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THE COMMONWEALTH

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THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

Some one has figured up the following school statistics for the United States: "There are 15,000,000 pupils in the common schools and high schools of the United States maintained by the proceeds of taxation, and the school expenses of the country, taken collectively, were \$190,000,000 last year, the United States expending more on the education of children than any other country in the world. There are 400,000 school teachers in the United States, a larger number than in any other two countries of the world."

The following taken from the Richmond Dispatch recently, dated at Chase City, Va., speaks well for General Ransom's kind recognition of an old soldier:

"A Confederate soldier on the retreat from Petersburg in 1865 saw General M. W. Ransom, of North Carolina, walking, the General having lost his horse, and this soldier, John W. Perkins, who now lives near here, rode to him and offered his horse to the General, which was gratefully accepted. Never since the war have the two met. A short time ago this old soldier saw a gentleman going to the vicinity of General Ransom's, in North Carolina, and asked him to ascertain if the General remembered the circumstance, and if so tell him that this soldier was now living and quite poor and needy. When approached General Ransom said he remembered the horse matter very distinctly, and if the old Confederate would come down and see him he would give him a fine horse and a buggy in which to ride back home. The old soldier is going as soon as the weather is favorable."

While the people of Eastern Carolina pay little attention to wheat raising, and thereby make a mistake, according to the opinion of THE COMMONWEALTH; the people of the upper sections of the State where the lands are not so good as ours count much on a good wheat crop, as the following item from the Chatham Record indicates:

"All the signs indicate a good wheat crop this year. In the first place deep snows help the wheat by keeping the ground warm, and if this be true this winter has been particularly favorable for wheat, for we have had an unusual supply of snow. Then again there is another sign, in which the old Dutch farmers of the piedmont portion of this State have great faith, and that is the kind of weather there is on Ash Wednesday. They say that if Ash Wednesday is a rainy and disagreeable day the wheat crop will not be good. But if that day is bright there will be a good wheat crop. As yesterday, which was Ash Wednesday, was a bright day we may expect (according to this old sign) an abundant wheat crop next June."

It has been stated recently that while this may not be the richest nation our people have more general intelligence in proportion to our wealth than any other people on the earth. That we make and sell and read more books than any other nation of people. It is said that America makes from one-third to one-half the books of the world, and that these books have the largest sales.

We do not know whether these estimates are absolutely correct; but we are of the opinion that it is more nearly possible for every person born and reared on America soil to become fairly intelligent than in any other country of the world. Books are amazingly cheap, and there are more opportunities for boys and girls, young men and young women to become intelligent than anywhere else in the world. Take, for instance, the farmer who has a half dozen boys for whose tuition in school he cannot spare money. If he can manage to have them learn to read and then will invest a few dollars wisely in a few good books; subscribe to his local paper, one daily paper, a magazine or two, and then see that the boys all read the literature, he thus provides, he will find in a year or two that his boys will be quite intelligent.

Horrible agony is caused by Piles, Burns and Skin Diseases. These are immediately relieved and quickly cured by De Witt's Witch Hazel Salve. Beware of worthless imitations.—E. T. Whitehead & Co.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Not Many Days More to Finish The Work.

GETTING IN A HURRY.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13th.

The Senate chamber had been deserted all the morning, so far as spectators were concerned, but when the door-keeper announced a committee from the House the lobbies filled as by magic. As the committee approached the bar of the Senate the Senators rose and the President said in the words prescribed by law: "All persons are commanded to keep silent, on pain of imprisonment, while the House of Representatives is exhibiting to the Senate of North Carolina articles of impeachment against W. L. Norwood."

Representative Locke Craig advancing to a position immediately before the President spoke slowly and gravely in behalf of the committee: "Mr. President and Senators: Soon after the meeting of this General Assembly a resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives instructing the committee on the Judiciary to inquire into the official conduct of William L. Norwood who claimed to be judge of the Twelfth Judicial district of North Carolina. After due consideration of the resolution and notice to William L. Norwood, the committee on the Judiciary brought to the House of Representatives a resolution declaring that the said William L. Norwood should be impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors in office. This resolution was passed and we come in the name of the House of Representatives to declare that William L. Norwood, Judge of the Twelfth Judicial district of North Carolina, should be impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors in office; that he be impeached in the name of all the good people of the State of North Carolina whose laws he has disregarded, whose high office he has dishonored. In accordance with the organic law of this commonwealth we demand that the Senate organize the high court of impeachment; that it make order that the said William L. Norwood appear at the bar of that court to answer the articles of impeachment and the charges against him which the House of Representatives will prefer and make good."

"We realize the solemnity of the impeachment of one occupying the great office of Judge. We are sustained by the confidence that your deliberations as the high court of impeachment will be conducted in justice and mercy, with due regard to the rights of the accused, the ancient honor of our judiciary and the welfare of our people; that your judgement will be righteous."

