

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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N. R. P. A.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS RE-INSTATED.

Few matters that engaged the attention of the present legislature attracted the interest which was centered upon the legislative investigation of the case of the two railroad Commissioners, Messrs. J. W. and S. O. Wilson. It seems that a majority of the members were for acquittal all the time, but failed to bring it to a conclusion for some time.

The commissioners were put out of office nearly eighteen months ago by the Governor on the charge that they were more or less, directly, or indirectly, interested in certain hotel property at Round Knob, N. C., which was made an eating house, and that Col. A. B. Andrews, Vice President of the Southern Railway system, was a joint owner in the property and was favoring the Wilsons to influence them to keep passenger and freight rates higher than they might be, and that, under the railroad commission law they were disqualified for their positions.

THE CHARLOTTE DISPENSARY.

The bill to establish a dispensary at Charlotte having passed the House of Representatives, was recently taken up by the Senate.

"For more than three and a half hours," says Col. O. Ds, "the largest crowd that ever assembled in the Senate hall surged close to the President's desk, swayed with an ever recurrent wave of interest."

On Wednesday the Senate passed the Jim Crow Car bill. The House passed the bill to appoint five commissioners for Forsyth county, the omnibus pension bill, and abolished the Railroad Commission. A commission to be known as the Commission of Corporations succeeds to its powers and also controls in a measure the banking and building and loan business of the State.

On Thursday the Senate passed the election law. At 4 p. m. the House and Senate in joint session began the consideration of the case of the two Wilsons, and the session continued with but an hour's intermission till after 3 o'clock Friday morning.

and it is not to his interest to create an appetite for the stuff or to make drunkards of boys, as he gets his salary whether he sells much or little. Senators Hicks, Cooke and Jackson opposed the dispensary. They were followed by Senator Glenn, who made one of the most eloquent speeches we have ever heard.

"Let them threaten me all they will; I shall stand for the right of the people to petition and I shall vote my conscience. God knows that I wish not to mount any pinnacle of greatness at the cost of an immortal soul. When the vote was announced as to the Guilford dispensary you all cheered, but while I now raise the white flag of Mecklenburg, with its enrollment of 3,000 names, you are silent.

Senator Cooley contended that the dispensary was as bad as a bar room or worse. The difference merely meant a distinction between straight liquor in quantities and mixed drinks. He agreed with other Senators that Senator Osborne's position was unassailable as a point of honor and should receive the endorsement of the Senate.

"Talk about your broken hearts—" But just here his voice was drowned in an ocean of hisses. The speaker rapped for order, but the hissing continued. When it finally subsided, this Senator—who doubtless prated much about "the fair womanhood of North Carolina," when on the stump last fall—turned to the ladies and said: "Ah, you can hiss, but you can't vote!"

Senator Osborne then spoke, and by a vote of 31 to 12 the Senate killed the dispensary. The vote was as follows: Ayes—Black, Brown, Fields, Fuller, Glenn, Goodwin, Hill, Jerome, Lind say, McIntyre, Satterfield, Stanback—12

Noes—Bryan, Butler, Campbell, Cheek, Cooke, Collie, Cooley, Cowper, Crisp, Daniels, Davis, Eves, Franks, Hairston, Harris, Hicks, Jackson, James, Jones of Johnston, Justice, Lambert, Lowe, Miller, Murray, Osborne, Skinner, Smith, Travis, Ward, Whitaker, Williams Wilson—31

THE LEGISLATURE.

We wish to give a full and complete account of the acts of the Legislature and in our efforts to do so this week we fail to bring the proceedings up to date. Hence, this brief summary of acts, regarding which more will be said next week.

On Wednesday the Senate passed the Jim Crow Car bill. The House passed the bill to appoint five commissioners for Forsyth county, the omnibus pension bill, and abolished the Railroad Commission.

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On Friday the Senate adopted the House bill repealing the Railroad Commission act (to go into effect March 20th) and appropriated \$5,000 for a monument to Z. B. Vance to be erected in Capitol Square.

On Saturday the Legislature reached its 60 day limit and the pay of the members ceased. Much important work, however, is yet to be done and the final adjournment will probably occur not before Wednesday. The Senate passed a bill appropriating \$5,000 for the Soldiers' Home, and the House passed bills appropriating \$5,000 for improvements at the Normal and Industrial College and \$16,000 for the State Guard.

Capt. H. S. Cassin, a popular and wealthy young business man of Charlotte, committed suicide at Boston last week.

Judge Shepherd has been elected Professor of Law at the University. J. S. Carr has given the University \$5,000 more.

WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.

We learn from the Washington correspondent of the Raleigh Post that the Senate has included in the Sundry Civil bill, the original bill offered by Senator Butler to construct by the government, as adjunct to the Post-office Department, submarine cables from San Francisco to Honolulu, and thence to Manila, if the island is permanently annexed.

