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Wm. A. HEARNE, Manager.

The Daily Carolinian.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead, Who never to himself hath said, This is my own, my native land."

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THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ADDRESS OF THE Central Executive Committee.

To the People of North Carolina:

The Executive Committee of the Democratic Conservative party of this State, after consultation among themselves and with many friends from different parts of the State, familiar with public sentiment, have deemed it necessary and proper that the Central Executive Committee shall address the people in reference to various topics of public interest, and particularly constitutional reform in this State. The Central Committee, therefore, feel especially called upon and instructed to submit to the people such views and suggest such measures of reform and relief as, in their judgment, are calculated to promote concert of action and the general welfare of the State.

THE CONVENTION ELECTION.

The result of the election in August last, although adverse to the call of a Convention of the people, cannot be regarded as an expression of popular approval of many of the leading provisions of the present State constitution; for all parties, with scarcely any dissent, recognized and conceded the paramount necessity for a change in the organic law in several material particulars.

Nor can the result of that election be properly claimed as a party success or defeat. The issue submitted and passed upon was not a *party issue*, although great efforts were made by interested persons to make it such—nor was it so regarded or treated by thousands of democrats and Conservatives who voted against "Convention." That election turned on collateral and immeterial issues, most of them suggested and pressed upon public attention by the great body of the office holders of the State, who apprehended that a convention if called, would turn them out of office. The office-holders of the State generally opposed the call; they freely used money and other appliances to defeat it. The colored people were made falsely to believe that a convention would deprive them of their freedom, or greatly abridge their political rights. Thousands voted against the call because they feared armed interference of the authorities of the federal government and another war—other thousands voted against it, because they apprehended some unfriendly interference with the present homestead provision, while some believed the call as made was without the sanction of the constitution and revolutionary; so that, we repeat, the election turned, not in favor of or against any political party, nor upon the real merits of the issue submitted to the people, but upon many collateral considerations.

METHOD OF AMENDMENT SETTLED.

The majority against the proposed call for a Convention, though comparatively meagre, settles adversely the proposition to amend the Constitution by a Convention of the people, however proper and desirable that method of amendment may be. It settles it, because the radical members of the Legislature, at the behest of their party, unanimously refused to vote for the call of a Convention of the people by the Legislature. Such a call cannot be made without the votes of at least a few of them, and they and their party thus assume the grave responsibility of preventing the people from amending and reforming their organic law.

The only remaining method of amending the Constitution is by *legislative* enactment. Although the Constitution operates oppressively in many respects, and some of its provisions preclude all hope of general prosperity while they continue in force, yet it is manifestly the duty of every good citizen to seek relief from such evils by the *legislative mode*, however slow and unsatisfactory, in the present emergency, it may be. We venture to hope that the members of the Legislature will, when they assemble, at once agree upon this plan of relief, and we respectfully suggest that, in the meantime, the people give prompt and free expression of their wishes as to such amendments as they desire, so that the Legislature may be informed of the popular will, as well as may be, in reference to constitutional reform.

OUR MATERIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OPPRESSED.

That the material, industrial and educational interests of the State are in a calamitous condition is manifest to the commonest observer. There is now a direful incubus upon the state that deadens the energies of the people and destroys all reasonable hope of future prosperity. Every man has the distressing sense that he labors and toils in vain!

These evils are not owing to any lack of industry and persistent effort on the part of the people. Ever since the late war they have walked assiduously, and thousands have labored who never labored before. They have lived economically.—The soil has generally yielded good crops and fair prices have been realized for them. But their earnings are gone!—Where are they? Their desolated farms are not restored. The waste places are not built up. The greater number of the towns and villages are as decayed as at the close of the war; many of them are in a worse condition. The destroyed manufactories, with but few exceptions, have not been rebuilt. And where, we repeat, are the earnings of our impoverished people? They are swallowed up in oppressive taxation, to support a system of state government essentially expensive, and a radical extravagance without a parallel in the history of a free people.

BURDENSOME TAXATION—PUBLIC EXTRAVAGANCE.

