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WASHINGTON.

THE DEMOCRATIC JOINT CAUCUS IN SESSION.

Determination of the Democrats to Repeal the Test Oath and Federal Election Law.

[Special to the Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The Democratic joint caucus to-night is still in session to decide upon a party policy. It is the most important deliberative assembly held here for many years. The subject under consideration was foreshadowed in my dispatch of Friday night, to the repeal of the infamous election law and test oath which are contained in the legislative, executive and judicial bills. The editorials and reports of the DEMOCRAT during the three weeks concerning the infernal travesty upon law and justice in the Federal court in session in New Orleans have attracted much attention, both among members of Congress and in the Northern Democratic press, and the result is the stiffening of the spinal column of the Democratic House to an extent that is seldom seen.

The leaders in the caucus discussion to-night are Beck, Southard, Tucker, Springer, Jones of Florida, Blackburn, Wallace and Voorhees, all of whom took the strongest possible ground in favor of repealing these desperate laws, regardless of the extra session. Our own delegation was fully up in its duty of furnishing facts concerning the administration of this devilish law by the debauched travestie on a court of justice presided over by Woods and Billings. Similar service was rendered by Messrs. Jones of Florida, and Butler of South Carolina.

So far as can be ascertained, the sentiment among members of the House is unanimous in favor of repealing all laws giving the Federal courts jurisdiction in criminal cases. The only one on the Senate side weak enough to suggest a compromise on the repealing of the test oath and letting the election law stand as it is was Mr. Bayard. This, however, makes no difference, as the decision of matters lies wholly with the House.

Curiously enough, the worst case of oppression and usurpation that has occurred under the law transpired Saturday in Bond's Court, in Baltimore, and has been used to-night in caucus with tremendous effect. It was a case where a negro deputy marshal made the complaint that a citizen of Baltimore had assaulted him. The citizen was indicted in Bond's Court, arraigned and pleaded guilty to charge of assault, offering to prove that it was entirely a personal matter, having nothing to do with the election whatever, and not even happening on election day. Bond, however, overruled the demurrer, and upon prisoner's plea of guilty to assault, sentenced him to one year in the penitentiary, under the Federal election law.

There can be no doubt, judging from the temper displayed in the caucus to-night, that the Democrats will stand in solid phalanx, and suffer the legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill to lapse rather than back down upon the repeal of the election law. Blackburn, true to his manly instincts and unfaltering zeal for Democratic principles, pure and simple, goes farther than any of the others, and favors repealing the election law by a proviso in every one of the appropriation bills yet to be passed. If the party will come up to Blackburn's position the diabolical crusade of Wood, Billings & Co. may be considered at an end.

Another caucus will be held towards the last of the week on the disagreements of the conference committees, but the repeal of the election law by amendments to the principal appropriation bill may be considered settled by to-night's action.

Mr. Acklen has secured another appropriation of $10,000 for the improvement of Bayou Lafourche, together with a proviso for a survey of the Teche and Vermillion by a commission.

A. C. B.

Appointments.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The President to-day sent the following nominations to the Senate: State Department, A. L. Russell, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Consul at Montevideo; Treasury Department, Chas. H. Hazelton, to be Collector of Customs, district of Perth-Amboy, N. J.

Senator Johnson Dangerously Ill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Senator John W. Johnson is alarmingly ill at his residence in this city. His family was telegraphed for to-day.

NEW YORK.

The Herald Working Up Grant's Canvass—Stormy Meeting of the Irish Republican Brotherhood—A Pair of Nut-Crackers—Pleuro-Pneumonia.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—George Flower, of Boston, was arrested in New York Saturday on a charge of forging $25,000 straw bail for Page, the Boston boot and shoe auctioneer, arrested on a charge of defrauding his creditors. Flower was taken back to Boston yesterday.

It is said that the *Herald* has one of its most brilliant correspondents traveling with Grant, and it is accused of working up the General for the next President. It publishes an interview to-day with McCulloch, of St. Louis, who sees written all over political skies the name of Gen. Grant. Sherman, Blaine, Conkling and Washburne, he thinks, have little or no chance. Grant is the only great national man, and he will be nominated because he is necessary to the Republican party. It also publishes the following from the *Germania*, a Catholic journal of Germany, in reply to the card discourtesy to Grant. When at Rome Cardinal McCloskey presented the General to the Holy Father and mentioned that the Church was indebted to him for many kind actions, both while he held supreme command of the army and while he was President.

Leo XIII thanked Gen. Grant. Upon Grant protesting that he had simply treated Catholics on the same footing as adherents of other religious persuasions, as became the chief magistrate of a State in which all religions enjoy the most complete equality, the Pope subjoined that even his equitable and impartial demeanor was a favor in these days, and that Grant, even while abstaining from persecuting the Church, might have placed hindrances in her way. All that she needs is freedom for her mission.

