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LETTER FROM BILKINS.

The Thaw Trial—Bilkins Watching the Legislature—Betsy Preparing for Spring Gardening—The Railroad Rate Question—The Salary Raise and the Fee System—The Snow Storm—Bob Waiting for a Deep Snow.

Correspondence Raleigh Enterprise.

Bilkinsville, N. C., Feb. 21.

Dear Editor:—Ergain yore correspondent hev taken up hiz pen ter describe the passin' ov human events fer yore valuable paper. In the first place the fourmust news at this time iz that er Thaw trial at New York, at which aristokratik wimen crowd ter hear the nawsheating details ov how that libertine Stanford White drawed inter his spiderweb that butiful and lovely little dancin' gal, Evelene Nasty Thaw, who plaid the roll ov Dr. Jekyl and Mr. Hyde. She seams ter take a deelight in layin' open ter the world the undoin' of he snowwhite character, in drinkin' shampaine dashed with love powders, given her by Stanford White, who had a mortgage on her before Harry Thaw seed her in ther limelight ov lovelyness. The reckollechun ov the former relashuns ov White with Evelene thru Shaw inter jelus spasms and made him shoot White dead in ther Roof Garden Theatre. The cabuls an' telygraff lines air workin' day an' nite ter giv ther dirty pertickulars ter the civilyzed world ov this nasty trial. I cannot giv ther detales fer fear yore excellent paper would be "put on the unfair list" by ther government.

I must now watch them kommunistis in the Legislater who hev past the 2-cent passinger fare on the big railrodes runnin' thru this here State. The radykal Demyrkats will ruin the State if they air not headed off by by a sycloan. The Sinate iz ther only conservtyve body. They air "safe, sane, an' sound"—men ov branes who hev the wellfair ov the State in ther mines when they consider sich momentus questions az redusing the fare on railrodes. What does them kopperhead Dimyrkats frum Swampoodle County know erbout railrodes? They would not kno er railrode frum an ortermobile if they wuz ter meet them in the county rode.

I see ther State offshals hev bin put on er sallary an' awl fees must be turned over ter the State. The officers wages haz bin raized. The county officers will awl be put on er sallary an' ther fees go ter the county. Hit's a gude idea, fer the rodes over which me and Bob hev to travel need macaddermizin awful bad, an' those tarnashun fees will soon put them in firstclass condishun. The laborers ov the State hev awlso bin raized. That iz gude awlso.

Just az I sed, the expected has happened. That snow which has bin waitin' in the northside drug store corners fer two weeks wuz waintin' fer another one, which cum in on time Wednesday mornin'. If hit will snow deep eruff me an' Bob will take another slayride ter Millburney.

Betsy iz now doin' her spring plowin' in her truck garden. She expects ter make 4,000 cabbages, 1,000,000 bunches ov sellery, \$1,000,000 worth ov snap beans, an' winter collards by the millyuns. But I hev no time ter munkey with her

truck garden; I have other irons in the fire which need attenshun an' must get it; so I will let Betsy run her garden ter her heart's content. Hopin' ter write you ergin soon, I am,
Yours az ever,
ZEKE BILKINS.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Passage of Bills—Seizure of Distilleries.

The following bills passed their final reading:

To amend and re-enact Chapter 109, Laws of 1899, and re-establish Pinnacle graded school.

To amend the charter of Canton, Haywood County.

To enlarge a special school tax district in Iredell County.

Mr. Aycock moved that the railway rate bill be made a special order for next Tuesday at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Graham, chairman of the Committee on Railroads, said he would not oppose the motion, and favored it.

Mr. Blair said he had an amendment he would like to offer to the railway rate bill.

Mr. Daniel favored the postponement.

Mr. McLearn had no objection.

The motion of Mr. Aycock prevailed.

Mr. Blair's amendment provided that from and after April 1, 1907, only one first-class fare shall be charged by the railroads, not to exceed two and one-half cents; all railroads shall issue interchangeable mileage books, good over all railroads, and not to exceed two and one-half cents per mile; railroad companies having less than 100 miles of tracks shall not be required to issue such mileage, but must honor mileage books of other railroads. A penalty not to exceed \$2,000, and not to be less than \$500, is provided for each violation of any section of this act.

Mr. Mason offered an amendment to the Graham bill to make the rate two and three-quarter cents for first-class fare, and two and one-quarter cents for second-class fares.

The amendments of Mr. Blair and Mr. Mason went with the bill.

The following bills passed their final reading:

To establish special tax school district in Caswell County.

Resolution thanking faculty and officers of Wake Forest for an invitation to attend the anniversary of the literary societies.

To establish Glen Alpine school district in Burke County.

To amend the law relative to the Bryson City graded school.

Supplemental to an act to authorize Brunswick County to subscribe to the capital stock of a certain railroad.

Seizure of Distilleries.

The bill of Mr. Ormond, to amend Section 3533 of the Revisal, relating to the seizure of illicit distilleries, awarding \$10 to any sheriff, deputy or other Estate officer, and allowing all necessary expenses, for the capture of every illicit distillery, and the delivery of it to the United States Revenue officers, and upon satisfactory proof that he has made the capture and turned the still over to the revenue officer for confiscation, was debated.

