THE ELECTION LAW.

The committee on election and suffrage laws, to whom was referred the resolutions as to the expediency of memorializing the Legislature for the repeal or modification of the existing election laws of South Carolina, respectfully report (concisely) that they have given the subject the earn-

source of present political troubles, creating dis trust in the minds of law-abiding citizens on ac

VOLUME XI .-- NUMBER 1680.

CHARLESTON, SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 13, 1871.

Grand Drige Distribution.

EIGHT DOLLARS A YEAR.

# \$500,000

## GIVEN AWAY!

THE .

SOUTH CAROLINA

# LAND AND IMMIGRATION ASSOCIATION.

The undersigned have entered into an Association for the purpose of introducing Immigrants into South Carolina and procuring homes for the same. They propose to establish Agencies in the principal Cities of Europe and the North and Northwest, and assist Immigrants in. coming to our State, where they will have homes provided, and aid them in becoming

They will be able to offer the best Cotton, Grain and Truck Land in the healthy portions of the State, at very low prices, and on long credit, enabling the purchaser to pay for the

They will also assist Immigrants, when necessary, to transportation and subsistence for

Circulars will be prepared and distributed, explaining our plans more in detail.

Central Office, ACADEMY OF MUSIC, CORNER KING AND MARKET STREETS, Charleston, South Carolina.

BUTLER, CHADWICK, GARY & CO.

#### References in South Carolina:

General WADE HAMPTON, Hon. B. F. PERRY, Governor M. L. BONHAM, General JOHNSON HAGOOD, Hon. ARMISTEAD BURT, Hon. JAMES CHESNUT,

General JOHN S. PRESTON, Hon. W. D. SIMPSON, ANDREW SIMONDS, Esq., Hon. G. A. TRENHOLM. Governor J. L. MANNING,

#### References in New York City:

AUGUST BELMONT & CO., Bankers.

MORTON, BL'SS & CO., Bankers.

Hon. CHARLES O'CONOR, Counsellor-at-Law. Hon. JOHN E. WARD, Counsellor-at-Law.

Hon. ROGER A. PRYOR, Counsellor-at-Law. Colonel RICHARD LATHERS. T. A. HOYF. Esq., President Gold Room.

HUNT, THOMPSON & CO., Factors. ANDERSON, STARR & CO., Merchants. PETTUS & CO., Merchants. · F. ZOGBAUM & FAIRCHILD, Merchants.

\$500,000 TO BE AWARDED TO THE TICKET-HOLDERS OF THE SERIES OF CONCERTS TO COMMENCE ON THE FIRST OF OCTOBER, 1871, AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, CHARLESTON, S. C., ON WHICH DAY THE DRAWING COMMENCES.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAND AND IMMIGRATION ASSOCIATION. UNDER THE AUSPICES of the "South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical Society," will give a series of Concerts at the Academy of Music, Charleston, S. C., commencing October 1st, 1871, for the purpose of raising a fund to enable Emigrants to settle upon lands selected by the Association for Homes of Northern and European Farmers and others, in the State of South Carolina, and for their transportation thither and support for the first year.

## 150,000 SEASON TICKETS OF ADMISSION, AND NO MORE. AT FIVE DOLLARS EACH.

ALL THE PREMIUMS, INCLUDING DEED AND CERTIFICATE OF FITLE TO ACADEMY OF MU-IC, will be deposited with the National Bank of the Republic, New York.

#### \$500,000 IN GIFTS!

1st Gfft-ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Charleston, S. C., cost to build \$230,000, having an annual rental of about \$20,000, from Opera House, Stores and Halls; the building being

about 200 feet by 60 feet, and situated corner of King and Market streets, in the centre of the city, and well known to be the finest building and most valuable property in Charleston, valued at ......\$250,000 

3d Gift—Cash 25,000
4th Gift—Cash 10,000 5th Gift—Cash 5,006
25 Gifts—Cash—each \$1000. 26,000 350 Gifts—Cash—each \$100..... 500 Gifts—Cash—each \$25...... 12,500 1250 Gifts—Cash—each \$19.....

### BUTLER, CHADWICK, GARY & CO., Agents S. C. Land and Immigration Association,

General M. C. BUTLER, JOHN CHADWICK, Esq., General M. W. GARY,

CHARLESTON, S. C.

AGENTS WANTED-LIBERAL COMMISSIONS ALLOWED.

Commissioners and Supervisors of Drawing: General A. R. WRIGHT, of Georgia. General BRADLEY T. JOHNSON, of Virginia. Colonel B. W. RUFLEDGE, of South Carolina. Hon. ROGER A. PRYOR, of New York.

