

The success of this enterprise is of vast importance to the whole State, and especially to the cities of Charleston and Columbia. Draw a line on the map from Charleston by Columbia and Spartanburg, S. C., Asheville and Paint Rock, N. C., thence to Cumberland Gap, thence through Kentucky, connecting with roads leading to Cincinnati and Louisville, and on to Chicago, and you will be surprised to see how near an air-line it will be. The proposition is first to build from Spartanburg to Asheville, a distance of about seventy-four miles, crossing the Blue Ridge at Butt Mountain Gap. This route has twice been accurately surveyed—first by Major McNeill, in 1836 and 1837, which was adopted as the location of the Louisville, Cincinnati and Charleston Railroad, which route Gen. R. Y. Hayne, in his address to the stockholders, pronounced to be "without a parallel in the topography of the world."

It was surveyed again in 1859 by Maj. McCalla, fully sustaining the former survey, proving that the route by Butt Mountain and the valley of the French Broad was by far the cheapest and shortest line by which the great produce country of the West can be connected by rail with the Atlantic Ocean. A table of distances carefully prepared proves this beyond a doubt. One very remarkable feature in this line is that from Asheville, N. C., to Spartanburg, S. C., there is no grade coming South over forty feet per mile, and very few miles going North over that grade. It may truly be said that nature has pointed out the true route, and it only remains for man to do his part. Raising, as it does, directly through the centre of the State by Columbia and on to Charleston, gives it the importance of a State enterprise. But we do not expect any aid from the State. The prospective benefits of this line of communication to Columbia cannot be over-estimated. Located as this city is, in the centre of the State, it would become a distributing point for the vast products of the West, which the cotton planter must have, and its magnificent water power would give it unsurpassed manufacturing advantages. The health and agreeableness of the climate, with the various railroads centring here, would attract capital and labor, both of which are greatly needed. With skilled labor, mechanics of all kinds, manufactures and increased railroad facilities, Columbia would rise from her ashes, and become the Atlanta of South Carolina. It is also to be remembered that this route will tap the extensive coal fields of Tennessee and Kentucky, and bring to our doors an inexhaustible supply of coal, both for fuel and manufacturing purposes, at a very cheap rate. No one who surveys the whole premises can fail to be convinced that, notwithstanding our present embarrassed situation, the objects to be attained are of immense importance to the future of the city. Every man who will look to his own interest and the prosperity of the whole people, should come forward and aid to the extent of his ability. Much more might be said in favor of immediate action. It is enough to remark, that delays are dangerous. If we fail to take advantage of the present opportunity, it will pass from us forever. Others more enterprising will step in and take the prize.

The Tax-Payers' Convention.

This body, composed of the leading citizens of the State, adjourned yesterday, after a four days' session. The proceedings have been marked with a dignity and force which will, doubtless, be productive of much good. We have presented full reports of the proceedings from day to day, thus keeping our readers fully abreast of the action of the convention. The memorial to the General Assembly was presented yesterday, and was made the special order for Tuesday next. Owing to the length of the report of the proceedings in our issue of this morning, we are compelled to forego editorial review for the present.

UNITED STATES COURT—CHARLESTON, February 14.—A rule was granted against Thomas J. Gibson, on petition of Wm. G. Childs, compelling him to show cause, on the 26th instant, why he should not be declared a bankrupt. The petition of F. Lambert, assignee of I. Sulzbacher, to sell property, was referred to Registrar Jaeger to call in lien creditors and report. The assignees of James McElevae, bankrupt, were allowed to compromise a claim of B. R. Miller conditionally. The report of the assignees of Adam Ivy, bankrupt, on exempted property, was confirmed. The petition of Charles Bird, of Lancaster, for final discharge in bankruptcy, was referred to Registrar Clawson.

Tax-Payers' Convention.

FOURTH AND LAST DAY.

The convention assembled at 10 A. M., Hon. W. D. Porter, President, in the chair. Gen. Chesnut, on behalf of the Executive Committee, submitted a report on the resolutions offered by Mr. P. S. Felder, of Orangeburg, in reference to taxation and the proper government of the State, stating that the subject matters had already been considered, and the committee were discharged from their further consideration. The same report was made and like action taken on the resolutions introduced by Mr. C. W. Dudley, of Marlboro.

