

THE PUBLIC LEDGER.

By JOHN T. BRITT.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING

OXFORD, N. C., - - JAN. 12, 1899.

Now they say the grip can travel by rail without necessarily going in the baggage car along with the trunk.

The more the pity that lots of New Year's good resolutions are likely to be wound up with the spring.

If you borrowed your neighbors' PUBLIC LEDGER during 1898 we urge you to come off and subscribe, determining not to beat the editor for 1899.

Our nation's privilege of free speech is not seriously affected by the fact that Massachusetts Court had to take a jail to shut a Boston editor up.

A man in Oregon has just succeeded in trading an invalid wife and four acres of onions for a more robust wife of a neighbor who had a hankering for onions.

The cost of the war so far with Spain is figured at \$250,000,000. By this time a year hence will probably some \$500,000,000 if the expansionists are not checked in their wild career.

There is no doubt that the people will have an opportunity to vote on at least two amendments to the constitution—one to regulate the franchise; the other to give white people's taxes to white schools.

There were 127 lynchings in the United States during last year, according to statistics compiled by the Chicago—102 negroes, 22 whites and 2 Indians. Of the number 118 are credited to Southern States while 9 occurred in the North.

On all hands the remark is heard that it is hoped the Legislature will deal quickly and thoroughly with the problem of the negro vote. Persons who have talked with many members say the sentiment in favor of a restrictive law is overwhelming.

An Ohio paper which wanted to find out whom its readers considered the greatest living American, took a test vote and Admiral Dewey led the list with 9,500 votes, Wm. J. Bryan coming next with 7,886, and McKinley third with 7,758.

We want a good correspondent at every postoffice in the county. If you do not see your neighborhood news in the PUBLIC LEDGER it is because no one has sent it. Send it yourself or prevail upon some one else to do so. Isn't there some one in your community who just naturally knows, sees or hears everything going on.

The people will not be disappointed in the Solons at Raleigh. The first thing done was to cut down expenses of employes. The Legislature will investigate the way the charitable institutions have been run. It is a very able body of men and must be, as one enthusiastic Democrat remarked: "It reminded me of Congress."

How many women who fondly love the golden symbol of their wedding vow know why they wear it on the third finger of the left hand? That particular digit was chosen because it was believed by the Egyptians to be directly connected by a slender nerve with the heart itself, and these ancient worshippers of Isis hold this finger sacred to Apollo and the sun, and therefore gold was the metal chosen for the ring.

At Buffalo, N. Y., Charles Memberger, 27 years of age, who was found lying by the N. Y. Central railroad last Friday with his skull fractured is dead. On the evening of the day on which he received his injuries Memberger began to whistle, though he was wholly unconscious and remained so to the last. He whistled all sorts of tunes, and without cessation for 95 hours, and never ceased until shortly before he died.

Listen at Our Home—not that vile, lying sheet, the Home Rule, that has not flickered since the great white land slide swept like a cyclone over North Carolina—in its leading editorial of Jan. 5 opens thus: The People's party of North Carolina has fused with everything that couldn't out-run it or climb a tree until has fused itself into such a shape as not to demand any more bids, and of course it will go out of the trading business whether its leaders want it retire or not.

The Raleigh News & Observer is always progressive and has enlarged its size, adding a column to each page making an increase of eight columns. It is a true blue Democratic newspaper and did glorious work in the last campaign.

REALLY FUNNY.

The most amusing things we have seen in many a day is the proposition of one Roscoe Mitchell, who is described in the Washington Post as "National Vice President of the Young Men's League," whatever that may be says the Sun. This Mitchell claims that "our late election shows very plainly that North Carolina is a Republican State."

We agree with the Charlotte News when it says: Mr. Mitchell must have been imbibing too freely of Pennsylvania Avenue liquor or else the overwhelming misfortunes of his party have turned his head. The conclusion Mitchell draws from this statement is that Jeter C. Pritchard should be nominated on the ticket with McKinley in 1900, in which case he "makes his prediction" that both North Carolina and Tennessee will give their electoral votes for this ticket.

Mr. Mitchell interposes his remarks and predictions with the most picturesque campaign lies that were devised by Cy Thompson and his crowd; but which it was supposed has been thrown into the political plunder room as of no further use. Mr. Mitchell will hardly in the term of his natural life see North Carolina go Republican again. He cannot even to pull the Republican national committee for any more campaign money on the strength of such a hope.

