

THE DEMOCRAT.

E. E. HILLIARD, - - - Editor. Published Every Thursday.

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6 Pages.

THE LEGISLATURE.

SECOND WEEK'S RECORD.

TUESDAY, JAN. 15TH.

SENATE.—Called to order at 11 o'clock. Prayer by Senator Ammons.

Bills: By Mr. Westmoreland of Davidson, bill to repeal license tax on piano and organ dealers.

By Mr. Hamrick of Cleveland, bill to reduce expenses of the State guard.

By Mr. Paddison of Pender, resolution instructing Senators and Representatives in Congress to endeavor to secure the passage of a law for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1 and to abolish banks of issue.

By Mr. Bellamy, of Nash, bills to reduce salaries of State and county officials, and to reduce charges of tobacco warehouses.

By Mr. Sigmon, of Catawba, bill to regulate public printing and binding.

Mr. Starbuck thought this a very important bill, and that the Senate had made a mistake in repealing the lowest bidder bill without, at the same time, adopting a substitute.

RAILROADING A RISKY LAW.

Mr. Forbes, of Pitt, asked that his bill to reduce the official bond of the sheriff of Pitt county be taken from the calendar and placed upon its second reading. He stated that the bond of the sheriff of Pitt had not heretofore exceeded \$72,000, but that on the election of Mr. Harrington, Populist, (on November 6th) the bond of sheriff had been increased to \$92,000; that Mr. Harrington had made the required bond, but that the commissioners of Pitt had refused to accept it on the ground that Mr. Harrington was a Populist. The bill provided that a sheriff may appeal from the decision of the commissioners, and that the commissioners shall not appoint a sheriff until the courts pass upon the matter, the case to take precedence over all others for trial at the ensuing term of court, and for the repeal of all laws conflicting with this law.

Mr. Forbes further stated that if the bill passed before next Monday, Harrington's bond would be accepted. If it failed to pass by that time, a Democrat, appointed by the commissioners, would be sheriff.

Mr. Abell moved the bill be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Carver thought if the bill was not passed at once the will of the people of Pitt would be defeated.

Mr. Cook said that if referred to a committee the bill might by dilatory tactics be defeated. He had examined it and thought it a good bill, and therefore hoped it would not be referred.

Mr. White, of Alexander, said he was not satisfied to vote for the bill unless it was better understood.

Mr. Dowd stated that the bill was far-reaching and it would not be wise or safe to hurry it through. He did not think the Senate could afford to rush it through without a better understanding of its provisions.

Mr. Adams said the bill was of great importance. He did not let the politics of the sheriff-elect of Pitt county enter into the matter. He had been told that some of the bondsmen in the case were worth nothing over their exemptions. He read the section that was proposed to repeal, and stated that the bill would make the sheriff of Pitt county the sole beneficiary of a law which discriminated against the other sheriffs in the State. It was unjust and unfair to extend to one sheriff legal rights which were denied to others. It repealed every section of the Code with reference to the qualifications of sheriffs.

After a lively discussion the bill passed its second and third readings and was sent to the house without being engrossed.

HOUSE.—House was called to order. Opened with prayer by Rev. Levi Branson. Various local bills were introduced.

Mr. Moward, d., Edgecombe, h. b. 93, to prevent the selling of intoxicating liquors within two miles of Olivet church, Edgecombe county.

Mr. Ewart, r., Henderson, h. b. 95: to repeal the Railroad Commission act. The Speaker in handing the papers

of Gates, Collins and Rea against Grizzard and Hense, of Halifax; Garret against Howard, of Edgecombe; Dixon against Mewborne, of Green.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16TH.

SENATE.—Prayer by Dr. Daniel of the First Presbyterian church. Bills and Resolutions:

By Mr. Mewborne, P., of Lenoir, bill to prevent discrimination by railroad, telegraph and telephone companies, and to prohibit the use of free passes. (Referred to committee on Railroad Commission.)

By Mr. Paddison, P., of Pender, bill to prohibit the use of railroad passes by county officials.

By Mr. McCaskey, p., of Martin, bill to amend section 1, of the Constitution, as follows:

"That article fourteen of the Constitution of the State of North Carolina be amended so that monopolies and trusts shall never be allowed in this State, and no incorporated company, co-partnership or association of persons in this State should directly or indirectly combine or make any contract with any other incorporated company, foreign or domestic, through their stockholders or the trustees or assigns of such stockholders, or with any co-partnership or association of persons, or in any manner whatever for the purpose of fixing the prices or limiting the production of regulating the transportation of any product or commodity."

