

DAILY DEMOCRAT.

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

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NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 27, 1879. E. A. BURKE, Managing Editor.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM OF 1876 AND 1878.

That the Democratic-Conservative party of the State of Louisiana in Convention assembled, do hereby reiterate all the pledges contained in the party platform adopted in July, 1876, and particularly the following, to wit:

We hereby pledge our party to the satisfaction of all the legal obligations issued by the State of Louisiana; to the most strenuous efforts in the direction of reform and an economical administration of the government, especially to the abolition of all unnecessary public offices; to the reduction of the fees and salaries of office to the standard of a fair remuneration; to the consequent reduction of taxation to the lowest possible limit commensurate with the necessary expenses of the government and the preservation of the public faith, and the curtailment of the dangerously large patronage of the Chief Executive of the State.

The Congressional Record is as bright and newsy as ever.

It is said that the Duke of Argyll stopped at a hotel in Niagara and spent the night in ethnological researches.

A New York widow dropped a wallet containing \$15,000 recently, and a huckman found and restored it to her. The miracle is authenticated.

Two excursion boats, the Plymouth and Columbia, had an impromptu race on Sunday in New York, and collided, fortunately doing no damage, but the New York press is still denouncing them. Rightly too, for there was no occasion for risking life in that way.

The following army officers are to be retired, having reached the age of sixty-two years: Gen. E. D. Townsend, Adjutant General; Inspector General R. B. Marcy, Judge Advocate General W. M. Dunn, Quartermaster General M. C. Meigs and Gen. A. A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers. Thus nearly the whole general staff of the army will be vacant. The competition for those places will undoubtedly be active.

Bergh is a very aggravating fellow sometimes. Here is hydrophobia epidemic throughout the country, and promising to grow worse; still hotter weather ahead; and now, when New York finds the only solution to the difficulty to be getting rid of its superfluous dogs by drowning, Bergh steps in with a veto. They may kill the dogs, he says, but they must do so without hurting them. This last conundrum is yet unsolved. The only possible solution would seem to be chloroform, and that is too expensive.

The election in California in September will be a four-sided affair, there being, beside the two old parties, the Workingmen's and New Constitution parties in the field. It is not likely that the Workingmen will make much of a fight over the congressional ticket; indeed, in two of the districts they have no nominees at all. The Republicans saw their opportunity here, and promulgated, in consequence, a platform more communistic than that of the Kearneyites themselves. It contains an anti-Chinese plank, an agrarian plank, soft words with reference to the labor troubles; and, in fine, promises to Kearneyites to carry out their end of programme with reference to California if they would but allow the Republicans to have the congressional delegation.

The Constitutional Convention yesterday had before it the supplemental report of the Committee on State Debt, relative to the outstanding warrants. After some discussion the subject was postponed until this afternoon at 2 o'clock. An ordinance providing for the abolition of the license system after the year 1885 was taken up, amended to take effect after the year 1900, further amended to provide that after it went into effect the tax on real estate should not exceed three mills on the dollar, and then defeated by a large majority. The ordinances reported by the Committees on the Legislative and Executive Departments were finally adopted, with an amendment to the former providing that five years' residence in the State shall be required as a qualification for election to the General Assembly.

At the request of the five great powers of Europe—England, France, Germany, Austria and Italy—the Sultan yesterday formally deposited Ismail Pasha, Khedive of Egypt, who has been on that throne for over twenty years. The chief reason for this removal was the refusal, or rather the inability of the Khedive to pay the interest on the immense debt which he had contracted in Europe. There were many other reasons, however, why he should have been removed. He was a spendthrift, a rascal, who ground taxes from his people by the most cruel methods possible. He was never a popular monarch, and the people of Egypt will undoubtedly rejoice at the good news of his deposition.

