

POLITICAL REFORM AND THE GENERAL UPBUILDING OF MADISON COUNTY.

VOL. XI.

MARSHALL, N. C., FRIDAY JANUARY 22, 1909.

NO. 3.

BIG LAND FRAUDS

\$110,000,000 Worth Fraudulently Acquired

AN APPROPRIATION IS ASKED

Special Agents Report That \$110,000,000 Worth of Lands Has Been Fraudulently Acquired Within the Past Two Years by Corporations and Individuals—Cases Will Be Investigated.

Washington, Special.—Information of a startling character of alleged wholesale and astonishing frauds upon the public lands has come into the possession of Secretary of Interior Garfield through special agents in the field.

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It is stated that there is reasonable prospect of recovering much of this alleged fraudulently acquired land if the appropriation is promptly made.

Secretary Garfield also submits a statement of H. H. Schwartz, chief of the field service, showing over 32,000 distinct cases of alleged land frauds demanding further investigation.

NO LAW FOR LIBEL SUIT.

Senator Rayner Wants the Attorney General to Explain Under What Law the Newspapers Can Be Sued For Libel.

Washington, Special.—A resolution was introduced in the Senate Monday by Senator Rayner, of Maryland, calling on the Attorney General for information concerning the bringing of a suit for libel against certain newspapers.

The suit which President Roosevelt is believed to have ordered brought against the Press-Publishing Company of New York, on account of charges in The New York World that certain well-known persons, including Douglas Robinson, the brother-in-law of the President, and C. P. Taft, the brother of the President-elect, were interested in the purchase of the Panama canal property, inspired the Rayner resolution.

Addressing the Senate in support of the resolution Mr. Rayner said there was no law which warrants a suit for libel of the government.

Opposed to Increase in Navy.

Boston, Special.—A remonstrance against a further increase of the United States navy, signed by 224 clergymen of various denominations in Boston and vicinity was sent to Congress Monday. It is the belief of the ministers that naval preparations have grown so enormously as to become a distressing burden on the richest nations and an actual menace to the peace of the world.

Anti-Trust Law Constitutional.

Washington, Special.—The Texas State anti-trust law of 1899 and 1903 was held constitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States in a decision in the famous Waters-Peirce Oil Company cases. The opinion also decides against the company and affirms the fine of \$1,623,900 originally imposed.

WITH N. C. LAWMAKERS

Doings of the State Legislature Condensed—Interesting Items from Day to Day.

When the Senate convened on Tuesday after the inauguration ceremonies, Hon. Francis D. Winston, the retiring Lieutenant Governor and ex-officio President of the Senate, after an appropriate and able, though short address to that body on his retiring, said: "I surrender my office to the chosen representative of the people. I introduce to you Lieutenant Governor Will C. Newland. In the words of Dickens' purest creation, 'God bless you one and all, and God bless our State.'"

The Senate Judiciary committee has decided to report unfavorably a bill introduced by Senator Fry designed to give justices of peace power to issue summons or other legal processes effective in any of the State. The present law confines their jurisdiction to the county in which they hold their appointment.

The Senate discussed at great length Wednesday the joint resolution by Senator Elliott for the General Assembly to adjourn sine die February 15th, and after a considerable airing of views, the need for a session and no session at all, deferred action until January 20th, when, in the language of Senator Travis, who moved the continuance, there will have developed some idea of how long it should really take to dispose of legislation the State is in need of.

A bill to appoint justices of the peace in Rowan county passed its final reading and was sent to the Senate.

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Senate bills of general interest were presented by Mr. Elliott to amend Section 1506, Revisal, by requiring judges of Superior Court to remain in the county seat the full term of courts prescribed.

By Mr. Barringer, to amend Section 10420, Revisal, relating to the sale of property under mortgage. President Newland announced additional committee assignments as follows: Education, Ray, of Henderson; appropriations, Blow, Ormond, Bissett; insane asylums, Hawes; schools for the deaf, Godwin and Doughton; clerk to the finance committee, Lane Brown.

