

THE COLUMBIA HERALD.

VOL. XLII.

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NO. 6

NEWS AND COMMENT.

SENATOR GEORGE is improving.

NASHVILLE wants one of the new Federal prisons which are to be erected and she has the right to claim it.

SENATOR SMITHSON of Giles has introduced a bill in the Legislature to prohibit the boys from flirting with the college girls. If this law is enforced it will break up the female colleges, for if the girls can't flirt with boys what's the use of going to college?

THE House has passed a bill making lobbying a felony punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary from two to five years. The bill defines lobbying to be any attempt to influence a legislator by any means except by appealing to his judgment, or by presenting petitions or memorials.

THE Supreme Court of Tennessee has recently determined that the tears of attorneys are legitimate arguments before a jury. The lawyers of our bar, no doubt, have tears to shed and are prepared to shed them in such quantities as the fee will justify, or the emergency demand.

SENATOR ISHAM G. HARRIS is in a critical condition. If his death should occur during the session of the Legislature it would elect his successor to fill the unexpired term. If he should die after the adjournment the Governor would appoint until the next meeting of the Legislature.

THE Nashville city council is also after high hats at theatres. But these sporadic efforts to secure man's rights will be of no avail. It will take combined agitation and effort, and the sooner we begin to organize Man's Rights Associations the better for the cause. Our effort should be to get the woman-suffrage party to adopt a plank in their platform declaring for our rights.

THE plague is still increasing in Bombay. Europe and England are sending physicians there to study the epidemic. Much money is being sent there by England for the relief of the stricken city. The Mansion House Famine Fund has now reached \$885,000, irrespective of the large subscriptions which are being raised in the big provincial towns. Glasgow and Manchester have each sent \$125,000 direct to India and the Lord Mayor of London expects to raise \$5,000,000 for this purpose. Mail arriving from Bombay at New York is being disinfected.

THE Georgia Railroad Commissioners have evidently done their duty. The railroads are all grumbling about the new tariff rate recently fixed by the commission, and are determined to seek favor from the courts. This reverse of conditions is rather pleasing. Until the present time the people have complained and the railroads have turned a deaf ear. Now that the people have risen in their power to protect themselves they will lend no ears to the whinings of the railroads. This change of conditions must come in every state. Tennessee will have it if our legislators will do their duty.

THE Nashville American is mighty 'fraid that the Legislature will do something to amount to something. It advises them to go "along the old lines of established Democratic policy," and if they do this, or in other words, if they do nothing, the American thinks Tennessee will be safe within the party's control. If the Democratic party in this State doesn't get away from its "old lines of established policy," and give the people some relief, it is doomed to utter destruction. Its "old lines of established policy" has already reduced a forty thousand majority to a doubtful plurality.

THE grand jury of Jefferson County, Ky., sitting at Louisville, has thrown that city into a whirlpool of excitement. Fifteen indictments were returned against city officials, from the President of the Board of Aldermen down to freeman. The charges range from neglect of duty in failing to prosecute gamblers, to bribery and conspiracy to extort money. The report of the grand jury says that many cases could not be investigated for lack of time, and concludes: "That some persons holding high official positions have not been indicted does not indicate that those indicted are the only guilty ones in official positions. That the city is honey-combed with official corruption is the firm conviction of this jury."

GOV. TAYLOR'S MESSAGE

Straightforward Presentation of Questions of State Importance.

A REFORMATORY FOR YOUTHFUL CRIMINALS.

Reformation in the State Election Laws—Fee Reform Along Present Lines Urged—Suggestion That Taxes May Have to Be Increased.

Gov. R. L. Taylor last Friday sent the following message to the General Assembly:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Fiftieth General Assembly of Tennessee.—Gentlemen: The able and comprehensive message of my honorable predecessor, covering almost the entire range of important matters requiring legislation, and the trend of bills already introduced in your honorable bodies, renders it unavoidable that this communication should embody the recommendation of measures already to some extent anticipated. The issues of the late State campaign were so pronounced and the cry for reform so loud that it seems to be imperative that you use the pruning knife.

Elections.
The strength and perpetuity of our institutions rests in the patriotism of the people. With fair elections the republic has little to fear. The danger lies in the corruption of the ballot-box. If we would preserve free government and popular liberty we must maintain, at all hazards, the integrity of the ballot in the hands of the people. We have just passed through a great political struggle wherein each political party accuses all other political parties of every manner of election fraud. This involves great danger, because the people hear it with ever increasing complacency, and I fear that law-makers are losing the full sense of its wickedness and enormity. It is alarming when political parties flood States with money to debauch the ballot-box, and then fill the Associated Press with slanders upon the people whom they have failed to corrupt. The danger is augmented a hundred fold whenever the General Assembly itself is invoked to reverse the result because a sufficient amount of money was expended in the campaign by the defeated party to justify them in the belief that they had bought the State. Congress is not competent to deal with these things. It does not lie within the Federal power to interfere with State elections. The responsibility therefore rests upon you, gentlemen of the Legislature, to guard the rights of the people, and to give them honest elections.

