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The Kent News.

PLUMMER & USILTON,..Editors.

Chestertown:
Saturday Morning, May 4, 1861.

THE LEGISLATURE.

We notice that a bill has been introduced into the Legislature by Mr. Wallis, of Baltimore, to legalize the acts of the officers, committees, and private individuals, during the late outbreak in that city. The object of the bill is to entail upon the State, instead of upon the City of Baltimore, the expense of rebuilding the railroad bridges, and indemnifying the citizens of Baltimore and vicinity who suffered loss by the forcible seizure of their property. In the name of the tax-payers of Kent county, we protest against levying upon them to pay for property which they had no hand in destroying. As the citizens of Baltimore took upon themselves the responsibility of destruction, we think they should bear the burden of reconstruction and indemnification.

Mr. Scott, of the House, on Monday reported a bill providing for the call of a Sovereign Convention of the people of Maryland on Thursday, the 30th of May.

A bill authorizing the banks of the State to issue small notes has passed both houses and is now a law.

The obnoxious law affecting the "oyster beds of Maryland," passed at the last session of the Legislature, and which created no little excitement in some parts of the State, has been repealed.

The Senate has adopted a resolution looking to the appointment of a joint committee to wait upon the President of the United States and the President of the Confederate States, with a view to bring about a peaceful solution of our national difficulties.

REACTION IN BALTIMORE.

The excitement consequent upon the recent unfortunate outbreak in Baltimore has almost entirely subsided, and we have now the happiness of recording a counter revolution in the return of reason, and a strong effort to redeem the city from the stain which has been cast upon it and the injury and damage it has suffered. There has been no effort made by any of the Baltimore papers, except the *Exchange*, which has always been one of the most ultra Secession papers in Maryland, to justify the attack upon the troops. Even the *Sun*, which has strong Secession proclivities, openly condemns the whole proceeding, approves the efforts of the Mayor and police to quell the riot, and attributes their unsuccessful efforts to inadequate numerical strength. "One week's experience," says the *American*, "of the depression, turmoil, excitement, and ruin of the Secession epidemic has proved an effective specific for Baltimore, and we hope for the whole State of Maryland." The commerce of the city has been effectually checked, business of all kinds prostrated, and a consequent loss of several millions of dollars entailed upon her citizens. As an evidence of the restoration of quiet and good order, we notice that Union meetings are being held without molestation in the open streets, and in all sections of the city.

With the return of order there is also a noticeable change in the tone of the press of that city. The *Sun*, which notwithstanding its present protestations to the contrary, has been among the most violent in its denunciations of the Government, now hoots at the idea of the secession of Maryland, as certain to bring devastation and ruin upon the entire State. It says:

"It is our opinion that there ought to be a Convention elected by the people.—It is asked whether it ought to be a Union or Secession Convention. We answer, not a *secession* Convention *per se*, by any means; and we sincerely hope that any candidate before the people, asking their suffrages as an unconditional secessionist, will be defeated. Moreover, we are in a position which imposes obligations upon us with respect to the Administration, that cannot be in any degree shirked or abated with honor. The capital is on the soil of Maryland; the State of Maryland lies between the administration and the free States, from which its resources are derived, but must be an auxiliary of the Government to a certain extent, or an open enemy. Our attitude is at this moment that of an auxiliary, and this we must continue to be, or invite the earliest conflict upon the soil of Maryland.

The administration has, in a spirit of conciliation which none can deny, sought to avert from our city the calamity and desolation of conflict; and inasmuch as the military highway they have selected proves equal to the demand, we have no reason to believe they will suffer unnecessary intrusion upon the people of Baltimore. It is quite easy for any man to perceive the great change which must immediately take place in our relations to the administration and to the free States, should a sovereign convention adopt an ordinance of secession. Our State would instantly become the blazing theatre of war and carnage."

And in another article upon "The welfare of our City," the same paper concludes with the following language:

"Let us, then, stand by Baltimore as our first and nearest concern; and as between secession on one hand and sectional warfare upon Southern Rights on the other, endeavor to preserve the honor and dignity, and promote the welfare of Maryland."

The Territorries.