During the first two years under the present Constitution, $1,807,580 were collected from the people, and every dollar of this vast sum was expended in the administration of the State government—an average of over $900,000 a year!—about ten times what it cost to administer the government before the war! There belonged to the School Fund, derived from the Land Scrip donated by the United States, the sum of $122,000. This sum was *invested* mostly in "special tax bonds," and the fund is virtually lost

These monstrous evils are the legitimate fruits of the workings of the present Constitution and radical misrule under it. The present organization fastens on the people a system of government essentially extravagant—the township system alone making necessary about three thousand officers at an annual expense of from $300,000 to $400,000. It establishes a public debt amounting to $40,000,000, half of which is confessedly dishonest and fraudulent, and which the people are unable to pay.

MISRULE, FRAUD, FORCE AND THE SWORD.

Under this organic law the people are subjected to an intolerable misrule at the hands of the radical party. By means of notorious fraud, force and the sword, that party had absolute control of the Convention that framed the present Constitution, and like control of the first Legislature that assembled under it; and although the people were impoverished, this radical Convention and Legislature increased the public debt from $20,000,000 to near $40,000,000 in less than eighteen months. Of this $20,000,000, less than $500,000 have gone into the public works or to the benefit of the people. This party placed in office a Governor who absolutely suspended the Constitution and laws of the State; he arrested scores of innocent citizens without warrant or any authority of law; he suspended the writ of *habeas corpus* and defied the Chief Justice of the State; he made his warrant from time to time on the Treasurer for large sums of money without the sanction of law; he raised a lawless and mercenary horde of desperadoes and armed them at the public expense to execute his despotic will. This party elected to the State Convention and the Legislature scores of men notorious for their ignorance, licentiousness, dishonesty and corruption, who, at the behests of their party and knavish speculators, increased the public debt to the enormous sum already stated. This party degraded and disgraced the Judiciary by electing to high judicial stations men shamefully ignorant and corrupt, and others who have not scrupled to manifest the most blatant partizan feelings while holding their offices. This party have ruined the credit of the State—they have blasted the hopes and prosperity of the people in the most shameless and defiant manner—they have made every department of the government a by-word and reproach. To establish the truth of these charges we need but point to the history of the State for the last three years and appeal to the observation of every intelligent citizen.

THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION.

This Constitution and this party, with a radical, reckless and extravagant administration of the Federal Government, make up the manifest causes of the sufferings, poverty and ruin that crush the people of the State. The Radical party have brought upon us all these evils, and there is no relief from them but through salutary changes of the Constitution, and a change of our present rulers for others who shall be capable, honest, wise and patriotic.

The present constitution is loose, illogical, contradictory and absurd in many of its provisions, and it were well if it could be entirely re-written; but this is not practicable by the legislative mode of amendment. Action will be expedited by amending it in a few very important particulars, for the present, and leaving general amendment to a future time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED.

In the judgment of the Executive Committee, the Constitution should at once be amended in the following particulars:

Section 6 of Article 1 should be so amended as to strike out all thereof that provides the *inviolability of the public debt.*

Section 2 of Article 2 should be so amended as to provide that the Legislature shall meet regularly every two years, instead of every year, and it should be provided that the members of the Legislature shall receive but $3 per day and 10 cents mileage, and such pay for no longer a period than 100 days during their term of office.

The office of Superintendent of Public Works should be abolished.

Article 3, Section 1, should be so amended as the Governor and other officers, therein mentioned, shall hold their offices but *two years*, instead of four years, as now provided.

Section 10 of Article 3 should be so amended as to provide that the Governor shall nominate the officers therein mentioned, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, unless otherwise provided by law.

Article 4 should be so amended as to strike out sections 2 and 3, thus abolishing the Code Commission.

Section 4, of this article should be stricken out, leaving the Legislature to regulate the number and style of Courts. Instead of five Supreme Court Judges, and twelve Superior Court Judges, as now provided, there should be but three Supreme Court and eight Superior Court Judges, who shall be elected every eight years. Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 31 and 33 of article 4 should be stricken out and it should be provided that the judicial powers of the state shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such Superior Courts and inferior Courts as the General Assembly may establish.

Section 4 of article 5 should be stricken out, thus striking out the mortgage provision on all the property of the State for the interest of the public debt.

Section 6 of article 5, should be so amended as to enlarge the class of exemptions so as to include "stock and provisions."

