

THE NEW RAILROAD TO VERDERY.

In another column will be found the proceedings of an interesting meeting of our citizens called to do the work of a new enterprise. The meeting was composed of some of our very best citizens, the material out of which strong combinations are made for earnest and successful work.

With the C. & G. R. R. draining with its stations the trade of the Eastern part of the County, the A. & K. R. R. the South-eastern part and the S. V. R. R. about to be completed, the Western part the necessity for Abbeville town to be up and doing to save itself from utter annihilation is apparent. If something is not done the whole place will shrivel and dry up and an early gust of wind will blow it into unknown space.

PAY OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

There is no more responsible office in the County than that of County Commissioner. There is no officer who is harder worked, cursed louder and paid more grudgingly than he. The financial conduct of the County is upon his shoulders. With the care of over five million dollars worth of property and the actual manipulation of from twelve to twenty thousand dollars they are given the miserable pittance of about two hundred and forty dollars a piece per annum. Is this an incentive for men of financial ability to attend to the affairs of a County? And it must be admitted that only such as have financial ability and sound judgment should be allowed to occupy the office. It will be answered that there are plenty of men ready and willing to take the office at the salary given—but that is not the question. The County should command the best business talent in it and until she pays well for it she need not expect to get it.

CORRECTION.

In our editorial last week on the subject of Mr. Blake's communication to this paper we said we thought the communication ought to have been sent to the Press and Banner inasmuch as it purported to be an answer to that paper. Since then we have learned that the communication was sent to the Press and Banner and it is therefore proper that we do Mr. Blake the justice to make mention of it.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Gov. Thompson has kindly sent us a copy of his message, and a pamphlet containing a list of the pardons granted by him and the reasons for granting the same. The only two prisoners from Abbeville who were pardoned are Warren Lomax and Ephraim Scott. The former was convicted before Judge Cottrhan October, 1882, of larceny, and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. On December 31, 1883, his sentence was commuted to one year in the penitentiary, on the recommendation of the Judge and Solicitor, and many leading citizens.

Ephraim Scott was convicted in February, 1882, before Judge Aldrich, of burglary and larceny, sentenced to imprisonment for three years in the penitentiary. The defendant appealed, but in consequence of the delay caused by the loss of the Judge's report of the case the appeal was not heard till April, 1884, when it was dismissed. Pardon recommended by Judge and Solicitor, because he had served two years and four months in jail, and was suffering from dropsy, and unfit for work in the penitentiary. Sentence was commuted on April 24, 1884, to two years and six months imprisonment in County jail.

The Governor's message is a comprehensive and well written State paper. It deals with the public debt, which is now \$6,522,270.02, with the question of the tax laws, with the public schools, in regard to which the Governor again recommends the policy of local taxation, with the South Carolina College, Claxton University, the Citadel and the charitable and penal institutions, the Militia, the Railroad Commission, the Department of Agriculture, and the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society. Since, however, there is nothing of special importance relating to these various subjects demanding attention, the Governor makes no particular recommendation regarding them. The report is quite an interesting paper, and we are sorry that the pressure upon our columns this week prevents our publishing it in full.

There was a big crowd in town on Monday. Lands sold well.

The Railroad Commissioners have filed their annual report.

They speak plainly and candidly of the legislation of last session affecting their office, and much of their report is taken up with a history of the cases made by the C. & G. R. R. upon the question of passenger rates. The report shows the condition of the roads to be good, and we gather from it that they are doing well in a business point of view. It is a significant fact that the great majority of the rates now of force by the action of the roads themselves are in conformity with those established by the Commission before its power was so summarily shorn.

SENATOR MAXWELL is Chairman of the Committee on Charitable Institutions, and has a place on the Committees on Claims, on Federal Relations, on Finance, and on Public Buildings. In the House, Mr. Parker is Chairman of Committee on Incorporations, and has second place on the Judiciary Committee. Gen. Hemphill is Chairman of the Committee on Public Printing and is on the Committee on Claims. Mr. Graydon is on the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Enrolled Acts. Mr. Bradley is on the Committee on Agriculture, and Committee on the Penitentiary. Mr. Blake is on the Military Committee and that of Engrossed Bills.

