

THE INTELLIGENCER.

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WHEELING, VA.
FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 11, 1856.

FROM OUR RICHMOND CORRESPONDENT.

RICHMOND, JAN. 4, 1856.

It may not be uninteresting to your readers to have occasionally a line from a well-wisher in this city, especially as the Legislature is in session and many subjects of general State importance are pending before it. As usual, the members are slow in returning to duty after the holidays. Many spend time at home, and then the time for returning to duty is subtracted from working days, thus making the holidays extend practically, some time past New Year's day. However, there has been a quorum since Wednesday, and both branches seem inclined to go to work hard. Our tax payers will be much gratified to learn that the Internal Improvement committee have determined to report no new appropriation bill this session, as the financial condition of the State requires the most jealous watching of her treasury and support of her credit; whether the House will support the committee remains to be seen, but of one thing you may rest assured, that the present Legislature will at all hazards uphold the credit of Virginia.

Already the taxes must be doubled to meet existing liabilities. It is wise to increase them. I am very clear that the chances are that no heavy appropriations will be made this session, and few of any kind, but to complete works already commenced and in process of construction. As usual, there is legislation proposed, very materially affecting the interests of your city. The Pen Handle right of way is up, and its hobbies are on hand. It is strange that a company which insists that it has full legal rights to take and appropriate Virginia to its use, and to bridge the Ohio and Hudson, should still worry and harass the Legislature of Virginia, year after year, to grant that which it already claims to have. I am half inclined to doubt the sincerity of those who make such claim. The North Western Virginia Railroad Company are seeking to take off the restrictions on their charter, or rather its conditions, for such they are at the date of its passage, and such they still are. The friends of the road are making a zealous effort, and may succeed, despite the circumstances and conditions attending the passage of the law, which are familiar to many now in the Legislature. But, *non est*. The Bank question, as between the new system, is regarded as settled; but there will be labored efforts to amend and restrict the present charters. Some kind volunteer is sending forth his missives in printed pamphlets from Alexandria, seeking to enlighten our legislators to introduce the new system, &c., &c. I think he had as well save his pen and paper. Thompson, the Wall Street broker is fighting on the same side, evidently for the purpose of enhancing Virginia State stocks, of which he and his friends hold some \$6,000,000. They will not succeed, even were the new Bank system adopted, as new issues of stock would be the basis. But this will hardly be done.

The weather is very cold here for this region, and ice getting is occupation for many. The prospects are that Gov. Wise will be called upon by the General Assembly soon for information as to some questions which will render a message necessary and proper. Will write to you again soon.

THE COLONIZATION CAUSE IN VIRGINIA.

The Report of the Colonization Board for the years 1854 and 1855, to the Legislature of Virginia, contains some interesting facts. It was shown by the Report of the 5th of December, 1855, that from the 6th of April to the 5th of December of that year, there were transported to Liberia, through the agency of the Virginia Colonization Society, complying with the terms of the law of 1853, one hundred and sixteen free negroes, for whom the Board made an allowance of \$30 each, amounting to the sum of \$5,000.

From the 5th of December, 1855, to the present date, the Board has passed at the rate of \$50 each for one hundred and eight and of \$30 each for sixteen emigrants, making two hundred and four free persons, and amounting to the sum of \$13,800.

It will thus be seen that the entire number whose transportation has been paid for since the organization of the Board is three hundred and sixteen, and the sum paid \$15,680.

Under the act of 1850 a capitation tax was levied upon the free negroes of the Commonwealth to raise funds for their colonization. It appears by the report that from this tax and from taxes on seals and attestations devoted to the like object there has been received in the aggregate to the present time the sum of \$50,000; yet in consequence of the legislative bounty, this entire sum has been expended and been absorbed by the general treasury of the State. The expenses for the collection and embarkation of the free negroes are now borne exclusively by the Colonization Society, which is dependent for its revenue wholly upon the irregular and uncertain contributions of private benevolence. The Board earnestly recommends that authority may be conferred upon them to apply a part of the fund provided by the State for the transportation of its free colored population beyond its limits to the collection and embarkation of the emigrants.

