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THURSDAY....FEBRUARY 20, 1890.

West Virginia.

The Philadelphia *Telegraph* we have often had occasion to allude to as one of the fairest of all the Republican papers in the Union. Its editor has a judicial mind. He seldom does injustice to a party, or to a faction, or even to a person. He was, however, less careful than usual when he penned the following paragraph:

"But intending settlers who read of the frequent White-Cap outrages in that State [West Virginia] conclude that the indigenous man is too vile for them, and so they go farther to find their homes, and West Virginia remains a wilderness. A pioneer corps of missionaries is badly needed in that State."

Of all the law-abiding, peaceable people in this broad land there are none more law-abiding or more peacefully inclined than are those of West Virginia, as we know, having lived in that State for years.

The *Telegraph* makes another inexcusable blunder when it says that "West Virginia remains a wilderness." There is no State east of the Mississippi river in which the percentage of increase in population and wealth during the last twenty years has been greater than in West Virginia. Let us compare that State with Maine, a New England State. The apportionment of representation in the national House of Representatives under the census of 1880 gave an additional member to West Virginia and took one away from Maine. In 1880 Maine cast seven electoral votes in the presidential election and West Virginia had only five. In 1888 Maine cast six—the same number as West Virginia. Do these facts indicate that West Virginia "remains a wilderness"?

Recollect, too, that the territorial area of Maine is greater than that of West Virginia. The former State has an area of 33,040 square miles, whilst the latter has an area of only 24,780 square miles.

"West Virginia remains a wilderness." What a commentary upon that statement is the fact that the State is full of railroads. There is a railroad along the entire northern tier of counties. Not one county is there which a railroad does not penetrate. Then there is a railroad from Grafton to Parkersburg. Another from Wheeling all the way down the Ohio river to Point Pleasant. Another from Clarksburg to Weston, with connections. Then the magnificent Chesapeake and Ohio railroad penetrates every county from the Virginia line to the Ohio river. And even these are not all the railroads in that State so rich in natural resources.

The Florida Homicide.

The killing of a Federal marshal in Florida and the presence in Washington of the Governor of Florida and of certain Federal officials—the former to explain how the homicide occurred and the latter to get President HARRISON to take hold of Florida with a mailed hand—indicate that it is the purpose of the present Administration to harass and oppress the southern people till some of the more hot-headed commit "outrages," and then the Administration will declare martial-law, or pass a southern election-law, or do something else that will continue the Republicans in office.

Mr. TOOMBS said in reconstruction times that the indignation of the southern people had been exhausted. President HARRISON seems to be bent upon exhausting it again. The reader must recollect that if a Federal official was killed in Florida, it was in Florida that Federal officials recently proposed and attempted to pack juries in the Federal courts with Republicans and thus secure the conviction and punishment of the wicked Democrats who had voted last November for GROVER CLEVELAND and against BENJAMIN HARRISON for President of the United States. The northern people who are howling over the Florida homicide should consider all the facts of the case before they pass too harsh a judgment on the man who committed it, or undertake to approve HARRISON's conduct in the matter.

TO BE TAKEN TO THE COURTS.—We have heretofore stated substantially what Mr. CARLISLE said on Monday last as to one of the unconstitutional rules which REED and his gang have imposed upon the House of Representatives. We shall now quote Mr. CARLISLE's words as they appear in the official *Record*. They clearly indicate that the Democrats expect to take the rule into the courts. How this is to be done does not yet appear. Mr. CARLISLE said:

"Against the second clause of this rule, which authorizes the Speaker to count, for the purpose of making a quorum to do business, the names of members not voting that have been entered on the Journal, we protest and shall continue to protest, because we believe it to be unauthorized by the Constitution. That, however, is a question which does not affect the correctness of the Journal. It is, moreover, a question which cannot be finally decided in this House, but must go, when a proper case arises, to some other forum; and I desire to say that it is the purpose of this side of the House, when a proper occasion is presented, to see that this question shall be made in some form which will enable the proper tribunals of the country to pass upon it finally and decisively."

MARTIAL LAW THREATENED.—A Washington telegram in the Philadelphia *Inquirer* quotes Mr. HARRISON as saying: "These outrages must cease"—that is, such as the Florida and Mississippi outrages. The telegram adds that it is reported that he may declare martial law in certain localities! Were ever such foolish, nay wicked, measures threatened before? The Constitution of the United States declares by necessary implication that martial law shall not be declared unless in case of invasion or rebellion—that is, it declares that the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* shall not be suspended unless under the circumstances named; and as martial law suspends that writ at once it is clear that our statement is not too strong. What shall be said of HARRISON? "One apostate is worse than ten Turks." His ancestors were Virginians. We would fare better under a genuine New England Yankee.

