

NORTHERN SETTLERS.

A VOICE IN BEHALF OF THE SOUTH.

What the Convention Did Yesterday—A Full Convention and a Full Expression of Opinion—What Inducements the South Holds Out to Emigrants, &c.

There were about seventy-five or eighty delegates to the convention of Northern men in the South, when Mr. N. Dumont, called the convention to order yesterday at 12 o'clock in the opera house. He read them a short address of welcome; and also read the call, which he sent to all Northern settlers in the South whose names he could get as follows:

"CHARLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 14, 1878.

"DEAR SIR:—I have concluded with a number of gentlemen who have moved from New York, New Hampshire and other Northern States, and settled in this State, South Carolina and Georgia since the war, many of them ex-Union soldiers; I myself am from Springfield, Massachusetts. The conclusion we have arrived at, is, that Northern men, who have settled in the South, have in their hands the solution of the question, as to whether any considerable number of good Northern men and active Northern capital can be diverted to the South. Many of the Northern papers are giving wrong notions as to how Northern people are received. You know many of our friends will not put much faith in what Southern men or papers say on this head. We who have consulted upon this matter deem it wise to hold a convention of Northern men only, who have settled South since the war—good, fair representative men. Your name has been given as such. It is our wish and wish to hold this convention about January 15th, at Charlotte, N. C., it being more central for all. Arrangements have been made with the railroads for the convenience of our friends. We think it kind enough to signify if you will come or not, and if you cannot come, please address me a letter stating your views. It is desired in the convention to prepare a statement for publication in the Southern States, touching the soil, climate, prices, ease of making a living and social treatment of the individual Northern man. It is not desired to cover any question of politics or extreme views. In your letter, whether of acceptance or declination, please state if you were in the Federal army, company and regiment; where you moved from to your present residence, and how long you have resided at your present whereabouts.

"We shall be glad to hear from you at the earliest day.

"Your obedient servant,

"N. DUMONT,

"Charlotte, N. C."

The opera house was decorated with flags of the United States, an old battle-worn banner of the Confederate States, and the flags of local military companies. By a unanimous vote, the convention was organized by calling Mr. Dumont to the chair, and by voting the following named gentlemen vice-presidents: W. B. Middaugh, of Danville, Va.; A. J. Curtis, San Mateo, Fla.; P. F. Lawless, Gastonia, Va.; H. Cockendall, Black Station, S. C.

On motion, the appointment of the secretaries was placed in the hands of the president and Messrs. R. E. McDonald, of Charlotte, Thos. J. Conger, of Danville, N. C., and Wm. Woodhouse, of Concord, were selected.

Shortly after the organization the president was informed that a committee of citizens of Charlotte were present and a committee of communication to present and to the convention.

Mayor Smith came forward, and after a brief introduction extending to the members of the convention the hospitalities of the city, and the meeting of citizens had directed a committee, of which he was chairman, to present a resolution of welcome to the convention, which he herewith presented.

The resolution was read by the secretary, as follows:

"WHEREAS, The citizens of Charlotte have been informed that certain citizens from the North, who have certain residences in this city, and who contemplate meeting in convention in this city on the 15th inst., for the purpose of giving an expression of opinion as to the material resources, and social and political condition of this section; and

"WHEREAS, It is the desire of our people that the facts in this convention shall be fair and fully stated by men who have no axe to grind, and are not influenced by the prejudices of Southern birth; and

"WHEREAS, We believe that the facts will be so stated by this convention, without regard to sectional sympathies, and

"Resolved, That we, the undersigned committee, in behalf of the citizens of Charlotte, tender to the delegates of this convention a cordial welcome and the hospitalities of the city, and request our chairman to present this in person to the convention.

H. R. SMITH, Chm'n.

B. C. JONES.

W. J. YATES.

C. DOWD.

R. M. MILLER.

The communication, as well as the remarks of the mayor, were received with applause. Wm. Woodhouse was appointed to prepare an answer to both.

It was suggested that the next thing in order would be the appointment of a committee on Resolutions to prepare business for the convention.

The present said before proceeding to this, he would prefer to hear an expression of the sentiments of the delegates on the subject of the call.

In reply to this suggestion Mr. J. C. Bates, of the Western country, addressed the convention at some length. He was pleased with the idea of the convention at first, and was satisfied that it could be made the instrument of great good. He was in favor of making local rather than general views. It would not be the part of wisdom in the convention to attempt to speak of that whereof it did not know and had not seen, but to confine its assertions to what had come here either first-hand or second-hand. He also thought all questions of politics should be excluded. He himself was a miner in Union county. He had always received the kindest possible treatment while in Charlotte, and since he and his family had resided in Union county.

