

DAILY DEMOCRAT.

Official Journal of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Louisiana.

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NEW ORLEANS, MAY 30, 1879.

The Constitutional Convention was engaged yesterday in the further consideration of the report of the Committee on the Executive Department. Three additional articles were adopted. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the office of Superintendent of Public Education was abolished was pending when the Convention adjourned as a mark of respect for Federal memorial day.

Massachusetts is just now bearing off the palm in the matter of divorces. Scores and hundreds of suits are filling the dockets of the courts, and the lawyers are reaping a harvest. No explanation is offered for the sudden and vast increase of these cases, and the press, clergy and general public are beginning to inquire into the cause.

The startling announcement is made that Secretary Everts is only waiting for the Sherman movement to subside when he will announce himself a candidate for the Presidency. One letter from Everts throws a chill over the whole country. If he enters the presidential race a series may be expected. From this affliction there seems to be no escape.

The acquittal of Hon. Noble A. Hull, indicted for fraud in the November election in Florida, is a severe setback to the administration. It was confidently expected that he would be convicted, and thus not only would a Democratic seat in Congress be vacated, but some pretext would be afforded for further prosecutions. It may be expected that the outrage will in Florida will now be closed for the season.

Austria did not occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina without some sacrifice of men and money. The people looked for some recompense for this expenditure, and thought they found it in the annexation of two fine provinces. This, however, is not the case. The treaty under which the provinces were occupied has recently been published, and it is found that the Sultan's sovereignty over both is fully guaranteed. Now the Austrians are grumbling, naturally enough, at the loss of their blood and money for the maintenance of peace and order in the Grand Turk's dominions.

According to expectation Lordillard's Parole won the gold cup at Epsom yesterday. So great is the fame achieved by the American horse since he has been in England and so extraordinary has been his success on the track against him. These were beaten easily—so easily that there was little interest in the event. This makes the sixth race Parole has run since he crossed the Atlantic, and he has won five of them. It may be said that he has made what betting men call a clean score, inasmuch as he was heavily handicapped in the race that he lost, and subsequently beat the winning horse when weights were more nearly equalized. His career in England constitutes in itself a remarkable record.

The Darien Inter-Oceanic Canal Convention at Paris had no less than six different routes across the isthmus submitted to it: Tehantepec route, 149 miles long, with 120 locks; Moscos's Nicaragua route, 181 miles long, with 17 locks, to cost \$168,400,000; Blanchet's Nicaragua route, to cost \$83,200,000; Wyse's Panama route, 45 miles long, 12 locks, to cost \$23,600,000; Kelly's San Blas route, 34 miles, no locks, to cost \$268,000,000; the Darien route, 180 miles, 2 locks, to cost \$300,000,000. After a long discussion the convention seems to have fixed on Wyse's route. It has many serious defects, notably the number of its locks and the heavy cost. In endorsing it, it is greatly to be feared that the Paris Congress has put a "quietus" on the entire canal scheme. Capital is not so plentiful now-a-days that people are willing to invest a quarter of a billion to dig a ditch over the Andes.

Europe seems to be enjoying a multiplicity of vexatious questions just at present. There is the Bianqui question and the control of the school question to worry France; the strikes in England; the general bankruptcy in Germany; the Socialists, Nihilists, typhus fever and martial law in Russia; besides the Greek frontier question; the disputes between the Bulgarian boundary commission and the Servo-Bulgarian commission as to where Siberia ends and Bulgaria begins; the revival of the Albanian League agitation; the Italian irredentia aspirations; another Cretan insurrection; a civil war in Syria between the Druses, Maronites, Turks, Arabs, and Egyptians; besides Barmah, Afghanistan, Zululand and the Khedive's warlike preparations to resist any Turkish, English or French interference with his home rule. Such are a few of the problems agitating Europe. This country is lucky in having few troubles to distress it—only a silver bill and the use of troops at the polls.

And now the Michigan Legislature has passed a tramp law. Evidently the impetuous pedestrian is regarded in that State as a nuisance of the most flagrant character, and he is to be kept out of it if a legislative enactment can accomplish that result. The law provides that if a tramp shall refuse to work in return for food, clothing or lodging supplied, he can be fined \$10 or imprisoned not more than thirty days; and hard labor for from one to five years is the penalty for procuring food by threats or maliciously injuring any person or property. If five tramps gather together to encourage vagabondage, or for any other unlawful purpose, they may endure two years at hard labor, and any town or village can hire their labor on the highways or other public improvements. The law exempts those physically unable to work and females under eighteen years of age. It

is safe to say that if this law is executed, the State of Michigan will not be a favorite summer resort for the gentry who "carry the banner."

