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THE LEGISLATURE.

PANDEMONIUM REIGNS IN THE HOUSE FOR A TIME.

The Most Disgraceful Scene Ever Witnessed in the Legislative Hall—Lease Bill to Come Up Today—Eastern Circuit Solicitor Bill Killed—Wilson Charter Bill Defeated—Asylums Spoliation Bill Passed by Vote of President Reynolds.

(Special to The Messenger.)

SENATE.

Raleigh, March 5.—The senate took up as special order the bill to encourage local taxation for public schools. This is the bill which provides that an election shall be held in the townships of the different counties to decide whether they shall vote for a tax for any amount up to $250, the state to give a like amount.

Senator Grant said he believed local taxation was the entering wedge towards increasing the public school fund and usefulness of the system and he believed before long, under local taxation, schools could do away with state aid.

Senator Utley amended by substituting "districts" for "townships"—adopted.

Senator Ashburn offered an amendment to strike out section 1 appropriating $100,000. The roll call was demanded and resulted—ayes, 24; noes, 23. The amendment was adopted which virtually kills the bill.

Senator McCaskey moved to table the bill—carried.

Senator McCaskey moved to lay on the table the vote to reconsider—lost, and the vote to reconsider prevailed and the bill was again before the senate.

Senator Grant moved to refer the bill to a special committee—adopted, and the chair appointed Senators Grant, Justice, Utley and Atwater.

The house bill to place Cleveland and Gaston counties in the Seventh congressional district and Yadkin and Davie in the Eighth district came up.

Senator Moye said he was told the reason they wanted to change the districts was because Brower, representative in the house from Surry wanted to go to congress and the only thing he had done during this legislature was to introduce this bill and get it passed.

The roll call was ordered and the bill failed to pass—ayes, 22; noes,26.

The revenue act was amended by striking out five gallons and inserting one gallon and passed its third reading; also the bill to incorporate the New Hanover Society for Prevention of Crime; also the bills to amend the charters of Laurinburg and of New Bern.

NIGHT SESSION.

The senate reassembled at 8 o'clock. Bills passed as follows:

To incorporate the Bladen and Columbus Railway and Lumber Company.

To incorporate the Duplin and Wayne Railway and Lumber Company.

To create the state board of equalization.

The special order was taken up, being the bill to revise and consolidate the charter of Wilson.

This bill was reported unfavorably by the committee on corporations. A minority report was filed, recommending its passage.

Senator Grant said the democrats were in the majority when the committee met.

Senator Ray said not a single democrat voted on the bill in committee either one way or the other.

Senator McCaskey said the democrats voted by a rising vote.

Senator Ray denounced it and defied any man to prove that a single democrat voted either by rising or viva voce.

Senator Grant showed by his speech that he did not care whether the committee's report was unfavorable or not; that he would vote for the bill because it was a republican measure, and though the populists on the committee voted unfavorable he would still support the bill.

Senator Anderson, republican, said there appeared before the committee of which he was chairman, several persons, of different political parties, who opposed the passage of the bill and that was the reason it was reported unfavorably; that prominent republicans and populists appeared before the committee and opposed the bill and he (Anderson) would stand by the report.

Senator Sharpe, of Iredell, said he did not know whether it was a good measure or not. From his speech it was gathered that his object in wanting the bill to pass was it would make the representative from Wilson county one of the commissioners.

Senator Justice opposed turning over cities and towns to negroes and irresponsible parties and he expected to do so as long as he lived. He asked Senator Sharp, of Wilson, who the person was who is named as one of the police commissioners.

Senator Sharpe answered he was a member of the house from Wilson.

"Who is Bach?

"He is a citizen of Wilson."

"How long he he lived in the town?"

"Not long, I believe, but he has been in the county some time."

"Who is Peacock, named as a commissioner?"

"Oh, he is a colored man."

"Well," said Senator Justice, "this is a class of people you want to rule your town."

Senator Justice moved to table the bill and the motion prevailed.

The bill came up to take the asylums at Raleigh, Morganton and Goldsboro out of present hands and give them to the co-operation and allowing the governor to appoint directors.

