

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June, 1866.

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The General Assembly

PROHIBITION BILL DISCUSSED AT YESTERDAY'S SESSION.

Will Adjourn Next Wednesday.

Columbia State, Feb. 9.

The house of representatives at the close of the day session yesterday received the report of the special joint committee appointed to look into the matter of the earliest possible day for adjournment and received it as information. The report fixed Wednesday of next week as the final day.

As soon as its third reading calendar had been taken up yesterday the house resumed the consideration of Mr. Childs' prohibition measure, which it had previously refused to kill. There was no little surprise when Mr. Stevenson withdrew for Mr. Pollock the amendment he had offered. Then there was elaborate discussion upon the merits of the bill, some of the speeches being able ones. That of Mr. McCallough on behalf of prohibition was a strong argument, well delivered. Many of the speakers dealt with the liquor situation in exhaustive and painstaking manner and much was said for and against the present system of handling the liquor traffic in South Carolina. Mr. Livingston offered as an amendment an absolute prohibition measure. This was finally voted down. Before any decisive vote on the merits of the bill proper could be reached, however, the hour for recess came and the further discussion of the measure went over until this morning, when it will be resumed immediately after third reading bills.

STATE COLLEGE TUITION BILL KILLED.

Mr. E. D. Smith's bill to require all persons attending State colleges to pay at least \$40 a year tuition, which was debated last year and brought over to this session, was called up by the author. Mr. Williams moved to strike out the enacting words.

Mr. Smith defended his bill at some length. He wished he had time to review the history of the public schools of the State. It was a Democratic principle that favoritism or partiality should not be shown any one. He would not raise his voice on this tuition matter had the State made an equitable division for the public schools. There were in the colleges 1,000 boys and girls; in the schools 116,000. The colleges had gotten \$225,000; the schools \$482,811. He proceeded to deal with the figures, giving per capita comparisons. In Winthrop the scholarships were not based on the relative wealth of the girls, but upon scholarship in competitive examinations. He also dealt with Clemson. Take the Citadel. It had been said that there were plenty of young men who did not mind allowing themselves to be supported for four years. The South Carolina college was called a State college. What high school boy could enter there without means to aid him in preparation? There was no means for educating those between the common school and the college. There was an impassable gulf between the common schools and the colleges. Why did we make provision only for the ornaments of society. As a Frenchman once said in all his glory "Let the mass of the people eat grass." In view of this magnificent gift to these colleges would it be too much to ask these fortunate ones to pay at least the interest on the money given them? The people of the State had come to the point where they objected to being taxed to care for a small privileged class. He also dealt with the argument that the rich paid the most taxes.

Mr. Stevenson said as he figured it the Winthrop girls got \$75 apiece, and each student at the South Carolina college \$143.

Mr. Patton offered an amendment allowing one scholarship for each member of the general assembly, to be selected by the delegations, in each of the State institutions.

Mr. McWhite said this bill required the girls and boys to swear that they were paupers. It was the old "song of denominational schools and colleges over again. None of these—he meant no disrespect—could teach what was taught at Winthrop and Clemson. This bill was a strike in the wrong direc-

tion. He concluded by moving to indefinitely postpone the bill. The roll call was demanded. The house, by a vote of 60 to 38, indefinitely postponed the bill. The vote was clinched.

WORK OF THE SENATE.

When the roll of the senate was called yesterday fully one-fourth of the members was absent. Those present did not allow this to retard the work, through from the nature of the bills on the calendar there was nothing to provoke discussion. President McSweeney and President Protem Norris were both absent, so Senator Moses was called to the chair. Mr. Moses is considered one of the best parliamentarians in the senate, and from the way he made business hum this claim was well founded. It was due to his expeditious work that no night session was necessary.

An amusing incident occurred in connection with adjournment. It had been previously agreed that the calendar should be finished at the morning session and adjournment taken until 11 o'clock this morning, to enable several committees to catch up with their work. When the last bill on the calendar was passed, Mr. Moses gravely rapped his gavel, looked in the direction of Mr. Mayfield, who was sitting at his desk in an absent minded mood, and announced: "The senator from Bamberg moves that when the senate adjourn it adjourn to meet at 11 o'clock tomorrow." He then gravely put the question and declared it carried. Looking toward Mr. Dennis, who was nodding, Mr. Moses said: "Senator Dennis moves that the senate do now adjourn." The motion was carried.