This section shall not be construed to prevent private families from clubbing together to purchase goods or supplies for their immediate or private use, nor to prevent farmers from shipping the products of their farms together to market.

PUBLIC PRINTING.

Senate bill, No. 54, authorizing joint committee of the Senate and House to call upon the Secretary of State and award contract for public printing was taken up. This bill provides that the public printing shall be let out to the lowest responsible bidder; that no bids from outside the State shall be awarded only to a practical printer, who shall be required to give a good and sufficient bond for the faithful execution of the work.

On motion of Mr. Cook, R., the bill was ordered referred to the Committee on Public Printing as soon as that committee was announced.

A joint ballot between Senate and House elected Mr. J. W. Brown for Enrolling Clerk.

TILT OVER A BLACK BOARD.

Mr. Rice, r., of New Hanover, offered a resolution requiring a black-board to be placed in the Senate Chamber for convenience in publishing times and places of committee meetings.

Mr. White, p., of Alexander, saw no use for black-boards, as they had not been used in the past.

Mr. Starbuck, r., thought a board might cost four or five dollars and was not in favor of going to so much apparently unnecessary expense.

Mr. Wicker, p., of Chatham, didn't think the need of the board would justify the expense.

Mr. Carver, r., of Cumberland, hoped that the Senators would not forget that this was an age of progress.

Mr. Long, p., of Columbus, said he believed in economy and would vote against this expense.

Mr. Fowler, p., said the discussion over this small matter had cost the State in waste of time more than a blackboard would cost. He favored having one.

Mr. Candler r., moved to refer the resolution to the Committee on Finance. His motion was lost. The vote recurring on the resolution, it passed its second and third readings.

HOUSE.—Called to order and prayer by Representative Woodard from Swain.

The bill to reduce the bonds of the officers of Pitt county came up and was discussed with considerable warmth by the members from that county.

Mr. Smith, d., of Gates, H. B. 104, resolution by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, to appoint a committee to open the bids submitted on public printing to the Secretary of State and to report the same, and that the checks enclosed be endorsed back to the senders.

Mr. Smith, r., of Cleveland, H. B. 105, to prevent discrimination by any transportation, telegraph, or telephone company, and the use of free passage.

Mr. Young, r., of Wake, joint resolution 134, directing Secretary of State to endorse back and deliver to the bidders for the public printing and binding

The Speaker announced a number of committees and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, JAN. 17TH.

SENATE.—President called Senate to order at 11 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. J. L. Foster of the Christian church.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

By Committee on education, resolution asking information from State Treasurer, with reference to disbursements to educational institutions, with recommendation that it pass.

By Committee on Selection of committees, report of the selection of the following Joint Standing Committees:

LIBRARY—Sharp, Chairman.

PRINTING—Westmoreland, Chairman.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS—Snipes, Chairman.

ENROLLED BILLS.—Starbuck, Chairman.

ELECTION OF JUSTICES.—Dalby, Chairman.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES OF UNIVERSITY.—Shaw, Chairman.

COLONIAL RECORDS—White of Arramance, Chairman.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Wicker, p., of Chatham, bill to prohibit the printing or circulation of false or bogus election tickets.

By Mr. Candler, r., of Jackson, bill to levy a special tax for building a bridge across Tuckaseegee River.

By Mr. Fowler, p., of Sampson, bill to amend chapter 520, Laws of 1891, in regard to prompt dispatch of freight by railroad companies.

By Mr. Moody, r., of Haywood, bill to define lard and butter and to regulate the sale thereof.

By Mr. Marshall, r., of Surry, bill to abolish county boards of education and to reduce salaries of county superintendents of education.

By Mr. Starbuck, r., of Guilford, bill to incorporate the Stock Mutual Insurance company.

By Mr. Hamrick, p., of Cleveland, bills to require railroads to pay taxes as other companies; to amend game laws so as to protect crops.

By Mr. Paddison, p., of Pender, by request, bill to make education of blind children compulsory.

By Mr. Sigmon, r., of Catawba, resolution providing for inviting immigration by advertising the mining, mineral, timbered and other resources of North Carolina.

