

WEEKLY ERA.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Official Abuses—The Need of Reform.

To the Editor of the Era:—

History teaches us that every party which has retained power for a long time has become more or less corrupt, and insolent in its demands—and in proportion to its compliance with the wishes of sordid leaders, it loses the confidence of the people.

Party ties and affiliations are very strong, and the masses are loathe to seek new things. The people are educated to certain opinions, and are taught to have confidence in their leaders, but the innate sense of justice of right and wrong which characterizes our people, will forbid their following blindly, and approving, for all time, those acts of prominent men which tend to corrupt public morals.

Politicians are mistaken in the belief that the people do not sometimes think for themselves—and they are equally deluded in supposing that claims for past services will cover every political sin.

"King Caucus" and Conventions may for a considerable time succeed in whipping some into the support of men and measures which are distasteful; but the opposition is not crushed, it only bides its time, when every similar element can be united, and then prepared to strike a blow, it asserts its rights and secures them.

Cliques and rings may dominate and become insolent; may ply the lash and read true men out of the party, but they will learn that all power does not rest with them, and that the people are sovereign.

Of late years all the machinery has been worked by a few self-constituted leaders, who have formed a kind of political Sanhedrim—a select council—and denounced as heretics any and every man who dared to differ with them or assert in any way not consonant with their wishes the political rights guaranteed to him. If perchance some meritorious man, supported by his friends had the audacity to aspire to a position filled by a pet of the ring, he was told that he must wait awhile, that necessity or gratitude demanded the re-election of the favorite, and the next time there would be a provision made for him. If that was not sufficient to silence opposition, suspicions as to party loyalty were immediately sown broad-cast, and then denunciations followed, until the unhappy aspirant was glad to renounce in favor of the ring's pet.

The people are sick and tired of this tyranny—this party despotism, and especially are they disgusted with the conduct of affairs. We have been promised reform—and under that promise the country has been plundered. And yet, if a party man gives utterance to any disapproval of men or measures—if he dares to criticize the vote of his Representative, the members of the close communion, the big dogs and the little yelpers of the ring, admonish him immediately that he must be quiet, it will ruin the party to have dissension, and he must wait for the other side to attack us, and then he ought to defend our side. Honesty and independence have been despised in order that corruption might gloat itself from the public crib.

Good men have been displaced to make room for greedy tools and personal favorites. In the selection of officers the chief enquiry has been will this man serve my purpose, can he pull the wires, and does he know how to pack conventions.

In 1872 we were told that we should have retrenchment and reform, and that there would be a reduction in the number of office holders, and the salaries would be reduced. The Republican party was triumphant, and how have the promises been redeemed?

Among the last acts of the 42nd Congress was the infamous salary back pay \$5,000 grab. Every mem-

ber of Congress, Senators and Representatives from this State, voted for and pocketed that money, and not one has returned it. An excuse is being made that both parties voted for it, and the President approved it, but the advocates of that honest measure have not told all the facts. They know the President was not responsible for, and under the circumstances could not defeat their legislation. Gen. Butler has attempted to defend the law, but so far no member from this State has had the effrontery to offer such an insult to the understanding of his constituents. It is earnestly desired that some one of our delegation will prepare and publish his vindication of the salary grab. Who will respond? Republicans who feel indignant at the law, are mysteriously informed by the members of the ring, that the Democrats all voted for and drew it, and therefore we ought not to denounce it, for it will injure the party. Gracious Heavens, have we become so corrupt, so degraded, that we must shout approval when we feel outraged?

When the revenue law was amended we were told that the swarm of office holders would disappear, and that inasmuch as the tax had been removed from almost everything there was no necessity for the Assessor Department; all the business would be transacted by the Collector and the small force he then used.

How has that promise been redeemed? The writer presumes that some of the candidates have fulfilled their promises, but he will instance one Congressional District. During the time that efficient and acceptable officer, Dr. Wm. Barrow was Collector of the 1st District, he and one Deputy was sufficient, and actually did transact the many duties of the office, and in a time when everything and everybody paid taxes. For some cause, that gentleman was removed, and another one appointed. Now it requires a Deputy Collector for two or three counties—in fact every one who was an Assistant Assessor in that District has been appointed a Deputy Collector; so instead of a decrease we have an increase in the number of officers. Gaugers and Inspectors are also quite plentiful; but the most astonishing feature is found in the Custom House Department.

