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IN THE SENATE.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE DURING THE PAST WEEK.

A Synopsis of the Bills of General Interest Introduced Into and Passed by the Upper House.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 29.—The visit by the legislature to Winthrop college came up in the senate Saturday. As the matter now stood both houses would probably adjourn today until the following Tuesday in order to enable the representatives to be at home Monday, which was salesday. A free excursion would be run Saturday and all the members could go to Winthrop without any time being lost and at no expense to the State. Mr. Sloan spoke in favor of the resolution and Mr. Archer against it. By a vote of 20 to 5 the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Mayfield was seized with a desire yesterday to know who got the dispensary rebates. He introduced a concurrent resolution that a committee on investigation, composed of members of both houses, be appointed to investigate the dispensary charges of corruption. It passed without comment or objection.

A joint resolution authorizing the State treasurer to issue to Samuel Lord, as receiver of the president and directors of the State bank, consolidation bonds or stock equal in amount to 50 per cent. of the par value of certain 6 per cent. State bonds and interest thereon (which bonds were taken and lost or destroyed by Federal soldiers during the late civil war, and to which the said receiver, by decrees of the court, has been adjudged entitled, and to permit the refunding of the same under the acts for the redemption of the State debt.

Mr. Mower introduced a bill to provide for the appointment of magistrates and to define their jurisdiction, powers and duties.

This bill is the same one vetoed by Governor Evans in every particular, save that the words "should the senate refuse to confirm any appointee, it shall not be lawful for the governor to reappoint the party so rejected for that term," are stricken out.

In the absence of the president and the president pro tem, Mr. Moses was called to the chair. It was his fortune to preside over the warmest session which the senate has yet held. Two fiery debates over second reading bills was the day's record.

The first was brought about when a concurrent resolution to allow to be introduced a bill to incorporate the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad company of South Carolina and to authorize the consolidation of certain railroads under that name, came up for a second reading.

Messrs. Mayfield and McCalla of the committee on railroads submitted an unfavorable minority report and Mr Mayfield moved an indefinite postponement of the resolution.

After much talk the resolution was voted on as follows:

Yea—Brown, Buist, Dean, Dennis, Douglass, Griffith, Henderson, Moses, Mower, O'Dell, Ragin, Scarborough, Sloan, Stackhouse, Talbird, Walker, Williams—17.

Nay—Alexander, Archer, Connor, Gaines, Hay, Love, Mayfield, McCalla, McDaniel, Miller, Pettigrew, Ragsdale, Sanders, Turner, Wallace—15.

As a two thirds vote was necessary the resolution failed to pass.

The second debate was on a bill to amend the free school law so as to require school trustees of each school district to be elected by the qualified electors. After considerable discussion the aye and nay vote was taken as to whether the enacting words should be stricken out with the following result:

Aye—Alexander, Archer, Brown, Buist, Connor, Gaines, Griffith, Mayfield, McCalla, McDaniel, Miller, Moses, O'Dell, Pettigrew, Ragin, Sanders, Scarborough, Stackhouse, Talbird, Turner, Wallace, Williams—22

Nay—Dean, Dennis, Douglass, Hay, Henderson, Love, Mower, Ragsdale, Walker—9.

The bill was killed by this overwhelming vote.

In the Senate Tuesday when the hour arrived for the election of United States Senator, Mr. Dean as senator from Greenville arose to put in nomination Judge Earle. He said:

"We are here to execute the will of the people; I, therefore, rise to place in nomination the name of the gentleman who was chosen by the people to represent them in the United States senate. A gentleman whose purity in public and private life has never been questioned; a gentleman who will reflect honor on this State in the halls of the national legislature. It is my privilege to present the name of the Hon. Joseph H. Earle of Greenville."

Mr. Moses—I second the nomination of the Hon. Joseph H. Earle with pleasure.

Mr. Henderson—If ability and purity of character in public and private life counts for aught, then the Hon. Joseph H. Earle will ably represent this State. I second the nomination.

Mr. Mayfield—The gentleman whose name has been put in nomination was chosen by the people after a heated campaign. I opposed his election then, but since the will of the people has been expressed, it gives me pleasure to second the nomination of the Hon. Joseph H. Earle.

Mr. Buist—The metropolis of the State unanimously endorses the election of the Hon. Joseph H. Earle, and as their representative, I second the nomination.

Mr. Sloan—Representing the Capital city of the State, on its behalf it is with pleasure that I second the nomination of the Hon. Joseph H. Earle.

Mr. Archer—As I understand it, if the roll is called we will all second the nomination of the Hon. Joseph H. Earle.

The roll was then called, all the senators present voting for Judge Earle. In all 31 votes were cast.

A concurrent resolution from the house providing for the appointment of a commission composed of three members of that body and two of the senate to consider all matters relating to county government to sit in extra session and to have its report printed and mailed to each representative, was substituted for a similar senate resolution. After considerable discussion the resolution was indefinitely postponed.

The senate bill extending the time for the collection of the commutation road tax to the 15th of March was received from the house amended by extending the time to the 1st of April. This amendment was accepted.

