

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 oils 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, one dollar; Berkeley, one dollar; Chester, one dollar; Chesterfield, one dollar; Charleston, one dollar; Colleton, one dollar; Clarendon, one dollar; Dorchester, one dollar; Darlington, one dollar; Edgefield, one dollar; Fairfield, one dollar; Florence, one dollar and a half; Georgetown, one dollar; Greenville, one dollar; Hampton, one dollar; Horry, one dollar; Kershaw, one dollar; Lexington, one dollar; Marlboro, one dollar; Marion, one dollar; Pickens, one dollar and fifty cents; Richland, one dollar; Spartanburg, one dollar; Saluda, one dollar; Sumter, one dollar; Union, one dollar; Orangeburg, one dollar; Williamsburg, one dollar; 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, by 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. Mease 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:

Yeas—Speaker Gary, Black, Blythe, Bolls, Browning, Colcock, Crumm, Darga, Davis, Dean, DeBruhl, Denny, Evans, G. 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., Vetter, Whisonant, Wimberly, Winkler—38.

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

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

Mr. H. H. Evans's bill to permit changeovers 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 chair of wood, 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 sale 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 selling leaf tobacco in this State shall not exceed the following schedule of prices to be paid for auction fees, fifteen (15) cents on 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 piles of two hundred and fifty pounds or over. For weighing and hauling, 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 warehouse, prices 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 hauling, the amounts charged for auction fees, and it shall be unlawful for any other charges or fees exceeding those herein named 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. 5. 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 field 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 construct the law.

The bill as adopted reads:

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

of the crops made by said tenancy or laborer without the consent of the owner, 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 164. Whoever shall steal from the field any grain, cotton or vegetable, whether severed from the field, hold 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 landlender renting land, tenancy or laborer working on shares of the crop shall take from the field any part of the crops made by said tenancy or laborer without the consent of the owner, 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 liquor passed its third reading after a long fight. The bill as it came up for discussion was 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 substantiate the statement with the following list 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 copper.
10. Largest production of silver except that of 1892.
11. Largest production of gold.
12. Largest gold holdings.
13. Largest per capita circulation of all forms of money.
14. Largest aggregate bank clearings.
15. Largest aggregate railroad earnings.
16. Largest aggregate sale of bonds.
17. Largest aggregate sales of stocks on New York Stock Exchange since 1882.
18. Smallest number of failures and smallest aggregate liabilities since 1892.

The Pioneer Press should add a few more items to its list. Last year was a great year for trusts, but such a statement seems to have overlooked the fact that 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., \$30,000,000; 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; 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. But 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. One of the items put down in the enumeration is the large cotton crop. We of this section know how much prosperity this large cotton crop brought to the farmers and merchants of the South. The same is the case with many of the other items. No doubt the trusts prospered during the past year, but the masses did not.

The Question of Salary.

There being a proposition to increase certain salaries in the State of Massachusetts, the Springfield Republican declares it is no time for salary-raising, even though the stock markets are booming. "The great industries and business of Massachusetts are not finding it easy to increase their rewards above the profitless point of the past five years of depression, and are still turning out products at the low prices which have enabled public officers to make their salaries go further than ever before." Speaking of public salaries and particularly of the governor's recommendation of an increase for the higher State court justices, the Republican complies the following table, showing what compensation is received by the chief justice of the supreme court in each of the New England States and some of the larger States of the Union.

State	Salary
Massachusetts	\$7,500
Maine	3,500
New Hampshire	3,500
Vermont	3,000
Rhode Island	5,500
Connecticut	5,000
New York	12,500
New Jersey	10,000
Pennsylvania	8,500
Maryland	4,800
Georgia	3,000
Louisiana	5,000
Indiana	4,500
Illinois	7,000
Iowa	4,000
Minnesota	5,000
Wisconsin	5,000
Missouri	4,500
Texas	4,000
Nebraska	3,500
Kansas	3,000
Colorado	5,000
California	6,000

The Republican states that generally the salary of the chief justice who is given above, is \$500 more than the salaries of other justices on the bench. The fact is that in New York the election is by the people and candidates for the bench have to contribute liberally to campaign expenses.

A New York newspaper estimates that the securities owned by twenty-seven of the richest men in this country have been increased in value in the sum of \$120,000,000 by the recent upward movement in the stock market.

STRAIT IS MAD.

The Retiring Congressman Issues an Address to the People.

ASSAILS SENATOR McLAURIN.

Says He Has Been Treacherous to His Colleagues and Unrepentant. Very Warm Language.

