

The Smithfield Herald.

F. T. BOOKER, PROPRIETOR.

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A BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.

Nothing is more certain than that the people of this State are dissatisfied with the management of the Penitentiary and Insane Asylums. With the management of the convicts in the penitentiary they are especially dissatisfied. The blame for the imposition of the enormous cost of that institution is due to two sources. First the maintenance seems to be run on a most extravagant plan, and second, the legislature is so liberal that it gives away nearly all the convicts. The two last legislatures gave away all the available convicts in the penitentiary to men and corporations building railroads, dirt roads, canals and ditches. All this liberality is in direct violation of the Constitution which they all swore to uphold and obey. We think a most wholesome reform would be accomplished if the legislature would comply with two sections in the State Constitution. The present Board of Directors of the Penitentiary, and Insane Asylums and Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylums are illegal in their Constitution, because it is the duty of the legislature to organize a Board of Public Charities under whose supervision all these institutions shall be conducted. Let us see; section 7, of article 11 of the Constitution reads as follows: "Beneficent provision for the poor, the unfortunate and orphan being one of the first duties of a civilized and a Christian State, the General Assembly shall at its first session appoint and define the duties of a Board of Public Charities to whom shall be entrusted the supervision of all charitable and penal State institutions, and who shall annually report to the Governor upon their condition, with suggestions for their improvement." We don't suppose some members of the legislature ever heard of that section before and surely the people are generally ignorant of it and the benefits which would be derived from it in case it was carried out, else they would be pledging their members to see that these institutions were all put in the hands of one Board of men who would be forced to give their whole time to seeing that these institutions now run in such an extravagant manner are reformed in all their departments. The members of the Board of Directors of the penitentiary get, we believe, \$25,000 per month. This pay is too small. There should be a smaller number of men to supervise all the States institutions who shall be well paid to devote their whole time to their duties.

Again section 11 of the same article reads as follows: "It shall be steadily kept in view by the legislature and the Board of Public Charities that all penal and charitable institutions should be made as nearly as possible self-supporting as is consistent with the purposes of their creation," and yet the State this year will give to the penitentiary at Raleigh \$104,000.00. At the same time convicts for whom the State could get \$125,000 per year, per head are GIVEN AWAY to these corporations. Well, the people won't stand this much longer. They know something is wrong, but they can't tell exactly where it is. They will find out though, and find out at an early day.

EVEN as the New York Sun boomed Br'er Butler and Br'er Blaine it continues to make unseasonable clamor in behalf of Br'er Randall. What has Br'er Randall done to the Sun that he should be so loaded down with detrimental taffy?

A CONVENTION OF FARMERS PROPOSED.

An inter-State convention is talked of in Georgia. The States to be invited are North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee, of course Georgia being also included as it will do the inviting. The object is to discuss the agricultural interests of these States and to try to arrive at some plan by which agriculture may be improved and made more profitable and certain in its results. The movement originates with the Commissioner of Agriculture of Georgia. The place thought of is Atlanta and the time the coming summer. Such a meeting is necessary and might be made a means of great benefit.

If the wisest, discreetest, most progressive farmers could meet in convention and for days carefully discuss the situation we cannot see why excellent results may not follow. Surely there are many questions that it is necessary and proper that the farmers should agree upon in which their interests are so much involved. The question of raising too much cotton is one that needs to be considered. The question of raising more cotton to the acre is another question. Then the cotton-seed oil mills, more banking facilities, a lower rate of interest and other questions could engage their attention. If so minded they might look into the question of State Railroad Commissions, low railroad tariffs, lower tax under the U. S. Tariff, a metallic currency, &c.

The Savannah News favors the proposed convention and says:

"When the farmers begin to think earnestly, and with a sincere desire to benefit their condition, they will be on the right way to the solution of the problem of their troubles.

