

# RALEIGH REGISTER

## AND NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace, unwarped by party rage, to live like brothers."

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**STATE LEGISLATURE.**

**SENATE.**

Thursday, Dec. 17.

Mr. Joyner, from the Committee on Internal Improvement, to whom was referred the memorial of sundry citizens of Carteret county, praying the Legislature to obtain from the General Government an appropriation to deepen the channel of Core Sound, and to improve the navigation thereof made a report thereon, accompanied by the following resolutions:

"Resolved, as the sense of the General Assembly of North Carolina, that it is expedient that the Congress of the United States should order and direct the Engineer in charge of the dredge boat, now operating at Ocracoke, to remove the obstructions in Core Sound, between Beaufort and Pamptico Sounds, in this State, by means of said dredge boat, whenever the same is not required by, and cannot operate upon the public works at Ocracoke.

"Resolved further, as the sense of this General Assembly, that it is expedient that the Congress of the United States should make a sufficient appropriation in money to clear out and remove the said obstructions in Core Sound, so as to deepen the channel of the same, and to improve the navigation thereof.

"Resolved, that His Excellency the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress."

These resolutions passed their first reading, and having been read the second time:

Mr. BRYAN said, that, as gentlemen seemed to be ignorant of the object of these resolutions, he must beg indulgence of the Senate, whilst he submitted an explanation of the reasons which had influenced his constituents in thus soliciting the aid of the General Government. It would be recollected that there was now a chain of internal communication by water, from Providence, in Rhode Island, to the port of Beaufort, in this State, in completing which the Congress of the United States had contributed largely from the national treasury. The canal connecting the waters of the Delaware and Chesapeake bays, was aided by the General Government to the amount of three hundred thousand dollars; whilst that passing through the Dismal Swamp, and uniting the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the Albemarle Sound, had received from the same source the amount of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Casting your eye on the map of this State you will perceive, an uninterrupted passage through Croatan & Pamptico Sounds to the narrow body of water connecting this latter sound, with the Port of Beaufort, which is denominated Core Sound. At the point in this sound denominated Harbour Island, the last Congress passed an act appropriating a sum of money to locate a light boat, which is now in progress, and will soon assume her station. It is in the vicinity of this station that the obstructions complained of exist.—The surface of the Shoal is of an undulating form, between one and two miles in length, and of such a character, as to be susceptible of easy improvement, and, when made, to remain permanently so.

He could assure the Senate that his information upon this subject was derived from the most respectable sources. The first resolution suggested to the General Government the expediency of ordering the Dredge boat now operating at Ocracoke, to be transferred to this shoal, whenever it could not operate upon the public works at Ocracoke. He would inform the Senate that for several years past, an Engineer under the direction and at the expense of the General Government, had been engaged in attempting to improve that part of the navigation in the vicinity of Ocracoke, denominated the Swash, being a shoaly obstruction, within the bar, which prevented vessels drawing over seven feet water from obtaining an easy and uninterrupted access to the ocean. The position which the dredge boats and other vessels engaged in this public work, are compelled to assume, in order to carry on their operations, is so very weak and exposed, as to suspend all operations there during the winter months and in stormy weather. In this State of things, these boats are carried to Newbern, where they lie idle during the whole of these months and are probably injured more thereby than from careful use. The point in Core Sound, which is contemplated to improve, affords, at all seasons, a safe, secure, and snug harbour, where this boat might operate to very great advantage, at and during the whole of the time she is compelled to suspend her operations at Ocracoke, and lay in ordinary at

Newbern; and this, too, he was informed, without the slightest detriment to the public works at Ocracoke. If this obstruction were removed, it would afford all of our vessels from the north counties Washington, Newbern, &c. that trade to the Southward and the West Indies, an easy access to the Port of Beaufort; whence they might be at sea, with almost any wind, in the course of a half hour.

