

CONVENTION.

Election 15th April.

ORGANIZATION.

CONSERVATIVES of Cumberland and of North Carolina, you are again called on to rally together. Another short, but important campaign, is before you. It is proposed to ascertain by a vote of the people whether they want a Convention to revise and amend the Constitution and Laws of North Carolina. Therefore you are called forth to vote on Thursday, 13th day of next April, YES or NO CONVENTION.

Now, we have a choice to make. We will vote, also, on the same day, delegates or members of the Convention to represent you in the Convention, in case there be a majority of votes cast in the State in favor of a Convention.

News.—The armistice in Europe will likely lead to peace. Elections so far in France are favorable to peace. A kind of temporary republican government is organized there and its assembly of delegates meet at once.—There is much division of opinion as to what government to adopt. Cotton still declines, although peace seems certain.

We have noticed nothing important to us in proceedings of Congress, except the repeal of the test oath which we gave last week.

The impeachment of Gov. Holden is progressing slowly. This is the 17th day, and it will take a month or more yet probably. The expense of the trial will be heavy. Of the 50 Senators, 37 are now Conservative, and 13 Radical, and with this majority his conviction is generally expected.

There is at once a serious difficulty in the way of the Convention authorized by the Legislature. Gov. Caldwell will not issue a proclamation for the election, unless the act passes by two-thirds majority in the Legislature. This can be done in the Senate, but not in the House. There is a talk of proceedings of the Legislature are tedious and unimportant.

Harnett County.

We returned yesterday from a trip to Harnett Superior Court. The weather was bad and the attendance of people not large. There were 76 cases on the State docket, 57 on Civil Trial docket and 11 on Summons docket.—It was thought nearly all the business ready for action would be disposed of this week. The people in Harnett are divided in opinion as to the propriety of calling a State Convention at once, but most of the Conservative party will finally sustain the movement and secure harmony in the party. The public roads in Harnett are inferior. Many citizens on east side of the Cape Fear were prevented from attending court by the freshet in the river, and the great difficulty in crossing. A bridge should be built across the Cape Fear opposite Lillington, the Court House, which is a mile or so from the river.—The river divides the county centrally from side to side, and there is not a bridge on it. The ferries have steep banks and are otherwise unsafe and uncertain. The county is tingly settled and has fertile land only on the streams. Water power is abundant and excellent. There is certainly no prejudice against a white man on account of color, as to county affairs, juries, State docket or otherwise. One chief business with the people is, the shipping of pine timber to Wilmington. There are some fine cotton farms, and these will generally be worked again this year. The people are supplied with necessities, but money is scarce. The county debt is small, and there are but few schools and stores through the county. Tarrentine has been extensively worked, but is decreasing.

BOLD ROBBERY.—On last Saturday night, Mr. John Elliott, residing on the border of Harnett Co., near Manchester, was robbed of \$175 at his home. He happened to have that amount of money in his pocket which he had taken from his desk, and had forgotten to return it. While Mr. Elliott was walking around his yard and near some potato banks after dark, an unknown negro near by, jumped from behind a tree and seizing Mr. Elliott by the throat choked him to the ground. In an instant two others, one if not both negroes, ran up and searched his pockets while the first one still held him down. They got two pocket books with \$175 and immediately ran away into the woods.

Mr. Elliott was not hurt, but being so momentary and the darkness, he could not give a description in time to overtaken by Strong suspicion rests on the negroes, but it seems the parties are yet definitely known. He thinks the time and manner of the attack entirely accidental, and he is led to believe that they were preparing to rob the potato banks when he came up. His family were 50 yards or more away.

Crimes and Outlaws in Robeson.

Almost every day we hear of new robberies and outrages committed by the Lowrey band of robbers. We regret that those most interested and having immediate control of local affairs have not yet succeeded in stopping these crimes and punishing these desperadoes. We hear complaint against the officers of the law in Robeson county. While every one has his plan, we would again urge, what we have in substance often suggested as a safe means to put an end to these robberies and their crimes. It is very apparent now, as we predicted, that soldiers and regiments cannot overtake these bad-doers by night robbers and assassins, with a hundred miles of familiar woods and swamp to hide in and roam through at pleasure. Through all this sparsely settled region in both Carolinas are a hundred or more mulatto families related by blood or friendship to these outlaws. A parade of soldiers or open luster hunt by a sheriff and his posse, under excitement and confusion, as we have often said, are only so many ridiculous and fruitless attempts at capture, and are calculated to aggravate the villains to further crime.

