

State of North Carolina

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1881.

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THE CONSTRUCTION BONDS QUESTION.

We publish to-day that portion of the Report of the Commission appointed to adjust the State debt in regard to the settlement of the Construction Bonds, in which the reasons for their action are clearly set forth.

The main point upon which the final action will turn, we would suppose, was that mentioned by Gov. Jarvis in his recent message, and to which the STAR referred in a former editorial.

"I agree with me in this, the question whether any route is likely to be built that will render the North Carolina Railroad less valuable than now, becomes an important inquiry in your consideration of any adjustment.

"In taking leave of this subject, I will only venture to make these suggestions: Fix a price at which you are willing to exchange to be made for new bonds. Second, give the commissioners the authority to exchange stock for bonds, giving the bondholders the option, with the distinct understanding that if they decline both and sell the stock, no matter what it brings, its proceeds will be all they will ever get.

If anything is done, the second mortgage makes it necessary to retain the commissioners and the transactions to be had through them."

If the Legislature, after proper consideration, is satisfied that the North Carolina Railroad will become less valuable in the future by reason of the construction of other roads, or by new combinations, or from any other cause, it may conclude that it will be wise and prudent to let the road go and pass forever beyond the control of the people of the State.

It must be acknowledged that those who oppose the arrangement proposed by the Commissioners with so much zeal, offer reasons for their course that are well worth the careful attention of the legislators, and doubtless they will be duly considered by those concerned.

COTTON TO THE ACNE.

We think that one of the best things that could be done by the State Agricultural Department would be to gather cotton and tobacco statistics and publish them to the world. The STAR for years has been publishing statistics of the sort, and we know that they have attracted attention abroad.

any State. The first yellow tobacco of a half dozen counties fetches a higher price in the Virginia markets than any other. Nay more, the tobacco of Granville, Person and other counties sell higher than any other raised on the American continent.

As to cotton, we are satisfied fully that North Carolina can hold its own with any State in the South in individual instances of success. In other words, we believe that as great returns from cotton planting in North Carolina can be shown as from any State to the South of us.

It says this is equal to \$50 an acre; as much as the land is worth in market. It gives some facts concerning hay, wheat, etc., and shows that near Charleston successful planters make \$100 an acre raising Sea Island cotton. The News and Courier says:

"It is difficult to realize the full significance of the facts we have given, unless we look at the average cash value of farm and plantation products throughout the United States. This is given, for the year 1878, in the report of the Department of Agriculture for that year. The average yield and value per acre was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Crop, Value. Rows for Corn, Wheat, Hay, Cotton.

"By intelligent farming, improved methods and liberal manuring, the yield, in particular places, has been largely increased, as we have shown. There is no reason why the yield of cotton, hay, oats and wheat should be less than that secured by the same means in every county."

We note these things to encourage our readers. The STAR, within two months, has published more than a half dozen instances of cotton planting in North Carolina where the average was fully one bale to the acre or more.

We recently published the farming of Mr. Wm. Hodges, of Edgecombe county, as reported in the Tarboro Southern. He made 200 bales on 190 acres of land, using mainly home-made manures.

The same day we published, from the Warrenton Gazette, the following: "Turner Battle, Esq., has picked 600 bales of cotton from 350 acres. Mr. Elias Carr made 17 bales to the acre. Mr. Avest, of Nash, has picked 23 bales to the acre and will get more."

Other reports, equally encouraging, have been published from time to time. As to the amount realized per acre, we have this to say:

On corn we have known over \$60 to the acre to be obtained. If you doubt write to Dr. Robt. Patterson, Littleton, Halifax county, N. C. As to tobacco, there are farmers in Granville county—possibly in several others—who have made from \$300 to \$600 to the acre; or from \$500 to \$1,700 to the hand. These figures are accurate and we can establish their correctness by the most incontestable evidence. North Carolina literally beats all the States.

And now a word as to the cost of cotton raising. Some time ago the STAR gave some figures furnished by Mr. A. P. Ford, of South Carolina, and asked if they could be trusted. The New York South has this to say in response:

"Our able and alert contemporary, the Wilmington STAR, has called attention to some extraordinary figures by our enterprising neighbor, Cotton, concerning the cost of raising the great staple in South Carolina. Customary readers of the STAR will remember that we have more than once demonstrated that cotton could be successfully raised for less than eight cents. How much less now, and at all times, in fact, depends upon the cultivation and cost of getting it to market, and the improvements in its manufacture."

