

Randolph Regulator.

GOVERNMENT WAS INSTITUTED FOR THE GOOD OF THE GOVERNED.

VOL. I.

ASHEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1876.

NUMBER 1.

THE RANDOLPH REGULATOR,

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THE RANDOLPH PUBLISHING CO

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COURT HOUSE.

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All kinds of JOB WORK done at the

"REGULATOR" office, in the neatest

style, and on reasonable terms. Bills for

advertising considered due when pre-

sented.

An Address to the People of Chatham

from Messrs. John Manning

and W. F. Stroud.

To our fellow Citizens of Chatham

County:

The undersigned having been elect-

ed as delegates to the Convention from

Chatham county, deem it eminently

proper and right that they should render

an account of their stewardship to their

constituents.

It was charged during the campaign

for the Convention in the address of the

Executive Committee of the Repub-

lican party and reiterated by Repub-

lican orators and papers:

1st. That the object of the Demo-

cratic party was to disfranchise large

numbers of voters. This was not done

nor attempted.

2d. That the Democratic party was

unfriendly to the homestead and per-

sonal property exemptions, and if con-

trol was obtained of the Supreme Court

they would overrule the decisions of that

Court, as applied to old debts.

No ordinance or resolution interfer-

ing or proposing to interfere with these

provisions of the present constitution

was introduced by a Democrat; one

was introduced by a Republican, but

it was promptly decided that it came

within the restrictions of the act call-

ing the Convention, and was never al-

lowed to pass its second reading.

3d. That the Democratic party

would discriminate in property ex-

empt from taxation against the poor

man and in favor of lawyers and other

professional men. No alteration was

made in the provisions of the present

Constitution on that subject.

4th. That the Democratic party in

order to reduce the blacks to a degra-

ded position, would legislate against

their *own race* by annexing or requir-

ing property qualifications for voters.

No property qualifications of any

sort was required either for office or

for a voter.

5th. That the restrictions of the

Convention act would not be obeyed.

There is no pretence from any quarter

that these restrictions were not faith-

fully observed and this in spite of the

protests from the Republicans.

1st. That the Legislature had no

right to impose the restrictions; and

2nd. against the oath required by the

act to be administered to the delegates

and against its binding effect in law.

6th. That "the plotters," meaning

the Democratic party, would restore

and has given over twelve months in

which the amendments can be exam-

ined and discussed, and has provided

for a more liberal and intelligent dis-

tribution of them than was ever before

practiced in this State.

This statement convicts the leaders

of the Republican party of being false

prophets, and ought to shake the con-

fidence of the people, either in their

intelligence, or their sincerity, for ac-

cusations so groundless should come

home to roost.

Now as to what the Convention did.

Two amendments are proposed to Ar-

ticle I. of the Constitution—Sections

24 and 25; the first condemning the

practice of carrying concealed weap-

ons, and giving the General Assembly

power to enact penal statutes against

such practice; the second declares that

secret political societies are dangerous

to the liberties of a free people, and

should not be tolerated. These amend-

ments are in the interest of good mor-

als, and of the public peace and safety.

To Article II. six amendments are

proposed, viz: To Sec. 2. altering the

time of the meeting of the General As-

sembly to the first Wednesday after

the first Monday in January next, af-

ter their election, thus getting rid of

the Christmas holidays, and the delay

and expense incident thereto

Sections 4 and 8 are obsolete, and

were abrogated.

Section 27 is proposed to be amend-

ed, so as to make the terms of office

for Senators and Representatives com-

menate at the time of their election.

Sec. 29. The latter clause being

obsolete, so much of said section is

abrogated.

Additional Section is proposed to

this Article, by which the sessions of

the General Assembly are restricted

to six days, the per. diem to \$4.00,

the mileage to 10 cts. per mile, and

the limit on extra session to twenty days,

with the same per diem and mileage.

By this amendment, fifty thousand dol-

lars is saved, and the weight of taxes

proportionally lightened.

To Article III. two amendments are

proposed, viz: Sec. 2 is changed so as

to limit the patronage and appointing

power of the Governor to offices, whose

offices are established by this Consti-

tution, and not otherwise provided for

in the Constitution. This amendment

is in harmony with the Democratic

principles of our government, nips the

rapidly growing and dangerous per-

ogative of the Governor, and turns over

to the people's representatives, the

management, supervision and control

of the Rail-roads, and charitable and

penal institutions of the State, and will

no doubt promote fidelity and economy

in their management.

