

The Reporter.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE IN DANBURY, AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PEPPER & SONS, Pub. and Prop.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1891.

NORTH CAROLINA RAILROADS.

Since the Western Railroad has passed from under the control of the State, it seems to us that the Legislature should turn its attention to some other line of road, which should be fostered as a State institution.

While, we are certain that it is not good policy at this time to advocate an extravagant expenditure of money in the construction of railroads. Yet when we consider that there are now in the State several hundred convicts, which number is more likely to increase than decrease, and when we remember that these convicts must be fed, clothed and guarded, it seems to us that these hands may be more profitably employed in building railroads than almost anything else.

Taking this view of the subject, would it not be well to make the C. F. & Y. V. Railroad a part of the system, and let it take the place of the Western road in the great plan of internal improvements in the State.

If we look over the map of North Carolina, we find that the main stem of this road, as now projected, running obliquely across the State near its center, is susceptible of being made, not only a very great convenience to the people along the line in developing the millions of now hidden wealth, but will give us a considerable railroad center at Greensboro; will open up to the people of the State a good port at Wilmington, and will be a source of never-failing income to the State government.

This road, extending as it does from the tide water in the East to the mountains, may stretch out its arms so as to embrace some of the richest undeveloped sections in the State, especially in this case west of Greensboro; with a branch to Madison much of the valuable products of Rockingham county in North Carolina, Patrick and Henry counties in Virginia, will find an outlet over this road, while a branch to Danbury will, in our opinion, furnish more valuable freights to the main line than any road of the same length in the State, and the abundance and quality of the iron ore coupled with the magnificent water power, and other natural advantages of Stokes county, will as certainly bring capital and enterprise into this section as a means of transportation is furnished, in addition to which, a large part of the products of Patrick and Floyd counties in Virginia will find its way over this branch to the best manufacturing towns in the State, or find an outlet through our own ports. Then comes the Mt. Airy branch, which, after diverging from the main stem a few miles to Mt. Airy, may take a westerly course, and running nearly parallel to the State line, and the main stem, into the very north-western corner of the State, will gather in the valuable products of a very large scope of country on both sides of the Virginia line, and pour them into some great manufacturing center in the State, which such a railroad must very soon develop, while the main stem, stretching away toward Morganton, with the short branches that may be built on either side, like the mighty river gathering in the beautiful riverlets from the mountains, will pour into our central and eastern cities one continuous stream of valuable products from the West, to be used by our own cities, or find an outlet through our own ports to the various parts of the world. Such a road with all its branches, can in our opinion be built at a comparatively small outlay of money, and if so managed as to keep it out of politics, will be a source of never failing wealth to the State.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. EDITOR:—Thinking you like to see what we are doing, I now write a hasty letter giving you the outlines of the principal bills already introduced.

The so called Everett road law has been repealed, the counties of Forsyth, Stokes and Mecklenburg having assented through their representatives, that they prefer, being governed as their neighbors, in that there being any special road legislation for their benefit. Owing to the fact that the laws of North Carolina are now in a very tangled condition so much so, that no lawyer, much less a justice of the peace, can unravel them, a bill has been introduced to codify the laws, so they will be plain, and easily

understood by all. This is looked upon by all parties as a move in the right direction, and doubtless the bill will pass unanimously.

Our representatives in Congress have been memorialized, begging them to redress some of our grievances in revenue matters; also, asking them to make certain appropriations in aid of our common schools. When this last resolution just came up, some of the members wished to divide this sum with the University, but Mr. Webster, of Rockingham, your representative and others took such a decided stand against it, that the common schools party triumphed.

There are several bills looking to the reduction of railroad rates, and the appointment of railroad commissioners, whose duty will be to look after the interest of the people, and see that no unjust discriminations are made against them in freights, &c. This is an important movement, and is causing much debate before the committee on internal improvements, of which your member is now chairman—Mr. Vaughn being away.

The schools are being looked after, and we hope to be able to give the people eight months' schools during the next two years.

Railroad bills are numerous, and it now seems the policy of North Carolina to grant charters to all companies, not asking State aid. Mr. Gray has been in town once or twice, looking after the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad, and I think all is well with our little pet enterprise. The directors of the road, however, held a meeting and agreed to make the road a wide gauge instead of a narrow gauge road.

There are thousands of other bills, looking to bettering the criminal and civil laws; also, bills to elect magistrates by the people, abolish superior courts (I would like your views on this), and establish criminal courts, presided over by judges, with an appeal directly to the supreme court.

The magistrates will be appointed on the 15th of February; and those wishing another term, had better send in their petitions, as I don't think your member will appoint any one, unless he comes recommended by petition or otherwise.

With best wishes, Mr. Editor, and promising to try and keep you posted from time to time, I am, Yours, truly, "LEAN SHARES."

North Carolina Ores.

Gov. Jarvis, of North Carolina, said in his inaugural address last Tuesday that the furnaces at Pittsburg use each year hundreds of thousands of tons of iron ore brought all the way from Africa to Baltimore by sea, and then inland four hundred and fifty miles by rail, while in many counties in North Carolina, not the distance of the length of the State away from these furnaces, inexhaustible quantities of better ores were to be found. When the North Carolina State geologist made this fact known to the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce not long ago, and showed them specimens of the ores and their analyses, the Pennsylvanians stood amazed at their own ignorance—Wilmington Star.

