

THE MONTANA PLAINDEALER

Vol. 111

Helena, Montana, Friday, July 30 1909

THE MONTANA PLAINDEALER

Published Weekly by The Montana Plaindealer Company.

J. B. BASS, EDITOR.

Subscription \$2.00 per year, Strictly in Advance. Advertising Rates on Application.

Entered as second-class matter April 12, 1906, at the Post Office at Helena, Montana, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all Communications to The Montana Plaindealer, 19 South Main Street, Helena, Montana.

PEACE!

PROSPERITY!

UNION!!!

Senator Dixon from Montana is much in evidence in framing the tariff legislation; he is one of the senate's leading spirits of whom all Montana is proud.

We do not think that the governor who signed the Jim Crow bill in Montana is any better than the republican senate that passed it.

The efforts of many of our citizens to procure a homestead in the Plathood country is a noble and able omen. And the farm is the road to independence.

And now what has become of the Protective League and shall they wait until another election is in sight to get busy.

In relation to the seeming discontent of some of our people as to the administration of St. James during the past conference year, we believe the present pastor to be a conscientious worker for the church and the uplift of the race. A consistent race man who believes in patronizing and encouraging race enterprises.

CONFERENCE SOON TO MEET

The time is rapidly approaching for the Puget Sound A. M. E. conference to meet in our midst and it behooves all of our people to be up and doing for the successful entertainment of the same so that Helena will not suffer in comparison to the reception which this body has been given in other cities. While Helena does not come up in numbers of our race as in other places where this conference has met, it certainly will not be found wanting in its zeal to welcome the church builders and all efforts for the progress of a struggling race and to properly meet these requirements it is well that all should put their shoulders to the wheel and help.

Bishop Grant, one of the greatest men of our race, will lecture while in our city and all the people, both black and white, should avail themselves of hearing this great divine.

WILL LECTURE.

While here holding conference, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Abraham

Grant has consented to deliver a lecture, the subject of which will be "The Value of Discontentment."

The lecture will be under the auspices of the Progress club Friday night during conference. The bishop stands in the front rank as a speaker and no one should fail to hear him on this occasion.

Announcement of place and price of tickets will be made later. It is possible that a banquet will be given after the lecture.

Official Call Western Negro Press Association.

Des Moines, Iowa, June 30, 1909

Pursuant to a general custom and by virtue of official power vested in me after conference with the executive committee and other officials, we have called our thirteenth annual convention of the Western Negro Press Association to convene in regular session in Kansas City, Mo., Monday and Tuesday August 22 and 23, 1909, for the purpose of discussing all things pertaining to its growth, development and advancement of human society and especially the African race, realizing that the pen is the most potent power when rightly used for the betterment of American civilization and the ultimate solution of all social, industrial, economical and political problems of this century.

Therefore let us all, editors, correspondents, journalists, publishers and co-workers, meet here during the first days of the Supreme Encampment of the K. of P. and join together for the discussion of the greatest number of down trodden, struggling race. All the session will be interesting with prepared papers, addresses, solos and discussions. All publication west of the Mississippi river are eligible to membership. Annual dues \$1. Witness my signature the 1st day of July 1909.

John L. Thomas, Pres.
Editor of State Bystander.
Des Moines, Iowa.

Abraham L. De Mond,
Corresponding Secretary,
Editor of the Baxton Gazette.
Baxton, Iowa.

Golden City Lodge G. U. O. of O.

F. Entertains Household of Ruth.

On last Tuesday evening at the A. O. U. W. hall on sixth Ave. the members of Golden City Lodge in honor of Naomi lodge put on one of the most elaborate banquets ever given by our people in the city. It was a return compliment to the sisters which they gave sometime ago and the brothers outdone themselves to make this to come up with them. The following was the menu served.

Cherry Salad and Lettuce
Baked Chicken Cold Tongue
Ham Baked Beans
Vanilla Ice Cream Cake
Black Coffee.

After which J. L. Ellis of the committee called on Noble Grand J. B. Bass who in a few well chosen remarks welcomed the sisters, who was responded to by the Noble Governess of Naomi Chapter, Sister Wm. Irvin, who was equal to the occasion and complimented the brothers on their effort.

