

on their acceptances, and at the average rate including interest, exchange and commissions, of about twenty per cent. This policy was destructive to the planter and merchant, and eventually ruined the banks. Under these circumstances Gov. McNutt was willing to aid in chartering a property bank, to be placed under the control of planters and managed for their benefit—he however objected to pledging the faith of the state for banking purposes, and warned the country against the dangers of a great multiplication of banks in the state. He canvassed over the whole district, and his principles were well known, and in many respects differed widely from those of the District. On all occasions he avowed the doctrine that it was the duty of a member to represent truly his constituents unless by so doing he would, in his opinion, violate the constitution, or be guilty of an act of moral turpitude.

This has always been considered sound democratic doctrine. The whigs however profess and act upon different principles.

The legislature had not met in 1834, and in 1835 was broken up by the whigs of the Senate, because the representatives from the Choctaw counties had been admitted to take their seats—during those two years, the other States of the Union had chartered many banks, and when our Legislature met in January, 1836—numerous petitions were presented for bank charters. The first bill introduced in the Senate was for the charter of the Brandon bank, its passage was urged under the pretext that the company would construct a Rail Road from Jackson to Mobile. When this bill was under discussion Gov. McNutt took occasion to point out the defects in the banking system, and predicted the ruin which would ensue from an undue expansion of our circulation. He was sustained in his opposition to that bill by only one Senator.

The next bill that came up was to charter the Commercial Bank of Natchez—this bill met with his most strenuous opposition—and again he was sustained by but a single Senator. About that period Judge Bodley, who had been a candidate at the preceding election and defeated, visited Jackson for the avowed purpose of attending court. He was then a director of the rail road bank of this place, and during the residue of the session, he was an active Lobby Member. He represented that Gov. McNutt's opposition to the Mississippi and Alabama Rail Road company met with the decided disapprobation of his constituents, and that he was expected to pursue a different course. The Judge procured a bill to be introduced into the house for an increase of two millions of dollars of the capital of the Rail Road Bank of this city. He also drew the bill incorporating the Tombigby Rail Road and Banking Company, and procured by his untiring exertions the support of the Lowndes delegation to that measure. He was for connecting Vicksburg with Mobile and Columbus. Governor McNutt finding it was impossible to defeat any bank bill in the Senate, tried to mitigate and control a system which he could not defeat. For this purpose he introduced a series of resolutions intended to test the sense of the Senate as to the extent of banking capital to be chartered and the restrictions to be placed in the charters to guard against abuses. These resolutions produced a long and angry discussion—those who heard it will remember that Gov. McNutt was not viewed as a friend in the abstract to banks but on the contrary opposed to them in principle—but inasmuch as other states were increasing their banking capital and his constituents demanded a further increase, he felt bound to carry out their views. The proposed increase of the rail road bank was intended to promote a stock speculation of some of the directors and their friends—when the bill came to the Senate, it was, on motion of Gov. McNutt, so amended as to defeat their scheme—and the amendment was consequently rejected by the directors who held the proxies of the stockholders.

Gov. McNutt was not in favor of chartering the Lake Washington Bank, but gave it his vote because he knew that his constituents were favorable to the measure. As a Senator, he could not refuse to vote for banks in those portions of the State then destitute, after sanctioning their increase in his district. He, however, defeated many bank bills which had passed the lower house. He was the chairman of a committee to whom they were all referred; there, when there was no prospect of defeating a bank bill, he amended it; but many of the most salutary amendments he proposed were voted down by the Senate. At that session parties in the Senate were equally divided. When he returned home, in the spring of 1836, he was denounced by the whig party, for his opposition to the banking system.

Previous to the April session, 1837, he was instructed, by a petition to the Legislature, signed by a large majority of his constituents, to vote for the Water Works Bank and the Bank of Vicksburg. To carry through these measures, he was compelled to vote for banks in other portions of the State. Nine tenths of the signers of those petitions were whigs. In voting for the charter of new banks Gov. McNutt was giving their votes, not his own. He could not carry out their intentions without voting for banks in other portions of the State.—Their instructions compelled him to vote for the banks at Vicksburg, Port Gibson, Canton, Beaton, Lexington, Grenada, Holly Springs and Hernando, in 1837. Their known wishes and the importunities of leading whigs compelling him to vote for the banks he did in 1836. During the three sessions he remained in the Legislature no bank bill was defeated in the house, many of them passed that body without being read, the whig members from this district never raising their voices in opposition to the alarming increase—they never made a single effort to arrest their passage or to place salutary restrictions in their charters. Loud and often did they denounce Gov. McNutt as a Loco Foco Bentonian, a hard money man, opposed to all banks, and the foe of the credit system.

But it is said that he favored the post note policy. It is well known that Gov. Lynch sent a circular to all the banks to send delegates to meet the legislature at the called session, in April, 1837. These delegates recommended the passage of a bill authorizing the banks to issue post notes. Gov. McNutt voted against the bill in all its stages, and on

its final passage his name is found recorded to be negative. Every Senator that voted against the bill was a democrat. See Journal of the Senate, 1837, p. 103.

During the three sessions he served in the legislature he was in constant correspondence with the editor of the Vicksburg Register—His letters were published without his signature. Mr. Shannon can point them out. They will prove that he was opposed to the banking system of this State—that he warned the people of the irreparable evils it would inflict upon them—that he cautioned the banks to cease discounting bills, or bills drawn without funds in hand or expectancy to meet them, to be satisfied with moderate profits, and, above all things, not to transcend the powers invested in them by the legislature. His admonitions passed unheeded; and the consequence has been the bankruptcy of the country and the banks. At the close of the session, in May, 1837, Gov. McNutt was bro't out by the Anti-bank party as a candidate for Chief Magistrate of the State. He had been in public life less than two years, and his legislative course was less known—He had not been a silent member. He forthwith entered upon the canvass, and traversed and made speeches in forty-eight of the fifty-six counties of the State. He denounced the whole existing banking system in every speech—he concealed none of his principles, and vindicated his course in the legislature.