We suggest a remedy that if faithfully applied must be effective. Let the county authorities appropriate \$5,000, or more, as police fund and authorize the sheriff, or some one or more brave and reliable men of his deputies, to organize an effective and fully equipped force of Police, and Detectives, in number 50 or more, and for one, two or three months' service. Let no one know their movements or their instructions, but their chief and the County Commissioners. Get one or two from New York, New Orleans or frontiers of Texas. Let them have signals and more day or night, secretly, openly or in disguise, just as detectives in search of criminals have to do in cities or among the Indians and border ruffians of the West. Pay them two, three or five dollars a day, have them amply armed and retain none in the service but those who obey orders and prove themselves entirely reliable. Send 10 or more in a squad and have of each party, men who know every house, swamp, road and person in the vicinity. Let all learn the courses, trails, tracks and habits of these outlaws, with them and suspicious of aiding them. Let them range through Marion, Marlboro, Robeson, Richmond, Columbus, Bladen and Cumberland, but always right around and among the robbers if possible. The police should not take quarters at houses in the vicinity or be much seen in the neighborhood of the robbers. We feel certain that one month's work of such an organization, perhaps one week, would result in the capture of the ring leaders and the arrest of many others who are secret aids and accomplices. The Legislature would certainly refund to the county all the appropriation for expenses; terror would strike the combined host of robbers; and crime elsewhere in the State would fear the same rebuke.

Those detectives and policemen most successful in this expedition would become more of experts and would hereafter get lucrative employment in similar enterprises. Most men have business of their own and are not able to lose time, pay their own expenses, and go and stand guard around the houses of other people.

Have we not described a simple, practical and effective remedy? The county authorities and people of Robeson can at once put it into operation. On some such well organized plan and effort as this, many men from this town and county and other sections will go promptly to the rescue of our neighboring county. Let Sheriff McMillan keep his own secrets and let him and the County Commissioners apply at once the ample and available means that the law affords. If any additional authority or power be necessary, the Legislature no doubt would readily grant it—though none is necessary. U. S. Troops too are ready at hand, and may be of once in a while serve as valuable aid.

ION. S. F. CARY, of Ohio, lectured in Fayetteville on last Friday and Saturday nights on Temperance. He had a very large audience both nights, and well did he sustain his reputation as an eloquent, able and popular speaker. We have seldom heard a discourse more entertaining and instructive. Mr. Cary was a member of the U. S. Congress in 1860—elected, we believe, on the Reform and Labor movement in Ohio. He was a supporter of President Lincoln, but opposed the ultra Radicals in their measures towards the South. Mr. Cary's efforts here were satisfactory, and we believe did much for the Temperance Cause.

Rev. J. C. HEDEN, of Wilmington, we learn, will preach in the Baptist Church in Fayetteville next Sunday forenoon and at night. He will also address the Sabbath School children at 3 P. M. Mr. Hiden is an eloquent and impressive speaker, and will attract many to hear him.

Gov. Holden's Administration. It is estimated that the annual expenditures of the State are \$1,000,000. The Gov. has been accused of mismanagement. He is charged with extravagance and with a want of economy. It is claimed that he has expended more than \$1,000,000 in his administration. This is a heavy burden, and it is thought that a Convention is needed to reform the State government.

CONVENTION IN HARNETT.—A Convention of the Conservative Party of Harnett County is to be held on Monday in March next, at Lillington, to nominate a candidate for the State Convention. All the townships have been notified to send delegates.

LITTLE BOYS' COATS with buttons on them. Socks for aged sailors, Brooklyn coats, silk and velvet vests, elegant suits for Westons and for Benias, and all sorts of clothing for White men, Black men and Mixed, at Springs Road, Wilmington, N. C. Also 1,000,000 white lined handkerchiefs.

