

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

FRONT FOR INSURANCE BILL IN THE SENATE.

Opposition to the Creation of an Insurance Department Was Led by Senator Bleese...

Columbia, Feb. 19.—After a most determined fight, which began at the opening session and was continued...

The Senate has not yet acted on the general appropriation bill, and during the morning Senator Bleese...

Both branches have agreed that they would hold the election of the judges tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The bill relative to the extension of the term of the winding up commission received its second Senate reading. The House bill was taken up...

At the night session of the Senate the general voting product bill and the general appropriation bill were given their second readings.

Senator Bleese tried to get up his bill again to-night. Senator Mauldin wanted to reconsider the vote on the House bill...

Senator Mauldin called up the general appropriation bill and had all the Senate committee amendments adopted...

The question in the morning will be whether the bill shall receive its final reading. The Senate amended the bill so it passed the House by adding \$2,000 for the eradication of cattle...

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Limiting the operations of the department to American immigration, but this was voted down, 50 to 30.

Mr. Doar then moved to indefinitely postpone the bill, and on this the ayes and nays were called, the motion being lost by a vote of 17 to 51.

The question was then on the passage of the bill to third reading and the bill was passed without further division. It may be fought again tomorrow on third reading.

Without any objection whatever the House today agreed to the proposition to set aside \$15,000 of the dispensary surplus to meet the expenses of prosecutions in the graft cases.

At the night session of the House Mr. Richards called for the joint resolution by Senator Efrid to relieve former State Treasurers W. T. C. Bates, W. H. Timmerman and State Treasurer R. H. Jennings and their respective bondsmen from liability on the official bonds of the said State Treasurers and State Treasurer for the loss of certain bonds purloined from the State treasury during the period from the year 1895 to the year 1901, inclusive...

Mr. Wingard, of Lexington from the county of Dr. Timmerman, explained the purpose of the resolution. The bonds had been stolen by the clerk, he said, and there was no wrong-doing legally or morally on the part of these gentlemen.

Mr. Rucker said he thought the first duty of the legislators is to the State. The three gentlemen affected stand as high as any men in the State, but if they are relieved of liability it will be notice to every office-holder to steal as much as he pleases.

Mr. Nash said it was very painful to him to oppose this bill, but as long as this matter is before the Courts he did not think the legislature should pass on it. If there is no liability the courts will so declare.

Mr. D. L. Smith made a fervent appeal for the resolution and paid a high tribute to Capt. R. H. Jennings, the present Treasurer.

Dr. Geo. W. Dick, who vies with his fellow physician from Georgetown, as a humorist and orator, also made a humorous and pathetic speech in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Nichols supported the resolution, saying he thought the Treasurers were legally responsible, but they should be relieved as a matter of justice and fairness. Mr. Nichols moved the previous question, which closed the debate, and the vote was taken by yeas and nays on the motion to strike out the resolving words of the resolution.

By a vote of 38 to 78 the House refused to kill the resolution.

Legislators Gladly Agree to Increase Their Own Pay—It is Hoped the Same Will Be Beneficial to Securing Shorter Sessions—Labor Contract Law Safe.

Columbia, Feb. 20.—There was a considerable stir in the Senate this morning over the bill to establish an insurance department. The opponents of the bill said that they had been "caught" when, today, the Senate struck out the provision that the commissioner should be elected by the General Assembly and restored the clause providing for the appointment of the commissioner. This started the fighting anew and seven roll-calls followed, most of them with an evenly divided, Senate—twenty to twenty—and on three record votes the Lieutenant Governor, Mr. McLeod, saved the bill by his deciding vote. The friends of the bill finally consented to adjourn the debate on the measure until tomorrow and with such an evenly divided Senate it looks uncertain what will happen. It may pass and it may not. The winding up commission of the dispensary had all the legislation it wanted or suggested enacted into law. The State board of health is to have a special officer, who is to be paid a salary by the State.

The most important measure passed at this session of the General Assembly is the farm labor contract bill. The report of the free conference committee was adopted tonight and is practically the same as the bill first passed by the House.

The House today by a vote of 67 to 34, and without debate, passed the bill of Senator Walker to change the manner of compensation of members of the General Assembly, and to pay them \$200 each a session and mileage. The bill was amended so as to give the Speaker double the compensation of a member.

Senator Graydon's bill to declare the law in actions for damages, the fellow servants liability bill, was called up in the House this morning and Mr. Milley made the first speech in its favor. It was also supported by Mr. Tompkins, Mr. Dixon and others.

Mr. Carey made a vigorous legal argument against the bill, asserting that it is not constitutional.

There were numerous other brief arguments on the bill and, although the discussion was not as prolonged as it was in the Senate on this bill, the fight was just as warm, but on

Mr. Nash's motion to strike out the enacting words the vote was 82 to 28 and the bill was killed.

