

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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N. R. P. A.

CASE OF THE "TWO WILSONS."

As will be seen from our Legislative proceedings this week, the committee appointed to investigate the case, recommend that M'j J. W. Wilson and Mr. S. Ohio Wilson be re-instated as Railroad Commissioners and salary paid them.

The Legislature has not, at the time of going to press, either rejected or accepted the report. We do not know what will be done in that matter, but one thing is certain: The people want their officers to be above the appearance of evil—above suspicion.

We do not say that the two Wilsons yielded to the temptation; we do not say that they favored the Railroads because the Railroads favored them.

And, we repeat, if the present Legislature is true to the people, it will so amend the Railroad Commission act as to prohibit future Railroad Commissioners from wandering so near the pitfalls of railroad influence.

THE AMENDMENT.

The first eight sections of the proposed constitutional amendment were correctly printed in The Progressive Farmer last week. The ninth section was incorrectly printed. It and the remaining sections are as follows:

Section 9. That all of the provisions of the Constitution relating to suffrage, registration and elections, as contained in this act, amending the Constitution, shall go into effect on the first day of July, 1902, if a majority of the qualified voters of the State so declare at the next general election.

Section 10. This amendment shall be submitted at the next general election to the qualified voters of the State, in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations as is provided in the law regulating general elections in this State, and in force May 1st, 1899; and at said election those persons desiring to vote for such amendment shall cast a written or printed ballot with the words "For Suffrage Amendment" thereon; and those with a contrary opinion shall cast a written or printed ballot with the words "Against Suffrage Amendment" thereon.

Section 11. The said election shall be held and the votes returned, compared, counted and canvassed, and the result announced, under the same rules and regulations as are in force for returning, comparing, counting and canvassing the votes for members of the General Assembly, May 1st, 1899 and if a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the said amendment, it shall be the duty of the Governor of the State to certify said amendment under the seal of the State to the Secretary of State, who shall enroll the said amendment so certified among the permanent records of his office.

Section 12. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

The biennial report of Superintendent of Public Instruction C. H. Mebane is just out, and is an interesting and comprehensive history of the cause of public education in North Carolina. But it does not deal with the past alone. Mr. Mebane, having carefully studied this history as well as the history of the cause of education in other States, is prepared to point out the weak places in North Carolina's present system.

The reports of most of our public servants are dull and of interest only to legislators and other officers and would-be officers. Mr. Mebane, however, has succeeded in making a report which the plain citizen will find instructive and entertaining.

IT IS A LAW.

The bill providing that at the next regular election an amendment to the State constitution regulating suffrage be submitted to the people is now a law. It passed third reading in the House Friday, as will be seen from our Legislative proceedings. Saturday evening it passed its three readings in the Senate. The vote was 42 to 6.

Those voting "no" were: Senators Campbell, Crisp, Frank Fuller, Goodwin and Newsom—6

All other Senators voted for it except Black and Cooley who were absent. All Republicans and Goodwin (Pop.), voted against the amendment. All Democrats and Harris (Pop.) voted for it. See text of bill in another column.

WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.

In the Senate, February 13th, Mr. Hale, chairman of the Naval Committee, favorably reported a bill creating an Admiral of the Navy, which was passed. The bill reads:

"That the President is hereby authorized to appoint, by selection and promotion, an Admiral of the Navy, who shall not be placed upon the retired list except upon his own application; and when such officer shall be vacated by death or otherwise the office shall cease to exist."

The bill, it is well understood, is made to fit Rear Admiral Dewey and it is expected that when the bill becomes a law, he will be nominated by the President for the office.

The Agricultural Appropriation bill was then taken up. The appropriation for vegetable pathological investigations was increased from \$22,500 to \$32,500, provided that \$5,000 should be used for the investigation of the disease known as "Little Peach."

Mr. Tillman offered an amendment appropriating \$7,500 for "investigation and experimentation with fertilizers and fungicides, on the causes of blight in sea island cotton and in water melons and the remedies for the same."

