

Legislature of North Carolina.

NIGHT SESSION.

SENATE.

MONDAY, Jan. 24.

SPECIAL ORDER.

Bill for the better protection of life and property, was taken up and discussed until the late hour of eleven.

Mr. Beeman withdrew his motion to non-concur, and the motion will the Senate concur, was substituted.

On motion of J. A. Hyman, (col.), the previous question was called, and the amendments were concurred in by the following vote:— Yeas 25; nays 17.

Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, Jan. 25.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By A. H. Galloway, col., to incorporate the Peoples Building and Loan Association. Referred.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The consideration of the bill entitled "an act to restore the credit of the State and to facilitate the completion of the unfinished Railroads," was resumed.

SYNOPSIS.

The first section requires all Presidents or other officers of Railroads, who have received State Bonds, since May, 1865, whether such officer is now in office or not, to make a statement to the Governor and Superintendent of Public Works; 1st, What amount of bonds he received; 2d, what amount of such bonds were sold; 3d, what amount of such bonds have been hypothecated, for what purpose and how much was realized; and 4th, what amount of such bonds were unsold or turned over to his successor, and whether any interest has been received on unsold bonds.

Sec. 2d, requires these statements to be made on oath.

Sec. 3d, requires all unsold bonds or securities for which bonds may have been exchanged, to be returned to the Treasury, or deposited in some solvent bank.

Sec. 4th, requires the Governor to notify such President or other officer, within five days after the passage of the act, to comply with the requirements of the first section.

Sec. 5th, gives such officer thirty days to comply.

Sec. 6th, provides that bonds and securities required to be returned to the Treasurer may be re-delivered to the proper officer of the Company, on satisfactory evidence that a certain amount of work has been done, the re-delivery to be in proportion to the work.

Sec. 7th, requires bonds, &c., so re-delivered, to be stamped so as to show they had been surrendered and again delivered.

Sec. 8th, forbids the Treasurer from paying any bonds until so re-delivered and stamped.

Sec. 9, imposes the penalty of imprisonment and fine on any President refusing to comply with the requisitions of this act; prosecution to be brought, (Sec. 10) in the Superior Court of Wake, or may be transferred to some other county for cause.

Sec. 11, the Attorney General is required, also, to bring civil suit against any President failing to comply, and demand a receiver, &c.

The remaining sections provide for the manner of moving, &c., in case of defaulting; the last section declaring the introduction of this bill notice, against any further sale until the matter is disposed of.

The most important amendments adopted are as follows, to wit:

Mr. Welker, proposed to amend the bill so that when the bonds are returned that they shall not be sold for less than 60 cents on the dollar.

Mr. Cook, Henry Eppes, col., and A. H. Galloway, col., voted against its adoption.

Mr. Etheridge, offered the following as a new substitute, to wit:

In case any President or other officer, who may come within the provisions of this act, shall be absent from or reside beyond the limits of this State, and shall upon the notification of the Governor, refuse or neglect to answer, or otherwise appear to any action instituted in this act, it shall be the duty of the Governor, and he is hereby required, to make requisition and demand for any such President, or other officers, upon the Governor of any State, where such President, or other officer may be at the time, or in which he may reside.

Messrs. Cook, Galloway, col., Lassiter, Martindale and Smith voted against its adoption.

Mr. Robbins offered the following amendment, to wit:

That no special tax shall be levied to pay interest on the bonds which may any time be on deposit in the Treasury, according to the provisions of this act; and the ratio of special tax directed to be levied in each appropriation act, shall be diminished in the same proportion as the amount of such bonds on deposit bears to the whole amount of bonds appropriated in each appropriation act respectively; and it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to inform the County Commissioners of the several counties from time to time what per cent. of special tax must be laid on property so as to carry out the provisions of this section in its true intent and meaning. Adopted; yeas 28, nays 17.

Mr. Shoffner offered a substitute for the whole bill, which was voted down, and the bill as amended finally passed.

On motion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, Jan. 25.

Captain Robinson called up his resolution introduced before the recess in regard to the interpretation of the school bill, he declared that the bill as it now appeared on the statute book, was not the bill passed by this Legislature. The position of Captain Robinson was sustained by Messrs. Moore, Leary, Ingram and Justice.

On motion the House adjourned.

SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 26, 1870.

FROM THE HOUSE.

The following bills were transmitted from the House, which were referred to appropriate committees, viz:

Bill to incorporate the town of Mt. Olive in the county of Wayne.

Bill to authorize the commissioners of Duplin county to levy a special tax.

