

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE COMPETITIVE SYSTEM OF EXAMINATION.

The Board Claim to Act in Strict Compliance With the Education Law.

The recent action of the School Board in rescinding its previous resolution to elect the teachers of the public schools under the new law, while it has provoked general comment, in some cases not of a flattering character, has also created a considerable scare among the teachers, and apprehensions of favoritism and injustice.

Superintendent Wm. O. Rogers has to no little extent shared the opinions entertained against the board in consequence of their change of front; because, while it was understood that Mr. Rogers was opposed to the competitive examination system, he is charged with having not only advocated the system recently, but, in fact, is accused of being the father of the resolution which puts the system into operation.

We have taken some pains to inquire into the true state of affairs, and having done so we are compelled to arrive at the conclusion that

is the result of a misunderstanding of the law regulating public education by the Board of Directors, and nothing else.

We have ascertained that Superintendent Rogers in what he was supposed to be an opponent, on general principles, of the competitive system, and that some, at least, of the ablest directors of the board, believe, with him, that the test of a competitive examination is not sufficient to qualify a person for a teachership in the public schools. Basing themselves on this conviction it was agreed, originally, that such of the teachers as would appear to the

COMMITTEE ON TEACHERS qualified to perform the duties of instructing the youth in our public schools, and reported as such, should be re-elected, and whatever vacancies remained were to be competed for by new applicants.

The result is known. The report of the committee was presented and adopted, but the announcement of the list was reserved until the next meeting of the board, to allow some time for revision. Subsequently it was resolved that all applicants should be submitted to

A COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.

This resolution came about in this wise: Article 4 of section 10 of act No. 33, to regulate public education, reads: "It (the board) shall prescribe rules for such teachers, or candidates for teachership, to a careful and competent examination on all such branches as they are expected to teach, and no teachers shall be elected to any position in the schools without a favorable report on his or her moral and mental qualifications by an organized committee of examiners appointed by the board."

Superintendent Rogers gave a most liberal construction to the meaning of this article, believing that our legislators intended that it should be

OBSERVED IN SPIRIT and not according to the letter of the law; that it did not mean that teachers of old standing and recognized capacity should have to undergo an examination for the third or fourth time. Others, however, entertained doubts as to the construction and besides believed that by following it the board would be subjected to great embarrassment in their task of discriminating among the teachers to be selected.

On the one hand the pressure was very great in favor of a very large number of teachers, (leaving only about twenty vacancies), who seemed to be recommended by everybody, in many cases principally on the ground of their long and honorable service; and on the other hand, the circumstances of those teachers; again it was known to the board that the

BROWN AND BOOTHY School Board had issued certificates to teachers (actually in the schools) without the proper examination or qualifications. Another class of the Brown applicants had been examined and received their certificates but were incompetent in one sense or the other; and still another class of these appointees were recognized as worthy and efficient. Still another embarrassment presented itself in the fact that the board had issued certificates to the graduates of the girls' high schools and of the normal school who had been long waiting for an opportunity to compete for a position in the schools. In presence of these grave considerations the board out

THE GORDIAN KNOT by adopting the report of the committee on teachers, and were on the point of announcing their selections. Meanwhile the question of the legality of this method was still being agitated, and the opinion of some of our best lawyers sought and of the board, however, desiring to frame the section that all the old teachers, as well as the new applicants, should undergo the competitive examination. This opinion seemed to

SETTLE THE QUESTION, and the resolution referring to the examination was offered by a member of the board, viz. Mr. Rogers, and adopted, the board, however, desiring it fair to all the applicants to give them two full months wherein to prepare themselves for the competition.

In our investigation of the matter we have endeavored to ascertain whether some advantages or preferences should not be given to the old teachers in our schools. We have been told to understand, that the board have been given distinctly that the old teachers and the new applicants would stand on exactly

THE SAME FOOTING before the committee on examination, and that their fitness would be determined by this examination.

