



Commerce and Internal Improvement.

The following luminous Remarks on these subjects are from a Circular of Col. R. M. Johnson, of Kentucky.

"The proper regulation of commerce, of vital interest to the nation, and is therefore wisely confided to the general government. The right to regulate commerce with foreign nations is unquestionable; either by encouraging or restraining its operations, or by an actual prohibition when the interest of the nation shall demand it; and such measures ought to be pursued, as policy, from time to time, shall dictate. It is the duty of the government to encourage a trade which is obviously advantageous, and to discourage or prohibit that which is injurious to the prosperity of the nation. It is a principle of political economy that such trade as shall tend to make us dependant on foreign nations for clothing for the army or navy, or for any article whatever of military stores or munitions of war, should be discouraged, and if necessary to the manufacture of such articles among ourselves, entirely prohibited.

"That trade which tends to drain the country of the precious metals, which constitute the basis of our circulating medium and the standard value of every commodity, is also injurious in its consequences, and should be either altogether prohibited, or so restricted as to counteract the evil. Such is the effect of the East India trade, which carries annually from the country millions of dollars never to return. It is likewise important to keep in view the balance of trade with all nations, and where it is against us, to check its progress by the imposition of such duties as will lessen the amount of imports; otherwise the payment of the balance will tend to impoverish the nation. By a wise regulation of our foreign commerce, America may export her surplus produce to the best markets which the world affords, and bear in return to our own shores, the wealth of every other nation.

"The variety of soil and climate which this nation contains, possessing so many natural advantages; gives us a world within our own control, and that all their products may be enjoyed in every part, it is highly important to facilitate and encourage internal trade, which also comes within the constitutional powers of the general government. By due attention to this branch of commerce we shall enjoy, independently of all other parts of the world, every thing necessary to make life agreeable. Our markets will be convenient; we shall enjoy what we possess; our prosperity will be certain, and we shall be in fact what we are in name, an independent nation. Its moral advantages will also be inestimable. By the intercourse which it will promote, local prejudice will be overcome, and ties of friendship and affection will be general—and the bonds of union strengthened.

"With the subject of internal commerce, that of internal improvement is intimately connected. The powers of the mind are too contracted, to take an adequate view of the benefits which must result from the improvement of our national advantages in roads and canals. We may anticipate the day, as not far distant, when an inland and connected water communication will be opened from Maine to New Orleans, with short intervals of land carriage. The intercourse between the Atlantic and Western States will be so facilitated as to render the transportation convenient, from the Susquehanna to the Alleghany river, and from James river to the Kenawha. The waters of the Hudson will communicate with the St. Lawrence, and a connected course of navigable waters will be opened through the whole Western section of the Union, from the Lakes of the north to the Gulf of Mexico, by uniting the Alleghany river with Ontario and Erie, the Mississippi with Michigan and Illinois, and Tennessee with the Alabama and Mobile, besides many other streams interspersed in every part of the country, which by the construction of roads and canals, will combine to increase the strength and happiness of the nation, by the development of its resources, and the disclosure of its hidden treasures. The geographical situation of the country renders these works practicable, and at little expense compared with the benefits which they would afford. Nature, indeed, has been bounteous in her works, having nearly accomplished the whole; and the little part which is left to art, seems only sufficient to test the gratitude of man, by embracing the advantages which she presents, while she invites to its accomplishment. The utility of these improvements, is not confined to one particular object, but extends to every branch of the government, and every employment of life. They will contribute greatly to the defence of the nation in war, by affording facilities to the concentration of the forces and munitions of war in every point of attack, which alone will prove a saving of blood and treasure, more than the amount of their cost. They will expedite the transportation of the mail, and accelerate the speed of intelligence so important in cases of emergency. They will afford convenience and safety to the traveller. They will encourage agriculture and manufactures, by opening a

cheap and easy way to market. They will invigorate the arm of industry by increasing its reward. They will unite the interests of every state and section of the union, and bind in one friendly embrace, the whole family of the nation."