The *Central Presbyterian*, which always weighs its words, administers the following well-merited rebuke:

"Mr. Joseph Cook, of Boston, delivered a lecture last week in Tremont Temple (the second of his series), taking as the subject of his prelude 'Race Riots in the South.' On this subject we might naturally expect, from such a source, some prejudice and misrepresentation. But we were not prepared for such a display of ignorance, such malice, hatred, and all uncharitableness, as we find in the report of his address. He is no more qualified, by correct information or by judicial fairness, to speak of southern society or southern morals than Ingersoll is to speak of the Bible or of the Christian religion. We have no further use for Mr. Cook or for his Boston lectures."

We predicted several years ago that COOK would become an infidel before many years. He finds his account, however, in professing to be orthodox. He panders to the prejudices of his hearers whenever he has occasion to speak of the South or of any "rebels." We are glad that the *Central Presbyterian* will reproduce no more of his "talks."

The House of Representatives has adopted Speaker REED's rules with very slight modification.—*Commercial-Gazette.*

True for you, Mr. HALSTEAD. The rules are "Speaker REED's rules." In them is embodied his "general parliamentary law." Mr. CUMMINGS, of New York, facetiously asked that this "general parliamentary law" might be printed in the same book with REED's rules, but as the "Republican rascals" knew that REED's rules embraced all the parliamentary law which he had relied upon to sustain his outrageous decisions, they did not comply with Mr. CUMMINGS's request.

New Book.

History of Utah. By HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT—1540—1887. San Francisco: The History Company. 1889.

What a wonderful historian is Mr. HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT. He has written about fifty volumes of histories. The book before us contains over eight hundred pages. Its contents show that immense labor was bestowed upon it. The details given are full and satisfactory. Whoever wishes to inform himself as to the history of Utah should buy this book.

For sale by the publishers.

[For the Dispatch.]

Mr. Royall and Mr. Maben.

In Tuesday's paper Mr. Royall, his attorney, attempts to defend Mr. Cooper for not complying with his covenant to save harmless Mr. D. A. Maben, of Amelia, who had attempted to pay his taxes in coupons. Mr. Maben, it appears, failed to force the coupons on the Treasurer, who levied on and sold his property for two thirds cost six months before.

This transaction with Mr. Cooper was had in 1888, and Mr. Royall apologizes for the non-performance of his contract. He even intimates that he showed merit in keeping his contract notwithstanding what he calls the atrocious legislation which occurred after the contract was made. As if "atrocious legislation," after as well as before, was not one of the things to be insured against under the contract to save Mr. Maben harmless.

Here is the contract, or what I presume must be the contract, since I find it as an advertisement in the Richmond *Dispatch* of November 7, 1886.

Whereas —— of —— has purchased from James P. Cooper $—— of Virginia tax-receivable coupons, now, therefore, if the said —— shall tender said coupons for his State taxes, the said James T. Cooper hereby covenants, and he is authorized by the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders of London so to covenant, that if the said —— is molested in any way by the officers of the State of Virginia, he, the said James P. Cooper, will furnish the said —— with all necessary counsel and will save him harmless on account of said tender.

Witness my hand and seal this —— day of ——, 188—.

—— —— [Seal.]

917 *Main street, Richmond, Va.*, ——, 188—.

Witness: WILLIAM L. ROYALL.

Suppose an additional clause had been asserted, to this effect: But if any "atrocious legislation" is perpetrated by the General Assembly of Virginia, the said Cooper shall not be bound by his said contract; and in case judgment is obtained against the said —— of —— by the treasurer of —— county whereby the said —— of —— shall have his property levied on and sold, he shall not have recourse against the said Cooper under the above contract until an appeal can be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States and that court shall have given an opinion in all the points that the counsel of the said Cooper can raise. How many men would have bought the coupons in that case? But is not that the condition that Mr. Royall has superimposed against the logic of a contract? Superimposed without notice?