The Irish Republican Brotherhood held a stormy meeting last night over the address to James Stephens, which met great opposition. An extract was read from an Irish paper to the effect that Irishmen were devoting themselves to balls, picnics and parties while grim-visaged war lurked frowningly in the shade. It was stated that numbers of the brotherhood in this country gathered money from poor Irish girls for their own use.

An Italian peanut vender having been teased by a half drunken young man, named John Creigh, lost his patience and struck Creigh on the head with a nut cracker. Creigh went home and discovered when he attempted to explain what had happened to him that he had lost the power of speech.

The Prohibition of the Importation of American Cattle into England.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—There is considerable excitement in the cattle trade this morning, caused by the conflicting reports from England regarding the decision of the Privy Council in the matter of the shipment of live cattle from this country. On Saturday agents of Goldsmith & Toffee, in London, telegraphed to a firm in this city that the British government had issued an order forbidding the landing of live cattle from the United States in English ports after the twenty-eighth of February. Upon the receipt of this notification Goldsmith & Toffee made arrangements to forward this week all the live cattle they could, and will ship no head. This morning dispatches were received at the offices of the National and Anchor Steamship Lines announcing that no restrictions had been placed on the landing or removal of cattle, and no order had been made by the Privy Council to prevent the landing of live cattle. This information was communicated to the firms engaged in the shipment of cattle, but no definite course of procedure had been determined upon.

Mr. Phillips, the agent of Goldsmith & Toffee, said that he could not account for the dispatches sent by the agent's firm in London. If the reports received by the shipping firms are true, he said, no new contracts will be entered into until definite information is received. When asked what will be done if the Privy Council should prevent the landing of cattle from the United States in English ports, he said in that case we will slaughter here and send it as dead beef. The costs of shipping meat is much less in winter months than the cost of shipping live cattle, but the case was reversed in the summer months.

At the office of the British Consulate it was learned that the Privy Council issued orders Friday that cattle arriving from the United States at any English port would not be permitted to land, except to slaughter-houses and immediately killed. This order is to take effect on and after March 1. This order was not because of reports transmitted to the British government from this city that pleuro-pneumonia existed among cattle in the neighborhood of the city, but was on account of the general feeling in England that the disease existed here to a much greater extent than was reported.

The Pedestrian Mania Still Raging—The Fire Insurance Companies—Choteau's Address.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Two sermons were delivered against pedestrian shows here, one of them by Talmage, but they continue nevertheless. Van Ness and Belden have completed half their undertaking and are getting along well. One woman is on the track in this city yet, and in Jersey City to-night Miss Ada Wallace, niece of Gen. Hooker, begins to walk a hundred miles against time. Bartholomew Odell, eighty years of age, but healthy and active, proposes to commence Friday, in Brooklyn, to walk seventy-five miles in twenty-four hours.

Another meeting of the representatives of the fire insurance companies doing business in this city was held to-day. The report on the formation of a tariff association was further discussed, but no decision reached. The matter was then postponed until Thursday, when the report probably will be acted upon.

A meeting of the United States Board of Trade was held this evening to listen to an address from Mr. Leon Choteau, of Paris.

BUTLER'S CANVASS.

The Massachusetts "Hero" Trying to Capture the National Party.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—A special to the *Telegram* from Washington says that there is an interesting political intrigue going on to turn the National political movement over to Gen. Butler. A meeting of all the National and Greenback leaders will be held at Washington on the twenty-second instant, and Butler has laid a plan to capture the organization. He has secured the aid of Buchanan, of Indiana, one of the most prominent Nationals, and a number of friends are in Washington from Massachusetts to aid in the work. The programme is to have the Nationals adopt a political platform sustaining Butler's views. Some Nationals bitterly oppose Butler, and regard him as a political fraud, consequently at the meeting on the twenty-second there will be lively times.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Sunday Law in Illinois.

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—At Flora, Ills., yesterday all the trains on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad were delayed by the enforcement of the Sunday law.

The Cheyennes Joining Sitting Bull.

OMAHA, Feb. 10.—It is reported that eighty Cheyenne Indians are moving from Grass Creek to join Sitting Bull, and it is thought that there will be trouble in the spring.

Bankrupt Sales at Chicago.

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—Receiver Turpin is authorized to sell at public auction the Fidelity Savings Bank and Deposit Vaults. The Hooley's Theatre sale is to take place on April 10.

The Northwestern Dairymen's Association.

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—The thirteenth annual meeting of the Northwestern Dairymen's Association is to be held at the Grand Pacific Hotel on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. A large attendance is expected.

Jail Fired by Prisoners.

MUNCIE, Ind., Feb. 10.—Billy Sullivan, who was confined in jail, yesterday afternoon fired the bed clothes. Great excitement was created, but no great damage done. The prisoners did not escape.