WHAT IS IT?

The proposition announced by Mr. Forman, as chairman of the sub-committee on State Debt, that the acts of the Legislature of 1874 are not binding on the people of this State as laws, is, to say the least, startling. If not, indeed, as Mr. Caffrey, in his able dissent, calls it, revolutionary. If the funding act and the constitutional amendments proposed by that body are to be treated as void, for want of authority, the same is true of all the legislation enacted by that and subsequent Legislatures up to January, 1877. The Legislature of 1875 and 1876 was in part Democratic, and during its existence some important legislation was adopted, including the supplemental funding act, which subjected to judicial scrutiny millions of the outstanding State bonds. The legislation which enacted the funding bill and proposed the amendments was inaugurated under the election of 1872. Hence, if Mr. Forman's conclusions are to be accepted, all the legislation of this State from 1872 to 1877—all the official acts done under and by virtue of that legislation—are absolute nullities as emanating from an unauthorized body. The far-reaching consequences of such a doctrine are appalling. No doubt that millions in value of property rests upon this legislation as the foundation of its title. Transactions beyond computation in number and in amount have been had under this legislation. Mr. Forman's theory strikes them all with a radical nullity, and virtually expunges from our judicial, executive and legislative annals the transactions of four years. Who can measure the extent of the calamity which such a proposition involves? It is second only to the project of the Commune in its far-reaching destruction. There is no avoiding the conclusion that if that Legislature was incompetent for one act of legislation it was incompetent for all. You at once strike down all accepted theories as to *de facto* government, and at one fell blow destroy all succession in government, leaving each succeeding administration free to disavow and nullify the acts of its predecessor, upon any partisan pretext whatsoever. We cannot believe that any considerable number of members of the Convention are prepared to give their adhesion to so communistic a theory. We say communistic as meaning the destruction of all stability in government and as regarding the State and the rights of its people to the tender mercies of the party that chances to reign.

What becomes of constitutions and laws under such a doctrine? The very instrument which the Convention is now framing with so much care and labor will be but a rope of sand in the hands of future parties of Mr. Forman's school. In its turn it may be denounced as the fruit of violence and fraud, and this may be made the pretext for disregarding it. In the name of common sense, let us find some other theory upon which to base reputation, if we must have it. Let us not add anarchy to our other woes, and open the floodgates to eternal and perpetual strife and uncertainty.

What faith, what confidence can or will the world repose in us, if we thus set at naught the very foundation principle of stable government?

What man seeking a home, or capitalist an investment, will ever turn his eyes toward a State thus Mexicanized? Capital and population would not only avoid us, but what we have of them would rapidly flee from us. No man of prudence could invest a dollar on the faith of our laws, lest the next turn of fortune's wheel should bring to the surface men of Mr. Forman's views; men who can destroy the oldest and most consecrated ideas of government and law by a stroke of the pen. No publicist, no statesman or judge, has ever dared to maintain such a doctrine—for under it there can be nothing but anarchy. Its acceptance will in one year cost Louisiana three times the amount of the debt it is devised to avoid, by prostrating the credit of her banks and merchants, by discouraging immigration, by driving away capital.

But there is yet another view of this matter, which ought to command our attention, to wit: its effects upon national politics. The same argument by which Mr. Forman maintained his proposition will invalidate all the acts done by this State under the reconstruction acts of Congress. It will expunge the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments from the constitution of the United States. On the eve of a presidential election, which is pregnant with weal or woe for Louisiana, can we afford to strengthen our adversaries by such a course? Can we afford to invite those who may, under a third term of Grant, be in power, to apply Mr. Forman's theories to our own government of the State? Can we afford to handicap the national Democracy with such a load? We think not. On the contrary, we should discard all subtleties and legal quibbles, and treat the subject of the State debt as a political question, and seek to reconcile our obligations to public faith with the necessities of our people.

A REMINISCENCE OF CARPET-BAGGERY.