The joint committee on the time of adjournment recommended that the general assembly do adjourn on Wednesday, the 16th of February, the exact hour for adjournment to be fixed according to the exigencies of the business on the day of adjournment. The senate adopted the recommendation.

An effort was made to kill the house bill, when it came up for a third reading, making it mandatory for the county superintendents of education to keep book depositories where text books can be obtained at actual cost. The effort failed by a vote of 20 to 8.

Liquor Debate the Feature of the Day in The House.

Columbia, February 9.—The House became impatient to-day and killed Mr. Childs' prohibition bill with its dispensary paraphernalia. A majority of the House did not vote for the killing of the bill, and altogether there was a light vote cast. The discussion of the measure had become tiresome and still members wanted to discuss various important phases of the issue and there was some resentment at the policy of cutting off the debate, and so the House killed the bill, thus reaching the inevitable result somewhat sooner than was expected. It now looks all the more likely that nothing, absolutely nothing, will be done with the dispensary-law at this session.

The county government law came up for consideration to-day on the discussion of Mr. Henderson's bill from the Senate, but no positive action was taken by the House. There was, however, positive expression of dissatisfaction with the existing statute. The House after a very long discussion decided to require all county officials to file detailed reports of the incomes of their offices. Some effort was made to exempt certain counties from this requirement, but after a sharp contest the effort to get this exemption failed.

The House is still working with a Wednesday adjournment in view, and hopes to be able to get away by that time.

At the night session a favorable report was made on the bill to create Lee County. There is a minority report signed by five members of the committee. There was a hard fight before the joint judiciary committees. The Senate committee, by a majority of one, reported unfavorably on the bill.

The Senate bill, with reference to boards of equalization, was killed on the unfavorable report. There was something of a rumpus about the filing of the report on the Lee County bill. Mr. Verner called up his bill to exempt Oconee County from the operations of the dispensary law. The people of Oconee do not want the dispensary. His people were satisfied with prohibition. The first year his people bought \$250 from the dispensary in Oconee, next year \$5,000, and last year \$10,000. He could also show there was twice as much liquor made and drunk in the county. Every man and woman in the town where the dispensary is located petitioned for the removal of the dispensary. They had to buy a lot out of town to put up the dispensary. Mr. DeLoach also wished to exempt York from the dispensary law. There is but one dispensary at York. The State wanted a dispensary at York Court House. The people rose up and

protested, so also did Rock Hill. He then explained how the Tirzah dispensary was started and how the U P store followed. This is worse than a blind tiger. It is mean liquor. The whole community is cursed. A few days since the fourteen voters at Tirzah voted against the dispensary and the dispenser and his clerk alone voted for the dispensary. He appealed for the people and the Church to remove the only dispensary in that County.

Mr. DeLoach's amendment was agreed to and so York and Oconee were exempted from the dispensary law. Pickens County was also exempted from the operations of the dispensary law. Then the yeas and nays were called on ordering the bill to a third reading, and the bill was passed to its third reading by a vote of 65 to 33.

Mr. Wilson moved to lay on the table the bill to incorporate the Sumter and Wateree Railway Company. The motion was carried, and the bill was withdrawn from the files of the House. The Senate made some amendments to the school bill of Mr. Johnson, so as not to make it mandatory to have school book depositories in certain counties. The Senate also put a rider on the bill by adding that in all schools and colleges within this State, which are supported in whole or in part from the free school fund it shall be unlawful to use any text-book which has been condemned or disapproved by the State board of education. Strange to say, after the text-book fight of several days ago, the rider was adopted without discussion, and Mr. Bacon was duly happy.

The special committee appointed to investigate and report on the necessary officers attaches of the General Assembly reported recommending that the following clerks and attaches can be dispensed with: In the Senate, general committee clerk, the clerk to roads, etc, clerk to railroads, clerk to privileges and elections, one doorkeeper and one porter—a daily saving of \$21. In the House, clerk on claims, enrolled Acts, one doorkeeper, one laborer and one porter—a daily saving of \$15; making a total daily saving of \$36. A bill was introduced to carry out the above recommendations.

