

North Carolina Argus.

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WADESBOROUGH, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1865.

[WHOLE NO. 320.]

LINCOLN'S MESSAGE ON THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Northern papers of the 11th publish Lincoln's message relative to the conference with our Commissioners, near Fortress Monroe, including all letters and telegrams.

Lincoln says, after Blair returned from Richmond, he left with him a letter from Davis to Blair, expressing a willingness to renew the effort to enter into a conference with a view to secure peace to the two countries. Lincoln by way of reply, addressed a note to Blair, expressing a willingness to receive any agents, informally sent, with a view to secure peace to the people of our common country. Subsequent correspondence explains the detention of the Commissioners at Petersburg and City Point, in the absence of Grant, who received their applications to pass through his lines, and telegraphed to Washington for instructions. Lincoln sent Major T. C. Rekart with a message prepared for him, to be delivered to the Commissioners, allowing them to pass through our lines for an informal conference on the basis of Lincoln's note to Blair. In the meantime, the commissioners applied to Grant, who had returned, for permission to pass through his lines, with a view of ascertaining upon what terms the war may be terminated. In pursuance of the course indicated by Lincoln in said letter to Blair, Grant allowed them to pass the lines, and proceeded to City Point, where they were detained until the arrival of Rekart. Before his arrival, the Commissioners addressed another note to Grant, expressing desire to go to Washington to confer informally with the President in reference to matters mentioned in his letter to Blair. Rekart delivered his message to the Commissioners, and says he received an unsatisfactory reply. He notified the commissioners that they could not proceed further, unless they complied with the terms expressed in his letter. At this juncture, Grant telegraphed to Staunton that he was convinced of the good intentions of Stephens and Hunter, and of their desire to restore peace and union. Their letter to him was all Lincoln's instructions contemplated. Lincoln replied requesting Grant to inform the gentlemen that he would meet them at Fortress Monroe. While Lincoln was enroute, the Commissioners sent another note to Rekart, expressing a willingness to proceed to Fortress Monroe to have an informal conference on the basis of Lincoln's letter to Blair, or upon any other terms or conditions he may hereafter propose, not inconsistent with essential principles of self-government, and popular rights, upon which our institutions are founded. They further expressed anxiety to establish an honorable peace, without the further effusion of blood, promising their utmost efforts to accomplish such a result.

Lincoln's statement of the interview is confirmatory to the report of our commissioners. As to his ultimatum, he says they seemed to desire the adoption of some course which might or might not, lead to re-union.

REWARD UPON THE CONFERENCE.

Seward in his report to Adams of the late conference says:

What the insurgent party seemed chiefly to favor was the postponement of the question of secession upon which the war is waged and the mutual direction of the efforts of the government as well as those of the insurgents to some intrinsic policy, or scheme for a season, during which their passions might be expected to subside and the armies be reduced, and the trade and intercourse between the people of both sections be resumed. It was suggested by them that through such postponement we might now have immediate peace with some, not very remote prospect of ultimate satisfaction, and the adjustment of the political relations between the Government and States now engaged in conflict. The suggestion though deliberately considered, was nevertheless regarded by the President as one of armistice or truce, and he announced that in no contingency would he agree to a suspension of hostilities except on the basis of disbandment of the insurgent forces and the restoration of the national authority throughout the States of the Union.

The Petersburg Express says the late effort or Grant, to advance his lines on his left was a singular failure, resulting in a loss to him of 2,500 men, while our loss was about 500. The whole of Grant's army nearly, was brought into action. On our side only Pegram's, Evans and Mahone's Divisions.

Late Yankee papers say Thomas and Wilson are about to sweep through Mississippi and Alabama as soon as the weather will permit, with a large force of cavalry and mounted infantry.

Hon. H. S. Foote has been sent to Fort Warren, by the Federal authorities, because he refused to take the oath.

SPECIE FOR OLD DEBTS.

Some of our financiers seem to think themselves peculiarly fortunate to be able to hold paper drawn before or since the war, for specie payment. It is hard for people to realize that the days of peace and plenty, which they dream of, are likely never to be again witnessed by them. Examining this question up one side and down the other and see what conclusion a wise man would come to.

