

THE CORRESPONDENT of the Journal of Commerce says that Representative Gaillard, of this county, made an able speech against the usury law, as opposed to the rules of political economy, and powerless to effect any good to the borrower.

Mr. R. W. SIMPSON, of Anderson, has been elected chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means of the House. It had been thought that the place would be given to the Hon. C. G. Memminger. But Mr. Simpson is an earnest worker, cool and clear headed, and will make an admirable chairman. We have no unfavorable comment to make upon this selection.

Important Bills.

Among the bills of importance now before the Legislature are the following:

1st. That the comptroller-general remit the forfeit on delinquent taxes whenever the applicant proves by affidavit that he was present before the closing of the tax books, but that the treasurer could not collect his tax on account of the rash of business.

2d. An amendment to the constitution providing that the justices of the supreme court and the circuit judges shall hold office during good behavior.

3d. That all persons engaged in manufacturing, in this State, guano or other fertilizers, or in selling, in this State, guano or other fertilizers manufactured in another State, shall attach to each sack, barrel or other article containing the same, a tag, either written or printed, containing the name or names of the person or persons, or the name of the company, with the names of its individual members, so manufacturing or selling such guano or other fertilizer, and a true analysis of such guano or other fertilizer. The penalty for non-compliance with this act to be a fine of from two thousand to five thousand dollars, and imprisonment in the penitentiary of from one to five years, or either fine or imprisonment.

4th. The continuance of the operation of the lien law for two years.

5th. A re-enactment of the usury law.

6th. The ratification of the school amendment.

Besides which there are several bills providing ways to abolish special legislation, such as in the matter of erecting gates, &c.

A Needed Amendment.

The ratification of the school amendment has been made the special order for the 14th inst. Considerable opposition to it exists; but it should pass. Edgefield was the only county that voted against it; and now the Advertiser favors its ratification, on the ground that a closer study of the matter brings out its good points. In one respect both the present section of the constitution and the amendment are faulty, each providing that the money shall be apportioned according to the school attendance, without specifying in what way attendance shall be reckoned. This gives rise to the most absurd results as will readily be seen. Assume that the amendment is not ratified, and that one county has one thousand children attending for three months; another county three thousand children for one month; a third, six thousand children for three weeks; and a fourth, twelve thousand children for one week. Here it is obvious that the amount of teaching—i. e. the number of children multiplied by the number of days each attends—is the same in all these counties. Yet in making up the annual report, the first county will be credited with one thousand children in attendance;

the second, with three thousand; the third, with six thousand; and the fourth, with twelve thousand: for the law says nothing about the average attendance, and each county will report the largest possible number of scholars, in order to obtain the largest possible share of the school money. And by thus showing, the fourth county will claim twelve times as much as the first. So long as there is a premium on fraud, the ratio of apportionment each year will be so inaccurate as to practically damn the system.

If the amendment be ratified, the same objection holds good as between the respective school districts in each county.

It is the duty of the Legislature to define the meaning of the words "school attendance," so that there may be no ambiguity. For that purpose we strongly urge the passage of an act of the following tenor:

That the teacher of each public school in the respective school districts of the State, be, and is hereby, required to keep a roster of all the pupils attending school, with date of entering and leaving; and shall further keep a record of the daily attendance in said school; and shall, at the end of each month of four weeks, enter in said record the number of days each pupil shall have attended during the month. The aggregate attendance of all the pupils for the month shall be divided by twenty, and the quotient shall be the average attendance for the month, (a fraction less than one half being rejected, more than a half being counted as one.) The attendance of one pupil for one month of twenty school days shall be taken as the unit of apportionment of the school funds.

Each teacher shall make affidavit of the correctness of this report, to the best of his knowledge and belief, and shall file a duplicate of the report with the clerk of the board of trustees before he be entitled to receive pay for his services as teacher. And the school commissioner shall not countersign any pay certificate, until he shall have received the teacher's report of average attendance for the month for which the certificate is drawn.