Columbia, Feb. 10.—The House to-day dealt with three questions—whiskey, water and Pee-Dee County. It was a curious jumping from one extreme to another, but all three of the issues are of deep interest to their several communities, and, while the measures all have their general interest they are, in the end, quite local in application. The water company bill, in which all Charleston is interested, and about which much has been said in this correspondence, was passed to its third reading in the House to-day, without a whisper of objection. The flow of water was peaceful, but as is usually the case, it was extremely difficult in the case of whiskey. Last night the House passed a bill to exempt Oconee, Pickens and York counties from the operations of the dispensary law, because the people of those counties wanted relief, and had asked for it in vain. To-day an effort was made to have the body reverse its action of but twelve hours before, and practically defeating the bill exempting the three counties from the operations of the bill. The effort failed, and the bill was sent to the Senate.

The Pee-Dee County matter is also one of deep concern to the people of Marion and Pee-Dee's hopes. There has been some bitterness injected in the work for and against the new county. The House declined to approve of the creation of the new county at this time, but it, by a very large majority, decided to give the advocates of Pee-Dee County a new trial at the ballot-box.

The Senate at its night session amended the appropriation bill so as to give \$25,000 instead of \$20,000 to the South Carolina College, \$2,400 to the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society, and \$150, instead of \$75, as the Adjutant General's contingent fund. News was received in the city during the day of the untimely and unfortunate death of one of the members, Mr. John M. Glenn, of Anderson County. —News and Courier.

The Largest Population in the Institutions History.

The board of regents for the hospital for the insane held a regular monthly meeting yesterday, all the members being present except Mr. Glenn, who was detained by the death of Representative Glenn. During the month of January forty-six patients were admitted, and the total population is now 957, the largest in the history of the institution. The board expects to have the Parker building ready for occupancy by the 22d, and some rooms can be used and will be to day. The board arranged that all brick work and other impediments in case of fire, should be removed in order that the firemen might have a free swing in cases of fires.—Columbia Register.

The Zola Trial.

Conduct of Case Declared to be Unworthy of France.

Paris, Feb. 9.—In spite of special precautions there was a repetition of the scenes witnessed yesterday when the trial of Emile Zola and Perreux, who are being prosecuted by the government for denouncing the Esterhazy court-martial, was continued to-day in the assizes court of the Seine.

Gen. Bois D'Effre refused emphatically to testify, under the plea of professional and state secrecy. M. De la Gorgue, the presiding judge, consented that Madame Dreyfus should be allowed to testify, on the condition that her evidence be restricted to the Esterhazy case.

Over 200 barristers, in their robes, gathered at the entrance and indulged in horseplay. When the presiding judge ordered them not to obstruct the passage, the barristers made a demonstration against the judge. Thereupon the commandant of the republican guards sent a detachment of troops to quell the disturbance. The intervention of the military was ill received, and led to a violent affray. The barristers rushed upon the guards and struck them. One of the young officers was arrested, but after quiet had been restored he was released.

Gen. Gonz refused to testify, a scene following, the court was cleared.

M. LaBorie protested against the limitation of the evidence of Mme. Dreyfus and denounced the scenes in court, the biased reports in the newspapers and the attack on his client as being unworthy of France.

Gen. Bois d'Effre, replying, admitted that as minister for war, before he had testified at the Esterhazy court martial, he had received from Major Esterhazy certain a document which concerned the Dreyfus case, but he refused to give any further particulars on the ground of professional secrecy.

The general admitted that Col. Picquart had been transferred to Tunis owing to his being favorable to Dreyfus and the witness added that he personally was convinced of the guilt of Dreyfus, while other facts, before and after the court martial, which had come to his knowledge, made this conviction unshakable. This statement made a sensation in court.

Read Good Books.

There never was a time when books were as plentiful and as they are now. And with the thousands of good books—those that are calculated to impart knowledge and to exert an elevating and refining influence, it is passing strange that the tastes of so many readers of books are for those that are debasing and degrading in their influence. Why not read good books? We would advise every young man especially to select his books carefully from the best authors, read them and take care of them, and they will be surprised at the wonderful amount of information acquired in a few years as a result, and in this way, too, they can equip themselves with a valuable library of the choicest books.

