

OUR LAWMAKERS.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING FOR SOUTH CAROLINA.

Several Very Important Matters Considered and Settled. -Adjournment in Sight. The Governor Vetoes a Tax Bill. -Other Proceedings.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 25. -Special: The house today finally passed the general pension bill, appropriating \$100,000. Efforts were made to reduce it to \$50,000 and increase to \$150,000 and both failed.

After a great deal of debate it was decided to repay the expenditure made at Atlanta from Governor Evans for \$6,000, if so much be necessary, and that the exhibit be used at the Chicago Cotton States Exposition.

A long fight was made on the South Carolina college appropriation. Leon Williams wanted it cut to \$20,000. This was voted down, but no further action was taken in the morning.

The general hope is that the general assembly will adjourn about Wednesday or Thursday.

The ways and means committee recommend a four and a half mill levy.

The senate devoted the morning to the consideration of the insurance bill and the road bill. The former came back from the house with amendments knocking out of over 15,000 inhabitants and upon motion of Mr. McCalla, the senate concurred in the amendment.

The road bill was then taken up and a number of amendments were adopted before the whole batch were re-committed.

The metropolitan police bill then came up and Mr. Barnwell got through amendments to give the city authorities some control over the new police in such matters as requiring reports to be made to the mayors by the chiefs requiring accounts of expenditures to be submitted, records to be kept open for the inspection of the city authorities and making them subject to such ordinances as are passed to regulate the duties of police. Debate on the bill was adjourned to the night session.

Then the first matter of any general interest considered was the bill to repeal the free pass bill, which came up saddled with an unfavorable report and died without a groan.

The metropolitan police bill then came up again, on motion of Mr. Barnwell, and passed.

The house bill to fix the passenger rates for railroads then came up as the special order and the unfavorable report was indefinitely postponed and the bill, after being amended by Mr. McCalla to fix the rate at 3¢ and 2¢ respectively for first and second class fares respectively passed by a vote of 14 to 13.

COLUMBIA, Feb. 26. -Special: The senate struck a snag on the railroad rate bill yesterday and stuck to it nearly all day until a motion to take recess prevailed.

Immediately after the morning hour the report of the conference committee on the bill relating to the adoption of children, recommending concurrence in the house amendments was adopted.

Non-concurrence then being voted in the house amendments to the pension bill, Messrs. Norris and Douglas were appointed on the committee of conference.

A bill to exempt certain portions of Hampton county from the operations of the general stock law was then killed on an unfavorable report.

A bill relating to the conveyance and admission of patients to the State hospital for the insane then came up and was amended by Mr. Jordan to fix compensation of attendants at \$2 per day and 12 cents per mile, with \$1 per day for guard where one is necessary.

Mr. Buist then introduced a bill to incorporate the Roman Catholic church of St. Joseph's of Charleston, which was placed upon the calendar without reference.

Mr. Barnwell also introduced a bill to declare the law in reference to the revision of the acts of 1893.

The question whether the bill should pass its final reading then came up.

The yeas and nays being called, the bill passed by the following vote: Yeas—Archer, Barton, Brown, Durham, Douglas, DuBose, Finley, Fuller, Harrison, Jordan, Mayfield, Miller, McCalla, Odell, Saunders, Stackhouse, Stribling—18.

Nays—Barnwell, Brice, Buist, Dennis, Kirkland, Mauldin, Moses, McDaniel, Pettigrew, Ragin, Sloan, Turner, Verdier, Walker, Watson, Williams—16.

The house resolution to fix the 7th of March as the day of final adjournment was then agreed to.

NEW BILLS. The following new bills were introduced during the day:

By Mr. Moses—To require certain acts passed during the session of 1894 to be published with the acts of 1898.

By Mr. Archer—To validate and confirm certain acts of the Spartanburg and Rutherford Railroad Company.