He believed that North Carolina possessed special advantages to an agricultural people, and was satisfied that the mines in this section of the State could be worked to great advantage. He said further that as a sheep grower on the Piedmont region of North Carolina could not be surpassed.

Mr. H. H. Ballman, of Polk county, N. C., formerly of Pittsburg, Pa., was treated that so far as the treatment of Northern settlers by Southern people were concerned, he hardly thought it was necessary to touch upon that question. He had experienced one continual expression of kindness. He had 1,100 acres of land in Spartanburg county, S. C., and 600 where he lived—more land than he wanted. One hundred acres of it would support a family the size of his own. He himself felt the need of active, intelligent men to settle on it and cultivate it. The great need of his section was public schools for the dissemination of general information. He believed that a far better way would certainly be given to their education.

Mr. Cushing, of Lincoln county, N. C., followed, saying that he had come to North Carolina under the most unfavorable auspices possible as a young soldier, his company having been disbanded in the South. If he people had treated him any better, it would have been a fool of him. They would treat the most grateful of soldiers as a deserter, and he would have been treated as such. Why it was that Northern people kept on talking about this thing, he couldn't tell for the life of him self. He said we could offer them everything but equal advantages in public schools, and we were not doing it in the particular.

Mr. T. H. Hoyt, now of Spartanburg, S. C., said he had been engaged in real estate business for some years, and had looked forward to this convention with high hopes. He found many well disposed and Christian people at his present home as anywhere he had ever lived. He had received hundreds of letters asking the very questions which it was proposed that this convention should answer. He had received a letter from Mr. L. N. Wilcox, late of Pennsylvania, who, in speaking of the advantages which the South offered, said that he would rather embark in business in the South than in the North, and that he would rather sell for \$100 per acre. Mr. Hoyt said he was satisfied that the climate, soil and general character of the country in North Carolina afforded as good homes as could be found anywhere. He also believed that any prejudices which Northern men might have would be removed by a residence in the South.

At this point in the proceedings, a motion was made and carried that the chair appoint a committee on resolutions to draft the views of the convention.

The chair appointed the following: Rev. Dr. Mattoon, president of Bible University, Charlotte, N. C., formerly of New York.

A. J. Curtis, of Mateo, Fla., formerly of New York.

H. Cockendall, of Black's Station, S. C., formerly of Des Moines, Ia.

W. B. Middaugh, of Danville, Va., formerly of Pennsylvania.

C. H. Ingold, of Rossville, Ga., formerly of New York.

The committee then retired to prepare the resolution.

Several other short addresses were made in the same strain as those already reported.

The convention then, on motion, adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock to hear the report of the committee on resolutions.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

When the convention re-assembled in the afternoon, a communication was read from Northern citizens of Newbern, N. C., and one from the resident in Mooresville, setting forth the advantages which these localities offered to settlers, and on motion both communications were ordered to be filed with the proceeding of the meeting.

The committee on resolutions through its chairman, Rev. Dr. Mattoon, announced that it was prepared to report, and the convention decided to vote on the resolutions *seriatim*.

The committee offered the following for adoption:

To the People of the Several Commonwealths composing the United States of America.

We, the representatives of Northern settlers in the Southern States, and being ourselves immigrants from localities in the Northern States, and being respectively States following our individual signatures, in convention assembled, do call your attention to the following, feeling assured that cool judgment upon the facts shown will set in flow the currents of reason, and action will follow reasoning without prejudice. We prefer to make findings specifically and at length, and we find:

1st. That in the States of our former homes there existed an active prejudice against the South, and its people; that this prejudice is mighty in its influence for evil on the nation; that by it and through it the conditions of the country are largely disquieted; that it is foisted and maintained upon the people to the common weal; that the real interests of the nation are kept out of sight in keeping alive this prejudice. That much of this prejudice, if not all of it, is due mainly to action and reaction concerning (and partial and total ignorance of) the facts existing in a large portion of the South.

2d. That in the portions of the South in which we reside the right of any man from no matter what State, to be publicly as well as privately his opinion upon any subject and of every nature, is nowhere and in no manner restrained. That all laws are well administered and as truly enforced as in any State of the Union.

3d. That any man who has so conducted himself as his former home as to win the regard and respect of a decent course of life in the South, does gain and keep the regard and respect of all people, regardless of any question of politics or religious faith, and a further finding that the Northern man is certainly no disadvantage.

4th. That every citizen recognizes that he is amenable to the law, and that local self-government is as much required and sustained in the South as such as much deplored as in any State North, East or West.

5th. We find, too, that persons foisted themselves upon the polity of the South, and by their conduct cast discredit upon the Northern man.

