

The Abbeville Press.

BY W. A. LEE AND HUGH WILSON.

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The Memphis Convention.

The telegraph gave a brief account of the third day's proceedings of the Memphis Convention, but we think that the importance of the business transacted demands a fuller account. At the expiration of the morning hour, the Committee on the Southern Pacific Railroad made the following report, which was unanimously adopted amid great enthusiasm:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention the interests of the whole country, especially those of the Southern States, should be served by a main trunk railroad line from San Diego, California, through Junction River, Colorado, and along the valley of the Gila, South of the river, to El Paso, on the Rio Grande, and thence to a convenient central point near the thirty-second parallel of latitude East of the Brazos River, Texas, from which feeder roads should lead from St. Louis, Cairo, Memphis, Vicksburg, New Orleans, and other points, all of which feeder roads should have equal rights of connection with the main trunk, while similar feeder roads from San Francisco, and other points on the Pacific coast, with like equal rights of connection.

Resolved, That the President of this Convention be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and to the Vice-President and Speaker of the House of Representatives, with a request that they present the same to the two Houses of Congress.

The committee, which was composed of representatives from seventeen States, including three members of Congress, give the following reasons for the report:

First. It is the shortest line connecting the Gulf of Mexico and the Valley of the Mississippi with the Pacific coast.

Second. It is the line of all those now unoccupied, of the most easy grades, and permitting of the cheapest construction.

Third. It passes through a less inhospitable and barren country, and over more fertile and hospitable land than any other unoccupied route proposed.

Fourth. The line is touched by water transportation at three points, affording the greatest facilities for construction, consequently hastening and cheapening such construction.

Fifth. The line will open to the world the great mineral resources of Arizona and Sonora, and render more valuable the stock raising districts of Texas, New Mexico and Northern Mexico, and thus employ an unrivaled traffic.

Sixth. It would inevitably attract numerous feeders from Mexico, and thus not only stimulate enterprise there, but draw to our shipping ports a greater portion of the bullion which now seeks Europe by hazardous and unprofitable routes.

Seventh. It would open a new cotton growing area in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, on the lands of the cotton growing belt now sterile for the lack of facilities for transportation.

Eighth. Some of the roads which would be of the feeders referred to have not only been projected but are already in active course of construction, without waiting for Government subsidy or encouragement.

Ninth. It is a route of migration and emigration and direct trade with Europe reported in favor of the formation of a main trunk line from Southern ports, which should be encouraged by subscription. The said line should be patronized by the States and merchants of the South, and approved of the scheme inaugurated by Texas, North Carolina and Liverpool at the Norfolk Convention.

Dr. Lister, of Alabama, presented a minority report setting forth the claims of Charleston, New Orleans, Savannah and Mobile, which excited a long debate.

LATE SCHOLARSHIP AT ABBEVILLE.—At the presentation of the diploma of the Graduate course at the University of Edinburgh, students who belong to Abbeville were given preference. Thanks were given forward, and a resolution was passed to recommend that a certain number of students should be given preference in the award of a certain number of scholarships.

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and hisses). The distribution of the prizes was then proceeded with—*Scottish paper.*

The Florida Annexation.

We find in the Montgomery Mail, of the 19th, the following synopsis of the terms and conditions agreed upon by the Commissioners appointed by the States of Alabama and Florida, to arrange for the cession of West Florida to Alabama. The items agreed upon are in substance as follows:

1st. Conveys to the State of Alabama all the country in the State of Florida lying West of the Apalachicola river.

2d. Conveys to the State of Alabama all the public lands in West Florida, which consists of what is known as Seminary lands, the 18th section lands, and swamp and overflowed lands, amounting in round numbers to about 1,500,000 acres. These lands the State of Alabama takes, subject to the trusts now imposed upon them—such trusts are for the benefit of West Florida exclusively, for the purpose of schools and internal improvements. The State of Florida has authority to appropriate these lands for the purposes of the trust until the annexation is complete, and guarantees the titles to the State of Alabama perfectly free and unencumbered.

3d. The State of Alabama, upon the consummation of annexation, executes its bonds to the State of Florida for one million of dollars, payable within thirty years, at 8 per cent. interest.

4th. The officers of West Florida retain their offices until the expiration of their terms.

5th. The Governors of the two States shall, within sixty days after the assent of Congress is given to this transfer, issue their proclamations declaring that jurisdiction over the ceded territory has been transferred to the State of Alabama.

