

good education and find time to improve their minds. Not only so, but the kind of farming which requires hard labor all the year also demands a heavy consumption of time. Constant laborers must be found and clothed. In addition to this a supply of horses or mules must be kept in proportion to the extent of cultivation, the support of which is a constant tax. But in the cultivation of silk only about six or seven weeks of the year demand a pressure of business. In that length of time the silk worms grow to their maturity and spin their threads. The reeling of the cocoons can be done by few persons and at leisure periods of the year. This will afford at least ten months of the year in which the laborers may be engaged in some other profitable business. Whether the cultivator depends upon his own or hired laborers, the silk at least will be free from the expense of constant toil and constant consumption. Very few horses are required, as the trees need comparatively little cultivation, and one or two carts would haul leaves to supply a considerable cocoonery. Those who are taught by melancholy experience how heavy is the burden of constant consumers, in the present mode of farming, should certainly appreciate these items in favor of silk. Most of the labor during the feeding season might be as profitably performed by women and children as any others, and thus employment be given to thousands in our country who need its elevating influence.

4. Silk is always in demand, at a uniform price, and is easily transported to market. For many of the products of our soil the prices are constantly fluctuating, thus leading to unsettled and disappointed expectations. Our remote situation from good markets, subjects us to heavy costs and much labor in disposing of what we have to sell. But the demand for silk is constant, and its price high. The value of silk imported into the United States is from 15 to \$20,000,000 annually. As one pound of silk would be worth as much as forty pounds of cotton at their present prices, the labor and expense of transportation to market would be very little. And were its cultivation to become general, manufactories within our own section of country might be erected and become profitable.

5. The profits of the silk culture are very great. We are well assured that the great mass of society will not change their mode of agriculture, until they are convinced that it will be to their interest to do so. The obstacles which ignorance and prejudice raise against new plans of farming are so great that multitudes persevere in their opposition to measures from which they might be greatly benefited. It is useless to find fault with men for neglecting improvements for their own good, so long as they are destitute of proper information. Hence, if any essential and permanent changes are made in the agriculture of our country, knowledge must be diffused, experiments must be made, the prejudices of the ignorant must be overlooked, and the leaders, at least, in such improvements, must have energy enough to follow truth, and be governed by facts. It is no matter of surprise that the community should be backward to engage in any business of which they know comparatively little. Our confidence is then strong that an impartial examination of facts on this subject may lead our fellow men to see how much their own prosperity might be promoted by giving it a fair trial. Omitting for the present, its cultivation in China, Italy and France, a few facts will be given in reference to its progress in this country.

[To be concluded next week.]

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT CONVENTION.

Thursday, Dec. 13.

Mr. Haywood, from the Select Committee of three, upon the available funds of the State, and upon the probable costs of the schemes proposed by the Committee of Thirteen—presented the following report which was read:

The Committee appointed to report upon the probable cost of the works recommended by the Committee of 13, and what are the pecuniary resources of the State, have had very little time to perform that duty, and, of course, do not pretend that they will be able to state, with precise accuracy, the cost of each of the works recommended to this Convention. It is difficult to do this even, after a survey and estimates by competent Engineers, if we judge by past experience; but they submit the following table of such information as the case procure on the subject:

1. The Committee of 13 have recommended that the State shall loan her credit to the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road Company to the amount of

\$500,000

According to the last estimate of the cost of this Road, the Company's present capital being increased by this loan, will make a sum sufficient to complete the work, lacking between one and two hundred thousand dollars.

2. They have recommended the immediate payment of the State's 4th quarter of subscription to the Wilmington and Raleigh Rail Road Company,

\$150,000

3. They have recommended the opening of Roanoke Inlet. The cost of this work has been variously estimated. H. Fulton, in 1819 and 1820, surveyed and estimated the work, and reported to the Board of Internal Improvements that, if done in the best manner, with stone the expenditure would be

\$2,363,000

2. If done with wood, the expenditure would be

\$1,203,300

3. It is stated to your Committee, that this work has been estimated by a United States Engineer at much less, to wit, for about

800,000

The report of Mr. Fulton is herewith filed; that of Mr. Bache, the other engineer, is not in possession of your committee, nor in their immediate control.

4. They have recommended the construction of a Rail Road from Beaufort Harbor to intersect the Wilmington and Raleigh Rail Road. Your committee have had no survey and estimates to refer to; but it is conjectured that such a rail way will cost one million or one million and a half of dollars. It may be more or less; for it is impossible to arrive at any satisfactory certainty, upon mere conjecture. The Committee, however, put it as above stated, at the sum of \$1,000,000 or \$1,500,000.