To the People of South Carolina:

Since manifestos, addresses and exposures are in order in South Carolina, I have decided to have a word to say. The star player in the recent performance has been writing his own plays, criticising and damning all others while painting his own part in glowing colors without regard to truth or the interests of any save himself. I have decided it to be my duty to keep quiet no longer while he is allowed wearily to exploit himself and his actions through the leading newspapers of our State. I shall confine myself to a statement of facts that can be fully substantiated by the entire delegation in congress, and, in fact, all who had an opportunity from the inside to observe closely the trend of matters during the last six years. The people of South Carolina have a right to know what is now and what has been going on behind the curtain. And when they have learned all the facts they will not be slow to make up their minds.

The address recently issued by Mr. W. A. Neal, it is well known was not written by him. He was sick at the time and could not judge for himself what the effects would be, nor how deplorable it made him appear in the eyes of both friends and foes. It was well known that it was written by John L. McLaurin, who hastened down to Columbia from Washington and as hurriedly came away after he had penned this infamous slander, an instrument of apostasy, and induced Neil, poor sick fellow, to sign it.

Along with other members of the South Carolina delegation in congress I have been subjected to the treachery and undermining tactics of the senator from our State so long that I had almost become used to it and did not expect to have anything more to say during the short period in which I will remain in public life. But there is such an outrageous false accusation against the entire delegation in the Neal-McLaurin address that I cannot longer remain silent.

McLaurin has his commission as senator until 1903, and he may feel that he can slander us with impunity, but I, at least, will not submit to such a thing. I have been invited to go to Washington to attend a conference. I was present in Iry's committee room when it was agreed to make John Gary Evans governor of South Carolina. There was only one man who raised his voice against it in protest. I was a witness to the scene when he withdrew in anger from the conference. There was no need for him to go back four years to make an accusation of there being a ring in Washington at the time which was running South Carolina's politics. He made poor Neal sign a falsehood, knowing at the time himself that it was a falsehood, and his only purpose could be to injure the delegation here in the eyes of the people. Now, the facts are these and I will be sustained in my statement by every member who participated, as well as by Senator Tillman who was at the meeting mentioned—he being governor then: Iry called a meeting of the delegation without letting us know what he wanted with us. Tillman, Neal and Evans were present. As soon as the meeting opened McLaurin mentioned that Koester, then editing The Register, and Bowden, then prominent South Carolinians, then in Washington, ought to be admitted to our council. Iry and McLaurin were then not on good terms on account of a scandal involving McLaurin, of which I will not speak here, because it is a matter of internal party quarrels. Iry declaring that he would not have anything to do with a Populist, and before anything was done, or the purpose for which we had been brought together mentioned, McLaurin angrily left the room, saying he would "stand by his friends."

Matters having assumed this shape, Latimer, Talbert and myself, members of the house, also left, and there was no word said about running John Gary Evans for governor. McLaurin has become so notorious himself for holding conferences and planning political deals, and is by nature such a trickster and conspirator, that he feels called upon to charge such things upon others. He was in the "Forty-movement," which had for its object the destruction of the Reform party. He begged Latimer, Talbert and myself to join him in a Populist manifesto to the people of the State in 1894, saying that the State was ripe and that the people would rally behind that banner if we would join him. He denied this when he was running for the senate, but I can prove it by the gentlemen referred to. He cursed and damned the dispensary law here during the Darlington riot and wrote the "Dear Apple" letter giving Senator Tillman the "Joab name" and when Tillman came on here afterwards he went to him and begged him not to fight him in his congressional district for congress, and disclaimed intending anything but friendship for him. He promised Bowden that he would run for governor in 1896 and encouraged Bowden to run for congress. He made Tom Reed believe he was in sympathy with the Republican party and thus obtained his position on the ways and means committee above older and able members of the house. He has been, in a way, trying to deliver the goods, and his trick speech was a part delivery. His fawning around the president last summer and declaration that McKinley was the "most popular" president since Lincoln and ought to be re-nominated by acclamation is another part. All these things go to prove his absolute unreliability and his unscrupulous ambition. He is a Democrat only because he believes that is the way to gratify his ambition.

I would go on and give instance after instance of his treachery to his colleagues, and of his trickery, but this is enough for one installment. Let him dispute what I have said thus far and I will give him some more, and what is more to the purpose, let the people know more fully what manner of man it is they have sent to the United States senate in the place of the noble Joseph H. Earle.

Very respectfully,
T. J. Strait.
Washington, D. C., Feb. 1, 1899.

