The New Orleans Bee.

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NEW ORLEANS DAILY BEE

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TERMS OF THE BEE.

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Weekly Edition.

TERMS—PER YEAR.....$5.

NEW ORLEANS:
FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 19, 1871.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA TAX-PAYER'S CONVENTION.

A Convention of the tax-payers of South Carolina has lately been held at Columbia to consider the condition of the State financially and otherwise, to secure retrenchment and economy in the administration of the State Government, and to devise measures to correct the prevailing evils which were causing so much popular discontent. This Convention was not clothed with any legal power, that is to say, it was not called together in pursuance of any law of the State, but it was composed of some of the most distinguished and most influential men of the State, who fairly represented the intelligence and the worth of the people. It was one of the most significant assemblages that has been brought together in South Carolina since the war. In no instance yet have so many of the representative people of that State met in council, and in no instance have the questions involved in a discussion been of so grave and important a character to the people. Their findings and recommendations are therefore entitled to great weight. The Governor of the commonwealth seems to have approved the Convention and its action. Its resolutions therefore go forth to the world with all the sanction which official power and station can give.

Among other suggestions we extract the following from the report of the committee charged to co-operate with the Governor in effecting reform:

The adoption of the following suggestions is respectfully recommended for the consideration of the Legislature at its next session, with a view to the enactment and modification of certain laws:

1. Increase the revenue of the State by additional legislation insuring the full and faithful payment of the royalty on phosphatic deposits dug and prized, pursuant to the terms of the charters of the respective companies. This may be effected by the appointment of reliable bonded inspectors of phosphate, who should be required to determine by weight or measurement the number of tons mined before sale or shipment, and who shall receive for compensation, a reasonable commission on amounts secured to the State through their office.

Your Committee are advised that a large proportion of the public expenses might be met from this source, if properly collected, whereas, but—then, send dollars have so far been paid into the State Treasury.

2. Repeal or prevent in future acts vesting valuable franchises, the right to dig and mine phosphates, etc., in companies, all or a great part of whose corporator are members of the Legislature at the time of the grant.

3. Stop the drawing of money from the Treasury, for alleged current legislative expenses on the order of the Speaker of the House, or President of the Senate, in advance of any appropriation, which practice is in direct violation of section 22, article 8, of the Constitution, which provides: That "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in pursuance of an appropriation made by law."

4. All appropriation bills should specify items under each general head. For instance, the practice is to cover, under head of "Legislative Expenses," the payments to alleged employes, clerks, messengers, etc., of the General Assembly, who, as your committee are informed, outnumber the members thereof.

5. Reduce the number of State and county officers, by blending the duties of two or more offices in one, and reduce the fees of Coroners, which are excessive.

6. Enact a law limiting each session of the Legislature to thirty days.

7. A law should be enacted, or the present law modified, prohibiting County Commissioners from issuing any check until the account upon which it is alleged to be based is first audited and approved by the County Treasurer or some other independent officer, and requiring the commissioners to publish quarterly a statement in the newspaper of all amounts collected and paid by them, from whom collected, to whom paid, and on what account.

8. Let the old law regulating the fees of collectors be substituted for the present.

9. Repeal the act granting a salary of $2500 per annum to the Adjutant-General. The office is a mere sinecure. Its practical duties can be performed by a clerk, to be appointed by the Governor, acting as Assistant Adjutant-General.

10. Limit each public officer to one salary or compensation, for the same service.

11. Abolish Lieutenant-Governor's pay.

12. Abolish Commission to codify the laws. It costs the State $15,000 and does no duty which cannot be discharged by a clerk.

The spirit animating the Convention is indicated by the address of its Chairman, Mr. Porter, in announcing the adjournment. It is as follows:

Gentlemen of the Convention—I I felt any gratification at the honor conferred in the opening. I must feel still greater gratification at the satisfaction in the manner in which the duties of the Chair have been discharged. It has been altogether no mis a duty of pleasure. It has been my fortunate to preside over one branch of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina. I would pay to that body the tribute of saying that during the whole period during which I discharged those duties, I can call to my mind no act of any member towards the Chair, or towards a fellow member that would bring to me a feeling of regret. So much kindness was always exhibited in that body that it is a memory of an honor that will remain with me to the last day of my life. And now, gentlemen, one of the greatest pleasures is what seems to me a reunion of the school kind. I see so many of my old associates I receive from so many congratulations, and experience so many recollections of the happiness that I feel as if it were a meeting of old friends after some shipwreck, or after some long period of tribulation. It is really a pleasure to look again in your faces, to see the sparkling of your eyes, and to feel the throbbing of your hearts—hearts that are now, as they ever have been, true to the best interests of the Commonwealth. As for this convention, I will not speak in praise of it; we need not be ashamed of it. Let its results speak in behalf and appeal for it to the country for its sympathy.

