

WORK OF THE SENATE.

A NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED BY THE BODY.

Resolutions on Judge Aldrich-New County Bills Passed.—The Anti-Fire and Cigarette Bills Killed.

COLUMBIA, Feb. 20.—The work of passing second and third readings bills in the senate Saturday was not interrupted by discussion. Work was begun on the calendar and the following third readings bills passed:

House bill to amend county government law so far as it relates to working the roads.

House bill to authorize and empower the sheriff of Williamsburg county to purchase and keep at the court house a pair of bloodhounds for the purpose of tracking convicts and fugitive law breakers.

House bill to require county supervisors to publish quarterly reports in the papers of their respective counties at a cost not exceeding \$500 for each county.

House bill to amend subdivision one of section 954 of the revised statutes of 1893, relating to costs.

House bill to amend section 311 of the revised statutes being section 256 of the general statutes.

Making it a misdemeanor for any State or county officer to receive any bribe or purchase of books or any other property or supplies from printing.

Soon after 1 o'clock the senate passed the following resolutions and adjourned out of respect to Judge Aldrich:

Whereas it has been learned by the senate of South Carolina with profound regret the death of the honorable Alfred P. Aldrich of Fairfield county, who as a judge kept his empire unstained, and in defiance of the military power which dominated the State in 1860 laid down his robes of office in open court and refused to administer the law while the seat of justice was surrounded by Federal bayonets; as a patriot, seer, and statesman, the senate do hereby resolve that the death of Judge Aldrich be a day of mourning for the State.

Resolved, As a mark of respect to his memory, that the senate do now adjourn.

On Monday the Greenwood County bill was taken up. Mr. Gaines offered an amendment providing for the organization of the county 30 days after the election.

Mr. Archer objected to the time for the bill to go into effect as the same question would arise over Cherokee county and by an organization of the new counties during the fiscal year would cripple the old counties by taking away a large part of the revenue that ought to go to the old counties to meet their estimated expenses.

Mr. McCalla offered an amendment that the county government of Greenwood would be put in operation the first day of next January.

Mr. Gaines said that to the people of Greenwood the advantages accruing from an early formation would more than balance the evil. The bill could not be put in effect until the Constitution defer the formation of Greenwood.

Mr. McCalla said that a hardship would be inflicted on the old and on the new county by putting this bill in force before the 1st of next January.

Mr. Mower said the Constitution was mandatory in requiring that the county government go into effect immediately upon the formation of the county. This being so the senate had no discretion in the matter.

Mr. Mayfield asked that the senators vote as nearly as they could on the question of the time new county governments should go into effect.

Mr. McCalla said that the bill go into effect on the 1st of January. By vote of 26 to 4 this prevailed.

Mr. Gaines' amendment was then passed requiring the county government to be put into effect 30 days after election.

The senate on Tuesday killed the anti-cigarette bill and the bill repealing the anti-fire pass act. Neither bill, however, was defeated without a vast deal of discussion and then it was but by a single vote that the latter measure was killed.

The senate had shown an inclination to discuss at length every measure that had been taken up until the free pass bill was taken up. The bill was then taken up and Mr. Ragsdale moved that the report be indefinitely postponed. Mr. Ragsdale was the first senator on his feet to oppose the measure.

He said that any member of general assembly who used a free pass over any railroad would not be above suspicion. It was not right that representatives of the legislature who were to decide many important matters affecting railroads should accept any favors from these roads. Try as they might, they could not but feel a sense of obligation to the roads over which they had free transportation.

Mr. Scarborough replied to Mr. Ragsdale, recommending that he study the quotation, "Consistency, thou art a jewel." To be consistent, said Mr. Ragsdale, should have refused to accept the offer of the railroads to carry him with the other legislators to Charleston. The acceptance of that offer was nothing more than a violation of the oath of office on the part of every member of the general assembly. He thought the act now on the statutes was a stigma upon the name of the good people of the State. Mr. Scarborough spoke at length and with fervor in favor of the bill.

Mr. Hay said the act which this bill proposed to repeal was a free pass over the railroads. The senators would not hear of a judge accepting a free pass. It should be the same with members of the legislature. There was no getting around the fact that these passes were given to secure favors. Some had argued that the act

against the acceptance of free passes was a reflection upon the people of the State, but it was no more a reflection than any other act on the statute books. It would be as well to say the act against stealing was a reflection on the people as the act prohibiting the acceptance of a free pass. The city council of Charleston he understood was providing the transportation of the general assembly and though the railroads might do it free, there was no invitation from the road to the legislature.

