

THE FREE SOUTH.



BEAUFORT, S. C., MAY 21, 1864.

THE MASS CONVENTION.

Whatever differences of opinion, if any, may have been entertained in regard to the policy or wisdom of calling and holding the Convention which assembled on the 17th inst., the dignity, order and decorum which characterized its proceedings fully justified the experiment.

It was indeed an experiment—a novelty in the progress of civilization. It was the gathering together of loyal and free people, who, by the incidents of the war, or by the direct suggestions of the Government in pursuance of its regenerative policy, had been gathered together in this Department of the South, and who could not forget or forgo their rights, privileges and duties as American citizens.

The approach of the quaternal election of the Chief Magistrate of this great Nation cannot fail to enlist the deepest interest of the truly loyal, whether at home or abroad. More especially might the approaching occasion be naturally supposed to excite the peculiar interest in the hearts of those whom the Government had invited here to act as the pioneers in the great work of re-construction.

We have attended many Conventions, primary meetings, and other political assemblages at the North, where the people from childhood to old age had been thoroughly schooled in the discipline of party or political tactics, and we can confidently assert that we never attended a political convention wherein interests of such magnitude were involved, that was conducted with more order, dignity, and decorum, than the convention of Tuesday last.

The President of the convention, after stating the objects of the convention, frankly stated that we did not pretend to demand as an absolute right, the full representation in the Baltimore convention by sixteen votes, to which the State of South Carolina would have been entitled had she remained loyal, but that this department constituting the only recognised loyal portion of the State, and being occupied and ready to be defended in the name and behalf of the Union, to bear and sustain the flag of the Nation had a right at least to some voice in the nomination and election of the Chief Magistrate, upon whom their future welfare, nay, even their local habitation might depend.

Of course it is for the Baltimore Convention to say whether or not the pioneers of South Carolina, in the course of the development of free society, free institutions and self-government, are worthy of consideration or not. At all events they have demonstrated, at least to themselves, that they are competent to the emergencies which have thrown them together, and we may hope will continue to show themselves equal to the fortune which may await them.

Again we say, in conclusion, that we regard this Convention in its conduct and its results as a decided success.

PERSONAL.—We are pleased to announce the arrival of this Department of Captain T. Barney, Assistant Adjutant General, after an absence of six months. While in the North Captain Barney has been actively engaged in recruiting the Ninth Army Corps under Maj.-Gen. Burnside, filling the position of Chief of the Inspecting Bureau. Capt. Barney returns in the full enjoyment of his health, though his duties have been extremely arduous. We understand that he holds an appointment as Colonel in the One Hundred and Eightieth Regiment of New York Volunteers, and congratulate him on his success, and hopes that he will not stop at the eagles.

The Fire Department.

A special meeting of the Fire Department was held on Wednesday evening, May 11, 1864, for the purpose of hearing the reports of the committees on subscriptions and organization, and also to take action in reference to buying an engine and truck for the new companies, viz: Union Engine Company No. 1 and Beaufort Hook and Ladder Company No. 1.

Mr. Pond, from Committee on Subscriptions, reported that he had collected to the amount of \$1,150, and expected to collect \$200 more here and perhaps \$500 or \$600 in New York from insurance companies doing business in Beaufort. The report was accepted.

There was a report presented by Mr. Blanchard, of the Hook and Ladder Company, that they had organized and elected their officers, and were now ready for duty.

Mr. Bogert, of New York Hose No. 1, moved that a committee of one from each company be appointed for the purpose of going to New York to purchase the necessary apparatus for the Department, but subsequently withdrew his motion on it being stated by Chief Engineer Hyatt that a gentleman named Mr. Trembly was about to proceed to New York on the Fulton this trip, who had volunteered his services, and inasmuch as he is well acquainted with fire department matters in New York his services were accepted. Mr. Pond being also about to proceed to New York on business, volunteered his services gratuitously, when it was moved that he be appointed a committee of one to purchase the machines. The motion was carried.

It was thought by those present that gentlemen volunteering would save all the expense attending the sending of a committee for the especial purpose of purchasing. Mr. Pond also stated that his hopes were sanguine in regard to raising the amount of \$600 in New York.

