

THE DAILY JOURNAL, a 24 column paper published daily except on Sunday, at 10 cents per copy...

THE NEW BERNE JOURNAL, a 24 column paper, published every Thursday at 10 cents per copy.

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THE JOURNAL.

NEW BERNE, N. C., SEPT. 1, 1882.

Entered at the Post office at New Berne, N. C., as second-class matter.

Between five and six thousand dollars annually lost in collecting taxes in Craven!

Over 1000 of those who do list their taxes in Craven county are returned insolvent!

One thousand and ninety-four people pay the tax for over four thousand men in this county!

About 2000 people in Craven county have failed to list their taxes this year! Let them be prosecuted.

A Sheriff who allows 1006 men, out of a lot of 2,094, to go free from payment of tax ought to be required to pay the same from his own pocket.

The Finance Committee of a county who will allow a Sheriff to return as insolvent about one half of his tax list ought to be required to step down and out.

Outrageous.

Prof. Rayhill, who is now on a visit to our town, informs us that Cohen, a Jew in New Berne, charged him \$12 for bringing him from that city to Washington, and that with a broken down and jaded horse, that consumed 12 hours in coming the 36 miles.

Where does the imposition come in? We suppose Prof. Rayhill promised to pay the \$12 before he left New Berne, and, if so, that was his own bargain and he has no right to complain.

Or maybe the imposition was in taking 12 hours to go 36 miles! Prof. Rayhill is an eloquentist and doubtless Mr. Cohen was aware of the fact that a protracted view of the beautiful scenery between New Berne and Washington would fire his imagination and add him in rendering with spirit the recitations selected for his class.

He was also given ample time for meditation and reflection. We should not be too hasty in finding fault! Blessings often come in disguise!

What Shall the Boys Do?

A colonist in Eastern Tennessee writes to a Northern paper, "Keep away from us young lawyers and doctors. We are overrun with them already. What we want is skilled mechanics and intelligent farmers, young men are not too proud to handle tools, or to put a hand to the plough."

Another letter from a new settlement in Colorado says, "Already we have more than we want of young fellows whose beards are just grown, who have studied a profession, and have come here to open offices. After they have done that, they sit down in them to starve. It is hard work as well as head-work that is needed here, and the more we have of young men who wish to become farmers, the better. Agriculture is to be the great money-making industry in the West."

The same story came from every part of the West. In the large cities of both West and East, almost every block of buildings contains offices in which poor hopeful lads sit waiting for clients and patients.

The professions in this country are greatly overcrowded, for two reasons. First, there is a very foolish, snobbish, popular idea that

when a man has given his son a "professional education" he has somehow made a gentleman of him; and secondly, the rule of the principal Trades Unions, which limits the number of apprentices, and the unwillingness of lads to learn mechanical trades.

One of the largest publishers in this country was at one time not able to find a place for his son where he could learn to be a printer, the quota in his city being full.

What shall the boys do, then? If a lad has special ability whether for preaching, the arts, mathematics, as a scholar, or in handling tools, his niche is easily found. Let him enter it at all costs. In the quaint old phrase of our forefathers, it is his "call" from God.

But if he belongs to the great majority of boys who have no talents or desires for special pursuits in life, let him keep out of the hungry ranks of half-taught, idle lawyers and doctors, and go to genuine work that will pay, however small the wages may be.

Let him learn a mechanical trade. He can find opportunities if he really tries to do so. But in this country the great productive, growing industry is agriculture. On it depend all other industries, and in the future we are to have farmer-princes as well as merchant-princes. Therefore let every strong, ambitious boy remember that the earth is always ready to yield him a sure support, and if he adds knowledge and intelligence to downright hard work, it will yield the toiler in it a fortune. Do this, boys, and keep away from the cities.

Craven County Tax Payers.

The charge made by the JOURNAL, that the taxes were not being uniformly paid in Craven, is a more serious one than we first thought.

In the former article we showed that, with over 4,000 voters in the county, only about 2,000 polls were listed for taxation. That is bad enough, but we have now a worse showing to make. We have been to the office of the Register of Deeds to find out how many insolvent taxpayers were returned by the Sheriff in his annual settlement. The books showing Sheriff Hahn's settlements were not in the office; and we run back to the statement made in 1881—the last year of Sheriff Hubbs' work. And we found—how many?—one thousand and six insolvents.

See how it sounds: Four thousand tax-payers in the county; two thousand of them unlisted; and of the two thousand listed, one thousand insolvent! These figures are only approximate—not exactly correct, for we had to gather facts from different years instead of getting them all together.

