

ABINGDON VIRGINIAN.

No. 32.

ABINGDON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1862.

VOLUME 23.

The *Virginian* is published every Friday morning, at \$2.50 per annum, if paid in advance, or within six months after subscribing, otherwise \$3.00 will be charged.

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AN ACT

To provide for the production, distribution and sale of salt in this Commonwealth, passed October 1st, 1862.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That the Governor of this Commonwealth may adopt every such measure and do every such act as in his judgment may be necessary and proper to be done in order to secure the possession, production, or distribution to non-resident places of such quantity of salt as within his judgment be sufficient to supply the people of this Commonwealth; and to that end may bind the faith of the Commonwealth for the performance of such contracts and engagements as he may determine to be necessary and proper; and may exercise full authority and control over the property and franchises of any person, firm or company in this Commonwealth, whenever he shall judge it to be necessary and proper to exercise the same in order to secure the possession, production, or distribution of the quantity of salt aforesaid, provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize the purchase of the Smyth and Washington or Kanawha Salt Works, or any freehold interest therein, or to give the Governor, in order to obtain a speedy and sufficient supply of salt, the power to take possession of and hold and exercise full authority and control over the property, real and personal, of any person, firm or company, and any engines, machinery or fixtures and other property or things necessary for the production of salt in the Commonwealth whenever he shall judge it to be necessary to exercise the power hereby conferred in order to secure the production and distribution of the quantity of salt aforesaid.

3. If, by the exercise of the power conferred by the 2d section of this act, any property should be taken in relation to which there may be existing contracts with the Confederate States or any of the States of the Confederate States, or with any county, city or town in this Commonwealth entered into by virtue of a contract of the General Assembly, entitled, "An Act to authorize the County Courts to purchase and distribute salt among the people and provide payment for the same," passed May 9, 1862, or any contract with individuals for the benefit of any county, city or town, under the act aforesaid: Provided that such contracts with and for said counties, shall not be respected for a larger amount of salt than the twenty pounds for each inhabitant proposed by the lessee to be furnished in the proposition on which said act was founded, the same shall be respected, and the supply of salt, on salt water, so contracted for shall be furnished. If a sufficient supply of salt water cannot be obtained at the wells now producing salt water for the production of a sufficient supply of salt for the people of the State, or cannot be promptly obtained from new wells, then the Governor is empowered to disregard, wholly, or in part, such contracts with the States of the Confederate States; but if a surplus of water may exist, then the Governor is directed to furnish to the other States of the Confederate States out of any supplies of salt water that may remain after the supply of a sufficient quantity to the State of Virginia. Provided, that nothing in this act shall be so construed, as to authorize the Governor to prevent the owners of salt property, or their assignees from manufacturing and selling salt water, or fossil salt remaining after all the uses of the State, under the provisions of this act, are supplied.

4. The Governor may take control of any railroad or canal in this State, if necessary for the transportation of salt for distribution, or for the transportation of fuel or other things necessary for the production of salt; but the power conferred by this section shall not be so exercised as to interfere with the transportation of troops, munitions of war and army supplies by the Confederate Government.

5. The Governor shall designate places in the Commonwealth from which the sale and distribution of such salt may be made to citizens of this Commonwealth, and prescribe rules and regulations for the sale of the same and the prices at which it shall be sold. When such prices shall be so prescribed and published for two weeks in some newspaper published in the City of Richmond, the sale of such salt at any higher price than the price so prescribed shall be a misdemeanor, and the sale of such salt at a rate higher than the price so prescribed shall be a separate offence. Any violation of the rules and regulations so

prescribed shall be a misdemeanor. Upon conviction of any person under this act he shall pay a fine of not less than one hundred nor more than two thousand dollars.

6. If the Governor shall find it necessary to employ Agents to receive money for the sales of salt, he shall require them to give bond, with such penalty as the Governor may require, with good security to be approved by the Governor, payable to the Commonwealth, with condition to pay all money received from the sale of salt into the Treasury to the credit of the Commonwealth, at the end of each month.