Article 6, section 5, should be so amended as to provide that the persons therein rendered ineligible for office shall likewise be rendered incompetent to vote.

Article 7 should be abolished, except section 13, thus sweeping away the *Township system* and leaving the matter to the Legislature.

Article 10 should be so amended as to provide that the Homestead provisions should apply to all debts alike, and it should be in fee—that is absolute.

Article 11, section 10, should be so amended as to provide that its benefits shall extend only to *indigent* persons.

Article 14, section 7, should be so amended as to provide that no person shall hold any lucrative office under this State while he holds an office under the United States.

Sec. 5 of Art. 2 should be so amended as to abolish the provision for taking a census of the State in 1875, and every ten years thereafter.

We would suggest as a further amendment, that Sec. 5 of Art. 9 be so amended as to provide that the University shall be under the control of the General Assembly, who shall elect a Board of Trustees, of which the Governor shall be *ex officio* Chairman, and Sections 13 and 14 of that Article should be stricken out.

Other amendments ought to be made, but those suggested would relieve the people from the burdensome and extravagant State government that now swallows up their earnings, and fastens upon them a State debt which they cannot pay, but of which they may easily so compromise and adjust the honest portion, as will reduce it within manageable limits.

CRIME AND OUTRAGE.

We deem it worth while to notice in this address, that wicked and interested persons—unprincipled and violent radical partizans in and out of this State—for sinister purposes, have sought to produce the false impression that the Democratic-Conservative party have and do connive at and encourage the perpetration of crime and outrage. To this detestable end they have, wherever they could, prostituted the press, legislative and judicial proceedings, and resorted to every means within their power. Such imputation is not only groundless, false and scandalous, but infamous to the last degree, and betrays a spirit of wickedness, we venture to assert, without a parallel in political warfare.

The party which we represent has always and persistently condemned crime, by whomsoever perpetrated, and has repeatedly gone out of the usual political course to denounce it, and urge upon the people the high importance of peace and good order, and the duty of every good citizen to be active and zealous in bringing offenders to justice.

The course pursued by the unworthy persons to whom we refer is deeply to be deplored by all good men of every political party. It is not only ignoble, but it tends to destroy the moral and legitimate effect of the voice of the press, legislative action and judicial determination, for the suppression of crime—their constant effort is to turn such matters to political advantage by giving them a political turn, and thus they produce the almost inevitable conviction on the minds of disinterested observers that the purpose of the press, the Legislature and Courts, is not to suppress crime and outrage, but to manufacture political capital and advantage from the crimes of offenders, and thus engender bitter feelings among their opponents, destroy confidence in the Courts and bring them into disgrace and contempt.

We again urge our friends to set their faces against violence and lawlessness of all kinds, and to be especially active in preventing secret outrages by disguised persons.

NATIONAL POLITICS.

It is to be regretted that the people of this State have failed to take any very active interest in national politics since the close of the late war. In our judgment this is unwise. Our people are of the Union—it is our government and to it we must look, as we have the right, for support and protection in our rights of life, liberty and property, at home and abroad—we owe it allegiance and support, and it is a patriotic duty to yield these—it is as much our duty to join our fellow-countrymen in shaping and controlling the policy and destiny of this great common national government. We have all the rights that any of the American people have, and we are false to the country and ourselves if we fail to recognize, exercise and act upon them. The people have rights; let them exercise them firmly and respectfully, and when need be, assert them as freemen and American citizens in the councils of the nation, in political assemblages, and everywhere. If we consent to be dwarfed and ignored nationally, then indeed, we may expect to be for all time to come.

CORRUPTION, EXTRAVAGANCE AND USURPATION.

Our common country is subject to grievous political evils to which the compass of this address will allow us to advert very briefly.

