

THE SCHOOL TAX.

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Senator Scarborough moved to adopt the following substitute:

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Section 2. Such apportionment shall be made by the Comptroller General, and he shall draw his warrant upon the State Treasurer for the amount of the county treasurers of the respective counties for the amounts apportioned to such counties respectively.

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Besides the law provided that in addition to the three-mill tax for schools any school district could levy a special tax for school purposes and thereby keep open the schools for an extra time. He hoped the bill would be defeated.

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Senator Ragsdale thought there would be no objection. The people were already taxed until the cows could be milked. Senator Barnwell said he could not vote for Senator Hay's bill because he was of opinion that it was unconstitutional, and for the same reason he was opposed to Senator Scarborough's substitute bill. The substitute was to distribute the funds and fix the term for schools. It was a wise provision of the Constitution that distributed the fund so that the term could be the same all over the State, and the poor counties would receive benefit from the rich. It looked like nullifying the Constitution to do this bill.

Senator Scarborough said he would not go into the constitutionality of the question. He did not think the provisions of the Constitution were mandatory on the Legislature to fix a term for the schools to run. He did not think it was expedient to raise a tax at this time to support the schools for a definite period. It was not because there was opposition to free schools, but there was suffering on account financial stringency.

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Senator Shepherd said that the legality of the Comptroller's action was still in the Courts, and asked what would be the effect if the Courts decided against the Comptroller?

Senator Henderson replied that the Legislature can now prescribe how this money should be paid out.

Senator Mauldin said that as there was such a difference of opinion between the members of the legal fraternity he moved to adjourn the debate.

AGAINST ALLIANCE.

Prominent Prohibitionists Urge Their State Platform.

MUST BE NO COMPROMISE.

Members of the Legislature are Asked to Stand for Prohibition Principle Against all Opposition.

A number of prominent prohibitionists have issued an address to the prohibition members of the general assembly urging their support of a straight prohibition measure without any compromise or combination with local option forces. The first signer of the address, it will be noticed, is Hon. L. D. Childs, who was the prohibition leader in the legislature last session. It is said that the members of the general assembly who are classed as prohibitionists will stand together and support Mr. McCullough's bill or some similar measure. There are thought to be not less than 30 prohibitionists in the house and how many there are in the senate is not known.

The address is as follows:

To the Prohibition Members of the General Assembly. Gentlemen: Recent developments of a desire and purpose on the part of the members of the liquor traffic to draw into a false and inconsistent position toward the issue now before the legislature and to divert your acknowledged influence in that body from the support of prohibition to that of the liquor traffic, has impressed upon us the duty of given expression to our views of the situation, for which we deem no apology necessary.

We respectfully suggest that whatever may be individual opinions on this subject, and however conscientiously entertained, their correctness and value in guiding loyal prohibitionists must be determined by their agreement with the platform of their convention as a body representing the prohibitionists of the State.

That convention in April last distinctly announced its opposition to every form of liquor selling for beverage purposes and to any legal sanction of such sales by dispensary, high license or any other agency.

Upon that platform its candidates for State offices entered the campaign and earnestly contending the views of those candidates representing the dispensary, local option and license, they proclaimed as the doctrine of the prohibitionists that a prohibition law for the whole State was the only remedy for the evils of the liquor traffic.

Upon that issue the campaign was fought and resulted in the election of the local option high license idea from the contest by a decisive vote of the people in the first primary, and their determination that the final contest should be between prohibition and the dispensary.

The attitude of the prohibition candidate throughout that campaign was one of unwavering devotion to prohibition as a principle, and this, with the high plane on which his canvass was conducted, called forth the grateful admiration of his friends and forced from his opponents the highest commendations for himself and his cause.

In several counties members of the general assembly were elected over local option license candidates because of their adherence to the doctrine of prohibition announced by the convention while in other counties, also, where no issue was made candidates were elected whose views were known to be in harmony, on this issue, with those announced by the convention.

The number of these prohibitionists in the general assembly is believed to be sufficient to constitute the "balance" without which the dispensary cannot be perpetuated nor license legislation secured.

