The Press and Banner.

By Hugh Wilson and H. T. Wardlaw.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1880.

Important Decision — Can Townships Levy a Tax?

By far the most interesting and important civil case which came before the court at the last term at this place was that of sundry citizens of Smithville and Bordeaux townships against J. Wardlaw Perrin, Treasurer. This was a suit brought by them in the Court of Common Pleas for the recovery of money which they had paid to him as "Railroad Tax" under protest, because of certain alleged violations of the Act of the General Assembly of December 13, 1877, authorizing the townships to assess themselves in certain amounts for the grading of the Greenwood and Augusta Railroad. The Judge ruled that the amounts thus paid to the treasurer were "assessments" and not "taxes," and His Honor held that as there was no law to enforce the payment of those "assessments" their payment was a voluntary act, for which the "Act to Facilitate the Collection of Taxes" afforded no relief. That Act only furnished relief when *taxes* were wrongfully or illegally collected. It appeared in evidence that the "Railroad Tax" had never been entered on the Treasurer's books, and from this fact and the ruling of the Judge, it would seem to the casual observer that the collection of the "Railroad Tax" was barely a form with only the semblance of law to back it. The Legislation on this subject had been so blunderingly and imperfectly done that these citizens were non-suited and their case dismissed. If they obtain the desired relief they will be compelled within thirty days to amend their complaints in such wya as to fix liability upon the defendant.

For our own part, we hope that the plaintiffs may let the matter rest where it is. The amount which each has paid is small, and as the road now promises to be a certainty we feel sure that none of them would willingly put any obstacle in the way of its early completion. As we understand it these gentlemen objected at first only on the ground that they thought it impossible to build the road, and of course in the event of a failure to finish it, that their money would be lost.

The rulings of the Judge are very important to our people, as well as to the general public. How far the action of the Court in this instance may effect the "assessment" to be collected this Fall in the various townships on the Savannah side of the County for the benefit of the Augusta and Knoxville Railroad remains to be seen. Is it not barely possible that some of the irregularities which existed in the Greenwood and Augusta Railroad "assessment" are to be found in the Savannah Valley Railroad assessment? If such should be found to be the case, will the opponents pay their *pro rata?* If they do not "voluntarily" pay, can they be made to pay? These are questions which we presume the courts will be called upon to answer, and it may be well for the friends of the road to consider the matter at once, before the question shall be forced upon them.

In the history of South Carolina, we think there can hardly be found a parallel to the blundering Legislation of the past three or four years. Can such a chaotic state of our laws originate from the fact our General Assembly is composed so largely of able and learned jurists, or does it arise from other causes which may be remedied. In the face of so many abortive attempts at the simplest Legislation, shall we call a Constitutional Convention?

The Great Rise in Printing Paper.

The newspaper world is now exercised on account of the great rise in the price if printing paper, and some of the city newspapers have materially increased their subscription prices, and other daily papers have reduced the size of their sheets, while a great number of our country cousins have done nothing more than to note the fact of the advance in the price. The country papers of course will not feel the rise in paper to the extent that the daily newspapers will, but still it will bear hard on them, too. We think it well for them to allow their subscription prices to remain as at present, but we believe they should economise the expenses of their offices. In the first place we presume there are very few country newspapers that have not some "dead heads" that might not very easily be cut off. In the next place adopt the cash system with all subscribers out of the county where the paper is published. This will materially reduce some lists, and save a little in the way of postage. By cutting off dead heads in the cities, the hotels, the charitable associations, "office copies," and dropping a few exchanges that they make no use of, three or four or five quires a week, in some instances, may be saved. This saving would recompense for the increase of the cost of paper. Next throw away or tie up, the large type now used, and distribute a number of "foreign" and worthless or dead advertisements, after this rednce the size of the sheet and let all matter be set in smaller type. By a little close attention to these small matters the majority of country editors can "tide over" the coming summer without loss to themselves or their subscribers. A small sheet is more conveniently handled, and is preferable in every way to a larger one, provided it contains as much reading matter. We believe that the country printers need have no resson for discouragement on account of the increased price of paper, as we believe a majority of them can save in the manner indicated, and the flush times will enable many to subscribe and pay for papers who did not do so before.

The Suffering Irish.

The newspapers bring us distressing intelligence as to the suffering among the poorer classes in some portions of Ireland, and the charitably disposed persons of every section of the United States have been appealed to for help, and we notice that a bill has been introduced into our Legislature to contribute State aid for these unfortunates. We are glad to know that many thousand dollars have been raised for their relief, and we most heartily approve any action looking to the bettering of the class of Irish citizens referred to. With this sentiment strong in our breasts we would suggest that the best and most permanent way of relieving them would be to transfer them to this country, where good lands would reward their efforts without stint. Many of these worthy people, with the wolf at their doors, in a few years would accumulate property, and would be in a condition if necessary to refund any money which may have been advanced to them. To send the money to them in Ireland furnishes only a temporary relief, but if they are brought to this country, they would not only be self-sustaining, but in their new homes they would, by their thrift and industry largely contribute to the prosperity of the country. In Ireland they are now paupers, but in this country they would be anything else. We have plenty of cheap lands which they could occupy to their own advantage without injuring us in any way.

