

# The Smithfield Herald.

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## THE WEEK IN CONGRESS.

A Brief Review of What Our National Lawmakers are Doing. Condensed by The Washington Post.

### WEDNESDAY-SENATE.

Panama was again the principal subject of consideration in the Senate, and as on Tuesday the debate was spirited. Today there were only two speakers, and between them they held the floor for about four hours. Mr. Carmack opened the proceedings with a set speech in pointed criticism of the President's course, and was followed by Mr. Spooner in defense of the President's action as law-abiding and in defense of the President himself as a "patriotic, brave, and true man." Mr. Tillman frequently interrupted Mr. Spooner, and there were a number of sharp encounters between them. When the Senate adjourned the Panama question was still before the Senate, and it was announced that the discussion would be resumed tomorrow after the disposition of the Post-office Department inquiry resolutions.

### HOUSE.

After a lively debate, lasting three hours, the House in Committee of the Whole, by a vote of 78 to 65, struck out of the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill the paragraph providing for the salaries and expenses of the Civil Service Commission and clerks employed under the commission.

The action was taken on motion of Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa. He was supported by both Republicans and Democrats, both in speech and on the vote. Those who spoke in opposition to the civil service system as it now exists were Messrs. Hepburn, Grosvenor, of Ohio, and Bartlett, of Georgia, while among those speaking for the service were Messrs. Cooner (Republican) of Wisconsin, and Gillett (Republican) of Massachusetts. Notice was given by Mr. Bingham, in charge of the bill, that a ye and nay vote will be demanded on the amendment striking out the provision for the expenses of the Civil Service Commission when the bill is reported in the House. No conclusion was reached in committee on the legislative bill.

### THURSDAY-SENATE.

The Senate listened to speeches by Mr. Newlands and Mr. Dewey on the Panama Canal question, and to a speech by Mr. Latimer in advocacy of the adoption of a plan for the improvement of the public wagon roads of the country. Mr. Newlands spoke in criticism of the course of the President in Panama, declaring that it was an act of war and in contravention alike of the treaty of 1846, of international law, and of the Constitution of the United States. Mr. Dewey, on the other hand, praised the President's policy as patriotic, and justified it under precedent and law. He reviewed the history of Panama and detailed the facts connected with the negotiation of the Hay-Herran treaty, contending that Columbia had overreached herself in her rejection of that agreement.

The consideration of the Post-office Department investigation resolutions was postponed until next Monday.

### HOUSE.

The House passed the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill, carrying an aggregate of \$29,711,700, and then adjourned until Monday next. This is the second of the big supply measures to pass the House.

The House by a vote of 88 to 182, also refused to sustain the action of the Committee of the Whole, which Wednesday adopted an amendment striking out the paragraph providing for the salaries and expenses of the Civil Service Commission, thus restoring the item in the bill. Amendments adopted in committee increasing, in one instant, the salaries of territorial officers

in New Mexico and Arizona, and reducing the salary of the director of the census in another, met similar fates in the House.

An amendment to the bill was adopted restricting the use of government horses and carriages to the President, his secretary, and cabinet officers.

### FRIDAY-SENATE.

Today's session of the Senate began with the passage of a number of bills on the calendar and closed in like manner. The intervening time was given over to a speech by Mr. Teller on the Panama Canal question, was devoted to the contention that the course of the President in connection with the recent revolt of Panama had been contrary to precedent and in contravention of international law.

The House was not in session today. Congress was not in session Saturday.

### MONDAY-SENATE.

The post-office inquiry resolution and the Panama Canal question divided the attention of the Senate today. The first half of the session was given up to the inquiry, and Senators Hale and Gorman were the speakers. Mr. Hale made a plea for the reference of all the resolutions looking to an investigation to the Committee on Post-offices, and Mr. Gorman repeated his assurances that he would be satisfied with that disposal of the question. He denied any intention to appear as a prosecutor of the Republican party, with which Mr. Hale accused him. Mr. Hale expressed the opinion that the departmental inquiry had been more thorough than would be a Congressional investigation.

The question went over until today with the understanding that after a few more speeches the resolution would be allowed to go to the committee. The discussion of the Panama Canal question was confined to the continuation of Mr. Teller's argument that the course of the United States in the recent revolt of Panama was contrary to international law and sound morals.

