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SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1908.

REPUBLICANISM IN VIRGINIA.

"It would be argument for a week, laughter for a month, and a jest forever."—Shakespeare.

That colored men were surprised at the meeting of the Republican State Convention at Lynchburg, April 8, 1908, when they realized that the Democrats under the leadership of the representatives of President Roosevelt and Secretary of War Taft had absolutely captured a Republican Convention, expresses it mildly.

This is a case where race prejudice was so much in evidence that the report of the majority of the committee that had been vested with the power to investigate the facts and report thereon was rejected and the minority report substituted.

M. M. Williams of Henrico, presented a minority report signed by three members of the credentials committee, recommending that the delegation headed by W. R. Vawter be seated. The chief ground for asking that the Jones delegation be barred was that the convention which elected it was held in Ford's Law Building, Richmond, instead of in Henrico.

So there was more music and another war. At the end of the five minutes, five more were granted, and the band got busy again.

John G. Luce, of Goochland member of the Legislature, candidate for Congress and also chairman of the Third District committee, at the end of the last five minutes, made a speech in favor of seating the Vawter delegation.

to appeal for order before Treat could be heard. "I am a white man," he began. "Who said you ain't?" howled a delegate from the audience, and then laughter made it impossible to hear the speaker.

Mr. Treat proceeded to show that he did not advocate the supremacy of the Negro; he only wanted the convention to recognize the delegates elected in an orderly and legal way.

Mr. Treat to ask whether the Jones delegation was chosen in a convention held in the county of Henrico.

"I admit the convention was held in Ford's Law Building, in Richmond," said Mr. Treat. The Convention sent up such a roar of derision that Mr. Treat could scarcely resume. He wound up pretty soon thereafter.

W. S. Poage, of Wythe, chairman of the credentials committee, followed Mr. Treat, making a strong plea for the Jones delegation and the adoption of the majority report.

"Pete" Davenport, of Washington, speaking from the floor, said, "I do not feel it necessary for me to argue that I am a white man. We are confronted by a question which has dogged us ever since we surrendered at Appomattox."

The demonstration of applause which followed this was very great and concluded by Davenport having to go on the stage and continue his speech. Davenport continued along the line that the Negro should be eliminated so that the white people of Virginia should be able to study great questions of government instead of a race question alone.

When he concluded he received an ovation of applause. Mr. Davenport, Thomas Lee Moore, of Montgomery, created laughter by asking, "Do you realize that this is all about a squabble between a few men in a county which never gives a Republican majority?"

The vote was taken on the motion to seat both delegations. It was lost overwhelmingly. The vote was then taken on adopting the minority report, seating the Vawter delegation, and the roar of "ayes" was so great that the chair announced the report adopted.

This then is the programme of the followers of President Roosevelt and Secretary Taft in Virginia. The action of this convention has not been repudiated at this writing by either one of them.

There is but a short step from the place where the Negro is disfranchised as a voter to the place where he is eliminated as an office-holder, and those colored men now in the government service had better "sit up and take notice."

Men of the stripe of the late Gov. Charles T. O'Ferrall, the late Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and the living Senator John W. Daniel are just as much superior so far as the rights of the Negroes of the Southland are concerned, to those that dominated this alleged Republican Convention as it is between the satellites and the planets, Gabriel and Satan, Right and Wrong, Heaven and Hell.

We are controlling our feelings just now, for fear of indiscretions, but we are stating the facts and leaving our readers to decide for themselves as to their future course of action in the coming political contest.

CORRALING THE NEGRO PRESS.

"But all was false and hollow, though his tongue Dropped manna, and could make the worse appear the better reason to perplex and dash Maturest counsels."—Milton.

Our esteemed contemporary, The Indianapolis Freeman says: "A number of newspapers owned by colored men have, for some unknown reason, gone over to the Taft people."

In a recent batch of Washington information the above was noted. It is significant because of the truth. However, we do not hold that that incident should be a club to be used against Mr. Taft.

It is this "traffic in our color" on the part of President Roosevelt and Secretary Taft that is causing the trouble. The members of Companies B, C and D were not treated as white men; they were treated as Negroes.

Moreover, the use of the influence of the government offices to perpetuate a party or an individual in power has been condemned by President Roosevelt as the star civil service reformer ever since he has been in public life.

