

WORLD'S FAIR AWARDS FRANCIS AND SPENCER.

Representative Men of St. Louis Will Greet Them To-Day on Their Victorious Return From Washington.

Preparations for the reception of former Governor David R. Francis and Corwin H. Spencer on their return from Washington to-day were completed yesterday.

The demonstration will be the largest since the visit of St. Louis by Admiral George Dewey. Besides the World's Fair committees several other local organizations will take part in honoring the distinguished citizens.

The train bearing former Governor Francis and Mr. Spencer will pull into Union Station at 12:30 p. m. Pierre Chouteau, chairman of the Committee of Two Hundred, will meet the train at Union Station.

Mr. Spencer will be met by the following gentlemen: C. H. Huttig, chairman; L. D. Dozier, Rolla Wells, George W. Parker, C. P. Ellerbe, E. H. Smith, J. H. Brown, J. H. Wells, Perry Bartholow, W. S. McChesney, Edward Orr, G. W. Brown, Thomas Wright, J. H. Blockman, D. Rankin, Jr., Al Bauer and W. C. Hill.

C. P. Walbridge, president of the Business Men's League, and W. T. Haarstick, president of the Merchants' Exchange, have been appointed to meet Mr. Francis and Mr. Spencer at East St. Louis and personally escort them from the train to their carriages on arriving at Union Station.

The following special committee will be stationed at the station with orders to open a passage for the party through the crowd.

Members of the Merchants' Exchange will join in the demonstration. A column headed by a band will leave the exchange at 10 o'clock sharp.

Bulletins will be received at the exchange from 10 o'clock on, showing the progress of the train, so that it will be known exactly when the train will arrive at the Union Station.

Flags will be carried by the members, and it is expected that a large number will participate. Any of the Committee of Two Hundred, who prefer to join the procession from the exchange, rather than meet at the Union Station, are expected to do so with their friends, and friends of the exchange are also welcome to participate.

Similar action will be taken by the St. Louis Stock Exchange.

The Master Builders' Association will take part in the demonstration. At a meeting of that body held yesterday it was decided to meet at the Turner building and march from there in a body to Union Station. The start will be made at 11:30 o'clock.

PROCESSIONS WILL MEET AT STATION.

The traveling men of St. Louis will also participate in doing honor to the distinguished World's Fair commissioners.

At a meeting of real estate men at the Real Estate Exchange yesterday a resolution was adopted to have all the real estate dealers of the city turn out with a band to greet Governor Francis at Union Station.

Speeches were made by the great number of real estate men who were present, and it was decided that the real estate men will meet in a body to the station, headed by a band of fifty pieces. The procession will leave the exchange at 11:45 o'clock.

TRANSPARENCIES WILL BE CARRIED IN THE PROCESSION, AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MORE THAN 300 REAL ESTATE MEN WILL BE IN LINE.

MAY DECORATE BUSINESS HOUSES.

Edith Mitchell, secretary of the Real Estate Exchange, suggests that the merchants and business men of St. Louis decorate their establishments in honor of the return of the World's Fair commissioners.

Nearly all business houses have American flags and bunting, used on holidays and special occasions of festivity in the city, and Mr. Mitchell suggests that these should be used to-day with special timeliness.

welcome to the St. Louis delegation in deemed appropriate.

This evening a reception will be held at the University Club in honor of Mr. Francis.

A reception committee of the Missouri Historical society, consisting of the following gentlemen, will co-operate with the reception committee of the Committee of Two Hundred in receiving Judge John H. Terry, A. N. DeBolen, Walter H. Douglas, Adolph Herthel, William H. Thomson, D. I. Bushnell, George D. Leighton, Captain Joseph Boyce, Wells H. Blodgett and James L. Blinn.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The following telegram was received yesterday afternoon by Pierre Chouteau, chairman of the Committee of Two Hundred:

Jefferson City, Mo., March 6, 1901.—Pierre Chouteau, Chairman of the Committee of Two Hundred, St. Louis, Mo.: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a resolution introduced by Representative Wolf of Greene County and adopted by the House of Representatives this morning:

Whereas, The people of this commonwealth, and especially the members of this House, have observed with the greatest satisfaction the efforts put forth and the patriotic zeal manifested by these two gentlemen, in behalf of the celebration of what is known as the "Louisiana Purchase," to be held at the city of St. Louis in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and three; and

Whereas, We note with pride and pleasure the achievements recently accomplished in Congress insuring the success of said celebration, a result largely due to the energetic and untiring efforts of these gentlemen; and

Be it resolved, That the House of Representatives of this General Assembly, That congratulations and thanks be extended to Governor David R. Francis, Seth Cobb and Corwin H. Spencer for the work that they have so faithfully performed in the execution thereof, doing this as a slight token of the esteem in which they are held by us, and as an acknowledgment of our appreciation of the good work that they were instrumental in accomplishing; and

Be it resolved, That the Chief Clerk of this House be directed to forward by wire to each of the gentlemen named in the foregoing resolution, a copy of these resolutions.