Bring these people to America where they can sustain themselves. We have no doubt that thousands of them would gladly come if they were only furnished with the necessary food and transportation for the trip.

Constitutional Convention.

We see that our immediate Representative the Hon. James H. Rice has introduced into the Legislature a resolution looking to a Constitutional State Convention in 1881. On a majority of subjects we are in thorough accord with our esteemed and able Representative, but in this instance we differ widely from him. In our opinion, we are not ready for a Constitutional Convention, even if it were needed. As yet we have heard no objection urged to the present Constitution which might not be promptly remedied by amendments. The experience of our sister States, Georgia and North Carolina, should warn us to make haste slowly in this direction. And we are admonished by the many mistakes which the Legislature has made since Democratic reconstruction, to be in no hurry about "flying to ills that we know not of." Until the Legislature learns whether it can properly pass a law authorizing Bordeaux township to make a Railroad assessment, and until that body can legally enact in a legal manner a Supply Bill, we think it would be better for them to let Constitutional Conventions alone.

There is much needed work, however, which our Representative might do, which would be of inestimable value to his constituents, and if he would allow us to make a suggestion, we would call his attention to the fact that a drainage law is greatly needed in Abbeville County, and in no section is it needed more than in his own immediate neighborhood. Mr. Rice deserves the everlasting thanks of his constituents for the best law ever enacted (we refer to the stock law) and now if he would secure the passage of a drainage law, and if he would suggest some plan by which we could put a quietus upon the pestiferous sheep-killing dogs of the County, his crown would be complete.

Cheering Prospects.

The newspapers speak most hopefully of the prosperity of the country in every section, from New York to the remotest bounds. Politics seem to have been forgotten in the prospect of our material prosperity, and railroads and manufactures are receiving more attention than ever known before. All the mills are running on full time, and new manufacturing companies are being formed everywhere. New railroads are being built, and important combinations among those already in operation have recently been effected. In this State the Blue Ridge and Asheville Railroads are exciting attention with a possibility of realizing at this day the dream of a quarter of a century.

At home the planters of Abbeville county are going to work with more than their usual vigor, and our merchants are up to their eyebrows in work. The crop of small grain is larger than we have ever had, and the preparations for planting cotton and corn are more extensive than for any preceding year. The village nowspapers are doing well in the way of subscriptions, which indicates universal prosperity, and everything presents a cheerful prospect for the future. Although farming lands will now sell for fifty or a hundred per cent. more than they would a year ago, we may expect a continued rise in the price of real estate, if we have no unexpected back-set in our agricultural pursuits. Let our people practice the strictest economy, and close application to business, and everything will yet be well with us.

Earthquakes and Volcanoes.

As the election approaches we can hear distant rumblings and mutterings of impending earthquakes and threatening volcanic eruptions. These mutterings have broken out in Chester with great violence. The *Bulletin* of last week has the following startling item:

"We have information from reliable sources that the colored people are having nightly meetings in some sections of the county. The clans are gathering at all the meeting-houses around, and religion is not always the theme. That there is organization of some kind going on, our information says there is no room for doubt, for the meetings are held at the dead of night and are conducted with great secrecy."

Seriously. Political meetings that are "held at the dead of night, and are conducted with great secrecy" will never amount to anything. No political leader can get up much enthusiasm in a dark hollow at the hour when grave-yards yawn. We have heard so much of radical ghosts within the past two years that we hope to have a rest on that subject for a while.

The Stock Law in Other Counties.

With the past experience of those counties which have adopted the stock law we are greatly disappointed that neighboring counties have failed to see the immense advantage to be derived from a change of the old fence law. We had hoped that all the upper counties of the State would have secured this great blessing at the last sitting of the Legislature, but the fact is, that only portions o Greenville, Pickens and Oconee have as yet been benefitted by the law. It is true that Spartanburg county has the law, but not to take effect before the first of January, 1881. We are pleased to see that Lexington has asked for the law during the past few days, and we hope that the bill may get through before the adjournment of the extra session. There is no estimating the advantages of the stock law as we have it, and we hope the day is not distant when it shall extend its benefits to every agricultural section of the State.

Cows and Railroads.

We see by the papers that the Legislature proposes another outrage on the railroads in that they shall fence in the tracks, and be responsible for all cattle that may determine to contest the right of way with passing trains. Instead of indicting the citizen for allowing his stock to obstruct the railway, whereby the property of the company is endangered, and the lives of the passengers put in jeopardy, they propose to allow the farmer to sue the road for killing his old cows. We call this justice with a vengeance, and trust to see the day in South Carolina when railroads and other corporations shall have some rights that the citizen is bound to respect.