A Train Ditched.

GOSHEN, Ind., Feb. 10.—The West-bound train on the Lake Shore and Southern Railroad was ditched nine miles from here early Sunday morning. A car of staves and another of sugar were precipitated down an embankment and demolished.

Successful Burglars.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 10.—Burglars at about 6 a. m. broke a two hundred dollar plate glass in Chas. C. Steenan & Bros.' Wholesale Grocery Store, No. 79 West Fourth street, and stole thirty-six gold watches worth a $1000, and a $10 cameo brilliant and plain gold rings worth $500.

Drowned Together.

JOLIET, Feb. 10.—Bridget and Maggie Crane, sisters, were drowned in the Desplaines river this evening. The girls were aged twenty and fourteen, and lived with their widowed mother near the river. The younger sister went to the stream for water and broke through the ice. Bridget attempted to rescue her and both were drowned.

Wanted to Shoot Three Girls.

SHAGONIER, Ills., Feb. 10.—Malco, who killed Mr. Rubin and his daughter Annie last week, returned to his father's home and gave himself up Saturday night. He says he intended to kill Annie and two other girls, but the shooting of Mr. Rubin was accidental. The feeling against young Malco is intense.

Trial of Mrs. Jennie Smith Who Killed Her Husband.

JERSEY CITY, Feb. 10.—The trial of Mrs. Jennie R. Smith for the murder of her husband, policeman Smith, was commenced in the Court-House to-day, and promises to be one of great interest. The evidence against her appears to be strictly circumstantial. The court-room was crowded. Her alleged accomplice, Cove Bennet, was also placed on trial. Mrs. Smith was dressed in mourning and looked calm, while Bennet appeared nervous. The jury was selected with little delay, and the case was then opened for the prosecution.

Judge Cadwallader's Successor.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 10.—The movement in favor of the appointment of P. P. Morris to the place on the United States District Court bench, left vacant by the death of Judge Cadwallader, is very earnest. A large number of prominent lawyers have combined to influence the President to make this choice. At noon to-day a delegation left here to personally urge the claims of Mr. Morris upon the President and the Attorney General. In case Morris is not appointed, the delegation which has just gone down in his behalf, will almost unanimously urge the selection of Judge Wm. Butler, of West Chester, for the position. Judge Butler is the present judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Rochester county.

Fires.

MORRISTOWN, PA., Feb. 10.—The Pennsylvania Tack Works in this place was partially destroyed last night by an incendiary fire. The loss is covered by insurance.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—The residence of Alex. Masterton at Brockaville, Westchester county, was destroyed by fire early this morning. The loss is estimated at $40,000; insurance $17,500.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 10.—A fire broke out this morning in H. Grunkmeyer's saloon at the foot of Vine street, in a bedroom, and the flames soon communicated to the rear of Thos. Emery & Son's candle factory. The flames gutted the three stories of the building, causing, however, only a loss of about $1200, covered by insurance. Grunkmeyer, while trying with the firemen to save his wife and children, was terribly burned. His loss on furniture was $300.

Always ready, need no cooking—Shadines.

CONGRESSIONAL.

THE PROPOSED REPEAL OF THE JUROR'S TEST OATH.

The Legislative Appropriation Bill—The Sugar Tariff Bill to Come Up Thursday.

THE SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The Senate has passed the House resolutions to print 2000 copies of Hayden's tenth report.

The Senate considered the bill authorizing railroad companies to maintain telegraph lines. At the instance of Senators Mitchell and Conkling it was laid over.

It also considered the amending acts relating to the Pacific Railroads. Laid over.

To-day's session was consumed by McCreery, who made a humorous and effective speech against the Indian policy of Grant's and Hayes' administrations, and advocated the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department, and by Paddock, who spoke on agriculture.

The Finance Committee introduced a bill authorizing the national gold banks to become ordinary banking institutions under the rules and with the privileges prescribed for such banks.

Mr. Conkling, from the Committee on Finance, reported back favorably the bill to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Missouri river at Lexington, Mo.

At 4 p. m. the Senate went into executive session, and shortly thereafter adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 11 o'clock. Under the call of States for bills and resolutions for reference, the following, among others, were introduced and referred:

By Mr. Willis, of New York: Making available the balance of the appropriation to place headstones over the graves of soldiers in private cemeteries.

By Mr. Wood, of New York: Providing for the free introduction of samples.

By Mr. O'Neill, of Pennsylvania: Directing a contract to be made for the leasing of certain meadow lands near Fort Mifflin.

By Mr. Fuller, of Indiana: For the relief of certain persons locating homesteads on the public lands. Also, a bill declaring forfeited to the United States, under certain conditions, the public lands granted by Congress to aid in the construction of railroads. The bill makes it the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to declare forfeited all such lands, the terms of the grant of which have not been complied with in —— years.