By Mr. Barton—To authorize the board of trustees of Cladun university to sell or lease the property of that university to the Colored Normal and Industrial college of South Carolina.

THE FIRST VETO. The first veto of the session came up last night, when the following message was received from the governor:

To the Honorable, the Senate: I herewith return without my approval, "A joint resolution (Senate) to remit the unpaid State and county taxes for the fiscal year commencing November 1, 1892, in Beaufort county and part of Colleton county."

I regret that I am compelled to do this, as I am satisfied, so far as Colleton county is concerned, that Beaufort county stands in an entirely different position. The resolution on its face purports to relieve the sufferers from the storm in the year 1892, and if this could be effected, I should not hesitate to approve it. Upon inquiry, I find that in the county of Beaufort over \$36,000 of this tax has been paid and there remains in round numbers \$8,000; of this sum, over \$6,000 is due by large taxpayers, merchants and corporations in the city of Beaufort, who are amply able to pay their taxes and should be made to do so. It will thus be seen that the real sufferers, the poor people of the county, have paid their taxes and it would be clearly unjust to remit those of the wealthier

class, unless the amounts paid by the poorer class were refunded. The resolution does not do this, and upon the request of a majority of the delegation in the house and the county officers of Beaufort I am forced to withhold my approval.

As to the county of Colleton, I would respectfully recommend that a joint resolution be passed by your honorable body giving them the relief desired, as in that county the taxpayers are unable to pay and the county affairs, I am reliably informed, will not be embarrassed thereby.

Respectfully, John Gary Evans, Governor.

The senator from Beaufort county being, absent consideration of the message was postponed.

The first bill considered at the night session was Mr. Fuller's bill to regulate the movements of cars, trains and traffic between lines connecting within this State, and to prevent any discrimination in the rates charged or facilities offered such connecting lines, and to prevent all discrimination, and to require equal facilities and advantages to all railroad companies within or without the State with which they directly or indirectly connect, and to provide for the issuance and recognition of through bills of lading by all railroads doing business in this State, to prevent the diversion of freight, to prevent violation of this act by any railroad in this State, to constitute the same a misdemeanor and to provide punishment therefor.

Of special interest is the penalty clause, which imposes damages of \$500 for each violation of the law—and permits any person to bring suit for said violation. The original bill provided for a penalty of \$5,000, which was reduced to \$500 on motion of Mr. Mayfield. The bill passed to its third reading as amended.

Messrs. Finley, Eford and Harrison were then appointed a committee of free conference on the new county bill.

The second reading bills were taken up, and the following ordered to their third reading:

Mr. Fuller's joint resolution to require the penitentiary authorities to lend 10 convicts to the Winthrop Normal school.

The senate bills then being exhausted, the house bills were taken up, and the following were quickly passed:

House bill to authorize and empower cities, towns and other municipal corporations to issue negotiable coupon bonds for the refunding or payment of bonded indebtedness existing at the time of the adoption of the present Constitution.

House bill to provide for the drainage of Middle Tiger river and its tributaries.

House bill to provide for the inspection of beef and mutton in any of the cities and towns of this State, with amendments by Mr. Finley, was made the special order for tomorrow at 1 o'clock.

Mr. McDaniel introduced a bill to enable J. Baxter Westbrook of Chester county, a minor, to apply for admission to the bar.

The senate then adjourned.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS. When the house met, a message was received from the senate stating that that body had killed the bill to repeal the anti-free pass act, the jim crow bill and the bill looking to the changing of the names of towns and villages.

A conference committee consisting of Messrs. Carroll, Ashley and Hardy was appointed on the bill relating to the adoption of children.

A similar committee was appointed to adjust the differences between the two houses on the penitentiary investigation committee's expenses.

An unfavorable report was presented and adopted on the senate bill relating to punishment for embezzlement. A similar report was also presented on the bill looking to the adjustment of differences by arbitration.

An unfavorable report was adopted on the bill to make the chairman of the medical committees of the two houses members of the State board of health.