Legislative Address on the Convention.

To the people of North Carolina: An act has been passed at the present session of the General Assembly, submitting to the voters of the State the question of calling a Convention to revise and amend, under certain specified restrictions, the existing constitution of North Carolina; and an election is ordered to be held on the second Thursday of April, 1871, to ascertain the sense of the people on this important subject.

We, the undersigned members of the General Assembly, wish to set forth briefly some of the reasons which have induced the Legislature to pass this act.

The warmest advocates of the present Constitution have always conceded that it is marred by many great errors and imperfections. It was originally framed by a body of men, who, though they were in a high degree of wisdom, were nevertheless human, and were subject to the same passions and prejudices as the rest of mankind. Their constitution, therefore, was not perfect, and it has become a source of reproach and contempt. The old method of procedure in the courts was slow and expensive, and it has been replaced by a more efficient system. The old mode of electing judges was also changed, and a more efficient system was adopted. The old mode of electing members of the General Assembly was also changed, and a more efficient system was adopted.

This Constitution has overturned the ancient judicial system, once the pride of our state, and has introduced in its stead a novel one so full of deformities that it has become a byword of reproach and contempt. The old method of practice and procedure in the courts has been abolished, and a new method of procedure substituted, so ill-digested, crude and contradictory in its provisions, that our judges are obliged to confess themselves unable fully to understand it, or to administer it, except by judicial legislation. The enforcement of rights and the redress of wrongs have to be sought by such tortious and expensive channels that it is often cheaper to submit to injustice than seek a remedy through the courts. The code of procedure cannot be repealed or essentially changed by the Legislature; for either this or something like it, is prescribed by the Constitution. A Convention alone can rid us of this incubus and nuisance. The number of judicial districts is too great, entailing much useless expense. Many other features of the present system are inconsistent with purity, efficiency and cheapness in the administration of justice, which is one of the prime objects of all good government.

The people have, by experience, been made so sensible of the evils of this judicial system that we will not dwell longer upon the subject. A reform is absolutely necessary to prevent our judiciary from falling into general contempt. The present county and township governments are intolerable evils. Their cumbersome and inefficient, their expensive and the numerous avenues to peculation and extortion which they open up, are grievances which have brought complaints and remonstrances from all sections of the State. We believe there is an almost universal desire for the restoration of the old County Courts, as the simplest, cheapest, and most honest system of county government ever devised, and for the abolishment of the existing system, with its wheels within wheels, crushing the people with burdens. The transaction of the business pertaining to the Probate Court is also much more troublesome and costly than under the old plan. A Convention is needed to effect the reforms which are imperatively demanded in all the foregoing particulars.

There are a multitude of useless offices, established by this Constitution, which ought to be abolished. The holding of more than one office by the same individual, is a serious evil not now prohibited. The cost of carrying on the government upon the present plan, from the chief departments down to the court clerks and justices of the peace, is vastly greater than it ought to be. The taxes for the last two years have been heavy, and yet the Treasury is bankrupt; and it is difficult to devise the means to meet current expenditures. According to the recent message of Gov. Holden at least seven hundred thousand dollars will be required to pay the expenses of State government for the current fiscal year. This alone is a ruinous tax upon an impoverished people, being twice as much as they were taxed last year; the last General Assembly not having levied half as much as they knew would be needed. A Convention by simplifying and cheapening our system of government, would save money enough in one year to pay its own expenses several times over; to say nothing of what it would gain in

the administration of the State. The present system is a source of great expense and inefficiency. It is thought that a Convention is needed to reform the State government. The present system is a source of great expense and inefficiency. It is thought that a Convention is needed to reform the State government.