5. They have also recommended the construction of a rail way from Yadkin River to some point on the Cape Fear at or near Fayetteville. This work will cost

\$2,000,000

Major McNeill, one of the first Engineers in the United States, has lately surveyed this route and estimated the cost of the work. That report is now in the Convention. Much confidence is to be placed in it, and he values the cost at 2 millions, if the work be done in the best manner, and with durable materials, and affirms it is the best economy to adopt that mode of construction at the outset. The Committee have taken and report the highest estimate, believing that it is the safest plan.

The aggregate cost of these, and the proportions in which it is proposed to advise the State to take, may be easily ascertained by each member for himself.

The following works are recommended by the Committee of Thirteen by the designation of their works, to wit:

1. A Rail Road from Raleigh and Fayetteville. We conjecture that it would cost at least

\$1,200,000

2. A Rail Road from Waynesborough to Raleigh. We conjecture that it would cost at least

\$1,000,000

A survey of Neuse River. Probable cost about

\$5,000

The Committee report the following statement of the stocks and funds belonging to the State.—The general correctness of it may be relied on; though in so short a time it is impossible to make it precisely accurate.

STOCKS.

The State owns in Bank of the State	\$500,000
Bank Cape Fear,	520,000
Roanoke turn. co.	3,000
Roanoke Nav. co.	50,000
Cape Fear Nav. Co.	32,000

OTHER FUNDS.

Notes of individuals for money loaned,	\$148,000
Cash,	3,000

This fund is in charge of the Internal Improvement Board, and \$150,000 of it is appropriated by act of 1836 to pay the balance of State subscription to the Wilmington and Raleigh Rail Road Company.

Notes of individuals for money loaned,	\$274,000
Cash,	31,000

These funds are in charge of the Board of Literature, and \$191,000, part thereof, are appropriated by the act of 1836 to drain Swamp Lands, for which contracts are made.

Bonds, &c. for Cherokee land sales of 1838,

\$830,000

Of this sum one eighth is due and paid now; one eighth is due in one year; one fourth in two years; one fourth in three years; one fourth in four years.

Bonds and interest for Cherokee lands sold before 1838—balance about

\$20,000

The cash balances in Public Treasury are not included in the above, as they are probably not greater than the current expenses of the State will be.

There is also the fourth quarter of the Surplus Money, to be deposited under the act of Congress. The amount of this 4th quarter is

\$477,919 13—100

What is the probability of this sum being paid into the State Treasury, and when, the Committee have not been required to report.

Respectfully submitted,

WILL. H. HAYWOOD, Ch'm.

Friday, 10 o'clock.

Mr. Lippitt offered to the Convention information in regard to the Port of Wilmington and sundry certificates in relation to the bar below Wilmington; which communications were read.

A.

EXPORTS OF WILMINGTON.

From November 1st, 1836, to November 1837.

7,443 Bales Cotton,	
4,474 Casks Rice,	
42,216 Bushels of Rough Rice,	
956 Barrels Flour,	
1,433 Casks Flaxseed,	
246 Hogsheds Tobacco,	
259 Boxes Manufactured do.	
90,796 Barrels Turpentine,	
24,166 " Tar,	
781 " Pitch,	
3,350 " Spirits Turpentine,	
13 " Varnish,	
903,990 Feet Timber,	
5,564,431 " River Lumber,	
801,529 " Steam Planed Lumber,	
12,677,075 " Steam sawed Lumber,	
11,163,297 Shingles,	
1,164,853 Staves,	
37,381 Hoops,	
14,190 Bushels Ground Peas,	
193 " Blackeyed do.	
470 " Corn,	
12,150 Pounds Bacon,	
103 Firkins Lard,	
40 " Butter,	
138 Barrels Sweet Potatoes,	
62 Casks Beeswax,	
214 Bags Feathers,	
266 " Rags,	
15 " Furs,	
509 Hides,	
609 Sides Leather,	
32 Barrels Beef,	
211 Boxes Candles,	
187 " Soap,	
385 Barrels Fish,	
15 " Apple & Peach Bran.	
33 Cotton Seed Oil,	
30 Flaxseed do.	
1 Bale Deer skins,	
1 Hogsherd Moravian pipes,	
2 Casks Palma Christi seed,	
817 Oak Knees,	
2,600 Shingle Bolts,	
3,500 Wheel Spokes,	
33 Cattle,	
10,005 Bushels Salt,	
Value	\$1,278,707
Produce and Manufactures of other States, exported during the year, valued at	2,003
Produce of Foreign Counties exported do.	21 779
	\$1,305,490 62

VESSELS.