At the end of his impeachment of Judge Norwood he handed up the papers in the case. They consisted merely of the resolution instructing the House Judiciary Committee to investigate as to the status of W. L. Norwood and the charges against him, the finding of the committee, the resolution under which Messrs. Allen, Craig and Foushee were appointed to conduct the prosecution in behalf of the House together with Speaker Connor's instructions to the committee, which were as follows:

State of North Carolina, House of Representatives. February 13, 1898. Messrs. Allen, Craig and Foushee, committee:

In accordance with resolutions which have passed this House, a copy of which is hereby handed to you, you are hereby appointed to appear at the bar of the Senate in the name of the House of Representatives, and all the good people of North Carolina, to impeach W. L. Norwood, judge of the Superior court of North Carolina, for the Twelfth Judicial District, of high crimes and misdemeanors in office.

H. G. CONNOR, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Bills passed were of a private nature. HOUSE.—Among the bills reported from the committees was one appropriating \$16,000 to the State Guard. The original bill asked \$20,000, but the Military Committee cut this down to \$16,000, the amount given by the former Democratic administrations. The Jim Crow car bill agreed upon by the Railroad Committee, was also reported. This bill provides for one coach for first-class passengers of the white race, and one coach for first-class passengers of the colored race, and one

coach which shall be divided by a partition, and one part assigned to second-class passengers of the white race and the other part assigned to second-class passengers of the colored race. The second-class car shall be between the two first-class cars, with the second-class compartment for the white race next to the first-class coach for the white race: Provided, that the conductor on any train shall have power, in case there is an excess of passengers of either race, that could not be foreseen, to assign parts of cars to either race. The Railroad Commission is given discretion as to exempting from provisions of this act, railroads whose gross earnings do not exceed \$2,000 per mile.

The Stevens Anti-Trust Bill went through the House on its third reading yesterday with a bull-headed determination calculated to make one spit on his hands and take a new grasp on his faith in popular government.

To be sure there were some namby-pamby opposition to it, but it didn't count more than six when it came to the roll call.

Mr. Gilliam, of Edgecombe, opened the discussion by inquiring of Mr. Stevens what was the penalty for conspiracy to defraud.

"Is it a felony or a misdemeanor? Your bill provides that any one engaging in a trust shall be guilty of a conspiracy to defraud."

Mr. Stevens was not sure—whether it was a felony or a misdemeanor.

"But I'd like to inquire why you ask the question? Is it for information or for the purpose of defeating the bill?"

"It's to show that you've introduced and asked the passage of a bill here with the provisions of which you yourself are not conversant."

"The bill," replied Mr. Stevens, "is a copy of one now in force in Georgia, Illinois and Missouri, and perhaps other States, and its one that the last Democratic Attorney-General of this State recommended be enacted into law."

Mr. Boushall amended the bill to the effect that nothing in it should apply to trust stock that might be held by any educational institution in the State.

It was pointed out that several colleges in the State owned stock in the biggest trusts in the country.

Mr. Stevens refused to accept the amendment, but said he was willing to accept it if made to read "present" investment, as this could not injure the colleges as they now stood, but that he wanted to prevent them having any future dealings with trusts.

In this position he was strongly backed up by Mr. Thompson, of Onslow.

H. B. 963, S. B. 803. Act to amend section 2, chapter 399, Laws of 1891, taking out of the hands of the Governor the appointment of directors for the School for the Deaf and Dumb at Morganton, and to allow members of the board to fill all vacancies on the board.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th. In the Senate a bill passed allowing the commissioners of Pitt county to issue \$10,000 bonds and levy a special tax.

In the House local matters largely took up the time.

The News and Observer reporter from the Senate wrote as follows about local matters: "The inevitable result of a continuance of its past policy will be that the Legislature will either be forced to sit the full sixty days out or the matters that come to most will be done in a rush or not done at all. While it is very right and proper doubtless that people who have gotten themselves in unpleasant places should be given 'relief' and that there should be bridges and ferries, it is the opinion of the ablest men in the Senate that local legislation is being greatly overdone at this session."

One consequence of this over-indulgence in law-making has been that the Senators have become fagged and bored with the naturally wearisome work in committees and quorums have become the exception instead of the rule. If the member does not happen to have a bill before the committee he finds it difficult to spur himself into attendance. While the Senate keeps up with its calendar, it takes two houses to make a law, and its flood of bills helps to still further swamp the House calendar.

That this Legislature was not elected on local issues and that general matters have right of way seems to have been in a large measure, forgotten."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15th. SENATE AND HOUSE.—The Senate and House held first joint session. In separate sessions only local bills were considered.

The purpose of their coming together was the election of a Board of Internal Improvements, as provided for in an act passed a week ago.

This done, it was announced that the special committee appointed to investigate the suspension of the Wilsons from the office of Railroad Commissioner had been completed and was ready to be presented.

To hear this the joint session was continued, lasting altogether for nearly two hours.

