THE ROANOKE NEWS.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1878.

THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

Congressional Nominations.

FOR CONGRESS, FIRST DISTRICT:
JESSE J YEATES,
of Hertford.

FOR CONGRESS THIRD DISTRICT:
ALFRED M WADDELL,
of New Hanover.

FOR CONGRESS, FOURTH DISTRICT:
J. J. DAVIS,
of Franklin.

FOR CONGRESS, FIFTH DISTRICT:
ALFRED M SCALES,
of Guilford.

FOR CONGRESS, SIXTH DISTRICT:
WALTER L. STEELE,
of Rockingham.

FOR CONGRESS, SEVENTH DISTRICT:
ROBERT F. ARMFIELD,
of Iredell.

FOR CONGRESS, EIGHTH DISTRICT:
ROBERT B. VANCE,
of Buncombe.

ELECTION—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

THE NATIONALS.

The most recent bug-bear of modern politics is the new party recently organized, or rather now in process of organization, and called by its members the National party. Who are its leaders what its objects and how it hopes to attain these objects are all matters of dispute. The only thing definitely known on the subject being that B. F. Butler, a man who gained some local notoriety during the late war in connection with portable articles of personal property—spoons and things, has gone into the new party and is bidding for the leadership.

This new party however, without form and void as it is, seems to have carried terror to the breasts of certain gentlemen, who ought to know better. They seeming to regard the embryonic organization as the cloud no bigger than a man's hand, from which the deluge will hereafter come.

We hardly deem it necessary to say that we do not share in these alarms. While our days are yet too young to remember much of the formation and growth of the parties, a somewhat careful study of political history leads us to believe that the time has not yet come when the disorganized fragments of a beaten, dead and dispersed party, without principles and without leaders, can control the politics of the nation, and so far as can be now seen the National party, so far as it has organization, is composed of the remnants of the late National Republican party, and its leaders, if it has any, were, a very short while since, the head-lights of that now happily defunct organization.

The new National party is, in our opinion, a bugaboo to frighten children. The young man who goes into it as a means towards attaining political power will very soon feel the need of a dry nurse. The old Democratic party is alive and full of vigor. This party governed the country well for many years. We believe that it can and will do so far many more after the election of 1880.

FOR CONGRESS.

The list of Democratic nominations, for all except this, the second, Congressional districts, was completed last Thursday by the nomination at Raleigh of the tried and trusty leader of the Democratic column in the Metropolitan District, Joseph J. Davis of Franklin, and to-day we run the ticket to our mast head and begin to clear our decks for the decisive battle of November.

One thing very noticable about the ticket we present is that, with one exception, the Democratic members of the present Congress have been nominated for re-election to their posts. This simple fact speaks more than volumes for the gentlemen. Now let the people of the Districts do their duty and this list will be elected.

In this district nothing has yet been done, nor are we informed what steps the District Executive Committee have in view. Our own opinion is clear that we should have a regular Democratic ticket in the field, and for many reasons. First we should have a candidate as a means of preserving party organization. It is well to keep our supporters in the habit of voting, for while the preponderance of the negro vote in this District is such that in county and District elections we have little hope of success, there may come a time when the vote of this Congressional district will be felt with terrible effect in the State election.

Another and a stronger reason why we should have a candidate in the field is that it would be to the eternal disgrace of the white people of the district should J. E. O'Hara be allowed to win without a contest. It is our duty to protest by our votes against the shame which the black element has put upon us, and we can do this only by voting against him.

These reasons are sufficient why the Committee should give us a candidate of our own, and we call on the Committee to act at once.

RAILROAD MANAGEMENT.

We have been handed a neat pamphlet containing the proceedings had by the stockholders of the North Carolina Railroad Company at their 29th annual meeting, together with certain reports from certain officers, and from the Finance Committee, which said report from the Finance Committee is so full of "chunks" of solid monetary wisdom, that we reproduce it entire on our outside page.

