

A PLEA FOR SAN DOMINGO.

GRANT'S EXPLANATION OF "MY POLICY."

Where the Work Began—A Hard Rap at Sumner.

WASHINGTON, April 5. The following message was submitted to Congress to-day: To the Senate and House of Representatives: I have the honor to submit herewith to the two Houses of Congress the report of the commissioners, appointed in pursuance of a joint resolution, approved January 12, 1871. It will be observed that this report more sustains all that I have heretofore said in regard to the productiveness and healthfulness of the Republic of San Domingo, of the unanimity of the people for annexation to the United States, and of their peaceable character.

It is due to the public, as it certainly is to myself, that I should have given all the circumstances which first led to the negotiations of a treaty for the annexation of the Republic of San Domingo to the United States. When I accepted the arduous and responsible position which I now hold, I did not dream of instituting any steps for the acquisition of insular possessions. I believed, however, that our institutions were broad enough to extend over the entire continent, as rapidly as other people might desire to bring themselves under our protection. I believed, further, that we should not permit any Independent Government, within the limits of North America, to pass from a condition of Independence to one of ownership or protection under an European Power.

Soon after my inauguration as President, I was waited upon by an agent of President Baez, with a proposition to annex the Republic of San Domingo to the United States. This gentleman represented the capacity of the island, the desire of the people, and their character and habits, about as they have been described by the commissioners, whose report accompanies this message. He stated, further, that, being weak in numbers, and poor in purse, they were not capable of developing their great resources; that the people had no incentive to industry on account of lack of protection for their accumulations, and that, if not accepted by the United States, with institutions which they loved above those of any other nation, they would be compelled to seek protection elsewhere. To these statements I made no reply, and gave no indication of what I thought of these propositions. In the course of time, I was waited upon by a second gentleman from San Domingo, who made the same representations, and who was recognized in the manner.

In view of the facts which had been laid before me, and with an earnest desire to maintain the Monroe Doctrine, I believed that I would derelict in my duty if I did not take measures to ascertain the exact wish of the government and inhabitants of the Republic of San Domingo in regard to annexation, and communicate the information to the people of the United States. Under the attending circumstances I felt that, if I turned a deaf ear to this appeal, I might, in the future, be justly charged with a flagrant neglect of the public interests, and an utter disregard of the welfare of a down-trodden race, praying for the blessings of a free and strong government, and for protection in the enjoyment of the fruits of their own industry.

The opponents of annexation who heretofore professed to be the friends of the rights of Man, I believed would be my most violent assailants if I neglected so obvious a duty. Accordingly, after having appointed a commissioner to visit the island, who declined on account of sickness, I selected a second gentleman in whose capacity, judgment and integrity I had, and have yet, the most unbounded confidence. He visited San Domingo, not to secure or hasten annexation, but, unprejudiced and unbiased, to learn all the facts about the government, the people and the resources of that Republic. He went certainly as well prepared to make an unfavorable report as a favorable one, if the facts warranted it. His report, fully corroborated the views of previous commissioners, and, upon its receipt, I felt that a sense of duty and a due regard for our great national interests required me to negotiate a treaty for the acquisition of the Republic of San Domingo.

As soon as it became publicly known, that such a treaty had been negotiated, the attention of the country was occupied with allegations, calculated to prejudice the merits of the case, and with aspersions upon those who had conducted themselves with it. Amidst the public excitement thus created, the treaty failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote in the Senate, and was rejected; but whether the action of that body was based wholly upon the merits of the treaty, or might not have been in some degree influenced by such unfounded allegations, could not be known by the people, because the debates of the Senate, in secret session, are not published.

Under these circumstances, I deemed it due to the office which I hold, and due to the character of the agents who had been charged with the investigation, that such proceedings should be had as would enable the people to know the truth. A commission was, therefore, constituted under authority of Congress, consisting of gentlemen selected with special reference to their high character and capacity for the laborious work entrusted to them, who were instructed to visit the spot and report upon the facts. Other eminent citizens were requested to accompany the commission in order that the people might have the benefit of their views. Students of science and correspondents of the press, without regard to political opinions, were invited to join the expedition, and their numbers were limited only by the capacity of the vessel.

