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OFFICE
ON THE
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W. J. YATES, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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THE COLUMBIA AND HAMBURG RAILROAD.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

To the Stockholders of the Columbia and Hamburg Railroad Company:

In the month of August, 1863, this Company was organized for the purpose of making a direct connection by rail between the roads terminating at the cities of Columbia and Augusta. Subsequently the Board of Directors was organized, and elected Jas. G. Gibbs, Chief Engineer, and Henry Moore Sec'y and Treasurer. The Chief Engineer was directed to organize a corps of engineers as early as practicable, and make the necessary surveys and location, and report to the Board as soon as possible, while your Treasurer was directed to receive in advance all installments on stock subscriptions which might be tendered by the subscribers; and the President was authorized to invest the funds of the company in such property and securities as would best ensure the success of the enterprise. From the first, the Board was engaged as Chief Locating Engineer, who, with his assistants, soon entered upon the duties of making the necessary surveys. Two routes were presented. One known as the direct, and the other as the Ridge route. After much labor and many reconnoissances and observations with the compass and level, it was ascertained that the Ridge route, passing six miles from Edgfield Court House, although the longer, possessed many countervailing advantages. Much difficulty was experienced in getting a proper location from west of the Pine House to the city of Augusta, on account of the great elevation of the former over the latter place. The ridge maintains its elevation in a great degree until within a few miles of Augusta, thence the descent is very rapid. On a direct line no grade even of 60 feet to the mile over this portion could be obtained, although it was the policy of the company that the maximum grade should not exceed fifty feet. In order to overcome the very serious objections to the operations of the Road hereafter arising from steep grades, the "Horse Creek" route, passing through Graniteville, was finally recommended as possessing the greatest advantages. The Chief Engineer, therefore, recommended the line crossing the Congaree river about one mile above Granby, passing near Lexington C. H., near Leesville, about one-half mile south-east of the Pine House, through Graniteville and Hamburg, to the Georgia Railroad Depot in the city of Augusta. After a full discussion of the different lines surveyed, and the policy which should govern the company, the Board of Directors unanimously adopted the route as recommended and indicated above—subject to such local changes as the interest of the company may require. For more definite information on this subject, attention is invited to the report of the Chief Engineer.

Early after the organization of the Board of Directors, the attention of the Government was called to the proposed work by the President, and the Company assured of such reasonable aid by the War Department as could be given to its progress without detriment to the military arm of the service. The company acknowledges the obligation "not excepted for" the Government for the many important and necessary supplies, and some facilities for transportation of subsistence. This application for detailed contractors was made in January last, when much of the graduation was ready to let, but the unsettled legislation of Congress on this subject, and the paramount necessity for soldiers to defend the country, caused the delay of the Government in granting the request until about the 1st of June. By this period all the surplus labor of the country had been engaged for the year, either in the cultivation of farms or otherwise, and it was impossible to hire hands or get contractors. But for this unavoidable delay, 800 hands might now be at work instead of 200. As the cultivation of the crop is now advanced in August, and the advance of the enemy drove back labor and capital into the interior, two forces were started by the company hiring the hands and placing one on each end of the line. This induced other contractors to commence, who are now freely taking the graduation at fair prices to the company and remunerating to themselves.

Early after the graduation of the Congaree river will be commenced as early as possible, and the entire work pressed with as much vigor as the limited resources of the country will permit. A very large proportion of the subscription to the capital stock of the company was paid in last Fall and Winter to the Treasurer, and that which was thought to be doubtful policy then—receiving all installments in advance—now appears to be a wise one for the company in the development of subsequent events. A very large sum has been saved from the depreciation of the currency to the stockholders, by the prompt investments of all the surplus funds in cotton, slaves and Confederate bonds. So well satisfied were your President and Treasurer of this line of policy, that the receipt of the Treasury notes were often anticipated to the extent of fifty or one hundred thousand dollars. It is believed that the funds have been judiciously invested, and that comparatively little loss has occurred to the company from fire or otherwise, considering the quantity of cotton it has held.

