

REPORT

Of the Committee on Internal Improvement.

The committee on Internal Improvement, to whom was referred the report of the Board of Public Works, and so much of the Governor's message as relates to Internal Improvement, Respectfully Report—

That they have devoted to the subject submitted to them, all the attention its importance so justly merits. Every means of information within the reach of the committee, has been used to enable them to take as accurate a view as possible, of the subject before them. The report of the board to the house not being so full and explicit on some points, as could have been wished, the committee requested additional information, which was cheerfully and promptly furnished, and is herewith submitted.

The form in which the accounts are presented, both by the board and the comptroller general, require very attentive examination in order to be understood; nor can it be ascertained with precision in those accounts at what particular points the several sums expended, were applied. To remedy this defect, an abstract has been made out and is herewith submitted, which exhibits at one view every dollar which has been expended, with all the circumstances of time, place and persons.

As much dissatisfaction has been expressed in relation to the Public Works, and many reports of mismanagement have gained credit with the community, your committee felt themselves bound to make as early and as thorough an investigation into the truth of these reports as possible. This investigation resulted in a conviction that there is in some instances real cause of complaint; but that much the greater portion of the public dissatisfaction has arisen either from misrepresentation, or the disappointment of unreasonable expectations. In some instances the agents of the board have deviated from their instructions or have neglected their duty. The contractors have not always done the work in the manner required of them, and the advantages expected to result from the application of labor and funds on most of the works, have not been as speedily or extensively felt, as was anticipated.

Acknowledging some abuses to have existed, and many errors to have been committed, your committee can discover no sufficient cause for general discontent and despondence. Internal improvement was a new and untried system in this state but a few years ago. Expensive and slow in its operations, in any country, it was calculated to be peculiarly so in this state. Owing to the disadvantages of our climate, and the peculiar character of the laboring class of the community, the skillful and experienced artisans of Europe or the north, could not be obtained with difficulty, and at a price greatly exceeding that for which they may be employed elsewhere. The nature and extent of the obstacles to the navigation of our rivers, and the expense necessary for their removal, were very imperfectly understood.—The resources of the country not being accurately known, in consequence of the languid state of agriculture, the benefits to be derived from the completion of any particular work, could not, with any degree of precision, be weighed against the cost of such work.

Labouring under all these disadvantages, it was necessary, that the state should either forego all the benefits flowing from an improved state of agriculture and commerce, or risk something in an attempt to excite the industry and call for the enterprise of her citizens to improve the natural advantages of the country.—In order and more populous states, it is only necessary that the legislature should its aid and patronage to private enterprise; but owing to the sparse population of many parts of this state; and the concentration of wealth, but in a few points, it be-

comes necessary that the legislature should not only aid private enterprise, but set an example to its citizens worthy of their imitation, in undertaking and accomplishing works of permanent utility, rather than of great, immediate profit.

If no other advantages were to result from the past operations of internal improvement, your committee are of opinion that the state has been in a considerable degree compensated for its expenditure, by the introduction and naturalization of many industrious white laborers and mechanics; by the accurate estimates we are now enabled to make of the cost of any works to be undertaken in future—by the impulse which has been given to private enterprise, by familiarising the inhabitants in the neighborhood of the works, with the mode of conducting them, and the practicability of overcoming obstacles heretofore considered insurmountable, and by the discovery of materials, heretofore hidden, not only of vast utility in prosecuting the work itself, but of great intrinsic value as to many objects of domestic economy.

Your committee are however far from considering these as the only benefits to be derived from the public works. All those which have been commenced, if prosecuted and completed, are calculated, in their opinion, to be, at no very remote period, of extensive utility. Laying out of view for a moment, the improvement of agriculture and the increase of wealth and population consequent on the increased facilities of transportation, the attraction and concentration of the commerce not only of a large and wealthy portion of our own state (now lost to us) but a very valuable portion of a sister state, are objects of too much political importance to be hastily and inconsiderately abandoned.

By the abstract herewith submitted, it will be seen, that to complete the works which have been already begun, and which it was expected, would be completed with the expenditure of one million, will require an additional sum of one hundred eighty-three thousand dollars. A larger sum may possibly be required. To complete the navigation of the Catawba, Broad, Saluda and Savannah rivers above, and to remove the obstructions in the rivers below, will probably require an additional half million.