Mr. Charles H. Moise, of Sumter, introduced the following resolutions, prefaced by appropriate remarks on the life, character and services of the deceased, which were adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That in the death of W. H. McCaw the tax-payers of South Carolina have sustained the loss of a brilliant and fearless champion, whose ready pen was always wielded in the cause of right and justice.

Resolved, That, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, this convention will attend his funeral as a body.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered upon the journal of this convention and be published in the papers of this city.

Mr. Richard Lathers, of Charleston, introduced the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee, with the President, shall have in charge to protect the interest represented by this convention, in the interval of adjournment, to keep in view the current legislation of the Legislature, and to call the convention together at such time as they may deem expedient.

Resolved, That the President be authorized to fill vacancies in this committee occasioned by resignation or otherwise, and add members to the committee, if he think proper to do so.

Mr. Maurice, of Williamsburg, introduced the following resolution, with the statement that it was intended as an amendment to the report of the Committee on Immigration, which was adopted yesterday; that the report had devolved the duty of electing County Commissioners of Immigration upon the convention, but that this resolution provided a more feasible and acceptable plan. The resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the County Commissioners of Immigration, as provided for in the resolutions from the Committee on Immigration, already adopted, shall be elected by the delegation from each County respectively.

Mr. Chesnut, of Kershaw, called for the report of the Executive Committee on the resolutions of Mr. Woodruff, of Spartanburg, which was under consideration at the hour of adjournment last evening. The substitute offered by the committee was adopted, and is as follows:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to represent the Tax-Payers' Convention in presenting to the General Assembly such grievances arising from the operation of laws heretofore passed by that body, or growing out of an inadequate protection for the minority by legislation not adapted to our real wants, and, among other things, to urge the accomplishment of the objects named below, to wit:

1. To direct the attention of the General Assembly to the requirement of Section 3, Article 8, of the Constitution of this State, which declares that "it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide, from time to time, for the registration of all electors," which provision has been totally disregarded in the past.

2. That proportional representation would tend to remove much of the dissatisfaction now existing, whereby complaint is most reasonably urged that a large proportion of property-holders and tax-payers of the State are practically debarred from representation in the General Assembly, and that the adoption of the cumulative system of voting would tend to secure a fair representation of the minority; and to this end invoke the General Assembly to give an early and earnest consideration to this subject, with the view of applying this system in the conduct of the State elections next fall.

3. That the provision of the Constitution, Section 21, Article 1, in relation to the election of Justices of the Peace and Constables by the people should be complied with by the General Assembly, and that it should be urged to give the election of these officers to the qualified electors at the earliest day practicable, instead of the appointment of Trial Justices by the Executive.

Mr. Chesnut, of Kershaw, called for the report of the Executive Committee on the resolutions as to investigating the affairs of the Bank of the State. The report was read, the amendment offered by the committee inserted as a third resolution, and the whole adopted, as follows:

Whereas, the assets of the Bank of the State constitute a fund in court in the case of Dabney, Morgan & Co. vs. the President and Directors of the Bank of the State et al., which is to be distributed among the creditors as soon as the final decree of the Supreme Court of the United States in said cause, already argued before them, is made, by which payments the liability of the State for past due debts will be to that extent diminished, to the relief of the tax-payers of the State, and the tax-payers are, therefore, directly interested in the honest preservation and management and proper appropriation of said assets among the creditors entitled thereto, and have the right to be fully informed as to the past administration and the present condition and value of said fund so to be applied for their relief; and whereas, it has been repeatedly alleged, and is generally believed, that proceed-