COLORED EDITOR ON SEPARATE CAR LAW.

The Maxton Blade, edited by an intelligent negro, in discussing the separate car law says:

The question is how will the colored people take to such a law? They have long since become accustomed to separate waiting rooms at railroad stations and they will take to the separate cars just as readily as they did to the separate waiting rooms. As a matter of fact such a law would not have a tendency to humiliate the colored people in the least. No self-respecting colored person will attempt to force himself in places where he knows he is not wanted. All that he wants is that when he pays first-class fare he be given first-class accommodations. He wants that which he pays for and nothing more, and if his presence in first-class cars among white people is objectionable, then by all means provide equal accommodations for him in a separate car.

We do not see how any intelligent colored person could object to such a law. It is not for the privilege of riding with the whites that some few colored persons ride in first-class cars, but is because they do not wish to ride in a second-class car where the toughs and hoodlums of both races act as if they had license to drink, swear and do all other kinds of devilment. Unless a colored person thinks himself better than his race, it seems to us that he would prefer to ride with his own people.

We have talked with a number of the leading colored men and all take the same view of the matter as is expressed herein. All they demand is equal accommodation. Give them this and they will be satisfied.

HOW IS THIS?

The banner township in the county of Pitt, Chicod, has held a public meeting and resolved. As diagnosed by the Messenger they favored a vagrancy law; the refusal of work and homes to "vicious and troublesome negro politicians;" "the sternest social and business ostracism of offensive white republicans;" believing them to be "the vilest enemies of our State and country;" a more liberal allowance for State Guard; "a change in the State Constitution as will entirely eliminate the negro as a factor in North Carolina politics;" impeachment of corrupt officials and expulsion of any member of the Legislature "who has been convicted of felony; commend those railroads, factories and large mills that are giving preference to white over negro labor; and favor a law requiring a license for carrying concealed weapons, the proceeds to go to the public school fund. The first resolution commends the public schools. It favors their betterment, but demands "that the white man's taxes be used for white schools and the negro's taxes for negro schools and condemn as the rankest injustice that an inferior race of ingrates that pay less than five per cent of the taxes should have equal school privileges with the white race, who pay over 95 per cent of the taxes."

The decision of the Democratic caucus of the Legislature that no member shall be elected to any office of trust or profit is timely. In the Legislature of 1897 the fusionists elected themselves to almost every position to be filled. Those of them who were left out were given federal positions. Such a scandal was never before known in North Carolina.

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THE LEGISLATURE.

A Synopsis of the Proceedings and Matters of General Interest.

On Wednesday Jan. 4th, the Senate met at 1 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Rev. N. M. Jurney.

The roll was called and all members were found to be present. Notice of contest against White, of the fourteenth district, was given by J. W. S. Robinson, and a notice of contest of F. P. Jones against the member from Sampson. Senators were sworn in five at a time by Lieutenant Governor Reynolds. Just prior to taking the oath, Senator Cooke of Buncombe, was pleasantly interrupted by a basket of flowers with "no cards." Senator Fields offered the protest of Lambert and Eaves against the seating of Kerley and Sothers, of the thirty-first district.

T. O. Fuller, of the eleventh district is the only negro in the Senate and was the last one sworn in.

A resolution was adopted that the House be informed of the organization of the Senate.

The protests of Messrs. Eaves, Lambert and F. P. Jones were read and referred to the committee on elections.

The Lieutenant Governor announced that he had received the protest of A. Cannon against J. Frankly of the thirty-first district.

Senator Brown moved that the rules of 1895 be adopted for the government of the Senate. This was done.

A committee of three was appointed to meet a similar committee from the House and inform the Governor that the Legislature is duly organized; Senators Justice, Glenn and Franks were appointed by the chair to form this committee.

Senator Glenn introduced a resolution to regulate the pay of legislative employes, and which reduced the pay of clerks and others from \$5 to \$4. By consent the rules were suspended and the resolution unanimously adopted.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House was called to order a little before 12 o'clock by J. T. Masten, principal clerk of the last House. There was a full attendance of members. The lobbies and the galleries were also filled.

The opening prayer was offered by Rev. Jesse H. Page, who was specially invited to perform this function. His prayer was fervent and was given devout attention.

The members were then sworn in, in groups, by Associate Justice Walter Clark and took the customary three oaths—to support the United States constitution and the State constitution and to do their duty as legislators. These oaths they signed.

