The Weekly Era

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WEEKLY ERA.

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A Convenient Way to Measure Land.

It is frequently desirable to measure a given lot of ground or a portion of a field, and a simple method, such as the following, for which we are indebted to an exchange, will be of use to many of our readers. Surveyors are not always at a convenient distance to attend to such little jobs, and even when they do reside in the immediate vicinity, one does not always care to incur the expense incident to such a small job. If the lines are already established, the lot can be measured with sufficient accuracy for all practical purposes by means of a neat rod pole, made as follows: Procure a stick of pine, white-wood, basswood, or almost any other timber, one and a half inches square and sixteen and a half feet long. Dress each end, tapering from the middle, so that the pole will be one and a half inches square at the middle and about half an inch square at each end. Such a pole will be light and quite stiff. Now graduate one side with the marks representing feet and inches and graduate another side to indicate a surveyor's links. A pole one rod in length must be equal to twenty-five links. To divide one side correctly, let a mechanic's compass be adjusted, so that the points will divide the distance into twenty-five equal spaces or links. A line can be measured with such a pole nearly as accurately as with a surveyor's chain.

Now, then, if a person does not understand how to multiply chains and links, let him compute the measurement by square feet. In one acre there are 43,560 square feet. Any intelligent school-boy can measure the length and breadth of a square lot, multiply one by the other, and divide the product by 43,560, which will give the number of acres, and the number of square feet representing the fraction of an acre. If it is desirable to measure a triangular spot, two sides of which lie at right angles, measure these two sides, multiply the distance in feet one by the other, and divide that product by two, which will indicate the number of square feet by 43,560, and the quotient will represent the number of acres.

London Underground.

Underground, the city of London is certainly the most wonderful in the world. It is a labyrinth of drain pipes, water pipes, gas pipes and underground railways. There are points in the soil of London where it would be extremely difficult to find room for another pipe. One company alone—the Gas Light and Coke Company—supplies two [illegible] pipes, varying in diameter from three inches to four feet. These are the main pipes merely, and from them every house and street lamp receives on an average six or eight feet of small piping. In addition to these, and the underground telegraph wires, there are no less than 2,500 miles of drain pipes of various dimensions. Less familiar to us, but no less important, are the lead and iron tubes—leaden pipes with outer castings of iron—among which written messages, packed in a little felt and gutta percha cases, are blown from station to station. The convenience of these messages is immense. A steam engine forces in a blast of air and in about a minute it travels a distance of 890 yards. There is at present thirteen stations on the underground railway; and as people walk on the streets of London electricity is flashing messages above their heads and little missives are whizzing and darting just under their feet. As many as 1,500 messages pass to and fro in a day. The drainage system of London presents a world of underground streets, some 2,000 or 3,000 miles in extent. All drains empty into three great sewers running parallel with the Thames, which sewers connect in the neighborhood of Victoria Park, and through Barking Creek discharge into the river. Men are constantly employed keeping these drains in repair. Londoners never pour a pail of water down a drain but at the depths of that mysterious aperture somebody is making way for it. A stranger, properly costumed, can explore three depths, which resemble vaulted galleries, in the sides of which are traps forming various small channels. When the storm waters come, as they sometimes do during a thunder plump, the torrent is fearful; so much so that upon several occasions men have lost their lives.

Birth-Place of James Madison.

On the southside banks of the noble and picturesque Rappahannock, about thirty miles below the historic town of Fredericksburg, immediately opposite the time-honored village of Port Royal, is the little town known as Port Conway. There is nothing in the appearance of the place itself to attract the observance of the traveler; yet if its history were generally known, so full is it of historic interest to the people of this State, that its visitors would no doubt be numbered by hundreds. In the colonial days of this once prosperous "Old Commonwealth," Port Conway was a town of no little importance; and, although never densely populated nor covering a large area of country, its importance as an importing and exporting mart was felt not only in this State but abroad. In later years its history is made of greater interest to us by reason of its being the birthplace of that illustrious statesman, James Madison.

[illegible] was founded by Catlett Conway, the maternal grandfather of Mr. Madi-

Early Days of Masonry in North Carolina.

Masonry was introduced in North Carolina in 1771. On the 13th of January of that year Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort and Grand Master of Masons in and for England, issued a charter to Joseph Montford, Esq., of Halifax, in the province of North Carolina, constituting and appointing him Provincial Grand Master of and for America, with authority to constitute Lodges, &c. This charter was given at London, on the day and year above written, and is still preserved in the Grand Lodge Hall at Raleigh.

