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july 31–3m.

PROSPECTUS OF THE
WESTERN CHRONICLE,

Lincolnton, North Carolina.

To the People of Western North Carolina:

The loyal Union party of Western North Carolina have long felt the need of a thoroughly loyal Republican paper, to advocate their claims, and contend for that freedom of speech so long denied us by the enemies of the Union, who, when their cause failed, scarcely hoped that their lives would be spared, now encouraged by the "policy" of Andrew Johnson, use every means in their power, by falsehood and misrepresentation, to make our friends in Congress believe that no loyal element exists in the State, and that a general amnesty is necessary to insure peace and quiet to our section; while the truth is, it would be the initiatory step to scenes of crime and bloodshed. The people, we say, of the Western portion of the State have long suffered in public opinion for the want of a sound, unbiased loyal press to refute these vile slanders and hurl back the abusive epithets bestowed upon us. We propose to supply the desideratum, and earnestly ask the co-operation of every true lover of his country in our efforts to aid in securing peace, justice, liberty and equality to all deserving those inestimable privileges. Let every man put his shoulder to the wheel, and we shall soon see again the laws of our country obeyed and its supporters honored, instead of the open grumbling and undisguised hatred of that particular class of rebels, who, while supporting with all their influence the cause of their mistaken and ambitious leaders, yet took very good care to get themselves into fat offices somewhere in the rear of the contending armies.

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RECONSTRUCTION.

SUPPLEMENTARY RECONSTRUCTION BILL AS PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That it is hereby declared to have been the true intent and meaning of the act of the second day of March, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, entitled an act for the more efficient government of the rebel States, and of the act supplementary thereto, passed on the 23d. day of March, in the year 1867, that the governments then existing in the rebel States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana Florida, Texas and Arkansas, were illegal and void, and thereafter the same governments, if continued, were to be continued subject in all respects to the Military Commanders of the respective Districts and to the authority of Congress.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the commander of any district named in said act shall have power, subject to the approval of the General of the armies of the United States, to have effect till disapproved, whenever in the opinion of such commander the proper administration of said act shall require it, to suspend or remove from office, or from the performance of official duties and the exercise of official powers, any officer or person holding or exercising, or professing to hold or excercise, any civil or military office or duty in such district, under any power, election, appointment, or authority derived from or granted by, or claimed under any so-called State or the government thereof, or any municipal or other division thereof, and upon such suspension or removal such commander, subject to the approval of the General aforesaid, shall have the power to provide from time to time for the performance of the said duties of such officer or person so suspended or removed by the detail of some competent officer or soldier of the army or by the appointment of some other person to perform the same and to fill vacancies occasioned by death, resignation or otherwise.

SEC 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the General of the armies of the United States shall be invested with all the powers of suspension, removal, appointment and detail granted in the preceding section to district commanders.

SEC 4. *And it be further enacted*, That the acts of the officers of the army already done in removing in said districts persons exercising the functions of civil officers and appointing others in their stead are hereby confirmed; provided that any person heretofore or hereafter appointed by any district commander to exercise the functions of any civil office may be removed, either by the military officer in command of the district or by the General of the army; and it shall be the duty of commanders to remove from office, as aforesaid, all persons who are disloyal to the government of the United States, or who use their official influence in any manner to hinder, delay, prevent or obstruct the due and proper administration of this act, and the acts to which this is supplementary.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the boards of registration provided for in the act entitled "an act supplementary to an act entitled 'an act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States,'" passed March 2, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, shall have power, and it shall be their duty, before allowing registration of any person, to ascertain upon such facts or information as they can obtain, whether such person is entitled to be registered under said act, and the oath required by said act shall not be conclusive on such question, and no person shall be registered unless such board shall decide that he is entitled thereto; and such board shall also have power to examine under oath (to be administered by any member of such board) any one touching the qualification of any person claiming registration. But in every case of a refusal by the board to register an applicant, made in every case herein after provided, the board shall make a note or memorandum, which shall be returned with the registration list to the commanding Generals of the Districts, setting forth the ground of such refusal, or such striking from the lift: Provided, that no person shall be disqualified,—as a member of any board of registration, by reason of race or color.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the true intent and meaning of the oath prescribed in said supplementary act is (among other things) that no person who has been a member of the Legislature of any State or who has held any executive or judicial office in any State, whether he has taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States or not, and whether he was holding such office at the commencement of the rebellion or had held it before, and who has afterward engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof, is entitled to be registered or to vote; and the words "executive or judicial office in any State" in said oath mentioned shall be construed to include all civil offices created by law for the administration of the general law of the State, or for the administration of justice.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the time for completing the original registration provided for in said act may, in the discretion of the commander of any district, be extended to the 1st day of October, 1867; and the boards of registration shall have power, and it shall be their duty, commencing fourteen days prior to any election under said act, and upon reasonable public notice of the time and place thereof, to revise for a period of three days the registration lists; and upon being satisfied that any person not entitled thereto has been registered, to strike the name of such person from the list. And such board shall also, during the same period, add to such registry the names of all persons who at that time possess the qualifications required by said act who have not been already registered, and no person shall at any time be entitled to be registered or to vote by reason of any executive pardon or amnesty for any act or thing which, without such pardon or amnesty, would disqualify him from registration or voting.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That section 4 of the said last named act shall be construed to authorize the commanding general named therein, whenever he shall deem it needful, to remove any member of a board of registration, and to appoint another person in his stead, and to fill any vacancy in such board.

SEC. 9. That all members of said Boards of Registration and all persons hereafter elected or appointed to office in said military districts, under any so-called State or municipal authority or by detail or appointment of the District Commanders, shall be required to take and subscribe to the oath of office prescribed by law for officers of the United States.

SEC. 10. That no District Commander or member of the Board of registration or any of the officers or appointees acting under them shall be bound in his action by any opinion of any civil officer of the United States.

SEC. 11. That all the provisions of this act, and the acts to which this is supplementary, shall be construed liberally, to the end that all the intents thereof may be fully and perfectly carried out.

This bill has been passed by both Houses of Congress and sent to the President for his approval

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