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Anderson Intelligencer.

BY E. B. MURRAY & CO. ANDERSON, S. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1877. VOL. XII—NO. 50.

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THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Speech of Dr. W. C. Brown, of Belton, in the House of Representatives, upon the 5th Section of the Appropriation Bill, which proposed the Collection and Application of $300,000 for the Payment of Interest on the Public Debt of South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker: There is perhaps no member on this floor who is more deeply impressed with the magnitude of this undertaking than myself. I very well know the great influence which money exerts on all mankind, and the powerful exertions which are being made by the bond holders to pass the fifth section of this bill. The ancient Scipio, I believe it was, said to "give him as much gold as he could carry on an ass, and he could take any city, it mattered not how strongly fortified." Virgil, I believe it was, asked: "What is there which gold will not induce a man to do?" If it was not for the great confidence I have in the integrity of a large majority of this House, I certainly would be more embarrassed in attempting to oppose the passage of this section of the Appropriation Bill.

This fifth section, sir, proposes to appropriate $300,000 to pay the interest on the public debt of our State. Said money not to be paid out until a commission is appointed to investigate the debt, and only to be paid on such claims as they find *bona fide*. In the first place, I do seriously object to wringing $300,000 out of the pockets of our already impoverished, and in some cases almost starving, tax-payers to pay the interest on a public debt which we do not know that we owe. This very act of ours would virtually acknowledge to the world that we owed a debt on which there are $300,000 interest to be paid, as the bill provides, and would make, as any lawyer will acknowledge, a very strong point in law towards establishing the validity of the debt. I, sir, take the ground, that to say the best of all this debt, that it is tainted with fraud. It is true we did owe a debt before the war, differently estimated at from four to about six millions of dollars, which debt was at that time a just debt, but what part of that debt has been paid out of the vast sum of between fifteen and twenty millions of dollars which the poor tax-payers of the State have been forced to pay since the war, I am unable to say; or what part of the ante-bellum bonds have been bought in by corrupt men, who have been robbing and plundering our State for the last ten years, out of the public money, and are yet held by such men as Chamberlain, Parker, and many others of like character, I do not suppose there is a man on earth who can tell. It is said that ex-Gov. Chamberlain owns between one and two hundred thousand dollars of our State bonds, and the Lord only knows how much more is owned by him and his plundering associates in office.

I further take the ground, and I think justly, too, that all the bonds issued since the war should be investigated exceedingly close, as it is known to every one that our State was reconstructed under military control. The polished bayonet and gleaming swords glittered in the sunbeams in every town, city and village throughout our entire State. At the same time many of our best citizens being disfranchised, and not allowed any voice in the management of our political matters. All of our bravest people being disheartened and depressed from the reverses of the terrible war which had just ended, were kept in a state of feverish excitement by military arrests and displays, and by constantly seeing their neighbors unjustly arrested under the pretence of ku kluxing, or some other false charge, and carried before a military court, and under a mock trial sentenced to the Albany Penitentiary, or some other prison. And, sir, while the voices of our people were kept silent in this way these carpet-baggers poured into our State like a gang of hungry vultures or cormorants, called to their assistance our former slaves, and thus organized this State government, formed a new constitution, elected themselves to all the important offices in the State, made their own Governor, Legislature and their Judges; and by the laws passed by these officials they passed laws to issue these very bonds we are called on to pay the interest on.

They were not satisfied with taxing us to the amount of between fifteen and twenty millions of dollars since the war, and could not even spare enough of this money to put a respectable roof on the house we now have the honor to sit in. They built no railroads, or invested in any other internal improvements, but pocketed the people's money; and not being satisfied with all the taxes the State was able to pay, they went on under the pretense of law heaping up debt upon debt, and bond upon bond, until, I suppose, if one was put upon the other it would raise a structure as high as heaven itself; and these debts, sir, are what they want us to saddle on our constituents by paying the interest on them now. This is the curse they want entailed upon our children and our grand children! This is the legacy they desire to leave us and our children, on being forced to quit the shores of South Carolina and flee to avoid the prison and penitentiary, where we all know they ought to be!

Our Tax-Payers Union saw that this immense debt was being made, and the good people of the State were not being benefitted in the least by it, gave notice to the world in every possible way that they could not, and they would not, pay this debt, and warned honest men not to invest in those bonds, which warning the good people of our State generally heeded. As I am told by one well-informed in these matters, there are only something over one hundred thousand dollars of these bonds owned in our State, the rest being owned in the North. The very men who applied the torch to house after house in this once beautiful little city we see now in, until flame rose to flame, and one common conflagration swept over the whole city, its lurid flames leaping above the clouds, and lighting up even the heavens themselves, now perhaps own many of these bonds which we are asked in such haste to pay the interest on.

