

THE ERA AND EXAMINER.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1874.

Consolidation—Change of Gauge.

A friend at our elbow asks:—How would our Western friends like to have the Carolina Central railway company take charge of the western North Carolina railroad and complete it in Tennessee and western connections with that same line and active energetic effort that they are using in completing their line to Charlotte? The only road that has not ceased operations of construction during the late financial panic...

We are assured that if the consolidation plan is to make a great railway to the west this new and live company will do it. The line can be secured at a price and no change of gauge will be made, but the old North Carolina gauge maintained, leaving the standard trader and farmer the choice of markets to the seaboard.

We see no reason for retaining the power in the hands of the directors of the Carolina Central railway. Should the directors see fit to exercise it, the entire system of North Carolina railways is connected for what? To connect with the system of Tennessee. We are informed that the Carolina Central railway is to be run from Louisville to Lexington, with direct line to Cumberland Gap, and the same gauge as the North Carolina railway. As the gauge of the latter now is to a uniform gauge, the lesser must come to the greater. As nine-tenths of the roads are four feet eight and a half inch gauge that will ultimately become the gauge of the country.

As an evidence of the good feeling towards the old stockholders of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad, we are assured by one who knows that stock in the Carolina Central railway company will be issued to them in amount to the stock they owned in the former company. This will give them the same money as they had, but not turned out in the cold by the act of foreclosure, as certainly the new stock will be worth much as the old was before foreclosure.

We venture this fact in justice to a corporation that has been looked upon by some of our people as "foreign and alien to our interests." That such is not the fact we have evidence in many ways. Recently by subscription to the railroad to the seashore, the president of the Carolina Central railway subscribed for the same stock, subject to the approval of his directors. The facts we have stated, and the much more important one, the new stock to be issued to the old stockholders, will do to push its line, if the people will aid but little, to Hickory and Cranberry, and if they can buy the line to Old Fort to open connection with Cincinnati and the west.—Wilmington Journal, Feb. 6th.

In everything and on every measure aiding the internal development of North Carolina, and the commercial progress and prosperity of Wilmington, it has been the singular good fortune of the Journal and this writer to have differed, perhaps, in no single instance, since the war. The writer is essentially, and in all respects, a North Carolinian; and he has recognized in the Journal the only paper of its party that has kept steadily in view the material advance and development of the State.

In the issue now about to be presented (for the article of the Journal is significant of something of greater moment than a mere dropping in "friend" accidentally "at our elbow") a difference of opinion and policy may arise, from the fact that the Journal has a local interest to serve, while the Examiner has no limit for its railroad policy, save the confines of the State.

But there ought not to arise a difference on the question now under consideration, and there will not, unless the Journal shall seek to defeat the great consolidation measure; for in the event of the failure of that great scheme, the Examiner would willingly see the Carolina Central, or any other corporation, not hostile to the best interests of the State, take possession of and complete the Western North Carolina railroad to the Tennessee line.

But it is to the interest of the State, and of all our people, that the great consolidation measure succeed; not only because it gives us a perfect and the only system of North Carolina road possible, but because this great scheme, if successful, promises to work the State out of her present embarrassing and accumulating public debt.

Perfect this great consolidation measure in the legislature, and it is within the power of financial skill and ability, aided by our successful railroad men, to take up the burden of our State debt and carry it without ever calling on the taxpayers of the State for a cent where-with to pay interest or principal.

Now this is something to think of. In addition to working out the redemption of our State debt thus, to the great relief and exceeding joy of our people, we get a North Carolina railroad system from Beaufort Harbor to the Tennessee in one direction, and from Asheville to the Georgia line, via Ducktown, in another direction.

The Journal in common with the general public misapprehends or totally fails to appreciate the matter of the gauge. This is something that will and must regulate itself according to the wants and requirements of inter-commerce, and all restrictive legislation on the subject is of a species of fogism that appropriately belongs to a past age; that era, for instance, in which the imaginary wants of our commerce induced the Wilmington and Manchester railroad gauge three inches and a half broader than the gauge of the Weldon road connecting therewith at Wilmington.