There were but two third reading bills—one being the general appropriation bill. This was given a third reading without any discussion and was ordered to be sent to the senate.

The pension bill was likewise given a third reading and ordered to be sent to the senate.

THE QUESTION OF ADJOURNMENT. The senate resolution fixing next Wednesday as the day for final adjournment was called up.

Mr. Thurmond moved to table the senate resolution and take up the house resolution fixing Saturday week. This was agreed to.

Mr. Tatum moved to make it the 5th. He said all they had to do was to work like they had heretofore worked when Christmas stared them in the face.

Mr. Sturkie moved to table this amendment, saying he wanted nothing left undone. The amendment was tabled, and the resolution fixing Saturday week as the farewell day was adopted.

SINKING FUNDS. When the ways and means committee's substitute bill to regulate and control county sinking funds created for the purpose of placing the finances of the counties of this State upon a cash basis, was called up, Mr. L. J. Williams moved to strike out the enacting words of the bill.

Mr. Connor then spoke in favor of the bill. He was satisfied that this was the most economical way his county could get on a cash basis. Every safeguard was thrown around the matter by the bill: no power was given to the county commissioners to make the levy.

Mr. Williams finally withdrew his motion.

The bill was then slightly amended and ordered to a third reading in this shape:

Section 1. Whenever provision is made by law for the levy and collection of an annual tax to create a sinking fund for the purpose of placing the finances of any county of this State upon a cash basis the sum or sums so raised shall be kept by the county treasurer upon a special account, separate and distinct from other county funds, and shall be protected by the official bond of the county treasurer as other county funds, and shall be known or designated as the "county sinking fund."

"Sec. 2. After the creation of said fund it may be lawful for the county board of commissioners in any year to borrow in advance of the collection of taxes for that year from said fund and to apply to ordinary county expenses an amount which shall not exceed such a sum as can be repaid to said sinking fund on or before the 1st day of the following January out of the

collection of taxes in said year. The amounts so borrowed from said sinking fund during any current year shall be repaid to said sinking fund on or before the first day of the following January, and all amounts realized from the collection of any taxes levied for the purpose of creating said sinking fund shall immediately upon collection be placed to the credit of said fund. All unexpended balances of taxes raised for ordinary county expenses and all unexpended balances of taxes raised for any special county purpose, excepting school purposes, shall at the end of the year be carried to the credit of said sinking fund.

Sec. 3. Whenever the said sinking fund shall accumulate to such an amount as to equal the amount of the ordinary annual expenses of the county, thus enabling the finances of the county to be placed upon a cash basis, then the said fund shall be carried to the credit of the general account of the county, and the said sinking fund shall be closed and this act shall cease to be operative.

Sec. 4. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Mr. Pollock called for the income tax bill but the supply bill was demanded. Upon a division vote the supply bill was taken.

The section making the general State levy reads as follows:

Sec. 1. That a tax of 44 mills, exclusive of the public school tax hereinafter provided for, upon every dollar of this State, and the same is hereby levied for the purpose of meeting appropriations to defray the current expenses of the government for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 1896, 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 regular session of 1896 providing for the same.

The bill was then ordered to a third reading.

THE INCOME TAX. Mr. Pollock's income tax bill was then called up, and Mr. Magill moved to strike out the enacting words.

M. J. G. Saunders moved to indefinitely postpone the bill.

At the night session the speaker ruled that the educational bill could be made a special order. It was then made a special order for noon tomorrow.

Then the income tax bill was taken up again, but the debate was suspended temporarily to allow the report of the committee on conference on the new county bill to be read. A committee had failed to agree. A committee of free conference was asked for.

Mr. Patton suggested that there was only one such place.

Mr. Pollock—What county, France? Mr. Patton—No, heaven, Laughter.

The roll call was demanded on the motion to strike out the enacting words. The bill was then killed by a vote of 60 to 30.