In the third group sworn was Isaac H. Smith, colored, of Craven. There are three other negro members of the House.

Four of the members did not swear on the Bible, but affirmed. To these a separate oath was administered. The taking of the oath occupied an hour. The last men sworn were Mitchell, from Greene, and Paul, of Onslow, Populists. This was done by consent. Later the right to these seats will be settled.

The call of counties showed that all the Representatives were present save those from Alleghany and Montgomery.

The next business was the election of Speaker. Locke Craig, in a well-turned speech, placed H. G. Connor in nomination, and Lee S. Overman graciously seconded the nomination. Both the speakers paid Connor tributes, which the House heartily applauded. A. B. Bryan, of Madison, nominated W. W. Hampton, of Surry, as the fusion nominee. A roll call showed 92 votes for Connor and 20 for Hampton. The members from Alleghany arrived and was sworn in. Isaac H. Smith, colored, of Craven, voted for Connor and brought down the House, with laughter and applause, which was renewed.

Clerk Masten declared Connor duly elected and Craig and Hampton escorted him to the chair. Speaker Connor said this was the beginning of a history-making session and that what had been done last year would for a century impress itself upon the people. He said that sometimes the best interests of the people were concerned only by what seemed to be radical measures. Such a time had now come and that the people who expect much will not be disappointed at the work which the Legislature will do. His remarks were brief and at their beginning and their close were heartily applauded. He was then sworn in by Justice Clark.

Hon. Francis D. Winston, of Bertie county, has the honor of introducing the first bill and first joint resolution in the House, entitled an act to repeal chapter 464 of Public Laws of 1897 and is intended to take the public printing at once out of the hands of Barnes Bros., and give it to some one more in accord politically with the General Assembly.

In the Senate the first bill was introduced by Senator R. B. Glenn, entitled an act to regulate the pay of clerks and other employes of the Legislature. The bill provides for reducing pay of the principal clerk, the engraving clerks, the reading clerk, the door keepers and their assistants from \$5 to \$4 per day.

The rules were suspended and the bill passed its three readings in the Senate and House.

In the Senate on Thursday Senator Brown, from Columbus, sent forward a bill to appoint a joint committee to investigate the affairs of the penitentiary. On request of Senator Brown the rules were suspended, the bill passed and ordered sent to the House without being engrossed.

Senator Cyclopedia Glenn, of Forsyth, offered a resolution that a committee be appointed to go carefully over all laws passed by the legislatures of 1895 and 1897, and recommend such changes as seemed best.

Text of important bills in House: An act to promote the safety of employes and travelers upon railroads by compelling common carriers to equip their cars with automatic couplers, continuous brakes and their locomotives with driving wheel brakes and to forbid the use thereof

unless so equipped, and for other purposes. By Overman and referred to committee on railroad.

Two acts to provide for the comfort of passengers on railroad trains by requiring separate accommodations for the white and colored race. Two bills, introduced by McLean, of Harnett, and Overman, of Rowan.

An act to abolish the Western Criminal court. By Bryan and referred to the judiciary committee.

An act to provide the manner in which railroad, insurance of steamship companies, incorporated under the laws of other states or countries shall become incorporated in this State. Introduced by Craig, and referred to the committee on corporations.

An Act to repeal chapter 331, Public Laws of 1897, requiring officers of the State banks and railways and other corporations to file oaths with the State Auditor.—Introduced by Julian and referred to the Judiciary committee.

An Act to repeal chapter 203, Public Laws of 1897, giving dead bodies of paupers and criminals to the State medical colleges.—Introduced by Hampton and referred to Judiciary committee.

An Act to regulate the fees of registers of deeds for registering crops and chattel mortgages.—Introduced by Leak and referred to the Judiciary committee.

An Act to amend the charter of the city of Wilmington.—Introduced by Rountree and referred to the committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

An Act to repeal chapter 52, Public Laws of 1897, and to create office of engraving clerks of both Houses.—Introduced by Winston, and referred to its several readings and sent to the Senate without engrossing.

An Act to amend section 2, Article 9, of the Constitution of North Carolina.—Introduced by Julian and referred to the Judiciary committee.

An act to repeal chapter 316, Laws of 1897, and restore to the commissioners of Mecklenburg the control of its roads and bridges.—Introduced by Clarkson, passed and sent to Senate without engrossing.

