

THE GREENVILLE ENTERPRISE.

Devoted to News, Politics, Intelligence, and the Improvement of the State and Country.

JOHN C. BAILEY, PROR.

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, JUNE 7, 1871.

VOLUME XVIII—NO. 5

Subscription Two Dollars per annum. Advertisements inserted at the rate of one dollar per square of twelve lines (this also type) for the first insertion; fifty cents each for the second and third insertions, and twenty-five cents for subsequent insertions. Yearly contracts will be made. All advertisements must have the number of insertions marked on them, or they will be inserted till ordered out, and charged for. Orders ordered otherwise, Advertisements will invariably be "displayed." Obsolete notices, and all matters pertaining to the benefit of any one, are regarded as Advertisements.

Tax-Payers' Convention.

[CONCLUDED.]

Upon re-assembling, Mr. Butler, from the committee of eleven, to confer with the Governor, reported as follows. The report being adopted:

REPORT:
The committee to whom was referred the resolution of the Convention, "That a committee of eleven be appointed by the chair to confer with his Excellency Governor Scott, in pursuance of the fourth resolution of the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of the city of Charleston, and report to this Convention in writing or otherwise," beg leave to report. That they have had an extended conference with the Governor pursuant to the resolution of instruction; eliciting the following results:

It was stated to the Executive by your committee, that they visited him, not as partisans of any political party, but simply as representatives of the Tax-payers of the State, to ascertain in what manner they could co-operate with him in correcting many of the prevailing evils now causing popular discontent, and to obtain from him an official statement of such facts and suggestions, as would promote confidence and secure retrenchment and economy in the administration of the State Government.

The Governor, in reply, expressed his gratification that he was afforded an opportunity to lay before the representatives of the tax-payers of the State, the facts in his possession and such information as would meet the views of the committee.

He observed first, with reference to the finances of the State, that notwithstanding the rumors that an illegal and irregular manipulation of the public funds had taken place, it was the fact, that nothing had been done involving the credit of the State which was not strictly authorized by law. And to satisfy the committee they were invited by the Treasurer, Comptroller-General and State Agent, to make a thorough examination of their respective official accounts. It is very gratifying to your committee to state that these officials were present at the interview, and have given free access to their offices and books, upon which a special report will be made by a sub-committee of this Convention.

The Governor produced the printed statement of the funded debt of South Carolina, which has been furnished to the members of the Convention by the Comptroller-General, and remarked that he believed it to be substantially true, and that he had not signed any other bonds than those set forth in said statement, and that none had been issued except by authority of law.

2. With reference to the unnecessary multiplication and increase of State and county offices, he remarked that he was satisfied a large number of officials could be profitably dispensed with, and that if the Convention would take positive action upon the subject, it would probably have weight with the Legislature, and induce economical restrictions, and expressed the determination to exert his influence with the General Assembly to effect that object; all of which is more specifically set forth in the report of a sub-committee especially charged with this branch of their instructions.

3. Upon the suggestion of your committee, that one of the principal causes of popular complaint and dissatisfaction, consisted in the fact that many of the Trial Justices and other officers and agencies of the law were incompetent, and so unequally distributed as to prevent convenient and ready access, his Excellency replied that he fully appreciated the force of the remark, and knew that this was one of the most fruitful causes of the difficulties which have existed during the last six or eight months—that, until recently, he had had trouble in finding a proper class of men for Trial Justices and other officers, and that he was satisfied that much of the personal violence and indifference to law was due to the fact that the people have not the means of enforcing the law within their reach.

4. In reply to an enquiry from your committee as to his opinion of minority representation, the

Governor was clear and explicit in his endorsement of the plan, believing as he said, that it would do more to destroy prejudice, prevent ill-feeling and educate the majority, than any event which could occur—that they would be the gainers should the Legislature at its next session pass an act providing for minority representation.

