THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

ENGELHARD & SAUNDERS,
Editors and Proprietors.

WHOM ALL LETTERS ON BUSINESS MUST BE ADDRESSED.

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# Wilmington Journal.

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### THE UNIVERSITY—CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IN REGARD TO THE LAND SCRIP FUND.

Since the publication of our article in reference to the action of the House of Representatives upon the report of the Committee on Education and Labor, made in obedience to a resolution of that body passed 2d of February 1874, directing said Committee "to enquire into the condition and management of the agricultural and other colleges which have received grants from the United States under the act of 2nd of July, 1862," we have received through the kindness of Senator RANSOM a copy of the report in question.

For the principal facts contained in our former articles we were indebted, as we stated, to the New York *Evening Post*. Nor were we lothe to produce an authority so worthy of most serious consid ration upon such subjects in support of the correctness of the conclusions of the Committee. The authority of the *Evening Post* and of its venerable and accomplished Editor WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT will scarcely be questioned among any English speaking people no matter what may be the warmth of the clime in which they live.

This morning, however, we are not compelled to rely upon any secondary authority for we have the report itself. Upon the eighth page of that report we find the following:

"Attention is next called to the class of States, happily few in number, in which the contract with the government has been grossly violated and its bounty almost wholly wasted.

In North Carolina a fund of $125,000 was invested in 260 State bonds, nominally of $1,000 each. The largest portion of them were "special-tax bonds." They are now substantially valueless, and do not appear to have been regarded as worth much at the time they were bought. It is sufficient to say that, of the whole amount, not one dollar of either principal or interest is now available for the purpose of education.

A report which has been forwarded to from the officers of the University of North Carolina, after stating that the money when received was deposited in a Northern bank, adds: "In 1869 the new board of trustees received the amount thus deposited by the former board, and invested it in State bonds. These bonds were soon made valueless, and no income has been derived therefrom."

Another report, received from the Superintendant of Public Instruction, in reply to the question whether the conditions of the law under which the grant was made have been fulfilled, thus mildly describes the manner in which the money was disposed of: "We think that none of the conditions have been performed, for the reason that a *mistake* was made by the trustees when they invested the proceeds of the land-scrip in North Carolina State bonds, which are now *unavailable* for the purpose of raising revenue to support the Agricultural and Mechanical College."

The committee have not the means at hand of determining the share of individuals in the responsibility for this discreditable transaction. Nor is it essential to the present purpose that this should be done. These persons are responsible to the State of North Carolina, whose agents they were. The State is responsible to the National Government. The State is the only party known to us in the contract under which the grant was conveyed—a contract which it has utterly failed to keep."

At the conclusion of the report we find the following:

"The committee recommend the acception of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Attorney General be requested to report to the House what measures, if any, should be taken by the United States to secure from any State the fulfilment of its contract to preserve undiminished the principal of the fund derived from the grant of land made by the United States for the support of colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts, and whether, in his judgment, the provisions of existing law are sufficient to afford a remedy in the premises."

We repeat therefore the question asked in our former article, can the Legislature, in view of all the circumstances, refuse to give to the bill now pending before the Senate the sanction necessary to make it a law? We think not. Indeed it seems to us it would be an insult as well to the common sense as to the patriotism of Senators to suppose for a moment that they could bring themselves to vote against it.

A GREAT many furiously loyal editors of Radical newspapers at the North have professed to feel great alarm for the safety of the country because a large number of ex-Confederate soldiers have been elected to Congress. The Cincinnati *Enquirer* answers the timorous patriots pretty fairly in this way: "The great mass of the intellect, the wealth and manhood of the South was engaged in the late war against the Federal Government. To exclude it from participation in the general administration is really to exclude that great section of the Union itself. We don't want to make ex-President Lincoln and ex-Secretary of State Seward liars when they announced to foreign governments that the vacant seats of the Southern Representatives in Congress were only waiting for their return; that no opposition would be interposed by us to their return, but that the war was being waged for that purpose. For the first time since 1861 these vacant seats in Congress are to be filled in pursuance of these promises, and because of it there should be congratulations from one end of the Union to the other."

### CIVIL RIGHTS IN CHICAGO.

Last week five negroes entered a restaurant on Dearborn street in Chicago and called for supper. They were informed that negroes could not be served in the regular dining rooms, but could go below and get their supper at the same table with the cooks. This they refused to do. Next morning they returned and demanded breakfast, but with no better luck. Thereupon they had the proprietor arrested under the Civil Rights bill.

So it seems they do not like negro equality any better in Chicago than we do in Wilmington.

### THE CONVENTION BILL.—A BRIEF GLANCE AT ITS PROVISIONS.

The object for which we have been laboring for seven months is accomplished—the Legislature has called a Convention to rid us of the burdens of the Canby Constitution.

