The Fairfield News and Herald.

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IN THE STATE SENATE.

SHEEP KILLING DOGS HAS TOO MANY FRIENDS.

How the Senators Voted on Several Important Measures During the Past Week—A Report of the Work Done.

The session of the Senate Monday was entirely without incident or debate. The entire morning was taken up in routine work, which was pushed forward at a rapid rate.

President McSweeney announced the appointment of Capt. A. M. Ruth senate post master, vice J. T. Parks resigned, Capt. Ruth is an old Confederate soldier and served for 16 years as sheriff of Hampton county For a number of years before the war, his father was a senator from Beaufort county.

The bill to require the killing of the sheep killing dogs, which had been passed by the House was killed.

On Tuesday the session of the Senate was devoted to the discussion principally to two measures—the question of biennial sessions of the Legislature and wide tires for wagons. After considerable discussion the first proposition came to a vote as follows:

Yeas—Alexander, Archer, Brown, Buist, Connor, Dennis, Douglass, DuBose, Gaines, Love, Mauldin, McCalla, McDaniel Miller, Norris, O'Dell, Pettigrew, Sanders, Scarborough, Suddath, Turner, Walker, Williams—23.

Nays—Dean, Griffith, Hay, Henderson, Jefferies, Lesesne, Mayfield, McAlhany, Moses, Mower, Ragsdale, Sloan, Talbird, Wallace, Waller—15

The measure failing to get a two-thirds vote as required by the constitution was declared defeated, and the Legislature will meet every year as heretofore.

The Senate went to work with a meat ax Wednesday and killed almost every bill on which there was the least debate. The first to suffer was Mr. Patton's paving bill and soon after Mr. Gaines' broad tire bill received the same fate. Mr. Henderson's county government bill ran the gauntlet, but it was the only one to successfully do so. When the paving bill was reached Mr. Archer moved on indefinite postponement, which after considerable argument was agreed to by a vote of 21 to 16.

Mr. Hendeson's county government bill was then taken up.

Mr. Ragsdale thought it would be better to try the county goverment law in force for a while longer. It was beginning to work satisfactorily in Fairfield since it was becoming understood by the people. He moved an indefinite postponement.

Mr. Archer said the people of his county wanted a change, and the sooner it could be had the better. The expenses of Spartanburg had been increased enormously under the present law and a change was needed.

Mr. Moses endorsed every word the senator from Spartanburg said, for they applied to Sumter equally as well.

Mr. Lesesne hoped the bill would pass.

Mr. Henderson said that if each senator would devote five minutes to calculation they would see that at least five or six hundred dollars per annum was saved to each county. He then pointed out the cumbersome machinery of the present law and contrasted it with the simplicity of the bill under discussion.

Mr. Archer moved to table the motion to indefinitely postpone the bill. The aye and nay vote resulted:

Ayes — Alexander, Archer, Buist, Dean, Dennis, Douglass, Dubose, Gaines, Griffith, Hay Henderson, Jefferies, Lesesne, Love, Mauldin, McAlhany, McCalla, Miller, Moses, Mower, Norris, O'Dell, Pettigrew, Sanders, Scarborough, Sloan, Stackhouse, Suddath, Turner, Walker, Wallace, Waller, Williams—33.

Nays—Mayfield, McDaniel, Ragsdale, Talbbird—4.

Mr. Norris wanted to amend by providing for the election of the two advisory commissioners by a popular vote. The senate almost unanimously rejected the amendment.

A number of amendments perfecting the bill in minor details were offered, some of which were adopted and others rejected. The bill then passed its second reading with notice of general amendment on the third reading

Then the broad tire bill came up and after some discussion was killed by the following vote:

Yeas—Buist, Connor, Dean, Douglass, DuBose, Griffith, Hay, Henderson, Jefferies, Love, McAlhany, McDaniel, Mower, O'Dell, Pettigrew, Ragsdale, Scarborough, Sloan, Waller, Williams—21.

Nays—Alexander, Brown, Dennis, Gaines, Lesesne, Mauldin, Mayfield, McCalla, Miller, Moses, Norris, Sanders, Stackhouse, Suddath, Talbird, Turner, Walker, Wallace—18.

Mr. Love called up Mr. DeLoache's bill to regulate express and telegraph companies and to extend the powers of the railroad commissioners, so as to give them power and authority to regulate charges by express companies for transportation, to regulate the charges of telegraph companies for the transmission of messages by telegraph, for charges by persons engaged in the several businesses herein named, to apply the powers given to said commissioners, by law, over railroad companies or persons owning, controlling, or operating a line or lines of express and telegraph, and make the penalties prescribed against railroads for violating commissioner's rules apply to the companies and persons herein named, whose line or lines is or are wholly or in part in this State.

Mr. Henderson, after the bill had been discussed, moved to postpone indefinitely the bill. The yeas and nays resulted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Buist, Dennis, DuBose, Hay, Henderson, Lesesne, Mauldin, Mayfield, McAlhany, Miller, Mower, O'Dell Sanders, Sloan, Turner, Walker, Wallace.—18.