The honorable gentleman from Abbeville yesterday referred to the poor widow who owned fifty thousand dollars of the State bonds in a very pathetic manner. I did not realize that she was so very poor if she owned fifty thousand dollars of genuine State bonds; for if they are genuine they will be paid, but if they are not I am not willing to tax the poor widows and orphans of our Confederate dead, who have been laboring and toiling to find bread for their little ones, who have only a little home, and a small cabin to shelter them from the cold winds and piercing storms, and many not even a home of their own, to say even a widow who may be rich enough to risk fifty thousand dollars on the bonds of this State, issued under the mere pretence of law. Mr. Speaker, this is a contest between the rich and bloated bond-holders of the North and the poor laboring thousands who are to-day bending and toiling under the scorching rays of the sun by plowing and digging the earth to support themselves and their little ones; and, sir, so long as I occupy my seat on this floor my voice shall be raised in their behalf, and I will use all the talent and energy I possess to defend their cause against such injustice and oppression as the passage of this 5th section is calculated to heap upon them.

I object to the passage of this section again, because it delegates more power to this commission than I am willing to delegate to any set of men on earth. The fact of it is, since the corrupt decision of the grand Presidential Commission I have a perfect horror for investing so much power in any set of men. I would not, I know, accept myself so great a delegation of power, and I am not willing to give it to any set of men. I am, sir, in favor, as Gov. Hampton advises in his message, to appoint a commission to investigate all these debts, and they should report back to us at the next meeting of the General Assembly, and then let us act on their report before paying one cent of interest on them. This will be throwing more safeguards around the interests of our State and our constituents. It will be remembered, sir, that every bond on which we pay interest will be acknowledged as honest and valid. It may be illegitimate now, but as soon as we pay the interest on it it is an adopted child of the State, and will have to be paid, it matters not how unjust it may have been originally, as this act is an acknowledgment on our part that the whole bond is just.

Sir, I further take the ground that we should pay all the just debts of the State, but that there are no just debts made since the war, unless the State has received value for them. The debts were made under the mere pretense of law, passed by a set of corrupt carpet-baggers and dishonest scalawags in the face of all the earnest protests of all good people in the State through the Tax-Payers' Union, the press and the stump, saying to the world that those debts were unjust, and that they were forced upon us, and that we would not pay them. And, sir, if men chose to risk their money by buying them at a low rate, it is their own misfortune, brought on them simply by their own acts, being warned of the danger and acquainted with all of the facts connected with the investment. Sir, let us not act in haste in this matter, which involves the interests of our constituents to the amount of six or eight millions of dollars, but let us take time to separate all the grain from the chaff, and when separated let us in good faith pay all the just debts of the State and no more. Sir, if you call this repudiation, I am a repudiationist; but this is not repudiation; it is merely refusing to pay a forged and unjust debt.

My opponents have harped loudly about the "fair fame" of South Carolina, and, sir, I rejoice as much in the "fair fame" of South Carolina as any member on this floor, and would be as far from tarnishing it with a dishonest act, and would make as great a sacrifice to pay all her honest debts, I am sure; but while I carefully guard the "fair fame" of our State, I feel it equally my duty to guard the interests of my constituents at home, and to enter my most solemn protest against saddling this immense debt on them and their descendants—a debt which has perhaps not benefitted an honest man in this State one cent.

Georgia, after Gov. Bullock left the State, refused to pay a large amount of unjust debts made under similar circumstances to ours. And did it ruin her pure name? No, sir; her bonds are worth to-day from $1 to $1.10 on the dollar. But Virginia was so very particular about her "fair fame" that she recognized all of her debts; and what is the result? Her bonds are to-day worth 10 cents on the dollar. This will be our fate if we try to pay all these unjust debts. We will be unable to pay our just ones, and the pure name of South Carolina which has been boasted of so much will be sullied and blighted by bankruptcy, or her bonds reduced as the bonds of Virginia are, to mere nominal value.

I have been much mortified to see during this discussion the very unfair means employed to carry this fifth section by my opponents. They have even, some of them, thrown fire-brands between the two races, and tried to kindle anew the almost extinguished fire of hatred and bad feeling, telling them that we did not want to pay these debts because the colored people had the majority in the Legislature at the time they were passed. This is not our objection. Our objection is, that they are unjust and fraudulent, and my colored friends will remember that they do not own any of those bonds, but that they and their constituents will be taxed to pay them, and that they have never been benefitted one cent by these immense fraudulent debts. Again, they have said if you do not pass this 5th section the State cannot borrow money enough to pay the members, and you will not get your money. I hope you will remember the committee on Ways and Means reported before this discussion commenced that the State had over one hundred thousand dollars now within vaults, and that our pay would be certain. We have no reason to dispute their report, and if it is true we do not want to borrow money to pay the members, as we already have plenty for that purpose. I hope no member will be induced to vote for this section through fear of not getting his pay. I, for one, would vote against it if I knew I never would get one cent of pay.