The clincher was then put on and the waste of time ended.

Those who voted for the bill were Messrs. Blackwell, Bramlett, Burns, Brown, Ellerbe, Fowler, Hammett, Hardy, Harvey, Connor, L. S. Hiett, Hollis, Lemmon, Lessee, Moore, McIntosh, Nunery, Pickens, Pollock, Price, Sturkie, Tatum, Thompson, Thurmond, Tyler, Warr, Williams, T. S.; Williams, Fred; Wolf and Speaker Gary.

After further discussion the bill was killed by a decisive vote.

The subsequent proceedings were of no public interest.

Preparing for the Fray. WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—"We have touched bottom and are now on rising ground" is the cheerful sentiment expressed by the National Democratic congressional committee, which is now completing its organization for the coming campaign. Representative McRae of Arkansas presided over the caucus. A number of vacancies were filled and a special committee of five, of which Mr. Hutcheson of Texas is chairman, was appointed to fill the remaining vacancies in State and Territories in the house. The other members of this committee are Senators Mitchell of Wisconsin and Representatives Wheeler of Alabama, Maddox of Georgia and Dockery of Missouri. The following is the personnel of the committee by States as far as it has been completed: Jos. Wheeler, Alabama; Thos. McRae, Arkansas; Jas. G. McGuire, California; Jas. F. Pigot, Connecticut; S. M. Sparksman, Florida; John W. Maddox, Georgia; Fims E. Downing, Illinois; Albert S. Berry, Kentucky; Adolph Meyers, Louisiana; H. W. Rusk, Maryland; John F. Fitzgerald, Massachusetts; O. M. Hall, Minnesota; John C. Kyle, Mississippi; A. M. Dockery, Missouri; Amos J. Cummings, New York; F. F. Woodward, North Carolina; W. N. Roach, North Dakota; Fred C. Layton, Ohio; C. J. Erdman, Pennsylvania; W. J. Tallant, South Carolina; Benton McMillen, Tennessee; C. K. Bell, Texas; Wm. A. Jones, Virginia.

The special committee will select the remaining members through correspondence with the State and national committees and Democratic ex-members in the several States that now have a solid Republican delegation in congress. The committee will report upon the better method of collecting funds for the autumn campaign, and they are empowered also to select a treasurer, who, it is understood, will be Dr. James Norris of the District of Columbia, who formerly held that office. The committee elected Senator Faulkner of West Virginia permanent chairman and Lawrence Garnier of this city permanent secretary.

Fire Kills Two Little Girls. MONTGOMERY, ALA., Feb. 21.—A special to the Advertiser from Gadsden, Ala., says: Little Katie Green, whose parents live in St. Clair County, was playing with her doll before the grate, when her clothing caught on fire. Her mother and aunt extinguished the flames and the child's wounds were pronounced very slight. She played around the rest of the day, but about midnight she was seized with spasms and a little while after, in Elchah County, little Amy Darnell was so badly burned as to leave no hopes of her recovery. Her clothes were burned from her body and the flesh peeled off in slices.

Children Fatally Burned. BALTIMORE, Feb. 24.—Two children were fatally and two others seriously burned in a fire in Canton, a suburb of Baltimore, tonight. The explosion of a coal oil lamp which one of the children was trying to light caused the fire.

THE VETO SUSTAINED.

LIVELY DEBATE OVER THE BEAUFORT AND COLLETON BILL.

Plain Statement from the Senator from Beaufort—The Measure Finally Lost. Other Proceedings.

COLUMBIA, Feb. 27.—The feature of today's business was the Senate's refusal to override the Governor's veto of the bill for the relief of the taxpayers in Beaufort and Colleton.

Mr. Verdier, when the governor's veto of the bill relieving portions of Colleton and Beaufort from the payment of taxes due in the cyclone year and whose payment had been from year to year postponed, came up took the floor. He had known nothing of the introduction of this bill till, on returning from a leave of absence, he found it on the calendar. It had been introduced by Mr. Sanders in the senate and Mr. Cooper in the house, and these representatives of Colleton had justly and generously included Beaufort in the exemption which they asked for Colleton.