Thus teachers who have been in the schools for ten, fifteen or twenty years, and who may fail to answer the questions to be propounded to them as correctly as their younger competitors, just out of the graduating class, must give way to the latter. In palliation of this proposition—against which there can be no redress, since the law has to be obeyed to the letter—it is said that the teachers of the higher grades have nothing to fear from the competition, because no applicants rarely, if ever, apply for any but

THE PRIMARY POSITIONS. But an examination of the situation shows that there are hundreds of new applicants, and very few, about one hundred, of the higher grades of positions, and hence it would seem that the situation of the greater number of the experienced teachers, who have for years been in our schools, are jeopardized.

Such is in brief the situation of the school teachers' imbroglio as we have ascertained it, whatever comments it may deserve being left to the care of the editorial department of the DEMOCRAT.

We will now return to the teachers with whom we have touched the matter over and say that they view the situation

WITH MUCH APPREHENSION, although all propose to boldly face the examining committee.

At their request we have ascertained that the examination will be conducted with

PRINTED OR WRITTEN QUESTIONS, as has been done on former occasions. In addition we will also say, on high authority, that it is not proposed to do an examination more rigid than will be absolutely necessary to ascertain the fitness of the applicant to teach the particular branches which they are now teaching in the public schools.

From the foregoing facts it would then appear that however well disposed the board and the superintendent may have been toward the present teachers their course in adopting the competitive system is due to

EXPLICIT OBEDIENCE to the letter of the law contained in section sixteen of act number twenty-three.

THE FRUIT GROWERS' FAIR.

The Third and Last Day of the Exhibition. No fewer than three thousand people visited St. Patrick's Hall last evening, the closing evening of the exhibition of the Fruit Growers' Association.

Notwithstanding the great drawbacks which

THE ASSOCIATION HAS MET FOR LACK OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO MAKE THE DISPLAY WHAT IT SHOULD BE, IT MUST BE SAID IN JUSTICE TO THE MANAGEMENT THAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED A HANDSOME SUCCESS, AND GIVEN A NEW IMPETUS TO FRUIT GROWING IN THE GULF STATES.

Our space is so limited to-day that we must forego for the present the flattering comments that we propose to pay to the association for their efforts in encouraging an industry that must prove highly profitable to the South.

We take this opportunity to mention the exhibit of the marionette plant of Louisiana, made by the Enterprise Ogar Company of this city, raised in this State from Havana seed under special cultivation, and also of the handsome display of cigars made entirely from this tobacco, and from which their orange brand is manufactured.

The test evidence that the careful and scientific cultivation of tobacco, in some sections of this State especially, can produce an article of superior taste and fragrance.

This letter was on yesterday referred to Capt. Dudley Selph by the Adjutant General, and although sent by the Sharp's Company in something of an indirect way, will receive prompt attention and due acknowledgement at the hands of the team.

It is a well known fact that the Crescent City team won the last inter-State match, and the jealousy exhibited by the sporting journals alluded to discloses the fact that the Eastern clubs are afraid that our team will carry off the honors again, and it was for that reason, perhaps, that they

THE CRESCENT CITY TEAM have not been honestly reported in the matter of scoring, when they knew that the contrary was the fact, and whereas the letter referred to enlarges the work of the team in the highest degree imaginable.

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NATIONAL SHIFLE ASSOCIATION paid no attention whatever to the recommendations suggested by our team, that one or two rules might be modified, thereby giving Louisiana an opportunity to have a representation in the International Match, and taking all these facts into consideration the gentlemen composing the Crescent City team have determined to show the Eastern clubs and their mouthpieces that they can and will defeat them in the inter-State match; and all that is asked now is a liberal patronage of the entertainment, that they may carry out their determination.

It is proper to state also that in their practice shooting here our team have made scores that seem to have

CONVINCED THE EASTERN CLUBS that their chances are slim. They know that the Crescent City range is the most difficult in the United States to shoot over, and, of course, know that practice shooting is not match shooting at Creedmore, which is perfectly clear and level, and will show up largely to the advantage of our team, and for that reason they fear them. They know, too, that the Creedmore canvas targets used here indicate a bull-eye only when the bullet strikes the bull-eye, whereas the targets used at Creedmore are constructed of iron, and a bullet striking within an inch of the bull-eye there is counted out, and if the last portion touches the bull-eye

IT COUNTS FIVE POINTS, or a bull-eye, when in the target; here it passes through the cloth, counting but four.

