

From the Richmond Whig. Latest From the United States.

We are indebted to the courtesy of the Exchange Bureau for United States papers to the 17th inclusive, from which we extract the following summary of news:

FROM FLORIDA.

An expedition sent out from the gunboat Tabasco during the past month, destroyed the extensive rebel salt-works at St. Marks, Florida. They were seven miles in extent, and connected with them were 390 salt-kettles, 170 furnaces, and 165 houses. The property destroyed is estimated at \$2,000,000.

A correspondent of the N. Y. Times says: On the night of the 9th inst., an expedition left Jacksonville, Fla., proceeded up the St. John's River, and captured the town of Pilatka, a distance of sixty miles from Jacksonville. The place is to be fortified and held by our troops. Large amounts of cotton are represented as being stored in that vicinity.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC—GEN. MEADE TO BE SUPERSEDED—OTHER CHANGES.

A Washington dispatch to the N. Y. Times says: Notwithstanding the persistent denials, Gen. Meade is to be superseded in command of the Army of the Potomac. The order relieving him, and appointing his successor, will be issued in a few days.

Another dispatch to the same paper says: Gen. Grant will return to Washington in eight or ten days, and commence at once the herculean task of reorganizing the Army of the Potomac preparatory to a vigorous offensive spring campaign. He will take the field in person at the head of that army, and direct its first movement in the spring. Gen. Halleck has been offered command of any department he wants.

THE WORLD ON THE DRAFT. The New York World, under the head of "Two Hundred Thousand More," says: "The new Presidential proclamation for two hundred thousand conscripts, in addition to the five hundred thousand volunteers which have almost been raised, will not be received with patience by the country. After all the patriotic sacrifices which have been made by wards, towns and counties throughout the North, it is disheartening that, after all, we should be subject to the hardships of an enforced draft. What makes the matter more discouraging is the utter uselessness of giving Mr. Lincoln more men without a distinct assurance of a change of military policy. During the past six months a winter campaign in the Gulf States and against Savannah and Charleston, could have been conducted better than any other time of the war; yet all Mr. Lincoln has to show for the vast outlay of money and the myriads of men placed at his disposal is Olustee and a few irritating and fruitless raids. We appeal to our files to show that we have honestly and earnestly done what we could to help volunteering; but this order for a draft is more than we bargained for. In view of the readiness with which volunteers can be secured when sufficient pecuniary inducements are offered, it is a needless and cruel hardship to force poor men from their families and compel them to serve for the pittance in depreciated currency now paid our soldiers."

BUTLER AND THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

The Washington correspondent of the World says: "The statement that General Butler has anything to do with the exchange of prisoners is incorrect. He has nothing more to do with the business than General Dix had when he commanded the department. Then Lieut. Col. Ludlow was the recognized agent of exchange, and now the negotiations are carried on through Maj. Mulford. The rebels have not recognized General Butler in any manner, all assertions to the contrary notwithstanding."

THE BEAST DENOUNCED.

The World copies Beast Butler's order consigning George M. Baine and W. H. W. Hodges, of Portsmouth, to hard labor at Hatteras, with the following severe comment: "We pity the American citizen who can read the above without his blood boiling with indignation at the pranks of the malicious human brute whom Mr. Lincoln has placed in command at Fortress Monroe to bring contempt upon the fair name of his country. While Butler is warring upon clergymen and suspected persons his military department is steadily becoming smaller through his incompetency. What does Congress mean by permitting these things to go on without indignant protest?"

FREMONT AND LINCOLN.

The New York World says Fremont, according to well-informed sources, is to be assigned to the command of the Department of the South, which, it is understood, will be stripped of troops, so that he will have nothing to do but to look after the darkies. This shows that Mr. Lincoln has become seriously alarmed at Fremont's strength as a Radical Republican Presidential candidate. "Honest old Abe" expects to kill Grant politically by bringing him to Washington, and Fremont by putting him in the way of the yellow fever at Hilton Head.

GRANT AND HIS NEW POSITION—STRENGTH OF THE REBELS.

The World says: "The rebels have had a long breathing spell, and most industriously have they improved it. Their military strength has never been so great as it is at this moment. While the administration, for electioneering purposes, has been amusing the country with the idea that the rebellion was tottering to its downfall, the South has been quietly putting forth all its energies in strengthening its armies and recruiting its shattered strength. The consequences, that this eight months' remission on our side and of energy on their's, we are about to enter upon an unequal contest in the spring campaigns. Our numerous reconnoissances—the new ephemer-

ism for defeat—have disclosed the alertness and vigor of the rebels in every part of the Confederacy. There is great danger that the military tide will set in a different direction this year from what it did last, and the administration is apprehensive that it dares not face the consequences. To shirk the responsibility of possible disasters in the spring campaign, it has invested General Grant with the supreme command, to make him a scapegoat for the sins of the administration."