Surely, the Journal, with its experience of the break in these two

roads, right at its own door, does not desire our legislators and people to go back to the spirit of those days in which men fondly, but fogishly, imagined that the way to build up southern commerce was to cut off, with a wider gauge, all railroad communication between the north and south. South and west of North Carolina the Journal knows that every foot of railroad before the war was made wider, by three and a half inches, than the roads north of us.

As to the third paragraph in the Journal above, which treats of the gauge, that paper is correct as to the gauge of the roads north of us. States named, but the Journal fails to tell its readers that Old Fort, the present terminus of the Western North Carolina road, is a long ways from the four feet eight and a half inch gauge of Kentucky and the prospect of ever connecting our North Carolina roads with the roads of that State are still more remote in the distant future. And if all the roads must ultimately come to the four feet eight and a half inch gauge, as the Journal argues, where is the reason for preventing any road, even our North Carolina system, from accommodating itself to the temporary necessity of conforming to the gauges of roads with which we have first to connect? We expect to connect with the Tennessee roads first, and for years and years, before we can hope to reach Kentucky, we expect to tap the valley of the Mississippi at Memphis, and empty much of its rich products into the lap of Wilmington and Beaufort, instead of allowing all to go to Norfolk, Baltimore and New York, as is now the case.

The Journal must be aware that cars loaded at Memphis and beyond, go through to Norfolk over a line of roads having a gauge of five feet. We may complete the Western extension to Paint Rock, but unless we have a road to correspond with the Tennessee road, cars sealed at Norfolk and Richmond as they now do, rather than break bulk, reload and switch off in this direction for the mere act of going to Wilmington or Beaufort.

The Journal must know this. General Mahone so fully appreciates the advantage of his five feet line of road from Norfolk to Bristol, that he has taken good care thus far to defeat the completion of the Western extension, knowing as he does that common sense and business foresight will dictate the construction of a road of the same gauge as his,—one that can tap the East Tennessee and Georgia road, as he does at Bristol.

The suggestion thrown out by the Journal, that, stock in the Carolina Central railway will be issued to the old stockholders in the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford railroad, equal in amount to the stock they owned in the former company, looks very much like a bait intended for the old stockholders in the Western North Carolina railroad; and taken in connection with the persistent opposition consolidation has met with in the House, at the hands of Colonel Bennett, of Anson, there appears to be management in this thing.

Is it the purpose of the Journal, speaking by authority of the Carolina Central railway company to defeat consolidation, by deluding the old stockholders in the western North Carolina road?

If the Carolina Central railway company, out of good feeling is going to issue new stock to old stockholders in lieu of their stock in the former company, will the Journal tell how much the State of North Carolina is to get for the six hundred millions she dropped into the old Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford railroad pool?

And if the central railway company pushes on to Hickory, thence to Old Fort, Cincinnati and the west, the people of Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk, would like to know about the chances of pushing in their direction.

The Examiner very much fears that the above article of the Journal develops a deep-laid opposition to consolidation from an unexpected quarter, and it certainly unmasks Colonel Bennett's Anson battery of opposition, which, for some reason or other, he has endeavored to adroitly conceal, although consolidationists have been under constant fire from his guns without being able to locate him.

The Journal is to be thanked for discovering this wily Anson county ranger to those he has so successfully eluded hitherto, and while he stops to explain his preference for the Onderdonk crowd of Wall street speculators over our native North Carolina people, if the wily Colonel is not careful, the consolidationists will spike his guns.

If the republicans, and the democratic representatives from the west do not now see the position in which democratic opposition to consolidation seeks to place them, then they must find it difficult to comprehend a very plain situation.

HON. W. A. SMITH yesterday fulfilled his promise to the people, by introducing a bill to repeal the internal revenue laws.

"Solomon" Bennett's Logic.

Mr. "Solomon" Bennett, the roaring representative from Anson, addressed the house of representatives a few days since on the proposition to pay Professor Kerr's expenses to Vienna, whither he went, at the urgent solicitation of leading citizens, to introduce North Carolina's resources to the old world.