The text of the bill, as published on yesterday, shows the Convention is what is called a restricted Convention, that is to say, it is restricted or prohibited from doing certain things that but for the restrictions imposed, it might do. We do not propose to discuss how far these restrictions may be binding on the Convention, for the reason that we do not deem the question to have any practical importance. We feel quite sure the Convention will disregard none of the prohibitions imposed upon it.

What we propose to do this morning is to consider very briefly what restrictions upon the power of the Convention are imposed by the act of the Legislature. The restrictions are (1.) Not to interfere with the Homestead and personal property exemption. If the largest liberty were permitted it is safe to say no one would exercise it by interfering with the Homestead law. Every body is agreed upon that. (2.) Not to interfere with the Mechanics and Laborers Lien and married women's rights. As to this restriction, also, all are agreed. These liens and rights ought not to be interfered with. (3.) Not to change Sec. 3, Art. 5, of the Constitution. This section requires taxation to be *ad valorem* and is just and proper. (4.) Not to change Sec. 5 of same article. This section forbids the Legislature to contract any new debt or contract any new pecuniary obligation, unless it shall in the same bill levy a special tax to pay the interest annually. It also forbids the Legislature to lend the credit of the State to any railroad or other corporation unless the same be approved by a direct vote of the people of the State. These are proper safeguards and ought to be maintained. (5.) Not to change the ratio between the poll and property tax—that is the poll tax shall equal the tax on three hundred dollars worth of property. To this too there will be no objection, for the reason that it will prevent either poll or property from evading its due share of taxation, as one cannot be changed without changing the other in the same proportion. (6.) Not to vacate or abolish any office before the expiration of the term of its present incumbent. To this restriction we were opposed on many accounts, but having been made a part of the act of the Assembly calling the Convention, we shall now urge no objection to it.

(7.) Not to pay for slaves. We presume no one expected North Carolina to pay North Carolinians for slaves emancipated by the Federal Government. (8.) Nor do we think any one proposed to make provision for any war debt. (9.) Nor was there ever any purpose to require any educational or property qualification as a requisite for voting. (10.) Nor was there any purpose to restore imprisonment for debt. (11.) The prohibition against acts of ordinary legislature is merely a precaution—unnecessary we think—to insure a short session of the Convention.

From this brief review it will be seen that the only restriction of any practical importance is the one which permits the present office-holders to serve out the terms for which they were elected. The Convention has full power to change our county and township governments, to require every voter to show his poll-tax receipt; to prevent from voting every man convicted of larceny; to change our whole judicial system; the mode of electing judges and magistrates; to require the Judges to ride the circuits in rotation, and indeed to make all the other changes so much desired. The restrictions, with a single exception perhaps, cover ground that no one proposed to enter upon.

### YELLOW FEVER.

Dr. Frank W. Reilly, surgeon, United States Marine Hospital Service, has, in accordance with a resolution of the Senate through instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury, prepared a report of the yellow fever epidemic of 1874 as it prevailed at the various ports of the United States. The following statements are made therein: From the month of February, 1873, until the 21st of November of the same year, there occurred 3,760 deaths from malignant or epidemic cholera. During the same period each year there occurred in round numbers 21,000 deaths from diarrhea, dysentery and cholera infantum. From the date of of the first case, May 23, to the date of the last case, November 29, 1873, there occurred 3,349 deaths from sporadic or epidemic yellow fever. During the same period each year there occurred from the group of malarial fevers an aggregate of 8,500 deaths. The last preceding epidemic appearance of yellow fever was in 1867, and from its subsidence up to the close of 1872 there had been an aggregate of 970 deaths from this cause, but during the same period there had been an aggregate of over 50,000 deaths from the malarial fevers. There had been no epidemic cholera in the country for the six years previous, but during that period the group of diseases most resembling it carried off not less than 125,000 persons, and year by year such more or less preventable diseases as small pox, scarlet fever, typhus, enteric fever and consumption are the causes of a tolerably constant average of over 100,000 deaths per annum. The report states that absolutely nothing has been learned of the cause of the disease. The question of its earthly origin, or its importation into the Gulf States from adjacent countries in the same latitude and under the same climatic conditions, is still unsettled. Specific modes of prevention and of limitation remain as vague and enept, medical opinion is as confused and conflicting, and medical skill as baffled as before. That yellow fever failed to become epidemic in New York the past season, as well as that it is not epidemic every season, is due probably first, to the want of favoring conditions in the season itself, and second, to the efficiency of its Board of Health, but certainly not to the want of a supply of causes furnished by land from other ports.

### HEAVY.

The Orangeburg (S. C.) *News*, an unadulterated Radical sheet, speaking incidentally of the Cardozo "difficulty," that is just now attracting so much attention in the Palmetto State, relieves its mind in the following plain terms:

"We say to the General Assembly, put the seal of your condemnation upon those who have damned us by their thievery, and if that doesn't stop them, let us all come together and break their durned infernal necks."