5. In regard to the election laws, the Governor was very decided in the opinion that they should be amended, alleging as the reason that as they now stand, distrust was created in the minds of the people, and temptation offered for the commission of fraud. He added that at the next session of the Legislature he would urge a change so that the ballots could be counted in public as soon as the polls were closed.

6. Your committee urged the inability of the people, after paying the taxes now being collected, to pay a second tax in November next. His Excellency said in reply, that it had been represented to him by well-informed citizens in several parts of the State, that for a large class of citizens, whose taxes were small in amount, the month of November was a more convenient time of payment than any other; and he hoped that to this class of our citizens the collection of the tax at that time would not prove oppressive. But yielding to the representation of your committee, he requested them to report to the Convention, that he would authorize the Comptroller to suspend the collection of the taxes in all cases where the payment thereof was inconvenient to the tax-payers. That this postponement shall extend to the first of March, 1872, and that the penalty for payment should not be enforced in the meantime.

In brief, to recapitulate, your committee understand his Excellency as having committed himself to the following propositions:

1. That he has signed no other bonds than those set forth in the debt statement made by the Comptroller-General, and that there have been no fraudulent or illegal issues.
2. That the State and county offices, both elective and appointed, are unnecessarily multiplied, and should be reduced in number, and many of them in pay.
3. That many of the officials charged with the administration of justice have been incompetent and inaccessible to the people, and that many of the disorders complained of in the State have been created by this cause, and that he will replace them with competent persons whenever he can do so.
4. That he is in favor of the cumulative system of voting and minority representation; and would be glad to see it made a part of the law of this State.
5. That the election laws are defective, lead to fraud, and should be materially amended, and that he will exert his influence to that end.
6. That he would have the collection of the taxes of next November postponed until the 1st of March, 1872, and not enforce the penalty for non-payment until that time.

Your committee are aware of the widespread feeling of distrust of the present administration, and whilst they share to a great extent this common feeling, they think it would be wise and proper that a cheerful response be made to this effort of his Excellency to secure retrenchment and reform in the administration of public affairs.

There has been nothing in the different interviews between your committee and the Governor which leads them to believe that he desires or intends to repudiate his assurances of an earnest desire to correct many of the evils and grievances of which we complain. That frauds the most dangerous and demoralizing have been perpetrated by many of the State officials, your committee have no doubt; but an investigation has scarcely been embraced within the scope of their instructions, even if they had had the power under the sanctions of law and the time to have done so.

In this connection, however, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to direct the Attorney-General to enquire into all cases of alleged frauds upon the Treasury, that may be brought to his notice; and to make suitable provision for the remuneration of informers, and to the compensation of additional counsel, which may be necessary. That the Attorney-General be instructed, if found necessary or expedient, to attach the property of persons ascertained to be in default to the Treasury, or in any other

way to be unlawfully in possession of moneys of the State.

A committee on the part of the Legislature is now in session in this city charged with the investigation of the transactions of some of the State officials. Your committee recommend the appointment of a committee of three by the President of this Convention, whose duty it shall be as representatives of a large body of the tax-payers of the State, to tender their services and co-operation to the Legislative committee, in aid of the investigation now going on.

Your committee not having the authority of law to press their enquiry into the numerous alleged frauds and corruptions, to a satisfactory conclusion, and recognizing the occasion as one of too much gravity to be hastily and inadvisedly passed upon, have declined to be influenced in this regard by the unsworn statements of individuals. The foregoing recommendations, however, if carried out, will test the sincerity of those who have the authority for investigation, and lead to a purification of the body politic.

The adoption of the following suggestions is respectfully recommended for the consideration of the Legislature at its next session, with a view to the enactment and modification of certain laws.

1. Increase the revenues of the State by additional legislation insuring the full and faithful payment of the royalty on phosphate deposits dug and mined, pursuant to the terms of the charters of the respective companies. This may be effected by the appointment of reliable bonded inspectors or weighers, who should be required to determine by weight or measure the number of tons mined by weight or measurement before sale or shipment, and who shall receive for compensation, a reasonable commission on amounts secured to the State through his office.