Again, they argue that not to vote for this bill is to oppose Gov. Hampton's plans and his administration. To those I remark that we have had the Governor's word to the contrary in his message, and I take it for granted if he has changed his opinion in this matter, that of course he would and should have sent us a message informing us of the change and advising us how to proceed.

They say, Mr. Speaker, that this bill strengthens Hampton's administration. I say, sir, it evidently weakens it, on the same principle that a man beginning in the world badly in debt, weakens and retards his future progress. Remove all the fraudulent debts and the great load is removed from his administration. No, gentlemen, be it far from me to retard his administration in the least. Sir, his praises rise from every mountain top, flow over every hill, run down every valley, and spread over every plain, city, town and village throughout the length and breadth of the State; and, sir, I heartily join to swell the chorus as it passes by. No, sir, I would not pluck one flower from the beautiful garland and wreath of honor which encircle his brow, and not one diadem jem or precious stone would I pluck from his well earned diadem.

Sir, I know the future historian will represent him standing by the very house we now have the honor to be in—standing calmly, surrounded by Chamberlain's constabulary force, amid the shining bayonet and glittering swords of United States soldiers, and there holding up the crumbling pillars and falling arches of this great temple of liberty, while the Goddess of Liberty, clad in the dark habiliments of mourning, will be represented with her eyes streaming with tears, looking down to witness the last funeral pile of constitutional liberty and American independence.

GOV. HAMPTON'S VIEWS.

Interesting Talk With the Governor of the Palmetto State—Encouraging Aspect of Affairs—Unity, Harmony and Prosperity.

Governor Hampton arrived in New York on Monday, and until Tuesday evening spent the interval with personal friends, it being his desire to avoid publicity and conferences with the city reporters. A representative of the *Herald*, however, then met him at the Grand Central Depot, and both being *en route* a conversation naturally followed, and the following is its fair transcript:

Reporter—Has your presence at the North, Governor, any political significance?

Governor Hampton—None whatever. I am going to Auburn because Shields, my old friend, sent me a pressing letter to meet him there and bring the flag of the old Palmetto regiment. It is many years since we met, and if there is any significance about the occasion it is in the fact that the opportunity is present for a still further exhibition of the feeling which I have so persistently urged since the close of the war—to wit, that conciliation shall take the place of animosity; that the good men of both sections shall get together and together work out the common good of the country. If there is anything that we most require in this country outside of practical endeavor it is a cessation of political turmoil.

Reporter—And when you return to New York—what?

Governor Hampton—Rest. A few days of quiet; perhaps by the sea shore; possibly some arrangements with business men—friends of South Carolina—who know what we have begun to do, and have expressed a desire to lend a helping hand; but this is a subject which I do not care to talk about now.

SOUTH CAROLINA RECUPERATING.

Reporter—Pardon me; how much of a helping hand do you require?

Governor Hampton (laughingly)—That's a leading question; but, really, not much. Our people are recuperating so rapidly that we shall soon be able to stand alone. More than that. Both white and colored people are paying taxes so cheerfully and money is coming into the Treasury so abundantly that I anticipate only the most gratifying financial results. I shall not be surprised if little less than $1,000,000 are paid in this year. As an illustration, take the phosphate interest. Heretofore the income to the State from this source has been entirely disapproportionate to the vast property involved; but already, under the reformed management, the State has derived $50,000 and will probably secure $50,000 more. Again, the cost of collecting taxes has been largely reduced, the machinery has been simplified and the methods are more honest.

Reporter—Then you have no fear that there will be a default in the payment of the interest on your bonds?

Governor Hampton—So far as I know, I have no hesitation in stating to you that the bulk of our State debt is now perfectly legitimate, and the interest might as well be paid in July as in November, but a committee of investigation having been appointed by the last Legislature to examine these bonds and satisfy the public with reference to their exact status, the holders may be compelled to await their report. Give yourself no concern, however, with reference to any thought of repudiation. South Carolina has her honor at stake and will protect her honest creditors. Governments necessarily move slowly, and after so many years of plundering it is but natural that the representatives of our people under the new regime should exercise caution.

Reporter—Have your State officers in examining the books of the preceding administrations found evidence of much default?

Governor Hampton—The examination is not yet complete. While the books make one showing there is abundant evidence of crime and bribery on the part of a number of officials. One Senator has already resigned, another high officer is charged with having received $17,000 as a bribe and sums ranging from $250 to $5,000 are easily traceable to the parties paying and receiving. In a little while we shall get at the bottom facts.

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT.