In this condition of affairs the advocates of license are making the most strenuous efforts to secure the cooperation of the prohibitionists in their effort to enact what they are pleased to call local option, to effect which three bills are now on their legislative agenda. Plausible pleas are offered by these local option advocates to induce the friends of prohibition to forsake their principles and join with them in the inauguration of a system which they claim will be beneficial to all.

We do not propose to point out the fallacy of this claim in theory and fact. We would briefly submit that whatever may be the benefits of local option when used as an agency for the deliverance of a community from the curse of the liquor traffic, these claims fall when it is distinctly proposed for your support by the friends of the liquor traffic, or the opponents of prohibition, as a means of securing the license of the liquor traffic in certain counties of the State where it does not now exist and where it cannot exist without your aid. This support is based on a temporizing, temporary policy of expediency and necessarily involves a compromise of your principles as prohibitionists. It is the commercial method of dealing with the traffic and should be left with the trading politicians who resort to it. It proposes to set aside prohibition in the interest of law-defying cliques and schemes and at the opportune time, when it has demoralized the public sentiment to its own plane, to offer it up as a sacrifice to the liquor traffic and sprinkle the blood upon all the high places where sin holds its carnival. It proposes to ignore the eternal distinction between right and wrong by endorsing wrong and legalizing it. It makes a majority vote the authority by which what is declared a wrong in one county is made right in another, or what is wrong at one time in one county is made right at another time in the same county. It proposes to grant the protection which prohibition of the liquor traffic may secure to life, health and morals in one county, and by the same means in the adjacent county to grant the license to individuals to invade the rights and set at naught the protection thus secured.

We regret the necessity which has been forced upon us of protesting thus publicly against the advice of some of our most prominent counselors who favor an alliance with the friends of the liquor traffic under the name of local option, but where our silence would

THE PRIVILEGE TAX.

It Is Taken From Clemson and Given to the State.

THE TAX REMAIN THE SAME.

The Farmers College Must Now Depend Upon a Direct Appropriation Like the Other State Colleges.

The privilege tax matter was finally settled in the House last Wednesday by the passage of a bill taking the tax from Clemson College and giving it to the State. The judiciary committee's bill passed without a single change, and the other bills were either killed or withdrawn.

This matter has consumed over seven hours of the time of the lower house, and it is not known yet whether or not it is finally disposed of, as the senate may have some changes to make. There were six bills on this question: Mr. Ashley's to reduce the rate from 25 to 10 cents a ton; Mr. Jeremiah Smith, to devote the net proceeds to academic schools, one to be established in each county; the committee on public schools offered a substitute for the latter that the net proceeds be devoted to the public schools; Mr. Edly wanted the net proceeds divided between Withrop and Clemson, and the judiciary committee's bill place the tax in the State treasury.

The judiciary committee, in taking the fund from Clemson, had for its object the enactment of a law which would conform to the constitution of the United States. At present the fund is paid directly to Clemson college, and in the law of North Carolina it has been decided that the law was unconstitutional, as it exacted a tax nominally for inspection, and then devoted the net proceeds to educational institutions. The law in North Carolina was changed so that on its face it would be constitutional and still permit the funds being devoted to the State Agricultural and Mechanical college at Raleigh.

Fearing litigation from the present law, the judiciary committee prepared a bill which had the same object as the law of North Carolina, but it was decided that the law was unconstitutional, as it exacted a tax nominally for inspection, and then devoted the net proceeds to educational institutions. The law in North Carolina was changed so that on its face it would be constitutional and still permit the funds being devoted to the State Agricultural and Mechanical college at Raleigh.

The amendment of Mr. Sawyer moved to strike out the clause offering three-fourths of the fine to the informant.

Mr. Crum moved to table the amendment.

Mr. Dukes moved to indefinitely postpone the bill. This was voted down by a vote of 49 to 15 and the bill passed its second reading.

