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All letters concerning business of the office must be addressed to

J. J. STEWART,
EDITOR & PUBLISHER.

N. C. STATE CONVENTION.

TENTH DAY.
October 12th, 1865.

The Convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by the Rev. Reury Hardie of the Presbyterian Church.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Henry of Macon, from the committee on "Basis of Representation," made a report recommending the passage of "An Ordinance to amend the constitution on the basis of representation." (The ordinance is identically the same as that introduced by Mr. Henry and already published, with the exception that for qualifications for Senators, taxation and white population shall form the basis of representation.)

Mr. Ellis of Catawba, from the special committee to whom was referred "the resolution of thanks to President Johnson and Governor Holden," reported the following resolutions in lieu thereof.

Resolved, by the delegates of the people of North Carolina, in Convention assembled, That the administration of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States has been eminently national and conservative, embracing every section of this Republic; and that he is entitled to the gratitude of the people of this State for the manifestation of his purpose to secure to them at as early a day as is practicable, the restoration of their constitutional rights in the Union; and that W. W. Holden, Provisional Governor, deserves our thanks for his zealous and faithful labors to the same end.

Resolved, That copies of the above resolution be transmitted, by the President of this Convention, to President Johnson and Governor Holden.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES.

The following resolutions and ordinances were introduced and lie over under the rule.

By Mr. Jones of Rowan, a resolution that hereafter this Convention shall hold evening sessions, commencing at 7 o'clock P. M., each evening.

(Mr. Jones moved that the rules be suspended, and the resolutions be passed.

But it being suggested by the President that General Howard, the head of the "Freedmen's Bureau" desired to occupy the hall in order to address the members of the Convention, Mr. Jones withdrew his motion and the hall tendered to General Howard.)

By Mr. Jones of Rowan a resolution providing for an adjournment of this Convention until the 2nd Monday of May next, (1866,) unless sooner called together by the President.

By Mr. Henry of Macon: An ordinance concerning the unfinished Internal Improvements in the State. [Provides that it is the deliberate judgment of the Convention, that the Legislature of the State, should from time to time furnish such aid by appropriation of money and otherwise, as may secure the completion of her system of Railroad improvement West to the Tennessee line, as may be consistent and compatible with the means and resources of the State, and prosperity and interest of the people.]

By Mr. Wadup, of Union: A resolution for the appointment of a committee to memorialize Congress to remove the free persons of color from this State.

Resolved, That a committee of seven, one from each Congressional district in this State, be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of memorializing the Congress of the United States for the removal from this State of all free persons of color, or any part of them, and especially of those persons lately held as slaves, but now emancipated. And that they report the result of their deliberations for the action of this Convention.

By Mr. Jones of Henderson—
A resolution in regard to discharged North Carolina soldiers in the United States Army. [Provides that all soldiers of the United States, citizens of North Carolina honorably discharged from said service, shall be entitled to vote without a certificate of the amnesty oath, provided they are in all other respects qualified voters.]

By Mr. Henry of Macon—
An ordinance concerning the election in November next. [Provides that soldiers of the United States Army, qualified voters under the constitution of the State, except that they shall not have paid a public tax, are declared legal and competent voters.]

Mr. McRae of Cumberland called up his resolution in regard to appointing a committee in relation to the *per diem* and mileage of the members and officers of this Convention, and under a suspension of the rules the resolutions adopted.

The President announced the committee created by the resolution; Messrs. McRae, Cumberland; Lyon, Granville; Moore, Chatham; Henry, Macon; and Wadup, Union.

The ordinances relating to Magistrates heretofore transferred to the committee on constitutional amendments are recommended to the committee on Magistrates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The ordinance introduced by Mr. Settle, to recognize the just debts of the State, and to prohibit the payment of all debts contracted in aid of the rebellion came up as the unfinished business.

Mr. Winston of Franklin, in behalf of the committee to whom this ordinance was referred, desired to say that the committee had been misunderstood, if it was thought they wished to cut off discussion. They merely wished to postpone the matter of the public debt to the Legislature. By no act could discussion be repressed if the Convention desired it, but the committee merely desired that the whole matter should be referred to the Legislature or an adjourned session of this Convention.

Mr. Thompson of Bertie said as he had been specially alluded to, he wished to define his position. He was fully justified in saying that if the report of the committee was adopted, the effect would be to stifle debate. If the committee was divided on the subject of private debts, why did they connect the two propositions?

Mr. Winston remarked that the committee had the subject of private debts still under consideration.

