

DEMOCRAT.

Official Journal of the Town and Parish

HENRY L. BLOSSAT, BUSINESS MANAGER AGENTS

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ALEXANDRIA, LA.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16

DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET

For Governor: SAMUEL D. McENERY.

For Lieut.-Gov.: CLAY KNOBLOCK.

For Atty. Gen.: M. J. CUNNINGHAM.

For Treasurer: E. A. BURKE.

For Secretary of State: OSCAR ARROYO.

For Auditor: O. B. STEELE.

For Superintendent Public Education: WARREN EASTON.

THE matrimonial boom is booming in Washington, La.

TRAMPS are reported numerous in almost every Town and City in the State.

THE recent cold snap is deciding hundreds of Northern and Western people to locate in the South.

CONFEDERATE ten-dollar notes are being hawked about Wall street at the rate of five cents each.

THE Jenkins brothers have been removed from Shreveport and are now confined in the new jail at Mansfield.

THE 38th session of the Louisiana Annual Conference of the M. E. Church South was opened in the Crescent City on Wednesday last.

PRESIDENT Arthur has sent a special message to Congress, recommending additional appropriations for the improvement of the Mississippi river.

THE Chicago Tribune counts up 125,000 human lives lost by earthquakes, tornadoes, shipwrecks, fires, mine disasters and other accidents in 1883.

THE death is announced in Nashville, Tenn., of Col. John Lucian Brown, a highly respected citizen and distinguished soldier of several wars, at the age of eighty-four years.

THE merchants, business men and others interested, are making "big" preparations for the coming festivities of Mardi Gras, to be held in New Orleans on the 26th of February.

A meeting having for its object the formation of a cremation society was held in New Orleans on last Tuesday night, and was well attended by gentlemen of social and commercial standing.

THE Louisiana Sugar planters yesterday held a meeting in New Orleans for the purpose of taking steps to protect their interests, now so seriously threatened by the Lower House of Congress.

SCOTT Moseley, colored, is in jail at Opelousas, accused of robbing the mails in Natchitoches. U. S. Marshall Weeks brought him down from Shreveport, to be tried at the present term of the U. S. Court.

TEXAS comprises 228 organized counties and territory enough to form 100 more without violating the constitution, which fixes the minimum at thirty square miles. There is one county 400 miles in length.

A LARGE number of the prominent citizens of the State of Mississippi among the number Gov. Robt. Lowry, have addressed a communication to Director General Burke, inviting that gentleman to speak to the people of that State, touching the aims and scope of the coming Cotton Centennial Exposition. Major Burke has kindly consented to their most earnest request, and will address the residents of our sister State at Jackson, during the coming session of the State Legislature.

THE Times-Democrat says: The recent cold snap did not do as much damage to the orange trees in Louisiana as was at first feared. While the next crop, it is thought, will not be materially lessened, most of the young trees and those of the older ones which are not altogether vigorous will probably lose their leaves. The wood of the trees in this part of State, including that of the young trees, does not seem to be injured in the least. It is thought by many that the lower coast and Lafourche groves may have escaped injury entirely.

ROTATION IN OFFICE.

Although not embodied in the letter of the Constitution, still the framers of it established and bequeathed to their successors a cardinal principle of government, that the tenure of office should be short.

In fact that principle is well recognized and established. When Grant was spoken of for a third term such an outcry was raised and the custom so well proven that the Republican party was forced to withdraw his name. Were it otherwise we would have in our midst an autocracy of office-holders who, rendered powerful and rich by their long tenure of office, would ultimately claim as their own what ought to be left to the choice of the people.

All Republics are governed by laws alone, and officers are selected merely to carry those laws into effect. The Constitution and the Code of Practice specify and dictate the exact duties required from each officer, and a bond is taken for the performance of those duties. All misdoings in office as well as neglect of duties are punishable by penalties specified by law. Therefore it is a fallacy to say that this man or that man is entitled to a re-election for a fulfillment of duties which he was bound to perform both by his oath and by the laws, and which he was afraid not to perform as the penalty specified by the laws was sure to overtake him.

Our Constitution does not recognize that any one man or any set of men were born to control this government, but starting on the broad principle that all men were born free and equal, it has left the offices of this country open to all its citizens, rich or poor, high or low. Jealous of the encroachments that might be made on our liberties by the assumption of powers which would become established by long usage, the framers of the Constitution limited the term of the Presidential office to four years, and so adjusted the different legislative elections that every four years the whole working force of the government is changed either by election or appointment.

The wisdom of such a course is palpable, and the history of the last twenty years proves how true and just were the inferences of our early legislators. The Republican party having become strong and arrogant by the constant possession of the government, was gradually usurping the whole legislative power, and had not it been for the Democracy the Republican party would to-day have turned over its tenure of power to a monied autocracy, the preliminary step to an empire.

It behooves us therefore to be jealous of that prerogative, the right of each citizen to run for and hold office. From constable up the principle holds good. If our Constitution and usage think it is wrong for a President to occupy his seat more than two terms, the principle holds good from the President down.

