

HOUSE WOULD PLEASE TENOR CARUSO.

Monkey House In Central Park No Comparison—Cross-Action Taken on Relief Bills With Humorous Stories Accompanying.

Legislative travesty reached its ultima thule yesterday when the House crossed itself on two relief bills returned to it by the Senate, with the insistent request that the House recede from the amendment tagged to each.



The Gentleman from Suwannee utilizes the privileges of the floor but seldom.

These relief bills have consumed more time and newspaper space deserved if they had been strung and riddled, and the gentleman from Levy, who has wielded the broad blade against unnecessary expense to the State, may be charged up with the entire cost of this extraordinary

proceeding.

There were three relief bills in the House growing out of the disbarment proceedings in Jackson county against three lawyers of a western circuit. It happened that these cases were tried at Marianna, and the witnesses, who came from a distance to attend the trial, and the stenographer, who took the testimony, and the clerks are seeking reimbursement through Legislative channels, being the only channels through which reimbursement may be had.

Mr. Willis of Levy took the position that Jackson county should pay the cost of these cases, as they were tried in Jackson county. Mr. Willis tried by various means to put the burden on Jackson county, and finally offered an amendment providing that Jackson county should repay the State from the first money due Jackson county from the State for the hire of State convicts. The House appended this amendment to two of the bills, and Mr. Neel of Jackson, who introduced the bills, asked that the other be informally passed.

It was several days ago that this action was taken. The House was in hilarious mood when the vote on the

amendment was taken, and it was apparently done out of raw admiration for the pertinacity and roguish resourcefulness of the Levy county statesman.

When the bills went to the Senate they were promptly returned, with the information that the Senate would not concur in the amendment and asking that the House recede from it. Mr. Williams of Jackson, who had opposed the purpose of Mr. Willis throughout, made an effort to have the House disencumber the bills, but the House joker was in good working order and the House refused to recede, and back went the bills to the Senate.

Yesterday the bills reached the House again, still in company with the amendment. This time the Senate insisted that the House should recede, and asked for a conference.

Mr. Williams made a motion that the House should recede and repeated the argument which he had made during the course of the lengthy discussion. Mr. Reese, who had argued for the original form, chimed in and cited the written opinion of the Attorney General and the order of the Circuit Judge that the State should properly pay the costs, and Mr. MacWilliams assisted with the push cart.

On the first bill the House voted to accede to the behests of the Senate and recede, but on the second the comic supplement wouldn't have it that way.

And here approaches the consummate absurdity of the action.

The second bill was taken up, identical with the first in every particular, with the exception that the parties enumerated as praying for relief were not all the same, and the House refused to recede. There was a motion to recede followed by a motion to table the motion to recede, which was carried; then there was a motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion to recede was lost, but this was lost.

And while all this was happening there were some funny stories. Mr. Williams recited a thrilling tale of a mule with the glanders.

In beginning his story Mr. Williams intimated that Mr. Kirkland reminded him of a mule with the glanders. This was not said in any disrespectful manner, but the story that Mr. Kirkland had told reminded Mr. Williams of the mule with the glanders. Mr. Kirkland was in favor of the amendment and was consequently not in favor of receding. He was giving his impressions of the discussions on the relief bills as it had been developed before the House by the lawyers. He said there seemed to be some doubt as to the kind of cases behind the bills for relief. Everyone knew, said Mr. Kirkland, that in criminal cases the county wherein the cases were tried paid the costs, and in civil cases the party bringing the suit paid the costs if he lost the suit. Here the State of Florida had brought disbarment proceedings against three lawyers, and he was very clear on the subject until he heard Mr. MacWilliams say something about "Quasi."

Mr. Kirkland was mystified with "Quasi;" he had never heard of the thing before; didn't know what it looked like, but thought it must be something like a mule. Mr. Kirkland was just beginning to relate the materio-organic-psychosis which drove him to this conclusion when the drift of his remarks reached Mr. Williams in the northwestern corner of the hall. Mr. Williams didn't know exactly what Mr. Kirkland was talking about, but thought it was a mule, so he began recounting the story of the mule afflicted as aforesaid.

The members on the other side of the House knew that Mr. Williams was talking but they couldn't hear what he said. There were cries of "Louder," and Mr. Williams slacked the brake chain and cleared out his blow pipe, but still the members couldn't hear, and this was the status when Mr. MacWilliams moved that conferees be appointed from the House, and this action was taken after the House had put itself on the list of eligibles for a place in Central Park zoo.

REPRESENTATIVES REVIEWED PARADE.

Mad Rush for Windows When Negro Pythians Passed.

Mr. Wilson of Calhoun is cogitating whether spoken or unspoken speeches are the more effective.

He took the floor yesterday and announced that he was going to tell the House something, and was just on the verge of committing this act of indiscretion when a regiment of negro Pythians passed the State House headed by a military band. Each of the clouded knights did his utmost to outblow the other one, and Mr. Wilson lost out in the clatter.

Members left their seats and filled the windows, and in order to save Mr. Williams the exhaustive and unprofitable task of speaking to empty seats Mr. MacWilliams offered a motion that the House should take a recess of five minutes. The formal action obtained only after the physical performance had been consummated, and the parade was reviewed from the windows by the Representatives of the people with evident amusement.

