

what men may not undertake with safety in every community? Raise it, and luxuries must be lopped off, conveniences curtailed, desires denied, effort crippled, enterprises strangled. Lower it, and communities, like Phoenix from her ashes, rise and double their population in a decade, and yet, forsooth, a community that desires to test the opinion of its citizens as to their willingness to increase the facilities of import and export must be stopped by the voice of a conservative constructor of the law!

THE NEWS AND HERALD wishes its readers a happy day. The year has been an usually prosperous one to most people, and on the whole there should be more happiness on this Christmas day than on any preceding one for many years past. The spirit of charity, generosity, peace and good will to all men should characterize the day.

THE R. R. BONDS ONCE MORE
 Mr. Elliott on Legal Opinions
 Mr. Editor: Noting a reply, by Mr. A. S. Douglass, to my recent communication to your paper on subject of railroad bonds and his opinion on legal matters connected therewith, I presume, though I have little time to spare, I might as well take time to present this matter as thoroughly as I am able, but in a suggestive rather than exhaustive way.

I will remark in the outset, that I am going to drive straight at the mark with no intention to give offence, and "naught in malice set down and naught extenuate."

First, as to the matter of my friend's legal opinion in the premises; of course he had a right to give unsought advice to the town council, but would do well to remember that such advice is sometimes not valued.

I have no doubt that the town council thoroughly knows its duty and has legal advisors of its own. As to the matter of legal advice, anyway, it is an uncertain thing. I have a friend in an adjoining town who has been manager of a bank for something over twenty years. For the last twelve years of this period, the bank's legal adviser was one of South Carolina's most acute lawyers. He had always advised my friend, that in order to add the endorser of a promise to the debt, the note must be matured, and he endorser.

Sometimes ago, however, another attorney in the same town challenged the right of my friend to collect any such fees; my friend was as surprised and as indignant as if the lawfulness of his marriage contract had been called in question, and sending at once for his legal adviser was astonished to find, when the question was submitted to him, that he began to hesitate, fill and sack, reef and unfurl, beam and haw, and asked for time to investigate a matter, that my friend had been so advised about as to consider as well settled as the course of the stars in their orbits, for, mark you, my friend's legal adviser was one of the directors of the usual bank examinations, he came across overdue paper he was very inquisitive to know if it had not been protested, and cautioned against the dangers of a failure to protest.

My friend waited for two hours to get an opinion, and when he called upon his adviser he begged for one hour more, and finally went in to say that the "usages and customs of banking," he thought, would make a good defence, but he could find no settled decision on the point.

So much, for how much of law is settled beyond question. The fact is, that the lawyers, like other men, read the law according to their temperament. The cautious and timid men unconsciously stress the prohibitive features of law; bold and sanguine men stress the permissive features of law. The one sees the lions in the way; the other sees that they are chained.

Why shouldn't the town council order an election? Must everything stop until the construction of every lawyer on every law be settled? Doesn't the law provide the proper tribunal for testing what is law and what is not law? Can any damage come of this save a few dollars of expense incurred by the election, and that, so far as the writer is concerned, he himself would personally pay, rather than have self-appointed judges declare what may be done and what may not be done.

Have lawyers no duties but to doubt? What harm can come of a community taxing itself to multiply its transportation facilities? Whose business is it but their own if they are willing to tax themselves? Why should they not have as much right to do that as for any other public benefit? Have we not seen, in the recent elections, when communities desired to impose upon themselves burdens greater than the constitution allowed, special votes taken on the subject of amending the constitution of doing what their own citizens wished to do?

If, as my friend estimates, this community can only issue \$33,000 of additional bonds, will not their investment in a competitive railroad be more productive than an investment in an electric or water plant? Will not such an investment bring about an increase of taxable values that would later assure a basis for these other public works?

(If he is willing to further an electric plant, I know a citizen who will advance 18 the cost and agree to do so without interest for five years.) The freights now paid by the town will approximate, if not surpass, a bare saving of ten per cent, by reason of competition, would save \$6,000 per annum. The interest at 5 per cent on \$50,000 of bonds would be \$2,500. A saving of 25 cents in freight per bale cotton, or an export of 10,000 bales cotton, or an aggregate export and import of that amount would pay the interest charge.

It is not necessary to enlarge on this line. The town should require, before paving over the bonds, that competition be assured. This done, to a full extent as the nature of man's affairs will permit, the value of the investment, (for heaven knows the town can get stock if it wants it), or bonus, (call it what you may), is self-evident as Euclid's axioms. It is not needful to speak of the enhancement of the value of property, should a competitive railroad be secured; or of the stimulating effect on the activities and spirits of our people; nor of other phases along this line.

I come to the finale: We believe the present town council will order an election but if not, we will elect one that will. If the courts decide that there is no law to vote bonds for this purpose we will go to work to have the constitution amended, and not until we are defeated in this effort, will we be content to continue to shrink from a taxable value of \$600,000 in 1884 to a taxable value of \$500,000 (according to my friend) in 1900.

We prefer to burst in our effort to extend and improve than to hammer and hammer.