The Legislature.

We devote much of our space this week to the proceedings of the extra session of the Legislature, from which it will be seen that our Legislators have gone to work in earnest. We are sorry to see such opposition to the bill to prevent the carrying of concealed deadly weapons. The many cases of homicide in this circuit demand the passage of the bill. It would seem to us that the Legislature might encourage our railroads by lending State aid in the way of convict labor. We hope that such assistance will not be withdrawn from those roads which were commenced on the faith of such help.

It's amusing to observe the wisdom (?) with which some of our exchanges advise the rest of us to be silent on the subject of long or short sessions. As for ourselves, we propose to speak out our mind on that or any other subject. Whenever we are reduced to such a degree as not to be able to speak our convictions on any public matter, the *Press and Banner* will be offered for sale.

Miss Mary Boozer is at the Branch House.

His Absence was Noticed.

The absence of General McGowan from our last Court was noticed by all, and remarked by many. This is perhaps the first session of the Court that has been held in Abbeville for thirty yerrs, except during the war, at which his presence was missed, or his voice not heard. By deaths and promotions the old landmarks of the Bar are being removed. Within a short period of time one member has been promoted to the Circuit Bench, and another more recently has been taken from the Bar, to sit on the Supreme Bench of the State.

The Columbia canal is being vigorously discussed. It is considered by some as the biggest humbug of the age. Our own opinion is, if the State would give and feed two hundred and fifty convicts to the Blue Ridge Railroad or to the Spartanburg and Asheville Railroad, that more good to the whole State would be accomplished than the digging of fifty canals would effect.

THE *Charlotte Observer* is seeking the establishment of a graded school in Charlotte. That paper is exactly right, and we wish it great success in this enterprise. Whenever the people of Charlotte once experience the benefits of such a school they will have none other.

We hope the differences between Hampton and Gary will now sink into oblivion. It is time to stop such foolishness, and we trust this will be the last of it.—*Lancaster Ledger.*

We are pretty certain this "foolishness" will stop, so far as the *Press and Banner* is concerned. Our readers have had enough.

Columbia Correspondence.

Editors Press and Banner:

The Bill to amend an Act with reference to the Fence Law does not pertain to Abbeville, and simply gives the benefits of our Act to parts of other Counties.

The Legislature is making an effort to adjourn Wednesday, but will probably be here until Saturday. Local bills are mostly filling the calendar. But a few of vital State importance are before us. The Registration Law has virtually been killed. The Abbeville delegation were a unit against it.

One important resolution was presented by Abbeville's representative, Mr. J. H. Rice, is one calling for a Constitutional Convention. He has made an effective, telling speech on the necessity, pressing it with great earnestness and force. The fate of the resolution is uncertain.

Mr. Murray has passed to a third reading in the House his Blue Ridge Railroad Bill. He exhibited his usual energy and ability in advocating its claims. It seems to have been so framed that it will hardly be objectionable to any section of the State, and yet partially acceptable to its friends.

The Convict Question has engaged considerable attention and will continue to do so, during the Session.

Tilts are daily made against the Greenwood and Augusta Railroad, but so far they have fallen harmless. It will be decided to-day, Monday, whether they will be allowed to retain hands.

There are many doubts on the street as to whether Thompson will begin work on the Canal, but the citizens of Columbia are hopeful and confident.

The city is much divided upon the question of her debt; two plans of settlement are before the General Assembly and each has warm advocates.

Questions for Second Examination.

HISTORY.

1. Give names of the more distinguished discoverers of America, with dates of their discoveries.
2. What European nations first claimed the territory now occupied by the U. S., and under what right did they claim it?
3. Write a short account of the early English settlements in the U. S.
4. Who was Gen. Oglethorpe?
5. Give an account of the French and Indian War, with dates.
6. When and where did the first Continental Congress meet, and what was done at the meeting?
7. Give date and particulars of the attack of the British fleet in Charleston.
8. Give an account of the battle of Cowpens.
9. When was the government of the Confederate States organized and by what States?
10. Write a short accounrt of President Andrew Johnson.

GEOGRAPHY.

1. What is a man,—an atlas,—a globe?
2. Define zone, degree, tropic, equator, meridian.
3. Define cape, sound, bay, strait, isthmus, and give two examples of each.
4. Name and describe six of the longest rivers in the world.
5. Name and describe six of the highest mountains in the world.
6. Name and describe six of the largest cities of the world.
7. Through what oceans, seas and straits and round what capes does a ship sail on a voyage from New York to Bombay?
8. Where and what are the following, St. Louis, St. Petersburg, Pekin, Delhi, Sheffield, Lowell, Australia, Niagara?
9. What countries border on the Mediterranean?
10. Draw a map of England.