If it would not smack of disloyalty, we would feel very much inclined to say the advice is most excellent.

### MASSACHUSETTS AND VIRGINIA—HARVARD AND WILLIAM AND MARY.

Hon. George F. Hoar, of Massachusetts, has written a letter to the Boston *Advertiser*, appealing "to the generosity of Massachusetts, and especially to the friends of Harvard, in behalf of the old College of William and Mary in Virginia, which gave Washington his first commission in his youth, and of which he was Chancellor for the last twelve years before his death."

He says:

This venerable seat of learning was destroyed by fire on the 9th of September, 1862. The college was on territory located by the United States as loyal territory, and in the actual occupation by our troops from May, 1862, to the close of the war. There was a conflict on the 9th day of September between our troops and a body of rebel cavalry, who got possession of the place for a few hours. After their withdrawal, returning stragglers of the garrison set fire to the building, which had been, with the exception of these few hours, in our military occupation. A court martial had been going on there the day before, and the building contained hay and other stores, and cavalry equipments. It will take about seventy thousand dollars to replace the buildings, and, I think, fully one hundred thousand to restore the college to as good condition as before the war.

There are few civilized governments in the world that would not deem themselves constrained, if not by the law of nations, yet by the respect which such nations feel towards institutions of learning, to restore such an institution even when it belonged to an enemy, if injured by its troops under such circumstances. History contains many conspicuous and interesting examples of the care taken by great commanders for colleges exposed by the operations of war, and of the reparation made by them, when such institutions have been injured by their troops.

The College of William and Mary has eminent claims to be remembered with reverence by every true son of Massachusetts. In the great events which preceded the Revolution, in educating the American people in the principles of civil liberty and of constitutional government, her services to the country were scarce second to those of Harvard. Washington received her diploma as surveyor in his youth, and rendered, as her chancellor, his last public service in old age. Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, who announced the great law of equality and human rights, in whose light our Constitution is at last and forever to be interpreted, was her son and drank his inspiration at her fountain. Peyton Randolph, the first President of the Continental Congress, Edmund Randolph, Washington's Attorney-General, and President Monroe were her graduates. Marshal, without whose luminous and far-sighted exposition our Constitution could hardly have been put into successful and harmonious operation, who imbedded forever in our constitutional law the great doctrines on which the measures that saved the Union are based, was a son of William and Mary.

The living alumni of William and Mary do not deem themselves able to contribute the money needed to supply her wants. A bill appropriating $68,000 for this purpose passed the House of Representatives in the Forty-second Congress, but failed in the Senate. Many of the wisest and most influential of the Republican leaders feared that the bill might create a dangerous precedent, to follow which would burden the Treasury with the cost of rebuilding every school or church or institution of charity destroyed during the war. But I have good reason to know that the attempt, though unsuccessful, produced excellent results in its effect on the feelings of the numerous friends of the College of Virginia. The argument, forcible when addressed to the national legislature, has, of course, no weight when voluntary contributions are in question.

Nothing would, in my judgment, have a greater tendency to revive affection between the North and South than to rebuild by a national contribution this ancient institution, chief among the household gods of Virginia. What proof so certain that the bitterness of the late war is over, and that the early memories of the days of the Revolution and of the framing and inauguration of the Constitution, are returning in full force, than the rebuilding of this sacred temple of learning in Virginia by the people of the North, under the lead of Boston and Harvard?

I am, yours very respectfully.
GEORGE F. HOAR

A bill had been made the special order in the State Senate of Tennessee which contains the following section: "That bachelorism is hereby declared a privilege, and every male inhabitant of this State over twenty years of age, being of sound mind enjoying good bodily health, remaining unmarried after the first day of May, 1875, shall pay a fine of ten dollars annually."

If you want to see a man struggling to do several things at once just watch him trying to put on his overcoat and rubbers, and yet keep his head bowed, while the minister is pronouncing the benediction.

The wife of Theodore Hamilton, the actor, after twelve years of married life, sues for a divorce, on the allegation that her Theodore is no better than Mrs. Tilton's.

### EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

YARBOROUGH HOUSE,
Raleigh, March 17th, 1875.

*Dear Journal:*

To-day has witnessed the consummation by the Legislature of the earnest labors and hopes of THE JOURNAL for the last seven months. Looking back over the long, and at one time, almost hopeless contest, it is with no little pride that I was able to be present to-day in the Hall of Representatives and be an eye witness to the fulfilment of our joint labors.—Many were the hearty greetings I received in behalf of myself and my absent co-laborer, when the speaker formally announced that the bill calling a Convention had passed and was ordered to be enrolled.