For a number of years previous to the war, the trade by sea to and from the country known as the Albemarle and Pamlico region was constantly diminishing, and since the war it has amounted to almost nothing. Several years since the departments were re-arranged or consolidated, and the principle office removed to the old-fashioned town of Edenton. Recently, within the last six months, on account of the immense foreign trade, it has been deemed necessary to establish ports for delivery of such commerce at Winton, forty miles up the Chowan River, and at Coinjock on the A. & C. Canal, and officers with considerable salaries have been appointed to watch over those great sea ports. If the custom receipts at these places will pay five per cent of the salaries of the officers, the public will be greatly astonished.

These facts have been mentioned simply to illustrate the result of recent elections abroad, and what we may expect at home, unless there is a radical change. The gentleman who represents that Congressional District, doubtless had reasons for creating the offices, &c., which he could as readily explain as his vote for the salary grab.

But what lesson has been taught us by the recent elections, and what is our duty in preparing for those which will take place in this State during the ensuing year?

Unless we give the people some surer guarantee than a promise of reform, we may reasonably expect them to laugh us to scorn. We deserve defeat if we fail to profit by the experience of the past; and if the storm comes it will demolish our house and leave us without a political habitation. The same

causes which gave us victory heretofore, may produce disaster in the future. Can we afford to risk everything in order to offer incense to a few selfish men whose cupidity and ambition have well nigh ruined the generous people who have formerly supported them?

The Legislatures and Conventions in other States have denounced those grievous wrongs, and the sober masses have risen with indignation and broken the rings and rebuked their leaders. What will our Legislature and Conventions do? This is a practical question and one which ought to be answered at once. If such things are right they can be defended, and their advocates should be anxious to be heard. If they are wrong, they should be repudiated, and their opponents should be swift to thunder denunciations. There can be no middle course, and no one will wish to seek it. The Republican party does not desire to defend it, nor by silence to acquiesce, being a party of honesty, justice and progress, it can have no fellowship with speculation fraud and extravagance.

The time has come when the party expects its leaders to act as well as promise; and those who in its infancy have been honored by it, will find that the party will no longer be made subservient to their selfish purposes, that it is a party of the people, and for the people, and not an institution belonging only to a few unscrupulous politicians.

Come, gentlemen, Senators and Representatives in the Legislature, let us hear from you.

"OLD NORTH STATE."

The Granges.

To the Editor of the Era:—

The movement inaugurated in the Northwest, familiarly known as "the Grange," has excited some interest throughout the whole country. The first success which was claimed for it in Illinois, gave the "concern" an impetus beyond the expectations of its friends, and it produced the wonderful effect of silence among politicians.

The people are anxious to hear something from them; they wish to know how their leaders stand. What is the matter with them? Are the weak-kneed and timid ones afraid to speak? Are those who swim with the current getting ready to divest themselves of their political baggage, so that they may have an easy time and a swift voyage to some new political haven? Are those who claim to be bold and faithful to all trusts, and sentinels on the watch towers, are these valiant soldiers asleep, or are they preparing to marshal their legions in order to make a masterly retreat?

We have listened in vain for the sound of their voices, but as yet, not a whisper has been heard. We do not believe that such great prudence is necessary or even beneficial. Republicans need not fear the Grange in this State, as those who are running the machine, are the same old fogies we have routed in the past.

It is claimed that the Grange party, is not a political party, and therefore while Republicans ought to join it. If it has no politics, it is worthless, and sensible men will not be misled. The friends of the movement claim that it is in the interest of the laboring man, and that its effect will be to break down the monopoly of capital. Is it in the interest of the laborer? If so, at least nine-tenths of the labor in the South is colored, and of course the colored people ought to join it—but wonder of wonders, colored members are not admitted. Is not that sufficient indication of the purpose of the movement? Who are the master spirits of the Grange? who are its advocate and its members in our State? Lawyers, doctors, merchants and gentlemen of elegant leisure—these compose the party in the interest of the "Sons of toil."

