

## ARGUMENT ON IMPEACHMENT

### House Heard Eight Speeches Yesterday and Will Probably Vote Today

#### ELOQUENT ARGUMENT

##### Judge Allen Opened Up for Majority and Mr. Stubbs for Minority—The Minority Report Filed

The Craig resolution for impeachment of Chief Justice Furches and Judge Allen of the Supreme Court occupied the attention of the House yesterday. Eight speeches—four for and four against the proposed action—were delivered, and at 6:35 p. m. yesterday the House adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning when argument will be resumed.

Two sessions of the House were held yesterday—one lasting from 10 a. m. to 12:25 p. m., and the other from 4 p. m. to 6:35 p. m.

A resolution will probably be reached today. A number of gentlemen have signified their intention of speaking, Mr. Cannon of New Hanover will begin the discussion this morning in favor of the majority report. Mr. Craig will speak on the same side. Mr. Patterson of Robeson and Mr. Yarborough of Franklin will speak against impeachment.

#### The Minority Report

Before the House assembled at 10 o'clock a number of ladies were in the gallery to obtain desirable seats. By 10:15 o'clock every seat was occupied and many were turned away.

Exactly at 11 a. m. the Craig resolution providing for impeachment was read as the special order by Speaker Cannon. The House was then directed to read the majority report, signed by Judge Allen, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, which recommended that the resolution be passed.

The majority report, which was signed by the three Republican members of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Benbow of Yadkin, Mr. Byrhe of Henderson, and Mr. Ellis of Madison, was presented as follows:

"We, whose names are hereto subscribed, the majority of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, respectfully report:

"That we have considered the evidence submitted under the resolution of impeachment, and we are of the opinion that the same does not justify the House in passing a resolution of impeachment.

"We, therefore, respectfully recommend that the House take no further action on the resolution.

"I. W. EBBES,  
"F. B. BLYTHE,  
"F. B. BENBOW."

Speaker Gattis announced that the majority report of the Judiciary Committee, to his knowledge, was the first time that the question before the House was the question before the House.

ment of these two judges. It was a resolution no lawyer would introduce save from a sense of duty. It is a duty from which the Judiciary Committee of the House shrank. When we began to consider the resolution it was not with a desire to impeach, but to find out the truth. The resolution was referred to a sub-committee. The first decision of the sub-committee was that it would not reach a conclusion until it examined the law and facts. After examining the witnesses there was no difference among any of the members as to the law or the fact. The action of the sub-committee was unanimous in this respect. The full committee took up the report with a spirit of fairness and justice both to these judges and the State of North Carolina.

The committee had three meetings, during which no impassioned speeches were delivered. The committee has considered this matter with a determination to do what the law compelled and what their oaths required.

The facts agreed upon by that committee were the same. Every member was unanimous as to the facts, and every Democratic member disagreed as to the law in the case. There has been no politics in this case. The first intimation of the committee's action came from the leader of the Republican party in this State at Washington City. The Republicans have stood alike on this question.

Judge Allen reviewed the entire case, beginning with the action of the Legislature with reference to Shell Fish Commissioner White and his salary.

"There are two provisions of the Constitution which no person, be he judge or not, should understand this impeachment. Why was this authority of impeachment given to Legislature? It is because it is the most representative body in the State. Some people talk of the impeachment as a political trial. As I understand it, impeachment is a political matter. It is an inquiry into their political duty as officers of the great State of North Carolina. When we know the facts and know the law, we can not escape the conclusion that our oaths require us. Knowing the facts in this case we cannot escape the duty of impeaching these judges of high crimes and misdemeanors.

The question of intent does not enter into this matter. It is whether these judges are fit to hold office. Have they willfully violated their oath of office. If they have taken money out of the public treasury without authority of law then they are not fit to hold office.

Judge Allen characterized the action of the judges in issuing the mandamus as "an act of defiance to the State." When the court dallied about issuing the writ and went to the clerk to find out what he was going to do was that not humiliating to the dignity of the State. After the judges were polled they finally got them to issue the writ.

This case in the culmination of the decisions in some twenty cases beginning with the Day case. The decisions of the courts in all these cases has been in defiance of the Constitution, of the government, and with the purpose of destroying it.

should not plead ignorance. Don't let it be said that the highest officer in the State escaped with the plea that they did not know the law."

