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NEW BERNE, N. C., JAN. 16, 1885.

THE JOURNAL.
H. S. HUNN, Editor.
NEW BERNE, N. C., JAN. 16, 1885.
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VALUABLE PROPERTY.

We have frequently heard large tax payers say, "So far as I am concerned I would be willing to give the county's stock in the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad to any corporation that will take it and run the road on business principles." But here is what Governor JARVIS says in regard to its value:

The State still holds a large interest in this road, and I take great pleasure in saying that the property has been very much improved in the last two years, and is now in good condition. Recent decisions of the Federal courts have changed my opinion as to the legal status of the State's interest in this property, and I now believe it to be of such value that the State should not part with it without due investigation and valuable consideration, but this valuable consideration may be, in the construction of other roads, as well as in the payment of money.

Now if it is true that the construction bond-holders cannot sacrifice the State's interest, and there remains only a debt of \$225,000, and this can be refunded at a reasonable rate of interest, what hinders the old "Mullet Road" from declaring a dividend within two or three years? The receipts of the road, from what we can learn, will be much larger this year than ever, probably reaching one hundred and forty thousand dollars. It is said that the running expenses of a road should not exceed sixty per cent of the receipts, and if this be true it will take no great mathematician to show that the interest on the debt can be paid and have a nice little balance left in the treasury.

This matter is of more vital importance to this section than anything that may come before the General Assembly. Especially is it so with the counties of Craven and Pamlico. These counties are paying dollar for dollar, principal and interest, for the building of the road. The payment of this debt is a serious drawback to the city of New Berne. We are prevented, on account of the high taxes levied for this purpose, from levying taxes to make needed improvements in the city. But we believe the day is breaking. Proper legislation and good management will yet enable the county to realize something for her stock in the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
SENATE.
TUESDAY, Jan. 13, 1885.
At 11 o'clock the senate was called to order, President Boykin in the chair.
A prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Skinner, of the First Baptist church.
The minutes of yesterday were read and there being no objection, the president pronounced them approved.
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.
Mr. Robbins, of propositions and grievances, reported adversely on the bill requiring license to practice medicine. He also reported back the bill about the public roads, suggesting it go to the judiciary committee, and asked to be discharged from further service.
Mr. Winston, of propositions and grievances, reported favorably on resolution of instruction to Senators and Representatives to repeal the internal revenue act.
Mr. Mason, of salaries and

adversely on bill in regard to salaries of executive officers.
Mr. Graham gave notice of his desire to file a minority report.
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.
Mr. Connor—To amend sections of the Code in regard to redeeming lands sold for taxes. Judiciary.
Mr. Taylor—To amend the public school law of North Carolina. Education.
Mr. Buxton—To allow creditors to sue on claim in certain cases before they become due.
Mr. Winston—To create fifteen judicial districts. Judiciary.
Mr. Connor suggested that the bill be referred to the committee on reform of the judicial system.
Mr. Winston accepted the suggestion.
Mr. Bond moved that the vote on the second and third readings of the bill in regard to the Edenton graded school be reconsidered. Carried.
Mr. Bond moved that the bill be put on its second reading and that the yeas and nays be taken. There were forty votes recorded in the affirmative, none in the negative.

MESSAGE.
That the house has resolved to go into the counting, ascertaining and declaring the result of the vote cast in the recent elections for executive officers of the State at 12 m. this day and invites the senate to be present and unite with the house in doing the same.
On motion of Mr. Alexander, the senate took a recess until the hour appointed, when the senators proceeded arm-in-arm to the hall of the house of representatives, President Boykin leading the way, with Mr. E. M. Furman, principal clerk. At 4:30 the joint meeting of the two houses was declared adjourned. President Boykin called a meeting of the senate. Notice was given of the meeting of several committees.
On motion of Mr. Buxton, the senate adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock to-morrow.

HOUSE.
The house met at 11 o'clock, Mr. Speaker Holt in the chair.
Prayer by Rev. Dr. Skinner, of the First Baptist church.
Journal read and approved.
PETITIONS.
Mr. Grainger—To alter the county line of Jones county.
Mr. Harrill—Against the repeal of the stock law in certain portions of Rutherford county.

BILLS.
Mr. Beaman—To amend the law in regard to roads and ferries.
Mr. Thorpe—To work roads by taxation.
Mr. Darden—To repeal the act relating to fast driving over certain bridges in Greene county.
Mr. Ward—To work the public roads in Warren county by taxation.
Mr. Grainger—To annex a portion of Jones to Lenoir county.
Mr. Slaughter, of Graham—Relative to transferring lunatics to the asylums.
Mr. Eaton—To submit to the voters of Vance county the question of working the public roads by taxation.
Mr. Gordon—To amend the act establishing the weight of a bushel of grain.
Mr. Adams—To provide for the payment of registrars and judges of elections.

