

GEORGE S. BAKER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

All letters addressed to GEO. S. BAKER.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1875.

Have the people of the county become reconciled to having a band of thieves remain in the county, and put forth no effort to have them caught? Some time ago we brought to the attention of our people that the county was being robbed in a regular systematic way, by some party or parties in their midst. We succeeded in arousing the people, but it seems they have fallen asleep again, while the scoundrels walk abroad in open daylight unpunished. We allude to the ones who changed the County Orders, thereby defrauding the county out of a large amount of money. We felt satisfied that the rogues would be caught, and speedy and ample justice administered. The people seemed in earnest—seemed determined to find out the offenders. \$500 reward by the county was offered, but lo, the guilty parties are still unpunished. We do not think the people ought to stand idly by and see their county, yes, Franklin county, the banner county in the State, swindled and defrauded out of untold sums of money, by thieves right here among them, and make no further effort to have them brought to justice. If all effort to catch the offenders cease—if our people sit quietly down, it will only be licensing the rogues to continue their stealing.—Then my fellow county men, let's all make a strong pull, and a long pull, and a pull altogether, and see if this corruption can't be ferreted out, and the offenders caught and put where they properly belong, (the Penitentiary. We know that it is a hard and arduous task. We know that with a corrupt judiciary and magistracy it is hard to bring scoundrels to justice. We know and have seen the power of the slinking dollar. We have seen how corrupt official's mouths have been locked up, even in a night, by the use no doubt of the all powerful dollar. But thank Heaven the masses of the people are honest, and it is for them to work. It is for them to put down corruption. It is for them to see that justice is meted out to all offenders. Then let's all to work and catch the thieves.

The Amendments to the Constitution.

Ordinance four is in these words: "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE THREE, SECTION TEN, OF THE CONSTITUTION. The people of North Carolina in Convention assembled do ordain, That Article three (3), section ten (10), of the Constitution, be amended so as to read as follows: "The Governor shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senators elect, appoint all officers, whose offices are established by this Constitution, and whose appointments are not otherwise provided for."

Read three times and ratified in open Convention, this 6th day of October, 1875."

The Section that this amends reads as follows: "The Governor shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senators elect appoint all officers, whose offices are established by the Constitution, or which shall be created by law, and whose appointments are not otherwise provided for, and no such officers shall be appointed or elected by the General Assembly."

The clauses in italics above are those stricken from the Constitution by this amendment. Under the old Constitution the Governor claimed the power to appoint all the State officers, whose manner of appointments were not clearly defined, and pointed out by the Constitution, and in this he was sustained by the Supreme Court. The confirmation by the Senate was made entirely nugatory by the manner in which the Governors have managed heretofore.

In the very last days of the session of the Legislature the Governor would send in his nominations to the Senate, some would be acceptable, and some would not be so to the Senate; some would be confirmed while others would be rejected. The Legislature would adjourn, and these appointments being vacant the Governor would fill them with the very men that the Legislature declined

to confirm. Thus over-riding the will of the people, as expressed by their accredited representatives, and the authorities designated by the Constitution, to make these appointments in conjunction with the Governor. By this means the Governor had the absolute control of the organization of the charitable and penal institutions of the State, as well as appointment of State Librarian, Keeper of the Capitol, and several other officers. The amendments puts it in the power of the people's representatives to control all these institutions; and to make the appointments to the offices, as these offices are not established by the Constitution. This is as it should be. For the Legislature which comes fresh from the people every two years, is a much more fitting department of the State Government to express the popular will than is the Executive, which is elected only once in four years. For these reasons we think this one of the best of the amendments; as it divests the Executive of the immense patronage, that the old Constitution confers upon him, and brings the duties and powers of that office back to the times when it was occupied by Dudley, Morehead, Graham, Manly, Reid and others, under whose guiding hands the people of the State flourished and were happy. Then the Supreme Court was never or rarely called in to decide some conflict of authority between the different departments of the Government. Then such a thing as two Boards of Directors, and two Presidents, and different sets of officers undertaking to run the same Railroad, was an unheard of thing. Let us return to a system that worked so well, and leave behind the clashing of the last few years.

A SPECK OF WAR.

STRANGE PROCEEDINGS BY THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

CINCINNATI, O., Nov. 22.—A special from New Orleans says the monitor Canonius has been ordered to prepare for sea at a moment's notice. Provisions and ammunition are on board and the officers and men are forbidden to come ashore. It is reported that Commodore Cooper reports favorably from New Orleans as a base of operations in case of a difficulty with Spain.

A Horrible Story.

Says the Middleport (Ohio) News: We have heard of a distressing accident occurring over in Jackson county, West Virginia. It was a "house raising." As a customary on such occasions, chickens had been killed by chopping off their heads. Two little sons of the owner of the house to be raised, saw the chickens thus quilled, and during the day concluded to repeat the operation. It was just at a time when the men were lifting a heavy log into its place. The father, who was holding one end of the log casting his eyes towards the little fellows, one of whom had the axe raised to sever the neck of his brother, let go of the log to save the boy, and it fell, killing six men, two instantly, the others living only a few hours. The axe fell before the father could reach the scene, severing the neck of his son. Thus were seven persons hurled to eternity in a twinkling.

