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STATE EXPENSES.

We do not think the present Legislature should reduce the salaries of the Judges. The changes made already in that department of the State government have resulted in saving \$7,500 to the people. In every other instance we would reduce the salaries, as we have said repeatedly.

We have heretofore given from time to time extracts from our State exchanges in regard to the curtailing of expenses and the reduction of salaries. We have copied elsewhere some additional expressions of opinion which we chanced to have on our table.

The Raleigh News some weeks since, in an editorial, made the following statements, which we copy because the figures given are very suggestive. It said:

"The tax levied for State purposes in 1857 was (\$2) twelve cents on the \$100 of property, and 40 cents on the poll, including the levy for the Insane Asylum and to pay interest on the public debt. For 1878 we had no interest on the public debt. In 1878 the tax on the poll was 38 cents on the \$100, and \$1.14 on the poll, considerably over three times as much. In 1878 cotton was 13 cents per pound. In 1878 the general State taxes (exclusive of interest on public debt) were under \$150,000. In 1878 the same taxes were over \$500,000, being an increase of \$350,000. The increase in county expenses is fully as much, making \$700,000 per annum drawn from an impoverished people more than was paid by a prosperous people. In 1857 the negroes paid a large proportion of the taxes. In 1878 the negroes pay little taxes, and the burden is borne by the whites. Let us return to the economical taxes of twenty years ago, and this \$700,000 left annually in the pockets of tax-payers will add greatly to bring about a return of prosperity."

We have no doubt as to the general correctness of these statements. Are they not very suggestive? Are they not well calculated to arrest the serious attention of every tax-payer? We all know what a great, what a mighty change was wrought by the carpet-bag rule. We all remember how wide and reckless the waste, how stupendous the plundering. It was the time when corruption and thievery were dominant, and when an honest man was hard to find in office. We must get back from those times. We must return to the pure, simple, economical ways of our fathers. Our good name, our necessities alike demand it.

Between 12 cents and 38 cents on the \$100 of property there is a wide difference—over three to one. As the News suggests, the great increase is not caused by the public debt, for not a penny of the principal or interest has been paid. What, then, has caused the vast increase? Let those who oppose retrenchment and reform answer?

The News shows that when the tax-payers had only to meet 12 cents on the \$100 of property, they sold their cotton for 13 cents a pound. When they have to pay 38 cents on the \$100, they can only get 7 1/2 cents for their main staple.

The News also shows that the State taxes (leaving out the public debt, principal and interest), have been increased from \$150,000, in 1857, to \$500,000, in 1878. Can there be any good reason for any such increase? Is it not owing to the magnificent ideas of party leaders? The people certainly do not favor extravagance or high taxes. By all of this extra pay—this large increase—do we have better government than in 1857?

The News further states that the increase in the expenses of county governments is at least \$700,000. We can easily believe this.

There is one fallacy underlying the argument of those who undertake to justify the present expenditures. They insist that the Democrats have

reduced the expenses very greatly as compared with Radical rule. But it must be remembered that the Radicals had so wasted the public funds that there was the widest possible margin for curtailment. The public printing, for instance, we suppose does not cost now one-sixth of what it did in 1868-69. But the real question is—do not have the expenses been reduced as compared with carpet-bag days, but how do the expenses compare with the honest, economical, frugal days prior to the war? That is the question. That is really the proper test by which to judge of the economical practices of Democrats.