By Mr. Carver, r., of Cumberland, a verbal resolution asking the committee on public health to look more carefully after the proper heating and ventilation of the Senate chamber. Mr. Carver said he had caught a cold, something he hadn't had for years, and he attributed it to improper temperature of the chamber.

By Mr. Grant, r., of Wayne, bill to amend chapter 98, laws of 1889, for the relief of certain soldiers in the late war.

By Mr. Starbuck, r., of Guilford, resolution requiring the Secretary of State to forward certified copies of laws enacted by this General Assembly to judges and solicitors immediately after the ratification of these laws.

FROM THE CALENDAR.

House Bill No. 4, to repeal chapter 137, laws of 1893, the charter of the State Farmers' Alliance, passed its second and third readings.

PASSED THIRD READINGS.

The resolution requiring the State Treasurer to furnish statement of all disbursements for the State University, the Agricultural and Mechanical College, at Raleigh, the Normal and Industrial School at Greensboro, and the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the colored race, at his earliest convenience.

HOUSE.—Called to order and prayer by Rev. Mr. Woodson.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Davis, h. b. 141, to repeal chapter 339, laws of 1893, entitled an act to establish a battalion of naval reserves, &c.; h. b. 142, to repeal chapter 374, laws of 1893, and to abolish the State Guard; h. b. 143, to repeal chapter 379, laws of 1893, and to provide for a Supreme Court Reporter; h. b. 144, to abolish Criminal and Interior Courts, and to provide for the holding of Courts of Oyer and Terminer.

Mr. Phillips, of Pitt, h. b. 145, to reduce the official bonds of the Sheriff of Pitt county.

Mr. Howard, of Edgecombe, h. b. 148, to incorporate the town of Leggett in Edgecombe county.

Mr. Lusk, of Buncombe, h. b. 149, to equalize assessments on all property, real and personal for taxation throughout the State.

ON SECOND READING.

H. R. 104, the resolution introduced

the opening of bids for public printing by the Secretary of State before a committee of two from the Senate and three from the House, and the return of checks enclosed therein.

After being discussed at length it was lost by a vote 73 to 49. Party, or fusion vote.

PITT COUNTY BILL.

Concerning the Sheriff of Pitt county the following bill passed and was sent to the Senate:

Section 1. That the sheriff of Pitt county shall be required to give the three official bonds prescribed in Section 2073 of the Code in sums not exceeding in the aggregate sixty thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. That the sheriff shall have right of immediate appeal to the Superior Court of Pitt county from any action or proceedings of the county commissioners of said county, whereby they fail, neglect, delay, or refuse to approve the said bonds or the sheriff or any of them, and they shall make no appointment of his successor unless and until directed by the Judge.

Sec. 3. That immediately upon the service of notice of appeal upon the said county commissioners or any of them, the clerk of the Superior court of said county shall cause the said appeal to be docketed, and the same shall stand for trial at the next term of the Superior court of said county and shall take precedence of all other trials.

Sec. 4. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Sec. 6. That this act shall apply to Pitt county alone.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18TH.

SENATE.—The Senate was called to order at 11 o'clock and opened with prayer by Rev. D. H. Tuttle, of the Central Methodist Church. He prayed that the experience which legislators had had among men, and the cultivation of mind they had enjoyed, might be used for the best interest of the State.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Senator Harwick, S. B. 89, to abolish the State geological survey.

By Senator Moody, of Haywood, S. B. 95, a resolution to appoint sub committees on privileges and elections.

By Senator Paddison, S. B. 96, to amend sections 12 and 13 of article 10 of the Constitution, reducing the home-stead exemption.

By Senator Stephens, S. B. 102, to make the marriage license fee \$1.50.

A report was received from the Secretary of State concerning insurance companies doing business in North Carolina, stating that there were 107 general insurance agents representing various companies in the State, which paid in license fees about \$1,000 annually. All the companies but three are foreign.

A message was received from the House of Representatives reporting among other things that it had passed House bill to reduce the official bond of Pitt county. Calendar.

PITT'S BOND QUESTION AGAIN.

S. B. 195, a bill from the House, to reduce the official bond of the sheriff of Pitt county to \$60,000, and giving the sheriff the right of appeal from the decision of the county commissioners in certain cases, was put on its second reading.

Senator Forbes, of Pitt, spoke to the bill and urged its passage as a matter of justice to the people.

