

DAILY DEMOCRAT. Official Journal of the State of Louisiana. Official Journal of the City of New Orleans. Office, 109 Grand Street. GEORGE W. DUPRE & CO. PROPRIETORS. GEORGE W. DUPRE, JOHN AUGUSTIN, E. J. HEARNEY, ALBERT G. JANIN. H. S. HEARNEY, EDITOR. NEW ORLEANS, OCTOBER 27, 1877.

SOMETHING ABOUT FEDERAL OFFICES.

The letter from our Washington correspondent this morning will be found quite a rare reading. We are impressed by Mr. Buell's telegrams and letters with the belief that the President is a thoroughbred trimmer, a

With more heads than a beast in vision. Evidently he is at sea and is watching to steer his bark before the most favorable wind. This is unfortunate for himself and for the country. He has now, as he had at the outset, but one of two courses to pursue; he must either return to the bosom and policy of the men who made him President by fraud, or he must turn his back upon them and identify himself with the Democratic party.

What our correspondent said to the President and the President's friend in relation to the appointment of Packard to the office of Collector of this port, was advice on this line. Mr. Hayes will gain no Democratic support by taking up that class of politicians in Louisiana who proposed to organize an administration or new party here on the "basis of the old flag and an appointment." Nor can he divide the Democracy of this State with such a miserable tool as the collectorship. His best plan would be to appoint an honest, outspoken Democrat, if he proposes to adopt the Democratic policy, or some man like Packard if he proposes to stand with the Republicans.

To any choice he may make for Federal appointments from among the Louisiana Radicals, the DEMOCRAT and its friends and followers are utterly indifferent. Packard is no better, and probably no worse, than the balance of the rascally gang. If justice were done some of them would be swinging from the gallows and the others would be in the penitentiary. We say this in no angry mood and in no vindictive spirit. If Mr. Hayes were to visit Louisiana and talk freely with our people he would go away with this conviction in his own mind.

The feeling of our people toward the President, after the withdrawal of the troops, was extremely cordial. Had he come among us then, he would have been welcomed with enthusiastic acclamations. Indeed, many of the people of this State were like those heroes of whom Sir Hudibras spoke when he said: "Some have been beaten till they know what wood a cudgel's cut by the blow; Some kicked until they can feel whether a shoe be Spanish or goats leather."

They had been maltreated, kicked and cuffed until they actually felt a gush of gratitude for the first man in authority who stopped kicking them, and they were ready almost to apotheosize him. Had Mr. Hayes taken advantage of this feeling it is difficult to say now what he might have accomplished in this and other Southern States in the way of organizing an Administration support. The appointment of King, Anderson, Wells, Lewis and Kenner, however, to offices of honor and emolument dispelled the illusion. This was a gross, burning, unbearable insult to every decent man in the State, and it created the most sudden and violent reaction in public opinion we ever witnessed.

Mr. Hayes has no longer any friends in Louisiana, and he will have none until he displays by his acts that he was not responsible for this insult and does not indorse it. In the meantime it is a matter of indifference to us and to our friends who he appoints Collector from among the Radicals. Packard, King, Anderson and Wells are equally obnoxious and will serve equally well to consolidate the decent people of this State against the Administration.

as the original vendor of the property held by them and from which they have been ousted by a judgment in favor of Mrs. Gaines. In 1868 this claim against the city amounted to over two millions of dollars. It has been largely increased since. Of course the city is unable to pay this amount, and indeed under the stringent provisions of the laws it is unable to make any compromise without the authority of the Legislature, and then only by an increase of taxation.

Then there is the case of the holders of the old consolidated bonds, represented in the case of Rosa Maenhaut vs. the city, which has been in suit for several years, and in which the United States Judge has decided that the plaintiffs have a valid contract by virtue of the acts of 1852-53, to be paid their interest out of the taxes, which by a subsequent act of the Legislature have been appropriated entirely to the payment of the premium bonds. These parties having been defeated in their application for other remedies, have been advised and evidently intend to act thereon, and even the United States Judge has suggested that as their remedy, of asking for a mandamus to compel the city to impose an additional and supplementary tax to raise a fund of \$600,000 per annum for the sinking fund provided in the original contract, to retire these consolidated bonds. To these are to be added the claim of the holders of the railroad bonds, Jackson and Opelousas, who have a pending case on appeal to assess a tax to pay their judgments on their bonds.

These several claims have already been before the courts for some time and have been prosecuted with great vigor and pertinacity on the part of the claimants, and resisted with equal pertinacity by the city. And now comes a host of other suits, and the cry is still they come! Many of these grow out of the unfortunate alliance of the city with the drainage contractors. That contract has proved a Nessian shirt to the city. There is the Canal Bank, which has a judgment for reimbursement of drainage taxes of over thirty thousand dollars. There is a large suit of some hundred thousand dollars now pending, of the holders of the property of an old and long-abandoned track of a railroad, which used to run from this city, via Carrollton, to the lake, which track has been for many years appropriated and used by the city for a drainage canal.

