's fleet is now practically dispersed, though so advantageously distributed that it could be assembled in a few days if an emergency arose. The admiral, with the New York, Indiana and Columbia is on the way to Hampton oads where his ships will be coaled and held in reserve until after the inauguration. The Massachusetts will be at Tompkinsville, in the next day or two ready for the first docking she has had since her completion, and the Puritan will probably leave Charleston directly for the New York navy yard to test the new dock there, the largest on the Atlantic coast. The Amphitrite and Terror will remain at Charleston for some time. The Marblehead takes station at Key West and the Vesuvius at Jacksonville to prevent infractions of the neutrality laws, while next week is to be spent by the Montgomery at Mobile and by the Maine and Texas at New Orleans in attendance on the Mardi gras festivities of those cities. While the fleet is so disposed as to be nearer Cuba that ever before, it is explained that this is merely due to the necessities of the service and the administration foresees no contingency under which the vessels could be placed in a position at all offensive to the amicable relations existing with Spain.

Joint Traffic Association to Meet.

Baltimore, February 22.—A meeting of trunk line representatives of the Joint Traffic Association will be held in New York tomorrow when the question of the Norfolk and Western's Cumberland Gap rate-cutting will be considered. It is believed that the meeting will try to induce the Norfolk and Western to withdraw its reduced tariff, and, failing in that, will recommend that a fast freight line operated over the Baltimore and Ohio, Pennsylvania or Chesapeake and Ohio be authorized to meet the cut of the former, the joint traffic lines prorating the loss sustained by the reduction. If the latter course is adopted it is believed that it will prevent a general rate war.

Highest of all in Leavening Strength.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

A QUEER POLITICAL MUDDLE

WHICH MAY DEFEAT THE ANTI-RAILWAY LEASE BILL.

Both Factions of Populists Angry at Status of the Eastern Criminal Court Circuit Matter—The Bolters use the Lease Bill to Force Henry's Appointment—Threats to Take all Appointments From the Governor—Republicans Tired of Russell's Bossism—To Fight the Fayetteville Police Board Bill.

Messenger Bureau, Park Hotel,
Raleigh, N. C., February 22.

The bill to annul the lease of the North Carolina railway was before the senate's special committee this afternoon, and will be voted on by the senate next Friday. Assurances are given that many amendments will be offered. Among these is one requiring any railway which makes a bid for the lease to put up $400,000 as a guarantee of good faith. Another will be to provide that the governor shall authorize the attorney general to bring suit and in the event of the latter's declining to do so then the governor is to employ counsel. Senator Ashburn will, it is said, introduce a substitute for the entire bill.

Regarding this railway bill there is a queer political complication, which yesterday, last night and this morning was much talked about. There are fifty senators. Of these seven are democrats, eighteen republicans, seventeen straight populists, eight bolting populists. The bolters had pledged themselves to vote solidly for the bill. But the bolters had also, through their caucus, agreed with the republicans for a specific division of the offices. When they went to see Governor Russell about appointing Walter R. Henry judge and he gave them the cold shoulder, the trouble began. When the bill to put Cumberland county in the Eastern criminal circuit was voted on the majority populists thought it was Governor Russell's plan to appoint Thomas H. Sutton judge. But after it passed here came the news that the bolters had named Henry. Now the majority populists hate Henry and gave Sutton's friends to understand that there would be trouble if Sutton were not put in this place. Then Sutton's friends went to Russell and had the appointment of Henry held up.

Then there comes another feature of this queer game of politics. Saturday night the bolting populists let it be plainty understood that they would give Governor Russell until today to decide as to whether he would appoint Henry and if he did not then act they would be absolved from their pledge to vote for the bill to annul the lease. It is a desperate game which the governor is playing and the bolters have the republicans in a tight place.