Any Senator who had directed his attention to the expenses incident to the transportation of munitions of war, during our last war, must be aware of the very great saving that would accrue to the Government from this improved communication with our seaports, on the coast. There were but few points on the whole coast of the Union, of more importance, in any point of view, to the Government, than the part of Beaufort. He believed that with the exception of New York and Norfolk, its inlet and harbour were not surpassed by any in the United States; the former affording on the bar, an uniform depth of water, of from twenty to twenty-two and a half feet; and the latter, being handsomely landlocked, and secure from the influence and rages of storms, was capable of affording mooring and security for a thousand merchant vessels of the largest class. The ports of Charleston, Mobile and New Orleans, with inlets and harbors far inferior in point of capacity, security, and depth of water, were making rapid strides to prosperity & wealth; whilst this neglected port was not known and appreciated in our own State, which was daily contributing much of its substance to swell the resources of other States, on the ground, as alleged, that there was no place in the State whence it could be exported. This was a mistaken idea; and he could assure the Senate, that it was a matter of great surprise to every stranger of distinction, who had visited Beaufort, that the State of North Carolina had remained so long unmindful of the fact, that she possessed one of the finest ports in the Union. If this port were located in one of the Northern States, every point, nook and shoal, would resound "with the busy hum of life;" and shall we who have so much just cause to complain, that our coast is not "one of nature's favorites," reject and neglect to appropriate rightly, this bountiful bestowal of her gifts? If honorable Senators could have beheld the gay and heart stirring scenes which this harbor exhibited during the last war, they would have been struck with wonder and astonishment that our own State, which so many thought was hermetically sealed up against the approaches of friend or foe, should have been the resort and depository of the gay, the warlike, the rich and the splendor of other climes. Its waters seemed to be a floating mass of ships, privateers, merchantmen, and prizes, laden with the wealth and spoils of the enemy; whilst the town was alive with speculators and purchasers from all parts of the Union. There might be seen men of different nations and tongues—some the prisoners of our daring and successful privateers, and others in quest of gain and speculation. And why was this? Because no point or harbor on the coast of the Union afforded a more easy and convenient access, with such depth of water, as this, and one could be found which would give such security, after it was entered. Such ever will be the case, if this country should again be involved in war; and of so much importance has it been regarded even in a national point of view, that Congress has caused to be constructed, at the Inlet, a fort that commands its entrance, which cost the Government a half of a million of dollars.—He would repeat the question, shall we be unmindful of the great importance of this port to our State?

The spirit of improvement was abroad on the face of the earth, and he hoped that its general influence would be extended to the land of his constituents.—Gentlemen from the West had assured him that, at the next session, when they met, under the new Constitution, they would almost move Heaven and Earth to effect a communication with Beaufort, at any hazard and expense—to let it rest now. He had full confidence in the expression of their liberal opinions, and could not believe that we were to remain tributary to Virginia and South-Carolina forever. We had been "hewers of wood and drawers of water;" for them long enough already, and it was time to wake up. Rail Roads, intersecting the State in every direction, had been chartered at this session. These were so many streams upon which the wealth of our State would leave us. He was no enemy to internal improvement; but they were not so well calculated to produce contentment and happiness among our citizens, and to produce the abiding effect of wealth and prosperity among us, as one terminating at our own ports. He did not know that he should again have the honor of a seat on this floor; but if it should so happen, he could assure honorable gentlemen that he should call upon them to redeem their pledges.

The Senate he hoped, would pardon this seeming digression, (go on! go on!)

for he could not suffer his mind to dwell upon this subject without feeling that pride and excitement, which should operate upon every North Carolinian. These advantages must not, cannot be lost. The removal of this shoal will give a large portion of the Country a ready access to this fine port, at a trifling and insignificant expense; and whilst Congress is lavishing its millions on other States, it surely cannot turn a deaf ear to the high and honorable call made upon it by the Legislature of North Carolina. The Senator from Martin had asked him, whether an appropriation for this object was not a violation of the Constitution of the United States? He was ever ready to answer the proper inquiries of any gentleman, and he could assure that Senator, that this work was as national in its character as the contemplated improvements at Ocracoke, and moreover that all similar works are recognized as such by General Jackson, in his famous message upon internal improvements. In time of war, we shall have an unbroken internal communication with the north, and, if our coast should be blockaded, our intercourse will be continued and uninterrupted. The route through this sound has always been a favorite one, as thereby the difficulties of the navigation at Ocracoke, and the dangers incident to Cape Lookout, are easily obviated and avoided. He would mention to the Senate that the enterprising steam navigation company of Charleston contemplated, if the improved navigation of this sound will admit of it, to run a line of steam boats through this sound, and up the Pamptico and Albemarle sounds, to some point of convenient access, near to Norfolk; which route would enable them to avoid the dangers of Capes Lookout and Hatteras, and shorten much the passage in the open sea. This shoal, which is now sought to be removed by the aid of the General Government, was the only impediment and obstacle which prevented them from carrying into operation this useful and enterprising system of internal communication. He had known of several of his constituents, who in order to go to Newbern and elsewhere, had attempted the passage through this sound with their vessels rather than encounter the difficulties of going to sea, weathering Cape Lookout and entering Ocracoke, who had been detained on his shoal, with their vessels and crew for many days, in consequence of the difficulties of the navigation. He trusted that he had shown to the Senate the obvious necessity of this improvement, and enumerated some of the advantages that would arise therefrom. In confirmation of his views, he would read to the Senate a letter received from a gentleman well acquainted with this matter, which was also accompanied with an estimate of the probable expense:

"I signed the memorial to improve Core Sound, and will lend my aid in any other way if it can be useful. The Dredge Boat is now doing nothing at Newbern; the work can be carried on, in my opinion, to advantage in Core Sound, any season of the year, say at least 15 days in a month; and such is the nature of the bottom, and the short distance to dredge, (not over one mile, if that,) to give six feet water from Pamptico Sound, through Harbour Island, to Beaufort, three or four months would, in my opinion, effect it: so that vessels drawing the above depth, could pass: it could be widened hereafter, if required, to a beating channel. I will mention what would be the probable cost of the work, per month, as should you apply to Congress for an appropriation, it would be best to accompany it with an estimate. Should this succeed, with a Light Boat now ready to be placed at Harbour Island and Bar, which would admit of vessels and Steam Boats passing in the night as well as the day, there would be a very large portion of our coasting trade carried on, as well from the north as the south counties. I trust you will make the attempt. Now is the time, while there is a Dredge Boat in our waters. Very likely she may be sent away before another year. If so, it will be more difficult to get an appropriation. I have kept an accurate list of vessels passing through this Inlet, for the last month, and find 125 sail of brigs and schooners, averaging about 129 tons each, have gone out, with full and valuable cargoes of cotton, wheat, corn, naval stores, lumber, &c. &c.—59 from the north counties, 39 from Washington, 25 from Newbern; 96 of which were bound coast-wise 27 to the West Indies. At the most moderate calculation, this property would amount to over a half million of dollars. This is one month. You will, therefore, perceive North Carolina is not yet depopulated, and that she does not get by far one-half her exports abroad. I will state, also, three-fourths, if not more, of the tonnage employed in transporting the produce of this State is owned by persons residing in the eastern States. Where would they look for employment for so large a portion of their vessels, should a separation of the States [which God forbid!] take place in consequence of the course pursued by the abolitionists of the north? I trust and hope the good sense

of the Legislature of those States will pass such laws as will put this matter to rest.

Estimate for one month.  
40 Hands, including provisions, at \$17—per mo. \$680 00  
2 Overseers, at \$75—1—35 finding themselves 110 00  
1 Engineer 75 00  
Calculating to work—20 days in the month, requiring 4 Cords of wood per day, 80 Cords at \$3 240 00  
Contingencies—for Blacksmith work—Iron—Oil—Tallow, &c. &c. 100 00  
\$1205 00

He felt assured that the Senate could not refuse its aid in this matter, as the importance of the work, when contrasted with the insignificance of the expense, must affect every member in a striking point of view. His constituents deemed this work to be of a national character; they, therefore, asked no pecuniary aid of the Legislature, but merely solicited their assistance, so that the united voice of the State might be heard in the councils of the nation upon the great necessity and utility of improving this highly important point, in the line of our internal communication. He trusted, therefore, that no Senator present would raise his voice against it.

Whereupon the resolutions were passed their second and third readings, without opposition, and sent to the House of Commons for their concurrence. They were also subsequently adopted by that House.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.**

The Resolutions on the subject of the Public Lands, introduced by Mr. CLINGMAN, being under discussion, and Mr. JORDAN having moved an entire substitute for them, and the Chair having stated the question to be on striking out the original Resolutions and inserting the Substitute, Mr. RALPH GORRELL, of Guilford county, addressed the House as follows:

Mr. SPEAKER—As the House has disagreed to the proposition of the gentleman from Beaufort, to lay these Resolutions on the table, and has thereby manifested a determination to pass them in some shape or other, and as I deem it important that the action of this body should be correct and set forth in such a manner as will entitle it to the respectful consideration of those to whom these Resolutions are addressed, I beg the indulgence of the House, while I make a few remarks in reply to the observations made by the gentleman from Cumberland (Mr. Jordan) on offering his amendment, and in opposition to his amendment.

The gentleman is opposed to the distribution of the proceeds of the Public Lands among the States, because he believes "the disposition of so much money among the States would open streams of corruption that would inundate the whole country." My fears lie entirely on the opposite side of the question. I think there is much less danger of corruption, in annually dividing 4 or 5 millions of dollars among 24 States, to be disposed of by them for purposes of Education, Internal Improvement, or in any other manner which the Legislatures of the respective States might devise, than in permitting such a hoard of unnecessary treasure to remain on the hands of the General Government, to be used for the purpose of deluding and betraying the people through the medium of a hireling press, and in paying off the mercenary bonds of political speculators, who throng around the footstool of power, and are willing to embark in any cause for the sake of office.