By Mr. Buckner, of Missouri: A joint resolution requiring the Secretary of War to report to Congress at its next session a plan for the organization of the militia of the United States.

By Mr. Ligon, of Alabama: To abolish import duties on quinine and other products of Peruvian bark.

On motion of Mr. Reagan, of Texas, the Committee on Commerce was authorized to report the river and harbor bill to-morrow for the purpose of having it printed and recommitted.

Mr. Manning, of Mississippi, moved to suspend the rules and pass a bill repealing the sections of the Revised Statutes relating to the juror's test oaths and to the appointment of supervisors of elections.

The House, by a strict party vote of 126 yeas to 113 nays, refused to suspend the rules and pass the bill, a two-thirds vote being required.

Mr. Phillips, of Kansas, moved to suspend the rules and pass a bill for the establishment of postal savings banks at the money order post-offices. The deposits are to be not less than one dollar nor more than ten dollars at any one time by one person, and deposits are to bear 4 per cent interest. The House, by a vote of 39 yeas to 184 nays, refused to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

On motion of Mr. Wood, of New York, Tuesday, the eighteenth instant, after the reading of the journal, was assigned to the Committee on Ways and Means for reports, not to interfere, however, with the appropriation bills.

Mr. Robbins, of North Carolina, moved to suspend the rules and fix Thursday, the thirteenth instant, for the consideration of the bill relating to the tariff on sugar.

The motion was agreed to—yeas 160, nays 57.

On motion of Mr. Singleton, of Mississippi, Saturday next was assigned for the consideration of the bill to regulate public printing.

Mr. Whitthorne, of Tennessee, moved to suspend the rules and pass the resolution ordering the printing of the reports and the testimony taken by the Naval Committee, in relation to the management of the Navy Department, and fixing Thursday, the twentieth, for the consideration of said report.

The motion was rejected, yeas 123, nays 107, two-thirds not voting in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. Atkins, of Tennessee, the House went into committee of the whole on the legislative appropriation bill.

[Mr. Blackburn, of Kentucky, in the chair.]

Mr. Atkins addressed the committee on the bill and said that there was a great necessity for economy still existing. All the reports of the treasury agreed that there would be a large deficiency after the sinking fund was satisfied. The revenues were falling off and in view of the exigency created by the failing of public revenues, the Appropriation Committee had endeavored to reduce appropriations to the lowest possible limit. The total estimate upon which the bill was based was $16,096,601 91. The committee had recommended $15,154,475 60. The amount appropriated last year was $15,351,238 50. The committee had been conscientious in their reductions, and had brought the bill here without partisan views. He believed its passage as reported, would have the co-operation of all the members of the committee. Mr. Atkins urged at length that portion of the bill relating to the consolidation of surveys.

Mr. Foster, of Ohio, approved the bill. Messrs. Monroe and Butler opposed that feature of the bill which reduced the force of the Bureau of Education.

Pending further consideration the committee rose and the House at 4:55 p. m. adjourned.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The Plague Not Spreading.

ROME, Feb. 10.—Reassuring advices were received at the foreign ministry about the plague. It is believed its spread will be prevented.

The Liverpool strike.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—Dispatch from Liverpool says: The strike movement is spreading, but the city is quiet to-day, and there have been no fresh outbreak. The police of Manchester have been ordered to reinforce the Liverpool police should the disturbance be renewed.

Laborers Brought from Glasgow.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 10.—Five hundred men were brought from Glasgow yesterday to work in the Cunard docks. The men were brought in one of the company's vessels, and will be guarded from the interference of the strikers. They will begin to-day to discharge the steamer Parthia, which arrived yesterday from New York.

The Explosion of the Thunderer's Gun.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—The following is the text of the Admiralty's announcement of the explosion of the gun in the turret of Her Majesty's steamer Thunderer: The committee are agreed as to the cause, and report the gun as having missed fire when loaded with the battering charge. It was again loaded with a full charge and fired with both charges and the projectiles in the gun at the same time.

The Australian Exhibition.

MELBOURNE, Feb. 10.—The International Exhibition in this city will be opened October, 1880, and close March, 1881.

BEECHER'S VIEWS.

He Discourses on Returning Boards, Political Frauds and the Anti-Chinese Bill.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Feb. 10.—Beecher says that if Louisiana, South Carolina and Florida had been let alone their people would have voted so that the returning boards there that would have doubted the result would have been swept into the sea. He did not say which side committed the majority of frauds. The State was smoking like Sodom and Gomorrah. Christianity should pervade the legislative halls and the halls of justice. The Catholic Church had a stronger hold than the Protestant Church upon members, because she made her morality co-operative morality; in other words, she made herself responsible for the faith and practice of her members. She had discipline, and she formed a commonwealth of spirituality of which every member was a part. Protestantism, on the other hand, while having more freedom of thought and action, allowed her members to set up individual systems of morality, in which there was not sufficient unity of action.