### HOUSE.

Today was District day in the House, and all the local bills on the House and Union calendars were taken up and passed. Aside from the consideration of District bills, the only important business was the presentation of a report from the Committee on Elections No. 1, by Mr. Gaines, of West Virginia, declaring that Joseph A. Conry was not elected a member of the House from the Ninth district of Massachusetts, and that John A. Keltner, the sitting member, was elected and is entitled to his seat. The resolution was adopted unanimously and without debate. Both the contestant and contestee are Democrats.

Mr. Longworth, of Ohio, was recognized for fifteen minutes, and defended Cincinnati from the attack recently made on that city by Mr. Baker, New York. Mr. Bartlett, of Georgia, secured recognition, and had read a letter from M. W. Louis, who was recently dismissed from the division of supplies in the Post-office Department, charging that Mr. Bristow, the Fourth Assistant General, had violated the civil service law. At 1:38 the House adjourned.

### TUESDAY-SENATE.

The Senate required less than a minute today to dispose of the motion to refer to the Committee on Post-offices the various resolutions looking to an investigation of the Post-office Department. The question had been previously debated for hours at a time, but when the motion was put yesterday no Senator manifested any disposition to further discuss it, and it was adopted without negative vote.

The adoption of the motion occurred early in the day, and after the passage of half dozen bills, the Senate returned to the consideration of the Panama question. Mr. Quarles spoke for

almost two hours in support of the course of the administration and was followed by Mr. Patterson, who criticized the President's course in Panama. Mr. Patterson was subjected to many interruptions, and had not concluded when the Senate adjourned.

### HOUSE.

The House spent the day considering the Hepburn pure-food bill. It was not completed when the House was ready to adjourn, and on motion of Mr. Hepburn, a recess was taken until 11:55 to-morrow. This will retain the bill before the House without interruption for consideration to-morrow.

Just before the recess an amendment coming from the Democratic side was adopted inserting the word "willfully" relative to the sale of prohibited and adulterated goods by retailers, which would make it incumbent upon the government to prove knowledge on the part of retailers that the sale of such goods was contrary to law. The principal speeches of the day were made by Messrs. Hepburn and Mann in favor of the bill and Adamson and Clark in opposition.

## CLAYTON CHIPS.

Mr. John W. Talton was here Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Debnam, of Selma, was here Sunday.

Mrs. Frank Jones is improving after a severe case of pneumonia. Clayton is glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Jones.

Mr. John L. Parrish is having another dwelling erected here.

Mrs. Priddy, of Keysville, Va., is visiting her daughter, Mrs. C. W. Carter.

We learn that the Clayton Furniture Co. will soon move to Smithfield.

Messrs. Lon and Ed Jones spent several days with parents here this week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Belvin and Mr. John T. Pullen, of Raleigh, were visitors here this week.

Messrs. R. B. Whitley & Co. are moving their stock and will soon be ready for business.

Mr. J. H. Johnson has purchased a nice lot from Mr. A. J. Ellis and will soon erect a handsome residence.

Quarterly conference will be held at the Methodist church next Saturday and Sunday. Presiding Elder Moore will preach Sunday.

We are sorry to chronicle the death of Mr. John Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Smith, which occurred suddenly Tuesday morning.

Miss Verta Garvis, of Greensboro, left for her home Monday after spending some time with the Misses Barnes.

Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Griffin left Wednesday morning for Richmond, Va., where Mrs. Griffin will receive treatment.

Mr. H. J. Crocker, a very prosperous farmer living near here, tells us he has "another girl," weight 11½ pounds. This makes six boys and five girls.

Grand concert of music, Friday night, January 29th, at town hall. Doors open at 7:30 performance begins at 8:00 sharp. Grandest thing going—old time songs, old time plays and old time costumes. Admission 15c children, 25c adults. Don't miss it.

Ordinance Against Smoking in Yadkinville.

For the benefit of our country friends we would say that this town has seen fit to pass an ordinance prohibiting smoking of a cigar, cheroot, pipe, cigarette or any smoking material in any store inside the corporation. So when you come to town and want to smoke, you will have to stand on the street corners or hang on the court house fence.—Yadkinville Ripple.

## STATE NEWS NOTES.

Short Items of Interest Clipped and Culled From Our Exchanges.