Reporter—Since your inauguration, Governor, do you observe the signs of a change in the condition of South Carolina?

Governor Hampton—Most assuredly so. If you had been in South Carolina a year or two ago you would have found depression and discouragement on every hand. Labor was disorganized. The entire machinery of agricultural production was, so to speak, out of gear. Ignorant local politicians played on the prejudices of the colored people and nearly demoralized whole communities. The poor negroes were taxed by unprincipled office-holders right and left, and blindly paid what you might call blood money. They were taught to hate their employers. They would leave the field, contracts, everything, behind them at the beck and call of a local party organization. They were taught to believe either that a return to slavery awaited their opposition to party commands, or they were threatened and whipped into party line. Probably in the whole course of our political history there has never been such a compact force ready for any and every work, and such a complete obedience to autocratic power as that which existed in South Carolina. It was a reign of audacity and crime.

Reporter—And all that is changed?

Governor Hampton—I was about to tell you. From one end of the State to the other peace reigns where before all was turmoil and fear. The planter begins to feel assurances because the laborer is working better. Notwithstanding the general commercial depression a feeling of confidence has been engendered. When I called for a payment of taxes on account for the purpose of supporting my government before the Legislature assembled, I received more money than I could use. Colored people who never paid a tax before paid it then. There have been fewer crimes of every grade. Our courts are reorganized and justice is administered with an even hand. You can ride with safety through any part of South Carolina, and Republicans are continually addressing me letters pledging their adherence to my platform and promising their co-operation.

THE WADE HAMPTON PLATFORM.

Reporter—Pardon me, Governor, but what do you call your platform?

Governor Hampton—It is the same that you heard me announce in Columbia in 1865, when, in the presence of a concourse of colored people and a few whites, I claimed for them not only suffrage, but perfect equality with the white man under the law as it was administered in Massachusetts or Indiana, and, so far as their intelligence permitted, the enjoyment of their share of official privileges. It is only a little while ago that I appointed Richard Gleaves, formerly a high official of the State and one of the most respectable colored men in it, a Trial Justice, and I have no doubt that he will faithfully perform the functions of his office. In a word, my platform means the restoration of the old friendship between the two races, the development, through them, of the resources of South Carolina and the South generally, the obliteration of all animosity and the beginning of an era in which mere politics shall take a secondary place. We have had enough of party; now we want to grow.

Reporter—And what do you consider the elements of that growth?

Governor Hampton—Emigration and capital. There is no State in the Union which offers greater inducements to those who seek a competency and comfort than South Carolina. Our water power is superb. Our lands are cheap and productive. Our railway system enables the farmer to reach the seaboard with comparative ease. The climate is healthy, the soil is rich; cotton, wheat and corn are successfully grown up to our northern border, and the time has gone by when people are proscribed for anything but dishonesty. It is our desire to welcome every family of settlers, and they will readily discover the difference between the reception which they will meet and the treatment of the miserable political adventurers who have so long been the pests of the South.

PRESIDENT HAYES.

Reporter—It may be a delicate question, Governor Hampton, but let me put it to you at the risk of a rebuff. What do you think of President Hayes?

Governor Hampton—I have no hesitation in saying that I like him. He is a true man, and evidently understands the wants of the entire country. Politically, in a party sense, many of our people, and I among the rest, may differ with him; but why should we antagonize one who has done so much to secure our welfare? When I saw him in Washington he asked no compromise; I required none. I simply asked him to remove the federal troops from the State House, and on my guarantee of public order he did so. You know what has been the result, and it might have come years ago had our people united on a common platform. There is a great deal of talk about Mr. Hayes having been fraudulently elected. It was the Democrats in Congress who made the Commission, and the Commission having given its decision it becomes the citizens of the United States to accept the verdict of that body. We of the South certainly have no right to complain of the policy which he has observed in the treatment of our section. When a people have endured with so much fortitude and forbearance political evils which entered into and affected their domestic and business life, it poorly becomes them to throw obstructions in the path of a new ruler whose aim appears to be the reconstruction of the entire country upon a basis which means peace and prosperity throughout the land.

Senator M. C. Butler's Reply.

Our readers will remember the friendly letter to General M. C. Butler from the cashier of Chambersburg National Bank, Mr. George R. Messersmith, which was first published in the *Register* on the 16th ultimo, and which has since been extensively copied throughout the United States with favorable comments. Mr. Messersmith, it will be remembered, although a staunch and decided Republican, congratulated General Butler upon his election to the United States Senate, and in the warmest manner returned his thanks for the courtesy and dignified soldierly conduct of General Butler when he was charged with the custody of the bank and its cashier, during Stuart's raid on Chambersburg in 1862. The Philadelphia *Times* publishes the reply of General Butler in a recent issue, and we doubt not that its liberal sentiments will produce a different impression among the Northern people to that usually entertained in regard to General Butler. The reply is as follows:

EDGEFIELD, S. C., May 13, 1877.