By all means eschew the trashy novels. They lead to crime and degradation. Only a few days ago, we read an account of a fifteen year old boy in Philadelphia murdering a little five-year-old boy, and weighting his body, down in a creek with rocks, and the cause which led to the commission of this horrible crime was declared to be: "Reading trashy novels." This is only one instance out of the many where the trashy novel has led to the committing of the most horrible crimes. We recall an instance in one of the towns of this State where boys of respectable parentage, had banded together for the purpose of stealing, and trashy novels, found in their pockets when detected, was declared the starting point of their career of sin. There is no doubt but that trashy novels will promote crime, while good books will promote virtue. We would advise every young man to read those that are elevating and ennobling in sentiment.

Away with trashy literature!—Wateree Messenger.

Provisional.

The Syracuse Post prints a story containing an excellent hint, which fathers and mothers who have babies to name may well consider. A girl baby was brought to a clergyman of Syracuse to be baptized. He asked the name of the baby. "Dinah M.," the father responded. "But what does the M stand for?" asked the minister. "Well, I don't know yet; it depends upon how she turns out." "How she turns out? Why, I do not understand you," said the minister. "Oh, if she turns out nice and sweet and handy about the house, like her mother, 'I shall call her Dinah May. But if she has a fiery temper and a bomb-shell disposition like mine, I shall call her Dinah Might."

The Jackson Cotton, Again.

The Jackson, or so-called "limbless," cotton, has been, and is being, well advertised, and is still receiving, therefore, a large measure of attention. Mr. J. H. Riley, of Sally, S. C., sent to us a few days ago a sample of the lint, grown near that place last year by Mr. W. M. Stephenson, with a request that it be submitted to an expert for judgement. It was examined by Mr. W. K. Steedman, who said that its "quality and preparation were excellent, but that the staple was somewhat irregular." He classed it as "middling fair," the best grade of upland cotton brought to this market. In his letter accompanying the sample Mr. Riley stated that the sample "was ginned on an old, inferior gin, and does not show the staple advantageously," which doubtless explains the irregularity noted, and he added:

Mr. Stephenson made at the rate of 1,000 pounds lint cotton to the acre. This variety put out two limbs close to the ground, and the bolls came in clusters on limbs three to four inches long. Mr. Stephenson's land is poor, sandy land—clay four to five feet from surface. He planted this cotton May 10, but it did not come up until June 1. The stalks would average eight feet high, some were ten feet, and some were under six feet. It is the most wonderful cotton I have ever seen, and I am sure that it will revolutionize the cotton trade of the South. Mr. Stephenson is preparing to plant five acres this year.

This account of the cotton speaks for itself. The only other account of it that we have seen, which did not come from persons interested in the sale of the seed, is contained in the reports of Mr. R. J. Redding, the director of the Georgia Experiment Station. Mr. Redding obtained some of the seed of the cotton, and planted them according to directions. In a letter to the Atlanta Constitution, narrating his observations of the crop he planted, he declares that he and Mr. Welborn satisfied themselves of the "identity" of the Jackson cotton with the older variety known as "Welborn's Pet," and that an examination of the cotton in Mr. Jackson's field, near Atlanta removed the last vestige of doubt on that point, and also discovered the fact that the famous patch, instead of being a "poor clay gull," was a "very highly improved and very highly fertilized stop of land." It was found to be what is called a valuable dunghill spot. The patch of two acres at the Experiment Station was picked over the third time on October 6, and Mr. Redding adds:

"As director of the station we immediately prepared and published 'Press Bulletin No. 36, which gave the wonderful 'African limbless' cotton tenth place among twenty-one varieties, in point of total yield of seed cotton. At that time the comparative percentage yield of lint was not investigated. The final picking, November 14, gave 'Jackson's Limbless' eighth place as to total yield of seed cotton. After giving the product of each variety we found that 'Jackson's Limbless' yielded 37.1 pounds of lint per 100 pounds of seed cotton, equalled in this point by only one other variety. The effect of this was to place the 'limbless, in the third place as to value of total product of lint and seed. We have now issued Press Bulletin No. 37, which contains in detail all the points revealed by the test of the twenty-one varieties.