The Khedive leaves the throne for the position of millionaire. He is a man of large fortune. His annual allowance, for a number of years past, has been \$500,000. Besides this, he has received immense sums from his private property, and doubtless laid by other large sums from the Egyptian revenues, in view of a probable revolution. The ex-monarch, who is quite a young man and on the shady side of fifty, announces that he will visit Paris and enjoy himself in spending some portion of his ill-acquired gains there. The new Khedive, Mohamed Tewfik, is only twenty-six years old. He was educated in Paris, and is a man of civilized life if not of brilliant talents. The condition of the Khedive, however, is much different from what it was in the early days of Ismail's reign. Then the Khedive was a powerful and independent

sovereign; to-day he holds his office at the will of the European powers.

THE ELECTORAL FRANCHISE.

The majority report of the Committee on the Electoral Franchise recommends several very important amendments of the existing law upon this subject. The first proposition is to require the payment in full of all taxes due and collectible during the year preceding that in which the election is held, and of the poll tax for the current year, as a condition precedent to the exercise of the suffrage.

The next proposition is the establishment of an educational qualification, this to be submitted to the people separately for ratification or rejection. The third proposition is to extend the right of suffrage to all foreigners upon a simple declaration of the intention to become citizens.

There are precedents for all these innovations in the constitutions of other States. For the first and most important of these provisions, that requiring the payment of all taxes overdue as a condition of the right to vote, there is no precedent except in the recently adopted constitution of Georgia, which contains a provision of this nature. The constitutions of Delaware, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island impose property qualifications, while those of the States of New Hampshire, Tennessee, Virginia and others require the payment of a poll tax. In Connecticut and Massachusetts there is an educational qualification, the right to vote being withheld from any person who is not able to read any article of the State constitution.

The provision extending the right of suffrage to foreigners upon a simple declaration of intention to become citizens, without requiring their formal naturalization as citizens of the United States, is contained in the constitutions of not less than thirteen States. Wisconsin was the first State to extend this privilege to foreigners before naturalization, which she did in her constitution of 1848. Indiana followed her example in 1851, Minnesota in 1857, Kansas in 1859, and the same provision has since been incorporated in the constitutions of Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon and Texas. In Vermont and New Hampshire the suffrage is extended to all "male inhabitants" over twenty-one years of age; but whether this is so construed as to include foreigners not naturalized, we cannot say. We have no doubt but that the Northwestern States have induced many valuable immigrants to settle within their limits by extending the right of suffrage to unaturalized persons so soon as they declared their intention to become citizens. There is no State more in need of immigration, or which ought to do more to encourage it, than Louisiana, and for this reason we are disposed to look favorably upon this recommendation of the committee.

Or, with the universal use of modern improved sugar machinery throughout the sugar region, the sugar interest would have increased the value of the products made in a small part of the State about fourteen millions of dollars.

THE REMISSION OF OBLIGATIONS DUE THE STATE.

Article 8 of the report of the Committee on Limitations, which proposes to take away from the General Assembly all power to extinguish or remit obligations due to the State, whether by individuals or corporations, came up on Wednesday, and, after some discussion, further consideration of it was postponed until next Monday. Mr. Forman wanted to except from the provisions of the article "taxes, penalties and costs," and Mr. McConnell offered in connection with it a long proviso, releasing all interest, penalties, costs, etc., which have accrued against delinquents prior to January, 1878, and giving the right to redeem property forfeited, conditioned on the payment of the principal of the tax prior to January, 1881. The proviso also prescribes what warrants and outstanding obligations of the State shall be receivable for the several taxes. Any outstanding warrants at the date of the adoption of the constitution are made receivable for the general fund tax; matured coupons are to be receivable for the interest tax; the levee tax is to be payable in levee company warrants; all of these warrants to be examined and indorsed by the Auditor and Treasurer, Corporation and parish taxes are made payable in their respective warrants and scrip.

