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Judge Wiggin has given undivided attention to the dispatch of business through the tedious term of court which has been in session since the fourth instant.

In this as well as in the other counties of his circuit the Judge continues to receive praise for the manner in which he discharges his arduous duties.

That a greater number of those charged with violating the law have not been convicted is certainly no fault of the Solicitor, Mr. Lee has conducted the cases in behalf of the State in a very creditable manner and proves himself to be an able prosecuting officer.

Doings and Mis-doings of the Law makers.

It was with a sigh of relief that the intelligence was received of the adjournment of the General Assembly.

Considering the lack of legislative experience of the men of which it was composed it would be uncharitable perhaps to indulge in too harsh criticism in reference to the short comings of its members.

No fact, it would seem, could be more apparent than the failure of the bulk of the legislators to grasp the importance of the duties which they were called upon to discharge or to see their way clear to properly carry out the wishes of their constituents whom they were sent to represent.

But for the incessant thundering of the press throughout the State, a greater salary grab would have been indulged in by the members of the General Assembly than had been enjoyed in the days when plundering was rampant under Scott and Moss.

But we are willing to believe that their errors were mistakes that arose from lack of judgment rather than a deliberate attempt to fritter away time and secure for themselves a huge per diem.

Credit is due the Legislature whose session has just closed for the passage of such Acts as those relating to the fence law, to the prohibiting the sale of seed cotton after sun set, to the reduction of the pay of county commissioners, to the abolishing the pay of managers of election, and to prohibit the same person from holding the office of trustee and teach a public school at the same time.

But after this enumeration we have nearly exhausted the list of public acts which this expensive and long winded assembly has to show as the result of its drain upon the pockets and patience of the tax-payers.

It has manifested an inclination to be generous to itself before being just to the creditors of the State.

Although the constitution (Art. 9, Sec. 3.) declares that the General Assembly shall provide for deficiencies in the expenses of the State by levying a tax sufficient to pay such deficiency, our late legislature was with difficulty brought to discharge a part of its duty in this respect, being thoroughly aware that official salaries remained unpaid for nearly half of the past year not because the tax levy of the previous General Assembly was not carefully drawn and ample in its provisions, but on account of the mass of State bank bills that were per force received for taxes, a legacy of indebtedness from ante bellum days.

The deficiency tax now levied, even if it was all collected, would not be sufficient to pay more than one half of the unpaid salaries and leaves the school and penitentiary deficiencies wholly unprovided for.

The attempt to ignore the bills of the Bank of the State in the coming tax collection is as miserable an exhibition of weakness as is the silence betokening fear, about past due coupons and the bonanza warrants.

The commencement of suits in the United States Court will soon dissipate the delusive anticipations of being let alone which are indulged in by these financial procrastinators and political novices.

They have been so much in the habit of telling their fond constituents that a millennium, of low taxation would be the immediate result of their entrance into the legislative halls, that they are now afraid of being detected in their falsehood, and dread the collection of a tax sufficient to pay the honest debts of the State and maintain an efficient administration of the government.

After the years of plunder and misrule through which we have passed it was not unnatural to expect a too great reaction would set in, as has occurred, and the State is fortunate in having Governor Hampton at its head with conservative instincts and sympathies to hold in check the resolute leaders in his party.

The New Judge.

Another shining light of the Republican party in this State has stepped down and out. The General Assembly adopted the resolution declaring the election of Judge Carpenter illegal on the ground that there was no vacancy at the time of his election, and on Thursday last Gen. Kershaw was elected to fill the position of Judge of the fifth circuit.

When the new appointed for the circuit arrived Mr. Massey conducted Gen. Kershaw to the residence of the late Judge.

Senate and House to second the motion just made, and in doing so, I will say that while Gen. Kershaw is hardly the choice of the Republicans, still, as an evidence of the good feeling existing between the two parties, we are willing to support him, and hope that his election will be unanimous.

After the vote was taken, the chair declared it to stand as follows: Whole number of votes cast 139; necessary to a choice 65. J. B. Kershaw received 128 votes; S. W. Melton 2.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

There is almost an utter absence of news of interest from Asia, the Danube or Montenegro. The two armies on the Danube are watching one another, and commencing frequently, but the Russians have not yet disclosed their intentions.

The Turkish report of a Russian attempt on Saturday to cross the Danube at Rasteluk, which was alleged to have been repelled, is unworthy of much attention as the attempt certainly was not serious. A St. Petersburg telegram says it was merely the commencing of sappers who were working at Giurgevo.

