Watauga Democrat.

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WASHINGTON LETTER

From our Regular Correspondent.

Nothing more daring was done in the House during either of the autocratic reigns of Czar Reed than the passing in of the appropriation bills which failed to become laws at the last session of Congress, without reference to any sort of committee and practically without debate. Just stop and think for a moment of the audacity of this proceeding. Here is a new House, more than one-third of its members being men who did not belong to the last House and who know no more about the items in those appropriation bills than if they had been prepared in Africa. These bills were brought forward and House was ordered to pass them "sight unseen", as the boys used to say about swapping concealed articles, although they carried many millions of the people's money and it was admitted by some of the republicans who helped to force them through that they contained items that were questionable as well as those that were extravagant. And this remarkable assumption of authority on the part of Czar Reed had not even the excuse of urgency and lack of time to have the bills take the regular course of such measures. There will be time to waste in the House after the 31st of this month, upon which date the McKinley tariff bill No. 2 is to be passed. The sole object was to keep the hands of the House tied for the whole of the present session, by not appointing the regular committees, another unheard of thing originated by the gentleman from Maine, who still kindly allows the members of the House to draw their salaries and dispose of the moneys without consulting him, and who also allowed them to vote themselves extra mileage.

Rep. "Champ" Clarké, of Mo., made a red-hot speech in the House on the new method of passing appropriation bills, saying in part: "The longer a man lives the more he finds out. First and last, I've said some unkind things of the United States Senate, and poked considerable fun at it. In the days of 1894, I was exasperated at its conduct, that, although I believe in two legislative bodies, I was in favor of abolishing it. But in this distinguished presence, I wish to retract all the criticisms I have said against it. I thank God that the Senate remains a deliberate body. In this House we are going through the most amazing, most astounding performances which ever took place on this Continent. Speaking directly of the republicans Mr. Clarke said: "In the campaign of last year you charged 6,500,000 voters of this country with being anarchists. What is anarchy? It is running the affairs of a country without government. You are doing just what you charged us with wanting to do, but let me tell you, a day of reckoning will come."

Mr. McKinley and other republicans are much alarmed at the signs of a tariff revolt in the Senate. It is given out by prominent republican Senators, among them members of the Senate Finance Committee, which has already taken up the subject, that the McKinley tariff bill, No. 2, will not do, and that they are going to amend it so it will not be recognized. It is, of course, possible that these republican Senators are only making a bluff to give Mr. McKinley an opportunity to offer them inducements in the shape of patronage to support his tariff bill, but the manner in which the Senate amended the two last tariff bills passed, is calculated to make Mr. McKinley believe it means something more serious.

There is a rumor that Secretary Bliss has resigned because Mr. McKinley compelled him to accept the resignation of Land Commissioner Lamoreux, which was tendered before the close of the Cleveland administration and which Bliss had refused to accept because of accusations made in connection with the Chicago lake front case, but the rumor is denied.

Although the output of the administration pie plant continues limited in quantity, the fact is noted with wrath by those who were not original McKinleyites that nearly all that has been dished out has gone to the original McKinley men. This too, in the face of McKinley's continued reiteration of his intention to recognize no faction of his party in making appointments, It is beginning to dawn upon the minds of some of the republicans who were not for McKinley before the St. Louis Convention, that they are being tricked. Whenever one of them looms up as a prominent aspirant for a good position, it "happens" that he runs against McKinley's very convenient rule not to appoint men who cannot get the indorsement of their entire Congressional delegation. It looks very much as though the old anti-Mc's will have have to content themselves with the smaller Federal offices in their states, while King Hanna takes care of "our friends."

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Funny Advertisements.

"Wanted, a room for two gentlemen about 30 feet long and 20 feet broad."

"For sale—a piano, the property of a musician with carved legs and a lyre."

"Mr. Brown, furrier, begs to announce that he will make up gowns, capes, etc., for ladies out of their own skins."

Bulldog for sale: will eat anything: very fond of children."

"Wanted—an organist and a boy to blow same."

"Widow in comfortable circumstances wishes to marry two sons."

The Butler School Law.

News and Observer.

The school law passed by the last General Assembly was the most far-reaching and probably the most salutary measure passed by the body. The bill was drawn by Senator George E. Butler of Sampson county, and has received the endorsement of the State Superintendant of Public Instructions, as well as prominent educators of the State, and was reported favorably by the Senate and the House Educational Committees and the sub-committees on Education to which it was referred for inspection.

The bill is a thorough revision of the public school system of the State and we give below the chief features of the bill:

1st. It provides for a State Board of School Examiners consisting of three professional teachers to be appointed by the State Board of Education. They meet upon the call of the State Superintendent of Public Instructions, who is ex officio chairman of the Board of Examiners, and their duties are to prepare courses of reading and professional study for teachers, and to outline methods of teaching and school government. They are further empowered to prepare annually a set of examination questions to be submitted to the County Supervisor of schools in each county on the second Thursday in July of each year and teachers passing a satisfactory examination are granted a Life Certificate by the State Board of Examiners—but said certificates are to be renewed every five years by the said board, provided the teacher makes an affidavit that he has been actually engaged in teaching since receiving the certificate.

2nd. It abolishes the office of County Examiner—and re-establishes County Board of Education, and gives them the power, with the Clerk of the Court and Register of Deeds to elect a County Supervisor of Schools. The duties of the County Supervisor are to examine teachers, to sign all orders drawn upon the school fund of the county, to supervise the schools of his county, and to be secretary of the County Board of Education.