In the year 1903 about 300 distilleries and 100 bar-rooms closed in North Carolina.

During the past year Governor Aycock granted 80 pardons against 99 granted ten years ago.

Gaston county leads the State in land valuation, being \$13.42 per acre, and Dare the least—93 cents per acre.

Fire at Tyrone, Polk county, Sunday morning destroyed two stores and a residence. The loss is \$7,000 or \$8,000.

Editor Nelson, of the Yadkinville Ripple, is a carrier on one of the rural mail routes recently established from Yadkinville.

About 90 saloons went out of business in North Carolina January 1st. Liquor is sold now in about 40 towns in the State.

The town of Lincolnton will vote on the 10th of February on the question of issuing \$30,000 of bonds for water works and sewerage.

The Cleveland Star Publishing Company, with a capital of \$10,000, has been organized at Shelby and Editor Clyde R. Hoey is president.

Representative Thomas has introduced a bill in Congress to increase the pay of rural delivery carriers from \$600 to \$800 per year.

Work began last week on the Sisters of Charity Hospital at Greensboro, which is to cost at least \$100,000, and is expected to be completed by early fall.

There are now employed in North Carolina 640 carriers on the rural routes. Of these about 600 receive \$600 a year, about 25 receive \$500, and 15 less than \$500. The total amount per year paid out to these carriers is about \$375,000.

The Charlotte Observer says that all the cotton mills in Concord, eight in number, will hereafter, for an indefinite period, run only four days in a week. The curtailment is on account of the scarcity and high price of cotton and the low price of manufactured goods.

The Atlantic Railway Company, which made a bid several months ago for the lease of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway, which it filed with the Governor, and which later made another bid for the lease, which is considered better than the first one, has withdrawn its bid, so that matter is closed for the present, anyhow.

A dispatch from Reidsville to the Raleigh News and Observer says that L. M. Neal, one of the best known citizens of Caswell county, died at his home at Yanceyville Friday, his death resulting from a sudden shock on the receipt of a telegram stating that his son and only child was at the point of death at a hospital at Knoxville, Tenn.

The Chronicle says that Col. W. E. Holt, of Charlotte, is the largest owner of stock in the North Carolina Railroad Company, having 750 shares. The stock is now quoted at \$175. The second largest holder of stock in this road is said to be the Hon. Jos. Choate, the eminent New York lawyer, now minister to England, who has 700 shares.

The buildings of the Oxford Female Seminary were entirely consumed by fire Monday. There was no accident to anyone. The girls were at breakfast when the fire was discovered. The school was just opening the most prosperous year of its existence. There were eighty-five boarders, and there was not room for another. There is ten thousand dollars insurance, but the loss was much greater.

We are told there were 590 saloons closed in the State of Virginia last year.

## MR. DOU' IN CONGRESS.

Our Congressman Makes a Short Speech on Civil Service.

The House spent some time in discussing the civil service Wednesday of last week. During the discussion Mr. Dou made a short talk that attracted attention. He spoke as follows:

"Mr. Chairman, the spoils system may be bad, but with respect to the Democrats here in Washington I do not believe that any system can be much worse than the one now in force. We are told that there some 27,000 employees in Washington. They soon become practically professional office-holders. Washington is getting to be an educational center of vast importance. There are great universities and colleges here, and there are thousands of young men and women all over the country who would be glad of an opportunity to come here, hold a government position for a while, and have the benefit of these institutions of learning, and I believe that the resolution of this whole question is involved in an amendment to the present law providing for a term of office as to the employees who hold office in Washington. I know of no reason why a person who holds a clerical position here might not hold that position for a term of years as a Member of Congress does.

"There are thousands of young men all over the country who would be proud of the opportunity to come here and hold one of these positions, say, for three or four or five years. The advantage of that, Mr. Chairman, would be that at the end of the term of office the person holding the position would then retire to the ranks of private life and be of service to his community; but while a person holds a position for life he generally soon becomes unfitted for any other position, and I believe the Government would get better service if the employee knew he would hold the place for a term of years only. We will soon be confronted with the proposition to pension the officials who become incapacitated to work, and it seems to me that the distinguished chairman of the Civil Service Committee could well devote his energies and utilize his large knowledge with respect to this question in the preparation of a bill carrying out the suggestion which I am making.

