

ADVERTISING SCHEDULE.

Table with advertising rates for various durations: 12 Months, 6 Months, 3 Months, 1 Month, 1 Week, 1 Day.

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Subscription Price.

The subscription price of the WEEKLY STAR is as follows: Single Copy 1 year, postage paid, \$1.50; 6 months, " 1.00; 3 " " .50.

FINE TOBACCO.

The Hickory Press thinks Catawba is entitled to the "banner" as the best county for fine tobacco. Its sales will hardly sustain the claim as yet.

The STAR might have published, but did not publish, the able speech of Mr. Dortch, the sharp, incisive and clear attack of Judge Russell upon the bill of abominations and almost complete surrender of the interests of the whole State, and especially of Wilmington and this section of North Carolina.

We believe the above to be a fair statement of the course of the STAR. Considering that we hold the scheme to sell out the interests of the people to be very reprehensible, and that the Best bill and the new bill are not entitled to the support of any friend of Wilmington or of this section of the State, we think our readers will agree that the STAR has done all that should be required, and towards the opposition has "toted more fairly" than the Robesonian has "toted" towards the STAR.

The Robesonian, in its issue of the 17th of March, is pleased to say that the STAR has "failed signally to define its position" as to the Western North Carolina Railroad. This reads a little curious in view of the leader in the STAR of February 27th, beginning thus:

"Let it be understood the STAR is not opposed to the sale of the Western North Carolina Railroad. But we do say that it ought not to be sold on the terms proposed in the bill (Best) printed in the STAR of Thursday."

We respectfully submit that this is plain to most understandings. Be it remembered that this opinion has been iterated and reiterated from day to day, so that a wayfaring man, even though he should be the editor of the Lumberton Robesonian, could not mistake "the position" of the STAR. Furthermore, nothing contradictory of this opinion can be found in the columns of the STAR. As soon as we saw the text of the Best bill we denounced it. The STAR is not one of the latter-day saints in the matter of the abominations of the Best sell-out.

Mr. Edward J. Hale, in his letter to Hale's Weekly, pays Prof. Kerr a tribute to which he is entitled. He mentions how in a recent meeting of Miners held in New York, our geologist was able to throw important light upon a puzzle that perplexed the meeting. A nodule of quartz from Colorado held a lump of water-worn gold in its centre. How did it get there? Mr. Hale says:

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(ohinquepin) or gray soil can be made bright. The most of it, however, will not have that rich, fine texture, silk gloss, and excellent body that the best golden colored tobacco of Granville and adjoining sections have. It is a mistake, therefore, and it is quite common we find, to look at the yellow tobacco and to conclude at once because it is yellow that it is as good or better than the famous weed of a few counties.

If our memory serves us right, the STAR did not publish Jarvis' and Worth's letters, and was tardy in publishing Saunders', and if that is so, etc.—Lumberton Robesonian.

The STAR published the Best bill entire. It published all of the main points in the address of Governor Jarvis. It published all of the letter of Col. Saunders. It did not publish the Worth letter because it had nothing or but little to do with the proposed sell out of the railroad and the people. So much for the Best side.

The STAR has published none of the documents in opposition except Col. McRae's telling exposure of the enormities of the Best bill, and one of Major Hearne's letters that mostly concerned Wilmington and had really but little to do with the controversy and Mr. Dortch's two bills.

The STAR might have published, but did not publish, the able speech of Mr. Dortch, the sharp, incisive and clear attack of Judge Russell upon the bill of abominations and almost complete surrender of the interests of the whole State, and especially of Wilmington and this section of North Carolina. It might have published, but did not publish, Ma or Hearne's first letter, that contained some strong points against the Best bill.

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"After several others had expressed their views, Professor W. C. Kerr, of North Carolina, related his observations among the gold-bearing sands and rocks of North Carolina. He had seen silicified trunks of trees which had been dug from these deposits under such circumstances as show that this substitution of quartz for other material is still going on. Professor Kerr also stated that gold-bearing sand is now being worked for the second and even for the third time, and with good results. This fact shows that the invisible atoms of gold which pervade a sand-bank may be collected by their mutual attractions into visible grains, just as the snow in a cloud is collected into flakes during its fall to the earth. Professor Kerr was listened to, as always, with great respect, and it was generally agreed that his remarks had thrown much light upon the beautiful but mysterious phenomenon before the Association."