In order to obtain some of the materials and tools necessary for the graduation of the road, arrangements were made for the exportation and sale of several hundred bales of cotton. These operations of exporting and importing have been attended with reasonable success, and a fair supply of tools and some other materials secured which could not be had otherwise. Much credit is due to your Treasurer for his efficient co-operation in this matter, as well as the collection and investment of the funds; and to his Financial Report your attention is asked for more detailed information. In these disjointed times it would be hazardous to make any calculation as to the progress of the road. If 600 hands can (by the last of October) be placed on the work and the iron procured, track-laying could be commenced on the western end of the line in June next, and on the eastern end in July, if fair progress is made at the Congaree River Bridge. With two forces, laying from 6 to 8 miles per month each, the rails might soon be made ready for the locomotive over the entire line to intersect the South Carolina Railroad at near Graniteville, a distance of 60 miles, should the Government deem it of such military importance to furnish the iron and make the connection. In the vicissitudes of war, should it continue a year or two longer, it may become absolutely necessary for the transportation of troops and munitions. Its construction will make a saving in actual distance for the transportation of troops, a distance of 61 miles, besides avoiding the necessary delays at Kingsville and Branchville—thus making practically a saving in time and distance equal to 100 miles. If, in the casualties of war, the South Carolina Road should be occupied or cut by the enemy at Branchville, or at any point between Kingsville and Aiken, without this road our Government would have to resort to wagon transportation from Columbia to Augusta. With it completed, however, the saving in time and distance in the transportation of all troops and materials of war would be immense to the Government, even if the other contingency did not occur. The completion of the Piedmont Railroad has saved Richmond from the rapacity of a vandal foe, and all the arguments and motives of po-

TROUBLES BREWING AT THE NORTH.

It is a remarkable coincidence, that every officer or soldier who, for the last three weeks, visited Columbia, en route to his home from the prisons of the North, brings "tidings of great joy." From Johnson's Island, from Fort Delaware, Lafayette, Warren, Camp Chase, and Fort Lookout, the invariable voice that comes to us breathes of an early peace. Each one appears to agree with the other, that Lincoln will undoubtedly be elected the next President; and yet strange as the anomaly may be, conscientiously utters his conviction that there must *ex necessitate* be a speedy cessation of hostilities. Ask the reason why and they tell you, because the Democratic party will never submit to a continuation of the war; because already a silent revolution is at work, that is ready to burst whenever the yet unadorned Chicago Convention chooses to re-assemble, and dictate to the people who have adopted its platform what they have to do in their own behalf; because Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, and perhaps others of the Western States, are prepared to force themselves out of a Union that has been so hateful; and, finally, because the majority of the people of the North are ripe for resistance to the tyranny that has deluged the country with blood.

There may be something in the declaration of one of these officers, and a very intelligent gentleman, that within sixty days after the re-election of Lincoln, he will be unable to prosecute the war by reason of difficulties at home; but we prefer to watch and wait. We have so often been deluded by these syren songs as to doubt every thing but realities; and grateful as the hope above expressed may be to the hearts of our people, we urge them not to relax their efforts, or base a thought of future joy on any anticipation of help from the North. Experience has often demonstrated that we must depend alone upon ourselves, and not until we do this with a will that shows the stubborn sincerity of our hearts, can we hope to succeed in our cause.—*Columbia Carolinian.*

A London correspondent of the Richmond Whig says:

"A letter from a sensible Southern gentleman, now in New York, says that he cannot see any well grounded hopes for peace. That if McClellan, or any other such candidate is selected by the Chicago Convention, the real honest peace party will not give him a cordial support. That the election of such a man will be more dangerous than the election of Lincoln, for the offer would be made to the South of reconstruction upon the most favorable basis, and when refused (as we most certainly should refuse) it would be war to the knife. Besides all this, Lincoln was evidently preparing to use his power in the most unscrupulous manner to accomplish his re-election, and he did not believe that any organized resistance would be made against him. That is what I fear also. Lincoln is placing New England Regiments in Indiana and Illinois with which he doubtless proposes at the proper moment to arrest the principal leaders opposed to him, upon false charges, and thus crush any successful organization in those States. What has befallen Missouri and Kentucky, is doubtless in store for those two States.

So far over a 1,000 of the best citizens of Kentucky have been arrested and imprisoned by Burbridge. Many of them have been sent to Florida to the forts. Private letters say that some of the counties are nearly depopulated, whole families going off without even a change of clothing to find a refuge from such despotism. Ladies unnumberable have been banished. One letter says: "Cincinnati and the border towns are filled with refugees from the military despotism in Kentucky. In Louisville hundreds of the residences of citizens have been seized and occupied as military prisons. Notwithstanding this condition of affairs, the Louisville papers are as silent as though these events had never occurred."