The indictment of Milton S. Littlefield and George W. Sampson by the grand jury of Wake county, N. C., ten years after the crime for which they were indicted was committed, recalls one of the most notable events of the profligate and criminal era of carpet-bagging. For the brief time in which it revealed in North Carolina, carpet-bag rule was more oppressive, riotous and prodigal in criminal expenditure than in any other State of the South, Louisiana and South Carolina not excepted. In the brief space of two years the State debt was increased from \$14,000,000 to \$36,000,000, and when the next election came around in 1870 two counties of the State were under martial law, the writ of *habeas corpus* was suspended, and the people were held in terror by the Holden-Kirk militia, a force formed of the worst elements of society gathered from East Tennessee and native negroes, numbering nearly 2000 men—all this under laws passed by the reconstruction or bayonet Legislature.

It was during this period that Gen. Milton S. Littlefield, then late of New York, came into public notice. At first he appeared as proprietor of the Raleigh Standard, which became the official organ. Afterwards he was appointed president of the Western North Carolina Railroad. This was a State work designed to penetrate the Blue Ridge to Asheville, and from thence to continue on to Tennessee. Apparently to consummate this purpose, Littlefield easily secured the grant by a rival Legislature of nearly

\$7,000,000 of State bonds. They were placed in his hands by Gov. Holden—afterwards impeached and turned out of office for suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*—and with them in his pocket Littlefield proceeded to New York. Notwithstanding the protests of the entire press of the State, he succeeded in hypothecating them on Wall street at about fifty cents on the dollar. This accomplished, the good people of North Carolina were troubled with him no more; the railroad of which he was president languished for want of his fostering care and remained unbuild because of a diversion of its funds.

When Littlefield was next heard from he was in Florida, where he had purchased a railroad on his own account with the money derived from the sale of the North Carolina bonds, and was enjoying the friendship and intimacy of its Governor, Harrison Reed. As long as Radical rule continued in North Carolina he remained there in security and undisturbed. As soon, however, as the Democrats came in power in 1870 efforts were made to bring him to account for his bold financiering. Acting under the directions of the Legislature Gov. Caldwell, of North Carolina, issued a requisition upon Gov. Reed for the extradition of Littlefield, then living in lordly style at Tallahassee. The requisition was dishonored, Reed refusing to surrender his friend and associate to the North Carolina authorities. When this became known the Legislature of that State, after denouncing the conduct of Gov. Reed in befitting terms, offered a reward of \$10,000 to any man or number of men who would deliver Littlefield into the hands of the North Carolina law officers. Spurred on by the hope of reward detectives made several attempts to kidnap him. Feeling no longer safe in Florida Littlefield left that State and established himself in Paris. Here he lived for several years.

Upon Littlefield's return to the United States several attempts were made to secure his presence in North Carolina, but he evaded arrest elsewhere and refused to set foot in that State. How he was at last secured is not known to us. That his indictment has excited great interest may be readily believed, and his trial, which it is announced, is to be vigorously pressed, will create a sensation that will be felt far beyond the borders of North Carolina. No more splendid rogue was the joint graduate of reconstruction and Radicalism.

THE DEMOCRAT AND THE EXODUS.

From the reports recently received, it would appear that the emigration of the colored people to Kansas from this State had almost ceased.

Without becoming amenable to the charge of self-laudation, the DEMOCRAT may lay claim to having contributed materially to lessening the effects of this emigration, thereby benefiting the poor and ignorant persons who were being misled, as well as the planting interests that were affected by it.

As soon as the movement assumed proportions to justify it the DEMOCRAT dispatched a reliable correspondent to Kansas, who has industriously labored to ascertain the origin of the movement, and has taken practical steps to check it by exposing the deception practiced by the local managers in Kansas, and by visiting in person the negroes who had been deceived and duped by their false friends.

The result has been a stoppage of the contributions flowing from the East as soon as the mercenary character of the local managers was exposed, and the return to their old homes of a large number of families who were only too glad to avail themselves of the aid extended by our correspondent.

This enterprise, inaugurated and carried out at our own expense, and having borne such good fruits, may suggest to our public-spirited citizens a practical method of dealing with the question if the movement should be resumed.

Mount Atna is now in eruption for the seventy-ninth time in history. Atna has been one of the most regular of volcanoes in its eruptions, having never been silent for any long period of time like its neighbor, Vesuvius. The latter has been known to remain quiescent for over a century and then burst forth in one of its wildest eruptions. Atna, on the other hand, has never remained silent over fifty years. As a consequence people living in its neighborhood are always prepared for an eruption, and therefore such catastrophes as befell Pompeii and Herculaneum are rarer here than in Italy. There have been periods, however, when Atna has proved itself more than dangerous. In 1169 Catania was destroyed and 15,000 of its inhabitants perished; in 1527 two villages near the mountain with many inhabitants were destroyed; in 1664 and 1673, also, neighboring villages were destroyed and lives lost. Since 1673, however, although the volcano has more than once broken out, no persons have lost their lives thereby. The last great eruption of Atna took place in 1852. Since that time the volcano has been quiet, save occasional outbursts of smoke.