What is said by the Colonel respecting our trade to the East Indies, we think, is deserving of particular attention. For we are of opinion, that most of the distressing embarrassment at present experienced in the commercial world may be traced to this source. We trust, therefore, though Congress did not think proper to act on the subject at the last Session, they will at the next either prohibit this trade altogether, or put it under such regulations as shall prevent our Merchants from depriving the country, as at present, of its Specie Capital. The state of things has become truly alarming, those blood-suckers, the Brokers, are not now satisfied with draining the Banks of the large towns on the Atlantic—they send out Agents to pick up the Notes and draw Specie from the Banks in the interior, so that you meet, in every direction, Waggon loads with the precious metals, on their way to the nearest water conveyance, to be shipped from the country never to return! Another year, of exhaustion like the present, would effectually ruin the country!

BY AUTHORITY.

An act for adjusting the claims to land, and establishing land offices, in the district east of the island of New-Orleans.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That all the claims to land founded on complete grants from the Spanish government, reported to the Secretary of the Treasury, by the commissioners from the districts east and west of Pearl river, appointed under the authority of an act entitled "An act for ascertaining the titles and claims to lands in that part of Louisiana which lies east of the river Mississippi and island of New-Orleans," which are contained in the several reports of the commissioners, and which are, in the opinion of the commissioners, valid, agreeably to the laws, usages, and customs, of the said government, be, and the same are hereby, recognised, as valid and complete titles against any claim on the part of the United States: And that all claims founded on British grants, contained in the said reports, which have been sold & conveyed, according to the provisions of the treaty of peace, between Great-Britain and Spain, of the third of September, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, by which that part of Louisiana, lying east of the island of Orleans, was ceded to Spain, under the denomination of West Florida, or which were settled and cultivated by the person having the legal title therein, at the date of said treaty, are recognised, as valid and complete titles, against any claim on the part of the United States, or right derived from the United States.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all claims, reported as aforesaid, & contained in the several reports of the said commissioners, founded on any order of survey, requête, permission to settle, or any written evidence of claim, derived from Spanish authorities, which ought, in the opinion of the commissioners, to be confirmed, and which, by the said reports appear to be derived from the Spanish government, before the twentieth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and three, and the land claimed to have been cultivated and inhabited, on or before that day, shall be confirmed in the same manner as if the title had been completed: *Provided*, that in all such claims, where the plat and certificate of survey, made prior to the fifteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, under the authority of the Spanish government, in pursuance of such claim, has not been filed with the said commissioners, such claim shall not be confirmed to any one person for more than twelve hundred and eighty acres; and that for all the other claims to land comprised in the reports aforesaid, and which ought, in the opinion of the commissioners, to be confirmed, the claimant to such lands shall be entitled to a grant therefor as a donation: *Provided*, that such grant, as a donation, shall not be made to any one person for more than twelve hundred and eighty acres: which confirmation of the said incomplete titles and grants of donations, hereby provided to be made, shall amount only to a relinquishment forever on the part of the United States, of any claim whatever, to the tract of land so confirmed or granted: *And provided*, also, that no such claim shall be confirmed to any person to whom the title to any tract of land shall have been recognised under the preceding provisions.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That every person, or his or her legal representative, whose claim is comprised in