Some time ago in the Senate Mr. Norris introduced a bill requiring all students at Clemson to pay a tuition fee of $40 each per annum except such indigent students as the board might see fit to exempt. This bill, which has been on the calendar several days in the absence of its author, came up for a second reading Wednesday.

Mr. McCalla offered an amendment to change the tuition from $40 to $30. He said it was not right and just for Clemson to be put on the same footing with the other institutions in this matter of tuition, for the taxpayers were not required to contribute to its support. It was a farmers' college, supported by farmers, and should be run in the interest of the farmers.

Mr. Archer took the position that it was rediculous for the farmers to pay taxes for the support of all the State institutions and then directly keep up Clemson by the special tag tax on fertilizers. He thought this special tax should go into the general fund so that all would bear equally their part of the burden.

Mr. Pettigrew moved to table the amendment of Mr. McCalla. He did so, he said, because in every college everyone who was able to pay ought to be required to pay the full amount. The motion prevailed by a large majority. The bill then passed its second reading.

Mr. Ragsdale's bill providing that the verdict of the jury shall not be set aside or modified by the presiding judge, upon the ground that such verdict is contrary to the evidence, or against the preponderance of the evidence, or that the damages assessed by the jury are excessive, or insufficient, but the verdict of the jury in all civil causes triable by jury shall be as to all issues of fact final and conclusive, was taken up and killed.

Mr. Buist introduced the following:

Be it resolved by the senate, the house of representatives concurring, that this general assembly does respectfully urge upon the senators of United States the importance of taking prompt action in favor of the ratification of the treaty of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain, whereby the sense of the American people may be manifested that a resort to war as a means of determining international disputes is unsuitable to the spirit of the age.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the senators from this State with a request that they be presented to the senate. This passed without comment.

An unfavorable report being presented on Mr. Ragsdale's bill to regulate the running of trains so as to require fast mail trains to stop at all stations, Mr. Ragsdale asked to have the bill put on the calendar, as he wanted to see whether the railroads belonged to the State or the State belonged to the railroads. The committee seemed to think the State belonged to the railroads.

Mr. Sloan quickly replied that the committee did its own thinking.

Mr. Ragsdale answered that he meant no offense, and the bill went on the calendar.

In the Senate on Thursday a presentment was read from the Spartanburg grand jury calling attention to the lax administration of the law against carrying concealed weapons and reporting that the law was fast becoming a dead letter. It was recommended that the Magistrates of the county rigidly enforce the law by punishing every violation.

The grand jury also recommended that the General Assembly put Magistrates and constables on salaries, in both civil and criminal cases; reduce the cost in such courts and require all costs to be collected and reported to the County Treasurer monthly.

The rebate investigation matter being taken up, Mr. Mayfield, the author, stated that he had drafted and presented the bill at the request of the officers who were connected with the institution. If it was found that any person had dipped his hand into the public coffers let him wear the stripes, and by all means let the people of South Carolina know the truth, and relieve those who were suffering under insinuations. Mr. Brown moved to strike out the enacting clause of the resolution, stating that he did not believe the investigation would amount to anything but smoke. This the Senate refused to do, and the bill was passed.

When Mr. Ragsdale's telegraph bill, which was reported unfavorably, was reached, Mr. Mayfield, of the committee, rose and moved the adoption of the report and rejection of the bill, which was carried by a vote of 24 to 7.

A concurrent resolution (House) to allow a bill to incorporate the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company of South Carolina and to authorize the consolidation of certain railroads under that name to be introduced was passed.

A bill to amend the law relating to hawkers and peddlers, placing the matter of license within the authority of County boards of commission, and exempting Confederate veterans from any license charge was also passed.

Mr. Buist introduced a bill prescribing heavy penalties by both fine and imprisonment for all sorts of irregularities in primary election.

If this session of the legislature is not brought to a speedy close, then it will not be the fault of the upper house. The senate several days ago manifested a desire to terminate seemingly interminable legislation by passing a resolution prohibiting the introduction of any new bills after Feb. 1. Yesterday, under this resolution, was the closing day of grace, for when the senators meet again next Tuesday, the first will have passed.

Then again there was another resolution Friday. Senator Brown was its author. He introduced a resolution that the present session do stand adjourned sine die on Feb. 12. Senator Moses said that to do so would be both impracticable and impossible. All the outstanding work could not be disposed of in that time. He requested that the resolution be withdrawn. Mr. Brown did so. The session of Friday was featureless. For just one hour the senate considered second reading bills, passed third reading bills and received several new bills which the senators wished to get in before the opportunity closed. At 12 o'clock the senate went to the house to elect a judge, and on its return adjourned until Tuesday at 8 p. m.

Dubois Defeated.

BOISE CITY, Jan 28.—The senatorial contest in the Idaho State legislature terminated today by the election of Henry Heitfelt, a populist, to succeed Senator Dubois. The ballot was as follows: Heitfelt 39; Dubois, silver Republican, 30; T. F. Nelson, Populist 1. Twenty-five Populists, 13 Democrats and one Republican voted for the successful candidate.

IN THE HOUSE.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE DURING THE PAST WEEK.