The year 1771 was an eventful period in our history. William Tryon was Governor, Commander-in-Chief of the Province, by virtue of a commission from the crown of England. The conduct of the mother country and her agents had caused great dissatisfaction throughout the Province, and Governor Tryon had won for himself the bloody title of the "Great Wolf of North Carolina."

The stamp act was passed in 1765, and so great was the excitement that when an English sloop-of-war arrived in the Cape Fear River with the stamp paper for the use of the Colony the citizens of New Hanover and Brunswick, headed by Cols. John Ashe and Waddell, "seized the sloop's boat, hoisted it on a cart, fixed a mast in her, mounted a flag and marched in triumph to Wilmington, where the citizens joined in grand illumination at night. The next day they proceeded to the Governor's Palace and demanded that he should desist from all attempts to execute the obnoxious act. He at first refused, but when the people prepared to burn his palace, he yielded up the royal stamp master, who was taken to the market-house and forced to take a solemn oath not to attempt to execute his office.

On the 16th of May, 1771, the battle of Alamance was fought between the royal forces and a portion of the oppressed people of the State who styled themselves Regulators. Twenty Regulators were killed and several wounded, and the loss of the royal forces in killed, wounded and missing was sixty-one.

In the language of Bro. John H. Wheeler, (Grand Master 1843-'44) in his history of North Carolina, to which we are indebted for the foregoing facts: "Thus and here was the first blood spilled in these United States, in resistance to exactions of English rulers, and oppressions by the English Government."

Soon after the battle, Tryon was appointed Governor of New York, and was succeeded by Josiah Martin, the last of the royal Governors in North Carolina.

Thus it will be seen that 1771 will be ever remembered in North Carolina as the year in which Masonry was introduced into the State, the battle of Alamance fought and the last of the royal Governors inaugurated.—*Masonic Monthly.*

Deserving Boys.

We like boys who try to help themselves. Every one ought to be friendly to them. The boys of energy and ambition, who make a manly effort to do something for themselves, are the hope of the country. Let their anxious ears catch always words of encouragement and cheer, for such words, like favoring breezes to the sails of a ship, help to bear them forward to the destination they seek.

It is not always as it should be in this respect. Many a heart has been broken—many a young man of industry, animated by honorable motives, has been discouraged by the sour words, the harsh and unjust remarks of some relative who should have acted the part of a friend. The unthinking do not consider the weight with which such remarks sometimes fall upon a sensitive spirit, and they may bruise and break it.

If you cannot do anything to aid and assist young men, you ought to abstain from throwing any obstacles in their way. But can you not do something to help them forward? You can at least say, God speed to them, and you can say it feelingly from your heart. You little know of how much benefit to boys and young men encouraging council, given fitly and well-timed, may be; and in the great day of account, such words addressed to those in need of them you may find reckoned among your good deeds.

Then help the boys who try to help themselves. You can easily recall simple words of kindness addressed to yourself in childhood and youth, and you would like now to kiss the lips that spoke them, though they may long since have been sealed with the silence of death, and covered by the clods of the valley.

Some students fixed up a ghost and placed it upon the staircase of a Troy newspaper office and then retired and awaited developments. One of the editors came along and didn't get frightened. He disrobed it, and now wears a fifteen dollar pair of pantaloons, a ten dollar vest, a seven dollar pair of boots and an eight dollar hat, while one of the students goes about without a vest, and another roams around through the least frequented streets wearing a very ancient pair of inexpressibles.

We wonder that history has been so negligent regarding the dress [illegible] the life of Captain John Smith. We suppose, however, that she wore

WEEKLY ERA.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1874.

The New North State and Wake County.

The *New North State*, the Republican organ of the Fifth Congressional District, and one of the best newspapers in the State, has an article on "The *Era* and Wake County," in which it recognizes the *Era* as the central organ of the party and expresses confidence in the Republicanism and conductors, but thinks that [illegible] usages and party law. * * * but the course pursued by the *Era* is not one that commends itself to good Republicans."

Now, Bro. Ball, we shall not "misconstrue" your article. We give you credit for an earnest desire to see all our differences in Wake and elsewhere healed up, and all obstructions to the success of the Republican party in the State removed, and we beg that you will bear in mind that all the trouble in Wake is caused by ONE man—T. F. Lee.

