

The General Assembly.

Columbia, February 12—Special: The House to-day spent a couple of hours on a bill intended to protect the fishing interests of the State. While the vote was against the killing of the measure, there was so much discussion and amending that the only way out of the difficulty was to adjourn the debate on the bill until tomorrow. These fish bills are getting to be perennial, and it would appear that the best thing possible would be to take up all existing and proposed laws relative to fish, oysters and terrapin, and get a law that would be acceptable to all interests. The bill under discussion, which provoked so much debate, and is still pending, has as its central idea a license on nets which is to go to the pay of the commissioner. The House then fell upon another problem that was left unfinished.

Mr. Haselden proposes to equalize all railroad fares for State colleges. He started out by applying his measure to Winthrop, but made it general and acceptable to all State institutions. The House had not decided what it would do on the motion to indefinitely postpone the bill when it made ready for the series of elections set for the day. A motion to strike out the exacting words of the bill, however, was lost.

Under the new rules elections are very tedious. The elections to-day resulted: For members of the State board of control for the full term, D. M. Miles, of Spartanburg; for the unexpired term, M. R. Cooper, of Colleton.

For trustees of South Carolina College: Julian Mitchell, of Charleston; W. T. C. Bates, of Orangeburg; Robert Macfarland, of Darlington; B. M. Suman, of Greenville.

For trustees of Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural and Mechanical College: Prof W. K. Slight, of Newberry.

THE SENATE.
The Dorchester County bill coming up as the special order immediately after the morning hour, a repetition of the Cherokee County debate was precipitated. The committee had divided evenly on the report, and Mr. Mower, on the part of the unfavorable report, dealt with the constitutional question involved in the question of whether a two-thirds majority of the qualified voters of the proposed county was necessary to fix the county seat. It was on this ground that the unfavorable report had been submitted. George's, the proposed county seat, having received but a majority of the votes, and that at a second election ordered by the Governor.

Mr. Henderson maintained that the town of George's had received a plurality of the votes cast in the first election, and that as the Governor had no right to order another election the majority which it received at the second election was a nullity. He held, however, that a plurality having been obtained and all the other requirements of the Constitution having been complied with, the residents of the proposed new county had a right to come before the Legislature and petition for a new county, and that the Legislature could grant the petition and order a special election for the new county seat. The trouble all arose over a plural, "s," which the committee on style and revision of the Constitutional Convention had tacked to the word "question."

After considerable debate pro and con on much the same line, the yeas and nays were called on Mr. Mower's motion to indefinitely postpone the minority (favorable) report. This was lost.

The favorable report was then adopted. Mr. Buist then offered an amendment to provide that the place receiving two-thirds of the votes at a special election ordered in the bill should be the county seat.

Mr. Henderson moved to amend this by making it "the majority," which prevailed.

At the night session of the Senate, Mr. Henderson presiding, an amendment of Mr. Moses to the Mayfield amendment to the sinking fund loan bill to reduce the rate of interest to counties to 5 per cent prevailed. Mr. Buist then moved to strike out the enacting words of the bill, but the motion was defeated. The bill then passed its third reading.

The Lower House Has Much Work Mapped Out.

END NOT YET IN SIGHT.

The body has been in session now for five weeks and to-day enters upon its sixth week's work. And to quote several who are interested it may be said the body seems to be further off from a final adjournment than ever. The general laws disposed of up to date are but very few. Nearly all the important matters are yet open. The appropriation bill has not been touched yet though it is on the calendar. The several dispensary measures are open, and the administration revenue measures—the income tax and insurance and license bills—have not yet been even introduced. There are two fertilizer tax reduction bills still standing on the calendar, the public printing bill has not yet been finally disposed of in the house,

and the insurance and banking inspector bills are awaiting consideration; so is Mr. Gage's resolution relating to the supplementary constitutional school tax.

All the new county measures have been finally disposed of save that of Dorchester county, which has been fought over in the senate. The house decided to wait on the result of the fight in the upper house and will doubtless pass the senate bill without question. This gives the State four new counties—Dorchester, Cherokee, Greenwood and Bamberg.

The senate is well advanced with its work and will devote its attention this week very likely to the consideration of dispensary matters. All pending measures are fixed for a hearing to-morrow, but it is not unlikely that they will go over. There are rumors of a new proposition in regard to the dispensary situation which may sidetrack all pending measures save that introduced by Mr. Garris in the house designed to patch up the interstate commerce clause.

