

## THE DEMOCRAT.

WM. J. YATES, Editor and Proprietor.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Friday, December 10, 1880.

## Important State Matters.

Being absent last week, we did not have an opportunity to express an opinion in our last issue about some public matters in which all the citizens of the State are interested. At present we will briefly allude to two subjects, and make further comments when the Legislature meets.

The proposition of the holders of what are known as the "Construction State Bonds" (Bonds issued by the State to aid the building of the N. C. Railroad, and for the payment of which the State's stock in that Road is responsible), should not be accepted by the Legislature, even if the State Commissioners have endorsed it. It seems that the Construction Bondholders (mainly Messrs. Branch of Virginia, and New York capitalists), ask the State to redeem the Bonds at par held by them by issuing new six per cent State Bonds, with coupons payable for taxes. It would be unfair and unjust to do that for two reasons: The State is now setting its old public debt at 15, 25 and 40 cents on the dollar with four per cent Bonds, and it would not be right to pay for another class of Bonds by issuing six per cent Bonds to any other class of creditors, not even to save the State's stock in the Railroad from being appropriated to pay its lawful debt. And it would be unjust at present to levy an additional tax to pay six per cent interest on about \$2,750,000 for any purpose, at least not until the old State debt is paid according to agreement.

If the State issues more Bonds and makes the coupons a legal tender for taxes, our State Treasurer will soon have his Vault full of paper coupons, and no money to pay current State expenses. Then, State taxes would have to be largely increased to pay for carrying on the State government, or payment suspended by the Treasurer. Rather than issue more Bonds let the State's interest in the Railroad be taken possession of by the Construction Bondholders. The State has already lost control of the Road, and is now only a nominal stockholder, without power to exercise a controlling influence in its management.

If the Commissioners can make no better terms with the Bondholders than those recently announced, their further services should be dispensed with. Before the Commission was appointed to inquire what terms could be made with the Construction Bondholders, the Bonds were sold at 52 to 60 cents on the dollar—now, because our Legislature seemed willing to make some settlement of the debt, the Bondholders demand the face value of their Bonds, 100 cents. The fact is, the Commission was appointed under the impression that the Construction Bonds could be funded at 65 cents on the dollar with a new five per cent State Bond. We do not know that the Commission favors the proposition to issue new six per cent Bonds to take up the old Construction Bonds, or that any State officer approves it; but we think we express the sentiment of nine-tenths of the tax-payers of the State when we say that we are utterly opposed to any such scheme being endorsed by the Legislature.

The other matter we now want to mention is, the proposed lease to the Wilmington & Weldon Road of the Atlantic & N. C. Road (running from Goldsboro to Morehead City). We approve of the course of Gov. Jarvis in preventing the lease at the late meeting of stockholders by withdrawing the State's proxy from the meeting. As the State holds a majority of the stock, the Governor very properly thought the matter of lease should be referred to the Legislature soon to assemble. Speaking of the stockholders meeting held in Newbern on the 23d of Nov., and the proposition to lease the Road, the "Newbernian" says:

"After discussion, and when a decisive vote was imminent, the State's Proxy declared the views of the Governor. The State owns about \$1,300,000 of the Road, and the Governor has the right to sell it at a price of \$1,300,000. The Governor thinks that, as the General Assembly will convene in forty days, and as a lease for 20 or 30 years is equivalent to a sale, for a generation at least, no disposition ought to be made of the State's interest except through the General Assembly which represents the people who own this large amount of stock. The State's Proxy then withdrew, and the meeting was dissolved. We heartily endorse the action of the Governor. It is a fact that a very large majority of the people of Craven county, probably three-fourths, will concur. In fact the number in the county who favor the lease, is made up of a certain class of seceders who would not be averse to giving away the Road in order to put the present efficient administration on the same footing with themselves i. e. among the 'outs.' It is a significant fact, too, that these men have been bitter opponents of Gov. Jarvis ever since he assumed the functions of the Executive office—why? The reason is well known, especially in this community, and the little word 'outs' together with some lesser matters which may be thoroughly ventilated if the subject should be introduced in the Legislature, explains their whole course."

