SENATE PROPOSITION.

ANACT to alter the Constitution of North The General Assembly of North Caroliis do enact (three fifths of all the memers of each House concurring.) That the Constitution of this State be

altered as follows, to-wit: Amend section six, of the first article, ly striking out the first clause thereof. down to and including the word "but;" this being the clause relating to the State

Amend section two of the second article by striking out the word "annually," and inserting in lieu thereof, the word "bien nially;" being in reference to the sessions of the General Assembly. Amend section five of the second article. by striking out all that precedes the

words, "the said Senate districts," and

by striking out the phrase "as aforesaid in said section; the parts so stricken out lying reference to the State census. Add a new section to the second article to be styled "section 30," and to read as follows: "That the members of the Gentral Assembly shall each receive three hundred dollars as a compensation for their services during their term, subject to such regulations in regard to time of payment and reduction for non-attendance

may be prescribed by law; but, they may have an additional allowance when they are called together in special session, and mileage shall be ten cents per mile for ach session." Amend section one of the third article v striking out the words "four years," where they occur first in said section, and

inserting, in lieu thereof, the words "two years," being in reference to the terms of executive officers. Strike out the words "Superintendent cur in the Constitution, thus abolishing

Amend section six of the third article. by striking out the words "annually," and inserting, in lieu thereof, the word " biennially;" so as to conform to the provision respecting the sessions of the General As-

Strike out sections two and three of the burth article, being the provisions which refer to the appointment and duties of the ( de Commissioners.

Alter section four of the fourth article, so that said section shall read as follows: - The judiciary power of the State shall be ve-ted in a Court for the trial of impeachants, a Supreme Court, Superior Courts, h interior Courts as may be estabed by law, and Courts of Justices of

Peace. Alter section eight of the fourth article, that said section shall read as follows: The Supreme Court shall consist of a of Justice and two Associate Justices i oxided. That this shall not apply to the tices during their present term of office, unless by death, resignation or otherwise, the number of Associate Justices shall be

reduced to two." Alter section twelve of the fourth article so that said section shall read as folws: "The State shall be divided into mne judicial districts, for each of which a judge shall be chosen; and in each district a Superior Court shall be held at least wice in each year, to continue for such time in each county respectively as may be rescribed by law. The General Assembly hall lay off said districts in due time, so that the said nine judges may be chosen and begin their official term at the first general election for members of the Gener-Assembly which shall occur after the tatification of this section."

Strike out section thirteen of the fourth article, which fixes the present judicial dis-

Amend section fourteen of the fourth article by striking out all after the word office," and inserting, in lieu of the part stricken out, the words: "The General Assembly shall prescribe a proper system rotation for the judges of the Superior ourts, so that no judge may ride the same istrict twice in succession, and the judges may also exchange districts with each ther, as may be prescribed by law."

Strike out section fifteen of the fourth article, and insert in lieu thereof, the following: The General Assembly shall have power to deprive the judicial department of any power or jurisdiction which rightfully pertains to it as a coordinate department; but the General Assembly shall allot and distribute that portion of this power and jurisdiction, which does not pertain to the Supreme Court, among the other courts prescribed in this constitution or which may be established by law, in such manner as it may deem best, provide the a proper system of appeals, and regulate by law when necessary the methods of proceeding, in the exercise of their powers, of all the courts below the Supreme Court, so far as the same may be done without e affect with other provisions of the con-

Strike out sections sixteen, seventeen, nineteen, twenty-five and thirty-three of

the fourth article. Amend section twenty six of the fourth article by striking out all that part which egins with, and follows the word "but" in said section, and, in lieu of the part so stricken out, inserting the following:-The judicial officers and the clerks of any courts which may be established by law, shall be chosen by the vote of the qualified electors, and for such terms as may be prescribed by law. The voters of the precinct, established as is elsewhere provided for in this constitution, shall ther two justices of the peace for such term as may be fixed by law, whose jurisdiction shall extend throughout their respective counties. The General Assembly may provide for the election of more than two justices of the peace in those precincts which contain cities or towns, or in which other special reasons render it expedient. The magistrates of cities and incor

I'm towns shall have the judcial powtransjustices of the peace." Amand section thirty of the fourth article by sinking out the word "township" and inserting, in lieu thereof, the word "prealso in the last sentence of the same section, strike out the words "the columissioners of the county may appoint to such office for the unexpired term," and in lieu thereof insert "an appointment to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term shall be made as may be prescribed by

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Amend sections one and seven of the fifth article, by striking out the vords 'commissioners of the several counties" where they occur in said sections, and in lieu thereof inserting the words' "county authorities established and authorized by

Strike out section four of the fifth article, relating to taxation to pay the State debt and interest.

Insert the word "and" before the word "surveyor" in section one of the seventeenth article, and strike out the words "and five commissioners" in said section; also add to said section the following: "The General Assembly shall provide for a system of county government for the several counties

Amend section two of the seventh article, by striking out the word "commissioners" and in lieu thereof inserting the words "county authorities established and authorized by law:" and in the section strike out the words, "the register of deeds shall be ex officio clerk of the board of commissioners."

Strike out section three of the seventh article, and in heu thereof insert the following: "The county autthorities established and authorized by law shall see that the respective counties are divided into a suitable number of subdivisions, as compact and convenient in shape as possible, and marked out by definite boundaries, which may be altered when necessary .-Said subdivisions shall be known by the name of precincts. They shall have no corporate powers. The township governments are abolished. The boundaries of the precincts shall be the same as those which heretofore defined the township until they shall be altered."