To make the matter more glaring we make another comparison with Lenoir county, where, as we showed in the former article, more polls were listed for taxation than in Craven. By referring to the report of the Finance Committee of Lenoir, printed in the JOURNAL in 1879, it will be seen that Lenoir had 180 insolvents for that year. One hundred and eighty vs. one thousand and six! Or, to put it in its true light, 180 non-paying polls in Lenoir vs. 1,006 insolvents plus 2,000 more unlisted, in Craven.

Who is to blame for such a state of affairs? In the first place, the Sheriff. A Sheriff who reports even one fourth of his tax paying constituency as insolvent is not doing his duty. In a county like this where men labor every day, and for good wages; and where the laws give a Sheriff every opportunity to seize goods or attach credits for taxes, it is a begging of the question to say he can't collect. The writer was, for several years, on the Finance Committee in Lenoir, and has thus some personal knowledge of what a Sheriff can do and ought to do in order to get in doubtful taxes. If he puts off collecting his taxes, for friendship's sake or for politics' sake, until late in the spring then he may easily come forward and return a huge list of insolvents; but if he is prompt and energetic, and has prompt and energetic deputies, he will collect from all doubtful cases early in the fall and thus make sure

of his taxes, when money is plentiful.

In the second place the County Commissioners are to be blamed for allowing a sheriff to make any such returns. We think the present Board of County Commissioners have made an excellent exhibit of their management of county finances, and that they deserve commendation therefor. But because of their good record as a whole, they are not above criticism on particulars; and an independent newspaper should not hesitate to make this criticism if the public welfare demands it.

Here is a case where the county is losing the tax on near three thousand polls, amounting every year to over \$5,000, if the statistics we have gathered are a fair statement. The County Commissioners are special guardians of the people's money and should not allow it.

"But," they may say, "what can we do? The Sheriff returns the insolvent list on oath as the law requires, and we feel bound by it." We admit that as a general rule the insolvent's oath, to be made by the sheriff ought to be conclusive; and yet not always so. A man may justify to a bond, but the Judge may, and often does, after categorical questioning refuse the bond. The point we make is that it is impossible for a sheriff in Craven county to return 1,000 insolvents, if he has used due diligence. And the County Commissioners are, and ought to be, judges as to whether or not he has used this diligence.

This neglect on the part of the Commissioners, we are satisfied, has been an inadvertent one, and we think will be remedied on this statement which we are publishing. This is a serious question and deserves serious consideration. It is an outrage upon those who do pay their taxes. Every man wants the protection of the law and he ought to pay his part of the burdens. This money, that Craven county is being swindled out of, goes to the school fund and to the support of the poor, and for that very reason ought to be cheerfully paid.

We suggest to the Commissioners to take the advice of the county Attorney and determine if it would not be best, in view of this outrageous evil, to put a special agent at work in prosecuting those who have failed to list. The number of prosecutions would run up between fifteen hundred and two thousand. And it might be well to serve notice on the Sheriff that his insolvent list in the future would meet with the closest scrutiny.

Smithfield.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Permit me through the columns of your valuable paper to say a word to the outside world about the growth and prosperity of our beautiful little city by the Neuse. Smithfield is the county seat of Johnston, immediately on the left banks of Neuse river, twenty-six miles from Raleigh, fifty miles from Fayetteville, and twenty-two miles from Goldsboro. The streets are wide and shady, the town is well-drained which renders it perfectly healthy, prosperity has set in, several new store houses are nearing completion which would be a credit to any city, and several more will be reared at no distant day. Trade is lively, the mail on the Midland R. R. comes to us every day, and a freight comes in daily laden with goods for our merchants. Mr. Dan Galloway, our very efficient and popular freight agent, is as clever and accommodating as ever opened the door of a warehouse; so far he gives entire satisfaction.

We are in the heart of one of the richest agricultural belts in North Carolina. Our farmers grow almost everything in abundance. We have one farmer that has eleven hundred acres in cotton and if no disaster overtakes him he expects to get a bale to the acre (1-100) we have several farmers who make their crops average a bale to the acre. We expect to ship away from here this season 15,000 bales cotton all of which will be carried through New Berne N. C. on the Midland N. C. R. R.; heretofore it has been going elsewhere.

Our Court House is under going repairs and when completed will be one of the handsomest structures of the kind in the State.