Senator Douglas, in a speech made by him in the Senate of the United States, during the extra session of that body in March, stated that the three remaining Territories of the United States were organized by Congress without restriction as to the introduction of slavery; were now open to settlement as well for the South as the North. That slaves could be taken there without any condition. That Congress by a two-thirds vote, had submitted the question of an amendment to the Constitution, to the several States, to be voted upon, protecting forever slavery in the States where it exists, and forbidding any interference, unless by the actual vote and determination of the slave States alone, thus creating an insuperable barrier to all future interference, regardless of the growth of free States. We hope that this may form a basis of settlement, that will yet reunite us, as one people, in the bonds of indissoluble, fraternal and political Union, without further strife or conflict.

A Committee of Safety.

We see by the Baltimore papers of yesterday, that an effort is now being made in the Legislature to pass a measure, intended to place our future destiny in the hands of a Military Board, or "Committee of Safety," composed of the leading advocates of secession from the different sections of the State! This measure, we believe, is intended for nothing more nor less than to override the will of the people, and to secure to the Secessionists the supreme power, to be used as their own purposes may dictate. We have not much confidence in that Legislature, but sincerely hope that they will have sufficient regard for the peace and welfare of the State, not to pass such a revolutionary measure as the one proposed. The bill has passed a second reading in the Senate.

Meeting of the Confederate Congress.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DAVIS.

The Confederate Congress met at noon on the 29th, at Montgomery, and the message of President Davis was read.

It announces the ratification of the permanent constitution by all the Confederate States, and it only remains for elections to be held for the designation of officers to administer it. The President says the declaration of war laid against this Confederacy by Abraham Lincoln rendered it necessary to convene Congress to devise measures for the defense of the country. He then reviews at length the relations heretofore existing between the States, and the events which have resulted in the present warfare.

Referring to the result of the mission of the commissioners to Washington, he says the crooked paths of diplomacy can scarcely furnish an example so wanting in courtesy, in candor and directness, as was the course of the United States government towards our commissioners.

The President incidentally refers to the fleet off Charleston during the bombardment of Sumter, and pays a high compliment to the Carolinians for their forbearance before, their heroism during, and their magnanimity after the bombardment.

He says commissioners have been sent to England, France, Russia and Belgium, to ask for our recognition as a member of the family of nations, and to make treaties of amity and commerce. He recommends the appointment of other diplomatic agents.

The Confederacy, says the President, through Vice-President Stephens, has concluded a convention with Virginia, by which Virginia has united her powers and fortunes with us He has satisfactory assurances that other Southern States will soon unite their fortunes with ours.

Most of the Executive Departments are in successful operation, and the Postmaster General will soon be ready to assume the direction of postal affairs.

In conclusion the President congratulates the Confederacy on the patriotic devotion exhibited by the people. He says a people thus united and resolved cannot fail of final success. We feel that our cause is just and holy, and we protest solemnly in the face of mankind that we desire peace at any sacrifice, save that of honor and independence.

DELAWARE.—Governor Burton, of the State of Delaware, has issued a proclamation recommending "the formation of volunteer companies for the protection of the lives and property of the people of the State against violence of any sort to which they may be exposed. For these purposes such companies, when formed, will be under the control of the State authorities, though not subject to be ordered by the Executive into the United States' service, the law not vesting him with such authority. They will, however, have the option of offering their services to the General Government for the defense of its capital and the support of the Constitution and laws of the country."

The Union feeling is represented as strong throughout the State, the idea of secession not being entertained by any considerable portion of the people.

SMALL NOTES.—The Legislature has passed a bill authorizing the banks to issue small notes, with a proviso limiting the issue to ten per cent. of their capital, and the time to March 11th, 1864.

THE BLOCKADE EXTENDED.—The President has issued his proclamation extending the blockade to the ports of Virginia and North Carolina, for the same reasons as heretofore declared by him for blockading other Southern ports. Captain Stringham will direct the general blockade movement.

A SOUND ARGUMENT.

