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THE RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS.

The three Commissioners of the State appointed to examine into the progress, action, &c., of the Western North Carolina Railroad, held a meeting last week at Clinton.

It seems that Senator Vance's notice, as recorded above, cannot be given until ninety days after November 1st.—that is until February 1st. So in fact the B. S. get seven months extension after violating the contract.

An Augusta (Ga.) capitalist has been North to raise funds for a new cotton factory at that town. He succeeded in obtaining two-thirds of \$500,000; the remainder being raised at home.

Booth, Barrett, McCullough and Keene are regarded as the four leading actors on the American stage. Booth is thought by most critics and theatre-goers to be first.

The States (omitting Territories) have, according to the revised census, 49,371,840. We suppose there will be a new apportionment made of representatives in the U. S. House.

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The small-pox has appeared in many places in Minnesota and Dakota, and gives much alarm. It is said to be raging extensively in Richmond, Va.

abandoned by the assignees. They had then never heard of the Boston syndicate. It is true that the Hon. R. B. Bridges visited the Commissioners at their April meeting and offered to take the contract and pay the State a bonus, but he was told by the Commissioners, Commissioner Vance acting as speaker for the Commissioners, that they had no power to put him in possession of the road even if they should declare the contract forfeited and put the assignees out; that the only power the Commissioners had was to declare the contract forfeited, and the sole result of this would be to throw the road back upon the State, and that before he or any one else could get it the Legislature would have to pass another act authorizing it to be sold a second time.

We have not the contract at hand, but our recollection is that the Commissioners represent the interests of the State, and that if the Syndicate failed to comply with its contract the property was to revert to the State. The point is, has there been violation on the part of the Syndicate? If so, how can the Commissioners refuse to hold them to a strict accountability according to the letter and spirit of the contract? Have they done so?

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We copy from the Baltimore Sun an article from our careful and able correspondent "G." What he says is very well worth considering. His reflections should be pondered by all who in their dislike of a system have rushed into print favoring its abolition without considering properly the effects of such an act upon the people at large. The tax under the revenue laws is collected in Pennsylvania and Ohio, where ten times as much whiskey is distilled as in North Carolina. Why can it not be collected everywhere without resistance? What sort of men are those who are always raising the laws and operating illegally? Are they the best sort of citizens?

The revenue tax can be reduced some millions doubtless without detriment to the public service, but it will be unwise to wipe it out entirely and for all time. Such a course, as we have pointed out several times, would be playing simply into the hands of the high Protectionists. We notice the very strongest advocates of getting rid of the internal revenue system are the most earnest defenders and friends of a high protective tariff.

From the tenor of some of the arguments in favor of keeping up the internal revenue tax, it may be fairly inferred that their authors regard a national tax as a national blessing. The question of the public necessity for the revenue derived from it is avoided, coolly enough, and we have not yet met, with a candid undertaker, any who face the extra facts of the financial situation, and prove that the present excessive revenues are really required.

The taxes raised by this system are no "longer necessary," quoth the American. Of course they are not necessary if the people are blind enough to fall back upon the impost—indirect taxation—for the funds necessary to meet all of the expenses of the Government, including interest on the public debt, sinking fund, &c. But you catch the American and Protectionist papers generally favoring anything like a serious reduction of the present enormous and absurd tariff.

It is a vast amount of guess-work in these estimates; but Messrs. Latham, Alexander & Co. give the names and post-offices of all their correspondents, and an examination of the list shows that in the main it is composed of the most reputable business men of the country. As a rule, we have no doubt they have been honest in their estimates, but we do not think the crop will prove so small as they suppose.

Some few of our exchanges appear to have copied our political squibs attributed to certain Republicans supposing them to have been genuine. If we had known they would have added to each, "Just for fun." We merely threw into shape what we took to be the real meaning of certain movements, or what we supposed certain politicians would have said if they had been speaking their real mind. So, hereafter, any such squibs must be taken merely as our interpretation of "the true inwardness" of speech and action on the part of the wire-pullers.

Our friends of the Beaufort Telephone lament that their fish dealers have received notice from many of their customers, stopping this order and advising that they can get stock much fresher and quicker from Wilmington.

The most elaborate report of the cotton crop of 1881-82 we have yet seen has just been issued by Messrs. Latham, Alexander & Co., bankers and cotton commission merchants, of New York. This report is based on the replies of 1910 correspondents, covering the entire cotton belt, each of whom was requested to give his estimate of the yield of cotton in his section as compared with last year; the percentage of crop marketed to date; and estimate of the total cotton crop for 1881-82. The average date of the replies is Nov. 1.

The following is a summary by States: ALABAMA.—Average of 186 replies, crop short 16.08 per cent.; 180 replies, 40.13 per cent. of crop marketed; 171 replies, give estimated total crop of 5,555,409 bales.

ARKANSAS.—Average of 140 replies, crop short 53.34 per cent.; 136 replies, 37.92 per cent. of crop marketed; 111 replies, estimated total crop of 4,989,765 bales.

FLORIDA.—Average of 19 replies, crop short 15 per cent.; 20 replies, 52.30 per cent. of crop marketed; 15 replies, estimated total crop of 5,736,667 bales.

GEORGIA.—Average of 408 replies, crop short 22.30 per cent.; 396 replies, 46.98 per cent. of crop marketed; 368 replies, estimate total crop of 5,557,726 bales.

LOUISIANA.—Average of 44 replies, crop short 12.43 per cent.; 36 replies, 27.91 per cent. of crop marketed; 48 replies, estimate total crop of 5,565,720 bales.

MISSISSIPPI.—Average of 188 replies, crop short 23.12 per cent.; 189 replies, 39.63 per cent. of crop marketed; 172 replies, estimate total crop of 4,507,426 bales.