The joint resolution desired by the city of Greenville, permitting towns and cities of over 1,000 inhabitants to assess contiguous property for permanent improvements was brought up by Mr. Cothran, who said it was of great importance to Greenville.

Mr. Fraser made a very strong argument against the measure, claiming that it was unjust to assess so large a portion of improvement expenses upon contiguous property owners when the public generally get as much if not more benefit.

The motion of Mr. Fraser to strike out the resolving words of the resolution was carried by a large majority, no count being demanded.

Later in the day Mr. Cothran succeeded in having the vote reconsidered, and said he proposed to amend the resolution so that it will apply only to Greenville. Debate was adjourned on the bill for a time.

After nearly 20 years of legislative experience, nine of which were spent as clerk for house committees and ten years of which were spent as clerk of the house of representatives, Tom C. Hamer steps down and gives others who want the place where is small salary, little glory and plenty of hard work, a chance.

Senator Bleese Almost Succeeds in Fixing State Levy at Five Mills—Rate Bill Finally Killed—State Bill to Be Held in State House.

Columbia, Feb. 21.—The way things are done in the rush is shown by the way half a mill was taken from the State levy today. Mr. Bleese, in the senate, offered an innocent amendment to strike out one-half on line one. No one seemed to know what it meant, but evidently thought it applied to Newberry county. It was adopted. Tonight Senator Mauldin explained that he had overlooked the amendment and moved to restore the five and a half mill provision as passed by the senate committee and the house.

Senator Bleese said he expected to run for governor and as a final appeal asked for a reduction in the State's levy. It was wrong, he argued, to raise the appropriations. The raise was over \$200,000.

He ridiculed Gov. Ansel's message and said any 15-year-old boy ought to have been ashamed of it. Gov. Ansel had said the State was prosperous, but he doubted it seriously.

Senator Bleese made a long speech, giving what will probably be his platform. He argued that if the senate out the levy to five mills that the free conference would cut the appropriations down to meet the reduction in levy from five and a half to five mills. He jumped on the appropriation for the State fair. Senators ought, he said, to look at this matter as they spend their own money.

Senator Mauldin said there was an old song about he who dances must pay. The cold facts are that the legislature has already voted for expenditures necessitating the five and a half mill levy. There is no use to create a debt.

Over his protest the levy was reduced and the State ran a deficiency of \$70,000. If the State has been prodigal in its expenditures then the money must be provided. The finance committee was unanimous in reporting a five and a half mill levy. The five and a half mill levy will hardly be enough. It was simply business.

The senate reconsidered the matter, restoring the necessary five and a half mills.

The insurance commission bill passed the senate today. There was a compromise and settlement by which the senate again changed its view and the bill now goes to the house with a provision that the legislature elect the commissioner, provided that no legislator be eligible to the position. The senate amended the bill so that the insurance companies shall support the department by assessment of not over \$50 each. The salary is raised to \$2,500 by the senate.

The rate proposition was taken up again today and apparently everything that looked like a passenger rate bill was wiped off the slate and the Toole senate bill was killed by an aye and nay vote of 18 to 13. Then the senate refused to reconsider the death blow to the House-Carlisle-Gyles-Finley bill by a vote of 21 to 11. The senate now has no further rate bills pending and has cleared its decks.

The Brice bill to outlaw the South-eastern Tariff association was killed by the senate today.

The senate had some discussion tonight over the salary of the efficient assistant clerk. The senate, by a vote of 17 to 15, retained the salary as reported. Senator Bleese wanted a very small increase made, Senator Mauldin offered an amendment to the legislative supply bill, providing an appropriation of \$5,000 for expenses of members coming back to elect a senator. He said the people of the State did not expect senators and members to come here for such an extraordinary occasion at their own expenses. The senate had finished its

work and would hold the election without coming back, if it could legally do so, but the election cannot be held until March 4. The general assembly would finish its work within the 40 days, and it was not their fault that the election had to be held in 10 days' time. He thought it fair to pay the members their actual expenses.

Senator Bliss insisted that no provision could or should be made for this pay. He argued that the constitution prohibited pay for more than 40 days, absolutely. He would not take any pay even if offered as the constitution fixed the pay for 40 days and no provision was made for any emergency or extra allowance.

The amendment was adopted providing \$5,000 for actual expenses incidental to the reassembling. The presiding officers and clerks are to counterclaim the pay warrants. No fixed scale is provided, but the idea is to equalize the pay and pay actual railroad expenses. The house has not yet considered this proposition.

The bill relative to the re-enrollment of voters in the State was agreed upon by accepting the free-conference report. The bill looks to a general re-enrollment. Senator Ransom offered a concurrent resolution relative to the details of holding.

THE HOUSE.