The slight increase in the cost of living does not justify much increase in the salaries of officials compared with 1857. We believe that the salaries of the Governor and Judges were too small before the war. Hence we favor a moderate increase over the salaries of that time. But as a rule, we are opposed to high salaries. Bragg and Graham, Reid and Ellis the venerable Secretary Hill and other officers rendered faithful and true service to the State upon very moderate pay. We can get just as faithful service now for a moderate compensation. If the honor is not worth considering then let those who do not want or need office make their bread at some reputable employment where industry and economy will be needed. There are one thousand men in North Carolina today as good as the best—men of sense, men of probity, men of capacity and industry—who will readily accept the places of public trust at the salaries given to the men who held the offices before the war of the States. It is a great mistake to suppose that men who live off of office, men of self-assertion, men who carry the party in their pockets, or think they do, are the only men really capable of filling the offices in the gift of the people. Just as true, as capable, as faithful men are in every part of the State waiting to be called. The easiest possible thing in this life is to fill the public offices. Barkie is in every town, every village, every hamlet. There he is, ready and anxious, hat in hand, and with carpet-bag packed, ready to start for Raleigh. Give him a chance, and then see if he will not gladly be Treasurer, or Secretary of State, or Attorney General, or Commissioner of Agriculture, or any thing else, for the present salary, 50 percent. off for cash. He will do the work just as honestly, promptly, satisfactorily as it is now performed. North Carolina has never been barren in men of capacity and integrity, but they do not always get in office.

THE ALABAMA PLAN. The continued, oft-repeated violations of the rights of States on the part of the Federal authorities will necessarily attract much attention throughout the North, as well as in the South. Of course Radical papers will only see unnecessary sensitiveness and untimely aggressiveness on the part of such Southern States as may consider Federal encroachments in their Legislatures. They will accuse the South of the old stereotyped rebellious purposes, and swear that our people are disloyal, and all that. They are blinded partisans, and are ready to justify any assaults that may be made upon the sacred rights of Southern States.

But what shall the South do? Must the people sit with folded hands whilst oppressions and violations of justice and law and humanity continue? Shall the Federal Government be allowed unchallenged to invade the Courts of the State, to interfere in the elections, and with its twelve, or, fifty thousand deputy marshals, as the case may be, bulldoze voters and corrupt the ballot?

Some of the Southern States have taken initial steps in the matter. Virginia has protested through her Legislature against the inroads made upon the State Courts. Florida has protested against Federal usurpations, and Alabama, as we informed our readers recently, has through her Legislature made a solemn protest against the violations of law and the rights of free and sovereign commonwealths. Alabama has gone even farther, as we before showed. She has expressed a deliberate purpose to place the election of Presidential electors in the Legislature, instead of making her choice by popular vote, unless the Federal Government shall discon-

tinue its unwarranted and unconstitutional encroachments. Of course a State can do this under the Constitution. But it may not after all be the wisest action that could be taken.

When we regarded the many instances of Federal interference and outrages, we were inclined to endorse the propriety of the course proposed by the Alabama Legislature. But the Savannah News suggests a difficulty that had not occurred to us, and satisfies us that a State should not have recourse to such a step as that proposed, save under the extreme provocation, and when the case appeared utterly hopeless unless such treatment was resorted to. It may come, if it has not come already, that only heroic treatment can work a cure.

The News offers two objections to the Alabama plan that should be very gravely considered. We copy what it says: "The continuance of the choice of Presidential electors by the people of the States is greatly to be desired. In the first place, such manner of choosing electors is more republican in its nature. It gives the people an opportunity of themselves expressing their wishes at the ballot-box, and is therefore more in accordance with the sovereignty of the people, which is one of the chief principles of our government. "In the next place, were such choice transferred to the State Legislatures it would work harm to the Democratic party. Many States, of which New York is a conspicuous example, frequently, through Radical gerrymanderings, give Democratic majorities, yet elect Radical Legislatures. It is evident, therefore, that should this plan come into general favor, the will of the people would frequently, not be properly expressed through their Legislatures. Moreover, the temptation to all kinds of frauds and trickery in securing State Legislatures would be very greatly increased, and our country would be disgraced. It has been shown that the Radicals are adepts."

