

Donaldsonville Chief.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Saturday, December 9, 1876.

The result of a billiard tournament just played in New York city is that Rudolphe, Joseph Dion and Slosson are tied for first, second and third prizes, Cyrille Dion takes fourth prize, while Joseph Dion wins the prize of a billiard table for highest average.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 30, the beautiful monument of Religious Liberty erected on the Centennial grounds by the Jewish order of B'nai B'rith, was unveiled with imposing ceremonies in the presence of an enthusiastic concourse of people.

Colonel Mackenzie, with a detachment of the Fourth Cavalry and a small force of friendly Indians, attacked a Cheyenne camp of 200 lodges and 500 warriors on the west fork of Powder river, November 25, and thoroughly routed the redskins, capturing their lodges and supplies, together with over 250 ponies. About twenty-five Indians were killed and a large number wounded. On the side of the troops the loss in killed was but three, Lieut. John A. McKenney, a corporal and one private. Col. Mackenzie will combine with Gen. Crook and attack Crazy Horse, who is said to be camping on Rosebud river.

Hon. Samuel J. Randall of Pennsylvania has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives to fill the vacancy resulting from the death of Mr. Kerr. Mr. Randall received 73 votes in the caucus of Democratic Representatives, against 63 cast for Hon. S. S. Cox of New York, and was elected Speaker by a party vote. The Republicans supporting Hon. J. A. Garfield of Ohio. The new presiding officer is a man of undoubted force and ability, though a thorough politician and a bitter partisan. The first day of his occupation of the Speaker's chair was marked by several appeals by members of the minority from rulings which were favorable to a Democratic measure which it was deemed policy to push through without debate, and this can scarcely be regarded as a favorable augury of the conduct and experience of Mr. Kerr's successor.

Patterning after Gen. Wade Hampton of South Carolina, Gen. Francis T. Nicholls of our own State, claiming to be Governor elect, issues an address to the people, which appears in the New Orleans Democrat of Wednesday evening, commending them for their conduct up to this time and earnestly beseeching them to refrain from violence in any form and await the "deliverance" which the distinguished signer of the address feels confident is shortly to be effected by the great American people. Gen. Nicholls naturally animadverts severely upon the Returning Officers who refuse to make proclamation that he has been chosen Governor by the fair and legal vote of Louisiana, but he cautions his followers that any attempt to seek redress "outside the regular channels of the law" will only serve to defeat the object sought to be attained. In this respect, at least, Gen. Nicholls has spoken wisely.

In South Carolina the situation is still threatening. In consequence of measures being taken by the Republican House to forcibly eject the Democrats claiming seats from counties excluded by the Returning Board, the Democratic members on Monday withdrew from the Capitol building in a body and again repaired to Carolina Hall, where they maintain a separate organization, recognized by the Supreme Court of the State, the Judges of which are openly accused of corrupt alliance with the Democracy. The Republican House and Senate are in co-operation and have declared the Republican State ticket elected. Gov. Chamberlain was inaugurated Wednesday as his own successor, and his authority will be maintained by President Grant. The Supreme Court has ordered the Secretary of State to deliver the election returns to the Democratic Speaker, but the mandate has not yet been complied with.

The National Complication.

Hayes Elected President.

Tilden's Election also Claimed.

Attempt to Steal His Missing Vote from Oregon.

On Wednesday the Presidential Electors assembled in the various States and cast their votes for President and Vice President of the United States. A summary of the total vote shows 185 for Hayes and Wheeler and 184 for Tilden and Hendricks. The Republican candidates having received a legal majority of the Electoral College are duly chosen and will be inaugurated in March. Upon this consummation the country is to be congratulated. Under the administration of President Hayes we will have a firm and equitable enforcement of law and a civil service as pure as an honest and patriotic Chief Magistrate can make it.

The Democrats, however, are not disposed to relinquish without a struggle a contest so nearly won and vital to the very existence of their party. A conspiracy to capture the one electoral vote requisite to the election of Tilden has been developed in Oregon. Mr. Watts, one of the Republican electors chosen by a fair and undisputed majority of the popular vote in that State, was disqualified for the position by reason of holding a federal office, that of Postmaster. Under the law of Oregon a vacancy in the Electoral College is filled by vote of the qualified members, but in defiance of this statute Grover, the Democratic Governor, issued a certificate of election to one Cronin, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes on the Democratic electoral ticket. The two Republican electors refused to recognize this illegal action, and selecting Watts to fill the vacancy in the college—he having resigned his post-office—the three votes were cast for Hayes and Wheeler. In the meantime, Cronin assumed that the refusal of the Republican Electors to meet him vacated their positions, and he selected two so-called Republicans to assist in enacting the force of casting the electoral vote. These disguised Democrats voted for Hayes and Wheeler, while Cronin cast a useless ballot for Tilden and Hendricks.

The effect of this conspiracy will be to intensify the struggle in Congress over the counting of the electoral vote and to render more imminent the danger of the contest extending beyond the legislative halls but it is not to be for a moment supposed that the lawless plot will achieve its purpose and secure the Presidency to a defeated candidate. As we before remarked, Hayes and Wheeler have been elected and will be inaugurated as next President and Vice President of the United States.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

Congress met Monday and both Houses have been every day occupied with questions affecting the present political crisis. House committees have been appointed to visit South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, and will at once enter upon their duties. In the Senate a resolution presented by Mr. Edmunds was adopted providing for the investigation by the Committee of Privileges and Elections of affairs in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina. Inquiry will also be made by the same committee into the action of Governor Grover of Oregon in issuing a certificate of election to a defeated Tilden Elector. Six subcommittees will be appointed for the Southern States just mentioned. The President's annual message was received the first day of the session, and on Wednesday was followed by a special message transmitting the report of the Republican committee which visited Louisiana at the President's request and attended the sessions of the Returning Board. A House committee has been instructed to inquire whether any violation of law have been committed by the President, and the more violent Democrats threaten impeachment, but it is not probable that this measure will be seriously attempted. The main reason of complaint against the executive is his use of troops in the disputed Southern States to maintain the authority of the local governments.