While, as a general proposition, we are opposed to the remission of delinquent taxes accrued thereon, and believe that a positive prohibition should be incorporated in the Constitution in order to prevent the revival of this ever-recurring subject in future legislatures, still, if the Convention proposes to adopt the recommendation of the Committee on Elective Franchise, which requires the prepayment of all taxes as a condition of the exercise of the right to vote, it is very necessary that something should be done to preserve the franchise to the large number of delinquents in the State. Otherwise we will start out under the new regime with a very large proportion of our best voting element disfranchised. This would certainly be very unjust as well as extremely disastrous. This is a very delicate question and one which the Convention should handle with great care and only after the maturest consideration.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND QUARANTINE.

After spending a greater part of the session of Wednesday in discussing the ordinance reported by the Committee on Health, Quarantine and Medicine, the Convention finally tabled the whole subject matter, and the prospect now is that the forthcoming constitution will contain nothing whatever upon this subject. The principal objects sought to be attained in the article were: First, to organize a sanitary system throughout the State, to protect the people against quacks and their nostrums, to prevent the sale of faddish drugs and instruments, to assure the maintenance of the University of Louisiana, and for the establishment of an inspection by medical experts of all live-stock slaughtered in and around this city. There was also a proposition to make only graduated physicians eligible to the office of coroner, but this was amended so as to apply only to the parishes of Orleans and Cadeo.

After progressing so far as to comprehend all these and other minor points, and after the passage of a number of amendments and an infinite deal of discussion, the Convention very suddenly came to the conclusion that it was not necessary or desirable to place any injunction upon the Legislature in regard to this matter. There is a disposition toward too much legislation in the Convention, which it would be well to curb. The purposes aimed at in this article are all important and beneficial, yet they are in the main matter which might be safely left to ordinary legislative action for futureance.

The collection of vital statistics, however, is of great importance, and some injunction to the Legislature to provide a means of

accurately collecting them throughout the entire State would be advisable. Since Buckle's admirable application of the law of general average, the value of statistical information, which can be accurately obtained only by governmental agencies, has come to be more highly appreciated, and has been shown to be of so great importance that some provision for collecting statistics might well be enjoined in the fundamental law, at least upon so important a matter as the public health. Certainly no greater service and encouragement could be given to the advancement of medical and sanitary science. We should also like to see the University of the State established on a firm basis as an institution of the State, cannot the Committee on Health, Quarantine and Medicine revive these suggestions in a short article for incorporation in the constitution?

MODERN MACHINERY FOR SUGAR.

Louisiana has more than twenty millions of dollars invested in her sugar machinery. Her planters are investing more every year to keep pace with the modern improvements in this machinery and to place themselves in a position where they can, by producing the highest quality and the greatest quantity of their manufactured products, compete with sugar manufacturers all over the world.

One of the first great requisites to success and profit in manufacturing sugar from cane is to extract therefrom the greatest possible quantity of juice. The use of inferior mills in the State results in a loss of at least thirty per cent of the juice that could be possibly extracted from cane that has borne the heavy cost of cultivation, cutting and hauling. The State produced in 1878 about twenty million dollars' worth of sugar and molasses. Ten millions more were thrown away in bagasse that passed as refuse from imperfect mills.

The next most important step in the manufacturing process is to get the greatest possible quantity of crystallized sugar from the cane juice extracted and to convert this into the highest attainable grades in quality; which objects can only be accomplished by means of the vacuum boiling apparatus and centrifugal drying machines. If all of Louisiana's last crop had been manufactured into the higher grades of clarified sugars, it would have brought four million dollars more to the State.

A few powerful single or three roller mills and a smaller number of five roller mills have been erected in the State recently. The largest mill that will be in Louisiana, and one of the largest in the world, will be put up on the Ashton plantation, in St. Charles parish, in time for grinding the present cane crop. This will be constructed in the Leeds foundry, in this city. To give some idea of the kind of machinery needed to properly manipulate cane we publish the dimensions of this ponderous mill, on which work is about to be commenced.

