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**The Constitution of the Tax Unions in  
 the State of South Carolina.**

1. The objects of the Tax Unions are  
 the reduction of taxation, and the honest  
 appropriation and expenditure of the  
 public funds.

2. There shall be in each county  
 as many subordinate Tax Unions as  
 may be deemed necessary, but not  
 less than one such subordinate union  
 for each township or ward. There  
 shall be one county Tax Union for  
 each county, and one State Tax Union  
 for the State.

3. Each subordinate Tax Union  
 shall have such name or designation  
 as the members thereof may select, but  
 each County Union shall be designated  
 by the name of the county, and the  
 State Union shall be styled "The State  
 Tax Union of the State of South Car-  
 olina."

4. All taxpayers in this State are  
 eligible to membership of any one  
 Subordinate Tax Union in the county  
 in which they live.

5. Applications for membership  
 must be made in writing and addressed  
 to the Tax Union of the county.  
 Such applications shall be signed  
 by the applicant, or by his au-  
 thority, and shall give the applicant's  
 full name and address. The applica-  
 tions must be submitted to the execu-  
 tive committee of the Subordinate  
 Union to which they are addressed,  
 which committee may report thereon  
 at any meeting of the Union, and a ma-  
 jority of the votes of the members  
 present shall be sufficient to elect.

6. The officers of each Subordinate  
 Union shall be a president, a vice-  
 president, a secretary, a treasurer and  
 an executive committee of five mem-  
 bers, including the president and vice-  
 president who shall be members of such  
 committee *ex officio*.

7. The Subordinate Unions shall  
 hold regular monthly meetings, and  
 shall have authority to hold special  
 meetings as may be necessary.

8. Each member of a Subordinate  
 Union shall pay the treasurer of such  
 union an initiation fee of fifty cents;  
 and also such uniform percentage, not  
 exceeding two per cent., of the tax  
 laid upon him for general State  
 and county purposes, as may be called  
 for by the executive committee of such  
 Union, with the approval of the Union;  
 and such percentage shall be declared  
 and collected before the first day of  
 September in each year.

9. The County Unions shall consist  
 of two delegates from each Subordi-  
 nate Union, with one delegate addition-  
 al for every twenty members beyond  
 twenty in each Subordinate Union.

10. The County Unions shall meet  
 at the respective court-houses on the  
 first Monday in July, October, January  
 and April in each year, with author-  
 ity to hold special meetings upon the  
 call of the executive committee of the  
 County Union.

11. The officers of County Unions  
 shall be a president, a vice-president,  
 a secretary and a treasurer, who shall  
 be elected at the first meeting, and  
 shall hold office until the first Monday  
 in July in the ensuing year, and until  
 their successors shall be elected and  
 shall qualify.

12. The executive committee of the  
 County Unions shall consist of the  
 chairmen of the executive committees  
 of the Subordinate Unions, who shall  
 be *ex officio* members of the County  
 Union, together with the president of  
 the County Union, which county ex-  
 ecutive committee shall have power  
 to elect its own officers.

13. The State Union shall consist  
 of three delegates from each County  
 Union, and shall meet annually in Col-  
 umbia on the fourth Tuesday in No-  
 vember, and at such other times and  
 places as the State Executive Commit-  
 tee may appoint; provided that the  
 first meeting of the State Union shall  
 be held at such time as may be ap-  
 pointed by the executive committee of  
 the Taxpayers' convention.

14. The officers of the State Union  
 shall be a president, three vice-presi-  
 dents, a secretary, a treasurer, an ex-  
 ecutive committee, and such other  
 officers as the Union may determine  
 to appoint.

15. The State executive committee  
 shall consist of two members from  
 each Congressional district, and the  
 president of the State Union. The  
 members of the State Unions from the  
 County Unions of the counties com-  
 posing each Congressional district  
 shall nominate the members of the  
 State Executive Committee from that  
 district.

16. The State Executive Committee  
 shall elect its own officers, and shall  
 meet at such times and places as the  
 chairman, in his own discretion, or  
 upon the written request of two mem-  
 bers of the committee shall appoint.

17. The actual expenses of each  
 member of the State Executive Com-  
 mittee, in attending meetings of the  
 committee, shall be paid upon the or-  
 der of the chairman of the State Ex-  
 ecutive Committee, by the County  
 Unions of the Congressional district  
 which he represents.