A FAIR AND COMMENDABLE SCHEME!

CHARLESTON, S. C., May -, 1871. We take pleasure in certifying that we are acquainted with General M. C. BUTLER, JOHN CHADWICK, Esq., and General M. W. GARY, of the firm of BUTLER, CHADWICK, GARY & OO., and know them to be gentlemen of integrity, and we regard the object they have of assisting immigrants to homes in South Carolina of great importance to the State as well as to the immigrants, and we have every confidence that their enterprise will be carried out with fairness and honesty to all par iles concerned.

GEO. A. TRENHOLM, B. H. RUILEDGE, JAMES CONNER,

I. W. HAYNE, A. G. MAGKATH, THOS. Y. SIMONS, HENRY BUIST, WILMOT G. DESAUSSURE.

WHAT THE CONVENTION DID | prohibiting county commissioners issuing | practicable the truth with reference to the |

The Funded Debt Declared Valid-The Honor and Funds of the State Pledged for its Redemption-The Sterling Loan Opposed-The Fire Loan to be Paid-Suggestions for Retrenchment and Reform-The Blue Ridge Railroad Muddle-The Convention Adjourns

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE NEWS.]

The convention assembled at 11 o'clock. General Chesnut, from the executive comheld binding; and recommending the people

to pay the same by all legitimate means. to pay the same by an regionate means.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to confer with the representatives of the fire loan securities, with a view to the early inquidation of these obligations, and to repair the damage to the good faith and honor of the State, resulting from their repudiation by the present State authorities. Adopted.

Judge A. P. Aldrich, from the same committee, moved to add the name of General Chesnut to those of Porter and Conner in the Blue

Ridge Rallroad proceedings. Mr. Trescot moved that these gentlemen be instructed to report at once. Supporting his amendment, Mr. Trescot said if the action of yesterday on the subject of the Blue Ridge Railroad meant anything, it meant that this body, without legal existence, proposed to take into charge the public and private interests of the State. The step is full of danger. The corporation referred to was an enterprise connected for nearly half a century with the interests of the State; yet the passage of this resolution would do more to destroy those interests than any event which could occur. The convention had simply assumed that the legislation is invalid, and to that extent has discredited the bonds of the road, because they would be put upon the market with the disapproval of the taxpayers written across them, practically saying to the world: "You takes these bonds with the risk of a law-Speculators will necessarily buy them at a depreciated value, and the people will eventually have to redeem them at par. Mr. Trescot reviewed the history of the legislation connected with the Blue Ridge and Greenville Roads, and said that whatever discredit attaches to the Greenville Company, it must answer for itself. The skirts of the Blue Ridge Company were clean. The mortgage given to the State before the Issue of the bonds was, in his opinion, infinitely better security than a statutory hen which only applied to thirty-two miles in the State. The mortgage was a prior lien without legislation. He argued that the action of the Legislature would be sustained by law, and, under the circumstances, he

thought it would be unjust for the convention to adopt the resolution without amendment. Mr. Warley replied severely. He disclaimed being the opponent or paid partisan of any corporation. The gentleman assumed that this body was not to meddle with private concerns, but when private individuals connect themselves with stupendous public frauds, it was the duty of the convention to expose them. Corruption would not exist were it not for corruptors. Were none engaged in bribing the Legislature, we should not have occasion to complain so much at present. It was an unhappy circumstance that private individuals in the State had been instrumental in obtaining public plunder. He said he would not discuss the object of the legislation, but did propose boldly to condemn the fraud the object was effected. The men who induced the fraud were not to be trusted with public funds, and the spirit of Justice would denounce any man who, like the president of the Blue Ridge Railroad, declared, in presence of the committee, he had come to Columbia with a million of dollars to corrupt the Legislature of the State. The gentleman from Anderson complained that the action of the convention would discredit the bonds. This was precisely what the resolution was intended to do, and it was a mistake to suppose that sympathy for any fraudulent transaction would be found in this body. It was a disgrace for a Carolinian to go before the Legislature, composed as it was of uneducated, irresponsible persons, and hold out bribes to secure any boon whatever; and

the voice of the people would be heard, denouncing such corruption.

The amendment was not adopted. Mr. Scott, of Columbia, offered a resolution that the Governor and attorney-general secure from Mr. Kimpton a bond sufficient to protect the interests of the State.

The executive committee reported that Crews and the investigating committee of the Third Congressional District deserve judicial examination and the attention of the presiding officer of the State. The convention took a recess.