The Governor in his message calls attention to the fact that provision should be made towards payment of the interest on the public debt in advance of taxes, and that the contracts of the State should be met promptly at maturity so that thereby claimants would not be required to shave their claims. So it should be done with County matters. We trust that the incoming County Commissioners will consider the plan of borrowing say twelve thousand dollars and running the County on that. We believe it can be done and it should be done.

The charge that Col. Breckinridge, formerly the Supreme Treasurer of the Knights of Honor, was a defaulter to the Order to the amount of \$100,000 grew out of a suit brought by Breckinridge to restrain the present Supreme Treasurer from removing the office from Louisville to St. Louis.

Col. Breckinridge has behaved very shabbily to the order that gave him prominence. But his schemings and machinations cannot injure it, for its basis is solid, and its foundation unshaken. The stability of the Order with its 130,000 members is beyond dispute.

The Comptroller General's report is interesting. He reports, among other things, that Abbeville County is out of debt. We had not known this, but were of the opinion that the necessity of building bridges and other causes left it somewhat in debt. At any rate public paper is shaved at a ruinous discount in many cases.

The report recommends that the time of assessment be changed to January, and the time for the collection of taxes be made from October 20 to December 1st.

Now that the Railroad to Verdery seems well under way can't we have one also to Greenwood? Suppose by reason of the falling off in receipts the C. & G. Road should take up its branch to this place from Hodges, we would want a connection with the C. & G. Road, and it would suit as well to make it at Greenwood. Of course if it is true, as has been said, that the Georgia Central want help us to build a Road to Greenwood the scheme is impracticable.

The McDaniel-Bruce slander suit terminated on Sunday morning in a verdict for the Defendant. The ground of which was that the communication made by Defendant was privileged.

It never does any good to bring such suits. All the old officers of the Senate and House were re-elected and re-appointed. Mr. F. B. Gary, of Abbeville, was re-appointed Bill Clerk of the House, the duties of which office he has discharged well for two sessions past.

The Edgelfield Chronicle whose office and outfit were destroyed by fire recently, will be issued hereafter from Johnston. Does this indicate a movement to change the Court House to that place?

The city of Greenville voted last Saturday on the question of license or no license. The license men were successful. On the same day Spartanburg elected a dry ticket by four majorities.

Gov. CLEVELAND will resign on January 6th, and Lt.-Gov. Hill will assume the duties of the gubernatorial office of the State of New York.

MR. BLAKE has introduced a bill to repeal all the Sections of the Revised Statutes relating to the Lien Law.

In drawing for seats in the House Abbeville was the very last name drawn from the hat.

REPRESENTATIVE ANSEL has introduced a bill to appoint a stenographer for this Circuit. We trust it will pass. It ought to.

MR. HANCKEL thinks Leroy Wilson is a No. 1 Auctioneer. He enjoyed Luc's wit.

On the 23 of this month we enjoyed a mess of butter beans and tomatoes together from vines in our garden, and string-beans and okra as late as the 20th. At this writing, the 24th Nov. the bean and tomato vines and okra are in full bloom. When before has such thing been known in this latitude at so late a date?—Exchange.

Call and see our beautiful stock of Holiday Goods. Speed & Lowry.

A Good Scheme.

Quite a large number of the citizens of the town and of the surrounding country was held in the Court House Thursday evening to consider the practicability of building a Railroad from Abbeville to Verdery. The meeting was called to order and Judge Cottrhan was nominated as Chairman and Mr. S. C. Cason was requested to act as Secretary. Judge Cottrhan explained the nature of the meeting and in few happy words urged the establishment of the Road.

Mr. L. W. Smith offered the following resolutions which were finally adopted after an earnest discussion and various "spints" of order.

Whereas, we the citizens of the town of Abbeville in support of the future welfare and prosperity of the town much at heart, realize the great necessity and present need of Railroad competition at this place, and whereas the great discrimination which exists against this place in matters of freight is daily injuring our trade and business prospects, and whereas we believe that a Railroad constructed between this town and the town of Verdery would not only afford us the desired relief but would be the cheapest and quickest mode of relief. Be it resolved

I. That immediate steps be taken to secure the construction of a Railroad between Abbeville and Verdery.

II. That our Representatives in the General Assembly be petitioned to secure at the present session of the Legislature a charter for such a Railroad Company.