Very truly, JOE TALL, Chief Clerk.

Mr. Chouteau sent the following reply to the Speaker of the House:

St. Louis, March 6, 1901.—Honorable James H. Whitcomb, Speaker of the House, Jefferson City, Mo.: Resolution of House, introduced by Representative Wolf of Greene County, will be forwarded to Governor Francis, Seth W. Cobb and Corwin H. Spencer, Francis and Spencer was embarrased and hurriedly returned me to express their gratification, as well as that of the Committee of Two Hundred, at the encouraging endorsement and recognition in the manner in which we are carrying out the wishes of our people as expressed in their hearty adoption of Constitutional amendments and the law, at the above election.

(Signed) PIERRE CHOUTEAU, Chairman Committee of Two Hundred.

HAVE STARTED FOR ST. LOUIS. Messrs. Francis and Spencer Coming Home.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Washington, March 6.—Messrs. Francis, Cobb and Spencer started for home at 10 o'clock this morning. Up to the last moment of their stay in Washington they were busy with World's Fair matters.

They will respond enthusiastically and send unusual good exhibits to the St. Louis Exposition.

CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSION.

Senators Thurston and Carter, Generals Gordon and Catchings.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Washington, March 6.—Every day there are additions to the list of candidates for the office of mayor and names will be presented for a place on the commission by the Kansas Republicans.

Representative Berry of Kentucky, who retired from the House on March 4, is a candidate. It is said that his nomination has been made by the Republican caucus.

Other new candidates are Senators Thurston of Nebraska and Carter of Montana, General John B. Gordon of Georgia and General Charles C. Carter of Missouri.

Examinations are suggested as likely to be selected by the President, including Colonel Thomas F. Walsh of Colorado and Senator Chilton of Texas.

REDUCTIONS IN EFFECT JULY 1. With Two Exceptions That Is True of the Recent Act.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Washington, March 6.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue was busy to-day with the provisions of his bureau studying the provisions of the war tax reduction act, which was signed by the President March 2.

They examined especially dates at which various portions are to take effect. Copies of the act have been ordered printed for distribution among collectors and others specially interested.

Generally speaking, all the tax reductions will take effect July 1. Taxes on checks, telegrams, express packages and all documentary stamps must be used as now until after June 30.

There are but two exceptions to the time for the operation of the new law, namely: First—Bucket-shops on April 1 must pay a fourth of the annual tax of \$5; that is, \$1.25, and on July 1 they must pay \$3.75 for the following year.

Second—The remission of the tax on legacies or charitable gifts for religious purposes went into effect March 1.

With these exceptions, the Commissioner states that the new law does not apply until the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1.

FUNERAL OF BESSIE FISHER.

Simple Service at the Grave in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