In examining this pamphlet the first thing that strikes one is, that for the fiscal year ending May 31st, 1878 the excess of receipts over expenditures was $233,375,67, and that this amount had been applied to the fund for the extinguishment of the debt of the Company. This was a good showing, and, upon reading it, we turned over to the report of the Finance Committee, for the purpose of seeing how this fund was managed. If we err at all it is in being too mild when we say that this report discloses a most disgraceful system of mismanagement.

The committee opens its report in relation to the debt of the company by saying, that the amount of the bonded indebtedness of the company due on the 1st day of November 1877, and still unpaid is $81,500.00. The committee further states that it finds in the hands of N. H. D. Wilson, the Trustee of the sinking fund $135,660.00 consisting of certain items detailed. Now why this amount was allowed to remain in the hands of the Trustee, when this large debt was due and unpaid is one, of those things "that," at first sight, "no fellow can find out." We are sure that no prudent business man in the State would manage his affairs in any such manner, and we are of opinion that Trustees should manage trust funds with at least as much of care as a prudent business man would bestow on his private affairs. But an examination of the items which make up the total of $135,660.00 solves the problem. The trustee had sunk the sinking fund. Instead of extinguishing the debt, he had extinguished the fund with which the debt was to have been paid, and, when the sinking fund was to be used, it had been frittered away. To show that these strictures are deserved, we will look at the items in detail.

1. The first item consists of a judgement against the Atlantic Tennessee and Ohio Railroad Company for $48,788.80 and 31 gold bonds of the same company charged at 80 per cent. making a total investment in this company of $73,570.57. What this investment is worth we do not personally know, but gentlemen, whose judgment is relied on in business circles, have informed us that they look upon it with grave suspicion.

2 and 3. The second and third items are, we suppose good for their face value, but even in these gross negligence is evidenced by the fact, that interest on them has not been collected for nearly four years, and this interest amounting to $2000.00 is allowed to lie idle, when it should be either earning interest or paying the debt of the company.

4 The fourth item in the account is a certificate of deposit of Wilson and Shober for $25,000, with interest at 8 per cent. from 15th October 1875 secured by personal security and, mortgage on the Greensboro Female College for $16,300.00. What the personal security is we are not informed. Immediately after this 4th item is one, not numbered, consisting of a note for $17,402.07 secured by second mortgage on the Female College and a note for $5000 secured by a mortgage on 4 pianos and some furniture and $32,804.00 of notes of the Bank of Cape Fear. This develops richness. Wilson and Shober is the firm of bankers in Greensboro, which lately become so very insolvent. N. H. D. Wilson was a partner in this concern as well as trustee of the Railroad Company, and so it appears, that the trustee loaned $25,000 of the trust fund to himself, and secured this sum by vague personal security and a mortgage on a "gal school" for $16,300.00 Cold hearted courts of law would call this by a harsher name than mere mismanagement. The certificate of deposit on Wilson and Shober is not worth the paper it is written on. The personal security is not set forth so as to enable one to judge of its value, and if there is one thing that a railroad company has no use for it is a Female College. Here's $25,000 gone. The unnumbered item which follows number 4 is in much the same condition, it amounts to $22,402.07 and is secured by a 2d mortgage on the college, a mortgage on 4 pianos and a lot of furniture and some Bank of Cape Fear notes, than which, since the Harvey Terry decision, more worthless bits of paper do not exist. And, while we often hear of a railroad company's organ, this is probably the first instance on record where one indulged in pianos.

5. and 6. Items 5 and 6 are like No. 4 only more so. They bring up the amount loaned by the trustee to himself to $41,311.50 and are secured by a $10,000 mortgage on a spoke and handle factory, another very useless piece of property to a railroad and $27,605.00 more of Cape Fear Bank Notes.

9. The only remaining item worthy of separate notice is numbered 9 and consists of notes and drafts on one, V. G. Handley for $10,700 which the committee believes will be paid, which belief of theirs is shared by no other human being, with whom we have talked on the subject.

