

Table with 3 columns: Name, Address, and other details. Includes names like Wm. A. R. and others.

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RAILROADS AND SELFISHNESS.

It is really amusing to see how friendly certain North Carolina papers are to Wilmington during excursion times and other occasions when the interests of our city are in no way involved.

When we protest against unjust, unpatriotic, unwise legislation we are charged with selfishness, and it is declared that Wilmington does not and cannot offer the advantages of rival ports in other States.

We wish our Wilmington people to see how well the Cape Fear section is appreciated in some portions of the State—what strong friends Wilmington has in the Charlotte Observer, and to that end we make some extracts from its issue of the 29th:

"The opposition to this bill, and the only opposition which it has encountered or is likely to encounter, comes from Wilmington and its friends and from the Carolina Central Railroad. It is claimed that this proposed line will divert business from Wilmington and carry it to Norfolk and Portsmouth. This is the whole head, front and bowels of the opposition, which is entirely and confessedly selfish.

Although it is an adroit statement of the case. We can but admire the skill with which the Observer makes the worse appear the better reason.

does not wish its own interests to be protected and advanced at the expense of other sections of the State. Wilmington says, here is a seaport upon which hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended in deepening the channel and making it accessible to ships of large tonnage.

We can offer as many and as great facilities to the West as can Norfolk or Charleston. Wilmington, therefore, protests against any and all legislation that puts her at a disadvantage and that favors ports in other States.

Wilmington claims that she can offer and does offer as good inducements to Western North Carolina as Norfolk offers, that a road has already been constructed at a large expense connecting Charlotte with Wilmington, that she is a North Carolina city, and that she has a right to expect from the State government a true parental watch-care—a genuine fostering spirit, and not a system of rule and legislation that will retard her growth, if not cause her streets to be covered with grass and her marts to become desolate.

Wilmington asks the Legislature of North Carolina to give her people at least an equal chance with those of other States. The Western people have already outlets to the North and South. It is now asked that a road shall be constructed that will give the finishing blow to some hundred and ninety miles of railway, and all that a foreign corporation may carry out its ambitious schemes, the end of which will be to impoverish or greatly injure North Carolina and enrich sections beyond.

But will not such a scheme be characteristic of North Carolina? Is it not true that we would rather see Norfolk, Richmond, Charleston great and prosperous than to see Wilmington or Morehead growing or widening in its operations? North Carolina has been so long a howler of wood and a drawer of water for other peoples that we suppose it must continue to be so to the end.

The Charlotte Observer, in its zeal to injure Wilmington, and to aid the managers of the "Little Ambition," as Joe Turner was wont to call the Raleigh & Augusta road, says further of our people:

"We are astounded by the position taken upon this question by some of our Wilmington friends. They seem to have entirely lost sight of the remainder of the State. The idea of asking a Legislature to refuse a railroad company the right to extend its line through a rich country, with its own money, is not only selfish and unpatriotic in the extreme, but monstrous.

How does the Observer know that the proposed road will be built "with its own money"? We have not the slightest idea that the road to Hamlet from Raleigh was built "with its own money." We have no doubt that at least a half million of dollars was expended in its construction, much of which belonged to women and children all over North Carolina.

The Observer is pleased to assume all along that Wilmington cannot offer the advantages of other ports, and that, therefore, it is highly proper in North Carolina legislators to do all which it can to put her farther in the rear, and to make it only a question of time as to her final and complete decadence.

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A PLAN TO REDUCE AND PAY OFF FINALLY THE STATE DEBT. The conference between a sub-committee of the Virginia Legislature and the bondholders adjourned without results. No propositions were made nor indicated by the creditors.

Without indorsing this suggestion, we have this to say. Any honest, well-meant plan is better than no plan. Our Legislatures in the past have dawdled so long and done so little that the creditors do not believe that our people have resolved to make a sincere effort to pay their indebtedness, in part or in whole.

It strikes us that the proposition of the Mail will meet with this difficulty. As soon as it is known that the State has provided an annual sinking fund of \$300,000, the market value of bonds will at once be enhanced, and it may turn out that the price paid may be excessive, or more than we can afford to pay.