A Synopsis of the Bills of General Interest Introduced Into and Passed by the Lower House.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 29.—The House of Representatives is now getting down to work in dead earnest and from now on will make things move. Among the new bills introduced since our last report was one by Mr. Perritt to require 80 per cent. of the commutation road tax to be expended on the roads and bridges of the townships from which it is collected.

Mr. Burns introduced a bill to regulate the manufacture, inspection, shipment and sale of commercial fertilizers and manures, the privilege tax on same and providing a penalty for violating the provisions of this act. Provision is made in the bill for the trustees of Clemson college, upon the receipt by the State treasurer of 15 cents per ton on fertilizers sold, to issue privilege tax tags. That when so issued, these tags shall be cancelled by the company, selling the fertilizers, stamping its name across the face of them, and provides for the punishment of persons issuing fraudulent tags or in any way attempting to evade the tax. The principal intention of the bill is to abolish all of the privilege tax on fertilizers, except so much as shall be necessary to pay for the analyses of fertilizers, and thus protect the farmers against adulterated goods. This tax being a discriminating class tax paid by one class and enjoyed by all others, no revenue feature is permitted, Mr. Burns holding it an incorrect theory of taxation. The support of all our educational institutions he says, should be placed upon the same footing and supported by a direct appropriation from the State treasury, according to their several wants and necessities as the legislature in its wisdom may decide

Mr. Layton introduced a bill to amend the general pension law. The bill provides that applications shall be submitted to a board of three ex Confederates and physician. The chairman of the several camp boards shall be known as examining boards of pensions, which shall meet on the third Monday in January, 1898, and on the third Monday of January in each succeeding year. It shall be their duty to examine all applications under regulations prescribed by the secretary of state, attorney general and comptroller general, who shall constitute "State boards of pensions," and they shall certify to the State board their approval of applications giving in detail the reason which influence them to grant or oppose each application, accompanied by all the evidence upon which they made their decision. In selecting pensioners from among the applicants the board shall have regard to their present condition and financial means and also the financial condition of their near relatives, allowing to each applicant so selected the sum of $8, $6 or $4 as they may be entitled under the provision of the act. The sum of $700 is appropriated out of funds in the treasury to defray the expenses of the examining boards, which shall be five cents per mile for travel each way in attending the meeting. The several camps shall meet on the third Monday of December, 1897, and the same day in each subsequent year and shall elect three of their members, who shall not be an applicant for pensions, as camp examining board, the chairmen of these several camp boards to be the county examing board When there are no camps, or when they fail to carry out the provisions of the act the State board shall appoint three ex Confederatee, non-applicants for penesions, who shall constitute the State board.

Unfavorable reports were presented on the bill to amend the law relating to cotton weighers, the bill to change the boundary line of Broad River township in York county (with minority report), the bill to amend the privileged tax act, reducing the tax to 15 cents; the bill to provide for the election of masters and the bill to require the State sinking fund commission to lend the funds to the counties of the State.

When Mr. Harvey's bill to require the killing of dogs bitten by any animal suffering with rabies was called up for a final reading, Mr. Pollock moved to indefinitely postpone it. The house refused to do so. however, and the bill was ordered to be sent to the senate.

When Mr. Stevenson's bill to render uniform the mode of taxation in towns and cities in accordance with section 6, article VIII of the new Constitution, was taken up and passed to a third reading.

Mr. Timmerman's bill to forbid the couty supervisor, the board of township commissioners and the county board of commissioners from entering into or making any contract or auditing any claim against their respective counties for any fiscal year beyond or in excess of the appropriation made by the general assembly for such year, and making a violation of such forbidden acts a misdemeanor was then taken up, and Mr. Timmerman defended his bill at some length, Mr. Graham having moved to strike out the enacting words. Mr. Graham thought the bill would do the county government system more harm than good. He thought it would work a great hardship on the county officials.

Mr. Cushman of Aiken said his county was between $10,000 and $12,000 in debt and they felt that something should be done. Mr. Cushman moved to add at the end of section 1 the words "but nothing in this section shall be construed to include cases where expenditures are rendered necessary by the act of God or the public enemy."

Mr. Crum favored the bill. He said if there were not restrictions along this line they would soon have all counties badly in debt.

Mr Rogers asked what county officials would do in taking care of prisoners if the funds gave out two or three months before the year was up; would they starve them or turn them loose?

Mr. Price said, his county had gotten into trouble and he wanted something done along this line. All over the house members rose to speak on the same line.

Mr. Pollock suggested the bill continued for a few days. If this bill became law the county officials must let the county stand still, or else make themselves liable to imprisonment.

Dr. Ilderton said there should be some restriction and some limit should be placed around the officials. He favored the amendment.

Mr. Efird was opposed to the bill. He thought expenditures on roads, etc., were in the line of "money well spent." He asked how may county officials in Mr. Timmerman's county, besides the county supervisor had defaulted. He also asked Mr. Goodwin if the extra amount expended in Greenville hadn't been of great permanent benefit to the county. Mr. Goodwin replied at some length. He detailed the affairs of Greenville county very fully. Mr. Price disclaimed any intention of reflecting on the officials in his county; the county was $17,000 behind; he thought perhaps they had been a little extravagant.