A N. C. NOVEL.—A Raleigh letter in the Wadesboro Times says:

"Among the literary events of the coming season will be the publication of a novel by Maj. John W. Moore. Messrs. Edwards, Broughton & Co. have it in press. It is entitled 'The Heirs of St. Elmo,' and is a picture of 'times grown gray and old' in the Sunny South. It is charmingly dedicated in verse to his friend Dr. Eugene Grissom. It is a compliment worthy of both as the book is said to be Maj. Moore's best production. Readers who have observed the poetic talent of the author, and his unquestioned powers of narration as displayed in the History of North Carolina, will look with interest to the issue of this work."

INNUMERABLE VAGRANTS.—The city has a very stringent vagrant ordinance; and yet there are vagrants without number within its corporate limits. They are mostly colored people and they stand around the street corners all day, and at night go, nobody knows where. Two citizens, who were discussing the matter a day or two since stood on the street corner and counted twenty-one negro men, strong and capable of the severest labor, who were known to be doing nothing for a support. It is most opportune time to commence a rigid enforcement of the law.—Daily Observer.

You are exactly right.

## New Advertisements.

Engines and Cotton Presses—Liddell & Co., Charlotte, N. C.  
Notice to Mecklenburg county Magistrates—Wm. Maxwell, Clerk.  
Catawba High School at Newton—Clapp & Foil, Principals.  
Christmas Goods, &c., at the Rising Sun Store opposite the Old Market—C. S. Holton.  
Administrator's Notice—John C. Burroughs, Administrator of John L. Caldwell.  
Administrator's Sale—J. R. Morris and W. C. Maxwell, Adms.  
Toys and Christmas Goods generally—D. M. Rigler, Seasonable Goods—T. L. Seigle & Co.  
Latest Arrival of Goods—Elias & Cohen.  
New Dry Goods—Hargraves & Wilhelm.  
Special for Christmas—Wittkowski & Baruch.  
Bradfield's Regulator—For sale by Charlotte Drug-gists.

## Congress and the President's Message.

The last session of the 46th Congress met on Monday the 6th inst., and will continue until the 4th of March next, when a new Congress and new Administration takes charge of the Government.

With a few exceptions, and especially the misrepresentation by President Hayes of the condition of affairs in the South, his Message is fair and creditable. He intimates that elections in the Southern States are not free and fair, and that Congress should make investigations, &c. If the President would include Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New York in his proposed investigation it would look fair; but to expose the intimidation of white voters by their employers in Northern States would not exactly suit the purposes of Radicalism.

The President pitches into Mormonism and polygamy in Utah, but fails to say anything about the adulterous New Englanders and the wholesale divorce business now carried on in their midst, where the marriage vow is as loosely observed and handled as it is in Utah.

His recommendation for reform in the civil service of the Government is commendable, and Congress ought to adopt his recommendation in that respect, even if he, himself, has not practiced what he preaches.

He recommends that the commander of the Federal armies during the late war (meaning Gen. Grant) be made a "Captain-General" and pensioned and pampered accordingly. [Gen. Grant now has an income of \$7,000 a year, besides many presents.]

The President reports the finances of the Government in splendid condition, with a surplus in the Treasury of about sixty-five millions of dollars.

## No Tax Receipt, No Vote.

It is estimated that there are not less than eighteen hundred men in Granville county who vote regularly at every election, and yet who do not pay one cent towards supporting the government, either on poll or property.

Of this large number, at least nine tenths are colored. This is a startling statement, and one which demands some prompt action at the hands of the coming Legislature. This paper proposes to place itself fairly and squarely upon this issue, and demand some remedy for this alarming state of affairs. We take the broad and mistaken ground that no man, white or black, should be permitted to cast a ballot who has not first paid his poll tax and can show his receipt for the same.