Mr. H. says that Professor Kerr knows more of our State than any man who has lived in it, and that he is able to do more for it, in his peculiar profession. We agree with him that it would be a great loss if the State should be deprived of his knowledge and experience.

THE WILMINGTON OBSERVER.

That we might assure our Raleigh contemporary, the Observer, that we had no purpose to misrepresent, it we wrote a hurried paragraph for the first page of the STAR of yesterday. The Observer is very positive that it never indorsed the Best bill without amendment. We willingly accept its assurance, and regret that we have misunderstood, and, consequently, misrepresented its position. As far as we know it has been commonly understood here that the Observer was the special champion of the Best bill which is so offensive to the intelligence of Wilmington with but some scattering exceptions. We willingly give the Observer the full benefit of a correction in our columns. We must add, however, and we intend no offence, that we regard with one exception the amendments offered by the Observer as worth but little. It is practical decidedly when it requires Best to pay down in cash at least \$400,000. That is the most sensible suggestion that has been injected into the discussion on the other side. A less courteous disputant than ourselves might say that it was the only sensible suggestion that had been made.

The Observer complains that we copy from the Greensboro State for "misrepresentation of the Observer." We saw some points made in that paper which struck us as timely and just, and we, therefore, copied them. Because it was a Republican paper did not alter the case in the least. If true, it could not be made false because a Republican paper said it. If false, it could not be converted into truth by the same process. The State is in the right in this contest. The STAR believes honestly, thoroughly in the iniquities, injustice, and inequalities of the Best proposition. It believes the whole scheme as set forth is a great error, and that every true North Carolinian ought to oppose it to the bitter end. So believing, we very naturally prefer the support of a Republican paper to its opposition. It is quite natural that we should prefer the utterances that are with us to those that are against us. We have not designed to treat the Observer with "injustice." We esteem its editor too highly to do him a wrong intentionally.

We have as little sympathy with the "methods" of the Observer as it can have possibly with the "methods" of the STAR in this controversy. We have seen nothing for many years that is as offensive to our best convictions of right and equity and wisdom as the abominable bill that finds its staunchest friends and advocates among men of ability and prominence in the Democratic party. If the Best bill passes without fundamental amendments, it will be a great outrage, as we steadfastly believe.

Possibly the STAR misapprehended the Observer in the paragraph referred to in connection with Col. McRae. Whether the fault should be laid to our stupidity or the Observer's obscurity we will not take time to determine. To us it is of no consequence, and if we misrepresented the Observer we here make whatever correction may be necessary.

As far as we are concerned we are done with long discussions of the Railroad sell out. When the Legislature assembled we were disposed to withhold our hand. The Raleigh papers appear to have warmed up to the work recently. It is unfortunate that the people are without a representative among the Raleigh morning papers. Both the Observer and News are doing their utmost in behalf of a sale. We are afraid to say what kind of a sale they favor lest we misunderstand their positions, and might, consequently, unintentionally misrepresent them. We believe, however, we may safely class them as strenuously advocating a sale, and upon some such plan, if we mistake not, as the new bill. But we are not assured of this, so we do not give the exact plan they favor.

The STAR is opposed now and forever to any such sale as is proposed in either of the bills that Gov. Jarvis has indorsed. We believe he has indorsed them, but we would not misrepresent him for the world, and if he has not indorsed one or both really we will give him the full benefit of a disclaimer at once.

We regret that the Observer and STAR ever disagree and cannot unite heartily in the present fight against

rings. We like the Observer in many respects, and if it were not that it would require the sacrifice of principle we would gladly endeavor to make our "methods" more pleasing to our esteemed contemporary. But every paper must follow the light it has. The STAR is doing what it believes to be its duty. It is certainly obeying conscience. It is an independent Democratic paper, and not an organ. It reserves to itself the right always to freely criticize the action of the party it supports when that action is unwise, improper, dishonest, unjust or impolitic.

The STAR is heartily sick of Railroad literature, and it rejoices that the time is short before there must be a surcease if not an ending of the matters in dispute. The next step after the sale will be probably endless litigation in the Courts. The bill of abominations will prove, it may be, not only a bill of sale but a bill of litigation.