By the adoption of this act the difficulty would be obviated. It would entail trouble on the teachers and school officials, but it is the only just way of apportioning out the funds. Under this, the four counties mentioned in the hypothetical case would receive the same sum—one thousand pupils for three months, three thousand for one month, six thousand for half a month, and twelve thousand for one-fourth of a month—all giving the same number of units of attendance—three thousand.

We trust this matter will receive attention. It is as important to the school law as the multiplication table is to arithmetic.

THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

FRIDAY, December 7, 1877.

SENATE.

A number of bills were introduced, read by title and properly referred.

On motion of Mr. Cannon, the Senate proceeded to elect a committee on Federal relations.

Mr. S. S. Crittenden was elected chairman.

Mr. Cannon nominated the following senators as members of that committee: Messrs. Wiley, Lipscomb, Butler, Gary, Campbell and Maxwell.

After some debate, these gentlemen were duly elected.

Concurrent resolution (House) relating to the election of Hon. J. J. Patterson to the Senate of the United States was taken up.

Mr. Howard moved to refer it to the committee on Federal relations. Mr. Cochran moved as an amendment to request that committee to report in five days, and called for the ayes and noes, which were taken with the following result: Ayes, 11; noes, 16.

Yeas—Messrs. Campbell, Carter, Evans, Gary, Jeter, Meotzo, Myers, Walker, Williams, Witherspoon and Wylie.

Nays—Mess. Bowen, Buck, Butler, Cannon, Coker, Counts, Crittenden, Duncan, Howard, Kinsler, Lipscomb, Livingston, Maxwell, McCall and Todd.

Mr. Cochran then called for the ayes and noes on Mr. Howard's motion, which resulted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Bowen, Buck, Butler, Cannon, Counts, Crittenden, Evans, Gary, Howard, Jeter,

Kinsler, Lipscomb, Livingston, Maxwell, McCall, Todd, Witherspoon and Wylie.

Nays—Messrs. Campbell, Cochran, Meotzo, Taft, Walker and Williams. So the resolution was referred to the committee on Federal relations.

Mr. Lipscomb presented memorial of State Grange, relative to railroad freights and other railroad abuses. Referred to the railroad committee. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

After calling the House to order, General Wallace, Speaker, in a very graceful speech, resigned the Speakership, and then requested Mr. Momminger, of Charleston, to take the chair.

Mr. Momminger, on taking the chair, said: "The Speaker of the House having resigned his position, what is the pleasure of the House as to the order of business?"

Whereupon Mr. Hall, of Charleston, offered a resolution thanking Hon. W. H. Wallace the uniformly courteous and able manner in which he had performed the arduous and trying duties of his position.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Aldrich, and unanimously adopted.

On motion, the House then proceeded to elect a Speaker.

Mr. Buist, of Charleston, nominated Hon. John C. Sheppard, of Edgefield.

The roll was then called, and Mr. Sheppard unanimously elected.

The new Speaker then took the chair, and, after a brief and appropriate address, called the House to order.

A number of bills and resolutions were introduced, read by title and properly referred.

Mr. Gaillard, of Fairfield, introduced a bill to alter and amend the law on the subject of fences in certain townships in Fairfield county.

The resignation of Mr. W. H. Wallace as a member of the House was accepted.

The unfinished business yesterday—bill to regulate the rate of interest on all contracts arising in this State—was taken up and discussed.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY, December 8, 1877.

SENATE.

A number of bills were introduced and referred. Favorable reports were made on other bills, which were ordered to a second reading. None of general interest.

A joint report was received from the judiciary committee of the two houses that in their opinion offices and attaches cannot be appointed and elected at the present session. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met, Speaker Sheppard presiding. A number of petitions were presented and referred.

On motion of Mr. Haskell the House resolved to meet hereafter at 11, a. m.

A number of bills were reported, none of general interest.