The mere rejection by the Senate of a treaty negotiated by the President, only indicates a difference of opinion between the executive departments of the government, without touching the character or wounding the pride of either. But when such rejection takes place simultaneously with charges openly made of corruption on the part of the President, or of those employed by him, the case is different. Indeed, in such case, the honor of the nation demands investigation. This has been accomplished by the report of the commissioners herewith transmitted, and which fully vindicates the purity of the motives and action of those who represented the United States in the negotiation; and now my task is finished, and with it ends all personal solicitude upon the subject.

My duty being done, yours begins, and I gladly hand over the whole matter to the judgment of the American people, and of the representatives in Congress assembled. The facts will now be spread before the country, and a decision rendered by that tribunal whose convictions so seldom err, and against whose will I have no policy to enforce. My opinion remains unchanged—indeed it is confirmed by

NORTHEASTERN RAILROAD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCK-HOLDERS OF THE COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Northeastern Railroad Company was held on Wednesday, 5th April, 1871.

A majority of the stock being represented, the meeting was organized by calling the Hon. Gilbert Pillsbury to the chair, and appointing C. Williams secretary.

The following gentlemen were then appointed a committee to ascertain the number of shares represented at the meeting, to verify proxies, and hold the election for president and directors: Benjamin Greig, G. S. Hacker, D. B. McLaughlin.

The committee reported a quorum of shareholders present.

The reports of the president and superintendent were then read.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT. NORTHEASTERN RAILROAD COMPANY, CHARLESTON, S. C., April 4, 1871.

To the Stockholders of the Northeastern Railroad Company.

GENTLEMEN:—The following report of the company's operations for the fiscal year, closing on the 28th of February, 1871, is respectfully submitted.

The operating and extraordinary expenses, including interest on bonds, were \$2,151,651.69.

A comparison of these results with those of the previous year will show an increase of \$1,880,710 in 1870-71.

Receipts from freight, \$1,742,465.83; from passengers, \$517,667.31; from mail and other sources, \$19,664.49.

Operating and other expenses, \$1,590,600.23.

Reviewing the above, you will observe a general increase in our receipts of nearly fifteen per cent. over those of the previous year.

The same period of the year, the difference is in our freight service.

Thus, we find that the up-freights have ruled on a par with those of the previous year, while the down-freights have increased by the same ratio.

During the year we have moved 34,589 bales of cotton, 63,844 barrels of iron ore, 387,690 feet of lumber, and 11,895 tons of phosphate rock, against 2,850 bales, 50,709 barrels, 3,896,000 feet, and 2,270 tons the previous year.

With reference to the travel, the policy has been to adhere to the principle of no restrictions, without restrictions, at 2 1/2 cents per mile; second class at 3 1/2 cents per mile; first class at 5 cents per mile.

These improvements cannot long be delayed. In view of those which are progressing around us, arrangements are now being made for a weekly steamship service between Cedar Keys and Havana, which should, in a great degree, depend upon the completion of the projected roads, and such other improvements in our connection as have been alluded to.

The South Carolina Central Railroad, from its junction with ours at "Lane's," to Sumter, a distance of forty miles, we have every assurance as to the completion of the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad to Columbia, now in progress, and which will probably be completed within the next three months.

The distance to Columbia by this new line will be about four miles longer than that by the South Carolina Railroad. Your attention has been so frequently directed to the importance and value of the Central Railroad, as a feeder to this, that further remark upon these features is unnecessary.

Our operating expenses have exceeded those of the previous year, in which they were shadowed in our last report, from the necessary additions, and other expenditures to be incurred during the ensuing year.

THE POLITICAL WHIRLIGIG.

AN IMPORTANT MOVE AMONG THE COLORED LEADERS.

Expected Overtures Looking to Reconciliation and the End of Carpet-bag Rule.