False representations had been made to the governor and on them he had vetoed the resolution. One of the prime movers against it was a large speculator in county funds—one W. H. Lockwood—who styles himself "president of the Bank of Beaufort." He had bought up this paper, county obligations, and was anxious that the collection of taxes be enforced. There were also at least two county officers who, for some reason unknown to him, were opposed to the passage of the resolution.

Of the storm-swept sections of the State, relief had been given to Georgetown, Berkeley and some sections of Charleston, but none had ever gone to St. Helena parish. He said this and his defiance of contradiction. But St. Helena had never asked for anything but his postponement of taxes. The property of St. Helena parish had been sold to pay the taxes of the State at large to the Federal government. The State of South Carolina had never lifted its finger to relieve them of this burden. Two or three years ago that section had been swept by a cyclone which not only destroyed vast amounts of property, but something like 1,000 lives. The whole country had responded to appeals for relief. Mr. Barnwell had said that she had redeemed herself by remitting the taxes in certain sections. He was not well posted, but he thought that in certain portions there had been relief given from South Carolina to certain portions of Georgetown, Berkeley and Charleston counties, but he was sure that no relief had come to St. Helena parish, Beaufort county.

Mr. Jordan said he had received a letter in reply to what Mr. Barnwell had said the day from Mr. Martin, chairman of one of the relief committees in Beaufort county, that he had received \$2,000 for relief in his section.

Mr. Verdier replied that none of this went to St. Helena parish, but was used in a section as little hurt as any in the county and to which two shipments of provisions had been made by Beaufort people.

Mr. Finley asked what number of people would be relieved by this resolution.

Mr. Verdier said he would answer that directly, when he would show some written evidence which would prove the representations made to the governor were false. The only relief that St. Helena parish had ever received was a postponement of taxes. They had never asked for any relief that the taxes be remitted until their neighbors from Colleton had included them under a bill for their own relief, and in their kindness tied a millstone around their own necks that had dragged them down with Beaufort.

Now the representations that induced the governor to veto this resolution were false and made solely by speculators in county paper. He knew that the president of the Bank of Beaufort, W. H. Lockwood, had approached him on the matter and stated that he had a lot of county paper on hand and that it was of great importance to him that the taxes should be paid. His people were accustomed to sufferings; they had made no public appeals and would not have been here today except for the kindness of their Colleton neighbors, and whom on behalf of his people he wished to thank for their action. In answer to the question of the gentleman from York, he would say that it was conceded that the county sections should be exempted, but that there were men in the city of Beaufort who could and should be made to pay.

He would submit an official list that he had and ask the senate if the persons in it should be made to pay. Glancing over it he found 30 names, all estates, some of them widows and not wealthy merchants who were able to pay.

He could only find some three or four on the list who could come forward and pay their taxes if they would. They were very few. He asked if they wished to make it a rule that the poor should be made to pay, in order to get what the rich owed and would not pay. He found on the list the banker—this Beaufort Lockwood—whose taxes amounted to over \$100, who was the Bank of Beaufort—director, stockholder and everything—this man, who had come to Columbia and made these representations to the governor. This man not only never lost 25 cents by the storm, but made money out of it, because he handled all the money that came to Miss Clara Barton, and got the exchange for it. The storm was a perfect financial godsend to him. But, he asked, was it proper to make the widows and orphan pay their taxes to make that man pay? Must these people suffer from this man's actions? There was something said of rich corporations. He would find only one corporation on this list, and that was the Postal Telegraph company, which was down for the pitiful sum of \$8.

This would be a monstrous burden for these people to carry. Much of the property on which these taxes were levied was wasted away by the storm—gone, destroyed, lost forever. "Talk about rich men," he said, "I don't believe there is a single rich man in the town of Beaufort." He himself—he had a right to speak for himself—as poor as any man in South Carolina.

