

# Press and Carolinian.

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J. F. MURRILL, - - EDITOR

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## There Should Be 50 Districts.

We have more than once called attention to the fact that there is no warrant in our present State Constitution for what is known as "double" districts—districts composed of two or more counties with population enough for two Senators. Before the Canby Constitution of 1868 there were fifty Senatorial districts in the State, each entitled to one Senator. The arrangement of districts in that Constitution was a Republican gerrymander to insure the election of thirty or more Republican Senators. That was changed by the Constitution of 1875, and the Democratic Legislature which meets in January need resort to no such trickery and disregard of the Constitution to insure a Democratic majority in the Senate of North Carolina in the future.

Art. 11, Section 4, of the State Constitution says: "The Senate districts shall be so altered by the General Assembly, at the first session after the return of every enumeration by order of Congress, that each Senate District shall contain, as near as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, excluding aliens and Indians not taxed, and shall remain unaltered until the return of another enumeration, and shall at all times consist of contiguous territory; and no county shall be divided in the formation of a Senate district unless such county shall be equitably entitled to two or more Senators."

No one can say there is "an equal number of inhabitants, as near as may be," in a "double" district, with five counties, and a single district with one or two counties. "As near as may be," means such an approximate equality as exists in the county, or counties, containing about one fiftieth part of the population of the whole State. Within the county-line boundaries one district may contain a few over, and another a few

less than the fiftieth part of the whole population, and that is what the Constitution means when it says, "as near as may be, an equal number of inhabitants." Let us have a Constitutional and ungerrymandered division of the State into fifty Senatorial districts.

## The Alliance Platform.

With the single exception of the sub-treasury plank, the platform adopted by the National Alliance convention in Ocala, is good Democratic doctrine, as we understand it. The Alliance demands that "taxation, National and State, shall not be used to build up one interest or class at the expense of another." That is just why Democrats oppose a protective tariff.

The Alliance platform says "the money shall be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all revenues, National, State, or county, shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically, honestly administered." That is exactly, almost the precise language of the Democratic platform. It is our demand for a tariff for revenue only, and that no surplus shall be collected from an already over-taxed people to breed corruption and extravagance about the National capitol, as is now too commonly charged. The Alliance demands the free coinage of silver and so do the Democrats. The Alliance declares against sectional and class legislation, against which the Democrats have fought at all times and in all places. The Alliance opposes trusts and combines, and so do the Democrats. The Alliance denounced the Force bill, and the Democrats have opposed it from its birth. So on nearly every principle advocated by the Alliance, they are with the Democrats and where every true American citizen should stand. To all these things add the wiping out of sectionalism and the hand-shaking across the bloody chasm of Radicalism and the Alliance and Democracy are about one

A coat manufactory to be established at Showhegan, Maine, will give employment to nearly 500 hands, and every farmer or mechanic who buys one of those coats will have to pay 50 or 60 per cent. more than the same coat would cost him if we had a tariff for revenue only.

The Republicans in Congress spent ten thousand dollars to unseat Mr. Breckenridge, of Arkansas, and the Democrats sent him back by an increased majority without money and without the fears of Reed.

## Such a Law Ought to Become General.

A law has just gone into effect in Louisiana requiring the railroad companies to furnish separate cars for white and colored persons. —[Ex.]

Such a law ought to be in effect in every Southern State. There is no necessity for a promiscuous mixing of the races in railway coaches. When a person pays for first-class passage he is entitled to it, but separate cars ought to be provided for the whites and blacks. This would be more satisfactory to the sensible and self-respecting members of both races. How often do we see such conduct in the second-class cars or smoking cars that even a decent negro is forced to go out and intrude himself upon the whites. Fumes of tobacco smoke, boisterous and indecent language has a great deal to do with making some colored people prefer to ride in the first-class coach among the whites. They are entitled to better accommodation—to themselves—and the railroad companies ought to be made to furnish it. We would be glad to see our next Legislature take some action in this matter.—[Gold Leaf.]

Yes. And let us have another provision in the bill. After these fellows have disgusted decent negroes, and saturated themselves with the fumes of tobacco smoke keep them out of the first-class coach among decent white people. After a man has spent an hour in a smoking car he is just as much of a nuisance to people who don't smoke as if he was still smoking. A few negroes smell worse than an old nicotine soaked smoker, but not many. Let each have his coach.

## Not "A Little Amendment."

Two of our local exchanges have suggested "a little amendment to the Constitution" to remove the "tax on all mortgages of real estate bearing not more than six per cent. interest," as a relief to the farmers. The people of North Carolina have been humbugged and misled too much by that kind of cheap demagoguery. Why not tell the people at once such a change will require an entire change of our *ad valorem* Constitution? And why not tell them such a change would be class legislation of the worst kind? Why not explain that a law would be a great help to the money-lender and but very little, if any, to the borrower? People who suggest changes in the laws should look deeper into their operations. We have had too much of this cheap law-making for our good.

## Let Him Be Retired:

Congressman George D. Tillman, brother of Governor Tillman of South Carolina, has moved to have six Senators from each State and to have the number of

Congressmen in the House increased to 600. Perhaps he has a number of poor kin he thinks may get in among the 600. It is to be hoped the people of South Carolina will send some more conservative and economical man in his place at next election.

Among the surprises of the November revolution, the election of Kittle Halvorsen, Alliance and Prohibition candidate in the fifth Minnesota, is one of the greatest. The Republican candidate thought his re-election sure over his Democratic opponent, and neither of them had any fear of Halvorsen, but when the votes were counted the hindmost man in the race was elected. The Prohibitionists will have one member in the next Congress.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### Your Attention, Please!

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