Nays—Messrs. Alexander, Archer, Brown, Connor, Dean, Douglass, Gaines, Griffith, Jefferies, Love, McCalla, McDaniel Norris, Pettigrew, Ragsdale, Scarborough, Stackhouse, Suddath, Talbird, Waller, Williams.—21.

Mr. Moses amended by exempting telephone companies from the operations of the bill. There were many telephone companies in this state declared, and placing them under commission was an unnecessary hardship. If this thing of establishing commissions were carried much further we would be commissioning factories, public ginneries, etc. Mr. Archer, and McCalla spoke against the amendment.

The amendment resulted in its adoption as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Buist, Dean, Dennis, Douglass, DuBose, Griffith, Hay, Henderson Jefferies, Lesesne, Mauldin, Mower, Mayfield, McAlhany, Miller, Moses, O'Dell, Pettigrew, Ragsdale, Sanders, Scarborough, Sloan, Turner, Walker, Waller.—25.

Nays—Messrs. Alexander, Archer, Brown, Connor, Gaines, Love, McCalla, McDaniel, Norris, Stackhouse, Suddath, Talbird, Wallace, Williams.—14.

Mr. Buist offered an amendment exempting telegraph companies from the bill. The amendment was rejected by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Buist, Dennis DuBose, Hay, Henderson, Lesesne, Mauldin, Mayfield, McAlhany, Miller, Moses, Mower, O'Dell, Sanders, Sloan, Turner, Walker.—17.

Nays—Messrs. Alexander, Archer, Brown, Connor, Dean, Douglass, Gaines, Griffith, Jefferies, Love, McCalla, McDaniel, Norris, Pettigrew, Ragsdale, Scarborough, Stackhouse, Suddath, Talbird, Wallace, Waller, Williams.—22.

Mr. Mayfield amended by striking out the section of the bill which provides that the commission may compel telegraph companies to establish agencies at all railway stations. The Senate agreed to the amendment by a vote of 22 to 16.

The bill came up again Thursday and was passed by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Archer, Brown Dean, Douglass, DuBose, Griffith Jefferies, Love, Mauldin, McCalla, Norris, Pettigrew, Ragsdale, Scarborough, Stackhouse Suddath, Talbird, Wallace and Williams—19.

Nays—Messrs. Buist, Dennis. Hay, Henderson, Lesesne, Mayfield, McAlhany, Miller Moses. Mower, O'Dell, Sanders, Sloan and Walker—14.

BLIZZARD IN NEW FOUNLAND.

Terrible Story Brought by the Red Cross Steamer Portia.

The Red Cross Line steamer Portia arrived Tuesday at New York. four days overdue, from St. John's, N. F., and Halifax, after a desperate encounter with pack-ice off the Newfoundland coast, and with a harrowing tale of blizzards and destitution in the coast section of that country. Hundreds of men, women and children, dead or dying from exposure and starvation, with abundance close by, and hundreds more threatened with a like fate, are the brief details of the condition of affairs brought by the Portia

Four days the Portia was penned in huge Arctic floes, in plain sight of St. John's, unable to move. She managed to escape by the merest accident. Many other craft, several of them relief vessels, sent by the Canadian Government to succor destitute fishermen, had to abandon their errands of mercy and return to St. John's, where they were still in the ice when the Portia struggled into clear water.

Close to where the Portia lay the steamship Virginia was locked tight She had been sent north by the Canadian Government with food for the starving fishermen, but a short distance up the coast she found the route seriously blocked and was forced to return to port to prevent being ice bound all winter. Before her departure news had reached St. John's that unless assistance was promptly dispatched the unfortunate inhabitants would soon be beyond relief.

Among the detained fleet at St John's were a dozen or more sailing vessels loaded with codfish for England and Brazil. The city of St. John's was in a terrible condition on account of the blizzard. The streets were rendered impassable, the railroads suspended work, and the poor were suffering through hunger and cold. Prices of food had advanced until they were beyond the reach of the poor.

When the Portia was working her way out to sea she was closely followed by the bark Flora, and these two vessels were the only ones that succeeded in leaving St. John's. Several miles off shore the Portia passed the steamer Grand Lake, fast in the ice and in a perilous condition. The steamer Virginia was released from her perilous position after the departure of the Portia from St. John's, and the position of the rest of the distressed fleet has been reported by telegraph to be relieved.

A Brutal Murder.