the lists, or register of claims, reported by the said commissioners, and the persons embraced in the list of actual settlers, or their legal representatives, not having any written evidence of claim reported as aforesaid, shall, where it appears by the said reports, or by the said lists, that the land claimed or settled on, had been actually inhabited or cultivated by such person or persons in whose right he claims, on or before the fifteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, be entitled to a grant for the land so claimed, or settled on, as a donation: *Provided*, that not more than one tract shall be thus granted to any one person, and the same shall not contain more than six hundred and forty acres; and that no lands shall be thus granted which are claimed or recognised by the preceding sections of this act.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That every person comprised in the said list of actual settlers, not having any written evidence of claim to land in said districts, and who, on the twelfth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, shall have inhabited or cultivated a tract of land in either of the said districts, not claimed by virtue of either of the preceding sections of this act, shall be entitled to a preference, on becoming a purchaser from the United States of such tract of land, on the same terms and conditions, and at the same price, for which the other public lands are sold at private sale: *Provided*, that the first instalment of the purchase money shall be paid to the receiver of public moneys of the district within which the land lies, within two years after the opening of the land office for such district.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That for the purpose of adjusting the titles and claims to lands in the districts aforesaid, and for the disposal of the lands which may remain the property of the United States therein, a land office shall be established in each of the said districts, to be kept for the western district, at St. Helena courthouse, and for the eastern district, at Jackson courthouse; and a register and receiver of public moneys shall be appointed for each of the said land offices, who shall give security in the same manner, and in the same sums, and whose compensations, duties, and authority, shall, in every respect, be the same in relation to the lands which shall hereafter be disposed of, to their respective officers, as are by law provided in relation to the other registers and receivers of public moneys for the several land offices of the United States.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That every person or persons claiming lands in either of the said districts, whose claims have not heretofore been filed with the commissioner of the land office, of the district wherein the lands lie, shall be allowed until the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and twenty, to deliver notices in writing, and the evidences of their claims, in the said districts, respectively, to the register of the land office at Jackson courthouse and at St. Helena courthouse; and the notices and evidences so delivered, within the time limited by this act, shall be recorded in the same manner, and on the payment of the same fees, as if the same had been delivered before the commissioners closed their said registers.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That every person or persons, who had filed his or their notice of claims to land, within either of the said districts, with the commissioner of the land office, according to the former laws, but have not exhibited sufficient testimony in support of the same, and whose claim has not been recommended for confirmation, shall be allowed until the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and twenty, to deliver written evidence, or other testimony, in support of his or their claim, the notice of which had been filed as aforesaid, to the register of the land office at St. Helena, for lands lying in the district west of Pearl river, and to the register of the land office at Jackson courthouse, for the lands lying in the district east of Pearl river; and the evidence of claims, the notice whereof had been filed as aforesaid, for lands lying in the said district, delivered within the time limited by this section, to the said registers, shall be recorded by them, respectively, in the same manner as was directed by former acts, on receiving the same fees allowed by said acts, for recording evidence of claims to lands in the same districts.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That the register and receiver of public moneys of the said respective land offices, at Jackson courthouse and at St. Helena courthouse, shall have the same powers, and perform the same duties, in every respect, in relation to the claims that may be filed in virtue of the sixth section of this act, and in relation to the claims, the notices of which had been filed under former acts, as well as to the additional evidence which shall be introduced in support thereof, agreeably to the seventh section of this act, as the commissioners for the districts east and west of Pearl river would have had, or should have performed, if such notices had been filed, and such evidence introduced, before the said commissioners closed their registers.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the register of each of the said land offices, respectively, to make, to the commissioner of the general land office, a report of all the claims filed with the register aforesaid, with the substance of the evidence in support thereof; and of the claims formerly filed, in support of which additional evidence shall have been received, with the substance of such evidence; and also their opinion, and such remarks respecting the claim as they may think proper to make; which report, together with a list of the claims, which, in the opinion of the register and receiver, ought to be confirmed, and also a list of actual settlers, prior to the passage of this act, noting the time of their respective settlements, shall be laid, by the commissioner of the general land office, before Congress, at their next session, for their determination thereon.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That the said registers and receivers shall, respectively, have power to appoint a clerk, who shall be a person capable of translating the French and Spanish languages, and who shall perform the duty of translator, when required by said registers and receivers; and each of the said registers and receivers shall be allowed, as a compensation for their services in relation to the said claims, at the rate of fifteen hundred dollars a year; and each of the clerks at the rate of one thousand dollars a year: *Provided*, that not more than eighteen months' compensation be thus allowed to the register, receiver, and clerk, for the district east of Pearl river; and not more than eighteen months' compensation be allowed to the register, receiver, and clerk, of the district west of Pearl river.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That the surveyor for the lands south of the state of Tennessee shall, with the consent and approbation of the President of the United States, appoint a principal deputy surveyor for the lands within the said districts, who shall receive an annual salary of five hundred dollars, and, in addition thereto, the following fees: that is to say: for examining and recording the surveys executed by any of the deputies, at the rate of twenty-five cents for every mile of the hundred line of such survey; and for a certified copy of any plat of a survey in the office, twenty-five cents; and whose duty it shall be to survey, or cause to be surveyed, by his other deputies, the lands, the claim to which are confirmed, and that are directed to be granted as donations, where the same have not been already surveyed, and the lands which may be claimed by right of pre-emption, whenever directed by the register and receiver, and to execute such other surveys as may be necessary for the ascertainment of the lands, the title or claim to which is embraced in the report of the commissioners aforesaid. And the said principal deputy surveyor shall make out particular plats of the surveys directed by this act, which he shall return to the register of the proper district; and also a general and connected plat, which he shall return to the surveyor of the lands south of the state of Tennessee; and the expense of surveying shall be paid by the United States: *Provided*, the same shall not exceed, in the whole, four dollars a mile, for every mile which shall be actually surveyed and marked.