A republican from the west said last night that Governor Russell was seeking to build up a party of his own; that he leaned towards populism; that he did not voice the true sentiments of his party; that he was really inimical to Pritchard and had placed himself in direct antagonism to the western republicans. Then this republican added: "If Russell does not yield we will plough right over him. He does not consult us. He confers with nobody it seems. I do not believe I could even see him."

The republicans gave it out last night that the penitentiary bill was hung up in the senate until Governor Russell "took water." They said further that if he continued obstinate the names of directors or trustees would be placed on all bills taking charge of institutions; that if Russell would not stand by the caucus selections he would not be allowed to name the boards. There is evidently a powerful cabal formed against the governor. Republicans are saying: "We want Charlie Reynolds for governor. We want a man we can confer with and who will listen to and take advice." They say the bill taking charge of the agricultural department, which gives the governor power to name the board would not have passed had they known he was going to do as he is doing.

There was never so odd a political situation and complication. A populist last night attacked Senator Pritchard for his conduct regarding the anti-lease bill. He said: "Pritchard promised Governor Russell he would favor this bill, and now he is writing letters here urging republicans to vote against it."

It is the talk here that if President Cleveland appoints a judge to succeed Seymour, Minister Matt Ransom can have the place if he wishes it, while if McKinley is left the appointment Governor Russell can have it if he wishes it. Senator Ransom is 72 years old. That is perhaps the only thing which militates against him. Some persons say Governor Russell wants, above all things, to be governor. Others say he is already sufficiently amused with the latter place. Yet others say he will jump at the judgeship if it be tendered him.

Minister Ransom and his son George were here yesterday on their way to his home in Northampton. He was called there by news of his wife's severe illness. She is better.

E. S. Walton, of Morganton, has dropped out of the scramble for the railway commissionership, the reason being that he is promised the postmastership at Morganton.

A party of prominent Fayetteville people are here to fight the obnoxious police commission bill for that town which has passed the house and is now before the senate. It is intimated that the latter body does not favor such radical and oppressive measures. Among those from Fayetteville here to combat the bill are Editor E. J. Hale, N. B. Williams, A. A. McKethan, Jas. B. Smith, D. A. McMillan, A. J. Deal, J. A. Barnes and W. S. Cook. The fight will be watched with interest.

It is learned today that Congressman Skinner induced the populist bolters, now twenty-one in number, to hold a caucus and endorse him for United States district judge, vice Seymour deceased. It is also declared that one bolter declared his desire to go on record as opposed to Skinner's having the place.

Among other prominent arrivals today were General Counsel Henderson, of the Southern railway; ex-Governor Carr; President S. B. Alexander and directors of the North Carolina railway; Major Charles Davis, U. S. A., of Asheville; S. E. Linton, of Charlotte; James S. Manning, of Durham, counsel for the North Carolina railroad; Dr. J. F. Miller, of Goldsboro; M. C. S. Noble and Eugene S. Martin, of Wilmington; Graham Daves, of Newbern.

A bill is before the legislature to exempt from taxation the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Greensboro.

Rev. R. H. W. Leak, a well known colored man here, has a letter inviting him to go to Canton and accompany McKinley to Washington. James H. Young, an equally well known negro politician, has a letter from McKinley's secretary saying the invitation is a fraud. Leak, whose congregation has bought him a suit of clothes for the trip, announced from his pulpit yesterday that the letter was genuine; that he was going to Canton and Washington, and would telegraph Young from the latter place.

There is talk of consolidating the staffs of Governor Russell and Dr. G. W. Blacknall for a visit to Washington to the inauguration. If this be true the absense of the Pennsylvania National Guard, 9,000 strong, will not be felt.

Found Dead in the Road.

Newport News, Va., February 22.—John Powell, a respected farmer, was found dead in the road near Oriana station, Warwick county, Sunday morning. His horse and buggy were discovered under a trestle a short distance away. Powell's body bore no mark of foul play. It is thought that his horse became uncontrollable and threw him from the vehicle.

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