The News, however, holds that in case the outrages are to be prolonged that every Southern State should adopt the plan now undergoing discussion in Alabama. It thinks when the Democrats come into power in both Houses of Congress that Federal bulldozing will cease. We can but hope so, but we cannot say we are altogether confident of such good results. The election in 1860 will offer the old Radical party its last, its only chance of getting back into power. With such a man as Hayes in office—such a man as he has shown himself to be—and with such a Cabinet and such leaders in Congress as Blaine, Conkling, Cameron, Garfield, Conger and fifty others, the Radical party will make a desperate effort to win the fight, and to this end will leave no stone unturned, no scheme untried. They will cause fifty thousand sub-marshals to be appointed, if necessary, to compass their end. They will take any steps however iniquitous and illegal and unmerciful and unjust in order that their corrupt party may once more "rule the roost." They are bent on victory, cost what it may to the peace and prosperity of the country, because they know it is with them either political victory or political death. So it may become absolutely necessary for every State to consider and possibly to adopt the plan proposed by Alabama.

GOVERNORS' SALARIES. We have put ourselves to the trouble to ascertain the salaries of the Governors of some of the States. Alabama pays \$3,000, Connecticut \$2,000, Iowa \$3,000, Kansas \$3,000, Maine \$2,500, Michigan \$1,000, Minnesota \$3,000, Nebraska \$2,500, New Hampshire \$1,000, Oregon \$1,500, South Carolina \$3,500, Vermont \$1,000, West Virginia \$2,700, Arkansas \$3,000, Georgia, most prosperous of Southern States, pays \$4,600. Illinois, with three times the wealth and population of North Carolina, pays but \$6,000. Missouri, double as large and as rich, pays \$5,000. Ohio, with its three and a quarter million people, pays but \$4,000. New York, worth twenty times as much as North Carolina and with a population considerably over five million, can afford to pay \$10,000, even though it be excessive and anti-republican.

If North Carolina should pay its Governor \$3,000 and furnish him a home it will be doing as well, in proportion, as the most of the large and prosperous States, and be giving all that it can afford considering it owes over twenty-seven million dollars. Of course, if the Governor receives but \$3,000, it cannot be expected that other officials should receive more than two-thirds as much. It is not "so nominated in the bond."

—Despite not small things, the largest coin is always found on the smallest toe.—N. Y. Express.

INVESTIGATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA. The Teller Smelling committee, having completed its list of horrors in Louisiana, is now in Charleston, preparing another dish of "funeral baked meats" with which to entertain the country at large. It is reported as doing the work nobly. A new and highly seasoned dish of horrors is being rapidly concocted and will be sent to Congress soon, and then Conkling, Blaine, and the remainder of the carnivorous animals may feed to their utmost satisfaction and repletion. The Charleston News and Courier of Thursday says:

"From the result of the investigation, yesterday it was ascertained that the committee propose to take a pretty wide range. It is known that already witnesses have been summoned from Coffey, Kershaw, Richland, Sumter, Williamsburg, and Transylvania. The witnesses are summoned at the instance of the Republican, and other witnesses are now being, or have been, summoned from these same counties, to give the Democratic side of the matter in controversy."

Two witnesses appeared before the committee of the Radical stripe. One was absent from the polls, the other was dead drunk and fast asleep even after the polls were closed. Capt. Robt. S. Cathart and Mr. George D. Bryan, both Democrats, testified. We make room for a small portion of Mr. Bryan's testimony:

A number of colored men had told him that they wanted to vote the Democratic ticket on the day of election, but, on account of the church and society affiliations, were afraid to vote openly. He was satisfied that from 800 to 850 colored men voted the Democratic ticket in his ward. He knew of one man who had been in the colored church and society, and was afraid of whom the issue tickets had been printed. Mr. McDonald: Do you know of any instances where colored Democrats were intimidated? Witness: Yes; a year or two ago it was almost as much as a colored man's life was worth to vote the Democratic vote. Mr. Teller: Do you know of any negroes being killed on account of voting the Democratic ticket? Witness: No; but I have known white men to be killed while protecting Democratic negroes. Mr. Teller: Did you ever hear of negroes being killed because they were Republicans? Witness: No, sir.