WHY GOLD IS UP.

A New York paper says: The causes which have put up the price of gold, or rather, more strictly, have reduced the price of Government currency, are: First, the redundancy in the paper money of the country. Previous to the war, at a period of commercial activity, when the whole country was together, three hundred millions of paper money was the outside limit which the necessities of commerce required. It is estimated that now we have not less than six hundred and fifty millions of paper money, while commerce is not as active as it was before the war, and a large portion of our population is cut off by the rebellion. Second, our national currency is discredited by the failure of the hopes of the people. It was expected last fall that the worthlessness of the rebel currency, and the dissatisfaction which undeniably prevailed, would compel the Southern people to consent to some terms of reunion rather than prolong a useless struggle. The opening movements of the spring campaign prove, however, that this was an entire mistake; that the rebellion is apparently as strong as ever; and, with the failure of the popular hopes, comes a panic in the gold market. Third, the organization of the new national banks renders it certain that, instead of a diminution, there is to be an addition to the paper money of the country. The fifty-two million loan having been all taken up, there is no longer an outlet for green-backs, and hence the surplus paper money is poured into the channels of business, thus creating a furious speculation in gold, as well as in every other purchasable commodity."

KENTUCKY SLAVES AND THE DRAFT. It is understood Governor Bramlette, of Kentucky, has remonstrated with the President against the enrollment and enlistment of slaves in Kentucky; and notified him that he will execute the laws of the State against all who attempt to take slaves from their owners without their consent.

THE NEW YORK TIMES SAYS:

"Kentucky is in a ferment over the Congressional bill making slaves liable, in the same manner as white men, to the national military service. She claims that this enactment is an invasion of her State sovereignty—an unconstitutional interference with her domestic institutions. Some of her hot-heads rave as if really purposing to make common cause with the rebellion, or, at least, to relapse into neutrality, unless Kentucky is spared the application of this measure."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The small pox is spreading with fearful rapidity over the country. It is worse than ever in Cincinnati and Columbus, and there are 1,500 cases in Cleveland.

In the U. S. Senate, on the 14th, Mr. Davis, of Ky., said he would wish that God would deliver us from such Generals as Butler, for he was the meanest and the most mercenary ever sent to curse the earth. He could be bought and sold every day in the week.

The U. S. steamer Miami has received orders to proceed to Halifax to convey the Chesapeake to Portland.

The locomotive builders at Patterson, N. J., have been notified that unless they furnish the Government 200 locomotives their shops would be seized and run on Government account.

Rosenorans has been exonerated of all blame for the defeat at Chickamauga.

Lt. Col. James Sanderson, just returned from Richmond, has been sent to Fort Warren, charged with betraying to the rebels the plot which the prisoners conspired to escape from the Libby.

Col. Frank Wolford has been arrested for disloyal sentiments in a speech at Lexington, Kentucky.

A special Washington despatch to the N. Y. Times says Gen. Wadsworth left Washington on the 13th, for Fortress Monroe, with instructions from the War Department to suspend further exchanges of prisoners on General Butler's plan. They want man for man without regard to color.

A rebel privateer is reported to be cruising to the westward of Havana.

MEXICO.

The change of policy on the part of the Mexican Regency, alluded to in the Whig a few days ago, is beginning to bear its legitimate fruits. News received at New York gives the Yankees very little encouragement as to the prospects of their ally, the Juarez Government. "One by one," says the Philadelphia Inquirer, "the States are won over to the Imperialists, either by the force of arms, or through the treachery of the native leaders." All of which means that the leaders of the Constitutional party and their adherents have no longer the powerful motive for opposition which existed when they feared a design, on the part of the French and the Church party, to rescind the decree of confiscation. Juarez still refuses to resign the Presidency, but it is admitted that he has very little chance of maintaining a successful resistance. Vidaurri, it is said, has given in his adhesion to the intervention. This is the most important event that could happen in Mexico. It will at once open the three great States of Nueva Leon, Coahuila and Tamaulipas to the new Government, and relieve the French of the necessity of conquering them by force of arms. Vidaurri is almost a Dictator in that part of Mexico—at least his authority and influence are overwhelming; and his defection from Juarez leaves the old Government without resources, and confines its power to the remote States of Durango and Sonora, which possess no elements of strength

or opposition. The State of Yucatan has likewise determined for the intervention, and this will no doubt be followed by the admission of Oaxaca and Chiapas. Thus the whole South will be virtually pacified, as Tabasco had already declared for the Empire. The time for Seward to declare himself has almost arrived. We shall soon see to what use the Yankees will put the legacy left to them by the South in the Monroe doctrine.