The present eruption is declared to be more threatening than any previous one. Although it is but a short time since the first intimations of an eruption were given, the lava is already pouring down the mountain side in rivers, and the ashes from the crater are falling far across the Straits of Messina, in Italy. The situation at Messina and neighboring cities is said to be decidedly panicky. The heavens are obscured with smoke, the streets covered with ashes, and the inhabitants are so alarmed at the prospect that business is seriously interfered with.

Bismarck has lately set himself up as a great financier and political economist, and gone to work to cure the many business and financial troubles under which Germany is languishing. Among his plans for restoring prosperity to the Empire is the restoration of a double standard, the adoption of the bi-metallic system which prevails in this country; in other words, the remonetization of silver. It was only a few years ago that Germany demonetized silver. Its experience in this matter is overwhelmingly against the use of gold alone as coin. The prosperity of Germany has been constantly diminishing until it is now on the eve of general bankruptcy. To prevent this Bismarck has determined to remonetize silver and place in circulation the hoard of this metal which the German treasury accumulated when it took up all the silver in the Empire. Bismarck will undoubtedly be able to carry his scheme through. He is now all-powerful with the Reichstag, and can get any measure passed he wishes to.

Silver is undoubtedly looking up in the world just now. Its price has advanced considerably within the past few months. If Bismarck's remonetization plan is adopted, the silver dollar will soon equal in value the gold dollar, as the silver men pre-

dicted a few short years ago. Another fact likely to increase the value of silver in relation to gold, is the great decrease in the amount of silver produced in this country, last year, as compared with previous years. It was predicted by the monometallists that the supply of silver from the Nevada mines would soon be as great as to soon flood the country with their metal. Instead of this being so, the silver production of 1879 falls \$15,000,000 behind that of 1878.

Talmage's farewell to his congregation was just what was to be expected of him. "I am going to leave you next Wednesday on the steamer Gallia," he said, when he had gotten through his sermon, "for a little vacation on the Continent. I might here mention that a luxurious steamer, finely fitted up, with accommodations for the ladies, and on which a splendid lunch will be served will accompany the Gallia down the bay, so that all who wish to see me off can do so. Tickets 50 cents; children half price. The choir will now—"

Evidently there is method in Talmage's religion. In the meantime the country will feel greatly relieved at learning that the reverend gentleman is now far from our shores. A long farewell to him.

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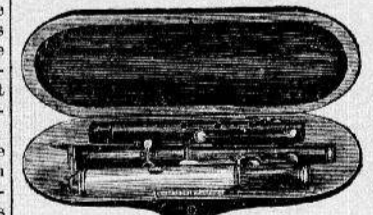
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NOTICE TO STATE CREDITORS.

ROOMS COMMITTEE ON THE DEBT OF THE STATE, New Orleans, April 26, 1879.

The Committee on the Debt of the State, in accordance with a resolution of the Constitutional Convention, hereby give notice to the creditors of the State that the committee is prepared to receive propositions relative to the adjustment of the bonded and floating debt of the State.

Propositions should be submitted in writing to the chairman of the committee by a syndicate or agency, representing each particular class of indebtedness.

E. E. KIDD,
Chairman of Committee.
Address, New Orleans, La., State House, my1 17

LAST CHANCE,
CITY TAXES OF 1879.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, CITY HALL, New Orleans, May 26, 1879.

We are placing TAX BILLS of 1879 in court, and all who pay to this Department, say until the thirty-first instant, inclusive, can pay the face of the bill.

On the second of June we will exact interest from the first of April, besides any costs incurred.

ALF. H. ISAACSON,
my26 6t Administrator.

NOTICE TO STATE TAX AND LICENSE PAYERS.

All capital tax and license payers in the parish of Orleans, delinquents for 1879, are hereby notified that suit will be entered against them on or before June 15, in compliance with law, and are urged to settle at once and avoid costs, etc. See section 4, act 27, approved February 1879, and also the following resolution, passed May 12, by the Convention now in session:

Resolved, That it is not the intention of this Convention to take any action calculated to change the collection of taxes or licenses payable for the current year.

R. C. BOND,
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