Senator Mewborne, speaking on the bill, reverted to the importance of official bonds, declaring that they should not be too small, that they should not be too large. He cited the fact that the total collection of taxes in Pitt county amounted to about \$30,000, and therefore he thought a bond of \$60,000 would amply protect the public fund of that county. He said the bond was not for the special benefit of any particular sheriff, for an officer of any party can have the advantage of its provisions; and he therefore favored the provision which gave the right of appeal from the decision of the commissioners—that "that august body of men whose powers apparently were as wide as the earth, as high as the heavens and went down to the lowest depths." "It was almost necessary, when anything was desired of them, to write a note on gilt edge paper, perfume it highly, get on a white horse, and going before the County Commissioners, ask them if they won't please do so and so."

Senator Forbes desired to correct a statement made by him under a misapprehension. He had stated that the Commissioners of Pitt county raised

\$92,000; but he had since ascertained that the bond had been raised to only \$79,000. He desired to apologize for any unfair or misleading statement concerning the matter.

Senator Adams appreciated the action of the Senator from Pitt in correcting the statements he had made.

Senator Dowd said he was glad to hear Senator Forbes correct his statements, and he understood this action to remove the harsh accusations against the county commissioners of Pitt. He would now support the bill; and he would go further than that; for in any case in which it was proven that any commissioners of any county had unjustly used the power vested in them, he would stand for calling them to strict account regardless of party or parties.

A report from the State University, through the President, Dr. Geo. T. Winston, was submitted to the Senate, and referred to the committee on education.

Senate resolution 84, with reference to immigration and investment of capital in North Carolina was taken up and passed its second and third readings. This is the resolution of Senator Sigmon, of Catawba, officially declaring the advantages of North Carolina which are open to investors, health-seekers and home-seekers. He had intended to ask the State for a small appropriation for disseminating this declaration, but had since decided to do this with his own means.

A message was received from the House announcing that that body had adopted a resolution to adjourn till Monday, observing Saturday as a holiday in honor of Gen. Robt. E. Lee, and asking the concurrence of the Senate. The Senate amended the resolution to meet on Saturday at 10 o'clock, and adjourn at 12.

HOUSE.—Mr. Smith, of Gates, majority report H. B. 62, for protection of girls and promotion of chastity, to change word ten to twelve, raising age of consent. Motion to make special order for Wednesday next at 12 o'clock. Carried.

Mr. Ray, H. B. 177, in favor of the election of postmasters by the people.

Mr. Ewart, H. B. 168, calling for information from clerks and door keepers of the House as to the number of employees and compensation.

Mr. McClammy, H. B. 169, to extend the time of sheriffs in settling taxes due State and county.

Mr. French, H. B. 170, to adjourn until next Monday 3 p. m., the Senate concurring, (to-day being Lee's birthday and a State holiday.)

Mr. Yates, H. B. 171, to raise revenue for the public school fund from dealers in pistols and pistol cartridges.

Peebles, H. B. 182, to authorize commissioners to appoint special tax collectors for Northampton county.

Mr. Davis, by unanimous consent, notice for the benefit of Nebraska sufferers.

In the contested election case between Ward and Croom from Pender county, Ward, a democrat, who held the certificate was unseated, and Croom was sworn in.

SATURDAY, JAN. 19TH.

SENATE.—The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock, and opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Branson. His invocation was for ability and wisdom on the part of legislators to avoid mistakes, and that great good might come to the State through their work.

The committee on enrolled bills reported that the bill to reduce the official bond of the sheriff of Pitt county had passed both houses and had been enrolled.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

Senator Lindsay introduced S. B. 106, to reduce the expenditure of public institutions, and to provide for an election of boards of directors therefor. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. B. 5, relating to the working of convicts on farms in Bertie county, was taken from the calendar and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

S. B. 13, relating to costs in criminal cases, which had been unfavorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, was taken from the calendar and re-referred. This bill provided certain duties to be performed by the county commissioners. Senator Moody, of Haywood, R., expressed some doubt as to the existence of the office of county commissioner for any considerable length of time, and the bill was re-referred to be revised to meet that possible contingency. The bill was introduced

TO INSTITUTE A POPULIST THANKSGIVING.

S. B. 42, to make the call of the Governor for thanksgiving orthodox was put on its second reading.

Senator Lindsay, who introduced the bill, said that in the domain of politics, religion was frequently driven out, and therefore this bill might seem silly. He thought, however, that when the stated time for calling on the people, by proclamation of the Governor, there might be some special thing to give thanks for. The custom now is to call on the people to give thanks for material prosperity, but at least nine tenths of the people had no cause to return thanks for material blessings, and the proclamation was therefore absurd on its face.