Duties of Tax-Payers and Currency Holders in Order of Time.

Before April 1, 1864—Give in profits of 1863 on purchase and sale of merchandise, &c., and pay 10 per cent. tax, now.

Corporation give in excess of profits for 1863 over 25 per cent., and pay 25 per cent. tax now due.

Fund \$100 notes—non-interest bearing. Fund 50s, 20s, and 10s, for four per cent. bonds.

Provide enough of such bonds to pay taxes due in 1864, and as many more as you please.

April 1, 1864—Register and pay taxes on sales and profits under act of 1863. You can now exchange 50s, 20s, and 10s, for new issues.

Before June 1, 1864—Give in property tax at value of property in 1860.

1. Value of land, negroes, (unless bought since January 1, 1862—then give in price paid for them)—plantation stock, mules, horses, cattle and all live stock, plantation tools and provisions, all property employed in agriculture.

Keep this separate from the other property, because it is to be paid in title, or the value of the latter deducted from the tax.

2. Other property, viz: real estate not used in agriculture, furniture, books, provisions, utensils, cotton, tobacco, &c., &c. (But if cotton and tobacco, bought since January, 1862, value it at the price paid for it.)

3. Coin and bullion held in this country, Confederate bonds (not including the 4 per cent. bonds last authorized), bank bills, and other currency, (except non-interest bearing Confederate Treasury notes, and except capital or notes, &c., employed in trade, otherwise taxed,) also, credits, notes, accounts, &c., bonds.

4. Money held abroad, at its market value in currency.

5. Joint stock, at market value in currency.

6. Plate, jewelry and watches, (10 per cent. tax.)

Merchandise is not given in nor taxed as property, the income being taxed.

June 1, 1864—Pay property tax on the foregoing—except on agricultural property; on this pay titles, from time to time—and the residue, when ascertained, in money.

Pay for gold and silver coin tax, exchange, &c., in kind. Before July 1, 1864, fund \$5-bills.

July 1, 1864—Give in and pay sale or profit taxes, under act of 1863; commence payment of titles, from time to time as crops are gathered.

October 1, 1864—Sales and profit taxes again. Continue to pay titles.

January 1, 1865—Sales and profit taxes again. Income tax for 1864 now due.

From income exclude horse rent, servant hire, interest on notes, value of cattle and beef sold, and any other income derived from taxed property.

Salary for 1864. Give in and pay extra profit tax levied by late act, for 1864.

Corporation tax on excess of profits at 25 per cent. Corporations pay no other income tax for 1864. The stockholders pay the tax on the stock, as property, June 1, 1864.

March 1, 1864—Cotton and Bacon titles. Pay residue of agricultural tax in 1864.

As the taxes due in 1864 are payable in 4 per cent. bonds, it is important to know which taxes are due in this year. It is to be remarked that the titles of corn are not so payable. Wheat taxes are?

1. The whole property tax of every sort (titles excepted); the tax on gold and silver plate, jewelry, watches, &c., the tax on joint stock.

Query.—Will the 4 per cent. bonds pay the taxes on coin, exchange, credits, bonds and currency? We think not. They are to be paid in kind.

2. The extra profit tax of 10 per cent., on profits of 1863, is now due.

3. The registry and gross sales taxes for April, July and October.

But not the income, salary or professional taxes for 1864, which are payable January 1, 1865.

We will now propose and answer a few of the most important or most perplexing questions connected with these acts:

1. When is the tax on agricultural property to be paid. By section 6—on the 1st June 1864, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the whole property tax is to be paid. By section 1—from the tax on property employed in agriculture shall be deducted the value of the tax in kind delivered therefor, provided, that no credit shall be allowed beyond 5 per cent. We cannot think this language authorizes the construction which requires the planter to pay the 5 per cent. tax in advance, and have the value of the titles refunded from time to time. The money tax is to be paid when ascertained. The tax is to be paid as soon after June 1 as practicable, "when it is ascertained what deduction" is to be made from the 5 per cent. tax for the value of the titles. The other construction is not supported either by the nature of the thing or language of the law. The law does not contemplate "refunding" but "deduction"—not the advancement of more than one is due, but the payment of a residue. And it would be a most inconvenient and rigorous rule to require men to raise money, at a time of the year when planters certainly have nothing to sell, to be refunded by dribbles in the fall.