There is one overwhelming consideration to which we invite particular attention, and which of itself renders the call of a Convention, in our own opinion, an imperative necessity. One of the most striking provisions of the present Constitution has never been enforced, and yet it contains a direct and positive mandate to the General Assembly, which men of common honesty, regardless of their oaths, and who feel bound by the opinion of our Supreme Court in relation to the limit of taxation, know not how to disobey. It is in these words: "The General Assembly shall, by appropriate legislation, and by adequate taxation, provide for the prompt and regular payment of the interest on the public debt." If this be construed as applying to the old debt only, it requires the levy of twelve hundred thousand dollars of tax to pay interest. Add to this the tax necessary to carry on the State Government, and it will be perceived that the lowest tax which this Legislature can levy if they carry out their obligations under this constitution, is largely over a million and a half of dollars, or five times the tax of the past year. The Governor says in his message, two millions and a half, or eight times the tax of the past year.

We know very well that any such tax would crush the people into the dust. Yet we have taken an oath which cannot be fulfilled unless we do make such a levy; and as honorable men, we see no way of escape, unless the people will call a Convention and relieve us from the dilemma by changing the Constitution in this particular. We cannot believe that the honest people of North Carolina expect us to violate our oaths. We therefore appeal to them to come to our rescue, and their own. Let a Convention be called, that the Constitutional provisions respecting the Public Debt may be altered, and the debt itself put in the way of being compromised or otherwise adjusted, as the people may deem proper. If, in the exercise of their acknowledged right of sovereignty, we can and will delay any action in the premises until after the Convention has perfected its task, and if the people themselves refuse to call a Convention, and to amend the Constitution by striking out the aforesaid provision, how can we avoid interpreting their action to mean that we must proceed to execute that provision, and levy upon them a tax too grievous to be borne? We beg the earnest attention of the people to the foregoing considerations.

The General Assembly has not presumed to call a Convention themselves. We had no official expression of the wishes of the people, to justify us in doing that. We simply submit the question to the people. They bear the burden of the responsibility, and they also are the sovereigns. Article 1, Section 3, of our present Constitution declares: "The people of this State have the inherent, sole, and exclusive right of altering and abolishing their Constitution and form of government * * * but every such right should be exercised in pursuance of law, and consistently with the Constitution of the United States." Our Act only provides a method by which the people may exercise this inherent right in a regular and orderly manner,—in pursuance of law."

Now have the General Assembly assumed to themselves any right to impose restrictions upon the Convention when assembled. But being well versed by extensive acquaintance with the provisions of the Constitution, we desire to preserve unchanged some features of our existing Constitution, we have so framed our act that the people themselves may, by assenting to or dissenting from the proposed alterations, which, in our judgment, are not wished for. Our act, when thus approved by the sovereign people, will utter a voice which shall be recognized as imperative. This act, with all its provisions, will be the power of attorney to their delegates, which they cannot go beyond. No candid man will contend that a Convention, having only a delegated sovereignty, can override and disregard the original sovereignty of the people. And make assurance doubly sure, an oath is embodied in the act binding the delegates to observe its restrictions; and the people will certainly not choose delegates who would either neglect or violate that obligation.

The proposed restrictions will limit and simplify the work of the Convention, shorten its session and reduce its cost. It will not cost half as much as the announcement of the cause in its present form. The present Constitution requires shall be done, but which a Convention will not doubt dispense with.

Among the restrictions which we ask the people to assent to, we mention one which will forbid any interference with the homestead and personal property exemption. The Conservative party, now dominant in this State, is certainly not averse to the more so as its political opponents, in maintaining the homestead provisions; and this party is fully determined that said provision shall be maintained, and that the party may be willing to see it strangled, but the Conservative party will not consent that this shall be done. On this point we pledge our honor to the Convention, and we are at work trying to frighten and deceive the people. To guard against any possible danger on this homestead question, the General Assembly have incorporated in their act a very stringent provision, to the effect that no deed of gift, or any other act, which does not seem to us necessary to do more than simply invite attention to them, as they appear in the act. They certainly pay the earnest attention of the people to the provisions of the homestead and exemption rights intact.

Others of the proposed restrictions will provide for the abolition of the Probate Court, and for the consolidation of the courts. It is thought that a Convention is needed to reform the State government.

The proposed restrictions will also provide for the abolition of the Probate Court, and for the consolidation of the courts. It is thought that a Convention is needed to reform the State government.