I think it good that this voluntary body has determined to continue its session. If it acts as an undignified, an unharmonious body, it will accomplish nothing; but, if it act on the same spirit that it has, if it avoid Federal and State politics, if it wage war against the State or the United States Governments, but simply it is welcome to its ranks, as we have done, gentlemen who propose to be good, who are for wholesome laws, good in agriculture, and a just administration of the public funds; if it do that, it will have accomplished a great good. I think we have done much to remove misunderstanding, and inaugurate a period of better feeling, and better reflection of our public affairs. Thanking you again for the honor you have conferred upon me, and wishing a safe return to your homes, I bid you farewell.

NOTICE TO TEXAS SHIPPERS.—The steamer I. C. Harris will receive Galveston and Brazos Santiago freight, and steamer Clinton Indianola freight this day. C. A. Whitney & Co., agents.

TO BUILDERS.—In our advertising columns to-day will be found a notice to builders from Mr. E. P. Mioton, in which he invites sealed proposals for the construction of an iron verandah and for making necessary repairs and alterations to the St. Louis Hotel according to a plan and specifications drawn by Mr. Louis H. Pilié, architect.

Proposals to be delivered at the office of the architect, room No. 12 Merchants' Exchange, Royal street.

You need not go to market but once a week if you have an ice King Refrigerator. Our readers, and ladies especially, are invited to call on Mr. J. A. Wessel, agent, No. 6 Carondelet street, and see this great addition to domestic economy and convenience.

The Amonola car will continue to run during this week, and will be daily at Clay Statue on Canal street, at 9½ A. M. and 4½ P. M. Books for subscription to the capital stock of the company are open at the office of G. L. Laughland, No. 126 Common street.

Gen. R. E. Lee, writing under date of January 18, 1867, says: "In simple mechanism and the appliance my daughters have had in operating to make the Wheeler & Wilson easily manifest a great favorite in my family." For sale by M. S. Hedrick, 119 and 121 Canal street, New Orleans.

We are evidently on the brink of civil war. Mr. Middlebrook, of Central Road Convention the other day: "Some women think it would be dreadful to women would advise every woman in the country to make an attempt to vote, every dissenting vote. I shall go this in spite of even if I have to go to the polls with a revolver."

NEWS PER MAIL.

(Special Dispatch to the St. Louis Republican.)

To Oppose the Treaty.

New York, May 15.—Authentic information received here this afternoon tends to the belief that Senators Sumner, Logan, Schurz, Trumbull, and Casserly, will oppose the treaty, but their opposition will not prevail. The majority are anxious to ratify; the more so, as it is not believed that Gladstone can get the consent of parliament to the treaty, which, on the Alabama claims, is considered a humiliation for Great Britain.

The Late Internal Revenue Decision.

Washington, May 15.—It is estimated at the Treasury Department that the collections of the tax on distilled spirits, in accordance with the Attorney General's decision, will amount to nearly five millions of dollars for the last five months of 1871. The Secretary of the Treasury issued a letter to-day announcing the revival of the commissioner's decision, which the latter will embrace in the form of an order, and send to Collectors and Assessors of Internal Revenue. There seems to be considerable feeling between the Revenue Bureau and the Treasury Department over threats made by the latter, that several equally important decisions of Commissioner Pleasanton will be also overruled.

The Weather and the Crops.