The Chairman spoke in reference to the companies adopting a badge that they might be recognized by the sentinels in case of fire, when it was stated by Mr. Butterfield that the Engine Company had adopted as their style one somewhat similar to the New York engine badge, only larger. It was also stated by Mr. Hyatt that houses would immediately be built for the companies use, as General Saxton desires to help the Department in every way.

Mr. Jenkins spoke in reference to the supply of water, and thought it would be feasible to construct large wells or cisterns, so fixed that the sand would not rise up in them, and with a depth of water enough for any ordinary fire.

It was moved by Mr. Jenkins that a committee to consist of the Foreman and Assistant Foreman of each Company be appointed to choose eligible locations for cisterns, and to ascertain the most feasible method of construction.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

WM. H. HYATT, Chairman. ROBT. A. JENKINS, Secretary.

THE RING.—Joe Coburn has accepted Jem Mace's challenge to fight him for five hundred pounds a side, and has forwarded to England the sum of forty pounds (\$250) as the first deposit. So high was the rate of exchange that Coburn's fifty pounds amounted in reality to four hundred and thirteen dollars. Coburn is the best fighter of his weight in this country—one of his fights lasted three hours and twenty minutes, and was then called a draw.

Mace allows Coburn one hundred pounds for his travelling expenses. The fight is to take place in Ireland.

Rebel Newspaper Says That General Lee is Wounded and in Richmond.

The Petersburg Express of the 11th says: "General Lee is in Richmond wounded. The telegraph lines between Petersburg and Richmond have been cut several days."

Freedmen's Aid Commission—First Anniversary Meeting.

The first anniversary meeting of the North-Western Freedmen's Aid Commission was held on the 1st of April in the Second Presbyterian Church, Chicago. There was a full attendance; and the audience manifested great interest in the proceedings. The Chair was occupied by the Hon. J. M. Wilson.

The exercises were opened with singing and prayer. The Rev. J. R. Shipperd, Corresponding Secretary, then read the Annual Report which was replete with facts valuable as showing what has been done during the three months since it was organized, and exceedingly interesting to the friends of humanity. The following is the only extract for which we can find room.

"In quietude of apprehensions upon the score of expense, it is only necessary to anticipate the financial exhibit with the remark that the total expense of all salaried employees of the Commission for the one hundred days from January 1st to April 9th inclusive, is less than six per cent. upon the business done.

The summary of accounts on the books of the Commission, brought down to the nearest convenient date, and covering the business of precisely one hundred days, reads thus:

Table with columns for RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS, listing items like Stores, Cash, and Goods on hand with their respective values.

Hereafter the Treasury will not be overdrawn, nor will any liabilities be incurred which cannot be promptly met. It is a gratifying fact that the checks of this Commission pass regularly at the city banks without enquiry. This credit will be jealously maintained. The cash items of expenditure are classified in the report of the Committee on Finance as follows:

For teachers, their outfit, travelling expenses, and two months advanced pay, \$4,974 91

Transportation, including freight, postage, and travel (other than of teachers), 887 84

Printing and stationery, 587 88

Office rent and fixtures, 620 10

Agencies including salaried employees of all kinds (others than teachers), 1,165 75

In all, \$8,265 98

The assembly was then addressed by the Rev. W. H. Cooper, a General Agent of the Commission, just returned from the Lower Mississippi, and by the Rev. H. D. Fisher, late of the 5th Kansas Cavalry, after which Chaplain McCabe sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic. A good collection was taken in aid of the funds, and spirit-stirring addresses were delivered by Rev. Wm. Deloss Love, of Milwaukee, and by Hon. Charles S. May, Lieut. Governor of Michigan. The Doxology was then sung, and the congregation dismissed with the benediction.

The principal office of this Commission, which is the Northwestern Branch of the United States Freedmen's Commission, is at 86 Washington street, Chicago, Illinois. Communications should be addressed to Rev. J. R. Shipperd, Post Office box 4,617, Chicago, Ill. Monies should be sent to J. V. Farwell, Esq. Boxes of clothing, &c., should be marked "Northwestern Freedmen's Aid Commission, care of Col. R. B. Mason, Chicago, Ill." The residence of the donors should also be plainly marked upon the box, and duplicate invoices of contents made, one to be placed in the box, and the other sent by mail to the Corresponding Secretary, as above.