Official corruption in high and low places; public extravagance; usurpation of great powers not conferred, but denied and prohibited by the Constitution; high and oppressive tariffs which foster immense monopolies; the direct encouragement and support of monopolies; prostitution of official patronage to promote party ascendancy; a system of taxation which brings into active service in the interests of the party in power, hordes of Internal Revenue officers who oppress, plunder and outrage the people of the nation, and under which large surplus sums of money are raised that ought to remain in the pockets of the people; a general system of espionage; a suspension of the liberties of the people upon the slightest pretext, in express violation of the Constitution; armed military interference with the freedom of elections; a general system of official bribery and party favoritism in every department, and the administration of the affairs of the government, are public national evils, the enormity, extent and danger of which can scarcely be measured or appreciated by the people subject to them. That these evils do exist is manifest to everybody. The dearest, highest interests of a free people demand that they shall not close their eyes to such dangers too long lest the time shall come when they will find their form of government changed in name as well as in fact, and their liberties lost.

SOURCE OF PUBLIC EVILS—THE "HIGHER LAW" OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Most if not all these evils, are attributable to the Radical or Republican party of the nation,—to its doctrines, policy and practices. It is essentially a party inimical and dangerous to the constitution and public and personal liberty. It is founded upon the despotic dogma that there is a "*higher law*" than the constitution; it is emphatically and essentially a "higher law" party. This dogma is its life and soul, and it proceeds on the jesuitical maxim, that "the end justifies the means." Hence it is, the head of this party, the president, does not hesitate to send the army to New York and elsewhere at the North, to this State, Texas and all over the South, in violation of the letter and spirit of the Constitution, to control the elections and prepare the way for his and his party's continued ascendancy, and his own election. Hence, too, we find him for like purposes suspending the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* in a time of profound peace, arresting the citizen without warrant or lawful authority, but only by lawless force. Hence, too, we find this party in Congress avowedly, and in the most riotous manner, passing laws at one time to oust the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the Union to prevent that great tribunal from declaring its acts and assaults on the Constitution unconstitutional and void,—at another time passing a similar law to "pack" that Court with partizans to alter a solemn decision already made, but distasteful to this "higher law" party. Hence, too, hundreds of other similar acts done by this party which illustrate the principles, policy and practices which we have attributed to it, and which if not arrested and suppressed, must result in the absolute overthrow of the system of government formed and handed down to us by Washington and his compatriots. That such a party has been allowed to spring up on American soil is monstrous and alarming!

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY THE ONLY OTHER PARTY.

There is but one other great political party in the country—that is the National Democratic party. In our judgment, it is the patriotic duty of every lover of liberty and free government to cooperate with that great and powerful party to arrest the tremendous evils to which we have adverted, and which will, sooner or later, if not suppressed, destroy freedom and establish despotism and the sword.

POLITICAL DUTY OF ALL PATRIOTS.

To accomplish this great measure of reform in our State and National Governments, we cordially invite the zealous cooperation of every patriot, without regard to his hitherto party affiliations. We stand in determined opposition to the crimes and evils to which we have briefly directed public attention, and we ask all good people to stand with us, trusting that such common patriotic effort, through the blessing of God, may save us and our country from impending danger and ruin.

THOS. BRAGG, *Chairman.*
A. S. MERRIMON,
M. A. BLEDSOE,
R. H. BATTLE, JR.,
J. Q. DECARTERET,
C. M. BUSBEE,
W. R. COX,
J. J. LITCHFORD,
Central Executive Committee.

The Constitution of North Carolina.

PROVISIONS AFFECTED BY AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The following Articles and Sections are taken from the Constitution of the State to show wherein it is proposed by the Democratic party to amend the Constitution of North Carolina by Legislative enactment:

ARTICLE I.

Section 6. To maintain the honor and good faith of the State untarnished, the public debt, regularly contracted before and since the rebellion, shall be regarded as inviolable and never be questioned; but the State shall never assume or pay, or authorize the collection of, any debt or obligation, express or implied, incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave.

[Proposed to so amend as to strike out all thereof that provides the *inviolability of the public debt.*]

ARTICLE II.

Section 2. The Senate and House of Representatives shall meet annually on the third Monday in November, and when assembled, shall be denominated the General Assembly. Neither House shall proceed upon public business, unless a majority of all the members are actually present.

[So amend as to provide that the Legislature shall meet regularly every two years, instead of every year, and it should be provided that the members of the Legislature shall receive but $3 per day and 10 cents mileage, and such pay for no longer period than 100 days during their term of office.]

ARTICLE III.