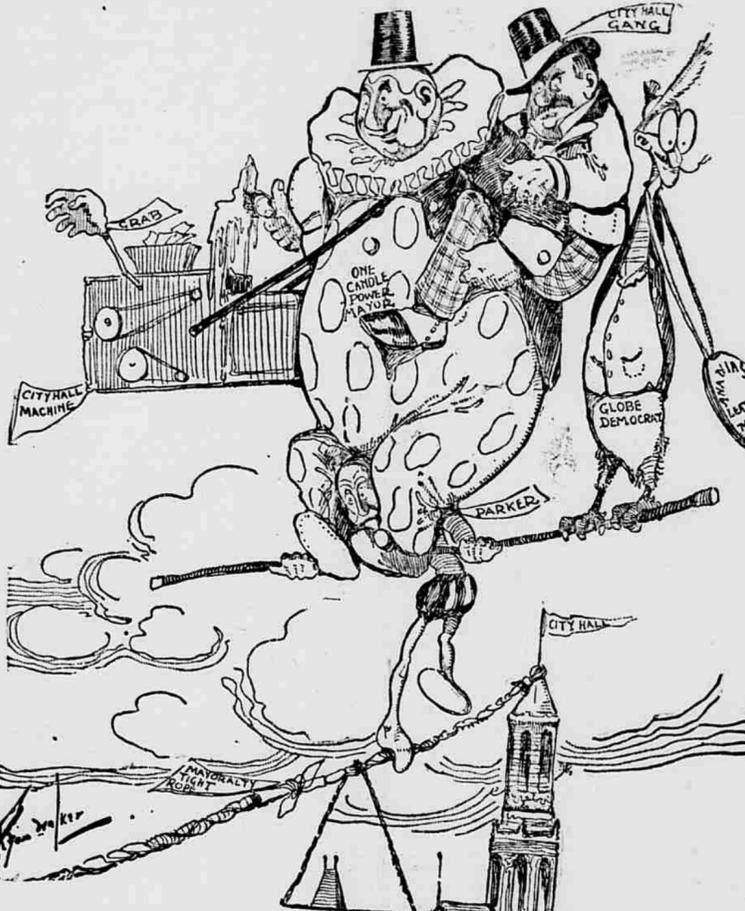
The Body of Miss Bessie Fisher, who was fatally burned at the Piererton Hotel, in New York, on February 1, was buried yesterday morning in the Fisher family lot in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

The funeral was held from the Wagoner undertaking-rooms on Olive street. Only immediate relatives of the deceased, who had accompanied the body from the East, were in attendance.

These were Mr. and Mrs. George M. Fisher, Jr., and C. E. Fisher, brothers; G. M. B. Berry and B. E. Berry.

The formal services over the body were held last Sunday in Brooklyn, and there was a short ceremony at the grave.

George M. Fisher was at one time in business in this city and made his home here. With his wife and other relatives he departed last night for New York.



Parker: "Here's where I fall down."

TWO DEATHS ABOUT WHICH THERE IS MUCH MYSTERY.

Relatives of Mrs. Althea Virginia Williams Demand an Accounting From Her Young Husband.

HER BODY MAY BE EXHUMED.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, March 6.—As the result of the filing of the will of Mrs. Althea Virginia Williams for probate yesterday, allegations of a sensational character are made by William H. Williams, the husband, who was cut off with \$1, and Mr. and Mrs. William G. Mulligan, who were named as executors in the document, and who also figure as legatees under the will.

District Attorney Philbin has been appealed to by Mrs. Williams's relatives, who declare that a plot was formed to obtain her property.

The theories they advance resemble in some respect those that have been evolved in the case of William Marsh Rice. Like Mr. Rice, Mrs. Williams was of advanced age. She remained single until five years ago, when, at the age of 61 years, she married William H. Williams, who was fifteen years her junior.

Friends were not surprised when disclosure arose between Mr. and Mrs. Williams, but they both continued to live under the same roof until a short time before Mrs. Williams's death, when the husband went to San Francisco, where he now is.

Body to Be Disinterred.

But another phase of the contention made by relatives is that about \$5,000 in money belonging to Mrs. Williams was withdrawn from four savings banks, and that Government bonds, diamonds, jewelry and other securities, valued at more than \$20,000, had disappeared from safe deposit vaults and other places where Mrs. Williams kept her money.

The disappearance of the jewelry and securities and the alleged transfer of the bank accounts practically stripped Mrs. Williams's estate of all its value, so that all doubt as to the cause of death might be removed, an autopsy will probably be ordered.

According to Mr. Mulligan the money in the savings bank was drawn out or transferred to contribute views upon the various available sites and upon features which may be expected to add character to the great display.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of the sites in different parts of the city?

What should be the distinguishing character of the plan? What novelties will be instructive and characteristic? Don't delay. Send your views to The Republic at once.

Millionaire Gilman Filled His Palatial Home With Young People and Revels Were Continuous.

HIS WILL CANNOT BE FOUND.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, March 6.—The will of George F. Gilman, the eccentric multimillionaire who died on Sunday in his palace of mystery near Bridgeport, Conn., has not yet been found.

If there is no will the enormous fortune will go to the half-brother whom he hated in life and of whom he reported he was in constant fear. The half-brother was present at the burial in Greenwood Cemetery to-day.

The only other connection of the dead man was George F. Smith, who has been referred to as Gilman's adopted son. This young man is said to be really a relative of Mrs. Gilman, who died years ago. There are rumors of contentions for the fortune by women who will claim dowry rights in the estate. It could hardly be otherwise in the case of a man who lived a life that the rich old tea merchant pursued since the death of his wife, nine years ago.