General Butler, from the committee eleven, submitted their report, setting forth the interview with the Governor, published in THE NEWS of Thursday, viz: That the Governor stated nothing had been done involving the credit of the State; that he believed the report of the comptroller general to be substantially true; that he had not signed any bonds not issued by anthority of law; that he was satisfied a large number of officials could be dispensed with, and expressed the determination to urge the Legislature to effect economical restrictions; that he conceded that the incompetence and inaccessibility of the officers of the law to be a fruitful cause of the recent difficulties; that he endorsed the plan of minority representation; that he would urge a change in the election law, and, finally, that he would suspend the forced collection of taxes until the first of March. The committee express the belief that the Governor will not repudiate his assurances. The report concluded with

the following: Resolved, That the Governor be requested to direct the attorney-general to investigate frauds, and make provisions for informers, and that the attorney-general be instructed to attach the property of persons in default to the treasury; that a committee be appointed with the legislative committee to co-operate low investigating the transactions of State

The report suggests: 1st. Additional legislation to insure revenue to the State from the phosphate companies, the amount of royalty thus far paid being only nineteen hundred dollars. This may be effected by the appointment of reliable inspectors, paid by commission on the amounts secured to the State, 2d. To stop drawing money from the treasury for alleged legislative expenses by an order of the speaker of the House or the president of the Senate in advance of appropriation. 3d. To reduce the number of State and county officers, and also the fees of coroners. 4th. To enact law limiting each session of the Leg-

not sell any more bonds at less than eighty per cent., and to proceed to New York to make the most economical arrangement for holding the above mentioned \$1,800,000, pledged as

be applied to the payment of the fire loan reasonable to expect from this exhibibition of the exact condition of the finances of the State an immediate considerable advance and facilities for holding them off the market. It appears to the committee that the various should defray interest and all expenses. An examination of Kimpton's and other accounts in detail was found impossible, but the committee recommend the adoption of the fol-

lowing: tion that the funded debt of the State describ-ed in the committee's report is a valid debt, and the honor and funds of the State are law-

fully pledged for the redemption thereof.

Resolved, That a plan for the arrangement of the public debt suggested by the committee be recommended to the favorable consideration.

to assist, by counsel at home or in New York, in the proposed negotiations for the adjust

ment of the funded debt.

Resolved, That the Governor hereby is re quested to review various expenditures, and se his atthority to arrest extravagance, and substitute economy and accountability in every department; and that he be earnestly solicited to adopt twelve hundred thousand dollars as the utmost limit of expenditure; also that he

Resolved, That the Governor be requested not to destroy the cancelled obligations of the

Mr. Ball, from the same committee, reported on the expenses of the State government, showing by comparison the differenne in expenditures of various offices during the years 1866 and 1871. Mr. Warley introduced resolutions discoun-

Adopted.

Mr. Baldwin, of Richland, offered a resolu to Messrs, Pressley, Lord & Inglesby for opin-

of the land commission. Adopted. great object of the people in peace. The convention has done much to remove misunderstanding and inaugurate a period of better

The convention adjourned sine die, subject

THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION.

TEROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

COLUMBIA, May 12. As indicated by your telegraphic dispatches, the third days' proceedings of the convention were confined almost entirely to the consideration of the reports of the several committees on the subjects referred to them. Except the debate on the subject of cumulative voting, and the comments of Hon, F. F. Warley on the Blue Ridge Railroad, there has been no speaking, and the deliberations have been conducted in the shortest and most business-like manner. The respective committees have been subdivided according to thorough and exhaustive manner, they have sought to penetrate the supposed mysteries of the administration. They have examined persons as well as books and papers, and their reports are consequently based on the facts thus elicited. Mr. Kimpton, the State agent. Mr. Parker, the treasurer, and Mr. Neagle, the comptroller, each at his own invitation, has been conferred with by a sub-committee on finance, consisting of Messrs, Trenholm and William B. Smith, of Charleston, and, in the main, the result has been far more satisfactory than was anticipated. The Governor

other agencies, retrenchment and reform. The report of the committee of eleven, which will be made to-day, will embody the results of their interview with the Executive. So that thus far the convention has been productive of great good. It has strengthened

has been frank in the expression of his views.

and pneouivocal in his pledges that he will

attempt to effect, through the Legislature and

moderation has drawn the fangs from the opposition who have been anxiously awaiting the development of a vulnerable point of attack. Republicans express surprise and gratification at the temperate character of the few speeches that have been made, and concede the justice of the measures which so far have been adopted.

