

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT CONVENTION.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

At a meeting of Delegates from several of the counties in this State, convened in the Government House in the city of Raleigh, on the 4th day of July, 1833, for the purpose of taking into consideration the subject of Internal Improvement throughout the State; the Convention was called to order by Gen. Iredell, one of the Delegates from the county of Wake, and on motion of Gov. Owen, His Excellency David L. Swain was unanimously appointed President. Whereupon the President was conducted to the Chair, from whence he stated the objects of the meeting in an appropriate address.

On motion of Gen. Iredell, Samuel F. Patterson, of Wilkes, and Charles Manly, of Wake, were appointed Secretaries to the Convention.

The names of the several counties in the State were then called; when the following Delegates appeared, produced their credentials, and took their seats, to wit:

- Beaufort County—Z. W. Barrow, Bruswick—F. J. Hill, Francis N. Waddell, I. Waddell and H. Y. Waddell. Halifax—John Owen. Currituck—William Gaston, John H. Bryan, John P. Burgwin and W. G. Stanly. Johnston—John Haralson, Abram G. Keen, C. J. Williams, W. H. Harbin, P. Le Mesurier, Charles Latterloh, H. S. Clark and Thos. Prince. Cumberland—Robert Strange, John Huske, L. D. Henry, John H. Hall, E. J. Hale, E. Arnold, E. W. Wilkins, James Sewell, W. Waddell, Jr. and Thos. L. Hybert. Duplin—William Wright. Franklin—James Farrier, Wood T. Johnson and Nathaniel B. Tuostall. Granville—Wm. M. Sneed, Spencer O'Brien, Thomas W. Newman, Thomas B. Littlejohn and Memphis Hunt. Halifax—Joseph J. Daniel and Edmund B. Freeman.

Johnston—J. H. Smith, Hythan Bryan, Josiah O. Watson, Daniel Bonn, Christopher Gleitsopher, Raben Troy Sanders, John C. Smith, James T. Leach and James Erlick. Jones—James H. Gwynn, James G. Gwynn, Nathan B. Whitfield and George Whitfield. New Hanover—W. B. Meares, John D. Jones, Joseph A. Hill, Alexander M. B. B. J. Lowe, Thomas Hill, Patrick Usher and Geo. H. McMillan.

North—James Brown, Stephen S. Seay and George H. H. H. Orange—Hugh Waddell, W. J. Bingham, James Phillips, Walter A. Norwood, Alex. Henderson, James H. Newbold, Frederick Nash, Wm. G. Graham, John Scott, Samuel Childs, Indulgent Jones, Wm. P. Strudwick and James Melane.

Samson—Thomas J. Falson, H. C. Holmes, Wm. Kirby, Olin Mobly and Wm. Faison. Wilkes—Samuel F. Patterson. Wake—David L. Swain, Geo. E. Talger, James Iredell, Wm. M'Pheeters, William H. Haywood, Jr. Wm. Boylan, G. W. Haywood, Charles Manly, A. J. Lawrence, J. C. Stearns, Thomas Edwin Queen, Hayes Barnes, Grant, Cyrus Whitaker, Johnston Busbee, Alfred Jones, Henry A. Dunsford, Turner Pullen, Henry Warren, John Y. Young and Henry Seawell.

Warren—John C. Green, Thomas Bragg, George Little, Joseph S. Jones, George M. Allen, Simons Southland and James Somerville. Wayne—Arnold Borden, James B. Whitfield, John W. Sasser, H. M. Acker and Jno. Wright.

On motion of Mr. Grant, Resolved, That a committee, consisting of one member of each delegation, be appointed by the President, to whom shall be referred, before they are seated in Convention, all propositions on Internal Improvement made in this Convention; that the said committee be directed to report, and recommend the proper course to be taken by this Convention upon such propositions, or on any other that may be suggested to them, and on the subject of Internal Improvement generally.

The following persons were thereupon appointed to form the committee in pursuance of the said resolution, to wit: Z. W. Barrow, F. J. Hill, John Owen, John H. Bryan, Chas. J. Williams, Robert Strange, Wm. Wright, J. Farrier, Spencer O'Brien, E. B. Freeman, Josiah O. Watson, Isaac Croom, Wm. B. Meares, George Buddie, James Melane, H. C. Holmes, S. F. Patterson, W. H. Haywood, Jr. J. Somerville and John W. Sasser.