Mr. G. R. Messersmith:

MY DEAR SIR—I received your very kind letter of the 28th ultimo, and beg to reciprocate the sentiments of kindness and goodwill therein expressed.

I have not forgotten the occasion to which you refer and never shall. It was a terrible night, and I am glad to know that you remember the pleasant side of the martial picture. Why should we all not do so, and forget the passions, heart burnings and wounds of our fearful strife? We all fought well, did our best, and I feel no dishonor at surrendering my sword to superior numbers, and I am sure no honorable man, who is a true American citizen, would have me dishonored by it.

President Hayes is elevating the statesmanship of the country to a higher plane and must succeed in his "new departure" on that line. I trust in God he may, and that we shall henceforth have less sectionalism and partisan bitterness.

The country North as well as South requires peace and quiet and the development of a kindlier and more natural feeling. Republican institutions are just as dear to us of the South as ever, and we shall feel a profound pride in their complete triumph and perpetuation. We have a new era in South Carolina, and under Hampton's administration we confidently anticipate a stride forward in every department of life, which will bring happiness and wealth and contentment in its train to all classes and conditions of our people. The millenium has not come, but the messenger of peace has, and we rejoice. If I should pass through your city I will do myself the pleasure of paying you a visit, and beg that you will not come to South Carolina without calling to see me. I shall be most happy to have you make a raid on Edgefield and take me prisoner in my own house, and then we shall be even.

Very truly yours, &c.,

M. C. BUTLER.

— The appointment of Kenneth Raynor, of North Carolina, as Solicitor of the Treasury, has revealed a circumstance in connection with the matter which is not very creditable to any of the parties concerned. Secretary Sherman declared that "political pressure" necessitated the resignation of Mr. Talbot, who was Solicitor of the Treasury, and the sequel showed that it was to make a place for Kenneth Raynor, who had been left out in the cold in a most unfeeling manner. It seems that during the last week of Grant's administration, Mr. Raynor was nominated as commissioner to edit the new edition of the revised statutes, but the nomination was held back in the committee to which it had been referred, and was not acted upon before the Senate adjourned. Ex-Senator Boutwell, of Massachusetts, was the Chairman of the committee which retained the nomination, and thereby hangs the story. At the extra session of the Senate, held just after Hayes was inaugurated, when it was thought Raynor would be most certainly renominated, the President sent in the name of Mr. Boutwell, who had acted in the matter so as to keep this office open for himself, and it was necessary afterwards to get Raynor another place. Hence, the "political pressure" upon Secretary Sherman.

Acts Passed by the General Assembly at the Extra Session of 1877.

AN ACT to charter the Grangers' Savings Bank, of Anderson, South Carolina.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted* by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That W. W. Russell, John B. Watson, J. Belton Watson, Kenon Breazeale, Joseph Y. Fretwell, William Burriss, W. W. Humphreys, James H. McCanell, William McGukin, Matthew Snipes, James A. Drake, T. B. Lee, Stephen McCully, N. A. McCully, P. K. McCully, E. M. Rucker, B. D. Dean, Peter R. Brown, D. L. Cox, L. N. Clinkscales, J. E. Breazeale, and their successors and associates, be, and they are hereby, constituted and made a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Grangers' Savings Bank, of Anderson, South Carolina;" and by that name and style shall be, and are hereby, made capable in law to have, purchase, enjoy, and retain to it and its successors, lands, rents, tenements, goods, chattels and effects of whatever kind or quality whatsoever, and the same to sell, alien or dispose of; to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended in courts of record, or any other place whatsoever, and have perpetual succession; to have and exercise the rights and privileges of other corporations now existing, or that may hereafter be enacted, and also to make, have and use a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure; and also to ordain and put in execution such by-laws and regulations as may seem necessary and convenient for the government of the said corporation.

SEC. 2. That the capital stock of said corporation shall be $20,000, to be divided into shares of $100 each, and may be increased from time to time to a sum not exceeding $200,000, as may be deemed necessary by the board of directors.

SEC. 3. That this association may organize and elect a President and five or more directors, and may go into operation as soon as $20,000 of the capital stock shall be paid in: *Provided*, That the stockholders shall be liable to the amount of the stock held by them respectively.

SEC. 4. The President and directors shall appoint such clerks and other officers as they may find necessary properly to conduct the business of said company, and allow them suitable compensation; all of which clerks and officers shall hold their places during the pleasure of said President and directors.

SEC. 5. The mode of voting at the meetings of said company shall be one vote for each share of stock.