#### Mr. Stubbs' Able Speech

Mr. Stubbs of Martin, began the argument in favor of the minority. He delivered a magnificent speech, eloquent, able and effective. The popular young Representative from Martin was heartily congratulated upon his effort, which made a profound impression. He said: I am opposed to the passage of this resolution, and I think it right that I should give you my reasons therefor. As suggested by the gentleman from Wayne we should approach this matter dispassionately, with fairness and justice and honesty. When we do that we are answerable nowhere save at the bar of our own consciences.

This is a great question. We are upon the eve of passing upon one of the greatest questions ever presented to the Legislature.

It seems strange, doubtless, that I should be denouncing from questions of fact and law, which this committee has reported favorably. I demur honestly so far as their conclusions of fact and law are concerned.

To justify these proceedings we must find that these judges not only committed an error of judgment, but we must go further and say their action was willful, corrupt and malicious. The resolution of impeachment says nothing of the decision in the White case, referring only to the mandamus issued by the court. This is a tacit admission that the decision in the White case is the law of the land. And it is the law and so held for years by some of the greatest judges in the State. The judges are not on trial for their decision in this case. The Legislature is holding them responsible for saying an officer of the State can't be deprived of his salary while in office.

We have there the spectacle of a gentleman holding an office under the highest legislative and judicial authority and the Legislature saying he shall have no remedy to a citizen and officer of the State, who otherwise was remediless. White's claim was not a claim against the State as contemplated in the constitution for the constitution says that he claims against the State can only be brought before the Supreme Court by writ. White's claim was brought in the Superior Court and a mandamus ordered by Judge Starbuck.

The Supreme Court concurred in its opinion that Judge Starbuck had jurisdiction in the case.

The Legislature of 1899 passed the act for the purpose of circumventing the laws of the State. This was an open secret and known of all men. No lawyer disputes the proposition that every section of an act can be construed so as to make a difference between what the Legislature of 1899 and the Legislature of '99 was that the fusionists were bolder. They openly attempted to take the offices held by Wood and other Democrats. We were more astute. We clothed the purpose of the act of '99 with different verbiage and legal phraseology. We were trying to take from a man his office and rights, which he had won a civil war for four years. In Cotton v. Ellis it is held that a man can't be started out of his office. You can't make a man perform the duties of his office and take the compensation away from him.

I believe the court could have said White was entitled to \$2,800 dollars. We talk about subverting the rights of a co-ordinate branch of the State government when we have passed an act intended to subvert the principles of our highest court. In the fact, the existing law when we wrote chapter 21, of the laws of '99. We have a law in North Carolina prescribing an impossible method for the payment of an officer.

It is claimed that the Supreme Court waited until the members of the session of 1899 were out of office before they ordered the issuance of this order. And yet you know that they knew that the election of 1900 would send back a Democratic legislature that was equally anxious to impeach. We ought to be anxious in the investigation of so grave a matter to put the fairest construction possible on the motives of otherwise good and conscientious men. Why they say they shuttled on the bench, when the evidence shows that the court was divided in opinion, and why should we not rather conclude that in not acting hastily, they were honestly seeking the way of duty. We should be charitable. Judge Montgomery sided with the court in the decision of the White case and he only dissented as to the manner of payment.

## UNDER FIFTH RIB

### Political Operation Performed in the Senate

#### SOME GOT IT IN NECK

##### Dangerous Blows Passed and Then Dressed—Hot Debate Over Indicted Registrars in Senate—Proceedings

Yesterday's session of the Senate chiefly consisted of three hours of argument—and the debate was a "warm number."

The caucus grew out of the passage, on its second and third readings, of the House bill authorizing the Governor to employ additional counsel to defend State election officers now or hereafter indicted in the Federal court—the object of the bill being to secure a proper and effective defense in the United States courts of the Democratic registrars of Forsyth, Mecklenburg, Montgomery and other counties who have been indicted at the instance of United States District Attorney Holton and the fusion politicians.

Senator Henderson, who had charge of the bill, announced that on Monday he would be allowed for debate, and that at the expiration of that time he would call the previous question—the Republicans to have one-half of the allotted time.

But it was soon discovered that nearly all the Republican Senators were "loafed" for the occasion, and the time was extended several times during the course of the discussion, until about three hours had been consumed.