Our government professes that it is founded upon the principle that all men were created equal, and yet we have had our attention attracted to the bill excluding Chinamen from this land. The hand of the executive officer who would offer to sign such an outrageous bill should be struck with paralysis, so that the pen would fall from his nerveless grasp. [Applause.] The government ought to have firmness enough to stamp out the curse of polygamy forever from the land.

"HUMANITARIANISM" AND DOG-FIGHTING.

To the Editor of the Democrat:

Previous to the late war a man named Bergh, of New York city, started the project of a law for prevention of cruelty to "animals." From the day of his first appearance in the capacity of the peculiar friend of "animals," he has been regarded as a fanatic by all sensible people. Still, he has lived in an atmosphere peculiarly favorable to the growth of "isms," and he has not failed to draw around him a "sympathizing circle of friends," and their united efforts have even influenced Legislatures to go beyond all legitimate bounds in the way of interference with the rights of individual members of society in their management and use of the domestic animals around them.

Years before Bergh effulged before the gaze of man another organization existed, the object and aim of which seemed to be even higher than that of the prevention of cruelty"—man. This was what had made itself more than familiarly known as the "Peace Congress," and its object was, not to keep dogs, but men, from fighting. This "Peace Congress" was, as we have always been informed, largely composed of that non-combatant class of society known as Quakers.

Now, I believe I am about as charitable as the average man, and I certainly am not as fond of fighting as are a good many men; indeed, I would rather at any time eat a good dinner than fight. But I always had my suspicion of the sincerity of Bergh and the Quakers.

Well, let us see. In the spring of 1861 a great war broke out in this country, and it raged for four long years—aye, it raged to the utter physical exhaustion of one of the parties to the contest. No dog or cock fight ever was known to last as long or to inflict as great physical injury (on man and "animals") as did that war. The unnecessary cruelties practiced in the military prisons, and the wanton destruction of the homes of old men, women and children have probably never been surpassed in history. Cruelty went so far as even to make medicines and surgical appliances contraband of war—thus visiting death even unto the cradle. Human ingenuity exhausted itself in efforts to torture poor humanity, and in the contest "animals" suffered terribly.

Where were Bergh and the "Peace Congress" during all this saturnalia? *Dumb, dumb, dumb!* Not a word from either for staying the arm of strife; not a word for the decrepid old man, for the non-combatant woman, nor the innocent child; not a word for horse, mule, ox, dog or cat! In the supreme moment for the brilliant exhibition of even martyrdom in the cause they had respectively espoused, they were, to all intents and purposes, buried from the sight of men.

But one day the carnage stopped, the last gun was fired, and the smoke had hardly lost itself in the surrounding air, when the sleeping Bergh awoke from his innocent dreams and addressed a public letter to Prof. Agassiz, the great naturalist, to know *whether turtles did not suffer pending transportation, in consequence of being placed on their backs!* Ye gods! Not a word in four long, weary years for prisoner, combatant, old men, women and children; not a word for horse or mule, or cow, or dog, or cat—for all suffered through the brutality of man—*but tears for turtles, that they should be made to lie on their backs!*

And the "Peace Congress!" Blatantly humanitarian when there was no war; as blatant since the war, but silent as the tomb when war with all its horrors appealed to them to speak and act. All over-flowing with tears for peace when there was peace; dry as Sahara, dumb as Bergh, when all was war!

And now, what? Why Jennings is in the city with twenty fighting dogs; he is spoiling for a dog-fight, and Bergh, Bernau, the Mayor, Council, Governor, Chief of Police, the *Picayune* and the *Times*, aye, all the virtues, all the "humanitarianism" of New Orleans wells forth to the dogs, and it really looks as if Jennings was doomed to disappointment and pecuniary loss. At the same time Bergh has honored our authorities and Mr. Bernau with letters of warning against and denunciation of Jennings. Indeed, the "humanitarianism" of society is stirred to its profoundest depths, and my dog and your dog and everbody's dog is almost too happy to eat.

Is all this real, or is it only the froth and fumes of Berghism and the Peace Congress? Let us see.

Is man an "animal?" Yes, he is unmistakably an "animal," and he calls himself the "highest order;" all others he speaks of as "the lower orders"—dogs and cocks included. And yet what?

Go to one corner of Canal street and see men shooting pistols at each other in anger and wounding innocent other men. Go to another corner and see men pelting their fellows with rotten eggs because of the public expression of political opinion. Go to the prisons, North, South, East and West, and see the brutal treatment of criminals.

Go to the insane asylums and see the inhuman treatment of God's most unfortunate.