A deal was closed here Monday by which the Standard, the leading organ of the Negro race in Kentucky published in this city for the last fifteen years, passes into the hands of Editor W. D. Johnson, its original founder, Editor Wade H. Carter disposing of the paper to go to Washington.

The Standard, under the editorship of Editor Johnson, who is an able, forceful writer, will be converted into a strong Taft organ and will endeavor to impress the Negroes of the Republican party in Kentucky of the wisdom of supporting the big Secretary of War for the Presidential nomination.

Well, the Journal says frankly that it was a deal, which means that it was a political deal. Is it any worse for corporations to contribute to campaign funds in New York than it is to purchase political support in Kentucky? It says further:

"Wade H. Carter, the late owner and editor of the Standard, who is a practical printer, has gone to Washington to accept a position in the Government Printing Office there.

There you have it. The paper's policy has been changed and its former editor is now housed in the government printing office at Washington, where even the zephyrs from the Potomac whisper Roosevelt and Taft.

It comes with poor grace then for him to talk about his solicitude for the "brother in black." If you love us, Judge Taft, you must do something else besides telling us so. You know the distinguished occupant of the White House, then why don't you use your influence and speak the word that will give the relief asked for our soldiers?

We are glad to see you put colored men in office, but if you wish to smooth out the kinks in this political question and restore harmony in the ranks of thousands of your devoted followers, restore the "Black Battalion" to the army. Right the wrong and do it now, Mr. President and tens of thousands of your admirers will sing glad hosannas throughout the length and breadth of this Republic.

SECRETARY TAFT IN CHICAGO.

Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams in her communication to the New York Age states Hon. William H. Taft's

announced attitude towards the Negroes of this country. She says: "What he said may be summarized as follows:

"First. That he is absolutely opposed to the Southern policy of disfranchisement. That if the South imposes an educational qualification for its voters it is nothing less than fraud to so administer the law as to let every white man register simply because he is white, and reject a colored citizen, however intelligent and for no other reason than because he is not white."

Yes, we know that for he told the colored folks that same thing at Brooklyn, New York. She continues:

"Second. The Southern States must not expect to prosper and gain ascendancy among the commonwealths of States if the methods by which competent colored men are deprived of their franchise, are to continue."

We know that too, Mrs. Williams, for he told the colored folks about the same thing at Brooklyn, New York. She says further:

"Third. That he, the Secretary, had been greatly wronged by people who had read only disconnected portions of his address on the race problem and from such disconnected portions make it appear that he was opposed to the Negro franchise. He gave frank and emphatic assurances that he is now and always would be in favor of equal justice to all men regardless of race or color. He says that his policy in the Philippine Islands be taken as an indication of his true feeling and attitude of mind."

Well, we hope we had no part in the wronging of him. Our comment was based upon the newspaper reports and we have seen no denial of any utterances accredited to him. If he will publish the stenographic report of it in pamphlet form, we will give allopathic doses of it to our readers.

We have a great desire too to read again his report to Congress on the Brownsville affair and then we and our people will be able to see if his words of to-day square with his actions of yesterday.

We hope too that he will read the report of the Taft Republican Convention held at Lynchburg recently. We recently met a Roosevelt colored man at Staunton, who stated to us that he did not attend the "illy-white" convention for the reason that his credentials never arrived. He is waiting for them yet.

The only safe way to gauge public men is to study their words and watch their actions. If both agree, then they are all right. But if there is any variation between the two or any seeming inconsistency, you have found an individual that it will pay you to watch. We do not mean any reflection upon the distinguished Secretary of War, but it seemed that all of the members of that conference had a chronic case of lock-jaw when it came to asking him about the Brownsville affair.

We cannot see how Secretary Taft could be so unfortunate as to refer to Filipinos, when speaking of colored people. It is in this very reference that we resent, for he has done more to advance the official interests of the Filipinos, who are aliens under the decision of the United States Supreme Court than he has for the Negroes of this country, who are citizens and "to the manner born."

The colored people made the prosperity of the Southland what it is. They fought in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, the Mexican War and in the late Civil War. Their blood is mixed with the soil and they gave their lives as a willing sacrifice that the government at Washington should not perish from the earth.

Yet Secretary Taft points to his support of the Filipinos, who fought against the government as an indication of what he will do for the Negroes who fought for it. But in looking behind Secretary Taft, we see 167 colored soldiers with the print of Mr. Taft's shoes on the seat of their breeches. From the size of the indentation, we conclude that both he and President Roosevelt must have placed their walking appendages in about the same place.