The evening was spent in a social way and all, both young and old, seemed to have the time of their lives. The committee, consisting of J. W. Crump, J. L. Ellis and W. Cotters, are to be congratulated for the grand success which attended the efforts of Golden City lodge to entertain their sisters.

Timely Article On Labor Issue

Changing Issues.

Political issues have decidedly changed within the past few years. All classes of citizens seem to realize it except the Negro. He still votes under the influence of 1863 and the abolition of slavery. Our people are apparently standing with their back to the future, gazing in rapture at the fast-declining rays of a setting sun.

The principles and isms of our early freedom have long since become history. New questions of public policy occupy the stage and we must face about and understand them. Over at Washington just now the spectacle of the House and Senate endeavoring to "revise the tariff downward" so as to take the wind out of Democratic sails, and yet keep it high enough to satisfy "the interests" and protect American Labor. And this is the kernel of the nut. In this "protection to American Labor" the Negro has no lot or interest. The colored orators sent out by the party bosses still tell the dolorous story of emancipation and Democratic hypocrisy. If it were possible to eliminate a few discredited fireeaters from the Democratic party, the best-trained Negro with a microscope could not find the line of difference between the two old parties.

question only crops out, like the convenient ghost of the Witch of Endor, when called forth. The trust, the tariff and American labor is the absorbing topic at present and it behooves the Afro-American orators to get busy along these lines.

The great struggle of tomorrow will be between labor, organized and unorganized, on the one hand, and combined capital on the other. A few years ago the world roared with laughter when Ignatius Donnelly in his "Caesar's Column" drew the dismal picture of the coming struggle. But those who have followed the trend of events can see the shadow of coming trouble. Where will the Negro be in the struggle?

Organized Labor and the Negro.

The struggle between labor and capital has been of long standing. Organized labor is centuries old. In its inception it knew no race; no creed; no nothing, but the betterment of the laboring class. In this day organized labor is for the uplift of the working-man, and has done much to make his arduous conditions more bearable. But it is no longer the all-inclusive organization of yore. It is for the laboring man—but more especially the white man. It is notorious that almost every labor union bars the Negro, and meagre are his chances for a place as an apprentice. The union secures better hours, better wages, and strives to raise the standard of workmanship. To all these benefits the Negro is excluded. We know much of labor unions in the West. Out here almost every form of labor is organized and then federated. And from these unions, except hod-carriers, the Negro is barred. The Negro is a strong, sturdy laborer, possessing exceptional mental capacity and physical energy and endurance. Without the careful training of an apprenticeship, when given a chance, he soon acquires remarkable technical knowledge of any trade. The

great mass of the Negroes are laborers. They are a very potential factor in the labor market. Where will they be in the coming struggle? Excluded from the unions, and hounded by the petty, spiteful hatred of ignorant labor claqueurs, will they stand shoulder to shoulder with those "who toil in the heat of the day," or will they be forced to those "who toil not, neither do they spin"?

Ignorant Prejudice.

Elsewhere on this page we reproduce an editorial comment from the *Miners' Magazine* relating to the very recent decision of the Georgia Board of Arbitration in the case of railroads employing Negro firemen. It is a splendid rebuke to the carping prejudice of the labor union and a strong appeal to the manhood of the nation. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen of Georgia protested against the employment of the Negro, and the railroad companies checked the question up to the State Board of Arbitration, and the board decided in favor of the Negro. And the howl goes on.

If the labor unions of the nation were honest in their expressed desire to help the struggling laborer, they would insist on the Negro firemen being paid the scale. Over in Wyoming a short time ago a Japanese construction company secured the contract for building the water-works system. The vision of several thousand Japs flinging dirt and taking in the equivalent roused the ire of the "laboring classes" and a strong protest against the winners of the contract was made. Canada has removed some of the restrictions on Chinese immigration and the conditions confronting the clans of organized labor become daily more complex. And, where will the Negro be in the coming struggle? He's rising!

Intelligent Understanding.