The total weight of the mill and engine will be 300,000 pounds. The engine will be about 300-horse power. The rollers are to be seven feet long and forty inches in diameter, weighing each 18,000 pounds, or all 54,000 pounds. The shafts are of wrought iron, eighteen and a half inches in diameter, with journals sixteen inches in diameter and twenty inches long. The housings, made of the best gun metal, are each fourteen feet long, with eighteen-inch face. Their weight will be 51,000 pounds. The mill will be double-gear, that is, run with two sets of pinions and spur-wheels of enormous size and weight. The shafts of all these wheels, with that of the fly-wheel, will be of the best wrought iron, while the journal bearings of the roller shafts in the housings will be manufactured of the purest Babbitt metal. With such machinery as that described above, cane can certainly be pressed till it yields at least 73 per cent of its weight or 73.90 of its juice. This will be a gain of more than 30 per cent on the work of our ordinary mills, or where a given amount of cane is ground in an ordinary mill to make 700 hogheads of sugar, the same amount of cane brought to the heavier mill at the same cost, with a small extra expense in evaporation and handling, the excess of manufactured product will yield 1000 hogheads of sugar. These are figures determined by actual experience as the comparative results in the grinding of the best mills now in the State, and the average sugar mill used here.

The erection of these powerful and ponderous mills, and the employment of the vacuum boiling process, are the first steps requisite to the general adoption of the central factory system in Louisiana. It is utterly useless to talk about the application of this system to our sugar interest without the erection of such machinery. On a large majority of the plantations in this State the mills now employed are too light to take off, in our short season, the crops of cane that can be produced on their own acreage. These will scarcely grind cane for 10,000 pounds of sugar a day in fair weather; while a mill, such as has been described, with proper boiler power and evaporating apparatus to work off the juice, would easily average 50,000 pounds of sugar a day, and manipulate the cane from 2000 acres of land without forcing grinding operations into the month of January, or even February, as is the case with some of our manufactories now. The only hope for the desired separation of the manufacturing and planting interests, lies in the erection of such machinery wherever it is needed throughout the sugar region.

A great advantage over our present mode of work would even be gained if the light mills were retained and vacuum pans were generally employed to boil the juice they extract. As we have shown before, the 200,000,000 pounds of open kettle sugar manufactured in Louisiana last year would have been increased in quantity at least 15 per cent, and so improved in quality as to command a price at least two cents higher than that which it brought; or the crop would have sold for over four million dollars more than our planters received for it, had it been possible for them to have universally used vacuum pans and manufactured clarified sugars.

A number of vacuum pans were built by the New Orleans Foundry and other leading foundries of this city last year, while the same establishments are building many more this year to boil up a part of the sugar crop of 1879.

Clarification by steam and the evaporation of the juice to the density of syrup in open steam trains are processes which year by year are becoming more universally adopted. This method is much more scientific and less

wasteful than the process of boiling to syrup, or even to sugar, in open kettles.

We noticed yesterday several sets of clarifiers and open steam trains in process of construction at the machine shops of Hennessy & Bro. Several others have already been finished at this establishment and are being put up on the plantations for which they were ordered.

The work for sugar plantations now being done at all the foundries in this city shows that a large number of our planters appreciate the importance of the adoption of modern methods of manufacture and improvements in sugar machinery.

The only cause which prevents the general application of such machinery to the sugar fields of Louisiana is the want of capital to properly develop this great manufacturing industry. The work of rebuilding their sugar-houses destroyed in a time of war, and repairing their broken and rusted machinery, has almost exhausted the resources of many of our planters, while it has even ruined some. The memory of the debts they have borne deters others from investing money in modern improvements. But to modern improvements Louisiana must look to make sugar production here a profitable business, and to increase that production to a point far beyond the figures it reached when the sugar region was regarded as one of the richest agricultural sections in the world.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Should that portion of the report of the Committee on the Legislative Department, which requires an actual residence of two years in the district or parish from which the party may be elected as a qualification for a seat in the General Assembly, be adopted, it would operate a very unnecessary and unjust discrimination in the selection of members of the General Assembly from this city.