I urge that you devise statutes so searching and comprehensive in their scope, and so severe in their penalties, forbidding the use of money in elections, as to at once crush out this insidious evil. Can we expect to have fair elections in Tennessee when money is subscribed in other States and shipped here by the tens of thousands with the definite purpose of buying votes? Honest patriots will lose respect for government which permits such practices. You cannot too strongly condemn this evil and no restrictive measures can be too severe. It needs stamping to death quickly; else money will soon be master at the polls, and then we should have done with liberty and honest government. I am of the opinion that a board consisting of three election commissioners for each county, to be appointed by the Governor, should be created, whose duty it shall be to name the officers of election, superintend the same and receive and transmit all returns. The Trustees of each county should be required to deliver to the Board of Commissioners of said county, two days before any election, a complete list of all persons who have paid their poll taxes for the two preceding years for the district or ward where the election is held, said list to be sworn to by such Trustee; and that the judges of election be required to verify each voter's right to vote by this list, besides being required to show his poll tax receipt; that said judge be empowered to administer oaths and require persons who may have removed from one district or ward to another to make oath as to the payment of their two years' poll taxes when the Trustee's list fails to attest it; that the wrongful issuance or use of a poll tax receipt be declared a felony, and that the false swearing of voters and trustees be declared perjury.

Fee Reform.
The paramount duty devolving upon you, gentlemen of the Assembly, is the reform of court costs. Our annual million dollar criminal cost account has been built up by the fee system. In my opinion, the placing of district attorneys and clerks of courts on salaries is only the beginning of what should be done. The swarm of witnesses about our magistrates' offices and court-houses, especially in our cities,

the innumerable warrants, indictments and multiplied processes issued in frivolous cases and the endless stream of unnecessary court costs of every description, constitute the brood of evil which has been hatched out by the present fee system.

The inquisitorial system is barely tolerable among a free people, and when the grand jury room becomes a tub mill to grind out and pile up multiplied frivolous cases at an enormous public expense, it is high time that the law-makers curtail its powers. After the grand jury has ground its grist there are too many cases dismissed upon actual cost which consists of the fees of the officials, leaving the State and county to whistle for theirs. A man who has committed an offense deserving of punishment should make amends to the power offended; he has certainly committed no offense against the officials. I insist that if the offense is so frivolous, the officials should be as generous as the State and let the offender go free. I suggest further that magistrates should not be allowed to issue warrants while grand juries are in session. This would save a large amount of money to the people. There are a hundred sources of evil in our present fee system which it is impossible for me to enumerate in this communication, but I am constrained to rely upon the intelligence and industry of the representatives of the people for a complete solution of this problem which involves at least a half million of dollars annually to the taxpayers of Tennessee.

Finances.
The operation of our assessment laws is an ever-recurring perplexity. Past Legislatures have racked their brains in the effort to cure the infirmities of the system, but it is still open to well founded criticism. In my judgment, we will never reach a perfect system until every form and item of property is taxed at its actual value. This would place all property holders in the State upon an equal footing, and would reveal to the outside world the true wealth of Tennessee. Besides, it would enable us to so reduce the rate of taxation as to invite investment and enterprise from other sections.

The matter of most importance at this juncture, however, is how to make our assessment and revenue laws yield sufficient revenue to meet the demands upon the Treasury. This is a question which challenges our earnest and immediate attention. I trust myself at the beginning of my administration threatened with the dragon of deficit which we have fought so long to conquer.

It is my imperative duty to call upon you to give me the means to meet honorably and promptly, not only present obligations, but those which must arise in the near future. We cannot afford to risk the possibility of default in the payment of our obligations, because such defaultations would bring irreparable dishonor upon the State. I am determined that no such calamity shall befall the Commonwealth while I am Governor. I am not sure that we can safely reach the port upon the present decreased tax rate. I shall rejoice if the expenses can be cut down and thus meet the emergency, but I fear it cannot be done in time to avert danger. We ought not to borrow; we must not and shall not default. There is no question that if the tax rate is placed where it was before the last Legislature reduced it, all our doubts and fears will vanish. In these hard times we all shrink from placing additional burdens upon the people, but I do not believe that they themselves will object if it is shown to be necessary for the protection of the public credit. If, in your judgment, it is necessary to restore the tax rate, you cannot afford to shrink from the performance of your duty to your country. If we can weather the storm without it, I will rejoice with you.