Mr. "S." Bennett could not vote to pay Prof. K's expenses because:— 1st. Mr. Van Buren, the American commissioner, had disgraced us abroad and trailed our flag in the dust.

2nd. Prof. K. had written a harsh letter complaining that certain parties who had solemnly promised to send articles for exhibition failed to do so.

3rd. Because Dr. Lyman, the assistant Bishop of North Carolina, and Dr. Gents, the learned German geologist, had spoken in complimentary terms of Professor Kerr's efforts at Vienna.

Now we can all readily see how Prof. K. was amply repaid for all his labors and expenses, by the complimentary letters of Dr. Lyman and the learned geologist; and while no one will hesitate to hold Prof. K., personally and pecuniarily responsible for letting Gen. Van Buren disgrace the American nation abroad, and trail Mr. "Solomon" Bennett's dear flag in foreign dust,—(the very same flag which Mr. Bennett fought four years to keep gentlemen of his own party from trailing in American dust). One can see all this. But why Mr. B. should leave out the main argument against paying Prof. K.—(that is,—because he has never reported to the general assembly who struck Billy Patterson or ever who blew the Sentinel office)—that's what one can't understand; and there's where Mr. B's logic is just a little bit defective.

MR. SOLOMON AVERA, the sapient senator from Johnston, has, in his place, demanded that justice be done though the heavens fall! And the funny part of it is that he wants it done because a North Carolinian first asked it.

Now after the dispute about the 20th of May Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and the recent assertion that Ham. C. Jones didn't write "Cousin Jolly Dillard," one wouldn't be at all surprised if some Virginian or some foreigner don't have the cheek to come forward and claim that those words were not first spoken by a North Carolinian.

In the meantime it is understood that Chief Justice Pearson still holds to the opinion that it would be much better to let justice be done and let the heavens stand.

AUGUST BELMONT, the great head and front of the democratic party of the United States of America, has asked Judge Watts, through his attorneys, Hon. Reverly Johnson, Walter J. Budd, Esq., and Major R. C. Badger, for a mandamus to compel Auditor Reilly to restore the special tax bonds on the tax lists of the various counties, and ordering the collection of a tax to pay interest on the special tax bonds.

Judge Watts will hear argument in this city, at chambers, on 20th instant. A big case for the supreme court of the United States.

A melancholy scientist predicts that the world will end in a grand freezing out. He shows, by figures, that in the course of time the supply of coal in the bowels of the earth will be completely exhausted, by which time the whole earth will be denuded of its forests, thus leaving the people without fuel for heating themselves, as well as depriving them of fuel for all manufacturing purposes. It may be some satisfaction to the general reader to reflect that it will take some thousands of years to accomplish this gloomy result.

A Name Wanted. If a correspondent, signing himself "Bancombe," who published a letter in the Era the latter part of September last, in the absence of the editor, Mr. Wm. A. Hearne, will send his real name to the editor of this paper, he will greatly oblige Mr. Hearne, and all concerned.

The conquest over his enemies, and the triumphant vindication of Hon. W. A. Smith, is thorough and complete. The fight the insane enemies of consolidation have made on Major Smith, has brought him and the republican party in perfect accord, and given us a thoroughness of organization we could have secured in no other way.

Representative Vance, in congress from this State, shows himself a very fit and appropriate representative of the party of all the wealth and intelligence of the State. He, yesterday, got up a trans-continental railroad bill, and proposes to incorporate therein the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford railroad, a road and a corporation which passed out of existence when it took the name of the Carolina Central railway, more than a year ago.

The Financial Remedy.

One of the first gentlemen of letters and practical business intelligence, thought and experience, occupies the correspondence columns of the Examiner to-day on the financial question; and he proposes as a remedy, neither expansion nor contraction, but a liberal expenditure for internal improvement.

There is truth and force in what he says, and his article suggests much thought on the subject. The Examiner has held and still holds that, perhaps, the best remedy for our financial ills is to issue United States Treasury notes redeemable in gold.

There is no apparent reason why the congress may not make a treasury note equal in value to gold, dollar for dollar. If such note is the representative of gold, and the taxable resources of the country ought to be sufficient guarantee to establish it as such representative, there is practically no difference, at home and for all home purposes, between a treasury note for a stated amount, than a gold coin of corresponding value.