Loaded for foreign Ports,	205
Coastwise,	233
Total,	438

B.

IMPORTS—1837.

48,864 Barrels Salts,	
2,174 Hhds. and pipes Merchandise,	
4,111 Barrels,	
618 Tons,	
264½ Lbs. Bar Iron,	
1,627 Casks Lime,	
\$16,412 59 100 freight on articles not enumerated.	

REPORT

Of the President and Directors of the Fayetteville and Western Rail Road Company.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of North Carolina:

The President and Directors of the Fayetteville and Western Rail Road Company, respectfully Kneel:

That after the Amendments to the Charter of the Company, passed by the Legislature of 1836, the books of subscription were opened, in the Town

of Fayetteville and Wilmington, and throughout the Western portion of the State. The amount of three-fifths of the cost of a Rail Road from the Town of Fayetteville to a point above the Narrows of the Yadkin, as ascertained by Major Wm. Gibbs McNeill, the Engineer of the Company, and stated in his Report hereto annexed and forming a part of this Report, was not obtained. They believe that a subscription of three-fifths of the cost of said Road cannot be had; and that unless the Legislature shall in its wisdom enlarge their aid by way of subscription, to an amount equal to four-fifths of the cost of said Road, this work, vitally important as it is, must and will fail.

They further report, that a Map and Profile of four several routes, have been deposited in the Executive Office, ready for the inspection and examination of the Members of the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,
EDWARD LEE WINSLOW,
President of the F. & W. R. R. Company.
FAYETTEVILLE, Dec. 18, 1838.

From the Globe.

ABSTRACT

Of the Bill more effectually to prevent frauds in the collection, keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the Public Revenue, and to punish public defaulters.

1. That all moneys collected in the District of Columbia by collectors, postmasters, district attorney, marshal, and clerk of the district court, &c. shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the United States.

2. All moneys, whether from custom or any other source, except postages, including all money hitherto collected by the collector, district attorney, marshal, and clerk, to be collected by the treasurers of the mint, at Philadelphia and New Orleans, who are also to take and collect all bonds for duties.

3. Cashiers of the customs to be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, in lieu of the collectors' clerks hitherto acting as cashiers, who are to take and collect all bonds, and to collect all other moneys hitherto collected by collectors, district attorney, marshal, clerk, &c. except postages. Public receiver to be substituted for land receiver at St. Louis, to collect all moneys in that district in like manner.

4. Collectors and receivers in all the other districts to collect the money for duties, custom-house charges, or lands, and to collect any other money, &c.

5. Collectors at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Charleston, and New Orleans, to be denominated supervisors of the customs, to discharge the duties of collectors, but to receive no money.

6. Supervisors of the customs, district attorneys, marshals, and clerks, within the districts of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Charleston, New Orleans, or St. Louis, prohibited from receiving any money.

7. No public money to be retained as heretofore by any officer for any purpose whatever. Every payment and expenditure, of every description, to be hereafter paid through warrants from the Treasury and regular appropriations.

8. Public money to be credited at once to the Treasurer of the United States wherever received, and not as heretofore to be placed to the credit of the collectors and receivers, and each depository to make returns to the Secretary, First Comptroller and Treasurer of the United States, and to furnish weekly, monthly, and quarterly returns—the latter within one month after the end of each quarter.

9. Warrants to disbursing officers not to be issued till necessary to meet expenditures. Disbursing officers to deposit their money in some depository, to be designated by the Secretary of the Treasury. Such depository to make to him, and to the head of the Department under whose direction the expenditure is made, monthly statements of the accounts of the disbursing officer.

10. All supervisors of the customs, all collectors or surveyors, naval officers, registers of the land offices, district attorneys, marshals and clerks of the United States courts, to furnish the Secretary and First Comptroller of the Treasury, and the Treasurer, with weekly, monthly, and quarterly returns of all moneys received by them, or which ought to be received by the receivers of any denomination in their districts, as the case may be, and of all bonds, whether complete or not, and monthly statements of the bonds in suit.

11. Cashiers of the customs, public receivers and treasurers of the mints, required to furnish weekly, monthly, and quarterly statements of all moneys received, of all bonds, and of bonds in suit. Quarterly statements with one month after the end of the quarter.

12. If the accounts of any officer are not furnished within one month after the end of the quarter, he shall be dismissed, unless satisfactory reasons for delay are given to the President.

