

The Daily Sentinel.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 5, 1867.

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DAILY SENTINEL.

W. H. PEPPER, PUBLISHER.

Tuesday Evening, March 5, 1867.

To the Voters of the 49th. Senatorial District of N. C.

Raleigh, N. C., March 2d, 1867.

Dear Citizens:—As the legislation for the session, at least, is about finished, I do not often write you a long letter, nor have time to write you a long one. We have been in session about forty days and passed between one and two hundred laws. The greater portion of them are of a local or private nature; their effect upon the interest of our country can only be known by the unerring test of experience. Our object will be to vindicate good, and to that end, no concessions were granted, with the view of saving capital to the State, and to aid the general interests of the State to carry on their works to completion. But unfortunately, in the interests of all the Bell men, we failed to make any provision to meet the interests of the State of the State, which I greatly fear, will defeat that great and estimable object, the completion of the roads at an early day, and may prove ruinous to the credit of the State. The scarcity of money, and inability of the people to pay the amount of taxation necessary to meet the interest on the public debt at this time, together with the threatening attitude of the Congress of the U. S. towards us, is about all the reasonable excuse we have to offer for not continuing the credit of our State. Having lost everything in the war, the majority of the Legislature decides that we are not able to pay the debt now. And for the same reason we have passed a bill, extending the collection of debts one year longer than provided for in the original law. And for the same reason the House of Commons refused to pass the bill establishing a Peントy for the late, I regarded that measure as an absolute necessity, and succeeded in convincing the Senate that it was so, and it passed that easily by a large majority, but failed to pass the house. The bill provided for its ratification by the people before it was to be become a law.

The Revenue tax bill is about the same as last year, except that the poll tax is taken entirely off of slaves, so far as this State is concerned. The tax on slaves is the same as last year. The people in our part of the State have no right to complain of an equal taxation in this. It bears quite as heavily on all other sections of the State as it does on the rest.

Let me again bear testimony to the good behavior of Western men. I have had no chance of transgressing against a single member of the Blue ridge. The conduct of the different acts of Assembly will probably accompany this letter, which will give you an idea of the legislation passed at this session. In presenting these acts, I will not trouble you with published and printed to the different counties.

The appearance of the people for relief, in the way of a tax law, to stop the courts and magistrates from acting on debts, was so positive, that the Legislature could not well resist it. In short, we here have perhaps exercised a doubtful power and one that I hope is unconstitutional. At a recent sitting, the bill was rejected. At the next meeting, the Legislature may pass another bill, and if so, we will then have a bill that is unconstitutional. But, in that event, the Legislature may pass another at the next meeting, which will be the 2nd. Monday in August. By virtue, therefore, to all my friends, both colored and white, I am confident all that I have done is constitutional, and my act is not unconstitutional, neither ex parte, nor otherwise. There are many hard cases, both ways, and can judge better what his neighbor can afford him than he can. He who can decide on general principles, will have to do, when decided by the law.

It is almost important that we succeed among ourselves. The Southern States are trapping the fruits of an unfortunate field. I might say, without intending offence, a foolish war, and the furors of civil strife, are being heated seven times hotter by the South and South Carolina, who will like to see the President and will surround themselves with the powers of the South and South, thereby defeating all the hopes we have had of just justice. Twelve months ago, I became convinced that the Congress of the United States would be removed to another representation until after the next Presidential election, unless they could have some assurance that the States would vote the Republican ticket in that election. I was still convinced that they still adhered to the same determination, but the news of the winter dispersed the confidence of the United States to the extent entirely overthrowing such a hazardous and injurious department of the government. Let me assure you, Indian, you that the Congress has passed a law placing the Southern States under a military government, with the authority to call conventions from new organizations and submit them to the people for ratification or rejection. And that a person can, under the Constitution, under the 2d article of the House of Representatives, shall be entitled to a free voice, and the ballot box, and that all male negroes 21 years old shall be allowed to vote and hold office in any Government of military government, as well as members of the Convention or Congress; and that after these things are done, the States may be removed and sent to representation, provided the Constitution is approved. By Congress, the members sent to Congress can make the test trials. It will not make our condition more hopeless, when I inform you that these trials are being forced on us to coincide with a political and social organization of hundreds and thousands of our own fellow citizens, praying the Congress to inflict these trials on us, and thus disorganizing the government in the name of justice, while he and his people play a dangerous game in the Southern States. A very dangerous, in all respects, and the charge which you bring on me people. I claim a strict adherence to the original plan of the South, some moral courage to be a Union man, and I declare I have never known the life or property of either colored or white people to be in danger since the war began. It is now required that we remain to be a Union man now, and that the Southern men, who are now in the South, are the ones who were really Union men in the first place. But let me assure you, Indian, that the past and present history of the South, and the future, will be the best guide for the best.

But, fellow citizens, things are travelling with such rapidity to (not far) destruction, that we would be unable to advise for the best, but rather, in this world, to be by those who lead us. I do not know what to do. I feel impelled that the President who would have been recalled, and this letter has been written to the last hour for that purpose,

but it has not been received. Were I to advise, it would be to do whatever the President advised us to do, provided we could afford to do it. There are some things that conscientious, honorable men cannot afford to do voluntarily. But President Johnson is our real friend, and would not advise us wrong, knowingly. It is easy to see the intention and policy of those who are seeking our injury. Their plan is to call a Convention by primary meetings through a secret organization, without any authority or form of law, procure the negro vote for delegates to a Convention, dispossess the remainder of the white people who will not join them, and have their new government recognized by the military authority, then take things their own way generally, without once stopping to think what a condition things would soon be in when two-thirds of the voters were black and uneducated. I would beg of those who are endeavoring to force that thing upon us, more especially if they live among us and have families, for conscience sake, if all the black people vote, let all the white vote too. It is not easier to make a loyal man out of a rebel than to make a white man out of a black one, or easier to make loyal people out of rebels' children, than to make white people out of black people's children!

I hope these things will be pondered well by all parties, and be decided with judgment and reason, and not passion.

Respectfully yours,

J. S. GASH.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Radical members marked "R." Conservative marked "C."

CONNECTICUT. James Doolittle, r. Curtis S. Frasier, c.

DELAWARE. John Constance, r. Cornelius Cole, c.

GEORGIA. Genl. Riddle, c. Wilder, Secretary, c.

ILLINOIS. Richard T. Hinman, r. Vacancy.

INDIANA. Thos A. Hendricks, r. Linn Trimble, r.

KANSAS. James W. Grimes, r. James Harlan, r.

KENTUCKY. Vacancy.

Louisiana. John Howard, r. Veney.

MICHIGAN. John B. Thompson, r. C. D. Drake, r.

MINNESOTA. Zephaniah Chandler, r. Jacob M. Howard, r.

MISSOURI. James Gathier, r. Vacancy.

MISSISSIPPI. Peter J. Fairbanks, r.

MISSOURI. John B. Thompson, r.

MISSOURI.