7. The sum of five hundred thousand dollars is hereby appropriated to be paid out of the Treasury, upon warrants to be issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts upon the orders of the Governor in writing, to be given only in payment of liabilities incurred for the purposes of this act.

8. For the use of any of the property real or personal, which may be used, occupied, possessed or controlled by the Governor, a board of assessors, to be composed of five persons not members of the General Assembly, who shall be appointed by a joint vote of the two Houses, a majority of whom may act and shall assess reasonable compensation and damages, which shall be paid upon a written order of the Governor upon a written assessment, to be signed by a majority of the members of the board, with their affidavits that such assessment is, in the opinion of the board, reasonable and just. Such assessment shall be delivered to the Governor to be filed by him in the office of the Secretary of State, and a copy thereof shall be forwarded by the Secretary to the person, firm or company who may be entitled to the compensation or damages, and unless such person, firm or company shall, within thirty days after such copy is delivered to them, refuse by written objections to accept the same, such assessment shall be deemed to be final. If the Governor, on behalf of the State, or if any such person, firm or company shall within thirty days after such assessment shall have been so filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth file such written objections with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and in the office of the Circuit Court in the city of Richmond, an appeal shall lie from such assessment to the said Circuit Court, and the proceedings thereon in said court shall be according to the provisions of chapter 56 of the Code of Virginia, as far as the same are applicable thereto, except that the Commonwealth shall not be required to pay the compensation for damages to the party entitled thereto, nor into court, before the decision of the appeals. No order shall be made nor any injunction awarded by any court or judge, to stay any proceedings of the Governor or his authorized agents under this act. The board shall be convened at such time and place as the Governor may order and shall be paid each the sum of four dollars per day, and actual expenses incurred in travelling, to be paid by the warrants to be issued upon the orders of the Governor.

This act shall be in force from its passage, and shall continue until the expiration of the present year.

A copy from the Rolls—Teste
J. W. F. GORDON,
C. L. D.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA:

A PROCLAMATION.

Under authority of an Act passed on the first day of this present month, (October) 1, John Letcher, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, do hereby proclaim the regulations hereto annexed as having been adopted by me, and to be obligatory upon all persons and corporations coming within their purview from the date hereof.

Given under my hand as Governor of the Commonwealth this tenth day of October, 1862, and in the 87th year of the Commonwealth.

JOHN LETCHER,
By the Governor,
GEORGE W. MERRICK, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Regulations for obtaining possession of salt in this Commonwealth for distribution to the people. Prescribed by the Governor under the act to provide for the production, distribution and sale of salt in this Commonwealth, passed October 1st, 1862.

1. No railroad canal, or other internal improvement company in this State, shall undertake to transport any salt beyond the limits of the State, unless under some contract already existing with the Confederate States or some State of the Confederate States. Before said salt shall be removed, the person asking for such transportation, shall make oath or affirmation that the removal asked for is of salt furnished under such existing contract. Without such oath, the salt shall be seized by the superintendent or other agent of the transportation company for the use of the Commonwealth, and notice be immediately given to the Governor of the amount of salt seized, and the name of the person or persons asking for the transportation.

Individuals in like manner are prohibited from transporting salt beyond the limits of the State. Any person may seize and hold the same for the State and give like notice.

All salt manufactured in the counties of Smyth and Washington, and on hand on the day when the above act was passed, unless heretofore removed from the salt works, and all salt manufactured after that day, until due notice to the country be given, by publication in some newspaper printed in the city of Richmond and in the town of Abingdon, shall be thereafter held to be the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and shall not be removed without authority from the Governor or his duly constituted agent, unless it be salt made to supply some existing contract with the Confederate States or with the se-

parate States of the Confederate States, or with individuals for the benefit of any county, city or town.

If the owners of Salt Works in said counties shall refuse or cease to manufacture salt other than an amount sufficient to execute existing contracts as aforesaid, then, from and after such refusal or cessation shall appear to the Governor to exist, he will exercise the authority vested in him, and seize, take possession of and hold and exercise full authority and control over the property, real and personal, of any person, firm or company, so refusing or ceasing to manufacture.