DEATH ON THE STAGE.—The Toronto Globe states that during the performance at the theatre in that city on the night of the 27th the audience were alarmed by shrieks behind the scenes and by the manager rushing to the foot-lights calling for medical aid. A doctor in the audience promptly answered the call, and it was subsequently ascertained that the clothes of Miss Rosalie A. Cook, an interesting child of twelve years of age, had caught fire. It seems that the unfortunate girl, dressed in the light gauzy apparel suitable for the piece in which she was about to take part, whilst standing in one of the side stage entrances, unconsciously allowed her dress to take fire at a stove which was in the passage, and, in spite of the efforts of three of the actors who were close at hand, she sustained such injuries that death was the result in a few hours after.

DEPARTURES OF "FILLICUTTER."—The steamship Prometheus, which sailed from New Orleans on the 26th ult. for Punta Arenas, Nicaragua, took on 66 men, under command of Col. Fisher, all bound to the new Republic of Gen. Walker. It also had 42 passengers for Col. Kinney's camp, and 100 for the carpenter, blacksmith, painter, bricklayer, &c. The next steamer is expected to take down several hundred men.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1856.

The Senate was called to order at 12 o'clock by Lieut. Gov. McCammon.

A communication from the House of Delegates was read by the Clerk, announcing the passage (with an amendment) of a Senate bill providing for the voluntary enslavement of Lewis Williamson, a free person of the County of Southampton. The amendment was concurred in. Also, a bill for the relief of Mrs. Sidney R. Points, which was considered without reference and passed (the rules have been suspended for that purpose) ayes 27, noes 7.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. Ambler, from the Committee on Courts of Justice, reported an act amending Chapter 15 of the Code of Virginia in relation to the duties and privileges of members of the General Assembly and officers thereof.

The same Committee reported that it was inexpedient to legislate upon the subjects embraced in the following resolutions:

1. To amend the seventh section of the Code so as to dispense with the order of publication.

2. For the exemption of Superintendents of Lunatic Asylums from attendance as witnesses upon courts and juries.

3. Providing that pleas of the statute of limitations to actions on simple contract, and to actions verified by affidavit that the claim on demand has been paid.

4. Allowing a greater compensation to jailors.

5. Repealing all existing laws on the subject of usury.

Mr. Denese, from the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation, reported the following:

A bill to authorize the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company to purchase the Danville toll bridge, or any part of it; a bill to incorporate a company to construct a railroad from the Montgomery White Sulphur Springs to the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.

And a bill to incorporate the Millborough and West Virginia Turnpike Company.

Mr. Foster, from the committee on Lunatic Asylums, reported a bill authorizing the establishment of the Northwestern Lunatic Asylum.

Mr. Thompson, from the committee on Agriculture and Commerce, reported the following bills:

To incorporate the Preston Lumber and Iron Company; to incorporate the Scottsville Factory.

Mr. Creigh, from a select committee, reported a bill to incorporate the Kate's Mountain Turnpike Company—treated once.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolutions of inquiry were submitted:

By Mr. Tate.—To construct a turnpike on the two and three-fifths principle from the Yellow Sulphur to the White Sulphur Springs.

By Mr. Turner.—Providing more effectually for the admission of records of Courts of other States as evidence in the Courts of this Commonwealth.

By Mr. Thomas.—Providing that attachments may be sued out of the Clerk's office, whether the claim is payable or not, against debtors removing or intending to remove their effects out of the State.

By Mr. Welsh.—Imposing by law a penalty upon any person for throwing the bodies of dead animals into Hazel river.

By Mr. Armstrong.—To construct a turnpike from a point on the Northwestern turnpike to intersect the Moorefield and North Branch turnpike near Moorefield.

By Mr. Denese.—Increasing the capital of the Broad River Turnpike Company, so as to enable them to complete the road.

By Mr. Dougherty.—To incorporate a company to construct water works to convey water from Lake Drummond into the town of Portsmouth.