3rd. It requires the County Board of Education to divide their county into as many school districts as there are townships in said county but allows as many school houses in each district as may be necessary for the accommodation of both races, provided a greater number of schools are not established than will give to each district an average of fewer than sixty-five pupils.

4th. It abolishes all public school committees for each race as now provided by law, and provides instead of the appointment, by the County Board of Education of five intelligent business men favorable to pulic education, who are to act as school committeemen for both races in each township district.

5th. It requires the school fund of each county to be apportioned to each district per capita, and the committee are then to re-apportion this sum to the various schools, white and colored in their district, so that each school shall have the same length of term, but in making said apportionment the committee are to have proper regard for the grade of work to be done and the qualifications of the teachers required in each school, white and colored in the district.

6th. It abolishes third grade teachers' certificates and makes the same requirements for the first grade and second grade certificates as are now provided by law, and requires an examination fee of $1.00 from each teacher on the second Thursdays in July, September and April, of each year, and a fee of $1.50 from each teacher provided they require an examination at any other time than named above. The fees from the examination of the teachers are required to be placed in the general school fund of the county.

7th. It provides for a teachers, Institute for each race to be held annually, of at least one week's duration, conducted by the County Supervisor of schools or some practical educator.

8th. It provides for the removal of the school committeemen, upon just cause by the County Board of Education—and for the removal of the County Supervisor or any member of the County Board of Education upon just cause and proper complaint to the State Board of Education.

The author of the bill claims that this bill has eliminated the undesirable features of our former school laws in this State, and will establish a new system that will not only revolutionize the public schools of the State, but will provide for the constitutional requirements of a four months school for each district—without necessarily increasing the present rate of taxation.

We dwell not in the rich valleys of the great rivers that, in death and destruction, overflow their banks: nor on the great plains wind-swept and grasshopper garnished; nor yet in the fertile north west where the zero of the thermometer is worked to death in the winter and sun struck in the summer: nor in the far South where sand is but no rocks to make shadows in a weary land. But we do dwell in Asheville where it may be, there is a thought too much of rain once in two or three years, but with plenty of sidehills for the water to run off on: and where it is never the extreme of heat or cold: where cyclones come not, but only visitors to be healed. So let us be thankful even if the wrong party is in power, and the Legislature has left behind it a trail of bad laws, bungled laws and broken laws.—Citizen.

Corbett's father wagered and lost his livery stable on the fight. Some one is sure to remark that that is a horse on him.—Citizen.

A Touching Scene.

In town the other day I saw two bright young girls about 16 and 18 years of age, who had walked eight miles in the bitter cold to beg food for the family. The younger wore a pair of coarse cowhide brogans many sizes too large; the oters feet were 'protected' by ragged cloth shoes, while both were meanly and insufficently clad. Their bent, shivering forms, pale and drawn faces, blue lips and sunken eyes told a tale of suffering that must have melted the heart of a Spanish butcherer. The mother lay sick unto death with a babe at her breast, and there are three other little ones. They applied to the C. L. A. S. for aid and that body of dames, who labor in the name of the Carpenter of Nazareth, donatied a 50 cent quilt! I saw these children on their way homeward. It was on a bit of break road, where the icy wind had a sweep of miles, and it cut like a scalpel. The little one suffered terribly; she looked up to his sister's face, oh, so piteously. The brave sister stooped and kissed her, and together they faced the gale. Friends, I have seen much of life's pathos, but never anything so touching as that. I am not a good man. I am a bachelor and all such are bad. Some people call me an extremist a crank and a socialist. Perhaps. It would not take many scenes like the one just mentioned to make me a nitro glycerinist.—Epsilon in Farm and Home.

Judge Waxem's Proverbs.

What a statesman don't kno is sometimes wuth know in'.

Because a farmer has to fasten his galluses with a nale he has an idee that he kin help himself by getting into politics.

The more parlimenterry rules a congressman knos the less likely he is to tend to the biznus he was lected fer.

When a man wants to go into politicks he aint ast ef heze a pattriot, but how much money he can put up fer campane purposes.

A man kin be a politician, and he kin be onnest, but he haint got no time to spair ef he trize to be both at the same time.

Ther ain't no way uv tellin how many votes thar is to a gollun uv licker till the jug's empty.

Every now and then the godess uv liberty wonders what she is here for.

The money power is mighty ni a majority all the time.

The country wood be full uv monuments hiern church steaples ef every statesman had as big a one as he thinks he ought to have.—Ex.

The State Treasurer has notified the heads of the various State institutions that owing to the large appropriations made by the Legislature and the decreased value of property he can not pay any extra appropriations this year, or until he finds there is a surplus after paying interest on the four per cent. bonds and the necessary running expenses of the State government. He says he gives this notice to prevent the making of contracts which might embarrass.—Biblical Recorder.

CASTORIA.

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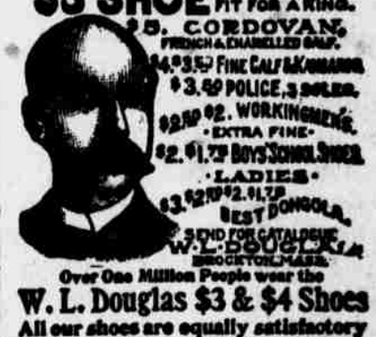

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