

The Orangeburg News.

FIRST OUR HOMES; THEN OUR STATE; FINALLY THE NATION; THESE CONSTITUTE OUR COUNTRY. SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1, 1868. NUMBER 50

THE ORANGEBURG NEWS.
PUBLISHED AT ORANGEBURG, S. C.
Every Saturday Morning.
TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
One Copy for one year, \$2.00
Six Months, \$1.00
Three Months, \$0.50
Single Copies, 10 Cts.
Advertising rates on application.

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ALL SOUTHERN COMPANIES.

VARIOUS.

THE NEGRO CONVENTION.

From the Charleston Mercury.
The proceedings were introduced with prayer by F. L. Cardozo.
The minutes of the last meeting were partly read, when, on motion of Parker, the further reading of the journal was dispensed with.
C. C. Bowen, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the resolution rendering of no effect contracts for sale of slaves, reported an ordinance declaring all such contracts void, and forbidding any proceedings thereon.

The chairman asked that the decision be made about to be appealed from, in order to throw the responsibility upon the convention.
The chair then decided that according to the rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, the ordinance, which term was synonymous with bill, had passed its first reading, and required to be read twice again before it could become a law. Ordered to be printed.
Bowen, on behalf of the same committee, asked that the resolution in regard to the qualification of jurors be referred to the Legislative Committee. Not agreed to.

N. G. Parker, from the Committee on Finance, to whom was referred an ordinance about the State bills, reported that they were in correspondence with the Governor, General Canby and others, who could furnish information on the subject, and they asked further time, promising an early report. Granted.
The report of the Committee on Rules and Regulations was read and ordered to be printed.
L. D. Johnson, from the committee to whom was referred an ordinance dividing Pickens District into two districts, to be called Pickens and Oconee, reported favorably, and requested that it be referred to the Judiciary Committee with instructions to increase so much of it as they saw fit into the constitution.

J. J. Wright moved that the report be referred to the next Legislature. This motion was seconded by C. C. Bowen.
On motion of DeLarge the report and the petition of the citizens of Pickens were made the special order for to-morrow at 1 P. M.
Whittemore moved that the legislature be instructed, as soon as practicable, to form a penal code founded on principles of reformation and not on vindictive justice, and that they provide farms where persons unable through age or infirmity, to take care of themselves, might find employment and every reasonable comfort, and, by usefulness, lose the degrading sense of dependence. Referred to the Legislative Committee.

J. K. Dillen introduced a resolution to establish a supreme court and inferior courts, &c., and asked that it be referred to the Judiciary Committee.
L. S. Langley called for the special order, which was the report of the Executive Committee recommending a petition to General Canby for a stay law of three months.
After a great deal of rambling debate, Whittemore moved to make the report the special order for Thursday at 2 P. M.

Moses called for yeas and nays, which resulted ayes 46, nays 68.
Dill then moved to lay the whole matter on the table.
Moses called again for the yeas and nays, which resulted ayes 28, nays 82.
T. J. Robertson moved the indefinite postponement of the whole matter.
The yeas and nays were called for and resulted ayes 24, nays 86.

It was thus established as the opinion of a very large majority of the convention that the report should be adopted, but it was so near the hour of adjournment that the relief party consented to postpone the special order until Thursday at 1 o'clock.
The convention then adjourned to 12 M. on Thursday.

THURSDAY, 23D.
The Convention assembled at 12 M. J. J. Wright made a report of the Committee on the Judiciary on a resolution of inquiry as to the legislative powers of the Convention. The Committee are of opinion that the Convention has the power to legislate as far as they may consider it proper for the good of the people.

F. J. Moses, Jr., moved that the report be made the special order for one o'clock to-morrow.
J. J. Wright made a report of the same Committee on an ordinance for the abolition of the District Courts. The Committee regard the ordinance as unnecessary, as the subject will be embraced in the report of the Judiciary Committee upon that portion of the Constitution referred to them. Adopted.
O. M. Olson offered the following, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.
Resolved, That all Banks and Savings In-

stitutions in this State, which suspended payment during the rebellion, shall immediately after the ratification of the State Constitution go into liquidation.
B. F. Randolph offered the following, which was referred to the Committee on Petitions:
Whereas, incentives are necessary to a more speedy attainment of learning and intelligence, which are the sure guards of Republican liberty, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the forthcoming Constitution of the State shall provide that all persons coming of age after the first of January, 1875, shall possess the qualifications of reading and writing intelligently in order to be able to vote, referred to the Committee on Franchise and Elections.
S. A. Swain offered the following, which was referred to the Committee on Petitions:
Whereas certain citizens of the State of South Carolina were appointed as Assistant Assessors of Internal Revenue for the year 1866, and served in that capacity until April, 1867, without compensation, by reason of not being able to subscribe to the oath prescribed by the Act of July, 1862, and