Mr. Buist said that Mr. Hay was right in his position about the visit to Charleston. He then proceeded to speak against the bill. The Lord's Prayer, said he, which he trusted every senator repeated before retiring and after arising in the morning, he thought "lead us not into temptation." For that very reason this bill should be defeated. The members of the general assembly should be above the temptation of taking free passes removed from them. The talk about the dignity of humanity, "what is the depravity of humanity," Mr. President, that is to be guarded against," exclaimed Mr. Buist in conclusion.

Mr. Archer thought if the dignity and integrity of the senate was to be maintained, this question should not be annually resurrected. Why not let it stay as it is? asked he. Mr. Scarborough and Mr. Henderson spoke in favor of the bill and Mr. Mayfield against it.

Mr. Moses defined his position, saying that when a member of the house he had voted against the bill, and now that he had always been opposed to the measure.

The aye and nay vote was demanded on Mr. Moses' motion to indefinitely postpone the unfavorable report of the committee. It resulted:

Aye—Connor, Dennis, DuBoise, Gaines, Griffith, Henderson, Mauldin, O'Dell, Pettigrew, Rabin, Scarborough, Sloan, Suddath, Walker, Williams—16.

Nay—Alexander, Archer, Brown, Buist, Dean, Douglass, Hay, Love, Mayfield, McDaniel, Miller, Mower, Norris, Ragsdale, Stackhouse, Talbird, Wallace—17.

The motion to table the bill was passed by the same vote as above. The vote was then clinched by the usual motion to reconsider and table. This completely kills the bill for this session at least, though it was accomplished but by a single vote.

The house bill to regulate the sale of cigarettes and cigarette papers was debated by the friends and opponents of the bill. The friends pointed out the evils of the cigarette habit while the opponents pointed to the act against the sale of tobacco to minors under the age of 18 and urged that this bill would become a dead letter as that act had.

The tobacco industry would do to the tobacco industry was also discussed. Messrs. Archer, Connor, Love, and Pettigrew spoke for the bill, while Messrs. Hay, Moses and Mayfield spoke against it. Finally, by a vote of 25 to 3 the bill was killed. Only Messrs. Archer, Connor, Gaines, Love, McDaniel, Pettigrew, Stackhouse and Wallace voted for the bill.

The special committee charged with making arrangements for the centennial celebration at Charleston on the 18th inst. reported as follows:

There will be two trains to Charleston, one by the South Carolina and Georgia and one by the Atlantic Coast Line, both leaving Gervais street station at 7:30 A. M., Thursday morning, the 18th of February, 1897.

The head of departments in the State House and each and every senator and member of the house will be entitled to two tickets, one by the South Carolina and Georgia railway and one by the Atlantic Coast Line. Officers and attaches will be entitled to one ticket each.

There is a limited number of tickets for the steamer provided by the city council of Charleston, but there will be other steamers that will transport parties to the fleet for 50 cents each. Altamont Moss.

For the Committee.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 21.—The senate met at 10 o'clock Wednesday to avoid a night session, in view of the Charleston fire.

By consent a concurrent resolution was introduced and passed to allow the Mutual Guarantee Insurance Company of Greenville to apply for a new charter.

Mr. Gaines worked his Senatorial amendment in the Greenwood County bill by reconsidering the amendment passed on the previous day and adding a provision for the election of a Senator.

In the Cherokee County bill Mr. Ragsdale, for the friends of that County, introduced a Senatorial amendment in the bill similar to Mr. Gaines' amendment to the Greenwood County bill. That bill was also put through its final passage and was returned to the House with amendments.

Mr. Wallace offered an amendment to the bill providing for the expenditure of the communication tax, making it more strict in its provisions by requiring the tax to be expended, not only in the township from which collected, but also on the section of the road from which it was derived.

Mr. Archer opposed it as impracticable and having a tendency to pile up work on somebody with no pay. The amendment was adopted and the bill passed.

Mr. Norris was disposed to make war on the bill to require railroad companies to stop all trains at local stations, but a compromise was reached in the postponement of the bill that Mr. Norris might study its effects with the amendments made to it.

The Bamberg County bill came up on its third reading and was amended as regards the Senatorial representation and in a number of details and was passed.

Mr. Mayfield moved the adoption of the unfavorable report on Mr. Connor's bill to regulate the manufacture, sale, inspection, &c., of fertilizers.

