

THE STATE JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, April 8, 1863.

At the last session of Congress that body failed to pass a tax bill when the whole people were loudly demanding the measure. We believe the Conservative press were especially loud in its censure of the omission, and forthwith proceeded to launch into its condemnation of the administration of Mr. Davis for this non-action of Congress.

Congress has now, it is understood, nearly matured a bill of the kind. At once the cry of opposition is raised by this same Conservative press against the bill, and the administration is assailed most furiously. Were the opposition aimed at the details of the bill, we could give credit for its honesty. But as the provisions of it have not yet been matured, as we cannot know what the terms of it will be until it finally passes both houses, and it is not known that the President will approve it when passed, we take the incipient howl of opposition which is prepared to burst into a regular hurricane of denunciation as only the hypocritical ululations of the hired mourners at a funeral.

There is no principle and no honesty in the opposition to the tax bill before Congress as it now stands, because no one feature of it, as yet, has any binding force. It is only at this stage the special action of the members entitled to no more weight than their respective private judgments.

But a tax bill in some form is necessary and inevitable. The Government must be supported and the people must furnish the money in some form and at some day. If the Government goes on its present course of issuing vast quantities of paper currency, making no preparation to redeem it, it will soon be worthless. Like the notes of an individual who borrows from every person and pays none, the Government will soon find no one so credulous as to take its faithless promises.

If however, the people see the government making provision to meet its engagements, its money will be freely taken and full value given in every material which it needs.

Thus by a firm credit the debt of the country will be less and the people in the end will save immense sums of taxation by advancing at this time the means of fixing the credit of the Government securely.

At the present value of the currency a pound of meat is worth fifty cents. If the value of the Confederate notes were increased to that degree that the same meat could be bought for twenty-five cents, of course the expenditures for this article would only be one half what it now is. So in proportion with every thing else, and the people hereafter would have not more than one half of the debt upon them which is now being incurred by the want of some prop to the credit of Confederate currency.

A stringent tax bill every body admits will secure this prop by lessening the volume of the currency and inspiring confidence in the honesty of the Government to meet its liabilities, untroubled by the arts of demagogues and the machinations of malcontents.

Why not pass a heavy tax bill with liberal exemptions to the poor and the soldier?

There can only be too objections urged against the measure.

One is that the people don't want to pay any taxes at all, for any purpose. This is the plea of the demagogue, with no sense, no honesty and no policy in it.

Another objection is that the Confederate Government is a tyranny and it does not become freemen to submit to its exactions.

There are some in the country who think and talk in this way. They say we have no confidence in the cause of the Confederacy, we never supported its creation, we have no love for it now and never had, we are not solicitous in seeing it sustained, and we wish it destroyed; therefore, we are willing to pay no taxes to sustain a cause we detest.

There is a policy in the reasoning of the latter class, a most destructive one. It is the policy of reconstruction, which has never been abandoned by a portion of our public men.

They forget one thing however. It is this, if the Confederacy goes down, all their money will be worth nothing, and by sacrificing their country they will have destroyed themselves.

Demagogues and malcontents, then have already begun their warfare upon the tax-bill. They will keep it up, and they will mislead many people into joining in the opposition.

But these things always have to be encountered by every free Government. The true friends of the people, and the true supporters of our independence, as they have heretofore, so they must still battle against prejudice, ambition and treason, and in the end they will prove triumphant.

A tax-bill in some form is one of the necessities of our situation. We have no hope that one can or will be framed free of objection. Such a one has never been framed by any legislative body. But the common good must be sustained at the expense of some inconvenience.

A VALUABLE TABLE.—Through the politeness of the Confederate Tax Receiver for this State, Wm. K. Lane, Esq., we are enabled to lay before our readers an abstract of the Confederate Tax paid by the State of North Carolina for the year 1862. This table will be found to possess considerable value, and should be carefully aside for future reference.

Our advertising friends will bear with us for one issue we are sure.