An Act to repeal chapter 464, Public Laws, 1897.—Introduced by Winston and referred to the committee on Public Printing.

An Act to repeal all Public Laws passed during the session of the General Assembly of 1897.—Introduced by Davis and referred to the Judiciary committee.

THE SENATE.

A bill to regulate the disposition of fees from insurance companies and agents. To empower the town of Reidsville to issue bonds for water works. A resolution providing for the removal of the name of James H. Young from the corner stone of the white blind institution was introduced and passed final reading. A bill to regulate the board of officers of Craven. It provides for the election in June, 1900, of five county commissioners to begin office on the 1st of December, 1900.

The contest for the seat from Greene was decided in favor of Mr. Sage, democrat in the House.

The hour for meeting was fixed at 10 a. m.

Among the bills introduced were the following: For the removal of the corner stone from the blind institution upon which appears the name of Jim Young. To amend chapter 510 public laws of 1887. To amend the law regarding employment of convicts on farms. To repeal the law creating a board of equalization. To increase the number of judicial districts. To repeal the act distributing dead bodies. To repeal the 1897 public school act. To abolish the bureau of labor statistics. To allow the people to vote for special taxes each August for public schools; also to appoint white committeemen for negro schools. Regarding rates to be charged by fire insurance companies in North Carolina. To abolish the chain-gang system in Madison county.

A bill to repeal the act of 1897, allowing the Farmer's Mutual Insurance Co., to do business without tax or license. To provide for the election of school committeemen by the qualified voters of the respective townships. To amend the constitution as to suffrage, the question being voted on at the general election, in May, 1900, at the time of holding the state elections being changed to that date. It is based on the Louisiana election law, with a change of ver-

biage to suit this state's, county and township government. In addition to educational and property qualifications and a clause admitting persons, their sons and grand-sons, who could vote in any state prior to 1857, it admits to registration all persons who served in the United States army prior to January 1, 1867, their sons and grandsons.

The following resolutions were introduced: By Reinhardt to give Mrs. Margaret Busbee Shipp a position as assistant enrolling clerk; Passed. By Gilliam to appoint a committee of three to look in the matter of fees received by the Secretary of State in excess of his legal salary. By Leatherwood, declaring that the people of North Carolina condemn the Republican officials for sending a negro major and two negro clerks to pay off the Second N. C. Regiment, and denouncing it as unjust, unwarranted and humiliating. By Justice of McDowell, to provide for a committee to call on the Governor and ask for the papers and evidence in the matter of the removal of the removal of J. W. Wilson and S. Otho Wilson as railroad commissioners, the report to be made in five days. By McLean, raising committee of three to inquire as to the payment of moneys out of the public Treasury without authority of law.

Raleigh correspondent of Charlotte Observer says: It appears that there is opposition to Julian's bill giving white school taxes to white schools, and negro taxes to negroes. A prominent member of the House said today that being in a group of leaders in both houses he heard this matter talked of and that the opposition was so decided he did not believe the measure could get the necessary two-thirds vote, in order to go before the people for vote as a constitutional amendment. He says the argument against it is that it will cause the negroes to grow up in ignorance; that ignorance means vice and that thus they will become a menace. He favors a constitutional amendment which will embrace the ideas in the "Dortch bill," which the courts would have decided unconstitutional had it become law; that is, that while the ordinary taxes for schools be distributed pro rata, there is leave to vote on the levy of special taxes for schools.

Ex Governor Carr was invited to a seat on the floor of the House.

WOMAN'S WORK.

An apt old adage declares that a woman's arrangements are insufficient or excessive.

This is true of the housewife's manifold duties and approximately true of the thousands who work all day in factories and stores and half the night in making and mending their own clothes or sewing for others to patch out a meagre income. Women who are too much on their feet, or who are unable to stand the strain of over-work and worry are peculiarly susceptible to the weaknesses and irregularities that are the bane of womankind. The symptoms of such derangements are insufficient or excessive menstruation, headache, backache, neuralgia, leucorrhoea, displacements and extreme nervousness amounting in many cases to hysteria. The use of morphine is dangerous and examinations by male physicians are painful and unpleasant.

Bradfield's Female Regulator, the standard remedy for a quarter of a century, will speedily and permanently correct the worst disorders of women. Bradfield's Regulator is sold by druggists at one dollar a bottle. Interesting and valuable books for women mailed free on application.

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