Among the bills and resolutions were: Williams, of Dare: Resolution instructing our Senators and Congressmen to favor pensioning men employed at life stations.

A bill that will make people generally "sit up and take notice" was introduced in the House by Turner, of Mitchell, providing that any person who creates a debt on promise to pay out of money of assets due him and fails to pay on receipt of such specified assets shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by fine of \$10 to \$50 or work on roads ten to thirty days each offense.

Lee: Provide different uniform garb for persons convicted of misdemeanor from those convicted of felonies.

Privileges of the House were extended to ex-Representative Donald McEckan, of Columbus.

The following committee appointments were announced by the Speaker: Add to committee on oysters, Wallace. Committee on pensions: Henderson (chairman), Pitt, Wilson, Cotton, Parker, Majette, Currie, Lovelace, Harrison, McLaughlin, Braswell, Davis, McLeod, Davenport, Hampton, Murphy, Rhodes, Harshaw. Education: Connor, Majette, Doughton Davenport, Mitchell, Bolton, Weaver, Crawford, Sheppard, Wooten, Hagsman, Smith, of Randolph; Henderson, Martin, Cox of Pitt; Gibbs, Killian.

In the House announcement by Speaker Graham that he would present to Mrs. W. H. Kitchin, mother of the new Governor, the pen with which the formal declaration of the joint session of the Assembly was signed setting out the result of canvass of votes for her son as Governor, and the State officers preliminary to the inauguration, was received with interest.

Among the bills introduced on Thursday was the bill to amend Sec. 3990, Revisal, relating to schools and the admission of persons with negro blood into the white schools, came

up with unfavorable report from the joint committee on education and was tabled. It was designated to limit the "taint of negro blood" that would bar children from the white schools to three generations.

Senator Starbuck was permitted to introduce, out of order, a bill to amend the Revisal, Sections 3263 and 3264, in order to equalize the peremptory challenges allowed the State and the defendant in forming juries for capital cases.

Senator Manning offered a resolution accepting the invitation of the president of the University of North Carolina for the members of the General Assembly to attend the Lee's birthday celebration at the University when President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton University, will be the orator. A motion by Senator Daves to this effect was adopted by a unanimous rising vote.

Announcement was made by the president of the Senate that Senator Latham had been relieved at his request from the chairmanship of the committee on commerce and Senator Martin assigned in his stead.

Senator Starbuck was granted unanimous consent to withdraw his bill offered Thursday to equalize the number of challenges by the State and the defendant in the trial of capital offenses.

Senator Wray presented petition from citizens of Rockingham county relative to child labor law and hours of work. They were sent to the committee on manufacturing.

New bills introduced Thursday included:

Emple: Regulate the industry of growing truck. (This is a duplicate of the bill introduced in the House Thursday by Morton, of New Hanover, having the sanction of the Truckers' Association and the transportation companies.)

Pharr: Relative to filing of notice of heirs.

Starbuck: Relative to peremptory challenges in criminal actions. Barringer: Create the State Association of County Commissioners of North Carolina and give it the sanction of the State.

Bills Passed.

Bills that passed final reading are: To remedy a seeming conflict in Sections 1042 and 6419 of Revisal, relating to the sale of real and personal property under mortgage, the amendment making Section 1042 apply only to the sale of personal property.

House.

Bills and resolution were, in part as follows: Murphy: Resolution requiring the various State departments to send reports, public laws and other State documents to all public libraries in the State.

Barnes, of Hertford: Bill for election in the penitentiary at Raleigh of all persons sentenced to pay death penalty. Copy of the Senate bill introduced some days ago.

Harshaw: Provide for the election of the county boards of education by the qualified electors of the counties.

Harshaw: Provide for election of county superintendents of instruction for the several counties.

Weaver: Amend Section 2021, Revisal, relative to laborers' and mechanics' liens.