The Florida Board of Election Commissioners have completed their labors, and besides declaring the success of the Hayes and Wheeler Electors, they announce the election of the entire Republican State ticket and both Republican candidates for Congress. The average majority on the State ticket was 409.

The Louisiana Election.

Decision of the Returning Board.

The Republican Electors, State Officers, Four Members of Congress, 11 State Senators and 71 Representatives Declared Elected.

The Louisiana Returning Board has completed its canvass of the vote of the State, and makes proclamation of the election of the Republican Electors and State officers by majorities ranging from 3300 to 5200 in a total vote of nearly 146,000. Mr. Packard's majority over Gen. Nicholls is 3422.

Four Republican members of Congress are returned elected—Darrall in the Third District by 1693 majority, Smith in the Fourth by 1194, Leonard in the Fifth by 1669, and Nash in the Sixth by a majority of 94 votes. In the First District Gibson defeated his Republican opponent 2632 votes, while Ellis received 2101 majority over Dibble, Republican, in the Second District.

The Board also finds that eleven Republicans have been elected to the State Senate and 71 to the House of Representatives, giving a Republican majority of two in the former body and about 25 in the latter, or 27 on joint ballot.

It is not denied that the Democrats had a majority of the votes actually polled, but the Returning Board deemed the evidence of violence and intimidation practiced in several parishes of the State sufficient to invalidate the vote cast at many polls, and these were excluded from the count. The Board is now engaged in tabulating and promulgating the vote for judicial and parochial officers.

THE NEXT CONGRESS.

A very significant fact, showing that the Republican party is by no means in that state of dissolution from lack of public confidence so fondly imagined by over sanguine followers of the Tilden and reform banner, is the overthrow of the large Democratic majority in the popular branch of Congress and the substitution therefore of a plurality of Republican Representatives. In the present House there are 187 Democrats to 105 Republicans, a Democratic excess of 82. According to a close calculation made by the New York Commercial Advertiser and other leading newspapers, when the next House assembles there will be 148 Republicans to 145 Democrats on the roll. These figures are based on the most reliable returns from the recent elections and upon the assumption that New Hampshire will elect three Republicans at her Congressional election next spring. The present delegation from that State is composed of two Democrats and one Republican, but both the former owe their election to Republican dissensions which have since been healed. There is a fair Republican majority in each of the three districts into which the State is subdivided.

The Republican gains were made in the following States: California 1, Illinois 7, Indiana 4, Iowa 1, Kansas 1, Louisiana 2, Massachusetts 4, Michigan 1, Missouri 4, New Jersey 1, New York 1, Ohio 5, Oregon 1, Pennsylvania 10, Tennessee 1, Wisconsin 1, Colorado 1, and assuming New Hampshire 2, gives a total Republican gain of 48. The Democrats gained in Alabama 2, Kentucky 1, Mississippi 2; total 5. The net Republican gain, therefore, is 43 Representatives, and the net Democratic loss 42, the new member from Colorado not being counted as a loss. The seating of several Republicans who have manifestly failed of election because of gross frauds practiced in the interest of their opponents, will give a good working majority in the House to co-operate with that of the Senate in sustaining the beneficent administration of President Hayes with wholesome laws in keeping with the institutions of the Republic and the policy of government established by the Republican party.

The remarkable change in the character of the representative branch of Congress indicates much more clearly the condition of the public mind and the will of the people than does Mr. Tilden's boasted "popular majority," predicated for the most part upon such monstrous and unnatural reversions as were produced by unconcealed violence and fraud in Mississippi, Alabama and other States where armed and obstreperous minorities habitually overawe and browbeat peaceful, law abiding majorities.

The country has demonstrated its unwillingness to trust the law making branch of the government in the hands of Democrats, and has thereby given an expression of continued and renewed confidence in the Republican party which is especially encouraging in the present peculiar situation of affairs growing out of a sharply contested Presidential election.

Recent cable dispatches brought the almost incredible information that 215,000 souls perished during the inundation caused by a terrible cyclone in India, and later advices announce that the number was considerably underestimated. Besides this fearful destruction of human life whole towns and villages were swept away, crops ruined and ninety per cent. of the animals used for plowing killed. Much sickness prevails in the devastated region, and great destitution among the surviving population is feared.

Col. R. Brown, a planter residing in St. Bernard parish, was last week shot and killed by a colored laborer named Blaize, to whom he was indebted in the sum of \$2. Blaize demanded payment and was told to wait until the hands were paid after rolling, whereupon he raised a shotgun and discharged both barrels, lodging forty-two buckshot in the body of his victim.

Messrs. Chaffee and Teller, the Senators elected from the new State of Colorado, were sworn in and took their seats on the opening day of the present Congressional session. To determine their respective terms of service, they drew lots, Mr. Chaffee securing the long term, ending March 4, 1879, and Mr. Teller the short, ending March 4, 1877.

One of the Rhode Island Presidential Electors, Mr. Corliss, being ineligible on account of holding an official appointment under the federal government, the General Assembly of the State convened in special session and elected Hon. W. S. Slater to fill the vacancy. Out of 190 votes, 19 were Democratic.

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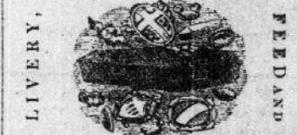
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