Person, colored, offered an amendment to strike out "appoint" and insert the word "elect." This would take it out of the governor's hands. Person said he now knew that the republicans were going to break faith with what they had promised and he was opposed to the bill. He had been told by prominent republicans at Washington not to let the people bother the Raleigh asylum and he had the manhood to stand here and oppose the passage of the bill. He stood here to say that he opposed his party when it ignores four-fifths of the republican party. Negroes have as much right to "pie" as white republicans because negroes put the latter where they are. Negroes are getting to be like the white people and thinking like them. White republicans will find that they can't use the negroes hereafter as they have done on the last day of registration and on election day.

Senator Whedbee, republican, said he believed in all that was fair and equitable. To take asylums from the control of the people and place them in the hands of the governor, power should not be delegated to any one man. The voice of the people should be heard in this matter and the legislature should name the officers. It would be fearful. There has been too much power already delegated to the governor by this legislature. He added: "Mark my words, we are going to be held responsible for what we have done and what we are about to do. I am opposed to this measure and I want to tell you there is a future and we will hear from the people about these matters. It is a high handed measure for a caucus that has affiliated with the populists bolters to come here and ask us to endorse its action."

Senator Atwater said this should not be a political measure. These asylums should be governer by competent and just officers, regardless of their politics. He added: "If we are going to do as radical and democratic parties have done what is the use of having a populist party? Why not go back to the radical or democratic party? I am opposed to turning out democrats or republicans if they are good officers."

Senator Moye appealed to the populists to stand together and go with Senator Whedbee in this matter. He said the republicans and bolting populists should have hunted somewhere else for "pie" and let the poor insane people alone. He said: "We would never have had this legislature here today if the people of the state had known such measures would be passed and that it was such a 'pie' hunting crowd, and I want to say that co-operationists shall not put the blame on the straight populist party. If I could talk until this legislature adjourned I would do so, thereby killing the bill." He predicted that every one who voted for these measures would be sorry of it. He appealed to the populists to stand together and defeat this bill.

Person's amendment was lost—ayes, 24; noes, 26. The bolting populists voting with the republicans.

Senator Butler opposed the bill, saying the only purpose of changing the asylums was to get rid of the superintendents. It was a stamp of infamy and shame to repeal the charter to get rid of these men, against whom no charge can be made.

Senator Justice said the democrats in 1877 would not turn out the republicans when they had a chance.

Senator McCaskey called the previous question and the roll call was demanded. The bill passed—ayes, 25; noes, 25; the chair voting aye.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

There was the greatest legislative sensation here today ever known in North Carolina. It occurred in the house of representatives. At 11:58 o'clock Mr. Sutton, of Cumberland, member of the committee to investigate the lease of the North Carolina railway, to which the senate substitute bill was referred, arose. Mr. Cook, who is chairman of that special committee, was in the chair. Mr. Lusk presided during the earlier part of the session and Speaker Hileman, who was so hoarse that he spoke with difficulty, sat on the left of Mr. Cook. Mr. Sutton asked consent to call up the resolution asking the supreme court to give tomorrow its opinion in the matter of the substitute for the lease bill. His purpose was to gain time.

Mr. Blackburn sprang to his feet and as the hands of the clock pointed to noon declared that the hour set for the special order—the senate substitute lease bill—had arrived and that it must be taken up.

Both he and Mr. Sutton kept on their feet. Demands were poured at the speaker to recognize one or the other. Conspicuous among those who cried out were Messrs. Sutton of Cumberland, Hancock and Alexander. Mr. Sutton, of Cumberland, said he wanted the special order held up until the resolution was acted on. He wanted delay.

Then the storm burst.

Mr. Blackburn said: "You know that under the resolution adopted by this house no resolution can be introduced save by unanimous consent. You know that the journal shows that the resolution was not introduced. I move that the house concur in the senate substitute."

Then confusion broke loose. Twenty members were on the floor at once, all shouting, all protesting, some one way, some another. The two factions arrayed themselves. For two or three minutes the uproar continued.

Mr. Person, of Wayne, moved that the house take a recess until 3 o'clock.

There was a roar of protests: "Vote it down, vote it down," and amid the din, the voices of Mr. Alexander, the two Suttons and Mr. Hancock could be heard seconding the motion. The aisles filled. Mr. Cook put the motion. There was a burst of "Aye," drowned by a sweeping rush of "No," which rattled to the dome and descended in a torrent of sound.