Whereas they did discharge their duties with fidelity to the Government, therefore be it
Resolved, That this body do earnestly recommend to the Congress of the United States the extreme necessity of adopting some measure for the relief of those persons.
Mr. B. F. Whittemore offered the following, which was referred to the Committee on Education:
No township or school district shall receive any portion of the public school fund, unless a free school shall have been kept therein for not less than three months during the year, for which the distribution therein shall have been made. The Legislature shall have the power to require by law, that every child of sufficient mental and physical ability shall attend the Public Schools, during the period between the age of seven and eighteen years, for a term equivalent to sixteen months, unless educated by other means.

R. G. Holmes offered a resolution requiring that no debt contracted by the State of South Carolina while in rebellion against the United States, shall be legalized or paid by any Act of any Legislature of this State. Referred to the Committee on the legislative part of the Constitution.
Robert Small offered the following, which was referred to the Committee on Education:
Whereas, the maintenance of an intelligent government, faithful to the interests and liberties of the people, must in a great measure depend upon the intelligence of the people themselves; and

Whereas the experience of those States which have opened to the poor and rich alike, the opportunities of instruction, has demonstrated the utility of Common Schools in elevating the intellectual character of their population; therefore,
Resolved, That the Committee on the Constitution be directed to report an article providing for a system of Common Schools, of different grades, to be open without charge to all classes of persons.
Resolved, That for the purpose of making effective the Common School system, it be required that all parents and guardians send their children between the ages of seven and fourteen to some school, at least six months for each year, under penalties for non-compliance, to be fixed by law, unless from sufficient cause any may be excused in writing by some proper legal authority, appointed to direct or superintend the Public Schools.

B. F. Randolph introduced the following, which was indefinitely postponed.
Whereas, distinction and inequality in law would be destructive to peace and harmony, and would be a source of general dissatisfaction, as well as make a large majority of citizens of the State discontented by social conflict among citizens, be it
Resolved, That the forthcoming Constitution shall not itself make any distinction on account of color, and shall provide that no distinction whatever on account of color in any law, legislative or municipal, shall be made in this State.
Resolved, That there shall be no distinction on account of color in any institution which depends on the public for its support.

J. M. Runion offered a resolution providing for the election of Sheriffs, Coroners, Clerks of the Courts of Common Pleas, Commissioners in Equity, &c.
The special order taken up was the petition to General Canby for the stay of all executions on debts contracted prior to the 30th of June, 1865.
Rutland moved on behalf of T. J. Robertson, that the Convention grant him leave to read his remarks on the subject, which had been committed to writing.
N. G. Parker moved to amend the resolution by inserting after the words "30th June, 1865,"

the words "except wages of laborers or liens on the crops to secure advances made by factors or others."
Bowen moved to amend by substituting "all debts contracted previous to 1st of January, 1868," for "the 30th June, 1865."
R. B. Elliott moved to amend by inserting "prior to the passage of this Ordinance."
Whittemore moved to lay the amendment on the table.
The President stated that laying the amendment on the table carries with it the whole subject matter.
Whittemore moved to strike out the time and insert "to the reception of this petition by General Canby."

R. C. DeLarge called for the previous question, which was carried.
A number of delegates rose to ask for information and the reading of the ordinance, when Whittemore moved a reconsideration, which was carried.
T. J. Robertson then rose, and said it was not the poor man, or the loyal man, who brought about the present impoverished condition of the country. On the contrary, it was those who claim to have the wisdom and wealth of the country. These last were the very men now clamoring for stay laws and homesteads. He never knew a man who paid his debts only at the end of the law, to pay them at all when he had a stay law. These parties owning large bodies of lands, wanting stay laws, are those who say they cannot live here with colored men. They don't want to pay their just debts and never will. He deemed stay laws as unconstitutional, impairing the obligations of contracts.
Let them sell their lands, and it will be better for the working man, enabling him to provide a home and identify himself with the soil. He was willing to give a liberal homestead law, say of 40 or 60 acres, quite enough for any man to support his family.