Morton: Encourage and protect industry for growing berries and truck.

Morton: Amend Chapter 674 Public Laws 1907 increasing pensions of ex-Confederate soldiers to \$8 a month.

Koonce: Provide for an intermediate offense between assault with intent to commit rape and simple assault.

Mr. Koonce, of Onslow, gets the chairmanship of the committee on insurance; Mr. Cotten, of Pitt, on penal institutions; Mr. Julian, of Rowan, on printing, and Mr. Rodwell, of Warren, on liquor traffic.

Dr. Bolton reported to the House that with Dr. Gordon, he had attended the convention of the North Carolina Association for the Prevention of tuberculosis, which met in Charlotte Tuesday and Wednesday. They had been asked by the association to express its appreciation of the notice taken of it by the House. The speaker assured Dr. Bolton that the House was deeply appreciative of the attendance of the gentlemen upon the meeting and asked him to reduce his remarks to writing in order that they might be spread upon the journal.

Dr. Knapp, of the United States Department of Agriculture was invited to address the House on agricultural subjects.

Bills were introduced in the House Friday as follows: Connor—Amend Sec. 4993 Revisal for relief of widows of Confederate soldiers. Admits those married prior to January 1st, 1870, instead of April 1st, 1865.

Weaver—Amend Sec. 5213 Revisal in reference to State boundaries. Allows Governor to prosecute suits in Smoky mountain directly in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Hanes—Amend Sec. 2721 Revisal. Koonce—Create the State Association of County Commissioners.

Grant—Exempt from taxation personal property to the value of \$200.

Want Exposition Appropriation. The North Carolina commissioners to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, to open in Seattle June 1st, conferred with Governor Kitchin and will recommend to the Legislature an appropriation sufficiently large to insure a creditable showing for the State. The amount the bill will call for is \$25,000. The commissioners are hoping for a handsome appropriation by the General Assembly.

To perfect the organization of the State Association of County Commissioners and give it State sanction is the object of a bill by Mr. Koonce. The expected bill embodying the Republican platform declaration in favor of a \$200 exemption from tax on personal property instead of \$50 was introduced by Mr. Grant, the young Republican member from Davis.

In the House the following bills were introduced and referred to the appropriate committees on Saturday: Weaver, of Buncombe: A bill to be entitled: "An act denouncing conduct within the State of North Carolina interfering with trade and commerce." Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Perry, of Bladen: To benefit the widows of ex-Confederate soldiers.

Braswell, by request: For the benefit of the State School for the Blind.

Harshaw: For the relief of disabled ex-Confederate soldiers.

Green: Joint resolution, relating to the Alaska-Yukon Exposition.

Perry, of Bladen: To raise revenue for schools.

The following bills passed final reading:

To incorporate the Board of Publication of the Western North Carolina M. E. Conference.

To prevent persons from hiring horses upon false representation.

In the Senate new bills were introduced and referred on Saturday as follows:

By Pharr: Relative to persons entitled to pensions. Pensions and Soldiers' Home.

By Latham: To drain wet and swamp lands (two hundred copies of the bill were ordered printed). Agriculture.

By Elliott: For the benefit of the State School for the Blind. State School for Blind.

By Lockhart: Denouncing conduct within the State of North Carolina that interferes with trade and commerce. Judiciary.

By Gay: Relating to hunting Game Laws.

By Klutz: A joint resolution relating to the Alaska-Yukon Exposition. Appropriations.

By Manning: To allow the Register of Deeds of Durham county to appoint a deputy.

Bills were placed on their third and final reading as follows: S. B. To amend sub-section 15 of section 1318 of the Revisal.

S. B. To establish a board of commissioners for the promotion of uniformity of legislation in the United States. The bill directs the Governor to appoint three commissioners within thirty days after the passage of this act, to confer with similar boards representing other States, and make reports to the Governor to be transmitted to the Legislature.