Here is a man who has been levied on and sold out nearly two years ago; and to his demand for redress under the contract Mr. Royall replies: "Mr. Cooper is not bound to give redress the minute the judgment is entered." Should "the Supreme Court decide that the legislation is void there can be no claim that he has not kept his contract to the letter." The man has been sold out, but Mr. Cooper was not bound to protect him until he has had one or two more trials to prove that the State of Virginia has passed atrocious laws; as if Mr. Royall had not made that contention in the coupon-killer and the coupon-crusher, and almost any other law that the State has passed.

No doubt Mr. Maben, with whose loss I have not the least sympathy, thinks such a plea as "atrocious" as the legislation which Mr. Royall condemns.

There was a stout man once, so runs the fable, standing upon the wharf at Albany, N. Y., on a cold, bleak day, and observing a poor ragged man shivering in the crowd he offered to bet him $10 that he could throw him across the North river. Driven by his necessities the ragged man accepted the banter, when the stout man "gathered" him by the seat of his breeches and the collar of his shirt and slung him plump into the river about five feet from the end of the wharf. Swimming out he claimed the money he had won. "Oh, no," said the stout man, "not yet. I did not say how many trials I was to have. I was getting the heft of you. The next time I think I may succeed." The dripping wretch told him his conduct was "atrocious," and walked off amid the jeers of the crowd, who had no feeling for a man who had no more sense than to make such a bet as that.

Moral. Mind how you make foolish bets with sharpers. ***

[For the Dispatch.]

The Agricultural Institutions.

In the Democratic platform occurs the following:

"8. We are in favor of a law requiring the agricultural institutions of the State to be placed under the control of practical farmers."

The State has an Agricultural College which was founded for the purpose of teaching her farmer boys all that is known of the best agricultural practices and such sciences relating to agriculture, with their application, as would make its pupils skilful, progressive, and above all successful farmers.

There is an agricultural experiment station attached to the college which was endowed with $15,000 a year for the purpose of ascertaining and informing the farmers how far and with what modifications the most profitable methods and products of other places may be applicable to our conditions, and especially how by new processes and new crops we can turn to our advantage the peculiarities of our soils and climate.

That we are not getting the desired benefits from these institutions is shown by the discontent and destitution so general amongst our farmers. The college has not scattered abroad through the State in the eighteen years of its existence the expected leaven of progressive and successful young farmers, whose example and farms would constitute a practical school for their neighbors. The experiment station has not made itself known by its good works. Of the quarterly bulletins of progress required to be issued to the farmers only two have appeared in the nearly two years of its existence, and one of these was only a list of the fruit-trees and grape-vines planted at the station.

The truckers of Norfolk and the fruit-growers of Piedmont have asked that the station would make some investigations that would be of benefit to them, but these requests have not been heeded.

The Democratic convention last summer, aware that the farmers had just cause for complaint, promised in its platform that if their party was supported by the people they would no longer allow these institutions to be controlled by gentlemen who, engrossed in other and foreign avocations, have no knowledge of the needs of our agriculture and little interest in its prosperity, and pledged itself that if power was again confided to them that a law should be passed requiring these institutions to be placed under the control of practical farmers.

The farmers have done their part faithfully and well. The gentlemen nominated on this platform were triumphantly elected. The farmers, trusting to the honor and good faith of the Democratic leaders, rallied almost to a man to their support, and they are expecting the pledges and promises of the platform to be fulfilled in the spirit in which they were understood during the canvass. The Governor's recent appointments did not give the expected control of these institutions to the farmers. It therefore remains for the Democratic majority in the Legislature to redeem the pledge of the party by enacting such a law as was declared for by the platform and demanded by the Farmers' Assembly. If something is not done in this matter with what countenance can Democratic speakers hereafter face an audience of farmers and ask their confidence and trust for Democratic candidates and policy.

Respectfully, H. M. MAGRUDER.

Eastham, Va.

It sells like hot cakes—Salvation Oil, the greatest cure on earth for pain. Price 25 cents.

THEY MUST BE PURE.

ALL FERTILIZERS SOLD IN VIRGINIA TO BE INSPECTED BY SAMPLE.

The Bill to Increase the Pay of Circuit Judges Defeated—Many Other Subjects Discussed.

Lieutenant-Governor J. Hoge Tyler called the Senate to order at 12 o'clock M. yesterday. There was no prayer.

Of the numerous bills reported from committees all were of a local character.

DON'T GO WITHOUT AUTHORITY.