The amendment was agreed to. Mr. Tillman also offered the following amendment, which was agreed to:

"To enable the Secretary of Agriculture to investigate and report on the cost of making tea and the best methods of cultivating and preparing the same for market, so as to demonstrate whether it is practicable to introduce its culture in the Southern States as a profitable industry, \$5,000."

The bill was then passed. The Senate Tuesday took up the Bacon amendment to the McEary resolution, which is as follows:

"That the United States hereby disclaim any disposition or intention to exercise permanent sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said islands, and assert their determination, when a stable and independent government shall have been created therein entitled in the judgment of the government of the United States to recognition as such, to transfer to said government, upon terms which shall be reasonable and just, all rights secured under the cession by Spain, and to thereupon leave the government and control of the islands to their people."

The vote was 29 to 29—a tie. Vice-President Hobart then voted nay, killing the Amendment. Senator Butler did not vote. Pritchard voted nay. Immediately after the McEary resolution was adopted by a vote of 26 to 22. It reads as follows:

"That by the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain it is not intended to coerce the inhabitants of the Philippines into citizenship of the United States, nor is it intended to prematurely annex said islands as an integral part of the territory of the United States; but it is the intention of the United States to establish on said islands a government suitable to prepare them for local self-government and in due time to make such disposition of said islands as will best promote the interests of the citizens of the United States and the inhabitants of said islands."

The Progressive Farmer a few weeks ago referred to the good work done by one of Tennessee's Democratic representatives in having the House of Representatives strike out of the post-office appropriation bill the section appropriating \$171,000 for special mail facilities between New York and New Orleans, known as the "fast mail subsidy." Post-office authorities say that this is virtually a gut to the railroads as it has never been of any benefit whatever in the way of securing faster mails. But the bill went to the Senate, and there this item was re-inserted by a vote of 42 to 10. It now goes back to the House, where we hope it will be killed. Among the names of the ten who had the courage to oppose this outrageous measure, we find that of Senator Butler. The others were: Bate, Berry, Hoar, Jones of Arkansas, Lodge, Pettigrew, Platt of Con-

necticut, Ross and Wolcott. This is the roll of honor. On the other list we find the name of Senator Pritchard, who, dispatches say, not only voted for it, but "did some quiet and effective work for the fast mail among Senators, and was active on the floor in keeping Senators present, that their absence might not defeat it." Let this not be forgotten.

Judge Norwood resigned as Judge of the Superior Court of the Twelfth Judicial District in time to save himself from impeachment. He is said to be a judge of no ordinary ability, when not under the influence of liquor, and the people of the whole State regret that he did not keep his good resolutions made two years ago. But the State must be saved from drunken judges, and ever since the nameless lady centuries ago appealed "from Philip drunk to Philip sober" the movement for a sober judiciary has been gaining ground. And 'tis well.

AT LAST.

At last an Attorney-General has been found who has backbone enough to tackle a trust. The rare man is Attorney General Crow, of the State of Missouri, and he has brought suit to test the constitutionality of the combine known as the American Tobacco Company. The Marshal of the Missouri Supreme Court has served notice on the firms composing the trust (the Continental Tobacco Company, James G. Butler Tobacco Company, Gatlin Tobacco Company, D ummond Tobacco Company, Brown Brothers Tobacco Company, and the Wright Brothers Tobacco Company, etc.) and the case will be tried soon.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS MOVEMENT GAINS GROUND.

The Senate Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads has at last reported a bill providing for the establishment of Postal Savings Banks. The report contains not only the arguments in favor of the Postal Savings Banks system, but a condensed statement of the experience of other countries, extracts from the opinion of every Postmaster-General since 1871, who has commented on the subject, a tabulated statement of the various bills introduced in Congress during that time providing for such a system, and other valuable information.