Tennessee.

THE LEGISLATURE SUCCEEDS IN ELECTING UNITED STATES SENATOR.

NASHVILLE, January 28.—The thirtieth ballot for Senator stood—Jackson 70, Maynard 25, Rose 1. As soon as Mr. Jackson was declared elected, he was lifted out of his seat and escorted to the stand, where he said he would do whatever lay in his power to allay all sectional agitation and bring prosperity to the country. He would not only represent the State, but the United States in the broadest sense of the word—By telegraph to the Patriot.

New Orleans craves for a little rain to cool the air and lay the dust. St. Paul has steam snow shovels at work. New York is thinking of putting canal boats instead of street cars on the streets. Detroit has excellent sleighing. Key West has flowers blooming along the roadsides. This is a mammoth country, and don't you forget it.

In this country, where free institutions flourish like sunflowers, fame is within the reach of every one. The ragged archer who to day roams the streets playing marbles for keeps, may some day stand behind a 99 cent diamond pin, and dazzle the world with his greatness over a hotel counter.

The White Burley tobacco, about which so much has recently been written, does not stand high in the eyes of good judges. Old planters say it is worthless as brown paper or oak leaves, and fit for nothing but to absorb licorice and be used as a cheat.—Milton Chronicle.

The biennial report of the board of directors of the penitentiary contains a great deal of interesting matter. The penitentiary does not appear to be so great a burden as it is usually considered. The total expense of the institution for the term of two years ending November 1, 1880, amounts to \$290,650.20, spent as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes State prison, Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad, Work on Western North Carolina Railroad, etc.

Total \$291,328.98. From this statement it would seem that the value of the penitentiary force approximates its cost, and were the labor performed paid for in cash, the force would earn its expense. It is said that progress on the main buildings has been delayed by inadequate appropriations.

We are pleased to note that the number of convicts is gradually but constantly decreasing. The entire number during the year 1880 was 841, of whom 400 were received from the counties during the year. Forty-eight were discharged, fifteen pardoned, forty one died, and twelve died. The number confined at the penitentiary is about 300. The entire number received since the opening of the penitentiary in January, 1870, is 3,822. It seems that about three-fourths of those in prison cannot read and write, and most of them are young, comparatively few being over thirty years of age. This indicates that the negroes who have grown up since the war, furnish the bulk of our criminals, and marks the difference in moral character between those who were trained in slavery times and those growing up under present influences.

The favorite terms of sentence seem to have been one, two, three, five and ten years. During the last two years four were sentenced for murder, eighteen for manslaughter, ninety-one for receiving stolen goods, and seven hundred and seventeen for larceny. In the same time sixty-four only have been sentenced to a second imprisonment, four for a third, and one for a fourth.

At the penitentiary there have been sixty-four deaths out of 1,304 cases treated in the hospital. The surgeon recommends better arrangements inside of the stockade to secure more healthful results.

We believe our penitentiary is well managed, and that humanity is never forgotten by those who have in charge the administration of its affairs. We think, however, that ample provision should be made for extending the same care and watchfulness over the convicts employed on our public works. There should be a commissioner of convicts employed to supervise them when working on railroads, a man of the highest character, who would see that the regulations of the board are faithfully observed; or, this duty could be imposed upon the efficient and excellent president of the board himself. Let us be on our guard against the occurrence of such shocking evils as have been a reproach to Georgia and South Carolina in this matter.—News-Observer.

Ex-President Davis has written a recent letter in which he says: "Though I have been working steadily of late and have sent a good deal of manuscript to the publishers, I am not yet so near the end as to be able to see it." So the appearance of his book will probably be delayed beyond the time heretofore anticipated.

We are pleased to note the increasing patronage that is being extended to Greensboro Female College. New additions are constantly arriving and the outlook for larger attendance is flattering.—Central Protestant.

Venor's fame is boundless. A private letter to the editor of the New York Mail from Germany says that Venor's predictions in regard to European weather to the end of 1880 were fulfilled to the letter.

"Providence helps a man who helps himself," except when he "helps himself" to some one else's property. Then he has to depend mainly on his legs.—Middletown Transcript.

President Gray has negotiated his bonds, and we will soon have the iron horse running from here to Fayetteville. That will stir us up some.—Greensboro North State.

It is said that the seventeen-year locusts will abound in the western portion of North Carolina next June. So says Prof. Riley, of Washington.

PERRY DAVIS' VEGETABLE PAIN KILLER

Advertisement for Perry Davis' Vegetable Pain Killer. Includes text: 'A PURELY VEGETABLE REMEDY For Internal and External Use, is a SURE CURE for all the Diseases for which it is recommended, and is ALWAYS PERFECTLY SAFE in the hands of even the most inexperienced persons.'

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Advertisement for Improved Excelsior Kidney Pad. Includes text: 'Cure Back Ache' and 'All Lung Diseases, Throat Diseases, Breathing Troubles.'

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