The usury bill was then argued till the time of adjournment. Mr. Brown argued forcibly in favor of it. Mr. C. G. Memminger spoke learnedly in opposition. Mr. White of Charleston followed in favor, as did Mr. R. W. Simpson, of Anderson. Adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Aiken has an eight-pound potato.

Col. J. D. Wylie has been elected senator from Lancaster county without opposition.

Associate Justice Haskell and Judge W. H. Wallace have both qualified and entered upon their judicial duties.

C. H. Baldwin, formerly of Columbia, will be nominated for collector of the port of Charleston, vice Worthington.

The treasurer and the auditor of Williamsburg couldn't agree who should make out the delinquent tax list, and so the people got off.

The "Marion's Men of Winyah" are to have a regular old fashioned gander-pulling in Georgetown on the 14th inst.

A negro named Malloy broke into a house near Cheraw one night during the recent freshets, and in attempting to make off with his booty fell into the water and was drowned.

Four miles of the Greenwood and Augusta Railroad have been graded, and are now ready for the cross-ties and iron. If a hearty response be made to the call of the company the road will be built and in running order within eighteen months.

Edgefield was ablaze with enthusiasm on the receipt of the news of the admission of Senator Butler. The citizens, white and colored, went out in a body to Sunset Hill, his residence, a mile from town, and indulged in bonfires, music and speeches.

Richland county has the lion's share of offices. They are as follows: governor, treasurer, attorney-general, superintendent of education, chief justice, associate justice, superintendent of the penitentiary, clerk and assistant clerk of the House, and assistant clerk of the Senate. Why is this thus?

The Beaufort Democratic convention nominated Col. Wm. Elliott for senator on the fifth ballot, Maj. Jeff. Warren withdrawing in his favor. Whipper is trying to induce the Radicals to run him for the position. They will scarcely be such fools.

The Savannah and Charleston Railroad has completed its bridge across the Ashley River at Bee's Ferry. The river where the bridge crosses is 490 feet wide and 60 feet deep in the channel. The draw-bridge is 145 feet long, resting on a stationary bridge 128 feet long. When the draw is open, two openings 60 feet each are left for vessels to pass through. Passengers can now go through from the North to Florida without change of cars.

On Thursday last, while Mr. Charles R. Bates, a wealthy citizen of Kalamazoo, Mich., who had come to Aiken for a winter tour, was walking out with his wife, he was suddenly attacked with a heaviness in his chest, and, without any previous symptoms, was dead in twenty minutes thereafter. Four successive paroxysms of what is supposed to have been congestion of the lungs seized him, ere he ceased to breathe. He had been apparently a hearty man.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The Washington Post, a new Democratic daily, has been started.

Two negroes are to be hanged in Charlotte, N. C., on the 14th inst.

Samuel Bowles the editor of the Springfield, Mass., Republican, is dangerously ill with paralysis.

The Wolfborough, N. H., Savings Bank is closed, pending an examination of its condition.

There were over a hundred nominations left unconfirmed at the close of the extra session.

Commodore Charles H. B. Caldwell, United States Navy, died at Waltham, Mass., on Friday night.

Tom Scott is engineering a bill through the Mexican Congress for a grand railroad.

The New York police have been recently arresting large numbers of unlicensed liquor dealers.

Hon. John H. Evins, of Spartanburg, has been admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States.

A Spanish council of ministers has approved of the marriage of King Alfonso and the Princess Mercedes.

The Pope has been in a dying condition for two weeks. Cardinal Simeoni, his prime minister, is also dangerously ill.

The Indians are preparing for a raid on Deadwood, in the Black Hills, and United States troops are hurrying to reinforce it.

Georgia ratifies the new constitution by a large majority, and refuses to remove the capital from Atlanta to Milledgeville.

The Russians have the advantage at present, but the Turks are making desperate resistance. The Turkish parliament will meet on the 13th.

President MacMahon of France has backed down from his contest with the Republicans and will select a ministry from that political party.

It is reported that Disraeli will resign the premiership of Great Britain, on account of ill health, and that the Earl of Derby will succeed him.

