

**CONVENTION.**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT CONVENTION.**

Commenced at N. C. July 4, 1838.

On the 4th of July, 1838, for the purpose of consulting together upon the general interest of the State of North Carolina, and devising some practicable plan for the internal improvement of said State and the development of her vast resources.

The convention was called to order by the Hon. John M. Dick, upon whose motion his Excellency E. B. Dudley, was unanimously chosen to preside over its deliberations, and Henry B. Elliott was appointed Secretary.

On motion of Dr. Fred. J. Hill, the following delegates presented their names to the Secretary and took their seats in the convention, viz:

**From the county of Guilford.**—Hon. John M. Dick, John M. Morehead, Henry Humphreys, John A. Gilmer, Dr. J. J. M. Lindsay, Andrew Lindsay, Dr. John A. Foulkes, Wilson Hill, Charles Betbow, Joseph Gibson, Nathan Hunt, Jr., Col. Daniel Clapp, Dr. S. G. Coffin, Jesse Thompson, Nathan Mendenhall, John A. Foulke, Dr. David Worth.

**Chatham.**—Henry A. Laudon, Benjamin Haeze, John A. Houghton.

**Randolph.**—Gen. Alexander Gray, Jesse Harper, Henry B. Elliott, Jonathan Worth, Jesse Walker, Hugh McCann, Jonathan Redding.

**Davie.**—Gen. James Cook, Col. G. W. Pearson, Jacob Waynesburg, L. M. Gilbert, John Tillet, G. A. Miller, J. L. Clemons.

**Rockingham.**—Joseph A. Twitchell.

**From the town of Wilmington.**—Dr. Fred. J. Hill, Wm. C. Lord.

**Fayetteville.**—Chas. Haigh, Chas. P. Mallet, Covington J. Orrell.

**Hillsboro.**—Henry K. Nash, John Cameron.

**Salisbury.**—Dr. Pleasant Henderson, Charles Parice, Col. Robt. McNamara, Maj. John Beard, William Lock.

**Lexington.**—Robert Foster, H. R. Dusenbury, Roswell A. King.

On motion of Dr. Frederic J. Hill

Resolved, That a committee on the Statistics of the State, be appointed, to consist of one delegate from each county represented.

Gen. James Cook offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a general committee be appointed to consist of one delegate from each county represented in this convention, to whom shall be referred all propositions in relation to Internal Improvements which may be submitted and report thereon to this convention as soon as may be practicable.

Adopted.

On motion of Nathan Mendenhall

Resolved, That it be referred to the general committee, to report to the convention on the advantages and disadvantages of the Ridge route from Fayetteville to the Western part of N. Carolina.

On motion of John H. Houghton, Esq.

Resolved, That the advantages and disadvantages of the several routes for a Central rail road, be referred to the general committee, to report thereon to this convention.

On motion of Gen. Jas. Cook

Resolved, That the general committee be instructed to inquire into, and report upon the best means for raising funds to be expended on objects of Internal Improvements, and further that said committee be instructed to inquire into, and report upon, the expediency of the State's embarking in a general system of internal improvements.

On motion of John H. Houghton, Esq.

Resolved, That the committee appointed on the Statistics of the State of North Carolina be instructed to take into consideration, and report thereon, the advantages and disadvantages of the town of Wilmington, as connected with a direct trade between the South and foreign parts.

On motion of the Committee on the Statistics of the State, viz: William C. Lord, Charles P. Mallet, John M. Morehead, Giles W. Pearson, Jos. A. Twitchell, Henry B. Elliott, Roswell A. King, Henry A. Laudon, Benjamin Haeze, John A. Houghton, Esq.

General Committee.—Dr. Fred. J. Hill, John Beard, Jonathan Worth, J. A. Cook, Chas. P. Mallet, John Cameron,

Nathan Mendenhall, John H. Houghton, Jos. A. Twitchell, Henry R. Dusenbury.

Convention then adjourned to meet again to-morrow at 9 o'clock, A. M. July 5th, 1838.

Convention met agreeable to adjournment.