PUBLIC PRINTING.

The House Passes a Sensible Bill on the Subject.

HE IS NOW OUR ACTIVE ALLY.

The Provisions of the Compact Made for the Payment of the Cuban Soldiers Under Arms.

A dispatch from Remedios, Cuba, under date of Feb. 2, says:

As a result of the conference which Robert P. Porter, the special commissioner of President McKinley, has had with Gen. Gomez, the latter called to President McKinley this afternoon assuring him of his cooperation in disbanding the Cuban army and in distributing among the Cuban soldiers the \$2,000,000 appropriated for the purpose of enabling them to return to their homes. Gen. Gomez also telegraphed to Maj. Gen. Brooke saying he would accept the latter's invitation to go to Havana. The success of Mr. Porter's mission greatly simplified the returning of military Cubans to the pursuits of peace.

In view of Gen. Gomez's supposed prior attitude of hostility toward the United States, Mr. Porter came here clothed with absolute authority and the tender of \$3,000,000 was practically a verbal ultimatum. Had it not been accepted no more ultimatums would have been made.

Mr. Porter made plain the purpose of the government and was gratified at the ready response of Gen. Gomez. The conference took place at the house here occupied by the Cuban general as his headquarters since coming to town.

When Mr. Porter arrived here last week he was accompanied by Senor Gonzalo de Quesada, the special commissioner of the Cuban junta at Washington; Capt. Campbell, of General Brooke's staff; Lieut. Hanna, of Gen. Wood's staff, and a correspondent of the Associated Press.

The Cuban commander was cordial in greeting Mr. Porter, and opened the interview by referring to the change for the better which had taken place in Cuba since he was last here in September. He also laid stress on the fact that some people were asking where was Cuba's promised liberty.

"The answer to this," said Mr. Porter, "is that Cuba now has commercial and industrial liberty, and that President McKinley has directed me in framing the Cuban tariff to make no discrimination in favor of the United States in the manner that Spain favored herself. Cuba is free today to buy in the cheapest market. People are returning to the pursuits of peace and our military government will give way to the civil government as fast as possible."

Mr. Porter also said that the purpose of the American government is to lay a firm foundation of stable government for Cuba, to give the Cubans all the liberties they have fought for, and that Gen. Gomez must remember that and more still. For instance, there are 25,000 or 30,000 Spanish soldiers at Cienfuegos who have not left Cuba, that we had only been a month on the island and that President McKinley needed and was entitled to the cooperation of all interested in the welfare and future of Cuba and that he needed the cooperation of Gomez above all others.

The first problem, Mr. Porter then pointed out, was the disbandment of the Cuban army and the return of the Cuban soldiers to work. This was the special mission which had brought Mr. Porter to Remedios and in which President McKinley expected Gen. Gomez's aid.

The Cuban commander replied that he was willing to give the aid required, but asked how he could do so.

To this Mr. Porter replied that President McKinley would be glad to have him go to Havana and cooperate with Gen. Brooke in disbanding the Cubans and in paying over the \$2,000,000 appropriated for that purpose.

Gen. Gomez said the amount was too small, but that was not his fault, and he would make it go as far as possible, while likening it to the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

"No man in history," said Mr. Porter, "has done so much with so small resources as you have done. Hence your cooperation with Gen. Brooke will bring good results."

Gen. Gomez especially requested that the money for which Mr. Porter had orders in his pocket, should be paid over to Gen. Brooke and not to himself, as he did not want the personal responsibility of keeping it.

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Fourth. The Cubans shall surrender their arms to the Cuban assembly or to its representatives.

Fifth. The committee on distribution shall use its best endeavors to distribute it among the population, so that all may secure work.

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PEACE AT LAST.

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The meeting last night at the Cuban club house took the form of a reception to Mr. Porter and his party. It was arranged by Gen. Gomez, the invitations being sent out after the close of the conference. The private theatre of the club was crowded, many handsome and gallantly dressed women in the audience giving beauty and color to the scene. American and Cuban flags were the principal feature in the decorations.

Senor de Quesada made a stirring address, counseling faith in the good intentions of the United States and predicting a glorious future for the Cuban republic. He was literally showered with roses by the women at the end of his speech. "Vivas" were given for

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Gen. Gomez especially requested that the money for which Mr. Porter had orders in his pocket, should be paid over to Gen. Brooke and not to himself, as he did not want the personal responsibility of keeping it.

The Cuban general then assured Capt. Campbell of his good feeling toward Gen. Brooke and the formal compact was presented to Gomez by Mr. Porter and was assented to by Gen. Gomez.