Mr. Teller: You think, then, that the colored people would vote the Democratic ticket if they were not intimidated by their own color? Witness: I believe firmly that if the colored people were left alone more than one-half of them would vote with what is called the Democratic party in this State. I remember, in 1876, that up to Saturday night before the election a very large number of the colored people had pledged themselves to vote with us, and we would have carried the county by at least eight thousand majority. On Monday, however, there was a complete revolution among them, and it is supposed that, on Sunday, the colored preachers in the several churches gave out that if they voted the Democratic ticket they would be placed back in slavery.

Dr. Blackburn, the famous yellow fever hero of Louisville, is reported as ahead in the race for nomination for Governor of Kentucky. If the Doctor is not an old politician, familiar with the "ways that are dark," he may be beaten by some horse he little suspects.

The dwelling and one out-house of Mr. M. M. Dunlap, near Farmer's Turnout, on the Columbia & Augusta Railroad, were totally destroyed by fire yesterday morning. The house was not occupied at the time. Mr. Alexander Murrill having vacated it some days since, and Mr. Dunlap, living in Wilmington, but who had made arrangements to move to the place this morning, knew nothing of the occurrence until late yesterday afternoon. Indeed, the owner's arrangements for removal had been so far completed that his effects were packed and aboard the train for shipment to-day. He has no idea how the fire originated, except what we have stated, and naturally concludes that it was incendiary work. He estimates his loss at about \$300, the buildings being old, out of repair and small.

Arrival of Shipwrecked Seamen. The crew, nine in number, of the Norwegian barque Success from this port, before reported ashore seventeen miles south of Kitty Hawk station, arrived at Norfolk Tuesday night, in charge of the first mate, the Captain remaining at the scene of the wreck. The men reported to Col. Wm. Lamb, the Norwegian Consul at that port, by whom they were forwarded to New York. They report the vessel as having gone entirely to pieces.

Mexican War Veterans. Those ancient gentlemen who figured in the Mexican War, and who still move and have their being among us, will be pleased to know that Albert Pike has, after being laboriously matured, a ritual for the "Knights of Cactus." The National Association of the Veterans of the Mexican War will meet in Baltimore, on the 22d of February, when a national organization is to be effected, and the Cape Fear section should be represented.

Efface Your Stamps. As already stated, the latest regulations from the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Department, require that all stamps used in business in payment of the revenue tax shall be effectually effaced. The ordinary mutilation is not regarded as sufficient, and the regulations are, that they shall be so destroyed as to prevent the possibility of their being of any service again. The revenue officers are now, or soon will be, passing around, to see that the new will for our members and retail dealers, to look well to the empty cigar boxes, etc., and thereby save trouble and possibly expense.

Rev. Dr. Hides. This gentleman, who was recently wounded while bird hunting, in a note to Mr. Nathaniel Jacobs, of this city, received yesterday, and dated at Greenville, S. C., states that he has recovered from the bullet wound sufficiently to allow him to preach twice on the previous Sabbath, 10th inst. We are glad to learn not only that he is in the discharge of his pastoral duties, but that he was in fine spirits, and, ministerially, most pleasantly situated.

Gen. Abbott and the Charlotte Convention of Northern Men. We publish below a brief letter from Gen. Abbott, the copy of which is furnished by Mr. Dumont, the prime mover in the assembling of the Charlotte Convention of Northern men. This is done because a correspondent of the New York World, in a dispatch from Charlotte, writes that the General was one of the four Northern men who were not in sympathy with the movement, one of the leading objects of which was to correct wrong impressions as to the feelings and action of Southerners towards Northern settlers in the South. What may have been the motive of Gen. Abbott in withholding himself from the demonstration by absenteeism, we do not propose to discuss. It is only just, however, that he really did say should appear, and we therefore print his letter, which Mr. Dumont has transcribed and sent here:

WILMINGTON, Dec. 26, 1878. Dear Sir:—Your circular of the 18th inst. is at hand. In reply I have to say that I do not care to join in your meeting, or commit myself to any declaration which might make the Northern people and that I shall be glad to countenance any movement which will bring people here who will aid in the prosperity of the State. I am, sir, very respectfully, (Signed) J. C. ABBOTT. N. DIXON, Charlotte, N. C.