Now, sir, the men, with but few exceptions, asking relief, are those who do not recognize the validity of the Reconstruction Acts of Congress, and who refused to vote at the election for delegates to this Convention. Some of them call this Convention a menagerie, a collection of wild animals. Is this menagerie to protect their property at the expense of the loyal citizens, and the working men of the country? I hope not—or are we to obey the laws which recognize no such thing?
The resolution before them only asked a stay of three months—what does that mean? They will then bring it up before the Legislature and ask for it to be extended until Fall to allow the crop to be made and gathered, and then the price of cotton not being high enough to suit their views they will clamor for its continuance, until there is no end to it. A stay law has been in operation for more than six years, and gentlemen are asking for more time. He saw no disposition on the part of the creditors of this State to oppress the debtors, where they are making the least effort to discharge their obligations. Stay laws are the legitimate offspring of secession and rebellion, and are we who claim to be loyal to continue to foster and cherish that offspring. Let them take the fat of their alma mater.
R. H. Cain also ventilated his ideas on the subject.
On motion, the Convention adjourned.

FRIDAY 24TH.
The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
The president here read a communication from General R. K. Scott, Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau:
Hdq's Ass't Commissioner,
BUREAU R. F. AND A. L.
CHARLESTON, S. C. DISTRICT S. C.,
January 23, 1868.

Hon. A. G. Mackey, President South Carolina Constitutional Convention, Charleston, S. C.:
SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your consideration, and for the action of the convention over which you have the honor to preside (if in your judgment it may seem best to lay the matter before it), the enclosed letter.
It is one of many complaints which I have received during the past few weeks, and as the condition of affairs described therein arises from what appears to be gradually growing sentiment on the part of the freed people throughout the State, I think an expression of some kind from the Convention, in the form of a resolution, announcing the sense of the Convention on the subject, would be productive of most beneficial result.
The sooner that such ideas as those held by the freed people upon the plantation of Mr. Irving are eradicated, the better it will be for planter and laborer.
I would also respectfully suggest that such an expression as I have alluded to on the part of the Convention, would do more than any act of the military authorities or myself, to disabuse the minds of the people of the idea that the Convention has lands at its disposal for distribution.
I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) R. K. SCOTT,
Brevet Major-General,
Assistant Commissioner.

KENSINGTON,
EASTERN BRANCH OF COOPER RIVER,
January 14, 1868.
Captain F. W. Leithe:
DEAR SIR: A condition of things has arisen on this plantation among the freedmen which it is necessary to inform you of at once, and to request that you will communicate with me at once upon the subject. I have offered General Scott's contract to the people on the plantation for their acceptance, but was answered with a flat refusal to make any contract at all. They went on to say that they would work the lands, but until something was decided in their favor by the sitting of the convention, they would not sign any agreement or make any terms with me whatsoever. Now this is like taking possession of my lands out and out, and I am not disposed to submit without every effort to establish my authority over what I consider my own property.
I am not disposed to be harsh in my measures, believing as I do, that all this is the result of false teaching, but simply wish that you would advise me as to the proper method to pursue either to compel them to sign this contract of General Scott's, or to quit my premises at once; so that I may have a chance of procuring other labor before it is too late. I have given these people full warning that if they insist upon working my lands without a contract, they do it at their own risk, and I am not bound now to contract with any of them again, against my will or recognize their work in any way. If my plantation affairs are to await the deliberations of the Convention, you will readily perceive the necessity of immediate action in order to disabuse their minds of the prevailing idea that something is to be done for their especial benefit by the Convention.
You will oblige me by sending a reply to this at once through Oakley Postoffice, North-eastern Railroad.

Respectfully yours,
S. EMELIUS IRVING.
DeLarge moved that the convention go into committee of the whole on the unfinished business of yesterday. Agreed to.
Lemuel Boozar took the chair.
The resolution of F. J. Moses, Jr., to petition General Canby to stay all executions for three months was read.
R. C. DeLarge rose to reply to R. H. Cain, who had spoken against the resolution on Thursday.
He charged the opposition with using unfair means to secure the defeat of the measure, and said that intimidation, and threats had been used outside the hall to prevent delegates from voting for the resolution. He was very bitter against the speculators, who would buy up all the lands, and not give the poor man a chance. He denied that the resolution was class legislation, or, indeed, any legislation at all, and insisted that the relief intended to be asked for was demanded by the necessities of the people. He continued at some length, and his speech seemed to be listened to, but it raised no applause.
T. J. Robertson, from some cause not explained, took the statement about intimidation to himself, interrupted the startled DeLarge in a very passionate manner, and declared that the charge was false. DeLarge explained that he did not allude to Robertson, and Robertson expressed himself satisfied.