It is difficult to be right and accurate. Our friend of Hale's Weekly pointed out an error into which papers had been betrayed in regard to the expenses of the Agricultural Bureau. We made the needed correction, and now our friend of the Farmer & Mechanic tells us that we are again misled. It asks us to note a fact as furnished by the State Treasurer, to this effect:

"That the receipts of the Agricultural Department (alone) for the past three years were \$69,102.81, including nearly \$1,200 tonnage tax, which has been refunded. Will they also note the further fact that the cost of the two Bureaus for three years, ending March 1st, were not \$51,273.76, as stated by them, but were nearly seventy thousand, as shown by the State Treasurer in these columns last week. Here are Treasurer Worth's figures: The Agricultural Dept. and one year of Prof. Kerr's... \$58,870.45 and Feb. 1880... 2,870.57 Printing—paid by the State... 976.58 Prof. Kerr's Department, two years, 1878-79... 10,000.00

Total for both to March 1st... \$67,738.60. "This much is positively official. But this is not all. It does not include the cost of the paper, etc., for Col. Polk's 5,000 large Hand-books which paper was paid for by the State under the general head of "Stationery." The publisher of the hand-books put this item alone at above \$1,900. "Moreover it should be noted that the Treasurer's figures run only to March 1st, whereas the third year ended March 13, nearly two weeks later, embracing considerable expense. Furthermore, the track salaries for the quarter are settled, together with a number of warrants issued but not yet checked off upon the Treasurer's books."

Judge Merrimon addressed the members of the Legislature on Thursday evening on the proposed sale of the Western North Carolina Railroad. We have not read the abstract in the Observer. We copy the following, which gives in part his views:

"Redraft the bill again, and make it a fair business proposition, so that you can complete the sale of the work. It is easy if it is for them, if they have the means which they say they have, to put up collateral, say \$500,000 or \$1,000,000, as a guarantee, the amount to be surrendered when they comply with their contract. The new bill is worse than the old one, in not providing that they are to pay damages. He did not believe they would invest the \$7,500,000 capital necessary to build the road to Cleveland. In his opinion the result will be that the State will slowly build the road with her convicts. He doubted if even Mr. Best himself knew the purposes of those whom he represents. What he would suggest is that the Legislature cut off all these possibilities. If this bill was passed he did not believe the road would be built in two generations."

A VOICE FROM THE MOUNTAINS.

We have received a very long and logical discussion of the first Best bill, in which its enormities in part are laid bare. It is from the pen of one who lives on the Ducktown road. He is a Republican in politics, and has studied the bill with care evidently. It is too late to be used with effect now, and is too long for our columns. It covers about twenty pages of legal cap. It is an earnest and forceful plea against the bill that Gov. Jarvis indorsed. The writer does not oppose a sale. He is anxious for it, but he wants a sale made in such a way as to secure beyond a doubt the construction of the Ducktown road. He wants every possible safeguard. He is satisfied the Best proposition will not do, and that when the people of Western North Carolina understand the matter they will oppose heartily the sale on the proposed terms. He thinks the Best proposition will leave the people of Western North Carolina in a worse condition than if no sale or transfer of property had been made. He thinks the bill offers many openings for successful fraud and mischief, such as to defeat forever the building of the Ducktown line. The communication is well worth considering, and it would have been well if it had been circulated in the westmontane counties before the sale was made. But the haste of the

Governor in calling the Legislature together in extra session has prevented the people from understanding the important interests at stake, or from the needed documents being distributed.

We will copy a few of his objections. By comparing the two bills it will be seen in what particulars the objections that follow will apply to the second as well as to the first bill. He says:

"From a careful reading of the proposed bill I find these propositions either true or apparently so: "First, That Messrs Best & Co. will have to raise the means to complete the road by mortgages on it, which does not seem to suggest that they possess or can control sufficient funds to complete the road without using what the State transfers to them as a basis on which and out of which to build."