The proposed restrictions will also provide for the abolition of the Probate Court, and for the consolidation of the courts. It is thought that a Convention is needed to reform the State government.

The proposed restrictions will also provide for the abolition of the Probate Court, and for the consolidation of the courts. It is thought that a Convention is needed to reform the State government.

By Mr. Martin: (By request) a bill to require the registration of deeds, &c.; referred.

On motion of Mr. Currie, the bill to require all Presidents and Directors of railroads of this State to account with their successors in office for the property and effects of said Companies, &c., was taken up, amended and passed its several readings.

Bill to repeal section 4, chapter 111, laws 1869-70 was taken up and passed its second reading.

Bill in relation to the library was taken up, amended, and the bill as amended passed its third reading.

By Mr. Anderson: A resolution refusing leave of absence to members, except in cases of sickness, &c.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, the rules were suspended and the resolution considered. After some little debate the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Justice, the bill in relation to the fees of county officers was taken up. On motion of Mr. Withers, his bill was made special order for Monday at 11 o'clock.

By Mr. Phillips: A bill in relation to process where the Sheriff is a party; referred.

On motion of Dudley, col., the bill to incorporate the Trustees of the Mt. Vernon Academy, Craven county, was taken up and passed its several readings.

On motion of Mr. Grambler, the bill to amend chapter 68, law of 1869-70, in reference to constructing a road through the counties of Ashe and Alleghany, was taken up and passed its several readings.

On motion of Mr. Tomlinson, the resolution in reference to the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylum was taken up.

On motion of Mr. Phillips, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Deaf and Dumb Asylum.

On motion of Mr. Martin, the bill to amend chapter 33, laws of 1868-69 was taken up and passed its several readings.

On motion of Mr. Fisher, the resolution in favor of the Sheriff of Bladen county, was taken up and passed its several readings.

On motion of Mr. Ashe, the bill to amend the charter of the Wilmington Hook and Ladder Company, was taken up and passed its several readings.

Adjourned.

SENATE. MONDAY, Feb'y 13, 1871. Message from the House, announcing the passage of that body of the bill on Salaries and Fees, with certain amendments, and asking concurrence in the same.

Mr. Graham, of Orange, moved not to concur, and requests a Committee of Conference.

Mr. Merrimon, a bill to incorporate Peoples' Building and Loan Association of Asheville; referred.

Messrs. Graham, of Orange, Love and Lehman were appointed as Senate Branch of Committee on Conference on Finance amendments to salary and fee bill.

Mr. Merrimon moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill transferring the county of Northampton from the sixth to the first judicial district passed. Prevalled.

Bill authorizing the Commissioners of Alamance to revise jury list, passed second reading.

The President announced the arrival of the hour for the sitting of the Court of Impeachment.

President called the Senate to order.

SENATE. MONDAY, Feb'y 13, 1871. Message from the House, announcing the passage of that body of the bill on Salaries and Fees, with certain amendments, and asking concurrence in the same.

Mr. Graham, of Orange, moved not to concur, and requests a Committee of Conference.

Mr. Merrimon, a bill to incorporate Peoples' Building and Loan Association of Asheville; referred.

Messrs. Graham, of Orange, Love and Lehman were appointed as Senate Branch of Committee on Conference on Finance amendments to salary and fee bill.

Mr. Merrimon moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill transferring the county of Northampton from the sixth to the first judicial district passed. Prevalled.

Bill authorizing the Commissioners of Alamance to revise jury list, passed second reading.

The President announced the arrival of the hour for the sitting of the Court of Impeachment.

President called the Senate to order.

SENATE. MONDAY, Feb'y 13, 1871. Message from the House, announcing the passage of that body of the bill on Salaries and Fees, with certain amendments, and asking concurrence in the same.

Mr. Graham, of Orange, moved not to concur, and requests a Committee of Conference.

Mr. Merrimon, a bill to incorporate Peoples' Building and Loan Association of Asheville; referred.

Messrs. Graham, of Orange, Love and Lehman were appointed as Senate Branch of Committee on Conference on Finance amendments to salary and fee bill.