

THE ASSEMBLY ADJOURNS.

With Joke and Song the Curtain drops on the Biennial Gathering of the State's Solons—The State Highway Commission Bill Passed in the House Over the Vigorous Opposition.

Raleigh, Mar. 9.—Final adjournment of the General Assembly took place amid the stir and merrymaking usually incident to such occasions at 2 o'clock this afternoon, two days past the constitutional limit for which members can receive pay, the records showing that during the session there have been just 1,319 bills of public and private character of public and private character and 57 resolutions passed. Probably few Legislatures, however, have enacted so few bills of general State-wide interest and application.

The Senate and House for the final day were each in session for about four hours, most of the time being spent in merrymaking as the law-makers waited for the enrollment of the final bills for ratification. Both houses broke the record for tabling bills, sending large numbers to the table in rapid succession, among the number being the House joint resolution, passed last night, carrying \$10,000 for the statue of Zebulon B. Vance to be placed in statuary hall, Washington. This was tabled by the Senate after it had passed the House by a rising unanimous vote. The upper branch of the Assembly deemed this all too important and large an appropriation to go through the Legislature at so late a day.

The Senate also tabled the bill that Speaker Graham had gotten through the House, depriving a wife of the right of dower in case she persistently lives apart from her husband for five years after he had made written and witnessed tender of reconciliation and support.

The House passed the Senate bill creating the State highway commission that was first defeated some days ago in the Senate and then, under the astute generalship of Speaker Pro Tem Klutz, reconsidered and passed with the appropriation trimmed from \$1,000 to \$5,000. There was a hard fight against the bill in the House, led by Representative Dowd, who insisted that the measure would prove inadequate and ineffective and that after all the real advancement in road building must be in the individual counties. On the other hand it was insisted that even with the limited appropriation the operation of the act would be a powerful factor in encouragement. Anyway the bill passed and was duly ratified.

The joint resolution providing for an investigation of the operation of the Torren's land title system and recommended to the next General Assembly as to whether it should be instituted for North Carolina, finally passed both branches and was ratified with the commission originally named stricken out and leaving the commission to be named by the Governor.

Speaker Graham announced the appointment of Representatives Cotton, Murphy and Taylor, as members of the legislative auditing committee to make the annual examination of the books and vouchers of the State Treasurer, Auditor and the Insurance Commissioner. In the Senate Senators Elliott and Clark had already been named as the members on the part of that body, this committee succeeding the 1907 committee that stirred such a sensation by its final report largely in the session just closed.

The final roll call just before adjournment in the House and Senate showed 27 Senators and 75 Representatives present.—Charlotte Observer.

HOLBROOK SERIOUSLY ILL.

Oldest ex-Governor Confined to His Vermont Home.

Brattleboro, Vt., Mar. 9.—Former Gov. Frederick Holbrook, the oldest living ex-governor in the United States, is critically ill at his home in Walnut street.

He was taken ill with bronchitis Sunday and was unable to take his daily outing, and yesterday he was confined to his bed. Former Gov. Holbrook was ninety-six years old last month.

OLIVER TO GET TOGA.

Pennsylvania Caucus Names Successor to Knox. Will be Elected Next Wednesday.

Harrisburg, Pa., Mar. 9.—George T. Oliver, of Pittsburg, was today named as the Republican candidate for United States Senate to succeed Philander C. Knox, by the joint caucus of the senate and house.

Two hundred and four of the 212 Republicans in the general assembly attended the caucus.

The vote: George T. Oliver, 200; James Scarlet, Danville, 3; Henry C. Niles, York, 1. The nomination was made unanimous.

Both houses will ballot on the Senatorship next Tuesday, March 16th, and on the following day Mr. Oliver will be elected, when the two houses get together.

George T. Oliver was born in Ireland January 26, 1848, while his parents were there on a visit. He studied law and was admitted to the bar, and for several years practiced his profession, devoting most of his life, however, to manufacturing, at which he amassed a large enough fortune to place him in the multi-millionaire class.

While he has never held a political office, Mr. Oliver has been prominently identified with political affairs in Pittsburg and Allegheny county all his life, and has several times been a delegate to national conventions. He is an organization man and a close friend of Secretary Knox and Senator Penrose. He was for Mr. Knox in his campaign for the Presidential nomination last year, but when Taft was nominated in Chicago he supported him loyally.

Mr. Oliver is the owner of the Pittsburg Gazette-Times and the Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph, papers which have influence throughout Pennsylvania.

Most of Mr. Oliver's money was made in the manufacture of steel, in which he is still interested. He manages the estates of two deceased brothers, both of whom were millionaires, and is said to control more capital than any man in Pittsburg. He is married and has several grown children.

LOSS CAUSED BY STORM'S FURY.