A MESSAGE.
was received from the senate announcing that the senate would proceed in a body at the hour of 12 o'clock m. for the purpose of ascertaining and declaring the result of the votes in the recent election for State officers.
On motion of Mr. Overman, a message was ordered to be sent to the senate proposing to count the vote for State officers at 12 o'clock m.

Promptly at 12 o'clock m. the doorkeeper announced the approach of the senators, who entered and took seats within the bar of the house.
President pro tem Boykin, of the senate, called the general assembly to order.
The two clerks called the rolls of their respective houses, with the following result: 45 senators answered to their names and 114 members of the house.

The president of the senate appointed as tellers on the part of the senate Senators Alexander and Chadbourne.
The speaker of the house appointed as tellers on the part of the house Messrs. Leazar and Bulla.
The President of the Senate and Speaker of the House then proceeded to count the vote in the presence of the General Assembly as prescribed by law.
Pending the official count of the vote, on motion of Mr. Overman, the General Assembly took a recess until 3:30 o'clock p. m.
At 3:30 o'clock p. m. Mr. Speaker Holt called the House to order, and the Senators were announced, who came in and resumed their seats.
President pro tem, Boykin, of the Senate, called the General Assembly to order and the count was resumed and continued until ended, when Mr. Speaker Holt then declared the

result. The presiding officers of the Senate and House then affixed their signatures to the abstract of the vote, after which the Senate retired and Mr. Speaker Holt called the House to order.
The following was the result as officially announced: Governor, Seales, 143,240; York, 123,010; Lieutenant-Governor, Stedman, 142,806; Faircloth, 120,030; Secretary of State, Saunders, 142,865; Chandler, 122,922; Auditor, Roberts, 142,800; Lawson, 121,754; Treasurer, Bain, 142,893; Staunton, 122,908; Superintendent of Public Instruction, Finger, 142,666; Winston, 121,936; Attorney-General, Davidson, 142,867; Cooke, 122,562.
On motion of Mr. Barringer, the resolution relating to the inauguration of A. M. Seales was then taken up and adopted.
On motion of Mr. Womack, the House adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Let Us Converse.
The voice of the scientist or of the preacher is not required to emphasize the fact that an intense desire for amusement marks the present age. For the man or woman wearied by the cares of an active life, recreation now and then is not only delightful, but healthful. The writer's purpose is neither to point out the proper kind of amusements nor to indicate the extent to which they should be indulged. On the contrary, he merely wishes to intimate that there seems to be a growing tendency on the part of many people to disregard conversation. This is apparent in some homes where a different state of things would naturally be expected. In many places it has become the fashion, when a few friends are invited in "to spend the evening," to ignore the pleasure and profit derivable from an interchange of ideas, and spend the time in playing a trivial game. Unhappily, this practice is not confined to our "young people." It is natural that children should wish for amusements of a trifling character, but adults ought to be able to say with the Apostle: "When I became a man I put away childish things." The hope of the fathers is in the children. What may we expect of our young people if no effort be made to check the excessive indulgence in parlor games that are so popular nowadays? At the same time, something better must be provided. Indeed, one might be pardoned for fearing that in some places conversation is in danger of becoming a lost art. Hence, the question arises: "Whither are we drifting?"
In nine cases out of ten, on the part of those who give themselves up to nonsensical games, there will be no desire for anything of an ennobling nature. If we habitually neglect to cultivate our minds, we can hope for nothing but intellectual inferiority, and inability to converse with ease and elegance. What is there more enjoyable than a brilliant, witty conversation, enlivened by an occasional pun and sparkling repartee? It is true that we all cannot excel in this delightful accomplishment, any more than we can all excel in any branch of learning or business; but we can, at least, use the talents that we have, whether they be one, two or five.

Though conversation, in its better part, may be esteemed a gift, and not an art, yet much depends, as in the tiller's soil, on culture and the sowing of the seed.
It is said that the celebrated Samuel Johnson for a long time looked upon conversation as the chief amusement. He told Sir Joshua Reynolds that he had always made it a rule to talk upon every occasion as well as he could. "He had thus obtained a mastery over his weapons which made him one of the most accomplished conversational gladiators." A great responsibility is laid upon us to improve the mind. We should ascertain its various faculties and susceptibilities, and earnestly strive to make as much progress as possible. We have the power of introspection, and should not fail to make good use of it. Of people who are negligent in this respect, it has been well said: "Thus multitudes live and die as truly strangers to themselves as to countries of which they have heard the name, but which human foot has never trodden." A ready talker may not have any better natural ability than one who is "slow of speech," but on account of being able to express his thoughts in an intelligible and forceful style, he is looked upon as belonging to the "aristocracy of intellect," while the other is relegated to the region of intellectual mediocrity.—THOS. C. B. FRASER, in Chicago Current.

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