

Western Democrat. CHARLOTTE, N. C. Tuesday, May 18, 1858.

For Governor, HON. JOHN W. ELLIS, OF ROWAN COUNTY.

For the Senate, WILLIAM F. DAVIDSON.

For the Commons, WILLIAMSON WALLACE, JAMES M. HUTCHISON.

THE DISCUSSION.

On Monday afternoon the 10th inst., Judge Ellis, the democratic, and Mr McRae the republican candidate for Governor, opened the campaign by a discussion in the Court House in Charlotte.

MR McRAE opened the debate by saying that after arriving in Charlotte he had proposed to Judge Ellis to avail themselves of this opportunity to open the campaign. He remarked that he announced himself a candidate with extreme diffidence.

The Judge then alluded to the practices of the democratic party with regard to a U. S. Bank, high tariff, &c., and showed the injurious effects and unfairness of high tariffs.

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This was no time for any one to try to disorganize the democratic party. It was the only national party in existence—Senator Seward had said that it was the only party that had successfully resisted black republicanism.

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appeared as the advocate of the policy and principles of that party; which party was the only constitutional one in existence, and which had endeavored to uphold the interests of all sections, and was now fighting the battles of the South against black republicanism and the enemies of State equality.

From the gloomy picture drawn by his opponent, Mr McRae, one might be led to suppose that we were on the verge of ruin—but the picture had been overdrawn and exaggerations made that facts would not justify.

Under democratic administrations, our territorial limits had increased three-fold—our people were contented and happy, and, in a majority of cases, prosperous.

The Constitution ought to be strictly construed, and upon this principle the democratic party had endeavored to act. In the early history of the Government a proposition was made to liquidate the debts of the States by the General Government, which was resisted by the democratic party and prevented—Mr McRae's scheme tended in that way now. Gen. Jackson had given a death blow to works of internal improvement by the Government, but his friend, Mr McRae, was trying to inaugurate a similar principle by getting the public lands for that purpose, although he still claimed to be a democrat.

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He (Ellis) was as much opposed to involving the State in impracticable schemes as any other man, but there was a judicious and prudent course to pursue, and he was willing to adopt it.

My opponent (said the Judge) has talked a great deal about the State debt, but he is in some measure responsible for it. The democratic Convention of 1852 passed a resolution in favor of internal improvements—Mr McRae was in that convention and voted for the resolution, and it did not seem right to hear him now complaining about the State debt after favoring schemes which caused it.

It was asserted by his competitor that our improvements had done no good; that towns were decaying and business generally was depressed. Internal improvements had not, certainly, caused a depression of business, neither were all our towns decaying. He knew, from personal observation, some towns which were benefited by Railroads—the N. C. Railroad had accomplished a great deal of good; if it had not paid any dividend to the State, it was of immense benefit to the people along the line; some counties exported four times as much produce as formerly—it was of decided advantage to the farmer.

The new States had been referred to by his competitor as having been enriched by the public lands; but it was not that entirely which had benefited them; the farmers of those States had been successful in cultivating the soil, and all know how much this adds to the prosperity of a State. The citizens of North Carolina are in as good condition as those of Ohio, and more honest and respectable. A portion of the public domain would be valueless without railroads through it, hence the government had pursued the policy of donating alternate sections to aid in building them, which enhanced the value of the remaining sections, it lost nothing in this way. There had been no squandering; but if Mr McRae's plan was adopted there would be squandering in reality, for he was in favor of giving 300,000,000 acres to the States, besides a large amount to the Pacific Railroad. This was, probably, enough to make 9 States as large as North Carolina.

After speaking for 1 1/2 hours, the Judge closed by stating that he had labored under great physical debility, having been unwell for three weeks previous.

MR McRAE replied in a short speech. He said he was opposed to the Kansas bill in its original shape, but approved of the "conference committee bill," excepting that part granting land. He did not mean that nothing had advanced in this State, but that business had not continued to advance with taxation. He said he was willing to comply with agreements the Legislature had already made, but would go no further, nor another step to increase the liability of the State. A newspaper called the "Free Press," published some 3 or 4 years ago in Wilmington, was produced, and extracts read from it claiming that Judge Ellis favored distribution at that time.

JUDGE ELLIS said, in his rejoinder, that he had never seen a copy of the "Free Press," and did not know until sometime after it had died out that it had misrepresented him. That paper was started to help Mr McRae to defeat Mr Ashe, the democratic candidate for Congress in 1853; it had misrepresented many others in the same way; it did not have character enough to do any one much harm. But when a similar statement appeared in Mr Cantwell's paper at Raleigh, he hastened to correct it. The charge was wrong.

About the winding up of the discussion, a desultory debate took place, the only important point in which was the question of the "Danville connection," which we have noticed in another article.