It seems to us that some one is deceiving both the President and this distinguished jurist. There are tens of thousands of citizens of color, who will not "bow the cringing hinges of the knee that favor follow fawning." The Republican Party has not money enough and President Roosevelt has not offices enough to cause them to relinquish a principle for the sake of financial advantage.

Colored men of the register, undeceive the Secretary. Tell him he is wrong. Tell him that Brownsville is the liveliest issue that has ever come down the pike or has sought an abiding place upon the rostrums of any country. Promises won't do, Mr. Secretary. We want the vital principle recognized. Negro-haters must go to the rear or the campaign of

this year will be continued until next year and the next year and year after year until right triumphs and truth is known in all of this land.

"Words have grown so false I am loath to prove reason with them."—Shakespeare.

"CAUGHT A TARTAR."

"In a battle an Irishman (according to Capt. Gross) called out to his officer, 'I have caught a Tartar.' 'Bring him here, then,' was the reply. 'He won't let me,' rejoined Pat. And as the Turk carried off his captor the saying passed into a proverb."

The following telegraphic report explains itself:

"Anniston, Ala., April 8.—News has just reached here that J. C. West a white man of this city, was kidnapped this afternoon by Will Cunningham, a Negro desperado near Lincoln, in Talladega county, and up to this time he has not been rescued. A large armed posse was only an hour behind the pair at dark, and bloodhounds are being rushed to the scene to assist in capturing the Negro brute."

"It seems that West acting in the role of special deputy, attempted to arrest Cunningham, and while in the act of reading a warrant to the Negro, the Negro jerked his pistol from him and marched him off toward the Coosa River. When last seen West was walking about six steps in front of the Negro, both having their coats off and walking along as if nothing was the matter."

The account is amusing, although it is serious. The cause of it all is the officiousness of every white man in the rural districts presuming that every Negro is docile and harmless in a matter where a white man is concerned. Evidently the regular officer of that county could have made the arrest without much trouble, but this white man wanted the credit of doing the job himself.

If he ever returns alive, he will be a laughing stock for the entire community. Bad Negroes are dangerous in their dealings with other Negroes, but they usually give up without a struggle in their bouts with white men. We have no sympathy with the outlaw, but we must say that we admire the nerve of any kind of a man, who showed courage enough to capture a white man, smiling under the name of a deputy sheriff and carry him to a place of confinement, instead of being carried himself. Surely, that Negro deserves a leather medal and the white people of that locality should give it to him.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S METHODS.

"To those who know thee not, no words can paint. And those who know thee, know all words are faint."—Hannah More.

We do not wish it to be understood that we are opposing the nomination of Hon. William H. Taft in the interest of any other candidate. We are simply discussing the facts as they appear to us at this time and we are endeavoring to give an unbiased view of the situation within the range of the colored man's horizon.

The distinguished Statesman has a pleasing personality and he is out after votes with a persuasiveness that awakens our admiration. If the "cloven foot" is kept hidden he must necessarily win out with the colored folks. It may be that he will come "under the wire" on time even with it displayed in the case of the average Negro. The methods now being pursued, in order to conciliate the disgruntled elements amongst us are very noticeable, but never more so than in that magnificent communication from Chicago in the New York Age signed by that brilliant lady, Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams, the wife of that able attorney, Mr. S. Laing Williams. Now, if we have made a mistake about this relationship may the good Lord deliver us.

Be that as it may, everybody knows that Attorney S. Laing Williams has recently been appointed Assistant District Attorney to take charge of the Bureau of Immigration at Chicago and that he was a candidate for the position now held by the scholarly and popular Rev. W. T. Vernon, both having been endorsed by that prince of diplomats Dr. Booker T. Washington.

All of this is modern history, so to speak. But that President Roosevelt made no mistake in his selection is evident. Mr. Williams is an estimable gentleman and the outlook in Chicago is bright. One would naturally conclude that in view of Mr. Roosevelt's repeated denials that he is using the patronage of the government to promote Secretary Taft's candidacy that there is some mistake somewhere. Even Senator Foraker was questioned and denounced for even suggesting such a thing.