At the end of the fifth week's session there were 90 bills on the house calendar; some 15 or 20 more will appear thereon this morning. Of the 90, 18 are senate bills over which there will be little discussion and seven are claims. A good proportion of them are special orders. If the house works like it did on one or two days last week there is no reason why the body shall not reach an adjournment sine die by the end of the present month. Many unimportant bills will have to go over to the next session, however, and there will be no time to spare on talking about fish, shad and sturgeons.

THE SPECIAL ORDERS.
Mr. Garris' anti Greek letter fraternity bill and the public printing bill, which has already been fully discussed, are both special orders for this evening at 8 o'clock. So are Mr. Rogers' board of health bill, Mr. Asbill's joint resolution as to claims of certain newspapers and Mr. Limehouse's Dorchester county bill. The senate bill will be taken up in place of the latter and will be quickly passed no doubt. Further proceedings in regard to the printing bill are awaited with very great public interest.

For this morning the special orders are Mr. Pollock's Coast Line charter bill, the fight over this bill having been fought, Mr. Burns' privilege tax bill and the concurrent resolution relating to the completion of the State capitol. For 11 o'clock the special order is Mr. Child's prohibition bill. Other special orders in a position to be called up to-day are Mr. Haselden's bill to equalize the railroad fare of all students hereafter attending the Winthrop college, which has already been argued and a vote ordered on a motion to indefinitely postpone, Mr. Kibler's banking and insurance commission bill, Mr. Winkler's bill to provide for the examination of the banking corporations of the State, Mr. Garris' "administration" liquor bill and Mr. Gage's supplementary school tax bill.

THE ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION.
The most important special order for the week, so far as the taxpayers are concerned, is the senate concurrent resolution fixing the day for the final adjournment of the general assembly. The senate fixed the 19th as the day in its resolution. The house moved to amend so as to fix the 25th and then made the resolution a special order for this morning immediately after third reading bills. Of course no one can tell whether it will be called for or not, but Mr. Rainsford, who has a similar resolution has been using his every energy to get a day fixed and he will doubtless push the matter in view of the important bills to be considered and acted upon.

For to-morrow at noon the special order is Mr. Williams' bill providing for the forfeiture to the State of abandoned railroad property. The judiciary committee's substitute bill to require the rate of interest upon any contract arising in this State for the hiring, lending or use of money or other commodity is the special order for 8 p m to-morrow.

It will thus be seen that the house has heavy work ahead of it during its five working days this week.

On Thursday the members of both houses will go to Charleston to accept of the hospitality of the city by the sea and see the North Atlantic squadron in action. It is a trip to which all members are looking forward with the greatest degree of interest. The offer of the Atlantic Coast Line has been much appreciated.

THE SENATE'S WORK.

In the senate as stated all the liquor bills are to be considered this week and the administration revenue measures will doubtless be railroaded as they are deemed of the utmost importance in view of Governor Elber's recent message. The senate will have to act upon the anti cigarette bill which has passed the house and the Jim Crow car bill which went through the lower branch also during the past week. It is thought that the senate will kill both these measures.

The bicycle baggage bill passed during the past week as also did the anti trust law. Both will adorn the statute books. The house has passed one of the bicycle baggage bills and the senate the other. The differences will be adjusted all right.

The bill to require all railroad trains to stop at stations has passed the house, but in such way that it can not seriously interfere with interstate business even if it passed the senate. The alien ownership of land bill has been killed in the house. Several fish bills killed much time in the house during the week just ended, but they have about all been disposed of now.—The State

Economy the Cry, Appropriations Cut on All Sides.

Columbia, Feb. 15—The house spent the morning in disposing of a few third reading bills and considering the appropriation bill.

The appropriation bill was first amended by the committee inserting \$3,456 for the Winthrop College scholarships, and reducing the appropriation for the per diem and mileage of the regents of the Hospital for the Insane from \$1,200 to \$1,000.

The appropriation for the S. C. College was reduced from \$25,000 to \$21,000 after a protracted debate. An attempt to cut it to \$17,000 failed.

Every appropriation possible was cut down, but there seemed to be no disposition to cripple any of the departments or institutions. The consideration of the bill was not completed at the night session.

When the Senate was ready for business this morning the following third reading bills passed without debate:

To amend an Act to provide for the election of public cotton weighers
To provide the pupils attending the free public schools with school text books at actual cost

To provide for the transportation, by common carriers, of bicycles.
Prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons.

To authorize deposit of money in proceedings in the Courts of this State as security in lieu of bonds and undertakings.