"Division," shouted Messrs. Blackburn, Murphy and forty more; but Mr. Cook declared the house had taken a recess until 3 o'clock.

Mr. Blackburn strode up the aisle. "That is false," he cried. "I appeal from the decision of the chair."

The scene at this moment was indescribable. Mr. Cook left the chair as the gavel fell. He stepped to the rear lobby. The uproar raged. Pandemonium broke loose. Members rushed to the front. Some put on their hats and moved towards the door. Some of the more timorous hurried to the lobby. The atmosphere was filled with execrations mainly of Mr. Cook and his ruling. "It is tyrannical." "It is unjust." "We will not submit to it." "He had the right to declare the house adjourned," shouted Cook's friends. Factions faced each other prepared for battle. One blow would have caused instant riot. Some men shouted "For God's sake stop this. It is the most disgraceful scene the house ever witnessed. Never talk about the legislature of 1868 again."

During the turmoil Speaker Hileman set serene in his chair at the speaker's desk.

Suddenly Mr. Murphy shouted: "The house is without a speaker. I move we elect Mr. Freeman speaker pro tem."

"I second the motion," said Mr. Blackburn and a score of others and Mr. Murphy put the motion. There was a volley of "ayes" and then, taking Mr. Freeman by the arm Mr. Murphy led him to the speaker's desk. Mr. Freeman did not take the chair, but stood at the end of the desk.

The assemblage was now a mob. The galleries fairly bulged with wild, excited spectators. The uproar reached the senate, and senators poured into the hall of the house.

Suddenly Mr. Lusk rushed to the front and leaning over the desk at which the correspondents of newspapers were seated, raised his arms high above his head and in his loudest voice shouted as he looked at Mr. Freeman at the speaker's desk: "I protest. In the name of North Carolina I protest. This is treason. This is revolution. We ought to send for a force to clear this hall and to stop these riotous and revolutionary proceedings. Be ashamed of yourselves. Be men." All this was said with a rising voice to the accompaniment of yells and cries which stunned the ear.

Mr. Alexander, rushing up even nearer the desk, shook his fist at Mr. Freeman. His eyes flashed with anger: "Come down from that place," he cried. "You are a usurper. You are a traitor."

The factions, all party lines broken, roared and glared at each other. Angry words passed and repassed.

Suddenly H. A. Gudger appeared while Mr. Freeman was speaking and stood beside him. Mr. Freeman was entreating the house to be quiet, to listen to him. "I am not going to hurt you," he cried.

Gudger leaned over the desk and said: "Now boys lets all leave."

Freeman said: "Don't get excited. This is a small matter. The journal shows we have taken a recess until 3 o'clock."

Claud Dockery walked near the clerk's desk and said: "Gentlemen hear me. We will settle this matter at this session of the legislature and fairly, but I protest against this revolutionary business."

Mr. Freeman stepped down at 12:12 o'clock. The whole affair had occupied but nine minutes, but minutes seemed hours.

There were cries, "Freeman ought to be impeached." There were others, "Cook must be impeached. He is not our speaker. He will not act fairly."

There were loud curses of Cook, who by this time had left the hall, for his ignoring the demand for a division on the vote to adjourn. Mr. Cook's partisans declared he had a perfect right to declare the house adjourned.

Mr. Blackburn sprang on the desk and shouted: "Give us fair play. We won't be gagged."

The anti-Cook men declared he knew the substitute supporters were in the majority and had won the fight.

Speaker Hileman, as matters quieted, walked around to the reporter's desk and spoke of his hoarsness. He was very calm.

By 12:25 o'clock barely a dozen members were in the hall. The lately gorged galleries were empty. The quiet after the storm was almost startling. Out from the capitol the people poured. Groups of excited talkers were seen everywhere. Anti-Cook men said: "His conduct made us ten votes."

Governor Russell was in his office beneath the hall. At the first roar above his head he thought the building was falling. Then he ran out and up stairs; nor did he stop until he reached the head of the stairway on the second floor. There he met the advance guard of the people rushing out of the hall and found what the trouble really was.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 3 o'clock Speaker Hileman called the house to order. The proceedings began tamely. The speaker was so hoarse he could scarcely be heard.

Mr. Parker, of Perquimans, sent in a report of the committee on penal institutions.