SEC. 6. The first meeting of stockholders of said association shall be on the fourth Monday in September, 1877, and thereafter on the same day of each year, shall they hold their annual meeting: *Provided*, The said stockholders, at any regular meeting, or a board of directors, at any time may change the day of said annual meeting; and the President and directors may at any time call a general meeting of the stockholders.

SEC. 7. The members of this association shall not be liable for any loss, damage or responsibility, other than the property they have in the capital and funds of the company, to the amount of the shares held by them respectively, and any profits arising therefrom not divided.

SEC. 8. That said association shall have power and authority to invest its capital, stock or other funds in bank, or other stocks in purchase of bonds of the United States, bonds issued by this or any other State of the United States, and in bonds of any incorporated company, to lend money upon personal security or mortgages of real estate, to discount bonds, notes and bills of exchange or other evidences of debt, and use their property in any manner incidental to a banking business, or the general business of the association.

SEC. 9. This act shall be in full force as soon as the election of President and directors takes place, and the capital stock of $20,000 be paid in.

Approved June 9, 1877.

JOINT RESOLUTION to raise a commission to investigate the indebtedness of the State.

In view of the great uncertainty that exists in the minds of the property owners and tax paying portion of our people as to the real and definite amount of the true and valid indebtedness of the State, and the character of the obligations out of which the indebtedness has grown, and of the equally unsatisfactory condition of the credit of the State as long as any doubt or suspicion attaches to claims held against her; and in order to give reasonable assurance to the honest creditor, on the one hand, that the State intends to faithfully meet her obligations at as early a date as practicable; and, on the other hand, to satisfy the tax payers that the General Assembly will have proceeded intelligently in whatever steps may be taken to adjust and provide for the public debt; therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it resolved* by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That, in accordance with that portion of his Excellency's message touching this subject, a commission, to consist of three members of the Senate and four members of the House of Representatives, shall be elected by each house respectively.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of said commission to make a complete and thorough investigation of the following and kindred matters, and to report the results to the next session of the General Assembly, to wit: First, the entire amount of consolidated bonds and certificates of stock that have been issued under the act to reduce the volume of the public debt, and provide for the payment of the same, approved December 22, 1873, so as to show, under proper heads and classifications, the number in the series, the letter, date of issue, date of redemption, denomination, rate of interest, by whom signed and countersigned, and to whom issued. Second, whether there is in the State Treasurer's office on file, as vouchers, cancelled bonds, coupons and certificates of stocks of the issue described, issued in accordance with law, and authorized to be consolidated by the act above recited, to the amount required by said act.

SEC. 3. Should it appear to the commission, in the course of the investigation, that any of said bonds, certificates of stock or coupons have been illegally or otherwise improperly issued, it shall report the same, together with the evidence upon which the illegality or nonconformity to law rests.

SEC. 4. The commission is hereby authorized to require the holders of said bonds, coupons and stocks to produce the same for inspection before the commission in Columbia. Such as shall be found to have been issued according to law, and that are valid *bona fide* bonds, coupons and stocks, shall be registered by their number, letter, denomination, and such other distinctive titles as may be best suited to the object in view, and shall be certified as correct in such form as the commission may deem proper.

SEC. 5. The commission shall have full power and authority to send for persons and papers, and to administer oaths; and false swearing by or before said commission shall be indictable and punishable as perjury.

SEC. 6. The Comptroller General and Treasurer are hereby authorized and required to co-operate with said commission when called upon.

SEC. 7. The commission shall be authorized to sit during the recess of the General Assembly.

SEC. 8. The compensation of the commission shall be a per diem of $5 each.

SEC. 9. It shall also be the duty of said commission to investigate the amount and character of the floating indebtedness of the State, and make a report thereon in detail.

SEC. 10. That said commission shall have power to report any special matter.

SEC. 11. That before said commission shall enter upon its duties, each of the commissioners shall first take and subscribe the following oath, to wit: "I solemnly swear that I am not now, nor was I at the date of my appointment as commissioner, directly or indirectly interested in any bonds or other evidence of State indebtedness to come before me as commissioner, nor am I, or will I become, the attorney or legal representative of any party interested in any such bond or evidence of indebtedness; and, further, that I will honestly, fairly and to the best of my ability perform the duties of commissioner as required by the joint resolution under which I was appointed: So help me God."

SEC. 12. That said commission shall make a report to the General Assembly at the next regular session, during the first week of said session.

THE SOUTH.

A Gratifying Report by an Intelligent Observer.

From the Albany Sunday Press.