The following is the text of the reports which thus far have been adopted by the convention, and will go to the country as an expression of the taxpayers of South Carolina: MINORITY REPRESENTATION-REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Mr. J. P. Thomas, of Richland, on behalf of the executive committee, to whom was referred the question of the expediency of the cumulative system of voting, or such system as will protect the right of minorities, asked

leave to make the following report: leave to make the following report:

The means of, protecting the rights of minorities in representative forms of government has, for a long period, engaged the attention of thoughtful minds. In Europe, as well as in this country, this question has been fully discussed, and a satisfactory solution auxiously 8 ught. So defective is the system of mere majority rule, so diagrant are the abuses to which it is liable, that the necessity for its modification strikes with force every impartial observer. It is obvious that the needs of good government require that some effective organism be devised for the protection of minorities.

ed. Enough to say that, in their judgment, the plan of cumulative voting best accomplishes the end in view—best makes representation co-extensive with the whole body of the electors. This plan obtains wherever there is more than one officer to be selected. It gives the elector as many votes as there are persons to be chosen, and allows him to beslow his votes upon the whole number, or to concentrate them upon any whole number, or to concentrate them upon any number less than the whole. The effect of this system is to give to each political interestin a community a representation proportionate to its numerical streng h. Ynder its operation the true office of suffrage, which is to collect the sense of the whole community, with be subserved. There is effected reither exclusive representation of the majority, nor execlusive representation of the minority; but proportional representation. The proposition is, that the cumulative system senters through a general representation, all the the minority; but proportional representation. The proposition is, that the cumulative system secures, through a general representation, all the interests in the nolitical body. To illustrate the system, under the present electoral system of the State, in a community of two hundred voters, one hundred and one elect representatives, say four, for the entire body. That is, out of two hundred voters, one hundred and one impose their representatives upon the minority of ninety-nine. The ninety-nine have no representatives; are virtually, distractised.

evers, one hundred and one impose their representatives upon the mulory of interty inte. The sentity-aine have no representatives; are virtually distrained have no representatives; and the same commend the two distrained of the continuous distrained have no representative, and there are 5000 benucerats and 9000 Republicans were to all candidate to its numerical strength. For instance, in a certain community, let u. a same that there are 5000 benucerats and 9000 Republicans were strength and there are 5000 benucerats and 9000 votes. The 3000 votes which would result in their secons to be cleeks. The 5000 benucerats have 15,000 votes. The 3000 votes which would result in their securing no representatives, as the Republicans being able to give each of their candidates 9000 votes would elect them all. On the other hand, if the Republicans were to at tempt to elect all their representatives, they could give each only 5000 votes upon one candidate, and thus cleet him. The effect would be that arising the strength and there would result a proportional representative, and thus cleet him. The effect would be that each party would. On necessity, calculate its strength and there would result a proportional representative, and the sprinciple of proportional representative, and the sprinciple of proportional representative, and the system of the committee are gratified to state that this system of cumulative coling, which is desirable to have the plain of political party would. On the committee are of the opinion that, absisted to condition of the proportional representation is a great governmental principle, a mise, just many to make an uniform the delials.

Your committee are of the opinion that, absisted the constitution of limitors, and has been provided to the plain of poli

Your committee are of the opinion that, abstractly considered, proportional representation is a great governmental principle, a wise, just measure of reform, and one absolutely necessary to make unlimited sufrage consistent with peace, order and security. It enters the political body as a saving, a conserving element. It comes to leaven the lump of democracy, and to give essence of genuine republicanism, which is, briefly stated, thorough and genuine representation. But if proportional representation be an admirable system in any government founded upon the popular will, your committee holds that the plan is peculiarly applicable to such a condition of society as this State new presents.

Your committee do not affirm that this would cure all the disease of the body politic. But they may, without extravagance, suggest that the system of proportional representation, if adopted by those who wield the numerical power, would alleviate many of the evils incident to our presen abnormal condition, would, to a large exten tranquilize public apprehensions, would moderate the spirit of political convulsion, and tend to bring about in this State all the peace that we can researchly hope to attain

ably hope to attain. committee are aware of the fact that this easure of electoral reform, if it shall be prompt-realized by us, must come from the dominant arty of the State. Whether it will come or not re cannot decite. In either event, the minority in South Carolina put forth their claim in this

ehalf. It is their right. Should it be denied, the re-It is their right. Should it be denied, the responsibility must rest upon those who use thus the power that the present gives. Should it be tendered, it will doubtless produce the fruits of justice and widen the circle of peace. This much we may add: Since it is the nature of majorities to change, it may be well for the dominant party to consider whether the adoption of proportional representation may not for them be the best policy for the future as well as the highest wisdom for the present.