Mr. Blackburn moved that the special order be taken up as unfinished business—the senate substitute for the lease bill.

Mr. Alexander at once said: "I move to adjourn until 9 o'clock."

Mr. Murphy seconded Mr. Blackburn's motion.

Mr. Hancock said: "A motion is made to take up unfinished business. Now I rise to question the motion of Mr. Blackburn, or to question the object of the motion. There was no unfinished business when the house adjourned."

Mr. Brower said he thought the legislature was acting under parliamentary rules; that the Reed rules were the latest; that these provided that the unfinished business shall be taken up; that the unfinished business was Mr. Blackburn's motion to concur in the senate substitute to the lease bill. He asked for a ruling.

The speaker said Mr. Blackburn's motion was before the house.

Mr. Sutton, of Cumberland, said the substitute was not before the house; that it was not an original bill, but a new bill.

The speaker said that while the substitute was made the special order, the committee was not ordered to report the bill and no motion made to instruct the committee to report.

Mr. Cook insisted that a grave constitutional question was involved; that the bill was not constitutional is now under advisement.

Mr. Murphy said the bill was made the special order for today; that the order was mandatory to the committee, express and direct, to report the bill today at noon; that the bill was before the house.

Mr. Lusk said the committee should not be asked to report until it has the written advice of the supreme court; that to take another course would outrage the committee and make it violate its conscience. On the resolution to request the supreme court to give its opinion tomorrow morning the committee can be ordered to report the bill. He urged that the motion of Mr. Blackburn go over and that the resolution be adopted.

Mr. Dockery wanted to know what assurance there was that the supreme court would report within the next ten days or two weeks.

Mr. Sutton, of Cumberland, said the supreme court had rendered opinions promptly.

Mr. McCrary inquired whether the house was to be governed by committees; that the committee had no right to hold the bill set as a special order. He ridiculed the delay on this bill, which hence may not pass, and as a result the lease question will be dragged around the state in the mire of politics. He said this question was now a political question; that this fact caused today's disgraceful proceedings. He expressed doubt that there would be a quorum next Monday. He wanted the lease question settled now and squarely. He declared the committee had not done its duty failing to report today. He said the question before the house was Mr. Blackburn's motion that the bill be taken from the committee.

Mr. Hartness said this fight was only preliminary to the question whether the Southern railway should have the North Carolina railway at a less price than the people say should be paid; that it was said the supreme court would not file an opinion in twenty-four hours, yet is is desired to railroad the bill through the house. He said they knew the wrath of the people would smite them if they did not get it out of politics (applause). The substitute says we will not rob you for ninety-nine years but only for thirty-six. He said people ought to destroy those who seek thus to work against their interests. There is a fatal addition: that the matter is to be taken out of politics, not as the people wanted it taken, but as the Southern railway wants to settle it.

Mr. Dockery said the bill was certainly not on the calendar. He wanted to give the supreme court time to give an opinion, and that Mr. Blackburn's motion be deferred until 11 o'clock tomorrow, and that at noon sharp the vote be taken; that the supreme court's opinion would, of course, not be judicial, but would largely influence his vote. He then prepared the following resolution which was read by him as follws:

"Resolved, That the substitute lease bill be made a special order for 1 o'clock tomorrow. That the special committee in charge of this substitute be requested and directed, and required to report the substitute bill at that hour, whether or not a decision of the supreme court shall have been rendered affecting it. That a vote be taken upon this substitute bill not later than 2 o'clock of the same day. That the supreme court be requested to consider the legal effect of accepting the substitute bill and render decision as soon as possible for the benefit of the house."

It was 6 o'clock when the vote was completed. The result was—yeas, 61; nays 55. There was some applause at the announcement.

The resolution often referred to opposed by the committee, was then taken up and read as follows:

Resolved by the house of representatives, That the chief justice and associate justices of the supreme court be resepctfully requested to examine the bill now pending before the house entitled "an act to prescribe terms upon which foreign railroad corporations may become corporate in this state and for other purposes" and to communicate through the speaker of the house an opinion of the question whether if the bill shall be passed by both houses and ratified, it will become operative before its ratification by the stockholders of the North Carolina Railroad Company, and that the members of the court be further respectfully requested to communicate their opinion to the session of the house of representatives to be held on Saturday, the 6th inst., if they shall find it consistent with their duty to the public to do so.