Mr. Buist—"You don't look like it." Mr. Verdier—"Now, you are right! I don't look it and I don't intend to look it as long as I can help it." (Laughter.)

He asked if his people were to be burdened with this tax because some of the refuse of the war—some of the relics of the freedmen's bureau left high

and dry in the town of Beaufort have been speculating in county claims and want to make their profit out of it. This man (Lockwood) was an agent of the freedmen's bureau, who came there from the north, a Republican to make money, and is now trying to suck the life blood of the people. He referred to one large taxpayer on the list who does not today own the house that he is living in—having lost everything by the storm—but who is assessed for property that has been swept away. He knew merchants in that list who had their goods swept away, and who were existing today, financially, by the generosity of their northern creditors. He represented some of them, and held claims against some of them that would wipe out everything in the world they had, but for the sympathy of their creditors who stayed their hands. He knew one man, whose name was on the list, who had lost \$30,000 worth of goods out of one warehouse, and it was upon these goods that he was assessed and would be forced to pay the taxes. He was stating these facts that his people might be understood. He did not propose that money grabbers and money-lenders should come here and misrepresent them without his defending them and settling their rights. As he had said to his friend, he did not intend to look poor, though he was as poor as a dog in his county. He intended to keep a stiff upper lip and go down with his flag flying. But all that he had made since the war, to which he had gone as a boy, in which he had served for four years in the army of Northern Virginia firing perhaps the last shot fired of the Mississippi near Raleigh—had been swept away by that storm and he represented the people of his county truly in that he had never received any assistance one way or the other, with the exception of a box of law books which a gentleman in far away Massachusetts had shipped him without saying a word about it. His friends had afterwards wanted to raise a fund and buy him a library, but he thought he was already unfortunate enough without being held up as an object of public charity. He had no idea that it had ever occurred to the governor that the values upon which those taxes were levied in 1893 had been destroyed, but such was the fact, and he hoped the senate would consider it and overrule the veto.

Mr. Mayfield drew a graphic picture of the damage that the storm had done in Barnwell county, from which, he said, there had never come an appeal for aid. He found on the list four men who paid taxes amounting to over \$400 a year, and 14 who paid over \$100. He wanted to know if it was possible to give 16 men back their taxes and leave only a balance of a little over \$2,000 to be returned to the poor people.

Mr. Verdier said that much of those large tax lists represented property that had been swept away. They had lost it, and now to make them pay it would be a hardship.

Mr. Mayfield—One of the men on that list in Congressman Elliott, who is getting \$5,000 a year. Is he to be exempted?

Mr. Verdier—Because there are such instances, are you going to make all the others sell their homes. Is that your idea of justice?

Mr. Mayfield said that in Barnwell county that year they had not made money enough to pay for their fertilizers. He thought this joint resolution an injustice to the State of South Carolina; it was time to call a halt. There was Congressman Elliott whose salary was \$5,000 a year to be exempted. (I ask the reporters not to take that down.) He did not believe it was just and for these reasons would vote to sustain the governor's veto.

Mr. Verdier said he would state on his own responsibility that not one of those merchants whose taxes were from \$100 to \$500 had lost less than \$2,500 in that storm. The lost property is the property on which these taxes are due to a large extent.

Mr. Mayfield asked if these men were not able to pay their taxes.

Mr. Verdier replied that if they were sold out under the sheriff's hammer their property would doubtless bring enough for that purpose, but he would ask the gentleman if that would not be a burden.

Mr. Mayfield—All taxation is a burden.

Mr. Verdier—I mean an excessive burden to collect taxes for property that has been swept away.

The veto was sustained by a vote of 18 to 13 as follows:

Yeas—Barnwell, Buist, Denis, Durham, Finley, Kirkland, Moses, Pettigrew, Sanders, Sloan, Turner, Verdier, Walker—18.