Go to your courts and see industrious, hard-working, patriotic men arraigned by grand juries for the penitentiary because of honest strife against the worst of society to restore and maintain the political and material welfare of the State.

See the negro policeman beating with his club the fallen woman or the drunken man; aye, see him lock up in the dank cell of the station an unfortunate gentleman who falls senseless by the wayside from disease, and when he is found dead in the morning bear his charge of drunkenness!

Go to the cheerless home of the unpaid public teacher or policeman and see even the sternest necessities of life curtailed to the last degree, while the bondholder draws his interest or his prize from the common treasury with the regularity of a clock.

Go to the home of the widow and the orphan, and see education curtailed, and bread and meat made scarce by the exactions of the tax gatherer—all where the dying husband and father had his dying moments soothed by the reflection, that he was leaving his loved ones secure in even more than the comforts of life.

Look everywhere at the frightful results of bad government and the worse than negligence of public officials in visiting the cruelest sufferings, physical and moral, on men, women and children, and then let us ask ourselves which field is the proper one for the fullest exhibition of our energy, and our "humanitarism"—whether in enumerating the sufferings of man; whether in checking "man's inhumanity to man," which makes countless thousands mourn, or *in stopping a dog fight!*

Oh! out upon, spit upon Berghism and Peace Congresses. Do not let us be guilty of the blatant hypocrisy of teaching our sons to shun a dog fight, and yet to look on all that disfigures society in the shape of "man's inhumanity to man" with the complacency that is miscalled philosophy. Dog fighting is a low business; or, if you will, a low pleasure. But look! Which are most to be admired—the humble ringmasters who pit the dogs against each other, or the kings, princes or presidents who pit armies of men? When men die on the battlefield there are suffering widows and orphans and desolated hearthstones; when a dog dies in the ring—well, all that can be said is, that a dog is dead. And yet the "humanitarianism" of Berghism flows out only to the dog!

Yes, Jennings has come with his fighting dogs, but let us be calm. Let the police tell him to go away with his dogs, not because it is cruel to fight dogs—that's hypocrisy—but because dog fighting is low, and is calculated to injure man more than it injures dogs. Then, let us turn our hearts and minds in on ourselves and expend what energy and "humanitarianism" are in us in efforts to check "man's inhumanity to man." It is not "cruel" to fight dogs, for Watts, the eminent divine, hath said:

"Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
For God hath made them so;
Let bears and lions growl and fight,
For 'tis their nature to.

"But, children, you should never let
Your angry passions rise;
Your little hands were never made
To tear each other's eyes."

ANTI-BERGH.

TAXPAYERS' UNION.

The Real Estate and Taxpayers' Union met yesterday at the hall No. 110 Carondelet street. Dr. Tebault being absent, Mr. P. P. Carroll was nominated president pro tem.

Mr. Carroll addressed a few remarks to the meeting, and when he concluded the meeting adjourned.

The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

By John Fredericks:

Resolved, That delegates to the constitutional convention should be pledged to the following reforms:

1. Abolishment of all monopoly rights, so-called, and the placing of every interest and of every business upon the same common basis, open for all and privileged for none, on the principle that competition is liberty and life, monopoly oppression and death.

2. Abolishment of the offensive and shameful license system, which is a disgrace to the nineteenth century in which we live.

3. Refusal to pay tainted or illegal claims, no matter whether held by devils or by saints, and to reduce the interest on all valid and legal obligations within the borders of this State to not more than 4 per cent per annum.

4. Prohibition of high schools and the public expense; limit instruction to reading, writing, grammar and arithmetic, and to provide a poll-tax sufficient to defray the expenses of same.

5. Reduction of all officials to the fewest number consistent with the proper conduct of the government; to pay these a reasonable cash compensation for services thus rendered and to abolish all perquisites in office without an exception.

6. To make petty larceny a cause for disfranchisement, that the industrious may reap what they sow.

7. To give the executive the fewest possible appointments.

8. To make lobbying a penitentiary offense.

9. To suspend the whole interest on State, city and parish obligations throughout the State for five years, in order to afford the people an opportunity for recuperating from the combined effects of the war and the long course of oppression from which they have just emerged in a condition of exhaustion, and to constitutionally reduce taxation to the lowest limit possible.

By Thos. Egan:

Resolved, That the charge to the grand jury on the part of Judge Billings, on an occasion somewhat similar to the trials now being conducted before Judge Woods, concluded in the words following:

"In conclusion, I have but one further instruction to give you. In the selection of you, gentlemen, composing this grand jury, I have endeavored to arrive at this result, that you would be constituted of one-half from each political party; but the Federal statutes, as re-enacted when revised and compiled, have revived the disqualification which is contained in what is known as the test oath provision. A very high authority, in a decision invoked by accused persons, has held that the impaneling of grand jurors thus disqualified, vitiates indictments found by them. So that it has been my duty to propound the question to each of you, whether you were included in that disqualification, and it has come about that you are, to a very large extent, composed of the members of one of the political parties which divide this State."