On motion of Mr. Grant, Resolved, That the General Committee of this Convention be instructed to inquire into the best mode of securing the co-operation of the State in works of Internal Improvement, and particularly whether it would be proper to memorialize the Assembly, and pray that body to pledge the State for the subscription and payment of 2-3 of the stock for any work of public Internal Improvement within this State, after individuals shall have subscribed and secured the other 1-3.

On motion of Mr. Acares, the Convention then adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

Friday, July 5, 1833.

The President laid before the Convention sundry papers containing the survey, field notes and estimates of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Rail Road, which, on motion of Mr. Burgwin, were ordered to be referred to the general standing committee.

Mr. Farrier presented the following preamble and resolution, to wit: Whereas it appears that the counties represented in this Convention are very unequally represented, and in order that each county represented may have the same equality in voting as when legislating.

Resolved, That when any vote is taken on any question of Internal Improvement, the vote shall be by counties, each county entitled to one vote, and no more.

Which being read, on motion of Mr. Strange, it was ordered that the said resolution be laid upon the table.

On motion of Mr. J. H. Bryan, Resolved, That the general committee on Internal Improvement be instructed to inquire into the expediency of constructing a rail road from Raleigh to some point on Newse river at or near Waynesborough.

On motion of Mr. Farrier, Resolved, That the committee of Internal Improvement inquire into the expediency and utility of building a rail road from Louisa to the Roanoke, or to connect it with the Petersburg and Portsmouth Rail Road, and report accordingly.

Ms. Sneed presented the following resolution, to wit: Resolved, That it be recommended to the citizens of the several counties of this State to elect delegates to attend an adjourned meeting of this Convention, to be held in the city of Raleigh on the first Monday of December next.

Which was read, and, on motion of Mr. Sneed, ordered to be referred to the general committee on Internal Improvement.

The general committee on Internal Improvement.

Mr. Haywood presented the following resolutions, which, as a matter of course, stand referred to the general committee, to wit:

Resolved, That the present condition of North Carolina is, in the opinion of this Convention, highly discouraging and mortifying to her citizens. That her trade is languishing, her agriculture is neglected, her population is sinking, her public and private wealth declining, and that these evils are not arrested in their course, she must speedily sink into ruin and contempt. That they owe their existence, mainly, to a want of State pride, concert of opinion and action among her citizens, the difficulties of internal transportation, and the want of the energetic support of primary markets within her own bosom.

Resolved, That for the remedy of these mischiefs, the active and zealous co-operative exertions of all her citizens are imperiously demanded; and they are urged to put them forth by every consideration of public spirit and private interest. That the improvement of our means of internal transportation, and the provision of primary markets within the State, should constitute the first grand objects of these exertions. That, in their accomplishment, they may, with great propriety, invoke the aid of the State treasury; and that liberal aid from that source, for the furtherance of these objects, the State will soon cease to have a treasury worthy of care or preservation.

Resolved, That the State should be so organized, that it should be able to support the expenses of its internal transportation, and the provision of primary markets within the State, by an annual tax on each equal to the interest on the loan for the term borrowed, so as to pay it off in 20 years.

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laid before the meeting a letter addressed to him by sundry Citizens of Iredell county, upon the subject of Internal Improvement; which was read, and, on motion of Judge Seawell, referred to the same committee.

Mr. J. A. Hill submitted the following resolution: Resolved, That this Convention deem it inexpedient at this time to recommend any specific work of improvement in preference to another.

This resolution was read, and, on Mr. Gaston's motion, laid on the table. The convention then adjourned until this afternoon, at 6 o'clock.

Friday evening, 6 o'clock. The convention met pursuant to adjournment. Mr. W. H. Haywood, from the general committee, appointed to consider the various propositions on Internal Improvement which had been referred to it, made the following report, to wit:

The General Committee, to whom is referred the subject of Internal Improvement, for the State of North Carolina, beg leave to report.

That they have taken into consideration the various Resolutions submitted to them, and deem it inexpedient for the Convention to recommend to the Legislature, or the People of the State, at this time, any specific work of Internal Improvement; but feeling the deep importance of the subject, and the necessity of awakening the Public to their true interest, they respectfully recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions:

1. Resolved, That the present condition of North Carolina, in the opinion of this Convention, highly discouraging and mortifying to her citizens; that her trade is languishing, her agriculture is forsaking her, her public and private wealth is declining; inasmuch, that if these evils are not arrested in their course, she must speedily sink into ruin and contempt; that they owe their existence, mainly, to a want of State pride, and concert of opinion and action, and to the difficulties of internal transportation, and the want of primary markets within her own bosom; that for the remedy of these mischiefs, the active and zealous co-operative exertions of all her citizens, are imperiously demanded, and they are urged to put them forth, by every consideration of public spirit and private interest; that the improvement of our means of internal transportation, and the provision of primary markets within the State, should constitute the first grand objects of these exertions; that in their accomplishment, they may, with great propriety, invoke the aid of the State Treasury; and that liberal aid from that source, for the furtherance of these objects, the State will soon cease to have a Treasury worthy of care or preservation.