THE TAXPAYERS' PLATFORM. The executive committee, to which was referred the paper presented by the Hon. C. W. Dudley, of Marlboro', beg leave repectfully to report, that the paper has received the careful consideration of the committee, that it has been amended, and, in its amended form, is now reported to the convention, with the recommendation that it do mass.

The following is the paper amended, referred to by the committee:

The delegates to the Taxpayers' Convention now met, and string in Columbia. South Carolina, de-string to be fully understood by their fellow citi-zens of the State, and of the United States, dee: That they meditate no resistance whatever to the Government of the United States, and intend, in respect thereof, to conduct themselves as peaceful and law abidmr cutzens. of the United States, and intend,

peaceful and law abiding cutizens.

2 That we regard the reconstruction measures as finalities, and recognize them as a portion of the established laws of the land.

3. That we look to time and neaceful agencies only for the soution of any difficulties that now or may hereafter exist in the administration of the public affairs of this State; and we entertain the nope that all the changes and medications that may be desired in that connection, while effected by the quiet influence of an enlightened public opinion.

That the exigencles of the times demand 4. That the exigencies of the times demand from the people other efforts than those intended to promote the success of any "party," their true interests consisting in uniting with good chizees of any and all parties, in advancing the welfate of every section of the State and all classes of the people.

5. That certain measures of reform are essential to the peace and prosperity of the State; that prominent among these are:

18t. The adoption by the Legislature of some method of voting, which will secure a represent-

ist. The alopion by the Legislature of some method of voiling, which will secure a representation therein of a minority of the voters.

2d. Refrenchment in the expenses of the State Government by abolishing every office that can be dispensed with, reducing the salarices of public officers, and requiring state economy in the administration of the several departments of the government. 34. That the public debt shall not be increased; and that his Excellency the Governor be request ed to prevent, if possible, the issue and negotiation of the bonds authorized by an act of the Legisla

ture, "to create a debt of the State of South Caro-lina, to be known as the Sterling Funded Debt." 4th. To be relieved from paying two annual taxes in one year, as is now most oppressively provided y law.
5th. To have the various offices in the State filed by competent and trustworthy incumbents, so as to scure the prompt and emdent. execution of the laws, instead of the mode now adopted of selecting them from the dominant party, without regard to their qualifications.

oth. Such an amendment of the law in regard to election by the people as will protect them from trand ether in the control or counting of the ballots.

Th. That the pay and mileage of members of the Legislature be reduced to the limits prevailing previous to the adoption of the prevailing that the duration of the sessions of that body be made to conform to the absolute necessities for legislation. Believing that the principles above professed.

Italian ether in the control of members of the ballots.

Ith. That the pay and mileage of members of the Legislature be reduced to the limits prevailing previous to the adoption of the present constitution; and the duration of the sessions of that body be made to conform to the absolute necessities for legislation.

Believing that the principles above professed really accutate the great majority of the people, it is the purpose of this convention to attain the ends above indicated, and such other kindred measures, as may appear necessary hereafter, by such peaceful and legitimate means as comport with the juty of good citizenship, and not otherwise.

VIOLATION OF LAW.

wise.

VIOLATION OF LAW.

The executive committee to whom was referred the resolution of Mr. D. H. Chamberlain, of Richland County, directing the said committee "to inquire into the alleged violence now prevailing in the several counties of the State, and to report upon a plan for the execution of the laws against such violence, and the better protection of all our cirizens in their lives and property throughout the State," ask leave to report that they have considered the subject with the deliberation its importance demands. They have learned, with regret, that violence has prevailed to a greater or lesser extent in several counties. But they feel bound to say with much satisfaction that, in by far the larger number of the counties of the State, not a single instance of such violence has occurred. Bad government, corruption in high places, set the example of moral decadence and disregard of law, which was too readily followed by those upon whom the laws are intended to operate. Your committee are constrained to believe that larcentees and incendiarism, practiced by ignorant, deinded and bad men, suggested in many instances and encouraged by a class much worse and more responsible, were among the initial causes of the first cases of violence. Afterwards, it appears, there followed instances of corporeal punishments, and homicides perpetuated by unknown persons upon citizens, and even of a few officials of the government, who seem to have become obnoxious to many in the communities wherein they lived, on account of supposed linjustice, fraud and oppression. These are lamentable truths, which the committee feel called on unequivocally to deplore and condemn.