Sec. 17 is abrogated, and the follow-

ing inserted in its stead: "The Gen-

eral Assembly shall establish a depart-

ment of Agriculture, Immigration and

Statistics, under such regulations as

may best promote the agricultural in-

terests of the State, and shall enact

laws for the adequate protection and

encouragement of sheep husbandry.

This wise and much needed amend-

ment is, of course, principally in the

interests of the farmer, and for the first

time in the history of the State, agri-

culture is dignified by a constitutional

of property; and to this the Conven-

tion addressed itself patriotically, wise-

ly and zealously, and thirteen amend-

ments are proposed, viz:

Sec. 4 is amended by striking out

the words "special Courts," and inser-

ting "and such other Courts inferior to

the Supreme Court as may be estab-

lished by law." By this amendment,

power is given the General Assembly

to establish inferior Courts when neces-

sary, for example: in Wilmington,

Newbern, Raleigh, Charlotte and else-

where, where, from the crowded con-

dition of the docket of the Superior Court,

civil actions are very rarely tried and

justice unreasonably delayed. It was

also thought that under this provision,

if necessary, the General Assembly

might establish courts with a limited,

civil and criminal jurisdiction which

might take the place of the present sys-

tem of Probate Courts, and besides try

certain classes of criminals more speed-

ily, deliver the jails more expeditiously,

and thus save a large expenditure by

the different counties.

Sec. 8 is amended so as to reduce the

number of Supreme Court Judges to

three and thus save \$5,000 per annum

without diminishing the efficiency of the

Court.

Sec. 9 continues the session of the Su-

preme Court at Raleigh until otherwise

provided by the General Assembly,

thus anticipating and providing for the

growth in population, wealth and bus-

iness of Western North Carolina.

Sec. 10 as it now stands is an anom-

aly, not to be found in the Constitu-

tions of other States, and is amended

so as to give the Supreme Court the

same jurisdiction over "questions of

fact and issues of fact" that it exercised

before the adoption of this Constitu-

tion of 1868.

The great protection this change will

afford to the people in matters of ac-

count and in the settlement of estates

will be readily seen and appreciated

by the members of the bar.

Sec. 12 reduces the number of Su-

preme Court Judges to nine, thus sav-

ing \$9,500 per annum provides in-

stead of a two weeks term in each coun-

ty that the court shall continue in each

county for such time as may be pre-

scribed by law; in other words, ac-

commodates the term of the court to the

business, and saves much needless ex-

pende.

Sec. 14 is amended so as to provide

for the rotation of the judges. Every

lover of justice, every friend of the im-

partial administration of the law, will

acknowledge the propriety of this a-

ment.

Sections 15, 16 and 17 are abrogated

and one section inserted in their stead

by which the jurisdiction of the Courts

below the Supreme Court is to be al-

located to the several Courts by the

General Assembly. This was necessary

to give to such inferior Courts their

proper jurisdiction, to preserve har-

mony, and to make the Courts more flex-

ible, and to adapt them to the changing

circumstances, wants and condition of

the people without the necessity of con-

stitutional amendment, and is in har-

mony with the Constitutions of the other

States of the Union.

Sections 26 and 27 are stricken out,

and another section inserted, providing

as now the appointees of the Govern-

or holding for the full term and in

spite of, if not in defiance of, the pop-

ular will.

Sec. 33 is amended so as to give ap-

peals in all trials before Justices of the

Peace to the Superior Court in term

time; gives Justices of the peace juris-

diction of actions of tort where the prop-

erty does not exceed in value \$50.00.

This is an important amendment en-

larging the jurisdiction of the Justices

of the Peace, and enabling the Justice

to try civil actions other than those

founded on contract, when the prop-

erty in controversy does not exceed in

value \$50.00. This of course expedites

trials and lessens the costs.

An additional section is proposed

carrying out the restrictions of the Act

calling the Convention in regard to va-

cating offices.

Two additional sections are propos-

ed—the first is an exact copy of a sec-

tion in the Constitution before 1868,

and provides that a Judge of any of

the courts may be removed from office

for mental or physical inability, upon

an concurrent resolution of two thirds

of both houses of the General Assem-

bly, and requires a reasonable notice

to be given to the Judge against whom

proceedings are instituted. The second

section provides that the clerk of any

court may be removed by the Judge of

said court, for like reasons, and re-

quires alike notice. These sections en-

able the people to get rid of incompe-

tent officers without the cost of an im-

peachment.

An additional section is proposed,

providing, "In case the General As-

sembly shall establish other courts in-

ferior to the Superior Court, the pre-

siding officers and clerks thereof shall

be elected in such manners as the Gen-

eral Assembly may from time to time

prescribe, and they shall hold their of-