Suppose, as we believe, that the result of the war will be favorable to the Confederates. A tax at present rates of 18 for one, must be paid on all paper for which Confederate money has been refused—that is, a tax of 90 per cent, in currency. Besides, there is a State tax to be paid. So it is easy to see that the taxer, Confederate and State, would soon eat up the amount of the debt. Then, there is a strong probability that property after the war will sink to mere nominal value under the load of the war debt (for which it will be mortgaged,) and from the necessarily disorganized condition of commerce for years to come. But even if the debtors of their property should be good, Southern courts and juries would not be disposed to allow the creditor specie in payment of debts contracted on a Confederate paper basis. Would it not, therefore seem more reasonable to suppose that any sharp operator would prefer taking what was due him in Confederate money, holding paper and paying taxes, with all the chances against him of ultimate collection?

Take the other view of the struggle, and suppose that the war ends in our subjugation. Does any man who has read the history of conquered nations believe that any class of the population now in these States would be permitted to enjoy the property of patriotic citizens? If he does, he is blind alike to the teachings of the past and to the every day lessons of the present. The people of the Confederacy would in such event be exterminated, enslaved or driven from the country, and the property held by them would be confiscated for the benefit of the Northern Government. Any other conclusion would be to attribute to our foes a magnanimity and liberality which they are known not to possess.—*Mount Advertiser.*

THE YANKEE GEN. TERRY AND UNION MEN.

The Goldsboro' State Journal announces the flight of a Mr. Swain to the Yankees, and states, on information received, that he applied to Gen. Terry for protection on the ground that he has always been a Union man, and had managed, under one pretence or another, to evade service in the armies of the Confederate States. Gen. Terry, who seems to be a practical Yankee, replied that he had no special use, except one, for any who were too cowardly to stand up for their country, right or wrong, when invaded, and that was to give them a musket and make them fight. Mr. Swain was accordingly placed in the ranks of the Federal army. This should be a warning to the recalcitrant soldiers and Union suckers generally. If they will not fight for the South they will be made to fight for the North. They must choose whom they shall serve, the Yankees of their own people.

BUFFALO DEPREDAATIONS IN HERTFORD AND GATES COUNTIES.

We are informed by a gentleman just from Hertford county, that the Buffaloes are committing great outrages in the counties of Hertford and Gates—plundering the unarmed citizens without mercy. On last Friday night, they visited the house of Mr. Hiram Gatlin, an old and respectable citizen of Hertford county, and stripped him of almost everything he owned. His loss is estimated at over \$15,000.—*Confederate.*

The Iredell Express says: We are reliably informed that the Yankee and tory force at Piedmont Springs, in the extreme Northern portion of Burke County, has dwindled down to next to nothing. Kirk was, doubtless, many miles away while the rumors of his advance were rife, and only a few tories showed themselves at Piedmont. There is now no enemy there as we are reliably informed, our soldiers having, during the last few days, scoured that whole region, capturing only two deserters or tories.

Mr. John McMillan, son of Col. Alex. McMillan, of Robeson county, was killed by deserters near Antioch church in that county, on the night of the 12th inst. Mr. McMillan is said to have been an estimable gentleman, and his untimely death is universally lamented by those who know him.

THE BEAUREAU OF CONSCRIPTION.

We learn that a movement is on foot in Congress to abolish the Bureau of Conscription, and to substitute a new plan for the execution of the conscription by men detailed from the different commands of the army. The plan is said to be approved by Gen. Lee.—*Rick. Ex., 10th.*

Executive Department N. C. ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, H. G. GENERAL ORDERS, Raleigh, Feb. 9, 1865. No. 2.

