

THE DAILY CITIZEN.
The Citizen is the most extensively circulated and widely read newspaper in Western North Carolina.
In its discussion of public affairs and measures by the General Assembly, it takes a prominent position, and its editorial is a valuable guide to the public mind.
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1899.

THE BEDDINGFIELD BILL.

The subject of a railway commission for North Carolina has not yet entered the arena of discussion in the Legislature, and will not till the joint select committee on railway commission report a bill. Meantime a number of bills have been introduced. The most prominent among them, perhaps, are those presented by Mr. Beddingfield, Mr. Newland and Mr. McDonald.

The Beddingfield bill provides for the appointment of three commissioners—one a lawyer, one a farmer, and the third a mechanic, merchant, or manufacturer—to be appointed for one year, one for two years, and the other for three years, and the successors of each for three years. Among the qualifications attached are these: None of them can be under thirty or over fifty years of age, and at the time of appointment must not be in any way connected with any railroad, nor have been an attorney for any railroad corporation in a certain number of years.

The commissioners are to be appointed by the Supreme court; are to be paid a salary of \$2,000 each, except the chairman who will receive \$2,500; are to have no passes, but shall pay fare as private citizens, and are to receive no gift or employment of any kind from any company.
The commissioners will be furnished an office at the Capitol, where they are required to meet the first Monday in each month, to transact all official business. They are given power to investigate all books of companies, to summon witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, etc., and are required to make biennial reports to the General Assembly.

They are given the power to fix rates of traffic and passage, the rates not to be the same on all roads, but to be in accord with the surroundings, etc., of each.
This bill is evidently the product of a crude hand. It is full of objectionable features. It is radically wrong in its structure, and imperfect in nearly all its details.

The appointment of the commissioners by the Supreme court would be an entire perversion of the legitimate functions of that tribunal, and is not to be thought of.
The investment of the commissioners with absolute control over freight rates and passenger fares would be of doubtful utility, if not seriously injurious to public interests, in that the further investment of capital in railroad enterprises might be prevented or checked.

The limitation as to age is senseless. Men between fifty and sixty years are as a general rule in their very prime of manhood, wisdom and intellectual if not physical activity. For instance such a provision as this would exclude A. M. Waddell, T. J. Jarvis, John Hughes, and almost every other man mentioned in this connection. It would push Syd. Alexander close, as he is in his forty ninth year.

The salaries are too small, as traveling expenses are to be paid for by the commissioners out of their own pockets. Two thousand dollar salaries, to be depleted by traveling expenses would hardly command such competent, experienced and able men as should be selected for the discharge of such important duties. The R. & D. R. R. company, it is said, pay their traffic manager, Mr. Sol Haas, a salary of some twenty thousand dollars.

The best thing to do with the Beddingfield bill is to lay it on the table. It certainly does not meet the situation.

Mr. R. P. Walker, of this city, writing to the Southern Tobaccoist, makes the following observation that are worthy of attention: "Our market continues to be well supplied with stock. Much of it is as inferior as was ever offered here, while much good color is sold also, at from 20 cents to 30 cents and over, even up to 50 cents occasionally. One serious trouble we have to contend with, is the carelessness of farmers—intentional or not, we cannot say—in assorting their crops. It is very rare to find a pile on the warehouse floor that don't contain leaves and bundles that should be in a grade below."

William Tate, of Grainger county, Tennessee, has given \$200,000 for the benefit of the disabled ex-Confederate soldiers—who have lost an arm or a leg—resident in the First and Second Congressional Districts of that State. Mr. Tate, himself, served in the Confederate army, as a private soldier, and has since the war been a successful business man, and accumulated quite a fortune—for a farmer, which he has thus so liber-

ally divided with his old comrades who were the price. This shows a sympathy for the disabled and heroic that does good and is worthy of imitation by wealthier men. All honor to this former philanthropist.

The second Annual Fair of the East Carolina Fish, Oyster, Game and Industrial Association comes off at New Bern, N. C., February 19, 20, 21 and 22. The fish, oyster and game collection is to be the finest ever exhibited in this country.

Boulanger, Empereur of France, is now among the possibilities.

The Scotch-Irish Reunion.

[Written for the Citizen.]

On the 8th of May, next, will be held at Columbia, Tenn., a most notable gathering of the American representatives of a most remarkable race, the people who, on the American continent, after a second transplantation, retain their marked characteristics with such tenacity as still to be designated and honored as the Scotch-Irish.