Jerry Simpson still knows how to strike home. Recently he severely attacked the President's policy of imperialism. The next day Mr. Cannon, Republican of Illinois got the floor. "If the speeches made here yesterday by Mr. Simpson and others had been made yesterday in Manila, he said, they would have been arrested, tried by drumhead court-martial and shot.

Mr. Simpson then rose to a question of personal privilege to answer the statement of Mr. Cannon that if he (Simpson) had made his speech at Manila he would have been court-martialed and shot. Perhaps this might be so, said Mr. Simpson, adding: "But to be shot at Manila is better than to be shot here by an old muzzle-loading smooth bore brass Cannon."

The Philippine question is still paramount in Congress and is the burden of most Congressional speeches. Mr. Cox (Dem.) of Tennessee speaking on this subject last week said: "I will never vote a cent to put a bullet in a gun to shoot down those people over there (the Filipinos), who are trying to establish their home government." He could not understand why he had started out to free the Cubans and should end by shooting the Filipinos.

The Compromise Army Bill has passed both Houses of Congress. It provides for a regular army, of 65,000, and authorizes the President to raise an additional force of 35,000 volunteers, if it be found necessary. Senator Gorman offered the following amendment which was unanimously adopted:

"That each and every provision of this act shall continue in force until July 1, 1901, and on and after that date all the general staff and line officers apportioned to army under this act shall be discharged and the members restored in each grade to those existing at the passage of this act, and the enlisted force of the line of the army shall be reduced to the number as provided for by law prior to April 1, 1898, exclusive of such additions as have been or may be made under this act, to the artillery, and except the cadets provided for by this act who may be appointed prior to July 1, 1901; and, provided, further, that no officer who has been or may be, promoted under existing law or under the rules of seniority, shall be disturbed in his rank."

Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, said the adoption of the Gorman amendment simplified the situation materially. This bill would place an annual expenditure of \$85,000,000 upon the country, but notwithstanding the fact that war in the Philippines was an unholy war, he felt it his duty to support the bill, and would do so.

In the Senate the bill passed—ayes 55, noes 13. Senator Pritchard voted aye but Butler was one of the thirteen noes. In the House the vote was: ayes 203, noes 82.

Bills have passed both Houses of Congress appropriating \$50,000 for public building at Winston and \$50,000 for public building at Elizabeth City.

The "fast mail subsidy" hitherto referred to by The Progressive Farmer—first defeated in the House, then re-introduced by the Senate—came up before the House again last week. Messrs. Catchings, Democrat, of Mississippi; Moon, Democrat, of Tennessee; Bankhead, Democrat, of Missouri and others supported the amendment, and Messrs. Brownwell, Republican, of Ohio; Green, Populist, of Nebraska, and others opposed it as a "subsidy." The motion to concur in the Senate amendment

was then agreed to, 116 to 34, on a standing vote, and the yeas and nays were taken. The vote resulted 142 to 86, thus finally adopting the special mail amendments of the Senate and also making a complete agreement on the postoffice appropriation bill. The amendments added by the Senate and concurred in, provide "for necessary and special facilities on the trunk lines from New York and Washington to Atlanta and New Orleans, \$171,233," at the discretion of the Postmaster General; for similar facilities from Kansas City, Mo., to Newton, Kansas, \$25,000. We have hitherto expressed our opinion of this measure. It is greatly to the credit of the North Carolina delegation that only one of their number, Linney, voted for the measure. Fowler, Stauford, Strowd, and Skinner voted nay. The other Representatives from this State were absent.

The bribery charges against Mark Hanna have been withdrawn. The Naval appropriation bill has passed both Houses of Congress. It carries an appropriation of something over \$45,000,000. In the Senate, the bill was amended by reducing price of armor plate from \$445 to \$300 per ton. This was Mr. Tillman's (S. C.) amendment. He declared that millions of dollars were being squandered by the Government in feathering the nests of the armor trust and he felt that the Senate and country ought to know "what kind of a steal was going on."

The amendment was adopted by a vote of 34 to 26. Butler voted aye and then offered an amendment—which was adopted by a vote of 39 to 27—providing that if the companies refused to accept \$300 a ton the Secretary of the Navy should proceed to erect an armor factory at a cost of \$1,500,000 and appropriating \$2,000,000 for operating the plant. This is another victory for the Senator from North Carolina. The Senate has passed without debate the bill giving Spain \$20,000,000 for the Philippines. P. S. Congress adjourned Saturday. Senator Butler's plan for a government armor plant did not meet with approval in the House and so failed. The General Deficiency bill passed, the members of the House sang patriotic songs and so ended the last session of the Fifty-Fifth Congress.

THE LATEST NEWS.