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.—The announcement

short time ago, that the iron had been secured by the President of the Chatham Coalfield Railroad, to lay the entire track, we observe, occasions very general satisfaction. All who have well considered the vast resources of our Coal Fields region, looking to the future interests of the country, do not misjudge the importance of this Road. The Confederacy has an important stake in its completion, and we are glad to learn that the authorities at Richmond are not unmindful of this interest.

Simultaneously with the movement of constructing this Road at an early day, a large company has been recently formed with a capital of \$1,000,000, composed of some of the most enterprising men in the State, who will bring their energies to once to the development of the rich coal and iron ore, found in that region. An important factory too, in which the Confederacy is interested, we learn will be removed to that point.—*Raleigh Conservative.*

Wool.—The history of the growth of wool is very curious. Fifty years ago not a pound of fine wool was raised in the United States, in Great Britain, or any other country except Spain. In the latter the flocks were owned exclusively by the nobility of the crown. In 1764 a small flock was sent to the Elector of Saxony, as a present from the King of Spain, whence the entire product of Saxony wool, now of such immense value. Before the breaking out of the last war between this country and Great Britain, Colonel Humphreys succeeded in getting a few merino sheep brought out of Spain, then their exportation was prohibited under penalty of being sent to the galleys for life.

In 1809, during the second invasion of Spain by the French, some of the valuable crown flocks were sold to raise money. Our Consul at Lisbon, Mr Jarvis, purchased fourteen hundred head, and sent them to this country. Previously, however, Mr Livingston obtained a few sheep of the Spanish breed, as a present, in 1792. A portion of the pure unmixed merino blood of these flocks, is to be found in Vermont at this time. Such was the origin of the immense flock of fine woolled sheep in the United States and Great Britain.—*Field & Fireside.*

A correspondent of the Salisbury Watchman, writing from Early's army, says "we have been provided with clothing in abundance, paid off, and shoes furnished.

VICTORIES IN ARKANSAS.

The district of Arkansas is so remote that we do not appreciate the continued successes which is attending the Confederate arms there. We have received a general order of Major-General Magruder, dated on the 16th ult., announcing the capture and destruction of five forts by General Shelby, and the destruction of the railroad between Little Rock and Duvall's Bluff. The report of Gen. Shelby gives an excellent description of his series of victories. It says:

"My former hope of an advance, under the brave and intrepid Williams, immediately charged the retreating enemy, and a wave of steel overlapped and swallowed up the flying blue coats. The fort was surrounded, the artillery opened at point-blank range, struck, and over the white bursts of the powder cloud that drifted and floated away before the battle breeze, a white flag waved out as a token of surrender. The results of this capture were one hundred and fifty prisoners, two hundred small arms, besides large quantities of supplies.

THE LATE BATTLE IN THE VIRGINIA VALLEY.

Our information respecting the battle near Cedar Creek, on Wednesday the 19th of October, assures us that one of the most brilliant victories of the war had been gained by our troops, but that in an evil hour, when a portion of our men were plundering the property they had captured, a small force of Yankee cavalry appeared on our left flank, the plunderers took fright, and the words "we are flanked!" passed rapidly along the line, the left gave way, and the rest followed, panic-stricken and demoralized, in a moment. The enemy's infantry before then was in no condition, and were without the disposition, after their defeat of the morning, to attack, and when the panic seized upon our men, were entirely innocent of being so much as accomplices to the fact. The victory of the enemy, if such an affair can be dignified with a name which suggests the clash of arms and the glory of a gallant conflict, was achieved solely by a small and insignificant band of cavalry, which had doubtless accidentally gotten on our flank, and might have been captured. It was a great scare, which resulted in a great temporary disaster to the morale of the army, the loss of twenty-three pieces of artillery and a few stragglers. In the whole day's operations our losses in men—killed, wounded and missing—did not exceed eleven hundred. The enemy admit a loss of five thousand.—The story heralded in the Northern papers of Sheridan arriving on the scene and "snatching victory from defeat," is merely humbug. Sheridan arrived near the scene of the battle, but neither he nor the best part of his army were within several miles of the "rebels" when the latter took a notion that they were "flanked," and mistook. All the captures made by the enemy, were effected by that band of cavalry we have alluded to, and nobly else. The Federal infantry had nothing to do with it. Sheridan and they were left to themselves, charged with defeat and discomfiture, when the news came that the "rebels were retreating." The attempt of Sheridan to make a hero of himself, and to put up this affair (disgraceful though it was to us) as the most magnificent victory of the war, sufficiently show him up as a complete military charlatan.