Mr. Manning explained that the labor involved is one of professional love and not of reward. The congress of commissioners would recommend after examination of the subjects legislation on marriage, divorce, insolvency, the descent and distribution of property, the execution and probate of wills and other subjects upon which uniformity of legislation in the various States and territories is desirable.

S. B. To amend section 2028 of the Revisal, relating to time of filing notice of liens, striking out the word "twelve" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "six."

New bills were introduced in the Senate on Monday: Lockhart: Relieve licensed physicians from paying license tax.

Starbuck: To expedite the trial of civil causes in the Superior Courts of the State.

Barham: To provide adequate compensation for Superior Court judges in holding special terms of court.

Reynolds: Relating to the government of appropriations to roads. In the House on Monday the following petitions and memorials were presented:

From citizens of Brunswick county relative to real and personal property exemptions asking that it be made \$200 instead of \$50, as at present. Haymore (by request): From certain citizens of Surry county for the repeal of the homestead and property exemption laws.

60. Laws of 1907, relative to divorce. Morton: Separate white and colored convicts in the State penitentiary and convict camps at sleeping and eating hours.

Morton: For better training of colored youth and thereby minimize race prejudice.

Hindsdale: Regulate working of women and children in manufacturing establishments of North Carolina.

Latham: Regulate the sale of revolvers and cartridges.

Rodwell: Incorporate the Town of Bonn, Warren county.

Weaver: Incorporate Asheville & East Tennessee Railroad.

Wilson: Protect deer in Henderson, Transylvania, Haywood and Jackson counties.

Majette: Amend Chap. 622, Laws of 1907, relative to hunting deer in Tyrrell county.

Graham: Regulate trial of capital cases, giving State and defendant each twelve peremptory challenges and the State not to stand any at foot of panel.

The following bills passed third reading: When the Senate bill to increase the salary of the commissioner of Labor and Printing from \$1,500 to \$2,500 was laid before the House, it passed second reading without discussion, by a division of 45 to 38.

The divorce bill by Bigdon, of Macon, by request, would amend the present ten-year separation clause by providing that parties who have lived apart ten years may be divorced if any children they may have are over 21 years, instead of if there are no children.

Engineer and Fireman Are Killed.

Beagle, Kansas, Special.—A train ran into an open switch here on Monday and was derailed, the engineer being killed. The engine ran into a string of bunk cars in which Italian laborers were sleeping. Four were killed and several injured. The fireman was dangerously hurt and five mail clerks were slightly hurt.

Bishop McQuaid Dead.

Rochester, N. Y., Special.—The Rt. Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid, bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Rochester, died early Monday, aged 85 years. Death followed an illness of eight months. Sunday was the 61st anniversary of the bishop's priesthood. Bishop McQuaid was born in New York City. He was elevated to the priesthood on January 16th, 1848. In 1868 he was made bishop of Rochester.

\$50,000 Suit Against Night Riders.

Paducah, Ky., Special.—Damages in the sum of \$50,000 are asked in a suit filed in the United States Court here by C. W. Rucker, of Metro-polis, Ill., against 198 alleged night-riders of this section. Many of the defendants are prominent in Western Kentucky. The plaintiff was police judge of Eddyville, Ky., when he claims the defendants called at his home on the night of March 15th, 1903, compelled him to walk bare-footed to the Cumberland River.

Charter Granted.

Raleigh, Special.—The State has issued a charter to the Goldsboro Traction Company, the capital stock being \$150,000 and E. T. Oliver, of Raleigh, the chief stockholder. This is the company which is building the street railway at Goldsboro, this being a very important development for that town.

Hains Acquitted.

Flushing, Special.—The Thornton Hains jury, after deliberating since Thursday evening, nearly 24 hours, Friday afternoon returned a verdict of not guilty and Thornton Jenkins Hains is now a free man. Hains was charged with the murder of William E. Annis, August 15th, at Bayside Yacht Club. A great crowd around the court house cheered as the jury, tired out, filed in.