Behold the consistency of our opponents. Who has not heard them denounce secret societies, and hurl their imprecations at Republicans, because these gentry falsely charged

us with an attempt to array labor against capital. They denounced secret societies and all that time they were organizing the Ku-klux, they charged us with attempting to array labor against capital, and they are openly organizing a party professing that and only that, as its purpose. When will those agitators learn that the people have some sense, and can detect a demagogue though he be apparently the fairest man in the world.

We warn the people that this Grange movement in our State means danger to our best interests, the peace and happiness of society. Followed to its natural result, it means race against race—destruction to agricultural pursuits and a cruel despotism on the ruins of our social system. Let the industrious and honest citizen beware of it, and cunning demagogues who are its advocates will abandon the movement like our Conservative friends have cut loose from fellowship with Liberal Republicans.

REPUBLICAN.

INSURANCE.

NORTH CAROLINA

STATE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA,

Capital, - - \$200,000.

OFFICERS:

Hon. Kemp P. Battle, President.  
F. H. Cameron, Vice President.  
W. H. Hicks, Secretary.  
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FEATURES AND ADVANTAGES.

It is emphatically a Home Company. It is large capital guarantees strength and safety. Its rates are as low as those of an first-class company.

It offers all desirable forms of insurance.

Its funds are invested at home and circulated among our own people.

No unnecessary restrictions imposed upon residence or travel.

Policies non-forfeitable after two years.

Its officers and directors are prominent, and well-known North Carolinians, whose experience as business men, and whose worth and integrity are alone sufficient guarantees of the Company's strength, solvency and success.

THEO. H. HILL, Local Agent,  
O. H. PERRY, Raleigh, N. C.  
Supervising Agent.

Good Agents, with whom liberal contracts will be made, wanted in every county in the State.  
March 13, 1873. 39-w6m

CITY ADVERTISEMENTS.

To Members of the Legislature.

Remember that the Yarboro House has been remodeled and enlarged to double its former size. Please call before making your arrangements for the Winter.  
21-3t G. W. BLACKNALL,

CITY HOTEL,

Corner of Wilmington & Davis Streets, centre of the city.

Fare equal to any in the city. Charges \$2 per day.  
21-1m J. B. BRYANT, Prop'r.

FOR SALE.

I OFFER FOR SALE A SMALL lot or tract of land, two miles north-west of the Capitol, lying on the main road, containing nearly three acres.—The lot is in a good state of cultivation, with a number of fruit trees and grape vines on it, and commands two roads, fronting 15 or 20 poles on each. It is one of the best locations anywhere near the city for a country store, and has a small shop house on it, a well of good water in the yard, &c.

Persons desiring a bargain, will do well to call on the undersigned at an early day, on the premises or at the office of the Workingman's Journal, Fayetteville street, Raleigh, N. C.  
JOSIAH JONES.

Oct. 30, 1873.

SCHEDULES.

Piedmont Air-Line Railway.

Richmond & Danville, Richmond & Danville R. W., N. C. Division, and North Western N. C. R. W.

CONDENSED TIME-TABLE.

In effect on and after Sunday, Oct. 12, 1873.

GOING NORTH.		
Stations.	Mail.	Express.
Leave Charlotte,	10.00 p. m.	8.15 a. m.
" Air Line Ju.10.06 "	"	8.30 "
" Salisbury, 10.06 a. m.	10.21 "	"
" Greensboro, 3.30 "	12.45 "	"
" Danville, 6.20 "	3.12 p. m.	"
" Burkville, 11.35 "	7.36 "	"
Ar. at Richmond,	2.17 p. m.	10.17 "
GOING SOUTH.		
Stations.	Mail.	Express.
Leave Richmond,	1.28 p. m.	6.08 a. m.
" Burkville, 4.45 "	9.17 "	"
" Danville, 9.18 "	1.41 p. m.	"
" Greensboro 12.20 a. m.	3.50 "	"
" Salisbury, 2.38 "	6.45 "	"
" Air-Line Ju. 4.29 "	8.54 "	"
Ar. at Charlotte,	4.35 "	4.36 "
GOING EAST.		
Stations.	Mail.	Express.
Leave Greensboro	3.05 a. m.	12.20 a. m.
" Co. Shops, 4.45 "	"	Ar 9.35 p. m.
" Raleigh, 8.35 "	"	5.26 "
Ar. at Goldsboro, 11.15	Leave 2.30 p. m	"

NORTHWESTERN N. C. R. R.