"I believe, with respect to the offices outside of the city of Washington, that the old policy is the best—that is, to put the entire responsibility upon the party in power. When the Republicans are in power let them have the places and let them shoulder the entire responsibility of government. And when the Democrats come into power next year we will do likewise. A Member of Congress has to fight for his seat every two years. The position he holds is certainly as important as that of the employee in the various Departments here. What possible objection can there be to this change? Let the applicant stand an examination, as he does now, but let him understand that at the expiration of his term of office he must stand his chance for reappointment just as if he had never held a place under the Government.

"Under the present system it is almost useless for a young man or woman to apply for a position here. All the places are filled, and filled for life almost. The only vacancies are those caused by death.

"I submit it is against the spirit of our institutions to confer appointment and power for life upon a preferred list of persons to the exclusion of everybody else. Washington is a beautiful city. It is an education to anyone to live here. The very opportunity of living here for a while would be an incentive to endeavor to boys and girls in every State in the Union, but, under this Republican law, to them the door of hope is closed. "This proposed change in the

law could easily be surrounded with safeguards which would guarantee the very best service to the Government. For instance, persons required to do technical or expert work might be exempt from the provisions of this amendment.

"One thing is very certain. The present law is not giving satisfaction, and recent developments in the Post-Office Department indicate that the present law does not guarantee either efficiency or honesty in the administration here. (Applause)"

## SELMA NEWS.

Mr. M. A. Hooks went to Raleigh Sunday.

Mr. Dolph Atkinson is having a sale stable built, 40x110 feet.

Mr. Fabius Busbee Pointer Whitley spent Sunday here.

The Misses Bailey left for their home in Lawrenceville, Va., Tuesday.

Mr. Robert Millard Nowell and Miss Marjorie Smith went to Pine Level Sunday.

Mr. C. W. Richardson left Wednesday for a short visit to his old home.

Mr. James D. Jeffreys, M. C. Winston's popular silk salesman, spent Sunday at his old home.

Sam Godwin, of the firm of Godwin, Futrell & Co., will leave next Monday for Atlanta to purchase another load of stock for our market.

Mr. M. C. Winston has bought the old J. W. B. Watson "Pineville place" consisting of twenty-five hundred acres. It is rumored that a cotton mill will be erected on this place.

Several members of the Raleigh Lodges of Odd Fellows came here last Monday night to assist Olive Branch Lodge, No. 37, initiate some candidates. After the initiation an oyster supper was served.

Rev. J. O. Guthrie preached two excellent sermons here last Sunday. He will preach at Sanders Chapel next Sunday morning and at Smith's Chapel in the afternoon. He will be here again on the first Sunday.

The Selma Manufacturing Co. elected officers Monday; M. C. Winston, president; R. M. Nowell, vice-president; C. W. Richardson, secretary and treasurer. The directors are N. E. Edgerton, R. M. Nowell, L. D. Debnam, John W. Futrell and J. A. Spiers, Jr.

Our new hotel is now open for the accommodation of the public under the management of W. H. Stallings. The name is The Merchants Hotel. The president of the company is R. B. Carrington; M. C. Winston, vice-president; R. M. Nowell, secretary and treasurer.

Mrs. R. B. Carrington gave an "At Home" complimentary to the Misses Bailey, of Lawrenceville, Va., and her niece, Miss Lois Bass, Monday night. Miss Rosa Bryant Richardson won the first prize and Robert Millard Nowell and partner, Bob Gibson, won the booby, which was a Jew's harp, on which Mr. Gibson played Home, Sweet Home.

Should your city desire to purchase lights let me advise that you do not get the kind that Selma has, for our lights only burn well on moonlight nights. We have been in the dark for a week now; but, as moonlight nights are coming we will be O. K. Our lights are like the News and Observer—never on hand when we want them.

The stockholders of the Bank of Selma held their annual meeting yesterday, the 19th, re-electing the board of directors, consisting of M. C. Winston, R. B. Carrington, R. B. Whitley, C. W. Richardson and W. H. Call, who met and elected M. C. Winston President, and L. D. Debnam Cashier. The bank now has a surplus of \$2,400 and is doing a good business.

## SENEX.

A man may not be perfect, but when he is with his wife she thinks he isn't very far from perfection.