The iron targets will consequently give the Crescent City shooting an opportunity of dipping in frequent bull-eyes, that they do not get credit for at home, and it is but fair to presume that with the large number of close ring, or four-point shots they may be putting in here, they will realize numerous bull-eyes at Creedmore.

RANDOM NOTES CONCERNING "THE BOXES" AND CONTENTS.

United States District Attorney Lacey Called Upon and Refers the Matter to the Department of Justice.

The convocation at the Granite Building of ex-Metropolitans and Republicans, generally, to whom Custom-House appointments had been pledged by the Radical leaders, was larger than usual yesterday, and nearly all

WERE ON THE RAGGED EDGE, so to speak, over the recent confirmation by the Treasury Department of the recommendations made by the Custom-House commission. They, or a few of them, will find consolation in the fact that the Collector stated on yesterday that in addition to the removals ordered by the Secretary of the Treasury, he should, after the last of next month, make a few changes where he knew that the service would be benefited by it, but would make them gradually, and would select competent men to fill such vacancies as he made.

He has not yet selected from the list of the "ins" the names of those clerks and employes whose official

HEADS HE WILL CHOP OFF with the Treasury Department guillotines, but is having a list prepared from which he will select those whose heads are to tumble into the basket, and may be days in making up this schedule.

The Surveyor's bureau will not be touched until the arrival of the head of that department, which will probably be on Monday next. Many of his inquiring friends are exceedingly anxious that he should "come back right away," as they fear that unless he does

THEY WILL BE LEFT in the matter of appointments.

The State and local box and shoe boxes, located in the top story of the Custom-House building, continue to attract the attention of the average Custom-House loungers, and the speculations as to what the contents will develop are as numerous as the counters themselves. Some seem to think there is music in the boxes, which, if appropriately set, will result in a new national air, and one which will even eclipse "Yankee Doodle" or the "Star Spangled Banner," and in this speculation Mr. Lacey, who is the applicant for the Returning Board members will not be able to

REACH THE PROPER KEY, should the "music" be given them for rehearsal or practice.

In connection with the box matter Attorney General Ogden yesterday called on United States District Attorney Lacey to ascertain what course would be necessary to take to secure an inspection of the four boxes, Gen. Ogden representing the State as its chief judicial officer, and desiring the inspection, as it was believed that the boxes contained

STATE RECORDS AND PROPERTY. Mr. Lacey could not, however, give an opinion in the matter without referring the application to the Department of Justice at Washington, which he did and which action the DEMOCRAT anticipated on Thursday morning.

As the matter is, figuratively speaking, come before the Cabinet, it is quite likely that the Treasury and the Department of Justice will render opposite opinions, in which event the boxes (Pittkin's private?) property will remain where it is for some time to come.

Pittkin himself has

SKIPPED OFF TO WASHINGTON, being summoned there, as some of his friends

THE "TEAM" ENTERTAINMENT.

AUGUST 2 THE DATE AND THE "WEST END" PAVILLION THE PLACE.

A Few Notes Relative to Advantages and Disadvantages in Long Range Shooting.

The Crescent City Rifle Team have selected August 2 as the date and the pavilion at THE NEW LAKE END as the place at which their entertainment will be given to raise funds to defray the expenses of the champion rifle team of the world to Creedmore to participate in the inter-State match on September 15th.

The programme has not been completed yet, but it can be safely asserted that it will be of a character that it will suit and please the most fastidious. In addition to the dramatic and operatic selections, there will be early in the evening a boat race, and a challenge target match is expected between teams selected from two crack military organizations of the city. Tickets for the occasion have already been placed on sale, and as the public

WILL GET VALUE RECEIVED for their money, it is almost certain that the attendance will be so large that a sufficient revenue will be derived to defray the expenses of the team to Creedmore.