The resolution of Mr. E. E. Verner calling for an investigation into the legality of one person holding the office of State college trustee and United States senator or member of the legislature was again brought up this morning in the house, debate having been interrupted last night. Mr. Verner took the floor and replied to the remarks of his colleague, Mr. Mann. Mr. Verner said that because of his knowledge of the mountain people in Oconee he had been requested by the Clemson authorities to take the position of cattle inspector, or "tick inspector," and he was not ashamed of it. He had done hard work in that position.

Mr. Mann replied to his colleague and it was evident that some feeling had developed over this matter between Oconee's two members.

By a vote of 64 to 31 the resolution was rejected.

The veto of Gov. Ansel of the Lexington school district bill was called up by Mr. Sharpe and upon the representation of Mr. Sharpe that the bill was purely a local matter the bill was passed over the governor's veto by a vote of 71 to 12. The senate has already passed the bill over the governor's veto.

Mr. Von Kolnitz called up Senator Sinkler's bill to make the terms of county superintendent and supervisor four years, instead of two. Mr. Von Kolnitz said the house had already passed a similar bill and it was now desired to pass this senate bill.

On the motion of Mr. Milley to indefinitely postpone the bill the vote was 31 to 57. Amendments were then offered and agreed to excepting nearly all the counties in the State from the provisions of the bill. Mr. Wyche then moved to continue the bill and on this the vote was 44 to 48. The bill was then passed to third reading, though badly disfigured. Charleston, however is in the bill and the terms of supervisor and superintendent of education are made four years.

By a vote of 56 to 39 the house of representatives tonight reversed its action of several weeks ago, and granted the use of the hall to the South Carolina club for the State ball during fair week. There was considerable debate, but the resolution went through on an aye and nay vote.

NEW JUDGES ELECTED.

THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EDGEFIELD AND FLORENCE WIN OUT.

Mr. Devore Was Opposed by Mr. C. M. Efrid, of Lexington, and Mr. Shipp by Mr. W. J. Montgomery, of Marion.—In the Contest for Judge of Eleventh Circuit Vote Was 89 to 70, and for Judge of Twelfth 92 to 69.

Columbia, Feb. 20.—Representative Devore, of Edgefield, was elected Judge of the 11th circuit, and Representative S. W. G. Shipp, of Florence, Judge of the 12th circuit this afternoon. Mr. Devore was opposed by Mr. C. M. Efrid, of Lexington, and Mr. Shipp by Mr. W. J. Montgomery, of Marion.

The fact that it is practically impossible to defeat a member of the General Assembly for any position in the gift of the General Assembly was again illustrated in this election, and the fact is mentioned without disparaging the merits of either gentlemen.

The election was settled by the first ballot, the vote standing as follows: Devore, 89; Efrid, 70; Shipp, 92; Montgomery, 69.

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THE LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED.

ALL BILLS WERE DISPOSED OF BEFORE MIDNIGHT.

Only a Few Members Remain for the End—House Convenes at 7.45 P. M. on March 3 to Elect Senator.

Columbia, Feb. 24.—The legislature has adjourned. The long hours of day and night dragged out with reports from conference and free conference committees and their adoptions. A bare handful of members were present and these were tired and heartily glad when the house finally sent word to the senate that all acts were ready to ratification. The house adopted a resolution at the afternoon to adjourn until March 3, at 7.45 p. m. The balloting for United States senator will begin at 8 o'clock, each branch of the general assembly meeting separately and after the successful candidate has received a majority of both bodies, then a joint assembly will be held and the senator will be then declared elected.

It was decided to hold the election of insurance commissioner on Wednesday, March 4, at 10.30 a. m. Should the election for United States senator not be completed the insurance commissioner will be elected later.

Senator Sinkler's bill to make the term of office of the county supervisor and the county superintendent of education four years had a hard time. A number of counties wanted exemptions from the provisions of the bill. Some of these were put in on second reading Friday, but others were left until Saturday. A committee on conference was appointed and afterwards a committee on free conference but the report of the latter did not include some of the counties and for a few minutes it looked as though the bill might be killed. Messrs. Cosgrove, VonKolnitz and others urged the house to accept the report. I was pointed out that an effort had been made to recommit the bill at the morning session, but this had failed and it had been clearly shown that the general assembly wanted the bill. Finally it was decided to send the bill back to the free conference committee and have another report sent in. This was done and with 25 counties, including Richland, the bill was ordered for enrollment. This was the only bill on the house calendar.

The members then waited on committee reports. The free conference report on the act creating a health officer amended the salary feature, making \$2,500 instead of \$2,000 as at present.

The appropriation bill came back with only a few changes. The extra clerk of the office of secretary of state was given \$1,350 instead of \$1,200. An appropriation of \$2,000 was made for metal cases in that office.

The contingent fund of the railroad commission was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,450 and of the department of agriculture \$3,000 to \$4,000. The contingent fund of the State geologist was made \$1,900. Provision was made for the extra judges, solicitors and stenographers of the two new counties.