III. That said Railroad Company shall be chartered and known as the Augusta and Abbeville Railroad Company.

IV. That the capital stock of said Company be \$10,000, to be expended in the grading of said Road, said stock to be increased to \$15,000 if necessary.

V. That the shares of said capital stock be \$25 each, and that the charter do authorize the capital stock to be raised either by subscription or by taxation, or by the issuing of bonds by the corporation of the town of Abbeville non-taxable as may be deemed advisable.

VI. That the following named persons be nominated as incorporators of said Railroad Company, to wit: J. F. Lyon, W. A. Templeton, D. A. P. Jordan, L. W. White, J. S. Cottrhan, R. E. Hill, T. C. Seal, O. T. Calhoun, F. L. Morrow, W. J. Smith, J. T. Robertson, J. G. Edwards, L. W. Smith, J. C. Douglass and S. C. Cason.

Upon the discussion of the first section of the resolutions, Col. Robertson said that he favored the building of the Road to Greenwood.

Mr. W. N. Graydon agreed with Colonel Robertson, and argued strenuously for Greenwood. He said that if graded to Greenwood, any syndicate would iron the Road, and there would be a fair prospect of extending it westward, to Elberton and Atlanta, and eastward to Florence and the North.

Mr. W. O. Bradley said that he was a Greenwood man so far as this scheme was concerned, but that he thought Mr. Raoul's position in the matter left it no longer in controversy where we should tap the A. & K. R. R. He went on to say that Mr. Raoul, the President of the Georgia Central Road, in a letter had expressed his willingness to iron the Road if graded to Verdery, but that he would have nothing to do with it if graded to Greenwood. This the speaker said was conclusive, and he was in favor of grading the Road to Verdery.

Mr. L. W. White said that with due deference to the opinion of others he was in favor of the termination of the Road to be simply a branch Road and was too much in the same direction as the branch we already have. That the road to Verdery would be five miles shorter as far as equipping was concerned and fourteen miles shorter for travelling. To get to Greenwood there would be very high and rough hills, a much more expensive route than to Verdery. That it was not so much a question of travel but of freight in which every body was interested and needed immediate relief.

Mr. O. T. Calhoun thought that the Road to Troy would be best and that would probably hasten the completion of the Carolina Cumberland Gap and Chicago Road. He enquired of Judge Cottrhan the prospects of that Road. Judge Cottrhan replied that there was a meeting of the Executive Committee, called at Aiken the latter part of January—that nothing definite could be stated now; Governor Hogg was hopeful of the ultimate completion of the enterprise.

Mr. E. B. Gary was in favor of the Road to Verdery because it was the shortest, most accessible, and the prospects for ironing it were better. He advocated immediate action.

Mr. R. E. Hill agreed with Mr. Gary. Judge Lyon said that he had gone to Augusta a year ago and in conversation with Captain Raoul, this gentleman asked him "Why don't you grade the Road to Verdery?" that this gave him first the idea of grading the Road there; that in two recent letters to Mr. Verdery ex-President of the A. & K. R. R., this gentleman said that the Road to Verdery was decidedly the most practicable, and that Mr. Raoul would equip the Road if graded to Verdery. That he would not do the same if graded to Greenwood. This in the opinion of Judge Lyon was decisive of the question.

After some discussion on the other sections of the resolutions they were adopted.

A committee consisting of Messrs. L. W. Smith, E. B. Gary and Judge Lyon, was appointed to memorialize the Legislature to grant the charter, after which the meeting adjourned.

Messrs. A. C. Stockman, Geo. H. Taylor, B. F. Mills and Marion Warner went up to Abbeville County a few days ago to look at and buy land, as it is so much cheaper up there than here. Messrs. Mills and Warner succeeded in purchasing a tract of 161 acres and are negotiating for that much more. That they bought cost them not quite \$275 per acre, giving for the tract \$925. The remaining 161 acres, which has a good deal of original woods on it, is held for \$7 per acre. The land lies on the public road leading from Ninety-Six to Greenwood. Messrs. Stockman and Taylor were looking at the Laurens tract, and which will be sold the first Monday in December. They were so well pleased with the land that they will attend the sale. We trust none of these gentlemen will leave this county permanently, for they are among our best citizens.—Observer.