Though he claims that he is the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the party in the county, he has not called a meeting of the Committee since 1871, thereby arrogating to himself all the powers of the Committee, and ignoring those who were appointed with him and charged with the interests of the party in the county. Under his call a Convention recently assembled in this city composed mainly of delegates appointed in his interest, without due notice given to the Republicans of the townships they assumed to represent.

That Convention ignored the fact that Lee as Sheriff of Wake county was a defaulter to the amount of $56,250.56 to the county and $10,530.54 to the State—making an aggregate defalcation of $66,781.10.

It ignored the fact that serious damage had been done to the cause of Republicanism by this defalcation and neglect or refusal to pay over [illegible] which he had collected [illegible] State and county [illegible] poses, and which it is [illegible] has squandered in private speculation.

It ignored the fact that the public schools of the county were closed by reason of Lee's refusal to pay over the school money, and the poor children of the county were growing up in utter ignorance, though the school taxes had been collected by Lee as Sheriff.

It ignored the fact that jurors and witnesses summoned to attend Wake Superior Courts were subjected to a discount of from twenty-five to thirty-three per cent. on their tickets because Lee had not paid over to the County Treasurer, and this too at a time when the county, if proper settlement were made, would be clear of debt.

It ignored the fact that poor men and women, made paupers by misfortune or accident, and to whom an allowance has been made by the county to keep them from starvation, are forced to beg through our streets, with county orders in their pockets, and submit to a ruinous shave because Sheriff Lee had not settled the county taxes as the law requires.

It ignored the platform of the Republican party so far as it relates to public schools by placing in nomination a man who had closed the public schools by his reckless disregard of law requiring the paying over of school moneys collected by him.

It insulted the intelligence and integrity of the Republican party, and of the whole people of Wake county, by proposing for Sheriff a man who had utterly refused to pay over one cent of the money collected for county taxes last year.

Now, Brother Ball, the above is a plain and truthful statement of undeniable facts. The moral sense of the whole people of the State has been shocked by the utter disregard of principle and by the determination of a faction of the Republicans of Wake to bolster up ONE man, and the attempt to force his election by the cry of "regular nominee" and by a vigorous use of the party lash.

What do you expect the *Era* to do, Brother Ball? What would you do, if you were a citizen of Wake? Would you stifle all your sense of right and justice and ask the people to vote for a man who [illegible] party, simply because he had se- them in the future? Which do you consider would do the party most damage: the endorsing of a known defaulter by the "central organ" or a refusal to sustain the action of a packed Convention, no matter how "regular"?

As to the State Executive Committee. It is composed of *eleven* members. Only *four* attended the late meeting in person. Shall the *Era* run up Lee's name for Sheriff and stop advocating public schools, on the simple decision of those *four* gentlemen and their [illegible] associates that he is the [illegible] man, or shall it continue to raise its voice for an honest administration of State and county affairs, and hold up all officials, whether Republicans or Democrats, to the strict letter of the law? Which course will bring most odium on the Republican cause?

No, Brother Ball, there can be no compromise in this matter without a sacrifice of principle. We heartily desire harmony in the Republican ranks and the success of the party both in the State and county. We are willing to sacrifice anything but honor to this end. But we cannot and will not sacrifice all our convictions of right and justice and honor, for the sake of a defaulting Sheriff.

The Republican party must stand by its principles, and if a man placed in office by it proves recreant to those principles and by his acts brings reproach on the party, let him stand aside and let the party put a better man in the place.

We had intended not to recur to Wake county matters again though assailed daily by the defaulter's organ in this city, but the article of the *New North State* seemed to render it necessary, and that alone is our apology for this extended article.

Republicanism in Richmond County.

The Republicans of Richmond county met in Rockingham on the 6th inst., Maj. R. T. Long in the Chair, and Thos. R. Graham, Secretary. At the request of the Chair [illegible] Resolutions [illegible]

Whereas, we, the Republicans of Richmond county have met in convention for the purpose of selecting candidates for the various county offices to be filled at the ensuing election. Therefore, be it resolved,

1st. That we endorse our time-honored principles as heretofore enunciated in our State convention of 1872, the substance of which is "equal and exact justice to all men."

