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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1905.

SOUTHERN RAILROADS AND LABOR.

For many years the railroads of the South did a land-office business by working up excursions through the agency of one or more oily-tongued Afro-Americans, who of course received a consideration proportioned to his or their success. The scheme worked swimmingly and all Afro-Americandom was inoculated with the excursion virus. On such occasions the baggage car was transformed into an eating house and saloon, both of which, especially the latter, were freely patronized. But finally the excursions degenerated into shameless orgies, and the decent class of Afro-Americans were compelled to boycott the excursion and it fell into the hands of the bummer class. These excursions also proved to be a great curse to the planters and mill men; for their hands could not resist the temptations thrown in their way by the railroads. But so long as the scheme paid the railroads cared nothing for the grievances of the planter and mill man. Since the scheme has played out, however, the railroad men are working another one of a similar nature, and incidentally, are very much worried over the worthlessness of the Afro-American laborer. One of these high-minded, thoughtful individuals is Mr. B. S. Thompson of the Southern Railway, who is now intensely interested in the scarcity of labor problems and who expresses himself to the Atlanta Constitution as follows:

"It seems to be generally conceded that the south must look further than the Negro for the solution of the labor question. These Negroes have been given every opportunity but except in the matter of some comparatively few exceptions, they have demonstrated their entire inability to cope with the labor situation in this part of the country. Perhaps I should say their refusal rather than their inability for the Negro can work and has worked. The trouble at present is he don't want to work and wont."

So Mr. Thompson proposes to inaugurate a vast immigration bureau which shall divert a vast stream of immigration to the South, via the Southern Railway, the aforesaid South to pay the expense of the Bureau agents and employes. If the scheme works the profits of the Southern Railway are a sure thing but those of the South are somewhat problematical. Should the thing prove to be a bonanza and the transportation companies go into it in earnest, on the so-much-a-head principle, it is probable that the slums of Europe would be raked with a fine-toothed comb to secure immigrants. On the whole we surmise that Mr. Thompson's interest in the labor problem is the direct result of his interest in the Southern Railway.

To add to the general Asiatic hilarity, the Arabs are revolting against Turkish rule in the province of Yemen, which stretches along the Red Sea coast of the Arabian peninsula for several hundred miles north of the British state of Aden, the extreme south of the peninsula. For several years the rebels have not only been winning victories over the Turks, but holding all they have gained. They have now taken Sana, the Turkish provincial capital, and are receiving offers of adhesion from Arabs in all parts of the peninsula.

This is a distinct addition to "the white man's burden," and is one of the signs of the times. Our white brother has another problem to solve. His spheres of influence are experiencing the fate of Darius Green's flying machine and his cutting and carving in Asia has received its quietus. China is wrenching his pocket-nerve in a most reckless manner and there is great danger that the infection will spread to Southern Asia and perchance Africa. All will be well if these things teach our white brother to do justice and love mercy.

Col. Bryan says:

"Ask any admirer of President Roosevelt why he is popular and you will find that it is due to his advocacy, or supposed advocacy, of principles and policies that are Democratic. Nothing brought Mr. Roosevelt more applause during his first administration than his settlement of the anthracite coal strike. And how did he settle it? By arbitration. Now, the Democratic platforms of 1896 and 1900 demanded arbitration, while the Republican platforms were silent on the subject."

Col. Bryan is a "plausible reasoner, but he ignores the fact that the president's popularity antedates his election; so the explanation is unsatisfactory. And, moreover, one Mr. Parker was officially indorsed as the exponent of principles and policies which are Democratic; but that fact utterly failed to elect him president. Roosevelt is popular because he stands for a square deal for every man.

One E. J. Bowen of Little Rock, Ark., in a recent interview said: "The Afro-Americans in certain sections of the South are becoming slaves of the cocaine habit." Mr. Bowen's statement is another instance of the nonsensical recklessness of assertion which is but little removed from actual and intentional mendacity. It is doubtless true that a few Afro-Americans, who indulge in cocaine may be raked up and the same is true of white people; but it is absolutely false to assert that either race is largely addicted to the use of the drug.

The King of Belgium is the most detestable old slave holder upon the face of the earth. He has made himself the wealthiest monarch in Europe and one of the richest men in the world by his unspeakable barbarities in the Congo Free State. The King of Belgium has made that portion of the country a hell upon earth, as is attested by many creditable witnesses.

The deadly base ball got its work in on Jesse Franklin last Monday. Franklin is a member of the 24th Infantry, stationed at Fort Harrison and was pitcher of the Champion Soldier team. In a game played Monday he was hit in the neck by a ball and died in a few moments. Seems a little odd for a soldier to get killed by other than pistol, rifle or cannon ball.

The man and brother is having a very hard time of it both North and South this week. They are driving him out of Howard county, Texas, and they are barring him from the high school of Kansas City, Kan.