Mr. Efird said that such expenses were expected to arise during the first two years under the new county government system. He thought this bill would so hamper the officials that they might as well go back to the old system.

Finally, Mr. Rogers moved to indefinitely postpone the bill. The house declined to do so. Mr. White moved to recommit the bill, which was done by a vote of 46 to 29. The purpose is to perfect the bill.

Mr. Westmoreland's bill to require certain officers to keep an itimized account of their income by virtue of their office, and to require them to make a quarterly report of the same was taken up.

After some slight amendments had been made Mr. Stevenson moved to strike out the whole of section 4 of the bill, saving it was impracticable.

Mr. Price of Orangeburg was heartily in favor of the provision. He said he had had personal experience in trying to find out the receipts of the various offices. The people wanted to know the income of the various offices. There was no hardship about the provision.

Mr. Stevenson said all the people wanted to know was the income of the offices and not what was on the books

The house refused to accept Mr. Stevenson's suggestion.

Mr. deLoach thought annual reports sufficient and so amended the bill, and it finally passed in this form:

Section 1. That on and after the passage of this act each county officer shall be required to purchase and keep in his office, open to public inspection during office hours, a book in which shall be kept an itimized account of all money received by him, whether as salary, costs, fees or in any other manner, as pay to him for his services by virtue of his office.

Sec. 2. That at the close of every fiscal year each county officer shall transmit a copy of said account, under oath, to the office of county supervisor.

Sec. 3. That the county supervisor, in addition to other books kept in his office, shall keep a separate book in which he shall enter upon his books the total amount of each account so furnished opposite the name of the officer furnishing the said account, and file the account in his office as other county records are kept.

Sec. 4. That at the end of every fiscal year each county officer shall also furnish, under oath, an itimized statement showing all moneys due to said officer and at the time unpaid, to which shall be entered and kept as other county records are kept.

Sec. 5. That any county officer neglecting or refusing to comply with any of the provisions of the foregoing act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than $50 nor more than $200, or imprisoned in the county jail not less than two nor more than six months, either or both, at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 6. That this act shall be deemed a public act, and shall take effect immediately upon its approval by the governor.

When the above bill was taken up for a final reading Mr. Perritt moved to reconsider the vote, whereby it had been ordered to a third reading. Then the counties of Marlboro, Darlington, Richland, Chesterfield, Horry, Abbeville, Charleston, Lancaster, Barnwell, Edgefield and Lexington asked to be exempted from the provisions of the bill.

Mr. Wyche asked that if this was a good bill for one county it was good for all. He moved to recommit the bill. This motion prevailed by a vote of 38 to 32.

Mr. Patton's much talk of redistricting bill was introduced Monday. It will be noticed that the territorial designations long in use have been selected for the districts. This is to prevent persons from confusing the districts with the numbered judicial circuits, there being no requirement preventing such nomenclature. Here are the districts proposed:

Pee Dee District—Chesterfield, Marlboro, Darlington, Florence, Marion and Horry.

Santee District—Georgetown, Williamsburg, Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester.

Edisto Dirtrict—Orangeburg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Beaufort.

Wateree District—Fairfield, Kershaw, Richland, Sumter and Clarendon.

Saluda District—Laurens, Greenwood, Newberry, Saluda, Lexington and Aiken.

Northern District — Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union, York, Chester and Lancaster.

Piedmont District — Greenville, Pickens, Oconee, Anderson and Abbeville.

Mr. Rainsford's anti-trust bill was taken up and passed in the following shape:

Section 1. That from and after the passage of this, all arrangements, contracts, agreements, trust or combinations between persons or corporations made with a view to lessen, or which tends to lessen, full and free competition in the importation or sale of articles imported into this State, or in the manufacture or sale of articles of domestic growth or of domestic raw material, and all arrangements, contracts, agreements, trusts or combinations between persons or corporations designed, or which tend to advance, reduce or control the price or the cost to the producer or to the consumer of any such product or article, are hereby declared to be against public policy, unlawful and void.

Sec. 2. Whenever complaint is made upon sufficient affidavit or affidavits showing a prima facie case of violation of the provision of the first section of this act, by any corporation, domestic or foreign, it shall be the duty of the attorney general to begin an action against such domestic corporation to forfeit its charter, and in case such violation shall be established the court shall adjudge the charter of such corporation to be forfeited and such corporation shall be dissolved and its charter shall cease and determine, and in case of such showing as to a foreign corporation the action shall be begun by the attorney general in said court against such corporation to determine the truth of such charge and in case such charge shall be considered established, the effect of the judgment of the court shall be to deny to such corporation the recognition of its corporate existence in any court of law in equity in State. But nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any right of action then existing against such corporation.

Sec. 3. Any violation of the provision of this act shall be deemed, and is hereby declared to be destructive of full and free competition and a conspiracy against trade, and any person or persons who may engage in such conspiracy, or who shall, as principal, manager, director or agent, or in any other capacity, knowingly carry out any of the stipulations, purposes, prices, rates or orders made in furtherance of such conspiracy, shall, on conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $5,000, and by imprisonment in the penitentiary not less than six months nor more than 10 years, or, in the judgment of the court, by either such fine or such imprisonment.