This review we think by the facts disclosed justifies us in saying all that we have on the subject.—The pamphlet to which we have referred gives further evidences of grave mismanagement by the officers of the company, such mismanagement in fact as a rash man would call corruption, but we have not space now to advert to them. We have already treated of this subject at greater length than we are in the habit of doing, but the State of North Carolina owns three millions of dollars worth of stock of the company and the people of the state have a right to see what is done with their property.

We have spoken as is our wont fully and plainly, but we have made no strictures not warranted in our opinion by the facts of the case, and our opinion in this behalf is shared by some of the best business men in the State. Men who have made fortunes for themselves by legitimate business enterprise, and who are not willing to see the fruits of their labors wasted by the incompetency or corruption of their agents.

OUR PUBLIC SCOOLS.

RINGWOOD, N. C., Aug 10th, 1878.

MESSRS EDITORS:—Allow me through your columns to present to the reading public, a few thoughts and considerations on the subject heading this article. The subject, although a trite and common one, does not receive that attention its great importance merits and demands. The object in framing our free-school system, is indeed a most wise, and laudable one—to offer and afford means to the great bulk of children, growing up around us, for obtaining a practical education—thereby becoming fitted for properly meeting and discharging the mighty responsibilities of life—I have stated the object our wise legislators had in view, in framing the free-school system, and have also stated the results it is expected would naturally and reasonably follow. Now, I ask an intelligent reading public, to notice and note, the practical workings of this system. The most important officers in this free-school department, are the school committeemen and on the manner in which they meet and discharge their duties, does success or failure to accomplish good follow.

Generally it is the duty of the Committee to employ and dismiss teachers—to locate school-houses—and in locating them, they are required both by the letter and spirit of the law, to place them in a central position i. e. in a location, best adapted to benefit and accommodate the greatest number of children, it is also their duty to determine the pay per month. It is their bounden duty to visit these schools, to see if they are properly taught, and to take a general supervision of the operation of the public schools in their respective Districts. They should endeavor to build up an educational interest, and see that the law, so far as they are charged with its execution, is properly enforced. Now Messrs. Editors, I have stated the duties that pertain to the office of the School Committee, now, generally, how do they perform their official obligations? I will try and answer by an illustration. A wants a free-school, after several interviews with the School Committee, he or she, is granted the permission, to teach one somewhere provided A will obtain a house and the school goes into operation—the Committee in many cases, hardly know where the house is located, never pay, as a general thing one single visit to see how things are conducted; finally the teacher winds up the school, the Committee give an order on the proper disbursing officer, for the money, and there the matter ends.

Now, who will say this is not the practical working of this system in our midst?

No wonder that in many cases, these schools accomplish very little good. The honest and hard working tax payers of our country are the sources from which this fund springs. They should constitute our school Committees, and not these professional men, whose duties and occupations are such, that they cannot render efficient service for the public schools. It is quite common, for children to go out of their own townships to free-schools. This is right if the emergency the law contemplates arrives, and very wrong and unjust, if allowed, contrary to law. In cases of very great hardship or inconvenience, it is allowable, and then the respective School Committees, should see to it, that each township is responsible for its free-school children, when the pay is apportioned. I conclude that if our free-school Committees would dilligently and efficiently discharge their duties, the people would take an increased interest in these schools; and as a result, we would see very general improvement. We as a people should shake off our lethargy, in this respect, and we would do well to imitate the New England States on the free-school subject. There "education is more general, than in any other part of the world; and large funds have been set apart by the different state Legislatures for the support of common schools. It is rare to find, in any part of the Eastern States, natives of the country, of mature age, who are ignorant of reading, writing and arithmetic."

What a lamentable contrast does North Carolina for instance present, when we for one moment contemplate the number, grown up to manhood, and womanhood, whose minds have never been the recipients of even the elementary principles of education?

In my next, I will endeavor to point out the good results, that would flow from our common schools if properly conducted, towards, educating, enlightening and refining the body politic.

W. C. F.