An actual residence in the parish of Orleans is all that ought to be required, but if no exception is made in regard to the eligibility of Senators and Representatives from the parish of Orleans, a man must have resided in his ward or senatorial district during a period of two years before he can become qualified to represent his fellow-citizens in either branch of the Legislature. In short, by moving across the street a citizen would often lose his right to sit in the General Assembly. The Convention yesterday manifested a disposition to modify this disqualifying clause, and only abandoned the intention after several ineffectual efforts to make the proper amendment. This purpose would be accomplished by the insertion in the article of the following proviso:

Provided, that in the parish of Orleans any elector otherwise qualified, who may have been an actual resident of the parish for two years next preceding his election, shall be eligible to the General Assembly from any senatorial or representative district included within that parish or of which any portion of that parish may constitute a part.

For two days the Democrats and Republicans of the Senate have been engaged in a bitter controversy on the merits of their respective parties. It is superfluous to say that the Democrats have come off victorious. While they taunted the Republicans with the San Domingo job, the Sanborn job, Belknap, the whiskey ring, the Credit Mobilier, etc., the only charge that the Republicans could make against the Democrats was that, in some of the mountain districts of the South, a great deal of moonshining was going on. Vance showed that a majority of these defrauders of the revenue—in his State at least—were Republicans. Whether they were not, the Republicans soon saw the absurdity of comparing a few moonshiners, who boiled a tubful of corn for family use, to the mighty robbers who, like Belknap and the St. Louis whiskey ring, robbed the country of millions, they dropped the moonshiners and have taken up the bloody shirt and exodus, instead. "The Republican party may be a party of theft," is what Windom substantially said in the Senate, yesterday, "but the Democrats of the South do not allow the negroes to vote."

Of all frivolous defenses, that made by the Republicans against these charges of fraud, bribery, theft and public robbery, is the flimsiest. The only excuse they can make for the Credit Mobilier is that a few hundred negroes were deluded by Windom into the cold, ungenial clime of Kansas.

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Notice is hereby given to whom it may concern that all UNREDEEMED PLEDGES, without exception, whereon interest has not been paid up to January 1, 1879, will be offered for sale at public auction and private sale from and after July 1.

Great variety of goods. Sales without reserve. All articles sold under full guarantee. J. J. SCHWANER, 1229 St. TEMPERANCE! TEMPERANCE!

The sixth of the series of Lectures, held under the auspices of the Temperance Alliance, will be given by the Rev. Geo. R. Bristor, and others, in the Moreau Street M. E. Church, THIS (Friday) EVENING, June 27, at 7 1/2 p. m. Soa's free. All are invited. The Alliance meets at Wadsworth Temple Hall to-morrow evening, at 8 o'clock, sharp. Every member is expected to be in attendance. W. McLAUGHLIN, President. F. A. JOHNSON, Secretary. 1227 1/2

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS.

DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS, City Hall, Room No. 15, New Orleans, August 27, 1879. In accordance with section 87 of act No. 95 of 1877, notice is hereby given that the assessment rolls of 1879, of real estate and personal property within the city, for the State and city taxes of 1880, will be complete and exposed for inspection and correction at the office of the Department of Assessments, room No. 15, City Hall, from July 7, 1879, from 8 o'clock a. m. until 3 o'clock p. m. daily (Sundays excepted) until the first of September, 1879.

WASH. MARKS, Administrator of Assessments and President of the Board of Assessors. 1227 1/2

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Boys' School and Dress Suits, VERY LOW. Boys' Black Alpaca Jackets \$1 and \$1 50. Also, FRESH STOCK of White Dress Shirts, Scarfs, Gaiter Underwear, Linen Drawers, Fancy Hair Hose, Brown English Half Hose, Handkerchiefs, Bags and Trunks. All of the best quality and made and offered at Lowest Prices. Goods freely shown at Wheeler & Pierson's. 1210 1/2

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