The concealed weapons bill was then taken up, and an amendment of Mr. Love's to provide for the payment of \$10 of the fine collected to the informer rejected on motion of Mr. Mower. An amendment offered by Mr. Love, to provide for hard labor being required of prisoners imprisoned for carrying concealed weapons, was adopted. The bill then went through, and was returned to the House with amendments.

Three New Bills to Prevent a Deficiency.

It was learned yesterday from reliable source that the administration would try to make up the deficiency in the funds for running the government by the enactment of an income tax bill, a license bill and an insurance bill fixing a graduated license on the gross premiums earned by companies. By these bills no profession, trade or industry will be spared. All will have to bear their part of the burden.

These measures have been mentioned before as a means of making up the deficiency, and they have evidently found favor in the sight of a good many. The three measures proposed were briefly outlined yesterday by a gentleman to a reporter of the State.

The license bill, as explained, is a graduated one, imposing a small license upon all professions, trades and industries. The cotton mills by this bill are taxed 50 cents upon every \$10,000 of capital.

Bagging factories and smaller industries including banks are taxed in the same way. A lawyer or any other professional man, whose profession nets him \$2,500, say, would have to pay about \$6; the clerk who gets a salary of \$1,200 would pay \$3. This estimate for professional and business men applies to only those whose income or salaries is \$1,000 or more, on which one-fourth of one per cent. will be levied.

This bill alone is expected to raise about \$70,000 or \$80,000 per annum.

The graduated income bill begins with an income of \$2,500 and imposes a tax of 1 per cent; on \$5,000, 1 1/2 per cent; on \$7,500, 2 per cent; on \$10,000, 2 1/2 per cent; on \$15,000 and upwards, 3 per cent. This is intended to reach the man who has an income but no visible property. Property holders whose incomes reach any of the above figures will come within the provisions of the act also. It is hoped that from this source \$50,000 or \$60,000 will be derived.

AN INSURANCE BILL.

An insurance bill fixing a graduated license on the gross premiums earned by the companies is the third measure. As the law now stands insurance companies make their returns of gross earnings to the county auditors of the State, and the gross earnings are taxed as the other property in the various counties. The new law will require the insurance companies to make returns of the amount of business done in each county to the comptroller general, who will certify the matter to the county auditors, and the companies will pay a graduated license fee upon the gross earnings to the State in addition to the taxes now paid. The entire taxes upon the gross earnings will be about 2 per cent. This is expected to raise an additional \$20,000.

From the three above sources it is thought that from \$125,000 to \$150,000 per annum can be raised.—The State, Feb 14

Athenians Aroused

From Midnight Slumber by Startling News.

Athens, Feb. 13, 1:15 a. m.—The greatest excitement prevails here. The newspapers have issued midnight editions containing a report that the vali of Smyrna has chartered a steamer for the purpose of transporting troops to Crete, and this in face of the assurances given to the powers by the porte that Turkey would not send reinforcements to the island.

The newspapers and crowds in the street declare that the action of vali is taken with the full cognizance of the porte, which has again proved, if proof is necessary, that not the slightest confidence can be placed in its assurances or promises. Hearty denunciations of the Turkish government are heard on every hand. The city is alive at this hour and the principal streets are filled with Greeks who demand that the Grecian warships prevent the landing of further troops in Crete. It is believed here that orders to that effect have already been given to Prince George, and there is no doubt that he will fully carry out his instructions, in which case war with Turkey would probably result, unless diplomacy or superior force should be employed to divert Greece from her determination to protect the Cretan Christians and also perhaps to bring about the long sought for annexation of the island.

Rome, Feb. 12—A semi-official note has been issued here stating that Italy will not oppose Greece in any action the latter country may take on the Cretan question. It is added that Italy does not wish to serve Turkey in any way.

Berlin, Feb. 12.—The Post of this city this evening publishes an article in which it says that war between Greece and Turkey is almost inevitable. The paper adds that Turkey is entitled to allow her troops to cross the Thessalian frontier in view of the action of Greece.

Vienna, Feb. 12.—It is reported here that a blockade of Crete by the European powers will be established shortly.

London, Feb. 12.—The Morning Post will tomorrow publish a news agency statement that the powers are unanimous in their condemnation of the attitude of Greece, and that they will not allow her to continue her present course. She must, it is added, abandon the idea of commencing a war with Turkey.

Canea, Feb. 12.—The foreign consuls here have agreed that Halepa shall be regarded as neutral territory until an attack shall be made on Canea. In the event of such an attack being decided upon the consuls shall have 24 hours notice. The commander of the Greek warships here has promised the commanders of the other war vessels to give them 40 hours notice in the event of his attacking the town. Prince George, the commander of the Greek torpedo flotilla, has not yet arrived here.