The total amount appropriated for auditors was \$32,938.07 and for treasurers, \$33,461.74.

In the appropriation for the University of South Carolina, Prof. H. C. Davis was raised to a full professorship.

The Catawba Indians were given \$3,000 and \$200 for school purposes, an increase of \$1,000, and \$1,000 was given for the artificial limb fund. The appropriation of \$12,000 for the Confederate infirmary was inserted, and the appropriation for the State summer school at Winthrop college was killed. Attorney General Lyon secured his appropriation of \$5,000 for the merger suit.

Few changes were made in the supply bills and the bill for county officers' salaries and the conference reports were adopted. A recess was then taken until the evening.

The committee on free conference for the bill by Senator Walker fixing the salaries of members of the general assembly at \$200 was reported without changes except that extra compensation of \$100 per year is allowed the speaker of the house of representatives hereafter.

There was a long wait at the night session of the house on one act—the supply bill. There were numbers of amendments and the engrossing department was busy with the new copy.

Finally, however, at 11.48 p. m. Speaker Whaley formally called the house together and announced the adjournment until March 3 at 7.45 p. m.

The house was unusually pleased with the dispatch of business at the present session. But for the necessary clerical delays the speaker would have been able to adjourn Friday night. As a result there was no Sunday morning session and the members were able to secure several hours' rest before leaving for their homes today.

It has been an unusually hard year on the speaker and Mr. Whaley has by close attention to business in following up the bills and securing reports on the closing days of the ses-

sion been responsible for the early adjournment.

One of the interesting features of the Saturday night session was the fact that no formal message had to be sent Gov. Ansel of the adjournment; that will be sent after the election. However, his excellency waited in his offices should it be necessary to consult him on any matter.

Bleese's Last Thrust.

The question of no quorum was raised in the senate yesterday afternoon by Senator Bleese and the business of the upper branch of the general assembly of the State came to a standstill until the necessary number of members could be secured.

The sergeant-at-arms was directed by President McLeod to go to the union station and summon every senator whom he saw to appear without delay in the senate chamber and runners were dispatched to the hotels and various boarding houses in the city, where senators are stopping. Finally a quorum was secured and the business was not further interfered with.

Senator Bleese gave as his excuse for this action that he would oppose adopting the report of the committee on free conference on the appropriation bill. He opposed increasing the expenditures for the department of immigration.

He was soon set straight on this matter for the report showed that the committee of free conference made no such recommendations, but, on the other hand, had lopped off \$300.

All of this, which might have been ascertained with little inquiry had caused a number of senators to suffer the inconvenience of being brought back from the union station, where, with relatives, they had been waiting for the trains.

The disagreeable situation was soon smoothed out, and those senators who were compelled to go left on the afternoon trains.

The general supply bill, the legislative supply bill and other measures went through without a hitch after this.

JAPANESE EMIGRATION.

JAPAN AGREES LARGELY WITH TERMS OF THIS GOVERNMENT.

Imperial Cabinet Has Left No Loop-Hole for Complaint—Emigration Companies, However, are Behind Resolution in the Diet to Censure Viscount Hayashi.

Tokyo, Feb. 19.—The memorandum of the Japanese government in reply to the United States on the subject of emigration was handed to Ambassador O'Brien today. It is understood that it agrees in general terms with a number of suggestions made by the American government and requires a further restriction of emigration by the practical prohibition of laborers. The Japanese government points out that the restrictions already in force, including the closing of emigration to Canada, Mexico and the Hawaiian islands, will make further complaints from America's almost impossible.

Every evidence goes to prove that the Japanese government has been unsparing in its efforts to avoid further complications arising from the emigration question but the government is facing a powerful opposition from the emigration companies who are behind a proposed resolution in the diet to censure the foreign policy of Viscount Hayashi, minister of foreign affairs, toward China, America and Canada.

Should the resolution be introduced in the diet it probably will be defeated by a narrow margin. Its passage would certainly entail the resignation of the cabinet. Should the cabinet be changed the best informed Japanese believe that a new administration would closely follow the emigration policy of Minister Hayashi.

Ex-Ambassador Aoki, since his arrival, has not called upon the foreign office nor has he submitted a report upon the situation at Washington, but has assumed an attitude of unfriendliness to Minister Hayashi. It is believed that Aoki is joining forces, opposing the foreign office.

DRANK DISPENSARY DRY.

Georgians Closed North Augusta Shop for a While.

Augusta, Ga., Feb. 18.—The troubles of the North Augusta dispensary continue to exist. The people of the little South Carolina town have tried to close the liquor shop and failed on several occasions; but the people of Augusta have been more successful. The little shop was closed, the third time since its opening yesterday during the early afternoon, because the stock had again been exhausted. And the dispensary trade in or from Augusta is increasing every day.

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