Private accounts received in Constantinople from Erzeroum represent the Turkish army in Armenia to be in a sad condition, ill clothed, ill fed and badly commanded. The Turks are rapidly retreating before the Russians, and Erzeroum is not expected to hold out six weeks. Its occupation by the Russians is a foregone conclusion.

Orders have been issued by the Russian Government to accelerate as much as possible a levy of 218,000 men. Despite this, the opinion continues to prevail that Russia wishes to settle with Turkey on the basis of the nominal integrity of Turkey in Europe, and that some such settlement will be advocated by powerful persons at Constantinople, if the Russians succeed in crossing the Danube and assuming an energetic offensive in Bulgaria.

It is beginning to be generally understood that Russia is endeavoring to subsidize the press, and that she is evidently preparing the public mind for her forthcoming occupation of Constantinople. Meanwhile rumors of decided Turkish successes on the line of the Danube, and the improvement of Turkish prospects in Asia, continue to gain ground.

Judge Wright's Fall.

Judge Wright was relieved of any further duties as Associate Judge last Thursday by his impeachment of high crimes and misdemeanors. Tom Hamilton has been active in securing this action by the House and was one of a committee to go to the bar of the Senate to impeach the unfortunate Judge.

When the committee reached the Senate chamber Mr. Verner, one of the committee said: "Mr. President and Senators: In obedience to the order of the House of Representatives, we appear before you, and in the name of the House of Representatives and of all the people of the State of South Carolina, we do impeach J. J. Wright, one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of South Carolina, of high crimes and misdemeanors in office; and we further inform the Senate that in due time we will exhibit articles of impeachment against him, and will make good the same; and we demand that the Senate take order for the appearance of J. J. Wright to answer to said impeachment."

The trial has been postponed until the next session, but this action of the House prevents Wright from acting as Justice and as he will doubtless see that he is gone he may wisely conclude to resign the office for which he has shown himself so unfitted.

The Stafford's Roads Case.

There is at last an end to the Stafford's Roads case and the juries have declared that nobly is to be blamed for the murder of Shuman and wounding of DeLoach. The twenty-four colored men and women were tried last Thursday the jury being composed of as black and ignorant material as it was possible to find. Every white man was challenged and before the case opened it was evident that a verdict of acquittal was certain. Mr. Tilling assisted the solicitor in the prosecution which was ably conducted, and the defendants were represented by Messrs. Whipper, Williams and Wheeler. The case assumed a political phase and the jury after several hours deliberation returned a verdict not guilty.

On Saturday Mr. Johnson, the constable and Mr. Ellis, one of the posse, were tried on an indictment for the murder of Edward Cheney, the colored man that was killed during the riot. The evidence of the witnesses for the prosecution was so flagrantly false as to convince every one that the story had been made up before hand and was well understood by all. Moses Perry said that he was riding by on his horse when the posse came up. That Cheney was shot by Ellis and lived an hour after being shot and said before he died that Johnson had killed him. Thought Shuman and Ellis wanted to kill all the people on the place. Cheney had no gun although he had carried one around with him all that day hunting hogs; did not see Shuman nor DeLoach after they were shot; did not see Johnson shoot but would have seen him if he had done so; might have been killed himself but Christ saved him; the constable and posse came to his house (pressed it, red flannel; the horses being also dressed in flannel; heard no warrant read but heard Johnson cry "peace" and say he had a warrant; nobody on the place was armed nor had a gun. The next witness was three women who all testified that they saw Johnson shoot Cheney, one of them saying he killed him three days before he fell; that there

that Johnson had a pistol about three feet long and not only killed Cheney but wounded Cheney's wife, although Laura Perry said Shuman fired the shot that wounded her. None of them heard of a warrant saw Ellis point his pistol at Perry's horse and when it went off saw the horse fall; before any shots were fired saw Cheney holding DeLoach from behind while the latter was trying to point his gun over his shoulder to shoot Cheney. Mary Cheney said she saw Cheney holding DeLoach and told him to let go, saw no colored men that day nor evening and did not know till next day that the white men had been shot; Cheney's gun was found next day near where he was shot.