6th. Those of us who were in the army of the Union never for a moment pretended to think of denying our uniform or the old cause. The Confederate soldier has always evinced the true soldier's instinctive grasp of those who were his enemies in war.

7th. That considering reputed odium, if these were carefully sifted it will be found that the complainants for like acts would find no support in the hands of any people under like provocation.

8th. We find that in business relations the ex-Confederate is willing to sell his land on time to Northern men, and even to purchase land on the same accommodations at the North, East or West. We find, too, that in the ramifications of business they endorse our notes and bank paper, and are not over-anxious or inquisitive on questions of extension, and they frequently say, "It is as much our interest as yours that you should succeed and by your success help fill the country with thriving people."

9th. That as neighbors they visit our firesides and welcome us to the privileges of public worship, and sympathize in our sorrows and afflictions; that they admire sturdy integrity and real principle; that their definition of what these things are correspond with the idea of the same our neighbors in the North held in common with us. We find that we are not tabooed nor subjected to any kind of persecution for proper conduct or good Northern ideas or principles, and though differing from many of our Southern neighbors on many essential questions in politics and otherwise, we have lived and prospered here among them, they knowing these differences.

10th. We find that the South needs more people badly, and that none appreciate it more than the native population, and that they are willing to offer fair inducements to industrious people to come and settle among them. If residence among a people and having daily social and business contact with them means anything, then we ask a fair consideration by all parties to the facts we here set forth, and that at least the same credit be given to our statements that is given to the unsupported statements so swift in their mission of dissension and misrepresentation.

11th. That east of a line drawn from Rutherfordton, in High N. C., thence to Columbia, S. C., thence to Tallahassee, in Florida, the country on the eastern side of the South Atlantic States contains a vast extent of rich alluvial lands, and a considerable extent of swamp and pine and cypress, fine fisheries and harbors, important water powers and vast beds of marl and shell; that in this sea-level belt, from the Potomac to the Gulf of Mexico, all products that are grown in any of the States of the North, and in addition fine qualities of tobacco, cotton and rice, while south of Savannah the banana and other tropical fruits add to their value.

12th. That about 60 miles westward of the line given, the country gradually rises, and at about the line given becomes gently undulating, and assumes its distinctive character as the foot hills of the Piedmont, and in some places becomes the country known as the Piedmont belt, and is comprised in that strip of country lying to the west of the line given for an average distance of 50 miles from the eastern limit, and in other slightly wider eastern limit having an altitude of from 300 to 400 feet, rising by gradations to a height of from 900 to 1,100 feet on its eastern side. The Piedmont belt are forests of oak, ash, hickory, maple, poplar, beech, birch, all the hard woods with yellow pine and occasional belts on the higher ridges of white pine. Rivers and streams afford, with their tributaries abundant water, and these streams fail not, neither dry. Abundant water powers, large numbers of them averaging from 12 to twenty feet, and many from 25 to 50 feet, and others from 90 to 150 feet of natural fall, on streams having a width of from 100 to 700 feet. Some of these water powers have cotton and woolen mills thereon, and any one wishing to increase, can be shown that they are paying handsomely. The soil is generally a red clay or mulatto or chocolate land, grey loam and black soil. The bottom lands yield largely; the uplands moderately. On the kind of crops raised, and the crops in the South—which is in no degree up to the Northern standard, yet owing to ease of transportation to market, shortness of lines and the kindness of the soil, the yield of value of all crops exceeds that of the fields of Kansas or Minnesota.

A. We find in this belt, mines of gold, iron, copper, coal, limestone, mica, barytes, red lead, corundum, etc., etc., which, if properly worked, would furnish appliances as elsewhere, would furnish labor to a vast population, and equal in value to those of other States more known to popular report.

B. We find that the soil of this belt salubrious, invigorating and restoring; that its summer temperature is lower and cooler by several degrees than at the North; that gentle breezes keep the Northern resident; that droughts or failures of crops are rare, and that pests and diseases destructive to crops have no existence; that the winters are moderate and short; that animal life is easily supported without expensive methods of husbandry; that the soil is fertile, and the labor of the summer away; that here man works for himself and his, and not for his brutes; that there is no month in the year but that out of door labor on the farm can be done and plowing and sowing rarely interfered with by frost or snow.

C. We find the country healthful, well drained and singularly free from ague, malarial fevers and malignant disease; and that the soil is fertile, and that it will be found due to neglected local causes, such as dams in marshy places, obstructed ponds causing backflows and consequent stagnation.

D. We find that cotton, tobacco, all the cereals, the apple, the peach, the orange, all varieties of fruit, the grape and various berries thrive and mature finely—the peach bearing in three years from the seed. That the tame grasses grow in a healthy and profitable state; that sheep, cattle and swine pay handsomely.