Mr. Thompson resumed. The committee had before them the thoughtfully matured proposition drawn by the Public Treasurer which the committee might well have submitted to this Convention for its action, and Mr. T. paid a well merited compliment to Mr. Worth. This was the first body which had met in North Carolina, since the restoration of peace, and it should promptly declare that the war debt—a debt contracted in aid of the rebellion against the United States, shall not be paid. If it was a debt of the people, he would be one of the last to refuse to pay it. If it was a debt at all, it was a debt of the Confederate Government, and if we assume a part, we may as well assume all the debts of that Government. Alabama had refused to pay her war debt, and no State, he believed, had assumed theirs. It would be the strangest inconsistency to declare null and void the ordinance of secession, and then assume the debt contracted to support it. It would be wrong to assume the blockade debt—it was an improper debt, improperly contracted, in violation of a blockade recognized by all European powers. The people of the State had never sanctioned the creation of this debt. Mr. Thompson reviewed at length the action of the banks—it was their own fault if they lost all—stockholders had not been consulted. If we assume the war debt, maimed soldiers, widows and orphans were entitled to bounties, and all who had lost property by the operations of the war should be compensated.

Mr. Ward of Rockingham, said he had some feelings of diffidence in addressing the Convention—he did not wish to participate in the discussion here, when so much talent, experience and age remained silent, but in justice to himself and his constituents, and to what he regarded as the true interests of the people of the State, he felt it his most important question before the Convention. It involved the honor of the State. Our action would decide whether, where we were fully restored to our relations with the general government, we would go on in our career of prosperity. We are like a ship which has passed through a terrible storm, tattered and almost wrecked—we are again in port and it becomes us now to do all we can to repair damages. The State was a financial wreck, and we should so legislate as to restore life to her dying energies and put her on the road of prosperity. This cannot be done by piling mountains of debts upon her. She can, with honor, pay the old debt, and will gentlemen add another? Will they pile "Pelion on Ossa" until they buried the State under a mass of debt from which she can never recover. How can gentlemen vote for the ordinance declaring null and void the ordinance of secession, and then vote to assume the war debt. "Can corruption bring forth incorruption?" Let us do nothing to compromise the old debt. Never let it be said of North Carolina that yesterday she was honored and respected and to-day, none was so poor as to do her reverence.

Mr. Winston of Franklin said: I stand here to protect the honor of North Carolina and for no other purpose. I want her to pay every dollar she honestly owes. I am as jealous of the honor of my State as I am of my own family. If we prohibit the assumption of this debt it would be the beginning of repudiation. It will inspire the incipient party now springing up in North Carolina, which is already making politicians shake. I want to put my foot on repudiation. Mr. Winston continued in a most able and calm consideration of the whole subject. The lateness of the hour and the length of the discussion, compels the reporter to omit dwelling further upon the notice of this speech as well as those of Messrs. Conigland and McKay of Harnett, in opposition to the ordinance. It is to be

hoped they will be given to the public in a different shape.

Mr. McKay moved to postpone the whole subject until the fourth Monday in November next. He subsequently withdrew it for an amendment offered by Mr. Moore of Wake, as a substitute to the ordinance as follows:

AN ORDINANCE IN RELATION TO THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Be it ordained by the delegates of the people of North Carolina, in Convention assembled, and it is hereby declared and ordained by the authority of the same, That it shall be the duty of the General Assembly as soon as practicable, and at farthest within three years after the 1st day of January 1866, to make provisions for the redeeming such of the bonds of the State and the coupons thereof, as shall then be due and payable, and were not issued after the 1st day of January 1861. And that after the 1st day of January 1869, it shall be the duty of said General Assembly, and they are hereby instructed to make provisions for the payment of such others issued before the said 1st day of January 1861, and their coupons as they may become due.

Provided however, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the General Assembly from inquiring into the price obtained upon the sale of the bonds issued in behalf of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad Company, and amending this ordinance as to those if it shall appear that any reduction ought in justice to be made.

Be it further ordained, That it shall not be in the power of the General Assembly before the year 1881 to assume the payment of any part of any debt of the State contracted to aid in prosecuting the late rebellion of the State against the United States. Provided however, that nothing in this ordinance contained shall be construed as an instruction then to assume said debts, or any part of them, or as an expression of opinion, whether any part thereof should be paid.

Mr. McKay, then renewed his motion to postpone.

Mr. Caldwell of Guilford obtained the floor, but gave way to a motion to adjourn, by Mr. Phillips of Orange, and the Convention adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow.

ELEVENTH DAY.
October 13th, 1865.

The Convention was opened with prayer by the Rev. L. L. Stewart of the Presbyterian Church, the delegate from Buncombe.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Melver of Mecklenburg, from the Committee on Magistrates submitted a report and recommended the passage of the following ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE LIMITING THE NUMBER OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it ordained by the delegates to this Convention, in Convention assembled, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, That the number of Justices shall not exceed two in each Captains district in the several counties of the State, except the districts in which the several Court Houses are situated, and the number in such districts shall not exceed five.

Be it further ordained, That the legislature shall prescribe the powers, duties and compensation of Justices of the Peace—and may authorize the County Court of any County to change the number and boundaries of its magisterial districts.

This ordinance lies over.
Mr. McRae of Cumberland, from the committee on the *per diem* and mileage, made a report recommending that the *per diem* shall be as follows: President, ten dollars; members, seven dollars; principal and assistant, Secretaries, each