

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Reports Submitted—Statement of County Expenses—Contract Awarded for Enclosing County Home With a Wire Fence.

The Board of County Commissioners met in adjourned meeting at 2.30 p. m. yesterday. Present, Chairman Foster, and Commissioners Moore, Dempsey, Alexander and Nixon. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Peter Wright, colored, was relieved of the payment of poll tax, being disabled by hernia.

Mr. W. R. French, Clerk of the Criminal Court, tendered his report for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1897, showing that he paid to the treasurer the sum of \$23 75, being the amount due the county for fines collected.

Annual reports from Magistrates Jno. J. Fowler and C. A. Foreman were presented in accordance with the law requiring justices of the peace to make annual reports to the Board.

Dr. W. D. McMillan stated that four inmates of the county almshouse had been dismissed, as they were now able to take care of themselves.

The contract for furnishing ice to the city hospital, court house and county jail was given to the Carolina Ice Company.

Col. Foster stated that needless and heavy expense had been incurred in replacing ranges, grates and heaters, injured through the carelessness of those who have them in charge. A resolution was passed making parties in charge liable for unnecessary damage to the heaters, etc. The chairman said that about two sets are used every year, when with proper care a single set would last ten years.

W. B. McKay, Esq., appeared before the Board to ask that tax charged to Elijah Jones be stricken out, the same having been paid by another person who purchased and listed the property after it was first listed. The petition was granted.

On motion it was ordered that the County Home and yard be enclosed with a wire fence. The contract for furnishing and putting up the wire was given to Mr. W. A. Strauss. The total expense was estimated to be \$53.49.

THE AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Col. F. W. Foster read a comparative statement of the county expenses in the years 1896 and 1897. In 1896 the expenses were \$42,784.99, outside of \$4 000 paid on a note of \$10,000. In the year ending Nov. 30th last the total expenses were \$33,178 11, and these figures do not include the sum of \$6 525 recently paid in liquidation of the remainder of the \$10,000 note, interest on the same and some incidentals.

The chairman stated further that the county didn't owe a dollar outside of the bonded indebtedness, amounting to \$42,000 and that at the rate of decrease of expenditures that had marked the last fiscal year all of the bonded debt will have been paid in three years. After paying all expenses, an itemized statement of which is subjoined, there is still \$6,500 on hand.

DISBURSEMENTS IN 1897.

Criminal Court, \$4,412 50; Superior Court, 1 814 75; sheriff, 885 65; stenographer, 100.00; commissioners, 708 35; coroner, 370 93; constable, 12.03; magistrates, 626.21; register, 491.71; advertising and printing, 557.05; bridges and roads, 1,838.61; elections, 494.45; City Hospital, 3 717 18; superintendent of health, 1,237.50, Poor House, 2 340 67; out-door poor, 5 400 02; jail, 2 611 25; public buildings and janitor, 2 383 06; stationery, 323 28; Naval Reserves, 300.00; Wilmington Light Infantry, 300 00; attorney, 321.47; tax listing, 401.54; tax computing, 500.00; clerk of the Board of Audit, 650 00; sheriffs of other counties, 2.35; secret service, 250 00; interest on debt, 122.50; surveyor, 5 00. Total, \$33,178.11.

TO MAKE AN OLD LAW OPERATIVE

A resolution was passed authorizing the appointment of a committee of three from the Board of Commissioners, with the request that the Board of Aldermen appoint a like number, to confer with the Chamber of Commerce in order to concert movements looking to the revival of the law relieving new manufacturing concerns from the payment of taxes. The matter was freely discussed and it seemed the prevailing opinion that more factories were needed.

On motion the Board adjourned, subject to the call of the chair.