The Baltimore American of Tuesday has an able article upon the position of Maryland in relation to the Government in the present crisis, and the course which it is her duty and interest to pursue. It says:

"It is not a question of election between two Governments, equally entitled to our respect, with neither of which we are connected, and between which we are indifferent. If it were so, the question so persistently and so disingenuously put: "Will you go with the North, or will you go with the South?" might be proper and pertinent. But it is not so. On the one hand is OUR COUNTRY, rich in priceless memories of the past, which are ours because they are our country's; rich in the vast extent and variety of her present resources which enrich us as a part of our country; and rich (oh! how rich, but for the present cloud of shame) in the golden promises of the future, which are ours because the country is ours. On the other hand is a league of States without a history, with no elements of independent empire, around whose future the thickest darkness hangs. On the one hand is the flag round which cluster so many patriotic recollections, and which has waved above the brave in so many hard fought battles; the Constitution which so many of us have sworn to sustain; the laws which we have aided to enact; the alliances which we have contracted, and the commercial treaties which *we* have negotiated when *we* commanded respect as a first-class power among the nations of the earth. On the other hand are those who trail that flag in the dust, abjure that Constitution and repudiate the oaths to sustain it which they have registered in Heaven, defy the laws which they have helped to enact, and must contract alliances as best they can when recognized as a sixth rate power, whose discordant parts are cemented only by the whim of demagogues.

To observe our oaths, to maintain the laws, to sustain the Government as legally established—this is not going "with the North!" It is doing just what every true man and patriot throughout the country has been doing for half a century. Upon what ground can we justify to posterity, or to ourselves when time shall have calmed the passions of the hour, a repudiation of these examples of the wise and patriotic? *Has our country become our oppressor? Has its Constitution proved a tyrant?*—Wherein? It is no new thing in the history of Maryland that the vote of the country has adopted a platform and elected a President distasteful to her. Jackson, Van Buren, Polk, Buchanan, were all elected against the wish and despite the vote of Maryland. She regretted it and believed—and some of her sons still believe—their election was an injury to the State and a calamity to the country. But they were constitutionally elected, and she did not think it right or honorable to desert the country in the hour of its greatest need, is not our country's peril equally great now, and does she not need, as much as ever in the past, the unwavering support of every one of her children?

Grant, for the sake of the argument, that Maryland has the power and the right to cease to be one of the United States, is it her interest to do so? Six months ago no sane man would have dreamed that it was. Now scrutinize as closely as you please the whole course of our Government since—is there one law or decision which infringes any right or imperils any interest of our State or of any citizen of it?

But one thought in many minds overrides all other considerations: "Virginia has seceded and of course Maryland must." Why "*Must?*" When did Maryland become an infant or captive to be dragged at Virginia's chariot wheels? Virginia is a noble State—all honor to her; but she has done things before to-day in which Maryland could not follow her. The Old Dominion has fallen from the first rank to the seventh in our company of States, and the counsels which have led her that downward road are not the safest guide that we could choose for Maryland. Nor does it by any means follow that what is wisest or best or most honorable for her is so for us. We are on different sides of a great navigable river. No natural boundary separates us from the great North. No other State is interposed between us and them. We cannot escape the position of being all that separates them from their capital, and only a miracle like that which opened the Red Sea for Israel can save Maryland from becoming one great grave-yard if she assumes to bear the brunt of the battles of Secession."

From Mexico and Texas.

Advices from Mexico and Texas to the 22d of April have been received.

Gold mines to a fabulous extent have been discovered in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

The Mexican Congress was to meet on the 21st, and Juarez would doubtless be declared President.

The advices from Houston, Texas, say that the troops encamped near Indianola have been compelled to take Indianola, and fortifying themselves, are awaiting the arrival of six hundred others.

Judge Hays, with a party of Texas troops and two pieces of artillery, were fortifying themselves with cotton bales and sand bags on Dog Island, and expected to be attacked by the federal forces.

A letter from Brownsville says that the news had been received that Cortinas, with 600 Mexicans had crossed the Rio Grande at Roma, and laid that town in ashes, killing 18 Americans. Two companies stationed at Ringgold barracks had started in pursuit.

"MORI PRO PATRIA."—Curtus, by leaping into the yawning gulf, saved Rome; so the Confederate Cotton States may be saved by Maryland's secession, she leaping into the gulf between the North and the South. It will be death to her, but it may save the Confederate Cotton States. Poor Maryland will get the stripes, but they may save the stars, and it will be a glorious thing to die for one's country!—*Balt. American.*

Maryland Legislature.

Monday, April 29.—Mr. Jacobs offered an order that the Committe of Ways and Means be requested to take into consideration the propriety of reporting a bill for a new assessment of property in this State. Adopted.

Mr. Wootton presented the petition of 216 voters of Prince George's county, praying the Legislature to pass an act of Secession immediately. Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations, who reported that the Legislature possessed no such power. Adopted.