While the reunion will find interest in most of the States of the American Union, it has special interest for North Carolina, for upon her soil was poured a large infusion of Scotch-Irish blood; and, on that soil, by that race, was originated and enacted the great event of American history—the first act and chapter of American Independence.

These Scotch-Irish are nearly all of Irish birth. They were Lowland Presbyterian Scotch, removed to the north of Ireland by King James I., to occupy lands forfeited by the treason of the O'Dougherty, and the Earls of Tyrconnel and Tyrone. They there never intermingled their blood with that of the native Irish, but were rigidly adherent to their race, their religion and their habits, conspicuous for their industry, their thrift and their enterprise, making the north of the island almost the sole seat of commerce and manufactures.

Their courage never failed them in the times of persecution. When in the days of persecution, when under James II the Roman Catholic element was for a time in the ascendant, and the old Irish proprietors endeavored to regain their lost possession, they were subjected to massacres as merciless as recorded in history, and to seizures as memorable as any that adorn the annals of heroic courage. The successes of William, of Orange, brought permanent relief, and henceforward the Scotch-Irish went on to increase and prosper. They were attracted to the new world, and there was a large emigration to the North American colonies, chiefly to Pennsylvania, from which they gradually drifted southward to piedmont Virginia, and subsequently in North Carolina, forming settlements from the Dan to the Catawba rivers.

In one sense, the people of North Carolina may be homogenous. For a hundred years there has been little infusion of new blood under the forces of immigration. The old stocks, the English, the Scotch, the Scotch-Irish, the Germans and others, have so intermingled, as to have blended the whole into one, and no one race is predominant in moral or intellectual feature, though original race trait often finds marked expression of individuality. Perhaps the distinction is more permanently fixed in the Scotch-Irish than in others. They inherited and maintained the loftiest idea of human freedom, and the right of the subject or the citizen to participate in the cares and duties of government. Therefore resistance to tyranny was interwoven in their natures, and in this State led to open resistance to the oppression of the British Crown, even to the extent of throwing off allegiance to it, risking war and court-martining revolution. The daring courage to hazard everything, peace, fortune, life itself, in the cause of liberty found emphatic expression in the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, made more than a year before that of Philadelphia, and the sincerity of the framers of this instrument was proven afterward by the fierce and persistence of hostility which earned for the little town of Charlotte and the county in which it was situated the name of the "Hornets' Nest."

If they were intense in their passion for liberty, they were not less so in their devotion to the cause of religion and education. These are the household gods they carry with them and set up wherever they go. Whether in North Carolina or in Pennsylvania, the Scotch-Irish, the same devotee of liberty, the same obedient subject to rightly administered law, the same conscientious servant of religion, the same earnest advocate of liberal education, the same good citizen, the same thrifty man of business, the same industrious and industrious and intelligent farmer, and everywhere the same, intelligent, energetic, sagacious and genial man, whose characteristics mark him, without invidious distinction, as possessive of all the virtues and peculiarities of his origin.

The name of the Scotch-Irish is inscribed on many a page of North Carolina, and also of American history. Without that name there would be many a dismal blank. The idea therefore of the Scotch-Irish Congress, at the time and place fixed, is a happy one, well calculated to bring out, in full relief, the virtues and lasting influences of this most remarkable branch of our national family.

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Anecdotes of General Grant.

General Grant, on his return to this country, is said to have been severely afflicted with a cough contracted while crossing the ocean, and which had stubbornly refused to yield to any treatment. A friend procured for him a bottle of Symphyx, and by its use in a few hours he was entirely relieved. He remarked to his friend: "Men look upon me as a great soldier, but this bottle of Symphyx is greater than I. My calling has been to destroy men's lives, but this medicine is a victorious savior of men. I shall never be without it again." d&w

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St.	No. 51	No. 52
Asheville	7:40am	4:44pm
Hot Springs	9:20am	6:10pm
Knoxville	11:00am	8:00pm
Chattanooga	1:10pm	10:10pm
Nashville	3:30pm	12:30pm
Memphis	6:10am	5:30pm

St.	No. 50	No. 52	No. 54
Asheville	7:40am	4:44pm	7:10pm
Hot Springs	9:20am	6:10pm	8:40pm
Knoxville	11:00am	8:00pm	10:10pm
Chattanooga	1:10pm	10:10pm	12:00pm
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Memphis	6:10am	5:30pm	7:20pm

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