The amount of treasury currency necessary to issue for the wants of our people, may be a question for discussion, but it is easy of solution; and altogether, it does seem that the financial problem is one which might be speedily solved by the issue of treasury notes, which would be men of the country; and no doubt is, but for the conflicting interests of jobbers and speculators trading on the life-blood of the country.

The internal improvement suggestion of the correspondent alluded to is one of interest, which ought to find favor, especially at the south. The people of North Carolina will not soon forget the exposures made by Senators Troy and McManamy, of this country, of the penitentiary ring, by which the State has ultimately saved a large amount of money.—Wilmington Journal.

The people will doubtless remember that these gentlemen made a great deal of fuss, all of which but tended to confusion. That there was very little merit in anything they said or did, is best illustrated by the fact that Coleman Brothers, the contractors for building the penitentiary, could have been induced to surrender their contract for ten thousand dollars instead of the forty thousand the legislature paid them under the management, principally, of Senator Troy.

The difference between ten and forty thousand dollars is something "the people of North Carolina will not soon forget" how to reckon up, either. Mr. Journal. Notwithstanding your high-sounding praise and fulsome flattery, Senator Troy is a senator of no capacity, officious, a putting-in, frivolous consumer of time, and in no respect a representative man of his section; and his people will not again send him here, or call him to fill any other public position requiring capacity, judgment or the faintest shadow of statesmanship.

If Judge Watts has taken no bribe, filing a petition to himself and signing Mr. Badger's name to it, is enough to make him a fit subject for the Senate. If B. C. Badger Esq., were called to testify before an impeachment court, he would prove that, in the instance above alluded to, Judge Watts followed practices and precedents as old as the first judiciary.

Had he perpetrated a judicial outrage or committed an official crime, Solicitor Cox, with his assistant, was aware of it; and to have remained silent for five years under such circumstances was to condone a crime, an offence quite grievous enough to impeach a solicitor.

So the Sentinel is saddling Solicitor Cox and his assistant with an ugly piece of business; and making it appear that the impatience of the one to become a judge and the other a solicitor has hurried up this late demand for impeachment; for to elect a Judge in the place of Watts, in case of his removal by impeachment, was all the go about the time the Turner articles were preferred in the house.

Not that the Examiner is making this state of things appear; but where did the Sentinel get its information? Who, but the chairmen, respectively, of the State and Wake county democratic executive committees, knew anything about this matter, wherein Mr. Badger's name has been so fully used and introduced to the public?

THE MECKLENBURG Declaration of Independence has received much of the attention of the public of late. Dr. J. C. Welling, president of Columbia college, at Washington, has lately delivered a lecture on the subject in New York. A synopsis of his remarks is to be found in this paper, on the first page of the daily.

Dr. Welling is a thirty-first of May advocate.

The Remedy—Not Expansion—Not Contraction—But Liberal Expenditures for Internal Improvement.

To the Editor of the Examiner.— Upon the question of expanding the currency, that money may be made abundant, or of contracting, that treasury notes and bank bills may be made equal to gold, much may be said for either side. On the one hand, it is true that the present indebtedness of the people was incurred when the legal tender notes of the government were far below the gold standard; and the effect of a forced and sudden return to specie payments, while the debts remain unpaid, would be to swell the currency to such an enormous amount, that the people would be unable to pay their debts, and the injustice and hardship would be as great, as if a decree should go forth requiring debtors, to pay to creditors, five, ten, and interest some of twenty, twenty, and fifty dollars, as a gratuity, for every one hundred actually due.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that our present currency is the fruitful source of wild speculation in stocks, in lands, in mines, and the products of the soil, as well as of extravagant expenditures for the purchase of real estate, and the loss of confidence in every representative of money, whether it be bank bills, bills of exchange, promissory notes, or checks, private credits. This loss of confidence causes men to hoard their gold, and limit all their pecuniary operations to their utmost necessities, and to their necessities, manufacturers, and stock-jobbers, who contracted great debts when affairs went on swimmingly, are taken by surprise. They can no longer borrow from the banks to meet their engagements, their notes are protested, and panic seizes all classes.