If the supply of salt manufactured be not enough to furnish the people of this Commonwealth with a sufficient quantity of salt for home consumption, then as soon as such fact shall appear to the Governor he will exercise the authority vested in him, and disregard any contract made with the separate States of the Confederate States, until the State of Virginia is supplied.

When salt is produced by the State of Virginia, and its constituted agent shall offer the same for transportation on the route of any railroad, canal or other improvement company, the same shall be immediately transported to the depot designated, unless such transportation will interfere with the transportation of troops, munitions of war and army supplies by the Confederate Government. Upon refusal of such company to transport the said salt, the constituted agent of the State will be authorized to take control of any such route and to manage the same until the transportation be accomplished.

The like provision shall be observed when it becomes proper to transport fuel or other things necessary for the production of salt.

The following places are designated for the present as the points at which salt will be concentrated for sale and distribution, viz: Millboro, on the Central railroad, and Dublin depot, on the Virginia and Tennessee railroad. Other places of deposit will be speedily designated when suitable arrangements for supplies shall have been perfected.

Due notice will be given of the time when the salt will be ready for delivery. The price, quantity for each person, and how it is to be sold and delivered, and the agents employed therefor, will be prescribed in future regulations and published as required by law.

After the price so prescribed the sale of any salt within the Commonwealth at a higher rate per bushel, is declared by law to be a misdemeanor, and any violation of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Governor is also a misdemeanor, to be punished, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than one hundred nor more than two thousand dollars.

A board of assessors has been appointed by the Legislature to assess the compensation or damages to be paid for property seized or used by the State under this law. The time and place of their meeting will be hereafter prescribed.

The act prohibits all courts or judges from issuing orders or injunctions to stay any proceedings of the Governor, or his authorized agents, under this law.

Clothing for the Army.

Winter is near at hand. Our army, large one in want of clothing. It is indeed, it has suffered beyond computation. It has shivered with cold, and its members are in a state of suffering. It cannot suspend the laws of nature. It has beaten the enemy in every important field, but it cannot stay or drive back the frigid winds of winter. To the enemy it must succumb unless it is fortified against it.

The Confederate Government, I fear, is inadequate to the task. It is devolved upon the States and the people to come to the rescue of the army, and come at once.

I make the following suggestions: Let the courts of each county, city and town of the Commonwealth, at its first term, (October or November) appoint a committee (not too large) of its most intelligent, patriotic, and energetic citizens, to visit our camps immediately, and ascertain and report promptly the condition of the troops, their respective counties, cities and towns, and what is first and most needed in the way of clothing, and upon such reports let the courts, without delay, order, through their agents, the procurement and delivery of whatever is needed. Indeed, the work may be commenced before the reports are made. We all know there are some articles needed by all—such as shoes, socks and blankets. The courts could not err in securing these things, for we know they are needed, before we send to the camps for information. The courts could, therefore, at once, order the purchase of leather and contract for the making of the shoes. They could, also, purchase wool, and have the socks knit. The ladies would knit them without charge. If any charges were made, it could and ought to be paid. Cloth could be purchased, and in many instances, could be manufactured on contract by order of the court.

Such orders of courts would read awkwardly alongside judgments and decrees, but they would be amongst the proudest memorials of patriotism a free people could have. The County Court system has proved itself to be invaluable during this war, as heretofore. I do not see how we could have gotten along without it. It is *imperium in imperio*. It is the home government of the people. Through it our soldiers have, in a great part been clothed, armed and equipped for service in the field, while their families at home, through the same agency have been and are, in a great measure, fed and otherwise provided for. The only salt obtained for the people has been through these courts, and, under powers conferred upon them, they have also furnished the people with their local currency. They have full powers to carry out the suggestions of this communication. Sections Acts 1861, ch. 8, pages 33-6. Ordinance of Convention No. 53, page 50, appended to said Act. Ordinance No. 44, page 36.

By ordinance No. 50, they may furnish uniforms, equipments and any necessary relief to volunteers, &c.—may likewise make provision for the maintenance of the families of soldiers in the actual service of the State or of the Confederate States, and for such other purposes as the public exigencies may require. And they shall, in no manner, provide the means necessary for the these purposes in the manner set forth in said Act" (of the Assembly.)