The Army Canteen is not quite abolished after all. The House of Representatives put it out of the army and the navy bill, but the Senate Committee has put it back, at least, or rather has put malt liquors back, and malt only. But the soldiers will be much better off without beer, especially in hot countries.

The Q. I. trial has again been postponed. It is now billed for April 10th. The district attorney thought he discovered some crookedness in the jury panel, and the case was postponed at his request. The new date fixed for trial is eleven days before the date set for the adjournment of the legislature, which is now balloting for the election of Q. I.'s successor to the Senate. Saturday's dailies state that three members of the Legislature who have hitherto voted for Q. I. now vote for other candidates.

The people of the State of Maryland have presented a magnificent gold and diamond medal to Rear Admiral W. S. Shaley. He is a native of that State.

The Spanish government had a narrow escape from defeat in the Spanish Senate last week on the bill authorizing cession of the Philippines to the United States. The measure was passed, but the government had a majority of only two, the vote being 120 to 118.

Dwight is a full admiral and hence the highest American naval officer in rank.

Kipling and Pope Leo XIII have been seriously sick but are recovering. Meningitis is epidemic in Texas. Many deaths.

A new national party has been organized at Cincinnati. It is to be called the Union Reform party, and it will seek to amalgamate the Silver Republicans, the Populists, the Social Labor party, and the Liberal party, in fact all the minor parties except the Prohibitionists.

Don't forget to read carefully the full proceedings of the Legislature as given by The Progressive Farmer. Learn now your representative stood upon the great questions that confronted that body. See, for instance, whether he advocated the cause of the people as strongly and unhesitatingly when the question of taxing railroads came up and the railroad attorneys stood in the lobby and took notes for their bosses, as he did when on the stump last fall. The most important work of every legislative body is done during the last ten days of the session and the proceedings given by The Progressive Farmer this week and next week should have your undivided attention.

THE OYSTER LAWS AND HOW THEY HAVE WORKED.

While the much tangled and misundarstood oyster question is before the General Assembly and the people, perhaps it might be wise to consider, just about this stage of the discussion, a few figures showing the financial outcome of the various and sundry oyster law tinkering. Hence, this condensed statement.

As Ch. 119 Laws of 1887, was designed to provide the means necessary to pay the expenses of its operation, and so provided, the State Treasurer opened two accounts on his ledger for this purpose, one the "Shell Fish Survey" account, and the other, the "Oyster Patrol Service" account. The receipts, 25c. per acre for oyster beds entered and granted under the law and the expenses properly belonging to that account were to be kept in "Shell Fish Survey" Account, while the receipts and expenditures attending the policing, prosecuting, and fines and penalties, etc., were to be kept in the "Oyster Patrol" account.

The "Shell Fish Survey" account opened December 11, 1888. The first credit entry is "J. S. Churchill, Trustee, Assignee, Hyde Co., No. 1, \$250." The number of these entries to the close, Nov. 1889, was 261. Quite a large majority of them, in fact, nearly all were from Hyde county and by J. S. Churchill, Trustee, Assignee.

The total receipts from "Shell Fish Survey" account were: From entries \$837 01 Disbursement on same account were— 1889 Jan 26 Paid News and Observer \$134 75 " Feb 4 Paid E. City Economist 50 00 " Mar 30 Pd Newbern Journal 75 00 " Apr 5 Pd Fisherman Farmer 155 00 " May 31 Pd Messenger Pub Co 59 00 " Aug 14 Pd News and Observer 50 00 1890 Jan 9 Pd News and Observer 39 60 " Jan 13 Pd Messenger Pub Co 50 00 1892 Oct 20 Pd News and Observer 68 65 1893 Mar 2 Pd W. T. Cato, Mem of Com 150 00 " Mar 26 Pd W. J. Griffin, Mem. Com 150 00 " May 28 Pd I. B. Watson, Mem Com 150 00 " Nov 3 Pd W. H. Lucas, Mem. Com 71 49 Total \$1,203 49

Amount overdrawn \$366 52 \$450.00 was appropriated by resolution of General Assembly of 1893 to cover the three \$150.00 items.

As to the "Oyster Patrol Service." This account was opened in March, 1890. As the receipts were few, we give them all as they appear. 1890, Mar. 21.—Received of H. Welstead, J. P. Carrutuck Co., for fines imposed and collected for violation of Oyster Law \$976 00 " June 12—Same as above, 18 00 1891, Apr. 28—Received from Adam Warner, for sale of old platform 3 00 Total receipts \$997 00

THE EXPENDITURES. 1892, Dec. 24.—For all expenses and accounts paid from Apr. 10, 1890, to this date, Dec 24, 1892, \$7,765 28 1893, Feb. 1.—Paid Balance purchase of Steamer "Lillie" 7,087 68 1897, May.—Paid expenses of Steamer "Lillie" since purchase, to date 3,845 18 Total expenditure Oyster Patrol Service . . \$18,698 14

Deducting the receipts (\$997 00) from the expenditures (\$18,698 14) will show a net loss on this branch of the oyster industry, under the operation of Laws 1887 of \$17,701 14, net.