London, Feb. 12.—The Athens correspondent of the Daily News telegraphs that Turkey is forming the marauding bands of Albania into bodies that will be employed to invade Thessaly. The Greek government is fully alive to the danger in this direction, and is hastening troops to the frontier to repel any attempted invasion of Grecian territory. It is reported that a collision has already occurred between the troops and Albanians on the frontier.

Canea, Crete, Feb. 12.—Georgi Berovitch Pasha, the Christian governor of Crete, having been menaced by the Moslems, has taken refuge in the Greek consulate and his wife has found an asylum at the French consulate pending their departure from the island.

The Christians, after a prolonged fight, have driven the Moslems into Canea and are now holding the suburbs of the town.

London, Feb. 12.—The Greek charge d'affaires here has informed Lord Salisbury that his government had decided to prevent the Turks from landing any reinforcements upon the island of Crete.

London, Feb. 12.—M Hanotaux, the French minister, has initiated proposals that the powers blockade Crete and they also occupy Canea. Retimo and the other centres of disorder, pending a settlement of the dispute that will be satisfactory to the Cretans. Active negotiations on these proposals are now pending.

A high authority at the foreign office to-day told a representative of the Southern Associated Press that he believed the proposals of M. Hanotaux was a Franco-Russian scheme to permit Greece to occupy the island with Prince George, second son of the king of the Hellenes, as governor general, the island continuing to pay tribute to Turkey.

WILL ATTACK CANEA.

London, Feb. 15—A dispatch from Constantinople says that 3,000 Cretan insurgents are known to be concentrated in the vicinity of Canea awaiting the arrival of arms, ammunition and equipments from Sphecia on the south coast near the western extremity of the island of Crete, where they have been landed by expeditions from Greece. When these supplies are received, the dispatch says, it is the intention of the insurgents to make an attack upon Canea.

The dispatch adds that the Turkish authorities are now convinced that the pacification of the island can only be effected by European occupation.

AWOKE THE ECHOES

Of Thirty-Odd Years Ago in Old Charleston.

Charleston, Feb. 15—The feature of the day in the blockading of the port of Charleston by Admiral Bunch's fleet consisted in some heavy gun practice by the entire squadron. Shortly after 1 o'clock the ships moved in their blockading positions and putting out floating targets at distances ranging from 400 to 1,000 yards began to get her main batteries into action. The line of action was the same as that which the fleet has observed during other blockade work, the Massachusetts to the north and then the Maine, Amphitrite, New York, Indiana and Columbia ranging away to the southward at distances of 3,000 yards. The targets used were the ordinary floating triangles of seven feet to the side.

The practice began at 1:15 in the afternoon and continued without interruption until 3:30.

The main batteries of the ships are: Massachusetts, four 13-inch, eight 8-inch and four 6-inch guns; the Maine four 10 inch and six 6-inch guns; the Amphitrite, four 10 inch and two 4-inch rapid fire guns; the New York, six 8-inch and twelve 4-inch rapid fire guns; the Indiana, four 13 inch, eight 8-inch and four 6 inch guns, and the Columbia one 8 inch, two 6 inch and eight 4-inch rapid fire guns. The guns on the individual ships were in action one at a time and while the ships were anchored. Once the Massachusetts fired her 13-inch guns at intervals of two minutes and at one time the battleship Maine got under way and fired several shots at her target. The guns were loaded with service charges and shells were the main projectiles used. The booming of the great guns reverberated for miles along the coast and in the city the concussion could not be heard but felt distinctly.

The shooting was nearly all line shooting and while the range of the targets were not gotten with accuracy, the practice was apparently successful. Many of the projectiles struck short of the targets and plunging into the ocean ricocheted some times for a mile before making the second plunge.

The Vesuvius left the harbor this morning at 10 a. m., and rejoined the fleet. Later in the day she returned to port again and remained for a few hours. The Marblehead sailed for Mayport on the Florida coast shortly before 4 o'clock this afternoon. The Terror, Puritan and other ships possibly are expected to join the fleet to-night or to-morrow night. Thursday the Maine will go to Port Royal to be coaled.

The fleet remained quietly at anchor to-night in the positions occupied during gun practice. No manoeuvres of any kind were attempted. It was a night off after the lively work of the men in the turrets.

The World's Costliest Book.

Uncle Sam's Official History of the Civil War.