Sec. 4. That any person or persons, or corporation, that may be injured or damaged by any such arrangement, contract, agreement, trust or combination, described in section 1 of this act, may sue for and recover, in any court of competent jurisdiction in this State, of any person, persons or corporation operating such trust or combination the full consideration of sum paid by him or them for any goods, wares, merchandise or articles the sale of which is controlled by such combination or trust.

Sec. 5. That any and all persons may be compellable to testify in any action or prosecution under this act: provided, that such testimony shall not be used in any other action or prosecution against each witness or witnesses and forever be exempt from any prosecution for the act or acts which he or they testify.

Mr. Livingston's concurrent resolution relating to appointment of joint committee to consider all acts and parts of acts relating to county and township government, inclusive of fees and salaries of county officers was adopted without debate.

A concurrent resolution offered by Mr. Rainsford was adopted requiring the directors of the State penitentiary to examine into the cost and feasibility of erecting a plant at the penitentiary for the purpose of converting phosphate rock into acid phosphate, reporting at the next session.

The house adopted the senate resolution to extend the time for the collection of the commutation road tax in the several counties after changing the date from March 15 to April 1, by an amendment offered by Mr. Cushman.

Without debate the senate bill to amend the act to authorize and empower cities, towns, townships and other municipal corporations to issue negotiable coupon bonds for the refunding of payment in whole or in part of bonded indebtedness and any unpaid past due interest thereon existin at the time of the adoption of the present Constitution was ordered to a third reading.

Among the new bills introduced in the House Tuesday was a measure to protect the children of the State from the baneful influence of false and partizan instruction. The bill should pass.

Another important measure introduced Tuesday was a bill to allow county boards of control to purchase certain liquors for the county dispensers under certain restrictions.

A bill was introduced providing for the payment of tuition fees by all persons attending the State educational colleges and universities, except the institution for the deaf and blind.

Mr. John P. Thomas, Jr., presented a bill to further provide for the return and assessment of property for taxation. This bill provides for the further return of property for the purpose of taxation and defining the duties of boards of assessors. The main object of the bill is to require the return and reassessment of real estate during the year 1898 and in every further year thereafter. As the law now stands there is no provision at all under the new Constitution for the return of real estate. The bill also defines the duties of township commissioners while acting as boards of assessors. It requires these boards to overlook all returns made to the auditor and to add to those returns all real and personal property that has not been returned or has escaped taxation. The bill seeks particularly to secure fuller returns of personal property, to the end that the burden of taxation may not bear so heavily up on the real estate owner.

A bill was introduced to repeal the act to prevent the use of a free pass, express or telegraph frank on any railroad by any United States senator or member of congress from this State or by members of the general assembly of this State or by any State or county official or by any judge of a court of record in this State.

There were a number of other new bills introduced on Tuesday, but the above are the most important.

Mr. Sinkler's bill to regulate and limit the hours of work of certain employees of electric and other street car companies was then taken up and passed to a third reading.

Mr. Livingston's resolution to limit the time for introducing bills and joint resolutions was taken up, amended so as to fix Feb. 5, as the date beyond which they could not be introduced save by committee chairmen, and then adopted:

The hour having arrived, Mr. Pollock suspended and the election of a United States senator to succeed Senator Irby was proceeded with. The election consumed only 10 minutes of the time of the house, and it was merely a matter of form.

Mr. Blythe of Greenville rose and addressed the speaker thus:

Mr. Speaker: I nominate Hon. Joseph H. Earle of Greenville As is well known to the general assembly, Judge Earle was nominated for this position at the late Democratic primary election held for that purpose, I take it, therefore, that the duty of the members of this general assembly in casting their ballots will be largely perfunctory and that they will confirm the action of the Democrats at the primary by the unanimous election of Judge Earle.

Mr. E D. Smith seconded the nomination on behalf of the Sumter delegation.

Dr. Wyche moved that nominations now close. This was agreed to and Messrs. Wyche, E. D. Smith and Pollock appointed tellers.

The colored member, Mr. Anderson, voted for G. W. Murray. The rest of the vote was cast for Judge Earle, as follows: Earle, 97; Murray, 1.

The session of the House Wednesday was devoted to discussion. There was talk and no end to it. Among the new bills introduced of general interest may be mentioned the following:

A bill to provide for the office of banking and insurance commission and to define the duties of the same.

Mr. Kinard has introduced a bill to require all common carriers to pay all loss or damages for loss or breakage of any article shipped over their lines.

Mr. McWhite introduced a bill to authorize and require the county treasurers of the several counties of this State to pay out the profits of the dispensary which are paid over to him for certain claims, and the county supervisors to draw their warrants first for said claims.

The committee reported unfavorably upon the joint resolutions to authorize the general assembly to establish new counties pending the further election for the location and name of the county seats. The unfavorable report was adopted and the resolution rejected.

Among the many matters unfavorably reported by the committees were the following:

Mr. Witherspoon's bill relating to the free school law.