The best feeling prevailed throughout, and both gentlemen maintained their positions with ability. Judge Ellis more than satisfied his democratic friends, and proved himself equal to any issue that may be brought to bear against him.

THE DANVILLE CONNECTION. At the close of the discussion in this place on the 10th, between Judge Ellis and Mr McRae, and after most of the audience had left the Court House, the opinion of each gentleman was called forth with regard to building a Railroad from Danville, Va., to Greensboro, N. C., or some other point on the N. C. Road, known as the "Danville connection."

As the candidates were about leaving the stand, a gentleman asked how they stood "in regard to local works." This was the question as we recollect it.

MR McRAE said that he was in favor of allowing the construction of any Road the people wanted, provided they did it with their own means.

Judge Ellis asked if he alluded to the Danville connection? Mr McRae replied that he favored the principle as a general one. The Judge then asked him if he was in favor of the Danville connection. Mr McRae replied that he was, and wished to know if Judge Ellis was opposed to it or in favor of it.

Judge Ellis replied that individually he was opposed to it, and for this reason: At the session of the Legislature that chartered the N. C. Railroad, he (Ellis) had introduced a bill to charter a Road from Danville running through a certain part of North Carolina. Eastern gentlemen violently opposed the scheme, and contended that it would materially injure their section of the State. The matter was compromised by the friends of his bill and the eastern members by chartering the N. C. Road, and it was agreed that the Danville scheme should be relinquished. Under the impression that it was the best he could do for his constituents he became a party to that agreement; and it would be wrong and dishonorable for him now to violate it or advocate a revival of the scheme. This was his position as an individual. But he thought schemes of a local nature ought not to enter into this campaign—they should be left for the Legislature to settle.

The Judge further remarked, that if elected, he would not recommend the Danville connection. Mr McRae replied that neither would he, if elected, recommend it. The matter was then dropped.

We think we have given the substance of the conversation on this point correctly. The audience were on their feet at the time in the act of leaving, and a good deal of confusion prevailed, but we were within a few feet of the gentlemen, and heard every word distinctly.

DISCUSSION AT MONROE.—We learn from a gentleman who was present, that Messrs Ellis and McRae addressed the people at Monroe on Tuesday last. There was a respectable audience present and the discussion continued for about five hours. The Judge made a decided favorable impression, and there is no doubt but that the democracy of Union and every other portion of that part of the State are determined to rally to his support with the same zeal which prompted them in former days. From what we hear, we suppose the substance of the discussion was about the same as it was here, except that nothing was said about the "Danville connection."

RAILROADS IN NORTH-CAROLINA.—"Rip Van Winkle," if slow, is keeping up, we see, with the spirit of the age, in opening new lines of railroad and extending old ones. The State has now we believe, some 1200 miles of railroad, and these works were begun when the State had not an income of over \$100,000. The taxes, it is true, have been made somewhat heavier by the cost of these works, but the value of the lands, and of the products of the State, and its productive power, have been so much increased, that the taxes ought scarcely to be thought of, considering the good that has been done.

The above is the opinion of the New York Express, and will afford a thought for reflection. The Express might be surprised to learn that Mr McRae is going through the State under-estimating the importance of these works and trying to arouse the prejudices of the people against Railroads.

The citizens of Salisbury have made arrangements to celebrate the 20th of May in an appropriate manner.

SUPERIOR COURT.

The Spring Term of the Superior Court for this county was held last week—Judge Bailey presiding. On Thursday, the criminal docket was taken up, and Martin Ictehower and David Weant put upon trial on a charge of having whipped a negro man to death, the property of the former. It was in evidence that the negro was rebellious, and the whipping was too severe. The Jury, after a short absence, returned a verdict of manslaughter, and Ictehower was sentenced to pay a fine of \$750 and to be imprisoned 3 months—Weant \$250 and to be imprisoned 3 months. For the State, Solicitor Lander—for the prisoners, J. W. Osborne, S. J. Lowrie, J. M. Hutchison and J. E. Brown.

On Friday, Jim, a negro belonging to Gibson Scott, was tried for the murder of Ned, another negro, the property of Mr Wm. Tiddy. After the examination of the witnesses, the Attorney for the prisoner, with the consent of the Solicitor, submitted to a verdict of manslaughter, and Jim was sentenced to receive 29 lashes, to be imprisoned until July Court, then to receive 39 lashes more, and to be banished the State. For the State, Lander—for the prisoner, Osborne and Wilson.

Judge Bailey fined a gentleman \$25 for forming and expressing an opinion after he had been summoned as a Juror. We learn that the fine was afterwards remitted.

An Extra Term of the Court was ordered to be held on the 4th Monday in June.

WIL, CHAR. & RUTH. RAILROAD.