As soon as the business of the morning had gotten well under way Mr. Heaton offered the following, which was referred to the Committee on Rules, composed of the President of the Senate, the President *pro tem.*, and the Chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections:

Resolved, That Senate Rule No. 25 be amended and reestablished so as to read:

Rule 25. To the Committee on Public Institutions and Education shall be referred all bills and resolutions concerning education, the penitentiary, lunatic asylums, the institution for the deaf and dumb and blind, the armory, and other public property at the seat of government, and it shall be the duty of the said committee to examine at each session into the condition of the penitentiary, and make such report thereon as they may deem proper. *Said committee nor a sub-committee thereof shall not visit any public institutions outside the city of Richmond without leave of the Senate first authorized and obtained.*

The words *italicised* constitute the amendment.

WHY 'TWAS DONE.

Mr. Heaton in presenting the resolution expressed surprise that this committee should have gotten into the habit of travelling all over the Commonwealth at the expense of the State without the slightest authority of law. He had supposed that there was some law granting them power either to go as a full committee or to send a delegation when it was deemed necessary to visit any of the public institutions, but upon examination he had found that there was no such rule of the Senate. At any time when the committee found it necessary to visit any of the colleges or asylums the consent of the Senate could be easily obtained; but this thing of going all over the State every year not only retarded the business of the body by breaking the quorum, but entailed expense upon the State.

MR. MOORE QUOTES THE RECORD.

Mr. Moore, arising to a question of personal privilege, said that on Tuesday he had stated when the oyster bill came up that in the last fiscal year the revenue from the oyster industry was less than the expense of protecting that industry. At that time the statement was called in question by the Senator from Gloucester, who denied its accuracy and declared that the Senator from Fairfax was misrepresenting the facts, and also misrepresenting the Tidewater people, though the Senator from Gloucester qualified this by saying that this misrepresentation was doubtless unintentional.

Mr. Moore wished to show from the Auditor's report the absolute accuracy of his declaration. On page 40 of that report the total revenue from oysters (and this includes payments to inspectors and payments by planters to treasurers) is set down at $12,464.56, and the total expenses on page 7 is set down at $17,199.90. This was all. It could not be justly claimed that the revenue from boats and other appliances used in catching oysters is to be added as a part of the proceeds coming to the State from the oyster industry any more than it can be claimed that the tax that a man pays on his agricultural implements and stock is a part of the tax he pays on his farm where this personal property is located. But even conceding the contrary, yet it appears that the total assessment of all vessel property in Virginia and all that pertains to vessels is only enough to yield a revenue of less than $2,500. Mr. Moore disclaimed the slightest feeling of hostility to the Tidewater people. He was dealing with a public question of interest to the entire Commonwealth. He trusted that he was patriotic enough to sympathize with the misfortunes and rejoice in the prosperity of every section of the State. He had heard with much gratification the reports that had come to us of the progress that is being made on the Eastern Shore, and if similar reports could come to us from all the Tidewater country they would give him equal pleasure. He would think himself unworthy to occupy a seat in the chamber if his ardent desire to advance the interests of the people were limited to his own district and his own constituents.

INTRODUCED AND PLACED ON THE CALENDAR.

By Mr. Roberts: To amend and reënact section 48, chapter 5, of an act approved February 18, 1890, entitled an act to change the name of the town of Goodson to the city of Bristol, and provide a new charter for the same.

By Mr. Mills: To incorporate the town of Tacoma, in Wise county.

By Mr. Smoot: To authorize and direct the county and corporation courts to strike from the lists of lands purchased by the Commonwealth at delinquent-tax sales those tracts which were improperly on the land-books or cannot be located.

By Mr. Stubbs: To prescribe the time for holding the terms of the courts of the Ninth judicial circuit.

By Mr. Peters: To incorporate the Stuart Normal College at Stuart, Va.

By Mr. Lovenstein: To incorporate the Invincible Lodge, No. 2674, of the Good Order of Odd-Fellows.

By Mr. Jones (for Mr. Turner): To extend the time for making returns of assessment for the city of Norfolk.

By Mr. Johnson: To incorporate the Young Men's Christian Association of Roanoke. The corporators are B. Jones, D. W. Hess, W. E. Enstler, W. S. McClanahan, J. K. Simmons, W. H. Clare, and Edmund Smith.