Penitentiary.
Now that we are about to occupy a new prison, built and equipped on modern lines of advancement, it becomes our duty to institute reforms in prison management in conformity with modern ideas. The old idea was to punish crime without regard to mercy or to humanity. The result was to harden men in crime, and if they lived through the punishment, turn them loose upon the country, graduated criminals. But now the prison is regarded as a reformatory institution, as well as an institution of punishment. I had

the honor to recommend to a former Legislature that a system of graduated punishment, reformatory and parole, so successfully operated in many other States, be inaugurated in ours. Such a system has been found to operate most satisfactorily whenever it has been put in practice. We must not forget that the unfortunate inmates of the prison are our fellow mortals, and that it is one of the most weighty responsibilities upon us who are called upon to manage them to see that it is done in mercy and with the view to keeping society free from harm when they shall be turned back into it. I have not changed my opinion one jot or tittle, that the system of reformatory, commutations of sentences and paroles for good conduct is the best system of prison management ever adopted. The sorrows and tears and penitence of those who have broken the law ought not to be disregarded by those in power over them. My record in the treatment of convicts has been much criticized, but I declare to you that nothing I ever did has given me so much satisfaction in my own conscience. I am especially interested in caring for wayward children, and I repeat to you what I have declared on the hustings in the presence of the people, that it is a crime against humanity to send children to the penitentiary, there to mingle with and imbibe the spirit of hardened criminals; and until the Legislature of the State provides a reform school separate and apart from the penitentiary, I see no other course for me to pursue than that which I followed during my two former terms as Governor. I recommend that a department be established in connection with the Tennessee Industrial School for criminal children, to be under the management of the Superintendent of the institution, not allowing the inmates of the two separate departments to have any communication with each other whatever. I further recommend the enactment of a law providing that all children under the age of 15 years convicted of felony, be sent directly by the court which convicts them to this reform school, there to remain until released by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of the institution. I further recommend that you formulate such rules and regulations for the government of this institution as are found to be in successful operation in other States. This question of caring for criminal children and separating them from the environments and horrors of the penitentiary appeals tenderly and eloquently to you. If you will listen to the voice of humanity and establish this institution you will leave a monument to your magnanimity and wisdom; you will receive the plaudits of the State and be remembered with the warmest emotions of gratitude and pleasure in many a home that will thus be saved from the tears of shame and the blight of crime. The penitentiary will soon be finished, and it now becomes the duty of your honorable bodies to provide for its proper management and control. Under the administration of my honorable predecessor a board was created by the Legislature, consisting of three Penitentiary Commissioners. To this board was committed the responsibility of superintending a creation of the new penitentiary and putting into operation a new system for the employment of a large number of convicts thrown into idleness upon the State by the expiration of the old lease system. The work for which the commission was created will soon be completed, and it will become necessary to reorganize the official management and to define the powers of those who are to have charge of its management. I recommend that the Board of Commissioners be made permanent, and as to the continuation of the office of Superintendent of Prisons, it remains for you to determine after a full investigation.

It is proposed to work the convicts by contract within the walls of the prison. It is certain that they must be worked somewhere, or else they will be a millstone about the neck of the commonwealth. The old lease system which brought them in contact with free labor in the mines has been abolished and therefore I am sure that good policy demands that they be worked within the prison walls.

Centennial.
Here at the beginning of a new century of our existence as a State, I am sure it ought to be the pride of every patriotic Tennessean to join in the great movement to celebrate the birthday of our proud commonwealth. The great Centennial Exposition which will be open to the world on the first of May next has been inaugurated to commemorate the State's natal day, and surely the State itself should preside on that great occasion of rejoicing. It will not only be an occasion of festivity and rejoicing, but it will bring millions of wealth within our borders and open up a new era of progress and development. I therefore recommend that your honorable bodies make a generous appropriation in order that the State may take her proper place on the great occasion and exhibit to the world with pride and credit her own products and resources.

Local Option Bill Killed.
Mr. Taylor's bill to permit local option in all cities and towns in the State was reported for rejection by the Committee on Liquor Traffic. The report was concurred in by a vote of 17 to 12.

House.
The Estes Fee bill, which has occupied the attention of the House the major part of the week, was passed by a vote of 60 to 23.

Senate.
At 11 o'clock the Senate appeared at the bar of the House and were invited in and escorted to seats. Nominations for State Librarian were declared in order, and the names of Miss Pauline Jones, the choice of the Democratic caucus, and Miss Lida Wright, of Hawkins County, were placed before the Assembly. The vote resulted in 64 for Miss Jones and 28 for Miss Wright.

FRIDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.
Senate.
Mr. Thomas introduced a bill to make it a misdemeanor for a State or county official to use a railroad pass in traveling.
This was regarded as a preliminary battle between the railroads and the people of Tennessee, and a great deal of discussion pro and con followed. When the final test came the bill was rejected by a vote of 17 to 13.

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Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

ON CAPITOL HILL.

The Solons Say They Will Not Tolerate Lobbyists.

They Pass a Number of Other Good Bills, But When It Comes to Local Option They Succumb to the Power of the Whisky Ring.

THURSDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Senate.
The Brandon Convict Labor bill, which had been favorably acted upon by the House, came up for its third reading in the Senate. Upon motion, further discussion and action on the bill was postponed until Monday.

House.
Mr. Cassidy introduced a bill to regulate the price of school books in Tennessee and to encourage a uniformity by school districts and counties and all public schools in the use of the same.

The House resolved itself into a committee on the whole for the purpose of discussing the Estes fee bill, and a great deal of its time was taken up in that manner. The bill was reported to the House for passage.

The State Librarian.
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them at less than their par value. Mr. Rogers' bill to make females eligible to the office of Notary Public was then taken up, and passed its third and final reading by a vote of 52 to 20.

Mr. Farabough's bill relative to the charters of all corporations passed its third reading by a vote of 54 to 22. The bill provides that before a charter is granted by the Secretary of State, a privilege tax of \$1 on each \$1,000 of the capital stock named on the face of the charter must be paid to that official. This tax is to be in lieu of all other taxes paid the Secretary of State for granting charters, and is to be turned over by him to the State Treasurer.

(Continued to Second Page.)

SOUTH EAST SIDE.

Miss Mary F. Tucker is visiting relatives and friends at Mt. Pleasant.

Master Ollie and Fred Davis, after spending a few days visiting relatives and friends here and at Mt. Pleasant, have returned to their home near Culleoka.

We are glad to say that Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Taylor are able to be out again, after quite a severe spell of la grippe.

There was a tacky party given recently at Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Chumney's in honor of Miss Burton Pugh. Quite a number of invited friends were present to enjoy themselves for a few pleasant hours of mirth and laughter. Miss Mary Frank Voss won the "gold ring," made out of the finest brass, for being the tuckiest of them all.

Mr. A. F. Brown went to Nashville Tuesday to attend the Tennessee Cattle Club's meeting, of which he is a great worker, not only for the little Jersey, but for all other kinds of cattle which are to the interest of our farmers.

Our efficient police officer Mr. W. A. Voss has smiles a yard wide this week, owing to the arrival of a wee little boy, who has come to make his home with them permanently.

As news is scarce, we will have to close. TRAMP.

BIBERY AND CORRUPTION.

Fifteen City Officials of Louisville are Indicted.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 30.—The report of the January Grand Jury, made this afternoon, was hardly less sensational than had been promised. Such a shaking up as has resulted from its investigation of municipal affairs has never been known in the history of the city government. Fifteen indictments were returned, including, among the accused, aldermen, police officials, patrolmen, a contractor and several minor offenders. The charges range from neglect of duty in failing to prosecute gamblers, to bribery and conspiracy to extort money. The disclosures made in these indictments are mainly due to the falling out of the factions in the city government, and while up to this time the faction that has opposed Mayor Todd since he assumed office has suffered most, it is probable that the next grand jury will have plenty of work in continuing the investigation, aided by those who have already been called upon to answer specific charges, but who do not want to have the responsibility for all of the misdeeds done around the city hall saddled upon them.

The persons indicted to-day are R. E. King, President of the Board of Aldermen, and ex-officio member of the Sinking Fund Commission; Aldermen J. E. Leatherman, R. O. Brewer, C. J. Jenne and John DeGarmo; Night Chief of Police Maj. Sebastian Gunther; Patrolmen Nicholas Varilla and Steve Conley; Contractor Drake; Charles Kremer, Jr., Secretary of the Board of Public Safety; Pat Ahearn, saloon-keeper; Harry Dooce, fireman; William Kimball, Martin Donahue and John Gill.

King, Jenne and Leatherman are charged with running games of chance; one each in King's indictment also charges bribery. Drake, Leatherman and Brewer are accused of conspiracy to extort money from contractors.

PIMPLY FACES

Pimples, blotches, blackheads, red, rough, oily, mothy skin, itching, scaly scalp, dry, thin, and falling hair, and baby blemishes prevented by CUTICURA Soap, the most effective skin purifying and soothing soap in the world, as well as purest and sweetest for toilet, bath, and nursery.

Cuticura

Blood Purifier

Used throughout the world. Prepped by Dr. J. C. CUTICURA, Sole Proprietor, Boston. 50¢ per box. 10¢ per tin.