REMARKS ON THE MORTAL WOUNDING OF GEN. RAMSEUR.

We regret to learn, that among our casualties was the mortal wounding of Gen. Ramseur, who has since died in the enemy's hands.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

SUPERIOR COURT.—At the Fall term of this

Court, which was held for this County last week, a considerable number of cases were disposed of. The most important case brought forward, was the trial of Dick, slave of Mr J W Hampton, and Ike, slave of Dr A A Lawrence, for the burning of a barn on the 16th of July last, for the property of Mr Thos M Hill, and also stealing from the same, one gold watch, four coats, two pair pants, a pair shoes, Dick, who was tried first, and upon whom the articles stolen were found, confessed the part borne by himself in the transaction. He was ably defended by Messrs. Sharpe and Clements, the Solicitor, Mr R F Armfield, conducting the prosecution. The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict guilty of arson.

The examination of witnesses and addresses of counsellors on the part of the State and defendant, took place on the 20th of October, Mr Sharpe assisting the Solicitor, and Messrs Boyden and Mitchell defending the culprit. After a long but able argument on the part of both parties, about 7 o'clock Friday evening, the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" on the testimony brought forward.

WE learn that an appeal has been taken in the

case of Dick.—*Statesville Express.*

OUR Georgia exchanges are calling upon

the people and military authorities to be on the look out for dangerous characters that are prowling about the country on mischief bent. And from what we learn, there is need for our people and military to be on their guard for such characters. Some gentlemen who have recently reached here from Norfolk, say that a party of suspicious individuals reached Weldon just in advance of them, who seemed to be entire strangers, and yet had a number of letters that they professed to have had committed to them for delivery to persons in the interior. It is believed that these are bogus letters intended to evade suspicion, and if opened would be found to be empty envelopes. Let a strict watch be kept upon such persons, and they be held subject to strict examination.—*Raleigh Confederate.*

COMMAND AT KINSTON.—Col. J. N. Whitford

has been relieved of the command of the forces at Kinston and has been transferred to another important command. Brig. Gen. O. C. Levanthorpe has succeeded Col. Whitford at Kinston.—*Goldboro Journal.*

A REMEDY FOR CONGESTIVE CHILLS.—"The

mother of a soldier" has sent the Pet. Express a remedy for congestive chills, which she has never known to fail. She has (she says) for a number of years been managing a large boarding-school, and has had some experience in nursing. The remedy is spirits of turpentine—give from ten to fifteen drops, in syrup or toddy—rub the spine, chest and extremities well, adding a small quantity of oil of turpentine to prevent blistering. The extremities should be rubbed until reaction takes place. A cloth saturated with the mixture should be applied to the chests.

THE SOLDIERS' ORPHAN FUND.—Rev. Dr.

DEEMS has just returned from a tour of some of the Western counties in the State, on his great mission, the procuring of funds for the education of the orphans of soldiers. We are glad to learn from him that the hearts and purses of the people were opened to him in that region, as they have been in every other section of the State he has visited. He received, in round numbers, the following contributions to his enterprise, viz:

In Wilkes county, \$20,200; Iredell \$11,000; Alexander \$10,600; Ashe \$9,300; Forsyth \$2,900; Yadkin \$2,800; Surry \$1,900; Stokes \$1,500; Catawba \$1,000; from a citizen of New Hanover \$1,000; for the State at large \$800; Craven \$500; besides smaller sums from Alleghany and Wayne. J. Oscar Martin, Esq., of the largest, made a donation of \$7,500—which is the largest contribution yet given in the State, we learn.—*Raleigh Confederate.*

THE PRINTERS OF NEW JERSEY boast that there is

not a single printer in the State prouder of the State, and but one in the Legislature.

DEATH OF CHIEF JUSTICE TANCY.—The latest

northern papers announce the death of Chief Justice Tancy, late of the U. S. Supreme Court.