These crop reports are taken from the *Memphis Appeal*:

Everywhere throughout the cotton section with the exception of Galveston, the weather has been both cold and rainy for the last two weeks, and from nearly every point of importance there is complaint of the lateness of the crops coupled with apprehensions of a continued backward season. Here about there have been five days of heavy rains since the first of the month, with the weather cold nearly all the time, and planters have been unable to make any progress with their spring work, so that a great deal yet remains to be done both as to corn and cotton planting, with not a little in the way of replanting, owing to the fact that not only has the seed been prevented from coming up, but it has been actually washed out of the ground in some localities. In the districts of Macon, Columbus, Montgomery, Selma, etc., there were three or four days of rain last week, and at Nashville two days, though in other respects the weather has been more favorable than in this section. Here the thermometer has indicated as low as 51. At Selma the average has been 60; at Montgomery 66; at Mobile 74; at Macon 73; at Columbus 71; at Charleston 74, and at Galveston 75.

Under these circumstances it is not surprising that our cotton trade should drag. We look for continued dullness, or at the best, for very little improvement for several weeks yet, or until the work of planting is almost consummated. As to the crop prospects, we entertain no apprehensions. Last season, up to this period was fully as unfavorable, as the present, and yet from splendid maturing and picking weather, the yield proves to be next to the largest ever yet realized. There is yet time to make an excellent crop, and with fair weather from this time forward the prospects may be considered fully as good as it was a year ago, when complaints were as loud and as numerous as now.

Crop Prospects on the Mississippi River—Planters and river men, yesterday from points this side of Arkansas river, report the crops in fine condition. The cool weather and heavy rains of the past ten days have, so far, done no injury to young cotton, though some are beginning to complain and express fears that a continuance of cold weather will result injuriously. Many cotton fields along the river banks, seen from the decks of passing steamers, present a beautiful appearance and look as clean and free from grass or weeds as a well kept garden bed. Hoeing or thinning out the young cotton, which has everywhere come up with good stands, has been commenced in many fields. Numerous planters are reported rather scarce of supplies and many are nearly out, while money is tight and currency is very scarce. Altogether, however, the outlook is as promising as it could possibly be at this early period, and a favorable season from this time forth will bring an abundant harvest to gladden the hearts of the husbandman and cause joy to reign in his household.

Butler and the Blacks.

(From the St. Louis Republican.)

Ben. Butler has been making a speech to the Boston blacks, in the course of which he said that to the African race rather a larger share of intellectual accomplishments, christian virtues, and political ability than has ever yet been claimed for them. According to truthful Benjamin, the Southern negroes are especially noted for their temperance, industry, courage, loyalty, and religious aspirations; and are entitled, by the possession of these qualifications, to rule over their former masters. As a sample of the impudent style of doing things, take these two lines:

"But I deny the ignorance of the colored men of the South.

As this denial was addressed to negroes, the audience could hardly know what Butler intended they should—that is his opinion the Southern blacks had quite as much knowledge on the average as the whites. The speaker knew that he was giving currency to a direct falsehood, and yet, too, which could be stamped as such by every reasonable man, North or South; but as this sort of statement is necessary to defend the policy of the Administration, and Butler's share in the passage of the Ku-klux bill, it is used unblushingly. Naturally enough, Butler selects the South Carolina negroes as the brightest illustration of his theory, and insists that the system of government there is based on the eternal principles of right and justice, and would be a magnificent success were it not for the white people. These white people, scarcely any of whom can vote, are the only obstacle which prevents the speedy inauguration of an earthly paradise, upon the version gentleman from Massachusetts. On the other hand, we find in a late issue of the New York *Tribune*, a letter from a correspondent at Columbia, S. C., in which the writer—evidently a Radical—declares that not one in a hundred of the colored population in the State can read or write; that they are lazy, unreliable and altogether worthless; and that they constitute the worst ruling class the world ever saw. This correspondent, after a careful examination of the whole subject, says frankly that the condition of affairs there cannot and ought not to last. But let and his party are determined it shall last, no matter what means are required to maintain it. They have placed the pyramid upon its apex, and are propping it with bayonets; but this device of tyrants must soon succumb to be withdrawn, and when it is, the governmental structure will be remanded to first principles. The example of South Carolina is doing more to show up the utter insanity of the blacks for self-government, than all other causes combined—Butler to the contrary notwithstanding.

A Federal Union in France.

A very intelligent writer, in a recent number of the *Fortnightly Review*, who knows France by long residence and study, draws some strange contrasts between Paris and rural France.