F. L. Cardozo rose to express a few doubts as to the following points: 1. The legality of the proposed action. 2. Its injustice and tendency to repudiation. 3. Its impropriety. 4. Its distinction in favor of a class. 5. Its advantage to dealers in slaves. He rose only to express these doubts, but he launched off into a tolerably lengthy and very violent speech against the landholders of the State. He said that now was the time to push them and make them sell, so that the poor man could buy. He declared he had no enmity to the men against whom he was speaking, but it was a question which went beyond personal motives. The prosperity of the country demanded the breaking up of the plantation system of agriculture.
Robertson rose to a personal explanation, and gave a very tiresome and tedious account of himself, how he was said to be rich, and if he was not it was not his fault, how he had assisted more poor men than any other man in the State, how he had never, except on one occasion, charged more than 7 per cent interest on his money, how he had been snubbed by people, whom, if their antecedents were known, a dog would not bark at—and a good deal more to the same effect.
W. J. Whipper was in favor of the resolution and he made an elaborate, clear and strong argument on his side of the question. His grammar was not always correct, and he took rather exalted views of the dignity and power of the convention, but the way in which he took down clerical opponents, and the pertinent and ready manner in which he answered those who interrupted him was highly entertaining. He spoke until it was near time to adjourn, and then, on motion of F. J. Moses, Jr., the committee rose and reported, no decision, and the convention immediately adjourned.

MONDAY 27TH.
The meeting was opened with prayer by Jackson, outside white, who, in unctuous language, expressed his horror of war, but thanked God that he had through war worked out his purpose and freed this great country from the outrageous sin and wrong of slavery.
The roll was called and a quorum being present the assembly proceeded to business.
The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
F. J. Moses, from the Executive Committee, to whom was referred a preamble and resolution providing for the removal of State officers, reported that in their opinion the present removal of the said officers would be highly prejudicial to the interests and welfare of South Carolina, and they recommended that the whole subject be left to the people of the State, unless otherwise ordered by Congress. Adopted almost unanimously.
N. G. Parker, from the Committee on Finance, reported an ordinance to levy a special tax to defray expenses, making it incumbent on Tax Collectors to assess and collect the tax when on their usual collections of State taxes. It was ordered that every \$100 of Real Estate should pay 100 of State of Georgia for business, a letter was read from Major D.

T. Corbin, U. S. District-Attorney, accepting the position of solicitor of the convention.
The chairman, A. G. Mackey, stated that it would be necessary for him on Monday to attend the United States District Court, to take care of the interests of the government, and asked leave of absence for that day, with permission to appoint Lemuel Boozar, of Lexington, to take his place during his absence.
L. S. Langley objected, on the ground that the convention should have the liberty of choosing their own chairman pro tem. Motion denied.
DeLarge moved that Boozar be elected temporary chairman.
Langley said that if nominations were in order he would nominate F. L. Cardozo. Motion denied.
Cardozo declined in favor of Whipper, and Whipper declined in favor of Boozar, and Boozar was elected without further opposition.
Parker, from the Financial Committee, to whom was referred a resolution in regard to the bills of the State, known as bills received, said that the committee would report by ordinance on Monday.
DeLarge, from the Committee on Printing, reported two bids—one from H. Judge Moore and one from McMillan & Jowitz. Moore's bid was \$1000 and Jowitz's \$1500.
Bowen said he had learned that Moore had already sub-let the printing to parties who, though Northern men, were not in sympathy with the convention.
Randolph moved that the bid of H. Judge Moore be accepted and he be declared the printer of the convention.
Bowen said that, as Randolph was co-editor of the same paper with Moore, he might naturally be expected to show more delicacy about the matter than to be in such haste to have him elected.
Randolph explained that, though he was associated with Moore editorially, he was not personally interested in the printing.
Allen, of Greenville, said there had been talking on this subject. It was not more than two hundred dollars, as he understood it, and they had already spent five hundred dollars talking about it. There was too much wind work about the convention anyhow for him to get into it.
The assemblage took the hint, and H. Judge Moore was elected printer.