The committee report was presented by Senator Osborne, who asked that it be read.

At the conclusion of the reading of the report Senator Ward moved that 500 copies be printed, and consideration of the report be made a special order for Tuesday, at noon, the two Houses being in joint session.

Senator Justice thereupon sent forward a resolution which provided: (1) That the report of the committee be adopted; (2) that J. W. Wilson be not removed from his office; (3) that S. Otho Wilson be not removed from his office.

"I do not insist on the immediate passage of that resolution, but I want it considered whenever the report is put upon its adoption," said Senator Justice.

Mr. Moore, of Jackson, was thirsting for just such resolutions. He heard of this Wilson business until he was sick of it. He wanted to adopt the report and be through with the whole thing. The House, he thought, was about as well prepared to vote now as it ever would be; he therefore moved adoption of the report.

Mr. Thompson, of Onslow, hoped the motion would not prevail. He, for one, was not prepared to vote. He had given the evidence some study and he was sorry he had not been able to come to the same conclusion as had been reached by the committee.

his action. If not I shall vote to sustain this report.

"From such evidence as I've been able to get one rate was granted to these commissioners and another to the people. If we can't have any better commissioners than that let's repeal the Railroad Commission act and get rid of the whole thing." (Applause.)

Senator Cooley had detected no disposition on the part of the committee to rush its report through.

Senator Ward disclaimed any intention of reflecting on the committee by his motion to postpone action. The report, he contended, embraced questions of both law and fact.

"These are questions, some of them, that I'd like to investigate. It is, as we all know, a matter of considerable importance, and questions of law are always doubtful things. Insert a single clause and the whole law may be changed. I want to look into these questions for myself. While I have great respect for the committee and the utmost confidence in its report, still I do not feel bound by it."

"Besides, it is not customary for this Legislature to do things of importance in a hasty manner."

Mr. Clarkson, of Mecklenburg, agreed with Senator Ward, and after hearing his speech he couldn't see how even the members of the committee could object to postponement. He thought it dangerous ground—this insistence on immediate adoption of the report.

Mr. Patterson, of Caldwell, disclaimed any intention on the part of the committee to rush through its report.

Senator Justice said he hoped nobody considered his resolution as an attempt to railroad through the report.

"I distinctly stated that I should not insist on its passage at this time. I have no objection to allowing the fullest opportunity to every man to look into the matter. I don't think there is any disposition on any body's part to railroad through this report."

Mr. Moore, of Jackson, proposed to stand by the committee and he wanted to repeat his belief that members were now about as well prepared to vote as they ever would be.

Mr. Council, of Watauga, inquired of Senator Ward whether his motion provided for printing the testimony.

Senator Ward—"It does not."

Mr. Council—"Then how are you going to arrive at questions of facts?"

Senator Ward—"I might arrive at some questions of law. That would be worth while wouldn't it?"

Mr. Council said he would not object to postponement if members wanted it.

Mr. Moore's motion to adopt the report was put. It met a thundering "No."

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desiring to investigate it. Over 100 pages of it are worth nothing at all. I'm unwilling for the Legislature to print such tommy rot."

Senator Travis said nine-tenths of the evidence was immaterial and he didn't think it necessary to have it printed. He had confidence in the committee, he said, and even if he held a contrary opinion he would hesitate to assert it.

This ended the debate. The motion to print the evidence was lost, but the motion to print the report prevailed by a very large majority.

THE SMART REPORTER. How He Settled a Discussion in Hogan's Place by Telephone.

It was 2 o'clock in the morning. All of the reporters but one had gone home. The night editor sat at his desk reading the copy of the last remaining reporter. There hadn't been a word spoken for a half hour. The rumbling of the distant presses and the clicking of the typewriter were the only sounds that broke the silence of the night.

"Hello," cried the night editor, as he jammed the potato masher to his left ear.

"Say," said the telephone, "we are having a little discussion down here in Hogan's place and we want to know which can fly the faster, a canvas back duck or a red-headed woodpecker."

"Say, Bill," yelled the night editor to the solitary reporter, "which can fly the faster, a canvas back duck or a red-headed woodpecker?"

"Duck," laconically answered the reporter.

"The night editor turned to the telephone and told it that the duck was much the swifter aerial navigator of the two.

"How much faster?" asked the telephone.

"How much faster, Bill?" "Eight miles an hour in warm weather and ten miles if it's cold."

"Eight miles an hour," repeated the night editor.

"Why is it?" asked the telephone. "Why is it, Bill?" "Because he spreads his canvas. The woodpecker hasn't any. Ting-a-ling-a-ling."

Baby Lost in the Snow. On Monday the snow plow, which was built at the Seaboard Air Line shops, started up the road to clear the track. When it reached Branchville the agent and all of his family, including the baby, turned out to see it work. When the train passed they were all completely covered up in snow and it was several minutes before the baby was found. It was uninjured and lying as comfortably as a bug on a rug. This is what curiosity did for them.

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