The Mail concludes: "Our plan, in a nut shell, is to purchase our own bonds at their market value, and to raise the money to do so out of our own pockets; here our citizens, with a gleam of hope that the vineyard of our generous Nabhath can be coveted with success."

A well known colored legislator, Syphax by name, has written a letter to Senator Windom, in which he strongly opposes that Senator's resolution in regard to the migration of the colored people.

"Your measure refers to Congressional districts in which it is alleged the colored people are denied the right of suffrage. Now there is no material trouble in any section in which the whites are in the majority, but in such as have majorities of colored men. So the effect would be to get rid of this problem by removing American citizens from their native homes in order that undisputed control shall pass into the hands of the whites. Let such a request come from Southern Senators, if they desire it, who are interested in this matter, if interested at all, and not from a Senator from Minnesota. Who is able to state that it is less possible for the white people of the South to live on proper terms with the colored people of their section, when the cobweb of confusion shall be swept away, than it is for them to live on such terms with the people of the North? Have time and opportunity justified such a judgment?"

Why do the legislators delay in the matter of cutting down the salaries? Are they afraid to do right? Are they afraid of the people? The people—the taxpayers—of North Carolina are with them. Nay, they demand that the expenses and salaries shall be lopped. Then go to work at once and do the lopping. Do not wait on the lobby any longer. Of course all present office-holders and their friends, and all expectant Barkises will din your ears, but act, men of the Legislature, and act at once.

Wilson has just sent four convicts to the penitentiary, all for stealing.

The Charlotte papers are piping sweetly about free railroads and broad schemes of policy. They no doubt think Charlotte will get a benefit. It matters not how much the injury visited upon others so they can get a big lift, tauced or actual.

If the present Legislature undertakes to carry out the plans of the railroad schemers, and to thus destroy old and important lines of railroads as well as to injure the only commercial city in the State, and all this to benefit a few clamorous foreigners who have no real interest in North Carolina beyond what they can make out of her, then it will pave the way to some astonishing results in 1880 in the Cape Fear section.

It seems but plain justice to protect them in the exclusive and unchallenged enjoyment of this. Neither native nor alien Ahab should be flattered with a gleam of hope that the vineyard of our generous Nabhath can be coveted with success.

The Railroad Excitement. Under this caption the Raleigh Observer of yesterday says: "The Treasurer's private office was filled yesterday evening until there was scarcely standing room by the crowd of interested parties and lookers on in the railroad war."

This county, while its people are not particularly immoral, is well represented in the State prison. The "roll of honor" of that institution shows that New Hanover ranks as one of the five counties which send the largest delegations. The count of noses runs thus: Wake 27, New Hanover 23, Edgecombe 21, Rowan 24, Wilson 23. Seven are sentenced for life, three for 20 years, and five for 10.

A Word for Wilmington. If the pros and cons were even our vote should be cast for Wilmington. That fine old town ought not to be refused a reasonable request at the hands of any representative body of North Carolinians, and such we believe the present Assembly to be.

A Plan for Wilmington from the West. [Correspondence of the News.] MOUNT AIRY, N. C., Jan. 28. Reasoning from analogy and the success of other States it will seem that the railroads ought to converge to a common centre, and that centre should be the best seaport.

Why should not Wilmington rejoice at the prospect of tapping the nearest mountain section to her? Would it not look fair since the long way of the State has one road from the mountains to the sea that the short way should have one too? I was glad our patriotic Governor recommended State aid to the Fayetteville & Greensboro Railroad. This through the Cape Fear, would for the present be a step towards recognizing more fully than we have heretofore done the fact that we have a commercial metropolis.

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Which One owns Us? [Raleigh News.] Raleigh will only be a way station between Norfolk and Charlotte, so far as western freights are concerned, if the R. & A. Air Line get leave to extend to Hamlet.

It is well enough to have two lines of travel to the West, but this we at present enjoy. It is fallacious to regard the increased competition which is promised in the light of a blessing. Richmond is now building up at our expense by reason of a switch-off at Greensboro and our representatives are asked to build up Norfolk by allowing a foreign line to enter Charlotte.

Let salaries and fees be reduced. Let the officeholder receive a fair, but not an extravagant compensation. Every man who serves his State is entitled to a decent living as a reward for his services, but in no Republican government should that embrace a luxurious living.