6th. Relates to the jurisdiction of the courts of West Florida, as it may be affected by the laws of Alabama.

7th. A railroad from the Apalachicola river to Pensacola, or to some point on the Montgomery and Mobile Railroad, shall be entitled to the benefit of the endowment law of the State of Alabama (\$16,000 per mile).

8th. The Savannah and Gulf Railroad shall not receive permission from the State of Alabama, within three years, to pass across the ceded territory.

9th. This agreement has no force until it shall have been ratified by competent authority of the States of Alabama and Florida, and by Congress.

Something over 1,200,000 of the public lands mentioned in the second item, are swamp and overflowed lands and internal improvement lands, which were carefully selected, and are said to be very valuable.

The State of Florida receives 5 per cent. of the proceeds of all Government lands within its borders. This per cent. upon the Government lands in West Florida is transferred to Alabama.

Under an imperfect revenue law, the revenues realized last year from the territory proposed to be ceded amounted to \$31,000. A more perfect law would have brought perhaps \$50,000. But as it was, the rate of taxation of Alabama being higher than that of Florida, the sum realized under our laws would have been about \$35,750.

The area of the counties of West Florida is about 10,000 square miles, with a shore line on the Gulf of Mexico of about 180 miles. Their productions are cotton, corn, rice, tobacco, sugar, molasses and lumber. Besides Apalachicola Bay, Bay, which is very much like Mobile Bay, there are three other harbors of note in West Florida, viz: Pensacola, the most commodious on the Gulf, and easy of approach; and two smaller harbors, and accessible by vessels drawing 16 feet.

NEURO LOGIC.—The last number of the Revolution presents the following as about as good as anything that it ever heard "on the off-hand side" of the subject: "A negro preacher of the gospel, and doubtless a little inspired, on being asked if he was in favor of woman suffrage, replied with great glibness:

"No, sir; I'm opposed to dat; it will not do at all. I tell you dat de woman was de first to commit sin, sar. I tell you dat de damsel demanded de head of John de Baptist, sar. I tell you dat when God made man he gave de man power over all living, and made man de boss over de woman, sar. I tell you dat God let de man name everything, and de man named de woman Eve because she was de mother of Eve. I tell you, sar, it will never do, sar, for I am a preacher, and my faith is in Jesus Christ."

A CURE FOR DYSPEPSIA.—These words are being said by the late Rev. Dr. Lister, of Alabama, who has just published a book on "The Cure for Dyspepsia," which he claims to be a complete and permanent cure for all cases of indigestion, flatulence, and all the other ailments which result from a disordered stomach.

Transplanting Trees.

A Louisville (Ky.) correspondent of sends us a slip from the New York Observer, arguing on the great importance of the tap root. Our correspondent asks our opinion. In answer to another correspondent, we have already said what we think of the tap root question. The Observer says:

Hundreds of fruit growers have learned, at a costly rate, that when the tap root is severed, we interfere with the habit of the growing plant or tree. Thousands upon thousands of fruit trees of all kinds, grape vines, expensive evergreen trees, and particularly nut bearing trees, have been transplanted after the tap root was severed, have lived and grown a trifle each year, for a few years, and then appeared to be affected with some disease, which prevented the usual luxuriance and productiveness. The tap root was gone. If the root were not essential to the thrift and life of a tree, nature would not have that tree or vine to send down such a root.

Practical fruit growers are waking up to the importance of this subject, and purchasers are beginning to see their error. Many of our agricultural editors, who once relied upon interested persons, when they said, "let the tap root be cut off," now take sides with the backwoodsman, who contends that the tap root is essential to the life and health of the tree, as it goes down deep into the earth to supply the growing stem with moisture and mineral matter during the dry season of the year, when the lateral roots cannot find half so much moisture as escapes from the leaves. Therefore, every tap root should be retained as perfect as practicable, and be encouraged to grow. A large hole should be made with a crow-bar, several feet deep, where the tree or vine is to stand, and a lateral root (when there is no tap root), should be encouraged to grow in the hole.

It may be a sufficient answer to this, perhaps, to say that, if "agricultural editors" would rely on their own knowledge and experience, instead of the "knowledge of interested persons," or any other persons, they would find that many "fruit" and "evergreens," "grape vines," &c., have no tap roots. We begin to think that some who are arguing about this, do not even know what tap roots are.—*Gardener's Monthly.*

SOUTHERN STATES INDEBTEDNESS AND THE CARPET-BAG LEGISLATURES.

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