Bill to authorize the commissioners of Robeson county to issue bonds.

Bill to establish the Special Court in the cities of Wilmington and Newbern, with amendments, asking the concurrence of the Senate.

A. H. Galloway, colored, moved that the Senate do not concur, which motion prevailed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 26.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

Mr. Justice arose to a question in regard to the attack on him by the *Standard*, the allegations he pronounced as false and cowardly. During his remarks he said that the *Standard* in doing the State printing was charging enormously and was perpetrating a swindle upon the people, &c. He denounced Littlefield and his partisans in bitter terms, and charged that they were bringing disgrace upon the republican party.

CALENDAR.

On motion of Mr. Justice the rules were suspended and the following resolution introduced by himself on yesterday was taken up:—

Whereas, There appears in the public laws of 1868-69 an act to authorize His Excellency, the Governor, to appoint a State Printer; and

Whereas, The members of this House never intended to pass any such act, therefore

Resolved, That we regard the appointment of M. S. Littlefield as State Printer and Binder as creating a monopoly contrary to the true meaning and intention of the constitution.

Resolved, That M. S. Littlefield be, and he is hereby respectfully requested to resign as State Printer and Binder, to the end that this General Assembly may provide for the State printing and binding on the best and cheapest plan.

Mr. Justice said he introduced the resolution from the purest motives. It was well known that the act as it appears published in the Public Laws of 1868-69, was not such a law as this House intended to pass, &c.

He was authorized to say that the State printing could be done for much less and the binding done for just one half of what the present State Printer now charges the State.

He regarded the act referred to as violating the constitution by creating a monopoly, &c.

He could not as an honest man and republican endorse the conduct of M. S. Littlefield, and called upon members as representatives of the people, to examine this matter thoroughly and then, as guardians of the people's interest, to act as their consciences dictated.

Mr. Sinclair opposed the resolution, and spoke in defence of the course of M. S. Littlefield. He said that the handful of conservative members had succeeded in demoralizing the republican party in this House, with its two-thirds majority. He charged that these measures, aimed at certain parties, were inaugurated for the purpose of having some influence in the coming elections. It looked too much like a death-bed repentance, and he thought party should now stand up to its past policy and not desert its friends and supporters, &c.

Mr. Smith, of Martin, moved to make the matter the special order for Monday at 11 o'clock, but if a vote was forced to-day, he should be compelled to vote for the resolution.

Mr. Ingram supported the resolution. During his remarks he said that while this House was engaged in making huge appropriations, General Littlefield and Ladin were always on hand; there was no difficulty in finding them; but now these gentlemen were making themselves exceedingly scarce, and he thought that the State printing had been mismanaged as well as railroad bonds, and he thought the circumstances surrounding this matter, as well as railroad matters, went to prove there had been foul play. He opposed the motion to postpone.

Harris, of Wake, colored, spoke in opposition to the resolution.

Mr. Smith, of Martin, withdrew his motion to postpone.

Harris, of Wake, colored, offered a substitute raising a special committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Justice, Ames and Argo, to investigate any alleged mismanagement of the affairs of the office.

Mr. Downing opposed the resolution and charged that the introducer of it was actuated by motives of personal hostility, &c.

Mr. Justice denied the charge, saying that because he had the nerve and manliness to protest against the continuance of this swindle upon the people, the *Standard*, assisted by its pets in the House, was endeavoring to bring him down. He was actuated by no personal motive, but Littlefield was charged all over this State (and out of it too) with being a corrupt man, and guilty of stupendous frauds, and instead of meeting these charges (if he is one), boldly confronting his accusers and daring them to the proof, he absconds and shirks all investigation.

After some further debate the substitute offered by Harris, of Wake, colored, was put to a vote and rejected—yeas 34, nays 50.

Mr. Justice called the previous question upon his resolution.

The call being sustained, the resolution was put to a vote and adopted by the following ballot:—

Yeas, 52. Nays, 34.

A message was received from the Governor transmitting a letter from the Secretary of War, asking the consent of the State to the purchase of certain lands in the State for national cemeteries by the United States, &c.

On motion of Mr. French the matter was referred to the Judiciary Committee with instructions to prepare a bill to suit the case.

By Mr. French: A bill granting the consent of the State to the purchase of lands in Wilmington by the United States for the erection of a custom house, &c. Lies over.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, Jan. 27.

The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. Beall: To repeal an act to amend the 1st section of the 9th chapter of the Revised Code. This section authorizes the Governor to appoint State Printer and Binder.