ings have been had and orders made in said cause, without notice to the solicitors or parties in the cause entitled to the said fund, under which the said fund has been loaned out on insufficient and unvalued securities, and loans which were not efficiently secured have been paid in bills of the said bank at their par value, whereby the said assets have been wasted and the value of the said fund very greatly diminished, general suspicion and distrust have been created, and the action of the court, the receiver and the borrowers of said fund have been generally and publicly impugned; and whereas, the Legislature has appointed a joint committee to thoroughly investigate the condition of the said fund, and report the same at the earliest practicable moment, and said joint committee has already taken testimony as to the management and the present condition of the said fund, but has not yet made any report; but pending the said investigation, one of the said joint committee has been appointed receiver of the said fund, against the protest of those representing the creditors entitled to said fund; and whereas, it is the duty of this convention to the tax-payers of the State thoroughly, impartially and fearlessly to investigate all the proceedings had in relation to the said assets of the bank, to the end that the unjustly accused or suspected may be vindicated, that just censure and the reprobation of the country shall, regardless of political opinions, party affiliations, official position or social standing, fall upon all who have contributed to, counvied at, or benefited by the improper administration of said fund and wasting of said assets:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the President, whose duty it shall be to confer with the joint committee appointed by the Legislature to investigate the condition of the Bank of the State, and obtain their report and the testimony taken by them; to confer with the representatives of the creditors entitled to said assets, and to make such other and further investigations as may be necessary to discover and disclose whatever of corrupt practice, misconduct or fraud may have been committed in relation thereto, and how and by whom committed; and to obtain and report all such information as will enable this convention and the people of the State to know whether the said assets have been wasted, by what means, and who are responsible therefor.

Resolved, That said committee do also obtain and publish, with their report, a statement of the changes of investment of said fund which have been made, the reason and consideration thereof, and under what authority, including changes in the securities taken as collaterals for investments, loans or deposits, and under what authority; the total amount of cash loaned out, invested or deposited, to whom loaned, how invested or with whom deposited, when, upon what terms, how secured, and by what authority made, and when and how the same, or any part thereof, has been paid, and by what authority received; and the present appraised value of the said assets.

Resolved, That the said committee, before publishing their report in the official proceedings, submit the same for the sanction of this convention, or that of the Executive Committee of this body, if the convention be not then in session.

In pursuance of the foregoing resolutions, the President appointed the following gentlemen as the committee: Messrs. C. R. Miles, Armistead Burt, John Bratton, Cadwallader Jones and Johnson Hagood.

The convention took a recess for one hour. Upon re-assembling, the President read a letter addressed to him by several bond-holders. In reply to the letter, Col. F. W. McMaster, of Richland, offered a resolution, to the effect that when the honest people of the State get possession of the government, they will do what is just, fair and equitable amongst the creditors of the State.

Mr. Manning, of Clarendon, offered the following preamble and resolution, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, this convention has, by resolutions this day passed, put upon record its sense of the loss the tax-payers of the State have sustained by the untimely death of the late W. H. McCaw; and whereas, the welfare of the family of one who rendered in his life such estimable services is a *lemis* charge upon those for whom he battled so ably and so faithfully; be it

Resolved, That each delegation in this convention be, and is hereby, constituted a committee for the purpose of raising a fund to be presented to his family as a testimonial due to those services.

The above resolutions were advocated by Messrs. F. W. Dawson, F. W. McMaster, M. C. Butler and M. W. Gary, in feeling tributes of respect to the memory of the deceased and earnest appeals in behalf of the living.

The President announced the following gentlemen as the committee to present the memorial of the convention to the General Assembly of South Carolina: Messrs. J. A. Hoyt, F. W. McMaster, J. H. Soreven, A. B. Woodruff and D. S. Henderson.

The President announced the following gentlemen as the committee of fifteen to present the memorial of the tax-payers of South Carolina to the Congress of the United States: Messrs. Armistead Burt, M. C. Butler, B. H. Rutledge, James Chesnut, M. L. Bonham, W. H. Wallace, T. W. Woodward, B. C. Chatfield, W. E. Holcombe, John L. Manning, O. H. Simonton, J. G. Thompson, T. Y. Simons, J. B. Kershaw, J. H. Soreven.