THE FOLLOWING ACTS AND PARTS OF ACTS of the General Assembly of North Carolina are published for the information of all concerned:

An Act in relation to the Militia and a Guard for Home Defence, ratified the 7th day of July 1863.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Governor to cause to be enrolled as a Guard for Home Defence, all white male persons not included in the service of the Confederate States, between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, resident in this State, including foreigners not naturalized, who have been residents in the State for thirty days before such enrollment, excepting persons filling the offices of Governor, Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts of Law and Equity, the members of the General Assembly, and the officers of the several departments of the Government, members of Congress and the civil and military officers of the Confederate Government within this State, ministers of the Gospel of the several denominations in the State charged with the duties of such ministry, the High Sheriffs and Clerks of the several Courts of record, and the Public Registers in the several counties, and such other persons as the Governor for special reasons may deem proper subjects of exemption.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, That members of the Society of Friends commonly called Quakers, may be exempt from the provisions of this act by paying the sum of one hundred (100) dollars according to an ordinance of the Convention of this State in that behalf, ratified the 12th day of May 1862. Provided, that when any such Quakers shall have paid or had levied on his property five hundred (500) dollars, under the act of Congress called the Conscription Law aforesaid, he shall not be required to pay any sum of money for his exemption under this act.

An Act to amend an act entitled an act to increase the efficiency of the Home Guard organization—ratified the 7th day of February, 1865.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the Governor, whenever he deems it expedient, may re-organize the Guard for Home Defence, by causing two or more companies to be consolidated into one, so as to make not less than sixty-four men rank and file to each company: Provided, however, that if there are not sixty-four men in any one county, that such number as may be, shall be incorporated into a company; the said companies, when so consolidated, shall have their privilege of electing their company officers from the rank and file of said companies, and such officers as shall not be elected for service in said company shall be required to perform service as non-commissioned officers or privates, under the same rules and regulations as other non-commissioned officers and privates are required to serve, and whilst so serving their commissions shall be suspended.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That the Governor may in like manner cause two or more battalions or regiments of Home Guards to be consolidated; said battalions when so consolidated to be composed of not less than three companies, and said regiments when so consolidated, of not more than ten companies; that the rank and file shall elect their field officers, and all field officers who shall not be elected, their commissions shall be suspended, and they be required to perform duty in the ranks as non-commissioned officers and privates.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That in addition to the exemptions mentioned in the second section of an act in relation to the Militia and Guard for Home Defence, ratified 7th July, 1863, there shall be exempt one commissioner to each county, appointed under an act entitled "an act for the relief of wives and families of soldiers in the army;" the Attorney General, Solicitors for the several circuits and counties, County Trustees, County Surveyors, Physicians of five years' practice, one Editor to a newspaper and necessary compositors and employees to be certified on oath by the editor, Mail Carriers, Professors in Colleges and Teachers who at the passage of this act had, and shall continue to have, twenty scholars, the necessary skilled Operatives in Factories and Foundries, regular public Millers, and Blacksmiths, and Wheel Wrights who have established shops, regular public Tanners, and Shoe Makers, and one overseer of the poor of each county: Provided, all the tradesmen thus exempted shall be skilled in their respective trades, and were employed in the same prior to the first of January 1864, and have continued to be so employed since that time, except public Millers, who shall be exempt whenever they are so engaged, unless it shall appear that owners of Mills have turned off their Millers and gone in themselves to evade the service, then such owners not to be exempt: Provided, that the exemptions in this act shall not apply to Home Guard officers commissioned under this act, but shall apply to officers of the Home Guard and Militia who are required under this act to serve in the ranks and who would be entitled to exemption if they did not hold commissions: and Provided further, that no provision of this act shall be construed so as to exempt any persons herein mentioned from Home Guard duty in the county in which he resides.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That all laws and clauses of laws coming in conflict with this act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

II. In addition to the exemptions granted in the foregoing acts there shall be exempt from duty in the Guard for Home Defence all Railroad officers and the necessary employees, the Commanding Officers of each Brigade and Regiment of North Carolina Militia and one Druggist to each Drug Store. Provided, that there is no druggist in said Drug Store not liable to duty in the Guard for Home Defence.

III. Claims for exemption under the foregoing acts and orders must be established by the affidavit of two respectable persons knowing the facts, which affidavits must be placed in the hands of the commanding officer of the Regiment or Battalion to which the individual belongs, who, if satisfied that the claim is just, will furnish him with a certificate of exemption.