Nathan Mendenhall, chairman of the general committee, offered the following report to wit:

The committee to whom were referred sundry resolutions in relation to various routes for a rail road from Fayetteville to the western part of North Carolina, also the advantages and disadvantages of the several routes for a Central rail road, REPORT,

That they are not in possession of sufficient information to justify them in recommending any particular route, and that inasmuch as surveys have been made by a competent engineer, any action on the subject before his report is given would be premature and inexpedient.

The same committee to whom was referred a resolution instructing them to inquire into, and report upon the best means of raising funds to be expended on objects of internal improvement, and likewise as to the expediency of the State's embarking in a general system of internal improvement, report, That, considering the smallness of the convention, and the great importance of the subjects referred, they deem it inexpedient to make any suggestions in reference to "the best means of raising funds to be expended on objects of internal improvements." And they likewise deem it inexpedient at this time for the same reason to make any report whatever, as to the advantages and disadvantages of the several routes for a Central rail road; while at the same time they are deeply impressed with the conviction that the best interests of North Carolina require of her Legislature the most energetic and liberal measures in promotion of extensive and judicious schemes for the development of her vast resources.

All which is respectfully submitted. N. MENDENHALL, Ch'r.

Which report was adopted.

William C. Lord chairman of the committee on the Statistics of the State, offered the following report, to wit:

The committee to which was assigned the duty of furnishing this convention with such statistical information as the time and circumstances of the occasion will admit, beg leave to submit the following REPORT:

From the haste in which the duty has been executed, the want of State documents on the subject of statistics, and the impracticability of access to private sources of information, the committee are well aware, and it must be apparent to the convention, that the statement now presented, is defective and unsatisfactory. Believing, however, that it may be the means of exciting public attention to the subject, and prove, to some extent, a source of information to many of our citizens, they are unwilling to withhold even the limited information which they have been enabled to acquire.

Few members of the confederacy possess greater resources; the elements of wealth to a greater extent; than our own North Carolina. The variety of her climate and consequently of her agricultural productions; the extent of her Territory, together with the vigor and industry of her sons, fit her to enter the lists of a generous competition with any of her sister States; and yet many of them, infants of yesterday, have passed us by in numbers, in wealth, and political importance. This mortifying view of our situation, is attributable to the operation of a variety of causes, one of which perhaps, only comes within the province of your committee, viz: the want of knowledge of ourselves and of each other. The vast resources of our State, are unknown to most of our citizens; and the want of this knowledge, operates as an incubus upon their development; nor is the remark less applicable in reference to our commercial advantages than to our exhaustless sources of mineral wealth, as will appear from the subjoined statement obtained principally from an authentic document emanating from the secretary of the treasury of the U. S. From this document, reported to Congress 19 May last, it will be apparent in many respects that the commercial advantages of the ports of North Carolina are superior to those of Virginia; and that it only requires the united effort of her own sons, to make North Carolina equal, if not superior to Virginia, in commercial importance. Let but the produce of North Carolina be exported from her own ports, and she will in one take her stand in the commercial world as superior to Virginia on the one hand and not inferior to South Carolina on the

other. Hitherto, we have, by sending our produce to our sister States, been building them up at the sacrifice of our own. Shall this state of things continue any longer? Forbid it, patriotism! Forbid it interest!

Tonnage cleared from the following named Ports for the year ending 30th Sept. 1837.

Port	Foreign	American	Total
Richmond	12,771	12,923	25,694
Petersburg	2,748	4,340	7,088
Richmond, N. C.	13,240	3,920	17,160
Wilmington	25,000	2,667	27,667
Camden	2,667	3,003	5,670
Newbern	48	3,110	3,158
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,771</b>	<b>12,923</b>	<b>25,694</b>

  

Port	Foreign	American	Total
Richmond	11,948	11,948	23,896
Petersburg	4,500	20,518	25,018
Richmond, N. C.	11,923	20,518	32,441
Wilmington	4,911	6,632	11,543
Camden	6,632	8,609	15,241
Newbern	6,879	5,837	12,716
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,948</b>	<b>11,948</b>	<b>23,896</b>