The law would be alike inconvenient to tax-payers and tax collectors.

which for bacon and cotton, might be in 1865? Probably he could.

It is an important fact that the titles will be valued in the new and reduced currency, and therefore no so far as might be anticipated, judging from this year's valuation. Also, that the 4 per cent. bonds do not help the titles.

2. Is the tax upon gold and silver coin, exchange, &c., to be paid in kind?—i. e., 5 per cent. of the gold itself, &c.

The language seems studiously to imply this: In other sections the word "value" is employed—in reference to gold and silver coin, &c., the "amount"—upon the amount of gold 5 per cent.—not of its value—it would seem—but of itself. A distinction made in the 3d section seems to favor this view—it being impossible to pay 5 per cent. of the actual corpus money held abroad, the tax is levied upon "value" of such money. The reason seems to support the construction.

Why such discrimination between Foreign exchange on the one hand and money held abroad on the other—as would tax the latter 20 times as high as the former? None, evidently. They are both taxed alike, both in the same section and have like relations. The gold or exchange here is to be paid in gold or exchange. The gold abroad is to pay tax in Confederate money here on the value here, while exchange can be paid in kind. Since the foreign gold itself cannot be reached in kind, the 3d section of this act seems to have been drawn with a nice and exact reference to this distinction.

Query.—Will four per cent. bonds pay these taxes on gold, silver, bullion, exchange, &c.?

No—Not if the foregoing view is correct. The foregoing reasoning applies to credits, currency, &c.—the "amount" of which, and not their value is taxed—these, too, are payable in kind. It will be a troublesome matter with some of them, for they are not properly divisible—still the argument seems decisive.

3. If the government prefers that Treasury notes should be funded rather than pay the tax of 3 1/2 per cent.—could not the mechanical difficulty of counting in a limited time be overcome readily enough; could not the department issue notes after the manner of the Express companies, for packages sealed and said to contain so much; to be afterwards opened and counted at leisure. If there be a decided preference for funding as the interest of the government, the mechanical difficulty would seem a pitiful obstacle.

Some other views of the general system and of certain matters of detail will be presented in another article.

From the Richmond Whig. Crops—Sorghum. A new mode of Bolling, Pressing and Value.

AMERICA CO., March 15, 1864. To the Editor of the Whig:

I have been for a week or so in this country, and am glad the farmers are making preparation to plant a large crop of corn, potatoes, and every article that will contribute to the support of the people and our armies.—The wheat crop, which is unusually large, is beginning to look very well, though not quite as forward as usual at this season, in consequence of the long dry spell we had this winter. Though a little backward, it is not thought to be materially injured by the dry weather, but is regarded as being quite promising.

There is nothing more worthy of the attention of the planter than the cultivation of sorghum. It was planted in this neighborhood quite extensively last year, and the cultivation of it would be greatly enlarged this, if a sufficient number of kettles, or a substitute for them could be supplied. I remember to have seen, on some of the plantations in the South, a box made of two-inch plank, closely jointed and fitted together, with a sheet-iron bottom, large enough to cover the entire bottom of the box, and extend six inches up the sides and ends of the box, used for all the purposes of heating water, to boil corn for stock. The box, thus prepared, is set on a rude furnace, and the fire is applied in the same manner as if kettles were in the furnace instead of this wooden box with a sheet-iron bottom. It is usually four or five feet long and two or three wide, and can be made to hold the syrup from the sorghum as well as kettles, and to boil it down to molasses quite as well.

The whole thing would cost but a trifle and will supply the place of kettles, if the rolling mills can be prevailed on to roll out a sufficient quantity of sheet iron. If the width of the sheet is objected to, on the score of inconvenience, it could be narrowed at pleasure. It is only necessary for the sheet to be wide enough to cover the entire bottom of the box, and to turn up or, the outside of it an inch or two, so as to fasten it to the box by nails or screws. It will be found it will not leak a particle, and will boil more rapidly than kettles, and answer every purpose as well. It will be well for the papers to call the attention of the planters and owners of rolling mills to this fact, and I doubt not a vast quantity of molasses will be made, which will supply the army with the best substitute in the world for meat. As a general thing the soldiers would prefer molasses to meat.