Mr. Parran obtained leave to report a bill to authorize the County Commissioners of the State to levy on the assessable property of the counties such amount as they may deem necessary for the defence of their respective counties.

A bill was offered authorizing the banks of the State to issue one dollar notes.

Mr. Brune asked leave to introduce a bill appropriating two millions of dollars to be expended in placing the State of Maryland in a complete condition of organization and defence under such direction as the General Assembly may hereafter provide. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Scott reported a bill to provide for the call of a Sovereign Convention of the people of Maryland on Thursday, the 30th of May. Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. Stone, of the Senate, submitted resolutions declaring that the late deplorable events in Baltimore were caused by a misapprehension of the object of the passage of the troops through Maryland; that the marching of troops over the soil of Maryland for the protection of the National Capital should not be regarded as an act of aggression, and recommending that if any more troops be necessary for the defence of the capital, they may be transported over the different railroads of the State. Referred to a special committee.

A message from the Governor, in response to an inquiry of the House, says that the State has now on hand but eight hundred flint lock muskets.

Mr. Wallis reported a bill to ratify the proposed amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

The Senate has issued the following Address to the people of Maryland:

Under the proclamation of your Governor we have assembled to act, according to our best judgments, for the true interests of Maryland.

That proclamation has declared the present to be "an extraordinary state of affairs;" and all must admit the correctness of that assertion. We have been convened to do all that we have the constitutional authority and the mental ability of accomplishing, to provide for your safety and welfare during the pendency of the present unfortunate and terrible crisis. At the commencement of our labors we feel it to be our duty to you and to your General Assembly to solicit your confidence in the fidelity with which our responsibilities will be discharged. We are Marylanders, as you are. We have families, as you have. Our interests are identified with yours. Our duty, our wishes and our hopes will be to legislature for the true interests of all the people of our State.

We cannot but know that a large proportion of the citizens of Maryland have been induced to believe that there is a probability that our deliberations may result in the passage of some measure committing this State to secession. It is, therefore, our duty to declare that all such fears are without just foundation. We know that we have no constitutional authority to take such actions. You need not fear that there is a possibility that we will do so.

If believed by us to be desired by *you*, we may, by legislation to that effect, give *you* the opportunity of deciding for yourselves, your own future destiny. We may go thus far, but certainly will not go farther.

We know that the present crisis has materially deranged the usual current of business operations in every department. We shall devote ourselves to the duty of making this change as little inconvenient as possible to our constituents. We invite their scrutiny to our every action. If results do not relize our hopes and anticipations, we ask that you will, at least, extend to us the charity of believing that the failure has occurred from lack of ability, but not of will.

MR. BRUNE proposes that the Legislature shall appropriate two millions of dollars, to be expended in placing the State of Maryland in a complete condition of organization and defence, under such direction as the General Assembly may hereafter provide.

This is a very large sum of money, and to raise it will increase the taxes of the people of Maryland to a degree which they cannot but regard as oppressive; and where is the necessity for such a measure, unless upon the assumption that Maryland is to take a stand independently of, or in some sense against the United States Government. We believe the Government to be perfectly competent to defend Maryland, and that without asking any assistance from Maryland. What, then, are we to do with the preposed two millions? Mr. Brune does not inform us. We think the explanation would be acceptable to the people of Maryland.

KENTUCKY's first impression, very nearly universal among her citizens, was that the idea of disunion was a wild, unpatriotic, and insane idea. And have not all events and all reflections since confirmed and deepened in every dispassionate mind the first impression? Must not all candid persons see, from what is taking place throughout the country, that the consequences of disunion are certain to be even more terrible than the most devoted friends of the Union pictured them three months ago?—*Louisville Journal.*

The National Intelligencer says that the force now in Washington city is to be increased to forty thousand men, and there will be large camps formed at convenient distances, each perhaps equally large.

Meeting in Cecil County.

A meeting, composed of about 800 persons, was held at Elkton on Tuesday of last week. We copy some of the resolutions adopted, to give our readers an idea of the sentiments of the people in that part of the State:

Resolved, That the Union of the States is no less dear to us now when in the extremity of the danger of disruption than in its brighter days, when those who would now strike a blow fatal to its integrity, professed attachment to it. Secession is no less a wrong now than at any former period, and in this hour of extreme danger to our country and government, we renew our declarations heretofore made of fealty to the government of the United States, and will continue to hope for its vindication from the assaults of its enemies, and its perpetuity to the latest generation.