One of the most brutal murderers that has ever stained the fair name of Tatnall county, Ga., was committed Tuesday at the home of Mr. Alex Sharpe, one of our best known citizens. When Mr. Sharpe started to supper his attention was attracted to a fire near his fence and, not thinking of its being fired for so foul a cause, took all his hands with him, leaving Mrs. Sharpe at the house alone. He said he was gone about three quarters of an hour, when he returned to the house alone to get an axe and a bucket to put out the fire and, on reaching the house, his attention was attracted by the struggles of his then expiring wife in the dining room. On seeing the ghastly sight of his wife soaked in her own blood, sickened and confused he hastened back to tell the sad news. The men, on investigation, found the tell-tale axe, covered with blood, thrown under the walk. The brute, after taking the life of the good woman, broke into one of the rooms and took about $30 and a shotgun. There is no clue to the murderer as yet. -Augusta Chronicle.

Are They So Blind?

A change of 25,000 votes in 1896 would have placed a free silver administration in power, and still these "business representatives" and "monetary commissioners" would absolutely ignore the silver sentiment in the "comprehensive" plan they would force upon the country! These reformers profess to be working for the restoration of "confidence" and the stability of governmental financial policies. Are they so blind as to imagine that half the voting population of the United States will accept without a struggle, long, bitter and determined, the partisan plan which the representatives of the other half would foist upon the country? Do they suppose that the millions of the West and South will sit quietly under a straight gold standard plan that has no element of conciliation nor compromise in it? How absurd is such a proposition!

Evidence of Hard Times.

THE Spartanburg Herald says as an evidence of the great unbounded prosperity this country is just now enjoying under the beneficient operation of the gold standard, it is worthy to note that there are three hundred applicants for the position of mail carrier in that city.

IN THE HOUSE.

THE WORK OF THE BODY DURING THE PAST WEEK.

Several Measures of Importance Come Up—Some are Passed and Some are Killed—Some Spicy Debate.

On Monday during a session of a little over two hours the House did not accomplish very much. It passed the Verner bill providing for the heavy punishment of those convicted of the seduction of an unmarried woman under promise of marriage: then Mr. Ashley's bill to appropriate the privilege tax to the common schools got killed, and Josh says he cannot understand how such a just reform should be refused. Mr. Blythe's bill requiring assignment of mortgages to be entered on the record also received a dose of knock-out drops and died. The following is the bill in regard to seduction as it passed its third reading:

Section 1. That any person who shall, under promise of marriage, have illicit carnal intercourse with any unmarried woman of previous chaste character, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than $500 or more than $5,000, or imprisonment for not less than six months nor more than five years, either or both at the discretion of the court: Provided, that no conviction shall be had under the provisions of this act on the testimony of the female seduced, uncorroborated by other evidence, either positive or circumstantial, nor unless a warrant be sworn out or prosecution commenced within one year after the commission of the offense. Provided, further, that the subsequent intermarriage of the parties may be pleaded as a defense.

On Tuesday the House of Representatives sidetracked everything else and took up the annual appropriation bill It got along beautifully with it until the appropriation of $1,000 for the general expenses of the State board of health was reached. Then a debate in which much was said in criticism and defense of the State board, about vaccination, about smallpox, about the inability and ability of doctors to diagnose smallpox, and about a little of everything else, was begun. The appropriation had been $2,500 last year, and it was proposed to put it back at that figure. Finally, just before the recess for dinner, the house by a vote of 33 to 68 declined to adopt the increase.

Tuesday was the last day for the introduction of new bills and the big white papers came in thick and fast. The most notable of the new bills introduced were those on the same subject introduced by Messrs. Rogers and Ilderton, designed to compel common carriers to transport members of the general assembly, State and county officers, judges, solicitors and sheriffs from place to place when on official business free of charge.

The House Wednesday devoted its entire day session to the consideration of the appropriation bill. The most notable change made in the bill was the cutting down of the $25,000 fixed for the South Carolina college to $20,000. There was quite a hard fight for the old college, but it was of no avail. No fight was made on the Citadel appropriation or on the general appropriations for any of the other State colleges. Another fight was made on the appropriation for the State Fair society, and this provision was cut out of the bill altogether. Dr Sturkie succeded in getting the $1,000 put in for the State board of health increased to $1,500. The Mackey claim for $2 500 was passed.

Mr. Efird's bill to divide the privilege tax on fertilizers equally between Clemson Agricultural college and Winthrop Normal college was then called up. The pending question was on a motion to indefinitely postpone, and debate being thus shut off the house plunged into a roll call on the motion. The house refused to indefinitely postpone the bill by a vote of 46 to 60. This was clinched.

Mr. Efird had an amendment to give $30,000 to Winthrop and the remainder to the public schools. If Winthrop's $30 000 was not made up after Clemson had gotten her's, then the general fund should pay the deficit. His previous amendment covered all this save the reference to public schools.

Mr. Caughman wanted to know if this $30,000 to Winthrop was to be in addition to the appropriation already made.

Mr. W. H. Thomas said that the farmers of the State would awake quickly to the fact that the tax they were paying was going elsewhere and would demand the repeal of this tax. It was now kept at Clemson by virtue of the fact that there was an experimental station there. It could not be properly applied at Winthrop. Soon all of these institutions would be knocking at the door for direct appropriations. Then which and how many would go down? He called upon the friends of higher education to rally to the support of the colleges.