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The Auditor or Deputy will be at the following places on the days specified:
 Albion, Tuesday, January 15.
 Backhead, Wednesday, January 16.
 Wolling, Thursday, January 17.
 Crosbyville, Friday, January 18.
 Woodward, Tuesday, January 22.
 White Oak, Wednesday, January 23.
 Gladstone Grove, Thursday, January 24.
 Flint Hill, Friday, January 25.
 Longtown, Tuesday, January 29.
 Centreville, Wednesday, January 30.
 M. L. Cooper's, Thursday, January 31.
 Bivethwood, Friday, February 1.
 Ridgeway, Tuesday, February 5.
 Horeb (Clarke's Store), Wednesday, February 6.
 Jenkinsville, Thursday, February 7.
 Monticello, Friday, February 8.
 J. L. RICHMOND,
 A. F. C.

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 To aid subscribers in forming their estimate, we furnish the following data.

Year.	Total Population.	Increase.	Per Cent.
1871	3,689,257
1881	4,324,810	635,553	17.23
1891	4,833,239	508,429	11.19

The population for 1901 at an increase of 12 per cent over the population would be 5,413,227 (An increase of 579,988)
 At an increase of 15 per cent it would be 5,558,224 (An increase of 724,987)
 At an increase of 20 per cent it would be 5,799,886 (An increase of 966,647)
 At an increase of 25 per cent it would be 6,041,548 (An increase of 1,208,309)

Prizes to be Awarded as Follows:

To the nearest correct guess,	\$5,000.00
To the 2d nearest correct guess,	2,000.00
To the 3d,	700.00
To the 4th,	300.00
To the 5th,	100.00
To the 6th,	50.00
To the next 12 nearest correct guesses, \$10.00 each, amounting to	120.00
To the next 42 nearest correct guesses, \$5.00 each, amounting to	210.00
To the next 100 nearest correct guesses, \$3.00 each, amounting to	300.00
To the next 380 nearest correct guesses, \$2.00 each, amounting to	760.00
To the next 400 nearest correct guesses, \$1.00 each, amounting to	400.00
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Station	No. 43	No. 44	Mixed	No. 43	No. 44
Vanmah (So. Ry.)	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Blackville	4:10	4:10	4:10	4:10	4:10
Springfield	4:20	4:20	4:20	4:20	4:20
Sally	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30
Columbia	4:40	4:40	4:40	4:40	4:40
Charleston (So. Ry.)	4:50	4:50	4:50	4:50	4:50
Summerville	5:00	5:00	5:00	5:00	5:00
Orangeburg	5:10	5:10	5:10	5:10	5:10
Kingville	5:20	5:20	5:20	5:20	5:20
Columbia	5:30	5:30	5:30	5:30	5:30
Augusta (So. Ry.)	5:40	5:40	5:40	5:40	5:40
Granville	5:50	5:50	5:50	5:50	5:50
Edgewood	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00
Trenton	6:10	6:10	6:10	6:10	6:10
Johnston	6:20	6:20	6:20	6:20	6:20
Columbia (U. D.)	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30
Columbia (Bldg St.)	6:40	6:40	6:40	6:40	6:40
Winnsboro	6:50	6:50	6:50	6:50	6:50
Claxton	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00
Charlottesville	7:10	7:10	7:10	7:10	7:10
Danville	7:20	7:20	7:20	7:20	7:20
Richmond	7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30
Alton	7:40	7:40	7:40	7:40	7:40
Baltimore (Pa. R.R.)	7:50	7:50	7:50	7:50	7:50
Philadelphia	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
New York	8:10	8:10	8:10	8:10	8:10
Columbia	8:20	8:20	8:20	8:20	8:20
Richmond	8:30	8:30	8:30	8:30	8:30
Alton	8:40	8:40	8:40	8:40	8:40
Charlottesville	8:50	8:50	8:50	8:50	8:50
Winnsboro	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00
Claxton	9:10	9:10	9:10	9:10	9:10
Columbia (U. D.)	9:20	9:20	9:20	9:20	9:20
Columbia (Bldg St.)	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30
Johnston	9:40	9:40	9:40	9:40	9:40
Trenton	9:50	9:50	9:50	9:50	9:50
Alton	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00
Edgewood	10:10	10:10	10:10	10:10	10:10
Charlottesville	10:20	10:20	10:20	10:20	10:20
Augusta	10:30	10:30	10:30	10:30	10:30
Columbia (So. Ry.)	10:40	10:40	10:40	10:40	10:40
Kingville	10:50	10:50	10:50	10:50	10:50
Orangeburg	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00
Branchville	11:10	11:10	11:10	11:10	11:10
Summerville	11:20	11:20	11:20	11:20	11:20
Charleston	11:30	11:30	11:30	11:30	11:30
Columbia (So. Ry.)	11:40	11:40	11:40	11:40	11:40
Sally	11:50	11:50	11:50	11:50	11:50
Springfield	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Blackville	12:10	12:10	12:10	12:10	12:10
Vanmah	12:20	12:20	12:20	12:20	12:20
Richmond	12:30	12:30	12:30	12:30	12:30

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