Resolved, That the so-called confederation of States, and the raising and arming of troops by them for the redress of any grievance, real or fancied, is not only contrary to the letter of the Constitution, but at war with the whole spirit and policy of our government, whose very corner-stone is that all wrongs are to be redressed, and all rights secured by those peaceful engines, the ballot box and the courts of justice.

Resolved, That the attack upon Fort Sumter, by its unprovoked wantonness shows that the worst features of treason and rebellion animate the hearts of great numbers of people in the so-called Confederate States, and their object is not only the redress of grievances, but the subversion of this, the best government ever instituted on earth, and which has thus far protected us in all our rights of person and property.

Resolved, That in our opinion the Government of the United States has the undoubted right to protect the public property in the District of Columbia and elsewhere against threatened invasion and destruction; that in so doing the passage of troops and munitions of war over the State of Maryland is a geographical and military necessity, and that the recent interference by a lawless mob in the City of Baltimore with troops and munitions of war passing to the defence of the Federal Capital, deserves, and hereby receives our severest condemnation, as an act disgraceful to the State of Maryland and disloyal to the General Government.

Resolved, That the troubles incident to the times have obliterated old party lines, and have produced that condition of the people that the only proper classification of them is upon the one side as to those who maintain the true position of upholding the Union against the machinations and assaults of its enemies, and others who will upon the happening of some pretext agree to abandon it, or assist to break it up.

Resolved, That so recognizing the divisions of the people, we hereby declare ourselves for the unity of the States, and the support of the Government formed by the Union and the Constitution to the last extremity.

Resolved, That Messrs. F. A. Crouch, B. F. May, Chas. H. Haines, and James Touchstone, with H. H. Brady, George Ricketts, Col. George R. Howard, and J. W. Caldwell as alternates, be, and they are hereby appointed as delegates to a Congressional Convention of Union men, hereafter to be called, to represent Cecil county therein.

Resolved, That our delegates to the Congressional Convention aforesaid be instructed to cast their ballots for a nominee who agrees with us in the principle that Secession is wrong, has no foundation in Constitutional authority, and being so will be disregarded by said nominee, if elected, in the discharge of his duty as Representative of the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland.

Resolved, That we emphatically disapprove of the convening of the Legislature in extra session at this time, believing such action to be fraught with great danger to the continuation of Maryland in the Union, and calculated to precipitate us into all the horrors of a civil conflict amongst our own citizens, and that our Senator and Delegates are instructed to oppose and vote against the Secession of Maryland in every shape and form.

On motion, it was decided to recommend to the various counties in the Congressional District that the Convention be held on the 2nd day of May next, and that the place of holding be Elkton.

FROM ANNAPOLIS.

The steamer Monticello and a gun-boat arrived on Tuesday, form New York, have gone down the bay to participate in the blockade of the Virginia ports. The steamer Wyoming is being converted into a gunboat, and will follow. The steamer Maryland brought down from Perryville a large number of transport cars for the railroad, to be used between this point and Washington.

A detachment of 200 men of the Eighth New York Regiment, with two pieces of artillery, are entrenching themselves on an elevation about ten miles from Annapolis, completely commanding the road to Baltimore. The position is on the north side of Severn river.

All the Northern mails are now to go *via* Annapolis and Perryville.

The Union sentiment is rapidly gaining ground in this part of Maryland.

Two additional New York regiments are said to be in the Bay on the way to this point.

By a private letter just received by the Chaplain of the Annapolis Naval School, I hear that the Virginians are wild with the war excitement, and everywhere rushing to arms. The letter says there are 7,000 South Carolina troops in Richmond, and 2,500 troops from Georgia at Norfolk, Va. Last Sunday the summons to arms reached Lexington, in Rockbridge county, Va., and before sundown five companies had started.

A pressing want of provisions is already felt in Virginia, and the paper currency of the State is almost worthless.

The Rhode Island Artillery, the Fifth Regiment of New York, and Col. Ellsworth's Zouaves, composed of New York firemen, reached Annapolis yesterday morning, but had not landed. The Fifth Regiment came on the Kedar, and the Zouaves, 1,000 strong, on the Baltic. The purser of the Baltic reports that they had a lively time on board during the passage, and that the Zouaves are the most active body of men he ever met with. In drill they will soon rival the Chicago Zouaves.