Appropos of the subject, it will be borne in mind that the recent achievements of the team in the way of long range lead-shooting have created a firm among the riflemen of the North, East and West, and has attracted the attention of the Sharp's Rifle Manufacturing Company, who addressed a letter to Adjutant General Patton, describing to the "team," through him, all the accoutrements of the rifleman, such as long range rifles, ammunition, and anything in the shape of long range "material" that their establishment contained.

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HE IS TO BE APPOINTED TO A FOREIGN MISSION.

The knowing ones say, however, that he is on an entirely different mission, and instead of recouping himself to a foreign mission he is on a mission that forebodes good to the Democratic party in the coming Ohio election. Just how that will be accomplished his friends will not say, but a hint is dropped here and there that he will

RETURNING BOARD INDICTMENT.

VIEW OF THE COUNTRY PRESS THEREON.

(Co. fax Chronicle, Dem.) It seems, after all the chicanery and wire-working of the Louisiana Returning Board to put in a fraudulent President upon the American people, they lost sight entirely of the possible chance of their ever having to account for the great injustice done by them—thinking, probably, that after the dissolution of their body as a returning board, they would not be dealt with as private individuals. They, however, have reckoned without their host, for they have been indicted upon charges of perjury and forgery, and arrested and required to give heavy bonds for their appearance.

Wells, Anderson and Casanave will soon be made to feel the strong arm of the law, and that the way of a wicked politician is a hard road to travel.

[De Soto Democrat, Dem.] The whole of the members of the infamous Returning Board have been indicted by the Grand Jury of New Orleans, for perjury and forgery, in making false returns of the vote polled at the late election. This is just as it should be, and we hope to soon be able to chronicle their advent into the State Penitentiary. They have all been arrested and placed under bond. We have long been complaining of the moral rot of these rascals, and we think that our own respectability demands that they be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, the opinion of "Returning Board Hayes" to the contrary notwithstanding.

[Natchitoches Vindicator.] Gov. Nicholls has nothing to do with the Returning Board matter—it is a question purely for the courts to determine; a branch of the government of our State owing no allegiance to co-ordinating with any political party or error. We are sorry to see leading journals talking glibly of governor this, and president that, interfering with the process of our courts. It smacks entirely too much of Grantism and Kelloggism.

The people of this section, and we doubt not they express the average feeling throughout the State, are determined to have the political malfeasance of the Returning Board punished for the sake of the law, and more particularly are they solicitous that Mat Wells and Tom Anderson should feel the utmost rigors of the law for their outrageous disregard of our rights, and the infamous violation of the very principles of our liberty—the sacredness of the ballot box.

If we do not punish these fellows, then all hope of purifying our State civil service is at an end. Men who commit crime in office with perfect impunity. Our people insist on the punishment of all these fellows, and if they are condoned by any person in our party, we be unto him.

[Alexandria Democrat, Dem.] We claim, and have all along claimed, that the official returns showed clearly the election of Gov. Tilden and the Democratic Conservative State officials by seven to ten thousand majority. We also claim that the proof is positive that absolute alterations of the official returns were made after the same fell into the hands of Wells, Anderson & Co. Well, this question is so important to us of Louisiana at the present moment that we turn to the country with this question on our lips: Did or did not the Returning Board make a faithful and legal finding? And if they did not make a faithful and legal finding, what thief, what burglar, what seducer, what murderer has committed so great a crime against the State and the country at large? On the other hand if Mat Wells, Keno Anderson, and their two negro allies, have fairly and faithfully administered the law, as in duty bound, why should they bear to go with the official returns before the courts of their State, and demand the fullest investigation? In plain words, if they are prosecuted in their persons and persecuted for a political offense, as they and their friends declare on all occasions, why not in the name of common sense and sheer justice to themselves and their families, throw themselves at the feet of justice and confess their enemies and traducers with the additional declaration of their innocence. Such are the inevitable impulses of men conscious of their integrity.