ADDRESS.

National Afro-American Press Association to the People of the United States.

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 29.

At the meeting of the National Afro-American Press Association the twenty-fifth session, held to day, the following officers were eleced:

President—Cyrus Field Adams, THE APPEAL, Chicago, Ill.

First Vice President—F. H. Warren, The Informer, Detroit, Mich.

Second Vice President—W. H. Steward, The Baptist, Louisville, Ky.

Third Vice President—E. J. Scott, The Student, Tuskegee, Ala.

Fourth Vice President—Nick Chiles, Plaindealer, Topeka, Kan.

Fifth Vice President—W. H. Noble, Jr., The Times, Galveston, Tex.

Treasurer—Horace D. Slatter, Jackson, Miss.

Secretary—Ralph W. Tyler, The Journal, Columbus, Ohio.

Executive Committee—John Q. Adams, St. Paul, Minn.; T. Thomas Fortune, New York City; M. M. Lewey, Pensacola, Fla.; John R. Clifford, Martinsburg, W. Va.; H. T. Johnson, Philadelphia, Pa.; Charles Stewart, Baltimore, Md.; W. D. Johnson, Louisville, Ky.; Chris. J. Perry, Philadelphia, Pa.; John Mitchell, Jr., Richmond, Va.; A. E. Manning, Indianapolis, Ind.; George C. Clement, Charlotte, N. C.; H. T. Kealing, Philadelphia, Pa.; John C. Dancy, Washington, D. C.; J. L. Thompson, Des Moines, Iowa; H. Purdee, Marianna, Fla.; H. Sallie, Springfield, Ill.; J. M. Carter, Shreveport, La.; A. N. McEwen, Mobile, Ala.; J. M. Nimocks Meridian, Miss.; J. W. Griffith Ardmore, I. T.; Jos. S. Frances, Los Angeles, Cal.; A. D. Griffin, Portland, Ore.; J. B. McCrary, Metropolis, Ill.; P. H. Murray, St. Louis, Mo.; T. P. Mahammitt, Omaha, Neb.; J. M. W. De Shong, Fayette, Tenn.; R. B. Brooks, Jacksonville, Fla.; W. H. Jourdan, Greenville, Miss.; P. W. Chavers, Columbus, O.; H. C. Allen, El Paso, Tex.; C. C. Wilson, Cairo, Ill.; R. T. Brown, Jackson, Tenn.; E. A. Williams, Cincinnati, O.; W. G. Wood, Kansas City, Kan.; H. R. Cayton, Seattle, Wash.

Among the distinguished speakers (nonmembers) who addressed the Association were: Prof. W. S. Scarborough, president of Wilberforce University; J. W. Thompson of Rochester, N. Y.; Hon. J. Douglass Wetmore of Jacksonville, Fla.; Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, Honorary President of the National Federation of Afro-American Women's Clubs; Walter H. Stowers, Esq., of Michigan; D. Augustus Straker, Esq., of Michigan; Mrs. Lucy Thurman, President of the Michigan State Federation of Afro-American Women's Clubs; Robert Pelham, Esq. of Washington, D. C.; S. Laing Williams, Esq., of Chicago, Ill. and others.

Address to the Nation.

The National Afro-American Press Association at its twenty-fifth session feels that in the present crisis in the history of the Afro-American people, when a thoroughly organized movement is working with malignant energy to utterly destroy the civil and political rights of those for whom we stand in part as spokesmen, it is necessary to reaffirm and emphasize the following principles fundamental in citizenship and generally championed by all Afro-American newspapers.

We resent the reiterated statement that this is a "white man's" country, for the Federal Constitution specifically places all of its citizens on equality before the law. By right of birth and intense loyalty to the flag, the Afro-American claims his equal share of American citizenship.

The persistent efforts which have been made and are being made to nullify the suffrage guarantees of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution are fraught with great danger to the peace and security of the Union. We do not believe that the granting of suffrage to the race was a mistake and we deny the charge that it has proved a failure. We affirm our belief in manhood suffrage without any educational or property qualifications whatever, and contend that the law-abiding man of good character, who does his duty as a citizen and risks his life in defense of the flag, should not be deprived of not read or write.

In a republic there can be but one kind of citizen, hence we deny the right of the government—general, state or local—to discriminate in any way between citizens. We contend that the enactment of any law which specifies that the Afro-American must be separated from and treated differently from the great body of citizens, is unjust and un-American

We believe firmly in a thorough education of the head, heart and hand. The claim made by certain Southern Caucasians that they pay the taxes necessary to educate the Southern Afro-Americans is an economic absurdity and is only advanced by persons who seek to befog the public intelligence.