Sec. 12. And be it further enacted, That the books of the former commissioners, in which the claims, and evidence of claims are recorded, shall be lodged with the registers of the land office, for the respective districts; and the register and receiver of public moneys in each respective district, shall have power to examine the claims recognised, confirmed, or provided, to be granted by the provisions of this act, as also, claims to the right of pre-emption, and they shall make out to each claimant, entitled, in their opinion, thereto, a certificate, according to the nature of the case, under such instructions as they may receive from the Commissioner of the General Land Office; and on presentation at the General Land Office of such certificate for a confirmed claim, or for a donation, according to the provisions of this act, and where it shall appear, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, that the certificate has been fairly obtained, according to the true intent and meaning of this act, then, and in that case, a patent shall be granted, in like manner as for other lands of the United States.

Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That the President shall have the power to appoint the register and receiver of public moneys for the said districts, in the recess of the Senate, who shall be nominated to them at their next meeting.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

An act regulating the payments to Invalid Pensioners.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That in all cases of application for the payment of pensions to invalids, under the several laws of Congress granting pensions to invalids, the affidavit of two surgeons or physicians, whose credibility as such, shall be certified by the magistrate

before whom the affidavit is made, stating the continuance of the disability for which the pension was originally granted, (describing it,) and the rate of such disability at the time of making the affidavit, shall accompany the application of the first payment which shall fall due after the fourth day of March next, and at the end of every two years thereafter; and if, in a case of continued disability, it shall be stated at a rate below that for which the pension was originally granted, the applicant shall only be paid at the rate stated in the affidavit: *Provided*, That where the pension shall have been originally granted for a total disability, in consequence of the loss of a limb, or other cause which cannot, either in whole or in part be removed, the above affidavit shall not be necessary to entitle the applicant to payment; and *provided* also, That this act shall not extend to the invalids of the revolution, who have been, or shall be placed on the pension list, pursuant to an act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war." Approved the eighteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

An act to regulate the duties on certain wines.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, the duties now by law levied, collected, and paid on wine not enumerated in the "act to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage," passed the twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, when imported in bottles or cases, of seventy cents per gallon, and on wine not enumerated in said act, when imported otherwise than in bottles or cases, of twenty-five cents per gallon, shall cease and determine; and there shall be levied, collected, and paid, in lieu thereof, the several and specific duties hereinafter mentioned; that is to say: on wines not enumerated in the act aforesaid, when imported in bottles or cases, thirty cents per gallon, and when imported otherwise than in bottles or cases, fifteen cents per gallon.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That an addition of per centum shall be made to the several rates of duties above specified, and imposed upon the several goods, wares, & merchandise, aforesaid, which, after the said thirtieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, shall be imported in ships or vessels not of the United States: *Provided*, That this additional duty shall not apply to such goods, wares, and merchandise, imported in ships or vessels not of the U. States, entitled by treaty, or by any act or acts of Congress, to be entered in the ports of the United States, on the payment of the same duties as are paid on goods, wares, and merchandise, imported in ships or vessels of the United States.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That there shall be allowed a drawback of the duties by this act imposed on goods, wares, and merchandise, imported into the U. States, upon the exportation thereof, within the time, and in the manner, prescribed in the fourth section of the act, entitled, "An act to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage," passed on the twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the existing laws shall extend to, and be in force for, the collection of the duties imposed by this act, on goods, wares, and merchandise imported into the United States; and for the recovery, collection, distribution, and remission, of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures, as fully and effectually as if every regulation, restriction, penalty, forfeiture, provision, clause, matter, and thing, in the existing laws contained, had been inserted in, and re-enacted by, this act.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That wines and distilled spirits, imported and deposited in the public stores, under the direction of the surveyor in the manner prescribed by the "Act providing for the deposit of wines and distilled spirits in public warehouses," passed the twentieth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, may be transported coastwise, from the public warehouses, in one district, to those in another district, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, without loss of debenture.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

The Celebrated Imported Horse, EAGLE.

Unquestionably the best Horse that was ever in England—will stand the ensuing Season at the REX-HOUSE, in Rowell county, N. Carolina, where he gave general satisfaction the last Season, with only a few exceptions.

Eagle's performance, and terms, will be made known in due time. Eagle is in as fine health as any Horse on the Continent.

LEWIS HERLEY.

January 26, 1819.