The Legislature cannot pass such a measure, but it can submit the question to the people in the form of a Constitutional Amendment, to be voted upon at the next election, and though we may expect to see it opposed as a unit by the radical-republic party, yet we believe a majority of the people of North Carolina would approve and endorse such a proposition at the polls.

This measure is in force in Virginia and many other States. It works well, and while putting all men on a true equality, it adds largely to the revenue of the State.—Oxford Free Lance.

Those who pay no taxes should not be permitted to vote and impose burdens on those who do pay taxes. It is no mere political or partisan matter—it is a question of right and wrong—and every honest man in the State, white or black, Democrat or Republican, is interested, and especially interested in making all voters bear their fair share in defraying public expenses. Why should one man be made to pay a tax, while another is permitted to escape without contributing one cent to the Government which he helps to elect by his vote? Republicans who pay taxes should join Democratic tax-payers in demanding a law requiring all voters to pay a poll tax at least or quit voting. If it franchises white men as well as negroes, let it do so—it will be fair and right to all classes.

## County Matters.

The Board of Mecklenburg Commissioners, as newly constituted, assembled on Monday last. The Board is composed of T. T. Sandifer, R. M. White, Jno. R. Morris and Thos. Guyas—White and Guyas being new members. There is a vacancy, caused by the resignation of T. L. Vail, which will be filled by the Magistrates on the first Monday in January.

The Clerk of the Inferior Court was allowed half fees (\$27.92) for insolvent State cases tried at November term. Jail fees for the month of Nov. (\$135.70) was ordered to be paid. \$10.50 was allowed to Rufus Barringer, attorney, for services concerning the county fence. The Coroner was allowed fees (\$18.40) for holding inquest over Wm. Biggers, and Dr. Wilder \$20 for post mortem examination. And other bills and accounts to the amount of about \$500 were audited and ordered to be paid.

A meeting of the Magistrates of the county was ordered to be held on the first Monday in January to elect a Commissioner in place of T. L. Vail.

The County Board of Education authorized and directed the county Treasurer to pay out of the school fund in his hands all outstanding orders given by the School Committee to teachers during the year 1880.

F. W. Abrens, Asa George and R. M. White were appointed a committee to examine the flues and heating apparatus in the jail and put them in proper order.

A. G. Neel, Thos. P. Grier and Edward Grier were ordered to be held on the first Monday in January to elect a Commissioner in place of T. L. Vail.

This meeting being the first for the coming year, the Bonds of County Officers were presented and accepted as follows:

Wm. Maxwell's bond for \$5,000 as Register of Deeds, with John L. Rea and J. R. Baker as sureties. J. W. Cobb was sworn in as Deputy Register.

The bond of S. E. Reik, County Treasurer, in the sum of \$35,000 for the safe keeping of the county fund, with R. Y. McAden, J. H. McAden, H. G. Springs, W. R. Myers, D. W. Oates and John L. Brown as sureties, was accepted. The Treasurer also gave a bond of \$15,000, with R. M. Oates, M. P. Pegram and M. M. Orr as sureties, for the safe keeping of the school fund.

The official bond of M. E. Alexander, Sheriff, for \$10,000, with A. G. Trotter and H. T. Rhyne as sureties, was approved.

Jno. R. Erwin, Clerk of the Superior Court, tendered his bond in the sum of \$10,000 with J. Price, M. P. Pegram, Wm. Maxwell, Thos. Grier and F. Lee Erwin, as sureties, which was accepted.

J. S. Means presented his bond as one of the Constables for Charlotte Township in the sum of \$3,000, with R. R. Rea and M. B. Means as sureties, which was accepted.

The official bond of W. N. Alexander, Coroner, in the sum of \$2,000, with R. A. White and T. K. Sammonds as sureties, was accepted.