If this suggestion is vigorously carried out, one of our greatest troubles—the want of meat—will be removed. Besides, the great benefit that will thus be conferred upon consumers, whether in the army or out of it, there is no species of agriculture that pays the planter so well. I know one instance where a planter made 450 gallons of molasses, as fine and rich as any sugar-house molasses I ever eat, from three acres of land, which, at \$10 per gallon, which is less than the ruling rates, would make \$4,500. Nothing pays so well and nothing else will contribute so much to the support of our army. I think these suggestions are worthy of a place in your valuable paper. I am told by one planter that this sorghum, after the juices are pressed out by the mill, and which is generally thrown away, could be used to make any quantity of the finest vinegar, an article now in great demand, and absolutely necessary for the health of soldiers in camp.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

CAROLINA WATCHMAN

SALISBURY, N. C. MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 28, 1864.

The tax Collector's appointments for Gold Hill, Morgan's and Salisbury, have been changed on account of the Fast Day. See his notice in this paper.

Penet upon the principles of 1776 is the caption of an article, to which we invite attention. It is likely to be much talked of during the approaching summer, in Georgia, and perhaps elsewhere, though we cannot well see how any practical good is to come of it. The northern people are desperately committed to the restoration of the old Union; and old Abe, with all the power of a great country fully in his hands, is as able as he is willing, to crush the dawning of any movement in the north unfavorable to his designs. If the war continues long enough, there may be some chance for the Northern people to canvass the peace "principles of 1776." In the meantime, our best prospect is in a vigorous defence of our territory against the invaders.

PROMOTED.—We are pleased to learn that our townsman, Capt. A. MYERS, Commissary at this place, has been promoted to the rank of Major. It is well earned. He has been untiring in his efforts to procure supplies for the subsistence of our brave and heroic soldiers in the field.

Owing to severe affliction in his family, Mr. Troy will not start with boxes for Cooke's Brigade as he expected, but will give timely notice when he can go.

The travelling Agent for the N. C. Volunteer Navy Company, Rev. Williamson Harris, addressed a small meeting at Tarboro, a few days ago, and afterwards received subscriptions to the stock of the Company amounting to \$70,000. He will probably visit this county again about the 1st of April. In the mean time, a book for subscription to the stock is open at the Salisbury Br. of the Bank of Cape Fear.

Remarkable.—The Petersburg Register says the Wilmington & Weldon R. R. Co. has adopted the following extraordinary regulation, viz: "No freight will be received on the Road unless the party desiring transportation will sign an agreement exonerating the Company from any responsibility for loss or damage by fire, water, or stealage."

Is it really true that the Company has done this thing! It cannot get clear of the responsibility of a "public carrier," we think, by such a dishonest contrivance.

Snow.—Winter, as in a raging fury at the s-ductive blanchiments of dallying Spring, fairly lost his reason last Tuesday morning about 4 or 5 o'clock, and with howling gusts of wind—bitter cold—shook down from the thick, dark overhanging clouds, such a snow (eight inches in depth) as we have rarely witnessed. The storm continued almost without interruption throughout the day until dark. Wednesday and Thursday were bright and warm, and the snow melted rapidly. But Friday morning dawned in another shower, which, however, was of short duration and of a subdued character. The peach trees, which were newly in full bloom, look very much worsted by the storm; but whether the fruit is all killed can be better ascertained a few weeks hence.

GUBERNATORIAL CONTEST.

We have been asked several times if there was to be a third candidate for Governor.—We are unable to answer the question positively yet—there is no telling what may occur before the first of August. Two years ago a respectable number of citizens of North Carolina were anxious to avoid a contest, and many of us supported a gentleman of ability and fine attainments—the office of Governor, who had always been opposed to us in "party times"—we did so with the hope of securing union and harmony among our own people—but others acted otherwise and encouraged a contest and afterwards approved of the most outrageous proscription as practised by the friends of the successful candidate. Those who favored a contest then, and would listen to no entreaties for harmony, of course express different opinions about such matters now; but they should remember that examples often produce unexpected but natural effects. We have been willing to let bygones be by-gone, but the successful candidate and most of those who supported him have not manifested a similar disposition.

For our own part we have never occupied any doubtful position—we have very little respect for what is called "neutrality"—but we shall not take as active a part in political contests hereafter as we have heretofore—