The Commissioners whom the President sent to Hawaii to report a suitable form of government for those islands, have, in their report, recommended the abolishment of Postal Savings Banks now in successful operation in that country. The fight in the Senate may come up against that part of the Commission before the Postal Savings Bank bill can be gotten up for consideration. With this in view the laws of Hawaii relating to Postal Savings Banks are published in this report and show that only a slight modification of the existing laws there is necessary to make the system conform to the one proposed by the bill now before the Senate.

The report shows that the advocates of the system have been persistent and untiring in their efforts to have it adopted; that it numbers among its advocates many of America's wisest and best men, and that the system has been tested in so many ways in so many countries and for so many years that there is no longer any reason to doubt the desirability or practicability of the system. A careful perusal of the report will stun any old moseback who thinks that the establishment of Postal Savings Banks finds advocates only among socialists and calamity howlers. Surely Congress can no longer refuse to heed the demand of the people in this matter.

GOVERNOR PINGREE'S MESSAGE.

The most radical message sent to the Legislature of any State came from Governor Pingree, of Michigan. The Governor declares that just railroad rates for all citizens can be obtained only by government ownership. Referring to the recent action of Switzerland, Governor Pingree says:

"Government ownership in Switzerland is public ownership in fact as well as in name, for the people own and control their government through the initiative and referendum. In my opinion, it is high time for Michigan to imitate the example of Switzerland. I most earnestly recommend that this legislature inaugurate a policy looking to the ultimate purchase by the State of all railroads within its limits."

All the surviving captains of Spanish warships destroyed in the naval battles off Santiago de Cuba and in Manila Bay by the American fleets will be court-martialed, says a Madrid dispatch.

President McKinley has signed the Peace Treaty.

THE LATEST NEWS.

A dispatch from Charleston, S. C., February 14th, says: "The published tables showing the temperature of Charleston from 1738 to to-day, the oldest on this continent, prove that the record of this morning 68 degrees above zero, is the lowest ever known here."

The ineffectiveness of Mauser rifles in the hands of Filipinos has not been better illustrated than last Thursday morning when for five hours a large force of insurgents, who had advanced in the night from Pateros upon the position of King's bridge, kept peppering away without hitting a single American. The enemy had evidently mistaken the withdrawal of our troops to their formal position for retreat. During the fight 22 Americans were overcome by heat. And this while most Americans over here were overcome by cold.

The funeral procession of General Garcia last week was marred by a row between General Brooke and the Cuban assembly. The assembly claimed the right to march in the procession after Brooke, but ahead of his staff and escort. Brooke, after some wrangling, refused to allow this, whereupon the Assembly compelled General Rodriguez to withdraw his men from the procession. The populace became excited and began shouting "Cuba Libre," "Out with Yankees," "Viva Aguinaldo," and the like. The assembly considered their pride had been wounded and refused to take part in the ceremonies. Justice Lanuz, who had intended to deliver an oration over the body at the cemetery, also withdrew from the ceremony.

The building known as No. 28 at the Brooklyn N. Y. Navy Yards, occupied by the steam engineering department, was destroyed by fire February 15th, together with its contents, which included much valuable machinery. The loss to Uncle Sam is estimated at one million five hundred thousand dollars.

Many valuable models and patterns of warships were destroyed, including those of the Newark, Raleigh, New Orleans and Atlanta. A coincidence of the fire was that a model of the battleship Maine, which went down in Havana harbor a year ago to day was also destroyed. It was especially valued at this time as it was to be used in the construction of the new Maine, referred to in last week's Progressive Farmer.

Felix Faure, sixth President of the third French Republic, died suddenly from apoplexy at Paris, last Thursday night. He had been slightly indisposed for a day or two, but did not consider himself really ill.

News of Faure's death did not reach the public for more than an hour after it occurred. It is impossible to describe the first effect upon the public mind. The announcement that Faure was dead was received with incredulity. Confirmation followed swiftly and disbelief gave way to excitement—almost terror—for the public leaped to the conclusion that the President was the victim of an assassin, and a majority believed that the dreaded coup d'etat had fallen.

But the truth of the matter soon became known, and the question then on every Frenchman's lips was, "Who will succeed Faure?" It now seems that it will be Senator Roussseau.

