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THE Legislature is being flooded with petitions from merchants asking the repeal of the purchase tax. The farmers, in order to keep even, should petition for the repeal of the land tax.

MR. HENDERSON in nominating Hon. TYRE YORK for United States Senator, spoke of him as "a horny handed son of toil, and a man who was not afraid to put his hand to the plow handles." The General Assembly thought he would make a better plowman than Senator.

THE BLAIR educational bill came up in the House last Friday on a privileged question, Mr. HURD raising the point as to the power of the Senate to originate bills appropriating money. He asked that it be referred to the judiciary committee. After some discussion the motion to refer was tabled by a vote of 127 yeas to 123 nays. This vote indicates that the bill, if it could ever be reached would pass. We are glad to see General Cox endeavoring to have the House act upon it, and hope he may succeed. The member from North Carolina who succeeds in having this bill called up and passed will never be forgotten by the people.

HOW TO REDUCE THE TARIFF. Senator VANCE in his reception speech at Raleigh, it is said, proved that the abolition of the internal revenue system must, perforce, cause a reduction of tariff duties. We do not think it a very hard task to prove this notwithstanding some of our ablest State contemporaries have persistently argued that to abolish the internal revenue meant a continuation of the present high tariff on the necessaries of life. They have made much noise about free whiskey and tobacco while a heavy duty is kept up on the farmers' trace chains, clothes, blankets, agricultural implements, etc.

Now what would be the real consequence if the internal revenue tax was abolished? Why, the first thing Congress would have to do would be to fix the tariff on a *revenue basis*. A tariff for *revenue only* would then become a necessity and a reality. So long as a large revenue is raised from the internal revenue system, so long will the high tariff, which prohibits the importation of many articles, remain. Abolish the internal revenue and the duties on these, now practically prohibited articles, will be lowered so as to encourage their importation and thereby bring more revenue to the government.

We cannot understand that the abolition of the internal revenue system means free whiskey and free tobacco. The States certainly have as much right to tax these articles as they have a farmer's hogs and sheep. And we do think it is unjust that the general government should receive all the revenue from the tax on luxuries, to pile up in the treasury where it will encourage extravagant legislation, while the States are compelled to raise theirs from the real and personal property of the citizens. Tax the luxuries and relieve the necessaries, but let's begin the practice nearer home. Let the general government hands off and look to her import duties for revenue. Let the States raise their revenue first from tax on whiskey and tobacco, leaving the farmers' tools, hogs, sheep, cattle, household and kitchen furniture as the last things to tax.

Abolish the internal revenue system and a reduction of tariff duties on many articles will necessarily follow.

THE BERLIN EXPOSITION. On the 16th inst. the Senate of the United States, having been informed by the President that the Belgian Government proposed to have an exposition of machinery and mechanical inventions at Berlin, in July next, and inviting and requesting the co-operation of the United States Government—was considering the propriety of making an appropriation of $25,000 for that purpose. We hope that the bill will pass, though the proposed appropriation seems to us very small for the purpose. If our Government goes into the matter at all, we hope to see it do so on a scale commensurate with our proud position among the nations of the world. Surely our artizans, the scientific mechanics of America—the men who have advanced civilization by giving to the world the telegraph, McCormick's reaper, the circular saw, and our improved plows and grain sowing machines (if not the *sewing* machine, and Colt's revolver, not to mention others which do not now occur to us—should be represented at such an exposition. Let not our light be hid under a bushel. If the hen does not cackle it will not be known that she has laid an egg. The people's money cannot be more usefully and properly spent than in exhibiting to an admiring world what the brain and muscle of America have done. Let Congress make a liberal appropriation for this purpose, let the hammer and the anvil ring out a loud approval. Let them pursue a pound wise and penny foolish policy, and the day is not far distant when the mechanic will leave his shop and wiping the sweat from his brow, with his strong arm will hurl from the places of honor and power the men who dare to look down on him and undervalue his labors.

REFORM IN THE JUDICIARY.

One of the things almost unanimously agreed upon by the press and the bar, and we [illegible] the people at large [illegible] that the [illegible] better court [illegible] may have—which [illegible] guarantees to those [illegible] justice administered with [illegible] minor delays, and that the [illegible] of law may be speeded [illegible] with as little cost [illegible] as possible.

This, in our humble judgment, is by far the most important matter for the Legislature to consider. We have as yet seen no [illegible] the General Assembly [illegible] pose, several have been [illegible] and referred to the [illegible] committee but none of them have been published. A correspondent in the *News and Observer*, however, outlines a plan which we think is exactly what the people want. We reproduce it and trust that every member of the Assembly will read and consider it:

The people at the ballot box have again entrusted the management of our State affairs to the Democratic party. It devolves upon the party to prove itself in the future, as in the past, equal to the trust confided to it. There are reforms to be made, and there are, too, adjustments required by the great increase in population and wealth.

One of the crying evils of the hour is the delay in and consequently increased cost of legal proceedings. This has become so great that many submit to injustice rather than undergo the greater injustice of the law's delay." Justice should be obtained more speedily and at not so great a cost of time, patience and money to him who seeks it.