Resolved, That we thank Judge Billings in the name of those of our fellow citizens now undergoing trial before Judge Woods, for this frank and manly utterance of his, and which can be construed in no way except as a condemnation of such an unrepublican and one-sided political jury, charged with passing about grave matters in connection with political opponents.

Resolved, That we ask all the newspapers of our city, in the interest of common justice, that this charge of Judge Billings be reproduced in their several issues—the same having been published in the *Picayune* of December (Sunday), 17, 1876, and was on the following day forwarded by us to Speaker Randall, of the National House of Representatives.

Resolved, That our fellow-citizens from the country parishes now undergoing trial under such a jury system have our deepest sympathy, and that we call upon our fellow-citizens to assemble quietly in mass meeting, and to protest against this outrage and political persecution, so that the whole country may hear their protest against this infringement of personal liberty.

By John Mahoney:

Resolved, That Edmund Burke's maxim is the correct theory for governments to follow, namely: "It is to the property of the citizen and not to the demands of the creditor of the State that the first and original faith of civil society is pledged; the claim of the citizen is prior in time, paramount in title and superior in equity."

Resolved, That we recognize the fact that it has now become necessary for our judges and other officers and employees generally to institute suits in their own interests if they expect to be paid, as they have a right to be paid, for honest services faithfully rendered.

Resolved, That we believe that the officers and employees, State and city, are entitled to be paid, as promised, for services exacted, and that they should, one and all, be entitled to precedence over all other claims against the public exchequer, because they are themselves indispensable to the existence of government itself, and because, without such services, the governmental functions would be necessarily suspended.

By Mr. Carroll:

Whereas, the election for members to the constitutional convention will be held on the eighteenth day of March next; and

Whereas, organizations are forming in the ranks of the office-holders or tax-eaters, in the interest of the bondholders or tax-devourers, in the interest of the monopolists or general plunderers. And whereas, this is the only association organized in the interest and for the protection of the honest but plundered taxpayer; therefore be it

Resolved by the Union, That we are in favor of the new constitution prohibiting the State, city or parish authorities from contracting any debt not strictly founded on the public utility. We are in favor of repealing all monopolies and of prohibiting the creation of any monopoly in future. We are in favor of prohibiting the imposition of any tax except for the economical administration of State, city and parish governments, which for the city of New Orleans need not be over 1 per cent and for the State one-half of 1 per cent. That we are in favor of prohibiting the imposition in New Orleans of all license tax. We are in favor of passing such an act as was proposed by Mayor Leeds and Administrators Pilsbury and Brown in 1875, the second section of which says that no tax on real estate and capital for paying said bonded debt shall be imposed or levied from and after the first day of January, 1876.

If this was deemed right, proper and just in 1875, it is still more so to-day. And we believe with Edmund Burke "that it is to the property of the citizen, and not to the demands of the creditors of the State, that the first and original faith of civil society is pledged," and we maintain also with a great American jurist "that public credit is a public curse;" therefore be it further

Resolved, That five members of this association be appointed to draw up interrogatories predicated on these resolutions, to be presented to every candidate for the constitutional convention from the parish of Orleans.

By F. Remy:

Resolved, That we state to the taxpayers that we have again stopped the issue of bonds against them on behalf of the Pacific Railroad Company, and that this road had better never be built if its construction must attack the right of ownership in property.

Resolved, That we hope this road will now look to proper and legitimate means for its construction, and if it do so, we shall wish it God-speed and abundant prosperity.

Resolved, That we hope the rumor that the Governor will not sign the Lottery bill is not true, and that we believe that his refusal to sign the bill repealing the Lottery act, at this time, would be a public calamity.

Resolved, That we depend upon the people of the country for salvation in the coming convention, and hope that they will be as true to liberty and the rights of the people of Louisiana in the future as they have in the past.

Resolved, That we call upon the voters of this city to send as few lawyers to the constitutional convention as possible, for this profession has exclusively to itself the interpretation and the application of the laws and constitution, and the people themselves ought to frame the organic law—the constitution—under which they must live, and whose articles must beneficially or injuriously affect their common interests; it must mean oppression or liberty.

The meeting adjourned after passing a resolution to meet again on Monday next for the adoption of a new constitution and by-laws for the Union, which will hereafter adopt another name more suited to its objects and platform.

Christiancy's Unselfishness.

[Washington Post.]

Christiancy goes to Peru for the benefit of Old Zach's health.

The Emperor of Germany is now wonderfully well and vigorous, though still carrying his arm in a sling. He gives audiences and rides out daily. He has held a commission in the Prussian army seventy-two years.

LOUISIANA MATTERS.