The following persons were drawn to serve as Jurors at February term of the Inferior Court: R. F. Christenbury, Geo. S. Hunter, J. M. Estridge, C. J. Biggers, S. S. Caldwell, T. M. McCall, Thos. J. King, Larkin Forbes, H. J. Kelley, B. O. Ballard, J. Byrum, J. W. Potts, John Spratt, M. T. Oehler, John H. Sandler, W. M. Mills, J. E. Griffith, A. A. Garrison, J. Woods Henderson, W. M. Wilson, L. W. DeArmo, J. M. Alexander, Jno. H. McDonald, D. K. Stog, W. H. McCorkle, W. L. Coz, W. H. Martin, J. E. Alexander, Jas. H. Carson.

## Judge Scheuch and Pamlico Superior Court.

A complete vindication of his conduct.

In this part of the State, where Judge Scheuch is well known as prompt and faithful in discharging his judicial duties, persons of all classes—friends, acquaintances and even enemies—were surprised to hear through the Kinston Journal and Goldsboro Messenger, and papers which copied from them, charges against the Judge for not properly attending to his duty as Judge at the Court House in Bayboro, Pamlico county. But it will be seen by the following letter of the Solicitor of the First District, the certificate of the Clerk of Pamlico Superior Court, and the letter of James E. Shepherd and George H. Brown, Attorneys at Law, that Judge Scheuch did his work as well and promptly as it was possible to do under the peculiar circumstances which surrounded him and his Court.

State papers which have published or alluded to the charges against Judge Scheuch are respectfully requested to copy this article, or the letters and certificate below:

WASHINGTON, N. C., Dec. 1st, 1880.  
As Solicitor of the First District, I was present at the Superior Court held for Pamlico county at Bayboro, Fall Term, 1880—Hon. David Scheuch, Judge, presiding.

Judge Scheuch arrived at Bayboro about sunset on Monday of the 27th inst., having traveled a distance of 42 miles from Washington that day.

The Court was opened at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, and every case on the Criminal Docket disposed of. The Judge then asked me, in open Court, if there was any further business for the State. I replied there was no further business.

The Civil Docket was then taken up and called, and the Jury trials disposed of and the Jurors were discharged.

The weather was extremely cold, and the Court House neither heated nor plastered, and not enough fire to keep the Court room warm, and the Judge adjourned the Court to his room at the Hotel and disposed of several motions on argument before him.

The practice on the Circuit was not to try indictments, and the Judge ordered the case to be removed to his room at the Hotel and disposed of before him.

He ordered his conveyance to leave about 2 o'clock, and just as he was about to start I informed him that I had just learned was a fact, that there was a prisoner in Jail charged with larceny.

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## A Curious Meteor.

A correspondent of the Statesville Landmark gives the following description of a wonderful meteor seen in Iredell county on the night of the 1st inst.

"A meteor of surpassing brightness was seen about midnight of the 1st instant about 8 miles east of Statesville. It made everything very light about the premises of the observer. It had the shape of a huge spotted serpent, 75 yards long, as large as a pine tree, with eyes very distinct and mouth open toward the north pole. About ten feet back from the head it seemed to rest on the sky and the head part to be elevated; then a little further back it was raised in a kind of loop, and the tail reached down toward the tops of the trees. It was seen by the man and his family about a half hour, and then it gradually passed away. The observer thought that it portended some terrible calamity, and was very much frightened. We would like to hear a report from any other observer of the same phenomenon. We have heard of other observers in the county of Rowan."

We hail with satisfaction the progress that gives to Wilmington, Charlotte, Charleston and other Southern points a closer connection with Northern trade centres, but we regret against the incomplete arrangement which not only excludes us from similar benefits but actually places us in a worse condition than we were before.—Raleigh Observer.

