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PASSING EVENTS

Of Men and Things in the Public Mind.

SCHLEY FOUND GUILTY.

The sensation of the season is the Schley verdict, the results of the court of inquiry appointed for that purpose some months ago by Secretary Long. Two members of the court decided against Admiral Schley, to the effect that he was vacillating as a commander and unwilling to obey orders, while the other member, Admiral Dewey, decided that he was in full command at the battle of Santiago and that he did everything becoming a marine commander. As the verdict stands, however, Admiral Schley will go down in history as a condemned man, though he has the approval of one of the greatest sea captains of the age. Where there is so much smoke there must be some fire, and The Republican firmly believes that the court of inquiry has honestly reached the conclusions that it has given to the public, and it accepts the same as a fair and impartial verdict. Admiral Schley is not only deserving of the censure of the court of inquiry, but, in the opinion of The Republican, the court of inquiry should have gone a step further and recommended that he be dishonorably discharged from the navy. The Democratic friends of the admiral in congress have already introduced bills in both houses asking congress to investigate the affair. This is nothing more nor less than a political boom, looking forward to Admiral Schley becoming the Democratic candidate for president of the United States. If The Republican makes no mistake, this has been the sole object of all this Schley agitation. The Democratic party was at a loss for a candidate for president and it hoped to use Admiral Schley as a catspaw to pull their political chestnuts out of the fire. The Republican papers that are giving much space as well as consideration to this Schley matter will regret very much before many months that they have done so, for it is a political trick pure and simple, and all of those Republican editorials that have been slobbering over Schley's imaginary greatness will be used by unscrupulous Democratic politicians to boom Schley's nomination and election for president of the United States in 1904.

PREPARING FOR WAR.

Unless all previous war signs fail, the roaring dogs of war of both Argentina and Chile will be baying each other at llong distance before many more hours. Territory, which has long been in dispute between these two republics, is causing the present war. Though treaties have been repeatedly signed looking forward to a peaceful settlement of the matter between the two governments, nevertheless they seem determined to go to war, not so much over the disputed territory as over the phraseology of the treaty, which each nation construes in its own peculiar way. From a fighting standpoint Chile and Argentina are about equally divided, and, if it should happen that they would finally decide to arbitrate their differences by the bayonet and the cannon instead of by diplomacy, a bloody war will be the result. Our South American sister republics seem to be eternally involved in some kind of an international dispute and war is always being threatened between some one of them, which chaotic state will continue until the United States sees fit to go down there and arbitrate their differences and forcibly assume a protectorate over the entire lump lot of them.

NO MORE CABLE LINES.

If Marconi's wireless telegraphy experiment proves to be what it really seems to be at this writing, an invention and scientific discovery will have been born to the world which will be the greatest of all the scientific discoveries of modern times. Marconi declares that he has received distinct signals from the coast of Wales on the coast of Nova Scotia in this country. Powerful electrical machines were built in E'nglland and from these signals were sent across the ocean, which were received by delicate machines on this side of the waters. It is further stated that the steamers Etruria and Umbria, while in mid-ocean were in communication with each other five hours before either vessel had sighted the other, which was done by the Marconi wireless telegraphic system. These vessels exchanged greetings, told of their passenger lists, and exchanged the news from the two countries in mid-ocean, just the same as would two telegraph operators on land. If Marconi's system proves a success, and there seems to be no doubt of it, similar machines as have already been built in England will be built in the United States, and these will receive and send messages across the ocean under the new system. Marconi hopes that he will have the system so perfected by the time of the coronation of the king, June 26th next, that the entire proceedings will be sent to this countrw by the wireless telegraph system.

From the London Liberal Review it is learned that President Roosevelt contributed the following short article for publication in that paper on the subject of "Political Integrity:"

"We have lived 1900 years in the Christian era, and as yet we have to make progress step by step, with infinite pains and with infinite labor. In spite of halting and shortcomings we have been striving onward and upward. And as we have made progress in the past, so shall we progress in the future. You will not find any royal road in patent legislation or in curious schemes by which everwbody gets virtuous and happy. Not a bit of it.

"We are going ahead; I trust a little faster than in the past, but only a little faster. We hope to keep going forward, but by steps, not by bounds. We must keep our eyes on the stars, but we must also remember that our feet are on the ground. When you get a man who tries to make you think anything else, he is either visionary or a demagogue, and in either event he is an unsafe leader."

STRUCK A VOLCANO.

