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ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

EDUCATION

GOOD ROADS

GOOD HEALTH

PROGRESS

FIVE CENTS PER COPY.

SENATE DEFEATS RESOLUTION.

The Popular Election of United States Senators Almost Passed.—Result Was 54 to 33.—Must be Passed by Two-Thirds Majority.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The senate to-day defeated the resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution so as to provide that senators be elected by direct vote of the people. A brave fight had been made by the supporters of the measure as was indicated by the vote. Fifty-four senators stood for the resolution and thirty-three against it.

Though this division showed so large a majority of the senate to favor popular elections, the number was not sufficient by four to carry the measure which required a two-thirds vote for its success.

Immediately after the reading of the journal the popular election resolution was taken up during unanimous consent, granted last week. So long had the resolution been before the senate and so carefully had the membership been canvassed by its supporters and its opponents that it was recognized from the moment the question was brought up that it would go down in defeat. Nevertheless there was a large attendance on the floor.

STATE BUILDING BILL PASSES.

The Measure Provides \$250,000 for Fire Proof Building.

Raleigh, Feb. 28.—The House passed on final reading the bill for a \$250,000 fireproof State administration building and sent it to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment, cutting the amount from \$500,000 voted by the Senate in changing from the original million-dollar bond issue. The Boyden bill carried. The bill provides for the Governor to appoint a commission to locate and erect the building.

Another bill of State-wide interest passed by the House was to aid in road building by authorizing the State to issue four per cent bonds and float them, using the proceeds, in loans to counties on five per cent bond issues approved by the Attorney General. There were 80 votes for and 17 against this bill.

STANCIL-ROWLAND.

Mr. Moses L. Stancil, of Smithfield, and Miss Lucy A. Rowland were united in marriage at the home of the bride's father, Mr. S. M. Rowland at McCullers yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The house was beautifully decorated in white and green. Mr. Harvey Stancil acted as best man and Miss Allie Rowland as maid of honor.

In the wedding party were Misses Ena Rowland, Lulu Stancil, Madeline Fuquay, Daisy Stephens, Etta Bridges and Messrs. Judson Banks, Henry Brown, Toka Banks, Herbert Stephens.

Mrs. N. F. Turner presided at the organ. Rev. L. F. Johnson, pastor of Raleigh Christian church, performed the ceremony.

The presents were numerous and handsome. Mr. and Mrs. Stancil left on the evening train for a three week's visit to New York. They will be at home at Smithfield, N. C., on their return. Mr. Stancil is with the Smithfield Journal.—Raleigh Times, Mar. 2.

Independent Papers.

Nobody knows how much the State owes to that small but very select circle of newspapers that speaks the truth candidly but kindly on the various subjects that come up for consideration.

We recently heard an editor of a paper that has about as much courage as a rabbit, abusing another paper whose editor is worth a carload of the first named gentlemen, and calling him a "knocker." Now a "knocker" is always contemptible, but knocking is one thing and taking a square and manly stand for righteousness and truth is quite another. We are tempted to call names, but that might not be quite proper; but we have in mind as we write a paper (and it is not a daily) that is doing as much good as a leader of public opinion as any other newspaper in North Carolina. This

writer has been by no means exempt from rebuke by this fearless editor. He is not wild, intemperate and blindly partisan, but in a calm, judicial, straightforward way expresses his opinion and stands by his guns though he stands alone. The expression of that man's editorial opinion has come to mean much in North Carolina. The demagogues and the timeservers fear him as well they may. He is never malignant or bitter or abusive. He rarely indulges in personalities, but if it becomes necessary to call names he does it and nobody can misunderstand him. There are others claiming to get on the popular side of all public questions and make a great ado about their courage. They forget that it requires no courage to jump in front of a procession, and wave a flag. The man who stands by himself in defence of what he thinks is right is a brave man. We are glad that we have a few of these fine exponents of righteousness in North Carolina and we hope their tribe will increase.

Independent thinking is more necessary in a newspaper office than elsewhere, and yet it is rare. But those who do think for themselves think also for multitudes of others and lead the way in those great matters affecting the civic as well as the religious life of our people.—Charity and Children.

Over Reading.

There is danger of the average child getting a severe attack of mental indigestion unless his parents devote some time and thought to his literary diet. In most of our country schools, as well as those in the city, it is compulsory for the board to provide a certain number of books each term for the children to read. Some of our school teachers permit a child who has prepared his lessons to take a book from the library to read during school hours—all of the teachers encourage the bringing home of books. Librarians publish the fact that the number of books taken out of public libraries by children is increasing. Whether this is as it should be depends altogether on the character of the books read. Nothing is permitted in the school library which will harm, but much of the literature found there entertains only; it neither strengthens the mind nor cultivates it.