"The manner set forth" is a law of taxes, by which the necessary money is to be raised. The plan proposed has many advantages. It is systematic. It has the authority and sanction of law. It bears equally upon all. No man is permitted to withhold his means. Those who have not patriotism and liberality enough to contribute voluntarily—the speculator and extortioner—are required to do their duty.

There will be a generous emulation amongst the several counties in this good work. Each will strive to excel the other in clothing its own troops, and the consequence will be, that our Virginia troops will soon all be comfortably clad. It will be well done too. It will be furnished by those who have and feel an interest in the matter—the fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters and friends of the soldier.

An auxiliary, voluntary associations might be formed in the several counties, cities and towns, in the magisterial districts and wards, to cloth such soldiers as come from counties now in the possession of the enemy, and in which the compelling system could not be carried out.

These two plans conjointly carried out would speedily clothe every Virginia soldier in service.

Let the other States pursue a like policy, and my word for it the nakedness of our army will soon cease to be, as it is, a public reproach.

Every scheme meets objection. Some will say that the clothing is not in the country—it cannot be had. I don't believe it. It is not abundant as formerly we know, but scarce as it is, it could be had as sure, and if there is any power on earth that can secure it, it will be found to be with that elective body, which stands nearest to the people, and are of the people, and are the people. Let the effort therefore be made; if nothing is accomplished, nothing will be lost by it. It will be time enough to pronounce the failure when it occurs. If earnestly and promptly undertaken it will be a glorious success.

Others will object that the people of the State will be doing what the Confederate Government ought to do. Grant it. If the Government cannot, or will not do this indispensable work, shall we therefore lose our army and thus lose our liberties?

The Government will, doubtless, do something towards this great object, but believe it is inadequate to all that is required. Let the people step in, to its assistance, and they will accomplish more in one month than the Government can in six months.

Mr. Editor, lend your assistance in urging the adoption by the people of this or some other plan for the clothing of our naked soldiers. The necessity for some action is urgent. It admits of no delay. Much, perhaps everything which we hold sacred, depends upon it. We could better afford to strip our garments from our bodies and send them to the field than that our soldiers should perish for the want of necessary clothing. We could at least sit by the fire. We have a shelter against the storm. The soldier has none.

ERRATA.

Geo. D. Prentice on the Death of his Son.

George D. Prentice, of the Louisville "Journal," publishes the following notice of the death of his eldest son, a lieutenant colonel in the Confederate service, who was killed in the late successful attack upon Augusta, Kentucky:

OBITUARY.
William Courtland Prentice died on Monday last at Augusta, Kentucky, of wounds received in the conflict at that place on the preceding Saturday. He perished in the cause of the rebellion.

It is not on the columns of a newspaper—it is only in the family circle or in the hush of solitude—that the emotions of a parent over such an event should have utterance. The tears of weeping eyes, and the fast-trickling drops of bleeding hearts are not for the public gaze. The deepest agonies should be content to fold their sombre wings in the world's sympathy; it can be looked for only from God and his angel time. Nay, there are griefs that time itself has no power to allay or soothe; griefs that, like running streams, are deepening their channels forever.

William Courtland Prentice was no common young man. He was remarkable in his powers, and in his temperament. A model of manly beauties, he had extraordinary intellectual energy, a strong thirst for strange and curious knowledge, and a deep passion for all that is sublime and beautiful in poetry and nature. He was generous, manly, high-hearted, and of a courage that no mortal peril, come in what form it might, could daunt. He excelled in looking destruction face to face in all its ways. He loved wild and dangerous adventures for the very danger's sake. His eagle spirit lived among the mountain crags, and shouted back to the shouts of the storm. Although kind, unselfish and humane, he was impetuous, passionate and of unchangeable prejudices. He was not unfrequently unjust in his judgments, and he permitted nothing to stand between him and the execution of his purposes.