J. S. H. Beatty writes to us on business, dating his letter "Duplin Roads, W. W. R. R." There is no such postoffice, and hence we cannot reply to him, not knowing how to direct our letter. Should this meet Mr. Beatty's eye, he is informed that his money never came to hand.

We take this occasion to request all persons writing to us to name their postoffice, and all subscribers wishing their papers changed from one office to another, to state the office from which as well as that to which the paper is to be sent. A little attention to this matter will save us many hours of labor, and secure prompt attention to their requests.

If the press of the country will imitate the example set by the *Argus*, as explained in the following extract from that paper, many a field intended for cotton and tobacco, will bear a crop of corn. Many a man, who will face his conscience and shut his soul against the appeals of patriotism, will cover before the just lashings of the press. Let a record of those whose sole hope is gain, and whose hearts rejoice in the troubles of their country, as storing them up an opportunity to gather money, be kept, that hereafter, when they boast of patriotism or desire promotion, their ambition may be confronted by their shameless baseness in this hour of trial.

We have been promised by gentlemen, whose opportunities of procuring the information are good, a more cotton than will be necessary for home consumption. We will publish this list, that the people and the army may know and distinguish their friends from their enemies.

FROM OUR KINSTON CORRESPONDENT.

Editors STATE JOURNAL:—We have news from the Tar River country this morning, to the effect that Gen. Hill has completely besieged Washington, N. C. Our troops have the town thoroughly encompassed, the enemy hemmed in at every point and cut off from all communication both by land and water, our troops having captured the enemy's batteries at Hill's, situated on the banks of the Tar River, seven miles below the town, which position gives us an open field and a fair fight, with the Yankee shipping, should they attempt to pass up the river with reinforcements for Washington.

I learn, since writing the above, that two gunboats followed by several large transports loaded with troops from Newbern to reinforce Washington, attempted to run by our blockade at Hill's Point, on day before yesterday, when they were fired upon by our batteries, and so severely damaged as to be forced to get back. They could not pass our guns and at last accounts the enemy were landing troops below our works at Hill's Point, but I failed to learn on which side of the river they were landing.

Two flags of truce have been sent into Washington, by Gen. Hill, one demanding a surrender of the place, and the other forwarding the women and children to leave the town without delay to either proposition. Gen. Hill has not yet shelled Washington, but will doubtless do so very soon, unless the Yankees surrender quickly.

Cannonading has been heard in the direction of Washington at almost any time for the last few days; but I learn that it is our troops engaging the enemy's boats along the river.

This news, if true, is important and I have no right to doubt one word of it, for it comes from most reliable sources.

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE STATE JOURNAL.

CAMP NEAR FREDERICKSBURG, March 30th, 1863.

Messrs. Editors:—As I have noticed the *Journal* and several other North Carolina papers, and have seen nothing said about the 23rd N. C. Regiment, I think it nothing but right that something should be said, and if nobody else will say anything, I will say a few words myself, though I do not feel myself at all competent.

This regiment has been engaged in most of the battles from Williamsburg to Fredericksburg. It was engaged in and suffered severely in the memorable battle of Seven Pines, in which its loss was terrible. Not less than 27 officers were killed and wounded, while the privates suffered in proportion. It was in the series of battles fought around Richmond, likewise the memorable battles of Boonsboro' and Sharpsburg, in both of which its sufferings were intense.

Col. D. H. Christie, its noble commander, is a soldier by education and practice, and is noted for his bravery and the superior discipline of his regiment. We are now on the banks of the Rappahannock, quiet waiting for the approach of the enemy. All is quiet now, and as the sun pours forth its brilliant rays upon our sunny soil, it seems like it would never be disturbed again by the roar of cannon or the sharp crack of the musket; but we expect to have to meet the enemy again and to face the cannon's mouth. And if we do, we will do it trusting along with the men who have always stood by us and been our shield when danger was nigh.

The Voice of the People.

We continue extracts from our private letters. A subscriber writing from Hookerton, says: "I send you five dollars for your Weekly, and when that amount is expended give me notice and I will respond to your call. I am anxious to see your paper sustained, and all other papers that will lay on up old Buffalo Holden, for I think he is one of the worst enemies we have in North Carolina. He is the big Buffalo, and I am in hopes he will meet with what he deserves some day."