The above comparative views of the tonnage of the ports of Virginia and North Carolina are so much in favor of the latter, that but for the source from whence they are taken, a doubt of the correctness might be admitted. That North Carolina has within her own limits a seaport from whence the tonnage cleared, is greater than any port in Virginia and greater than that of Richmond and Petersburg combined, may be a matter of surprise to this convention, as it has been to this committee, but such appears to be the fact. North Carolina has had entered at her ports 2000 tons of shipping more than have entered the ports of Virginia. The port of Wilmington owns 3,700 tons more than Petersburg, and 2,000 more than Richmond. The exports of North Carolina are reported as far below Virginia and South Carolina and much more than the real amount; for instance, the whole amount for North Carolina is stated to be \$551,795, while a correct account of the exports from the port of Wilmington only, shows the amount there, to be \$1,011,490 68. Also, the number of vessels reported as entering the ports of North Carolina, is stated at 205, while the return of the Harbor Master at one of our ports of entry, reports 438. This difference is readily accounted for, by the fact that vessels employed coast wise, frequently arrive and depart from our ports without entering at the Custom House, from whence the report of the secretary of the Treasury is derived. This fact will also account for the difference in the amount of exports a large portion going coast wise not being reported at the Custom House. It is therefore very probable, that could the real amount of exports from other ports in North Carolina be ascertained, the whole amount would fall but little short of \$3,000,000. From this state of things your committee confidently believe that if the citizens of North Carolina would send their produce to be exported from ports of her own State, instead of those of neighboring States, the amount of exports would be equal to that of Virginia, if not to South Carolina.

Your committee cannot close this report, without adverting to the mineral wealth with which the State abounds and they are happy to state, that in this branch of the report, they have been aided by a conference with an intelligent gentleman, whose knowledge of the mining operations, is inferior to none within our limits, and who has kindly furnished the committee with the following information:

In the counties of Guilford and Davidson are found: The Hartin mines owned by the Deep River mining company, which has shipped to New York (via Fayetteville, Wilmington,) within three months one hundred and twenty tons of copper ore, and it is believed will raise and prepare annually 350 tons of a sulfuret known in England by the name of yellow Copper and contains 83 1-3 per cent. of Copper. The Guilford gold mining company, are in possession of a number of mines

on both sides of Deep River some of which are extensively worked and have produced large quantities of Copper ore, they have been worked for gold, yielding about \$1 per bushel, whereas had the ore been melted for copper it would have yielded equal to \$12 per bushel. The Baird mine, 7 miles South of Greensboro has lately been worked for copper and about 20 tons of ore raised; this mine has been lately purchased by an English company, and will probably be extensively worked. The Conrad mine 6 miles East of Lexington, has been successfully worked for Gold and like most of the Gold mines in this region 'tis believed will be successfully worked for copper. The lead mines lately discovered in Davidson, give indications of great profit, they have been explored to the depth of 60ft. and the annual product is estimated at 1000 tons. Besides these mines, there are others situated in other counties which tend to increase the resources of the State: near some of these mines, coal of the best quality has been discovered, and 'tis supposed, to considerable extent, which must greatly increase the facility for operating in the mines. Accident has lately brought to light in Stokes co., a large deposit of Limestone, in addition to that already known and which must prove immensely valuable to the upper sections of the State—besides, these sources of wealth, your committee would mention the many Cotton Factories already in operation, making no less a number than 13 working 13,000 spindles—and several now erecting.

In presenting these hasty views the committee trust that they have done enough to show the importance of a rail road from this section of the State to the sea board and in fact as absolutely necessary for its prosperity; and at the same time to induce the belief that an investment of capital in such a rail road may not only profit the general prosperity but yield a handsome interest of the amount invested—all which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM C. LORD.

Which report, after being read, was adopted.

On motion of Hon. John M. Dick Resolved, that the report of the committee on the statistics of the State be published in the Carolina Patriot, and that the other Newspapers in the State be requested to publish the same.

John A. Gilmer Esq offered the following resolution.

Resolved, That this convention do highly approve of the contemplated rail road from Fayetteville to the Yadkin River as being well calculated from its connecting the West with the East to bring much of the produce in this State to one of her own ports for shipment; conducting greatly to the interest of the Western part of the State." Adopted.