"There is a future for the farmer in the South, and a very bright one. He has not yet found out how to make his land do what it is capable of doing. He is yet too closely wedded to methods of the past. He is picking up ideas all the time, however, and is gradually turning them to account. The time will come when he will produce his own food stuffs for man and beast, and will at the same time cultivate cotton—his money crop—to better advantage than now. He will own cattle, which will be profitable, and they will furnish the means for increasing the productiveness of his farm. He will abandon slothful and wasteful practices and adopt those which are based on economy and thrift, and which must precede prosperity in every agricultural country. Yes, let us have the convention."

If the Convention is called we hope it will not be a small body. Let each State be asked to send at least a delegate for every 25,000 population. This would give North Carolina sixty-two delegates. Seven States are to be invited and the Convention would be composed of some four or five hundred delegates provided all should attend. The Governors should have the appointing. —Wilmington Star.

THEY have made an abortive attempt to resurrect Brigham Young in Utah. To exhume the experiment of bringing dead men to life, some one might try their hand on R. B. Hayes. A failure in that direction would satisfy everybody that the scheme was impracticable.

THE President has appointed the following inter-State commerce commissioners: Thos. M. Cooley, of Michigan, for a term of six years; William R. Morrison, Illinois, five years; Augustus Schoonmaker, of New York, four years; Aldice F. Walker, of Vermont, three years; Walter L. Bragg, of Alabama, two years.

SOUTH CAROLINA is to have a big time on the 26th of April. The Calhoun monument on Marion Square, Charleston, is then to be unveiled and as the News and Courier says: "In honouring Calhoun the State will be honouring itself."

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

A bill is before the Virginia Legislature to abolish capital punishment, on which subject the Richmond Dispatch says: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed." There is no other penalty than capital punishment which will restrain the hand of the murderer. He is nearly always of that peculiar mould which dreads death more than the loss of honor, reputation, friendship, or even family.

The juryman who now hesitates to inflict the highest, punishment prescribed by law would, if capital punishment were abolished, hesitate to inflict the punishment of confinement in the penitentiary for life.

How many criminals having influential relatives and friends would serve out a life-term in the penitentiary even for the crime of murder? Soon does everybody except the family of a criminal lose sight of him and his crime.

In Virginia and the other southern States there is a peculiar reason for not abolishing capital punishment. The negro in his present condition is not as sensible as he ought to be to the disgrace of incarceration in the penitentiary. It is, in fact, in his case, a totally inadequate penalty for murder. It may be that we shall be told that this is a result of the institution of slavery. Perhaps, too, as soon as sufficient time has elapsed to enable him to rise higher in the social scale, the negro will ascend to a higher plane. We say nothing as to that. All that we insist upon in this connection is that to-day he is not in a condition to be a good citizen of a State whose laws forbid capital punishment. And even this much we regret to have to say.

THE North State, Rep., urges the Republican clerks of the Superior Court to refuse to swear in any of the magistrates appointed by the late Legislature. This is bold and bad advice, which the clerks would not dare to follow. Such action on their part would result very seriously to them. The Republicans, angry at the manner in which the Democrats whipped them out, would like to resort to any means to secure their ends. They wished the Republican clerks to have the appointing of the magistrates. Of course they would have appointed Republicans.

In speaking of Senator Sherman's tour through the South, Senator Pugh, of Alabama, says: "Senator Sherman is a very dangerous man to the Democratic Party. He is well posted on every public question, and his judgment is worth, more perhaps than that of any other man in the United States Senate. I knew him in Congress before the war. I do not believe any story charging him with corruption, and I think he is very wily to go down South and preach protection there. Of course I am a revenue reformer, but I believe in an adjustment of the tariff with an international protection—I do not mean an incidental protection—and I shall stand up for it."

WHILE the Republicans are vainly trying to win for the National struggle of 1888 a State or two in the South, it begins to look very much as if they might lose, in the North, both Illinois and Massachusetts.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. | NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

COMPARATIVE WORTH OF BAKING POWDERS.