Tea Growing in the South. Mr. Mr. Gillitt Gill, of the firm of Messrs. Martin Gillitt & Co., of Baltimore, will arrive here in a few days, for the purpose of inquiring into the practicability of the growth and manufacture of tea in this country. He bears with him the following complimentary letter from Wm. G. Le Due, Commissioner of Agriculture: "To the growers of tea plants in the South. "The bearer of this, Mr. Gillitt Gill, of the firm of Messrs. Martin Gillitt & Co., Baltimore, has had great experience in the manipulation of tea, not only in China and Japan, but last spring successfully manufactured tea of a superior quality from leaves grown in Washington and South Carolina. Mr. Gill visits the tea districts of the South for the purpose of inquiring into the practicability of its growth and manufacture, and will cheerfully give valuable information to all interested in the growth of the plant."

At several points in the South, among them Windsor in this State, the plants have been grown successfully from shrubs sent from Washington. Their value has never been utilized, and we trust that he will be able to interest our people in the culture of tea.

Sudden Death. It was noised around early yesterday morning that some one had died suddenly aboard the steamer Waco, Capt. Robeson, which arrived here from Fayetteville about dawn. Upon inquiry we ascertained that the report was untrue. Mr. C. V. Pridden, of Pender county, went to bed on the previous night without any indication of being the least indisposed, and next morning was found dead in his berth aboard the steamer. An inquest held by Coroner Hewlett resulted, as was to have been anticipated, in a verdict that he came to his death from natural causes. He made the trip here with the purpose of consulting Dr. J. Francis King as to his health, but did not live to have the benefit of his treatment. The exact cause of Mr. Pridden's decease is unknown, but persons acquainted with him think it was produced by heart disease.

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Large Turnout at the Produce Exchange—Prompt and Wise Action. The meeting yesterday at the Produce Exchange, refreshes our confidence in the spirit, intelligence and sagacity of the business men of the city. The attendance, and the interest exhibited, alike assure us that a firm resolve is growing in our midst no longer to be passive when vital interests are in jeopardy.

Donald MacRae, Esq., president, and Capt. Robert Lilly filled the Secretaryship. On assuming the position of chairman, Mr. MacRae remarked that the object of the meeting was to take into consideration matters affecting the general prosperity of this city, and more particularly to take some action in regard to the proposed extension of the Raleigh & Augusta Air-Line Railroad from Halifax to Charlotte, which, if carried out by the projectors of this road, would seriously affect the commercial interests of Wilmington.

As soon as the chairman announced business in order, Col. John W. Atkinson offered a motion, which was seconded by Col. Roger Moore, that the chair request the Presidents of the Chamber of Commerce, Produce Exchange and Board of Trade to name a committee of three from each of their respective bodies, to visit Raleigh in the interest of this city, and to represent the interests of Wilmington generally in petitioning the General Assembly for any legislation touching the interests of this section of the State.

The motion was adopted without dissent, and so was one authorizing the same officer to designate three persons from the citizens at large, to co-operate with and constitute a part of the committee. The chairman was added to the delegate list, making a committee of thirteen, and, thus constituted, they were requested to proceed to Raleigh and labor to prevent the adoption of the obnoxious and suicidal legislation referred to in the STRA of Saturday.

Mr. DuBruzut Cutler then presented a memorial to the General Assembly, urging the repeal of the privilege and purchase tax, which was cordially endorsed by those present and approved with their signatures. A motion was made and carried for the appointment of persons to carry the memorial around to the different business men of the city for further signatures. The meeting then adjourned.

It was a harmonious, earnest body of citizens, who appreciate—what every North Carolinian should feel—that no scheme of internal improvement should be authorized which confers the major portion of its benefits on communities beyond the State lines and destroys home development.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN. The Called Meeting Yesterday—What was Done. The Board of Aldermen met in called session at the City Hall, yesterday afternoon, at 4 o'clock: Present, His Honor Mayor S. H. Fishblate, and Aldermen Myers, Flanner, Bowden, Vollers, Foster, Vogt, Glahn, Kipp and Lowrey.