If rotation in office is not a standard principle of political economy in a Republic then the argument of worth and capacity which will keep an office-holder in for eight years, ought to extend his right of office to sixteen years, and so on until our government would be administered by officers who, once elected, would be supposed to remain there for their life-time.

This is not a matter of like or dislike, of worth or capacity, it is a matter of principle. All governments are and must be subject to certain general principles as necessary to them, as a rule of conduct is necessary to private individuals. If rotation in office is a part of and embodied in the very structure of our government it is our duty to adhere to it no matter whom it hurts. If, however, in the onward march of our country it has become obsolete, let us change the Constitution of our country and when an officer is once elected let him remain there as long as he pleases. For us, we'll rotate.

THE Shreveport Standard very justly remarks: "It is to be regretted, as it is a great misfortune, to see the Louisiana delegation in Congress divided upon a question of such material importance to their constituents as the appropriation of \$1,000,000, recommended by the President, for the Mississippi river levees. The reference of the bill for that purpose gave rise to an unfortunate and unseemly discussion on the floor of the House between our own members, among whom there seemed to exist no harmony or concert of action, and as a result an unnecessary delay in the consideration of this important measure has been brought about by the lack of previous consultation and agreement upon the committee to which the bill should be referred when called up in the House. If our delegation cannot be harmonious upon questions involving their own local interests, it can hardly be expected that their influence will be so great as it otherwise would be where unanimity prevails.

IN the ruins of Pompeii were recently unearthed the remains of a man, a satisfied smile still lingering on his face, and in his withered hand were four jacks. Workmen are digging away vigorously for the other fellow to see what he had.

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA.

BATON ROUGE, Jan. 6.—Gen. Leon Jastremski, president, has issued the following call to the Press Association of Louisiana:

I deem it proper, at this time, to remind the brotherhood that the next regular meeting of the Press Association of Louisiana will be held at New Orleans on Mardi Gras eve, Feb. 25, 1884. In view of the fact that the meeting will take place during the session of Congress, and that the General Assembly will hold its regular session in May; also, that the grandest industrial enterprise ever undertaken in Louisiana, the World's Cotton Centennial Exposition, will be open in New Orleans in December next, it is obvious that the association will have it in its power, by an intelligent concert of action, to materially advance the interests of the press at the same time that its great power is concentrated to assist the nascent enterprises of the people of Louisiana, who have grown eager to keep pace with that progressive spirit of the age which is bringing to so many States of the Union a degree of grandeur and prosperity unexampled in the world's history.

I trust that the members, appreciating the opportunities and the demands of the situation which I have but briefly traced, will all attend, and that they will urge those of the fraternity not yet on the rolls of the association to join at this next meeting, to the end that the entire press of our State may exert its whole power, when it can be advantageously applied as much in its own behalf and in the advancement of the material interests of its patrons. In pursuance of its object to encourage letters and literature, the association will award a premium for the following, produced in Louisiana, to wit: \$50 for the best poem, \$50 for the best prose composition, \$50 for the best essay on the agricultural and industrial resources of the State. The above must be delivered to Page M. Baker, Esq., Times-Democrat, New Orleans, on or before the 22d of February, 1884.

I would also request those members of the association having reports to submit or suggestions to offer to draft the same in due form before the day mentioned.

The following are the names of the members of the executive committee to whom are intrusted the arrangements for the meeting, viz: Messrs. W. A. Bryan, of the Iberville South; Page M. Baker, of the New Orleans Times-Democrat; Mrs. M. R. Field of the New Orleans Picayune; M. F. Bigney, of the New Orleans City Item; J. Y. Gilmore, of the New Iberia Sugar-Bowl.

The newspapers throughout the State are respectfully requested to reproduce this call in their columns.

Very respectfully, LEON JASTREMSKI, Pres. Press Association, La. A GOOD WORK.

The Police Juries of the Parishes of Union and Jackson have, we learn, refused to license the sale of intoxicating liquors in their Parishes. There has evidently been a misapprehension of the powers and duties of Police Juries on this subject. The law, without doubt, leaves the whole question of licensing grog shops to the Police Juries, and they can prohibit or regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors without reference to the State license law. The Supreme Court has so decided, and it would be well for our Police Jury now in session, to thoroughly investigate the question before fixing the amount of license. Sumptuary laws may be distasteful but patriotism demands some action on the part of constituted authorities to prevent the vice of vices and the parent of over two-thirds of crime in the Parish. If this unnecessary luxury, liquor, is demanded and must be sold, let the persons who require it pay indirectly in license the cost of criminal expenses, of which it is the direct cause. Let the Police Jury either prohibit entirely or fix the license at such a figure as will pay into the Parish Treasury a sum sufficient to meet all the criminal expenses of the Parish. The labor is demoralized, society is impaired, life, liberty and property is rendered insecure or worthless by this great vice. We belong to no Knights of Temperance, but every man who thinks at all would be ready to see this vice put down. The Police Jury have now an opportunity to do a patriotic act, the consequences of which will result in great good to this Parish. Stop it gentlemen, or fix the license high enough to pay for all of our criminal expenses. In five years your country will blossom like the rose, and the women and children of the land will bless you with their prayers. It is true that the proposition to stop the sale of liquor was voted on and defeated a year or so ago by the people of this Parish, but this was expected. The best elements of society voted for it, and to-day the moral sentiment of the country, which is largely predominant, will sustain the Jury in such an action. Try the experiment, for it is high time that something was being done to put an end to the disgrace and degradation of society.