We notice one of our enterprising merchants getting in a car load of Webster wagons, and is selling them very rapid.

Why is it that your enterprising merchants don't come up in this country and show us their goods.

No doubt a very large trade might be worked up between Smithfield and New Berne. New Berne has superior facilities for handling goods, she has her harbor, which should be second to none in the State. Wilmington merchants are doing a good business up here and the matter of freight is certainly in favor of the New Berne merchants. Come up gentlemen; we would be happy to make your acquaintance. We have two good hotels which are doing a large business, and we make special mention of the Fuller House, which we are able to say from our own experience, has but few equals in the State, the tables are supplied with everything that suits the inner man.

Politics are getting warm up in this country, but we are not infested with "Liberals," we have none of them, we are solid for Gen. Cox and Democracy. Our people want good county government and public schools, and they know, under Republican administration they can't have it. Some time ago we tried Republican revenue carpet-bag negro rule and the result was strife, ignorance and bankruptcy, but under Democratic rule we have peace, harmony, intelligence, prosperity and good common schools. We are not going to change, because it is the best interest of all, both white and black, that the intelligent should govern and rule the ignorant, therefore the Democrats in Eastern North Carolina have nearly all the intelligence.

MORE ANON.

Appreciated at its Value.

(Charlotte Journal.)

If there is any one thing more than another calculated to excite the latent gratitude of "the South," it is to read the homilies contained in Northern newspapers on the duty of the inhabitants of this benighted region to themselves and to the rest of the world. It is sweet to have fellows who, perhaps, never in their lives put foot south of the Potomac, and who are as ignorant as Comanche Indians of the political, social, or industrial condition of the Southern people, airing their philosophy on all these themes, and in the pitying and patronizing style of a father towards an ignorant and wayward son. There has been a great deal of talk of this kind for a long time, not only in the great daily newspapers of that part of the country, but in the obscure country press, and yet from a personal knowledge acquired by actual contact for months together with the masses of the Northern people, we do not hesitate to say that, ignorant as the mass of the Southern people are in regard to the inner life of their Northern countrymen, the latter are still more ignorant of the actual state of things with us. We have had questions put to us in New England by the most intelligent citizens, and in good faith, in regard to affairs here, which we would have supposed utterly incredible, if told to us by others; and the worst of it was that when the truth was told them they invariably refuse to believe it. Indeed, we have had those people to positively contradict the simplest statement of the most familiar facts in our history since the war, and they would confess at the same time that they had never been in a Southern State in their lives except, perhaps during the war, and that they had no other knowledge on the subject than what they got out of some Northern Republican newspaper.

We have been led into this train of thought by a paragraph in a Northern paper which contains some very cool and impudent comments on what the Southern people, including those "who were once rich, the poor white trash, and the negro all need to know;" this valuable piece of knowledge being "that success in life depends not upon some one to look up to, as slaves did to their masters, or some one to command, as masters did their slaves, but that it depends upon individual effort for self, and that larger self, the family." Truly a wonderful discovery; and about as applicable to the South as the nebular hypothesis is to the cultivation of long collards.

Zeb Vance.

We understand that Senator Vance, having been announced to speak at Asheville on Saturday, and Dockery having an appointment there for that day, the Democrats proposed a division of time, but Dockery would not concede fair terms. Under the circumstances old Zeb said they would see about it, and so he had his speaking separate and apart from the Republican speakers. It is needless to say that the crowd followed "Old Zeb."

We hear or rumor that there were some "subsequent proceedings" but our usually prompt correspondent has not informed us of the matter, and we await fuller "returns."

News and Observer.

Last week Edison took out twenty-four patents on electric apparatus. Hurry up and give us a "light in our window," or "a light, if you please."

OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

Every one of our readers should become informed about the wonderful resources of Oregon and Washington, where the wheat production is large and the death rate lower than in any other section of United States; where good Government land can be had for the taking, and railroad land bought on ten years time. Industrious men become independently wealthy there in a very few years. Full information in the West Shore, a hand-somely illustrated journal published at Portland, the metropolis of the Pacific Northwest, at \$2.00 per year or the publishers will send two specimen copies, of different dates, for 25 cents. Address: WEST SHORE, Portland, Oregon.

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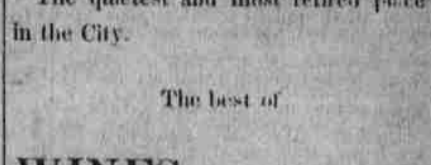
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April 1882

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