By Mr. Lovenstein: To incorporate the Lynchburg and Southwest Virginia Development Company. [The corporators are Hon. John W. Daniel, Major J. D. Patton, Messrs. Charles E. Belvin, A. Monteiro, LeRoy E. Brown, N. T. Pate, of Richmond; Hon. E. L. Roberts, Smyth county; Hon. E. S. Kendrick, Bristol; Messrs. W. C. Craig, Augusta county; J. F. Slaughter, J. H. Bartlett, T. D. Evans, A. B. Barker, C. K. Mowman, W. H. Wren, of Lynchburg. The capital stock not less than $100,000 nor more than $1,000,000, the company to have the right to engage in agricultural, mining, commercial, trading, manufacturing, or carrying business.]

BILLS PRESENTED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. Jordan: To refund to E. C. Hurt, C. A. Gregory, and A. V. Womac the amount paid by them for certain lands improperly sold by the Treasurer of Halifax county.

By Mr. Mills: To incorporate the Tacoma Land and Improvement Company.

By Mr. Roberts: To amend and re-enact an act entitled an act to provide for a new charter of the town of Abingdon, Va.

By Mr. Stubbs: To incorporate the Old Dominion Street-Railway Company.

By Mr. Blackstone: To pay to John H. Wise, sheriff of the county of Accomac, the balance due him for board and care of convicts.

By Mr. Rawlings: To extend the time for the collection of taxes and levies in the county of Brunswick for the year 1889.

HISTORIC RECORDS.

Mr. Stubbs offered the following:

Whereas there are valuable records and papers of the old District Court of Virginia which held its sessions in Williamsburg, and said records and papers are now in the court-house of James City and city of Williamsburg in a dilapidated condition, and should be cared for and preserved by the State of Virginia: therefore

Be it resolved by the Senate (the House of Delegates concurring), That the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia be authorized and directed to send for said records and papers and bring them to this city and deposit them in the public archives of the State along with the other public documents of the same character. The cost of bringing and taking care of said records and papers be paid out of the Library fund of of the State.

Mr. Stubbs asked that the rule requiring the resolution to lie over one day be suspended, and in support of the motion stated that the Judge of James City and the Governor were both in favor of the proposition.

Mr. Heaton thought the resolution had better take its regular course, as there would probably develop some objection to it. The Senate for years had been under warning of the danger to be feared from the excessive weight on the floor of the Library (over the Senate chamber), and it was questionable whether further weight should be allowed.

The rules were not suspended.

MILITARY AND OYSTERS.

At a few minutes before 1 o'clock the military bill, which had just been taken up at adjournment on Tuesday, came up as unfinished business.

Mr. Hurt moved to pass by. He did this, he said, to keep faith with Mr. Stubbs, whose oyster bill had been laid over until yesterday with the understanding that it should then be considered.

Mr. Stubbs opposed the motion, saying that he preferred now that the military code should be given consideration.

Mr. Harrison also opposed the motion of Mr. Hurt, but it prevailed notwithstanding.

Mr. Stubbs then moved to pass his oyster bill by until 1 o'clock to-day, and after some contention the motion was carried—ayes, 14; nays, 12.

SENATE BILLS PASSED.

The following Senate bills were taken up out of order and under suspensions of the rules advanced from their second reading to their passage:

To authorize the Board of Supervisors of Halifax county to borrow money to build a jail.

Defining a lawful fence for Charles City county.

HOUSE BILL PASSED.

To amend the charter of the town of Pocahontas.

INSPECTION OF FERTILIZERS.

House bill providing for the inspection of fertilizers to be sold in this State came up on its passage, and after being perfected by the adoption of several amendments proposed by the Committee on General Laws and two or three offered by Mr. Harrison, which were acceptable to the other friends of the measure, the bill was passed. Mr. Harrison declared himself in favor of the bill and voted for its passage.

As it now stands the bill provides that a license fee of $100 shall be levied on the manufacturers or dealers of any fertilizer. They are required to give a statement to the Commissioner of Agriculture of the ingredients of the fertilizer. A sample is selected in the presence of the Commissioner and the agent of the fertilizer company by a disinterested party, which is carefully sealed and this sample is analyzed. If the analysis falls 10 per cent. below the statement made by the manufacturer or dealer then the sale of the fertilizer is prohibited in the State, and the manufacturer or dealer is not allowed to collect the fertilizer notes, and if the farmer has paid in cash he has a right to recover against the manufacturer what he has paid. Fines are imposed for the violation of the provisions of the act.

