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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

these rates

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, S. C. October 24, 1865. To the Honorable the Senate and

House of Representatives .GENTLEMEN: You have convened, in extra session, by order of the late Convention, for the purpose of considering the new and extraordinary condition of our State, and providing, by wise and proper legislation, for the welfare and best interests of South Carolina. As provisional Governor of the State; and in the absence of the recently elected constitutional Executive, I consider it my duty to address you on the present occasion and recommend for your consideration such measures as, in my judgment, the interest and welfare of the State require.

Although I have not the honor of deriving my authority, as Chief Executive of the State, from you, or the people of South Carolina, yet I can assure you, in all sincerity, that no Constitutional Governor of the State has ever had your interests, your honor and prosperity more at heart, or has ever devoted his time and energies more exclusively and zealously to what he honestly believed would best promote the welfare and happiness of the State. And I may say, with equal truth, that, although appointed Provisional Governer over South Carolina, no one has felt more respect for the majesty of her laws, or been more willing to render obedience to the sovereignty of her people.

After commenting upon the action of the recent State Convention, the Governor says :

- Such, gentlemen, is the new Constitution under which you have assembled, and which, it is hoped, will inspire the people of South Carolina with new democratic seal and energy in developing, intellectually and physically, the talent and resources of the State. It is true that under the old regime, South Carolina has given the Republic a bright gallaxy of names which she may well be proud of; but her material prosperity as a State has not kept pace with that of her Southern sisters. Her population has been moving to the South-west till there are, at this time, almost as many native South Carolinians living in other States as there are in this State. They have drained the State. too, of her wealth and engies. For the last thirty or forty years we have likewise been oblivious of all internal improvement in our fruitless and vexatious supervision of the action of the Federal Government. Agriculture has been neglected, manufacthres almost ignored, and commerce despised. Foreign immigration, which has filled other States with wealth and population, developed their resources and made then happy, prosperous and powerful, has been discouraged in South Carolina, Her riches have been exhausted by her dependence on others for almost every thing she consumed or needed. We have been dependent on the Western States for our horses, mules, cattle and hogs, bacon, lard and beef. From the Northern States, we have received the furniture of our houses. and the implements of our farms and plantations, the carriages in which we rode, and the clothes which we wore. This policy must no longer be continued. It should be the pride of every farmer and planter in the State to raise, grow or make every thing which he uses or needs. Slavery has been abolished. and labor made more honorable as well as more necessary. They who have heretofo e spent their lives in ease and idleness will be forced to work. Planting and the learned professions are no longer the only honorable means of livelihood for our young men. They must become tradesmen, man ufacturers, artisans and mechanics. Immigration of industrious fore gners must be encouraged. Then manufactures will spring up, commerce will revive, and we shall become an independent people.

their lands to immigrants and capitalists from Europe and the North This will increase the wealth and industry of the State, and render more valuable the lands which remain unsold. It will also have a wholesome check on the colored population, and strengthen our security from insurrections and violence. Three-fourths of the State of South Carolina are uncultivated. Instead of a population of seven hundred thousand, our territory is sufficient to support one of seven millions, if properly distributed in manufacturers, commerce and agriculture.

It becomes your urgent duty, gentlemen, te make immediate provision for the protection and government of the freedmen and colored people who have been so suddenly released from slavery in their ignorance and destitution. This is alike due to humanity and justice, as well as the imperative necessities of society. The negro has lost the protection of his master, and he must now be protected by the law. This is expected of you by the President and the Federal Congress, and will remove all pretence for military rule in the State, as well as facilitate your speedy restoration to the Union and self-government. The negro is innocent of all that he has gained and all that you have lost, and he is entitled to your sympathy and kindness, your protection and guidance. The Convention ordered the Provisional Governor to appoint a Commission for the purpose of preparing and submitting to the Legislature, for their adoption, a code of laws for the protection and government of the treedmen and colored persons. In obedience to their order I have appointed Judge Wardlaw and Mr. Burt, two of the most eminent jurists in the State, to compose this Commission. They will, in due-time, report to you the result of their labors. The Convention also authorized the Legislature to establish a Court in each District for the trial of all cases in which freedmen are concerned. It becomes your duty to see that Courts are organized.