We again direct attention to the license of the mob. Mob law is a feature of crime more dangerous to the well being and perpetuity of society, than the infractions of law by individuals.

We deplore the attitude of many alleged Christian bodies on the race question and the growing disposition of alleged Christians to humiliate and degrade the Afro-American. It is an evidence of the decadence of true Christianity in the United States.

We heartily commend the brave and patriotic position taken by President Roosevelt in the enforcement of the Federal Constitution and the laws based upon it. His words and deeds stand out in bold relief, in these times when so many men in high places are false to right principles and the best interests of the whole people.

We reaffirm our unalterable determination to contend in all lawful ways for every civil and political right which is ours under the Federal Constitution, and which is enjoyed without dispute by all other ethnic elements of the national citizenship.

EIGHTH ANNUAL

Meeting of the National Afro-American Council.

Successful Session at Detroit, Michigan, Last Week. Excellent Programme of Distinguished Speakers.

The eighth annual session of the National Afro-American Council was held at Detroit, Mich., August 30-31, September 1.

Among those who addressed the meeting were: Mrs. Mary Church Terrel, of Washington, D. C.; Hon. J. C. Napier, Nashville, Tenn.; Prof. W. S. Scarborough, Wilberforce, O.; Rev. Geo. C. Clement, Charlotte, N. C.; Hon. J. Douglass, Wetmore, Jacksonville, Fla.; Hon. William H. Lewis, Boston, Mass.; Bishop Geo. W. Clinton, Charlotte, N. C.; Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams, Chicago, Ill.; Prof. H. T. Kealing, Philadelphia, Pa.; Dr. M. C. B. Mason, Cincinnati, Ohio; Mrs. R. Jerome Jeffrey, Rochester, N. Y.; Hon. D. A. Straker, W. H. Stowers, Esq., R. C. Barnes, Esq., F. H. Warren, Esq., Mrs. Lucy Thurman, Detroit, Mich.; Mr. Humphrey, of New York; Mrs. M. E. McCoy, Hon. A. J. Murphy, Hon. Geo. P. Codd, Detroit; Bishop A. Walters, Jersey City; Hon. T. Thomas Fortune, New Jersey, W. H. Steward, Esq., Kentucky.

At the second day's session the following officers were elected.

President—Alexander Walters, N. J.

First Vice President—J. C. Napier, Tenn.

Second Vice President—F. A. Chew, N. Y.

Third Vice President—Walter H. Stowers, Mich.

Fourth Vice President—Mrs. Mary Church Terreli, D. C.

Fifth Vice President—C. N. Sellers, Iowa.

Sixth Vice President—Mrs. R. Jerome Jeffrey, N. Y.

Seventh Vice President—W. H. Lewis, Mass.

Eighth Vice President—R. L. Smith, Texas.

Ninth Vice President—W. S. Scarborough, Ohio.

Secretary—Cyrus Field Adams, Ill.

Asst. Secretary—W. A. Sinclair, Pa.

Treasurer——J. W. Thompson, N. Y.

Corresponding Secretary—L. G. Jordan, Ky.

National Organizer—Geo. W. Clinton, N. C.

Chaplain—Rev. E. L. Gilliam, Ohio.

Directors of Bureaus.

Education—H. T. Kealing, Pa.

Legal—J. Douglass Wetmore, Fla.

Ecclesiastical—M. C. B. Mason, Ohio.

Emigration—S. Joe Brown, Iowa.

Literary—Mrs. Fannie B. Williams, Ill.

Anti-Lynching—Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, D. C.

Newspaper—R. W. Thompson, Ind.

Vital Statistics—Dr. J. W. Ames, Mich.

Address to the People of the United States.

T. Thomas Fortune, chairman of committee on address, reported the following:

In common with the millions of our fellow citizens, we desire to express our gratification at the prosperity of the Republic, which is felt in all the pulses of its various life; at the reunition of sentiment loyal to the flag, the emblem of the largest freedom and the largest happiness of any people since the eagles of Rome over spread the globe, and at the splendid efforts of our president, in conjunction with the great powers, to preserve the peace of the world.

It is a reasonable conclusion that the reanimation of national sentiment outgrowing from the acrimonies of a great civil war, has wrought for national well being, and will continue to do so, and that in the development of this sentiment, aided by time, the school and the church, together with a persistent and a judicious contention for equal and exact justice in all of the relations of life, wrongs rooted in the conditions of slavery will be gradually supplanted by the acceptance of those fundamental rights which inhere in the citizen and are assured to all alike by the constitution of the Republic; for we have faith to believe that the spirit of God controls and directs the tendencies of this nation towards the highest and best in the co-operation of men for self-government and for self-help.