"Second, That a failure on their part to comply with the contract only works a forfeiture of the grant contained in the deed of trust to be deposited in the hands of the United States Trust Company, while it leaves Messrs. Best and associates free to make out any bills they may see proper under cover of 'actual and necessary expenses' incurred in constructing and equipping said road, to the amount of \$50,000 on the Point Rock line, and to any unlimited amount on the Ducktown line, which becomes a charge against the State and lies upon the road, and the State."

"Fourth, That by getting control of the \$500,000 already outstanding as a lien against said road, together with their 'actual and necessary expense' accounts for building the Point Rock line and the Ducktown line to Pigeon River, they can control about \$2,000,000 against the road, for which they can force a sale and get a title, even after the forfeiture of the grant contained in the deed, by virtue of a purchase forced upon these construction claims and mortgages."

"Sixth, That under the terms of this bill, if Messrs. Best & Co. desire it, they can build the Point Rock line to its terminus, issue mortgage bonds that are not payable until the road is completed to Murphy; make a forfeiture of the Point Rock line; sell out on the 'actual and necessary' expenses claims, matured coupons on outstanding bonds, &c., purchase the same and acquire as good title as they would have by the State Commissioners grant; refuse to build the Ducktown line, thereby defeating their mortgage bonds ever maturing, and combine with the bondholders of the Spartanburg & Asheville Railroad Company; sell out; establish connections with the roads between Cincinnati and Charleston, thereby cutting Western North Carolina entirely off, from connection with our own eastern cities, and forever defeat the building of the Ducktown line."

"The most objectionable features are contained in Sections 12 and 13 of this proposed bill, and should ever pass in its present shape, it, as a citizen living west of Asheville, immediately on the Ducktown line, could feel no kind of assurance that Messrs. Best and Company would ever complete the road westward. There is no unquestionable guarantee in the bill which can be construed favorably for that line. There is no forfeiture provided for that cannot be easily overcome, while there is ample power conferred upon Best & Co. to finally and effectually defeat its ever being built by the State or any other means. The building of that line from Asheville, west to Pigeon River, may be used as a sham unit in the manipulations necessary to be arranged for making the Cincinnati and Charleston through line as perfected and secured into the hands of Messrs. Best & Co., or their assigns, after which they may refuse to strike another stroke upon our Western line, which may remain for all time to come as a monument to the folly and inconsiderate haste of our people by allowing themselves to be precipitated into such a transfer as is not unlikely to follow the passage of the proposed bill, or one of similar import. The bill as it now stands is uncertain and unsafe; its adoption I believe to be impolitic if not suicidal to our dearest interests."

Mr. S. C. Griggs, a Chicago publisher, states that he knows that the poem entitled "The River of Time" was written in 1850 by Benjamin F. Taylor. Mr. Taylor was quite competent to have written it. But did he or Philo Henderson write it, to whom it is generally credited? We cannot certify to it, but we have an impression that we saw the poem before 1850. There must be some copies hid away in some of the old scrap books of the State. Our impression is that a copy of the poem was pasted on the walls of an old newspaper office some years before 1850, but it is impression only.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Raleigh Observer, closes its leader of Saturday with the following encouraging reflections:

"We understand that the feeling among the members is favorable to a sale if the proposition shall contain what appears to be satisfactory assurances of building the road to Ducktown. In the absence of such assurances they would prefer to build the Point Rock branch by other instrumentalities than those offered by Mr. Best. Something has been said of the personal character of Mr. Best and of those capitalists with whom he is associated. That weight but little with the Observer, and, as far as we can understand, still less with the members. They will want stronger bonds than reputation. The best guarantee of good faith is a good cash. The road is dirt cheap at four hundred thousand dollars cash. We would be unwilling to let it go for less."

There is one encouraging fact in the literary activity of Great Britain. During the year 1879 there were 807 novels published and 700 volumes of theology. So people are more interested in that country in the great question of salvation—of God and his revealed will, than they are in pleasant or unpleasant stories written for recreation.

THE GREAT "SELL."

Meeting of Business Men and Other Citizens at the Produce Exchange Yesterday.

In response to a call from the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Produce Exchange, quite a number of our prominent business men assembled at the Produce Exchange yesterday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, to consult and exchange views in regard to the proposed sale of the Western North Carolina Railroad.