Children need to be taught to think as well as to read. We believe the child who is allowed to take a book from the school library should be made to write a review of such book or books. Unless he is made to digest what he reads, a child is only weakening his mental powers by rushing through books. What can be expected from the memory of a boy who reads a book half through for the second time before he finds that he has read it before?

There is no reason why a child's reading should not be systematized. Let them choose certain subjects each year on which they need information, and let their reading all bear on these subjects. Let them read something that will give information and inspiration. A boy who is reading the Henty stories is in a dream. He hurries through, or forgets his tasks to see what Frank is doing next. But let him read history, or good biography, and he wakens up to the fact that what he has read has had its influence on what he is and where he lives; it sets him to thinking and asking questions.

Parents should regulate what a child reads as well as what he eats. Some light reading is well; children need entertainment; too much is bad, and should be denied.—Wallace's Farmer.

Hundredth Anniversary Celebrated.

Raleigh, March 1.—Out at the North Carolina Soldiers home to-day there was celebrated the 100th birthday of John M. Pool, of Wake county, a Mexican and Civil war veteran, the oldest man in the home, where he has been since 1892. During the Civil war he was a member of Company E, Fourteenth regiment.

"Pa, what's the difference between idealism and realism?"
"Idealism, my son, is the contemplation of marriage; realism is being married."—Boston Transcript.

MAN DRANK CARBOLIC ACID.

Calvin Strickland, Who Lived Near Blackman's Grove, Took His Own Life While in a Fit of Despondency.

Benson, Feb. 26.—Calvin Strickland, a farmer living near Blackman's Grove, six miles east of here, took his own life late this afternoon by drinking two ounces of carbolic acid. Strickland was 30 years old, and was a son of Wash Strickland, a prominent farmer of Meadow Township.

He had been despondent and drank considerably for the past week. Taking the acid in his pocket, and leaving the house, he said to his wife: "If I don't get back soon send for me, I'm going to the woods."

He had been gone only about thirty minutes when his wife found him dying by a brook in the woods, about one hundred yards away.

Neighbors were hurriedly called, but he was dead before they arrived.

Strickland married Miss Bertie Lee, a daughter of Mr. N. I. Lee, of Meadow, and leaves his wife and two small children. Although not thrifty, it is said he had some property.—News and Observer.

NOTES ABOUT BOOKS.

Mr. Will N. Harben always writes about real people, and his field is rural Georgia. The characters in his books are country or village folk. They are very plain people and they are very plainly written about. That is the strong quality of Mr. Harben's work. It is sincere, simple and real, and it is also interesting. "Dixie Hart" is one of the best of these Southern stories. Dixie herself is a charming person; born of the soil, a perfectly natural woman who uses the slang of her country and works with her hands and is most unconventional, but who never ceases for a moment to be a woman in the fine sense of the word. There is plenty of humor in the tale which leaves one with a sense of having been in the town and made the acquaintance of the shopkeeper, the shoemaker, the county judge, the local loaner of money, and all the other odd and queer people of the place. Those who love fashionable society and feel themselves lowered in social tone by reading about very plain people would better leave this story alone, but those who want the real thing in fiction would do well to read it.—Ladies' Home Journal.

The newspapers have been reporting the great popularity of Miss Eleanor H. Abbott's "Molly Make-Believe," and it is quite easy to understand why people are reading a story which is not to be treated as a piece of literature in any sense, but which has freshness of invention and a rollicking freedom of style. It is the story of a young man engaged to a distant and inaccessible young woman. He is laid low by an attack of rheumatic fever. The young woman agrees to write him very formal letters once a week for six weeks. In his desperation he applies to a much-advertised bureau organized to furnish any kind of letter, and he falls into the hands of "Molly Make-Believe," who so consoles him with her cleverness, her variety and her very human femininity, that the engagement with the frigid young woman having been terminated, a nice little romance grows out of the novel relationship.—Hamilton W. Mable.

Senate Passes Mileage Book Bill.

Raleigh, N. C., March 1.—The Senate discussed at great length to-day the Baggett bill for pulling mileage on trains as amended by the committee to simply require railroads to maintain two windows at all stations of 2,000 and more inhabitants so mileage tickets will be more readily procured before boarding trains.

Senator Baggett got in a substitute to substitute requiring pulling mileage on trains. A number of other substitutes were offered but all were voted down and the committee substitute for two windows in towns of 2,000 inhabitants was passed by a vote of 40 to 3. This was ordered engrossed and sent to the House.

AT THE CAPITAL OF BANNER.

Postmaster Langdon Weds Miss Clida Lee.—Other Matters of Interest to the People of the County.

Benson, Mar. 1.—Miss Pauline Wade, of Dunn, spent several days here last week at the home of Miss Leola Smith.