A curious political movement is now on foot, which, whether it is likely to eventuate in anything of importance or not, certainly indicates that the situation is fully appreciated by leading colored men.

When Robert C. DeLarge was elected to Congress, it was known to many of his friends, although not published during the canvass, that he was strongly in favor of, and would advocate, general amnesty.

The statements of the treasurer herewith submitted will show as at the credit of profit and loss at the close of the past year \$45,862.37.

Total, \$137,134.48. And charged with the following items: Interest accrued on bonds, preferred stock and other obligations of the company, \$98,036.87.

Interest on overdue coupons, \$23,637.50. Losses sustained during the year, \$28,907.99.

Leaving at credit of profit and loss, \$45,862.37. The following will appear as the indebtedness of the company on that date: 1,548 new first mortgage bonds, \$73,000.00.

63 old first mortgage bonds, of \$500 each, outstanding, \$31,500.00. 283 new second mortgage bonds, of \$500 each, outstanding, \$141,500.00.

139 old second mortgage bonds, of \$500 each, outstanding, \$69,500.00. 2,220 shares preferred stock, at \$40 per share, \$88,800.00.

Certificates of indebtedness, \$116,000.00. Outstanding interest to be paid, \$4,478.50. Outstanding interest due in cash, \$3,796.65.

Bills payable, \$8,971.96. Real estate bonds, \$28,907.99. Profit and loss, \$4,816.87.

Total, \$2,715,636.22. To meet this indebtedness, we have, first, the road, 102 miles long, with its landings, equipment, &c., at a cost of \$2,148,130.65.

As assets we have, first, the road, 102 miles long, with its landings, equipment, &c., at a cost of \$2,148,130.65. The entire issue of new first mortgage bonds bearing 8 per cent. interest, and payable last September, 1899, was 1640, of \$500 each, \$820,000, of which 1548, or \$773,000, have been issued in redemption of the past due bonds and coupons, and the balance of \$47,000, have been held outstanding.

The amount of second mortgage bond originally issued was \$300,000, of which \$145,000 were sold; the remaining \$155,000 were subsequently pledged and deposited with the trustees, as a security for a corresponding amount of preferred stock.

As the bonds of which it is the representative now bear the same rate of interest, there is no valid objection to their redemption of the stock and bonds, when so desired by its holders; and, accordingly, we have always complied with such requests.

The preferred stock has the single advantage over the bonds of being registered and recorded in the company books; but many prefer to forego this for the convenience of collecting their interest by coupons, and the greater facilities of sale, transfer, &c.

On motion, it was Resolved, That the reports of the president and superintendent be received as information, and that the requisite number of copies of the same be printed for distribution among the stockholders.

On motion, it was Resolved, That this meeting hereby ratifies the election of three thousand dollars towards the capital stock of the South Carolina Central Railroad Company, made by the board of directors in August last, the said subscription to be paid in the proportion of one thousand dollars per mile, for every continuous mile as completed from Lane's Turnout, and to be subject to your ratification at this meeting, which is now respectfully suggested.

Adjourned. C. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

The Heaviest Rain of the Season.

The heaviest rain of the season commenced yesterday morning at San Francisco.

The Marquis of Santa Cruz was elected president of the Cortes at Madrid.

Father Taylor, of the Seaman's Bethel Church, Boston, is dead.

The Mutual Base-ball Club, of New York, has gone to Savannah.

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Adjourned. C. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

LAW OF THE STATE.

Acts and Joint Resolutions, Passed by the General Assembly of South Carolina, Session of 1870-71.

1. A proposal to the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade to repudiate the entire indebtedness of the State.

2. A convention within two months for the organization of a new party based strictly on intelligence and integrity.

3. The exchange of mutual guarantees between the races, wherein the colored leaders only ask that their present civil and political rights shall not be disturbed, and that they shall have a fair representation in the offices of the State government, in return for which they will pledge themselves to unite with the whites in the election of the best men to office.