President Faure was elected to the Presidency January 17, 1895, and was 58 years of age at the time of his death.

The report of the commission appointed by the President to investigate the conduct of the War Department in the war with Spain has been made public and was a complete review of the operations of the army.

The report finds nothing against Alger, but adds:

"There was lacking in the general administration of the department that complete grasp of the situation which was essential to the highest efficiency and discipline of the army."

This is putting it mildly. The report takes up General Miles' allegations regarding army beef, and severely criticises him and Dr. Daly for not reporting their belief or suspicion that meat dangerous to troops was being issued when their alleged discovery was made.

Considerable attention is given to the medical department. Its unpreparedness, lack of sanitary inspection, failure to meet all demands in the care of the sick and wounded, being attributed largely to the hurry and confusion incident to the assembling of an untrained army for which no preparation had been made or could be made. There were many manifest errors of omission rather than commission. Many recommendations are made largely looking to the decrease of red tape and greater freedom of action in procuring medicines and supplies.

ZEBE BILKINS, M. A.



The Major Discourses upon Human Nature—The Present Legislature Very Much Like Preceding Ones—Thinking Under Difficulties.

B—"Hello! Mr. Editor." R—"Hello! Major. The present is a good time to sit by a good log fire and read and think."

B—"That iz exactly whut I'm a doin', or rather tryin' ter do. A married man can't think with much success fer more than two minits. Betsy keeps me busy carryin' in wood, feedin' the chickens an' lookin' after the stock in general. But I've bin readin' an' thinkin' a gude deal about the legislature, an' makin' comparisons. Legislatures are not whut they uster be. But they seem ter be purty much the same awl over the country. The corporations an' the trusts don't git much hurt in any ov them. They get their friends elected in a gude many counties, an' then if it cumt ter a pinch they buy up a few members either with cash or with office an' in the general roundup they don't git much hurt. This legislaturer aint gon' ter be an' exseptshun. It bez gude men in it, an' sum are not much gude; sum ov 'em are very wise an' prudent, but many ov them are not. I hear that they have been quarlin' a gude deal over whut they are tryin' ter do, makin' faces an' sayin' ugly things. In sum respects they are doin' just whut they condemned the last two legislatures fer doin'. The last two legislatures were charged with sum things they were not guilty of, but they made mistakes enough, and did enough wrong. One charge arginst the last two legislatures wuz that ov extravagant appropriations. In many instances the charge wuz not true. But if the last two were guilty ov any wrong in that directshun the present legislature will be more guilty for it has started out to make bigger appropriations than have ever been made before. B it, these appropriations, like those ov the last two legislatures, are for schools and charitable institutions, and, so far as they go in the proper directshun they should not be condemned. The charges ov the dymakrat papers two years ago were not just, an' so I don't think it fair to condemn the present legislature for doin' like the fusion legislature, but the dymakrat papers orter cum out an' admit that they misrepresented the fusion legislatures an' fooled the people, or else they should be consistent enough ter condemn our own legislature. Another charge arginst the last two legislatures wuz that they could work more hours an' run faster after pie than any body that ever assembled. The papers had the folks worked up ter a high pitch an' we thought the fusion jets gorged themselves with peritical pie at least a dozen times a day. I nev it strate that the present legislature can sit up at least three hours longer every nite talkin' an' skeemin' fer pie, an' can chase a small piece ov pie further an' faster than anything heretofore on record so, takin' awl these things into consideration I've cum ter the conclusion that human nature among legislators iz purty much the same awl over the world, an' in North Carolina in particular. Gudebye."

LATER—At the request of Mr. J. B. Holman the Legislature agreed to reconsider appropriations voted.