Western Union and Postal Companies Loss at Least \$2,000,000 as Result of Blizzard.

The aftermath of the inauguration, so far as the visitors to Washington are concerned, is a wild and tragic experience which will serve them as tea-table anecdotes for years to come.

With railroad service still partly demoralized, with the immense Union Station, supposed to be built far in advance of the needs of the Capital, taxed and strained as the rendezvous of a huge, helpless army of outsiders, the 1909 celebration will leave many cruel memories.

The blizzard has been a severe infliction on the railroads, the telegraph and telephone companies. There are 1,900 wires of the Western Union prostrate between Washington and Philadelphia, and the company estimates its loss throughout the country at not less than \$1,000,000. The Postal Company has suffered even more heavily.

The trials and tribulations of the thousands who tried to depart for "home, sweet home," yesterday would fill a volume. The outgoing trains were running two hours late as an average, and the schedules were hopelessly deranged. Thousands of strangers journeyed to the station with sublime faith in the time table, and found that no one knew when train No. 32, or whatever number it was, would pull out. One authority would say "In about two hours," another would estimate three. It was all a matter of chance.—Washington Herald, Mar. 6.

Insane Woman Hangs Herself.

Mrs. Elizabeth Canady hanged herself at the State Hospital this morning by tearing to pieces a sheet, tying the end around her neck and throwing the loop over the door and jumping from the bed. The nurse had only left her for a moment to show the carpenter about some repairs to be done on the wards. This patient had been melancholy for some time.—Raleigh Times, Mar. 10.

JURY SAYS NOT GUILTY.

Trial of A. Starling Batten Ended Saturday Evening—Ablly Defended by Ed. S. Abell and A. M. Noble. L. H. Allred and F. H. Brooks Assisted Solicitor Armistead Jones.

The trial of A. Starling Batten, charged with the murder of J. C. Brown, began last Friday morning. The selection of a jury did not take all of the morning hour and the taking of testimony had begun when court adjourned for dinner. The evidence presented by the State was in the main as follows:

On Sunday night, January 3, 1909, J. Claude Brown went to the home of J. W. Deans, who lives on Mr. Brown's place about 195 yards from his (Brown's) house. He left Mr. Deans' about 7:10 P. M., saying he was going home. About a minute after he left Deans' house, Mr. and Mrs. Deans heard a gun fire, and on running to the door saw Brown fall, and also saw a man run from behind a pine tree near where he fell, off through the woods and in the direction of the Micro road. Mr. and Mrs. Deans ran to Brown at once, but found that he was dead, having been shot through the left breast, with a shot gun, the murderer being not more than five steps distance. Evidence was produced showing that A. Starling Batten was heard to make threats against the deceased while working for Brown. It was also brought out that on Friday or Saturday prior to the murder, Batten purchased at a store in Selma, four gun shells No. 12, loaded with No. 6 or 7 shot; however, he first tried to buy only two shells loaded with No. 4 shot.

Batten was also seen, it was brought out, at the scene of the homicide about midnight on the night of the killing, and that spirits of turpentine was detected on his clothing, and on the next day the neck of a bottle that had contained spirits of turpentine was found in the woods about 50 yards from the scene of the murder. Upon these facts the coroner's jury held him without bail. In addition to all these facts the State brought out the fact that about 6:30 o'clock on the night of the murder Batten was seen to come out of the gate of his brother's house which is about one and a quarter miles from Brown's house, with something in his hand, but what it was the witness could not say.

The defendant introduced witnesses to prove that the turpentine on his clothes was caused by his breaking a bottle in his pocket on the morning of the homicide, he having had the turpentine for the purpose of rubbing it on a sprained wrist. Witnesses were also introduced to prove that on the night of the murder he was not out of his brother's house over 10 or 15 minutes from 6 o'clock when he ate supper until nearly twelve, midnight, when he heard of the homicide and went to the scene. The taking of testimony was concluded Saturday morning and the argument began, Attorney L. H. Allred and F. H. Brooks for the prosecution and A. M. Noble, for the defense delivering their speeches before the noon recess. Mr. Allred spoke first, followed by Mr. Noble, who in turn was followed by Mr. Brooks. The young men acquitted themselves splendidly, and though their speeches were short, they were pointed and delivered with force and earnestness.

At the afternoon session Mr. Ed. S. Abell, spoke for the defense. In a speech of one hour and forty minutes he reviewed the evidence in detail and made a strong plea for his client. His speech showed thorough preparation of the case and was presented in a convincing manner.

The argument closed with the speech of Solicitor Jones for the State, who spoke about an hour and forty-five minutes. He ably held up the State's side of the case. After his charge to the jury the Judge left the case with the twelve men who were to decide whether the man should be hanged or go free. They were given the case about six o'clock and at 8:30 reported that they were ready with their verdict. The verdict was "not guilty," and A. Starling Batten was once more a free man.