To the writer it seems that the remedy for the evils of our present judicial system is the establishment of *Quarterly Superior Courts* in lieu of our present semi annual plan. Up to the war, we had in each county four terms of the Court of Common Pleas and two of the Superior Court, making six courts for the trial of civil as well as criminal causes in a year. Now, with nearly treble the litigant population, we are trying to get along with two courts a year. It is clear that it cannot be done. There must be delays, amounting at times to a denial of justice.

A quarterly system of Superior Courts is economical because most speedy. At present a prisoner may lie in jail six months before trial, and twelve months if there is a continuance at the first term. This is a gross injustice if the prisoner is innocent; and be he guilty or not, it is a severe tax to the public. On the civil side of the docket, if a writ is issued soon after a term of the court it is now twelve months before the cause is at issue, and if there is one continuance it is eighteen months before a trial. With six months between courts lawyers forget much of their cases and witnesses sometimes are less accurate in their recollections. To do this increased work the number of Superior Court judges will have to be increased to fifteen. This the legislature can do. In 1860 we had a population of a little over one million, of whom four hundred thousand were settled with by the overseer, leaving a litigant population of say 600,000. We then had eight Superior Court judges, being one judge to every 75,000 of the litigant population. In 1884 we have over 1,500,000 population, all of whom are entitled to have their rights settled in the court house. With fifteen judges now the rate would be one judge to 100,000 litigant population as against one judge to 75,000 in 1860. There can be no objection therefore on the score of economy, even if it could ever be economical for a State to delay the administration of justice.

The present excellent system of rotating the judges should be retained, the only difference being that the judges would come around once in every three months instead of every six months. In some counties, the terms of court could be a week each. In other counties, every other term could be of two weeks, in other counties each of the four terms of two weeks, and so on, adjusted to the business of the several counties. A constitutional amendment restoring the number of Superior Court judges to five would relieve that overworked body.

Twenty judges are not more than enough to promptly and properly administer the civil and criminal law among the more than one and a half millions of people who constitute the now progressive and always great commonwealth of North Carolina. It will still be a smaller number of judges in proportion to wealth and population than is possessed by almost any other State in the American Union.

The subject is an important one to all who have or may have rights or wrongs to be passed upon in a court of justice. These ideas are submitted that the matter may be considered and discussed, in the end that the legislature which it needs may be prepared to furnish a remedy for the evils with which our present system of legal administration is undoubtedly overwhelmed.

GOVERNOR SCALES INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

The inaugural address [illegible] comes [illegible] tation, and [illegible] which [illegible] of [illegible] ernment, [illegible] "[illegible] ernment of [illegible] people [illegible] interests [illegible] with its important [illegible] national interest [illegible] ful study, and has in him an able advocate.

For the University he makes a strong plea for support and fostering care from all denominations and the whole people whose child she is. Of the manufacturing interest he says: "[illegible] Cotton [illegible] guarantees [illegible] the people [illegible] the [illegible] suggestions [illegible] "The pardoning power of the Governor, under our constitution, is mentioned, and in his opinion pardons should only be granted after the most patient and thoughtful investigation."

The whole address is replete with sound political principles warmly advocated and we are encouraged to believe that Governor Scales is the right man in the right place, and that the State will move on in her upward course with an increasing speed under the guidance and governance of the present incumbent, to whom it is no disrespect to say, has a most glorious example in that of the retiring Governor.

HARD TIMES.

The wail of "hard times" goes up from every quarter, but much of it is wholly unnecessary. Many cry wolf! wolf! when there is no wolf. Cotton has brought a fair price the present season, and the farmers had as good weather for gathering it as they could ask for. It is true the cotton crop in this section has been short for two years, but good crops of corn and potatoes have been made, and the goods which farmers have to buy were never so low as they are in New Berne at present. We have known cotton to sell in this market for much less than it has the present season, but dry goods, sugar, coffee and flour have not been offered since the close of the war at such prices as they have been sold at during the present winter and late fall. A few days ago a farmer came to town with a few dozens of eggs, which he carried to a dealer in a basket on his arm. When told that he could get but eighteen cents per dozen he grumbled mightily at the low price and "hard times," yet with these few eggs, thirty dozen, at what he called a low price, he went and purchased a barrel of good flour and had money enough left to be said, to buy his wife a nice calico dress. A few years ago he would have sold his eggs for ten cents per dozen and realized money enough to have purchased less than a half barrel of flour and that for the calico dress would have come from some other source.

This continual cry of hard times does no good it actually does harm. It causes the money lender to draw the strings tighter around his purse; he wants more interest, he is more exacting about the security; in fact, he thinks his opportunity has come if the prevailing opinion among the people is that it is going to be a hard year. It does not only effect the money lender but all others who have money will be rather disposed to hide it than put it in circulation. If a man comes to town with a few dollars to spend and is told on every corner that "times are going to be a mighty hard year" and that "money never was so scarce," he will be certain to carry a part of that money back home and make his wife believe that a famine is approaching.

The truth is "crumes" are no harder in this section than they ever were. False alarms ought to be squelched.

ORGANIZATION FOR FARMERS

About twelve years ago an organization known as the Patrons of Husbandry or Farmers' Grange sprung up and spread rapidly throughout the country. The eagerness with which farmers all over the country caught up with the idea evidenced the existence of some kind of a want. Many [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] Grange [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the