2d. That we do not and cannot endorse the present bill pending in the United States Congress and known as the "Civil Rights Bill," believing it to be uncalled for, inimical to our dearest interests, destructive of the peace and harmony of the races and fatal to the educational wants of our people.

After the reading of the foregoing resolutions, says the *Spirit of the South*, calls being made for Col. Dockery, this gentleman proceeded to address the convention on the subject of the resolutions, expressing himself in favor of them and giving most cogent reasons therefor. He said the colored people did not need any enlargement of their rights and privileges; that they already possessed the same political and civil rights that he enjoyed, and if this bill was passed it would certainly result in serious injury to the colored people whose interest it was intended to promote. He said the two races could not be as well educated together, as they could be separately; that it was the best for each race to have its own schools and school teachers, as at present; the educational funds to be equally divided between them.

But we will not attempt anything like a report of the Colonel's speech; suffice it to say that his remarks were well received, the colored people signifying their approbation in the plainest terms.

A vote being taken on the resolutions resulted in their adoption by a unanimous vote, every township in the county being represented.

The following nominations were made by the Convention:

For House of Representatives, Robert Fletcher; for Treasurer, Richmond T. Long; for Clerk of Superior Court, Dugald Stewart; for Sheriff, Zachary F. Long; for Register of Deeds, William R. Terry; for County Commissioners, George W. McKinnon, Daniel H. Meacham, Thomas R. Graham, Sidney A. Leak and John F. McLean.

Gen. A. M. Scales.

The Democratic nominations in the Fifth Congressional District are among the most instructing incidents of the campaign thus far developed. The Milton *Chronicle* seems to be at a loss to know how Gen. Scales deserved his nomination at the hands of the party. A moment's consideration of his course during the past six years should satisfy any one. While Gov. David S. Reid and John H. Dillard were denouncing the Ku Klux and their acts in Rockingham county, [illegible] one ever hear a word of censure from his lips? Some of his apologists say that he disapproved it. If he did so, his disapproval was kept so very secret that it never made itself heard or felt. Of course there is no evidence that Gen. Scales was actually identified with the Ku Klux order, but he was never known as the friend, advocate, or comforter of any of those who suffered at the hands of those nefarious scoundrels. His silence at such a time, and on the part of a man of his prominence, especially when contrasted with Dillard, Reid and Ruffin, all prominent Democrats of the same county, was evidently the silence of consent. It was so interpreted at the time and the non-Ku Klux portion of the people of Rockingham counted him from first to last a thorough-going Ku Klux.

The Democratic party refused at the close of the war to accept the situation, and acknowledge the national authority. It persisted in thrusting forward for public positions men who had made themselves notorious by their secession and intense hatred of the Union, and when they were excluded by act of Congress, these Union-haters were held up all through the South as martyrs in a sacred cause. This party resorted to the wicked and devilish Ku Klux Klan to get possession of the State governments. In its interest American citizens were intimidated, whipped and assassinated, and only the power of the national government was suffi[illegible] to the Klan and re[illegible]

The Democratic party has again refused to accept the situation--again refused to bow to the will of the nation. And though the hellish crimes of its agent, the Ku Klux Klan, has caused civilization to blush, and christianity to bow its head in shame and sorrow, the officers who assisted in putting down the Klans and restoring law and order have been set upon with fiendish malignity by Democratic presses and orators, and now the Democratic party goes farther and shows its approbation of the Ku Klux Klan by nominating for the highest offices in the State those who were known to sympathize with that disgraceful, oath-bound Democratic agent.

Voters of North Carolina, think of these facts and go to the polls in August and by your ballots forever drive this party from power in our State.

Hon. V. C. Barringer.

President Grant has again complimented the Republicans of North Carolina, by the appointment of Col. Victor C. Barringer as a member of a mixed Egyptian Court for the trial of causes in that country where Americans are interested, with a salary of $8,000 per annum.

Judge Barringer rendered the State of North Carolina signal service as a member of the Code Commission, which position he resigned to accept a place on the Commission to codify the laws of the United States.

He is a lawyer of large experience and will do credit to our government in the responsible place assigned him by the President.

The Republican Convention for the Seventh District held at Yadkinville, Wednesday, nominated Dr. C. L. Cook, of Wilkes, for Congress, A. H. Joyce, Esq., for Solicitor, and recommended W. H. Bailey for Judge.

CORRESPONDENCE.