Mr. Kinard did not believe there was any use to get scared. The farmers had no objection to letting part of this money to go to Winthrop college. If Clemson got too much it was right to give the surplus to Winthrop.

Mr. McLaurin asked why they should not make the tax 50 instead of 25 cents, and thus support all the colleges if it was right to support Winthrop with it.

Mr. Efird disclaimed any hostility to the institutions of higher learning. The records showed that he had supported them. He had pledged himself to this people He had told his people that Clemson was getting too much; not because he was an enemy to it, but a friend to it. Unless something was done in this matter a legislature would soon be here that would act He called upon the friends of Winthrop and Clemson to stand to this bill.

Mr. Blythe said they should keep his question on the proper plane They had just voted to give Winthrop $30,000 in the appropriation bill; now they proposed to give this college another $30 000. When Clemson was established it was the understanding that she was to be supported by this tax. They did not know how much Clemson needed. If the tax was too great for Clemson, the showing that it is should be made.

The House then refused to reconsider the vote whereby Mr. Efird's amendment had been agreed to.

Mr. Ashley demanded the ayes and noes on the question of ordering the bill to a third reading.

Mr. Lemmon said that the State had equipped the college and it could in his opinion get along well on $30,000. It was time to call a halt on all this giving of money to Clemson.

Mr. Sturkie said he wished to know what they were going to do with Winthrop's money already given in the appropriation bill.

Mr. Efird said that the chief clerk at Clemson had told him they could get along very well with $30,000.

Mr. Sturkie said that the trustees were the only persons who could tell what Clemson needed. One had said they needed more than $30,000.

Mr. Efird repeated that unless this extravagance was stopped the people would not submit to it. It was a fact that a few years ago the tax had not amounted to more than $30,000, and yet the college got along all right.

The vote was then taken on the question of ordering the bill to a third reading. The vote resulted as follows, the bill being passed:

Yeas—Asbill, Bacot, Bailey, Bethune, Caughman, Colcock, G W. Davis, Dukes, Edwards, Efird, Epps, Fairey, Fox, Gage, Graham, Hamilton, Harvey, Henderson, Hiott, Humphrey, Ilderton, Kennedy, Kibler, H. J. Kinard, Lester, Lemmon, Limehouse, Livingston, Mishoe, McCullough, Nettles, Patton, Perritt, Plyler, Price, Prince, Pyatt, Rainsford, Reynolds, Robinson, Russell, Sanders, Seabrook, Sinkler, Simkins, J. R. Smith, E. D. Smith, Speer, Stevenson, Timmerman, Townsend, Verner, Vincent, Westmoreland, Wilson, Winkler, Williams, Witherspoon, Wyche, Yeldell—61.

Nays—Speaker Frank B. Gary, All, Ashley, Austell, Banks, Bedon, Blythe, Breeland, Burns, Carson, Crum, Cushman, C. M. Davis, W. C. Davis, DeBruhl, Garris, H. P. Goodwin, O. P. Goodwin, Hollis, Hydrick, T. E. Johnson, J. D. Kinard, Lancaster, Lofton, Mauldin, Meares, Mehrtens, J. E. Miller, J. H. Miller, Mitchell, Moore, McKown, McLaurin, McWhite, Phillips, Rogers, Skinner, S. W. Smith, W. S. Smith, Sturkie, W. H. Thomas, Toole, West, Wingo—44.

On Thursday the House took up Mr. Childs' bill "to provide for the election of a state board of control, and to further regulate the sale, use, consumption, transportation and disposition of intoxicating and alcoholic liquors or liquids in this state, for medical, scientific and mechanical uses only, and prescribe further penalties for violation of the dispensary laws, and to police the same." After a long speech in favor of the bill by Mr. Childs, Dr. Sturkie moved to strike out the enacting words of the bill, which the House refused to do by the following vote.

Yeas—Gary, All, Anderson, Austell, Bacot, Bailey, Banks, Bethune, Colcock, Crum, Geo. W. Davis, DeBruhl, Efird, Epps, Garris, O P. Goodwin, Graham, Hazelden, Henderson, Ilderton, Horace E Johnson, Kibler, J. D. Kinard, Lancaster, Lester, Lemmon, Mishoe, Mitchell, McLaurin, McWhite, Nettles, Phillips, Pollock, Prince, Pyatt, Skinner, Simkins, Sturkie, W. H. Thomas, Townsend, Welch, West, Wilson, Winkler, Williams, Witherspoon, Wyche—47.