Some of His Peculiarities.

The palace at Black Rock, the scene of his magnificent hospitality and splendid revels, was owned by Gilman, who was determined to do as he pleased, and could afford it. He dreaded death beyond the common dread of humanity, and perhaps in this he found the reason for his surrounding himself with young people.

All the gatherings at the strange, big house were in origin thought to be people of the countryside who did not think otherwise. His coaches were constantly running to the city to gather up the bevy of handsome girls who came to Black Rock at his invitation; but, on the other hand, he frequently crowded his place with young fellows from Yale. These were free to enjoy all in the great house, except the wine cellar. His other guests could have no question of expense where their entertainment was concerned. The old man was thoroughly and contentedly pagan. He had no faith, but he had a great love for beautiful things.

His stables cost a quarter of a million dollars and in the beautiful music-room the greatest orchestras in the world have played for the pleasure of his house parties.

His excessive dread of death was after all his greatest departure from the normal. He could not bear to talk of death or honor of it. He cut a friend off his acquaintance list because this man mentioned that a mutual friend had died suddenly.

Next to this peculiarity was his objection to depending on anybody. He raised his own beef, mutton and fowls to avoid relations with the local tradespeople.

Just how much his fear of his half-brother was nobody can tell, but it is said that twenty-four years ago one of them tried to shoot him. He was arrested for this, and ever after George Francis Gilman reported that he was in terror of assassination by his relatives.

LEADING TOPICS TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

For Missouri—Increasing Cloudiness Thursday; warmer except in extreme western portion; winds becoming easterly. Friday rain.

For Illinois—Generally fair Thursday with rising temperature; southerly winds. Friday increasing cloudiness.

For Arkansas—Fair and warmer Thursday; south to east winds. Friday increasing cloudiness.

1. Happy Welcome Awaits Francis and Spencer.

2. Merchants Follow Milliners.

3. Death of Daniel S. Holmes.

4. Missouri Editors to Meet To-Day.

5. St. Louisans May Go to North Pole.

6. Sporting News.

7. Crisis in Mining Circles at Hand.

8. Editorial.

9. Senate Passes Three Constitutional Amendments Asked For.

10. Republic Want Advertisements.

11. Grain and Produce.

12. Financial News.

13. Grand Jury Makes Partial Report.

14. Senator Drabbin Introduced the Measures.

JEFFERSON CLUB OPENS MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN.

Democratic Candidates Receive Overtures From Enthusiastic Workers.

MARCHING CORPS ON PARADE.

Mr. Wells Walks With Escort and Makes Ringing Speech to a Large Crowd.

The Democratic campaign, so far as the Jefferson Club is concerned, was formally opened last evening.

President Hawes of the club was in the chair. On the platform with him were Rolla Wells, the Democratic candidate for Mayor, and the following other members of the club: James M. Francis, James Y. Payer, Hiram Phillips, P. R. Fitzgibbons, McArthur Johnston and Captain Joseph Boyce.

Each candidate was enthusiastically cheered as he took his place on the stand and throughout the meeting the great enthusiasm prevailed.

Mr. Wells was escorted to the clubhouse by the Field Band and Marching Corps of the club. At 7:30 o'clock this organization fell in line on Grand avenue and marched north to Lindell boulevard and thence west to Mr. Wells's residence at No. 423 Lindell boulevard.

The band and corps marched past the candidate's home and counter-marched to Boyle avenue. While the marching club was being made, Mr. Wells left the marching columns and entered Mr. Wells's home to notify him of the purpose of the parade.

In a few minutes both emerged and stood on the sidewalk to review the parade as it passed. As soon as the marching columns had passed a carriage that had been brought to the door of conveying Mr. Wells to the clubhouse drove up. Mr. Wells respectfully declined to ride, stating that he preferred to walk with the rest, whereupon he was escorted by Mr. Hawes to the front of the column, and with Marshall Taylor Smith of the corps on one side and Mr. Hawes on the other and the folds of a flag were carried waving above him.

When the candidate and his escort reached that point a crowd of 1,000 members packed the lower floor and the street immediately in front. His appearance was the signal for a tremendous outburst of cheering, which lasted until he had passed from the street and entered the hall of the clubhouse. The cheering was renewed and lasted until some minutes after he had entered the hall.