The keel of the battleship Florida, to be the biggest warship in the world was laid at New York Wednesday.

WYATT MONUMENT TO BE BUILT

General Assembly Appropriates \$2,500 To Be Available January 1, 1911, On Condition That Daughters of Confederacy Raise a Like Amount.

Sometime in 1907 the Henry L. Wyatt Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, at Selma, inaugurated a movement to raise funds for the erection of a suitable memorial to Henry Lawson Wyatt, the first confederate soldier to fall in battle in the Civil war. Since then the movement has extended to every section of the State until a little more than two thousand dollars have been raised through the efforts of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

A bill was passed by the General Assembly just adjourned appropriating \$2,500 for the movement on condition that the daughters raise a like amount. This fund is to be available January 1, 1911. The Legislature has created a Wyatt Memorial Commission and named our countyman, Mr. John A. Mitchener, of Selma, as one of that commission. The three surviving members of Wyatt's Company are also named on the commission. The appointment of Mr. Mitchener is a deserved compliment to that gentleman and to the county. As secretary and treasurer of the Wyatt Memorial fund, Mr. Mitchener has worked unceasingly for this noble cause, and we congratulate him and the Selma Daughters on their success.

It is the intention of the committee to have the monument, which will be erected in Capitol Square, Raleigh, unveiled in June 1911. Mr. Mitchener informs us that a little over \$2,000 has already been raised by the Daughters and that the remainder of the amount will be raised in due time.

ROOSEVELTS GO TO CHURCH.

Walk Three Miles Through Snow and Slush and Get in On Time.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., March 7.—Further evidence that former President Theodore Roosevelt is leading the simple life in every respect was furnished today when Mr. Roosevelt and his wife came trudging through the slush and snow on foot to church. They had left Sagamore Hill, three miles from the village, at 10:30 A. M., the former President dressed in a gray sack suit and heavy russet shoes, the soles and heels of which were covered with hobnails. It was with his usual rapid stride that Colonel Roosevelt swung along, and Mrs. Roosevelt had difficulty in keeping pace with him. Both were in their pew at Christ Episcopal church 10 minutes before the hour scheduled for services.

On the way from their home they met many of their neighbors and chatted with them. Every one was surprised to see Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt come to church on foot. Their children, Miss Ethel and Kermit, were not so brave. All occupied the usual family pew. Although Mr. Roosevelt is a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, he partook of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with Mrs. Roosevelt and their children. There were no curious persons to see Mr. Roosevelt at the church, but the usual congregation, numbering no more than three score, was present.

In a special prayer said during the regular recital of the morning service, the rector offered thanks for the safe return to his home of the former Executive of the nation and for the wisdom with which the last official administration had been conducted. Reference was also made in the sermon, which was on the subject of parental intercession for children, to the recommendation which Mr. Roosevelt had made to Congress in behalf of dependent children.

The Roosevelt family left the church before the services were quite over, and in that way the former President escaped receiving the greetings of those present. He and Mrs. Roosevelt started out at a brisk gait for the return walk of three miles to Sagamore Hill.

The wireless apparatus at Cape Henry is to be moved to Beaufort, N. C.

Montreal is to have an \$8,000,000 union railroad passenger station.

INAUGURATION DAY IN BRIEF.

A Brief Review of the Day When William Howard Taft Became President of the United States

A snowstorm that, during the morning hours, became blizzardlike in its proportions, marked Inauguration Day, 1909, and marred the ceremonies and pageant incident thereto. The streets of Washington were all but impassable for a time, and visitors and participating organizations suffered severely from the untoward conditions. Trains were delayed and the city practically cut off from telegraphic communication with the world.

President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft, under escort, rode to the Capitol in closed carriages. Owing to the weather, the inaugural ceremonies proper occurred in the Senate chamber, where President Taft took the oath and delivered his inaugural address, instead of on the huge stand erected for this purpose on the east plaza—to the disappointment of thousands of people.

Mr. Roosevelt was the first to congratulate his successor. Their leave-taking was the most impressive feature of the scene in the Senate chamber. Immediately the ex-President left the Capitol and was escorted to the Union Station, where he joined Mrs. Roosevelt aboard a train for New York, occupying a stateroom in a regular Pullman.

President Taft and Mrs. Taft and Vice President Sherman and Mrs. Sherman rode in open carriages from the Capitol to the White House and received a continuous ovation. It was the first time that the first lady of the land had thus shared honors with her husband in the inaugural procession.

The pageant was made up of some 37,000 men. It lacked life and color, owing to the adverse conditions, and did not move compactly or smoothly, for like reason. The army and navy was largely represented, and the sailors from the round-the-world fleet received marked attention. The civic division was picturesque. Gov. Hughes was cheered all along the line. While imposing, the parade, in comparison with others, was not an altogether inspiring spectacle. It consumed three hours in passing the White House reviewing stand. President Taft evinced hearty enjoyment of it as a whole, but Mrs. Taft and other ladies were soon forced to seek refuge from the raw afternoon wind.