It must not be understood that THE ERA endorses the sentiments of its correspondents in every instance. Its columns are open to the friends of the party, and their communications will be given to the public as containing the views and sentiments of the writers.

Neill McKay, Esq., Republican Candidate for Congress in the 3d District, after Hon. Alfred M. Waddell, the Democratic "Back Salary Grabber."

To the Editor of the Era:

these appointments and demanding a division of time. Of course, Waddell doesn't like it, but is compelled to allow McKay to be heard.

The candidates met on last Friday at Saunders' Store, in Carteret county; the discussion was warm and resulted most favorably for McKay. Waddell can't carry the "Salary Grab" through the honest county of Carteret. I heard several leading men of his party say after his explanation in Beaufort, on the 1st day of June, that he, Waddell, and Davis to assist him, fell far short of explaining to their satisfaction that Waddell's act in taking the people's money without compensation was right; Waddell tried lustily "Back pay," notwithstanding the whole nation condemn it. He draws the line of color, and says the question is negro or white man's party. On this issue of color, McKay literally flindered him. At Saunders' Store, so decently did McKay wear him out, that at the meeting on Saturday, at Newport, Waddell tried to abandon this issue made by him and his party friends the day before. Waddell is hard down on the extravagance of the Government in the expenditure of the people's money. McKay said that Waddell ought to be the last man to complain of extravagance in the administration of the Government. He showed how Waddell had received, while a member of Congress, thirty thousand dollars for about four years' services. That he was then receiving forty ($40) dollars per day as a member of Congress, and instead of occupying his seat at Washington he was electioneering through the counties, when the most important measures before Congress were now being agitated. That while Waddell seems so opposed to civil rights, he absents himself from Congress while that bill is before the House, when his vote might defeat its passage.

Carteret county in the last State election went some three hundred Democratic. It is now almost a certainty that McKay will carry this county. Waddell's defeat is already foreshadowed. It is only necessary for McKay to meet him before the people to gain votes. The parties meet at Richlands, in Onslow county, on Monday, the 15th of the present month. McKay, by his determination to see Waddell through, will make many friends in Onslow and the whole District.

Will write you again soon. M.

Democratic Pow-Wow, Wash Day and General Break-Up in Goldsboro.

To the E[illegible]

[illegible] tempted [illegible] wringing [illegible] place to-d[illegible] a good d[illegible] as a matter [illegible] publicans loung[illegible] sport. After so[illegible] pulled to the [illegible] cents at the Court [illegible] which consumed some [illegible] they succeeded i[illegible] fifty or seventy-five [illegible] them Republi[illegible] who [illegible] were anxious to see the show). The ball was opened by appointing Boaz Hooks to take care of the clothes, do the general superintending, &c., while J. A. Bonitz was requested to kindle fires, carry off the rubbish and to do such other dirty work as the rest of them were not willing to engage in.

At this period of the exhibition, the Boss of the concern announced that they were ready for soap, whereupon, about twenty-five or thirty pieces were hurled in for inspection in the shape of resolutions, whereases, resolves, &c. You could plainly see by this time that every one was for himself and (as a wag at my elbow remarked) the Devil for all. Some of the worthy ones (who were in the minority) contended that no nominations were to be made, while others, who held a majority, contended that then was the accepted time, and contended for the rules of Parliament; while the balance of the crowd contended that Parliament had legislated for their special benefit. Things by this time began to get pretty warm, and during the excitement Col. Morris had a few men over in one corner of the room a-reading to them a resolution for the fifteenth time, and when peace was restored, Col. Morris was yet found reading his same resolution, the contents of which no one seemed to know or care anything about, excepting Col. Morris, who declared by all that was good or bad that if such as that was allowed to go on, the Republican party would get the whole kit of them before the campaign was over. It being plainly observable that more help was needed, a motion was made to adjourn and call in the townships to their assistance, as it was very evident (and remarked) that Rhodes, Copeland and others intended to touse them through the mud before the thing was done with. The various candidates, of course, had their wire pullers around, doing all they could; but as most of the Convention (so-called) were candidates themselves, no time was consumed in working for others. A good many customers presented their claims to have their linen attended to, and well they might, as they have been wearing their private garb in this county since 1867, and as might be supposed, are getting very buggy. But we will confidently promise them that if they will do the soaking and scrubbing, [illegible] Republicans will [illegible] day of