But Attorney Williams was appointed to take charge of the Bureau of Immigration but his friends and himself, it seems understood that they too were appointed to take charge of Hon. William H. Taft's candidacy. Here are the words of Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams. Read them for yourselves:

"Chicago, April 7.—In the Chicago

letter of last week some reference was made to the development of political interest in the approaching National election. What has occurred since that time has been nothing less than a continuous sensation. Up to last week one could easily believe from the freely expressed opinions on our streets and 'on the housetops,' so to speak, was that every colored leader and voter on the western shores of Lake Michigan was against anything and everything that looked like Taft or Roosevelt. But 'you never can tell,' you cannot know from what is said, believed and endorsed to-day what is going to happen tomorrow. Enumeration of political sensations are now in order.

"(1) At a political convention in the First Congressional District held on last Monday night, March 30, for the purpose of electing delegates to the National Convention, at which convention the colored members held the balance of power, a resolution endorsing Secretary Taft was carried by a decisive majority! People not living here can scarcely realize what a deep impression this action has had upon all kinds of politicians. There was no charge of front or purchasing of votes, but the convention composed of men who had scanned the political firmament easily saw the direction the stars were apt to take. It was not expected, not prayed for, and certainly not hoped for, yet the action came with such decisiveness and force that it has had the effect of making nearly everybody turn only one way and that way was toward the Secretary of War."

But the stars didn't take that direction until Hon. S. Laing Williams was appointed to take charge of the Bureau of Immigration. Colored folks in that section are very easily satisfied. She cites another fact:

"(2) Still another unexpected occurrence on Saturday morning last, there was noticed a group of leading colored citizens of this city confidently and cheerfully wending their way down Michigan avenue in the direction of the big and palatial hotel known as the Auditorium Annex. A colored man, noticing this well-dressed and well-known group, was heard to remark: 'There's something doing for sho.' And so there was. It appears that the friends of Secretary Taft had sent out letters of invitation to a number of the leading colored citizens of this city for the purpose of holding a conference with the Secretary in one of the hotel parlors.

This delegation of colored men was only one of many delegations, representing other interests and races, who called to pay their respects to the leading colored citizens of this city for the purpose of holding a conference with the Secretary in one of the hotel parlors.

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Then follows the views as expressed by Secretary Taft, with which we shall deal in this issue. Now here is a list of the influential colored men present:

"The committee who thus listened to the Secretary confessed themselves as deeply impressed with the Secretary's manifest sincerity and left him with the feeling that they had been talking to a man who fully measured up to the higher standards of real statesmanship.

The committee was composed of the following well-known Chicago citizens: Rev. D. P. Roberts, pastor of Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church; Dr. A. J. Carey, pastor of Bethel; Rev. E. J. Fisher, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church; Rev. B. J. Harris, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church; Major F. A. Denison, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Hon. Oscar DePriest, County Commissioner; Hon. E. H. Wright, member of the State Central Committee; S. Laing Williams, Assistant District Attorney; Major J. L. Taylor, prominent citizen and member of the Niagara Movement; W. H. Cowan, prominent business man; Col. J. R. Marshall, of the 8th Regiment, Illinois National Guards and alternate delegate to the National Republican Convention; Mr. Brown, a prominent citizen of Vandalia, Ill.; Ex-Senator T. T. Allain; S. B. Turner, editor of the Illinois Echo; Dr. George C. Hall; Mr. Willis Jefferson, prominent politician; Sandy W. Trice of The Conservator.

Please note another fact and that is that the conference took place April 4th, 1908 and then Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams says in the same communication:

"Dr. Booker T. Washington reached Chicago Friday morning, April 4, and entered upon a program of work that would have daunted most men, in behalf of the Tuskegee Institute. On Friday night he was greeted in Orchestra Hall by as fine an audience as ever assembled in this magnificent auditorium. For two hours he held the interest of this vast audience in a way that was a decided tribute to his popularity and power of oratory.

At noon on Saturday he was the guest of leading Chicago business men and bankers at a luncheon at the Union League Club. At this writing his speaking program is not yet half completed. Scores of people throng his rooms at the Palmer House to pay their respects.

It seems then that it is unnecessary for the administration to do any more appointing of Negroes to office around Chicago. The work already done in this direction has corralled all of the colored voters in that section of Illinois, and without any concession being made in the Brownsville affair. On this point, the general Secretary seems to have been silent.

