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VOL. V. WALTER B. BELL, Editor.

ELKIN, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1897.

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## LAW-MAKERS AT RALEIGH.

Bills General, Local, But All of Some Importance.

### REID AND RANSON UNSEATED.

To Punish Train-Wreckers—Resolutions for a Code Commissioner—Protection of Wives.

#### SENATE.

MONDAY.—Senate met at 4 o'clock. Alexander presented a petition from citizens of Mecklenburg to regulate hours of labor in the State and to protect women and children.

Reid and Ranson were introduced and resolutions were introduced as follows: Walker—For the benefit of the public schools in the State; provides that all voters shall show their tax receipts before they can vote, and by this means increase the school fund.

Hardison—Prohibiting the sale or manufacture of liquor and sale of cigarettes in the State.

Hardison—To regulate the hours of labor in factories.

Rollins—To regulate the sale of concealed weapons.

Ramsay—To amend section 2150 of the Code, relating to probating wills; to amend the Code in relation to tenancy; also to amend the Code in relation to persons bringing suits who are not to give bond.

Moye—To define public schools and increase their terms.

Hardison—To carry into effect the educational provisions of the constitution; provides that the commissioners of each county shall levy a sufficient tax on the property and polls of the county to maintain a public school in each school district four months.

Bill to extend the time for the collection of taxes in Asheville passed; also bill to amend the charter of the Carolina Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

There was discussion of a bill to regulate the probate of wills in probate courts. The original bill applies to Cleveland, but amendments were offered including Union, Franklin, Chatham and Mecklenburg. These were adopted and the bill passed. It allows the clerk of the court or probate judge 10 cents and the register of deeds 20 cents for probating and registering a will.

TUESDAY.—Senate was called to order by Lieutenant-Governor Reynolds. Among the bills and resolutions introduced were:

By unanimous consent resolution No. 313 was placed on the calendar. This resolution is to elicit information for the better information of railroad charges in the State; gives the Governor the right to call on all railroad, express, steamboat and telegraph companies so as to ascertain all those officers who receive over \$2,500 per annum as salary.

Moye—Bill to amend section 2323 of the Code in relation to the pay of clerks and employees of the General Assembly. Provides that the auditor may require a certificate from the proper officers that the work has been faithfully performed by said employees.

Hardison—Bill to prohibit the sale of immoral and obscene literature in the State.

Hardison—Bill to protect the people of the State from fevers, etc., in second-hand clothing; also to prohibit the sale of liquor unless under police supervision.

Clark—Bill to authorize mayors of towns and cities to solemnize the marriage ceremony.

Person—Bill to increase the public school fund from fees in Secretary of State's office.

Hardison—Bill to increase the public school fund in the State.

The morning hour having expired, the special order set for today was taken up, the bill to repeal chapter 303, laws of 1895, locating the line between Alamance and Chatham counties. The bill provides for the running of new lines beginning at the Nattie Newlin place, running west to Randolph county and east to Haw river, which would give back to Chatham the land taken from them and give to Alamance in 1895. After considerable discussion, for and against the bill a substitute was offered and passed second reading.

WEDNESDAY.—Senate met at 10 o'clock, Lieutenant-Governor Reynolds presiding. The following petition was presented:

Mr. Alexander (by request) a petition from the employees of the Victor Cotton Mills, of Charlotte, for regulating the hours of labor. This provides 11 hours as a day's work.

Among the bills introduced were: Alexander (by request)—Bill to provide for the erection of a building for the deaf and dumb at Morganton.

Mr. Manly (by request) for the relief of David W. Powell, treasurer of Columbus county, and his co-accused.

Mr. Person—Bill to prevent discrimination in passenger accommodations.

Maxwell—Bill to provide for divorces in certain cases of females under 15 years of age; also to amend chapter 45, private laws of 1894.

To allow the commissioners of Mecklenburg county to levy a special tax. Passed.

To allow the commissioners of Montgomery county to levy a special tax. Passed.

To allow the commissioners of Watauga county to levy a special tax. Passed.

Bill on second reading: To restore the office of treasurer of McDowell and authorize the Governor to appoint treasurer until the election. Passed second and third readings. To extend the time of holding the February term of Guilford court.