Section 1. The Executive Department shall consist of a Governor, (in whom shall be vested the Supreme executive power of the State) a Lieutenant Governor, a Secretary of State, an Auditor, a Treasurer, a Superintendent of Public Works,* a Superintendent of Public Instruction, and an Attorney General, who shall be elected for a term of four years by the qualified electors of the State, at the same time and places and in the same manner as members of the General Assembly are elected. Their term of office shall commence on the first day of January next after their election, and continue until their successors are elected and qualified: *Provided*, That the officers first elected shall assume the duties of their office ten days after the approval of this Constitution by the Congress of the United States, and shall hold their office four years from and after the first day of January, 1869.

*Address asks for abolition of this office.

[So amend as the Governor and other officers, therein mentioned, shall hold their offices but *two years*, instead of four years, as now provided.]

Sec. 10. The Governor shall nominate, and, by and with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senators elect, appoint all officers whose offices are established by this Constitution, or which shall be created by law, and whose appointments are not otherwise provided for, and no such officer shall be appointed or elected by the General Assembly.

[Should be so amended as to provide that the Governor shall nominate the officers therein mentioned, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, unless otherwise provided by law.]

ARTICLE IV.

Section 2. Three Commissioners shall be appointed by this Convention to report to the General Assembly at its first session after this Constitution shall be adopted by the people, rules of practice and procedure in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing section, and the Convention shall provide for the Commissioners a reasonable compensation.

Sec. 3. The same Commissioners shall also report to the General Assembly as soon as practicable, a code of the law of North Carolina. The Governor shall have power to fill all vacancies occurring in this Commission.

[Strike out sections 2 and 3, thus abolishing the Code Commission.]

Sec. 4. The judicial power of the State shall be vested in a Court for the trial of Impeachments, a Supreme Court, Superior Courts, Courts of Justices of the Peace, and Special Courts.

[Strike out, and leave the Legislature to regulate the number and style of Courts. Instead of five Supreme Court Judges, and twelve Superior Court Judges, as now provided, there should be but three Supreme Court and eight Superior Court Judges, who shall be elected every eight years.]

Sec. 11. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction to hear claims against the State, but its decisions shall be merely recommendatory; no process in the nature of execution shall issue thereon; they shall be reported to the next session of the General Assembly for its action.

Sec. 12. The State shall be divided into twelve judicial Districts, for each of which a Judge shall be chosen, who shall hold a Superior Court in each County in said District at least twice in each year, to continue for two weeks, unless the business shall be sooner disposed of.

Sec. 13. Until altered by law, the following shall be the Judicial Districts:

First District—Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Bertie.

Second District—Tyrrell, Hyde, Washington, Beaufort, Martin, Pitt, Edgecombe.

Third District—Craven, Carteret, Jones, Greene, Onslow, Lenoir, Wayne, Wilson.

Fourth District—Brunswick, New Hanover, Duplin, Columbus, Bladen, Sampson, Robeson.

Fifth District—Cumberland, Harnett, Moore, Richmond, Anson, Montgomery, Stanly, Union.

Sixth District—Northampton, Warren, Halifax, Wake, Nash, Franklin, Johnston, Granville.

Seventh District—Person, Orange, Chatham, Randolph, Guilford, Alamance, Caswell, Rockingham.

Eighth District—Stokes, Forsyth, Davidson, Rowan, Davie, Yadkin, Surry.

Ninth District—Catawba, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Lincoln, Gaston, Cleveland, Rutherford, Polk.

Tenth District—Iredell, Wilkes, Burke, Alexander, Caldwell, McDowell.

Eleventh District—Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga, Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Buncombe

Twelfth District—Henderson, Transylvania, Haywood, Macon, Jackson, Clay, Cherokee.

Sec. 14. Every Judge of a Superior Court shall reside in his District while holding his office. The Judges may exchange Districts with each other with the consent of the Governor, and the Governor, for good reasons, which he shall report to the Legislature at its current or next session, may require any Judge to hold one or more specified terms of said Courts in lieu of the Judge in whose District they are.

Sec. 15. The Superior Courts shall have exclusive original jurisdiction of all civil actions, whereof exclusive original jurisdiction is not given to some other Courts; and of all criminal actions in which the punishment may exceed a fine of fifty dollars or imprisonment for one month.