We doubt very much about the "fast mail" being any benefit to Charlotte. The fast N. R. train mail is brought here at midnight, and of course it is not delivered until next morning, just as the other mails are opened and delivered. The "fast mail" is a nuisance to other passenger trains on the N. C. Railroad, or has been on several occasions. The regular passenger and mail train is compelled to wait at the Charlotte Junction sometimes one or two hours for the so-called "fast mail" to arrive and deliver its mail bags. It is not very pleasant for passengers to have to wait at the "Junction," within sight of Charlotte, one or two hours in the night for other trains, and especially when the "fast mail" is one hour or two behind. A Union Depot is badly needed here. Cannot something be done to remedy the grievances and annoyances this City is subjected to by the want of necessary local Railroad accommodations. Or, at least, cannot the practice of waiting for a mail train at the different Depots for passengers who have to wait for the arrival and departure of trains.

[Correspondence of the Charlotte Democrat.]  
CHAPEL HILL, Nov. 25th, 1880.

We propose saying a word about the N. C. University Law School. Three things make a Law School a good instructor, a situation inviting to study and a humble-witted class. Of these in inverse order. The class: Its dozen members leave their history to be written by the future. The situation: Disguise it as we may men learn the features of circumstance. Gaiety is contagious. There has been no reception, entertainment, soiree, musical matinee nor cantata within twelve miles of Chapel Hill, to the personal knowledge of the writer, in the past six years. Young men like to be festal and to be in a shelter at the different Depots for passengers who have to wait for the arrival and departure of trains.

The instructor at present is Hon. Kemp P. Battle. Sufficiently advanced in years to have learned the old, young enough to know the new law, kind, patient, thorough, incapable of fatigue, the class of 1881 has come to know him and to love him.

CHANCEY.

## State Auditor's Report.

The report of the State Auditor for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30th, 1880, is completed and will in a few days go to the printer's hands. From the report we gather many points of interest, which we give below.

The receipts from all sources for the year were \$546,706.04, and the disbursements were \$429,732.34.

Among the items in the receipts are the following: Drummers' licenses, \$42,300; fertilizer licenses, \$24,000; general tax, including tax on banks, \$208,200.80; income tax, only \$2,602.48; insane asylum, special tax, \$94,241.15; penitentiary, special tax, \$92,800.48; insurance companies, \$15,181.04; merchants' tax, \$18,256.21; sewing machines, \$2,400; three-fourths tax on purchases of liquors, \$12,329.49; Western North Carolina Railroad, \$10,041.67.

On the disbursement side we find the following items among the others: Agricultural department, \$24,697.07; Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad, \$30,000; commutation for loss of eyesight, etc., \$1,370; fugitives from justice, \$1,315; convict account, \$9,083.62; General Assembly, \$17,095.70; Insane Asylum at Raleigh, support accounts, \$40,000; Western Insane Asylum at Morganton, \$30,000; Colored Insane Asylum at Goldsboro, \$22,500; Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institution, \$24,375; interest on mortgage bonds of the Western North Carolina Railroad, \$58,485; judiciary, \$38,213.83; out-dunatories, only \$115; Oxford Orphan Asylum, \$3,000; penitentiary, \$103,000; public printing, \$7,901.85; Western North Carolina Railroad, \$30,747.06.

The gross amount of State taxes collected was \$431,687.92; school taxes, \$342,206.68; county taxes, \$1,309,714.66. The number of acres land returned was 26,823,511; value, \$83,034,885; value of town lots, \$18,764,539; aggregate value of real estate, \$101,799,424.

The number of horses was 137,133, value \$5,871,006; mules 13,021, value \$3,850,285; cattle 678,311, value \$3,844,964; hogs 1,530,403, value \$1,703,245; sheep 582,468, value \$231,345.

The value of farming utensils was \$10,124,553; money on hand, \$3,106,076; solvent credits, \$13,518,809; stock in incorporated companies, \$893,819; other personal property, \$892,582; aggregate value of all these, \$38,531,897.

There were 118,610 white polls, and 56,028 colored polls.

The following school taxes were collected: Tax on licensed retailers, \$25,944.89; on white polls, \$120,068.76; on colored polls, \$97,232.42; \$4 cents on total valuation of real and personal property, \$133,576.87.

