

IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE EAST.

The minds of the most intelligent of our people have been turned for some time past in the direction of the rivers and harbors, bars and inlets of Eastern North Carolina. At the last session of Congress, an appropriation of \$40,000 was made for the Neuse river, which now, under the careful management of Gen. R. Ransom, is being judiciously and profitably expended. But this is only a beginning. The people of Wayne and Johnston counties particularly are interested in securing a further appropriation, to complete the opening of the river for purposes of navigation and commerce up to Smithfield. Then there is the deep and beautiful river Trent, concerning the topography and soundings of whose channel, even the citizens of our own county, to say nothing of the members of Congress, are almost completely ignorant. Who among us until very recently has known, that the bright currents of the Trent flow over fourteen feet of water from far up in Jones county to its confluence with the Neuse at Newbern? And yet this is said certainly to be the case. Through a rich and pleasant country, needing only the magical touch of industry and wealth, this generous stream glides to the ancient City of Elms. If the General Government wants to run its great ship canal through a section, where the work of the engineer shall not be negated and rendered useless by the shifting sands of our eastern sounds, here the mammoth enterprise can be accomplished safely and enduringly, by cutting the solid earth for comparatively only a short distance from the Trent to North East, fetching a splendid depth of water, already generously provided by nature, through the whole course of the former stream up to the point where the canal may enter it. We venture the prediction, that in all future improvements of this section, more money out of smaller expenditures can be obtained from appropriations for the Trent than for any river of equal importance in the South. This may seem a little startling at the outset, but future disclosures will prove it to be correct.

Another matter of still greater importance, if possible, is the preservation of a deep, reliable and commodious inlet for our ocean navigation. The masters of vessels, who go down to the great deep, and are familiar with its perils and necessities, tell us, that Hatteras Inlet is rapidly filling up, that it is already insufficient for the purposes of commerce, carrying only from six to eight feet of water over its bar, and that in a very short time we may be shut out from the ocean altogether. The General Government owes it not only to us, its tax payers, but to its own dignity and commercial influence, to provide for the shipping interests of the country a better route. Which shall it be? Ocracoke Inlet, which for generations was the scene of the adventurous exploits of the hardy Portsmouth pilots, the passage way of the brave mariners, lofty ships and costly cargoes of the past, and the pleasant haven where many a tempest tossed vessel found rest in the times when pluck, skill and endurance ruled the sea, or another point further removed from the present line of communication? We doubt whether, economy, harbor facilities and depth of water all being considered, the General Government could fix upon a better inlet than Ocracoke. But there is still another improvement contemplated by our people, which was largely encouraged and endorsed by the leading public men of a former day, and which is yet destined to feel the touch of successful statecraft and sagacious enterprise. We mean the finishing of Clubfoot creek canal, thus supplying the missing link in the chain of our communication with Beaufort harbor. There are different estimates as to the cost of this work, and different views as to its practicability. But the favorable opinion which has come down from the past, that the canal is necessary both to Beaufort harbor and to Newbern, that it will be the means of great commercial development to both, and that the work can be operated at a comparatively moderate cost, is still strong in the minds of many thoughtful citizens. We shall have more to say, at a future period, about the public meetings in which these various subjects have been discussed, and the memorial, framed for the consideration of Congress.

NEWBERN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

In a recent issue we drew public attention to the urgent need of some organization of the mercantile interests of Newbern, in the nature of a Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce. Is there no one here to take the initiative? Cannot twenty gentlemen engaged in business or commerce in this city come together and perfect arrangements to carry out such a plan? "The Chamber of Commerce" should not be confounded with a "Produce Exchange"—we need both, and there need not be any distinction of officers or membership. The latter is a modern institution—useful, and of great advantage to such a community as this. A room should be secured convenient to the busy mart, and there at a stated hour, daily, every merchant and business man should put in an appearance; the news of the day should be discussed; transactions made by those who have them to make; the latest telegrams should be read, and there should be a quick, sharp interchange of thought, intelligence, and business information. After the Exchange had become well established, when the members had got used to each other, and the first shyness had worn off, there should be a daily call during the season of the produce offered in this market—cotton, naval stores, etc., which would fix the market prices. In time, committees of classification, inspection, arbitration, etc., would be formed, and our trade be placed upon a more comfortable and convenient footing. A spirit of homogeneity which is sadly lacking here at present, would spring up among our business men, thereby giving greater confidence in transactions, and going far toward increasing the credit and business of the place. This is what the Produce Exchange would do. The merchants thus brought together, learning in this way the value of cooperation and concert of action, would see the importance of maintaining their more formal relations with other markets and public bodies—or for just such action as is now required concerning an appeal to Congress for the improvement of this harbor—through that more dignified and ancient organization whose name appears at the head of this article. There need not necessarily be any additional burdens upon our merchants, the same room would answer for both, the same members, the same officers.