Drilling for oil in California is becoming so common that there are but few counties in the state at present that do no have heir would-be oil operaors. It is estimated that Southern California has a complete oil stratum underlying the entire territory. Already so much oil has been found in that section of the country that it is being sold at twenty cens a barrel, while he consumers of the same oil in the state of Washington, not over a thousand miles, if that far, away, are compelled to pay twenty-five cents per gallon for it. While drilling for oil in Los Angeles a few days ago, all of a sudden, after the drillers had reached a depth of 500 feet, a sudden hissing of steam and sulphuric acid rushed from the mouth of the boring and in a few seconds more the drill and all of its attending fixtures dropped out of sight, and then a tremendous rush of steam poured out of the mouth of the would-be well, and it was very apparent that a subterranean volcano had been tapped. While oil had been found in the community, it was very apparent that there would be no oil found in that particular place, which is from 200 to 300 feet below the sea level. It is at he base of Mount San Jacinto, which is 10,997 feet above the level of the surrounding country, and which it is thought will soon become the crater of a burning volcano. According to geologists, who have since visited the country, the entire section is a slumbering volcano, which will sooner or later break out and prove very detrimental to the surrounding country.

HAS BEEN RATIFIED.

The Hay-Pauncefote treaty has been ratified by the senate, and if it meets a like approval in the house of parliament it wkill become an international law so far as this country and England are concerned, and the United States as a result will at once become mistress of the entire Western world. With the title of the Danish West Indies islands in her possession it would be worse than folly for any European power to make war upon the United States with the expectation of doing more than harass her vessels of commerce in foreign waters. The Nicaraguan canal will now be constructed across the isthmus of Panama, which will be guarded by United States troops, and the same will be used by our government as a commercial investment in times of peace and as a strategic stronghold in times of war, especially when the United States is involved.

Before another issue of The Republican will greet you the most of the concerts, musicals and recitals will have taken place, and it is probably fitting at this time to suggest that we cherish the hope that all vulgar "coon songs" will be omitted from the Christmas programmes, such as "Just Because She Made Dem Goo-Goo Eyes," "Coon, Coon, I wish My Color Would Change," and "If You Ain't Got No Money You Needn't Come Around." It is a mistake to say that the above songs portray the character of the Negro, and no higher authority than Bob Cole and Johnson have disapproved such rot. The above named gentlemen are today the greatest song writers of the age, and to have them put the ban on such vulgar, meaningless conglomeration of nonsensical stuff means much for the race. It does not mean the Negro will be lost sight of in this change. It may interest many to know that all of May Irwin's next season songs will be written by Cole & Johnson, all of her successes this season she attributes to her singing of "Louisiana Lize," "Mississippi Belle," "Magdalene, My Southern Queen," "Why Don't the Band Play?" "I've Got Troubles of My Own," all of which were written by the above gentlemen, which proved that the public was desirous of Negro songs artistically written. They also composed "Nobody's Looking But the Owl and the Moon," now being sung by Miss Christie McDonald, also in the great English extravaganza "The Sleeping Beauty and the Beast," also "My Heart's Desiah," now being sung by Miss Virginia Earl, Fay Templeton and Lillian Russell. If any of our local talent are ambitious to be in the front ranks, they'll buy some of the songs themselves at Sherman, Clay & Co.

The Clark Delivery Company will soon be installed in their new quarters on Post street in the Globe building.

BROTHER IN BLACK

Under Critical Eye of Observing Men.

FIGHTING IS FOOLISH.

A number of prominent colored men of Alabama, lead by Rev. William McGill, of Birmingham, have decided to test the legality of the new amendment to the constitution of that state which took effect last Thanksgiving day, passed ostensibly for the purpose of disfranchising the colored voters of that state. If The Republican makes no mistake, the constitutionality of similar laws have been tested in the courts before, and the highest court in the land has decided that the act was constituional. Perhaps these men have some new ground on which to base their case, but unless they have, it seems a waste of time and money to undertake a long legal altercation over the matter, as it can but result as have other cases of a similar kind and character. There is but one thing for the colored men of Alabama and likewise other states where they have been disfranchised, from an educational standpoint, to do, and that is to prepare to meet the conditions as they exist, and, if the men of the present generation cannot be taught to read and write sufficiently to become voters, it is their duty to see to it that their children are properly prepared to meet the new citizenship emergency, and if they successfully do this they will have done well.

HE IS NOT FRIENDLY.

From the Pacific Journal, a weekly published in the state of Washington, the following excerpt has been taken: "Now that a Negro deserter from the United States army has been 'lynched' by the Filipinos, some of the sympathizers for that race will be writing essays on the race problem in the Philippines." And is the public to understand, my dear brother, that you are not not a sympathizer of this down-trodden race? Owing to the many disadvantages that the race labors under it seems it is the duty of every well-thinking han to write essays or anything else that will help to better his condition in this country, and no man running a country paper is more able to do this than you; so, why not?

SCISSORSED TO DEATH.

Editor J. C. Williams, of the Kansas City Observer, a well-known Afro-American journalist of that section, was recently stabbed by a man with whom he had an altercation, and died from the effects almost immediately. Strange to say, Editor Williams was stabbed with a pair of scissors, the article which he perhaps used more than anything else in connection with the editing of his paper. Mr. Williams was a versatile writer of his kind, and ran a rather spicy journal during his life and he will be greatly missed by the citizens of that community.

