

# WESTERN DEMOCRAT.

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## THE WESTERN DEMOCRAT

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### WHO ARE TO VOTE.

The following from the Wilmington Herald, throws some light on the vexed question of voting in the coming N. C. election:

The Herald says: "The President's proclamation defines who are not to have voice. Such are the fourteen classes exempted from the benefits of the amnesty proclamation. Beyond these, Governor Holden is directed to permit to hold seats in the constitutional convention directed to be convened, and to vote for delegates to that convention, all such as have previously taken and subscribed to the oath or amnesty as set forth in the President's proclamation of May 29th, 1865, and are voters qualified as prescribed by the constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina in force immediately before the 20th day of May, 1861, the date of the so called ordinance of secession. So that point is settled.

Therefore the issue to be determined by the people lies in the constitutional convention—what it shall do and what it shall not do.

It is admitted that that convention shall alter the constitution so far as to put the state back into the Union. Of course this must be conceded. That is what we all wish, and that is the object for which the convention is called. Beyond that, by the terms of the President's proclamation, the great question of suffrage is committed to this convention. The convention, of course, may tinker the constitution of the State as much as they please, but as no changes other than in putting the state back into the Union, and determining the suffrage question are demanded, it is expected that none will be made.

Therefore the great issue lies in the election of delegates to this convention. This election will soon be announced. The terms of the authorization of this convention do not provide that its work shall be submitted to the people for approval. They may do so or not as they see fit. The people must therefore take this matter in hand while they have the power and determine it. They should take care to elect no one as a delegate to this important convention that will not, first and foremost, pledge himself, unequivocally and squarely to submit the work of the convention to the people for approval. This must be made a condition precedent, unalterable as the laws of the Medes and the Persians. So only can the rights of the people be guarded.

Then, as the people do not care to incur the expense of a second convention, but desire their work so well done that they can approve it at once, care should be taken to choose delegates who will properly represent them on the question of suffrage. We do not undertake to decide now whether the people want to extend the right of suffrage to negroes or not. But great care should be taken in selecting delegates with a view to the settlement of this point, for here is the great issue. The convention has power to settle it. They may permit negroes to vote and refuse to submit their work to the approval of the people, and so make it the binding organic law of the commonwealth. This is a point the electors want to understand fully, and then they will exercise their privileges intelligently. This is the great issue now before the people. Governor Holden, in a day or two, will tell us when it shall be determined.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter, A. Y. Masons, of the State of North Carolina, closed its 17th Annual Convocation in Wilmington on the 7th inst. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Geo B Waterhouse, G H P; D D Phillips, D G H P; J W Blount, G K; M Bowes, G S; T W Brown, G Treasurer; Thos B Carr, G Secretary; W J Palmer, G C H; Geo Lauder, G P S; Z M Paschall, G R A C; H Mahler, F M S V; A A Hartsheld, G M 2d V; Wm Robinson, G M 1st V; A Boon, G Tyler; Rev A P Repton, G Chaplain; W J Hicks, Grand Lecturer.

### THE UNITED STATES DIRECT TAX.

The United States Tax Commissioner is at work in Charleston. A writer in the Courier answers many inquiries which are daily asked him, as follows:

The United States tax now being collected by the Commissioners in Charleston, is levied by an Act of Congress, approved August 5, 1861, and is a part of a tax for the year 1861, upon the entire real estate of the nation. The quota of the States then in rebellion not having been paid, an act was passed in June—approved the 7th—1862, extending the provisions of the tax law to "insurrectionary districts." It is under this latter act, as amended February 6, 1863, and March 3, 1865, that the Commissioners are now proceeding.

By its provisions, as soon as the national military authority is established over any political subdivision of a State, the law is to go into effect. The Commissioners are directed to assess a due proportion of the tax upon each piece of real estate, whether in town or country, open an office, and give notice that the tax is payable and they are prepared to receive it. The assessment is to be based on the last valuation made by the State prior to January 1st, 1861, or in default of that upon such other valuation as the Commissioners may be best able to ascertain. The tax is to be received sixty days from the giving of the notice, without interest; after that period interest attaches at the rate of ten per cent. per year from the first day of July, 1862.

Each tax-payer is to appear at the office of the Commissioners in person, or in case he cannot so appear, then by his attorney either in fact or legally appointed, and the attorney must show that the person whose tax he applies to pay either has not engaged in the rebellion voluntarily, or has taken the oath of allegiance to the United States.