Then the Bayou St John Canal Company insists upon its rights, under the act of 1868, to be paid large amounts by the city for the privilege of draining into its canal. The Pontchartrain Railroad Company, that most ancient of all the railroads in the United States, claims exemption from assessment and taxation of the track occupied by it, by virtue of its possession thereof, though the property originally belonged to Bernard Marigny, and the company never acquired title therein, and only a right of way. Charles Morgan resists the claim of wharfage for the use of wharves which he had built at his own expense on the other side of the river, and a suit has arisen involving this issue between him and the city, or its assignees. The Sugar Shed Company resists a modification of the contract proposed to it, and defies the city to forfeit or enforce said contract.

The City Railroad resists the assessment of their property, and seeks to reduce their taxation at least one-half. Various rich corporations are contesting with the city their several assessments. In fine our city is beset, worried and incessantly pursued by nearly every corporation within its limits and by all its creditors, and by not a few speculators, to a degree never before borne by a judicial person. The present Administrators will have perhaps the largest experience of the pleasures, of litigation, of attachments, as witnesses, of constant attendance at courts, and will be more frequently honored with the personal courtesies of sheriffs, constables and marshals than any set of gentlemen who ever undertook patriotic duties.

This is a mortifying experience, but inevitable, it seems, in the present condition of our city's finances. It ought, however, to impress the people with the necessity of guarding well against the hasty, improvident and ill-considered legislation of the past and against the selection of incompetent, inexperienced and untrustworthy men, mere jobbers or ward politicians and office-seekers, of whom our city government has too often included too large a number. It involves, too, a grave reflection upon the class from which our city officials should be chiefly chosen, who, having a large interest in the good government of the city, take the least interest therein, and are more often found among the assailants of its credit and the speculators on its misfortunes than among its upholders and defenders.

The liquor men of Richmond have been pretending for some time past that the Moffett register law was unpopular in that city, and that if it were submitted directly to the popular vote, an immense majority would be scored against it. Of course there was no opportunity or possibility of doing this; the constitution of Virginia puts some trust in its Legislature, and does not submit to a popular vote every law passed by it. However, as the liquor men persisted in these boasts, it was resolved the other day to test the popular feeling on this point. On Tuesday, 23d, a primary election was held in Richmond for the nomination of Democratic candidates for the Legislature; at this election, by general request, the approval or disapproval of the Moffett register law was also voted on.

The supporters and defenders of the law had no organization or money, and made no canvass; but the liquor men, on the other hand, who hoped for some good result from the election, made an earnest fight against the law. Whisky and beer, it became generally known, could be obtained by any competent voter, and the whole election consequently passed off gloriously, pleasantly and hilariously, and was carried on far into the night by over-excited partisans of the liquor men. But alas! though many took the bar-keeper's liquor, they voted, at the same time, against the law. A count of the votes shows: For the Moffett law, 261; against it, 1002; majority for the law, 741. The liquor men have failed to score that victory they so anxiously looked forward to, and are gloomy, disconsolate and sullen. The Moffett Register is still triumphant.

vote cast, and yet are defeated by some tens of thousands of votes. The Cincinnati newspapers, Democratic and Republican, declare the amendments very proper and necessary measures, and affirm that they were not defeated because anybody was opposed to them, but because nobody knew what they were or what they proposed. No stump orator throughout the campaign ever referred to these amendments; they spoke of Hayes, the civil service, the Southern policy, inflation, resumption, of every other possible issue; so that when election day came around and the voter marched up to the polls and was called on to vote on "amendment 1," or "amendment 2," he had not the slightest idea what these were. Four out of five of the voters solved the difficulty by voting blank on these questions; while it is almost certain that an immense majority of those that did vote on these propositions did so because they found "for" or "against" on their tickets and were too lazy to scratch this off, and not because they had leanings either one way or the other. Such is the fate of amendments, even in a dull political campaign.

And now it is discovered and exposed that the old Pontchartrain Railroad has been running for forty years on and using as its property a portion of Elysian Fields street, which was never ceded to it. The property on which the track was laid belonged to Mr. Bernard Marigny by title acquired in 1805, and a right of way for a railroad was only acquired by the Pontchartrain Company, but not a right of property in the street. The company claims and exercises all the rights of owner of this property. But our present City Administrators employed a diligent young lawyer, a grandson of the first Governor of the State, who has investigated the titles and history of this property, and places beyond doubt that it never was ceded or conveyed to the company. This is one victory of the city over the corporations which have been so long holding from it its property and rights, and relieving themselves of burdens imposed on all other persons who enjoy the protection and benefits of the city government. If a thorough investigation could be had into the relations of the various corporations in this city to the municipal authorities, it would develop a startling array of losses to the city and misappropriation of corporate property to private uses.

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