Jeff Moody Acquitted.

Bolivar, Special.—Jeff Moody was on Tuesday acquitted of the charge of murdering Dr. E. A. Cottongim at Teague. The jury was given the case this morning and the verdict of not guilty was returned this afternoon. Dr. Cottongim was shot and killed several months ago during an altercation which followed a dispute in his store, the tragedy occurring a short distance from the store on the railroad right of way.

UNANSWERABLE.

"Paw." "Uh." "Paw, if faith will move a mountain, why don't it remove a wart?" —Puck.

STATE-WIDERS WIN

Prohibition Carries in State of Tennessee.

PATTERSON FOR LOCAL OPTION

House Follows Senate in Passing Bill For Prohibition Throughout the State.

Nashville, Special.—The very atmosphere about the capital has been pierced and riven by the various advocates for State-wide prohibition, while a cross or opposing current has been apparently as strong. The opposers of the measure are of course, divided between local option and legal license. Governor Patterson has declared himself as favoring local option.

At 5 o'clock and 2 minutes Tuesday afternoon, Senate Bill No. 1, providing for the prohibition of the sale of liquor within four miles of any schoolhouse in the State of Tennessee passed third and final reading in the Senate. The vote came after five and a half hours of argument, in which almost every Senator on the floor participated. The final vote was 20 to 13, Senator J. T. Baskerville, of Sumner, and Senator Daniel Cooper Swab, of Claiborne, voting with the eighteen Senators comprising the membership of the Grand Alliance. Immediately after the vote was announced the wildest disorder prevailed, and as soon as a motion to adjourn could be put, a wild crowd surrounded Messrs. Holladay and Mansfield, the leaders of the Allies, and the celebration took on the form of a love feast.

The debate was replete with sensational incidents, the most remarkable of all being Ex-Gov. John I. Cox's speech in defense of his past record and his present attitude toward temperance legislation, and the charges of attempted intimidation made by Senator Daney Fork of Montgomery, against Dr. E. E. Folk, who he termed the "high priest" of the Anti-Saloon League.

On Wednesday the House voted 62 to 36 for the bill.

The measure passed is the one favorably acted upon by the Senate and now goes to Governor Patterson. He is expected to veto it, but under the constitution his veto only operates as a suggestion, not as a stay, and a bare majority may pass the bill over the Executive's unfavorable action. The Governor is allowed to hold a bill five days. If at the expiration of this time it has not been returned to the Assembly it becomes a law without his signature.

The bill provides that prohibition shall become effective July 1st, 1909. The battle attending the passage of the prohibition bill was probably the fiercest ever known in the Tennessee House of Representatives. For almost seven hours it was waged, the local option, or administration, forces contesting every inch of the ground. Amendment after amendment was presented, and promptly voted down by about the same majority as that given the bill on final passage. A great outpour of oratory came from both sides.

Throughout the discussion the galleries were packed and several times the Speaker, at the request of local optionists, asked the sergeant-at-arms to exclude visitors from the floor of the House. When the final vote was announced the cheers from the galleries were deafening, the demonstration on the floor and in the galleries lasting several minutes. The State-widers are jubilantly asserting that the bill will be passed over the Governor's veto by about the same vote originally received in each house.

Shoots His Wife, Then Kills Himself.

Alliance, O., Special.—Albert Lazinwood, 50 years of age, a farmer living near Bergesolz, shot and killed his wife, 55 years old, and then himself on the road near Annapolis Friday night. Jealousy is supposed to have been the cause. Lazinwood and his wife had been estranged and living apart for several months.

President is Considering Several Names For the Judgeship.

Washington, Special.—At the White House it was stated that the President is considering the names of several men which have been presented to him before sending to the Senate the nomination for Federal judge of the eastern district of North Carolina. No action will be taken on the matter until Monday or Tuesday. It was expected the President would send the nomination of H. F. Seawell, of Carthage, N. C., to the Senate on Thursday.