Mr. Beall moved a suspension of the rules in order to put the bill on its several readings, which motion was lost, and the bill was referred.

A. H. Galloway, colored: Resolution requesting the representatives of this State to exert themselves to have the tariff increased on foreign rice and peanuts, that their production in the South may be made profitable. Lies over.

FROM THE HOUSE.

A message was received from the House asking for a committee of conference on the bill to establish a criminal court in the cities of Wilmington and Newbern, which was concurred in, and the President announced Mr. Murphy and A. H. Galloway, colored, the Senate board of said committee.

On motion of Mr. Beall his resolution setting forth that the Superior Court records of Wake furnish evidence of fraud and corruption on the part of Milton S. Littlefield, State Printer, and requesting the Governor to remove him, was taken up.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, moved to lay the resolution on the table, which was lost.

Mr. Love offered a substitute for Mr. Beall's resolution.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, moved to refer the whole subject to the Judiciary Committee with instructions to report a bill if they deemed it necessary.

Mr. Jones, of Mecklenburg, thought the question could be decided by the Senate without any reference.

The motion of Mr. Moore, of Carteret, to refer to the Judiciary Committee was voted down.

Mr. Lindsay's motion to refer to a special committee was voted down.

Mr. Graham called the previous question.— It was voted down.

Mr. Martindale moved to postpone its further consideration until Thursday next at 11 o'clock, which was voted down.

Mr. Blythe moved to refer the whole matter to the committee on Public Printing, which was voted down.

A. H. Galloway, colored, moved to lay the substitute on the table, which motion was rejected.

The substitute was voted down by the following vote:—

Yeas, 16. Nays, 24.

The original resolution was voted down by the following vote:—

Yeas, 15. Nays, 25.

On motion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, Jan. 27.

PETITIONS.

Mr. French presented a petition in regard to a petition relative to cutting a canal from Colly Creek to Black River. Lies over.

RESOLUTIONS AND BILLS.

By Mr. French: A resolution to hold night sessions on and after the 31st of January.— Lies over.

The same: A resolution raising a special committee to report to the House the most important measures that should be acted on this session. Lies over.

The same: A bill to incorporate the Excelsior Planting Company. Referred.

The same: A bill in behalf of the Mediterranean and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. Referred.

On motion of Eagles, colored, a message was sent to the Senate proposing to raise a joint committee—three on the part of the House and two on the part of the Senate—to take into consideration amendments to the bill in relation to the Special Court of Wilmington.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

J. H. Harris, of Wake, colored, moved to reconsider the vote by which the House passed the resolution yesterday, requesting M. S. Littlefield to resign his position as State Printer.

After some discussion, Mr. Justice moved to lay the motion to reconsider on the table, and on his motion called the yeas and nays.

The call being sustained, the motion to lay on the table the motion to reconsider was adopted by the following ballot:—

Yeas, 50. Nays, 45.

By Mr. Jarvis: A bill to repeal certain sections of the public laws of 1868-69. The bill repeals every section in the various railroad acts levying a special tax.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements, ordered to be printed and made the special order for Wednesday next at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Downing offered the following resolution:—

WHEREAS, Charges have been made in this House against the State Printer; therefore,

Be it Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Speaker, pro tem, to investigate the whole matter and report to this House at as early a day as possible.

Harris, of Wake, colored, offered the following as a substitute:—

WHEREAS, Rumor has charged M. S. Littlefield State Printer, with charging an unfair and enormous price for the public printing, &c.; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to investigate the matter and report to this House at the earliest day practicable.

Resolved, That Messrs. Ames, Argo, and J. M. Justice be appointed as said committee.

On motion of Mr. Moore, of Chowan, the preamble of the substitute was amended so as to read:—

"Whereas, Charges have been made by the gentleman from Rutherford, &c."

Mr. Ingram moved to add an additional section that said committee have power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. Robinson proposed a substitute for Mr. Ingram's amendment that said committee have power to send for persons and papers, take testimony, administer oaths and examine witnesses.

Mr. Ingram accepted the substitute.

The substitute offered by Harris of Wake was adopted as amended, and the proposition as amended was then adopted.

On motion of J. W. Leary, colored, the rules were suspended and the bill to incorporate the People's Manufactory, Loan and Trust Company of Lumberton was taken up and passed its several readings.

On motion the House then adjourned.

The Labor Dearth in Georgia.