Your committee are advised that a large proportion of the public expenses might be met from this source, if properly collected, whereas, but a thousand dollars have so far been paid into the State Treasury.

2. Repeal or prevent in future acts vesting valuable franchises, the right to dig and mine phosphates, etc., in companies, all or a great part of whose corporations are members of the Legislature at the time of the grant.

3. Stop the drawing of money from the Treasury for alleged current legislative expenses or the order of the Speaker of the House or President of the Senate, in advance of any appropriation, which practice is in direct violation of Section 22, Article 2 of the Constitution, which provides: That "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in pursuance of an appropriation made by law."

4. All appropriation bills should specify items under each general head. For instance, the practice is to cover, under head of "Legislative Expenses," the payments to alleged employees, clerks, messengers, etc., of the General Assembly, who, as your committee are informed, outnumber the members thereof.

5. Reduce the number of State and county officers, by blending the duties of two or more offices in one, and reduce the fees of Coroners, which are excessive.

6. Enact a law limiting each session of the Legislature thirty days.

7. A law should be enacted, or the present law modified, prohibiting County Commissioners from issuing any check until the account upon which it is alleged to be based, is first audited and approved by the County Treasurer or some other independent officer, and requiring the Commissioners to publish quarterly a statement in the nearest newspaper, of all amounts collected and paid by them, from whom, collected, to whom paid and on what account.

8. Let the old law regulating the fees of solicitors be substituted for the present.

9. Repeal the act granting a salary of \$2,500 per annum to the Adjutant-General. The office is a mere sinecure. Its practical duties can be performed by a clerk, to be appointed by the Governor, acting as Assistant Adjutant-General.

10. Limit each public officer to one salary or compensation, for the same service. (Vide Lieutenant Governor's pay.)

11. A bolish Commission to codify the laws. It costs the State \$15,000 and does no duty which cannot be discharged by a clerk. The duties of your committee, Mr. President have been delicate and arduous, and the time within which they were expected to dis-

charge them, too limited to permit such a thorough investigation of the matters committed to them, as they justly deserve. They have had to rely upon statements voluntarily furnished by the officials themselves, and the evils sought to be corrected may not find immediate redress. They trust, however, that such information as they have been able to procure, may lead to other and further investigation by the committee above recommended, and that the suggestions and remedies which they have had the honor to make, may result in good to the whole people of the State.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. C. BUTLER,

Chairman of the Committee.

After the several committees had rendered their reports, resolutions of thanks were adopted, expressive of gratification of the manner in which the Governor and other State officers had conducted themselves, to facilitate the various examinations and proceedings, also thanking the several railroad companies for the tender of free passage of the delegates to their homes. Also, to the presiding officer, Hon. W. D. Porter, for the able manner in which he had conducted the proceedings.

Mr. Porter responded in a speech expressive of his appreciation of the honor, and of his feelings on the occasion.

SPEECH OF MR. PORTER.

If I felt any gratification at the honor conferred in the opening, I must feel still greater gratification at the satisfaction in the manner in which the duties of the chair have been discharged. It has been altogether to me a duty of pleasure. It has been my fortune to preside over one branch of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina. I would pay to that body the tribute of saying that during the whole period during which I discharged those duties, I can call to my mind no act of any member towards the chair, or towards a fellow-member that would bring to me a feeling of regret. So much kindness was always exhibited in that body that it is a memory of an honor that will remain with me to the last day of my life. And now, gentlemen, one of the greatest pleasures is what seems to me a reunion of the same kind. I see many of my old associates. I receive from so many recollections of the relations, that I feel as if it were a meeting of old friends after a long period of tribulation. It is really a pleasure to look again in your faces, to see the sparkling of your eyes, and to feel the throbbing of your hearts—hearts that are now, as they have ever been, true to the best interests of the commonwealth. As for this Convention, I will not speak in praise of it; we need not be ashamed of it. Let its results speak in behalf for it to the country for its sympathy.

