

STATE GOSSIP CAUGHT IN CAPITOL CORRIDORS

THE aggregate gains in Georgia's taxable property up to date stand at \$33,903,851 and there are still fifteen counties to be heard from. It is now considered certain that the total will be somewhere between \$35,000,000 and \$40,000,000.

Four counties were heard from yesterday, in two of them the increases amounting to over half a million each. The list of counties and the gains in each heard from yesterday is as follows: Richmond, \$551,906; Coffee, \$516,347; Meriwether, \$131,409 and Spalding, \$148,289.

The contract for the erection of the new buildings at the State Normal school at Athens have been let. These two buildings will be a magnificent modern dormitory and an academic building, each of which will add much to the facilities for handling the students who now flock to this great normal school.

George B. Hinman, of Atlanta, will have charge of the construction of the buildings, his bid having been accepted. Haralson Fleckley, of Atlanta, is the architect and will supervise the construction work. The cost of the two buildings will be \$48,000. They will be of brick and stone and highly artistic and ornamental as well as designed to fill their purposes most admirably.

It will be remembered that the money for the construction of these two buildings came from several different sources. The legislature appropriated \$25,000 to that end; Hon. James M. Smith, of Smithsonia, gave \$10,000; George Foster Peabody, the well known philanthropist and friend of education, gave a similar amount, and the remaining \$5,000 was raised by popular subscription.

Work on the buildings will commence at once and they will be completed in seven months. They are to be two stories high and have basements.

Governor Terrell yesterday signed the bills abolishing the old city court of Washington and creating the new court. These bills were introduced by Messrs. Barksdale and Wooten, the Wilkes county representatives and have passed both houses of the legislature. The main differences in the old court and the new court is that the judge and solicitor are hereafter to be elected by the people instead of being appointed by the governor, as heretofore.

Governor Terrell, however, under the terms of the bill creating the new court appointed the first judge and solicitor, Hon. H. S. Hardeman being named as judge and Hon. R. C. Norman as solicitor. Judge Toombs who presided over the old court, has resigned to take effect September 1, at which time Judge Hardeman will assume the duties of the office.

Several other bills were also signed by the Governor yesterday, all of them being

local in their nature. The list includes the following:

By Messrs. Mayson and Alexander, of De Kalb, to authorize the town of Kirkwood to establish a system of public schools.

By Mr. Jackson, of Jones, to change the county site of Jones county from Clinton to Gray.

By Mr. Spence, of Mitchell, to change the town of Camilla to the city of Camilla.

Hon. W. W. Larsen and Judge H. R. Daniel, of Swainsboro, together with a number of influential friends of each are now in Atlanta pressing their requests for the appointment to the office of solicitor of the city court of Swainsboro. Colonel Larsen is the present incumbent and Judge Daniel seeks the office as his successor. Both men are splendidly endorsed.

Secretary of State Phil Cook yesterday issued a charter to the Benevolent Life and Health Insurance company, of Augusta, Ga. The incorporators are Jerry Jones, A. B. Berrien, H. C. Young, E. W. Smith, A. B. Pond and George W. Winkfield, all of Augusta. Being a mutual company no capital stock was reported. Bryson Crane is attorney for the incorporators.

State School Commissioner Merritt yesterday paid a high tribute to the late Hon. W. H. Cobb, a county commissioner of Franklin county, who was shot and killed by an accident. In speaking of the sad tragedy Professor Merritt said:

"I was greatly shocked at the news of this most lamentable affair and I feel that the school interests of the state have lost a warm and valuable friend in the death of Colonel Cobb. In fact I should not have hesitated to pronounce him one of the very best county school commissioners in the state of Georgia and I am sure that Franklin county will have a difficult task in finding any one who can carry on the work of his office better than the late Colonel Cobb did."

On account of the regular meeting of the railroad commission which begins today all sessions of boards of arbitration have been adjourned until next week at the earliest. The commissioners will be in session today and tomorrow hearing all matters now pending before them almost all of which are purely local in the character.

The prison commission will today take up the case of Jack Bone, the Floyd county man who has been sentenced to hang on August 25. The question to determine is whether or not Bone has intermittent insanity under which he might have been laboring when the killing, for which he has been sentenced, was committed. Much evidence will be submitted in support of the intermittent insanity plea offered in his behalf. His sentence on that ground may be commuted to life imprisonment.

How Mr. King Stood.

In reporting the detailed vote of the house of representatives on the motion to reconsider the action of the house in putting a tax of \$1,000 on liquor dealers and dispensaries, and which led afterwards to the reduction of the tax to \$500, the name of Mr. King of Newton, was inadvertently omitted from the list. Mr. King voted in favor of reconsideration of the high tax amendment.