18. The State Executive Committee  
 shall make such an assessment as they  
 think necessary, upon the County

Unions, which assessment shall be in  
 proportion to the amount of the last  
 tax laid for general State and county  
 purposes in each county, and shall not  
 exceed one and one-half per cent. of the  
 amount of such tax; and the executive  
 committees of the Several County  
 Unions, in order to meet such assess-  
 ment and defray their other expenses,  
 shall make and collect an assessment,  
 in like proportion, upon the Subordi-  
 nate Unions.

19. All funds received by the treas-  
 urer of the State Union shall be de-  
 posited by him, in his name as treas-  
 urer, in a bank to be designated by  
 the president of the State Union, and  
 no money shall be drawn except upon  
 the draft of the treasurer, counter-  
 signed by the chairman of the State  
 Executive Committee, notice of which  
 provision shall be given to the bank  
 which shall be designated as the place  
 of deposit.

20. The State Executive Committee  
 are authorized to pay the treasurer as  
 compensation for services, if they shall  
 deem it necessary, a commission not  
 exceeding 1 per cent. on all money  
 received by him, and 1 per cent. on  
 all money paid out by him.

21. There shall be prepared by  
 each Subordinate Union a full and cor-  
 rect roster of such Union, giving the  
 name and residence of each member,  
 and also a record of the names of all  
 the taxpayers within the township,  
 ward or other district of which the  
 said Union works. One copy of the  
 roster and record shall be kept by the  
 secretary of the Subordinate Union,  
 open for the inspection of the members,  
 and a duplicate copy of such roster  
 and record shall be sent to the execu-  
 tive committees of the County Union,  
 who shall prepare therefrom a general  
 roster and record for the county. A  
 duplicate of each county roster and  
 record shall be forwarded by the county  
 executive committee to the commit-  
 tee of the State Union, the secretary  
 of which committee shall prepare  
 therefrom a general roster and record  
 for the State.

22. This constitution may be amend-  
 ed by a vote of two-thirds of the County  
 Unions.

JAMES CHESTNUT,  
 Chm. Ex. Com.

The executive committee also adopt-  
 ed unanimously the following resolu-  
 tions:

**Resolved**, That the delegations from  
 the several counties to the Taxpayers'  
 Convention of 1874 be requested to  
 proceed at once to the organization of  
 Subordinate and County Tax Unions,  
 in accordance with the plan now pro-  
 mulgated by the executive committee  
 of that convention.

**Resolved**, That the County Unions  
 shall elect, not later than the first  
 Monday in September, the members  
 of the State Union, which will meet at  
 a time to be hereafter announced by  
 the executive committee of the Tax-  
 payers' Convention.

**Resolved**, That after the organiza-  
 tion of the Tax Unions it would be in  
 expedient in our opinion to reschedule  
 the present convention, and that it be  
 at any time advisable to call the  
 taxpayers of the State into convention  
 again, a new body should be organiz-  
 ed upon nomination of the Unions.

**Resolved**, That this committee,  
 before separating, take great pleasure  
 in placing upon record their appreci-  
 ation of the ability, impartiality and  
 dignity with which their chairman,  
 the Hon. James Chestnut has presided  
 over their deliberations.

**The Changes in the Tax Law.**

[News and Courier.]

The General Assembly, at its last  
 session, passed "an act to reduce all  
 acts and parts of acts providing for  
 the assessment and taxation of prop-  
 erty into one act, and to amend the  
 same." This act was approved on  
 March 10th, 1874, and makes some im-  
 portant changes in the previous laws  
 regulating the assessment of property  
 for taxation. These require to be un-  
 derstood, at once, by the taxpayers,  
 as the returns of all property for tax-  
 ation, for the year 1874-75, must be  
 made between the first of July and  
 the twentieth of August of the present  
 year.

As in the old acts, all real and per-  
 sonal property must be valued for tax-  
 ation at its true value in money,  
 which shall be held to be the usual  
 selling price of similar property, or at  
 what could be obtained for the prop-  
 erty at fair sale; but, when the County  
 Auditor (Sec. 54) makes any addition  
 to the valuation of any property, as  
 returned to him by any taxpayer, his  
 agent or other person, "written notice  
 shall be given by the Auditor to such  
 person at least fifteen days before the  
 meeting of the Board of Equaliza-  
 tion." This will, it is hoped, tend to  
 remedy a crying abuse of the old tax  
 system. It was then usually found  
 that a County Auditor added, at his  
 caprice, large sums to the valuations  
 made by the taxpayers, who in gen-  
 eral, knew nothing of the fact until it  
 was too late to obtain any redress.  
 They were kept in the dark, and the  
 first light vouchsafed them was when  
 they offered to pay their taxes, and