Some time before the hour the Hall began to be crowded with visitors.—Many of the fairest ladies of the city thronged the galleries, and the lobbies were crowded to overflowing. Promptly at 12 o'clock, the Senators entered the Hall, that body having adjourned to witness the scene. Not even a casual visitor could fail to have been impressed with the anxiety and concern which was stamped upon the brows of the members. It was evident that all were cognizant of the importance of the legislation which was about to claim their attention.

At 12 o'clock, the Speaker announced the special order. The Clerk read the bill in a clear, loud voice, and although every listener was perfectly familiar with its provisions, the most anxious silence was observed during the reading. The voice of the Clerk had hardly died away, before almost every Republican was upon the floor seeking recognition. One after another gave notice of amendments, fearing that they might be cut off under the operation of the previous question. But the friends of the bill had no disposition to prevent debate, and, upon motion of Mr. Oaksmith, five minutes were allowed to each to explain his vote, after the call of the roll had been ordered.

Mr. Wheeler, Republican, from Forsythe, offered a large number of amendments, which were voted down. Messrs. Mebane and Means announced on behalf of the Democrats that amendments should now be offered in a supplemental bill, as so many Senators had left, that to permit amendments in the House would defeat the measure.

Mr. Candler, Republican, of Buncombe, offered another batch of amendments, which he supported in a forcible speech. He announced that if his amendments were adopted he would support the bill.

Messrs. Dula, Norment, Munden, Hughes and Lloyd, plain and colored Republicans, in turn proposed amendments, but each was defeated. The Republicans having spoken and offered amendments to their hearts' content, Mr. Moring, of Chatham, moved the previous question, which was ordered.

The attention of the vast crowd, which had wandered during the discussion, was again riveted to the proceedings. All was doubt and uncertainty. The friends of the bill feared that the absence of Messrs. Jetton of Mecklenburg and Moffit of Randolph, would hazard its passage, as their votes would necessarily be counted in the negative. Messrs. Blythe and Trivett, Republicans, were absent. The latter would probably vote for the bill, as he had been instructed to do so. One hundred and fourteen members only responded to their names, and eighty of these must vote in the affirmative to secure the passage of the bill.

Speaker Robinson called attention to a rule of the House which only gave the Speaker a vote in case of a tie, except in elections. In this case he claimed a right to vote as one of the Representatives of the people, and directed the Clerk to call his name. He responded aye in a distinct voice, which was greeted with applause.

When Mr. Atwater, of Orange, was called, he announced that both he and his colleague had been opposed to Convention, but their own views and those of their constituents, he felt assured, had undergone a change. He voted aye. Mr. Barnhardt, of Caldwell, was the first Democrat to vote nay. This surprised the friends of the bill, as they were not prepared for it. Mr. Bettis, of Cleveland, was the second Democrat to vote in the negative. Mr. Candler, Republican, of Buncombe, failed to respond. Mr. Eatman, of Wilson, was the third Democrat to vote in the negative. He was without instructions, but he believed his constituents were opposed to the call, and, as an honest representative, he must vote nay. Messrs. Foote, of Wilkes, and Glenn, of Yadkin, did not respond.

Mr. Griffin, of Nash, voted in the negative, being the fourth Democrat. He did not believe the measure was expedient, and his people were unprepared for it. Feeling his responsibility and duly sensible of the unenviable position he was placed in he must vote against the bill.

Mr. Hanner, of Chatham, announced in behalf of himself and Mr. Moring, his colleague, that they had uniformly opposed the call of a Convention, but their recent visit home had shown them that their constituents were now favorable to the bill and they would vote in the affirmative. Messrs. Hurley, of Montgomery, and Jessup, of Cumberland, voted in the negative, being the fifth Democrats, recording their votes against the bill. Mr. Latta, of Orange, briefly gave the reasons for the change of opinion so long entertained against the measure, and voted in the affirmative. Mr. McIver, of Moore, made the seventh Democrat voting nay.

When the name of Mr. McRae, the very able representative from Cumberland was called, he rose and addressed the House with evident emotion. He had been consistent and persistent in his opposition to the Convention movement, as his duty to his constituents demanded. He believed it to be unwise and inexpedient. He had hoped the people would continue to exercise that patience with which they had borne the evils of the present Constitution so long. He thought he could see the light breaking in the east, and soon we would be able to call an unrestricted Convention. But while he had opposed this measure he was willing to abide by the decision of two-thirds of his party friends, and when they spoke he would cast aside his personal preferences. What was he to stand up here and resist the will of the great Democratic party. He voted aye amidst the loudest applause.

Mr. Means, of Cabarrus, was proud to record his name in the affirmative. It was the proudest vote of his life. Mr. Mendenhall, of Guilford, did not respond to his name.

Mr. Mitchell, of Franklin, had opposed the bill, but he had no apologies for voting for it. His party needed his vote and he cheerfully gave it.