On motion of Mr. C. H. Robinson, President of the Produce Exchange, A. H. Van Bokkelen, Esq., President of the Chamber of Commerce, was called to the Chair, and, upon further motion, Mr. T. Calhoun James was appointed Secretary.

The meeting being organized, the Chairman stated that Mr. DuBruz Cutler, who had just arrived from Raleigh, was present, and requested that gentleman to give the meeting some idea of the feeling and sentiments of the members of the Legislature and other prominent men in Raleigh with regard to the proposed sale of the road in question. Mr. Cutler thereupon made a statement, the purport of which was that he considered the sale of the road upon some terms or other as a foregone conclusion; and he further intimated that there appeared to be little interest or anxiety manifested, generally speaking, as to the wishes of the people of Wilmington on the premises. There were a great many railroad men there who appeared to be much interested in a railroad charter which was granted by the State in 1868-'69, to build a road from Statesville to Danville.

Considerable discussion followed, Col. W. L. DeRossett in favor of, and Mr. Van Bokkelen, Col. Roger Moore, Mr. Thos. E. Bond and others in opposition to the proposed sale. Col. Moore, particularly, took strong ground in opposition to the sale, and said if the road must be sold let it be after due deliberation and proper advertisement. He deprecated undue haste in a matter affecting so materially the people of this State.

A resolution was then offered by Mr. A. H. Van Bokkelen, expressing the sentiment of this meeting, which was generally discussed, without any definite action, when a resolution somewhat similar was offered by Mr. Wm. Calder, also without action.

Col. DeRossett then moved that a committee be appointed by the Chair to take the matter of the proposed sale under advisement, and that said committee report at an adjourned meeting to be held at the City Court room on Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Motion carried.

The chair then appointed Col. Wm. L. DeRossett, Mr. C. H. Robinson, Capt. R. M. McIntire, Mr. DuBruz Cutler and Wm. Calder, Esq., on that committee.

Activity in the Harbor. There was unusual activity in the harbor yesterday. In some places one could almost walk across the "raging Cape Fear" on timber and turpentine rafts, around the latter of which quite a number of lighters were busy relieving them of the numerous submerged barrels filled with the products of the pine, and the ever restless tugs were flitting hither and thither among the large number of shipping anchored here and there, while the March winds were whistling a lively accompaniment to the busy scene among the rigging of the vessels at the wharves and in the stream.

The river was so stocked with rafts that large vessels found it difficult to move about. The steamship Regulator wanted to go across the river, but found it almost impossible in consequence of the scarcity of room.

Attack on a Train. A dastardly attack was made upon the incoming passenger train of the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta Railroad on Wednesday night last. The train was passing through a deep cut near Brinkley's Depot, some eighteen miles from this place, just after dark, when three shots were fired and a shower of missiles thrown at the passenger coaches. A window was broken in the second-class car and an iron bolt shattered a window of the sleeping car and struck a passenger in the side, but fortunately without inflicting injury. The perpetrators of the outrage are unknown, but every effort will be made to detect and punish them.

Memorials in Congress. From the Congressional Record we learn that on Wednesday, the 17th, Mr. Russell introduced in the House a petition of citizens of North Carolina for the improvement of Lockwood's Folly river, which was referred to the same committee.

Some of the Troubles of Citizens. Just about this time the average Republican politician is "pestered" a good deal by some of his colored constituents from the country, who appear desirous of giving him a lien on a part of this year's "crop" if he will buy him a mule; enforcing the request by the comforting assurance that "I voted for yer last year, and I expect to do so again." Formerly it was "forty acres and a mule." Now it is the long-eared animal "all alone by himself."

Interesting concerning Mr. Seymour. The Richmond Dispatch's Washington special of the 19th says: "The statement of Senator Kernan, a townsman and an intimate friend of Mr. Seymour, is having its effect to-night. He says Mr. Seymour is not a candidate; does not desire the nomination, and would like to see the Democracy unite on some one of the excellent men named, but that he does not see how Mr. Seymour can escape yielding to the wishes of his party if he is nominated at Cincinnati."

Spirits Turpentine.

Raleigh Observer: One firm of cotton dealers in this city has handled, here for the present season, between 30,000 and 35,000 bales of cotton.