An intelligent understanding of current questions is what our people need. They must turn from the contemplation of the sad-faced martyr and grapple with the present. The Negro must know the causes of financial depression, and have a full knowledge of his relation to labor. He must know these things not as a beautiful theory, but as hard facts. And knowing these things he must place his ballot and his moral influence where it will do the most good. The getting of wealth alone will not solve the problem. We must get ALL that goes to make a people. The lawyers, the teachers, the editors and orators must bring these things clearly before the masses of our people. Race hatred will pass away when both sides can see and intelligently understand the relation they bear to each other. Labor cannot succeed without giving a square, fair deal to ALL the laboring elements. So long as present conditions prevail the efforts of organized labor will be neutralized by the laboring element outside the order. The Negro, as well as any other class, will be forced to stand with his friends. Let us labor to eliminate race hatred in the labor world.

The New York Dry Goods Store

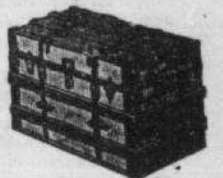
Helena, Mont.

Headquarters Trunks Suit Cases And Bags

TRUNKS SUIT CASES AND TRAVELLING



BAGS



If you are a business traveler or on vacation, remember our assortment of these articles is larger, and the prices lower than you can get elsewhere. Come and see. The comparison will cost you nothing. Take elevator to second floor.

Suit Case

A splendid Trunk, metal bound, metal bottom, linen lined, good lock, heavy straps; \$12.50 value for \$10.00

3-ply Veneer Trunk canvas covered, linen lined straps, locks and catches \$16.00

\$9.00 Ladies' Sole Leather Cases
Leather Cases; Sale price \$8.50

TRUNKS

\$20.00 Black Enamel Trunk heavy steel bumpers fiber bound metal bottom, good look, catches, heavy straps, linen lined ... \$17.50

\$15.00 Sole Leather Suit Case, linen lined shirt-fold in lid, brass lock and catches a swell case Sale price \$12.50

\$8.00 Sole Leather Cases, good Sale price \$6.50

RACE HATRED MUST BE STRANGLER.

The Arbitration Board has practically settled the strike of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen in Georgia, and it is needless to say that the railroad company got the best of the settlement. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen made a serious mistake when the organization raised the barriers against the black man, thereby bringing about a race war which could only end in an advantage to the exploiter. The black man filled the position of fireman for one dollar less per day than the white man, and the Brotherhood permitted this injustice to be meted out to a race that is struggling against all the prejudices born of the centuries. The smaller parasite in commercial circles in Georgia was in sympathy with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen in the fight against the Negro, not because the parasite was in sympathy with the labor movement but because of a race hatred, and because the dollar less per day paid to the Negro fireman forced him to economize on the necessities of life. The parasite of the South realized that the white man with a salary of \$30 per month above that of his black brother was a more valuable customer and his patronage was more to be desired than the patronage of the miserable wretch who, on account of his color and the hatred against him, was forced to accept in silence one dollar per day less than the white fireman, regardless of the fact that this colored slave of the Georgia Railway Company performed the same service.

Had the Brotherhood of Railway Fireman of Georgia been permeated with a spirit of justice and had the membership of the organization a broad grasp of

the industrial problem, a battle would have been waged against the Georgia Railway Company until that arrogant corporation recognized the same pay for the same service, whether the service was performed by the Caucasian or the African.

If the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen does not reach down its hand to lift the man from below then the man below will drag the Brotherhood to his level and the railway companies of Georgia and every other state in which the Negro becomes a factor to be reckoned with in the labor market, will give their aid and support in bringing about a condition of almost absolute servitude in the railway service.

The labor organizations of today must have a broad foundation, and the doors of unionism must be opened wide to every wage earner, no matter what may be his color or creed, or no matter whether he comes from Southern Europe or the Orient. The time has passed when the white man can afford to lock the doors of the labor organization against the black, brown and yellow races. These races are here, in America, and organized labor must assimilate these races, or else Capitalism will utilize these races to crush unionism wherever possible.—*Miners' Magazine.*

Mrs. Clay of Kansas City Mo. Mrs. Hickman of St. Joe Mo. and Mrs. Nicholson of Livingston are visitors in our city having arrived here Wednesday, they are en route to Seattle and have stopped over for a week as the guests of Mrs. Geo. M. Lee and Mrs. Wm. Mason. Social functions are the order of the week, commencing with Mrs. Saulsbury and Clark Wednesday evening an afternoon tea by Mrs. Lee on Thursday and the big reception by Mrs. Mason on Friday night at Germania hall it will indeed be a strenuous week.