When Mr. Richardson, of Columbus, responded aye, he was greeted with applause. He had been one of the most efficient and determined opponents of the bill. The distinctness with which he voted was an eloquent announcement of the motives which prompted his course.

Messrs. Page and Stevenson, of Wake, briefly stated the reasons which had led them to change their opinions and each voted for the bill. Mr. Stevenson had not seen the necessity of the call, and had believed that we would hazard too much. We had better bear the ills we had than to fly to those we knew not of. He trusted that the God who ruled the universe would so direct the action of the General Assembly in this matter as it would redound to the honor, glory and grandeur of North Carolina.

The affirmative vote of Mr. Stowe, of Gaston, who had been persistent in his opposition, called forth the hearty plaudits, of his friends. A truer man or a more faithful representative does not live.

As the call progressed the Democrats continued to vote aye, until the name of Mr. Walker, of Tyrell, was called. He voted nay making the eighth Democrat.

When the Clerk had completed the roll, but seventy votes were recorded in the affirmative, ten less than the vote necessary, to pass the bill. The most intense excitement now prevailed. The friends and opponents of the bill were active. The bustle was silenced by the gavel of the Speaker. The Clerks were busy summing up the vote. A painful silence pervaded the hall. Was the measure indeed lost? Slowly Mr. McIver, of Moore, rose and addressed the Speaker. The silence was broken, and happily, too. There was no mistaking his intentions so plainly written over his honest and determined face. He said that he had been heartily opposed to the call of a Convention, and a majority of his constituents supported him in that opposition. The matter was left to his own judgment. He felt now that it was useless and would be hurtful to hold out longer in his opposition. He was as good a Conservative as any gentleman upon that floor, and desired as much to uphold and support the organization of that party. There could be no complaint upon the part of the anti-Conventionists of the manner in which they had been treated by those favoring Convention. First, they had obtained a majority, then two-thirds, then three-fourths, and to-day they had shown that nine-tenths were in favor of the bill. He had no idea at this juncture of abandoning his party organization, on the heels of the passage of the Civil Rights bill, and join the Republicans. He changed his vote to the affirmative. The hall resounded with applause in response to this announcement.

Messrs. Jussup, of Cumberland, Walker, of Tyrell, and Branhardt, of Caldwell, promptly followed this example, and were greeted with manifestations of approval.

Mr. Norment, of Robeson, called upon the gentleman from Guilford, (Mr. Mendenhall) to record his vote. Mr. M. would have been glad not to have voted on this question. He did not see how he could vote for the measure, and would not be deterred from doing his duty by the party lash. He had usually approved the acts of that party with which he had generally acted, but upon this question he could not. He voted in the negative.

Mr. Hurley, of Montgomery, now announced a change of his vote briefly, but pointedly.

Mr. Griffin, of Nash, in a speech of much feeling and ability, placed himself in line with his party.

The record now showed that seventy-six members had voted for the bill and four more were necessary. A long and anxious silence again prevailed, and all was confusion. The Clerks were busy correcting their record, and the fate of the bill was still uncertain. Minutes seemed hours so great was the anxiety in regard to the result. The vote of Mr. Foote, of Wilkes, broke in as a relief, and in a speech of marked ability assigned the reasons for recording his vote in favor of the bill. He, too, was greeted with applause by the friends of the measure.

Mr. Eatman, of Wilson, rose calmly, and said he knew the great responsibility resting upon him. He probably held in his hands the destinies of the bill. He was prepared to meet every responsibility, which as a representative of his people, devolved upon him. His mind was made up. His vote might be fatal to himself and his party, but sink or swim, servive or perish, he would cast his destinies with those of the great party in which he had been reared and to which he belonged. If he was to go forth to his political death he believed he could meet his fate manfully. He did not desire to escape from any fate to which his party was destined. He would cheerfully die with it. He recorded his vote in the affirmative.

Mr. Glenn, the gallant young representative from Yadkin, now took the floor. He was cordially greeted. In a speech of great sense and good humor he recorded his vote in favor of the bill. Seventy-nine votes had now been cast in the affirmative. Mr. Candler, of Buncombe, and Mr. Bettis, of Cleaveland, rose simultaneously. The Speaker recognized Mr. Candler. He had endeavored to have this bill amended, but had failed. He desired it to be understood that he was a Republican, and had no idea of abandoning his party. He appreciated the wants of his people and those of the entire State, and he believed their welfare demanded a change in their organic law. He had deprecated the feeling now existing between the political parties in North Carolina, and hoped to see the day when a better condition of affairs would exist. He voted in the affirmative, being the only Republican voting for the bill, and had thus decided its fate. This announcement was followed by the wildest excitement and congratulations.

As soon as order could be restored Mr. Bettis claimed the attention of the Speaker and changed his vote, leaving Mr. Mendenhall, the only Conservative, in the negative.