Your committee believe that an effectual remeest consideration which its importance demands. The committee recognize in the present mode o counting the ballots the fruitful and origina

truths, which the committee feel called on unequivocally to deplore and condemn.

Your committee believe that an effectual remedy for these evils will be found if good government, the removal of all disloners, incompetent and bad men from office, and the appointment thereto of men, no matter of what party, who are honest and competent, and who feel the obligations which official station should impose, and who will promptly and faithfully execute the laws.

POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The executive committee to whom was referred the resolution proviling that the executive com-mittee, with the president of this convention. mittee, with the president of this convention, shall have it in charge to protect the interest represented by this convention during the interval of adjournment, to keep in view the current legislation, and to call the convention together at such time as they think proper, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration,

TAXATION AND REPRESENTATION.

here as birds of prey, and who are generally known as carpet-baggers. It was equally natural for the naive, respeciable and intelligent white neonle, who had hereiofore controlled affairs, to feel a supreme disgust, and to hold themselves aloof from this mass of ignorance and vice.

It must also be remembered that all the genetemen in the State, of experience, patriolism and virtue, were laboring under the pphilical disabilities of the reconstruction acts, which prevented them from taking part in leg slative proceedings. But time and its healing influences has sh wn to the colored people that the white people have no disposition to depive them of any of their rights, civil or political, that have been conferred on them. It has proved to the white people that the colored citizens, generally, feel no ennity against them; are not disposed to oppress them; and are willing, if not anxious, to avail themselves of their learning, experience, virtue and patriolism. It has also proved to the adventurers who may be inc naded under the general terms of carpet-baggers and scalawags, white and colored, that theyes of the native colored people are open to the ir selfshness and rapacity. Having arrived at this conclusion, the question is, how can we avail ourselve-boff the bad influence which has heretofore controlled it, using the colored people as mere voting chattels to planter and ruln this devoted state? They need and desire the virtue, inteligence and experience of the native white people. The white people cannot maintain the incent virtue, dignity and honor of this old State, unless the native colored people will cooperate with them. The corruption of the State the incient virtue, dignity and honor of this old State, unless the native colored people will cooperate with them. The corruption of the State Government is a torious: bribes are openly offerel to and received by senators and representatives; high officials are engaged in speculating in the stocks and bonds of the State. All thee great crimes are being perpetrated freely here, in the capitol, and there has not been the first prosecution commenced to prevent them. In a word, the ancient honor of the proud out State, is lost and gone. Every white man and every colored man who is a native South Carolinian. word, the ansent holos of the part and every is lost and gone. Every white man and every colored mith who is a native South Carolinian must deplore this disgraceful and humiliating

condition.
Your committee believe that the public mind is ripe to meet this evil, save this disgrace, and therefore propose the following resolution: That we recommend to the Legislature the passage of an election law, by which the 60,000 taxpaying voters will have a proportionate represent tion in the Legislature of the State with the 90,000 voters who pay no taxes; a proportion so just, reasonable and conscientions, cannot fail to recommend itself favorably to every right-minded citizen.

THE BLUE RIDGE RAILROAD FRAUD.

The executive committee, to whom was referred the resolution to require and report "upon what terms and for what consideration the making and execution of the Blue Ridge Railroad Company terms and for what consideration the making and execution of the Blue Ridge Railroad Company and other companies, of a mortgage to Henry Chews, Henry Gourain and George S. Cameron to scure the payment of certain bonds, was rathed and confirmed by the Legislature, and the said mortgage declared to be a heap prior to that of the Said contain property described in said mortgage, and the entire line of the Blac Ridge Railroad, and all other properties of the several companies or which they or either of them may hereafter acquire," and also to report "what action, if any, can be taken by this body to prevent the subordination of the State's him upon the Blue Ridge Railroad, and the entire properties of the other companies, to junior claims of private the other companies, to junior claims of private individuals," beg leave to report, that upon-a careful examination of the act of the Legislature, we can reach but one conclusion: That f r some we can reach out on your committee, the Legis reasons maknown to your committee, the Legis lature has, without consideration, relinquished to private in lividuals the State's lien upon the Blue Ridge Rairroad, and the entire properties of the other company, (styled companies in the act,) the Greenville and Columbia Rairroad Company, Such dealing by trustees with the property or funds of their cestui que trust, can only be the re-