IV. The Commanding officers of each Regiment and Battalion of the Guard for Home Defence will immediately assemble their commands at their respective county seats, and at once proceed to consolidate the companies in accordance with the act of the General Assembly of North Carolina ratified February 7th 1865, and under the following regulations, viz: When a Regiment or Battalion is assembled as above directed, its commanding officers will divide it into two classes, all able-bodied officers and men liable to active service in the field beyond the limits of the county will constitute the first class, and all officers and men exempt from duty except within the limits of their counties, will constitute the second class.

When the class does not exceed ninety men or fall below forty-five men, it will be organized into one company; when it exceeds ninety men, but does not exceed one hundred and fifty men, it will be organized into two companies; when it exceeds one hundred and fifty men it will be organized into three companies, and elections for a full complement of company officers will be held. When the first class falls below forty-five men, it will be organized into a company, and officers elected as follows: For a company of less than forty-five, but more than thirty-five men, a Captain and a first Lieutenant; for a company of less than thirty-five, but more than twenty, a first Lieutenant and a second Lieutenant; for a company of twenty or a less number of men, one second Lieutenant.

The second class will be organized into companies not to exceed seventy-five men each, and elections of a full complement of company officers will be held, but when the number of men does not fall below forty-five. But when it does fall below forty-five the same rule will be followed as in the first class.

The election for company officers will be held under the direction of the commanding officer of each Regiment or Battalion, who will, as soon as the organizations are completed, immediately forward a report of the same to this office, together with the certificates of election.

V. Until the consolidated companies are organized into Regiments and Battalions, the field officers now in commission will continue to exercise command as heretofore.

By order of GOVERNOR VANCE.
R. C. GATLIN,
Adjutant General.

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Adj't and Insp'r Gen's Office, RICHMOND, Sept. 11, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 122.

III. The following act of Congress is published for the information of all concerned:

Every person, not subject to the rules and articles of war, who shall presume or entice a soldier of the Confederate States to desert, or who shall purchase from any soldier his arms, uniform, clothing, or any part thereof, shall, upon legal conviction, be fined, at the discretion of the Court having cognizance of the same, in any sum not exceeding three hundred dollars, and be imprisoned not exceeding one year.

By order of the Secretary of War.
S. COOPER,
Adj't and Insp'r Gen'l.

HEAD QUARTERS RESERVE N. C. RALEIGH, Feb. 10, 1865.

Official: JNO. W. HINSDALE, A. A. General.

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Headquarters, Reserve, N. C., ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Raleigh, Feb. 13th, 1865.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 4.

MAJOR C. S. STRINGFELLOW, ASSISTANT Adjutant General, C. S. P. A., will relieve Capt. John W. Hinsdale, Asst. Adj't General of Reserve of N. C., and the latter officer will proceed to join the 34 Regiment Reserves of N. C., as its Colonel, he having been duly elected to that office on the 3d of January, 1865.

The Lieutenant General Commanding, in taking leave of Col. Hinsdale, tenders his warm congratulations on his promotion and earnestly hopes that the intelligence, zeal and gallantry, which has characterized his service as a Staff Officer, may be matured by experience into greater usefulness in his new and more extended sphere.

TH. H. HOLMES,
Lieut. Gen. Commanding.

Official: CEAS S. STRINGFELLOW, Major and A. A. General.

Feb. 13, 1865-320-25.

\$500 Reward.

STOLEN FROM THE SUBSCRIBER'S PREMISES, near Morven, on Monday night, the 13th inst., a Medium SIZED BAY MARE, five or six years old, with a small scar on one of her front knees—so far as I recollect on the right knee.

She was traced a short distance as going toward Cheraw.

I will pay the above reward for the recovery of the animal delivered to me near Morven, or for information leading to her certain recovery.

RICHMOND BUCHANAN,
Morven, Anson, N. C., Feb. 15th, 1865-319-21.

ARMAGEDDON, OR U. S. IN PROPHECY.

LOST OR MISLAID, A BOOK BEARING THE above title, with the subscriber's name in it written with pencil. Any information concerning said Book will be thankfully received—besides, a liberal reward will be paid for its delivery at the ARGUS OFFICE.

O. P. BENNETT,
Feb. 13, 1865.

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