This young man, if he had always directed his energies judiciously, could have made himself a distinguished ornament in any profession of life. He might have been an able and honored statesman in the service of the Republic. But an intense Southern sympathy, in spite of the arguments, the remonstrances, and the entreaties of those who dearly loved him, made him an active Rebel against his country.

And, after a brief five weeks service in the Rebel ranks, he fell, soon to breathe out his fiery life, receiving, meanwhile, far away from his family, the kindly ministrations of those against whose cause his strong right arm had been raised. Oh, if he had fallen in his country's service, fallen with his burning eyes fixed in love and devotion upon the flag that for more than three-fourths of a century has been a star of worship to his ancestors, his only death, though still terrible, might have been borne by a father's heart; but, alas, the reflection that he fell in armed rebellion, against that glorious old banner, now the emblem of the greatest and holiest cause the world ever knew, is full of desolation and almost of despair.

And, yet, we shall love to think of Courtland Prentice, that brave and noble, though misguided youth, during the little remnant of our lives. Our love for him, undimmed by tears and grief, is and will remain an ever-rainbow flower upon the grave of our buried years.

An Appeal for the Soldier.

The Hon. Z. B. Vance, Governor of North Carolina, is, in an address to his people, urging them to make provision for the soldiers. He at the same time, presents the extortioners and heartless speculators in their proper characters.

We subjoin the concluding portion of the address:

And now, my countrymen and women, if you have any thing to spare for the soldier, in his time of need, I appeal to you for it. Do not let the speculator have it, though he offer you enormous prices; spurn him from your door and say to him, that our brave defenders have need for it and shall have it without passing through his greedy hand. Do not place yourselves among the extortioners—they are the vilest and most cowardly of our country's enemies, and when this war is ended and people come to view the matter in its proper light, you will find that the most detested torments are more respected than they. When they tempt you with higher prices than the State offers, just think for a moment of the soldier, and what he is doing for you. Remember when you sit down by the bright and glowing fire, that the soldier is sitting on the earth; that in the wind which is whistling so fearful over your roof, only making you feel the more comfortable, because it harms you not, he is shivering in darkness on the dangerous outpost, or shuddering through the dreary hours of his watch. Remember that when you come forth in the morning, well fed and warmly clad, leading your families toward the spot where the blessed music of the Sabbath bells tells you of the peaceful worship of the God of Peace, the soldier is going forth at the same moment, perhaps, half fed, after a night of shivering and enduring, to what the rest of artillery and bombardment announces that he is to die, that his peace and safety may be preserved. Oh, remember these things, generous and patriotic people of North Carolina, and give freely of your perishable goods to those who are giving all that mortal man can, give for your safety and your rights.

From the London Herald (Derby organ) Sept 29:

The English Aristocrats Against Re-Union.

We should think ill of the Confederates if, on any terms whatever, they consented to accept as fellow countrymen the mercenary hordes of ruffians by whom their country has been desolated.

And the acceptance of Northern submission would be as contrary to sound policy as to right feeling and patriotic instincts. The Union can only be reconstructed by giving certain powers, however limited, to the Federal Government, and binding over the Northern States to observe certain conditions of the Federal compact. They cannot be excluded from all share in the Federal power; sooner or later, probably within ten years, they must recover by force of wealth and numbers their ascendancy at Washington; and then the work of the two last years would have to be done over again. If any paper constitution, if any guarantee, if any oath could bind the Northern States to the observance of their Federal duties, and preclude them from interfering in the internal affairs of their neighbors, the old Constitution they violated habitually and systematically. Their preachers inculcated the duty of perjury; their lawyers defended treason; their statesmen formed political parties to override the law; their citizens assembled to resist it by armed force; nay, armed murderers from the North invaded Virginia, assassinated sleeping citizens in their beds; and, when hanged for their crimes, were honored as martyrs in New England. What guarantee can be given by such a people which would be worth more than the paper on which it was written?—What worse folly could there be than to throw away the fruits of eighteen months of endurance, of bloodshed, of glorious achievements, by retaining with a race by which no obligation, however solemn, has ever been respected a day after it had the power and the temptation to violate it? Of such madness we cannot believe; that the able statesmen who guide the destinies of the Confederate States will ever be guilty.