A terrific rush for seats followed the entrance of the candidate and in a few minutes every foot of available space was occupied. As soon as the room was filled President Hawes called the meeting to order. Before beginning the regular proceedings for the evening, he invited all the party candidates to take seats on the platform. As each candidate took his seat he was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

MR. HAWES MAKES BRIEF ADDRESS.

In the opening purpose of the meeting, Mr. Hawes said:

"Follow-mebers of the Jefferson Club, we are met here to-night to formally open, so far as this club is concerned, the municipal campaign for the coming year. It is a privilege which is fraught with such momentous questions touching the welfare of every citizen of St. Louis. It is not my purpose to make any lengthy address on this occasion. You are here to hear our speakers talk, and they are here to talk to you. But before introducing the speakers for the evening I cannot refrain from making a few observations which recent events have made most timely.

"The Republican press of this city, and the majority party, has for months been denouncing the National Law, the Department and other Democratic institutions as pregnant with fraud, and incidentally they have set themselves up as exemplars of honesty in all things political. From the manner that party has bowled for the last six months about fraud one would suppose that they were all angels flying around on little white wings, coming from star to star in the political firmament, too holy to ever entertain a thought of dishonesty in affairs politic, much less practices of the most insignificant transgression.

"I am convinced that all their boasted honesty, all their cries of fraud, all their pretended fear of fraud on the part of the Democrats, was but sham and deceit—only the cry of 'wolf' when they knew there was no wolf; only a clever ruse to pull the wool over the people's eyes, hoping while they were thus engaged to practice the most daring frauds, and then escape criticism on the ground that they were too pure to be guilty of any wrong.

"Never in the history of politics in this city were more flagrant, bold and unmitigated frauds practiced than at the primary Tuesday, when, according to the testimony of Republican election judges, the ballot boxes were stuffed at will and the counting was done by the lightning process. On every Republican ballot there were at least five names, and in many good many thirty-eight. There were seven hours in which to cast the vote. Every ballot had to be scratched. Under the most expeditious voting possible this voting could not be at a more rapid rate than one a minute, yet in some districts more than a thousand votes were cast in the time, or at the rate of about two and one-half votes a minute, an absolute physical impossibility.

REPUBLICANS' CRY OF FRAUD.

Again, this vote was returned to the election commission, and the counting was done in an hour and a half after the polls closed. In another district, where there was a dispute and the count had to be made under the supervision of a clerk in the Election Commissioners' office, it took the judges from 9 in the evening until 3:30 o'clock in the morning to count 273 ballots. Now, I know that some judges can count faster than others, but there never was and never will be a set of men who can count 1,000 scratched ballots with thirty-five names on them in one hour and a half. In other districts the ballot boxes were deliberately stolen and carried away, and when found had been rifled of their contents, and one of the ballot boxes has not been found yet. I suppose they are keeping that one to practice on for April 2.

"After this exhibition of Republican party in politics I don't think many people will be fooled by the false cry of fraud that they are likely to raise. I now take great pleasure in introducing to you the next Mayor of St. Louis, Mr. Rolla Wells. Mr. Wells stepped to the front of the platform. For several minutes the applause

EMPHATIC POINTS IN MR. WELLS'S SPEECH.

"There is one thing I want all of you, and every citizen of this city, to understand, and that is, that I am not, and never have been and never expect to be a practical politician."

"The only 'nuts' to be distributed will be distributed to the people and to the taxpayers, and not to any individual or set of individuals."

"If the Nesbit law is faulty or unsafe, then it is our duty, through the members of the State Legislature, to see that it be amended or repealed."

"The purity of the ballot box is the corner stone of our nationality. A fraud through the ballot box is an unpardonable crime."

was deafening. Finally some one proposed three cheers for the next Mayor of the city. Members rapped their foreheads, and brilliant banners were waved in the air and cheer after cheer was given.

MR. WELLS KEENLY APPRECIATES HONOR.

"Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Jefferson Club: It is with pleasure I rise to speak to you in this meeting, but in so doing I recognize that I am simply an actor in one of the two great political parties, and that your attention is centered on, and your interest concentrated upon, the candidate rather than the man."

"It is a great compliment for me to receive the nomination for Mayor of this city from the Democratic party, and as such nominee I appreciate it."

"If the people call me to the Mayor's chair, I will use my best endeavor to prove to them that the Democratic nominee will cut away the corruption and extravagance that impregnate this municipality, and will carry out a path and provide a line of action that will redound to the benefit of all the people."