By Mr. Thomas.—Increasing the capital stock of the Orange and Albemarle Turnpike Company to the amount of \$300,000 to enable them to construct a railroad from Orange Courthouse to Charlottesville, and that the funds to be applied thereto shall be varied under the provisions of the act.

BILLS PASSED.

To ascertain and fix the boundary lines of the States of Virginia and Maryland—ayes 39, noes none.

Authorizing the town of Winchester to increase its debt for the purpose of subscribing to works of internal improvement.

Establishing an inspection of Tobacco at the New Company Warehouse, in the town of Danville.

To amend the charter of the Great Bridge Lumber and Canal Co., and to change the name of said company.

To authorize the Seaboard & Roanoke R. R. Co. to issue additional stock.

To amend the charter of the Spotsylvania Boarding School Association, in the county of Loudoun.

House bill for incorporating the Firemen and Mechanics' Insurance Company of Petersburg.

House bill incorporating the Potomac Soap Stone Co., in the County of Fairfax.

For the relief of B. P. Crabbe—ayes 27, noes none.

All bills asking for appropriations for works of internal improvement were on motion laid upon the table and made the order of the day for 14th January.

On motion of Mr. Denese, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 1856.

The House met at 12 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

A communication from the Senate was read, informing the House of the passage of sundry bills. The said bills were read and appropriated to the Senate.

BILLS REPORTED.

Bills were reported from the standing committees:

Refunding to John A. and Abraham Gusman, certain sums of money improperly paid by them into the Treasury of the State.

Authorizing the payment of a sum of money to Milton Fitzhugh, Sheriff of Prince William County, for carrying a lunatic to the asylum at Williamsburg.

To incorporate the Charleston and Shepherdstown turnpike Co.

House bill passed Dec. 16, 1855 incorporating a company to construct a graded or a plank road from Richmond to some point near Charlottesville.

Attending the act authorizing the county courts of Botetourt and Craig counties to erect gaols and levy tolls on the Price's turnpike road.

Declaring Blue Creek in the county of Kanawha to be a navigable river.

Incorporating the Loudoun county Agricultural Society.

To authorize the Common Council of Fredericksburg, to establish public schools, in the corporation of Fredericksburg.

ANNUAL REPORTS PRESENTED.

Reports were presented from the standing committees *adverse* to the application of Samuel Crane, Allen J. Curran and Washington Shoe maker, for release from the penalty of recognition to the application of George Meeks, Francis Meeks and Jefferson Vincent, asking for release from the payment of fines imposed upon them by the Circuit Court of Lewis county.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF HOME INDUSTRIES.

On motion of Mr. Imboden, it was

Resolved, That the committee on Finance inquire whether it is not expedient as a measure of sound policy, in view of the present aspect of our political and commercial relations to the Union, and practicable under the State and Federal Constitutions, to remodel and amend existing laws in the subject of duties on imports, and to merchants and others engaged in the sale of goods, wares and merchandise, the product and manufacture of other States, and of foreign countries, so as to foster and promote domestic industry in this State, and encourage direct trade with foreign countries by imposing a higher rate of taxation on all who are in any wise engaged in the sale of imported goods, and on the Northern States; and at the same time diminishing the amount of taxes now assessed upon, or of otherwise expending for a number of years, all capital now or hereafter to be invested in this State, in the direct foreign trade, or in the manufacture of any of the fabrics of iron and steel, of wood, cotton, wool, leather, furs and furs, and such other articles as may appear to the committee, can, with proper Legislative protection, be manufactured as well in this State as elsewhere; and that the said committee further inquire into the expediency and propriety of withholding licenses, also, from itinerant hawkers and peddlars of all kinds, and travelling agents for the sale of books, pamphlets, periodicals, prints, clocks, and quack medicines, unless the person applying for such license, be a citizen of this Commonwealth, with the intent and meaning of the Constitution thereof, and whose residence in the State has been sufficient to entitle him to vote therein.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Second Auditor, containing the annexed:

STATEMENT, exhibiting the increase of the public debt in each fiscal year, since 30th September, 1838.

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