COL. DAVID MILLER CARTER.

In eulogizing this once gifted, but now departed citizen, the Wilmington Star touchingly says: "We knew Col. Carter most intimately—knew him from his boyhood. We are, therefore, prepared to give an intelligent estimate of his capacity. He had as much pure intellect as any man in North Carolina. This is our deliberate judgment formed long ago, and tenaciously held because nothing occurred compelling or authorizing a change of opinion. He had admirable logical powers that were capable both of the acute and severest ratiocination and of the most prolonged exercise. His perspicacity of thought was unrivaled in our State so far as we know. So luminous, so clear, so condensed were his intellects that his very statement was an argument. We heard John S. Long, of Newbern, one of the most eloquent and brilliant men in North Carolina, say, that he heard Col. Carter make a pure, dry legal argument some years ago, that was so closely welded in its successive links of reasoning—so compact of thought, that it excited his mind to the highest possible point, and exhilarated him as a splendid outburst of eloquence would have done. We knew David Carter well, and we believe him to have had brain enough to have easily risen to the highest place in the legal profession in our State. Men who were pigmies to him intellectually were better known and more favored. "He was a good scholar, and could have become very eminent if he had so chosen. He had a natural aptitude for languages, and when quite a youth could read the most difficult Latin at a glance. He wrote well—a man of reflection who had not neglected the graces of style. He had good taste in polite literature, and was familiar with the best authors of our language. He was a man of fortune, and was never a hard student who bent all his energies to secure the highest positions in the land, or to win that meed of praise that is so pleasant and grateful to the ears of the professional politician. He was an independent thinker, and was, therefore, incapable of wearing servilely a party collar. He thought and acted for himself. His views and opinions were eminently conservative and moderate. He was every inch a patriot,

and a devoted friend of North Carolina and its cherished University. But he is gone, friend of our youth and of our advanced manhood. Since George E. Badger died no man in our State of finer intellect has left us forever."

THE LEGISLATURE.

Expecting to see some practical legislation, rather than speeches for buncombe, the Kinston Journal calls the attention of our Legislature to the following points, which we heartily indorse, as worthy of consideration by that body: "Our Common Schools demand better support. We need double and treble the amount of money applied for that purpose. Even with the amount of money now used, the good accomplished is incalculable. In towns and cities and wealthy communities, the public schools are snubbed and overlooked, but in the thinly settled country districts, the poor children are almost entirely dependent on this means of obtaining an education. "The State owes her children an education, and our representatives should have moral courage to provide the means, even if they are in advance of the whims and wishes of their constituents. It is cheaper to educate a citizen than it is to imprison or hang him. "Our road law should be amended. As it now stands, the law is unjust and inefficient. Unjust in that it is not in accordance with ad valorem taxation—and inefficient, as plainly shown by the condition of the roads at all times and in every section of country. We venture to say that there is not a lawful road two miles long in Eastern North Carolina. "We ask for a repeal of the Homestead law as to future debts. It was passed as the poor man's relief, and vaulted all over the State as a protection to men of moderate means, but in fact, on the contrary, it helps to oppress and keep down the very class of men it was designed to protect. "If a Homesteader wants to buy goods on credit, the vendor has sense enough to take a mortgage and the creditor pays the original debt plus the fees for probate and registration—and it is a notorious fact that the Register's office, before the war hardly worth having, is now the very best paying office in the county. And it is probable that in the State of North Carolina, there has been paid during the past year for probating and registrations of mortgages, liens, bonds, etc., over fifty thousand dollars, and by whom? The poor man, who is compelled to buy on time, and on account of the Homestead law, cannot get credit without mortgaging. Then again, if a man, worth only a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars, wants to give bond for administration, or for appearance at Court, he must needs go to his rich neighbor, as it is impossible for him to justify over and above the Homestead. "As long as the Homestead law protected our people from old debts—unconstitutional though it was—the people regarded it as a friend; but now it galls and oppresses and should be thrown off. Our people have become accustomed to the new order of things and are willing in the future to meet any obligation they may contract." [From the Wilmington Review.] The Governor's Message. We would like to present to our readers Gov. Vance's message in full, but it is too much for our space, and probably too much for our readers' patience, as it is a very lengthy, although a very interesting paper. Neither do we care to show our "enterprise" by publishing one huge article to the exclusion of a variety of others of a more diverse interest. We therefore avail ourselves of the opportunity for publishing the whole thing in a nut shell, with thanks to the Raleigh Observer for the same: "The Governor's biennial message to the Legislature was sent in to that body on yesterday, and is laid before our readers in full in this morning's paper. "The message is an able one, frank, straightforward and to the point, and presents a condition of affairs in our State that upon the whole cannot be otherwise than gratifying. The times are hard here as elsewhere, and our people are suffering as those who live without hope of that better time coming to which we are all so prone to look forward. With industry, economy, perseverance, and wise legislation, there is no need to fear for our future. "Attention is called to the condition of the highways, especially in the middle and western portions of the State, and the importance of their material improvement to the great agricultural interests of the

