

From 1905 to 1928, inclusive, the receipts of our local post-office increased from \$113,386.37 to \$666,075.75. Last year, 1929, the receipts decreased to \$650,824.90.

Meeting to Prevent the Introduction of Slaves into any Territory or State Admitted into the Union

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON Tuesday, November 23rd, 1819, a largely-attended meeting of citizens was held in the court house in Lancaster for the purpose of consulting upon measures that might prevent the introduction of slavery into any territory or state hereafter to be formed, or admitted into the Union. The Hon. Walter Franklin was appointed chairman, and William Jenkins secretary.

A committee, consisting of James Hopkins, James Buchanan and William Jenkins, appointed to frame resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, reported as follows:

"Whereas, the people of this state, pursuing the maxims and animated by the beneficence of the great Founder of Pennsylvania, first gave effect to the gradual abolition of slavery by a national act, which has not only rescued the unhappy and helpless African within their territory from the demoralizing influence of slavery, but ameliorated his state and condition throughout Europe and America; and

"Whereas, it would illy comport with these humane and Christian efforts to be silent spectators when this great cause of humanity is about to be agitated in Congress, by fixing the destiny of the new domains of the United States: Therefore,

"Resolved, That the representatives in Congress from this district, be, and they are hereby most earnestly requested, to use their utmost endeavors, as members of the National Legislature, to prevent the existence of slavery in any of the territories or states which may be created by Congress.

"Resolved, As the opinion of this meeting, that, as the Legislature of this state will shortly be in session, it will be highly deserving their wisdom and patriotism to take into their early and most serious consideration the propriety of instructing our representatives in the National Legislature to use the most zealous and strenuous exertions to inhibit the existence of slavery in any of the territories or states which may hereafter be created by Congress; and that the members of assembly from this county be requested to embrace the earliest opportunity of bringing the subject before both houses of the Legislature.

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the members of Congress who at the last session sustained the cause of justice, humanity and patriotism in opposing the introduction of slavery into the state then endeavored to be

formed out of the Missouri Territory, are entitled to the warmest thanks of every friend of humanity."

These resolutions were unanimously adopted; after which, the meeting adjourned.¹

¹ Published in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 26th, 1819.

Efforts to Make Conestoga River Navigable

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

In the Lancaster Journal of Friday, February 5th, 1808, appeared the following communication, over the signature of "A Citizen":

"It appears that the commissioners, appointed by law, have advertised that on the 18th, 19th and 20th of February, they will attend, at the house of Mr. Jacob Slough [White Swan tavern], in the borough of Lancaster, to receive subscriptions of stock for the purpose of making the Conestoga navigable from its mouth to Abraham Hostetter's mill.

"The importance of this water communication from a place so near the borough to the river Susquehanna, must be obvious to all acquainted with the superior advantages of water carriage. The utility it will be to the borough in obtaining stone-coal, wood and lumber, is evident. It will operate on those who may bring coal down the Susquehanna to furnish an ample supply of that article when they can bring it up the Conestoga, at one dollar a ton, which will be the amount of the toll, supposing the distance from Hostetter's mill to the Susquehanna to be 15 miles. It is said coal has been brought from Philadelphia to Lancaster, for the use of our smiths, the cost of which is from four shillings and six pence to four shillings and eight pence per bushel; when the expense of that article, brought by way of the proposed communication, may not exceed two shillings, or two shillings and six pence, per bushel.

"The practicability of the work cannot be doubted, when we know that a common mill dam makes the Conestoga boatable from one to two miles. The only necessary to a dam is a lock for the passage of boats. Indeed, the locks will be the principal if not the sole expense, for it may be safely presumed that the advantages of water works, which may be erected at each dam, will be equivalent to the expense of erecting the dam. Besides, it will be recollected that if the work is substantially executed, there is little or no reparation will be required, except to the gates, as they will be made of wood will want to be occasionally repaired.

"With these considerations in view, it cannot be doubted but the inhabitants of Lancaster, as well as those on each side the Conestoga, will step forward and subscribe to an improvement which will contribute so much to the advantages of both."

It was not until January 2nd, 1827, — nearly nineteen years later—that this dream was realized and the Conestoga was made navigable.

On Saturday, July 8th, 1815, a meeting of citizens of Lancaster was held, pursuant to public notice, for the purpose of taking