Nays—Ashley, Bedon, Breeland, Burns, Carson, Caughman, Childs, Cushman, C M. Davis, W. C Davis, Dukes, Edwards, Fairey, Fox, Gage, H P. Goodwin, Harvey, Hiott, Hollis, Humphrey, T. E Johnson, Kennedy, Henry J. Kinard, Limehouse, Lofton, Magill, Mauldin, Meares, Mehrtens, J. E. Miller, Joel H Miller, McCullough, Perritt, Plyler, Price, Reynolds, Robinson, Russell, Sanders, Sinkler, S. W. Smith, W. S. Smith, E D. Smith, Speer, Sullivan, Toole, Verner, Walling, Westmoreland, Whison, ant, Wingo Yeldell—52

Mr Pollock offered an amendment to Mr. Child's bill which is in reality Mr. Pollock's original bill substituted as an amendment. This bill of Mr. Pollock's does not materially affect the operations of the dispensary, but is directed at the original package houses in order to obtain revenue from them.

Mr. Meares made a motion to lay Mr. Pollock's amendment and Mr. Caild's bill on the table, but Mr. Pollock's motion to postpone debate had precedence and was carried.

Confesses an Awful Crime.

Abe Storms has confessed the murder of Mrs. Fanny Rathborn and her daughter, Mary, at Burlington Iowa. The confession was made to Chief of Police Grenier and the county attorney. Storms says he committed the deed on Sunday night, January 23 He killed the mother first in the cellar. Then he enticed the little girl into the bed room above, and after a terrible struggle cut her throat. The confession was obtained after a long siege of sweat-box examination. After it was obtained Storms was taken to the morgue, although he begged not to see the bodies of his victims He turned sickly pale and trembled violently when he gazed upon his victims. Threats of lynching are heard on all sides. Storms and Cox, an alleged accomplice, are now locked up in the county jail and strongly guarded by deputies with Winchester rifles. Sheriff Smith has issued a proclamation to the effect that any attempt to break into the jail and lynch Storms will be met with summary treatment by the deputies, who will not hesitate to shoot. All is quiet though threats of lynching were made during the afternoon. Storms's mother was in Burlington today. She is a fine-looking, intelligent woman, and was horrified by her son's predicament. She exclaimed when first hearing of the murder: "The man who did that deed ought to be hung, no matter if he is my son."

The Free Silver Forces.

Ex-Senator Dubois, of Idaho, chairman of the executive committee of the National Silver Republican party, is coming East at the request of the silver leaders, to confer with them for the purpose of uniting all silver forces. Chairman Dubois says the vote in the Senate in favor of the Teller resolution has convinced the silver advocates that with a close union of the silver forces victory in 1898 and 1900 is certain. Under the contemplated arrangement the Populists, Silver Republicans and Democratic parties will each maintain a distinct organization.

Loved Only Once.

W. T. Richardson, of Denison Tex., has brought suit for divorce from his wife on rather unique grounds They were married in 1857, and lived together until 1895, when she left him. Her reason for going was that before she married him she had loved another, who had died. The longer she had lived with Richardson, the more convinced she had become that one who had loved once could never love again, and she left her husband after thirty-eight years on that account.

THE TAXES THIS YEAR.

THE STATE LEVY IS INCREASED TO FIVE MILLS.

What The Levy for Each County is Fixed at—How the Finances of the State Stand.

In the House Friday when the supply bill was taken up the chairman stated that the senate would decline to do anything towards an adjournment until this bill was in its possession.

The total levies for county purposes in the several counties were fixed as follows, some being left open to be put in when the bill reaches the senate:

Abbeville—3½ mills.
Aiken—3½ mills.
Anderson—3½ mills.
Beaufort—6½ mills.
Berkeley—5½ mills.
Bamberg—3 mills.
Barnwell—3 mills.
Charleston—.
Cherokee—5 mills and special levies in different townships.
Chester—7 mills.
Chesterfield—9 mills.
Clarendon—4½ mills.
Colleton—.
Darlington—4½ mills.
Dorchester—5½ mills.
Edgefield 4¾ mills.
Fairfield—5 mills.
Florence—3¾ mills.
Greenville—5½ mills.
Greenwood—4¾ mills.
Georgetown—8 mills.
Hampton—4 mills.
Horry—5½ mills.
Kershaw—6½ mills.
Lancaster—8¾ mills and special in two townships.
Laurens—2½ mills.
Lexington—3½ mills and special in certain townships.
Marion—4½ mills.
Marlboro—3½ mills.
Newberry—3 mills.
Oconee— 4½ mills.
Orangeburg—3 mills.
Pickens—9¾ mills.
Richland—3½ mills and special in certain townships.
Saluda—5 mills.
Spartanburg—5½ mills.
Sumter—3 1 6 mills.
Union—8¾ mills.
Williamsburg—4 mills.
York—4 mills and special in certain townships.

In Fairfield the county commissioners are permitted to borrow a sum not exceeding $7 500, on which interest not to exceed 7 per cent. is to be paid, for the purpose of improvements to the jail.