Judge Aldrich presented the report of the Committee on the Organization of Tax-Payers' Unions, which was adopted, and is as follows: That they have considered the subject, and concluded that the most effectual mode of action is that suggested in

the resolutions referred—that is, to collect the proofs and conduct the prosecutions that will put on record the evidence of the frauds and spoliations which have made this convention a necessity. It may be that, under our present system, it will be difficult to secure convictions, but at least the evidence will be put on record, and may be used to convince the Congress and the American people of the wrongs and outrages to which we are subjected. Hence the necessity of an earnest effort to make a case that will prove to the country how great are our wrongs, how perfect has been our endurance, how just is our appeal, and how necessary it is that Congress shall interfere to preserve the character and vindicate the civilization of the State and the Union. To do this, each man in the community must lend his aid. Public meetings and conventions can do little more than direct public opinion and suggest modes of redress. If the necessity which calls the convention into being is not of sufficient importance to arouse the people to a constant effort to carry out their recommendations, either the evils are not so great as they are represented, or the people are not worthy of the efforts made in their behalf.

Your committee are fully convinced of the deep feeling which now stirs the public heart, and believe that it only requires judicious effort to keep alive and put in active operation all the energies of the tax-payers and honest citizens of both races and all parties, to relieve the State from the burdens and humiliations which threaten to destroy not only her property, but her very existence. This is not a question of party and race, but of State preservation, appealing to the pride and patriotism of every citizen, and in which all good men can work together. Nothing, however, can be effected without organization, and the mode suggested in the resolutions appears to be the most simple and effective.

The suggestion as to the formation of Tax Unions appears to your committee to be the most efficient plan and is heartily recommended to the favorable consideration of all honest and virtuous citizens. We earnestly hope that all the citizens of the State, white and colored, without reference to party, who are willing to co-operate in this movement of reform, will join these unions and actively use their influence to restore an honest administration of the Government and relieve the people from the crushing burden of taxation under which they now groan. To do this requires earnest work, and each citizen must contribute to the necessary expense of effecting this much needed reformation. It will take but a small per centage of the taxes annually collected and used by the corrupt Government that oppresses us to perpetuate their power, to carry out the purpose under consideration. If the tax-payers are really in earnest, they must not only be firm and active, but prompt and liberal in furnishing the supplies. Prosecutions in the courts cannot be conducted without money, and unless the means be supplied, the whole object of the organization will be a failure.

Your committee cannot undertake, at this time, to draft constitutions and rules for the efficient working of the Tax Unions, and have, therefore, committed that duty to a sub-committee, who will distribute the same when completed. The committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be empowered to prepare a system of organization of Tax Unions throughout the State, with authority to take all necessary steps for carrying the same into effect.

Resolved, That the delegations from the several Counties represented in this convention be constituted committees for their respective Counties, and charged with the duty of organizing Tax Unions therein, in accordance with the plan to be promulgated by the Executive Committee of this convention; that the said delegations have authority to fill any vacancies that may occur, and to elect Chairmen thereof, whose names shall be reported to the Executive Committee.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be authorized to continue its sessions after the adjournment of the convention, until it shall have completed the organization and purposes contemplated in the foregoing resolutions.

The President was authorized to communicate with the delegations just nominated, and fill any vacancies that may occur.

Mr. F. W. Dawson introduced the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the committee appointed to address the General Assembly, under the resolutions reported by the Executive Committee, be instructed to report within thirty days, through the public prints, the result of their efforts, especially upon the question of cumulative voting.

Gen. Kershaw, from the Committee on Address to the People, submitted the following, which was unanimously adopted:

The committee to prepare an address to the people of the State respectfully report the following address to the people of South Carolina:

FELLOW-CITIZENS: The representatives of the tax-payers to whom has been entrusted the high and solemn duty of recommending measures of protection against the corruption and rapacity that rules the organized band of wicked and unscrupulous adventurers who, under the guise of government and in the name of party, have persistently despoiled you of your property and outraged your most sacred rights, deem it becoming and proper to lay before you in this form certain considerations in connection with their action and deliberations, which they suppose worthy of your earnest and thoughtful attention. It would be unnecessary and painful