All fees and fines are constituted a fertilizer fund, which is placed at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture and dedicated so far as necessary to carrying out the provisions of this act; any balance is paid over to the agricultural fund.

Mr. Harrison offered amendments, which were adopted, providing that the funds so raised shall be a part and parcel of the $19,000 appropriated to the Agricultural Department, and also that an appeal shall lie from the ruling of the Commissioner of Agriculture pronouncing that a fertilizer does not come up to the standard and forbidding its sale. The appeal lies to the Board of Agriculture with full opportunity for the manufacturer or dealer to have a fair hearing.

TOWN OF BERKLEY.

Mr. Lawless called up out of its order the bill to incorporate the town of Berkley, in Norfolk county, and asked that it be given immediate consideration.

All of the amendments proposed by the Committee on County, City, and Town Organizations were agreed to except that providing that before the town shall become incorporated under the act it shall be ratified by a majority vote of the freeholders thereof. To this a constitutional objection was raised by Mr. Jones, who questioned the right to provide for a vote of the *freeholders*. He thought this contrary to the Constitution of the State.

Mr. Lawless said numerous legal authorities had been consulted, and the opinion was expressed that on a local question of this character such a vote might be had.

Mr. Yarrell supported the position of Mr. Lawless, and quoted Mr. Minor of the University of Virginia as saying that in matters of this character it is entirely competent to authorize a vote of freeholders.

Pending further discussion on this point the bill was passed by that the military code might be considered.

EXCISE BOARDS.

Just before adjournment Mr. Lovenstein called up the House bill providing for the appointment of boards of excise commissioners, which was placed on the calendar when brought over on Tuesday, and asked that it be referred to the Finance Committee. Agreed to.

Adjourned at 3:10 P. M.

House of Delegates.

The House was called to order at 11 o'clock—Mr. Gibson in the chair. No prayer.

CALLING UP BILLS.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Saunders, was agreed to:

Resolved, That the resolution now in force requiring that the calling of the roll in alphabetical order be commenced at 1:30 o'clock P. M. be amended so as the roll-call contemplated therein shall begin immediately at the expiration of the morning hour and so to continue from day to day for one hour until completed, as is provided in said resolution.

BILLS PLACED ON THE CALENDAR.

By Mr. Crow: To amend and reënact section 48 of chapter 5 of an act approved February 12, 1890, entitled an act to change the name of the town of Goodson to the city of Bristol and provide a new charter for the same.

By Mr. Fentress: To extend the time for the collection of taxes in the county of Princess Anne.

By Mr. Crockett: To authorize the trustees of the white Methodist Episcopal church, South, in the county of Tazewell, to sell the same and reinvest the proceeds in other church property.

By Mr. James: To amend and reënact section 4 of an act approved May 14, 1887, as amended by chapter 355 of the Acts of Assembly of 1877-'78, entitled an act to prevent the destruction of fish and to prevent the obstruction of the free passage of the same in Dan river at or near Danville, Va.

By Mr. Hobson: To define a lawful fence for the county of Powhatan.

By Mr. Radford: To incorporate the Clinch-river Mineral Company.

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. Keith: Resolution requiring the Secretary of the Commonwealth to furnish members of the Assembly, each supervisor and county superintendents of schools with a copy of the Code.

By Mr. Downing (by request): To incorporate the Old Dominion Street-Railway Company.

By Mr. Saunders: For the relief of W. D. G. Jones, Tazewell Martin, and C. D. Martin, of Franklin county.

By Mr. Joynes: To amend and reënact sub-division 18 of section 14 of an act passed February 13, 1867, entitled an act to extend and define the boundaries of the city of Richmond so as to enlarge the jurisdiction and powers of said sub-division 18 of said section 14 of said act. [The object of this amendment is to extend the sanitary jurisdiction of the city as far as the police jurisdiction reaches.]

By Mr. Butler: To allow sheriffs of the Commonwealth the right to appeal from the decision of the Board of Supervisors in relation to the county allowance to said sheriffs to the county court.

By Mr. Wilkins: Petition of the citizens of Cape Charles City asking for the extension of the corporate limits.

THE FARMERS' PLEA.

The following was presented by Mr. James and referred:

To the Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

At a meeting of the Farmers' Alliance of Tunstall district, Pittsylvania county, February 15, 1890, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas it is the sense of this body that the office of Commissioner of Immigration is more ornamental than profitable to the State; and whereas in the present depleted financial condition of the Commonwealth and the depressed state of all industries, especially agricultural interests, we deem it unjust and unwise to continue said office:

Resolved, That the Legislature of Virginia be, and it is hereby, requested to abolish the office of Commissioner of Immigration.