I apprehend it would be no difficult task, to point out a variety of ways in which this surplus revenue might be used for the most dangerous purposes, and yet like the canker escape detection, till its destructive course was marked by the ravages it had committed. I will mention one instance,—that of the Public Press—the greatest friend and safeguard of Liberty, when pure; when corrupt, its most powerful and dangerous foe. Although I know of no paper which is in the enjoyment of the patronage of the Government that has in the slightest degree disapproved of any act of the present Administration, and some of them have been sufficient to startle the most devoted adherents of the powers that be, yet, I will not take it upon myself to say that the present Administration has corrupted the Press. It is sufficient for me to believe, that such things may be, and that such is so near at hand. And if the Government should deem it expedient to increase the number of Presses in its employment, to any extent whatever, I suppose there is hardly a gentleman here who does not believe that these new recruits would all open their batteries in defence of those by whom they were paid, support all their measures, and denounce every person, however pure and patriotic, who should have the presumption to oppose their measures. And with such a league of confederated Presses, all acting in concert, but acting in different places, and striving to produce the same result, despotism itself could not desire a more powerful engine to accomplish its purposes. While the Press remains untrammelled and pure, while it is in the hands of hon-

nest and intelligent men, who love their country more than they regard those who administer its affairs, we have nothing to fear; but let it once become corrupt and venal, let it engage in the strife of contending factions for the spoils that are said to belong to the victors, regardless of truth, regardless of the value of freedom, and regardless of every thing save the millions of surplus revenue in the Treasury, and then, sir, we may expect to find those streams of corruption, which the gentleman from Cumberland spoke of, flowing through every corner of our country, sweeping away the last hopes of the Patriot, and every vestige of the Republic, but its name.

But we are told by the gentleman from Cumberland, as another objection to the passage of these Resolutions, that the public Western domain is indebted to the Government upwards of eleven millions of dollars. I suppose the authority of the gentleman for this statement, is the Veto Message of the President upon Mr. Clay's Land bill. I doubt very much whether that assertion was true at the time it was made by the President, but certain I am that it is not the fact now. The President, in that celebrated Message, by which he deprived North-Carolina of several millions of dollars to which she is as justly entitled as she is to the house in which we are now assembled, and in which he displayed an overbearing spirit of favoritism to the new States, says that the Public Lands cost the Government \$49,701,280—that the proceeds of their sales had amounted only to \$38,386,624—leaving a balance against the Public Land of \$11,314,656.

If the gentleman had taken the trouble to examine, he would have found that the estimates in the Message were brought up only to the 30th of September, 1832. If we take the proceeds of the sales since that time, and add them to the amount previously received, we shall find that the account wears a very different aspect.

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Amount of proceeds of Public Lands, up to the 30th September, 1832, ...  | \$38,386,624 |
| Sales of 1833, ...   | 5,967,681    |
| The sales of 1834, I have not had the means of ascertaining exactly, but they were more than ...   | 6,000,000    |
| I will estimate the sales of the present year at 8 millions of dollars, but I have no doubt from the great quantity of valuable lands brought into the market and sold within that time, it will greatly exceed that sum ... | 8,000,000    |

Which shows the amount actually received, \$55,354,305  
Take from this amount the cost 49,701,280

And we leave a clear surplus of money actually received, of \$5,653,025  
This is independent of 4,432,760 acres of these lands patented for Military services, during the last War, for which the Government would have been obliged to pay in cash, had it not been for these lands; and which certainly ought to be carried to their credit. If then, we estimate these military bounty lands at the low price of \$1 25 per acre, it will give the sum of \$5,563,950, which added to the above amount of \$5,653,025, gives a balance in favor of the Public Lands of the amount of \$11,218,970.

But while we are estimating the costs and the income of these lands, it ought not to be forgotten, that Congress has given away to the States, in which they are situated, more than 11 millions of acres, for the purposes of Internal Improvement and Education, the building of Asylums, Hospitals, Court-houses and State-houses and the like, which were certainly worth a great deal of money and ought to be placed to the credit of the Public Lands.

But notwithstanding all these facts, we are gravely told by the gentleman from Cumberland, that the Public Domain is actually indebted to the Government more than eleven millions of dollars.