Resolved further, That the speaker of the house be requested to send a copy of the bill, with these resolutions, immediately to the chief justice of the supreme court.

The resolutions were adopted and the house took a recess.

NIGHT SESSION.

The house met at 9 o'clock. Mr. Cook asked leave to introduce a resolution in regard to the opinion of the supreme court in the North Carolina railway lease matter, but unanimous consent was not given, which under the rules, is necessary.

By leave Mr. Bryan, of Chatham, withdrew his bill, which passed its second reading last night, providing for the election of the clerk of the railway commission by the legislature. He said the matter had been amicably settled. The programme was that C. C. Fagan, a populist bolter, should be elected clerk. The compromise must mean that the commission will elect Fagan or that he is to be "given something equally as good." Mr. Bryan said the commission wanted to elect its clerk.

Bills passed as follows:

To charter the Bladen and Columbus Railroad and Lumber Company and the Duplin and Wayne railroad and Lumber Company.

To give the state treasurer discretionary power as to paying out appropriations so he can pay them quarterly or semi-annually, instead of annually.

The bill to create the office of prosecuting attorney for the Eastern criminal circuit court was discussed.

Mr. Hancock, whose bill it was, said it did not take away a single fee of a superior court solicitor in the counties composing the district.

Mr. Dixon, of Cleveland, said the bill interfered very seriously with solicitors, as it took all criminal cases out of their hands; that Solicitors Daniels, Sewell, Bernard and Richardson opposed it; that it was simply to create another office and make a place for somebody.

Mr. Hancock said there was politics in the bill. He said Bernard was not in the district, now that Vance was taken out; that all save New Hanover and Craven were under democratic solicitors. He said as to Solicitor Daniels that he was elected by fraud.

Mr. Cunningham appealed to the house not to pass so unjust and unfair a bill and strike at the solicitors duly elected; that it was a gerrymander.

Mr. Dockery offered an amendment providing that the solicitors now elected shall have control of criminal dockets in their counties whenever they are present—adopted, Mr. Hancock alone voting no, who moved to table his own bill. This was done with a roar and the clincher was put on, while Mr. Hancock retired entirely "knocked out."

Bill passed to incorporate the Tar River railway.

To place all fire insurance companies under the jurisdiction of the secretary of state and to give him power to inquire into rates, and provides that rates on farm buildings shall not be higher than in Virginia.

To appropriate $5,000 additional for the colored agricultural and mechanical college; (passed as a substitute for the bill to pay the college $16,020 as its proportionate share of the United States land scrip fund.)

The omnibus liquor bill passed its final reading.

A committee was appointed to confer with a senate committee on the educational bill.

SENATE.

Raleigh, N. C., March 6.—The senate went into executive session to confirm the appointment of the trustees of the Normal and Industrial school: J. Moye of Pitt, J. A. Blair of Randolph, and A. S. Peace of Granville. They were confirmed.

The bill was taken up to amend the election law. This is a substitute to the original bill introduced by Senator Grant. The substitute is also introduced by the same senator. The bill provides that the clerk of the court, register of deeds and chairman of the county commissioners shall appoint all the registrars and judges of election, without recommendation of any one. It ignores the chairmen of the state and county executive committees. It also provides for three ballot boxes, one for township officers, one for county officers and one for state officers. The length of time to register is extended to the fifth Saturday until 12 o'clock when a voter is challenged. The reason shall be stated on the registration book; that each chairman of the state and county of each political party shall file with the secretary of state and clerk of the court a duplicate ticket that is to be used in the election, with the names of all candidates and with or without a design or device. Any other tickets shall be declared counterfeit and the party issuing them guilty of misdemeanor. In city elections the mayor shall certify the registrars and judges of election. If he be a candidate, then the clerk shall certify, and if he be a candidate then they shall be certified by the chief of police; that city registration books shall be kept open forty days preceding election. In removals from one precinct to another the voter is allowed up to the day of election to get a certificate. The provisions of the bill do not apply to cities or towns which have a charter prescribing for an election.

The bill passed its third reading, the senator from Pitt, (Moye) remarking that the law would not benefit any but democrats.