Richland County—For Richland county, for ordinary county purposes, 3½ mills; an additional tax of ½ of 1 mill in Columbia township for interest on railroad bonds, and an additional tax of ½ of 1 mill in said township for a sinking fund for the purpose of retiring railroad bonds, and in addition thereto there shall be levied a tax of 2 mills in the school district of the city of Columbia in lieu of any special tax authorized to be levied by an act entitled "An act to provide for establishment of a new school district in Richland county, and to authorize the levy and collection of a local tax therein," approved December 24, 1880; that the sum of $150 is hereby appropriated to be paid as other county claims are paid out of any county funds, for the pay of the county treasurers for services for collecting and disbursing special taxes levied for fiscal year 1897.

The section fixing the State levy is as follows:

Section 1. That a tax of 5 mills, exclusive of the public school tax hereinafter provided for, upon every dollar of the value of all taxable property of this State be and the same is hereby levied for the purpose of meeting appropriations to defray the current expenses of the government for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 1898, and to meet such other indebtedness as has been or shall be provided for in the several acts and joint resolutions passed by this general assembly at the session of 1898 providing for the same.

When the bill had been read and amended by the several delegations, a work that was not completed until nearly half past 12 o'clock, Chairman John P. Thomas went over all the figures as to the general expenses of the government and proceeded to show why the committee had placed the levy at five mills. He spoke as follows:

"The ways and means committee has recommended a special levy at five mills for State purposes. In order that the house may hear the data upon which the committee has acted I have prepared certain statements which I submitted for the information of the house. These statements show the condition of the finances of the State as they stood on Jan 1, 1898, and give the estimated ordinary resources and expenditures of the State government for the ensuing year. These statements are submitted in order that the house may vote intelligently upon the passage of this bill, and that each member may have such information as will enable him to exercise his own judgment upon this important question as to which is the proper amount of the State levy. Here are the figures:

Estimated available resources January 1st, 1898:

Cash in State treasury as per treasurer's report for 1897	$439,418 39
Amount to credit of special funds not available for ordinary purposes	305,312 20
	$134,106 19
Amount due upon taxes of 1897	540,000 00
Fees secretary of state $3,000	
Taxes on insurance 11,000	
License taxes $10,000	24,000 00
Railroad commission refunded	7,640 00
State penitentiary	10,000 00
	$715,746 19
Excess of appropriation for 1898 over cash in treasury and resources from current taxes of 1897 and fees, etc, 1898	148,276 25
	$864,022 25

The amount due upon taxes for 1897 is arrived at as follows:

Five mill levy of 1897 on $173,000,000	$860,000 00
Less commissions of county treasurers, abatements and nulla bona	40,000 00
Net balance	540,000 00

"The excess of appropriations for 1898 over present available resources, to wit. $148,27606, is about the amount of the usual expenditures for two months in the year. This is about the same deficiency, if deficiency it can be called, which existed last year. The State treasury, therefore, has about held ground. It is calculated, therefore that present available resources are sufficient to run the government until Nov. 1, 1898. After that time, expenditures must be made out of the collection of taxes for 1898, or by borrowing money in advance of the collection of those taxes:

Estimated expenditures of fiscal year 1898:

General appropriations as fixed by ways and means committee	$542,771 95
Interest on public debt	283,774 00
	$826,515 95
Legislative appropriation, estimate of comptroller general based on 30 day session	32,900 00
	$859,415 95
Unpaid interest, 1897	2,500 00
Outstanding warrants, 1897	2,106 30
	$864,022 25

Estimate of receipts of State treasury upon basis of a five mill levy and other ordinary resources:

Five mills on $173,000,000	$865,000 00
Insurance and secretary of State's fees	24,000 00
Railroad commission, expenses refunded by railroads	7,640 00
South Carolina penitentiary	10,000 00
	$906,640 00
Less taxes of 1897 collected prior to Jan 1. 1898. (See treasurer's report, page 10)	285,000 00
	$580,000 00
Less commissions on county treasurers abatements and nulla bonas, comptroller general's estimates	40,000 00
	$866,640 00

The total taxable property, according to the report of the comptroller general for 1897. page 96, is $173,872,182. There may be some difference in this amount for 1898, as there is to be a general reassessment of property this year. It is, however, considered safe to estimate on basis of $170,000 000.

It will be seen from these statements that a five-mill levy, together with the other ordinary resources of the State, are sufficient by a close margin to meet the usual expenditures of the State government, provided the appropriations do not exceed the aggregate as reported to the house by the ways and means committee and provided also that the session does not exceed 30 days.

"If the general appropriations are materially increased, or if the sesion exceeds 30 days in length, then the expenditures will excede the resources of the State upon the basis of a 5 mill levy. In this event, if the State treasury is to hold its ground, it will be necessasy to increase the levy of 5 mills for State purposes, which the committee has recommended."

Suicide in St. Augustine.