It is true that the people of the South, owing to the radical changes in the social organization, which have resulted from the war, have not experienced the financial exhilaration which a superabundant paper circulation produced and kept up in the Northern States during and since the war. But we have been witnesses of its intoxicating effects upon the clear-headed business men of that section; and we can remember, or we can recall in our own minds, the similar phenomena in our own.

The question arises, then, should we desire such a further inflation of the paper circulation as must necessarily result from specie payments, while it cannot fail to re-produce the mania of speculation and extravagance, to be followed by another panic and general bankruptcy?

It seems to me that something better is practicable. The thing needed is confidence between man and man, and in the success of industrial enterprises. It is not so much a matter of money as of the fear of losing it that paralyzes industry and trade, and throws hundreds of thousands out of employment. In the northern States this was the effect of the late civil war. Confidence was destroyed, as the pecuniary success of almost every branch of business, and the greater part of the year 1861 was one of pecuniary disaster to merchants, to bankers, to manufacturers, and in a greater or less degree to all classes. But the vast expenditures of the war soon caused trade and industry to rally, although they were diverted to the war, and saved from that time forward, during and since the war, up to last September, every branch of northern industry, except the shipping interest, has enjoyed almost uninterrupted prosperity. And this prosperity has existed in spite of the incalculable destruction of property which war necessarily produces.

I am very far from meaning to denigrate the carrying out of Government expenditures; but it is legitimate to point to their stimulating effects upon national industry. If war expenditures, which are used for purposes of wholesale destruction of property, made in the name of good, what may we not look for as the result of expenditures on works of internal improvement? They support no man in idleness. They do not give currency to the idle, by wasting or destroying the property of friend or foe, they add millions to the immediate value of the public and private property of the land, and by facilitating transportation...

Protection for honest Distillers—Raid on Illicit Distillers, by Revenue Officers, in the South Mountain Country. Much complaint having been made by the parties in the distilling business in this and other States, about the quantity of illicit whiskey made in the Western part of our State, Supervisor Perry has determined to put forth strong efforts to suppress the illicit traffic, and has for that purpose, urged upon the collectors of the various districts, the great importance of organizing their respective forces of subordinates in such a manner as to make a determined fight against the illicit traffic.

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Three or four hundred millions that are under the control of General Grant's grand plan of internal improvements, contained in his annual message of 1872, would at once re-animate the industry of the country, give employment to the hundreds of thousands of idle laborers, and employers of labor create a demand for the products of the soil, and inspire universal confidence. Money would pass and the currency would be saved, instead of lying in the bank coffers; and the demands of business would probably, in a short time, make necessary a legitimate expansion of the paper currency. All except the hopelessly indebted could pay off; and the people could start again in a new career of prosperity.

The people lose ten fold more by the paralysis of industry and trade, than the addition to the public debt, which the proposed improvements would require.

What has been said of the disappearance of gold in seasons of panic, applies equally to treasury notes and bank bills, which are based on these notes. And the fact that this paper currency has not depreciated in consequence of the panic, proves the excellency, of the system, as well as the strength of the Government.

The Say of the People. To the Editor of the Examiner.— The Solomons having agreed that the legislature shall adjourn on the 10th instant, thus sayeth the people:—"All glory be to God on high, And to the earth be peace: Good-will, henceforth, from heaven to men, Begin and never cease." May no such body ever meet again. Amen and Amen

Report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Insane Asylum—Senator Edward Hanson.

To the Editor of the Examiner.— I see in your reporter's account of the proceedings of the senate on the 7th inst., an allusion to Dr. Edward Hanson in the following language:—"In assuming the duties surrendered by Mr. Respass, as a member of the joint standing committee on the Insane Asylum, the untiring energy and ability displayed by Dr. Hanson in the investigation of the accounts and affairs of the institution, place him among the most useful members of the general assembly."

Dr. Hanson's report above alluded to, and the summary of its terms has been reviewed by the select committee with great care and deliberation and found to contain numerous mistakes and errors which do great injustice to the institution.