ult of fraud, are unauthorized by law and are Your committee need not dwell upon the poverty of the State and her after inability to enrich private individuals or corporations by such municent gifts, or upon the fact that legislators, lowever generous they may be, are not accus omed to donate public funds to the use and benefit of their friends or patrons. As to the second branch of the resolution, your

de to the second orange of the resolution, your our altre can suggest no better plan as a reme-dy than is embraced in the following resolutions: \*\*Resolved, That the Taxpayers' Convention, re-lying upon the high legal attainments and recog-

source of present political troubles, creating distrust in the minds of law-abiding citizens on account of the power of the custodians of the ballot-box to defeat by fraud the linent and sovereign rights of the electors. Recent developments and convictions of high-officials at Charles ton, in the United States Court, after patient, laborious and expensive trial, confirm the apprehensions and convictions of the citizens as to the absence of security for the future purity of the hallot-box. Your committee are familiar with the conservative conduct of the elections and safeguards of the ballot under the old laws of the State. Parties of any p litical complexion felt assured of the honest result of every election, so firm was their knowledge of the inviolability of the ballot-box in former times. The present system invites conspiracy, and opens wide the door to the perpetration of every fraud. When the high sheriff of a county, whose powers are second only to those of the Chief Executive of the State, by a jury of his choice, in a forum removed from local prejudices and bias, it is full time for the citizens to sound the alarm and memorialize the legislative power for relief.

To this goal this committee recommend the repower for relief.

To this end, this committee recommend the reference of this report to the executive committee for further action; to confer with the Governor and invite his co-operation in a memorial to the Legislature at its next regular session, for such anges in the present election law, and especially in such parts thereof as relate to the custody he ballot boxes for the period of ten days after In connection with the above, on motion of

Mr. James A. Hoyt, the following was adopted:

\*Resolved\*, That the report of the committee on election and suffrage laws adopted by the convention be placed in the hands of a special committee of seven members of this convention, whose duty it shall be to transmit the report as a memorial to the Legislature on the subject of proportional representation, accompanies by such suggestions as they may deem advisable, in order to secure the passage of a law, at the earliest practicable moment after the Legislature is convened, that the system of cumulative voting may be made applicable to the next general election, and that the principle may be engrafted in general upon our system of surfrage; and further, that this special committee be instructed to use their best exertions in favor of the passage of this just, wholesome and equitable provision, so as to bring about a full and complete representation of all the people, and the protection of their rights and interests of persons and property in every respect. Mr. James A. Hoyt, the following was adopted:

#### THE FIGHT FOR PARIS.

Capture and Recapture of Fort Vanvres-Thiers Strong in the Assembly-A Pestilence Apprehended in Paris-Rossel's Resignation Having a Bad Effect on the Communists-The Insurgents Unable to Repair their Works --Terrific Fire of the Government But-

· LONDON, May 12. Fort Vanvres was captured but subsequenty recaptured by the Communists. The fort is dilapidated. Rossel is not gone to Versailles, but remains outside of Paris. There was some excitement in the Ver-

sailles Assembly when Thiers, somewhat excited, demanded a vote of continence, which resulted 495 to 10 in favor of Thiers. Colonel Brunel is appointed commandant at Vanvres. A series of batteries have been erected in the Arondissement Pantheon. A pestilence is apprehended in Paris. The

National battalions are thinning since Rossel's resignation, which causes discouragement among the Communists. Delescluze is incapable of activity in consequence of sickness; but in a speech just delivered, he expresses confidence in the inture freedom of France and the success of the Commue.

A Versailles dispatch says the insurgents ble to repair thei probably attempt to defeat the Versaillists by strong attack. The Mayor of Issy has been arrested. Floquet was arrested en route to Bordeaux.

The government batteries maintain a terrific fire upon the ramparts of Paris and fortifications still held by the insurgents. The Emperor William is slightly indisposed.

The treaty of peace just concluded at Frankfort abrogates the commercial treaty between France and Germany, and gives to Prussia the control of railways in the ceded territory, in consideration of the deduction from the war indemnity of 326,000,000 of francs. One of the clauses of the treaty provides for the acquisition, by Prussia, of the railway from Thionville to Luxembourg.

Poneger Quertiere has gone to Mayence and Cologne to make arrangements for the speedy return of French prisoners to Versailles.

VERSAILLES, May 11. Important news has been received from Algeria, where the condition of affairs is decidedly improved. The Arab insurgents were

ead er was killed. The Latest.
Parts, May 12. The Communists claim victories and deny eports of successes for the Versaillists. For Vanvres was retaken by the Communists at the point of the bayonet. There was a desperate engagement around Issy, and the Com-

munists claim that they have recaptured part

defeated in an engagement in which their

The Versaillists are cutting trenches in front of the Maillot gate and concentrating troops in the Bois de Boulogne. There was a sharp fusilade about Fort Bicetre to-day.