Mr. Preston Woodall and Mrs. Geo. Holland left Sunday for Baltimore and other northern cities to buy goods for the Spring Opening.

Mrs. Joe Wood spent last Saturday and Sunday with Mrs. R. M. Pearson, of Dunn.

Messrs. Guy Stewart, of Coats, and Clarence Rose, of Rocky Mount, were visitors here Sunday.

Mrs. J. W. Whittenton visited Mrs. J. W. Baucom, of Dunn, for a few days this week, returning home Monday.

Mr. Vick Austin and family, of Clayton, recently visited his daughter, Mrs. Jesse McLamb, for several days.

Miss Louise Carroll, who has charge of the Music Department in the Benson Graded School, spent Saturday and Sunday with friends at Meredith College, Raleigh.

Miss Bennie Holland, who has been visiting at the home of Miss Lovie Denning for the past week, returned to her home near Garner, Monday.

Miss Ora Stevens, teacher in the Four Oaks School, and Rev. Chas. Stevens, of Wake Forest College, visited their sister, Mrs. Luna Toler, Friday and Saturday.

Miss Siddle Smith, of Fuquay Springs, has been visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. W. R. Denning, near Benson for several days.

Miss Mary Holt, of Princeton, has been at the home of Mrs. R. A. Stewart for a few days.

Mr. F. L. Woodall, who lives two miles east of Benson, has recently erected a nice cottage on his farm near Clayton and will move his family there about the 7th of March.

Mr. L. B. Pope, editor of The Spokesman, visited friends in Rocky Mount, Wakefield and Raleigh, the first of the week, returning home Tuesday afternoon.

Miss Vada Boone and Mrs. J. H. Godwin visited relatives in and near Clayton for several days recently.

Miss Lillian Smith, of Smithfield, visited her brother, Mr. J. R. Smith, Sunday and Monday, returning to Smithfield Tuesday.

Prof. Z. H. Rose, principal of the Benson Graded School, went to his home at Fremont Saturday to visit his people.

Mr. R. B. Farthing, photographer, will leave Wednesday for Wilson, where he has opened an art studio. He will be in Benson in the future, only on Saturdays.

The most interesting entertainment had here for some time was that given at the school building last Friday night by the children, under the care of Mrs. Luna Tolar. The children were all in the first grade and in the rendition of their pieces they showed excellent preparation. After the exercises by the little folks, a very interesting debate between the young men of the two literary societies was had. The question discussed was, "Should the United States Subsidize Its Ship Marine?" The affirmative was discussed by Lester Massengill and Arthur Goodrich, the negative by Jesse Turlington and Claud Canaday. The argument of each of these young men showed thorough research and study and reflected credit on the societies. The judges by a vote of two against one, decided that the affirmative won the query.

Mr. R. D. Langdon, the Benson Postmaster, and Miss Clida Lee, a daughter of Mr. Louis Lee, of Meadow township, were married Sunday morning at the home of the bride, near Peacock's Cross Roads, Elder J. A. Monsees, of Dunn, performing the ceremony. After the marriage the contracting parties and their friends attended services at Reedy Prong Church, and returned to the home of the bride's parents, where a dinner was served. Later in the afternoon they drove to their home in Benson, where a number of friends had gathered to welcome them, and at which place supper was served. Miss Lee is well known here, hav-

ing been employed as trimmer for the R. F. Smith Millinery Company for several months. Her many friends will be glad to welcome her to Benson to live. Mr. Langdon is our efficient Postmaster and is well known in Johnston county. The writer wishes them a life of happiness and peace.

Will Be Buried This Morning.

The remains of Mr. John L. T. Sneed, whose death at Fort Douglass, Utah, was announced in our last issue, arrived here yesterday afternoon and will be interred in the cemetery here this morning at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Sneed was the son of Stephen and Matilda V. Sneed and was born in Smithfield in January, 1865. Before joining the U. S. Army, he was for several years engaged in the newspaper work and was at one time editor of The Herald.

In January, 1890, he joined the United States Army. He saw service in Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines, in which latter place he contracted fever, that undermined his constitution, and eventually caused his death. At the time of his death he was First Sergeant of Company "F," 15th Infantry, and was stationed at Fort Douglas, Utah.

He is survived by two brothers, J. H. and P. C. Sneed, of Durham, and two sisters, Mrs. L. L. Sasser, of Durham, and Mrs. E. J. Holt, of this place.

College Correspondents.