That these works should be carried on and completed, your committee have no doubt; but they are of opinion, they should be prosecuted at a smaller annual expenditure than heretofore. Your committee feel no hesitation in recommending in the strongest terms, the continued prosecution of this great and valuable undertaking; but they do most seriously doubt the propriety or policy of pledging or setting apart any specific sum of money, to be expended under contracts entered into prospectively. It amounts, in their opinion, to an implied doubt, either of the correctness of our own plans, or of the liberality and intelligence of our successors. In the prosecution of a new and extensive system of improvement, it is natural to expect that errors and imperfections will be discovered, and it appears to your committee most advisable to leave it in the power of the legislature annually to examine and correct such defects as may be discovered. Much of the inconvenience and disappointment experienced from the past operation of the system, has in their opinion arisen from our predecessors having pursued a different policy; binding us to pursue their plans and fulfil their contracts, notwithstanding any we might discover to change the one or rescind the other.

In the opinion of your committee, the prominent defects of the present system are the following—First, that it gives to the Board of Public Works too great discretionary powers in relation to forming contracts, selecting the points where the works shall commence, and in the employment of subordinate agents. Second,

that it imposes upon the Board duties so extensive and diversified, that no man with the ordinary powers of locomotion or capacities of mind could be reasonably expected to execute them. Your committee are of opinion that no work of importance should be begun, or any contract made for work, until an accurate estimate of the time and cost of completing such work, and the extent of advantage to be derived from it, be submitted to and approved by the Legislature, and that the superintendence of no important work should be intrusted to the skill or fidelity of subordinate agents. All the well founded complaints against the manner in which the public works have been conducted, have arisen from the causes above-mentioned. The acting commissioners after doing all in their power, and more than could reasonably have been expected, have been compelled to confide in subordinate agents, whose interest it was to make the greatest profit with the least possible labor.

In conformity with these views, your committee would have recommended to the Legislature a change in the constitution of the Board of Public Works, but for the following consideration. That after completing the works already contracted for, and over which they will now be enabled to afford a personal superintendence, there will remain but a small balance of the million pledged to be expended at their discretion. The change of system which your committee are disposed to recommend, would be attended with some additional expense, without affording any present advantage, inasmuch as the two acting commissioners with one principal and one assistant engineer, will be fully adequate to the discharge of the duties of the next year; at the end of which, a more perfect system can be digested and arranged, with the advantage of a more improved experience.

Of the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, (the balance of the million heretofore appropriated and pledged) one hundred and seventy thousand dollars are already pledged by the board in contracts which they have heretofore made. Your committee recommend that so much of the remaining eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) as can be expended within the year at that point, be applied to completing the Columbia canal; and the locks at Granby, and that the balance be applied by the board in completing the bridges and causeways on those parts of the state road below Columbia, which have been commenced, and for which tools and materials have been prepared, and in perfecting the navigation of such principal rivers below as have been commenced, and for the improvement of which, the necessary tools and machinery have been provided.

W. A. BULL, Chairman.

\$20 Reward.

RANAWAY from the Subscriber, living in Warren County Georgia, on the tenth of September last, a yellow Negro Fellow by the name of HAMILTON; about to fifty-two or twenty-three years of age, a middle size, with gray eyes, knock-kneed and has a black spot on his upper fore teeth, and when spoken to, has a pleasant countenance. The above reward and all reasonable expenses will be paid to any person who will deliver me the above described negro or confine him in goal so that I get him.

Solomon Lockhart.

November 22. 25-26
The Editors of the Raleigh Star and its circulating Intelligencer, are requested to insert the above once a week, for four weeks, and forward their accounts to Warrenton Post Office, Georgia, for payment.

Notice.

THERE is a Tract of 100 Acres of Land, lying in Abbeville District, granted to Dorrick Johnston in the year 1766, a Bounty, no heir or owner has appeared, this is intended as a caveat.

J. M. Mallon.
May 17.

CAMDEN.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1821.

In consequence of arrangements which have been made for the improvement of our paper, its publication was unavoidably delayed last week—it will be published under its present title until the first of February, in order to supply those numbers which have failed, after which, its title will be the SOUTH-CAROLINA HERALD.

THE LEGISLATURE

Having been engaged in business all night adjourned yesterday morning about four o'clock. They passed during their sitting twenty-seven acts. At this time, we have barely an opportunity to give their captions. Hereafter we shall notice them more at large.

After the business of the legislature was closed and immediately previous to the adjournment, the following resolution was unanimously passed by the Senate:

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of the Senate be tendered to the Hon. Benjamin Huger, for the able, indefatigable and impartial discharge of the arduous duties of the chair, during the term he has presided over the deliberations of this body, as President thereof.