4. The nomination of James L. Orr for Governor in 1872, or any other man who has the confidence of the two parties.

These are, in all seriousness, the propositions which are now agitating a coterie of individuals who have done more to keep the Radical party of this State intact than any other members of it, and, coming from a conference with DeLarge, and possibly with the Conservative Republican congressmen of other States, more importance may be attached to them than to the ordinary curbsome movements which are born among our local cliques.

The parties referred to arrived in Charleston full of their scheme. They interviewed Republicans and Democrats. They invited the co-operation of sundry officials, and avoided others of their own kind and kin as they would avoid the Egyptian plague. The result yet remains to be seen.

Whether there be earnestness in this new movement or whether it is a trap adroitly set by Ben Butler or Charles Sumner to catch an unscrupulous people, of course is only a matter of surmise; but it will doubtless strike every thoughtful person that a proposition to repudiate the entire indebtedness of the State is either a very wild bid for popularity, or it is intended to draw forth from the Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce what is already sufficiently published, namely, that their recent action was not to convey the idea of repudiating any bond of the State for a debt that has been honestly contracted.

It is supreme nonsense to suppose that South Carolinians will ever repudiate their just debts. None know the fact better than these very colored men, and, therefore, we are bound to assume that the proposition, if made at all, will be made to conceal some ulterior design.

As an offset to the above movement, we understand that it has been determined by Parmer, Neagle, and other members of the State Government, to organize what will be hereafter known as "the respectable Republican party."

Lieutenant-Governor Ransler on Affairs in the State.

Lieutenant-Governor Ransler writes to a Radical contemporary: In a former article published by you under the caption of "Our Tropics," I concluded by asking the momentous question as to our State government, "What is to be done?"

Now, it can, if the administration (of which I am a humble member) and the leaders of the Republican party, which politically it represents, and which includes a majority of the voters of the State, to put it mildly, will use its influence to purify the party of much that is objectionable, it is not disgraced, it gives some evidence of its ability and willingness to protect the rights of the citizen, and to conduct the affairs of the government as to secure for it and our party confidence and respect at home and abroad, and keep its promises as to lower taxes, &c., &c.

Now, grant that there is corruption in the Republican party; grant that our finances have been and are being mismanaged, and that a natural consequence of this is that we have a natural surplus of money, and that we have no confidence in us; grant that we have been extravagant in our expenditures, making our rates of taxation unreasonably high and unnecessarily burdensome, much of which I am not to speak of for argument sake, but as in a great part true, (and the same may be truthfully said of former administrations under more favored and favorable circumstances) grant, further, that those who are now in power, indeed, there are those among us who would argue so to-day, that we are to do nothing, and that we are to let the civil law in portions of our State rest and cannot be enforced by State authority.

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Approved the 7th day of March, A. D. 1871.

TAILORING, FURNISHING GOODS, &c.

W. L. J. URS.

No. 147 KING STREET. Between Horbeck's Alley and Queen.

Informs his friends and the public in general that he has just received a well selected stock of SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS, which he will make up to order in the shortest notice, and in the latest styles.

JOHN RUGHEIMER. No. 141 KING STREET. Would respectfully inform his friends that he has just returned from New York with a large and well selected stock of the latest styles of SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS.

Also, a full assortment of GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS, including the Celebrated ST. ARS BERTS.

SPRING OPENING. This department is supplied with the celebrated STAR SHIRTS, Foreign and Domestic Under-shirts and Drawers, Silk and Thread Gloves, Linen and Paper Collars, Neckties, Towels, Socks, Handkerchiefs, Socks, Umbrellas, &c.

OUR TAILORING DEPARTMENT is supplied with the finest selection of FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CLOTHS, DRESKINS, DIAGONALS, TRICOTS, MELTONS, CHEVIOTS, CASIMERE, &c., and a very large stock of the most fashionable Pant and Vest Patterns, which we will make up to order by measure in the latest styles. The foreman in this department of our business has no equal in the mercantile world for cutting and producing an elegant fit.

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