

THE MUD-CUT BOOM.

We make no apology for publishing the article below taken from Hale's Weekly. The question is an important one, and is much discussed. People should read and see for themselves. We haven't room this week to publish the other side of the question, but will do so in our next issue.

For some weeks rumors have been thick upon the streets as to a "Mud-Cut Boom," so called, that was to affect seriously the politics of North Carolina, but in spite of our efforts we found it impossible until last Saturday to obtain a copy of it for publication. This morning, however, the readers of Hale's Weekly have the paper laid before them verbatim in full with the assurance that its late presentation to them has been from no lack of persistent effort on our part.

As will be seen, the paper confesses no "local habitation" and bears no name by which to indicate its source; but while this is true its purpose to divide and distract the Democratic party in North Carolina is so palpable that we are unwilling, without the fullest and amplest proof, to avow a belief that it had its origin in any other than a Radical heart. Certain he is no true Democrat who does not look upon all attempts to destroy the harmony and consequently the efficiency of the Democratic party as attempts to do great wrong to our State and our people, but when such attempts take shape in efforts to stir up strife and to excite bad blood between the people of the different sections of our State they constitute a crime in that purpose and intent falls short in nothing of the most odious treason. Of the purpose and intent to commit such a crime the paper which we print below furnishes evidence full and complete and varied.

The precise form which this latest attack upon the integrity of the Democratic party in North Carolina has assumed is that of an argument against the completion of the Western North Carolina Railroad by cutting short the work at Asheville, the point at which it has now practically arrived. The reason assigned for the stoppage of the road at Asheville by the paper which, in spite of its select and careful circulation, is popularly known as the Mud-Cut Boom, are in general:

1. That in consequence of Democratic legislation more than two millions of dollars have been wasted in building the road from Henry to Asheville, a distance of only 21 miles by stage road, a gap that it was unnecessary to fill, and that when filled must ever remain unprofitable; and further, that unless the aforesaid Democratic legislation is undone many more millions will be wasted. In a word, all money spent on the Western North Carolina Railroad or to be spent on it under Democratic administration is money wasted. There is neither complaint we believe as to any money spent under Radical legislation nor any complaint made as to management under a Radical administration of the affairs of the company. It is only Democratic waste that makes the Boom roll its thunder and scatter its forked lightning.

The Boom charges that under Democratic legislation two millions of dollars and more of that State's money have been wasted in building the road from Henry to Asheville. The truth is that none of the money has been wasted and only \$384,609.91 have been spent under the legislation referred to. Any one who desires may see for himself from the records in the State Treasurer's office that the exact amount spent under the act of 1876 mentioned in the Boom is \$256,609.91. Of this amount \$121,919.23 was for the support of the convicts and the remainder, \$134,690.68, was for the purpose of iron; that is to say, in 1877, \$34,437.26; in 1878, \$48,226.59, and in 1879, \$52,026.83. Under the other act referred to, that of 1874-75, the State Treasurer's books also show that only \$238,000 have been paid out, making in all \$594,609.91.

This much has been spent, but not a dollar of it has been wasted for the simple reason that for its repayment the State has the amplest security; and not only that, but security for the hire of the convicts as well. For all the work done by the convicts on the road the State is credited and the road is charged at the usual market rate for such work, and to secure payment, therefore, the State has a lien upon the road. Instead then of a waste of over two millions there has been an expenditure only of just \$594,609.91, the repayment of which, together with the payment for the hire of the convicts, is amply secured. And in this connection it will be well to bear in mind that whether idle, or at work in the Penitentiary or out of it, the State cannot escape paying for the clothing, guarding and feeding of the convicts. By hiring them out to the road with a lien for their hire, the State not only gets its money back but makes a substantial profit. The books of the State Treasurer show that under Democratic legislation to the first of October, 1879, the State paid for the support of convicts on the road \$121,919.23, and for the hire of said convicts of July 1st, 1879, the State has a lien constituting ample security for \$201,347.00, that is to say giving a profit of over \$100,000 at completion of the road to Asheville. This does not look much like waste; but if it be waste we do not see the people will pray for more Democratic legislation as that is the kind of legislation that makes convict labor pay profit.

And just here we take occasion to correct another persistent misrepresentation and state that the land slides into Mud-Cut have not damaged the road a dollar, but on the other hand have saved it money. Within two hundred yards of the cut is a deep fill and the slides from the mountain side actually save money to the road by the reader access thereby given to dirt to put in the fill. But the assertion of the Boom is absurd as well as untrue. The public records show to every one who will examine them that in the last three years the amount of taxes collected by the State from the people is \$1,420,931.10, and that during that time the current expenses of the Government including Penitentiary and Asylum and other construction bills amounted to just about the same sum. According to the Boom, however, our worthy State Treasurer by some magical financing not only paid current expenses but furnished a million of dollars besides to throw away between Henry and Asheville. Now we have great confidence in Dr. Worth's financial capacity, but to pay \$2,500,000 of debts, dollar for dollar, with \$1,500,000 of assets, we think beyond even his skill. And strange to say that while all this waste is going on taxes are actually being lowered and no debt is being made! We doubt not the people will think a lessening of their taxes is a curious accomplishment of extravagant expenditure. It has been said of old that "figures do not lie," but that was before the days of Ponzi-fers and Booms; the qualifying "hardly ever" will now doubtless be added. So much for the great waste in building the road between Henry and Asheville; a road that according to the Boom ought never to have been built, and that will never be profitable.