It then avails itself of some figures in the Boston Commercial Bulletin as to the cost of raising cotton in Mississippi. Here are the figures: "In the expenses is included rent of land at \$4.50 an acre, but no account is taken of seed. No fertilizers were used. The aggregate yield on 350 acres was 234 bales, weighing 128,500 pounds, and the cost per pound was six and seventeen-twentieths cents, while the cotton sold for nine and three-quarter cents net. Of course the season of 1879-80 was an exceptionally favorable one, and it would hardly be fair to calculate upon a steady increase of acreage from year to year based upon these figures alone."

the lands are exceptionally rich. As a rule we do not believe that cotton can be produced in Mississippi at such figures, and certainly not in such yield. But the facts gleaned from all States establish that intelligent, judicious farming pays, whilst men grow poorer daily by bad systems and stupid ways.

NOTES ON THE INAUGURAL. The inaugural address of Governor Jarvis is an interesting effort. It is the best written of any of his public documents. It is more rhetorical, and yet retains the characteristics of all we have seen from his pen—thorough practicalness and a broad grasp of common sense.

Amid the blessings and sterility of the one State, and arriving population has sprung up, where almost every human being is educated, where the school-houses, neat and comfortable, and the church spires, and the cosy cottages or the imposing mansions dot the scene, and where the clatter of machinery and the busy ham of industry and multiplied activities give assurance of that earnestness of purpose and unfinching energy and resource that win fortune and snatch the prize from the drone and the man who works upon the do-little and the to-morrow principle.

We shall attempt at this late day no regular analysis of the address. It must be read in its entirety to be appreciated. All we purpose is to direct attention to some of the suggestive points, and, perhaps, to use them as texts for a little preaching of our own. The key-note of the whole production is well-directed labor. The Governor says:

"Were I called upon to formulate these duties into one sentence, it would be North Carolina, the development of her resources and the education of her children."

He has pictured the centre of the situation in this axiomatic formula. The two great things to be done by the leaders and by the people, by the legislators and by the men of thought and action, is to reveal to the world the vast hidden resources of North Carolina, not merely by editorials or addresses, by circulars or other modes of advertising, but by delving in the mines and letting the rich deposits of the earth tell the story.

Of course the usual agencies and appliances for giving publicity to facts should be resorted to and on a larger scale than ever, but we should not stop with this. Rich specimens of our minerals and ores and woods and productions generally will speak with a greater force to the uninformed and the incredulous than the finest rhetorical description or the most precise tabulation of productions. The world appears to know but little of North Carolina, and to be incredulous as to its uncommon resources, mainly undeveloped. Says Governor Jarvis, with pardonable pride and yet not with unseemly extravagance:

"What State can compare with ours in climate? Placed, as it were, on the border land between the North and the South, she knows the extremes of neither, while she possesses many of the advantages of both. No country better rewards the toils of the laborer. Her cereal crops are excelled by none when they are cultivated with equal care. Her cotton ranks with the best. Her bright tobacco has no rival in any market. While she produces materials for manufactures so abundant in quantity, so excellent in quality, her water power for propelling machinery is inexhaustible. Her ores and minerals, if they alone were regarded, would, if developed, make her one of the richest of States. In her forests she has an almost boundless source of wealth, for here is found timber alike suited for the useful and the ornamental arts. We possess, in very truth, a goodly land. But of what avail is it to possess these unlimited resources of wealth if they are to remain, as they have so long remained, practically dormant and undeveloped? If the rivers are forever to flow idly to the sea, the rich veins of ore to lie hidden in their eastern beds, the lands to sleep unworked by the plow, it is folly for us to dream of a hopeful future. Who does not feel that it is an imperative duty to develop these resources and make them tributary to the comfort and wealth of our people and the world, according to the manifest designs of Providence? How this development may be facilitated is a comprehensive question with which practical statesmanship must deal, and upon which I will risk a few observations."

Our readers can bear witness how often we have presented the claims of North Carolina to a marked distinction among the great sisterhood of States. In editorial after editorial running through many years we have drawn attention to the wonderful variety of products, to the peculiar and still delightful climate, to the abounding riches of mines, to the fertility of soil, and to other marked features of our well favored State. The Governor has not exaggerated the picture. He thinks the great need is immigration and diversified labor. His views are eminently judicious and statesmanlike, and we hope the Legislature will do all it can to invite immigration and to disseminate both in the North and in Europe such information concerning the great and varied resources of the State as shall

be deemed necessary. The modes of advertising resorted to by corporations and States in the North furnish such examples as may be wholly copied. Gov. Jarvis, to show how much we need population, contrasts Massachusetts, one of the wealthiest of States, with our own State, and says:

"At the census of 1870, Massachusetts, the only natural production of which are ice and granite, had a population of one hundred and eighty-seven to the square mile. North Carolina, which, as shown by the same census, produced every crop that grows in the United States, had only twenty-one to the square mile. North Carolina compared with her capacity to sustain population, may almost be regarded as a blanketed State."