This ended the contest with the record standing eighty-one in the affirmative and thirty-three in the negative. The Speaker announced that the bill had passed its second reading.

The third reading of the bill was ordered, and Mr. Moring demanded the previous question, and the voting proceeded quietly and rapidly, interrupted by the senseless efforts of Lloyd, Moore and Clews, negroes, to violate the rules of the House, in order to show their temper. Hughes, ordinarily a well-disposed and intelligent negro from Granville, was allowed a few minutes, and abused it by an ugly attack upon the Democrats. He was promptly called to order by Mr. Barrett, of Pitt, and ruled down by the Chair.

Upon the third reading the vote was a repetition of the other vote, and the Speaker announced hat the bill having received two-thirds of the votes of all the members of that branch of the General Assembly had passed its third and final reading. Mr. Means finished the work by moving to reconsider and to lay that motion on the table, which was adopted and the bill ordered to be enrolled.

Mr. Gash, of Transylvania, moved that the House adjourn until 10 o'clock to-morrow, as he felt as if he would be violating the Sabbath, if another session was held that day. The motion prevailed, and amidst general good feeling and congratulations the members and the vast throng left the Hall all impressed with the importance, for the weal or woe to the State, of the legislation which had just been perfected. E.

From the Charlotte Observer.

### Mecklenburg Centennial.

In pursuance of a call meeting to discuss measures relative to the proper celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 20th of May, Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, a meeting was held at the editorial rooms of the Charlotte Observer, on Saturday evening. On motion of J. H. Orr, Esq., the chair was occupied by Dr. Jos. Graham, and the secretaries desk by R. A. Shotwell and Chas. R. Jones.

After speeches by Judge Shipp, Gen. J. A. Young, T. W. Dewey, Esq., Dr. T. J. Moore, Alderman F. A. McNinch, Chas. R. Jones, J. H. Orr, S. P. Smith, Esq., Col. John E. Brown and others, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That a committee of ten be appointed as a General Managing Committee, to appoint sub-committees in each township and elsewhere, as may be deemed expedient to make all necessary arrangements, and transact all business connected with the plan for the celebration of the 20th of May prox.

On motion the chairman be added to the above committee.

On motion, it was resolved further that the committee, designated in the above resolution, will harmonize with the committee appointed on the 4th of February.

R. A. Shotwell introduced the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three, representing this meeting and the people of Mecklenburg, be appointed to memorialize the General Assembly, asking that the 20th of May be constituted a LEGAL HOLIDAY in the State of North Carolina, as a mark of recognition by the State, of the authenticity of the immortal Declaration which has cast lasting lustre on the name of North Carolinians.

The Chair appointed R. A. Shotwell, Gen. J. A. Young and Hon. Wm. M. Shipp, to draft the memorial.

On motion of Dr. T. Moore, it was

*Resolved*, That the editors of the State be requested to act as agents, to arouse public interest in the Centennial, and to invite the ladies of every locality to hold concerts, entertainments, &c., for the purpose of raising funds in aid of the measure; the ladies to accept this resolution as a special invitation to be present on the occasion.

On motion of General Young, when this meeting adjourn it be subject to the call of the Committee of Ten which should report progress from week to week, and hold frequent public meetings to keep up enthusiasm, &c.

On motion of A. B. Davidson, the meeting adjourned subject to call of the Committee.

JOS. GRAHAM, Chairman.

R. A. SHOTWELL, } Secretaries.
CHAR. R. JONES, }

The Wilson Advance says: The revival at the Methodist Episcopal Church continues with unabated interest. The Rev. Dr. Rosser seems to be as untiring as he is successful, and has fully sustained his high reputation as an able preacher and successful revivalist. Dr. Yeates, Presiding Elder of this District, Rev. J. C. Cunningham and the regular Pastor, Rev. F. H. Wood, have been present to lend their assistance at the meetings. The meetings will be kept up until Sunday, and will no doubt be extended if the interest does not abate. We understand there have been 34 converts and 25 accessions to the Church.

Condensed from the Raleigh News.

## THE LEGISLATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

### EIGHTY-SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, March 17th.

The bill concerning the inspection of timber in the city of Wilmington came up. Allows any one to become an inspector by paying $20 and giving a bond of $2,000.

Mr. Cantwell opposed the bill, and Messrs. Kerr and Standford favored it as a matter of protection to the citizens of that county who sold timber in the Wilmington market and were in no manner responsible for the performance of their duties.

Pending the discussion, a special order was considered.

At 12 o'clock the Senate went into executive session and concluded its duties in the consideration of the appointment of the different State officials by the Governor.

The resolution for a final adjournment was made a special order for to-morrow night at 8 o'clock.

BILLS PASSED THEIR READING.

Bill for changing the time of holding the Courts in the Second Judicial District.