E. We find that all occupations pursued for profit, whether in trade, law, agriculture, mechanics, manufactures, when pursued here, are equally profitable, and methods as other countries, while large returns with less strain.

13th. We find that to the west of the Piedmont belt is a vast extent of mountain lands, already settled, and in some places this is composed of high table lands rich in natural grasses of most excellent character; fine mountain slopes not too precipitous, and narrow valleys known as foot-hill lands. The altitude of the country is from 1,100 to 2,300 feet above the sea; its atmosphere is singularly rare and pure. Fine mineral springs abound, and these districts have already attained eminence as health and pleasure resorts. It contains mountains and spurs, cascades and other scenic details which give it note for the grand and picturesque. Its forests are all of the best quality, and in the best of the range. It is more sparsely settled than the eastern range and much of it is remote from lines of travel. It is rich in all kinds of mineral wealth, and its mines of copper, mica, iron and other minerals are rich. It has no nurseries within 100 miles. The orange districts are cared for as regards the cultivation of that fruit as a crop, but all other fruits have hitherto been neglected. The details of its resources will be found, however, that the rate of tax is based upon a valuation of little over one-third, if any.

14th. That while fruit thrives in the South most luxuriantly, yet little attention is given to the raising of such fruit as grapes, peaches, apples, etc.; that in a country, where fruit of all kinds thrives without any climatic causes for destruction, yet no varieties are bred. The fruit is raised in each point, and all ripens at about the same time. No attempt is made to save it and it hangs upon the trees, breaking them down with its burden, the branches not even being propped. But few nurseries are established, and the few that have no nurseries within 100 miles. The orange districts are cared for as regards the cultivation of that fruit as a crop, but all other fruits have hitherto been neglected. The details of its resources will be found, however, that the rate of tax is based upon a valuation of little over one-third, if any.

15th. That at no distant day the lines of a new way now running from the South Atlantic seaboard, and only impeded in finding their way through the Blue Ridge mountains, will make the ports of Southern States the shipping points for a large part of the products of the West, and that they follow the lines to the Northern seaboard and lakes so often blocked by snow in the transit, and arriving late and partly damaged at ice-bound ports.

16th. We find that the vast elements of material profit, the throwing aside of opportunity for wealth, is due to these facts largely. When the war closed, the labor system of the South was destroyed; the white people were penniless and came back to devastated farms with nothing to go upon, their farm tools lost or destroyed. In many, if not most cases, large families were dependent upon the returned soldier who never before had done a day's labor in the field, and had no experience in theory, much less practice, in labor of any kind. They must then not only learn the business of agriculture but make a success of it, and in a short time, and high in price, and meant money; so that every energy and every bit of attention was turned to its culture, and the neglect of grains, fruit, cattle, &c., and to raise a large cotton crop as the only means of getting money.

17th. The factories are in the fields of production; the producer and manufacturer are brought together, and the profits of the interchange remain at home.

18th. Saving of transportation of raw materials to the mills of manufactured goods.

19th. The tolls of cotton ginning enter it to manufacture; this is labor and the profit of labor entering into manufacture with the other saving as a benefit to the grower.

20th. The cost of water power is nominal, properly speaking; nothing but the building of a cheap wooden dam and rude canals; the streams never dry, and the grower need not be heated to excess 40 days per year.

21st. Exceeding cheapness of building material and common labor.

22nd. Cheapness of fuel; wood not over \$1.25 a cord.

23rd. Factories need not be heated to exceed 40 days per year.

24th. A good home market in a country where the money crop, being cotton, means cash, and not trade, for that crop, and hence produces large profits by the side with the Northern made article, &c., into the pocket of the Southern manufacturer, so that that which constitutes the means of expense in Northern manufacture, becomes two profits to the Southerner.

25th. We find that the modes of agriculture pursued at the South are singularly thriftless; that the implements used are of the most primitive, farm transportation and cultivation are most rude; that if the same modes of farming were followed in the North, and the same implements used, banking and other abuses would follow in every instance; that the Southern farmer prospers by such methods and tools is due to the kindness of Providence in giving a climate and soil which almost provide for man; themselves; almost certainly for best; for but few feed stock at all, very minimum of exertion produces more than a living. Northern farmers pursuing the courses of farming here that they do at home will amass wealth.

26th. We find that no attention whatever has been given to roads or bridges in the South; that passage over many portions of the higher country is most difficult; that railroads almost exist in the North; that the Southern farmer is hindered by such methods and tools is due to the kindness of Providence in giving a climate and soil which almost provide for man; themselves; almost certainly for best; for but few feed stock at all, very minimum of exertion produces more than a living. Northern farmers pursuing the courses of farming here that they do at home will amass wealth.

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