THE LABOR LOUISIANA NEEDS.

Planters have spent a good deal of money since the war in bringing ignorant laborers to the sugar and cotton lands of Louisiana. They have brought negroes from Virginia, the Carolinas, and other Southern States, Portuguese and Italians from Europe, the most ignorant and degraded of European peasantry, and pigtailed from China. Skilled and intelligent laborers are the kind most needed in Louisiana, such as will cultivate well and faithfully the plantations, and in time may have farms of their own. We want immigrants who will make good citizens and good voters—those whose votes will make a good government and a good Legislature. If planters continue to import ignorant and degraded laborers, and to snub intelligent white labor, how long will it take Louisiana to become a highly prosperous and highly cultivated State? Every ten acres of these alluvial lands in Southern Louisiana may be made to support an intelligent family of skilled white farmers, gardeners, etc., and fifty acres may enable a good farmer to make money in stock raising and field crops of various kinds. Skill may double the production of an acre of land and at the same time stop leaks, establish rigid economy and reduce the cost of making crops one-half. A good family of white farmers on every fifty acres of tillable lands in Southern Louisiana, the land well stocked and undermined, would make these lands the most productive on the Continent, and prosperous towns and thriving factories would spring up in all parts of these highly favored Parishes. Canning factories would spring up, and millions of dollars' worth of canned fruits and vegetables would be sent to market. The oyster fields on our coast would, if properly protected and regulated by such laws as are needed, furnish all the oysters needed by the inhabitants of the State to the end of time, and millions of dollars' worth annually besides for other markets; and the fish and shrimp along our coast may forever help to make up the food supplies of the State. If planters and merchants who have farms so heavily mortgaged that they can never pay for them would bring to their plantations skilled farmers, and sell to them farms on long time, these farmers paying interest annually on their unpaid notes, these planters could shift the heavy interest they now have to pay, to the shoulders of farmers who would be able to pay, and also the most of the sacrifices that come from short crops and other disasters, could be shifted, at the same time that they could hold their central sugar houses, and continue to purchase cane by the ton as usual. Planters may, and do sometimes, succeed and become rich from cotton and sugar culture, but how Louisiana can ever become rich and prosperous and have a majority of intelligent voters and good citizens on the present plan, by crowding our rich lands with negroes, Italians, Portuguese, Chinamen and other degraded and ignorant laborers, is beyond my power of comprehension.—[D. Dennett in Picayune.

THE Picayune is urging the people of Louisiana those whom they may choose to represent them in the Legislature by some specific and clearly stated pledges to active measures in the interest of reform. In regard to this subject that journal has this to say: "The responsibility of legislators to their several constituencies will not be denied. The legislator is the servant of his constituency. He is sent to the Legislature to express his constituency's will, and not his own. If he is not willing to sacrifice his personal independence to that extent he should have no hesitancy in saying so; and if he goes in good faith to represent those who have elected him he has no reason for refusing to pledge himself to advocate and support by every legitimate means the particular measures as well as the general policy which they may prescribe. Then, let every candidate for the Legislature declare himself at once. Let him say precisely what he will do if elected, and how he proposes to do it. Let him be as direct and specific as the resolutions reported by the minority of the committee on the platform at the Baton Rouge Convention."

DON'T SPILL THE MILK.—"There is no use crying over spilled milk," says the old saw. If you are not only bald, but have no life in the roots of your hair, there is no use crying over that, either. Take both time and yourself by the forelock while there is a fotlock left. Apply Parker's Hair Balsam to your hair before matters get worse. It will arrest the falling off of your hair and restore its original color, gloss and softness. It is a perfect dressing withal, clean, richly perfumed, cools and heals the scalp.

IN his aspirations for the Republican candidacy for President Arthur must expect strong opposition in his own State. Political gossips have it that Senator Warner Miller, of New York, is becoming as much of a boss as Conkling was; that he is organizing the State in opposition to Arthur; and that he will control three-fourths of the delegates to the Chicago convention for some unnamed candidate, who will not be Arthur.

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NOTICE!

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF the Honorable, the 12th Judicial District Court, I will lease at Public Auction, to the last and highest bidder, reserving the right to reject any and all bids, at the Court House door in the Town of Alexandria, on SATURDAY, the 12th day of January, 1884, for the term of twelve months, that portion of the property known as "Wellswood" and inventoried as belonging to the succession of Mrs. J. D. Wells, with all the improvements thereon. Lessee to furnish note for amount of lease due December 1st, 1884, and bearing 8 per cent interest after maturity and to furnish as security thereon one good and solvent person residing within the jurisdiction of the aforesaid Court.

C. M. WELLS, Executor. Jan'y 2.

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