Crushed to Death. The news reached here Wednesday morning of the horrible death at Charlotte of flagman C. G. Craig, which was a great shock to railroad men. Just how Mr. Craig met his death is not known. He left here with freight No. 72, Tuesday at noon, and it is presumed that he reached Charlotte that night between 10 and 11 o'clock. The train stopped and shifted at the junction. When the conductor was ready to leave the flagman was missing. One of the crew went back to look for him and found the body on the track, between the cars, in a horribly mangled condition. He lived only ten minutes. No one saw him go between the cars and the accident cannot be explained. When last seen he had two coupling pins in his hands. The remains were gathered up and put in charge of an undertaker and Thursday they were shipped to his former home in Gastonia, N. C.

The Whole Truth. The Gallatin, Tenn., Examiner remarks: "An idea prevails in the minds of a great many people that unless their representative in the Legislature introduces a number of bills and gets his name in the papers he is not doing anything. But to those who understand the situation the best recommendation he can have is that he introduce as few as possible and kills as many as he can, for we have too many laws already, and it is generally the representative who knows the least that introduces the most bills. Let us have as few new laws as possible, and the people will be better off." The evil appears to be widespread.

Suicided on the Street. Ernest A. Maletti, said to belong to a wealthy New Orleans family, committed suicide Thursday by swallowing carbolic acid while walking on the street in New York. A letter was found on his body addressed to Henry Maletti of the commission firm of Maletti & Stoddard of New Orleans, whom the suicide addressed as his brother. Another letter was found addressed to Mr. Edye of Funch, Edye & Co., steamship agents in New York. In both letters the man complained that financial aid had been refused him. Mr. Edye said that Maletti came to New York several months ago.

Passed the Senate. A house bill to require cotton buyers to accept bales of cotton weighing not less than 300 pounds without docking the seller \$1 or any other amount on account of the lightness of the bale, called for a good deal of discussion in the State Senate Wednesday. Messrs. Graydon, Surratt, Connor and Shepard favored the bill and Mr. Barnwell opposed it. The bill was passed to a third reading.

Coming Out Early. The information comes from Columbia that Congressman Latimer will be a candidate for Governor next year, as also Col. John G. Sheppard. It is reported that Hon. Stanton Wilson will either oppose Senator Tillman or enter the gubernatorial arena, but of course these are mere surmises, as no one can tell what surprises the next campaign will bring forth.

ILLEGAL FISHING.

The Penalty for Same Increased to Twenty-five Dollars.

In the House on Tuesday of last week Mr. Blease moved to strike out the existing words of Mr. W. D. Black's bill to increase the penalty on fishing in Aiken, Barnwell, Darlington, Colleton, and Orangeburg counties, from \$10 to \$25.

Mr. Crum said that the penalty was now ten dollars which was no menace to trap fishers.

Mr. Dukes said that to make this penalty heavier would not add to the enforcement of the law, for an unpopu-

lar measure cannot be easily enforced. Mr. Blythe said that it seemed a good bill, and while it did not affect his section still he thought that he should support it.

Mr. W. D. Black said that trap fishers could in one night make enough to pay the fine of ten dollars. The law is being violated openly and he thought this bill would offer a restraint.

Mr. McLaughlin spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Timmerman said that when the present law was passed in 1892 the people of Aiken felt outraged. The law now imposes a fine of from \$10 to \$100. Mr. Crum said that there were sections where the people made their living by fishing.

Mr. Dukes interposed, "But not dishonestly." Mr. Crum replied: "Not dishonestly, but illegally." He recited an instance where an official had been given a good drubbing by fishermen whom he had caught violating the law.

Mr. Dukes said quite feelingly that the incident happened in Mr. Crum's own county, Bamberg.

Mr. Crum submitted that illegal fishing was just as widespread in Orangeburg as in Bamberg.

Mr. Dukes explained the manner of fishing on the Edisto. The seines don't stretch across the river and don't keep the fish from going up. The seines are never in the river longer than 10 minutes at a time, and out 40 minutes. As a general rule the poorer class does the fishing, a class who could ill afford to pay heavy fines.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the fine would injure them if they obeyed the law.