Constitutional Amendments.

We copy from the Raleigh Sentinel the following synopsis of the 33-proposed amendments to the Constitution: 1st Amendment: That section 4, of article 9, be stricken out and two new sections be substituted. The section to be stricken out is in regard to lands given to the State by Congress and the appropriation of fines' penalties, &c.—The section to be substituted gives all lands and proceeds of lands, given by the United States to the State, to educational purposes; and all swamp lands, fines &c., are to be used for purposes of education.

2nd Amendment strikes out section 17, article 3, and substitutes a section providing for the establishment of a bureau of agriculture, immigration and statistics, and the protection of sheep husbandry.

3rd Amendment adds to section 25, of article 1, that "secret political societies are dangerous to the liberties of a free people and should not be tolerated."

4th Amends section 10, article 3, by providing that the governor, with the advice of the senate, shall appoint all officers whose appointments are not otherwise provided for.

5th Abrogates and amends section 15, 16 and 17, of article 4, and allows the general assembly to allot and distribute all judicial power among the several counties except that of the supreme court, which is fixed by the constitution itself.

6th Strikes out sections 1 and 2, of article 13, and forbids calling a convention without first consulting the people at the polls.

7th Provides for submitting the amendments to the constitution to the people, at the polls, Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November, 1876. The amendments will be ratified or rejected together.

8th Provides for publishing the ordinances for the information of the people.

9th Requires the judge to reside in the district for which he is elected, and forbids his holding court in the same county more than once in four years.

10th Reduces the number of judges from 12 to 9, and authorizes the legislature to increase or diminish the number.

11th Provides for the assembling of the legislature in January instead of November.

12th His civil rights on the head by forbidding white and black children going to the same school, and providing that no discrimination shall be made to the prejudice of either race.

13th Fixes the pay of members of the general assembly at \$4 a day and 10 cents mileage, and limits the session to 60 days. If the session is prolonged beyond 60 days, members receive no pay.

14th Provides that the term of office for senators and members of the legislature shall begin at the time of their election.

15th, That section 20, of article 2, is amended to allow the general assembly to change the time of holding elections for the general assembly.

16th Strikes from the constitution section 4, of article 2, which is the old republican gerrymander of the senatorial districts in 1868.

17th Reduces the number of supreme judges from five to three, as our fathers had it.

18th Declares the judicial power shall be vested in a court for the trial of impeachments, a supreme court, superior courts, courts of justice of the peace, and such others inferior to the supreme court as may be established by law.

19th Establishes the supreme court in Raleigh, until otherwise provided for by the general assembly.

20th Strikes section 8, article 2, from the constitution. This section was the old republican gerrymander of the house of representatives, and the people can do without it.

21st Provides vacating any office or term of office now existing under the constitution.

22d Provides for the election of judges of the superior court and superior court, by general ticket, or vote of all the people; but allows the general assembly to change the mode of electing superior court judges from general ticket to district elections.

23d If quiet 12 months' residence in the State, and 90 days in the county, before a man can vote, and excludes felons and ex-penitentiary convicts from holding office or voting until restored to citizenship by due process of law. There was "two days" debate on this ordinance, Messrs. Buringer, Dockery, Alberts and Baxton, with all the negro delegates speaking against it and declaring it was aimed at the negro.

24th Provides for the removal by the legislature of any judge of the superior court, for mental or physical disability. It also provides for the removal of clerks of the supreme and superior courts by the judges of the courts for the same reason. Appeal in case of removal is allowed as in other cases or suits.

25th Provides that article 7 of the constitution be amended by adding that the General Assembly shall have power to modify, change or abrogate any and all of the provisions of the article, and substitute others in their place, except sections 7, 9 and 13. This allows the legislature to appoint magistrates as under the old constitution.

26th Gives jurisdiction to justices of the peace over civil actions founded on contract, when the sum does not exceed \$200; and allows the justice to call in a jury of six men in certain cases.

27th Authorizes the employment of convicts on public works and highways.

28th Adds the following new section to article 4: "In case the general assembly shall establish other inferior courts, the presiding officers and clerks thereof shall be elected in such manner as the general assembly may prescribe."

29th Forbids marriage between a white and black and all persons of negro descent to the third generation.

30th adds to article 1, section 24: "Nothing heretofore contained shall justify the practice of carrying concealed weapons or prevent the legislature from enacting penal statutes against said practice."

31 Abolishes section 31, of article 4, and provides for filling all vacancies in offices provided for by this article by the governor not otherwise provided for.

32 Provides for paying officers and members of the convention.

33d Gives power to the supreme court to try issues and questions of fact as under the old constitution.

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