Sec. 16. The Superior Courts shall have appellate jurisdiction of all issues of law or fact, determined by a Probate Judge or a Justice of the Peace, where the matter in controversy exceeds twenty-five dollars, and of matters of law in all cases.

Sec. 17. The Clerks of the Superior Courts shall have jurisdiction of the probate of deeds, the granting of letters testamentary and of administration, the appointment of guardians, the apprenticing of orphans, to audit the accounts of executors, administrators and guardians, and of such other matters as shall be prescribed by law. All issues of fact joined before them shall be transferred to the Superior Courts for trial, and appeals shall lie to the Superior Courts from their judgments in all matters of law.

Sec. 18. In all issues of fact, joined in any Court, the parties may waive the right to have the same determined by jury, in which case the finding of the Judge upon the facts shall have the force and effect of a verdict of a jury.

Sec. 19. The General Assembly shall provide for the establishment of Special Courts, for the trial of misdemeanors, in Cities and Towns, where the same may be necessary.

Sec. 26. The Justices of the Supreme Court shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State, as is provided for the election of members of the General Assembly. They shall hold their offices for eight years. The Judges of the Superior Courts shall be elected in like manner, and shall hold their offices for eight years; but the Judges of the Superior Courts elected at the first election under this Constitution shall, after their election, under the superintendence of the Justices of the Supreme Court, be divided by lot into two equal classes, one of which shall hold office for four years, the other for eight years.

Sec. 27. The General Assembly may provide by law that the Judges of the Superior Courts, instead of being elected by the voters of the whole State, as is herein provided for, shall be elected by the voters of their respective Districts.

Sec. 28. The Superior Courts shall be, at all times, open for the transaction of all business within their jurisdiction, except the trial of issues of fact requiring a jury.

Sec. 31. All vacancies occurring in the offices provided for by this Article of this Constitution, shall be filled by the appointment of the Governor, unless otherwise provided for, and the appointees shall hold their places until the next regular election.

Sec. 33. The several Justices of the Peace shall have exclusive original jurisdiction under such regulations as the General Assembly shall prescribe, of all civil actions, founded on contract, wherein the sum demanded shall not exceed two hundred dollars, and wherein the title to real estate shall not be in controversy; and of all criminal matters arising within their Counties, where the punishment cannot exceed a fine of fifty dollars, or imprisonment for one month. When an issue of fact shall be joined before a Justice, on demand of either party thereto, he shall cause a jury of six men to be summoned, who shall try the same. The party against whom judgment shall be rendered in any civil action may appeal to the Superior Court from the same, and, if the judgment shall exceed twenty-five dollars, there may be a new trial of the whole matter in the appellate Court; but if the judgment shall be for twenty-five dollars or less, then the case shall be heard in the appellate Court only upon matters of law. In all cases of a criminal nature, the party against whom judgment is given may appeal to the Superior Court, where the matter shall be heard anew. In all cases brought before a Justice, he shall make a record of the proceedings, and file the same with the Clerk of the Superior Court for his County.

[Secs. 11 to 19, 26 to 28, 31 and 33 should be stricken out, and it should be provided that the judicial powers of the State shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such Superior Courts and inferior Courts as the General Assembly may establish.]

ARTICLE V.

Sec. 4. The General Assembly shall, by appropriate legislation and by adequate taxation, provide for the prompt and regular payment of the interest on the public debt, and after the year 1880, it shall lay a specific annual tax upon the real and personal property of the State, and the sum thus realized shall be set apart as a sinking fund, to be devoted to the payment of the public debt.

[Should be stricken out, thus striking out the mortgage provision on all the property of the State for the interest of the public debt.]

Sec. 6. Property belonging to the State, or to municipal corporations, shall be exempt from taxation. The General Assembly may exempt cemeteries, and property held for educational, scientific, literary, charitable, or religious purposes; also, wearing apparel, arms for muster, household and kitchen furniture, the mechanical and agricultural implements of mechanics and farmers, libraries and scientific instruments, to a value not exceeding three hundred dollars.

[Should be so amended as to enlarge the class of exemptions so as to include "stock and provisions."]