13. The same penalty on the accounting officers, of the accounts are not audited and settled within one month after they are received.

14. The Secretary of the Treasury to furnish both Houses, on the first Monday in January at every session, with a statement of the amount to the end of the third quarter of the preceding year, of every receiving and disbursing officer, to be countersigned by the First Comptroller and the Treasurer. If the accounts are not furnished or not audited, reasons to be stated to Congress.

15. Supervisors, naval officers, and surveyors of the customs, to be a check on the cashiers of the customs; registers over land receivers and public receivers; naval officers and surveyors over collectors; directors over treasurers of the mints; at the close of each quarter to examine their books, accounts, and money on hand, and to make a full, accurate, and faithful return to the Treasury of their condition.

16. Secretary of the Treasury to cause similar examinations to be made at any time by the marshal, or district attorney of the district.

17. House of Representatives at every session to appoint a committee to make similar examinations of any one, or of all, the depositories, and to report to both Houses; and in case of defalcation or fraud, to inform the President of the fact.

18. Officers having charge of the public money, to discharge every financial duty required of them by law, or by direction of the heads of Departments, in pursuance of law.

19 and 20. All public officers, whether receiving the public money or directed to make returns of the revenue, to give ample bonds for the faithful discharge of their duties.

21. Receivers of the public money within the District to pay it over weekly, or oftener, as the Secretary may direct, to the Treasurer.

22. Secretary to withdraw balances from the present depositories, and where banks have been in any way employed, in a manner convenient to them.

23. Authority to the Secretary to transfer the public money as the safety of the public money and

convenience of the public service may require, and to draw on any one of them as may be most proper for the public interest and convenience to the public creditor.

24 and 25. Authorize special depositories, except where special depositories are established by this act—in banks, in specie, when the money in the hands of any officer exceeds the amount of his bond, or when it may be considered unsafe. Proscribe the condition and terms of the special depositories—to make no use of any kind of the mon. y. To be under the joint control of the bank and some officer of Government, and not to be drawn upon by warrant, as in other cases, nor without the express order of the Secretary of the Treasury. Commission to be allowed for safe-keeping.

26. In case no bank to receive special depositories, money to be transferred to one of the special depositories.

27. Secretary to make regulations requiring the prompt presentation of all warrants.

28. All officers, with their clerks, &c. to keep accurate accounts; and if any one shall make a fraudulent return of the revenue, or shall use the public money, in any manner whatever, for private purposes, when convicted of either, to be declared a felon—to be imprisoned for not less than two, nor more than five years—and to be fined the amount of any such fraudulent return, or of the money embezzled.

29. Any receiving or disbursing officer depositing the public money with banks, or keeping in his possession bank notes; and thus enabling any bank or banks to become indebted, directly or indirectly, to the United States, and to discount on any such balance, whether any bank or banks shall discount on the same or not, shall be dismissed the public service, and forfeit all compensation due him.

30. Salaries: Cashiers at New York, \$4,000; at Boston, \$3,000; at Charleston, \$3,000; public receiver at St. Louis, \$2,500. To take any compensation from persons having business with these officers, a misdemeanor, and to be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both.

31. Secretary authorized to procure temporary places of deposit until the public buildings are finished at Washington, New York and Boston.

32. Where the officers are not already provided with safes or vaults, or both, authority to procure them. Twenty thousand dollars appropriated to pay these, and any other expenses arising under the act.

33. Two clerks in the Treasurer's office; two in the cashier's office at New York; one at each of the other four special depositories; each to receive \$2,000 per annum, and to give sufficient bonds, and be liable to all the penalties imposed by this act.

34. All officers to make oath or affirmation to discharge their duties faithfully, &c.

35. All acts, or parts of acts, inconsistent with this act, repealed.

REPORT

Of Major Wm. Gibbs McNeill, Chief Engineer, &c. To EDWARD LEE WINSLOW, Esq.

President of the Fayetteville and Western Rail Road Company.

DEAR SIR: The Report which I had the honor recently to submit to you, exhibiting the results of the Surveys undertaken by me at the request of yourself and other citizens of the State, with reference to a Rail Road from the navigable waters of the Cape Fear to the Western part of our State, having been temporarily withdrawn by me, with a view to its publication,—at your suggestion I will summarily state the substance of it.