"In conclusion we wish to say that we have never at any time denied that the 'Jackson's Limbless' cotton is a good variety, especially for rich land and high culture. We repeat, now, that it is a very good variety. The points we are aiming at are to show that it falls far, very far, short of the claims that were made for it; that it is not a 'new genus'; that it is not even a new variety; that it did not come from Africa; that it is not 'limbless,' (if limbs be not pinched off while young); that the staple is only a fairly good, short staple upland; that it is not so productive as to give promise of 'revolutionizing' the cotton business; that it is nothing but 'Welborn's Pet,' a variety that has been grown—especially in Texas and Arkansas—for a dozen years or more; and, finally, that the seed are not worth \$1 per 100 seeds, nor \$7 a pound, nor \$210 a bushel."

Mr. Redding declares, finally, that the seed of the "identical same variety" can be bought for probably less than \$2 a bushel. A copy of his report in full, the "Press Bulletin No. 37," noted above, can be obtained free of charge by any person who will apply to the Georgia Experiment Station, Experiment, Georgia.—News and Courier.

Some of the Massachusetts laborers begin to clamor for congress to fix working hours for southern mills, but, as the Philadelphia Record says, it can only regulate government work. It adds that "the new propaganda is an interesting illustration of the Massachusetts idea that the affairs of the universe ought to be cut strictly by the pattern of Bay State necessities."

Barrios Murdered.

Guatemalan President Was Assassinated.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Senor Lazo Arriaga, the Guatemalan minister to the United States, this afternoon received an official cablegram from the minister of foreign affairs of Guatemala, announcing the assassination of President Barrios and the succession to the presidency of First Vice President Manuel Estrada Cabrera.

Factionalism.

The defeat of Epton was much more than the defeat of one man over another for office. It was more than a slap at the Governor. It was intended as a repudiation of the spirit of reconciliation. It was a victory for those known as "reactionists," who might be called also the "factionists." Epton was always a reformer, of course, and at times a more or less bitter partisan, but his election was brought about by the conservative men of both faction, not in accordance with any trade or deal, but as a deserved promotion of a capable and deserved man. His defeat was caused by the desire to upset this growing spirit of harmony and fraternalism. His defeat was compassed to aid the "factionists," to back up some of the driftwood which swims only on disturbed waters, and which might be endangered in piping times of peace.

Everybody realizes that it is dastardly to defeat a man from such motives that it is particularly unfortunate that a man should be defeated on account of circumstances over which he could not possibly have any control. The sentiment here and as far as I can ascertain all over the State is with Epton. He will very likely be elected Comptroller General by a vote that will be highly flattering.—Spartanburg Herald.

A Queer Case.

A queer suit has been filed in a Michigan court against a free silver politician named Baker. It appears that Baker holds a mortgage for \$346. The owner of the incumbered property tendered payment in silver dollars, but Baker refused to accept it, claiming that he must be paid in gold, legal tender paper or an amount of silver bullion equal in value to the amount of the debt. Baker contends that the Bland-Allison act, under which our standard silver dollars are coined is unconstitutional because it did not provide for the free coinage of silver. Suit has been brought to compel the mortgageholder to accept the silver dollars. Baker's defense is that the Bland-Allison dollars—and the Sherman law dollars also—are "unconstitutional" because the government bought silver "at its depreciated price to gold and pocketed the seigniorage." Mr. Baker thinks that is unlawful, but he would be willing to have the government let the silver mine-owners take his depreciated silver to the mint to be coined into dollars which the government would be under no obligation to keep at par and which would be worth only forty-four cents.

Mr. Baker has placed himself in a very ridiculous position.

The Bland Allison silver dollars are distinctly declared by statute to have unlimited legal tender quality. Any decision which declared the Bland-Allison act unconstitutional because under it the government purchased silver bullion at its market price would upset all the coinage laws of the government which have been enacted since 1854, since under every one of them the government has bought the silver out of which our fractional currency has been coined. Mr. Baker has won a reputation at once for originality and sensibility.—Atlanta Journal.

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