And now a word as to the reason given why the road that ought not to have been built to Asheville should not now be built beyond it. The Boom says it will be told for the State to spend its money to build a road from Asheville down the French Broad River because Mr. President McAden's Spartanburg Company is ready, anxious and able to build it with private means. Upon this point, however, we doubt not Mr. President McAden is better informed than the Boom, and here is what Mr. President McAden says; it is conclusive:-

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Nov. 17, 1879. P. M. Hale, Esq.: In reply to yours I will state that the assertion in circular referred to, that the Spartanburg and Asheville Railroad Company was able and anxious to build the road to Point Rock, is made without the authority or approval of any one connected with the Company. The authorities of the Spartanburg and Asheville Company have never contemplated any connection with the Great West except through the Western Railroad at Asheville. The Spartanburg and Asheville Company is without means to build from Hendersonville to Asheville, and is anxiously looking to the completion of the Western Road, hoping that the western connections will so help its credit that means can be raised to get to Asheville. R. Y. McAden.

The third assertion is simply a charge of corruption against the Democratic party and is out in every part of the Boom. A single word, however, and a word that has already been spoken flags it at once to the winds. The Boom charges that the effect and purpose of the aforesaid Democratic legislation and its continuance will be to give the mortgage bondholders greater profit and the State greater loss. This is simply absurd, for the road from Salisbury to

Asheville, a distance of 148 miles, is alone worth far more than all the liens upon it; which fact puts it in the power of the State to set at defiance one and all of the mortgage bondholders. The fact is, the mortgage bondholders are safe and so is the State. So the third assertion also, the prey child of vindictive malice, falls helplessly to the ground for want of foundation. And here we might be well content to stop if the Boom did not strike at every work of public improvement in the State! So long as our present financial distress continues, a distress by the way that is due not to Democratic legislation which excites the ire of the Boom, but to Radical legislation that affects it not at all, the only possible way for the State to aid works of public improvement is through the labor of the convicts. Were, therefore, the Boom shall succeed in making any other disposition of the convicts than that now adopted under Democratic legislation it will sound the death knell of material progress in North Carolina. Are the people of the State ready for this? The Boom may be ready for it but we doubt if the people of the poor West are ready for it; and we do doubt if the friends of the unfinished Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad are ready for it. We doubt too if the friends of the various projected canals and roads in the tax-paying East that will so soon come in for their share of convicts under the present system are ready to cut the tree down just as their share of the fruit is ready to ripen. And then too to hire out the convicts, to put them to labor in the Penitentiary, or indeed to put them to labor in any way except on works of public improvement, involves the forcing of the products of the labor of a large number of convicts into competition with the products of the labor of honest men and honest women. Is the Democratic party ready for that when there is no necessary whatever to force such a competition? The Boom may be ready for such competition but we cannot think the Democratic party is ready for it. The Boom, however, cares for none of these things, and would fain persuade the Democratic party to believe it could still be the dominant political organization in North Carolina after having cut itself loose from every section of the State unprovided with natural or artificial means of travel and transportation! Was ever folly so supreme, was ever madness so great, as to believe such a suggestion to be honestly made? No Democrat who will take the trouble to count up the Democratic members of the Legislature from counties demanding their share of convicts will doubt the incapacity of forcing an unnecessary conflict with them on so vital an issue. In the bosom of the Boom, however, the result of such a conflict creates no apprehension, and in its mouth the fruit of the policy of forcing unnecessary conflict inside of party lines, of which there was so lately so plentiful a crop in New York, tastes not bitter, but sweet; and it would fain persuade North Carolina to see her political soil for a similar harvest! In a word, to divide us as the best way to conquer us is the purpose of the Boom. With the fate of New York right before its eyes, however, the Democratic party of North Carolina will do well to call it maturely and count carefully before it attempts to crush out or to cut loose from any section of the State. Let it in the expressive slang of the day may "cut off more than it can chew."

Especially will the so-called negro counties be slow to fetter the power of the Democratic party so long as those counties are entirely dependent for protection from the horrors of negro local rule upon a Democratic legislative majority. The Boom means death to white rule in negro counties just as surely as it means death to public improvement in counties that have them not. It is so easy for the tax-payers, and heavy ones they are in the negro counties, to foot up the cost of negro rule in their county governments that we doubt not they will do it, and having done it we are quite sure the Boom will find no friendly judgment with them. The control of the Democratic party in the Legislature is the only security the negro counties have for the continuance of their present system of county government.