2. *Resolved*, That the representatives from this county in the General Assembly are earnestly urged to use their best efforts to have said office abolished.

JOHN P. STILL, President,

J. R. Ragan, Secretary.

BILLS PASSED.

To incorporate the Norfolk and Ports-Belt Line.

To incorporate the town of Vienna, in Fairfax county.

For the relief of David L. Rogers, a maimed Confederate soldier, of Pittsylvania county.

To incorporate the Granville Sanitarium, at Liberty.

To incorporate the Harrisonburg and Elkton Railway Company.

To authorize the Church of the Disciples at Charlottesville to borrow money and secure the same by deed of trust on the church lot.

To incorporate the Virginia Safe-Deposit and Fidelity Company.

To incorporate the Fluvanna Mining and Milling Company.

To incorporate the town of Courtland, in Southampton county.

To amend the charter of the town of Boydton, in Mecklenburg county.

To provide for the payment of the expenses of the Virginia Fish Commission for the years 1888 and 1889.

To provide a new charter for the town of Liberty, to extend its limits, and change the name to Bedford City.

To regulate the time for hunting partridges or quail in the county of Princess Anne.

To incorporate the Southwest Virginia Guarantee Trust Company.

SALARIES OF JUDGES.

The hour for the special order (the bill to increase the salaries of circuit judges $400 per year) having arrived, the bill was taken up, and Mr. Silver, of Frederick, who had the floor Tuesday, resumed his remarks in opposition.

Mr. J. T. Coleman followed in advocacy of the bill, and he in turn was followed by Mr. Letcher, of Rockbridge, in opposition.

Mr. Letcher stated that he held in his hand a paper just received signed by the bar of Lexington, petitioning him to favor the increase of the circuit judges' salaries, but as he had taken his stand on the question he felt it due to himself and his constituency to state his reasons for opposing the bill. The knowledge gained on the Finance Committee as to the State's revenues determined his course. Nothing would give him more pleasure than to yield to the dictates of admiration and friendship which he felt for the great and good judge (McLaughlin) who presides over the Thirteenth judicial circuit, and vote him this increase, but public duty restrained him, and he felt certain that when all the facts connected with the financial condition of the State became known to that learned bar they would realize the propriety of his course.

He then addressed himself to the discussion of the question, saying that all the arguments adduced on Tuesday by the supporters of the bill were based solely on charity and general philanthropy, picturing graphically imaginative poverty and destitution in the homes of our judges, but carefully neglecting to state the startling fact that upon the suspicion of decline of any of the present poverty-stricken incumbents a score of patriotic lawyers stand impatiently waiting to be offered up as sacrifices on the judicial altar. He called attention to the fact that some eight years ago, when the Readjusters made an effort to turn out the circuit judges, their energy and solicitude to hold their places is an indisputable guarantee of the sufficiency of the present law. The gentleman from Nelson (Mr. Coleman), Mr. Letcher said, advanced arguments which furnish some food for consideration. He refers to increase of work of the judges. In answer to this it can be said that circuit judges are not now allowed to engage in the profession but are paid for all their time, and certainly we cannot work them any longer than that. To pass this bill would open the flood-gates. If we give $7,000 additional to the judges we could not turn a deaf ear to the piteous appeal of the poor and suffering soldier for more help. It would be a step contrary to the economical policy of this Democratic Legislature.

STARVATION NOT STALKING ABROAD.

Mr. Hay, of Madison, spoke at some length and eloquently in favor of the bill. He denied the statement that starvation was stalking abroad in Virginia; while some sections might be destitute, others were flourishing, and as illustrative of this he cited Richmond, which he characterized as "The Queen City of the South." He made the point that the bill under consideration did not propose any increase of taxes, but that it only proposed to do an act of simple justice in placing the salaries of judges back to what they were originally. He contended that these salaries were reduced at a time when all other salaries were cut down, and yet, now, although nearly all other officers of the State have had their compensation put back to the original figure, that of the circuit judges had never been restored. When the responsibilities and services of the circuit judges are considered the small sum of $6,000 asked for, and not by them, was a very small amount.

FINANCIAL LOGIC.