J. J. Wright offered a resolution that General Canby be requested to issue an order exempting from levy and sale for four months one or two hundred acres of land of any debtor. Adopted.
In supporting the resolution, Wright said, as he would prefer to make it four hundred instead of one hundred acres, because much of the land in South Carolina was so poor that it took four acres to make one, but he left it as it was to avoid opposition.
The special order was called and the previous question being called, F. J. Moses, Jr., defended his resolution in a speech of an hour, as was his privilege.
The previous question was then put, and resulted ayes 57, nays 52.
The convention then resolved to petition General Canby to stay for three months all executions for debts incurred since 1860.
The analysis of the vote is as follows: Whites, 35; blacks, 22. Total, 57. Nays—whites, 12; blacks, 40. Total, 52.
B. F. Whittemore introduced the following resolution, which was passed almost unanimously.
Resolved, That while we, the members of this convention, will not favor any scheme for the repudiation of debts, the violation of the obligation of contracts, or the taking of lands from the hands of lawful owners of the same without reasonable compensation, we are willing to further any measures of relief consistent with the powers delegated to us by the Reconstruction acts of Congress.

The convention then adjourned.
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The roll was called and a quorum being present the assembly proceeded to business.
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The usual preliminaries having been gone through with, and the assemblage being ready for business, a letter was read from Major D.

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R. C. DeLarge rose to reply to R. H. Cain, who had spoken against the resolution on Thursday.
He charged the opposition with using unfair means to secure the defeat of the measure, and said that intimidation, and threats had been used outside the hall to prevent delegates from voting for the resolution. He was very bitter against the speculators, who would buy up all the lands, and not give the poor man a chance. He denied that the resolution was class legislation, or, indeed, any legislation at all, and insisted that the relief intended to be asked for was demanded by the necessities of the people. He continued at some length, and his speech seemed to be listened to, but it raised no applause.
T. J. Robertson, from some cause not explained, took the statement about intimidation to himself, interrupted the startled DeLarge in a very passionate manner, and declared that the charge was false. DeLarge explained that he did not allude to Robertson, and Robertson expressed himself satisfied.

F. L. Cardozo rose to express a few doubts as to the following points: 1. The legality of the proposed action. 2. Its injustice and tendency to repudiation. 3. Its impropriety. 4. Its distinction in favor of a class. 5. Its advantage to dealers in slaves. He rose only to express these doubts, but he launched off into a tolerably lengthy and very violent speech against the landholders of the State. He said that now was the time to push them and make them sell, so that the poor man could buy. He declared he had no enmity to the men against whom he was speaking, but it was a question which went beyond personal motives. The prosperity of the country demanded the breaking up of the plantation system of agriculture.
Robertson rose to a personal explanation, and gave a very tiresome and tedious account of himself, how he was said to be rich, and if he was not it was not his fault, how he had assisted more poor men than any other man in the State, how he had never, except on one occasion, charged more than 7 per cent interest on his money, how he had been snubbed by people, whom, if their antecedents were known, a dog would not bark at—and a good deal more to the same effect.
W. J. Whipper was in favor of the resolution and he made an elaborate, clear and strong argument on his side of the question. His grammar was not always correct, and he took rather exalted views of the dignity and power of the convention, but the way in which he took down clerical opponents, and the pertinent and ready manner in which he answered those who interrupted him was highly entertaining. He spoke until it was near time to adjourn, and then, on motion of F. J. Moses, Jr., the committee rose and reported, no decision, and the convention immediately adjourned.

MONDAY 27TH.
The meeting was opened with prayer by Jackson, outside white, who, in unctuous language, expressed his horror of war, but thanked God that he had through war worked out his purpose and freed this great country from the outrageous sin and wrong of slavery.
The roll was called and a quorum being present the assembly proceeded to business.
The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
F. J. Moses, from the Executive Committee, to whom was referred a preamble and resolution providing for the removal of State officers, reported that in their opinion the present removal of the said officers would be highly prejudicial to the interests and welfare of South Carolina, and they recommended that the whole subject be left to the people of the State, unless otherwise ordered by Congress. Adopted almost unanimously.
N. G. Parker, from the Committee on Finance, reported an ordinance to levy a special tax to defray expenses, making it incumbent on Tax Collectors to assess and collect the tax when on their usual collections of State taxes. It was ordered that every \$100 of Real Estate should pay 100 of State of Georgia for business, a letter was read from Major D.

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