

The Weekly Carolina Era.

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LEWIS HANES, - - Editor.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1872.

Republican State Convention.

In accordance with a resolution of the State Executive Committee of the Union Republican party of North Carolina, adopted by said Committee, a State Convention of the Republican party of this State, is called to meet in the city of Raleigh, on WEDNESDAY, the 17th day of April next.

The Convention is called for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, State Treasurer, Attorney-General, Superintendent of Public Works, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of State, Auditor, and for other purposes.

According to the Plan of Organization of the party, each county will be entitled to as many votes in the Convention as it has members in the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

S. F. PHILLIPS, Chairman.

J. C. L. HARRIS, Secretary.

SOUTHERN CLAIMS.—The House Committee on Claims will report to the House under the next call a bill amending the act organizing the Southern Claims Commission, which will be generally satisfactory to the Southern members, and will undoubtedly pass.

In Florida one of the early rulers of the State, Gov. Allison, was tried last week a second time for violation of the Enforcement act, found guilty, and sentenced to \$500 fine, and six months' imprisonment. The Governor is upward of 60 and carries a strong tide of public sympathy.

SENATOR POOL.—We regret to learn that this distinguished gentleman is quite sick at the Exchange Hotel, in Washington, D. C. Overwork is said to have brought on hemorrhage of the lungs, and fears are expressed consumption may follow. North Carolina can ill afford to lose the services of Senator Pool at this time. We earnestly hope his sickness is not of a serious character and that he will be able to take his seat in the Senate in a few days.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The political campaign in this State is fairly opened on both sides, and promises to be one of the most exciting ever known in the State. Senator Wilson delivered a stirring address at Manchester on Monday evening, and on the same day Judge Carpenter, of South Carolina, addressed the people of Goffstown and vicinity against the reconstruction policy of the administration. The contest in the State will be a sharp one, but the chances seem to be decidedly in favor of the Republicans electing both the Governor and Legislature.

Radicallism means the ruin of everything that it lays its hands on.—*Rutherford Vindicator*.

Modern Democracy means murder, burglary and whippings at midnight. Also, the mobbing of the Press, with the consent of *The Vindicator*.

Talk of ruin! Who ruined Rutherford county? What excuse is there for the outrages which have been committed by the Ku Klux Democrats of that county? None, save a desire to secure control of the county by foul and damnable means. The men who aid *The Vindicator* in eking out a miserable existence, are apologists for Ku Klux outrages, and are responsible for the ruin which has been visited on the people of that county.

It was stated a week ago that President Grant had promised Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, that the New York Custom House should be reorganized from "foundation to turret stone." In confirmation of this statement, Gen. Chester A. Arthur, Collector of Customs informed the President some days ago that as soon as his successor is selected, that he (Arthur) will resign.

The position was tendered on the 21st inst., to F. E. Spinner, Treasurer of the Treasury Department, and declined. It is to be hoped the reorganization will be entirely acceptable to Messrs. Conklin, Fenton and Greeley. The disgraceful split among New York Republicans should be healed up for a united front and a glorious victory in November next.

REFUNDING COTTON TAX.—The bill introduced into the House of Representatives to refund the cotton tax paid in the years 1865, 1866, 1867 and 1868, provides for the appointment of three commissioners by the President, whose duty it shall be to determine the sum paid by and due to each claimant. The amounts determined to be due the several claimants are to be paid in four and a half per cent forty-year bonds, or certificates for small sums commutable into such bonds, which are to be used as banking capital for additional national banks in the Southern States. The bill also contains numerous provisions designed as safeguards against the presentation or prosecution of fraudulent claims. Resolutions and memorials to Congress, praying the refunding of the cotton tax, have been presented from the Legislature of all the Southern States and Missouri, and also from the National Board of Trade, which met in Baltimore last fall, and from the Chambers of Commerce of St. Louis and all the principal Southern cities.

Prison Horror.

England can no longer claim prominence for the infamous cruelty that she obtained through the prison of Dartmoor. The Black-hole of Calcutta has lost its claim to a height of misery and squalidness deemed unattainable elsewhere. It has been reserved for the managers of the North Carolina penitentiary, appointed by a Ku Klux Legislature, to exceed all previous prison horrors; to bring unequalled disgrace upon their State and country.

The sworn testimony of the treatment of the unfortunate wretches now confined in the penitentiary, reveals barbarity and inhuman cruelty almost incredible. Here—at the Capital of the State—in the midst of a people unsurpassed for generosity, humanity, and refinement, by any people in the world, and surrounded by plenty, four hundred unhappy convicts have been for months made to suffer the tortures of the damned, by reason of an insufficient supply of food. Such is the testimony elicited before a Democratic Committee.

That four hundred men should have suffered the cravings of hunger in the midst of plenty, and forced to sustain life by devouring carrion and filth unfit for brute creation, is the result of the administration of Democratic Directors.

It is true that the incarcerated men are criminals—that they are confined to undergo punishment for crime, but their punishment is prescribed by law, and *starvation is not to be found on the statute book*.

Disgraced and dishonored as the convicts are, they are powerless to help themselves. They are removed from the sight and knowledge of the world. Nevertheless, they are human—made in God's own image—a great many of whom are not greater criminals than the thief who died upon the Cross beside our Saviour. To torture such men, is reprehensible in the highest degree. We hold up the Democratic authors of such cruelty to the contempt of the civilized world:—

The score of the people of North Carolina, upon whose good name, they have brought a fearful disgrace:—

To every honest man who ever voted a Democratic ticket, that they may behold the men put in power by the Ku Klux Democracy:—

To the reprobation of every man who loves the good name of North Carolina, that they may hold that party to a strict account, whose creatures are the penitentiary Directors.