I think it good that this voluntary body has determined to continue its sessions. If it act as an undignified and unharmonious body, it will accomplish nothing; but, if it act on the same spirit that it has, if it avoid Federal and State politics; if it wage no war against the State or the United States Governments, but simply, if it welcome to its ranks, as we have done, gentlemen who propose to do good, who are for wholesome laws, good magistrates, and a just administration of the public funds; if it do that it will have accomplished a great good. I think we have done much to remove misunderstanding, and inaugurate a period of better feeling, and better conduct of public affairs. Thanking you again for the honor you have conferred upon me, and wishing you a safe return to your homes, I bid you farewell.

CHARLOTTE, COLUMBIA AND AUGUSTA RAILROAD.—From a report to be submitted to the stockholders at the annual meeting, we learn that the earnings of the road for the year closing December 31, 1870, were \$660,474.05, while the operating expenses and taxes (Federal and State) were \$289,542.79, leaving a balance of \$270,931.26; deducting interest on notes and coupons paid, \$129,109.77 leaving the net balance \$141,821.49 which is nearly five per cent. on the capital stock of the company, amounting to \$2,571,209.90. This balance has been expended in completing the grading of the Augusta division of the road, the bridge across the Savannah River, building depots, and repairing and purchasing rolling stock. Earnings of the past year are greater by \$156,688.56 than those of the year preceding. The entire bond debt is \$1,282,000.

Original Communications.

For the Greenville Enterprise.

Messrs. Editors: I see in a recent number of your paper, a call for a public meeting at Tandy Babb's store, four miles below Fairview, to consider the practicability of forming a new county out of the lower portion of Greenville and upper portion of Laurens.

That any actual necessity exists for such a move, is extremely doubtful; and although it is not at all probable that the Legislature can be influenced to make such an injurious change for the general prosperity of our County, it may be well enough to state some of the objections to such a policy, for the benefit of those who are prompted by mere personal interest to advocate so ruinous a policy for Greenville County.

In Article 2 and Section 3, of the Constitution of the State, will be found the following sentence: "No counties shall hereafter be formed of less extent than 625 square miles; nor shall any existing counties be reduced to a less extent than 625 square miles." Greenville County, by the late survey, has 785 square miles, and so it is plain we have but very little more available territory than is required by the Constitution, for it is well known that over 100 square miles of our territory is so mountainous that it can never be available for farming lands, or in any way be made to add materially to the wealth of the County. Over 500 square miles of territory must be taken from Laurens, or some other County, to form this new county. The portion that would be taken off of Greenville, would throw the county in the most awkward shape possible; the Court House would be thrown on one side of the County, and then the upper part of the County would have just cause of complaint for being thrown so far from the Court House; as it is, the Court House is about centered, and we have no howl of complaint from the upper part of the County; although the citizens have to travel farther to the Court House than the citizens of the lower part of the County. It would be well for the upper part of the County to watch after their interests as this movement progresses, for they have much to lose, if the change can be made, and nothing to gain by it.

This is a question that should come directly before all the people of the County, because all are interested. If a meeting is held at all, it should be at the Court House. There the sense of the County could be fully ascertained. The idea of one portion of the County seceding without co-operation and approval of a majority of all the citizens, is rather a novel and irregular procedure, and the objections to such a policy, at this time, are of so serious a nature that it is not at all probable that one man in fifty in the County would endorse the move as a good one for the general interest of the whole County, and not but very few that would desire it, that live in the territory that is proposed to make the new county of, when it is fairly discussed on its true merits. Doubtless this may be a very desirable object to a few individuals in the lower part of the County, who are personally interested, and who expect to enhance the value of their property by the change, and even in this they will be sadly mistaken, unless their property is located in some other County. There is no reason, no inducement whatever, for any one in Greenville County to favor this movement; for, in the first place, the amount of territory that could be taken from our County is so small that it would not place the new Court House convenient or nearer to any one than the present one is now, and in this respect the evils that many citizens complained of will in no way be remedied for the lower part of the County; and in the next place, are we prepared to give up one million of dollars worth of the taxable property of the County, and one hundred square miles of our best farming lands, in our present embarrassed circumstances, and by so doing be forced to increase the present rate of taxes at least one fifth more, or fail to meet the current expenses of the year for county purposes?