The canvass was animated and unusually bitter—he was elected, beating Dr. Morgan more than 7,000 votes, and Col. Grimball more than 5,000.

In the fall of 1837, the banks advanced largely on cotton, and expanded their circulation to at least double what it was in May, 1837.—Gov. McNutt protested against their course, and predicted that it would be ruinous alike to the country and the banks, and beneficial alone to bankrupts, speculators and spendthrifts.—Gov. Lynch's term did not expire until January 8, 1838; he sent in the annual Message at that session. When the bank commissioners made their report at that session, Gov. McNutt sent it to both branches of the Legislature, with a long message, giving his views in relation to the banking system, and urging the passage of a law compelling them to resume in Nov. 1838. At that time all the banks in the Union were in a state of suspension. The Post Note Law of 1837 was in full force, and he well knew that the banks in this State would not resume unless they could provide for the heavy circulation they then had out. Most of the circulation at that time was held by capitalists and banks abroad. As a matter of necessity the Governor recommended that post notes bearing interest should be given out in place of irredeemable paper bearing no interest. It was not contemplated by that message that post notes should be issued after the resumption was effected, much less that the post note system should become the permanent currency of the country. That message recommended the passage of a law prohibiting the banks from extending their issues until a resumption is effected, and declares that "any bank issues would only cause our currency to depreciate still more, procrastinate the resumption of specie payments, and demoralize the country" time has fully proved the truth of that assertion. Had the legislature in 1838 carried out by law the Governor's recommendations, the currency of the State would now be sound, and her credit restored. It is fresh in the recollection of our readers that Gov. McNutt opposed the policy of the Union Bank last fall in issuing post notes, and advancing on cotton.—The planters are now receiving returns; many of them will lose fifteen or twenty dollars per bale on their cotton, and the post notes of the Union Bank are now worth only eighty cents on the dollar.

Gov. McNutt in his annual message to the Legislature last January, gave his views at great length on the bank question—twelve thousand copies of that message were printed by order of the legislature, and have been distributed over the State. It was also printed in every newspaper in the State. This renders it impracticable for the whig press to misrepresent him. Many of the whig party are now convinced of the soundness of his policy, and will cordially support his re-election. The democratic party, with the exception of a few bank directors, who are blinded by their prejudices or seduced by a sordid love of money, will give him their undivided support next November. It should not be forgotten that the whigs had a majority at the last session of the legislature, and that they refused to adopt our measures calculated to check the banks in their lawless and destructive course. It will be borne in mind that McNutt vetoed five bank charters in 1838, and that a dozen more would have passed at that session if he had not interposed. Even at the last session of the legislature a batch of bank charters passed the house of representatives, when the whigs had the majority, and were lost in the Senate, where the democrats were in the ascendancy. If the whigs are at heart opposed to the banking system of the state, let them join the democrats in a thorough reform of the whole system. This can only be done by laying the axe at the root of the tree—by repealing all bank charters founded in fraud or managed in a manner injurious to the public good.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

IN pursuance of an order of the Honorable Probate Court of Pontotoc co: I will proceed to sell to the highest bidder at the Court House door in the town of Holly S, rings, on the 7th day of Oct. 1839, (on a credit of 12 months,) the following described quarter sections of land belonging to the estate of Erasmus P. McDowell, deceased.

To Wit—The south west 1 4 of sec. 23 T 3 R 2 west; south east 1 4 of sec 23 T 3 R 2 west; north east 1-4 of sec 23 T 3 R 2 west; south west 1-4 of sec 13 T 3 R 2 west; north east 1-4 of sec 32 T 4 R S west; north east 1-4 of sec 24 T 7 R 6 west; south east 1-4 of sec 13 T 7 R 6 west; north east 1-4 of sec 32 T S R S west; north west 1-4 of sec 7 T 2 R 2 east; south west 1-4 sec 9 T 3 R 3 east; south west 1-4 sec 10 T 6 R 2 east; south west 1-4 sec 12 T 2 R 3 east; north east 1-4 sec 14 T 7 R 3 east; south east 1-4 sec 15 T 5 R 2 east; south west 1-4 sec 25 T 1 R 3 east; north east 1-4 sec 24 T 1 R 3 east; south east 1-4 sec 26 T 3 R 7 east and the north east 1-4 of sec 26 T 3 R 7 east.

Bonds with approved security will be required of purchasers.

TILLOTSON B. McDOWELL one of the Administrators of the estate of Erasmus P. McDowell deceased.

Pontotoc, Aug. 20th, 1839.—tf

From the Vicksburg Sentinel.

A. G. McNUTT.

The whigs are now making a strong effort to impose upon the people and to induce them to believe that Gov. McNutt is mainly responsible for the great increase of banks in this State, and was a strenuous advocate of the post note policy. It is indeed strange that after being denounced for four years as a hard money man, he should now be charged with being the author of the banking system of this state. We will give a history of his legislative career.

In the summer of 1835, he became a candidate to represent the counties of Warren and Washington in the Senate. At that period the district contained less than 3 hundred democratic votes; the whig vote was near one thousand—all the banks then in existence were under the control of commission merchants, and money could only be obtained