Commencing at the Town of Fayetteville, four several routes present themselves for the accomplishment of our object, between that point and the "Narrows" of the Yadkin River, in the vicinity of which the Surveys terminated;—and the details recited in the Report fully establish the easy practicability of a Rail Road from the navigable waters of the Cape Fear to the point just alluded to on the Yadkin. The distance from Fayetteville to the valley of the Yadkin, by even the longest route, would not exceed say 87 miles; but in order to reach a point on the Yadkin beyond the main obstructions to its navigation, and above which it is thought it may be made navigable perhaps even for Steam-Boats, the total length of the Rail Road would be 125 miles. Throughout its extent it would be adapted to the advantageous use of Locomotive Engines—or, in other words, in no case will it be necessary to resort to inclined planes, requiring stationary power. So that we should be enabled to transport passengers and produce at such cheap rates as, in my opinion, ensures to the project, if accomplished, the active trade, which, while it will bespeak the wisdom of the enterprise, in the increased prosperity of a large portion of the State, must, also, I think, eventuate in profit to the Stockholders.

The cost of the Rail Road necessarily must depend on the plan of its construction; but from careful estimates I think it may be assumed, that if graded to a sufficient width for two tracks, and in other respects built similarly to the Rail Roads now in progress in our State, it will not exceed \$1,250,000; while if built as I would decidedly recommend, (as described by me in a recent Report on the Louisville, Charleston and Cincinnati Rail Road, to which I would respectfully refer you),—to wit, in the most permanent and almost imperishable manner—its cost cannot safely be assumed at less than two millions of dollars—a price in my opinion wholly disproportionate to the value of those vast benefits we so confidently expect must flow from the completion of the work. Referring, however, to your better knowledge of the great resources of the West, which we would desire more fully to develop by affording a cheap and easy outlet for its varied agricultural and mineral products, I shall confine myself on this occasion to the more appropriate or purely professional topics on which my opinion has been solicited. The value of the project—I might say its almost indispensable necessity to the prosperity of the State, if not to the existence of some portions of it—I believe is generally appreciated. Fortunately we discover it to be quite practicable, and its probable cost has been approximately determined. If the means be supplied, and the work vigorously prosecuted, it is my opinion that within three years we shall be in the enjoyment of the full benefits of an enterprise, which, limited as it is in comparison with those undertaken by many of our sister States, may be regarded as a link in a great chain of improvement, by which all parts of the State shall be bound together, and by which, in its extension, North Carolina may eventually participate in a portion of the trade beyond the Alleghenies.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

Wm. GIBBS McNEILL.

Raleigh, Dec. 17, 1838.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

IN SENATE.

Saturday, Dec. 20.

Mr. Morehead, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to suppress the practice of wearing arms concealed about the person of individuals—read and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Holt,
Resolved, That the Committee on Banks report into the condition of those Institutions, in which the State is interested, so far as regards their specie for their bills when presented—the amount of bills they have issued at different branches and agencies—where made payable, and what facilities they furnish different sections of the State in obtaining a supply of specie change.

On motion of Mr. Taylor a message was read to the Senate, proposing to instruct the Committee on Finance to enquire whether the Revenue laws were not amended as to obtain a more equal valuation of land in this State, and to give to the proposition more speedy redress where it is dissatisfied with the assessment.

Mr. Biddle, from the select Committee on Public Buildings, reported a bill appropriating \$75,000 to finish the Capitol. The bill was read the first time, and the Report was ordered to be printed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Siler, from the Committee on Cherokee Lands, reported a bill prescribing the mode of an additional survey and sale of the Cherokee Lands; which was read the first time and passed.

The engrossed Resolution acquitting delinquent Sheriffs, in making returns of votes for Governor, was adopted and ordered to be enrolled.

On motion of Mr. Robards, the Committee on the Judiciary were instructed to report an amendment to the 45th section of the Revenue Laws relative to the double taxes collected by Sheriffs.

The bill to incorporate the Cape Fear and Western Steam boat Company, was read the third time and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Caldwell presented a bill to amend an act of 1822, to incorporate a Male and Female Academy in Charlotte; which passed its three readings and was ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Mills presented a bill to authorize the letting off and establishing a Turnpike Road from the creek, in Rutherford county, to Thomas Farm, in Buncombe county. Read and referred.

On motion of Mr. Holland, the Committee on Military Affairs were instructed to inquire into the propriety of altering the manner of appointing Field Officers of Cavalry, so as to elect them as the officers of the other Volunteer Companies.

IN SENATE.

Monday, Dec. 24, 1838.

The engrossed bill to incorporate the Rutherford Male and Female Academy; read the first time, passed, and ordered to be enrolled.

A Bill to authorize free banking (similar to the New York bill) was presented, passed