ARTICLE VI.

Sec. 5. The following classes of persons shall be disqualified for office: First, All persons who shall deny the being of Almighty God. Second, All persons who shall have been convicted of treason, perjury, or of any other infamous crime, since becoming citizens of the United States, or of corruption, or mal-practice in office, unless such person shall have been legally restored to the rights of citizenship.

[So amend as to provide that the persons therein rendered ineligible for office shall likewise be rendered incompetent to vote.]

ARTICLE VII.

SECTION 1. In each County, there shall be elected, biennially, by the qualified voters thereof as provided for the election of members of the General Assembly, the following officers: A Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Surveyor and Five Commissioners.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Commissioners to exercise a general supervision and control of the penal and charitable institutions, schools, roads, bridges, levying of taxes and finances of the County, as may be prescribed by law. The Register of Deeds shall be, *ex officio*, Clerk of the Board of Commissioners.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Commissioners first elected in each County, to divide the same into convenient Districts, to determine the boundaries and prescribe the name of the said Districts, and to report the same to the General Assembly before the first day of January, 1869.

SEC. 4. Upon the approval of the reports provided for in the foregoing section, by the General Assembly, the said Districts shall have corporate powers for the necessary purposes of local government, and shall be known as Townships.

SEC. 5. In each Township there shall be biennially elected, by the qualified voters thereof, a Clerk and two Justices of the Peace, who shall constitute a Board of Trustees, and shall, under the supervision of the County Commissioners, have control of the taxes and finances, roads and bridges of the Township as may be prescribed by law. The General Assembly may provide for the election of a larger number of Justices of the Peace in Cities and Towns and in those Townships in which Cities and Towns are situated. In every Township there shall also be biennially elected a School Committee, consisting of three persons, whose duty shall be prescribed [by] law.

Sec. 6. The Township Board of Trustees shall assess the taxable property of their Townships and make return to the County Commissioners, for revision, as may be prescribed by law. The Clerk shall also be, *ex-officio*, Treasurer of the Township.

Sec. 7. No County, City, Town, or other municipal corporation shall contract any debt, pledge its faith, or loan its credit, nor shall any tax be levied, or collected by any officers of the same, except for the necessary expenses thereof, unless by a vote of a majority of the qualified voters therein.

Sec. 8. No money shall be drawn from any County or Township Treasury, except by authority of law.

Sec. 9. All taxes levied by any County, City, Town, or Township, shall be uniform and *ad valorem*, upon all property in the same, except property exempted by this Constitution.

Sec. 10. The County officers first elected under the provisions of this Article shall enter upon their duties ten days after the approval of this Constitution by the Congress of the United States.

Sec. 11. The Governor shall appoint a sufficient number of Justices of the Peace in each County, who shall hold their places until sections four, five and six of this Article shall have been carried into effect.

Sec. 12. All charters, ordinances and provisions relating to municipal corporations shall remain in force until legally changed, unless inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

[Abolish the Article, except section 13, thus sweeping away the *Township system* and leaving the matter to the Legislature.]

ARTICLE X.

Section 1. The personal property of any resident of this State, to the value of five hundred dollars, to be selected by such resident, shall be, and is hereby exempted from sale under execution, or other final process of any Court, issued for the collection of any debt.

The North Carolinian.

Reliable advertisements inserted in the Weekly *North Carolinian* at the following rates:

SPACE.	1 Month	2	3	6	1 Year
1 square	3 00	4 00	10 00	15 00	
2 squares	5 00	6 00	8 00	26 00	
3 squares	6 00	12 00	15 00	33 00	
4 squares	10 00	14 00	20 00	40 00	
1 column	12 00	25 00	33 00	50 00	
2 column	19 00	34 00	57 50	90	
1 column	30 00	50 00	87 50	100 00	

An inch space, or less, is a square.

Sec. 2. Every homestead, and the dwelling and buildings used therewith, not exceeding in value one thousand dollars, to be selected by the owner thereof, or in lieu thereof, at the option of the owner, any lot in a City, Town or Village, with the dwelling and buildings used thereon, owned and occupied by any resident of this State, and not exceeding the value of one thousand dollars, shall be exempted from sale under execution, or other final process, obtained on any debt. But no property shall be exempt from sale for taxes, or for payment of obligations contracted for the purchase of said premises.