Table comparing the worth of various baking powders: ROYAL (Absolutely Pure), GRANT'S (Alum Powder), RUMFORD'S (when fresh), HANFORD'S (when fresh), REDHEAD'S, CHARM (Alum Powder), AMAZON (Alum Powder), CLEVELAND'S (shortest), PIONEER (San Francisco), CZAR, DR. PRICES, SNOW FLAKE (Graft's), LEWIS, PEARL (Andrews & Co.), HECKER'S, GILLET'S, ANDREWS & CO. "Regal", BULK (Powder sold loose), RUMFORD'S (when not fresh).

REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT CHEMISTS

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RAILROAD SCHEDULES.

WILMINGTON AND WELDON R. R. CO. Condensed Schedule.

Table of train schedules for Wilmington and Weldon R.R. Co. including dates, times, and destinations for trains going south and north.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

Table of train schedules for trains going north, including destinations like Goldsboro, Raleigh, and Fayetteville.

Train on Scotland Neck Branch Road leaves Halifax for Scotland Neck at 3:00 p. m.

Train leaves Tarboro, N. C., via Albemarle & Raleigh R. R., daily except Sunday, 9:00 p. m. Sunday 5:00 p. m. arrive Williamston, N. C., 8:10 p. m., 6:40 p. m. Returning leaves Williamston, N. C., daily except Sunday, 8:00 a. m., Sunday 9:30 a. m., arrive Tarboro, N. C., 10:05 a. m., 11:30 a. m. Train on the Midland N. C. Branch leaves Goldsboro, N. C., daily except Sunday, 11:55 a. m., arrive Smithfield, N. C., 1:25 p. m. Returning leaves Smithfield, 2:00 p. m., arrive Goldsboro, 3:30 p. m. Train on Nashville Branch leaves Rocky Mount for Nashville 4:00 p. m. Returning leaves Nashville 11:25 a. m., daily except Sunday.

Southbound Train on Wilson & Fayetteville. Branch No. 51. Northbound No. 50. *Daily except Sunday. Train No. 27 South will stop only at Wilson Goldsboro and Magnolia. Train No. 78 makes close connection at Weldon for all points North daily. All rail via Richmond, and daily except Sunday via Bay Line. Trains makes close connection for all points North via Richmond and Washington. All trains run solid between Wilmington and Washington, and have Pullman Palace Sleepers attached. J. R. KENLY, JOHN F. DIVINE, Sup't. Trans. Gen'l Sup't. T. M. EMERSON, Gen'l Passenger Agent.

PEDMONT AIR-LINE ROUTE.

Richmond & Danville R. R.

CONDENSED SCHEDULE IN EFFECT MAR. 15, 1887

TRAINS SOUTHBOUND.

Table of train schedules for Richmond & Danville R.R. Southbound, including destinations like New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Richmond, Burkeville, Keyesville, Drake's Branch, Danville, Greensboro, Goldsboro, Durham, Chapel Hill, Hillsboro, Salem, High Point, Salisbury, Ar. Statesville, Asheville, Hot Springs, Lv. Concord, Charlotte, Spartanburg, Greenville, Ar. Atlanta.

TRAINS NORTHBOUND.

Table of train schedules for Richmond & Danville R.R. Northbound, including destinations like Ar. Atlanta, Greenville, Spartanburg, Charlotte, Concord, Salisbury, High Point, Greensboro, Salem, Zillsboro, Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, Goldsboro, Danville, Drake's Branch, Keyesville, Burkeville, Richmond, Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York.

SLEEPING CAR SERVICE.

On Trains 50 and 51.—Pullman Buffet Sleeper between Atlanta and New York. On Trains 52 and 53.—Pullman Buffet Sleeper between Washington and Montgomery, Washington and Aiken, Pullman Sleeper between Richmond and Greensboro. Pullman Sleeper between Greensboro and Raleigh. Through tickets on sale at principal stations to all points. For rates and information apply to any agent of the Company, or to SOL HAAS, Traffic Manager, or JAS. L. TAYLOR, Gen'l Passenger Agent, Washington, D. C.

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