A review of these two accounts will show as follows—

RECEIPTS. Shell Fish Survey Account \$837 01 Oyster Patrol Service 997 00 ————— \$ 1,834 01

EXPENDITURES. Shell Fish Survey Account \$ 1,203 49 Oyster Patrol Service 18,698 14 \$19,901 63

Expenditures Exceed Receipts \$18,064 62 The amount paid balance purchase of Steamer Lillie was appropriated by joint resolution Laws 1893. Having given this epitome of the operations of the oyster laws prior to 1895, perhaps it would not be inappropriate to take a look into the operations of Chap. 160, Laws of 1895, as amended by Chap. 13, Laws of 97, which now comprise the operating oyster laws of the State, with minor exceptions. The first payment into the Treasury under 160, Laws of 1895, was in May of that year, and the payments since then have been by years as follows:

AMOUNT RECEIVED EACH FISCAL YEAR (SINCE MAY 1). 1895, Nov. 30 \$ 578 68 1896, Nov. 30 5,290 63 1897, Nov. 30 2,637 82 1898, Nov. 30 6,135 69 1899, Feb. 28 5,967 58

Total receipts to date . . . \$20,680 40

EXPENDITURES '96 Nov. 30.—Paid salaries and expenses to date . . \$5,060 91 '96 Nov. 30.—Paid State Board of Education 419 23 '97, Nov. 30.—Expenses, salaries, etc., this year 2,679 28 '98, Nov. 30.—Expenses, salaries, etc., this year 6,559 80 '99, Feb. 28.—Expenses, salaries, etc., since Nov. 30, 1898 2,421 97 \$17,141 19

Feb. 28, 1899, balance to credit of the account to day \$3,539 21

The experts' account of the Steamer "Lillie" has been paid out of this fund since she was turned over to Chief Inspector of Shell Fish in May, 1897, and the amount of this expense to date is \$2,883 32. This expense has formerly been paid out of General Fund. Doubtless she has more than earned her expenses, however, since put in charge of Chief Inspector. Counting this a legitimate expense of the oyster business, the new law has cleared for the State since 1895, the balance in Treasury, \$3,539 21 plus amount paid school fund \$419 23. Total net gain over all expenses \$3,958 44 while under the operation of former laws the State is out of pocket \$18,067 62, and yet many claims unsatisfied.

THE MONEY POWER IN POLITICS.

Senator Chandler, (Rep.), of New Hampshire, having been attacked by the Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee, recently published two sensational letters in The Manchester, N. H. Union. The general subject was the power of money in politics. Until 1882, it was the custom, he says, for each candidate to pay his own expenses. Since that time, however, railroads have contributed heavily to the campaign fund, and last year a fund was raised amounting to more than one dollar for every voter in the State, though there was no danger whatever of Democratic victory. Nearly all this money, he says, was collected from the Boston and Maine Railroad and from a few rich men, who thereby held a mortgage upon every candidate they helped to elect. The raising of this fund, he says, did not have for its object the preservation of Republican ascendancy, since that was not in danger; its only object, he alleges, was to secure the ascendancy in the Republican party of the men and the corporations who contributed and handled the funds. Regarding the outcome he speaks as follows:

"In the coming Legislature the Manchester and Milford Railroad Bill is to be defeated; so are all bills for electric railroads; so is the bill to dismember the Supreme Court from railroad contests; any bill effectually prohibiting free passes; the bill for electing Railroad Commissioners by the people and making them the people's agents instead of the agents of the great railroad; and, moreover, the bill preventing fraud and bribery in party caucus. To accomplish these objects, the great railroad has already furnished its money and the Chairman has distributed the funds in order to control the Representatives and Senators."

New Hampshire is not the only State where this condition of affairs exists. That it is an evil and a rapidly growing evil no one denies. But what is the remedy? The money contributed by those who expect favors from the Legislature cannot be considered a bribe, though it is often as effectual. As we see it there is but one way to counteract the evil influences of the system and that is to select as candidates men of unquestioned moral standing and men who never hesitate to state just where they stand on any political question. Another political evil for which this seems to be the only remedy has been unearthed at Albany. New York Governor Roosevelt recently started an investigation of the various State officers, in the course of which some startling discoveries were made. For instance, take Frederick Elston, the late State Superintendent of Public Buildings under Governor Black, in whose department a deficiency of \$200,000 has been discovered. He says:

"The way I was bothered by State and organization officers kept my department always handicapped and over expensive. There was nothing in my department that could be done with anything except a mop, a pail, and a broom. Yet often there would come to my office a nice young man in a lofty white collar and shining boots bearing a request from some