Sec. 3. The homestead, after the death of the owner thereof, shall be exempt from the payment of any debt during the minority of his children, or any one of them.

Sec. 4. The provisions of section one and two of this Article shall not be so construed as to prevent a laborer from claiming his work done and performed for the person claiming such exemption, or a mechanic's lien for work done on the premises.

Sec. 5. If the owner of a homestead die, leaving a widow, but no children, the same shall be exempt from the debts of her husband, and the rents and profits thereof shall inure to her benefit during her widowhood, unless she be the owner of a homestead in her own right.

Sec. 6. The real and personal property of any female in the State, acquired before marriage, and all property, real and personal, to which she may, after marriage, become, in any manner entitled, shall be and remain the sole and separate estate and property of such female, and shall not be liable for any debts, obligations or engagements of her husband, and may be devised or bequeathed, and, with the written assent of her husband, conveyed by her as if she were unmarried.

Sec. 7. The husband may insure his own life for the sole use and benefit of his wife and children, and in case of the death of the husband the amount thus insured shall be paid over to the wife and children, or the guardian, if under age, for her, or their own use, free from all the claims of the representatives of the husband, or any of his creditors.

Sec. 8. Nothing contained in the foregoing sections of this Article shall operate to prevent the owner of a homestead from disposing of the same by deed; but no deed made by the owner of a homestead shall be valid without the voluntary signature and assent of his wife, signified on her private examination according to law.

[This Article should be so amended as to provide that the Homestead provisions should apply to all debts alike, and it should be in fee—that is, absolute.]

ARTICLE XI.

Section 10. The General Assembly shall provide that all the deaf mutes, the blind, the insane of the State, shall be cared for at the charge of the State.

[So amend as to provide that its benefit shall extend only to *indigent* persons.]

ARTICLE XIV.

Section 7. No person shall hold more than one lucrative office under the State, at the same time: *Provided*, That officers in the Militia, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of Public Charities and Commissioners appointed for special purposes, shall not be considered officers within the meaning of this section.

[Should be so amended as to provide that no person shall hold any lucrative office under this State while he holds an office under the United States.]

ARTICLE II.

Section 5. An enumeration of the inhabitants of the State shall be taken under the direction of the General Assembly in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, and at the end of every ten years thereafter; and the said Senate districts shall be so altered by the General Assembly, at the first session after the return of every enumeration taken as aforesaid, or by order of Congress, that each Senate District shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, excluding aliens and Indians not taxed, and shall remain unaltered until the return of another enumeration, and shall at all times consist of contiguous territory; and no County shall be divided in the formation of a Senate District, unless such County shall be equitably entitled to two or more Senators.

[So amend as to abolish the provision for taking a census of the State in 1875, and every ten years thereafter.]

ARTICLE IX

Section 5. The University of North Carolina, with its lands, emoluments and franchises, is under the control of the State, and shall be held to an inseparable connection with the free public school system of the State.

[So amend as to provide that the University shall be under the control of the General Assembly, who shall elect a Board of Trustees, of which the Governor shall be *ex officio* Chairman.]

Sec. 13. The Board of Education shall elect Trustees for the University as follows: One Trustee for each County in the State, whose term of office shall be eight years. The first meeting of the Board shall be held within ten (10) days after their election, and at this and every subsequent meeting, ten Trustees shall constitute a quorum. The Trustees, at their first meeting, shall be divided as equally as may be, into four classes. The seats of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of two years; of the second class, at the expiration of four years; of the third class, at the expiration of six years; of the fourth class, at the expiration of eight years; so that one-fourth may be chosen every second year.

Sec. 14. The Board of Education and the President of the University shall be *ex officio* members of the Board of Trustees of the University; and shall, with three other Trustees, to be appointed by the Board of Trustees, constitute the Executive Committee of the Trustees of the University of North Carolina, and shall be clothed with the powers delegated to the Executive Committee under the existing organization of the Institution. The Governor shall be *ex officio* President of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the University. The Board of Education shall provide for the more perfect organization of the Board of Trustees.

[Sections 13 and 14 of this Article should be stricken out.]