Col. J. D. Van Buren has recently returned from an extended visit to the South, and makes a most gratifying report as to the social and industrial condition of the people in that section. In the first place he found them socially superior, even more than is generally supposed. They are liberal-minded, large hearted, refined in manners and high-principled. He found them, almost to a man,

VERY POOR,

but imbued with an indomitable spirit of self-reliance and industry. Men and women, too—who before the civil war were possessed of large wealth and all the advantages which that condition brings, were reduced to the want of the necessaries of life. But having the qualifications of true manhood, they were able to look their desperate condition squarely in the face without shrinking. They saw and comprehended what was needed—downright industry, and they placed themselves in the harness to perform the new duties their necessities had imposed upon them. And they did this cheerfully, too, all of them,

WITHOUT WHINING OR COMPLAINING.

At first the fruits of their labor were small, but they were sure. They became economical, and struggled on with perseverance. The only thing they had to complain of was the very onerous taxation they were subjected to through the corrupt, or loose, or extravagant administration of their public affairs by officials whom they had no voice in selecting. This was the only cause of complaint they had. They accepted the situation they found themselves placed in at the close of the war—the confiscation of their property down even to their last mule; they yielded to this without a murmur, content to enter the fields of industry and work out their own redemption from poverty. They accepted, too, the burden of carrying along the

EMANCIPATED SLAVE POPULATION,

which, suddenly turned loose, with the idea that their working days were over and ended, dragged along, stealing their living when they could not beg it, and taxing the energies, care and attention of the white population to such an extent as to interfere with their own personal duties.

INDUSTRY GENERAL.

Col. Van Buren says there is not a single white man idle in the section he visited. Even the ladies of the South—those who, prior to the war were surrounded with wealth and all its luxuries—are engaged in labors of various kinds. One lady, whose husband had large possessions, but of which he was stripped entirely, being a good house wife, set up a little bread and roll bakery. She kneaded the dough herself and attended to its sale and distribution, and now she has quite a business, employing many hands. Another case was that of a man of wealth whose last prop—a mule—was taken away from him and he was left without the shadow of a semblance even of the wherewith to feed himself and family. He went at work driving a team, hauling brick. There were hundreds of incidents of this kind, the Colonel says, and it did his heart good to see with what a lively, good-natured spirit these men turned their hands to anything which was honorable and honest to help themselves.

THE PROBLEM.

He has full faith in their solving the problem before them—whether the South can be made as prosperous as it was in its palmy days. He thinks their redemption is nigh at hand. He says they are particularly courteous to their northern brothers who come to them in kindness and honesty—who will join them in industry and enterprise. They give a hearty welcome to such. They invite and urge the investment of capital in the productiveness of their soil, full and abiding faith in which they have. They know better than any one else of what it is capable. They frankly admit that the slave labor never did justice to it, and that they would never select that labor themselves. It was there at hand, a part and parcel of their estates and had to be used the same as other accessories.

PRESENT BUOYANCY.

At the present moment they are especially in buoyant spirits, as they see opportunity offered them of selecting their officials themselves, by which they hope to reduce the drain upon their incomes by heavy taxation, which they have suffered now for over ten years. This, Col. Van Buren says, was one of the most promising signs he witnessed; for no matter how hard one may work, if he can see no prospect of gain before him he cannot put much heart in his work.

— It is said Judge Jere Black is engaged in the preparation of a severe review of the electoral commission and of the Supreme Court Judges who decided in favor of Mr. Hayes and the cases for the commission. The article, which is designed for one of the magazines, is said to have been revised by Justice Field one day last week at Judge Black's residence at York, Pa.

General News Summary.

— W. W. Corcoran, the rich Democrat at Washington, has ordered his agents to distribute $20,000 among the poor men and women recently thrown out of employment by the reduction in the departments.

— Stillwell, the man who could not get an office because his wife was Mrs. Hayes' favorite cousin, has got the office for another man and got the other man to appoint him a deputy. Nepotism has not, in years, received so severe a check.

— There is a shade of suspicion that John Sherman didn't imbibe the doctrines of civil-service reform with his early piety, and that if he can spare an hour before breakfast these summer mornings, he would do well to run around to Carl Schurz and take an easy lesson or two.

— David A. Wells told the President the other day that 10 per cent. of the laborers of the country were out of employment, and that, "unless the administration shall soon manage to bring about a different state of things, nearly everybody would go into the opposition."

— Diaz has been recognized as constitutional President of Mexico by Germany. Diaz is satisfied with the instruction of our government to Gen. Ord to pursue marauders into Mexican territory if necessary, and will send a military force to the Rio Grande with a discreet officer to act in harmony with Ord.

— The Louisville *Courier-Journal* is endeavoring to persuade the North to look after its own criminals, and speaks particularly of the Republican State of Pennsylvania, asserting that "the number of murders in one year in the single State of Pennsylvania is greater than the entire number of murders in the Southern States during the same period."

— Mr. Samuel L. Clemens has once more explained where he got the name of Mark Twain. He says it was the *nom de plume* of Captain Isaiah Sellers, who used to write river news over it for the New Orleans *Picayune*. "He died in 1863, and as he could no longer need that signature, I laid violent hands upon it without asking permission of the proprietor's remains."