The Mayor stated that he had called the Board together to take some action in regard to the bill now pending before the Legislature, granting a charter to extend the Raleigh & Augusta Air-Line Railroad from Sanford to Charlotte. Mr. H. E. Scott, member of the Legislature from this county, being present by request of the Mayor, made some remarks and also advocated the necessity of a delegation to go to Raleigh to defeat the measure.

Alderman Foster moved that a committee of ten tax-payers be appointed, the Mayor to be one of the committee, to go to Raleigh for the purpose of representing the interests of Wilmington before the Legislature in the matter of said bill, and that one hundred dollars be appropriated to cover the expenses of said committee. The Board then adjourned.

A Tar Heel was a Georgian. At the Parcell House, an evening or two since, a fellow from Georgia was telling a crowd about the fine timber in "Middle Georgia," when a stranger, who had nervously listened to the wonderful account of the forests of the Empire State of the South, and who, in his excitement, had almost floated the establishment in tobacco juice, called a halt by a contemptuous comment on the subject of the story, and, biting off a fresh half plug of tobacco, collapsed all the tall timber tales we have heard recently. "That ain't nothing," he said, "fifty down in Hertford county, where I come from, there is a thicket of white oak sapplings, any one of which will measure ten feet through, and there ain't a limb or branch for full fifty feet from the ground. In the fall the acorns under these trees will measure five inches deep."

The Hertford county man was about six feet high, and built accordingly, readily suggesting that he lived among the sapplings which he had been telling about. As he finished his story, he cast his eyes around on the crowd and said: "If there is anybody here that don't believe I'm telling the truth, he wants to say so, that's all."

Nobody wanted to say so, it seemed, and quiet reigned supreme until the Georgian meekly deplored "what time the 'uns' left for the depot."

Some one bulldozed our copy of the Charlotte Observer, hence we can gather no item from that abundant field. The Wilson Advance has just entered upon its fifth volume. We are pleased to learn that its prospects are most flattering.

Charlotte Democrat: Mr. Jarvis will make a good Governor, having been a life-long Democrat and always conservative in every respect.

We are glad indeed that Messrs. Long and Hall have become the editors of the Weldon News. We hope they will be abundantly rewarded. Weldon is a good point, and a well conducted paper ought to succeed there.

Kinston Journal: Mr. and Mrs. McPherson, of the Society of Friends, have been holding a series of revival meetings at the Methodist church in this place for the last week. The Methodists are building a new house of worship at Lee's Chapel.

Goldboro Messenger: Judge Faircloth has formed a law partnership with Mr. F. M. Simmons, of Jones county, a promising young lawyer. Mr. Robert Kornegay, of Mt. Olive, had the misfortune to lose \$100 in this town on Tuesday.

Charlotte Observer: It is stated that the Countess of Burgundy who has been travelling in this country for some time, will arrive in this city to-day with her suite, en route to Florida, and will be met by a special car, which will be attached to the train that arrives at 11.17 this morning.

Winston Sentinel: A note from Yadin says: "The revenue officers are playing havoc in this county. Sixteen of them are camping and scouring the country close for illicit whiskey and tobacco. Considerable excitement among the blockaders. They seized some whiskey stamped according to law, so Madam Rumor says."

Jimmy Robinson can keep up his bright, new paper, the Winston Leader, to the mark he has reached in the first number, he will have the gratification of having his paper published in the weeklies in the State, and one of the best among our exchanges. Price \$1.50, and no patent outside or inside.

Louisburg Times: We regret to learn the death of Mr. Allen Harris, one of Franklin's aged citizens, who died Tuesday last, at his residence in this town. Thirteen lunas are supported in Franklin county, by the State, at a cost of \$1,500,000. Tax the curs. The Reform Legislature, 1878. The people are watching you closely.

Salisbury Watchman: Wheat and oats are much injured by the late freeze. Our young townsmen, Mr. George D. Woodson, who flew to Texas last