The two, the author says in effect, are almost as different as if inhabited by two different races. Paris is gay—France is serious. Paris is devoted to amusement—the Provinces have less of it than any other country. Paris is irreligious—the country is superstitious. Paris is socialistic—France believes in the most substantial of all property, that of land. The capital is republican—the country is monarchical. The former hates or is indifferent to priests—the latter worships them. Paris hungers for martial glory—the latter dreads it. The one would welcome the Prussians, the other fears even a Republican Assembly. The city is given up to vice and frivolities in social life, and to absurd theories in politics—the country is conservative in thought, and passably pure in morals.

So strong are these contrasts, so irreconcilable are these differences, that the writer can only suggest as a solution of the problem the return to the middle age experiment, of a confederation in France of independent municipalities—a union of Communes and rural districts, in which the various large towns should preserve a free and independent existence with their own self-government, and the Provinces should also have their own administration, independent of all others.

Such a reconstruction of France would, as the reviewer admits, deprive her of all foreign glory, and cut off warlike efforts, which would be no disadvantage to France or the world, while the result might be a revival of that brilliant and active middle-age life of free cities, which certainly did in Italy, Germany and Holland produce some of the most beautiful traits in art, letters and mental activity which the modern world has known.

Ex-Governor Henry A. Wise has published a long and eloquent tribute to the memory of the late Ex-Governor James M. Mason, of Virginia, in which he says: "It was not in the course of nature, or in the course of things, that he could outlive Secession and the South, the wounds to his pride, the schemes to his ambition, the hopes of liberty and joy of seeing all his State rights vindicated, the dearest and of sacred things, and the disunion and demoralization he witnessed, and the home, where he would wish to be with the loves of his aged mother, Pamela, his wife, his children and proud sons of Mason, and his sons and daughters, near his dwelling and tomb at Clarendon, near Alexandria, and Eden for a quiet place of his spirit, when he passed, and he fell, under pain, yet he just passed, and he fell, under pain, yet he died as he lived, a patriot and hero."

Attempts were made in the Philadelphia Legislature, three years ago, to pass a law for an exemption to this country of a number of Spanish and other subjects of Lerdo's journals. They actually succeeded in leaving Liverpool for our port without this month. On their arrival here they were seized by the officers of the law, and the attempt to land them, for themselves, they claimed the benefit of freedom, and other immigrants, in the guise thereof, let us give them unlimited welcome.

BY TELEGRAPH.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Marshal MacMahon Gets the Government to His Aid.

Prolongation of the Prussians Sent to the Commune.

The Prussians Approaching on Paris.

A Decisive Attack Looked For.

Arrest of Members of the Commune.

Committee of Safety Appeal to the National Guard.

The Official Journals on the Situation.

HOME NEWS.

Investigation Into the Treaty Publication.

Miscellaneous Matters.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Paris, May 18.—A delegation of the Commune in the Second Arrondissement have ordered closing in that portion of Paris all houses of ill-fame.

Paris, May 18—Evening.—The Versailles are throwing up entrenchments two hundred yards beyond Meudon gate. Fort Montrouge still continues a feeble resistance. The bombardment is incessant.

The German troops are taking possession of many commanding positions.

Paris, May 18.—Clement and Brunel, members of the Commune, have been arrested.

The Committee of Safety appeal to the National Guard to secure the triumph of the Commune, and in so doing describe the fearful results which must come from their inaction.

The insurrectionist's batteries on Montmartre to-day bombarded Versailles with the fort at Chateau Bacon.

The Commune has ordered Rigault to make reprisals for all acts of cruelty perpetrated by the Versailles commanders.

The Commune has resolved to form a central club of women for the purpose of disarming runaways.

Versailles, May 18—Evening.—The Assembly adopted the entire treaty signed at Frankfort between France and Germany. Gen. Chanzy objected to the payment of specie in Europe, and the answered by Thiers and Jules Dufaure, who insisted upon the advantage of retaining and strengthening Belfort.

London, May 18.—The Prussians are approaching, and it is expected will attack Paris on the east side. It is said the Prussians have sent their ultimatum to the Commune.

London, May 18.—The Communists official journal accuses the Versailleists of causing the recent explosion in the Avenue Trousadere, but Versailles claims that the explosion was solely the result of an accident from the fact that no shell fell in the Champ de Mars, on the side of its occurrence.