The Doctor reported the average cost of butter for twelve months to have been 41 cents per lb; the books and vouchers show 33 cents only to be correct; best quality of coffee it was only 63; coffee 23 cents when it was only 25; sugar 13 when it was only 12; syrup 9 cents per gallon when it was only 4-1/2 cents, &c. The report will be published soon.

EUGENE GRISCOM, Supt. Insane Asylum. The State Paper. To the Editor of the Examiner.— In the Examiner of February 8th I find the following:—"The legislature of the State, the democrats—made the regular weekly appropriation, of five hundred dollars to run the Sentinel newspaper. What a campaign record for next summer!"

Five hundred dollars to run the Sentinel a week? What does it go to pay for, may I ask? Certainly not for editorial talent, for in four months of patient seeking I am compelled to admit that I fail to find the impress of an able, logical writer on anything appearing in its columns as editorial matter. To be sure I now and then get a little information—about the Island of Martinique, for instance; or the birth place of Empress Josephine and the statue erected in her honor; and I might have thought the Sentinel had an editor quite conversant with history if I had not read it all in Harper's Magazine, for January, the week before the Sentinel dished out its editorial matter.

Now and then an article appears which seems to have the real ring of true metal about it, but reading the New York, Washington and Richmond papers first, I am somewhat left with the impression that I read the Sentinel, that I've seen the same thoughts in print before. Early in the session the Sentinel advised the members of the legislature to subscribe and send home that paper so the people would know what they did. If the legislature is doing no more than the Sentinel's reports show, I advise members to let a few papers as possible get among their constituents, if they care to return again.

And certainly it does not take five hundred dollars per week to pay the compositors who in a late number before me, there are less than seven and a half columns of reading matter, and if the leads and dashes were drawn there would be far less in space than there is. Less than one-fourth of the paper. Of course the advertisements are read, but some of them seem very stale when one looks at the time marks at the bottom. But then they help to fill up the space, and save the time and time of workmen, and so enable them to eke out an existence on the pitance allowed them for expenses, so what's the odds?

TELE FAX. Protection for honest Distillers—Raid on Illicit Distillers, by Revenue Officers, in the South Mountain Country. Much complaint having been made by the parties in the distilling business in this and other States, about the quantity of illicit whiskey made in the Western part of our State, Supervisor Perry has determined to put forth strong efforts to suppress the illicit traffic, and has for that purpose, urged upon the collectors of the various districts, the great importance of organizing their respective forces of subordinates in such a manner as to make a determined fight against the illicit traffic.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

KEARNEY'S FLUID EXTRACT BUCHU! The only known remedy for BRIGHTS DISEASE. And a positive remedy for GOUT, GRAVEL, STRICTURES, DIABETES, DYSPEPSIA, NERVOUS DEBILITY, DROPSY, Non-retention or incontinence of Urine, Irritation, Inflammation or Ulceration of the Bladder.

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KEARNEY'S EXTRACT BUCHU Permanently Cures all Diseases of the BLADDER, KIDNEYS & DROPSICAL SWELLINGS, Existing in Men, Women and Children. NO MATTER WHAT THE AGE! Prof. Steele says:—"One bottle of Kearney's Fluid Extract Buchu is worth more than all other Buchu combinations." Price, One Dollar per Bottle, or Six Bottles for Five Dollars. Sold by all Druggists.

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Respectfully, WAYNE ALLCOTT & CO. feb 10-3m

NOTICE! We have this day disposed of our entire Book and Job Printing Establishment to Messrs. GORMAN, MARCOM & LEE, together with all books, accounts, notes, and other claims due the establishment. The new firm will also settle all claims owing by us, by note, account, or otherwise. JOHN NICHOLS. Sept. 6th, 1873.

The undersigned will continue the Book and Job Printing Business, under the firm name and style of GORMAN, MARCOM & LEE, and respectfully solicit a continuance of the liberal patronage heretofore bestowed on this establishment by the public. JOHN C. GORMAN, JOHN W. MARCOM, CHARLES E. LEE. 341

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