Major Zeigler's Reply to Mr. Blake's Editorials. There are not two faces in Mr. Blake's letter, in your issue of November 23rd, that I see prior to notice. He looks to people raised and educated as we have been, to be utterly unprejudiced and absurd. In the first place, he ignores the Court authority of the Solicitor's will, and even the Governor's course, as he says he heard that he also had acted in the matter, to say nothing of others connected with the case. He will state further, and assume almost an omniscient posture, he boldly asserts, (quoting a section of revised statutes) that Judge, Solicitor, Counsel and Clerk have disregarded the law, and stayed from their duties—of course he is afraid they may get "entangled." Perhaps he may in his great wisdom and legal lore know how to proceed further, and take the matter in his gigantic grasp, and carry out the law—if so, he is, and thus add another star to the galaxy of his "public" achievements, and the "public" will see that he is a Cassius, and, triumphing as a Caesar, if he don't get "entangled."

So far as I am concerned if error has been made in what I understand to be my duty as Clerk of Court, and "acting according to my own views" in the matter, I am not to be understood, I stand ready for the law to be applied, and if found wanting, will submit without a murmur. I ask no quarters in that respect. And I will state further, I am not at all constrained to "surprise" my friend, still further, by proposing to "act according to my own views" again, in saying that, if he cannot believe what he has said, he may do so, and what I now affirm, that such order was made, the acting Solicitor acquiescing, he will have to go elsewhere for additional evidence.

The Judge, acting Solicitor, counsel for the defence and other members of the Bar are in every respect, and until the orders are produced he will ignore us and question our veracity is simply ridiculous.

Had Mr. Blake been active in writing to the Court, and in having the "public" will be about as unwilling to doubt the conduct and veracity of either one of us, as this.

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Most respectfully,  
M. G. ZEIGLER.

Malaria Poison. Having spent much of my time for the past three years in and near Albany, Ga., I had gradually absorbed malaria into my system, and my general health was completely broken down; this poison continued to increase in a congestive chill, and I was confined to the bed and house for five months; was treated by the best physicians, by all the approved methods with no benefit; my health was awfully broken down; my skin almost as yellow as a pumpkin; a thick heavy coat on my tongue; no appetite; and in a miserable state generally. I was induced in April last to take Swift's Specific, and the first few doses convinced me that it was what I needed. I continued until I had taken several bottles, and am a well man, the poison has all been driven out of my system by Swift's Specific, and I have gained thirty pounds in weight.

A Mammoth Pudding. RICHMOND, NOVEMBER 27.—Thanksgiving Day was more generally observed here to-day than ever before. Business was very generally suspended, and being closed the whole day, and many of the churches special services were held. The feature of the observance was a large and splendid Thanksgiving supper given by the Calhoun Democratic Club to-night, at which a mammoth English plum pudding was served. The pudding weighed 410 pounds, one pound for each Cleveland elector vote. Five hundred dollars was paid by an enthusiastic citizen for the purpose of cutting the first piece, weighing 12 pounds, and representing the electoral vote of Virginia, to be sent to Governor Cleveland.

NOTICE. The purchasers of the Laurens Lands will take notice that I will be in Abbeville on Thursday, 11th December inst., at the office of Messrs. Perrin & Cottrhan, Attorneys, to perfect the purchases made on Saturday last.

THOS. M. HANCKEL, Master Charleston County. Dec 3-4

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN TEETHING. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures dysentery and diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN TEETHING is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female nurses and physicians in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price 25 cents a bottle. 5-ay

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The Messenger office is supplied with Bill Heads, Letter Heads, Note Heads, Envelopes, cards, etc., and is prepared to do any kind of JOB PRINTING.

Buy your Tobacco and Cigars from us. The best 2 1/2 and 5 cents Cigars in this market. Speed & Lowry.

Christmas Cards! Christmas Cards! at Speed & Lowry's.

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Call on Thomas McGottigan to go pure old goods.

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