GRAMMAR.

1. Define a pronoun, conjunction, preposition, adverb, adjective, with two examples of each.
2. Define a sentence, clause, phrase, with examples.
3. Define tense, mood, voice.
4. How many kinds of sentences are there? Give examples.
5. Give the plural of donkey, fly, I, thou, attorney, goose, house, mouse, hoof, leaf, brief, handful.
6. Give the singular of pence, ladies, shoes, hose, children, tongs, they, breeches, remains, heirs-at-law.
7. What is comparison of adjectives? compare full, beautiful, ill, good, little, supreme,
8. What are the principal parts of verbs? Give the principal parts of meet, greet, plead, read, set, get, burst, curse, sing, fling, fall, shall.
9. Parse the words in italics: *When impious* men *bear* away, The post *of* honour *is a private station.*
10. Analyse the preceding sentence.

ARITHMETIC.

1. Define unit, integer, fraction, notation, numeration.
2. Express eighteen hundred and eighty in Arabic and Roman notation.
3. Define addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, and show the difference between addition and multiplication, and between subtraction and division.
4. Add together eight,—one thousand and nineteen,—two hundred and thirteen thousand and forty,—nine hundred and one,—ten thousand one hundred and one,—ninety,—six million.
5. Add together 3162?31, 7892567, 5524615, 8453286, 2123456, 2675924, 5786495, 3218543, 6941879.
6. Subtract 375 ten times in succession from 9974.
7. A & B were partners. A invested $1250 for 8 months, B $980 for 6 months. They lost $967.60. How much did each lose?
8. A invested ¼ of his money in lands; ⅖ of the remainder in merchandise, and had $875 remaining. How much capital had he?
9. Extract cube root of 523,606,616.
10. If $3560 at 7 per cent. amount in 6 years to $5055.20, how long will it take $2670 to gain $747.60 at 10½ per cent?

SPELLING.

Correct the errors, eminate, propigate, obstacle, dilagent, evadent, amediately, supersede, conceel, supprised, suppressed, seval, grieved, bereaved, presumptious, greivious, concealed, wepons, abrigement, surtainly, propotion.

Write briefly when and where you were born, where educated and to what extent, where and how long you have taught, and sign your full name to the paragraph.

PLEDGE.

Before the beginning of this examination I had no information as to what questions would be asked me, and since the examination began, I have neither given nor received any assistance.

Capt. Watkins of West End, had purchased a barrel of kerosene oil and attached a faucet to it for the purpose of sending it to Laurens, and left it in his yard over night. The next morning the barrel was empty, and it was soon found that the entire contents had been emptied into the well.—*Greenville News.*

The News From Columbia.

A DISPOSITION TO DO THEIR WORK PROMPTLY AND GO HOME.

No Unfinished Business to be Taken Up—A Warm Fight Probable Over the Blue Ridge Railroad Bill—Shall We have a Registration Law?

(News and Courier.)

COLUMBIA, Tuesday night, February 10.—The feeling among the members of both houses is strongly for a very brief session. Many have special measures which they are anxious to have considered, but each apparently hopes that his own special bill can be pushed through successfully during the intervals between the appearance of the Supply and appropriation bills in their various stages. The majority seem in favor of adjournment on Monday or Tuesday. A very considerable minority, however, evidently think that the body should avail itself of the opportunity and act upon several important measures, though few go so far as to advocate the disposal of all the unfinished business of the former session. If anything at all belongs to the Supply and Appropriation bills be considered, it is by no means certain that the session will not be protracted a fortnight. It is certain that strenuous efforts will be made to pass the Blue Ridge Railroad bill, and it is equally certain that it will encounter vigorous opposition.

The prospects are not favorable for the passage of any registration bill, and it will certainly be impossible to secure the adoption of an educational test unless a great revolution in sentiment takes place. The fact that four or eight additional bill and resolutions to be introduced were filed to-day indicates that the session will not be as short as everybody had hoped.

The special committee appointed to-day to inquire and report whether the House can resume the consideration of unfinished business met to-night and agreed to report a negative answer to the question.

The changes proposed to be made by the bill amending the act regarding the funding of bills of the Bank of the State provides for the cancellation of all such bills found invalid and for the employment by the commissioner of an expert if necessary.

The amendment proposed to the Act for the settlement of the consolidated debt of the State repeals the provision requiring the commissioner to calculate the interest on the invalid bonds, merely saving him what is considered unnecessary trouble. It also provides for the reissued bonds to be different in color from the old ones, and allows the commissioner to report upon bonds out of their regular order when more convenient to do so.

The Senate Proceedings.

The Senate met at 12 M., and was called to order by the Hon. T. E. Jeter, president.

Mr. G. W. Croft, the Senator elect from Aiken county, appeared before the bar of the Senate and was sworn in.