The Portuguese Minister to the Vatican has been raised to the rank of ambassador. Portugal claims a right of veto in the next Papal election.

A Panama letter of the 26th ultimo says that the Terrorist Revolution in Ecuador has assumed grand proportions, and is quite threatening.

General Ord stated, in his evidence before the military committee recently, that the Mexican people and authorities on the lower Rio Grande were in sympathy with the raiders into Texas.

There is no doubt that Enstis will be seated as senator from Louisiana, but there will probably be six speeches on each side, not for delay but to enable senators to place their motives on record.

The Republic Trust Company of Newark, N. J., have decided to discontinue business, owing to the difficulty in making safe and profitable investments. Depositors draw their balances in full.

The London Financier says that the premium for reinsurances on the overdue steamer City of Berlin which left New York on the 24th of November was advanced on Thursday to twenty guineas. The Post says the rate was from thirty to thirty-five guineas.

In Lancaster county, Pa., on Thanksgiving Day, a youth named Milton Helm attempted to shift a pistol from one pocket to another, when the weapon was discharged, the ball striking Miss Ida Neal in the temple, causing her death in half an hour.

Antonio Nerosi and Miss Orolia Sharp were recently found lying dead together in the Montgomery, Alabama, Cemetery, each with a bullet through the brain. They had been engaged, but meeting with opposition, they sought death as a relief. The inquest has developed no facts about the shooting.

John J. Patterson claims to have received three hundred letters from all parts of the country asking for copies of his great speech in the senate, which, it is said, was written for him by Judge T. J. Mackoy. Patterson says, also, that he has received an offer \$2,000 to deliver twenty lectures in the North upon the Southern question.

Lerdo Tejada withdraws his pretensions to the Mexican Presidency, and intends retiring to France. He recommends General Escobedo to the suffrages of his friends. Various bodies of troops are moving to the frontier. The Diaz government seems to be firmly seated in power, but has not been recognized by the United States on account of the Rio Grande border troubles.

A prisoner in court at Palmyra, N. Y., having called Judge Richmond in open court "a gray haired old scoundrel," the judge left the bench, and seizing his cane began to castigate the ruffian, but his foot slipping, the prisoner got him down and kicked him severely about the head before he was arrested. The prisoner was remanded to jail until the judge was sufficiently recovered to continue his case.

The Russian Court invited Dr. Ayer and his family to the Archduke's wedding in the Royal Palace. This distinction was awarded him not only because he was an American, but also because his name as a physician had become favorably known in Russia on its passage round the world.—Pueblo (Col.) People.

It was rough on a fellow to have to get up in the middle of the night and hunt around for another blanket. But it was rougher to find that the blanket wasn't there.

A Virginia Sheriff asked a murderer if he wanted to make a speech on the gallows, and he replied, "Guess not; it looks like rain, and I don't want to get wet. Go on with the hanging."

AT COST!

To Change Investment!

I will sell my entire stock of Hardware for the next sixty days at cost to close out the business. Merchants and Planter will find it to their interest to call soon and secure goods they may be needing, as I intend to sell them off as early as possible. Any person wishing to continue the business will be furnished with particulars, and will be given liberal terms on application. All persons indebted are requested to call and settle at once. I have ten Shares of Bull Tug and Loan Stock, which I will also sell on good terms. dec 11-1m J. M. GALLOWAY.

New Groceries.

I AM RECEIVING daily fresh

Sugars, Coffees Green and Roasted, Tea, Flour, Grist, Meal, Syrups, Molasses, Soda, Soap, Starch, Bagging and Ties, Bacon,

Lard—in Bbls., Cans and Buckets Seed Oats, Rye and Barley, Nails, Trace Chains, Horse and Mule Shoes, Axle Grease, White Wine and Cider Vinegar.

All goods delivered within corporate limits.

Fresh Cheese and Maccaroni received to-day.

New Buckwheat Flour. Choice new crop New Orleans Molasses.

Now Mackerel in kits, 1/2 and 1/4 barrels.

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