Henry Goettel, in jail at St. Augustine, Fla., charged, together with Herman Breetz, with train wrecking, committed suicide at an early hour Wednesday morning by hanging himself with a towel to the roof of the cell. His companion agreed to die with him and made a futile attempt to butt out his brains against the steel walls of the cell, but in spite of the fact that he plunged with full force against the walls successively he did not succeed. The two were Germans and in straightened circumstances. They planned to rob an East coast train, went so far as to remove a rail. The engine was ditched, the fireman badly scalded and the engineer injured in the chest. The nerve of Goettel failed and the plan of going through the train and robbing the passengers at the point of revolvers was abandoned. The remarkable circumstances in connection with the suicide of Goettel is the tremendous will power he must have shown. He was found with his feet firmly planted upon the floor. In the act of hanging he had evidently held them from the floor until he lost consciousness. The two men were suspected of being the fire bugs who burned San Marco Hotel and other property during the last summer and fall, and a web of strong circumstantial evidence was being woven around them. Goettel left a note confessing that he and his pall had attempted to wreck the train, but he denied that he had anything to do with the fires.

Illustrating His Point.

Senator Tillman can always be relied upon to furnish an interesting performance in the senate when he makes a speech. Saturday Mr. Tillman was describing bimetalism in his own unique way when the amusing incident occurred. "Before 1873," said he, marching up and down the aisle, "we used to go on two legs. One leg was gold and the other leg was silver," he said, bringing his two feet down with a resounding thump, one after the other. "Then we cut one leg off," he went on, drawing an imaginary knife across his thigh, but not content with that, we placed the cut-off leg on our shoulder like this," illustrating his meaning by acting as if he had lifted a heavy load, "and now," he added, "we go hopping around on one leg with another leg on our shoulder." Mr. Tillman suited the action to the word. He hopped around the senate on one leg, with his arm thrown over his shoulder, and made such a ludicrous and at the same time effective picture of his idea, that the crowd in the galleries shouted with laughter, and the vice president had to rap for order.

Sensible Farmers.

A NUMBER of farmers in Alabama pledged themselves to sow from five to twenty bushels of wheat last fall. "This is a movement," says the Atlanta Constitution, "which, if persisted in, will emancipate our pockets from the necessity of paying tribute to the West and our stomachs from the thousand and one brands of patent flour, in which the essence of the wheat has either been wholly destroyed or substituted for kaolin or some other mixture of equal weight and fineness."

Killed About an Office.

In a difficulty on the streets of Opelika, Ala., Tuesday morning, W. J. Siddall, clerk of the Circuit Court, seriously cut D. F Cardin, and in return received a wound from a pistol shot, which will probably prove fatal, the ball striking him in the back of the neck. His body is paralyzed. The trouble was over politics and the appointment of a postmaster. Both parties are Republicans and were active supporters of opposing candidates for the place.

No Difference.

THE National House of Representatives devoted an hour one day last week to a political debate, based upon the assertion of a minstrel end man repeated on the floor of the house by Representative Richardson, of Tennessee, that there was no difference between the Cleveland panic and the McKinley boom.

PERISHED IN THE FLAMES

Of a Burning Hotel at Gloversville New York.

At seven o'clock Tuesday morning the Alford House, at Gloversville, N. Y., was destroyed by fire. The building burned with almost incredible rapidity and spectators shuddered at the thought that some of the inmates would be unable to escape from the fiery furnace. At this season the business is unusally large, and it is understood that nearly every room was occupied. The fire started on the ground floor and shot up through the upper stories with lightning-like speed, the broad stairs and hallways furnishing great flues which carried the flames upward. Almost immediately after the flames were discovered the alarm was sounded through the house and the big hotel was soon the scene of the wildest confusion. There was a wild scramble on the part of the guests to escape from the building with their personal property, but many were forced to flee without saving anything. A few of the guests made their escape by the stairways, but the smoke soon cut off this retreat. The next resort of the imprisoned people was the windows.

As their terror-stricken faces appeared, the great crowd below watched breathlessly, hoping against hope that all would be saved. The guests who were thus entrapped did not long hesitate to take the risk of jumping, though some were rescued from their perilous positions by the firemen. Others leaped from the windows and were more or less injured. W. W. Findlay, a salesman for an Albany house, clad only in a shirt and trousers, jumped from a window, landing safely in the snow. Mr. and Mrs. J. C Straus finding no escape by way of the halls, stepped out of the window and onto the narrow ledge or cornice, where they stood 10 or 15 minutes awaiting the rescuers. With the aid of a ladder the hook and ladder men brought them safely to the ground. Mrs. Straus lost her jewelry and wardrobe, valued at $1,000. L. G Lambert, a Chicago glove buyer, jumped from a second story window and broke his right arm, besides receiving internal injuries.

The following are missing, and are believed to have perised in the flames: Henry C. Day, Gloversville; E C. Kimball, wife and daughter, Indianapolis; Rupert, a bell boy. The total loss on the building, furniture and property of guests will probably amount to $100,000, partly insured. The fire started near the laundry, but from what cause is not known. Benjamin F. Strickland, contractor and builder, who resided at the Alford hotel, is also missing. Henry C Day was one of the most prominent business men of Gloversville. Among the most seriously injured (besides L G. Lambert) are: William Maloney, traveling man, residence unknown, sprained ankle, and B M. Ross, traveling man, Rochester, badly bruised.