Another subscriber writes us as follows from B-rite county: "Enclosed you will find two dollars for which you will please send your weekly paper to —. I do not wish the price of the Weekly. If this is not enough, I will send you the balance for a year. I am a subscriber to your paper, and a willing one at that. It is such a strong war sheet, and advocates the freedom of the South in such a way, that it is, or at least ought to be, a welcome visitor to all who are in sympathy with the cause of the South."

I am trying to get all near me to take it. Holden's paper comes to this office 'thick and heavy.

"There is a certain Union man in this county who has done more harm to us in this section than all others. He has bought a great quantity of cotton, and there is a report of his selling some of it to the Yankees. He and Holden did correspond in regard to it. The substance of the correspondence I am not aware of. But there is one thing certain, Holden and this man have done the Confederacy a great injury down here. This man is speculating in all the necessities of life. He has done much towards depreciating our currency. He has been a merchant in Roxboro' for some time, and consequently has some influence with the lower class of people. He has kept men here from joining the Confederate army, and caused them to join the Buffaloes. This cannot be proved. He was afraid to talk before Vance was elected Governor, but now, like Holden, he thinks the people will sanction all he says.

"Mr. Editor, this is not half. It is time his actions were looked into. There are strong Southern men here who are afraid to move for fear he will send the Buffaloes against them (for we expect them daily). Will you please call the attention of the authorities to things down here."

We leave the people and the authorities to ponder the foregoing, and for the present we suspend our extracts. The voice of the people shall be heard and as surely shall yet prevail.

We conclude for to-day with the following from a subscriber in Edgecombe: "If it is not incompatible with the public interest, I would like to know who 'An Original Secessionist' is. He takes that abolitionist Holden just right. It is incompatible with the desire of 'Original Secessionists.'"

Affairs in Norfolk. The following items are culled from a letter from a lady in Norfolk to her son, who is stationed in one of the batteries near this city.

I wish to tell you something about the negroes, and Peter H. Whitehurst. The negroes are doing very well, perfectly unrestrained; they have parties and balls every week—last Tuesday night they had a very large one on Union street, and I am told they had every delicacy which could be bought or stolen.

Last week, I and Mary (my daughter) started over to Portsmouth, and as we got near Barry's store we met two negro men, one of them looking like a gentleman, coming they must get out of their way, and he pushed me down, and the other pushed Mary on the street. On recovering I looked to see if there were no gentlemen who would stand near, but he said if he were to do anything he would be seriously injured. I met this man standing near, but he said if he were to do anything he would be seriously injured. I met this man standing near, but he said if he were to do anything he would be seriously injured.

Now for Peter H. Whitehurst. He has been unrelenting in his efforts to oppress and afflict every Southern man in this city. A week ago he went to one of the Banks and exchanged for money all the Virginia Treasury notes which he had, and then he went to Gen. Vile and told him that the only way to lambast and bring to their proper sense these scoundrel wench was to prevent the circulation of Virginia Treasury notes, (this is the only money the soldiers could send home to their families which would pass here in Portsmouth.) Immediately Vile issued a proclamation, prohibiting the circulation of these notes, and it will astonish you to know that Peter H. Whitehurst is now going about and buying from the poor families these notes at fifty cents to the dollar, and openly boasts if the war lasts two years longer he will be a millionaire.

The enemy seem bewildered on the Yazoo. The expedition up Deer Creek proved an abortion, and the boats composing the expedition have left that section together. At Greenwood they have been signally repulsed and fell back to let their wounds heal, and make more colossal preparations for the next assault on Fort Pemberton. They look on this as the most feasible route to Vicksburg, and we think as the most reinforcements are received, another attempt to remove the snag above Greenwood will be made.

Feb. 15th, 1863.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES WAR TAX FOR THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE YEAR 1862.