to recite your wrongs; the sense of these is not the least poignant of the sufferings you have been called to endure during these five years of unparalleled outrage upon a refined and Christian people. We would have our words speak of courage, of hope, of patience of faith, of work and of duty. He who has rightfully pondered the dealings of an all-wise and beneficent Providence with the affairs of men, cannot fail to have discovered an unvarying and inevitable social law, that all great wrong-tend to their own correction, and work out in the end a sure compensation for the ills they inflict. Thus the ebb and flow of human ideas, obeying the divinely implanted principle of perpetual gravitation towards the right, always returns from the widest deviation, and recoils most violently and with accelerated velocity from the greatest errors. This truth has impressed itself upon the thoughts of the world with the force of an axiom upon which may be based the soundest propositions of the statesman. It has been aptly styled "the fanaticism of justice, which the stars, in their courses, sustain, and against which no attribute of the Almighty takes part." It is vain to suppose that the enlightened American people are exempt from the application of this universal social law. We feel justified in stating our conviction, that, breaking through all the "barriers of prejudice, political strife and the reflex of the great tide of opinion and sympathy is already moving with overwhelming force, bearing with it the promise of a restored nationality, based upon the broad and enduring principles of liberty, justice and truth. We would not be understood as encouraging the thought that what has been swept away in the past can ever be restored. This great country has taken a new departure, has engrained upon her system of government new principles, and deals with new elements. The returning sense of justice will find its task in the adjustment of these new factors of power into harmonious accord with the true principles of republicanism, and in providing ample protection for the rights and liberties of the people. It will probably deal not with organic laws, but with faithful, corrupt and oppressive administrations.

While we present these cheerful anticipations, which we feel justified in doing by many and great changes in sentiment and opinion, manifested among even the most extreme of the great political leaders and high officials of the country, and still more in recent popular movements, it is intended to invite to earnest and hopeful effort and action, rather than to lull into a false security. No help can ever reach a people who suffer themselves to fall into apathy or despair. The energies of men seeking relief from wrong and oppression must be vitalized, organized and united. Every accessible position of power must be seized, held and utilized, and the fight carefully, vigilantly and faithfully fought from place to place, until the citadel be won and the right restored. The convention looks to your action as the most prominent and essential element of the success to be achieved. In order to procure a restoration of an honest administration of affairs, the reins of government must pass into the hands of honest men. Hitherto, political issues have controlled all elections, and the great interests of the State have been subordinated to the schemes of corrupt and evil men, whose insatiable avarice and rapacity have brought us more of ruin and desolation, of wrongs and sufferings, than the fiercest ravages of war. The coming ideas will sweep away party lines and destroy the trade of hungry political adventurers. God will be made once more the agent of the people, not their master, and the great industrial interests of the country, commerce and agriculture, become the prime objects of its protection, rather than its prey. To participate in these benefits, we must be placed in a condition to receive them. There must be an organization upon a basis wholly independent of political parties and issues, based upon the fundamental principle, that the rights and interests of the people require an honest, faithful and economical administration of public affairs. Nothing but premeditated villainy, blind ignorance or total depravity, can prevent this self-evident truth from controlling the government. Our work is to meet and overcome every influence that would bar its recognition. Public opinion is created by agitation, and no community can long resist the pressure of a great truth, constantly, earnestly and honestly urged. To do this, association is essential. The individual is as powerless as a single twig in the faggot, but nothing can resist the great power of combination. Let the honest and well-meaning citizens, one by one, be brought into the Tax-Payers' Union, and made to work for the cause of good government, until the State is redeemed. The *calat* that attends the clash of arms is wanting to such a struggle, but no cause can be more worthy of the earnest, faithful and patient labor of one who loves his people and his State. A triumph like this is not to be won by a single decisive battle, nor, it may be, by many toil-some campaigns, but patient, enduring and honest work, sooner or later, will bring victory to your standards. No laurel wreaths may crown the victor's brow, but a ransomed and redeemed Carolina, a free, prosperous and happy people, will attest to future generations, that worthy of your ancestry and true as they to duty and honor, you have taken up the fight in the darkest hour of adversity, and faithfully and successfully fought it out to victory. We conjure you, then, at once to organize, compact and work up the Tax-Payers' Union, until you anchor the State safe in the harbor of assured peace and prosperity.

In connection with this great move-

ment, it is desired to appeal to our fellow-citizens, who, despairing of relief, are contemplating the thought of abandoning the homes of their childhood and the graves of their fathers, to seek in other lands and among strangers a more hopeful future. Stand by the old State. Desert not your people in their extremity. Leave not the field while the battle rages. Take new courage and try again. We believe this to be the very turning point in the fortunes of the State. Stay with us and share the coming good. The same energy, labor and means that would suffice to establish the emigrant in a new home, would rehabilitate the old in abundant blessings.