found that the amount was much  
 larger than they had expected. Re-  
 turns of property for taxation are  
 made on oath; and it is only just and  
 reasonable that, where it is intended  
 to challenge that oath and the corre-  
 ctness of the valuation, due warning  
 should be given the taxpayer that he  
 may prove the correctness of the re-  
 turn and avoid an excessive assess-  
 ment. This is the theory of the amend-  
 ed tax law. A taxpayer must re-  
 turn his property at its true value in  
 money, and the Auditor must give  
 him notice if any addition to the val-  
 uation is proposed to be made. The  
 taxpayer can then go before the  
 County Board of Equalization, who  
 have power to reduce the valuation  
 of such property as may prove to be  
 returned above its true value; and  
 from the decision of this board an  
 appeal lies to the Comptroller-General  
 of the State.

The constitution of the County  
 Boards of Equalization is entirely  
 changed by the new law of March 10,  
 1874, except in the case of the City of  
 Charleston, which continues to have  
 its special board. Formerly the  
 County Boards consisted of the County  
 Commissioners, County Auditor and  
 County Treasurer. It is now re-  
 quired that "the Judges of the Circuit  
 Courts of the State shall, on or before  
 the first of July next, and every fifth  
 year thereafter, appoint three intelli-  
 gent taxpayers in each of the counties  
 of their respective circuits, who, with  
 the County Auditor and County Treas-  
 urer, shall form a county board for the  
 equalization of the property of their  
 respective counties." Instead of three County Commission-  
 ers, therefore, there will be three se-  
 lected citizens, and the requirements  
 of the law are so plain that there can  
 be no excuse for the failure to appoint  
 persons who will do their duty intel-  
 ligently and without fear or favor.  
 They must be "intelligent," and they  
 must be taxpayers; and, as they serve  
 for five years, it is of the first conse-  
 quence to the taxpayers that the nomi-  
 nees of the Judges be persons  
 of the right character for probity and  
 ability. The powers of the county  
 board are, however, limited in this,  
 that while the board may raise the val-  
 uation of some pieces of property and  
 reduce the valuation of others, "they  
 shall not reduce the aggregate value  
 of real and personal property of the  
 county below the aggregate value  
 thereof, as returned by the County  
 Auditor, with the addition made there-  
 to by said Auditor, as herein re-  
 quired." To take an extreme case as  
 an illustration: In a county where  
 the total valuation is \$10,000,000, the  
 County Auditor adds, for example,  
 \$2,000,000, making a total of \$12,000,000,  
 and the County Board, though  
 they can raise the valuation of the  
 property of A, and reduce the valua-  
 tion of the property of B, cannot re-  
 duce the aggregate valuation below  
 \$12,000,000. This is an oppressive  
 provision of the law, and limits within  
 comparatively narrow bounds the use-  
 fulness of the County Boards; but  
 these can still accomplish much good,  
 especially as the citizen members will  
 remain in office for five years.

These are times in which the tax-  
 payers are thankful for small favors.  
 The requirement that they have  
 notice when it is intended to assess their  
 property at more than its value is a  
 decided gain; but the value of the  
 change, after all, will mainly depend  
 on the Circuit Judges, with whom it  
 lies to nominate a majority of the  
 County Boards, to whom appeals will  
 be made.

**What Dredging Can Do for Charleston  
 Bay—A Scotch Lesson.**

[News and Courier.]

In considering the grand project of  
 deepening the water on Charleston  
 bay, it is worth while for those whose  
 interests demand the improvement of  
 our harbor to bear in mind the most  
 conspicuous example to be found in  
 history of dredging on a large and  
 successful scale. It is that of the  
 river Clyde, by which Glasgow has  
 been raised in the course of a half  
 century from a town of 30,000, to a  
 splendid city of 600,000. This extra-  
 ordinary growth is all due to the  
 dredging by which the Clyde has  
 been deepened from one foot in depth,  
 in certain places at low tide, to twenty-  
 four feet, and for a distance of  
 twenty-one miles—thus securing a  
 channel four hundred feet wide, all of  
 which has been dug out by dredging  
 machines through quick sands, gravel  
 bowlders and stiff clay. Upward of  
 twenty millions of cubic yards of this  
 material have been raised by these  
 dredges and carried ten miles from the  
 mouth of the river in hopper barges  
 and then dropped into the ocean. This  
 has all been done by the "Clyde  
 Trust Company" at a total cost of less  
 than eight cents a cubic yard. The  
 dredging machines, of which the com-  
 pany has eight, are the most efficient  
 known; each machine is capable of  
 raising four hundred cubic yards per  
 hour of hard soil, and each dredge  
 has two steam hopper barges of three  
 or four hundred cubic yards capacity,