VIEWS OF THE COUNTRY PRESS UPON SUBJECTS OF PRESENT INTEREST.

The Coming Constitutional Convention.

[Sugar Planter.]

Now that the constitutional convention is a settled fact, it becomes the duty of the people to look about for suitable delegates to represent them in that body. As we view the principle in this matter, political considerations should not be the guiding star in the selection of representatives. In our humble opinion the best men should be chosen in every parish of the State, who are competent, who are faithful and who thoroughly understand the onerous duties that will devolve upon them. Our good citizens are wanting neither in capacity nor intelligence as a rule, and the difficulty will be to suppress the hordes who will thrust themselves forward for that position, actuated or prompted by the share in the honor and per diem rather than merit as a proper qualification. This must be expected in all cases where a few dollars continue to be the chief attraction for doubtful services. Against this the people should rigidly guard, as upon the value of the new constitution will the suffragan act either upon its adoption or rejection. A new book of the law should be so complete in all its parts, that neither of them ought to be modified or entirely changed for years to come—adopted as a whole it ought to remain intact until time's natural changes should so require. At the present crisis in public affairs, time spent in adopting a code of laws is of far more advantage to public interests, than haste in compilation. Sixty days is the period assigned for the duration of the convention. It is worse than folly to limit the labors of any such body. Being its own master, the convention, however, can extend the time to any number of days its own wisdom and the people's interest requires. Let them take six months, if in their opinion the public welfare demands it, or the old adage may become vetrified, "the greater haste, the less speed." But there is one result the people imperatively demand, and that is, when the convention shall have completed its labors, that they will have left nothing undone to give the people a constitution that will stand the test of the most rigid investigation. With the material at hand to select from we see no reason why the people should be disappointed in their expectations, unless men of inferior capacity or political bigotry should be chosen to this body instead of men renowned for their capacity, intellect and other necessary qualifications. See to it, then, that in every parish that none but the most competent are only chosen, for upon their labors the weal or woe of Louisiana depends for many years to come.

[Washington News.]

There is every indication in this parish that the Republicans have already commenced political agitation, and have their agents prowling about through the country, busily engaged in arousing the colored voters in order that they may be organized and on hand at the election of delegates to the constitutional convention.

The colossal Canadian, Louis Desmarais, henchman of the Republican party, is in our parish, we are told, and has fifty days' leave of absence from the Custom-house at New Orleans, where he holds the very important position of first clerk. He is now in Opelousas, marshaling his forces and preparing for the coming contest.

[Thibodaux Sentinel.]

In a few weeks the people of this senatorial district will be called upon to elect two senatorial and six parochial delegates to represent them and their interests in the convention to frame a new constitution for this State.

It is very important that a good and able delegation be selected for that purpose. They will have work to perform the beneficial or injurious results of which will be felt for many years to come.

In making selections for representatives neither local prejudices nor personal considerations should be suffered to exert any influence, but only the desire to secure the services of competent, practical men who are known to be conservative in their views, and whose regards for the promotion of the public welfare and the enhancement of the vital principles that underlie honest, faithful and just government overrule all personal considerations.

None but men of enlarged views and progressive ideas should be chosen for the important work to be accomplished.

[Franklin Sun.]

The constitution should be the production of the most profound thought, sagacity and wisdom; and, therefore, should be devised by the combined wisdom of the State—the clearest, coolest-headed and most intelligent men of the State should be selected to perform this all important work; and none who are thus selected should decline to serve the people, although it will be a hard duty to perform; for, indeed, this is truly an office that should not be sought by the man, but it should seek the man.

This is a work, too, in which those who are to engage in it should lay aside all party spirit; for it cannot be a party measure in any sense of the word; it is the foundation or cornerstone upon which the whole edifice of our State government is to rest, and should stand a monument of wisdom and justice after the present parties and party differences have been forgotten. Our objection to the present constitution is that it is a partisan instrument, devised by politicians of a certain school, for the benefit of themselves. Let us not fall into the same error in adopting a new one, lest it be a monument of folly instead of wisdom. Those who dig pits for others often fall into them themselves. The foolish are caught in the snares they set for others, and bring upon themselves the evils they intend for their adversaries.

[East Feliciana Democrat.]

The Cincinnati *Star* very truthfully remarks: Louisiana has the supreme satisfaction of feeling that no set of men can be gathered together capable of devising a worse constitution than that under which the people of that State labor. On the eve of the constitutional convention this fact should afford great consolation.

[Vienna Sentinel.]

Jas. A. Dorman is a candidate for the convention from Bienville parish.

Judge W. A. Darby and J. M. Underwood are spoken of as prominent candidates for the convention in Union parish.

A correspondent of the Claiborne *Guardian* nominates Gen. John Young and Hon. W. F. Moreland for the convention.

We learn that Capt. E. E. Kidd will be a candidate