The testimony of the penitentiary Committee was before the Ku Klux Legislature. They determined at night to turn out the Board appointed by the Legislature, and put in a new set of men. The next morning they reconsidered the vote of the night previous, and retained the present Board. This action on the part of the Legislature is an endorsement of the cruelty practiced on the prisoners. Because one of the Directors is a member of the Ku Klux Central Committee, party interest would not allow the Board to be removed and disgraced! The continuation of the Directors by the Legislature, renders the Democratic party responsible for the barbarous and cruel treatment of the convicts, and the mismanagement of the penitentiary. The responsibility was voluntarily assumed by the Legislature. The party is responsible for the action of the Legislature. The people will so hold at the ballot box.

Ku Klux and Democrats of this State are engaged at present in the profitable business of endeavoring to make the people believe that the Democratic party, if placed in power, will do away with corruption in office—that the Republican party embodies all the corruption known to mankind—that Ku Klux and Democrats are spotless as driven snow. The prospect of deceiving the people into any such belief, must be encouraging!

If the charges which have been made through the Democratic Press and on the stump, against the character and honesty of the judiciary of North Carolina, with one or two exceptions, savored of truth, the penitentiary does not contain worse men than most of our judicial officers. Admitting, for the purpose of this article, that the charges are true, the Democratic party has placed itself in a contemptible and treacherous position.

The late Legislature was two-thirds Democratic. The power to impeach, convict and remove any officer, was within the province of the majority of that body. Gov. Holden was impeached, convicted and disbarred according to the mandates of the Klan. The judicial officers were slandered and abused like pickpockets. Charges against their character and honesty were made with a liberal hand. Those who have seen the Ku Klux side of the picture, no doubt think God that they are not afflicted with a judiciary such as ours.

The lives, the liberty, and the property of the citizen are in the hands of the judiciary. A corrupt judiciary is more to be feared than any other branch of the Government. According to Democratic authority, North Carolina is cursed with a judiciary whose corruption is unbounded. Democratic Legislators were elected while these Judges were in office. The Legislature lived out its Constitutional term. Therefore, we hope a war with England will be averted if compatible with the National Honor. If we must have war, Canada should be overrun and annexed to the United States. The cry should be—"war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt."

North Carolina! here is a spotless party. If you believe one-half the slanders which have been peddled throughout the State concerning the Judges, a more corrupt and dangerous set of men are not living. Therefore, we say the Democratic party occupies a contemptible position because it has used means—both fair and foul—to deprive the judiciary of the respect and confidence of the people, and thus destroy their usefulness, and breed mob spirit among the people. The Democratic party occupies a treacherous position in that it allowed partisan motives to influence the retention in office of corrupt Judges, thereby jeopardizing the lives, trifling with the liberty, and endangering the property of the citizen.

Any party possessing the power to rid the people of corrupt officers and failing to do so because party interest would not be subserved by such ridicule, is unworthy of the respect, much less the confidence and support, of a people who can boast of a judiciary as pure and as learned in the law as that of any people. If our Judges were as corrupt as Democrats and Ku Klux say they are, it would be all the same so far as the people are concerned.—Not one would have been impeached unless party capital could have been made by such impeachment.

That any real reform can come from such a party, is about as probable as a revival of religion in the dominions of Satan! That legislation not partisan in character, can spring from such a party, is about as probable as a bridge across the gulf which divides Lazarus and Dives! That any real peace or prosperity will attend the administration of such a party, is about as probable as the salvation of a Ku Klux.

The passage of the education bill through the Lower House of the Congress, is a notable step in the history of American education. This bill was introduced by Mr. Pierce, of Mississippi, on the 5th day of January last. It was examined, reported upon, and passed before the 8th of February. If the bill becomes a law, it will confer certain educational powers upon the States, and leaves them free to run their own schools. It might have been better to require adequate provision on the part of the States for running schools as a condition precedent to the acceptance of national aid.

Aid by the National government consists in giving to the various States, the net proceeds of public lands (county and homestead laws excepted), the moneys so derived to be divided by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of Education as follows:—

One-half of the proceeds of each year's sales to constitute a National Educational Fund. The other half to be distributed among the several States and Territories, on the basis of population. The only condition required to entitle a State or Territory to its quota of the fund, is a statute creating a school system for all children between the ages of six and sixteen.

The Senate should pass this bill without unnecessary delay. Whatever amendments are required, should be adopted and the bill enacted into a law at the earliest moment. The country is stupefied with politics. We hope to see less politics and more legislation in the interest of education, internal improvements, commerce, and agriculture, during the next four years. An amendment to the Constitution investing the National government with absolute control of the educational interests of the Republic, would materially add to the cause education.

Legislation to prevent the punishment of criminals whose garments are stained with the blood of our best citizens, is infamous—damnable—and shows what measures the Democratic party will adopt to secure power. There is no peace or prosperity for our State if such a party is to be placed in power to frame our laws and shape the destiny of our people. Down with the Ku Klux Democracy!

The entire record of the Legislature is replete with encouragement to Democratic criminals—commonly known as Ku Klux. Legislation against the Klan would reduce the Democratic vote something near fifty thousand.

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