The message from the Governor was received and read.

Senator Lipscomb moved to refer to appropriate committees the various matters contained in the Governor's message. Adopted.

Senator Traill introduced a concurrent resolution that the special joint committee to investigate alleged cruelty to convicts be instructed to make their report on or before Friday, February 13. Ordered for consideration to-morrow.

Senator Counts introduced a bill to prohibit the carrying of side arms and other deadly weapons.

Senator Maxwell: A bill to authorize the consolidation of the Augusta, Knoxville and Greenwood Railroad Company of this State and the Augusta and Knoxville Railroad Company of Georgia.

Senator Cannon: A bill to incorporate the Clifton Manufacturing company of Spartanburg.

Senator Meetze introduced a joint resolution to authorize the county commissioners of Union County to apply to the payment of the ordinary expenses of said county for the fiscal year 1878 the unexpended balance of the proceeds of the special fence tax.

Senator Bradley: A bill to amend an act entitled an act to amend an act entitled "An act to protect the lands and crops of citizens of Abbeville, Union, Newberry and Laurens Counties from trespass by stock, and to extend the same to Greenville County until certain townships in Pickens County," approved December 23, 1879, so far as it relates to Pickens county.

Senator Walker gave notice of the introduction of a bill to incorporate the Fishing Creek Manufacturing Company of Chester. This bill had been introduced in the last session, read twice, and had not received its third reading. Senator Walker said he now desired to introduce the bill to test the sense of the Senate upon the power to take up the unfinished business of last session.

Senator Gary expressed the opinion that this was a special session of the Legislature, which did not expire before November next, and unfinished business could be taken up.

Senator Meetze said it was a grave question whether this was a new session or not, and whether they would not have to commence all business anew.

Senator Todd: A bill to charter the Greenwood, Laurens and Spartanburg Railroad.

Hon. G. W. Croft, the new senator from Aiken, was elected a member of the following committees: Charitable institutions, Federal relations, military, mines and mining and public buildings. The Senate then adjourned.

The House Proceedings.

The House was promptly organized at 12 o'clock with only twenty-six members absent.

The call of counties being announced, Mr. Hemphill, of Abbeville, asked for information if a bill passed by the Senate at the last session could be taken up now, or whether it would be necessary to give notice of it as of a new bill. The Chair declined to rule upon the question in that shape, as it had been and was still a subject of serious consideration by the committee on rules. Mr. Hemphill then gave formal notice of his bill which was to change the time of the sessions of the courts in Abbeville.

Mr. Murray, of Anderson, asked unanimous consent to introduce without previous notice bill to facilitate the completion of the Blue Ridge Railroad. The House seemed to have no idea of its urgency, for, on the Speaker's question if there was objection there was no response. Somebody then woke up and asked what the bill was, and upon its being again announced, a patter of objection came like the dropping of a shower on a tin roof—first here and there and then tolerably general. The objecting members were too late, however, and the bill passed its first reading. Little, a member demanded the reading of the bill in full, but the demand was not seconded.

Petitions and joint resolutions for the payment of back salary by ex-Judges T. H. Cooke and J. P. Reed were presented, immediate consideration asked and refused.

Mr. Aldrich gave notice of the following resolution:

Whereas, This General Assembly having been convened in extra session because of certain errors in the enrollment of the Act to raise supplies and make appropriations for the fiscal year commencing November 1, 1879, the session should continue no longer than will be necessary for the correction of those errors,

Resolved, By the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that this General Assembly do adjourn on Saturday next, the 14th instant, at 9 o'clock, M.

By Mr. Calhoun: Concurrent resolution that no local or special legislation be engaged in during the present session.

By Mr. W. S. Allen: Bill to alter and amend the law relating to juries and jurors; bill to alter the time for holding court in Edgefield County; bill to amend the act to establish uniformity in the sessions of the Circuit Courts.

By Mr. Blue: Bill to amend the jury law.

By Mr. Johnstone: Bill to amend the fence law.

By Mr. McKissick: Bill to amend the Act regulating the costs of Court.

By Mr. B. H. Rice: Joint resolution providing for a vote for a constitutional convention.

Mr. Simonton presented the petition of C. A. McHugh, of Charleston, regarding a digest of South Carolina Reports published by him. Referred.

NINE DAYS FIXED AS THE LIMIT OF THE EXTRA SESSION.

The Registration and Constitutional Convention Questions in the Democratic Caucus — The Cruelty to Convicts—The Blue Ridge Railroad Bill —Pushing Forward the Supply and Appropriation Bills.

[News and Courier.]