Another idea advanced was that it was neither in accordance with the Protestant or Catholic religion, because it was not an orthodox proceeding for any ruler to order the people to pray. When he did, he called on sinners as well as good people. He did not think that any minister of any denomination would take such a course as to call on sinners to return thanks for anything; for the evidence of the Word was that "the prayers of the unrighteous availeth nothing." He said further that also the day was noted as one of a sacred character, yet it was a day on which the baseball players, the horse racers and in fact everybody who had anything to be thankful for spent riotously, while people who were not materially prosperous could not afford to observe the day.

He spoke to the effect that he believed the tendency of this "official" Thanksgiving was to have an evil effect on the morals of the people.

Senator Starbuck thought that the bill might be improper. He had heard of the idea that the prayers of the righteous availeth much, but he had never heard that the prayers of the wicked availeth nothing, and he did not believe it was in the Bible. He thought a sinner ought to be allowed to return thanks if he had anything to be thankful for and wanted to do so, and he moved that the bill lay on the table.

Senator Parsons thought it would be a bad thing to stop a sinner from praying if he was caught at it. He believed that the "unthankful" conditions existing were largely due to the failure of people to accompany their works with prayer.

The bill was on motion of Senator Adams laid on the table.

TWO IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.

Senator Starbuck, r. introduced the following resolution:

"That a committee of nine, three on the part of the Senate and six on the part of the House of Representatives, be appointed by the president of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to be known as the Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives on Municipal Government. That the Speaker of the House shall designate the chairman of the committee; that all bills, resolutions and petitions in reference to the matter of municipal government be referred to said committee, and it shall be the duty of said committee to prepare and report as early as possible to this General Assembly proper bill or bills providing for the repeal of the present system of county government, and for restoring to the people the right of County Commissioners, or any officers who may hereafter be substituted for County Commissioners, and Justices of the Peace and other local officers."

Referred to the Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

Senator Atell, d., introduced a resolution requesting the doorkeepers of the Senate and House to furnish a list of their employees, and the per diem paid each.

The resolution was amended to include the Keeper of the Capitol, and the Auditor of State, and was adopted.

The Senate then, at 12 o'clock, adjourned in honor of General Robert E. Lee.

HOUSE.—Called to order at 10 o'clock. Mr. Ewart, of Henderson, in the chair; prayer by Rev. Mr. Edward Bull, of Newbern; reading of journal dispensed with.

On motion of Mr. Williams, of Craven, H. B. to reduce the official bond of the sheriff of Pitt county to \$60,000 was ordered enrolled, several Democrats objecting, among them Messrs. Peebles and Ray.

At 10:15 the House adjourned to meet Monday at 10 o'clock.

MONDAY, JAN. 21ST.

order at 3 o'clock.

The chief bills introduced were: To provide for study of vocal music in public schools; to provide for reformatory for young criminals; to raise a joint select committee on retrenchment; to supply shoes to inmates of charitable institutions; to provide for labelling and marking convict made goods.

There was debate on the bill to restore 6 per cent. as the legal rate of interest. It simply repeals the clause allowing 8 per cent. to be charged by special contract and leaves the remainder of the law as at present.

Effort was made by Senator Moody to amend the bill so that 6 per cent. shall be the legal rate and that 8 per cent. may be charged and that the penalty for usury shall be fine or imprisonment or both.

The discussion was chiefly upon this matter of penalties.

The bill was finally made a special order for Wednesday.

HOUSE.—The House met at 3 o'clock. The Judiciary committee reported unfavorably on the bill to reduce the marriage license to \$1.50.

A resolution was adopted requesting the Judiciary committee to prepare a bill extending the jurisdiction of magistrates so as to cover larceny, abandonment of families and fornication and adultery.

The resolution by Mr. Ewart was adopted, calling for information regarding the number of clerks and employees.

Mr. Ewart said it was charged that this Legislature had an army of employees—many more than were necessary—and it was desired to know if the charges were true.

(THE DEMOCRAT makes these condensed reports from the dailies, mostly condensing from the News & Observer, but sometimes from the Wilmington Messenger.—EDITOR DEMOCRAT.)

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Halifax County. Noah Biggs and W. A. Dunn, trustee,

vs

Martha Pope, Alice