

SOME NEW LAWS.

Which Have Passed the House of Representatives.

THEY GO TO THE SENATE.

Oil Inspection, Commutation Tax, The Sale of Tobacco and Other Matters Legislated On.

On Monday the House passed a bill providing for the inspection of oil. The bill provides for the election of an oil inspector of oil at a salary of \$1,200 per annum, to be derived from fees paid by the oil companies for having their oil inspected.

A general commutation tax bill took up considerable time, but was finally passed to its third reading.

The bill provides that the county treasurers of this State are hereby authorized and empowered to receive from any and all persons liable to road duties in the counties of Abbeville, one dollar; Aiken, one dollar; Anderson, one dollar; Barnwell, one dollar; Beaufort, two dollars; Berkeley, one dollar; Chester, two dollars; Chesterfield, one dollar; Charleston, two dollars; Colleton, two dollars; Clarendon, one dollar; Dorchester, one dollar; Darlington, one dollar; Edgefield, two dollars; Fairfield, two dollars; Florence, one and a half dollars; Georgetown, two dollars; Greenville, one dollar; Hampton, one dollar; Horry, two dollars; Kershaw, two dollars; Lancaster, one dollar; Laurens, one dollar; Lexington, two dollars; Newberry, two dollars; Marlboro, one dollar; Marion, two dollars; Pickens, one dollar and fifty cents; Richland, one dollar; Spartanburg, one dollar; Saluda, two dollars; Sumter, one dollar; Union, one dollar; Orangeburg, two dollars; Williamsburg, two dollars; York, one dollar as commutation tax; and all moneys so paid shall be set apart and known as the county road fund. Provided, that such commutation tax be paid for the fiscal year 1899, between the first day of March and the first day of April, and hereafter said commutation tax shall be paid by the 31st day of March of the year next after the fiscal year for which the same was due. That such persons as have paid their commutation road tax shall be exempted from road duty for that fiscal year: Provided that this Act shall not affect the commutation tax for the year 1899.

In the House it was fully an hour Tuesday before the body could get to work. The bad weather caused a number to be late, and others were sick with the grip. There was some talk of sending the sergeant-at-arms for some of the tardy ones, but they commenced dropping in one by one until at last a quorum was present.

Under the head of unfinished business, Mr. Laban Mauldin's bill in relation to fixing the day of adjournment for Feb. 11th was taken up and killed, the motion by Mr. Blease being to postpone discussion until the 11th day of February.

Mr. Mauldin demanded the aye and nay vote, which resulted as follows, those voting in the affirmative wishing to table the bill until Feb. 11th.

Yea—Speakers Gary, Black, W. D. Blythe, Bolts, Browning, Colecock, Crumm, Dargan, Davis, Dean, DeBruhl, Dendy, Evans, N. G., Floyd, Gause, Hill, Hoffmeyer, Hopkins, Jackson, Lockwood, Lofton, McCraw, McLaughlin, Miley, Montgomery, Nettles, Richards, Sanders C. P., Sawyer, Sinkler, Smith G. P., Smith, Jeremiah, Thomas W. H., Thomas W. J., Verner, Whisonant, Wimberly, Winkler—39.

Nays—Bacon, Bailey, Bell, Blease, Gaughan, Eiford, Epps, Evans H. H., Graham, Graham, Henderson, Hollis, Mann, Manning, Marion, Mauldin, McDill, Moss, Ragsdale E. B., Richardson, George W., Richardson, Henry B., Robinson C. E., Robinson R. B. A., Sharpe, Simpkins, Smith J. L., Varn, Weston, Wingo, Woodward M. B., Young—36.

It was necessary to poll the house to see if a quorum were present, as little interest was manifested and so few voted on any question.

Mr. H. H. Evans's bill to permit chain-gangs to be used in the promotion of the health of a community passed its second reading.

The bill read as follows: That on and after the approval of this act the county board of commissioners shall have power and authority, in their discretion, to utilize the county chain-gangs in whole or in part in any kind of work calculated to promote or conserve public health in the county or in any community thereof, in which sentences of the convicts on such gang were pronounced.

Mr. Floyd's bill to regulate the scale of tobacco passed its second reading after the counties of Clarendon, Horry, Marion, Pickens and Chesterfield had been exempted. It applies to the rest of the State.