A friend communicates the following information: The President of this Road on Thursday last secured the valuable services of Maj. John Caldwell, for the graduation of all the sections between Charlotte and the Catawba River, not heretofore let to others. There are some six or seven miles in the contract, and from Mr Caldwell's high and well-earned reputation as a Contractor, we think the Company may well congratulate themselves that this part of the work has fallen into such hands.

We also learn that the contract for the masonry over Sugar Creek, near Charlotte, is nearly closed by a contractor worthy of all reliance. Beyond the Catawba, the Stockholders have been for several months past, engaged on their contracts; and soon, we trust, the whole work, to connect our mountains with our own seaboard by one continuous rail, will be in such a state of progression as will cheer the hearts of all true North Carolinians.

FOUND DEAD.—We are informed that a Mr Martin Steele was found dead in the woods in the north-western part of Cabarrus county, on Sunday the 9th inst. He had been missing from his home for ten days previously. When found his body was much destroyed by dogs and buzzards. An inquest was held and a verdict rendered of death from intemperance. A bottle was found by his side. He was about 35 years old, and unmarried.

FIRE.—A blacksmith shop on Dr. J. M. Strong's premises, in Steel Creek neighborhood, was burnt on Sunday last, while the family was at Church. The barn and stables narrowly escaped—the wind blowing from a favorable direction prevented their destruction. Fire in the woods was the cause of the accident.

FATAL AFFRAY.—We learn that a serious if not fatal affray occurred in Gaston county recently, between Mr Leroy Stowe and two other persons, Green Massey, and his son. The difficulty arose about the possession of a plantation—a fight took place, when the younger Green struck Stowe on the back of the head, breaking in his skull, which it is thought will cause death, if it has not already done so.

P. S.—We learn that it is likely Mr Stowe will recover.

CANDY MANUFACTORY.—While in Newbern a few weeks ago, we met with an old friend, John S. Banks, who is engaged in the manufacture of Candy in that town, for the wholesale trade. We suppose the most if not all of the retailers of that article buy their supplies at the North; but here is an opportunity, for those who desire, to furnish themselves from a North Carolina manufactory. We give this notice because it is deserving—we receive no compensation for it (as we never take a cent for anything we say editorially)—and we think if dealers will patronize Mr Banks they will find his candy a superior article and his terms reasonable. Let the citizens of our State encourage one another whenever they can do so without injury to their pockets.

A subscriber at Mountain Creek, Catawba county, informs us that sometimes his paper is four weeks in reaching that office, and 3 or 4 numbers arrive together. He says:

"I am fully persuaded that they are sent out weekly from your office, but are detained somewhere between this office and Charlotte by some person who is too stingy to pay for reading them."

We have no doubt our friend is correct in his surmises. There are some narrow-minded, close-fisted persons who think it all right to borrow and detain subscribers' papers in order that they may read them without having to pay for them. From what we hear, we are certain that our paper is read by twice as many men, at least, as we have subscribers. We have heard of some instances where four men, heads of families, met to read one subscriber's paper. We shall say nothing against this practice—we are glad they feel so much interest in the contents of the "Western Democrat," (although they might afford to take a copy themselves)—but if any of this class of readers are in the habit of detaining subscribers' papers, we hope they will see the impropriety of such conduct, and discontinue it.

SENATOR DOUGLAS ELECTROKINGING.—Mr Douglas is using every means possible in Washington city to maintain his popularity, by giving frequent entertainments and inviting everybody to attend. The American Medical Association recently met in Washington, and a gentleman who was present writes to the Columbia Carolinian as follows:

Senator Douglas gave a reception and entertainment to the Association, the evening of the 6th instant, and the little giant, with his young and green like wife, performed their parts in the most elegant style. Each person was introduced to Mr Douglas, and he in turn presented each to Mrs Douglas, who extended her hand with a cordial word of salutation. Many enjoyed the pleasing satisfaction of her recognition afterwards, and found her noble and graceful figure equalled by her intellectual and social charms. The medical fraternity did not care to consider the Lecompston question on this occasion.

The "Wilmington Herald" has been purchased by Messrs C. E. & R. Barr, and appeared last week in an entire new dress, looking much improved. We like the H-r and wish it great success in everything except politics.

A writer in the South Carolinian, who traveled from Columbia to Washington, says:

In setting out, we took the Charlotte route, and were so favorably impressed with the comfort of the cars, and the despatch observed throughout this line to Weldon, that our return by the same line was forthwith a fixed fact. Having fully tested the Wilmington and Manchester route by way of Kingsville, and made the comparison with the route by Charlotte and Raleigh to the same point, Weldon, North Carolina, we have no hesitation in affirming that the latter is preferable in every thing which concerns the traveler, and a trial is all that is necessary to convince any one of the advantages of this line of travel.

Rev. Dr. Hawks, being on a visit to Wilmington, lectured on Thursday evening last before the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of that town. He was also to lecture in Fayetteville yesterday evening.

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