each, which carry off the raised mate-  
 rial and drop it through large trap  
 doors in the sea. Each dredging  
 machine and hopper barge is built  
 entirely of iron, is moved by its own  
 propeller, and can cross the Atlantic  
 with its own steam. The cost of one  
 dredging machine is 15,000 pounds  
 sterling, and one 500-ton hopper  
 barge 7,000 pounds sterling, delivered  
 on the Clyde, making 20,000 pounds  
 sterling for one dredge and its two  
 tenders. These would remove from  
 the bar at the mouth of our harbor  
 100 cubic yards per hour, and could  
 work twenty hours per day, and  
 average 200 cubic yards, each, of  
 these machines and their tenders (the  
 force of the Clyde Trust Company)  
 could remove 40,000 cubic yards per  
 day and open a broad channel across the  
 bar in less than a fortnight. These  
 machines (built by Simon & Co. and  
 Wingate & Co.) are built to work at  
 a depth of twenty-eight feet, and the  
 total average cost per cubic yard of  
 the hard bottom of the Clyde, as  
 moved ten miles from its mouth, is  
 less than eight cents (6.92 pence) the  
 average for four years. This expense  
 includes interest on cost of machines,  
 repairs, fuel, labor and ship stores.  
 At this rate, the cost of giving us  
 twenty-eight feet at high water on  
 Charleston bar would be a mere  
 bagatelle in comparison with the im-  
 mediate benefits to be derived. But  
 we shall be told by cocklers that the  
 channel will fill up immediately.  
 Well, what if it does? Keep digging it  
 out; our Scotch cousins find it nec-  
 essary on the Clyde, and keep the dredges  
 constantly at work to clean out  
 the mud, gravel and silt that  
 washes in from every stream and riv-  
 erlet, amounting annually to far more  
 than the deposit of our bar. How  
 this is all done by simple Scotch  
 sense, without a dollar of government  
 aid, stock companies, burdensome tax-  
 ation, is shown from official records.  
 Here is an example for Charleston:  
 Will she emulate it?

**The Currency Bill.**

[New York Herald.]

The passage of the currency bill, by  
 a vote of 13 to 19 in the Senate and  
 224 to 10 in the House, it may be as-  
 sumed disposes of the currency agita-  
 tion for at least many months.

Therefore the country may con-  
 gratulate itself on having at last es-  
 caped the torturing discussion of this  
 vital question for a considerable time  
 to come; a time long enough, at least,  
 to encourage the renewal of activity  
 in all departments of business. The  
 status of the currency may not have  
 been determined in the wisest way;  
 it is a great misfortune that no pro-  
 vision has been made for the restora-  
 tion of the specie basis; it is equally  
 unsatisfactory that the effort to estab-  
 lish free banking has so entirely failed,  
 and it is to be regretted that the theo-  
 retical differences between the East  
 and the West should have had to be  
 compromised by the deranging trans-  
 ference of \$75,000,000 of bank note  
 issues from the one section to the other;  
 but in some important respects,  
 the bill places financial affairs in a  
 better position than they now occupy.  
 It is again to the banks and to the  
 public, who depend upon them for  
 accommodation, that the present  
 wholly superfluous reserves against  
 \$75,000,000 of national currency are  
 dispensed with; it is again in favor of  
 a due elasticity of the circulating me-  
 dium that the bank circulation will be  
 subject to a more effective system of  
 redemption; and it is an immense gain  
 in favor of confidence and stability in  
 the money market that the volume of  
 the legal tender circulation has been  
 definitely fixed beyond the demonst-  
 rating manipulations of department  
 officers; and it is an important assur-  
 ance against the return of partial panics  
 that no forced contraction of the cur-  
 rency is to be anticipated. These  
 changes, when they come to be prop-  
 erly understood, will exert an assur-  
 ing effect upon public confidence, and  
 will hasten the restoration of industrial  
 and commercial activity for which the  
 material conditions of the country,  
 with some partial exceptions, are so  
 satisfactorily preparing the way. The  
 people will now generally conclude  
 that they see light ahead; and al-  
 though a few antediluvian theorists  
 may grumble and prophesy evil, they  
 will henceforth work and bargain and  
 invest with more confidence than has  
 been felt for months or even years  
 past.