The bill to encourage local taxation for public schools next came up. This is the bill which appropriates $50,000 for three years, and allows school districts to vote for increase of taxes to the amount of $250, the state treasurer to duplicate the amount raised.

Senator Atwater offered an amendment to appropriate $100,000 direct from the treasury and distribute it prorata among the school districts

Senator Grant was opposed to the amendment.

Senator Anderson said the appropriation will come from the money not otherwise appropriated and will not endanger the general school fund

The amendment of Senator Atwater was lost and the substitute passed its third reading—ayes, 41; noes, 8.

The special order was a bill to amend the charter of the asylums at Raleigh, Morganton and Goldsboro.

Senator McCaskey moved the previous question, which was ordered cutting off debate.

The roll call was demanded and the bill passed—ayes, 27; noes, 23. The vote was as usual, republicans and bolting populists voting together. When the name of Person (colored) was reached he said: "Mr. President, I have before me a crisis. I must force our courteous presiding officer to pass this bill, when the responsibility should be shouldered by our party. And again I cannot force him in this attitude when we have votes enough to pass this bill. With the assurance I have received this morning, to wit: That we will be given the eastern asylum, I cannot stand out longer. It should be borne in mind that the contention has not been for hope of reward, but for merited recognition due the negroes of North Carolina. If we are deceived about this matter, why, I have done all that can be done by one colored man. I therefore vote aye."

The bill making an appropriation to state hospitals and insane asylums, giving $100,000 to Morganton, $63,000 to Raleigh and $43,000 to Goldsboro came up. These amounts were reduced to $90,000, $55,000 and $40,000.

The resolution for purchase of portrait of Senator Vance, appropriating $500 came up. The picture is valued at $1,000. Senator Rollins stated that the friends of Senator Vance in Raleigh would furnish $500, thereby making up the price. The resolution was adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

The bill to provide for additional county commissioners passed.

The committee on cities, counties and towns reported a bill amending the charter of Charlotte unfavorably but the minority reported it favorably.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Cumming's bill to prevent taxing of proprty twice was tabled.

The bill passed to establish a dispensary at Rutherfordton and, also, one in Cleveland county if the people at an election in May so decide as to the latter.

The senate bill giving the public printing to Guy V. Barnes, of Raleigh, was discussed. A substitute was offered leaving the whole matter to the governor's council. The debate was at times very warm. The substitute was adopted—54 to 45.

Senator Grant's bill to appoint a police board for Goldsboro came up.

Person, of Wayne, said the legislature of 1877 gerrymandered Goldsboro and denied local self government.

Mr. Johnson, populist, moved to amend by providing that the mayor shall be elected by the people. He said the element it was proposed to put in were not the men to rule, and the bill showed there was "something rotten in Denmark."

Mr. Ward moved to amend so that the board could not elect successors.

Mr. Parker moved to amend so that the bill shall not go into effect until voted on by the people and that John R. Smith's name be stricken out.

Person tried to call the previous question and there was great uproar. Mr. Parker, of Wayne, demanded a hearing. Messrs. Cook, Person and Hancock raised another piece of devilitry. The doorkeeper tried to put Mr. Parker in his seat. Members gathered around and a fight was imminent for several moments.

Mr. Sutton, of New Hanover, wanted Mr. Parker tried before the bar of the house.

Jim Young, colored, said: "I ask that the gentleman from Wayne be allowed to be heard." (Applause.)

Mr. Person, of Wayne, demanded the previous question. Then the uproar went on.

Mr. Parker raised a point of order.

Mr. McLelland arose to a point of order, saying that a few moments ago the chair ruled no member could call the previous question.

There were a few "ayes" and a thunder of "noes." The previous question was not ordered by an overwhelming vote.

Mr. Parker, of Wayne, moved to table.

Mr. Person, of Wayne, roared and charged in his seat.

The motion to table failed by 46 to 44.

Mr. Parker said the gall and spleen shown on the bill were wonderful. There was another scene of disorder. He replied to Person.

By this time it was 1 o'clock and before the vote on the Goldsboro bill was reached the special order came up, this being the North Carolina lease matter.