The bill fixing the fees of witnesses attending the courts of general sessions.

The bill to authorize the purchase of bloodhounds.

The bill to require 80 per cent. of the road tax to be applied to the improvement of bridges and roads in several townships of the State.

As members of the special committees to whom all bills and matters relating to the dispensary law and pensions are to be referred the speaker announced the appointment of the following: Aiken, A. W. Cushman; Laurens, O. P. Goodwin; Fairfield, J. G. Wallins; York, S. H. Epps, Chester. P. T. Hollis, Pickens, Joel H. Miller; Greenville, H. P. Goodwin; Horry, Jeremiah Mishoe; Darlington, A. J. A. Perritt; Florence, B. B. McWhite; Richland, L. D. Childs; Barnwell, J. M. Skinner; Kershaw, D. M. Bethune; Abbeville, A. J. Speer; Newberry, John F Banks; Marlboro, J. F. McLaurin; Berkeley, B. H. Henderson; Charleston, W. H. Sinkler; Anderron, R. B. A. Robinson; Clarendon, C. M. Davis; Spartanburg, R. A. Lancaster; Saluda, B. L. Caughman; Lexington, D. F. Efird; Williamsburg, J. L. Graham; Oconee, C. R. D. Burns; Georgetown, M. W. Pyatt; Chesterfield, W. P. Pollock; Lancaster, C. H. Plyer; Union, C. W. Whisonart; Marion, J. D. Haselden; Sumter, W. A. Nettles; Edgefield, W. H. Yeldell; Beaufort, W. C. Vincent; Orangeburg, A. F. H. Dukes; Colleton, E. J. Limehouse; Hampton, T. A. Hamilton.

When the house got ready for business on the calendar it tackled the third reading bills and Mr. Sinkler's bill relating to the hours of labor of the street car employees was passed without a word.

On its final reading the senate bill relating to the aboliton of the office of referee in certain counties was amended by Mr. McWhite so as to strike out Florence and was then passed.

It was 11:30 o'clock before the house got to "unfinished business," taking up Mr. Bedon's bill to amend the act relating to fishing at certain times in Aiken, Barnwell, Darlington, Colleton and Orangeburg counties. It was promptly ordered to a third reading without debate.

Mr. Timmerman's bill to forbid the county supervisors, the boards of township commissioners and the county board of commissioners from entering into or making any contract or auditing any claim against their respective counties for any fiscal year beyond or in excess of the appropriation made by the general assembly for such year, and making a violation of such forbidden acts a felony was taken up.

In the House Thursday Mr. Kibler's bill to provide for an insurance and banking commissioner was unfavorably reported, as was also Mr. Robinson's bill to repeal the anti free pass act.

Mr. W. S. Smith introduced a bill to provide for a new judicial circuit to be known as the ninth judicial circuit and to define the limits of the first, second and third judicial circuits.

Mr. Verner introduced a bill to prevent the charging of usurious rates of interest under certain penalties. The bill provides that those charging and collecting usurious rates shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction before a magistrate shall be fined $100, to be collected by the magistrate and paid into the county treasury for school purposes. The second section provides that "it shall be unlawful for any person or corporation after said conviction, either to loan money or to do any other banking business within this State."

Mr. Verner introduced another bill to require railroad companies to pay for crossties within a certain time The bill provides: "That whenever any person or persons or corporation under a contract with any railroad company owning or operating a rail road within this State shall deliver crossties, bridge timbers, or other constructing and operating materials upon the line of any railroad company, it shall be the duty of said railroad company to receive and pay for such material within 60 days after the same shall have been delivered, either to the party owning or delivering the same, or his or her assignee.

Mr. Thomas introduced a bill to provide for the sale of native wines in the county dispensaries, the producers to receive a percentage of the profits, such percentage to be fixed by the State board of control.

Mr. Crum introduced a bill to establish Bamberg County.

Mr. McCullough presented a protest from 1,200 operatives of the Piedmont cotton mills against any kind of labor legislation in this State. Mr. Miles presented a similar petition from operatives in Spartanburg; Mr. Ashley presented a like petition from operatives in Anderson and Mr. Townsend one from mill employes in Union.

Mr. Toole's bill, unfavorably reported, to provide for the election of masters taken up and Mr. Magill moved to strike out the enacting words, which was carried by a vote of 58 to 47.

Mr. Skinner's bill requiring the sinking fund commission to lend funds to the several county treasurers of the State for the use of their counties in preference to lending some to other applicants for such funds, which had been unfavorably reported, was called up and the fight of the day begun.

After considerable discussion the bill was passed to a third reading in this shape:

Section 1. That the sinking fund commission are hereby authorized and required, when unable to purchase valid bonds of this State at par, to lend the money to the sinking fund commission at a rate of interest not less than 4 1-2 per centum per annum, and for a time not longer than one year, upon pledge of the forthcoming taxes of the current fiscal year, to the several county treasurers of this State. The application for a loan by such treasurer shall only be made upon the recommendation of a majority of the county board of commissioners; provided such loans be approved by the governor. The form of such pledge shall be approved by the attorney general of this State, and the

[CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR.]