Mr. Tyler opposed the bill because there was really no reason for the increase. The judges themselves are not asking for it, and this move is the gratuitous conception of admiring friends whose feelings have run away with their judgments.

The fact is, he said, that in view of the enormous increase in the purchasing power of the dollar and the corresponding shrinkage of values, if we wished and would listen to the logic of financial conditions we would go for a reduction instead of an increase.

In view of our depressed financial condition and of the wail of distress from one, at least, of our agricultural districts Mr. Tyler thought this proposed increase, if not a mockery, is certainly unwise, and would not be sustained by our people.

PENDING QUESTION.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Flood, of Appomattox, in favor of the bill, and the pending question being on the passage of the act was ordered, and the bill was defeated by a recorded vote of 23 ayes and 57 noes, as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Anderson, Byrd, Byrne, J. T. Coleman, S. F. Coleman, Beverley A. Davis, Downing, Fields, Flood, Gibson, Hackler, Hartley, Hay, Hill, Hume, J. W. Johnston, Joynes, Lightner, Magruder, Moseley, Shackelford, Shepperson, and Woods—23.

NAYS.—Messrs. Arnold, Berry, Blakemore, Boaz, Booth, Boston, Boykin, Bridgeforth, Broadwater, Brown, Browning, Burk, Burton, Butler, Cabell, Campbell, Chambers, Clements, Croft, Crockett, Crow, Curtis, Thomas Davis, Dehart, Ellis, Fentress, Franklin, Garland, Graves, Hankins, Harnsberger, Hobbs, Hobson, Hudgins, Hutcheson, Johnson, James S. Jones, W. F. Jones, Keith, Kent, Lawler, Letcher, J. S. Mason, Maynard, Peters, Pilcher, Radford, Ragland, Rowland, Ryan, Saunders, Silver, Stubbs, Taylor, Tyler, Vanmeter, and Wright—57.

THE SOLDIERS' BILL.

The House bill to amend and re-enact the laws giving aid to maimed soldiers, sailors, and marines of Virginia was postponed until Friday.

THE TAX BILL.

The next order of the day was House bill No. 461 to provide for the assessment of taxes on persons, property, and incomes, and on licenses to transact business, &c.,—the bill known as the general-tax bill.

The bill was taken up and it was agreed that it should be read so that amendments might be offered as the reading progressed.

Pending discussion on the bill, and various amendments offered thereto, at the hour of 2:30 arrived and the House adjourned.

How to Assess Taxes.

STUART'S DRAFT, VA., Feb. 17, 1890.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

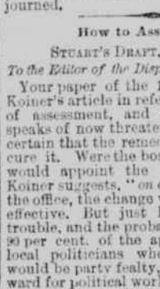
Your paper of the 15th contains Major Koiner's article in reference to a new mode of assessment, and whilst the evil he speaks of now threatens I am by no means certain that the remedy he suggests will cure it. Were the boards constituted and would appoint the assessor, as Major Koiner suggests, "*on account of fitness*" for the office, the change would doubtless be effective. But just here comes in the trouble, and the probability is that about 90 per cent. of the appointees would be local politicians whose chief "fitness" would be party fealty, and the office a reward for political work. The board would be made aware of a man's fitness by the length of his petition, and could not possibly know in the great majority of cases his real merit, be he suitable or unsuitable for the office.

There is another reason why the General Assembly should hesitate before making the proposed change in the Constitution. This tends towards what we for years have been fighting—viz., a centralization of power in a few. We have in Augusta county six districts, which with the city of Staunton makes seven assessors. There are about 100 counties in the State. Thus we see that the Governor and Auditor (a majority of the board) would have in their hands the appointment of several hundred officers. History teaches us that Virginia has not always had, as she now has, a good Governor and good Auditor.

I submit that the election of assessor is best left with the people. C.

Frightful Fall Down a Shaft.

Marcus Marx, a member of a wholesale clothing firm in Chicago, was fatally injured Tuesday evening by falling seventy-five feet down the elevator shaft in their building. Mr. Marx stepped on the elevator and ascended to the sixth floor, where he attempted to jump off the car while it was in motion. The wire safety-gate on the landing was closed and before he could realize his danger he was caught between the side of the shaft and the elevator, which was still moving, the boy being too frightened to stop the car. There was a horrible crunching of bones and tearing of flesh, and with an agonizing cry the limp and mangled form fell backward and was dashed on the concrete floor below.



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MEETINGS.

A STATED CONVOCATION OF LAFA