The fireworks display from the White Lot in the evening, a gorgeous spectacle, was witnessed by countless thousands of people.

As a culminating feature of the day's festivities, the inaugural ball, in the Pension Building, was brilliantly successful—perhaps the most successful function of that character in years.—Washington Herald, Mar. 5.

President Taft's Declarations.

I should be untrue to myself, to my promise and to the declarations of the party platform upon which I was elected if I did not make those reforms (i. e., those initiated by Roosevelt) a most important feature of my administration.

It is believed that with the changes to be recommended American business can be assured of that measure of stability in respect to those things that may be done and those that are prohibited, which is essential to the life and growth of all business.

My chief purpose is not to effect a change in the electoral vote of the Southern States. That is a secondary consideration. What I look forward to is an increase in the tolerance of political views of all kinds and their advocacy throughout the South and the existence of a respectable political opposition in every state.

My convictions are fixed. Take away from courts, if it could be taken away, the power to issue injunctions in labor disputes, and it would create a privileged class among the laborers and save the lawless among their number from a most needful remedy available to all men for the protection of their business against lawless invasion.

Thirty-five bodies have been taken from the ruins at Brinkley, Ark., and 200 were wounded. An appeal for aid is made.

HINTON HELPER A SUICIDE.

Well-Known Author and Promoter, Native of North Carolina, Takes His Own Life by Inhaling Illuminating Gas.

Washington, Mar. 9.—Hinton Rowan Helper, a native of Davie county, North Carolina, former United States consul general at Buenos Ayres, committed suicide here last night. He was 80 years old, a veteran of the civil war, and the author of "The Impending Crisis," a book claimed to have been one of the elements in bringing on that conflict.

The tragic act was committed in a room at 628 Pennsylvania avenue, northwest, by tying a towel about his neck and turning on the gas.

Hinton Rowan Helper was born in North Carolina December 27th, 1829. In 1863 he married Maria Rodriguez at Buenos Ayres. He received an academic education and was United States consul at Buenos Ayres from 1862 to 1866. Since that time he devoted himself to the promotion of his projected three America railway to eventually run from Behring Strait to the Straits of Magellan.

Mr. Helper was the author of "The Impending Crisis of the South," published in 1857; the "Three Americas Railway," "Nojoke," "The Negroes in Negroland," "The Land of Gold," "Oddments of Andean Diplomacy" and other works. He was a familiar figure in this city, and especially about the halls of Congress during its sessions. He was a man of great ability and had as sincere friends many of the leading thinkers of this and the past century.

MRS. LEAVITT GETS DIVORCE.

Bryan's Daughter Sued Husband on Ground of Nonsupport.

Lincoln, Neb., Mar. 4.—Ruth Bryan Leavitt, eldest daughter of W. J. Bryan, was this afternoon granted a divorce from W. H. Leavitt, the artist.

The decree was granted on a plea of nonsupport. There was no defense, and Mrs. Leavitt was granted the custody of the two children.

A Suicide in Raleigh.

The News and Observer of Raleigh says of the Saturday suicide:

"In bed, depressed, recovering from the effects of drink, Mr. A. L. Santsing, an iron moulder ended his life with a pistol bullet in his brain."

"The suicide was committed while Mr. Santsing was in bed at 706 West Johnson street, the deed being committed just about half past seven o'clock. Dr. R. S. McGeachy, who was in the neighborhood, was called in and was with the man within ten minutes after the shot, later Dr. A. T. Cotton being called in."

HE REMEMBERS WATERLOO.

Artist Charles Famin Celebrates His Hundredth Birthday.

Paris, March 6.—The Hon of the historic town of Chartres last week was the artist Charles Famin, who celebrated his one hundredth birthday on Friday.

"I was seven years old when Napoleon started for Waterloo," said he, "and I hope to witness the anniversary of the great battle."

M. Famin is strong as most men at seventy and still reads without glasses. Seventy years ago he won the Prix de Rome for architecture. He knew Pope Gregory, and all his life he has been as easy-going as that Pope.

"That accounts," he says, "for my longevity. I never allow myself to be worried. And all my life I have been temperate and have worked regularly and taken long walks regularly in the open air."

VERMONT'S TOTAL SNOWFALL.

From 100 to 150 Inches Recorded in that State.

Lindonville, Vt., March 6.—The six-inch snowfall yesterday and last night brought the total for the winter up to the highest point in many years. In the various towns of North western Vermont the winter's snowfall varied from 100 inches to 150 inches, the latter figure being reached in points along the Canadian border.