LONDON, May 12. The Standard of this evening has a dispatch reporting the Communists' forces at only welve thousand strong, and saying that the Versailles army could go into Paris to-day if it

THE NEW ENGLISH TREATY.

NEW YORK May 12. The New York Tribune publishes the text of the new treaty. The Alabama claims are referred to five arbitrators-the Executives of England, Brazil, Switzerland, Italy and the United States, each, naming one-to sit in Geneva. It instead of making an award in bulk the arbitrators only establish rules for an adjustment by a board of assessors, one is to be appointed by the Queen, one by the President, the third to be chosen by the two, and will meet in Washington to finish the work. Three special rules of neutral obligation are laid down:

First. It shall be the duty of a neutral naion to use due dilligence to prevent the building and fitting out, or escape, of any vessel intended to make war upon another nation with which it is at peace.

Second. It shall be the duty of a nation not

second. It shall be the ditty of a hater to permit such vessels to enter any of its ports for repairs, munitions or supplies, or, having entered, not to permit their departure.

Third, It shall be the duty of a nation to use due diligence to prevent the violation of

-General Burnside has been elected commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Re-

any of these obligations in any of its ports or

JAMES R. PRINGLE. may13-3mus

#### and to publish in the nearest newspaper the ITS ACTION UPON THE FINANCES, THE KU-KLUX AND REFORM. quarterly receipts and expenditures. 6th. To repeal the law giving a salary of \$2500 to the adjutant-general. 7th. To give each public officer but one salary. Sth. To abolish the commission to codify the laws. Mr. Geo. A. Treaholm, from the same committee of eleven, submitted a lengthy report on the financial condition of the State. The grand-total of the debt is fixed at \$8,869,108. The sum total of unsold bonds is \$1,800,000. The report recommends that the Governor do

Subject to Call. COLUMBIA, Friday, May 12. mittee, reported that the taxpayers deem it collaterals, until eighty per cent. becomes attheir duty to declare that the sterling loan and tainable. The committee further recommends other obligations hereafter issued will not be that when redeemed, a portion of this sum

to resist the payment or enforcement of a tax | debt. The report says that it is quite

issues and sums of bonds described have unquestionable legality and force as obligations of the State. The committee discover an over issue of one million dollars, but would state that nine hundred thousand had been returned. The arrangement of having a financial agent in New York produces an unfavorable impression, because the difficulty of keeping his and the treasurer's account in correct ac-

cord seems great. A discrepancy of some thousands appears, but the report states that nothing appears in the accounts to impeach their correctness, though the door is wide open for errors and disputes. The committee would also state that the compensation of the fiscal agent had not yet been determined; hence the full sum of expenses is not known, and interest cannot be calculated; still, from the best evidence adduced, the interest paid appears to be at the rate of thirteen and a half per cent. per annum. The committee believe that retrenchment may be effected, and that it is the shortest avenue of escape from our fluancial difficulties. Less than \$660,000 in gold will pay the interest on the funded debt; \$1,200,000

Resolved, That it is the some of the conven-

tion of the Governor. Resolved. That in order to complete the examination of the accounts of the fiscal agent, the committee of eleven or authorized to send sub-committee to New York, with authority

exert his power to diminish the taxes in the

tion calling for an examination into the legistion in connection with the Savannah and Charleston Bailroad, and referring the matter

ion. Adopted. Mr. Woodward, of Fairfield, offered a reso lution that the executive committee, during its permanent session, investigate the affairs

The convention then resolved itself into committee of the whole, General Chesnut in the chair. Judge Aldrich offered a resolution of thanks to the president. Adopted. Mr. Richard Lathers, a resolution of thanks to the Governor and State officials. Adopted. The commmittee then rose, and Hon. W. D. Porter returned thanks, and said that he need not be ashamed of the convention; results would speak and appeal to the country, and if the executive committee continue to act in the same spirit, and avoid Federal and State politics. and simply welcome to our ranks men who propose to do good, who advocate wholesome laws, just administration of the public funds and honest officials, it will accomplish the

feeling and better conduct of public affairs.

to the call of the executive committee.

Detailed Reports by Mail.

the labor to be performed, and, in the most

islature to thirty days. 5th. To enact a law the credit of the State; ascertained as far as