The death of the stallion Geo. M. Patchen closes the career of the fastest trotting horse in America. On Long Island he ruptured himself and died on the same ground that he had so many times contested for and won the superiority of. He was a son of the noted horse Cassius M. Clay, and full half brother to the celebrated Nonperiel. He cost his last owner twenty-one thousand dollars.

We are indebted to the Purser of the Arago for files of Northern Papers.

A Loaf, (says a distinguished Cockney) "like the sun, rises in the Yeast, and sets in the Vest."

Doesn't the reader feel a sort of "rising" under his waistcoat, after reading that?

GENERAL BUTLER'S ARMY.

BERMUDA HUNDRETS, May 10.

Nothing definite has yet been accomplished by our forces in the way of captures, but everything looks favorable.

Beauregard, with about 25,000 men, is in Petersburg, and we have all the railroads leading to that city, and forces enough to keep Beauregard there until he surrenders.

We shall, it is reported, soon commence a siege of that place.

There are four monitors and several gunboats within four miles of Fort Darling, ready to co-operate with our land forces, (a part of them,) abreast of the monitors. Our forces occupy a strong position, and are strong enough to hold it.

It is supposed that Gen. Kaute is now to the south of Petersburg, aiming at the destruction of railroads leading south from Richmond. Correspondents have probably announced his defeat, many of his troops captured, &c. It is not believed here. Beauregard has no cavalry.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 11.

The latest advices from the front state that the gunboat Breuster was blown up on the Appotattax yesterday by a rebel battery. No statement in regard to the loss of life.

Fighting was going on all day yesterday. The main portion appeared to be on our right. The troops were under command of Gen. Smith. The turnpike between Richmond and Petersburg was the bone of contention. Up to 3 P. M. to-day nothing later has been received.

We receive but few papers from the North here, most all of them having been stopped; most of our dispatches are suppressed.

Petersburgh has not been abandoned, burned, nor yet besieged. Beauregard is there in command. Fort Darling is still in the hands of the rebels.

The bark Dame Darden, ashore near Cape Henry, with a cargo of iron, steel, block tin, &c., will prove a total loss.

A report just received states that Col. Spear has burned the long bridge near Walden, and two others; that he made three charges, and the third time succeeded. I give this for what it is worth. My informant heard Col. Spear tell it.

WASHINGTON, May 13—5 1/2 P. M.

To Maj.-Gen. Dix: A dispatch has been received from Gen. Butler dated "In the Field, near Chester Station, Va., May 12, 3.30 P. M."

It states that he is now pressing the enemy near Fort Derling, and has before him all the troops from North Carolina and South Carolina that have got up.

Beauregard's courier was captured this morning going to Gen. Hope, in command of Drury's Bluff; he had a dispatch stating that Beauregard would join them as soon as the troops came up.

Gen. Gilmore holds the intrenchments, Smith demonstrates upon Drury and the enemy's lines.

Gen. Kantz, with his cavalry, has been sent to cut the Danville Railroad near Appomattox Station, and can, perhaps, advance on James River.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, May 13—3.30 P. M.

Gen. Butler has removed the obstructions from the James River, and our gunboats are going toward Richmond. A chest showing the location of torpedoes was found on the man who was shot while attempting to explode torpedoes a few nights ago. Butler has used it for an excellent purpose.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.—The English language must appear fearfully and wonderfully made to a foreigner. One of them, looking at a picture on a number of vessels, said: "See what a flock of ships." He was told that a flock of ships was called a fleet, and that a fleet of sheep was called a flock. And it was added for his guidance, in mastering the intricacies of our language, that a flock of girls is called a bevy, that a bevy of wolves is called a pack, and a pack of thieves is called a gang, and a gang of angels is called a host, and a host of porpoises is called a shoal, and a shoal of buffaloes is called a herd, and a herd of children is called a troop, and a troop of partridges is called a covey, and a covey of beauties is called a galaxy, and a galaxy of ruffians is called a horde, and a horde of rubbish is called a heap, and a heap of oxen is called a drove, and a drove of blackguards is called a mob, and a mob of whales is called a school, and a school of worshippers is called a congregation, and a congregation of engineers is called a corps, and a corps of robbers is called a band, and a band of locusts is called a swarm, and a swarm of people is called a crowd.

A countryman being a witness in a court of justice, was asked by the counsel if he was born in wedlock. "No, sir," answered the man, "I was born in Lincolnshire."