COLUMBIA, Wednesday Night, February 11. The Democratic legislative caucus, to-night, decided to refer the question of a registration law to a committee consisting of one member from each County in the State. Pending a discussion of the expediency of calling a Constitutional Convention the caucus adjourned. The action of the House to-day settles the adjournment question. The Senate will almost certainly concur in the resolution fixing Wednesday for the close of the extra session. The bill introduced by Mr. Aldrich to amend the Act to authorize the treasurer to allow and fund interest on bonds and stocks that are fundable, merely provides for conforming the provisions of the Act of 1873 with those used to fund principal, making them of similar date.

The chairman of the Charleston delegation has introduced favorably on bills regarding the sale of meat in the city, and funding the county debt of 1876.

Proceedings of the Senate.

In the Senate to-day, after favorable reports from the respective committees, the following bills and joint resolutions were read under suspension of the rules and passed their second reading:

Bill to authorize the consolidation of the Augusta, Knoxville and Greenwood Railroad Company and the Augusta and Knoxville Railroad Company.

Joint resolution directing the State treasurer to issue to Josephus Woodruff deficiency bonds in lieu of certain big bonanza warrants turned over to the State through error.

Bill to amend the act to provide for the reduction of the indebtedness of the City of Columbia.

Senator Witherspoon introduced a concurrent resolution, instructing our senators and representatives in Congress to introduce and procure an appropriation for the celebration of the Centennial of the Battle of King's Mountain. The resolution was adopted.

Senator Taft's concurrent resolution to require the special joint committee on cruelty to convicts to report on Friday next, was then taken up, and a spirited discussion ensued, upon a motion made by Senator Todd to indefinitely postpone the consideration of the resolution.

Senator Taft said that so much had been said about the convict question last session that it was not necessary to call attention again to the subject. The other side had said that an investigation would be had, and the results of the investigation made public, and it has not been done. He had charged then that it would be smothered, and he would repeat that charge now. He demanded that the committee appointed at the last session should make some report now. Three weeks was a long enough time to find out if anybody is guilty. If this matter goes over until the next session nothing will be done. He thought they had taken sufficient evidence to make their report now. He then demanded the reading of the report of the superintendent of the Penitentiary as a part of his speech.

The report was read.

Senator Wylie said his committee were required to report to the next Legislature and not to the next session, and no one dreamed of anything else. The committee had, besides their own convictions in the matter, the opinion of the attorney-general in reference to their power under the resolution of the House. They were not required to go prying about the streets and the country, questioning every one they might meet as to what they had heard about cruelty to convicts. He denied the charge of attempting to smother any thing concerning the matter. Advertisements had been inserted in the dailies of the State inviting every one who was in possession of any facts relating to the investigation to come forward and give their testimony.

Senator Maxwell said he had asked Senator Taft to come to Greenwood and investigate these charges, and now he asked him again.

Senator Taft replied that perhaps he would be there before they wanted him.

Senator Wylie said he desired to make a report which would not whitewash anybody, but one containing the full evidence on both sides concerning these grave charges. He had no doubt it would suit the Senator from Charleston very well to have the testimony on his side of the case published without publishing the other at the same time. The committee proposed to hear the other side before making their report.

Senator Taft, replying, said he had made no aspersions upon the senator's committee. His charges were made against the General Assembly. It was in the power of the committee to get evidence right here in Columbia of a convict having been killed while shackled, and it can be proven by two eye-witnesses merely by asking for their testimony. The other side was arrayed against him because he had dared to start this inquiry. Good had come of it already, and he intended to keep it up and did not propose to be shifted off.

The roll was then called on Senator Todd's motion to indefinitely postpone, and resulted ayes 22, noes 5—those voting in the negative being Senators Taft, Duncan, Williams, Collins and Bird.

A message from the Governor covering a communication from the Governor of Tennessee was referred to a special committee consisting of Senators Witherspoon, Croft and Siegling. Adjourned.

House of Representatives.

Mr. Watts obtained leave to introduce without notice a bill to amend the law relative to assessments.

Mr. Aldrich introduced a resolution instructing the railroad commissioner to inquire into the subject of the destruction of stock by railroads, and report some means of preventing and punishing it, and into the expediency of having the tracks fenced in.

Mr. Haskell, from the committee of ways and means, reported a joint resolutions providing for a committee to revise and codify the laws regarding assessment of real estate.

Mr. Simonton, from the special committee appointed to inquire as to whether the House could take up its unfinished business, submitted a careful prepared and elaborate report, taking the ground that the House could not resume the consideration of its unfinished business.

The report was adopted and ordered to be spread upon the journal.

Mr. Aldrich's amended resolution fixing the time of adjournment on Monday was taken up and supported by that gentleman in a brief speech, in which he disclaimed any intention of hampering legislation or causing wild hurry. But the body had been convened to meet on certain extraordinary emergency, and the time allowed in his resolution was sufficient for that. He desired to test the sense of the House on the question whether or not other business should be considered. The majority of the bills introduced thus far were those defeated at the last session by the prostitution of their introducers, and were either of not sufficient importance to justify the extension of the sitting of this House, or else having "unworthy" written across their faces.

