

From the *Leeds Express*.

DISCUSSION AT MORGANTON BURKE COUNTY AROUSED!

JOHN POOL TRUMPHANT!

We attended the discussion of the candidates for Governor—John Joel and John W. Ellis—which took place between them at Morganton on Saturday, 23d instant, and took copious notes of the speeches that were made by both gentlemen.

Gov. Ellis opened the debate, and the following is about the substance of his remarks: He came as a nominee of the Democratic party, and thanked the people of Burke for the vote which they gave him at the last election. He had endeavored to discharge his official duties to the satisfaction of the public, and congratulated the people of the West upon the completion of their works of internal improvement at an early day, that would prove so beneficial to the labor and industry of the West. He said that a new question, surprising in its nature, had been presented by the Opposition party before the people of the State for public favor, which was overlooked since 1782, and now in his opinion only brought forward for political purposes; and that it adopted it would be only brought forward for the purpose; and that if adopted it would be only calculated to oppress the interests of the country. That it would arise one class against another class, and break down the compromise which was entered into in 1855, between the East and West. Gov. Ellis advanced an argument to show that the West was taxed heavily already for the benefit of the West, without having anything in return for it, and that it would be very unjust to impose a heavier burden on the East by taxing their slaves, over fifty and under twelve years of age, or using slaves between those ages more than the present rate—50 cent on the poll. He charged the Ad Valorem party with a design to tax every species of property notwithstanding their platform makes a discrimination in favor of native products of the State and industrial pursuits of our citizens. He said that it was palpable that they were not alone, one section or the other would be elated. He advanced to the people that were present by saying, we would, cast a large sum in dividends and assess in Burkes county, and that it would be an injustice which the people would not like. He then went into the usual ridiculous calculation of billiard tables, threshing machines, plow horses and racing drivers, pianos and wheelbarrows, interest on money, lawyers, doctors and negroes, horses, ladies' umbrellas, &c.

Gov. Ellis said that slaves are paying one fourth of all the taxes, and ad valorem would raise no more. He assured the strange and absurd theory that, to encourage the industry of a country, *all* property should be taxed upon its equity with regard to taxation. Gov. Ellis made no allusion to the platform upon which he is running, but endeavored to find much fault with his competitor. He referred to his "Horse-Load" by saying, he applied it only to the opposition leaders in the West. Certainly no honest man in Burke or anywhere else has ever made such a proposal. If my competitor has ever laid any man take that position, let him name the man, and the time and place, and I will prove that his man has been drinking some of the foreign liquor of which he speaks so loudly. All property is now subject to taxation, except slave property. This change will make slave property stand on the same footing with all other property. And it will require the legislature to tax slaves and land and money at interest, and all the leading subjects of capital according to value—but leave it to the discretion of the Legislature to discriminate in favor of native products and industrial pursuits, excepting things connected with honest industry from taxation. But my objections are raised, and based mainly on mere representation. My competitor says, the discrimination in favor of native products was made only to give the taxing articles brought from abroad higher than those produced in the State—and not noticing the part in reference to industrial pursuits, proceeded to say that we would compel the taxation of everything. He says to discriminate means to tax. No dictionary gives that definition. It means to make a difference. The best way to make a difference in favor of labor is to exempt from taxation those things necessary to carry it on—the best discrimination in favor of the carpenter, or farmer would be to exempt their tools, and implements, and the necessities of life from taxation; and the Legislature would have a discretion to say how far this exemption should go. But again, for argument, that discrimination does mean to tax some. Apply in the all those articles in Burke county which the Legislature desires to exempt, one—let that answer my competitor's heretical definition, and amounts still to an exemption—for one who is divided among the people of Burke would be sufficient to satisfy my competitor's notion of discrimination—Yet it is upon this that all the capitals attempted to be made against verbal taxation as proposed by our platform. It says the East understands that everything is to be taxed. He is mistaken. The East understands no such thing. No paper, nor any man in the East, of our party has taken such a position. They all repudiate the tax on slaves, and dodging of present questions pressed upon him by his competitor. We will return to our own main issue—we have not room for more now.

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Mr. Pool said I am pleased to see so many of my fellow-citizens of the county of Burke assembled to hear me, and I desire to express my thanks to the ladies for their attendance and while doing so, I feel authorized to return to them the thanks of my competitor also, for I know he thanked them, although he forgot to say so before taking his seat. The discussion of the subject of taxation is one in which the people of the State seem to take great interest, and I take great pleasure in expressing my views upon it before the people. This is a proposition to change the Constitution of the State, and this change should not be made without the full understanding and consent of the people. Our constitution defines and limits the legislative power. When it forbids the Legislature to do anything, it cannot be done, even though the people may desire it. The only way to carry out the wishes of the people is to change the Constitution. At present the Constitution forbids the Legislature to tax slaves under 17 years of age, 50 years old, and when it comes to tax those between those ages, compels the Legislature to place the same tax on the used as the person who will that is placed on the most valuable negro, owned by the wealthiest man. The poor white man had it thus a shield between the tax, power and slave property. I trust, that to the poor white man's head, however much my competitor may object to my referring to the wealthy man's head too. For the wealthy man's head would be himself. The Legislature would not hesitate to tax the rich man's head, but when the poor man is in the way, it is obliged to hesitate and forbear. It is asked, why is this? more than 1855, and when little known for a change? I will answer. In 1855, the whole tax of the State was only about \$50,000 a year. Then slave property could be made to pay its proportion by paying about 10 cents on the poll, which would be borne, and slaves were made to pay their full proportion. But now we

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