The election for Presidential electors has here fore been made by the Legislature of South Carolina, contrary to the true intent and meaning of the Federal Constitution, and against the usage in all the other States. An Ordinance was passed by the Convention, expressive of their judgment in regard to this matter, and directed the Previsional Governor to communicate this Ordinance to the Legislature at its first session. In obedience to their order, I herewith send you a copy of the Ordinance, which you will, at once, carry into effect, by providing a proper mode of electing electors of President and Vice President by the people.

The election of Members of Congress should be provided for at as early a day as possible. It is a matter of the highest importance that our Representatives in Congress should be in Washington, ready to take their seats, on the first Monday in December. By Act of Congress, passed March, 1863, it is made the duty of the Clerk of the previous House of Represen tatives to "make a roll of the Representives elect; and place thereon the names of all persons, and such persons only, whose credentials show that they were regularly elected in accordance with the laws of their States respectively, or the laws of the United States." It is therefore the imperative duty of the Clerk to call the roil of the members of the Southern States, whose credentials have been exhibited to him, and shown that they were regularly elected. He has no more right, under this Act, to exclude the members elect from South Carolina than he has to exclude those from Massachusetts. The Federal authorities have maintained that the Union never was dissolved, and that the Southern States have always been. and still are, members of that Union. In July, 1862, Congress passed an Act prescribing an oath of office for all persons to take who were elected or appointed to any office of honor or profit under the Government of the United States. This oath requires the party to swear that he has never borne arms against the United States; that he has never held or sought office under any power inimical to the United States; that he has given no aid, counsel or countenance to persons in hostility to the United States; and that he has not yielded a volutary support to any authority hostile to the United States. If this oath is to be applied to members

But the Constitution of the United States prescribes an oath for members of Congress to take, and they cannot be required to take any other oath constitutionally. There may have been some show of propriety for exacting this oath when it -was enacted, amidst the war between the Southern States and the United States; but there can be none now, unless it be for the purpose of excluding the Southern people from all office within their respective States, and still holding those States in military subjection. I know that this is not the policy of the President, and I cannot believe that it will be the avowed policy of the Federal Congress. If the Southern members are present when the roll is called by States; they will take part in the organization of the House, and may vote against the oath being tendered to the members when they are

sworn.

The subject of finance is one of great embarrassment and serious difficulty at this time in South Carolina, and will require great wisdom and sagacity in your legislation. The people are in a most destitute condition, without money, and without the means of paying their taxes. Their gold and silver were exported during the war as a species of commerce. The State banks are all broken, and their bills have ceased to circulate. The Confederate money, with which the country was inundated, is utterly worthless. The Federal currency is inaccessible to our people. Their cotton has been destroyed, and their provisions consumed by the armies, and they have nothing to procure money with. Under these circumstences, it would be well for you to consider whether or not it is possible to defray the necessary expenses of the State by issuing and selling State bonds, so as to avoid levying any tax during the ensuing year. The present indebtedness of the State is not large, and her credit ought to be such as to secure the sale of her bonds at fair prices. It you conclude to raise money in this way, you ought to include the payment of the direct tax, and which South Carolina now owes the United States, and which her citizens will soon be called upon to pay.

It is important that the courts of justice in this State should be once more fully opened, civil law restored and properly administered. This cannot be done till you fill the several vacancies on the bench. You will have to elect a Chief Justice of the State, two law Judges and one Chancellor. ' Opening our courts, and the administration of civil justice once more, would have a most salutary influence on society, and do more than anything else te preserve the peace and quiet of the State. We have been living without law long enough, and have suffered enough from lawless violence.