Mr. Mulligan was the first witness for the defense. He recognized the warrant produced in court as the one given to Johnson on Nov. 16; authorized him to get a posse and go in search of the men engaged in whipping a colored man. After the departure of the posse several colored men came up armed with guns and rifles and created such a disturbance that he tried to quiet them. The mob then went up the road and rescued Frank Grant who had been arrested by the posse, and said all they wanted was to find Johnson and Shuman. Johnson had only a single barrel pistol tied on his saddle and when he returned the rust around the cap showed that it had not been fired off. J. D. Johnson was then put on the stand and said that when the warrant was given to him he refused to serve it as he had other business to attend to; told Mulligan he was unarmed when Peter Johnson, a colored man, handed him an old pistol which he tied to the pommel of his saddle. Went to the house of Moses Perry and read the warrant to him and said he must go along; Perry refused, when he was arrested and then consented to go. Went then to Moses Perry's house; he was absent but his sister was found at home and asked what was wanted; he told her he was in search of Moses, when she dared him to come in; went in; the sister went off yelling towards Cheney's. The posse then started for Cheney's and when they came near a crowd of twenty-five colored men came up yelling; told them he had a warrant and held it up to them; they replied that he had no warrant and that it was a damned lie and damn the peace. Saw in the crowd eight or ten guns, others had clubs. The first shot came from the crowd, then a few shots afterwards a volley from all the guns; saw Shuman fall off his horse; saw the guns fired at him. He, Johnson, did not fire a shot as he could not get the pistol loose and was obliged to retreat; the crowd was all around Cheney's house when the posse arrived. Several persons for whom he had warrants lived in the place.

Messrs. Tillinghast and Verrier conducted the defense and the jury after retiring agreed on the first ballot to a verdict of acquittal. The jury was composed of one colored and eleven white men.

Presentment of the Grand Jury. JUNE TERM 1877.

To His Honor Judge Wiggin:

Returning to the presentment made by this Grand Jury, at the last term of court it is reminded that your Honor was requested, if not inconsistent with the best interest of the public service, to appoint an expert who should cooperate with a committee appointed from its members, whose duty it should be to report upon the county offices.

Reasons were at that time assigned which, were, in the judgement of the jury, sufficient to warrant such an appointment, and it is a matter of regret that owing to the extremely straitened condition of finances, your Honor has not deemed it advisable to deflect a small portion of its revenue to this purpose.

However, the committee, charged with the duty of visiting these offices and reporting upon the same, beg to state the time at its disposal being too limited to go into a thorough examination, confined its labor to such features as in its opinion of most interest to the general public and as well known the Past Indebtedness of this county reached the alarming figure of \$40,000, at one time.

PAST INDEBTEDNESS.

The Legislature passed a law, approved Feb. 25, 1873, authorizing the levy of a special tax of 2 mills which contemplated the final extinguishment of this debt. Under its operation the debt has been reduced at the end of the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 1876 to \$22,359.33.

It might be expected that the 2 mill tax would have more rapidly extinguished the above debt, but the above figures indicate, but it is a notable fact that whereas the discount at first realized from the purchase of these checks was very large, it is at present nearly nominal, and the great disparity between the net and gross proceeds of this tax can not be better shown than by the following:-to wit:

Gross proceeds of the two mills tax for the year ending Oct. 31, 1876 was \$19,912.50

With the following abatement:-

From Comptroller Gen. \$115.26

" " Noted Bonds 321.94

" " Forfeited lands 154.6

Unpaid tax P. R. & C. R. R. 1,567.38

Printing advertising &c 279.61

Leaving net balance 13,493.75

Which cancelled checks to the amount of 7,400.00 with a balance to credit of said amount of 23,221.25 per report "A" appended hereto. There is now Oct. 31, one from the Port Royal Railroad and Savannah and Charleston R. R. Co. on account of this fund the sum of \$4,651.42.

The Gosting debt of the county is \$12,602.29 to wit: from 1871 county indebtedness 23,221.25 From 1874 Jury and Witnesses tickets 1871.27 From 1875 county indebtedness 45,991.40 From 1875 Jury witnesses tickets 1,212.29

There was at the end of the fiscal year Oct. 31, 1876 owing from the Port Royal and Savannah and Charleston R. R. Co. to this account on general bill \$2,726.43.

F. L. Wallace, In account with County Funds, Sheriff.

By checks paid \$1,449.21

By cash on hand 341.72

Past Indebtedness \$1,790.93

And received from G. Holmes, \$413.27

By cash paid 842.54

By cash on hand 601.83

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