The official journal of Versailles editorially dwells upon the difficulty of establishing a military centre against the Commune of Paris.

The article asserts that the Government is striving to spare the innocent, and concludes by reminding those who express impatience at the delay of the Government in capturing the city.

London, May 18.—A new Spanish loan has been introduced in the London market.

It is reported the Turkish Government is about to issue a fresh issue of consolidated bonds to the amount of $20,000,000.

In the House of Commons this evening Mr. Disraeli severely criticised the budget lately submitted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Reviewing the successive steps through which it had passed, he defended the policy of the Administration, and Butler's share in the passage of the Ku-klux bill, it is used unblushingly. Naturally enough, Butler selects the South Carolina negroes as the brightest illustration of his theory, and insists that the system of government there is based on the eternal principles of right and justice, and would be a magnificent success were it not for the white people. These white people, scarcely any of whom can vote, are the only obstacle which prevents the speedy inauguration of an earthly paradise, upon the version gentleman from Massachusetts. On the other hand, we find in a late issue of the New York *Tribune*, a letter from a correspondent at Columbia, S. C., in which the writer—evidently a Radical—declares that not one in a hundred of the colored population in the State can read or write; that they are lazy, unreliable and altogether worthless; and that they constitute the worst ruling class the world ever saw. This correspondent, after a careful examination of the whole subject, says frankly that the condition of affairs there cannot and ought not to last. But let and his party are determined it shall last, no matter what means are required to maintain it. They have placed the pyramid upon its apex, and are propping it with bayonets; but this device of tyrants must soon succumb to be withdrawn, and when it is, the governmental structure will be remanded to first principles. The example of South Carolina is doing more to show up the utter insanity of the blacks for self-government, than all other causes combined—Butler to the contrary notwithstanding.

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MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

THURSDAY EVENING, May 18, 1871.

The Money market is tighter and steady with no quotable change in rates of money, which we continue to quote as follows:—6@8 ⅌ cent. ⅌ annum for A1 paper without collateral; 8@10 for short A1 paper without collateral, 10@12 for good and second grade do, and 10@12 for A1 long do. Mortgage notes 12@15 for A1, and 10@12 for second class.

Gold opened at 112@112¼, declined 111½ at New York, and closed at 111¾@112 (against 112¼). The sales yesterday were at 112, $1000 and $6000 at 112⅛, $2000, and $46,000 at 112¼, $6000 at 112⅜, $15,000 at 112 5-16, and $7000 at 112½.

A correspondent of the Herald remarks last evening on the course of the Assistant Treasurer in his purchase of government bonds, and contrasts the 17 M. Treasurer at Washington for extending, above New York rates, anything that the receipts from customs have largely exceed the disbursements, and that large sums were forwarded to New York by express. It would be a breach of trust, says the correspondent in right. The Assistant Treasurer in this city should have full discretion to act according to his judgment, even at a loss than New York rates if justified by circumstances.

In Silver 3000 Mexican dollars were reported at 3¼ ⅌ cent premium in gold. We quote 109¼@110 for Mexican dollars, and 3@3½ ⅌ cent premium in gold for Mexican dollars.

Foreign Exchange made advance in sympathy with the gold market improvement in gold, the market closing at 9 ⅌ cent above our quotations of last evening. The sales of bankers' bills yesterday were £50,000, of which £10000 bill on Baring at 108⅞; £10,000 bill on Hottinguer at 108⅞ clear at 108⅛; [illegible] at £1000 A1 and £5000 A1 bill at indorsement 108; £1000 private bankers' bill at 108⅛; £1000 bank at 108⅞; £10,000 bill 108⅞@108⅛, and £5000 at 108⅛ gold.

Sterling may now be quoted at 108@108⅛ for good to A1 bill of lading and clear and 108 for bank.

Domestic Exchange was in better supply and the market ruled easier, the rates, though rates showed no quotable variation. The banks required sterling with slight drawing, and New York at ¼ ⅌ cent; premium, and 50 ⅌ cent discount, $5000, $10,000, $20,000, $50,000, $100,000 and $500,000 New York exchange night at ¼ premium, and $50,000 and $100,000 private bankers' at 5-16, and $5000 at $50,000 at 5-16, and $5000 at $50,000 at 5-16, and $5000 at $50,000