From almost all sections of the State we hear complaints of the scarcity of labor. Some planters have as much as they need, but their cases are exceptional. Various reasons are given for this dearth, and among them that planters are preparing to cultivate a great deal more land than last year. This may be true in some few localities, but in the country at large, south and south-west of this point, we do not think so. Speaking on this point a day or two since, to one of the most intelligent and progressive young planters in South-west Georgia, he said it certainly was not true in his case. He said he would be obliged to cultivate from one hundred and fifty to two hundred acres less this year than last, on account of not being able to get hands. In his section the dearth was partly accounted for by the negroes setting up for themselves on small patches of poor rented land, where they would about make a half a living, eking out the balance by "contributions" from their white neighbors.—*Macon Telegraph*.

Rufus Choate was the worst penman ever connected with the Boston bar. He could not decipher his own manuscript, and made it out only by recalling the sense of the subject matter in hand. After his death his friends could make little or no use of the manuscript matter which he left, and to this circumstance is mainly due the fact that no complete volume of his life, writings, &c., has yet been published.

New York sewing women make balmore skirts for seven cents apiece, and they can earn about fourteen cents a day.

The Lucky Young Milliner Millionaire.

Some time ago we published a statement to the effect that Miss Gray, a milliner of Fort Edward, had become the fortunate heir to \$19,000,000, which her lover, a young Englishman, had willed to her upon his dying bed. The main fact in the case, the heirship, is true, but we now learn that it was, not to the lover, but to his father, that Miss Gray is indebted for her extraordinary good fortune. It seems the lover, on his return to England, like too many others, proved inconstant, and married another lady, against his father's will. Whether it was remorse at his faithlessness or from some other cause, certain it is the young man died in about a year after his marriage, and left all his property to his father. The old gentleman was without heirs, and not having become reconciled to his daughter-in-law, upon his death left one-half of his property to the government of England, and the remaining half, \$19,000,000, to Miss Gray, the Fort Edward milliner. The sum was so large that many people were disposed to doubt its truth when it first appeared in print, but Miss Gray has already received the first installment of her fortune, a trifle of \$5,000,000, from the British consul in New York. On Tuesday last she received a dispatch from the consul announcing that the money awaited her order, and on the following day she left Fort Edward for New York, where it was paid over to her.—*Troy (N. Y.) Times*.

The Last Moments of George D. Prentice.

When Dr. Benson reached Mr. Prentice's bedside on Saturday evening he found that his patient was rapidly sinking. He was yet conscious, and remained so up to the moment of his death. One of Mr. Prentice's earliest literary productions was a story called, we believe, "The Maniac of the Lake," an extract from which has been making the annual rounds of the press for the last thirty years. A few days ago Mrs. Dr. Benson, who took a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of Mr. Prentice, clipped the extract from a newspaper, and requested her husband to ask Mr. Prentice to read it. The following is the extract:—

"It cannot be that this earth is man's only abiding place. It cannot be that our life is a bubble cast up by eternity to float a moment upon its waves, and sink in nothingness. Else why is it the high and glorious aspirations which leap like angels from the temple of our hearts are forever wandering unsatisfied? Why is it that the rainbow and the clouds come over us with a beauty that is not of earth, and then pass off and leave us to muse on their loveliness? Why is it that the stars which hold their festival around the midnight throne are set above the grasp of our limited faculties, forever mocking us with their unapproachable glory? And, finally, why is it that bright forms of human beauty are presented to our views and taken from us, leaving a thousand streams of our affections to flow back in an Alpine torrent upon our hearts? We are born for a higher destiny than that of earth. There is a realm where the rainbow never fades; where the stars are spread out before us like islands that slumber on the ocean, and where the beautiful beings which pass before us, like shadows, will stay forever in our presence."

During the night the Doctor asked Mr. Prentice if he would read the extract. He replied that he was no longer able to read. "Shall I read it for you?" asked the Doctor. "Yes, yes," was the reply. The beautiful words were read, but their dying author was too near the other world to appreciate fully their significance. He muttered a few sentences, with his failing eyes turned heavenward, but the sounds were too indistinct to be intelligible. In the meantime two of Mr. Prentice's best and most beloved friends, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Griffin, had reached his bedside. To Mrs. Griffin, the poetess, of this city, the last poem he ever wrote was addressed. She was much devoted to him, and he ever spoke of her in the most affectionate terms, always calling her "Alice." She approached, and, leaning over his pillow a short time before he breathed his last, asked him, "Do you know me?" "Yes," said he, "it is Josephine." "No," said Mrs. Griffin, "it is Alice." "Yes, yes, I know you now," said he, after which he spoke few intelligible words. For the last hour he made no effort to converse with those around him. To the questions that were addressed to him he merely answered yes or no. His last intelligible words uttered some two hours before his death were, "I would like to know—"

The Ice Crop.