DESERTER NOT MURDERER.

Norman F. Lambert was recently arrested in Michigan City, Ind., on suspicion of having committed a murder some months previous in that city. The circumstances against Lambert were very strong and it looked as though he would be found guilty of murder in the first degree, and all because he refused to tell of his exact whereabouts on the day of the murder. It finally transpired that Lambert knew nothing of the murder, and was not even in the country when it was committed, but at the same time was in China serving as a United States soldier. Tiring of army life, he deserted, and for that reason he tried to keep his whereabouts a secret, in order that he would not be punished for the lesser offense; but he was finally forced to tell his story to save his neck, which was verified from the army records. He was at once taken to California, where he deserted his colors a few weeks prior and plead guilty to a charge of deserting from the United States army.

THOSE NEVADA LYNCHERS.

Lynching colored men in the state of Nevada does not pay very well, as some of the citizens of that state who attempted to perform such an unlawful act have been indicted by the grand jury and are now confined in the county jail, while others were released on $3,000 bonds. The officials are not leaving a stone unturned to bring every one who participated in the brutal act to justice. Though the man was not actually killed, it was not the fault of the would-be lynchers, as they did their best to accomplish their purpose. If other states would take example from little Nevada there would be less lynching carried on throughout the United States.

EDUCATION OF THE BLACKS.

Robert C. Ogden has contributed of his personal funds $80,000 toward extending the propaganda of education in the South. It will be remembered that Mr. Ogden in company with other capitalists educationally inclined toured the Southern states a few months ago with the view of looking into the educational status of that section of the country, and it was decided by them at the time that there was imminent need of bettering the educational facilities of the South, in order to make better citizens out of the young colored children who were ripening into manhood and womanhood. One of the speakers at the gathering when the donation was reported used the following very laconic, but quite applicable remarks: "The people are poor because they are ignorant, and ignorant because they are poor," all of which is more than true; but so far as the colored people are concerned they would not be that way were it not for the oppressiveness of the whites of that section.

ALABAMA'S VOTING POPULATION

Speaking about the disfranchising of the colored voters of the South, the following figures taken from the United States census report touching the disfranchised conditions of the state of Alabama will prove of much interest to those not acquainted with the exact facts: "Alabama has a population of 1,828,697, a growth in the last decade of about 315,860 people, or 21 per cent. Of that entire number there are 827,545 colored people an increase of 150,000, or nearly 22 per cent., while the whites number 1,001,152, an increase since 1890 of 20 per cent. Of the whole number of colored people in the state 181,500 are males over 21 years of age and all voters under the old constitution. Of that number 108,900 are illiterate. The total number of white men entitled to vote if they choose to exercise the privilege is 232,296, but at the last general election the entire white and black vote only numbered 162,300. Of the entire number of white voters 31,600 are illiterate, which, added to the illiterate colored voters, gives the state of Alabama an illiterate vote of 140,000, and if the present law is rigidly as well as religiously enforced, not one of that number will be able to cast a vote at the coming election. While a great majority of the colored voters have been disfranchised, nevertheless it will be seen from these figures that 73,500 colored men can exercise the franchise rights in that state, and if their privilege be not abridged it will be further seen that they not only hold the balance of power in case there are two partisan tickets in the state, but they can elect their ticket from top to bottom if the whites happen to be divided on political issues.

NEITHER ANY GOOD.

Two bills have been introduced in congress, which may be termed absolutely useless, as neither one of them, though they happen to run the gauntlet of both houses and receive the signature of the president, can ever become effective. Representative Kicthin of North Carolina has introduced a bill asking for the repealing of the Fifteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States. Granted that congress will pass the measure, the amendment would be no nearer repealed than if nothing had been done along that line. The amendment to the constitution was put there my a majority of the states favorably voting for it, and if it be removed it must be either voted down by a majority of the states or declared unconstitutional by the United States supreme court, and when Mr. Kicthin introduced this bill he did so for no other purpose than to try in his feeble and insignificant way to offer an insult to the North for its passage, and likewise insult President Roosevelt for entertaining a colored man at dinner not long since. Representative Moody has introduced a bill, having for its object the protection of colored citizens against lynching in default of state protection. In order for Mr. Moody's bill to become effective, he must first have a bill passed abridging the rights granted to the various states by the constitution of the United States, and in order to do this a majority of the various states of the Union would have to cast a favorable vote on this proposition. This will not be done, but unless it is done, it will be impossible for the United States to protect citizens in the various states from mob violence, unless it first declares such commonwealth in an insurrectionary state and put the same under martial law. Perhaps Mr. Moody's intentions were good, but it sounds more like political buncombe than a meritorious act. There are things that Mr. Moody and his associates can do that will really benefit the colored people, and among them is the reduction of the number of congressmen from the South, and if they will do this they will take a long step toward bringing peace and harmony to the Southern states.

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