Mr. Cook, chairman of the special committee, reported the senate substitute bill without amendment and the speaker handed to the clerk the following opinion of the supreme court on the matter, in response to the house resolution adopted yesterday afternoon:

"Your resolution is before us. Precedent and courtesy due a co-ordinate branch of the government impel us to reply to your request without expressing any intimation of opinion either way upon the question whether the power to lease its road is vested in the North Carolina Railway Company by its charter. We are of opinion that the power, if it exists, is now vested in the stockholders and the provision in section 6 of the bill submitted to us, which makes the validity of a lease dependent upon its acceptance by the board of directors would be an amendment to the charter, transferring the power from the stockholders and invalid, unless accepted by the stockholders in general or special meeting assembled.

(Signed.) W. T. FAIRCLOTH,
Chief Justice of North Carolina, for the Court."

Mr. Murphey said it made no difference what the supreme court said; that the reference to the court was wrong when this very court might be called on to pass upon this very question. He said the court had never before passed upon such a matter as this. He offered an amendment to the substitute as follows:

"Amend section 6 by inserting after the word 'company' in line 17 of the printed bill, the words 'and accepted by the stockholders in general or special meeting assembled."

Amend section 7 after the word "directors" in line 3 by adding the words "and stockholders."

Mr. Murphy moved the adoption of this amendment and concurrence in the substitute bill.

The debate continued an hour.

Mr. Cook sent forward a substitute for the whole matter—the original bill, which passed the house. He called on those who desired to put these foreign companies on the same footing as those of this state to pass his substitute.

It was lost—ayes, 50; noes, 53.

The instant the result was announced Mr. Cook sprang to his feet and moved to adjourn. It was seen he was defeated and was filibustering and there arose a great clamor, men yelling: "That game won't work." "Vote it down." "Kep your seats." The packed galleries and lobbies listened and looked at the proceedings with keenest interest.

Mr. Cook demanded the yeas and nays on his motion to adjourn. The result was—yeas, 47; nays, 66. He then moved to lay Mr. Murphy's amendment on the table and on this demanded the yeas and nays. There was more clamor; members moved uneasily about. There was quite a gathering around Mr. Cook, Speaker Hileman being conspicuous and whispering to Mr. Cook. The result of the vote on tabling was—yeas, 51; nays, 64.

This was the beginning of an unparalleled scene of filibustering. Mr. Sutton, of Cumberland, opponent of the senate substitute and a member of the special committee, was in the chair. He ruled that the previous question was not called and that the house was not operating under it.

Hour after hour of filibustering went on. Mr. Cook would move to adjourn. This would be defeated and just before the announcement of the result he would change his vote to no so as to move to re-consider. There were roll calls on every motion, the minority fighting for time and the speaker ruling for it. There was row upon row. Several times fights seemed imminent. Messrs. Hancock and Sutton, of New Hanover, were hissed and the speaker cleared the lobbies.

Mr. Dockery made a hot speech, saying it was well understood yesterday that the vote was to be had on the substitute; that the motions to adjourn could not be entertained. The speaker (Sutton) ruled against Dockery and the latter shouted: "There is revolution. It will damn you," and he appealed to the house, which by a vote of, ayes, 46; noes, 67, refused to sustain Mr. Sutton's ruling. Before the vote was announced Mr. Sutton left the chair and Mr. Lusk, also an opponent of the senate substitute, took it. So matters went until 6 o'clock.

The Situation in Crete More Critical.

Canea, March 6.—Colonel Vassos has intimated to the admirals of the foreign fleets that he will secure the liberation of all the Mussulmans captured by the insurgents, on condition that the prisoners abandon their arms and take no further part in the fighting. The foreign admirals, it is believed, have taken another step in behalf of the Turks, and fuel has thereby been added to the indignation of the Christians. Orders have been issued for the British warships Rodney and Camperdown, a Russian warship, and the French warship Chanzy to land 500 men to escort Sir Alfred Billiotti, the British consul here, to Kandamos, whither he proceeds with the ostensible object of rescuing the besieged Moslems. The consul is on board the Rodney. It is thought that the real object in landing the foreign force is to compel the insurgents to raise the seige of Kandamos if necessary. The 500 foreign sailors and marines have been landed and will start at once for the town.

Logic—Thereupon Civilization argued with Savagry.

"How," it warmly demanded, "if you wear absolutely no clothes in the morning can you wear less at evening functions?"

Thus it is that inexorable logic beats down, one by one, the redoubts of superstition.—Detroit Journal.