NO NEGRO SHALL HOLD OFFICE

Or Exercise Jurisdiction Over The White Race In North Carolina.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

This was the verdict rendered at the polls at our last election. This question has been settled for some years in the other Southern States. We also find that the white race of the North are fully as much averse to a negro holding office among themselves as the people of the South. A number of prominent Republicans in the Northern States have admitted that endowing the negro with unqualified suffrage was a great mistake. Honest Republicans in the South admit the same. I have heard Northern people who travelled much in the South remark, that if they lived here they would vote Democratic in our State elections and Republican in the National elections. I have often told my colored friends that this is a white man's country and the white men will govern it.

It is said that Senator Butler was opposed to bestowing the National patronage upon the negroes, while Senator Pritchard, Hon. Harry Skinner and many leading Republicans in North Carolina favored it. Now behold the results: Race prejudice has been greatly intensified, and many assert that unoffending citizens have been massacred.

Now in the face of all these things will it not be better for the negroes, as a race, to curb their purient desires to hold office and press themselves forward into prominence among the white race? Would it not be better for them, as a race to bend all their energies to acquire property, improve their minds, their physical and moral condition, and thus better fit themselves to discharge the duties of citizenship, in the freest, happiest and greatest nation of either ancient or modern times? All, who know the race well, must confess, that the great mass of them do not well discern the difference between liberty and license. Their unfitness for the exercise of the ballot has often been exemplified by their voting for corrupt men and often against measures that would greatly benefit them, and the coercion of those of their own race who dared cast a vote differing from their party leaders. Their views and opinions upon the subject of freedom seem to be more in accordance with those of the Latin races, rather than those of the Anglo Saxon that is giving light and liberty to the world.

The negro is incapable of grasping the idea of liberty as advocated and held by the Anglo Saxon race in the United States, who are the descendants of the Angles, Saxons, Celts and Gaelic races, now welded into a homogeneous mass constituting the noblest race of people on earth—the descendants of tribes and nations that the Roman Empire with all its power was never able to thoroughly conquer. It took ages for the Anglo Saxon race to attain its present high state of civilization, to wrest from Fendal barons, lords and kings the great charter of liberty and establish it on a solid basis. It should not be expected that a race of people steeped in the darkness of heathen superstition for thousands of years should suddenly emerge from a state of ignorance and slavery into the full civilization, light and freedom of the Anglo Saxon race and be able to discharge the duties of citizenship. God's chosen people Israel, when they emerged from a bondage of 400 years duration, from among the most enlightened people of that age, were found to be unfit for freedom and, instead of being put into the ownership of land, were compelled to drag out forty years of marching and counter marching in the wilderness, where the bodies of all, with two exceptions from twenty years old and upward were buried in the desert sands while the survivors under the military instructions of Moses were taught obedience to law and order, and under Aaron the distinction between clean and unclean, holy and unholy, and were thus prepared under the thunders of Sinai and the awful manifestations of God's power and wrath for the exercise of freedom.

Historians tell us that the rise and progress of learning and the arts was slow and followed in the channels of trade and commerce—that civilization first appeared in the far east—that Egypt was far in advance of most of the ancient nations of the earth in civilization—but its southward progress was checked by the Libyan and Sahara Deserts, that all beyond was unknown land. In this unknown land dwelt the negro race, shut out from the civilizing influence of trade, commerce and intercourse with the other nations of the earth, and instead of emerging from, rather sunk deeper into ignorance and barbarity, where they remained for thousands of years.

Now all Christian people will admit that God in His Almighty power could have endowed this people with all knowledge but this is not the Divine method in dealing with the human race. In the advancement of it, God in His providence uses human agencies. The negro race, shut out by natural barriers from the channels of commerce and its accompaniment of civilization, had to be civilized and elevated by other methods. The method chosen or permitted in Divine Providence, was slavery. Thus a race of people split up into small clans or tribes all speaking different languages, a mere jargon or gobberish; a horde of naked or clouted savages, steeped in the lowest forms of idolatry and without the knowledge of the simplest arts and conveniences of life,—were transferred from one state of slavery and set down among the most highly refined and cultivated people of that day. They were still slaves, but surely at the very outset their condition was much improved. They were clothed, taught to cultivate the soil, and in time were apprenticed to trades—smithing, carpentering, spinning