As in all the past history of the Republic the Afro-American people have borne a conspicuous part in developing the incomparable resources in field and factory, and mine, and in preserving its integrity by deathless valor in the army and navy in every war waged from Bunker's Hill to San Juan Hill, thus making for themselves a common heritage in the life of the Republic, so do we cheerfully look forward to a common effort of labor and sacrifice in the further growth of the Republic in wealth and moral worth, and in prestige among the nations of the earth. We feel that we are part and parcel of the American people in thought and effort and aspiration, and that what benefits them benefits us, and that what injures them injures us. We therefore ask for justice and fair play under the laws as a legal right, and for an "open door of opportunity" in the effort we are making for moral, social and material betterment as a common right which cannot be withheld from us without injury to the whole American people. A reunition of national sentiment which does not include the Afro-American people will prove in the end as much of a delusion and a snare as the long and acrimonious effort to keep the nation half free and half slave.

(1) It is a noticeable fact that although there have been several aggravated caes of lynch law in the immediate past, there has been an appreciable falling off in the prevalence of this demoralizing species of lawlessness. This has been brought about in large part by the agitation set on foot by the Council and by a recognition of the fact by the public sentiment of the country, and especially of the south that such criminal disorders not only reflect great discredit upon the Republic in the estimation of thoughtful mankind throughout the world, but steadily undermine the foundations of social order, in so far that government by law must ultimately give place to government by individual license. It is proper and fair that acknowledgment of the fact be made that many of the strong newspapers, preachers and educators, governors and judges of state and federal courts have done much during the past year to create a healthier public sentiment with regard to mob lawlessness. While we relax nothing or our efforts to hasten the consummation of a result so much to be desired, we express the hope that the time is at hand when lawful authority shall be respected in all parts of the land by all the people, and that this more general respect for the law may lead to a decrease of all crime and the realization of that equality of right which is the heritage of every citizen of the United States.

(2) We urge the Afro-American people everywhere to a closer union among themselves, and to a firmer determination to contribute of their abundance to testing in the courts all laws of states which deny to them the equal benefits of protection of government as guaranteed by the federal constitution.

(3) There must come a time when Afro-Americans shall cease to be the objects of class legislation by states of which they are citizens, but in the conduct of which they have absolutely no part because of disqualifying laws obviously in contact with the fundamental law of the land, against which we protest, and against which the Aremican people will yet protest because of the injustice done them by the preponderant political influence enjoyed by the late slave states, because of a basis of representation more advantageous to them than that they enjoyed under the slave basis of proportionment in Congress and in the electoral college.

(4) Reformation in the prison conditions in the southern states is an object of such vital moment that we urge the thoughtful men and women of the race to lend it their best thought and effort by judicious appeal to public opinion and to those who make and enforce the laws providing and governing penal institutions.

(5) To encourage Afro-Americans to leave the sections of the country where they are most at home by reason of climatic and economic conditions because of vicious laws and public opinion, and to move into sections of the country where the climate is unsuited to them and where there is no place in the economic life of their new neighbors in which they can secure employment necessary to live and properly care for their dependents, is a grave question which is provoking earnest discussion in the responsible newspapers of the north and west.

(6) To this end and that we may have a manhood and womanhood rounded in all the elements of strength of head and heart for the serious work of life that confronts us, we urge greater support and an enlargement of our advantages both of industrial and of higher education.

It is a long way from the slave pen to the creditable mental, moral and material status which the Afro-American people occupy today in all parts of the Republic; and if we shall hope on and labor on with the manly courage that laughs at obstacles that annoy but cannot hinder us in the upward movement of higher living, and the faith which inspired and nerved our fathers and mothers in the dark days when no ray of hope pierced the dark cloud of their bondage, the God who had led the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt into the promised land beyond Jordan, will lead us so that finally we shall rest securely within the folds of the star-spangled banner, the greatest and proudest emblem of sovereignty that floats above a free people.

Dispute Over Moliere.

There are two tablets in Paris informing the sightseer that he is passing the house where Moliere was born. One is in the Rue du Pont Neuf; the other at the corner of the Rue Sauval, where it meets the Rue St. Honore. One inscription says that Moliere was born in 1620 and the other in 1622. Some time ago there were two houses in which Moliere was said to have died.

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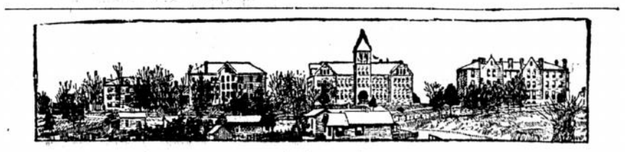

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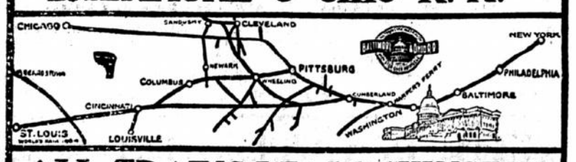

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