Mr. Buxton and Mr. Reid moved to amend by extending their counties.

Mr. Carter moved to exempt Surry and Stokes Counties, saying such a law would ruin Surry.

Mr. Hicks offered an amendment to make an allowance for deputies.

Mr. Fleming offered an amendment to allow \$20 instead of \$10 and to eliminate the expense allowance.

Mr. Mason opposed the amendments to exempt counties, saying the bill should be a general law or a special enactment. He said he was opposed to a dead-letter law on the statute books and the provision of the Watts act, which this bill amends, is useless without the amendment proposed to this bill.

Mr. Carter spoke against the bill, saying he was opposed to the State's paying for the seizure of property that must be turned over to the Federal authorities.

Mr. Ormond spoke for his bill, saying it was only a measure to make effective the section of the Watts act which it amends. He said he had for months been considering this matter, and his bill was the result of his mature thought and judgment.

Mr. Dickey argued in support of the bill.

Mr. Rives favored the bill, and made a speech advocating it.

Mr. Long spoke for the bill and against the amendments exempting the counties.

The amendments of Mr. Buxton and Mr. Reid, exempting Forsyth and Rockingham, carried, and the amendment of Mr. Carter, exempting Stokes and Surry, was lost.

The amendment of Mr. Hicks allowing \$2.00 for each deputy with the sheriff taking a distillery, carried.

The amendment of Mr. Fleming making the fee \$20 instead of \$10, was lost.

An amendment by Mr. Brown to limit the expenses of the sheriff to \$15 was lost.

The bill passed its second reading as amended.

Mr. Blair offered an amendment striking out \$10 and substituting \$5, and the amendment was lost.

Mr. Mason moved to reconsider the motion by which Forsyth County was exempted.

Mr. Buxton opposed the motion, making an earnest speech, and referred to the dark periods when Forsyth County was ridden by revenue robbers and was the headquarters of radicals. He declared if his county were not exempted the next Legislature would have a radical Senator and radical Representatives from Forsyth County. To prevent the recurrence of radical misrule and Republican triumph in Forsyth, he declared, that county must be exempted. The proposition of Mr. Mason, he said, is to take the Democratic sheriff of his county and make him risk his life and his party; and after Mr. McLean had read the section sought to be amended, Mr. Buxton said that section was the worst feature of the Watts act, as it made the sheriff the tool of the revenue officers. A spirit is in his county, he said, which believes that such a law is un-Democratic. His county, Forsyth, he said, pays its sheriff a sal-

ary, and that sheriff would be indictable if he accepted a dollar of the fee authorized in the bill.

Mr. McLean said he thought Forsyth should be exempted, and asked Mr. Mason to withdraw his motion to reconsider.

Mr. Mason said he did not know Rockingham County had also been exempted, or would have also included that county in his motion to reconsider. He had made the motion to be consistent, and after having heard the speech of Mr. Buxton, he said he would withdraw his motion to reconsider.

Mr. McLean said this was not a party measure, and he did not see justice in exempting Rockingham and refusing to exempt Surry and Stokes. He said he was opposed to the whole bill anyway, and moved to lay it on the table. He withdrew his motion to permit Mr. Long to speak.

Mr. Long thought any county should be exempted if the Senators desired it.

Mr. Blair offered an amendment, exempting Montgomery, which was adopted, and another amendment was offered by Mr. Carter exempting Stokes and Surry, which was also adopted.

Mr. Reid spoke against the bill, declaring it made the Democratic sheriff a spy, attaching to him an odium which would make him a stench in the nostrils of the people and he declared the bill would be dangerous to the Democratic party.

The bill passed its third reading as amended.

Passed Final Reading.

The following bills passed their final reading:

To appoint Zimri Keisler a justice of the peace for Cleveland County.

To amend the law to incorporate the Tuckaseegee Railway Company.

To incorporate Nazareth Orphans' Home in Rowan County.

To amend the law relative to trial of real actions in Hertford County, where the records have been destroyed, not to apply to pending actions.

An act supplemental to an act relating to hunting of squirrels in Lenoir County.

To prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors, wine or cider within two miles of Friendship church, Faison Township, Duplin County.

Joint resolution to pay expenses of sub-committee of the Senate which inspected the State Hospital at Morganton.

Joint resolution requesting Senators and Representatives from North Carolina in Congress to use their influence in securing appropriations for improving the Cape Fear River.

To authorize street and inter-urban railway companies to build and maintain water power plants.

To establish a dispensary in the town of Creedmoor, Granville County.

To amend Section 1891 of the Revisal, in regard to the appointment of guardian on certificate from hospitals for the insane, allowing guardians to be appointed on the certificate from government hospitals for the insane outside of North Carolina.

Art Master (who has sent for a cab, pointing to horse)—What do you call that? Cabby—An 'orse, sir. Art Master—A horse! Rub it out, and do it again!—Punch.