

THE STATE JOURNAL FRIDAY, April 10, 1863

From all points in the Confederacy we hear that the newspapers are either about suspending or are contemplating the step at no remote period.

It has become next to impossible to procure paper at all. If it could be procured, the price is at such a figure, that no country paper can long continue to live without raising its subscription price to three times the present figures.

A few papers printed in the cities may weather the storm, and a few in the country and smaller towns, whose proprietors are men of means and who can afford to continue publication without remuneration.

We see that the Charleston Courier has advertised as probable, at least a temporary suspension. Also, the Augusta Constitutionalist and the Freed and Fire-side.

These remarks are not made to excite a farther increase in the price of subscription. They are founded on facts which every editor knows to be true, and which occupy much of their thoughts.

What remedy is there for this state of things? We see but two: either an enormous increase in the price of subscription, or a suspension of the press.

With paper at fifty cents per pound a weekly sheet cannot be issued for less than five dollars. This calculation excludes any profit. To preserve the profits of ordinary times, the price would be at least seven dollars.

The daily, at that rate must increase to fifteen dollars. To pay, outside of the large cities, a daily must cost twenty dollars.

There are a certain class of readers who will take a paper at any price. But these would take papers which are published nearest the sources of news.

But this plan we know would be objected to on the ground of affording Government aid to special private enterprises, a principle which has been repudiated in our politics for years, at least in theory.

This falling, we see nothing before us but the suspension of the large majority of the papers of the Confederacy.

The next question is, can a free Government be sustained without newspapers? Can this revolution be successfully carried through a term of years of horrors, pillage and suffering, without the warning and encouraging voice of a free press?

Let the journals of a country be reduced to a very few in number, and by a necessity of human nature, they will become merely the advocates of all measures of the rulers of the land.

The press is not merely a private enterprise; it has become at this age of the world a part of every Government.

Men at this day are not content with the bare declaration of principles, shortly and curiously expressed by the proclamations of their rulers.

We say to the people that with the fall of the press they lose their best friend, and the ablest champion of popular rights and rational liberty.

At Charleston, too, we understand the enemy has opened his campaign. In Tennessee both armies have been striving by strategic operations to get its opponent at a disadvantage.

We see by the New York Herald that as the hopes of reducing Vicksburg are diminished, the invasion of Texas by the Rio Grande is receiving the attention of Lincoln's Government.

object it is which has caused such an energetic prosecution of the war in the West. But inflated thus far by Vicksburg and the batteries on Red river from closing our access to Texas, the enemy is now dropping behind the Mississippi and our defenses, and will endeavor by the new move to effect the purpose which thus far has been unable to effect.

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From the Jackson Mississippiian. What Mississippi has Done.

In the military department commanded by Gen Pemberton there are more troops than at any other department outside of Virginia. When it is remembered that the territory comprising this department has ever been remarkable only for the growth of cotton; that every large supply of corn and bacon were imported into it; that manufactures were almost totally ignored; that the State was devoted to the production of cotton; it will be a subject of surprise that so large an army could be clothed, subsisted and partially equipped in a country the habits of whose people were so ill calculated to supply the wants of an army.

A brief mention of the Mississippi factories, many of which have sprung up almost like magic, within a few miles of the State, will not be uninteresting. The Pemberton Works at Enterprise, and the Dix Works at Canton, make not less than sixty wagon and ambulances per week.

The Chief Quartermaster has now private contracts with the State for the purchase of eight thousand pairs of shoes per year. Arrangements are now being made to start an extensive Government shoe shop in Jackson, with a capacity of turning out six thousand pairs of shoes per month.

The tanneries in the State are sufficient to tan the leather that can be procured. The most extensive tannery is at Magnolia and supplies six hundred hides daily.

The officers of the Department have performed their duties faithfully. They have often worked day and night; and instead of entering complaints for what they have failed to do, let us remember that the most successful operations of the war have been accomplished by men called upon to help. They must co-operate with the authorities or the army supplies will fail in a most critical juncture.

Much of the labor of procuring supplies for the army and establishing manufactures, has devolved upon the Chief Quartermaster, Major L. Minns. In fact, it may be said that the supervision and direction of the whole war has been entrusted to him. His highly successful labors have been in the discharge of this responsible trust, is evidenced by the comments above.

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PRICES IN THE NORTHWEST.—The N. Y. Herald has the following article on this subject: Before the war the price of a mule in Illinois was one hundred and twenty-five dollars in gold.

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Perhaps no country in North Carolina has been more honored by papers and politicians of the Richmond Examiner stamp than Forsyth. Yet it may be doubted if any county in the State or in any State has done more for the cause, taking into the account the number of volunteers furnished, the number of lives sacrificed, the contributions to the clothing and subsistence of the troops, and especially the support of soldiers' families at home.

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pe-makers took flight at the price of cotton, a condensation of events has come to their relief, and the old staple will probably subside quietly again into sober habits and safer prices. Indeed, we shall not be surprised to see it go very low. Planters will be indisposed to hold it at an annual tax of five per cent, and speculators will not like it much better at ten.

Our telegraphic news informs us, that Lincoln is about to call for two hundred thousand men to fill up his depleted regiments in the South.

The following article from the Chicago Times, shows that in Illinois the people are forming clubs to buy each other out of the war. We have no doubt but that if allowed to do so, nine tenths of the men in the North will pay out, rather than go into, the army.

We have, in another column, a rich correspondence from Fernando Wood, of New York, and Wilson, of Massachusetts, on the Yankee conscript law.

THE DRAFT—A SUGGESTION.

In some parts of this State, township democratic clubs have provided that any of their members who shall be drafted under the conscription law shall, if they are unable to purchase their own exemption, be relieved at the expense of the club, either by the procurement of substitutes or the payment of the exemption money. This seems to us to be a most praiseworthy movement. It will protect the poor man against the operation of an unequal, and therefore unjust, law, and avert distress which a wise and humane law-making body would never inflict.

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From the Mobile Advertiser and Register. The British Consulate.

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