Table with columns for Districts, Acres of Land, Valuation of Land, Town Lots, Valuation of Town Lots, No. Slaves, Value of Slaves, Merchandise, Bank Stock, Rail Road and other Corporation Stock, Money at Interest, Cash on hand or Deposit, No. of Cattle, Horses and Mules, Value of Cattle, Horses, & Mules, No. of Gold Watches, Value of Gold Watches, Silver Plate, No. of Pianos, Value of Pianos, No. of Pleasure Carriages, Value of Pleasure Carriages, Bank of Corporation Stock not returned by Bank or Corporation, Aggregate, and Tax.

An Absurd Rumor.

The following sensible remarks, from the Lynchburg Republican in connection with a most ridiculous sensation story which has been afloat in this city for the last two or three days, we commend to all who may have been inclined to place any reliance in it: "We saw an idle rumor afloat in our city yesterday, to the effect that the President of the United States had issued a proclamation announcing the evacuation of Virginia as a military necessity growing out of the scarcity of provisions. We hardly suppose that any sensible man has given a moment's credence to such a senseless report. A moment's reflection will teach any one capable of being taught a single idea, that if the evacuation of Virginia was a military necessity the President would have had a military necessity to announce it in an official bulletin to our enemies; and it is a not less self-evident proposition that to evacuate Virginia for the want of provisions would simply be to 'jump from the frying-pan into the fire.' Where would our armies go for better supplies? If the provisions are in North Carolina or Georgia they would be much easier transported to the Army of the Potomac, than the army can be transported to the provisions. Besides, to abandon Virginia to the enemy would be a lack of supplies would be to surrender all we have in Virginia at this time, and all we can give to the most valuable agricultural country in the world to the derangement of the enemy would be a very foolish way to feed our armies. But the rumor is too silly a one to demand notice.

The Literary Board.

This Board met in this city on the 27th ult., at the Executive Office, all the members and the General Superintendent of the Common Schools, being present. The Spring distribution of \$100,000 was made to the several counties of the State, and the Board adopted measures to guard and increase the Literary Fund, to make it very efficient, together with the important interests for which it was founded. The Board unanimously adopted among others the following resolutions: Resolved, That this Board appreciating the condition of the country and looking to the future history of this Commonwealth, do hereby urge upon all Boards of Superintendents, School Committees and all citizens generally the absolute importance of an energetic and general effort to perpetuate and to increase in number and efficiency the common schools of the State, and that they are called upon to give to the General Superintendent their warmest co-operation. Resolved, That the funds of the Board under proper management are ample, together with the School Tax from the people, to furnish and perpetuate in every School district in the State, an efficient school for a good portion of the year. Resolved, That it is the earnest desire of the Board, that the Boards of Superintendents and School Committees, shall annually expend the entire amount of School Fund to the credit of each County in keeping up the Schools, and that they employ competent teachers as well as male teachers, and especially when it can be done, wounded and disabled soldiers, at their own expense to re-educate them for their services.

Resolved.

Resolved, That the assessments made for Common Schools to those Counties which are now or may be in possession of the enemy, shall be placed to the credit of said Counties on the books of the Bank, and shall be disbursed to them as soon as they can be properly used. Resolved, That it is respectfully recommended to the officers of the Common Schools and to the people of the State generally, to exert themselves to the adoption of measures for the education of young men, wounded and disabled in the army, in order that they may be enabled to pursue the occupation of teaching or other callings for which they may be physically qualified. Prof. Sterling and Rev. C. H. Wiley were appointed delegates from the Board to the Teachers' Convention to be held in Columbia, S. C., this month. Mistaken. The Raleigh Standard is in error in saying that every member in this State, who was in his seat, voted against the Tax Bill which recently passed in the House of Representatives. Every member from this State voted for the bill, except one, the member from the Raleigh District. It is said that the bill was passed by a very large majority. The Standard was led into the error by the bill prescribing rules and regulations for putting the Tax Law in operation. All the N. C. members who voted against the supplemental bill, probably because they considered it too complicated. West. Democrat.