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OPENING NEW GOODS DAILY, SUITABLE FOR FALL AND WINTER. ADDRESS: E. B. BLAIRE, 146 Main Street, NORFOLK, VA. sept 18 3m

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AGENTS WANTED, THE NEW STYLE "FAMILY" SEWING MACHINE!! The Usual \$45 Machine Reduced to \$25. No Long in Use to Doubt its Superior Merits. No Money to pay until the Machine is delivered to you and examined. It makes the shuttle, double-thread, lock-stitch, the same on both sides of the work, which received the highest award at the Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, Pa., 1876. And is completely self-contained, and requires no attachments for the work that any other machine, and reduced to only \$25.

W. H. DAY, J. M. GRIZZARD, Commissioners. HALIFAX, N. C., September 20th, 1879. oct 2 24.

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We desire to inform our friends and the public generally, that we have a complete stock, consisting of Bacon, Flour, Meal, Lard Butter, Fish, Cheese, Crackers, Cakes, Confectioneries, Starch, Soap, Tobacco, Spices, Snuff, Ginger, Pepper, Sugar, Pickles, Jellies, and Brandy Preserves.

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Our immense trade already enables us to sell goods very cheap, and we cordially invite our many friends to give us a call. Our maxim is to treat all right, Live and let Live. sep 20 1/2

ADVERTISEMENTS. LOOK HERE! READ THIS! READ THIS! And Stop at the Corner, and buy your Cheap goods from

W H BROWN. THE LEADER OF LOW PRICES. He keeps always on hand a full line of general merchandise, such as Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Dry Goods, Notions, Pocket Cutlery, Razors, Hoisery, &c.

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Mr. D. B. Zollicoffer, one of the firm will remain during the winter in Baltimore, where he will have an opportunity to select goods of the best quality at bottom prices. They respectfully invite the public generally to call and examine their stock. No charges for looking. They will take great pleasure in showing their goods and quoting prices. Respectfully, DR. A. R. ZOLLIFFER & BRO. Look for Sign West side Wash. Ave., Weldon, N. C.

Prescriptions carefully filled and patients treated under the immediate supervision of Dr. A. R. Zollicoffer, who with thanks for past patronage continues the practice of medicine as heretofore and can be found at Z. H. Zollicoffer's drug store at all hours night and day, when not professionally engaged. oct. 9 6m.

1857 ESTABLISHED 1857. The following valuable real estate lying near Tillery's Mill, in Halifax County about nine miles from the town of Halifax. About 300 acres including steam engine, saw mill and fixtures, gin, gin house and fixtures, adjoining the residence of J. R. Tillery. Mike Wilkins, that contains about 70 acres. Pope place containing about 150 acres, 1/2 interest in Wash. H. Tillery tract, the whole containing about 377 acres. Apply to P. N. HILL, Attorney, Halifax N. C. July 31.

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Prompt Attention to all Orders by Mail. Physicians prescriptions carefully compounded by competent clerks at all hours, day or night. Call and see. R. W. BROWN, Weldon, N. C. oct 1/2

SALE OF LAND. I offer for sale privately, the Great Creek farm, lying on Deep Creek, adjoining the lands of Isaac Glasgow, Peter Hines, Perkins estate and others, three miles south of Gaston. The farm contains about 800 acres, about 500 acres of which is cleared, 150 or 200 acres creek which is cleared. This land is well adapted to the cultivation of corn, cotton, tobacco, small grain and grasses. A good young orchard of assorted fruit trees in good condition. The land will be sold in small lots if the whole can be disposed of. Parties wishing to see the land can call on R. E. Moseley who will take pleasure in showing it. Terms moderate. Apply to R. E. MOSELEY, Gaston, N. C. or W. E. GWATHNEY, Norfolk, Va. sep 4 3m.

NORTH CAROLINA, Halifax County. Office Board of Commissioners, June Meeting 1879. It is ordered by the Board that all parties holding claims against the county by order or otherwise, be requested to present the same to the clerk of said Board on or before the last day of Sept. 1879. By order of the Board, R. J. LEWIS, Clerk. June 5 4m.

R. F. BUTLER, Fire and Life Insurance Agent. Places ranks of all kinds in first-class companies as low as safety will permit. Call and see me before insuring elsewhere, at

BROWN'S DRUG STORE, Weldon, N. C. July 12 1/2.

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FOR SALE. Store and dwelling house in the town of Weldon N. C. Dwelling house of 10 rooms, lot attached. Terms liberal. For particulars apply to A. Whitehead, R. F. H. Hall, Weldon, N. C. oct 1/2.