— Postmaster-General Key, who is "still a Democrat," is understood to return from his Southern trip with the postal commission convinced that there is no danger of division in his party, or likelihood of any whig revival. As a Democrat, this discovery must rejoice Mr. Key's heart; as a pillar of the administration, he cannot very properly make merry over it.

— Mrs. A. T. Stewart, the widow of the millionaire merchant of New York, has made a princely gift to the Episcopal Church of Long Island. It is to take the form of a cathedral church (now building) at Garden City, Long Island, a see house and chapter house, and a suitable endowment for permanent maintenance. The buildings, when completed according to the plans now agreed upon, will be worth about $1,500,000.

— Ex-Governor Bullock of Georgia, who left that State with a very unsavory reputation, returned a few days since to stand trial on some charges of railroad swindling, but, though his counsel (among whom is Ben Hill) pressed for immediate action, the case was postponed till August, and there are hints that prominent Democrats are so much mixed up in the business that they don't want it thoroughly exposed.

— Boss Tweed is discouraged and disgusted, and says the other and equal thieves are getting off easier than he is, and that it isn't a fair show anyhow. The Attorney General of the State returns him his confession, and refuses his release, wanting apparently a fuller confession. But Tweed now proposes to confess judgment in all the cases and suits brought against him, and take his chances for the punishment.

— It looks after all as if President Hayes did not purpose spending much more of his summers in Washington than did Gen. Grant. His trip to New England will occupy a week or more, and after that he has promised to make a trip South. Then he expects to put in considerable time at the Greenbrier White Sulphur Springs. It is expected, by the way, that there will during this summer be a large congregation of prominent politicians of both parties at the White Sulphur, who will combine pleasure with the concoction of political schemes and combinations.

— The ground of the Supreme Court on the eight-hour law is that such restrictions on the freedom of contract must not be interpreted to cover more than the language admits of, and that the language of the act of 1868 does not require that a day's wages shall be paid for eight hours' work, and does not limit the right of employer and employe to agree upon a longer day. Where the laborer continued to work more than a day and accepted the pay for it without protest the court holds that the contract between him and his employer was not at variance with the law and was completely fulfilled.

— For most of the time since the vigilance committee revolution, over 20 years ago, San Francisco municipal politics have been under the lead of a citizens' committee, sometimes self-appointed, but often perpetuating itself, for years, and always independent of national or State politics. Lately this habit has been broken down and party politics has come into the city government with no good effects; but now 4,000 business men and firms have united in a call for the revival of the people's party, to take possession of the municipal government, and it seems to be certain that the old order will be restored.

— Senator Anthony wants New York divided into two States. He thinks that "so great a population is entitled to a larger representation in the Senate." The Senator is very generous, says the New York *Sun*, but there is something of the Trojan horse about his generosity. The Republicans, of whom Senator Anthony is an observant leader, know that they cannot carry the next Presidential election as the States now stand, and they would like to carve another Republican State out of Democratic New York. But New York will remain as it is, the leading State of the Union in brains, wealth and population.

— Prince Louis Napoleon is causing a deal of worriment to his doating mamma by his over-studious habits. He takes little exercise and goes little into society. At present he is hard at work studying up the civil service machinery of France, with a keen eye to the chances probably that the present political complications afford. Mother Eugenie is reported to be match-making in his behalf, and is anxious to see her son married before his 22d birthday. A daughter of Queen Isabella is hinted at as among the possibilities; but the Prince is so intent with his studies that the trouble is to get him to do the necessary courting.

— The Chappaqua farm remains in the Greeley family, but would be sold, if a satisfactory price could be obtained. Col. Smith and his wife (formerly Ida Greeley) are there for the summer, and their first-born child was baptized at the Greeley mansion a few days ago. Being a boy, it was called Horace Greeley, and the service was performed by a Romish priest. Chappaqua is kept in good order, but as a farm it can never pay, except in the hands of a market gardener. It may be attractive as the former residence of a great editor, but it is well known that the inland towns of Westchester county are inferior in point of social rank to those on the banks of the Hudson.

— Ex-Republican Congressman and Presidential Elector Sheldon, of Louisiana, says: We have peace, order, confidence, more tolerance of opinion than ever before, and, so far as I can see, better protection to life, liberty, property and all legal rights. I believe Nicholls to be a good man, and that he will faithfully and effectively perform his duties. The race issue in politics, with all the attending prejudices, is passing away. It looks as if intelligence and integrity would now dominate without regard to color. I believe we are in a better condition to have a republican party which will do honor to the nation and carry the State than if Packard had been sustained.

— Whether there was any antecedent arrangement for it or not in