VERY DAMAGING EVIDENCE

Against the Murderer of Treasurer Robert Copes.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 28—Some time ago, Capt. J. H. Fanning of Orangeburg, in connection with a reporter of the Register, called upon D. C. Murphy, the convicted murderer of Treasurer Copes, of Orangeburg, and asked him for a statement, in view of the fact that the Supreme Court had determind that he was not entitled to a new trial and that he had ben re sensenced to be hanged in March. Murphy, who is in the Penitentiary, led them to believe that if they got certain documents from certain parties his innocence would be proven. Capt. Fanning went to the trouble to write to the parties mentioned and even came to Columbia to show the answer to Murphy, but he resolutely refuses to make any statement, and unless he does, he must hang in March.

Murphy stated that the Sheriff of Putnam County, Florida, could prove an alibi for him. Capt. Fanning wrote to this sheriff and received the following reply:

Palatka, Fla., Jan. 22, 1897.

Mr. J. H. Fanning, Orangeburg, S. C.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 20th inst. to hand and contents carefully noted and in reply will say that I did have D. C Murphy, of whom you refer to, in custody, September 25th to September 27th, 1894. After we released him he skipped out, and I am satisfied went straight to South Carolina, and I am, also, satisfied he is guilty of the murder. I am the one who located him under the promise of getting half of the reward, which was to be $750. But I never have received a penny for my services, which I am satisfied has been long paid to other parties. Detective Lambert that was sent here, had given up all hope of ever getting him when I taken the matter up and located Murphy in 24 hours and put him dead on to him with the promise of half of the reward. I would like to have you tell me who did get the reward, and how much was received, etc.

Yours very truly,
JOHN W. HOGAN, Sheriff.

Murphy also stated that he had been employed by F. W Wagener of Charleston and that they could give some information as to his whereabouts on the night of the murder. The following reply was received from them:

Charleston, S. C., Jan. 22, 1897.

Mr. Jas. H. Fanning, Orangeburg, S. C.

Dear Sir: Your esteemed favor of the 20th inst. is just to hand, and we have read the marked article in the Times and Democrat sent us, but cannot account for Mr. Murphy's statement. We presume he has had an attorney for his case, and if there is any information we can give him, we will do so with pleasure. In fact, we think it a part of our duty to do this. We will say frankly, however, that we have no idea what he is referring to, but if you can give us the name of his attorney, we will correspond with him.

Yours truly,
F. W. WAGENER & Co.

Murphy was called on at the Penitentiary yesterday and was shown the above letters. He was found in a cell on the second tier, and would say nothing after seeing the reporter for The Register, whom he did not know, but who he thought was a detective. Capt. Fanning showed him the letters and in the presence of Capt. Westfield read them to him. Murphy took them in his cell, and after perusing them still had nothing to say. Capt. Fanning, after expressing his personal hope that Murphy would make some statement and getting no satisfaction, had to leave. Murphy appears to be in the best of health, and seemingly does not realize what a serious position he is in. But as he will say nothing, and as all the evidence is against him, the probabilities are that he will be executed next month. Murphy is in the Penitentiary for safe keeping, and has been for two years. He has made one attempt to cut his way out and since that he has been closely watched. Under ordinary circumstances, it will now be impossible for him to get out. —Register.

Goes for Morton.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—In the House today Mr. Dearmond, Democrat of Missouri, made an attack, in the course of a speech, on Secretary of Agriculture Morton. With biting sarcasm and rasping irony, he scored the Secretary of Agriculture, taking as his text a recent publication issued by the Secretary and sent out over the country under a frank, entitled "The Farmers' Interest in Finance." The pamphlet reviewed the silver agitation to show that "poverty and illiteracy" characterized the States which had been foremost in the demand for the restoration of silver. Mr. Dearmond asserted that the demand for silver came chiefly from the farmers whose interest the Secretary of Agriculture was supposed to look after, and asked contemptuously what excuse there was for issuing to them "this slander, this travesty on facts." No one took Secretary Morton seriously nowadays The world was no longer interested in his views on finance, although it might look with expectation for any observation he might make on the woodchuck, the hedge hog or the eye of the potato. Addressing the Republican side, he appealed to them to recognize Secretary Morton's services, even though they refused to accept the responsibility for him. "Of course," said he, "you will not keep him in his present position, but you might put him in the national museum." In conclusion, Mr. Dearmond commended to the prayerful consideration of the Republicans "this curiosity of modern political life, whose peculiarity was that he talked when he was not writing and wrote when he was not talking, and did both when he was not thinking.

Full many a whim of purest ray serene,
The dark, unfathomed dreams of Morton bear:
Full many a wheel is formed to whir unseen,
And waste its fleetness 'neath J. Sterling's hair.

(Great laughter and applause.)

A Railroad Slaughter.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Jan. 27.—The Colonial express, on the Consolidated Road, east bound, struck and killed five men at East Norwalk, about 2 o'clock this afternoon. The men had been working on the track and stepped out of the way of one train directly in front of another. At this point there are four tracks, and the train the men desired to avoid and the one which killed them were both moving in the same direction.

Wanted to Leave a Widow.