The Act to prevent the collection of debts, known as the stay law, was wholly unnecessary at the time it was passed, but is now a matter of prime necessity to the community. This Act should be continued, with permission, however, to collect the interest on debts due. There are many. widows and minor children whose sole subsistence depends on the payment of interests due them on their estates. The re-organization of the militia is a measure of the highest importance, under existing circumstances. I have received information from the Secretary of State at Washington, that as soon as our State Government is organized, all the Federal troops would be withdrawn from South Carolina. We must then rely on the militia for the protection of the State against insurrection and domestic violence. It is a matter of serious consideration, however, whether we should not desire to retain, for the present, a portion of the Federal troops in the State. The freedmen and color d people look to these troops as their friends and protectors, and would be much less likely to have any collision with them than with the mili-The colored garrisons, which were at one time stationed throughout the country, have done infinite mischief, by inducing the negroes to believe that all the lands of their former owners were to be divided out amongst them. This has made them discontented and unwilling to make contracts for the ensuing year. In many portions of the State, there are serious apprehensions of disturbance at the beginning of the next year. Strong gar-

civil jurisdiction, and should be subordinate to civil law. Otherwise, their presence would be productive of more mis. chief than good. You will take such action in this matter as in your judgment shall seem best for the State.

As soon as the Convention adjourned, I communicated to the President and Secretary of State copies of the new Constitution of South Carolina. I have the pleasure of informing you that President-Johnson has expressed to me his gratification at the amendments made in our Constitution, and his confident hope that we should soon be, once more, a "united, happy and prosperous people, forgetting the past, and looking only to the future welfare of our common country."

There is one matter of embarrassment. in your legislation, under the new Constitution, which I think my duty to bring to your notice. The Constitutional Governor will not, and cannot be inaugurated, till the first week of your regular session. And yet the Constitution requires all Acts to be presented to the Governor for his signature. If he does not approve them he must return them with his objections ; and then, to become a law, they must be passed by a majority of the whole representation of both Houses. Although the State Convention acknowledged the authority and existence of the Provisional Governor by several of their ordinances, yet they omitted to authorize him to act as Governor till the inauguration of the Governor elect. All your Acts should, therefore, be passed by a majority of the whole representation of both Houses, unless you are disposed to recognize the Provisional Governor as Governor of the State. But even with this recognition, I. think it would be safe to see that your Acts are passed by the constitutional mafority required, in the absence of the approval of the Governor. This will place beyond controversy any Acts which you may see proper to pass at your extra session, in the absence of your new elected Constitutional Governor.

In conclusion, I would urge you, gentlemen, to look only to the future in your legislation, and forget, so far as you can, the past. There is much to hope for and live for, yet in South Carolina. We should congratulate ourselves and the country that civil war has ceased, and peace is restored to the land. No longer are our citizens to be forced from their homes and families, and offered a bloody sacrifice on the field of battle. No longer is our beloved State to be ravaged and desolated, and our towns and villages committed to the flames. A merciful Providence has once more blessed our land with an abundant crop, and no longer have we any apprehensions of want and starvation. We are in the enjoyment of health. Our young men, noble and gallant soldicrs, are peaceably resuming their tormer vocations, and exerting themselves the great fire-cater lay unconcious upon in restoring the State to her wonted prog- the floor, with a little trickle of blood perity and happiness. No civil broils or deadly feuds are disgracing our people as in other States. . We have no political divisions. South Carolina presented a unit after her act of secession, and she is now united as one man in returning to the Union; and will be as true and loyal to her plighted faith as any State north of Masor.'s and 'Dixon's line. In this respect, there is no difference between former secessionists and old Union men. They all have equally, at heart, the peace, bonor, glory and prosperity of the American Republic. And I earnestly pray that your legislation and deliberations may tend to this great purpose, under the guidance and protection of Almighty God. B. F. PERRY.

farmers should dispose of a portion of can take it without committing perjury. gro population. But these garrisons dent in the State, that the late rebel offishould not be permitted to exercise any cers are of better disposition towards the Government, towards Northerners, towards progression, than any other class of citizens.

A Strange Statement---How W. L. Yancey met his Death.