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The Raleigh Observer says there are not enough lawyers in the Lower House of the General Assembly to make a judiciary committee of lawyers.

Shelby Aurora: There has been over 4,000 bales of cotton shipped from the depot at this place this season. This is an increase of 1,500 bales over last season.

Raleigh News: "Retrenchment 6-1," said a profane solon, "and applies to this city as to twenty-five cents per dozen. In my county twenty-five cents would buy a wagon load. Retrenchment means the removal of the capital beyond the Ridges."

Salisbury Watchman: Messrs. N. S. Higgins, M. B. Woodward, Joseph Cope and E. H. Gove, all of Pennsylvania, have purchased the O'Neal & Snyder gold mine for \$60,000; also the Trexler hills, and are pushing ahead energetically, erecting stamp mills and other machinery to extract the precious metal.

Folkton Argus: We advise our friends in all the local and State meetings at once and send up the names of good men to the Legislature for Magistrates. With the powers of the Justices of the Peace enlarged it will be highly important that men of stability and intelligence be selected. The majority of our Magistrates are lamentably ignorant of law.

Raleigh News: The late rain-flooded Tar river. It was a foot higher than the water mark of 1867. Mr. Hobgood, President of the Raleigh Female Seminary, tells us that in the month of January a physician has been called in to attend a case of sickness among the large number of pupils at his school. This speaks well for the health of the institution and of Raleigh.

Clinton Chronicle: Mr. Robt. Ball, a soldier of the war of 1812, died at his residence in this vicinity on Saturday last, after a protracted illness. He was about eighty years of age. Mr. Ball, Vernon, who lives on Sandy Creek, near Ringold depot, while walking on the track of the Richmond & Danville Railroad a few days ago, slipped and fell, which so stunned him that two trunks containing his head while he was down, and, strange to say, he was not killed.

Chatham Record: We regret to learn that, on last Saturday night, the store of Mr. E. D. Patterson, of this county, had his store broken into and robbed of about \$100 worth of goods. We are pleased to learn that strong hopes are entertained of inducing Mr. E. J. Hale, Sr., to take charge of the Fayetteville Gazette, which recently suspended publication. Such an acquisition to the journalism of the State would be welcomed with peculiar gratification.

Raleigh News: A gentleman reported yesterday that on Haw River persons were destroying great numbers of fish by the explosion of charges of dynamite in the river. The committee of three, appointed by the Legislature to investigate the W. N. C. R. R., leaves tomorrow evening. They stop at Salisbury, Statesville, Hickory, Morganton and the head of the road. The following named members of the Board were appointed as an Executive committee of the University: The Governor, ex-officio Chairman of the committee; Hon. P. C. Cameron, G. V. Strong, W. L. Saunders, R. H. Battle, J. S. Carr, E. Grissom and A. L. Lewis.

Raleigh Observer: Wake pays more than twenty-five times as much tax as some of her sister counties. She paid this year \$6,196 41 for the support of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind and Insane Asylum, and \$4,135 for the cost of the penitentiary and support of convicts. The total tax paid, both special and public, was \$36,388.09. The real black minstrelns gave a creditable performance at the destruction of the building, which was witnessed by a large crowd, among them many legislators. A Martin street runaway, yesterday afternoon, came near slaying a brave fireman, when the fireman's friends near by thought there could be two vacant chairs in the House to-day.

Winston Sentinel: On Town Fork, about fourteen miles north of Winston, the robins have established an immense roost in the red broken along that stream, and every night thousands of birds gather there, and the neighbors go with bags and gather them in with their hands in such quantities as they desire. Joshua Righte, the oldest citizen of Winston, died at his residence on last Saturday night. Mr. Righte was born in Salem on the 20th of April, 1793, in a house that stood on the corner where the Salem Bank is now located. The growth of the business in Winston may be gathered from the fact that the first office of the Postmaster at this place hardly reached \$300. Now the office is a third rate office with a salary of \$1,800.

Spirits Turpentine.

Judge Kerr's health is still feeble. Dr. Tippe S. Brownlow, a venerable and highly esteemed citizen of Warrenton, is dead, aged 85 years. The Wilson Advance is in error. Col. Saunders was editor of the Wilmington Journal—now defunct—and not the Star.

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