JACKSON, Miss. Jan. 27.—The marriage of Chief Justice Thomas Woods this evening to his housekeeper, Miss Alice Bartlett, a distant relative, was a great surprise. Judge Woods has been confined to his bed a week or more with grip, and was quite sick, so that he had to be propped on pillows and remain in bed while the ceremony was being performed. This is his third marriage.

STARTLING FIGURES.

THE RAPID GROWTH OF CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES.

A Methodist Conference Calls for Thousands of Sermons on the Text "Thou Shalt Not Kill."

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 27.—The Methodist Episcopal conference, which has been in session at the Loyd street colored church, before adjourning took action on a very interesting subject. The delegates discussed the great question of the increase of the crime of murder in this country, and, while the causes for the increase were not developed in their action, the resolution adopted makes good reading, and will attract the attention of the pen of the country. During the final session of the conference Rev. Dr. Mason introduced a resolution which was unanimously adopted, upon waking up the country to the importance of the murder question.

It required the Episcopacy, as a body, to instruct Methodist Episcopal ministers throughout this country—there are 20,000 pulpits—to prerch one sermon a year on the 6th commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," as a means of producing a correct public opinion as to the value of human life and as a warning of the great danger of national judgment for unrequired blood. But here are the resolutions in full:

"Whereas, the crime of murder is increasing in the land and becoming the most popular of crimes because of the venial character of our criminal courts, by whom many murderers are allowed to escape, while many suffer no penalty at all—showing a greater number of murders and homicides to the million of inhabitants than any European nation which keeps a record of the matter, when measured by this rule the United States leads the list, being the most bloodthirsty nation in matters of private war.

"The following figures show the growth of the crime. In 1886 the numbers for the first time exceeded 1,000:

"In 1887 it was about 2,335.
"In 1888 it was about 2,884.
"In 1889 it was about 2,569.
"In 1890 it was about 4,290.
"In 1891 it was about 5,906.
"In 1892 it was about 6,791.
"In 1893 it was about 6,615.
"In 1894 it was about 9,800.
"In 1895 it was about 10,212.

"The report for last year has not been made up, but we have abundant evidence that the blood stained record grows and will no doubt exceed the previous years of crime.

"And whereas, we know from the Word of God, that a blood-stained land, which in its courts and by its practice boldly tramples under foot the sixth commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill,' must thereby attract to itself the judgments of Almighty God, impending events which should be avoided by repentance and reformation:

"And whereas, the Gospel and Divine Law are the only instruments which will create a just public opinion on this subject, a thing much needed north and south; therefore,

"1. Resolved. That we earnestly and respectfully request our Episcopal board at its meeting in the fall, to instruct all Methodist pastors under its supervision, to preach one sermon in the year on the sixth commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill,' so as to strengthen the hands of just magistrates and courts, and to recover this root law, of the amenities and peaceful measures of life, whether domestic or international from disrespect, neglect and oblivion.

"2. Resolved, That whilst anxious to correct a great evil at home we are not insensible of the evils and demoralizing influences of foreign war—and as ministers of the Prince of Peace we tender our support to all measures looking to the arbitration of international strife—and thus from our humble place amongst men we freely congratulate the government at Washington on the happy issue of threatened trouble with England, and as citizens we recommend the adoption of the pending treaty of arbitration.

"3. Resolved, That we respectfully ask our sister conferences to unite with us in this petition, and to that end that a copy of this action be sent by our secretary to each conference in our American work—conscious as we are that the deliverances of fifteen thousand or more pulpits in one year on this momentous subject, will be a volume and measure of moral power of such magnitude as will cause beligerants, courts and juries to reflect and reform—whilst this practice if continued annually will in time introduce the golden age of peace."

A Family Poisoned.

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind., Jan. 26.—A terrible tragedy took place last night at the home of George Madison, near this city. Yesterday Mrs. Madison had been out working. When she returned she brought apples for the children. The family ate supper, the children eating the fruit with the peelings on, while the parents peeled those they ate. Immediately after Artie, 19 months old; James, 4 years old; Lulu, 3 years old, and a boy of five were taken severely ill with signs of strychnine poisoning. Before a physician could arrive the first two named children were dead. Lulu died during the night and the boy is very ill. Mrs. Madison is also ill.

W. J. Bryan in Austin.

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan. 27—The Hon. W. J. Bryan visited the Texas Legislature this morning, and all business was suspended while he made the two houses a ringing speech similar to those delivered during the late Presidential campaign. He took occasion to say that he noted with pride that Texas was in the lead in the matter of laws to regulate the corporations that were doing the country the most harm. He stated that in his State and others during the last twelve months corporations had stepped out of their chartered rights and into politics, and that he favored the enactment of a law to prohibit any corporation from contributing money to a campaign fund.

Bryan to Tammany.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—The general committee of Tammany Hall for 1897, met tonight and organized. The following message from Mr. Bryan was received with cheers: "I wish you would express to Tammany my appreciation of the service rendered by the organization during the campaign just closed. They did their duty and did it well, and are not to blame for our defeat. To you I am specially indebted. Our cause will yet triumph."