The Convention are, however, of opinion, that whatever benefit might accrue to some of the citizens of the State, as a whole, cannot, with propriety, be asked to commit an act so suicidal as to lend her resources to the accomplishment of any work, the direct tendency of which would be to diminish the means for her redemption, and to increase the means for her ruin.

2. Therefore resolved, as the opinion of this Convention, that for the foundation of a new system of internal improvements in this State, the means of the State, aided by private subscription, should be concentrated in the construction of a rail way from some North Carolina seaport town to the interior of the State.

3. Resolved, as the opinion of this Convention, that the Legislature of this State ought to provide by law for raising such a sum by tax (on the land of the State if necessary) as will give substantial assistance in the prosecution of internal improvements in this State.

4. Resolved, as the opinion of this Convention, that the most practicable and equitable mode of meeting the loan of the State, will be by an annual tax on each equal to the interest on the loan for the term borrowed, so as to pay it off in 20 years.

5. Resolved, as the opinion of this Convention, that it will be prudent and expedient that the State should extend this first improvement as well by a continuance of said rail way as by the construction of other and better modes of first improvement, and the profitable result of the first work will increase the spirit of enterprise and the credit of the State.

6. Resolved, as the opinion of this Convention, that in designating the route of said rail road, the first consideration is, that it should be as centrally practicable, because an unsuccessful attempt will prove disastrous; but next, it should also possess the character of general usefulness to the State, so as to unite as many interests as possible in its execution.

7. Resolved further, as the opinion of this Convention, that it would be advisable for the Legislature to pass a law, providing, with proper restrictions, that the counties of this State, as such, and the commissioners of any incorporated company of this State, may subscribe for stock in any incorporated company for internal improvements to such an amount as a majority of the justices, or commissioners, as the case may be, shall order; that, to pay for the same, the State will issue a scrip or scrips for the amount subscribed, redeemable in 20 years, and bearing an interest of 5 per cent.

The stock subscribed by the counties and towns shall be the property of the counties and towns respectively subscribing it; and to meet the debt contracted by the State, on the scrip by her issued, the land of the county or town subscribing shall be taxed, annually, a sum equal to the interest and one-twentieth of the subscription aforesaid, and the cost of collecting it; which tax shall be collected and paid as other taxes are into the Treasury of the State, and the money paying it credited accordingly against the debt aforesaid.

8. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention, that the General Assembly of this State ought to provide for raising such a sum by loan (on the faith of the State if necessary) as will afford substantial assistance in the prosecution of works of Internal Improvement within this State.

9. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention, that the most equitable and the only practicable mode of redeeming such loan to the State, is by an annual tax on lands, equal to the interest on the loan, and one twentieth of the sum borrowed, so as to pay it off in twenty years.

10. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention, that it would be advisable for the Legislature to pass a law providing, (with proper restrictions,) that the counties, and the incorporated towns of this State, as such, may subscribe for stock in any incorporated company of this State, for Internal Improvement, to such an amount as a majority of the Justices of the county, or the municipal authority of the town, as the case may be, shall order. And to pay for the same, the State shall issue a scrip or scrips to the amount subscribed, redeemable in twenty years, and bearing an interest of five per cent.

The stock subscribed for by the counties and towns, shall be the property of such counties and towns respectively, and to meet their debt contracted by the State on the scrips by her issued, the lands of the county or town subscribing, shall be annually taxed a sum equal to the interest, and one-twentieth of their subscription, together with the costs of collection; which taxes shall be collected and paid as all other taxes, into the Public Treasury of the State, to the credit of the county or town paying the same.

11. Resolved, That this Convention doth respectfully recommend to the General Assembly of North Carolina, that whenever a number of individuals shall be incorporated by this State for the improvement of any portion of our internal transportation (the tendency of which shall not be to carry any portion of the produce of the State, beyond her limits for a primary market,) and the subscribers shall pay or secure to be paid, three fifths of the amount necessary for its accomplishment, the remaining two-fifths shall be subscribed by the State.