On the expiration of the sixty days all property on which the tax is unpaid is considered forfeited to the United States, and the Commissioners may sell the same by giving thirty days notice. But the tax may be paid at any time before the day appointed for sale, by paying the interest accruing as above stated, and in addition a penalty equal to one half the tax, which attaches as soon as the property is advertised for sale.

After the sale sixty days is allowed for redemption on payment of purchase money, with interest at the rate of 15 per cent. per year from time of sale. Any person can redeem within this time. After that, persons proving loyalty may redeem at any time within a period of from one to two years, varying in length according to their class, whether as persons beyond seas, minors, etc., and according to the discretion of the Tax Commissioners. An appeal may be made from the decision of the Tax Commissioners to the United States Courts.

The certificates of sale, however, issued by the Commissioners, can be affected in only one of three ways: 1st, by showing no tax was chargeable; 2d, by showing payment of tax; or, 3d, redemption of property.

The Commissioners are empowered to bid in, under certain regulations, property for the United States at the tax sales. The property so bid in may afterwards be resold in quantities not to exceed three hundred and twenty acres to any one purchaser. At these secondary sales, officers, soldiers, sailors and marines, having faithfully served in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States for not less than three months, are entitled to buy, by paying one fourth the purchase money down, and the balance in three years without interest.

Under certain other regulations the Commissioners are required to bid in lands at the tax sales for various government and charitable purposes. More than one-half of the lands sold for taxes in Beaufort District have been so bid in. Some of these have been set apart for military purposes, but by far the larger share has been reserved for schools and for "heads of families of the African race," to whom they have been sold in small parcels not exceeding twenty acres each, at private sale, and at the nominal price of one dollar and a quarter to one dollar and a half an acre.

### COLORED HELP WANTED.—The Newbern Times has the following:

"Dr Wilson, from Swansboro, informs us that any quantity of good laborers can obtain the best of wages in Onslow. We commend this to the crowd of loungers around the Market and the corner of South Front and Middle streets."

Let the crowd of loafers and idlers, white and black, that infest our streets on the plea of "no work to be had," make a note of this. There is no longer any excuse for idleness in this region. —Wilmington Herald.

### THE COTTON CROP.

A correspondent of the Winnsboro (S. C.) News gives the following information about Cotton:

"In a recent number of the New Orleans Price Current, J. B. Gribble, a merchant of that city, puts the available cotton resources of the Southern States, including the crop which is now in the ground, at 1,900,000 bales. This figure is an over-estimate by at least one-third, as the following approximate statistics will show:

Crop of 1861,	3,000,000 bales.
" 1862,	1,000,000 "
" 1863,	500,000 "
" 1864,	500,000 "
	5,000,000 "
Exports during war,	1,000,000
Home consumption for 4 years,	1,500,000
Burned and otherwise destroyed,	1,000,000
Damaged and rotten cotton, worthless,	500,000
	4,000,000 bales
Surplus,	1,000,000 "
Crop of 1865,	350,000
Total supply,	1,350,000 "

This amount is distributed in the various States as follows:

	Old crop.	Present crop.
Louisiana	100,000	50,000
Mississippi	200,000	75,000
Texas	100,000	75,000
Alabama	250,000	50,000
Florida	10,000	10,000
Georgia	200,000	50,000
South Carolina	130,000	30,000
N. C. and Tenn.	10,000	10,000
	1,000,000	350,000

[We consider the estimates of "D." very liberal. In fact, we do not believe that, including the present crop, there will be anything like 1,350,000 bales of Cotton in the South.]

### LARGE NOSES.

Phrenologists make great account of the nose. If any one is disposed to set them down as dreamers, then we cite Napoleon and other good judges, who thought very highly of this member as a prominent mark of character. By them a large nose is considered an almost never failing indication of strong will. One can see this every day exemplified on very common occasions. The first time you are on a steamboat take the trouble to notice who first rush out from it to jump ashore. They are all big-nosed people to a man. You need not take anybody's word for this, but examine for yourself.