Rockingham Spirits: E. B. Gibson's store, in this county, we understand, has purchased this season, 1,000 tons of Peruvian guano at a cost of \$55,000.

Goldsboro Mail: The analyses of the water sent by Dr. Lawson to Dr. Ledoux, taken from several of the wells in this place, show alarming impurities.

On Wednesday, the 16th day of June, 1880, in the city of Raleigh, a convention of the Democratic Conservative party in the 1st Congressional District will be held for the purpose of nominating their candidates for Congress and Presidential elector, and appointing delegates to attend the Democratic National Convention.

Asheville Journal: On last Saturday, near Democrat, in this county, the Rev. J. Swain was found dead. It seems that he had gone to the woods to fell timber, and one tree in falling had lodged against another. In cutting down the second tree the first one broke loose suddenly and above and crushed him to the earth. He was found a few hours afterwards by the members of his bereaved family, who were informed by a little boy that Mr. Swain was found dead in the woods where he went to work.

The following is the Railroad Joint Committee: From the Senate—Leach, Davidson; From the House—Carter, Cook, Franklyn, Brown, of Beaufort; Cobb, of Lincoln; Clayton, of Union; Bryson, of Swain; Lockhart, of Johnston; Davidson, of Columbus; Vaughn, of Alleghany; Bernard, of Pitt; Davis, of Catawba (Democrat); Clark, of Craven; Davis, of Madison; Ellinger, of Wake; Scott, of New Hanover (Republican).

Goldsboro Messenger: We regret to learn that Mr. John Buckner, at Princeton, was so seriously kicked in the breast by a horse, a few days ago, that at one time his condition was thought extremely critical. The man who was improving the children in various parts of this town.

The Presbytery of Wilmington will meet at Brown Marsh Church, Bladen county, on Thursday, 30th of March.

There is a considerable amount of lumber on the banks of the Neuse river, and we learn that at one time the bridge at White Hall was in great danger of being washed away by floating logs and debris left on the banks by Gen. Ramson's corps. One span of the bridge is badly sprung.

Raleigh Observer: J. N. Bunting's horse ran away with his buggy, on the Fayetteville road, yesterday morning, and smashed the vehicle into bits. Judge Bunting was thrown out and badly bruised. His injuries are serious, though painful.

We understand that the Robesonian has accepted an invitation to address the Railroad Committee in the hall of the House to-night. There was quite a remarkable runaway on Fayetteville street yesterday. A cowman was thrown from a wagon, but held fast to the reins, and let a front wheel pass over him without being in the least hurt. He still retained his hold on the reins and was dragged prostrate through the mud. The cowman was a good article and is profitable.

Charlotte Press: From what we can hear policemen will probably receive fifty dollars per month during the summer months. Mr. William Puffer has a sawmill on his property near this city, which is turning out a good article and is profitable.

Hon. D. S. Fowle, of Raleigh, has accepted the invitation of the Greensboro ladies to deliver the memorial address on the 10th of May.

A committee was there appointed a square sell-out Railroad Committee, Messrs. Dortch and Richardson being the only exceptions. They appear to be controlled by outside influence as much as were the Springfield men. Little is to be expected, only they are Democrats. The committee stands 18 Democrats, 7 Republicans, and from the selection it would be better, probably, were the latter in the majority.

Charlotte Observer: John Whitehead and Frank Hughes, of this State, are among the recent graduates at the Pennsylvania Medical University.

Dr. Thos. Anderson, of Statesville, a day or two ago, while out hunting, had one of his fingers shot off. The barn belonging to the farmer, that Anderson resides four or five miles west of China Grove, in Rowan county, was burned last Friday night. The structure was totally destroyed, together with three horses, cattle, forage, and all his household goods.

Kinston Journal: Elder J. Z. Tyler, pastor of the 7th Street Disciple's Church, Richmond, Ra., has consented to deliver the annual literary address at the Commencement of Kinston Collegiate Institute in June. The address will be on the subject of "The Influence of the Lumber Trade on the People of North Carolina." The lumber trade has been a great blessing to the State, but it has also brought about a great deal of suffering and poverty. The lumber trade has also brought about a great deal of suffering and poverty. The lumber trade has also brought about a great deal of suffering and poverty.