Mr. Haskell replied. He called attention to the great importance of the consideration of the Registration bill. He thought the House would be recreant to its duties if it adjourned without transacting important public business submitted to it.

Mr. Earle favored Mr. Aldrich's resolution. He knew of no new events that had made business, which the House regarded as unworthy of disposition at the last session, now worthy. The question was merely whether the House should dispose of the supply bill and go home, or whether it would open the door to a flood of business.

The discussion of the resolution continued at some length, Messrs. Callison, Buist and Hutson favoring, and Messrs. Cooke, Davant and Johnstone opposing it.

Mr. Simonton thought that Wednesday would be a proper day for adjournment, as it would give full time for the consideration of all business now before the House.

The suggestion was accepted as an amendment to the resolution, which was then agreed to. Yeas 78, nays 26.

Mr. J. J. Hemphill, in behalf of the committee on engrossed bills, submitted a statement disclaiming any responsibility on the part of the committee for the error in the Supply bill, the records showing that the bill had never been submitted to, or reported upon, by the committee.

Mr. Callison's resolution providing that the Legislature should consider no business except that indicated in the Governor's message was taken up. Mr. Callisan spoke in its support, but the resolution was not agreed to. Yeas 39, nays 46.

A message was received from the Governor covering a communication from the railroad commissioner, stating that various railroads had refused to pay their assessment for the expense of his office. The message and communication were referred to the committee on railroads.

The Supply bill was then taken up. Mr. Johnstone moved an amendment defining the duty of the treasurer in the matter of the Agricultural College. The amendment was adopted, yeas 33, nays 29.

Mr. Muller moved to amend by striking out 4¾ and inserting 4½ mills.

Mr. Buist said if that was done it would simply leave a deficiency to that extent.

The amendment was lost by a large majority.

The levy for Barnwell, for county purposes, was increased from 1 to 1½ mills, and that of Beaufort increased from 4 to 3½ mills.

The tax for the building of the courthouse in Aiken was made also applicable to the removal of the jail.

Mr. Murray, of Anderson, asked unanimous consent to introduce without previous notice bill to facilitate the completion of the Blue Ridge Railroad. The House seemed to have no idea of its urgency, for, on the Speaker's question if there was objection there was no response. Somebody then woke up and asked what the bill was, and upon its being again announced, a patter of objection came like the dropping of a shower on a tin roof—first here and there and then tolerably general. The objecting members were too late, however, and the bill passed its first reading. Little, a member demanded the reading of the bill in full, but the demand was not seconded.

Petitions and joint resolutions for the payment of back salary by ex-Judges T. H. Cooke and J. P. Reed were presented, immediate consideration asked and refused.

Mr. Aldrich gave notice of the following resolution:

Whereas, This General Assembly having been convened in extra session because of certain errors in the enrollment of the Act to raise supplies and make appropriations for the fiscal year commencing November 1, 1879, the session should continue no longer than will be necessary for the correction of those errors,

Resolved, By the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that this General Assembly do adjourn on Saturday next, the 14th instant, at 9 o'clock, M.

By Mr. Calhoun: Concurrent resolution that no local or special legislation be engaged in during the present session.

By Mr. W. S. Allen: Bill to alter and amend the law relating to juries and jurors; bill to alter the time for holding court in Edgefield County; bill to amend the act to establish uniformity in the sessions of the Circuit Courts.

By Mr. Blue: Bill to amend the jury law.

By Mr. Johnstone: Bill to amend the fence law.

By Mr. McKissick: Bill to amend the Act regulating the costs of Court.

By Mr. B. H. Rice: Joint resolution providing for a vote for a constitutional convention.

Mr. Simonton presented the petition of C. A. McHugh, of Charleston, regarding a digest of South Carolina Reports published by him. Referred.

NINE DAYS FIXED AS THE LIMIT OF THE EXTRA SESSION.

The Registration and Constitutional Convention Questions in the Democratic Caucus — The Cruelty to Convicts—The Blue Ridge Railroad Bill —Pushing Forward the Supply and Appropriation Bills.

[News and Courier.]

COLUMBIA, Wednesday Night, February 11. The Democratic legislative caucus, to-night, decided to refer the question of a registration law to a committee consisting of one member from each County in the State. Pending a discussion of the expediency of calling a Constitutional Convention the caucus adjourned.

The action of the House to-day settles the adjournment question. The Senate will almost certainly concur in the resolution fixing Wednesday for the close of the extra session. The bill introduced by Mr. Aldrich to amend the Act to authorize the treasurer to allow and fund interest on bonds and stocks that are fundable, merely provides for conforming the provisions of the Act of 1873 with those used to fund principal, making them of similar date.

The chairman of the Charleston delegation has introduced favorably on bills regarding the sale of meat in the city, and funding the county debt of 1876.