In brief the compact is as follows:

First. The Cuban officers in each province shall assist the American officers in distributing the funds.

Second. That those officers shall at once meet at some convenient point and decide how, when and where the payments are to be made and arrange any other details.

Third. That the sum paid to each man shall not be regarded as part payment of salary or wages due for service rendered, but to facilitate the disbandment of the army, as a relief of suffering and as an aid in getting the people to work.

Fourth. The Cubans shall surrender their arms to the Cuban assembly or to its representatives.

Fifth. The committee on distribution shall use its best endeavors to distribute it among the population, so that all may secure work.

Sixth. That the \$2,000,000 shall be placed subject to the order of Gen. Brooke and that action in the matter shall be immediate.

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President McKinley, Gen. Gomez, Mr. Porter and the United States. Then followed other speeches, but Gen. Gomez did not speak.

MONKEYS AS COTTON PICKERS.

An interesting experiment being tried in Mississippi cotton fields.

Mr. Tom G. Lane contributes the following to the Southern Cotton Planter's Journal: Two years ago, at the Vicksburg fair, in the fall of 1896, as Prof. S. M. Tracey and Mr. W. W. Mangrum were watching some trained monkeys perform their various tricks, Professor Tracey said to Mr. Mangrum: "As sure as you are alive, Mangrum, those monkeys can be taught to pick cotton better and more cheaply than our Negroes do, and perpetual fame will be the part of the man who first tried the experiment." At first Mr. Mangrum was inclined to laugh at the idea, but the more he thought over the matter, and the more he watched the monkeys at their various tricks, the more he became convinced that there was something in it, and the next day, as he left the professor at the Carroll hotel, he said:

"Well professor, I have been thinking over your suggestion of teaching monkeys to pick cotton, and I am determined to try the thing and see if it will work. They have been taught to do much more difficult things than that, and I am almost sure they can be taught to pick cotton. We can't rely on the Negroes much longer, and next fall I am going to buy me a dozen monkeys and see what can be done." The next fall, that is in September of 1897, Mr. Mangrum hunted up the owner and trainer of ten trained monkeys in New York City, and made arrangements both to buy the monkeys, and to get the services of their trainer who understood the business, and assured Mr. Mangrum that it would be the simplest thing imaginable to teach monkeys to pick cotton.

These were placed upon one of Mr. Mangrum's Mississippi plantations about the middle of September of that year, and the training began. The monkeys belonged to the race known to scientists as *Sphraghis Vulgaris*, and the males weigh about 110 pounds and the females about 90 pounds each. Bags were made for each monkey, which would hold about 25 lbs of seed cotton, and a bag placed over the shoulder of each. It is surprising how rapidly the trainer taught the monkeys to pick cotton. Baskets to hold the cotton were placed at the end of the rows, and one man, over and above the trainer, was necessary to take the cotton out of the sacks and put it in the baskets. The females proved much better pickers than the males, for they not only picked cleaner cotton, but they would also pick more of it in a day. In less than a month after the first were started at the work, they could pick an average of 150 pounds a day. They picked in weather in which Negroes would not pick, and picked cleaner cotton. The cost of picking was much less, and in every way they made much better pickers than the average Negro.

The first experiment, although on a small scale, proved to Mr. Mangrum that monkeys could be used with great success as cotton pickers, so in June of 1898 he made an order for 300 monkeys of the same breed, on an export of monkeys from Africa, with the understanding that most of them were to be females. About the first week of September of this year the new batch of monkeys arrived, and the service of the old trainers was engaged to train this new lot. But this was not such an easy matter as was at first thought, for many of the new monkey's were still wild. But the trainer thoroughly understood his business, having served for a long time under Barnum as trainer of monkeys. Finally with the aid of the ten old monkeys, who were of great assistance, and a great deal of punishment and rewarding, the gang were pretty well trained by the middle of October.

I have watched this experiment with greater interest than I have watched any new things in years. I have kept in constant correspondence with Mr. Mangrum about this matter and about the middle of November I visited his plantation near Sneddes to see the monkeys at their work. I must admit that it was a glorious sight to see, and one that did my heart good. The rows were filled with monkeys, each one with her little cotton sack around her neck, picking quietly and orderly, and without any rush or confusion. When they got their sacks full they would run to the end of the row, where a man was stationed to empty them into large cotton baskets, where they would hurry back to their work, and the monkeys seemed actually to enjoy picking.

Killed Each Other.

Bob Marks, a noted