Another objection urged by the gentleman against the passage of the Resolutions, is that it will cause a new Tariff to be laid.  
I can see no reason whatever for laying a new Tariff, or for disturbing in the least the satisfactory compromise of that convulsing question, which has been agreed upon till the year 1842. At the close of the last year, there was a surplus revenue of several millions in the Treasury, which was not needed for any purpose whatever. And there is little doubt from the large amount of importations during the present year, that the quantum of surplus revenue will be greatly increased. It is said that the importations of the present year have been more than 100 millions of dollars. The ad valorem duty, which will be levied after 1842 upon the imports of the present year, will give twenty millions of dollars—as large a sum, I think, as the Government can require to defray all the necessary expenses of its administration. But from the rapid increase of our population and the consequent increase of produce, and the extension of trade, it may be reasonably expected, that seven years hence, the amount of our importations will greatly exceed that of the present year, and that the revenue arising to the Government from this increase of trade, will greatly exceed 20 millions of dollars. So, that if we do not get unfortunately

involved in a foreign war, or meet with some domestic calamity, which will require more than the ordinary expenses of a peaceful Administration, the Tariff, after 1842, will not only pay all the expenses of the Government, but leave a large balance in the Treasury. I am clear for the Government to have money enough to pay all the expenses of a prudent, a wise, and even a liberal Administration. Beyond that, I do not wish to see it have a farthing. Beyond that, there is danger. I would not wish to arm a giant, already too powerful, with the means of crushing a single State, or endangering the liberty of the obscurest member of the confederacy.

I have heard other objections urged by several gentlemen, out of the House, against these Resolutions, upon which I will take the liberty to make a remark or two, although they have not been used in debate on this floor. One objection is, that if Congress should give away these lands or the proceeds thereof to the States, that she would part with a vast and overflowing source of Revenue which may hereafter be needed in some trying exigency of our National affairs. If an act of Congress, making such a disposition of this branch of the Revenue, was like the laws of the Medes and Persians, irrevocable, this would be perhaps an insuperable objection to the passage of these Resolutions. But they do not contemplate that Congress should give away the Lands. The gift would be too magnificent, and would rather cripple, than strengthen the donees. I am informed, that the General Government owns 1300 millions of acres of Public Lands, which, no doubt, at some future day, will be crowded by a busy, a prosperous and happy population—affording territory for the formation of many powerful and independent States, which will hereafter spring up in the wilderness, and which will add strength and glory to the Republic. Let Congress cause these lands to be surveyed and brought into market, as they shall be required to satisfy a rapidly increasing population, and to supply the wants of that mighty crowd of emigrants who are daily thronging our highways, in pursuit of new settlements in the West. In the mean time, let the proceeds of these lands be divided among the States in the manner contemplated in the Resolutions before us, until the General Government shall really need them for some honest purpose, and if such a contingency should arise, it will be an easy matter to repeal the act making the distribution. I know no reason why such an act of Congress might not be repealed at any time, as easy as we repeal an act of our Legislature.

While such a large amount of money is permitted to remain in the National Treasury, as surplus Revenue, it will afford continual cause of suspicion against the Government, be a temptation to prodigality and corruption in its expenditures; and be an endless source of contention, strife and jealousy among the States. And hence, we may expect that the National councils will be perpetually harassed with schemes for its disposition. The old doctrine of Internal Improvement by the General Government, against which the South has set its face as unconstitutional, partial and unjust, will be revived, and millions of dollars will be expended to the benefit of the north and the west, while the wants and the claims of the State which we represent will be entirely overlooked. And I should not be surprised if proposals were made to Congress for the distribution of these funds, which will be more obnoxious to the South than the doctrine of Internal Improvement ever was, and which will be aiming a blow at some of our domestic relations, concerning which we feel the greatest degree of sensibility.

If I am not greatly mistaken, memorials have frequently been laid before Congress concerning the abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia; and from the great zeal of certain societies at the north, which have become too numerous and too fatally beset on mischief, for the security and repose of the south, we may expect that these applications will be renewed. By the Constitution of the United States, Congress has the right to exercise exclusive legislation, in all cases whatever, over the District of Columbia. They can set every slave in the District at liberty, before Christmas, if they choose to do so. But as the abolitionists themselves, I presume, would not be guilty of the injustice of depriving their fellow citizens of their property without paying them for it, there is a fund on the spot, which they will recommend for the purpose of buying up the Slaves of that District, whether their masters are willing to sell them or not, and whether the Slaves are willing to be free or not.

This will be their first step, and if successful, as the fund will be more than sufficient to pay for the 6000 Slaves in the District of Columbia, the next will be to recommend to Congress to pass a law appropriating this fund for the purchase of the Slaves in any of the States where their owners would be willing to dispose of them.