Our people are not so stupid as to be most important ones. The greatest profit lies in manufacturing. The wood sold by a Carolina timber-owner is nothing, as to profit, compared with that realized by the Northern manufacturer of furniture or vehicles. The timber in a bureau or wardrobe will cost say \$5. It is worked up and sold for \$25, \$50 or \$75. The profit is just here. The iron that comes from a mine is sold for a few cents; it is worked into bolts or something else by machinery, and it fetches five or ten fold what the material cost. The road to wealth lies in working up our native products. Manufacture our rich and beautiful woods into furniture, wagons, buggies, carriages, ploughs, &c., and let our cotton and various ores be changed at home into articles of use, and then North Carolinians will have the profits and not men in the North. We throw out this idea now without attempting to elaborate or enforce it. A word to the wise ought to be sufficient.

Western butter is becoming heavier than it used to be. The Grocer says: "For instance, a tub the contents of which used to weigh 50 pounds, now weighs sixty pounds, though the tub is exactly of the old standard size. This seemed strange, and yet the most experienced butter-buyers could detect no foreign substance in the article—it was entirely mysterious."

After much perplexity the problem has been solved. Powdered soapstone is freely used. The "Union-Facing Company" sells quantities of this delightful dietetic article to butter manufacturers. The Grocer says:

"This powdered soapstone is white and fine and tasteless, and is sold at \$30 a ton. From six to ten pounds can be mixed into every tub of butter so as to defy detection. It greatly increases the weight without affecting the bulk very much. The discoverer ascertained the names of certain butter packing firms in Cincinnati which are now using the soapstone in this way."

Think of it, ye housekeepers. You are now able to seat your guests and to offer to them various choice dishes into each of which enters that pleasing stomachic—"powdered soapstone."

Many readers of the STAR will regret to learn of the death of the incomparable Sothorn. Dundreary is dead. No man lives who can portray him—can place him with lisp-tongued and miming gait before the laughter-smitten audience. Peace be with the master of fun! Comus weeps at his grave. "Alas! poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio; a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy. Where be your gibes now? your gambols? your songs? your flashes of merriment, that were wont to set the table on a roar?"

The STAR favored two years the raising of certain salaries. It sees no occasion for undoing what was done. It favors an increase of the salary of the Superintendent of Public Instruction whenever the school law is so improved as to make him really efficient and of benefit to the children of North Carolina. The Fayetteville Examiner gives a due note of warning:

"This is a delicate subject to handle, and we warn members of the General Assembly to be careful how they vote to increase salaries. The last General Assembly for excellent reasons reduced the salaries of many of our officials. In the Senate the lamented John I. Sothorn, of Guilford, a gentleman of exalted patriotism and great intelligence reported and advocated the bill, and it passed by a large majority. Can the State afford to pay large salaries to its officials?"

Virginia is to have a civil rights case as to a public school. At Lynchburg a white girl was dismissed from school because she lived with a negro family and had a reputation somewhat doubtful. All the other scholars quit when she entered. So it was a necessity to turn her off or shut up school. She has been brought against the District School Board at Lynchburg.

Another landmark gone. Yesterday morning, just before the first peep of dawn, persons whose business called them down the street at a very early hour were puzzled to account for the tremendous thumping, knocking and hammering going on in the direction of the lower end of Market street. Upon hearing the scene of the unwonted tumult, however, they discovered a crowd of workmen engaged in putting in the incalculable blows towards demolishing the venerable pile at and near the intersection of Front and Market streets, heretofore known as the "Old Market House."

By the time citizens generally had plucked up courage enough to come upon the streets such a dreary, rainy and disagreeable morning, considerable progress had been made towards bringing it to the ground, and the work of demolition continued, with slight intermission, until about 4 o'clock, when the tower fell and carried with it the last timber of the "noble structure" that has so long adorned that particular spot within the corporate limits of our good city. The ruins occupying the site of the terrible railroad " smash-up " of the result of a destructive cyclone. The venerable building, which is now no more, was, as was stated in our issue of the 18th of December last, when we gave a history of it, commenced in the latter part of the year 1847 and completed in February of the year following. Col. John McRae being at the time Magistrate of Police. We learn that the timbers were found yesterday to be perfectly sound, though they were placed in position thirty-three years ago.

Well, another "old landmark" is gone, and it will be missed the more from the fact that it occupied so conspicuous a position. The work of demolition was carried on under the supervision of Alfred Howe, colored, who purchased the building for \$100. Well, the "market question" may not be settled, but the "old market house" is, and no mistake.