(SALEM BRANCH.)

Leave Greensboro, 4.30 P. M.  
Arrive at Salem, 6.25 P. M.  
Leave Salem, 8.00 A. M.  
Arrive at Greensboro, 10.00 A

Mail trains daily, both ways, over entire length of roads.  
On Sundays Lynchburg Accommodation leave Richmond at 9.42 a. m., arrive at Burkeville 12.45 p. m., leave Burkeville 5.35 a. m., arrive at Richmond 8.44 a. m.

Pullman Palace Cars on all night trains between Charlotte and Richmond (without change.)

Papers that have arrangements to advertise the schedule of this company will please print as above.

For further information address  
S. E. ALLEN,  
Gen'l Ticket Agent,  
Greensboro, N. C.

T. M. R. TALCOTT,  
Engineer & Gen'l Superintendent.

OFFICE PETERSBURG R. R. CO.,  
March 27th, 1872.

ON AND AFTER MARCH 31st, the trains will run as follows:

LEAVE WELDON,  
Express Train, 7:40 a m  
Mail Train, 3:25 p m

ARRIVE AT PETERSBURG.  
Express, 10:50 a m  
Mail, 7:00 p m

LEAVE PETERSBURG.  
Mail, 5:40 a m  
Express, 8:50 p m

ARRIVE AT WELDON.  
Mail, 9:45 a m  
Express, 6:50 p m

FREIGHT TRAINS.  
Leave Petersburg, 8:00 a m  
Leave Weldon, 5:00 a m  
Arrive at Weldon, 4:00 p m  
Arrive at Petersburg, 12:20 p m

GASTON TRAIN.  
Leave Petersburg, 6:15 a m  
Leave Gaston, 1:15 p m  
Arrive at Gaston, 12:50 p m  
Arrive at Petersburg, 8:10 p m

Freights for Gaston Branch will be received at the Petersburg depot only on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. The depot will be closed at 5:00 p m No goods will be received after that hour.  
J. C. SPRIGG,  
53-tf. Eng. and Gen. Manager.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULE.

RALEIGH & AUGUSTA AIR LINE,  
Superintendent's Office,  
Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 29, 1872.

On and after Saturday, Nov. 30th, 1872, trains on the R. & A. A. L. Road will run daily, (Sunday excepted), follows:

Mail train leaves Raleigh, 3.35 P. M.  
Arrives at Sanford, 6.15 "  
Mail train leaves Sanford, 6.30 A. M.  
Arrives at Raleigh, 9.20 "

Mail train makes close connection at Raleigh with the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, to and from all points North. And at Sanford with the Western Railroad, to and from Fayetteville and points on Western Railroad.

A. B. ANDREWS,  
dec 4-tf. Superintendent.

W. T. ADAMS & SON,  
Manufacturers and Dealers in  
STEAM ENGINES,  
SAW AND GRIST MILLS,  
Plows, Harrows, Cultivators,  
Hoisting Machines,  
and all kind of  
CASTINGS.

All work neatly and promptly executed, by skillful workmen, on the most reasonable terms.  
The senior partner has had over 40 years experience in the business, and feels justified in saying that he can give entire satisfaction.

WANTED—100,000 pounds of old Cast Iron, for which the highest market price will be paid, in cash or exchange for work.

Works one Square West of Court House.  
Raleigh, Aug. 13, 1872. w3m

T. M. ARGO  
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,  
RALEIGH, N. C.  
Office on Fayetteville street, near the Court House.)