The bill was then put upon its second and third readings and passed, all of the eleven Republicans and Populist Senators voting against and all the Democrats (except three absentees) voting for it.

The debate was opened by Senator Candler (Rep.) of Jackson county, in opposition to the measure. He made a regular campaign stump speech and declared that the "frauds" committed by the Democrats, in the name of White Supremacy, last year were more general and extensive than ever before—a campaign in which human lives were taken and the bodies of negroes given to the dogs and hogs to devour, in which white men were driven from their State and hundreds of negroes run into the swamps where they could without being allowed to return to their homes—all this for the sake of office.

He characterized the present election law as a disgrace to the State. How well the Democratic "workers" and heeled had carried out the orders of their bosses and the Democratic leaders was well known.

State or Federal. There was no Federal law for them to violate, for the election in which they figured as election officers related purely and solely to our own domestic affairs, and no United States officerholder or office-seeker was in any way affected by its result.

Election officers of a sovereign State have been dragged up before the Federal court authorities simply because they performed their sworn duties to their State. The only precedent for such an outrage in the annals of the judicial history of this country was furnished by the radical judge in Kentucky who interfered with the affairs of that State during the strife there some time ago.

In North Carolina one of the two United States judges (Purnell) has charged the grand juries of this court that the Federal authorities had nothing to do with the August State election of last year. But the other (Boyd) has been making magnificent stump speeches to his grand juries regarding their alleged duties in the same matter.

This State has the right to regulate its own affairs as the people see fit, and it is our duty to see that our election and other officers are properly defended and protected when attacked by outsiders. The United States laws provide for the protection of their election and other officials just as we are now seeking to protect ours.

Here we appoint a citizen as registrar or judge of election and swear him to support our State laws on the subject. He enforces and executes them, and no more. Then the late chairman of the Republican party, as district attorney, attacks him and he and the Federal authorities indict our man in the United States courts for an alleged crime.

Will any man essay to claim that the State shall not protect that man, shall not defend its servant? Why, an individual who pursued such a course would be worse than an ingrate.

I believe the course the Republican party is pursuing in this matter will do good if forever in the estimation of all citizens.

All these indictments have been brought against men in the western section of the State—a section where the Republicans polled a larger vote and elected more candidates for office than usual, sending two Congressmen to Washington.

The authorities at Washington should be made to understand that these agents of theirs are not attacking merely individuals, but that they are assaulting the rights and interfering with the domestic affairs of a sovereign State—a State that is determined to look after the protection and defense of its public servants. All the rights of the States were not wiped out and done away with forever by the Civil War and its results.

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## AS TO ECONOMY

### Different Views Prevail in the Senate

#### ALL SEEM ALARMED

##### But Representatives of Various Interests Cannot Keep Their Hands Out of Treasury—The Arguments

Washington, Feb. 14.—When the Senate convened today it was decided to take a recess from 5:30 to 8 o'clock this evening, the reading of the District of Columbia Code bill to be the only order of the night session.

An amendment proposed by Mr. Shoup of Idaho to the Sundry Civil bill, looking to the establishment of a Soldiers' Home in Idaho, induced Mr. Hale of Maine to call attention to the fact that the Committee on Appropriations was being besieged constantly for more and more soldiers' homes, although it is nearly forty years since the close of the civil war. The general belief was that in forty of fifty years the demand for these homes ought to be on the decrease, and he thought it would be necessary to give some account to the country of the proposed increase.

Mr. Pettigrew declared that the United States was manufacturing material for soldiers' homes every day. General MacArthur's report for December showed that there were 10,000 more sick in the Philippines than could be cared for properly.

Mr. Hale acceded to this statement, and added that every man in the Philippines would be on the pension list in five years. "This kind of war," he said, "is the most cruel and destructive in its ravages. All the soldiers now in the Philippines will want pensions and we will give them to them." He could not believe, however, that there were enough soldiers in the Philippines to account for any increase in the number of soldiers' homes.

Mr. Seawell, of New Jersey, challenged Mr. Pettigrew's statement that there were 10,000 sick and disabled soldiers in the Philippines who could not be given proper care. He declared it was not true.

Mr. Teller, of Colorado, supported Mr. Pettigrew's statement and the latter declared his belief that the number of sick and disabled soldiers in the Philippines would aggregate 40,000 a year for years to come, or so long as the war might last.

The debate was cut off by a demand for the regular order.

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