The most expensive book ever published in the world is the official history of the "War of the Rebellion," which is now being issued by the government of the United States at a cost up to date of \$2,334,328. Of this amount \$1,184,291 has been paid for printing and binding. The remainder was expended for salaries, rent, stationery and other contingent and miscellaneous expenses, and for the purchase of records from private individuals. It will require at least three years longer and an appropriation of perhaps \$600,000 to complete the work so that the total cost will undoubtedly reach nearly \$3,000,000. It will consist of 112 volumes, including an index, and an atlas which contains 178 plates and maps illustrating the important battles of war, campaigns, routes of march, plans of forts and photographs of interesting scenes, places and persons. Most of these pictures are taken from photographs made by the late M. B. Brady of Washington. Several years ago the government purchased his stock of negatives for a large sum of money. Each volume will, therefore, cost an average about \$28,785, which probably exceeds that of any book that was ever issued. Copies are sent free to public libraries; and 1,347,999 have been so distributed. The atlas costs \$22 and the remainder of the edition is sold at prices ranging from 50 cents to 90 cents a volume.

There does not seem to be a large popular demand, for only 51,194 copies have been sold for \$10,154. Thus it will be seen that the entire proceeds received from sales thus far but slightly exceed the average cost of each of the 112 volumes. The books can be obtained by addressing the secretary of war.

The material used in the preparation of these histories is taken from both the Federal and Confederate archives, and is purely official. The reports of commanders of armies, corps, brigades, regiments, etc., are carefully edited and arranged so as to give a consecutive account of all engagements with as little duplication and unnecessary material as possible, and as the writers represent both sides of the struggle it may be regarded as impartial.—Chicago Record.

Judge Aldrich Dead.

EXPIRES QUIETLY OF HEART FAILURE WHILE ASLEEP.

Special to The State
Barnwell, Feb. 12—Ex-Judge A. P. Aldrich died of heart failure at "The Oaks," his home here, this afternoon at 2 o'clock. He was 83 years old and died while asleep.

Judge Aldrich was born in Charleston and after his admission to the bar he moved to Barnwell to practice law and has since made his home here. His public career began some years before the war, when he was elected commissioner in equity for Barnwell county. After holding this position several terms he was elected to the legislature, and in 1862 elected speaker of that body. Again in 1865 he was similarly honored. During part of the war he served as an aide on the staff of Gen. Bonham and also on the staff of Gen. Gregg.

In 1865 he was elected judge, but soon after was removed by Gen. Canby for refusing to enforce a law which he thought violated the Constitution of the State. He remained in retirement until after the State was freed from Republican rule, when he was again placed on the bench. This position Judge Aldrich filled with honor and dignity until he voluntarily retired.

Judge Aldrich was married to Miss Martha Ayer and from this union six children were born—Mrs Hal Richardson of Columbia, Mrs Milledge Bonham of Anderson, Mrs. William Duncan of Barnwell, Mrs. Rose Aldrich of Barnwell, Col. Robert Aldrich and Mr. Alfred Aldrich, both of Barnwell. All of his children survive him.

Mr. J. A. Tobin of Barnwell has been appointed temporary receiver of the assets in South Carolina of the Atlanta Southern Building and Loan Association.

Topeka, Kas, February 15.—A bill was to-day introduced in the Senate to repeal the prohibitory law and establish a system of State dispensaries for the control of the liquor traffic.

Cant., Ohio, February 15—Major McF. y was unable to receive any of the numerous politicians who were on hand early this morning. He is suffering with a mild attack of influenza and was confined to his bed until this evening, when the family physician permitted him to sit up for a time. Dr. Phillips' attending physician, says Mr. McKinley will be unable to receive any one for several days and must be permitted to reserve all his strength for the inaugural ceremonies.

A Familiar Figure Passes.

Sunday afternoon, a well known figure around South Carolina College passed from this transient stage of life to be seen no more.

For eighteen years Mr. Isaiah Mitchell had been janitor at the college, and was universally respected both by faculty and students. His death occurred at his home on the corner of Blossom and Marion streets, and his funeral was held yesterday afternoon. Mr. Mitchell was in his fifty-fourth year.—Columbia Register, Feb. 16.

Imported Stock.

B. G. Osteen & Co. received this week a full assortment of the latest and prettiest designs in Emulsion's Imported Crepe and Tissue Paper for making lamp shades, flowers and all sorts of fancy work. This is guaranteed to be the genuine imported paper and far superior to any and all imitations. We sell at New York prices; as we buy direct from the importers. The stationery stock is complete and up to date.

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