Would it be an act of justice to the citizens living in that portion of our County, that is proposed to be literally thrown away or to be given for the benefit of other counties, to subject them to the inconvenience of the change, also the necessary increase of taxation that must follow in the organization of a new county? Such a policy would be manifest injustice to the whole County, which would be an

outrageous imposition on that portion that is proposed to be cut off or thrown away, for no division can be made that will benefit any portion of Greenville County. And another and by no means the least objection, is that whenever you decrease the property of a county, you will increase the taxes on the remainder; but if you increase the property of a county in value, then you decrease the taxes for all county purposes, to wit: 5 mills on the dollar will raise as much revenue on ten millions of property as 10 mills will on five millions of property. So, if the people in the lower part of the County desire a decrease in their taxes, it would be a better policy for them to try to increase the territory and taxable property of the County, rather than to decrease it; and, doubtless, this will be the policy of all who desire the general good and prosperity of our County; and, after mature reflection, the most ardent supporters of the scheme will abandon it as unwise, unsafe and impracticable, with no inducements that can in any way warrant its success.

FOR THE GREENVILLE ENTERPRISE.

The New County.

Messrs. Editors: Seeing a meeting is called to be at Tandy Babb's store, on the third Saturday in June, signed "Many Citizens," for the purpose of taking immediate action in relation to forming a new county out of Laurens and Greenville, we take the liberty of saying that perhaps "Many Citizens" are not apprised that measures are already on foot, out of portions of Greenville, Laurens, Abbeville and Anderson, the county site to be at Honea Path, S. C. We agree with "Many Citizens" in all the reasons they offer in favor of forming a new county, both for the convenience for the people and the material interest of the County, and are ready to make a united move; but we want to move in the right direction. A county town needs the advantages of railroads, and without them in these days of progress,

promise much for its citizens. Honea Path has railroad facilities, a beautiful location, a suitable distance from the surrounding county sites, has several stores, a good cotton market, and a little town already on the way. We are satisfied that "Many Citizens" and all concerned will find it to their interest to have the new county located at this point, and hope they will help roll on the ball that is already moving.

To further this matter, all the citizens of Dunklin Township are respectfully requested to meet at Capt. T. Henry Stokes', on Friday the 16th June, at 10 o'clock A. M., to take such preliminary action as is necessary to secure the enterprise. A full attendance is urged, as the merits of the matter will then be discussed, and its importance shown to all. Steps are now being taken in the other counties to the same end, and an expression of opinion from the people of Dunklin Township is most desirable. Come one, come all.

Most respectfully,
OTHER CITIZENS.

GEORGIA RAILROADS.—The income of the Georgia Railroad—171 miles long—running from Atlanta to Augusta, Ga., for the year 1870, was about \$1,400,000. The stock of this road, paying 8 per cent. dividends regularly, commands \$108 to \$110 per share, and the 7 per cent. bonds 93 to par. The income of the Macon and Western Railroad—102 miles in length—running from Atlanta to Macon, was about \$600,000. This stock sells at 105 to 110, and pays 8 per cent. dividends. The securities of these roads are rarely offered and always in demand. The Western and Atlantic Railroad, running from Atlanta to Chattanooga, Tennessee, 138 miles long, shows an income of about \$1,800,000. The Atlanta and Richmond Air Line Railroad, now in process of construction, whose termini are Atlanta, Ga., and Charlotte, N. C., will form a most important link in the through connection between the North and the South. There are now two thousand laborers employed upon this road, and it is expected to be finished at an early day. The first mortgage eight per cent. bonds of this Company, now being negotiated by Messrs. Lancaster, Brown & Co., of New York, are taken up so rapidly that they have advanced the price from 85 to 90, only a limited number being offered at this figure. The road will be 225 miles long, and its bonded debt \$16,000 to the mile.—*Charleston Courier.*