Venor's Predictions for February. Thus far in January Venor's weather predictions have been verified with remarkable accuracy. For February the following predictions are made: The mild spell with which January closes will probably continue well into this month with the exception of a day or two, up to the twelfth of the month, with balmy, spring-like weather prevailing in many parts and snow rapidly disappearing. A couple of days of blustering weather, with rain or snow, will be followed by snow storms and cold weather throughout Canada and the United States. This term will be followed about the sixteenth of the month by storms of wind, rain and snow, previous to the setting in of a colder term. With the beginning of the last week of the month, brilliant, mild, spring-like weather will again appear, melting the snow and rendering sleighing impossible in some localities.

The New Railroad. Under this head the Raleigh News-Observer has this to say of the visit of General Imboden and Mr. Hyndman to this city, and the object of the same:

"We had the pleasure of meeting last evening Gen. J. Imboden, of Virginia, and Mr. E. K. Hyndman, of Pennsylvania. These gentlemen are here for the purpose of procuring a charter from the Legislature entitled 'The South Atlantic and Ohio Railroad Company.' It is proposed by this company to build a railroad from their coal mines in Wise county, Virginia, to Smithville, below Wilmington, in this State. They wish to utilize the Carolina Central and Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley railroads, building the gaps between all points where there are no railroads along their proposed route. The distance between the mines and the terminus at Smithville is about 404 miles. This route is one of the best of the 'Tennessee Coal and Iron Company.' The coal fields are said to contain one thousand million tons of coal. The qualities of coal are known as canal, bituminous and splint. This company say they want nothing but a charter; they ask for no appropriation. It will require only about 120 miles of new road to be built. Reference was made to this subject in an article published in the Wilmington STAR in our yesterday's issue. This road will pass through some of the richest country in iron ore in the State. It opens up a part of our State hitherto shut out. Gen. Imboden says much attention is being turned towards the iron fields of North Carolina, and their development is but a question of time. We are more than anxious to see capitalists come amongst us; our waste places must be built up, and we should do all in our power to compass this end most desirable. Let our legislators now assembled act wisely and prudently in using every means available that will bring about the development of the Old North State."

New Hanover vs. Mecklenburg. We would say to our Charlotte contemporary, the Observer, that in fixing the relative positions of New Hanover and Mecklenburg, as tax-paying counties, we still insist that reference was only had to the amount paid over to the State Treasurer by the respective sheriffs, and that New Hanover beat Mecklenburg \$1,891.25. As to the Observer's allusion to our failure to quote New Hanover's school tax, we have only to refer to the issue of the 15th inst., and it will find a detailed statement of New Hanover's State and county taxes.

A Catamount. The excitement on Front street yesterday was a huge wild cat killed near Hilton bridge, on the west side of the river, yesterday morning, by John McKay, the noted colored Nimrod. The animal weighs nearly twenty-five pounds and is about two and a half feet in length. He was on exhibition at Kasprovic's cigar store during the day and attracted a great many visitors.

It is understood that Blaine's cordial approval of the Grant pension bill arises from his wish to get rid of the General. It will be observed that the warmest friends of Grant take no part in the controversy. The movement is carried on by those who wish to deprive Conkling of the use of Grant's name in pushing his own interests in the Republican party.—Philadelphia Times, Ind.

Track-laying was commenced Monday last on a railroad which is to connect Norfolk, Va., and Elizabeth City, N. C., and it is to be pushed to early completion. The design is to build the road and it is said that the money to build the road was raised in the North, with the exception of \$25,000 by Elizabeth City.

Raleigh Star: Mrs. Violet Griffin, wife of Col. R. B. Griffin, of Nash county, died in that town on January 11th, aged 73 years and 10 months. Her body was buried in the city. The Star says the Sheriff's office paid her taxes to the State Treasurer to date. The bill to incorporate the Fayetteville & Waukena Railroad passed in the House to day without opposition.

The Greensboro Patriot, daily, is again out, we are glad to see, bright and good as ever. By the way, it has a touching article upon the death of a "Old Man." It was enough to excite the envy of all of his associates and friends. He was faithful in sight and died true to his record. He was a good old man, and the rest was good enough to add. It was a well merited tribute.

Goldboro Messenger: Mr. Everett Herring, of Kenansville township, Duplin county, last week killed two pigs that weighed 1055 pounds net. Mr. W. B. Middleton, of the city of Goldboro, killed one weighing 300 pounds net. A correspondent writing us from the Hango section, Sampson county, says a part of Sampson, Johnston, Wayne, Currituck and Hatteras. Judge McKay is holding the special term of Superior Court for Sampson county. So Brady has been arrested on a charge of kidnapping upon a party on the south side of the Neuse. A preliminary trial was to have taken place before Justice D. E. Stevens yesterday.