That Dr. Booker T. Washington has the "pull" at the White House hardly admits of a question. He is the "Open Sesame" of the Roose-

velt administration and those who desire to "roost high" and say nothing might as well send their applications for office to the White House by way of the Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Alabama. This is a matter of opinion, however and we may be mistaken. But, if any one will read these facts and consider the co-incidents, the chain of circumstantial evidence is complete.

We are glad that Mr. S. Laing Williams was appointed though and our good friend, Dr. Washington did well in speaking a good word for him. Still, when we think of all this activity for Secretary Taft and no sign of help for the 167 members of Companies B, C and D of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, we are filled with emotion and words well-nigh fail us. O, the pity of it!

"Art is long, and time is fleeting. And our hearts though stout and true. Still, like muffled drums, are beating 'Funeral marches to the grave.'"

DELAWARE FOR GRAY

Denver Delegation Instructed For Him Despite His Protest.

BRYAN MEN FALL IN LINE

Judge Gray, in Letter to Chairman of State Committee, Objected to Instructing Delegates For Him—Came As a Surprise.

Dover, Del., April 15.—Despite the written declaration of Judge George Gray that he could not under any circumstances consent to have the delegates instructed for him, the Delaware Democratic state convention officially placed his name before the Democracy of the country for that party's nomination for president of the United States.

Judge Gray's declaration, contained in a letter to Thomas F. Bayard, chairman of the state committee, which was read to the convention, came as a surprise to the delegates, but they did not hesitate an instant to place his name in the field. The mention of his name in the convention and in the various county caucuses that preceded the main gathering of Democrats was enthusiastically received. There was no voice raised against the resolution to instruct the delegation of six to "support, advocate and vote" for Judge Gray's nomination.

The platform adopted declares for unflinching devotion to state rights and criticizes the national administration and declares for a revision of the tariff. Harmony prevailed in all the caucuses and in the convention. There was some discord in the county caucuses where the Bryan adherents had a majority, but threatened trouble quickly disappeared when the caucus selected one Bryan and one Gray delegate as that county's representation in the national delegation. In Delaware each of the three counties selects two of the six national delegates, and selection is ratified by the convention. As the delegates are bound by the unit rule it makes no difference what the individual delegate's preference might be. All are bound to obey the instructions of the convention.

The delegation is as follows: Delegates—William Salisbury and Caleb S. Pennell, of Dover; Lan dretb Layton, Georgetown; William T. Records, Laurel; Peter J. Ford, Wilmington, and L. Irving Handy, New ark.

Alternates—Frank M. Soper, Mag nolia; Dr. W. F. Hoey, Frederica; W. H. Stevens, Seaford; L. W. Mustard Lewes; Matthew D. Murphy and Charles H. Salmon, of New Castle county.

IN TROUSERS SHE ROBBED

Woman's Accomplice Says It Was Work to Climb Windows in Skirts.

Bridgeton, N. J., April 14.—Mrs Elizabeth Parson and her daughter are under arrest here, and the police say that they have learned that they dress ed in men's clothing, and with Harry Blizard, a boarder at their home committed between forty and fifty robberies here in the last few weeks.

Until the arrest of Blizard the police seemed to have been unable to find a clue to the robbers. He maintained through five hours of "sweating" that he knew nothing of the burglarious party. Finally, however, he owned that his landlady and her daughter had been working with him and had worn men's clothing because it was such hard work climbing through windows with skirts on.

Boy Shot and Killed by Policeman. Philadelphia, April 15.—William McCue, aged seventeen years, was shot in the back and killed here by Policeman Philip Hoffman, who fired his revolver to frighten the boy he was trying to capture. McCue was one of several boys who it is said attacked a party of Italians in the southern section of the city. Hoffman chased the boys and caught McCue and a companion. The former broke away, and the policeman to frighten him fired his revolver in the air and again at the pavement. The second ball glanced up and struck McCue in the back, passing through his body close to the heart. The wounded boy ran a full block after being shot and then fell unconscious. He died three hours after being taken to a hospital. Hoffman surrendered himself to his superior officer and was locked up in his own police station.

Swallowed a Live Toad On \$5 Wager. Alton, Ill., April 14.—Cadet Sapp, of Kansas, bet another cadet in the Western Military academy at this place that he could eat a live toad, and made good, winning a \$5 wager. A doctor was then called and administered remedies, and Sapp was able to play ball in three days to cheers of "He eats 'em alive!"