12. Resolved, That the more effectually to secure a general improvement of the means of transportation within the State, it is further recommended, that whenever any Company shall have received assistance from the State, according to the foregoing recommendation, any other Company formed for a similar purpose, shall be authorized, in the prosecution of their work, to cross or intersect with any work, which may have been previously done.

13. Resolved, That the President of this Convention appoint a Committee of twenty, whose duty it shall be to publish an address to the people of this State on the subject of Internal Improvement.

14. Resolved, That the said Committee be directed to lay the proceedings of this Convention before the next General Assembly, and offer a suitable memorial to that body, on behalf of this Convention.

15. Resolved, That the President appoint a Committee of seven in each county for the purpose of corresponding together, distributing the address and otherwise promoting the objects of this Convention.

16. Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the citizens of the several counties in this State, to elect seven delegates from each county to hold a Convention in the City of Raleigh, on the fourth Monday of November next, to deliberate further upon the subject of Internal Improvement within this State.

On behalf of the Committee, the foregoing is respectfully submitted by WM. H. HAYWOOD, Jr. Ch'm.

The report was read, and, on motion of Mr. Iredell, ordered to be laid upon the table and be printed, two copies for each member.

The resolution submitted by Mr. Farrier, in regard to the mode of voting, was taken up, and amended, on motion of Judge Strange, and, on motion of Mr. Nash, was rejected.

On motion of Mr. Badger, the convention then adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

Saturday, July 6th, 1833. The convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Mr. W. H. Haywood, from the general committee, appointed to consider the various propositions on Internal Improvement which had been referred to it, made the following report, to wit:

The General Committee, to whom is referred the subject of Internal Improvement, for the State of North Carolina, beg leave to report.

That they have taken into consideration the various Resolutions submitted to them, and deem it inexpedient for the Convention to recommend to the Legislature, or the People of the State, at this time, any specific work of Internal Improvement; but feeling the deep importance of the subject, and the necessity of awakening the Public to their true interest, they respectfully recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions:

1. Resolved, That the present condition of North Carolina, in the opinion of this Convention, highly discouraging and mortifying to her citizens; that her trade is languishing, her agriculture without improvement, her borders, and her relative wealth and strength fast declining. Therefore

2. Resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention, the condition of the State of North Carolina requires that a liberal system of Internal Improvement should be immediately organized and vigorously prosecuted.

3. Resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention, the General Assembly ought to provide by law or otherwise a fund that will enable the State to contribute substantial assistance in the prosecution of works of Internal Improvement.

4. Resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention, the State should be so organized, that it should be able to support the expenses of its internal transportation, and the provision of primary markets within the State, by an annual tax on each equal to the interest on the loan for the term borrowed, so as to pay it off in 20 years.

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5. Resolved, as the opinion of this Convention, that the most practicable and equitable mode of meeting the loan of the State, will be by an annual tax on each equal to the interest on the loan for the term borrowed, so as to pay it off in 20 years.

6. Resolved, as the opinion of this Convention, that it will be prudent and expedient that the State should extend this first improvement as well by a continuance of said rail way as by the construction of other and better modes of first improvement, and the profitable result of the first work will increase the spirit of enterprise and the credit of the State.

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The stock subscribed for by the counties and towns, shall be the property of such counties and towns respectively, and to meet their debt contracted by the State on the scrips by her issued, the lands of the county or town subscribing, shall be annually taxed a sum equal to the interest, and one-twentieth of their subscription, together with the costs of collection; which taxes shall be collected and paid as all other taxes, into the Public Treasury of the State, to the credit of the county or town paying the same.

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The resolution submitted by Mr. Farrier, in regard to the mode of voting, was taken up, and amended, on motion of Judge Strange, and, on motion of Mr. Nash, was rejected.

On motion of Mr. Badger, the convention then adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

Saturday, July 6th, 1833. The convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Mr. W. H. Haywood, from the general committee, appointed to consider the various propositions on Internal Improvement which had been referred to it, made the following report, to wit:

The General Committee, to whom is referred the subject of Internal Improvement, for the State of North Carolina, beg leave to report.

That they have taken into consideration the various Resolutions submitted to them, and deem it inexpedient for the Convention to recommend to the Legislature, or the People of the State, at this time, any specific work of Internal Improvement; but feeling the deep importance of the subject, and the necessity of awakening the Public to their true interest, they respectfully recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions:

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