Nays—Archer, Barton, Brice, Brown, Douglas, DuBose, Fuller, Harrison, Jordan, Mayfield, Miller, McCalla, McDaniel, Norris, Odell, Stackhouse, Stribling, Williams—13.

A recess was then taken to 5 o'clock. The house bill to provide for the inspection of beef and mutton was killed.

IN THE HOUSE. The senate sent a message stating that it had concurred in the resolution in regard to adjourning on Saturday week, the 7th.

The following bills passed a third reading and were ordered sent into the senate:

The bill to regulate and control county sinking funds created for the purpose of placing the finances of the counties of this State upon a cash basis.

The bill to raise supplies and make appropriations.

The joint resolution to authorize the superintendent of the penitentiary to borrow money upon the Reed plantation and to mortgage the same.

The Saluda county bill, the very last on the calendar, was taken up owing to the necessity for its passage, and ordered to a third reading without any debate.

SALARIES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS. The house then took up Mr. Shuman's bill "to fix the compensation to be received for their services by the sheriffs, clerks of courts of common pleas and general sessions, registers of mesne conveyances, county supervisors, school commissioners, coroners, auditors and treasurers of the several counties in the State, and to make the same uniform in proportion to the population of the several counties and necessary services received."

The bill was then turned over to a committee consisting of one from each county.

It was then decided that each delegation select its members of the committee.

THE VOTING PRECINCTS. The senate bill to amend the law in relation to the location and names of voting precincts in this State was then

called up and some slight amendments thereto was made, the bill then being laid over to allow Richard to get in his provision. The only counties in which changes are made are Abbeville, Aiken, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Chester, Colleton, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Georgetown, Kershaw, Florence, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, Newberry, Oconee, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter and Union.

THE GENERAL SCHOOL LAW. The general school law which was the special order for noon was then taken up.

The first committee amendment agreed to was one to cut the salary of the superintendent of education from \$1,900 to \$1,800.

THE SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS. The next amendment looked to putting back in the bill the provision for county school commissioners.

Mr. Otis thought this was an unwise effort to go back to the old system.

Mr. Sturkie thought a school commissioner was an absolute necessity. Mr. Fred Williams had been a school teacher. He could see no necessity whatever for this officer.

Mr. Wilson said his county wanted the office badly. His people wanted the office elective.

Mr. L. J. Williams said the house should consider well before it abolished this office. They were at the beginning of a new era in the public school system. Every department of the government should have a head.

This was the wrong time to experiment.

Mr. Ellerbe said this was one of the few questions to provoke discussion on this bill. It was now more necessary than ever to have this office.

Mr. Otis' idea was to have a board in each county, having general supervision of the schools. He could see no use of having a school commissioner.

Mr. Townsend thought that this was one of the most important matters of the session. He did not want to concentrate so much power in the hands of the superintendent of education. This official, as the bill stood, could appoint all the county boards.

It would be taking the matter out of the hands of the people. They were starting out on a new educational era. The time ought to be allowed for making such radical changes.

Mr. Thurmond feared that they could not get along without a school commissioner.

After much debate the committee's amendment, retaining the school commissioners was adopted.

The amendment to increase the membership of the State board of education from five to seven and to provide that there should be one from each congressional district was agreed to.

After some discussion the house adopted the committee amendment to have one depository in each county.

Mr. Pollock offered an amendment that the county superintendents should be paid out of the funds of the State and not out of the county funds.

Mr. Rainsford moved to strike out the provision for \$100 a year each for the traveling expenses of the county superintendents.

The debate was then adjourned until the night session.

THANKS TO CHARLESTON. Mr. T. P. Mitchell offered a resolution of thanks to the people of Charleston for their trip to Charleston last week, which was adopted. It read as follows:

"This house having accepted an invitation to visit the city of Charleston on the 22d day of February, 1896, it is, therefore,