Strike out sections four, five, six, ten and eleven of the 7th article, which relates to the township system.

Amend sections eight and nine of the seventh arcicle, by striking out the words or township" where they occur in said

Strike out section three of the ninth article, and in lieu thereof insert the followng: "The General Assembly shall make suitable provision by law for the management and regulation of the public schools, and for perfecting the system of free public instruction.' Strike out section five of the ninth arti-

cle, and in lieu thereof, insert the following: "The General Assembly shall have power to provide for the election of Trustees of the University of North Carolina, in whom, when chosen, shall be vested all the privileges, rights, franchises and endowments heretofore in any wise granted to, or conferred upon, the Board of Trustees of said University; and the General Assembly may make such provisions, laws and regulations, from time to time, as may be necessary and expedient, for the maintenance and management of said Uni-

Strike out sections thirteen, fourteen and fifteen of the ninth article, relating to the University of North Carolina. Amend section ten of the eleventh article by strik-State," and in lieu thereor, insert and by the State; and those who do not own property over and above the homestead and personal property exemption prescribed in this Constitution, or being minors, whose parents do not own property over and above the same, shall be cared for at

the charge of the State" Alter section seven of the fourteenth article so that said section shall read as follows: "No person who shall hold any office or place of trust or profit under the United States, or any department thereof, or under this State, or under any other State or government, shall hold or exercise any other office or place of trust or profit under the authority of this State, or be eligible to a seat in either house of the General Assembly; Provided, That nothing herein contained shall extend to officers in the militia, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of Public Charities, or Commissioners for Special Purposes."

Add another section to the fourteenth article to be styled "section 8," and to read as follows: "County officers, justices of the peace and other officers whose offices are abolished or changed in any way by the alteration of the constitution, shall continue to exercise their functions until any provisions necessary to be made by law in order to give full effect to the alterations, so far as relates to said officers shall have been made."

Renumber the sections in those articles from which any section has been stricken without the insertion of another in its stead; and give to any new section that number which by this method would have been given to the section for which it is substituted, and the alterations shall be embodied into the constitution, and the several sections numbered consecutively.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. The following are the Senate amendments to the bill as it passed its third read-

1st. Amending the property exemption from taxation so as to include \$300 worth

of any kind of property. 2d. Amend so as to empower the Legislature to increase or diminish the number of judicial districts to meet the necessity of the times, provided the change be made at the end of the term.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ADDRESS

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 espe cially called upon and instructed to submit to the people such views and to 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 appro-

val 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 deteat. 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 warother thousands voted against it, because they apprehended some unfriendly interterence 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 con-

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 desira-ble 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 peo ple 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 titizen 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 nonular will, as well as may be, in

OUR MATERIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND EDUCA-TIONAL INTERESTS OPPRESSED.

That the material, industrial and cducational 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 betore. 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 EXTRAV-AGANCE.

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 governmentan 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 truits 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 traudulent, and which the people are un-

able 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 svspended the writ of habeas corpus a d defied the Chief Justice of the State; he made his warrant from time to time on the Treasurer for large sums of money with- without a parallel in political warfare.

out the sanction of law; he raised lawless and mercenary horde of despendoes and armed them at the public expese to execute his despotic will. This party elected to the State Convention an the Legislature scores of men notoriot for their ignorance, licentiousness, disheesty and corruption, who, at the behes of their party and knavish speculator, increased the public debt to the enonous sum already stated. This party degaded and disgraced the Judiciary by eliting to high judicial stations men shamfully ignorant and corrupt, and others who have not scrupled to manifest themost blatant partizan feelings while Inding their offices. This party have ruind the credit of the State-they have blased the hopes and prosperity of the peoplen the most shameless and defiant manne they have made every department of te government a by word and reproach. To establish the truth of these charges re need but point to the history of the state for the last three years and appeal to the ob servation of every intelligent citien

THE PRESENT CONSTITUT This Constitution and this party, with a radical, reckless and extravagant administration of the Federal Government, make up the manifest causes of he sufferings, poverty and ruin that crish the people of the State. The Radica party have brought upon us all these eils, and there is no relief from them but brough salutary changes of the Constituton, and a change of our present rulers fo others who shall be capable, honest, wiscand pa-

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED. In the judgment of the Executve Committee, the Constitution should at once

ar ended 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

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 Legisature shall receive but \$3 per day and 10 cents mileage, and such pay for no longer a period than 100 days during their 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 tour 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 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 interior 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 provi-

Article 6, section 5, should be so amended as to provide that the persons therein rendered ineligible for office shall ikewise be rendered incompetent to vote. Article 7 should be abolished, except section 13, thus sweeping away the Town-ship system and leaving the matter in 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

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 | in the most riotous manner, passing 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 auto-ior 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.

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 bring .

ing 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 con

tempt. 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

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 thatany 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 & d ignored nationally, then indeed, we may expect to be for all time to come.

CORRUPTION, EXTRAVAGANCE AND USURPA-TION.

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 which brings into acress 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 ot 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 attributa ble 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 laws at one time to oust the diction 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 co-operate with and free government to co-operate 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.

Repairing of every description—heavy and light—such as Painting, Wood-work, Black-such as Painti tablish 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.

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