The way is clear to Wells & Co.; they are guilty or innocent; if the latter, they have nothing to fear from the findings of the grand juries or verdicts of petit juries. Again, right here occur the question, have there been a bargain to shield them from the power of the law? And if yes, who has made it? If there has been, we most unhesitatingly proclaim aloud that law, common sense and morality have been infamouslly outraged. No man or set of men, in power or out of power, in office or out of office, had the shadow of right, directly or indirectly, to agree with any set of men, that criminals before the law, the State law, could be held intact in consideration of any political patching or arrangement. A promise not to persecute the miserable wretches who have preyed upon us might have been tolerated, but no more than this. In a word, by way of close, we don't believe Gov. Nicholls made any such bargain, for we don't believe he is a fool, and we believe that the man who roguely or for the sake of a draw with good opinion of the law," is just now illustrated in the troubled condition of Mr. Hayes' mind over this criminal prosecution of the Returning Board in their great crime against the people of the United States.

HAYES AS A RUN FIEND. Terrible Impachment of the White-House Banner by the Prohibition Organ.

[N. Y. World.] We have received a call for a convention of the prohibition party of this State, to be held at Utica, Aug. 15. We hereby send our regrets to Messrs. "W. Farrington, chairman," and "James H. Steele, secretary," of the prohibitionists. With their invitation they send an extract from *The Living Issue*, which is worth some notice, whatever the "Living Issue" may be. The extract is chiefly devoted to showing the enormous strength of the prohibitionists as developed in the vote for "Smith and Stewart," who have been running for some offices and explaining that they would have received a great many more votes but for the artful conduct of the managers of the Republican party. These friends in human shape "became alarmed" at the popularity of "Smith and Stewart," and set to work to defeat them by putting Hayes forward as "not merely a practical temperance man but a prohibitionist, and getting the Methodist papers" and other miserable tools and dupes to advocate his election on the ground of his abstinence. We leave *The Living Issue* to tell the shameful secret.

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ING MR. BRISTOW—CONTRARY TO PROMISE—

from his cabinet; and putting Schurz and Sherman in; to furnishing wine (six kinds) for his first state dinner, against the protestation of his excellent wife, and drinking wines with his guests; in importing wines and brandies eighteen cases—"cases and packages"—per steamer City of Richmond, of the Inman line), for the supply of the White House cellars; in attending the merchants' annual banquet (the first President ever to do so) at Delmonico's celebrated drinkery in this city, and responding to a toast drunk in wine; in which he expressed "the great pleasure" the occasion gave him; accepting a round of wine dinners and receptions, concluding with the one at Mayor Ely's office, in which he is said to have "drank a glass of champagne" before an open window, and received the cheers of the rabble outside for it; and finally the declaration of his personal animosity for (Cincinnati Commercial) that Mr. Hayes was a "run fiend."

man, and that "his reputation in that regard was manufactured, and that without orders," have effectually disposed of the tactics by which the great mass of prohibitionists at the late election were demoralized and led astray.

This is a truly terrible indictment. It is almost a pity that it was framed before the Living Issues had made a charge of degrading and Jesuitical conduct of young Webb Hayes at the Boston banquet. It would have saddened their hearts and tangled their grammar still further if they had known when they wrote those burning words what the whole country knows now, how that the President of the United States brings up his children to cultivate the favor of prohibitionists by abstaining from wine and the favor of drunkards by concealing their abstinence.

To be sure the indictment is grievous enough without that instance of filigree. It will be news to most people that Mr. Bristow was left out of the Cabinet because he was the Abdiel of cold water (six kinds) for his first state dinner, against the protestation of his excellent wife, and drinking wines with his guests; in importing wines and brandies eighteen cases—"cases and packages"—per steamer City of Richmond, of the Inman line), for the supply of the White House cellars; in attending the merchants' annual banquet (the first President ever to do so) at Delmonico's celebrated drinkery in this city, and responding to a toast drunk in wine; in which he expressed "the great pleasure" the occasion gave him; accepting a round of wine dinners and receptions, concluding with the one at Mayor Ely's office, in which he is said to have "drank a glass of champagne" before an open window, and received the cheers of the rabble outside for it; and finally the declaration of his personal animosity for (Cincinnati Commercial) that Mr. Hayes was a "run fiend."

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