It was for nothing that a conquering nation of antiquity had Roman noses. No timid people they, who did not know their own minds. They knew them very well, and made the rest of the world acquainted with them too. Well-developed noses do not indicate predominance of imagination. The Romans were not distinguished for this faculty; but they appear, in some way or other, connected with taking the lead in practical matters. They go before, and clear the way, where organs of less size and strength would fail to penetrate and open a passage. They go ahead at fights and fires, and are foremost in crowds, in riots, and daring undertakings; sometimes getting the whole body into trouble, but then the first to lead the way to an escape. We see them pointing the way to glory in the warrior and hero, in Washington and Wellington, and with never-failing forecast, guiding the sagacity of statesmen.

We do not know if it has ever been remarked that the Hebrew nation owe their uncommon excellence in music to this portion of their physics, rather than to their ears. It is customary, we are aware, to speak of an ear for tune, an ear for time, &c; but we would suggest, with deference, whether it would not be more correct to say a nose for harmony and song. Certain it is that the descendants of Jubal and Asaph are among the chief musicians of this day, as the illustrious characters we have mentioned were of theirs; and they are remarkably endowed with the nasal organ. Evidently, the nose was not placed in such proximity with the instruments of vocal sound for nothing! And it is not only an index of musical capacity in its proprietor, but an excellent musician itself.

There is now a regular line of steamers running from Wilmington to New York.

### DISCHARGE OF PRISONERS.

The following general order for the discharge of certain prisoners of war has been issued by the President of the United States:

War Department, Adjutant Gen'l's Office, }  
Washington, June 6, 1865. }

The prisoners of war at the several depots in the North will be discharged under the following regulations and restrictions:

First—All enlisted men of the rebel army, and petty officers and seamen of the rebel navy, will be discharged upon taking the oath of allegiance.

Second—Officers of the rebel army not above the grade of captain, and of the rebel navy not above the grade of lieutenant, except such as have graduated at the U. S. Military or Naval Academy, and such as held a commission in either the U. S. army or navy at the beginning of the rebellion, may be discharged upon taking the oath of allegiance.

Third—When the discharges hereby ordered are completed, regulations will be issued in respect to the discharge of officers having higher rank than captain in the army or lieutenant in the navy.

Fourth—The several commanders of prison stations will discharge each day as many of the prisoners hereby authorized to be discharged as proper rolls can be prepared for, beginning with those who have been longest in prison and from the most remote points of the country, and certified rolls will be forwarded daily to the Commissary General of Prisoners of those discharged. The oath of allegiance only will be administered; but notice will be given that all who desire will be permitted to take the oath of amnesty after their release in accordance with the regulations of the Department of State respecting the amnesty.

Fifth—The Quartermaster's Department will furnish transportation to all released prisoners to the nearest accessible point to their homes by rail or steamboat.

By order of the President of the U. States,  
E. D. TOWNSEND, As't A. Genl.

AN EXTRA SESSION.—A rumor has been set afloat from Washington that President Johnson will probably before long issue a call for an extra session of Congress, and there may be something in it. The long interval of six months to the regular meeting of the two Houses may be longer than the Executive will think it expedient to wait, especially as each House, upon the question of admitting the members elected thereto from any State, is the absolute judge yes or nay. Thus the concurrence of the two Houses is necessary to the consummation of the work of reconstruction in each and all of the late rebellious States. In this view, and in order to secure some uniform system in a law from Congress, it is not improbable that President Johnson may call an extra session, and lay before the two Houses not only his general programme of reconstruction, but some important suggestions in reference to the relief and encouragement to labor and trade of the impoverished white and emancipated black population of the South, and in reference, also, to their rights of property, confiscations and taxation. He may likewise find it expedient to call for some measures of legislation touching our national finances and national debt, and the question of a general bankrupt law. Upon all these things there is proper work for a special session of Congress; and yet it is possible that, looking to practical results, Andy Johnson may determine to do without the assistance of the fussy and impracticable Northern abolition radicals as long as possible.—N. Y. Herald.

WILMINGTON AND MANCHESTER RAILROAD.—A meeting of the President and Directors of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad Company was held in this place on yesterday, and such steps taken as will put the road in running order by the middle of August next—perhaps sooner, provided the labor necessary to hasten the work can be obtained at the offers made of \$12 per month, and prompt pay, with rations furnished of four pounds of meat and one-fourth of a bushel of meal per week. We understand the company wish to employ a large number of laborers at and near Sumter and Little Pee Dee, and we hope men enough will seek this employment to repair the road in the time stated above.—Wilmington Herald.

A Richmond letter says, a member of the English Parliament has offered General Lee a splendid residence in London and a sum of money, the interest of which would support himself and family for life.