The President replied with much feeling, and in an elegant and dignified manner acknowledged the sentiments of the house towards him. We had no opportunity of committing it to paper at the time it was delivered, and therefore cannot present our readers with a copy of it.

About the same time in the House of Representatives, the following resolution was offered:

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this House be presented to Patrick Noble, Esq. Speaker, for the able and impartial manner with which he has discharged the arduous duties of the chair; in which station he has so happily combined accuracy of judgment, with amiableness of temper and courtesy of manner.

To which the Speaker, after he resumed his seat, made the following reply:

Gentlemen: Penetrated with a profound sense of gratitude for this distinguished expression of your continued kind feelings towards me, I entreat you to accept my most sincere thanks.

If, in the zealous discharge of the responsible and important duties of the high station to which you have promoted me, my humble efforts have at all met with your approbation, to you the praise belongs.—Unsupported by your intelligence, courtesy and love of order, unavailing would have been all my endeavors to merit your confidence; but under such auspices, tranquil and smooth has been my career. You have kindly overlooked my faults, and more than recompensed my services.

Assembled to advance the happiness and prosperity of our beloved country, you have marched in the undeviating course marked out by wisdom and patriotism.

The period has now arrived, when the common bond which heretofore bound us together is about to be dissolved; but time cannot efface those delightful recollections which I shall carry with me to my friends. And to you, I am sure, will your constituents ward the well earned applause, which is always bestowed upon an upright, independent and enlightened policy, that has for its object their lasting good.

Before I bid you adieu, permit me once more to submit my unfeigned acknowledgments, and to implore that Infinite Being who continually watches over us, to conduct you in safety to those unmingled felicities which find their appropriate residence in the domestic circle.

LIST OF ACTS.

An act making appropriations for the year 1821, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

An act to raise supplies for the year 1822, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

An act to postpone the election of members of Congress to represent

this state in the eighteenth Congress of the United States.

An act to prevent fraudulent confession of judgments; and to facilitate the confession of judgments by the consent of parties.

An act to authorize the erection of suitable buildings for a lunatic asylum, and a school for the deaf and dumb.

An act respecting the master and commissioners in Equity, and for other purposes.

An act to give to the commissioners of the poor of Pendleton, Kershaw, Lancaster, and Georgetown districts, the power to purchase land, and build poor-houses thereon, for the maintenance and support of the said districts, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

An act to provide more effectually against the offence of harboring negro slaves.

An act to relieve the inhabitants of certain islands on the sea coast, from the operation of the road laws in certain particulars.

An act to prolong the sitting of the Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions, for the districts of Richland and Lexington, and to fix the time for holding the Court of Equity for the equity district of Columbia, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

An act to vest in Elizabeth Weaver, certain escheated property.

An act to vest in the City Council of Charleston, power to grant licenses to retail grocers, and persons retailing on the wharves of Charleston.

An act to amend the charter of the John's Island Society.

An act authorizing another regiment of militia to be raised and organized in the district of Barnwell, and for other purposes.

An act to authorize Richard Henry Wilde, Robert R. Reid, and others, to practice in the Courts of Law and Equity, in this state.

An act to increase the punishment inflicted on persons convicted of murdering any slave, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

An act to establish a Court of Equity for Lancaster and Greenville districts, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

An act to establish certain roads, bridges, and ferries.

An act to establish an Inspection and Ware-house at Hamburg, in Edgefield district.

An act to incorporate the South-Carolina Academy of Fine Arts.

An act to incorporate certain Societies.

An act to alter the Middle Circuit, and to allow two weeks for the sitting of the Courts of Fairfield and Union districts.

An act to release to Olement W. Stevens, all the estate, right and title of the state of South-Carolina, in the lands whereof his father John Stevens, a subject of the king of Great-Britain, was possessed in this state.

An act to regulate the appointment of Coroners.

An act to limit the number of justices of the quorum and of the peace in the different districts, counties and parishes within this state.

An act to provide a sinking fund for the redemption of the six per cent. stock of this state.

An act to increase the jurisdiction of the city Court of Charleston.

Telescope.

The Board of Public Works met at their office in Columbia on the 21st December, when the following appointments were made—Nicholas Herbermont, President; Wm. J. Middleton, Secretary and Treasurer of the Contingent fund; Robert Mills and A. Blanding, Acting Commissioners; John Conly, Engineer; Wm. H. Gibbs, jun. assistant do. and Robert K. Payne, assistant to the Board.—I bid.

Mr. Cannon, of Tennessee, submitted the following resolutions to the House of Representatives of the United States, on the 11th inst. That