Raleigh Visitor: Dr. T. H. Pritchard, President of Wake Forest College, was to the city yesterday. The college is in a flourishing condition, there being 173 students registered for matriculation. Mrs. Elizabeth Felton, of this city, one of the most aged and highly respected ladies, died on Tuesday last and broke her thigh. The Supreme Court has been engaged since last Monday in hearing transcript and argument in the case of Lockhart vs. John J. Bell, from Northampton county. The court has several propositions to cut off portions of Wake for the formation of new counties. We find that there is much diversity of opinion upon the subject among our country friends, but the Raleigh Visitor says Raleigh is strongly adverse to having the county dismembered.

Greensboro Patriot: An important meeting of the State Board of Agriculture was held in Raleigh yesterday. Col. A. Pope, general passenger agent of the Piedmont Air Line and other railway lines in Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia, was elected secretary and acting agent for this State. This is a very wise selection, and we hope some good may result from it. Among the many rumors about is one that Col. L. J. Young, of Raleigh, at present controller of the State revenue for the metropolitan district of North Carolina wants to succeed the Hon. Green B. Baum as United States Commissioner of Internal Revenue under Gen. Garfield's administration. A petition is being circulated to the draft of a petition to Congress on the subject of a memorial to General Greene; also to the communication of our esteemed correspondent, touching the proposed centennial celebration of the battle of Guilford Courthouse, the 15th of March next.

New Bernes Nut Shell: Plenty of oysters in the market yesterday, prices ranging from forty to sixty cents per bushel. Two hundred and sixty tons of oyster straw are being taken from the railroad wharf and placed on the schooner Gallie Evans, and will be taken North to be manufactured into matting. The straw was gathered by Mr. Charles Wallcut, at Riverdale, who has now four hundred bales ready for shipment. The burning of the O. J. Dominion Steamship Company's warehouse in New Bernes, we understand, entailed considerable loss to several of our merchants who had goods en route for this place without insurance that were lost in the fire. A colored woman, her small child and a white child, were being taken from the burning wharf when the child had jumped on the bed, the fire from her clothing having ignited the bed clothing. The mother by strenuous exertions quenched the fire, but the child has since died from the wounds received.

Raleigh News-Observer: Mr. Thomas Biggs is preparing a plan for the new court house. The design is to add wings of 30 feet each to the sides, thus giving a total frontage of about 75 feet. The front is to be brought out, in a line with the postoffice building. A story will be added, with a balcony in front. Mr. Henry Gorman, one of our oldest citizens, died yesterday morning. He was aged about 75 years, and had been very sick for several months. A correspondent writes: The project of forming a new county to be called Durham is being discussed in several State papers. The people of Granville county are given to the county of "Gilliam" with Henderson as the county seat. Now it is proposed to take away from the Democratic voters of Granville our ark of safety, Dutchville, and give it to Durham. This will never do. Granville asks for little and never receives even the smallest crumb that falls from the table of Democracy. All we ask is to be left alone.

Charlotte Observer: Jim French, the unfortunate man who was knocked from the top of a freight car at Salisbury and ran over by the wheels of the tobacco car, is in the hospital at Salisbury. The injuries were so severe that he died during the operation. Rev. J. M. Rose, who was for some time in charge of the Presbyterian mission chapel in this city, has been called to one of the largest Presbyterian churches in Memphis, Tenn. He is a native of Fayetteville. It is stated that the cotton factory lately built and owned by Messrs. Oates, is the only one in Charlotte owned by native North Carolinians. This we think is a whole volume on immigration.

So deep is the mud at the Carolina Central and Richmond road that the points that the horses have been made sick from standing up to their knees night after night waiting for trains. Mr. Thomas H. Gaither, it is understood, will bring suit against the Air Line road for the injuries he received in the disaster. Things have grown decidedly better for Messrs. Welsensberg and Lockman. The latter was released this morning. Mr. L. J. McEaden bombing his property in the railroad car of \$5,000. He is again at work on the Air Line—for the present at the depot here, other arrangements having been made with his train during his imprisonment. Eadsberg Welsensberg took his family out this morning and is fully reinstated. Best really after anything except to get possession of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad? asks the Wilmington STAR. Possibly, might be in the event, his proposed midland railroad for Goldboro will not be built by the company he has organized. Thus far the cry for the fight to be turned on has never yet resulted in revealing the features of the man with the cardinal mask.