Bill incorporating the Sampson County Agricultural Society.

Resolution of Mr. Standford requiring the Public Treasurer to pay out monthly instead of quarterly to the charitable institutions.

Mr. Busbee's bill providing additional arms for the military schools of the State.

The bill to change the time of holding the elections in this State in 1876 from the first Thursday in August to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, was considered and passed its second reading.

Mr. Cantwell had a letter read from the Sheriff of New Hanover, asking that the change be made.

Under a suspension of the rules, the bill was put upon its third reading, and passed by a vote of 22 to 17.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

By Mr. Griffin, to punish certain violations of the Sabbath. Referred.

By Newell, colored, a bill to protect fishing in the Cape Fear river. Referred.

By Moore, colored, a bill to incorporate the Dry Pond and New Town Bucket Company of Wilmington. Referred.

Bill in regard to the sale of wines made in the State (not to be drank on the premises, etc.,) passed its second readings.

Bill to incorporate the Wilmington, Raleigh and Danville Railroad Company. Certain amendments of the Internal Improvements adopted and the bill passed its second reading, when Mr. Oaksmith arose and spoke in condemnation of the proposed charter to be granted to aliens. The State had been already nearly ruined by foreign corporations coming into the State. The East strongly opposed all these lines.

Mr. McRae defended the Committee, and assured the House that with the most careful scrutiny upon their part there was nothing dangerous in the bill. Capitalists asked for the charter of this road to build it with their own money.

An amendment had been adopted that this corporation should not operate any other road until this road should be entirely completed, and there cannot possibly be any chance for fraud as intimated by Mr. Oaksmith, upon the part of the incorporators, and if there was "a rotten nest" in it the Committee could not find it.

Mr. Oaksmith moved to table the bill. The motion did not prevail and the bill passed its third reading.

The House concurred in Senate amendment concerning fishing in New river, Onslow county.

Bill in regard to a change of time for holding the Superior Courts in the Third Judiciary District. Mr. Strong offered a substitute, which prevailed and passed its third reading.

(It appoints for Lenior the 10th Monday after the 2d Monday in March and September, and that of Wilson the 8th Monday after the 2d Monday of the above months.)

By leave, Mr. Dortch, a bill to incorporate the Railway Co-operative Mutual Insurance Company. Referred.

The Land Scrip bill in favor of the University of North Carolina was taken up.

Mr. Mendenhall stated that the bill had been fully discussed, and he therefore demanded the previous question. Prevailing, the bill then passed its third reading—ayes 51, nays 49.

Mr. McRae moved to reconsider the vote and lay that motion upon the table.

Mr. Boyd demanded the ayes and nays, when the motion of Mr. McRae prevailed 59 to 39.

Bill authorizing the appointment of a committee of investigation into the affairs of the Western Division of the Western North Carolina Railway Company. Messrs. James H. Merrimon, David Coleman and Edward A. Aston are to compose the committee, who are to report to the Governor, and he shall publish in two newspapers in Raleigh having the largest circulation such reports as made.

Mr. Boyd moved to strike out the name of Mr. Merrimon and insert that of Mr. Nereus Mendenhall, of Guilford. After some discussion the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Gudger moved to insert Major Gage, of Madison county, instead of Mr. Aston. So inserted.

The bill then passed its second and third readings.

Mr. Boyd, by consent, introduced a resolution condemnatory of United States Senator Merrimon, and instructing him to resign. After some discussion as to the admissibility of the resolution, it was ordered to be placed on the calendar.

### SENATE.

### EIGHTY-THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY, March 18.

Mr. Parish, a resolution that Hon. Wm. A. Graham, Trustee of the N. C. R. R. Corporation, be authorized to sign and issue and sell (the stockholders consenting thereto) a sufficient amount of the mortgaged bonds of said corporation to pay off and settle the decree of the Court in the case of Swasey against said corporation; provided said decree is confirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States. Lies over.

Mr. French, a bill to pay certain parties in Robeson county $1,000 due them for killing Steve Lowrey, and which the Governor refused to pay because of some technicality. Referred.

House bill in favor of the State University was considered, and its passage advocated by Messrs. Kerr, French, Peebles, Cantwell and Cashwell.

Mabson, colored, moved to strike out the word University, and that the $125,000 be set aside for the public school fund of the State. Lost.

The bill then passed its second reading by the following vote: Ayes, 25; nays, 14.

The bill was then made special order to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Bill allowing any man who will pay $20 to become an inspector of timber in the city of Wilmington provided he gives a bond of $2,000 passed its third reading.

Bill to amend the Charter of the N. C. R. R., gave place to a substitute of Mr. Hargrave, which was reported on favorably by the Committee. The bill provides the N. C. R. R. Company to purchase the "Construction Bonds" upon such terms of compromise with the holders and owners of such bonds as may be agreed upon between the parties, and provides the means of doing the same.