NORTH CAROLINA.—Average of 134 replies, crop short 34.90 per cent.; 132 replies, 40.74 per cent. of crop marketed; 101 replies, estimate total crop of 3,250,162 bales.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—Average of 291 replies, crop short 30.59 per cent.; 192 replies, 48.47 per cent. of crop marketed; 161 replies, estimate total crop of 5,479,393 bales.

TEXAS.—Average of 394 replies, crop short 35.76 per cent.; 385 replies, 56.36 per cent. of crop marketed; 310 replies, estimate total crop of 5,308,098 bales.

TENNESSEE.—Average of 196 replies, crop short 39.70 per cent.; 193 replies, 37.72 per cent. of crop marketed; 179 replies, estimate total crop of 5,351,234 bales.

MISSOURI.—Average of 17 replies, crop short 20.59 per cent.; 11 replies, 31.27 per cent. of crop marketed; 21 replies, estimate total crop of 5,740,238 bales.

Estimate of total crop of 1881-82 based on foregoing replies, 4,709,287 bales. Average amount of crop marketed to Nov. 1, 42.26 per cent. Average of individual estimates of crop of 1881-82, 4,554,847 bales.

Messrs. Latham, Alexander & Co. also make an average of their own report, that of the Agricultural Bureau, and that of Bradstreet, which gives a total crop of 4,020,193 bales. It must be understood that there is a vast amount of guess-work in these estimates; but Messrs. Latham, Alexander & Co. give the names and post-offices of all their correspondents, and an examination of the list shows that in the main it is composed of the most reputable business men of the country.

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RAILROAD MATTERS.

Several of our Wilmington friends were present at the Sampson Fair last week. The exhibition was a very good one, though not quite so full as on some previous years. There was a large crowd present, especially on Thursday and Friday.

The meeting was organized by calling Col. H. B. Short, of Columbia county, to the chair, and requesting Mr. J. W. Thompson to act as Secretary. Messrs. B. F. Newcomer and Donald McKee, the Secretary, were appointed a committee to verify proxies.

The committee reported 4,187 shares represented in person and 7,941 by proxy, making a total of 12,128 shares, which, being a large majority of the stock, the meeting was declared duly organized.

Col. J. W. Atkinson read the report of the Auditing Committee, which was received and ordered to be published with the proceedings.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted: Resolved, That the President and Directors of this Company be, and they are hereby authorized to increase the capital stock of the Company to such extent as may be necessary to provide for the outfit incident to the construction of the Scotland Neck branch of this road, and to provide for the Company's proportion of such sleeping car equipment for the Atlantic Coast Line as may be deemed essential.

The old Board of Directors were also unanimously re-elected, as follows: Thos. C. Jenkins, R. F. Newcomer, H. B. Plant, A. J. DeRosier, George Howard, W. T. Walters, S. M. Shoemaker, Donald McKee, E. B. Borden, W. H. Willard.

It was resolved that the next annual meeting be held in Wilmington on the first Tuesday after the third Monday in November, 1882.

After the adjournment of the stockholders, the Board of Directors held a meeting, when Mr. B. F. Newcomer was elected Vice President and Mr. J. W. Thompson Secretary and Treasurer.

The experiment of Mr. J. M. Hardwick, to ascertain the adaptability of the soil in this section for raising the tobacco plant, has proved decidedly satisfactory.

The stockholders of the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta Railroad Company met in annual session at their office in this city yesterday at 12 o'clock M.

The meeting was organized by calling Mr. Thos. C. Jenkins, of Baltimore, to the chair, Mr. J. W. Thompson officiating as secretary.

Immediately after the adjournment of the stockholders, the new Board of Directors held a meeting, when Mr. W. T. Walters was elected Vice President and Mr. J. W. Thompson Secretary and Treasurer.

The Sampson Fair.

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Our Wilmington friends were enthusiastic in their praises of the handsome ladies they saw at the fair, but the prettiest of all, they say, was a young miss from Cumberland. One young gentleman was ready and willing to tell all he knew about the fair, but when we began to push him a little closely he declared that it was not the agricultural fair that attracted his attention, but the other kind, and he couldn't tell us a thing about the speeches, nor who had the biggest turnout of potato.

Narrow Escape of Four Children from Perishing in the Flames of a Burning Building. The fire in Cape Fear Township on Saturday night last, mention of which was made in yesterday's paper, came near resulting in loss of life.

One of the smaller girls, however, was missed from the bed, and the search for her had almost been abandoned in despair, when she was finally discovered crouching in a corner of the room, utterly speechless and helpless from fear.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is a remarkable remedy for all those painful complaints and weaknesses so common to our best female population.

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Shelby Turpentine.

Shelby Turpentine. John Morris, colored, is sentenced to be hung in this place, for the murder of Joe Roark, on Friday the 23d day of December.

Reidsville Times: We are informed that on last Friday night near Milton, N. C., Phelps, a white young man, knoeked Lewis Ball in the head and killed him; Phelps got away.

Asheville Citizen: Capt. Buck Thrash is still on the war-path against Col. Kimberley and Mr. Pless Israel. He now brings a load of lumber, weighing 1000 seven pounds, and one from Col. Palmer's farm, same locality, weighing nine pounds.

Charlotte Observer: An Observer reporter yesterday visited the scene of operations at the reservoir for the city water works. About 15 hands are now upon the work of the dam and the basin.

A painful accident is reported from Richmond county. Mr. Nash LaGrande, who lives on a farm near the city, had one day last week, while the gin was in motion, the hand and arm were badly lacerated but amputation was not necessary.

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