"But in assuming such a great undertaking it must be understood that no man, no matter what his individual strength may be, can hope to accomplish much without the assistance of an able and conscientious staff of public officers. Such a staff I firmly believe has been nominated by the Democratic City Convention, and I appeal to you, in the interest of every man, woman and child in this community, to see that it is elected."

"It seems to me almost a waste of time and words to enter into a discussion of the deplorable condition of our municipality. The present municipal government is a construction and enlargement of our public institutions is a matter well-known to the public. The filthy condition of our streets and alleys is a daily eye sore to every citizen. An unclean water supply is a daily complaint. The City Hall's padded pay rolls are notorious."

"These matters are facts, not theories, and the people are entitled to know the past. What is needed is action, not words. It will take time and money to remedy these evils. The time we have, and the money will be exhausted, as soon as the taxpayers are assured that they will get full value for the taxes and assessments that they pay into the City Treasury, and have confidence in the administration that will have the expenditure of the same."

"If we do not care to continue to exist in the present undesirable condition of our city's affairs, then heroic action must be taken. The radical change in the present city administration be effected. NOT A PRACTICAL POLITICIAN."

"There is one thing I want all of you, and every citizen of this city, to understand—and that is that I am not, never have been, and never expect to be a practical politician."

"If the people call me to the Mayor's chair, to the best of my ability I will conduct the office, and administer the laws strictly in the interest of the people, and not in the interest of any political party, and not in the interest of any political ambition that I may have, or any one connected with me may desire."

"The only 'nuts' to be distributed will be distributed to the people, to the taxpayer, and not to any individual, or set of individuals, who may feel that they have an undue right to feed or gormandize from the public crib."

"Our public affairs must and shall be administered, first, in the interest of all the people, all the time, be they rich or poor, strong or weak, white or black; second, in the interest of the Democratic party, but not in the interest of those seeking favors of office will be considered as to their honesty and efficiency."

"There is one other point that I am desirous of mentioning, and that is concerning the Nesbit law, and the charge that fraud is liable to be perpetrated at the coming election."

"Legislative power is originally derived from the immunity for the benefit, protection and defense of the community. If it develops that too much power has been given, then the people have the right to take back that part of the power which they have given. If the Nesbit law is faulty or unsafe, then it is our duty through the members of the State Legislature to see that it be amended or repealed. It is the duty of the ballot box is the corner stone of our nationality. A fraud through the ballot box is an unpardonable crime. If I cannot be elected through the free will of the honest people, then I want to say, I will not have it distinctly understood that I will repudiate the office if elected."

"But there will be no fraud at the coming election. I have every confidence in the integrity and honesty of our Board of Election Commissioners. I have every confidence in the man they have so recently seated in the Governor's chair at Jefferson City, a man whose brain is as clear as his conscience, a gentleman feeling long political career has not cast forth one single shadow or whisper of adverse criticism—then, indeed, are we helpless as a body."

DUTY OF CITIZENS IS MADE CLEAR.

"I believe the people of this city do have confidence in the chief executive of this State, and therefore necessarily have confidence in the appointees that he has so recently made."

"Mr. President, and members of the Jefferson Club, it is a great pleasure to address such a large gathering of earnest and intelligent political workers. The fact that this organization is a political one carries with it great credit and honor to its membership. It is only those who stand idly by and shrink their political obligation as citizens, who adversely criticize an organization such as the Jefferson Club, such citizens, who wait for good government without assisting in providing a good government, are not worthy of receiving protection from any government."

"Mr. President, as the candidate of the Democratic party, I do not care to talk of myself, or attempt a self-introduction. My record and my career in this, my native State, will speak for themselves."

Continued on Page 2, Second Column.

WORLD'S FAIR FEATURES.

Several weeks ago The Republic invited suggestions for World's Fair features. The result was a valuable series of ideas regarding sites and novel specialties. Now that the Exposition is assured, The Republic again invites its readers to contribute views upon the various available sites and upon features which may be expected to add character to the great display.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of the sites in different parts of the city? What should be the distinguishing character of the plan? What novelties will be instructive and characteristic? Don't delay. Send your views to The Republic at once.

SHOT TO DEATH BY A MOB.

Negro Confessed His Crime When Captured at Shreveport, La.

Shreveport, La., March 6.—Will Davis, alias Williams, negro, who is said to have outraged Mrs. Ataway at Blanchard, La., on Monday, was shot to death by a mob after being fully identified by his victim to-day.