State pointed out, and the employment of convict labor to that end recommended. "In the matter of popular education, the increased interest manifested among all classes, is a subject for profound congratulation. The success of the Normal Schools has been gratifying beyond the most sanguine expectations, and the appropriations for their continuance earnestly recommended. The revival of the University under the able administration of President Battle is also referred to with pride and gratification. "The Board of Agriculture and the difficulties in the way of its successful operation, are adverted to at length, and appropriate legislation recommended for their removal. In this connection, the attention of the General Assembly is called to the fast disappearing forests of our State, and to the good effects resulting from the establishment of the Fertilizer Control Station at the University, under charge of Dr. L. Doux. It is recommended also that the State Geological Survey be placed under the direction of the Board of Agriculture. "Our charitable institutions are reported to be in a satisfactory condition, except the Asylum for the Colored Insane, which languishes for lack of means, the appropriation hitherto made by the Legislature for the purpose, not having been followed by a levy of taxes to make it productive. Complaint is made, and very justly, of the imposition upon the State in the matter of transportation of patients to and from the Insane Asylum. "The working of the Penitentiary under its new management is particularly gratifying, and the suggestion of the employment of convicts upon the public works, is enforced by various weighty considerations, among them being the reduction of the cost of maintenance of the Penitentiary and affording material in the construction of the much needed highways. "The condition of the various railroads in which the State has an interest is also reported, notably that of the Western North Carolina Road, on which the work has been very much retarded by the insufficiency of the means at the disposal of the company. In spite of all drawbacks, however, the experiment of completing that road by convict labor has proven a success under its accomplished President and Engineer, Major Wilson. Nor is the report in regard to the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad less gratifying. We doubt not, too, that it will surprise as well as gratify many people to learn that this road, instead of being, as but recently it was, in the last extremity of exhaustion, now gives positive assurance that it can take care of itself if run on business principles and by business men. Its road bed, bridges and rolling stock are much improved, its floating debt has been paid off, arrangements have been made to adjust its bonded debt, an old tax debt due the United States, compromised at \$65,000, is being paid off at the rate of \$500 per month, and there is now in the treasury of the company \$10,000 to meet the first installment of interest that falls due in July next. Truly a handsome showing. "In the State treasury, the inability of the Treasurer to meet the demands upon it, growing out of special appropriations for which no levy of taxes was provided, is noted. Attention is also called to the necessity of some legislation for the more perfect equalization of taxes, and for the disposition of lands sold for taxes and bought in by the State. In the matter of the public debt the message, rather disclaiming any responsibility for the special tax bonds, recommends that an honest effort at compromise with our creditors should be made. "The message also calls the earnest attention of the General Assembly to the very grave question of the interference on the part of Federal authorities with the courts of the State, and asks for instruction, whether, in view of the difficulties in the way, further action shall be had in the Supreme Court of the United States for redress, or whether it more comports with the dignity and gravity of the question, for the Legislature through our Representatives and Senators in Congress, to call the attention of that body to the great wrong that is being done. "In regard to the indictment against Swepson and Littlefield, instituted in Wake Superior Court in 1874, after reciting the facts in the case and the unwillingness of the Executive, even if he possessed the right, to decide whether the alleged compromise between parties acting for Swepson and the Western Division of the Western North Carolina

Railroad Company, binds the State not to prosecute the indictment any further, the message asks for the will of the Legislature in the premises, without any comment, as manifestly improper upon a case now before the courts."

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NOTICE. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, JONES COUNTY, PROBATE COURT.

Petition to sell real estate to make assets. E. H. Henderson, Administrator of Wiley Pitts, Robert Knight and Ann Knight, his wife, Thomas Manning and Emily Manning, his wife, John Pitts and Wm. Pitts and Jane Faithfull. To Penny Pitts, Robert Knight and Ann Knight, his wife, Thomas Manning and Emily Manning, his wife, John Pitts and Wm. Pitts. You are hereby notified that this is a proceeding instituted before the Superior Court of Jones county in said State, by the plaintiff for the purpose of selling the real estate of Wiley Pitts, deceased, to make assets in the hands of said administrator to pay the debts of said intestate, and you are required to appear before Thos. J. Whitaker, Clerk of said Superior Court, and answer or demur to the petition now filed in this proceeding on the 15th day of February, A. D. 1879, or judgment will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the said petition. This 12th day of December, 1878. THOS. J. WHITAKER, C. S. C. Jones County.

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