Proceedings of the Senate.

In the Senate to-day, after favorable reports from the respective committees, the following bills and joint resolutions were read under suspension of the rules and passed their second reading:

Bill to authorize the consolidation of the Augusta, Knoxville and Greenwood Railroad Company and the Augusta and Knoxville Railroad Company.

Joint resolution directing the State treasurer to issue to Josephus Woodruff deficiency bonds in lieu of certain big bonanza warrants turned over to the State through error.

Bill to amend the act to provide for the reduction of the indebtedness of the City of Columbia.

Senator Witherspoon introduced a concurrent resolution, instructing our senators and representatives in Congress to introduce and procure an appropriation for the celebration of the Centennial of the Battle of King's Mountain. The resolution was adopted.

Senator Taft's concurrent resolution to require the special joint committee on cruelty to convicts to report on Friday next, was then taken up, and a spirited discussion ensued, upon a motion made by Senator Todd to indefinitely postpone the consideration of the resolution.

Senator Taft said that so much had been said about the convict question last session that it was not necessary to call attention again to the subject. The other side had said that an investigation would be had, and the results of the investigation made public, and it has not been done. He had charged then that it would be smothered, and he would repeat that charge now. He demanded that the committee appointed at the last session should make some report now. Three weeks was a long enough time to find out if anybody is guilty. If this matter goes over until the next session nothing will be done. He thought they had taken sufficient evidence to make their report now. He then demanded the reading of the report of the superintendent of the Penitentiary as a part of his speech.

The report was read.

Senator Wylie said his committee were required to report to the next Legislature and not to the next session, and no one dreamed of anything else. The committee had, besides their own convictions in the matter, the opinion of the attorney-general in reference to their power under the resolution of the House. They were not required to go prying about the streets and the country, questioning every one they might meet as to what they had heard about cruelty to convicts. He denied the charge of attempting to smother any thing concerning the matter. Advertisements had been inserted in the dailies of the State inviting every one who was in possession of any facts relating to the investigation to come forward and give their testimony.

Senator Maxwell said he had asked Senator Taft to come to Greenwood and investigate these charges, and now he asked him again.

Senator Taft replied that perhaps he would be there before they wanted him.

Senator Wylie said he desired to make a report which would not whitewash anybody, but one containing the full evidence on both sides concerning these grave charges. He had no doubt it would suit the Senator from Charleston very well to have the testimony on his side of the case published without publishing the other at the same time. The committee proposed to hear the other side before making their report.

Senator Taft, replying, said he had made no aspersions upon the senator's committee. His charges were made against the General Assembly. It was in the power of the committee to get evidence right here in Columbia of a convict having been killed while shackled, and it can be proven by two eye-witnesses merely by asking for their testimony. The other side was arrayed against him because he had dared to start this inquiry. Good had come of it already, and he intended to keep it up and did not propose to be shifted off.

The roll was then called on Senator Todd's motion to indefinitely postpone, and resulted ayes 22, noes 5—those voting in the negative being Senators Taft, Duncan, Williams, Collins and Bird.

A message from the Governor covering a communication from the Governor of Tennessee was referred to a special committee consisting of Senators Witherspoon, Croft and Siegling. Adjourned.

House of Representatives.

Mr. Watts obtained leave to introduce without notice a bill to amend the law relative to assessments.

Mr. Aldrich introduced a resolution instructing the railroad commissioner to inquire into the subject of the destruction of stock by railroads, and report some means of preventing and punishing it, and into the expediency of having the tracks fenced in.

Mr. Haskell, from the committee of ways and means, reported a joint resolutions providing for a committee to revise and codify the laws regarding assessment of real estate.

Mr. Simonton, from the special committee appointed to inquire as to whether the House could take up its unfinished business, submitted a careful prepared and elaborate report, taking the ground that the House could not resume the consideration of its unfinished business.

The report was adopted and ordered to be spread upon the journal.

Mr. Aldrich's amended resolution fixing the time of adjournment on Monday was taken up and supported by that gentleman in a brief speech, in which he disclaimed any intention of hampering legislation or causing wild hurry. But the body had been convened to meet on certain extraordinary emergency, and the time allowed in his resolution was sufficient for that. He desired to test the sense of the House on the question whether or not other business should be considered. The majority of the bills introduced thus far were those defeated at the last session by the prostitution of their introducers, and were either of not sufficient importance to justify the extension of the sitting of this House, or else having "unworthy" written across their faces.

Mr. Haskell replied. He called attention to the great importance of the consideration of the Registration bill. He thought the House would be recreant to its duties if it adjourned without transacting important public business submitted to it.

Mr. Earle favored Mr. Aldrich's resolution. He knew of no new events that had made business, which the House regarded as unworthy of disposition at the last session, now worthy. The question was merely whether the House should dispose of the supply bill and go home, or whether it would open the door to a flood of business.

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