**English Capital in South Carolina.**

A correspondent writes from  
 Spartanburg that a company of Eng-  
 lish capitalists have purchased the  
 property in that county known as the  
 Rolling Mills about nine miles east of  
 Spartanburg Courthouse, on the  
 Pacolet River, and also on the Air  
 Line Railroad. It was formerly  
 owned by the Hon. Simpson Robb  
 and others, and the iron works was  
 operated until a few years ago. The  
 new owners will reequip the Rolling  
 Mills on an enlarged and improved  
 scale, and will also erect at the same  
 place a brass and cast iron factory.

**New and Curious.**

A New Comet.—Those persons  
 who are not in the habit of star-gaz-  
 ing are possibly not aware of the fact  
 that a new comet has put in an ap-  
 pearance. It is situated in the north-  
 ern heavens, just beneath the polar  
 star, and near the Great Dipper or  
 seven stars, and is said by the know-  
 ing ones to be just visible to the naked  
 eye. With the assistance of a spy-  
 glass, it can be seen as a nebulous  
 mass with a bright point a little to  
 one side. It is now visible nearly all  
 night, but will soon be seen only in the  
 early hours of the evening. Several  
 persons on the island and in the city  
 have seen it. Astronomers say it will  
 be brightest in August, but that its  
 tail will be clearly visible in a short  
 time.—*News and Courier.*

A man who lately committed sui-  
 cide left a memorandum for his wife  
 saying, "Good-bye, you old scolding,  
 redheaded heathen." On reading it the  
 widow was heard to mutter, "I  
 should just like to have got hold of  
 him for one minute."

**ADVERTISEMENTS.**  
 Inserted at \$1.00 per square for first and  
 fifty cents for each subsequent insertion.  
 One inch space will constitute a square,  
 whether in breadth or display type, less than  
 an inch will be charged for as a square.  
 Marriage notices free.  
 Deaths and funeral notices free.  
 Obituaries of one square free; over one  
 square charged at advertising rates.  
 Religious notices of one square free.  
 A liberal discount will be made to those  
 whose advertisements are to be kept in for  
 term of three months or longer.

Things That Lost Bad.—A foot-  
 man playing baseball.  
 A poor boy putting on airs.  
 A fool teaching a negro school.  
 A rich man disowning his poor kin.  
 A man trying to sing when he can't.  
 A bankrupt who has more than he  
 ever had.

An insurance agent smoking in a  
 wood shop.  
 A misanthropist talking about charity  
 and benevolence.  
 A young man calling an old man a  
 his-partisan man; (1) Talbot  
 "government" and his mother "the old  
 woman."

Another School Story.—  
 Charlestown.—On Wednesday last  
 in the National House of Representatives,  
 Messrs. Goodrich, of Massachusetts,  
 reported a substitute for the bill of  
 the Senate to promote the establish-  
 ment of public marine schools. The  
 substitute provides that the secre-  
 tary of the navy shall furnish a  
 proper vessel, with the proper appur-  
 tenances, stores, charts and instruments to such  
 schools at Boston, New York, Phila-  
 delphia, Washington, Charleston, or  
 San Francisco, when the same can be  
 done without detriment to the service,  
 when practical instruction is made a  
 branch of studies in such schools.  
 The bill was passed.

**News and Courier.**

Fully one-third of the State of  
 Louisiana is still under water from  
 one to two feet deep, and from 70,000  
 to 80,000 people are now in destitute  
 condition, much sickness already pre-  
 vails, and unless the people obtain  
 relief the suffering during the summer  
 months will be almost beyond preced-  
 ent.

The railroad war in Wisconsin is at-  
 tracting some attention. The com-  
 panies will not pay any attention to the  
 laws and have given notice to that  
 effect. Gov. Taylor asks the people  
 to refuse to pay railroad rates and to  
 bring suits. One set of lawyers say  
 that the State has no right to fix  
 rates, etc., for roads, and another set  
 that the State has this authority.  
 Senator Carpenter takes this view.  
 Suits will be commenced against the  
 railroads at once.

A story of a recent discomfiture of  
 Senator Carpenter is going through  
 the papers. Wishing to enjoy a joke,  
 he sent a page to the document room  
 for a copy of the "Mortification bill,"  
 telling some of his companions to  
 await the page's return and enjoy his  
 discomfiture. At the direction of  
 Senator Tipton, who was in the room