As you enter the cemetery at Montgomery, and turn to the right, you will perceive a colonade of maple trees leading off to a quiet glen. Beyond is a grassy knoll, and leaving this to the left you will approach a pleasant level of greensward. Here you will be tempted to pause before a plain slab of white marble of the most humble cescription. It bears a single inscription : "William L. Yancey." His last words were: " Put. me out of sight," and it is said that he was constantly muttering, toward his latter end, those lines of Pope :

- "Let me live unseen, unknown, And unlamented let me die. Nor mound, nor monument, nor stone,
- Tell where I lie.'

His death was quiet and painless, after . acute physical and mental suffering. He was a strict churchman; a man of quiet manners; a handsome declaimer, and a fair scholar. He was never wealthy, and it is understood that he left his family without an independence.

The time has come when the circumstances of his last illness and death; with the occasion which suddenly convulsed a frame from perfect health into a mere wreck and shadow, may be mentioned as a historical fact. William L. Yancey came to his end by violence. It was towards the close of the second session of the first Confederate Congress that he broke from the counsels and influence of Mr. Davis, and became, with Mr. Henry S. Foote, a leader of the opposition. Mr. Ben. Hill, a Senator from Georgia, had likewise changed his front, and was remarkable for the earnestness, personal interest and persistency with which he sustained the measures of an administration to which his allegiance had been given but late in the day. Mr. Yancey, it will be remembered, had returned from an unsuccessful mission to Europe, and was representing Alabama in the Confederate Senate.

The question of a navy was under discussion in secret session. The debate ranged beyond the parliamentary limits, and Messrs. Yancey and Hill became animated over the abstract doctrine of State rights and the divinity of s.avery. High words passed, and finally the lie was given by Mr. Hill. Mr. Yancey leaped forward, as he aimed a blow at his adversary, was caught in the arms of the latter and violently thrown back over a desk. Mr. Hill is a man of wonderful muscular developement. Mr. Yancey was never very heavy, though lithe and active. In the fall his spine was seriously injured, and when the bystanders rushed upon the two and dragged the one from the other, oozing from his lips. He was carried to his hotel; a vote of secresy was passed, and the encounter hushed up. No one in Richmond except that body of men knew of the circumstance for six months after. Meanwhile the victim did not recover. He drooped from day to day. He became listless, hopeless and vacant. He was transferred to his own home, where his convulsions ceased a few weeks before his death, which was tranquil and calm.

The emancipation of our slaves will, in active labor of the country. Planters and ba said, that no man in South Carolina there is such a preponderance of the ne- of every Northern man two months rest, of cane upon the press?

A correspondent of the Boston Advertiser, animadverting to the fear affectedly entertained by men of the school of Thad. Stevens, says:

It is idle and foolish-more, it is false and cruel-to urge or argue that there is danger of further armed resistance to the authority of the Government in South Carolina. I know there was a score of ex-Confederate officers in the Conventiondoesn't that indicate a rebellious spirit? may be queried. For my part, I wish every office in the State could be filled with late rebel officers. It is the universal testimony of every officer of our own of Congress, it will, of course, exclude all risons ought to be continued in Charles-from South Carolina. It may, with truth, ton, Beaufort and Georgetown, where the commanding general down, as well as of bamboo. Is not this putting the mark troops with whom I have conversed, from | ing extensively made, in this country. out

NASHVILLLE, October 20 .- Champ Ferguson, the guerilla, was executed at noon to-day. He evinced no emotion until the rope was placed around his neck, when his face turned very red and broke into profuse perspiration, attended with a strong quivering of the lips. He stoud" composedly on the drop some twenty minutes, while the charges, specifications and sentence were read by Col. Shafter. He nodded recognition to several persons in the crowd, and shifted his position in an impatient manner while the sentence was being read. To some specifications he inclined his head in assent. To others he shook his head. He requested that his body be given in charge of his wife, and called upon his Maker to have mercy on him. The drop then fell, and in a few seconds he was a lifeless corpse.

White paper for newspaper is now be-