Following is the bill:

Section 1. That the charges and expenses of handling and sealing leaf tobacco upon the floor of tobacco warehouses in this State shall not exceed the following schedule of prices to-wit: For auction fees, fifteen (15) cents on all piles of one hundred pounds or less and twenty-five (25) cents on all piles of over one hundred pounds and less than two hundred and fifty pounds, fifty (50) cents per pile for each of two hundred and fifty pounds or over. For weighing and sealing, ten (10) cents per pile for all piles of less than one hundred pounds; for all piles of over one hundred pounds, at the rate of ten (10) cents per hundred pounds; for commission on the gross sales of leaf tobacco in said warehouses, not to exceed two and one-half per centum.

Sec. 2. That the proprietor of each and every warehouse shall render to each seller of tobacco at his warehouse a bill, plainly stating the amount charged for weighing and sealing, the amounts charged for auction fees, and the commission charged on each sale, and it shall be unlawful for any other charges or fees exceeding those hereinabove to be made or accepted.

Sec. 3. That for each and every violation of the provisions of this act a penalty of ten dollars shall be enforced, and the same may be recovered by any person so offended.

Sec. 3. That this act shall go into effect immediately upon its approval.

Mr. Laban Mauldin's bill to amend the law relating to stealing from the law passed its second reading.

Mr. Mauldin said that this was not to extend the law, but to simplify the law in order to clarify the statutes so that magistrates will have no trouble to control the law.

The bill as adopted reads:

That any landlord renting land, tenant or laborer working on shares of the crop shall take from the field any part

of the crops made by said tenant or laborer without the consent of the other, shall be considered as stealing from the field, and shall be punished according to the provisions of this section. So that said section when amended shall read as follows:

Section 104. Whosoever shall steal from the field any grain, cotton or vegetables, whether severed from the field or not, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than five years, or by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars: Provided, That any landlord renting land, tenant or laborer working on shares of the crop shall take from the field any part of the crops made by said tenant or laborer without the consent of the other, shall be considered as stealing from the field, and shall be punished according to the provisions of this section.

On Thursday Mr. Winkler's bill to regulate the disbursement of money arising from the sale of liquors passed its third reading after a long fight. The bill as it was up for discussion was quite different from the original as introduced by Mr. Winkler, which provided that the schools of the State should be kept open for five months, the funds for their support being the three mill tax supplemented by the dispensary profits. The bill as it passed provides that all revenue derived from the sale of alcoholic liquors in this State under the dispensary law shall be apportioned among the various counties of the State for the benefit of the common schools in proportion to the amount of profits derived from the sale of alcoholic liquors in the respective counties, and all funds not derived from said dispensary law not already disbursed shall be apportioned in the same way.

A Great Year for Trusts.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press contends that the year 1898 was one of the most wonderful in the history of this country and tries to sustain the statement with the following bill of particulars:

1. Largest wheat crop except that of 1891.
2. Highest price recorded for wheat except in 1888.
3. Largest cotton crop.
4. Largest export of breadstuffs.
5. Largest exports of manufactured goods.
6. Largest aggregate exports of produce and merchandise.

7. Largest production of iron ore.
8. Largest production of pig iron.
9. Largest production of coal.
10. Largest production of copper.
11. Largest production of silver except that of 1892.

12. Largest production of gold.
13. Largest gold holdings.
14. Largest per capita circulation of all forms of money.
15. Largest aggregate bank clearings.
16. Largest aggregate railroad earnings.

17. Largest aggregate sales of bonds.
18. Largest aggregate sales of stocks on New York Stock Exchange since 1892.

19. Smallest number of failures and smallest aggregate liabilities since 1892.

The Pioneer Press should add one more item to its list. Last year was a great year for trusts, but our contemporaries seem to have overlooked this item. The number of trusts formed last year is put down by the New York Herald at ninety-two. The amount of their common capital stock is \$957,967,300, and of preferred \$384,791,900.

The largest of these combines are the American Tin Plate company, \$30,000,000; Continental Plug Tobacco Co., \$30,000,000; Consolidated Gas Co., New York, \$37,000,000; Federal Steel Co., \$100,000,000; Metropolitan Street Railway Co., \$40,000,000; Pacific States Telephone Co., \$30,000,000; Gaslight and Coke company of Chicago, \$30,000,000; Print Cloth Pool, \$50,000,000; United States Biscuit company, \$30,000,000; Writing Paper company, \$40,000,000.

If it was not for the formation of these gigantic oppressors of the masses and the existence of the gold standard the array of facts set forth by the Pioneer Press would mean great business activity and prosperity to all who are willing to work.

On account of the existence of these things the prosperity that we hear so much about is confined to the few who compose the trusts or have large capital.

The largest of these combines are the American Tin Plate company, \$30,000,000; Print Cloth Pool, \$50,000,000; United States Biscuit company, \$30,000,000; Writing Paper company, \$40,000,000.

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