Mr. Dukes said not, but that it would induce unscrupulous men to bring false charges against these people.

The house refused to strike out the existing words.

Mr. Bell then wanted to amend by exempting Aiken county.

Mr. Dukes wanted Orangeburg exempted.

Mr. Crum said that as Bamberg was just across the river from Orangeburg, it would be unjust to Bamberg county to exempt Orangeburg. The house refused to exempt both Aiken and Orangeburg.

Mr. Sawyer moved to strike out the clause offering three-fourths of the fine to the informant.

Mr. Crum moved to table the amendment.

Mr. Dukes moved to indefinitely postpone the bill. This was voted down by a vote of 49 to 15 and the bill passed its second reading.

THE RAILROAD BOOM.

Railroad Projects which have Bills Before the General Assembly.

The influx of bills to amend old railroad charters or to issue new ones seems to indicate a marked revival in the building of railroads in this State. It is a very uncommon thing to find half so many applications for charters for railroads. In addition to the charters and extensions asked for it is to be remembered that there are a great many outstanding charters which are still alive and which can be and of which some are being used now.

The following is a list of the railroad projects for which bills have been passed this session of the Legislature or which are pending:

Mr. Rogers: A charter for the Benettsville and Ashboro Railroad.

Mr. Gadsden: For the Charleston city railway company.

Mr. Colcock: For the Savannah Terminal Railroad company.

Senator Marshall: For the Columbia Electric Street Railroad company.

Senator Henderson: For the Wilson and Summerton railroad.

Senator Mauldin: For the Hampton and Branchville Railroad company.

Mr. Montgomery: For the Carolina and Northern Railroad company.

Mr. Rogers: For the Marlboro, Marion and Henry Railroad company.

Senator Darch: For the Barnwell and Blackville Electric Power company.

Mr. DeBruhl: For the Dus West and Donald's Railroad company.

Mr. Stevenson: For the North and South Carolina Railroad company.

Senator Douglas: For the Union and Augusta Railroad company.

Senator Marshall: For the Winston, Salem and Carolina Railroad company.

Senator Barnwell: For the South Carolina and Georgia Extension Railroad company.

Mr. C. E. Robinson: For the Pickens and Coleman Railroad company.

SMOOTH BUNCO GAME.

How a Farmer Put the Laugh on a Shrewd Hotel Clerk.

THE CONFIDENCE MAN CAME.

Cashed a Draft for a Bunco Man and Bet the Clerk that He Would Come and Redeem It.

"I was standing in the rotunda of one of the uptown hotels in New York last Saturday night," said Mr. O. D. Stevens, a leather drummer from the metropolis, "when an old gentleman with hayseed in his whiskers came in. He looked about for a moment, and then walked up to the clerk's desk, fished a card from his pocket, and thrusting it into the hands of that official, asked: 'Mister, do you know that man?'"

"The clerk glanced at it, and smiled. For he read thereon a name worn by one of the smoothest of the many confidence men who have sprung up since the beginning of the 'anti-reform' administration. Then he said: 'Yes, I know him, sir—I dare say he had you cash a certified check for him, or something of that sort?'"

"Yes he did," said the old gentleman, wonderingly. "How did you know?"

"The clerk smiled. 'He said he would meet me here tonight and take it up,' continued the victim."

"Don't think he will, though," said the clerk.

"But I do," said the old gentleman, "for he looked to me like an honest man, and I am a good judge of human nature."

"All right, sir," said the clerk, "just have a seat and wait, if you will."

"The old man came over and sat beside me. I entered into conversation with him, and discovered that he was a well-to-do Long Island farmer. The 'con' man in question had met him a few days before, and ingratiated himself in the old man's confidence, and induced him to cash a check—the old man showed me the paper."

"After about an hour the old man went back to the desk and asked: 'Have you seen anything of him yet?'"

"No, said the clerk, and it isn't likely that I will."

"The old gentleman came back. He waited about fifteen minutes, then went to the clerk's desk, and made another inquiry. The clerk answered as he did before, and the old fellow went to his seat looking a bit disappointed."