Much of the misapprehension and prejudice against our colleges is engendered because of the want of wisdom on the part of college correspondents. They misrepresent the institutions for which they write by taking three fourths of the space allotted to them in the papers in describing the things of least importance in the college life. The emphasis they put upon ball playing leads the public to infer that the chief end and aim of the college course is to perfect the young men in the art of flinging a ball. Of course these correspondents imagine that the public is yearning to know the things they are telling, because they themselves are so much concerned about athletics, but the people whose good opinion means most to the college are not only not interested, they are disgusted with the weary round of details describing the various and sundry achievements of boys who would a great deal better be mastering their lessons than running around the country playing base ball! Give us a rest O college scribes! Give us a brief refreshing rest!—Charity and Children.

The Cost of Congress.

The \$700,000 in patronage which the capture of the House will give the Democrats is only a fraction of the total expense of Congress to the country. Compared with the legislative branches of other countries, Congress is an expensive luxury. The cost of the House and Senate is close to \$14,000,000 a year. The cost of the British parliament is about \$1,300,000. There are 615 members of the house of lords to 92 of the American Senate, and 670 of the house of commons to 391 of the House of Representatives. Each member of Congress gets \$7,500 a year, a total of more than \$3,600,000, whereas the members of parliament are unpaid. But, with the salary account left out, there is an enormous disparity in the cost at London and at Washington.

One reason is that in 1713 the house of commons adopted this standing order:

"This house will receive no petition for any sum relating to the public service, or proceed to any motion for a grant or charge upon the public revenue unless recommended by the crown."

This means that only such appropriations can be voted on as are submitted by a ministry responsible to the country. In Congress every member is privileged to hold up the treasury to the extent that his conscience and his ingenuity permit.—Kansas City Times.

The Senate yesterday passed the State Legalized Primary Law 28 to 19. It will pass the House.

LORIMER RETAINS HIS SEAT.

The Charge of Bribery Not Upheld And the Man From Illinois Will Stay in United States Senate.

Washington, D. C., March 1.—The Senate of the United States welcomed into its fold this afternoon William Lorimer, of Illinois, by a vote of 46 to 40, following the most acrimonious and extended contest of the kind in the history of the country.

With forty Senators convinced Lorimer's election had been brought about by fraud and corruption, and appealing up to the very last minute against his admission on the ground that the welfare of the country was at stake, the majority calmly accepted him.

The final scene of the famous case was perhaps the most dramatic witnessed here in years. It was like the closing act of a great murder trial, except that it was a larger and more impressive scale. Lorimer had pleaded for his political life with all the fervor of a man actually endeavoring to avoid a death sentence. No prosecuting attorney could have arraigned a defendant more bitterly or more mercilessly than Senators Beveridge, Crawford, Owen and La Follette excoriated the "sitting member," who is now a member in the full meaning of the word.

Lorimer was acquitted on the ground that no proof had been presented to show that he personally was responsible for any of the admitted corruption in the Illinois Legislature, coincident with his election.

That there was bribery was admitted, but that it was sufficiently extensive to affect the election was denied. It was asserted that Lorimer was the victim of persecution; that fraud, the "third degree" and various forms of intimidation were practiced against him.

The majority of the Senate accepted Lorimer's defense and the decision is final. He stands cleared as far as the Senate itself is concerned, of all the charges made against him.

State Primary Bill Passes Senate.

Raleigh, March 2.—By a vote of 24 to 17 the Senate at 7:30 tonight passed on second reading the Hobgood bill providing a primary election for all parties throughout the State. On objection it went over for third reading until Thursday, being set as a special order at 10 o'clock. The bill was considerably modified by amendment striking out Section 17 relating to misdemeanor charge against a voter participating in the primary and then failing to support the ticket of any political party with which he claimed to be affiliated. The amended bill changes the date of the primary from the first Tuesday in September to the first Tuesday in August. Senators Hobgood and Gardner led the fight for the bill and Senators Bassett and Pharr in opposition, and all seven Republicans. Three Republican members, Starbuck, Haymore and Anderson, argued in opposition and all seven Republican members voted against it.

TWO THOUSAND DYING DAILY.

The Plague is Playing Havoc Among The Chinese in Manchuria.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 28.—The plague is ravaging Pei Chuanitzze, about 50 miles north of Harbin. Deaths there are reported to number 2,000 daily.

The disease is raging in Kerin, Hulanchn, opposite Harbin, and at Rodune, 100 miles southwest of the Manchurian capital.

Bread riots have occurred throughout the stricken districts. The foreign consuls are preparing to leave. Troops have refused to march into the plague places. Martial law has been established.

The Chinese Emperor has reprimanded the Manchurian authorities for not having dealt more energetically with the situation. The far Eastern press is filled with apprehensions of a recurrence of Boxerism.

"You had rheumatism in your right leg for years and were cured of it in an instant? How?"

"My being accidentally mixed up in a train wreck. My right leg is a cork leg now."—Chicago Tribune.