The people of Annapolis are doing a fine business with the soldiers, and the hotels are crowded with officers. The City Hotel is filled, and the officers are making friends all over the city.

The Law of Blockade.

A blockade is a high act of sovereign authority. Every belligerent has a right to blockade the ports of his enemy, but in order to render neutral vessels liable to the penalty which attaches to a breach of the blockade, there must be:

First, An actual blockade imposed by competent authority.

Second, Notice thereof.

Third, A violation of the blockade.

A mere proclamation that a particular port is invested is sufficient to constitute a legal blockade. For that purpose it is necessary that the place be invested by a competent naval force. A blockade commences from the time a competent force is stationed to prevent communication.

There are two kinds of blockade; one by the simple fact only: the other by notification accompanied by the fact. In the former case, when the *fact* ceases (otherwise than by accident or the shifting of the wind,) there is immediately an end of the blockade. But when the fact is accompanied by a public notification from the Government of a belligerent country to neutral Governments, *prima facie* the blockade must be supposed to exist till it has been publicly repealed.

A blockade must be existing in point of fact, and to constitute that existence there must be power present to enforce it. The famous Berlin and Milan decrees and the British orders in council where held illegal because they assumed, in contravention of the clearest principles of public law, to impose the penalties of a breach of blockade where no *actual* blockade existed; in other words to create a blockade by proclamation. The United States Government has uniformly insisted that a blockade should be made effective by the presence of a competent force, and have also protested against the application of the rights of seizure and confiscation to ineffectual or fictitious blockade.

A blockade having been established, the *ingress* and *egress* of vessels are acts treated as breaches of it, for the destruction of the enemy's commerce is the very object of the blockade. It is intended to suspend the entire commerce of the place, and a neutral is no more at liberty to assist the traffic of *exportation* than of *importation*. The utmost that can be allowed to a neutral is, that having taking in cargo before the blockade begins, she may be at liberty to retire with it.

The *sanctions* of the law of blockade are the seizure and condemnation of the offending ship or cargo, either or both.

News Items.

The Congress of the Confederate States reassembled at Montgomery on Tuesday.

The rumor that the Virginia troops had thrown up a battery on the Potomac is contradicted.

A Washington despatch states that no consideration will be given by the Government to the ordinary business of appointments, &c., until all the avenues leading to the capital are reopened.

There is great activity at the Charlestown (Mass.) Navy Yard—2,500 men worked throughout Sunday.

Senator Hunter, Wm. C. Rives, Wm. Ballard Preston, and Judges Camden and Brockenborough, have been appointed by the Virginia Convention delegates to the Southern Congress.

A despatch from Harrisburg states that the bridges upon the Northern Central Railroad are to be rebuilt under the protection of Pennsylvania troops, and that railroad communication with the Capital is to be kept open, if necessary, by the force of arms. The bridges on the Philadelphia and Baltimore Railroad are also to be rebuilt immediately.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.—A proposition has been made by the Governor of Kentucky, to the Governor of Ohio, that the Governors of the Border States propose to the United States Government to become arbitrators between the contending parties in the present difficulties.

The Common Council of Washington City have unanimously adopted resolutions strongly declaratory of their Union preservation sentiment, and tendering their profound thanks to the volunteers of the several States who have so promptly and patriotically responded to the call of the President for the defence of the National Capital.

The reinforcements thrown into Fort McHenry are said to be as large as can be conveniently accommodated. The barracks are not large enough, and a number of tents have been erected for the men. Fort Carroll is also said to have been garrisoned and armament left on it. It is not, however, completed, and will be but a poor defense until the walls are built up.

The Board of Police Commissioners of Baltimore, at the urgent solicitation of the Board of Trade, have again withdrawn the restrictions imposed on the exportation of Flour and other articles of commerce.

SALTING FENCE POSTS.—A correspondent of the New Hampshire Journal of Agriculture says, that thirty years ago he set out some fence posts, which, upon recent examination, proved to be perfectly sound. This preservation he attributes to the fact of his having bored each post with a two-inch augur, about three inches above the ground, filling the hole with salt, and plugging it up. The quantity of salt to each post was about the half of a pint.