It appears to us that duty and patriotism alike demand that the citizen remain at his post, unless called away by more important and exceptional considerations. Whenever it can be done, we urge upon the people to offer such aid and assistance to any citizen whose necessities may impel him to leave the State as may induce him to remain among us. To retain our old citizens is of more value than to introduce new. Every effort should be made to this end. Those who have left the State in these latter years of adversity and trial have not generally prospered. Many have returned to their old homes, poorer than they went out, and many, disappointed and ruined, look back in vain regret upon a fatal mistake. Let us remain at home and be buried in the tomb of our ancestors. A fertile soil, salubrious climate, valuable staples, mines and water powers, a kind and hospitable people, commercial facilities, railroads and telegraphs, and vast areas of unutilized and most valuable lands, cleared and ready for the plow, at prices greatly less than the cost of clearing the primitive forests, present here the most inviting field ever offered to the immigrant. Our people yearn for the coming stranger of every land and nation. We will introduce him on his arrival into the midst of an advanced Christian civilization, with an assured return for industry and thrift.

This convention has instituted certain modes by which your earnest desire to attract hither the people of America and Europe may most readily be gratified. From these and other agencies to be established, the happiest results may be expected. Let your hearty and liberal support of these schemes be constantly accorded, and South Carolina will soon achieve a career of prosperity utterly unprecedented in her history.

This convention has not taken counsel from despair, nor heeded that voice of the past that would awaken the passions and prejudices engendered amid the storm of contending issues buried on fields of blood, which stand as monuments of American valor, devotion and faith. Whatever may have been the range of its discussions, its results are before you, evincing a spirit of self-restraint, forbearance and conservatism, to the emulation of which they would earnestly commend you. They have left nothing undone that promised relief, or that any could say should have been done. While they have memorialized Congress on the subject of your wrongs, in language of simple but burning eloquence and emphasis, they have not omitted a proper appeal to the State Government for necessary reform. In this they feel assured that they will stand justified by your approval and the enlightened opinion of the world. We shall not in detail attempt to recapitulate the entire action of this body, but earnestly invoke your attention to all the measures proposed, and a united action in their support, from the mountains to the sea.

In conclusion, imploring Almighty God to bestow upon all the people His best blessing, His wisdom to guide and His strength to achieve, we commend you to this noble work of duty and patriotism.

- J. B. KERSHAW, Oh'n, Kershaw.
- C. R. MILES, Charleston.
- JOHN BRATTON, Fairfield.
- JOHN S. RICHARDSON, Sumter.
- F. A. CONNER, Asheville.
- IRDELL JONES, York.
- A. B. WOODRUFF, Spartanburg.
- Mr. J. G. Thompson, Chairman, submitted the following report of the committee appointed to wait upon Treasurer Cardozo:

The committee appointed under a resolution to request the Hon. F. L. Cardozo for the vouchers under which he paid \$331,000 for public printing in 1873, waited upon Mr. Cardozo, who had already prepared a reply to the request of the convention. The main portion of the reply consists of a personal attack upon the character of the chairman of the committee, in which the convention is not interested, and which has no bearing upon the information which it desires. The attacked party is entirely able to take care of himself in this matter, and will doubtless do it. Your committee, therefore, report, that the only material matter of the reply is embraced in the following closing paragraph:

"I have no right to permit any one to inspect my vouchers, except those who are legally authorized to do so."

The chairman requests the privilege of making a report, which shall be submitted to the Executive Committee; and that, if they so decide, it shall be incorporated in the published proceedings of this body.

On motion of Gen. Bonham, the convention went into Committee of the Whole, when a resolution was unanimously adopted, tendering the thanks of the convention to Hon. W. D. Porter for the able and impartial manner in which he had presided over its deliberations. The committee rose, when Gen. Kershaw conveyed the resolution in appropriate terms to President Porter. President Porter replied in eloquent terms, reviewing the action of the convention and expressing great hope for good results. His remarks were listened to with rapt attention, and were