Extracts from Correspondence of the New York Daily Tribune.

A SOUTH CAROLINA UP-COUNTRY TOWN.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 2.

This is by far the prettiest South Carolina town I have yet seen. It lies immediately upon the northern border of the cotton-belt, which stretches southward away to the sea, while to the north lies a rolling picturesque region, producing good crops of corn, and all the smaller grains, and an abundance of fruit. The hazy, serrate summits of the Blue Ridge Mountains bound the view in this direction; and separate the sister Carolinas. The town has a busy, prosperous look. A rapid little river comes dashing down from the mountains, hurries across the main street, and leaps fifty feet into a weird ravine, landing as it goes half its waters to turn the great clattering wheels of two or three mills; and near by there is a large carriage factory, where a firm of Northern men, who settled here before the war, have benefited themselves and the whole community by their enterprise. The tower of a college looks out above the oaks from the summit of a neighboring hill, and, at a safe distance, that the facinations of its inmates may not disturb the boys at their books, there is a girl's seminary in the town. The prosperity of Greenville is due, in large part, to the influence of a few Northern men who came here some 20 years ago, and who, while warmly espousing the Southern cause in the war, did not change with their politics their habits of industry and thrift. Much is owing, also, to the preponderance of the white race in the surrounding country; and the varied productions of the farms—the farmer's rent being dependent upon the success of a single crop, as in the middle and lower districts of the State.

This morning, two farmer-looking men came to my room and introduced themselves as Republicans living in the county fourteen miles north of Greenville. They surprised me by saying that there were over 800 white Republican voters in Greenville. They most part, who see that the Democratic party here is composed of wealthy men and large landholders, who have no sympathy with them. My visitors condemned the corruption of the State Government, and said that if the Ring whom they control the Republican party in the State succeed in renominating themselves next year, there would be a Convention of the Independent Republicans who are opposed to their rule, and another ticket would be nominated. If this were not done, they said they should have nothing to do with State politics, and should vote in 1872 only the Republican Presidential ticket. They said they were National Republicans, and distinguished themselves by this name from the men who endorse the present State Government.

I find the people of Greenville cordial and hospitable, and anxious that the advantages of their town and county should be made known in the North, in order that emigrants may be induced to come here. They seem to be fully sensible of the advantages that would result from an influx of intelligent Northern farmers and mechanics. They say that the owners of large farms would be glad to divide them, and sell the greater part in tracts of from 50 to 100 acres at from \$5 to \$12 an acre, according to the fertility of the soil. The climate is peculiarly pleasant and healthy, the elevation and the proximity of the mountains moderating the heats of summer so that farmers can work out of doors without more inconvenience than is felt in the North; while the winters are so short that the work commenced by the Northern farmer in April and May is here begun in February. In addition to its agricultural resources, the county has great facilities for manufacturing in the water-power furnished by the upper waters of the Saluda River, and its numerous tributaries that come down from the Blue Ridge. There are already six small cotton factories making yarn and coarse cloth, and two paper mills along these streams, but they use but a small fraction of the abundant water-power. The Air-Line Railroad now building from Charlotte, N. C., to Atlanta, Ga., passes through Greenville, and brings it 12 hours nearer to both the North and the West, and upon what will be the great thorough route from New York to the Southwest. The people expect to reap much benefit from the completion of this road in a rise in the value of property and an increase of population and business.