A message was received from the Governor relating to the offer of the Seaboard Air Line to lease the North Carolina railroad and at 1:10 the Senate went into executive session and Governor Russell addressed the Legislature at some 1 1/2 o'clock on the matter of the North Carolina Railroad. He charged the presence of a director of that company with freezing out the Seaboard Air Line by refusing to consider the offer made for the road by President Hoffman (The message was the feature of the day's proceedings.)

Senator H. W. Powell presiding. A petition was presented by the Women's Christian Ten Year Union for the establishment of a reformatory. The petition was signed by about 1,000 prominent women in the State.

THURSDAY.—Senate was called to order at 11 o'clock. Lieutenant-Governor Reynolds presiding.

Among the new measures were: Scales—To establish and incorporate the North Carolina Veterinary Association to regulate the practice of medicine; also to regulate the sale of fertilizers in the State.

Whidbee—To amend sec. 1285 of the Code, relating to divorce. This bill provides that the party who desires a divorce must be a resident of the State for seven years before applying for same.

Shaw—To extend the time for organizing banks in Maxton.

Alexander (by request)—Bill in regard to bicycles and baggage on railroads.

Following bills passed third reading: To allow the commissioners of Robeson to levy a special tax; to extend the stock laws in Wayne county.

Bills on second reading: To exempt undertakers who are funeral directors from jury duty; passed second and third readings. To protect iron bridges in Macon county; passed second and third readings. To pay special venues in capital cases \$1 per day and no mileage.

By amendment, the following counties were exempted from the bill: Rockingham, Durham, Franklin, Cleveland, Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga, Duplin, Clay, Cherokee, Graham and Richmond. To amend chapter 263, private laws of 1891, relating to the students at Trinity College. Heretofore this act gave the students some power in the government of the institution; the amendment strikes out this part of the act.

The calendar: Bill relating to corporations; tabled. To amend sections 1199 and 1200 of the Code, relating to challenging jurors; tabled. To enforce ordinances in towns and cities; tabled.

To establish a scale of fees for registers of deeds in North Carolina; tabled. Bill in relation to sale of farm products; tabled. To provide for the probate of wills in certain cases. This bill provides a statute of limitation. Mr. Justice offered the following amendment: "Provided that this act shall not operate to prevent persons under disabilities from applying to prove a will in common five years after disability is removed;" tabled. To provide for the probate of wills. This bill allows a person to make a will before death and have it probated; tabled. To prevent discrimination against different kinds of money; tabled. To authorize county commissioners to appoint time and place for sale of property under process of law; tabled. To pension all ex slaves who did service in the Confederacy. This bill appropriates \$5 per month. Mr. McCarthy moved to table. Mr. Person demanded a roll call, which was sustained. Bill tabled—ayes 34, noes 11.

To repeal section 2403 of the Code and all amendments. This bill prevents the directors or manager of the penitentiary from hiring out convicts in competition with free labor. On motion to table Mr. Person demanded the roll call. Sustained—ayes 36, noes 10. To amend section 503 of the Code, relating to homesteads; tabled. To make winter tickets negotiable; tabled. To define the public school law and extend the time of teaching; tabled. To increase the public school funds; tabled.

At the night session the following was accomplished: To incorporate Hamlet; to authorize McDowell county to levy a special tax to pay for jail. Passed second and third readings. To facilitate the trial of civil actions. This bill makes return of a jury also; also provides that any person summoned served complaint is also deemed to be a party.

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Person—From citizens of Guilford county against the 10 hour law.

Alexander—To work convicts on the public roads.

Barker—From citizens of Alexander county, asking the General Assembly not to make any more appropriations to State institutions, and to make no appropriation for a reformatory unless voted for by the people of the State.

Among the bills and resolutions introduced were: Henderson—A bill to amend section 1734 of the Code, relating to the amount of.

Newson—A bill to amend the insurance laws of the State.

Justice—A bill relating to the clerk of the Superior Court of Randolph county.

Utley—Bill for the protection of educational and other interests in North Carolina.

Abell—Bill regulating the duties of clerks of courts in regard to books furnished by the State.

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