Pending its consideration, the Senate went into consideration of the Revenue bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

By Mr. Mebane, a bill to incorporate the Historical Society of North Carolina. (Hon. W. A. Graham, Rev. Dr. Hooper, Bishop Atkinson, and others incorporators.) Calendar.

Senate bill in regard to chattel mortgages and liens passed its several readings. It amends certain sections of Battle's Revisal.

Senate bill to allow Wm. H. Sykes, Sheriff of Bladen, to settle with the Treasurer on or before the 1st of January, 1876. Laid upon the table.

Bill to protect the private interests of Stockholders and to provide for the consolidation of certain Railroads.

Mr. McRae explained the bill. It was an effort to consolidate certain roads built and others unbuilt as yet, though chartered, and to embrace roads from Morehead to Goldsboro, unto Fayetteville, thence to Salisbury and the West to the mountains. The bill passed its several readings.

Senate bill concerning the Registration of Deeds was taken up. Considerable discussion was indulged in.

Mr. Tate thought there was no necessity for the objects sought to be obtained by the bill. It would mix things terribly and result in countless litigation. Our ancestors and ourselves had gotten along well enough under the old law.

Mr. Moring, an amendment that the law go not into effect until the expiration of two years, etc.

Mr. Moring's amendment in the nature of a substitute was rejected.

Mr. Moring moved a reconsideration of the vote on his substitute, which prevailed, but it went over for the special order, that hour having arrived.

The bill entitled an act to call a Convention of the people of North Carolina was taken up and read.

Mr. Oaksmith, a motion that any member so desiring shall be allowed five minutes to explain his vote. Adopted.

The question being on the passage of the bill, its second reading, Mr. Boyd demanded the ayes and nays.

Messrs. Atwater, of Orange, Hanner, of Chatham, Latta, of Orange, in casting their votes, stated that though hitherto opposed to a Convention their people had instructed them and they now obeyed.

Messrs. McRae, Mitchell, Page, Oaksmith and Stephenson explained their vote; hitherto opposed to the call, they would not now desert their party.

Mr. McIver changed his vote from the negative to the affirmative. Rather than be a Republican to-day he would stick up to his vote.

Mr. Mendenhall was called out by Mr. Norment and voted "No."

Mr. Hurley would not give his reasons but would vote aye.

Mr. Griffin, though [illegible] otherwise, would surrender and stand or fall with his party.

Mr. Foote came forward and voted for the bill.

Mr. Eatman changed his vote to the affirmative.

Mr. Glenn, amid great applause, explained, casting his vote for the bill.

The vote was then declared to be 81 to 33, and the Speaker declared that a two-thirds vote having been cast for the bill, it had passed its second reading.

Mr. Moring moved a suspension of the rules to put the bill on its third reading. It prevailed, and the bill, on motion of Mr. Walker, of Richmond, was read a third time. It then passed by the following vote: Ayes 81; nays 33.

The Speaker declared that a two-thirds vote having been cast for the bill, it had passed, when Mr. Staples moved that the House adjourn until 10 o'clock to-morrow in honor of its passage.

### SENATE.

### EIGHTY-FOURTH DAY.

FRIDAY, March 19.

Mr. Mills, a bill to protect the State railway policy and gauge. Provides for the enforcement of the bill passed on Monday prohibiting the change of gauge of the North Carolina and other roads. Passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Busbee, a resolution requiring the Attorney-General to examine into and ascertain if the lessee of the North Carolina Railroad has not violated in several instances agreements of the loan, and if so, that officer report the fact to the Governor, and, with the consent of the parties leasing, the lease be declared invalid.

Mr. Morehead objected to the Legislature being made the cat's paw for the conflicting railway interests, and asked to know what were the charges against the lessees of the N. C. R. R., and who it was made these charges.—He certainly was not the champion of the R. & D. R. R., but he did not want the General Assembly called upon to tell the Attorney General what was already his duty.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of the Committee on Railroads, hoped the resolution would pass.

The lessee of the N. C. R. R., had failed to keep the road up, and he demanded in the name of the dearest interests of North Carolina that this State take every step in its favor to thwart the ends of those foreign corporations who were seeking to destroy the railroad interest of this State, and he wanted to see North Carolina put its foot on all such attempts.

Mr. Busbee could see no objection to the investigation asked. If no breach of the contract had been made no harm could come to any one. It was his opinion North Carolina had been swindled by the party leasing the road, and the matter should be investigated.

The resolution passed by a vote of 29 to 9.

Bills requiring the Judges of the Supreme Court and every Judge of the Supreme Court, within thirty days preceding each regular session of the General Assembly, to report to the Governor any amendment or changes in the laws of the State and suggest the passage of such other laws as to them shall seem important, passed its third reading.

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