Comparing the above with the report of eight years ago, we find that during that period the valuation of land has been increased \$13,500,000, or twenty per cent; the increased value of town lots is six millions, or fifty per cent. The number of horses and mules has increased 46,000, being 25 per cent. Sheep have increased only 10 per cent. The value of farming implements was then \$2,500,000; now it is over ten millions dollars, an increase of 300 per cent. Then only 82,000 whites paid a poll tax. Now 118,610 whites themselves for taxation. Then 39,500 negroes listed, now 56,028 of them pay their taxes. The entire amount collected by way of taxes reaches \$2,082,700, of which the counties spend two-thirds, the schools one-sixth, and the State about one-fifth.—Raleigh Observer.

## Cotton Receipts, Trade, &amp;c.

[Condensed from the N. Y. Financial Chronicle.]  
For the week ending Dec. 3d, the total receipts reached 218,341 bales, against 205,192 bales last week, 256,618 bales the previous week, and 215,842 bales three weeks since, making the total receipts since the 1st of Sept., 1880, 2,538,057 bales, against 2,351,165 bales for the same period of 1879, showing an increase since Sept. 1, 1880, of 186,892 bales.

The exports for the week reached a total of 147,360 bales, of which 83,764 were to Great Britain, 23,557 to France, and 40,039 to rest of the Continent, while the stocks on hand are 900,909 bales.

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that, compared with the corresponding week of last season, there is a decrease in the exports of 1,408 bales, while the stocks on hand are 200,306 bales more than they were at this time a year ago.

GRAIN.—Chicago, Dec. 6.—The decline in Grain and Provisions, which lately set in, aggregates a value approximating \$1,190,000. There was a decline of nearly one cent in Wheat this morning and all other grains were weak. Provisions were decidedly lower.

## Destructive Fire at Laurinburg.

A very disastrous fire occurred at Laurinburg, Richmond county, on Monday evening, the 7th inst. It originated in the store of Mr. T. A. McDougald, dealer in general merchandise, and in consequence of no water supply, the flames spread until the entire East side of Main street, comprising the business portion of the town, (twenty-six buildings in all), was destroyed. All of the merchants saved the greater portion of their stocks, but in a badly damaged condition. It is impossible, at this writing, to ascertain the extent of the damage or to arrive at an accurate estimate of the value of the property destroyed, but it will approximate \$300,000, (mostly insured). The Carolina Central Railroad shops were saved by persistent effort on the part of the people, and especially the employees of the shops. The damage to the shops, enclosures and contiguous buildings belonging to the Company, will probably amount to \$175. The fire was evidently the work of an incendiary, as no fire was left in the store when closed early after sunset.—Enterprise.

## MARRIED.

In this county, Morning Star Township, on the 2d inst., by Rev. J. W. Abernethy, Mr. B. J. Simpson and Miss L. E. Fisher, daughter of Mr. Philip Fisher.

In Gaston county, on the 8th inst., by Rev. J. J. Kennedy, Mr. D. F. McGill and Miss Sallie L. Huff-steller.

On the 1st inst., in Yemassee, S. C., Mr. Edward S. Traper and Miss Gertrude, youngest daughter of the late Hon. Wm. H. Haywood of Raleigh, N. C.

In Cleveland, Ohio, on the 23d ult., Col. R. W. Pulliam of Asheville, N. C., and Mrs. Peckles.

On the 3d inst., Mr. Andrew Hoedick, Treasurer of Lincoln county, and Miss Mintie Warlick of Catawba county.

On the 28th ult., by Rev. A. J. Fox, Mr. Monroe F. Lutz and Miss Sarah Jane Schronce.

In Lancaster, S. C., recently, Col. W. E. Williamson of Danville, Va., and Mrs. Connors.

## DIED.

In Gaston county, on the 27th ult., Dr. John D. McLean, aged 87 years. He was engaged in the practice of medicine about 60 years. During