Dr. Fred. J. Hill, offered the following preamble and resolution, which was adopted. Viz:

Whereas all restrictions upon trade whether they result from natural impediments, or incidental circumstances, operate as a tax upon the grower or producer of the article exported—and whereas the indirect channel through which our foreign commerce now passes diminishes the price of the staple, while it increases the price of the articles consumed in our home market.—therefore,

Resolved, That the best interests of our citizens require the establishment of a direct foreign trade to some port of entry within the limits of our own State, and that the zealous co-operation of our mercantile community be invited to the accomplishment of so desirable an object.

On motion of C. P. Mallet, Esq.

Resolved, That this convention do recommend to the citizens of this State, to appoint delegates from every county in the State, to meet in convention on the second Monday of December next in the City of Raleigh to take into consideration all matters and things that may tend to the internal improvement of the State—to the development of her resources—and to advance her commercial interest and importance.

On motion of Col Robert McNamara:

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of the convention are due, and are hereby tendered to the citizens of Greensboro and of Guilford county, for their hospitality and politeness to the members of our body.

On motion of George A. Miller Esq:

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this convention are due, and are hereby tendered, to his excellency Edward B. Dudley, (President of the convention) for the able and dignified manner, in which he has presided over its deliberations.

On motion of J. S. Clemons, Esq. Resolved, That the thanks of this con

vention be tendered to Mr. Henry B. Elliott for the satisfactory manner in which he has discharged the duty of Secretary.

On motion of Major John Beard, the convention adjourned *Sine die*.

E. B. DUDLEY, Pres. H. B. ELLIOTT, Sec'y

From the Memphis Gazette.

Messrs. Editors.—You will give the following communication a place in your paper. It is part of a letter received from a friend in Arkansas, a few days since, and it is from excellent authority; I have no doubt of its being true. It savors strongly of war.

The conduct of the Indians about here is now decidedly hostile. There are at present about 3000 Creeks and Cherokees encamped 20 miles East of Dwight—they will be here for 3 weeks yet. Yesterday an excitement was visible throughout the camp; all that could be learned that three runners had come from Tamachee, the chief of the Delewares, but what was their mission we could not learn; I think it was warlike as they held a council of all the older chiefs and warriors in the tent of Looatchie, their great Chief. Their conduct has been offensive and insulting to the whites since. We learn that in about three weeks they expect a runner from the tribe of Kickapoos & one from the Pawnees, further than this we could learn nothing. But that they are on the eve of war with the whites is the opinion of many of the oldest inhabitants. They have sent nearly all their women and children to an Indian settlement on the river Pateou, in the western part of Arkansas, about 50 miles from fort Smith. They are now buying rifles, powder, lead and blankets in great quantities. They are conciliating with the Osages, Kansas, and all those tribes who inhabit Missouri and Oregon Territories. The Delawares, a large and powerful tribe, only want a small provocation as a stimulus for them to turn their arms against the whites. Two men this morning came from Bean's salt works, saying that two laborers were butchered by the Indians without the slightest provocation. A few months will decide it, and if they do rise it will be the most bloody war that the annals of history can produce, it will be like a tornado, sweeping every thing in the country—desolating it and murdering the citizens, and that time will soon come, we should be prepared to repel them.

Your town is in a defenceless condition, they will not stand on trifles. I believe you have no militia in your town, suppose you form a company of young men to muster, and drill them regularly, initiate them into all the arts of war, for God knows how soon their country may want them.

But what can we expect. Trace from the discovery of America: Who drove the red men from the homes of their ancestors, leveled their forests, and murdered their men, women and children, but the white man? Who rendered their hearts desolate, made them drunk and cheated them, but the white man? The white man done all this, and more. What little the government pays them for their lands, the white men cheat them out of. Here they are on the verge of the western world, driven from the hunting grounds of their ancestors, and soon the memory of the poor Indian will be lost in oblivion, and the page of history tell no more of their brave deeds. O, my countrymen! I blush for you!

Should any thing occur worth mentioning you shall hear it.

Yours, &c. APPICUS.

Fort Smith, June 3, 1838.