The fireman searched all day in the ruins for the remains of victims but their efforts were unrewarded. Electric lights have been strung over the ruins and a large force will continue the search all night. The two traveling men reported missing are accounted for tonight, leaving six known victims. Dr. J. D. Davis of Westfield, N. Y., jumped from the third story He struck the wires opposite the second story and was thrown to the ground, but was not seriously hurt. J. H Barrick of Troy, jumped from the third story and was only slightly injured. Elwood de Long, a fireman, was seriously frozen. Andrew Watson of Toronto, Ont., jumped from the fourth floor to a shed and was only slightly hurt.

THE NATIONAL ISSUE MADE.

By the United States senate and the House of Representatives.

The party lines were strictly drawn in Speaker Reed's Congressional class room at Washington Wednesday when the ballot was taken on the Teller resolution which passed the Senate by such an overwhelming majority last Friday and which is practically nothing more than a reaffirmation of the law already on the statute books that the obligations of this government shall be paid in gold or silver at the government's option. There were several exceptions or breaks from the party alignment, but they served to emphasize the party solidity on either side, so far as the membership of the House goes, rather than the reverse. Representative Wm. Elliott, of this Congressional district, had the distinction of being one of the two Democrats in the popular body of the national legislature who voted with the Republicans on this question, McAleer, of Pennsylvania, was the other. These two distinguised gentleman, apparently, constitute all that is left in the Democratic ranks to represent the sentiment which brought together the Indianapolis Convention and put forth the Palmer and Buckner single gold standard ticket in the national campaign of 1896. These gentlemen were offset by two Republican members, Linney and White of North Carolina, who defied the party whip, the former voting for the resolution and the latter declining to vote at all. The result in short was 132 for the resolution and 183 against it. The strange spectacle is here presented therefore of the upper, more autocratic body of the Congress championing the cause of the people, while the more representative body records its verdict on the side of plutocracy. This is doubtless accounted for by the fact that the present Republican majority in the House was the result of a popular election in which the free silver agitation was represented as a dangerous and revolutionary fallacy which menaced the welfare of the laboring man, while under the gold standard he was promised high wages, employment and prosperity. The Republican legislators have followed out the instructions under which they were sent to Congress, while many of the constituents who sent them there have long since been brought to realize by bitter experience the hollowness and fallacy of the hopes that were based upon the election. How many have been thus undeceived and whether the reaction in the popular mind has kept pace with the reaction in the Senate will remain to be decided by the result of the Congressional elections next November. -Charleston Critic.

The Only Way Out.

THERE is only one way for the Republican party to save its bacon in the next congressional and presidential elections, and that is enter upon a foreign war. In no other way can they again fool the people.

HUNDREDS ARE STARVING

A FAIR SAMPLE OF REPUBLICAN PROSPERITY.

The Poor of New Castle, Delaware, are in a Most Pitiable Condition—Out of Work and No Credit.

A dispatch from Newcastle, Delaware, says starvation is staring in the faces of 700 people in this town, and the condition is growing more and more alarming every day. Unless something is done to alleviate the suffering there is no telling what the consequences may be.

During the period of depression of the past few years, the Delaware Iron works and the other industries of the town, employing upwards of 700 men, were compelled to shut down from time to time, resuming operations only when business demanded. While many of the operatives were enabled to support their families upon the compensation they received when the mills were run on partial time it was an utter impossibility for them to lay up anything for a rainy day, and the blow which befel them when the mills did cease operations a few weeks ago was more than many of them could bear.

The storekeepers, who in the goodness of their hearts, extended to the idle workers a line of credit for a short time after the misfortune overtook them, have been compelled to refuse them credit any longer they say, stating that it means merely the donation of provisions for which they need not expect to ever receive any returns. Were they to give freely to every one who asked credit at their stores the grocers state that it would only be a matter of time when they would be dependent upon the trustees of the poor for their maintenance. Of course some exceptions are made to this rule by the storekeepers, but the major portion of those who ask for time in which to pay for their purchases are politely told that they must seek assistance elsewhere.

Many of the landlords whose houses are occupied by the idle mill operatives assert that they have received no rents for weeks at a time and one individual property holder said his tenants were in arrears $1,000. It would take all their belongings to satisfy his claim, he added, and yet he could not so far forget his duty to humanity as to sell the very roofs above their heads.

As an evidence of the impoverished condition of some of the families who have felt the curse of pinching poverty as they never did before it is only necessary to relate a few instances to convince the most skeptical mind of the condition which exists here today. A young woman carrying a basket on her arm entered the grocery store of a man she had known for years, and with tearful eyes begged him to supply her with enough provis