There is much reason to fear that the ice crop of the present season will be very short, and that prices will consequently rule high during the coming summer.—The New York *Bulletin*, referring to the subject says:—

"The warm weather which, with a few brief intervals of light frost, has continued up to the present time, has prevented the formation of any ice in the waters from which our supplies are usually drawn; and as the old stock is nearly exhausted, the quantity now held would not furnish a fortnight's supply in summer time. This is a matter of serious importance and should the crop fail, much inconvenience, and even suffering would result among those who cannot afford so costly a luxury, even though it be at the same time a necessity. It is hoped, however, that sufficient cold weather will yet be experienced to stock the ice-houses in the neighborhood of the city. A full supply, it is said, has been cut as late as the middle of February. Some years ago the season was so mild that all hopes of securing ice were abandoned, and a Boston firm largely interested went to a distant town in Maine and expended nearly \$40,000 in cutting and storing the article, but at a late day the long wished for cold weather came, and the same parties supplied themselves with an abundant harvest near at home, which afforded an ample supply for the whole season."

The Queerest Case Yet—How a Bigamy was Perpetrated in Illinois—A Man Finds Another Husband for his own Wife.

From the Litchfield (Ill.) Monitor.

About four years ago, as near as we can learn, there came to Litchfield from Missouri a man about 60 years of age, calling himself Cavolt. Here he engaged in the occupation of boarding-house keeper and teamster. With him came a woman apparently about 85 years old, who presided over the domestic department of Cavolt. She represented herself as the widowed daughter-in-law of the man, and had two children who passed as her children and the man's grand children. She was generally known in the neighborhood as the "Widow Cavolt." Both the man and the woman represented that her husband, dying, had commended her and the children to the care of his father, with the urgent request that he would always remain with and protect and care for them. The family were considered by those who knew them as honest, respectable people, and the fidelity with which Cavolt fulfilled the trust reposed in him, by his departed son was the subject of frequent eulogium.

As time passed on the Cavolts made many acquaintances, and some friends.—Among the latter was a young man named Reuben Akers, an honest and thrifty young workingman. Mr. Akers became a frequent visitor at the Cavolt house, till friendship ripened into a kindred and tender sentiment. The contemplation of the young widow's many graces of person and domestic virtues was too many for him. The oft-quoted advice of old Weller to his son Samivel to "Beware of the vidders," if ever heard by him, was forgotten in the intoxication of "Love's young dream," and—well, last March he and the widow became man and wife.

At least Reuben thought so, but doubtless the law would take another view of the subject, as, in fact, Reuben does now. The ceremony over, the first to grasp Reuben's hand and wish him much joy was Cavolt, the aged and pious guardian of the deceased son's widow and children. The blushing bride received the salutations and congratulations of her friends, and everything was happy as—say twenty or thirty—marriage bells.

The honeymoon passed—in fact, six months passed without any apparent diminution of the honey, or its palling on the taste. At the end of that time a brother of the bride, who in the mean time, had come to Litchfield, let an immense cut out of the bag; otherwise, he revealed the astounding fact that Cavolt was the husband of his daughter-in-law, and the father of his grand children—that is to say, that he was husband and father, and not at all father-in-law and grandfather, the dead son and his dying charge being high and airy creations of the playful fancy of Mr. and Mrs. Cavolt.

Naturally, Reuben Akers was considerably excited when he heard the brother's story, and he went immediately to old Cavolt to inquire as to its truth. The patriarch acknowledged the corn frankly. He said he was old, and had but few more years to live, and not wishing to leave a young widow destitute to struggle for a living for herself and little ones in an unfeeling world, he thought it would be better to have her united to a worthy and industrious young man, to whose tender care he could safely intrust her when he called to another and a better home.

Instead of being overcome with emotion, or soothed and satisfied with this explanation, Reuben flew into a rage, and immediately abandoned his half interest in the conjugal claim; whereupon, shortly after, the Cavolts, young and old, with bag and baggage, departed for parts unknown.

What sticks in Reuben's craw is the handshaking and congratulation of old Cavolt on the wedding day. "Why," said he, "the old scallawag was the first to wish me much joy."

Cardinal Antonelli has assured the French Ambassador at Rome that the Pope will not hesitate to maintain the rights of the Church as equal to those of the State.