Mr. Connor defended the bill. Its chief point was in the cancellation of the privilege tax tags, the effect of which he said would be to increase the revenue from this tax at least 20 per cent. He said that these tags were used again by manufacturers. It also provided for a reduction to 10 cents of the privilege tax. He thought that the tax should be applied to the sink, which is levied, after the payment of a sum to Clemson to justify the analysis by his chemist. He was not an enemy of Clemson. He spoke long and earnestly on the question pointing out evidence of the dodging of the tax by companies selling fertilizers. He spoke of the injustice to

SLASHING AT SALARIES.

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The Pay of Clerks Reduced.—The South Carolina College Appropriation Cut. Detailed Account of the Proceedings and Reductions.

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Mr. Reynolds thought a good man at \$100 a month could do this work in six months. The house by a vote of 51 to 25 agreed to Mr. Iderton's amendment.

Mr. Winkler asked why the committee had provided for an additional expert clerk at a salary of \$1,500. Mr. Crum explained why this man was necessary. Mr. Gasque wanted to reduce the salary of this additional clerk, who would inspect all county offices, from \$1,500 to \$800.

Mr. Pollock moved to amend the amendment so as to strike out the entire provision for the inspector.

Mr. Reynolds earnestly advocated the establishment of the office. He said the comptroller general was a badly overworked man and his responsibility was very great.

Mr. Reynolds said the controller did not need any extra officer.

Mr. Simkins thought the additional clerk should be given the comptroller. The amount was only to be expended if it was necessary; but if it was necessary, it should be spent.

Mr. Kinard of Abbeville said if it was necessary to employ an officer to examine the books of auditors and treasurers it was necessary to require him to examine every other office. He didn't think the condition of the State's finances warranted the formation of new offices.

Mr. Stevenson didn't think it fair to make the whole State pay for the incompetence or dereliction of county officers. Let counties select competent officers, and if they do wrong, let the county pay for it.

Mr. J. P. Thomas, Jr., held that this measure was in the line of economy; it would save the State money. The idea did not originate in the comptroller's office, but was a suggestion of the committee.

Mr. Iderton said the office of comptroller general had been increasing in cost every year, and he believed it was time to cut a halt.

Mr. Crum explained that the extra expenses were on account of pensions, and then argued that this was a measure of economy.

Mr. Pollock's motion to strike out the whole clause was adopted by a large vote.

Mr. Winkler moved to do away with one of the bookkeepers of the State treasurer.

Mr. Reynolds explained that this was not acting fair with the treasurer. Mr. Thomas said that the treasurer had always had two bookkeepers. The last year these two bookkeepers had to handle the dispensary funds. The committee thought they should be allowed \$150 extra for this work.

Mr. Kinard suggested an amendment to the amendment to strike out the provision for \$150 extra to each of the bookkeepers.

Mr. Thomas explained that the legislative committee had no authority to reduce the salaries of these extra workers without providing for extra pay. At certain seasons of the year these two bookkeepers worked from 9 a. m. to 12 or 1 o'clock at night.

Mr. Kinard thought that the State should be entitled to every moment of the time of these officers. They had to reduce the expenses of the State. Mr. Winkler withdrew his amendment, and Mr. Kinard's amendment came before the house.

Mr. Williams thought that this sum should not be paid as the State got no dispensary money.

Mr. McIntosh, as one of the committee that investigated the matter as to whether the \$150 appropriated last year went to that they had found that it went to the treasurer, while the bookkeepers did the work. Mr. Kinard's amendment was then adopted.

Mr. Pollock moved to cut the salaries of the bookkeepers from \$1,350 each to \$1,250.

Mr. Thomas remarked that the salary reduction act of 1893 had placed the committee had put that amount in. Mr. Pollock thought that they could get good men for the salaries named. Mr. Pollock's amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Pollock then moved to reduce the chief clerk's salary from \$1,500 to \$1,250. This was agreed to in short order.

Then Mr. Toole moved to cut down the salary of the chief clerk of the comptroller from \$1,400 to \$1,200 and of the bookkeeper of the comptroller from \$1,200 to \$1,000.

Mr. Pollock suggested to Mr. Toole that he make the salaries of the comptroller's clerks \$1,250 each. Mr. Toole accepted this, and the house agreed to the amendment.

Mr. Pollock then went for the salaries of the clerk of the secretary of state and the governor's private secretary, cutting them to \$1,250 each.

SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE.

UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Many More Scholarships Provided for in That Time Honored Institution—How the Members Voted.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 20.—In the House on Tuesday an effort was made to abolish all free scholarships in the South Carolina College, but instead of doing this the House increased the number allowing each county as many free scholarships in the college as they have Senators and Representatives. The fight was brought on when Mr. E. D. Smith proposed the following amendment in the paragraph of the appropriation bill relating to the South Carolina College:

That suitable courses of study are provided without fees for tuition or matriculation for two young men from each county, and also for admitting young women qualified to enter the college so that it shall read: "Provided, young ladies are admitted who are qualified to enter."

He spoke against any free tuition. The people are taxed to pay for the education of one in the normal department and then taxed to pay him for teaching. His idea was to require a pledge that the money spent on his education should be returned to the State.

Mr. Patton asked whether the gentleman who proposed that the State should be taxed to support the college should be taxed to support the college and yet get \$40 tuition, thus preventing some poor man from getting the advantages of education?

Mr. Smith said that was it, and it would tax those who attended for the privileges enjoyed.

Mr. Cushman said if the amendment prevailed, we might as well close up the college.

Mr. Kibler said he certainly favored giving two boys in each county free tuition.

Mr. Iderton said that instead of striking out the provision, he thought more ought to be given the benefit of free tuition.

Mr. John P. Thomas said he had an amendment confining them to the normal department. He introduced the amendment as a substitute to Mr. Smith's amendment.

Mr. Price agreed with the amendment of Mr. Thomas. We have not arrived at that point in South Carolina where we can do away with free tuition, he said. He spoke of the necessity of keeping up these institutions so that our young men can be educated at home.

Mr. J. I. Kinard said the argument indirectly was that this institution could not compete with the normal colleges. It must have free tuition in order to get patronage. There is no deficiency in teachers and there is no necessity of this free tuition. As the friend and supporter of a denominational college, he could not see its doors thrown open to pull down these colleges. There is no demand for the South Carolina College. The friends know it and are trying to mislead the members in the matter.

Mr. Patton asked whether the intention was to assert that he intended to mislead the House by false statements.

Mr. Kinard denied that, but wanted to know why the friends of the college didn't come out square and say what they wanted free tuition for. This college's standard should be above that of the other colleges in the State so that they can take a post-graduate course.

Mr. Patton asked did the gentlemen not know that there was no such institution in the country? Kinard did not answer directly, but said it was admitted that the standard was too low. He said the college was a drag on the State, and this free tuition idea was just to bolster it up. The denominational colleges educate more boys on much less money, and as a business proposition, he did not see why the South Carolina College should be supported.

Mr. Wyche said he had been struck with the remark that we had an abundance of teachers. He held, however, that all of them should be better prepared, and he wanted to see the normal department increased in efficiency. It is the greatest feature in the whole affair.

Mr. Kinard said the normal department was the normal department. Our teachers are as well qualified now as they ought to be. The State could not do too much for the teachers, he said.

Mr. Kinard asked whether it was right for a man to be taxed to support a college which would pull down another?

Mr. Patton said he would have to pay the taxes anyway, whether State or not. He said that all denominational colleges help the South Carolina College, but if one wants to cripple denominational colleges, let him teach the doctrine that State education should not be furnished, and soon the people will begin to believe that denominational education is useless. The great foe of education is a feeling that free education is a waste of money. Speaking on it was thrown away. Speaking on its resolution, he explained that it was intended to give every county as many scholarships as it had representatives in the House and Senate, these to be appointed by the delegations any way they saw fit—either by competitive examinations or otherwise.

Mr. Gage regretted that so much spirit had been injected into the debate. He regretted that any man should arrogate to himself to speak for an institution which belonged to the whole people.

Mr. Patton rising to a question of personal privilege said that not one word in his speech could be construed that way, and he was surprised that a gentleman of intelligence should make such an assertion. Mr. Gage continuing said that he had voted for a \$25,000 appropriation in order that the college might work without detriment to its usefulness. But the question of tuition is another thing. While he is opposed to free tuition on principle, yet he would vote for the proposition of Mr. Thomas, because if he can't get what he wanted he is willing to compromise as all men ought to.

Mr. T. A. Graham made some telling points in reply to speeches made, saying that he was an alumnus of Wofford College, but he would vote for Mr. Patton's amendment. At a conference of the friends of the denominational colleges some weeks since it was stated that the denomi-

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PENSION CHANGES.

TEXT OF THE BILL AS IT PASSED THE HOUSE.

The New Bill Makes a Number of Important Changes in the Law as it Now Stands as to the County Boards.

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