Mr. Watrman of Marion spent his five minutes in counting the cost of such delays. The House adjourned for five minutes and it was five minutes longer before the noise had sufficiently subsided to make business in the House possible. The cost of the interruption was, say \$25. The Legislature costs the State about \$1,500 a day, and it works about six hours a day; there you are, figure for yourself.

But Mr. Wilson won his point of contention, which was the second point that Mr. Wilson has won. Mr. Wilson argued against the committee substitute for the census enumerators' bill, because deputy enumerators were included. He held that the State recognized only the enumerators in the contract and the deputy enumerators were to look to the enumerators for their money. Mr. Wilson told the House this much before the Africanized notes of De Molay Commandery smote the Legislative ear—then it was all off. Mr. Wilson's previous victory was accounted in the refusal of the House to amend the license bill so as to include physicians. Mr. Wilson held that physicians did more for nothing than any other class and should be exempt.

KILLED THE SALARY BILL.

Last Act of the Strenuous Play Gets the Curtain on Indefinite Postponement.

Act III, and the last, of the play "How to Keep Down Salaries," in which the leading parts were rendered by Senators Adams and Beard, was concluded yesterday. Senator Beard triumphed.

The salaries will not be increased. Senator Broome appeared pleased when the vote was announced, so did numerous others, both of star performers and chorus, who had sung opposition songs.

Senator Adams moved reconsideration of the vote on the amendment providing that the act become effective January 1, 1909, and asked that the proposition be treated fairly.

"The Senator speaks of fairness to the bill—I speak for fairness to the people," was the opening challenge of Senator Beard.

"It is a recognized fact that salaries can not be increased during incumbency," he said.

"It indicates bad faith toward the people who elect men, expecting them to serve at the salary paid when they are installed in office.

"I am opposed to this increase at any time, but if these salaries are to be increased let it not be done until January 1, 1909," concluded Mr. Beard.

Mr. Hudson moved continuance of the motion until 11 o'clock, because several Senators were absent, but it was voted down, and then the contest was on in earnest.

To refute the contention of Mr. Beard relative to the statement that salaries could not be raised during incumbency, Mr. Adams quoted from the Federal Constitution concerning Congress.

This gave Mr. Beard pleasure, and he said: "I have accomplished one object—getting the Senator from the Thirtieth to look at the Constitution, and now I will try to explain it to him."

Senator Crews was warmed up for battle against the increase and hurled his reasons against the bill.

"We are not getting the service we should get," he declared, as he read a note he had given a fertilizer company, and which was due for inferior product, and then jumped on the State Chemist for neglect of duty in not condemning said fertilizer.

"The officers should carry out their contracts with the people before asking for more salary," he cried.

Senator Henderson said he agreed with Senator Beard, relative to the unwillingness of the people to grant more salary, and Senator McCreary was also an indorser of such belief, while Senator Baker thought the bill would prove a hardship to the people.

"I have no particular interest in this bill," said Senator Hudson, "but I am astonished at the inconsistency shown by this Senate.

"The people were forgotten when large sums were appropriated for pensions, but now there is opposition to this increase of salaries to men well worth it, and the plea is used that it would be an injustice to the people.

"I say that pension bill was a fraud and a robbery of the taxpayers. It opened the gate to all, and no matter how much a man is worth he can get a pension under that act, whether he needs it or not.

"This statement may send me to political perdition, but it is true, and I repeat that it is a robbery of the taxpayer.

"Yet those who shouted for that bill are now shouting that it would be unfair to the people if an increase of salary were granted these officials, who could not be hired in the business world for what the State pays."

During his remarks, Mr. Hudson had mentioned the Governor in connection with the bill, and this brought inquiry from Senator Humphries.

"Did I understand the Senator to say that the bill came from the Governor?" asked Mr. Humphries.

Mr. Hudson—I did not mean to say that it came from the Governor, but the charge had been made that he was interested in the measure.

Mr. Humphries—I saw no recommendation in the Governor's message to that effect, and if he wants this bill he should make his wishes known in public manner.

Senator Cone had a few words to say in favor of the bill, and Senator Broome jumped into the fray by declaring that the Senator from the Fourteenth had been trying to boost salaries for the benefit of his friend, Sadler.

Senator Cone retorted that Mr. Broome was opposed to the bill because it would benefit his enemy, Ellis.

To and fro the conflict raged, Senator Broome not only denying that he was an enemy of Mr. Ellis, but on the contrary, esteemed that gentleman very highly, and through all the President was calling for order.

After this tilt had passed over, the motion to reconsider the vote on the amendment was lost, and then the curtain was run down by the motion of Mr. Beard to indefinitely postpone the bill, which carried by a vote of 20 yeas to 11 nays.

DUPONT'S BUTCHER BILL PASSES.

The House yesterday received from the Senate the House bill offered by Mr. DuPont, providing for the restriction on the butchering of cattle. The design of the bill is to make it more difficult for cattle thieves to conceal their crimes by butchering and selling. The penalty is levied upon persons who cannot produce reputable witnesses to the act of butchering upon demand.

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