"We grew fidgety after another short wait, and again addressed the clerk. By this time the attention of a number of people had been attracted. Some of them laughed, and others looked sympathetic."

"See here, said the clerk, that man isn't going to meet you. You have been humbugged."

"No, sir, you are wrong, said the old man. 'Well, he won't meet you, insisted the clerk."

"I'll bet he does, replied the old man doggedly."

"You bet he does, repeated the clerk. Well, how much will you bet?"

"Come—put up or shut up, he added."

"Oh! I don't want to bet, said the old man."

"No, of course you don't laughed the clerk."

THE CUBAN ARMY.

The Amount Needed to Pay Them Up in Full.

The correspondent of the Associated Press understands that the estimate furnished President McKinley by the delegation from the Cuban assembly called for payment for 5,119 commissioned officers, 9,762 non-commissioned officers, and 20,160 privates, divided as follows, with totals estimated as due each grade:

Seven major generals, \$500 a month, \$175,000.

Nineteen generals of division, \$450 a month, \$26,250.

Fifty-four brigadier generals, \$400 a month, \$68,800.

One hundred and sixty-three colonels, \$325 a month, \$1,491,750.

Two hundred and ninety lieutenant colonels, \$275 a month, \$2,362,500.

Five hundred and seventy-eight majors, \$220 a month, \$9,870,240.

Nine hundred and sixty-five captains, \$130 a month, \$4,561,800.

One thousand two hundred and forty-five lieutenants, \$100 a month, \$3,765,200.

One thousand, seven hundred and ninety-four sub-lieutenants, \$90 a month, \$4,952,880.

Two thousand, one hundred and thirty first sergeants, \$80 a month, \$3,796,200.

Three thousand, one hundred and twenty second sergeants, \$50 a month, \$4,605,600.

Four thousand, five hundred and nine corporals, \$40 a month, \$5,238,240.

Thirty thousand, one hundred and sixty privates, \$30 a month, \$21,502,620.

Total, 44,041 men, \$57,364,380.

It is doubtful whether as many men still under arms can be found as was estimated by the assembly's delegation. Large numbers, however, are scattered throughout the island, though there is no great force at any one place. Gen. Gomez has only 400 with him here.

Lawless Negro Troops. The Negro troops have been giving great trouble in Arkansas and Georgia by their lawless acts and general roving. As the regiment from Arkansas passed through Indiana, Miss. some unknown persons set fire to the ammunition car, which was almost filled with cartridges and powder. It was entirely destroyed and the rest of the train was barely saved. Three Negro women, who were following the troops, are reported to have been killed in the burning car. A dozen of the men were injured. At Walker switch the burning car was discovered by trainmen and side-tracked. The lives of the crew were in danger, as the car was exploding in every direction. By the time the switch was reached the car was a mass of flames. The loss will be heavy.

Predicted His Own Death. Rev. Geo. H. Simons, of Brooklyn, predicted his own death, which occurred Wednesday of pneumonia. Last December during heavy snow storms, he visited a sick child and caught a chill. Since then he has been ailing and Wednesday was quite feeble, but was not apparently in any immediate danger. To his wife, however, who was sitting in the room, he said, for no apparent reason: "My dear, I do not believe that I will live after midnight."

A Fatal Snow Slide. Details were received Thursday of a fatal snow slide on the main line of the Canadian Pacific at Riders Pass on the summit of Selkirk. The catastrophe occurred last evening. The Round House and station were completely swept away, and seven lives were lost, and two persons injured. The dead are Agent Canton, wife and two children, Operator Carson. Engine Wiper Reply and one unknown.

Leprosy in America. A special from Battle Creek says that Dr. Hitt, a physician from India, at present visiting in this city stated that there are 332 cases of leprosy in the United States, 10 of which are in Chicago. The doctor has made a life study of leprosy and recommends that our quarantine laws be more rigidly enforced, and believes in the establishment of a general asylum in this country for leprosy.

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