

The Donaldsonville Chief

Official Journal of Ascension Parish,
Town of Donaldsonville and
Parish School Board.

L. E. BENTLEY, Editor and Proprietor

G. D. BENTLEY, Managing Editor

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1908

ANNOUNCEMENT.

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

To the Democrats of the Twenty-seventh Judicial District, comprising the parishes of Ascension, Iberville and St. James: I hereby announce my candidacy for the office of District Attorney for said district, subject to the Democratic primary election to be held at a time to be fixed by the Democratic committee of the Twenty-seventh Judicial District. I solicit the good will and support of all the Democrats of this district and in doing so I pledge them, if elected, that I will perform my duty without fear or favor.

Very respectfully,
PHILIP H. GILBERT.

The nomination of Secretary Taft on the first ballot at Chicago now seems a foregone conclusion. The chances are that all the other candidates will be withdrawn and the choice announced by acclamation.

The Chief is indebted to Dr. E. L. Stephens, the brainy president of the Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute, for an invitation to attend the seventh annual commencement exercises of that institution, which were held at Lafayette during the past week.

Hon. Alex. Hebert of Plaquemine, the Nestor of the Iberville bar, is announced as a candidate for one of the two judgeships in the district composed of the parishes of Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee, and his eminent qualifications for the post lead to the confident prediction that success will crown his candidacy. Mr. Hebert served the public interest with faithfulness and distinguished ability as district attorney for twenty consecutive years, and his elevation to the bench would not be less an honor to the people of his district than to himself.

It is announced from Washington that Senator Foraker's health has broken down and that he will be compelled to follow Senator Tillman's example in seeking recuperation by total abstinence from work and excitement of all kinds. This doubtless forebodes the collapse of the movement impeded to prevent, if possible, the nomination of Secretary Taft for president by the Republican national convention. Senator Foraker was the main reliance of the anti-Taft and anti-Roosevelt contingent, and without his presence and active leadership at Chicago the "insurgents" are likely to cut but a sorry and diminutive figure.

The action of Gov. Sanders in withdrawing from the senate all the nominations made by Gov. Blanchard during the past two years, with the apparent intention of supplanting every mother's son of the lot with a Sanders partisan, is a remarkable and probably unprecedented exhibition of personal and political spite. The tone and substance of Gov. Sanders' inaugural address encouraged popular belief in his purpose to administer the affairs of Louisiana's government in a dignified, statesmanlike and impartial manner, and it is extremely disappointing to find one of his earliest official actions belying the fair promise of his inaugural and displaying the tendencies of the peanut politician. If the new governor persists in such a course he will hurt himself worse than any of the decepted appointees.

The Louisiana Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias, held its twenty-eighth annual convention on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, at Hammond. Past Chancellor Henry L. Weil represented Kenneth Lodge No. 41 of Donaldsonville and Past Chancellor L. E. Bentley of the same lodge was chairman of the grand lodge's committee on judiciary. The following grand officers were elected for the ensuing year: Grand chancellor, J. W. Compton of New Iberia; Grand vice chancellor, B. Mendelson of New Orleans; Grand Prelate, B. F. Thompson of Alexandria; Grand keeper of records and seal, John A. McLean of New Orleans; Grand master of exchequer, T. C. Willis of New Orleans; Grand master-at-arms, Judson Harris of Jennings; Grand inner guard, E. T. Hallett of Slidell; Grand outer guard, Geo. E. Boos of Hammond. The session was very largely attended and very satisfactory in its results. Next year's meeting is to be held in Minden.

Democratic Delegates Elected.

The Democratic executive committee of Ascension parish met at the courthouse at noon last Sunday for the purpose of electing delegates to the Democratic state convention to be held at Baton Rouge on June 3. Chairman H. C. Brand presided and roll-call showed ten members present in person and one by proxy. The following were selected to constitute the delegation: Joseph Gonzales, H. McCulloch, R. J. Chauvin, R. N. Sims, V. Maurin, S. V. Vega, G. R. Reuss, H. C. Brand, C. C. Weber, A. A. Kling, Lucien Gautreaux, E. D. Dixon, G. A. Goddard, L. A. Ambrose, Germain Nargessans, J. S. Barman, E. P. Day, W. W. Adams, G. D. Gort, J. C. R. Brown, P. E. Braun, Sr., Oscar Kling, L. A. Duplessis, P. Sidney Bertain and Dr. J. T. Belinier.

It was resolved that the delegates vote as a unit on all questions coming before the convention in such manner as may be determined by a majority of those present, in person or by proxy. No other instructions were given the delegates.

Mr. Pharr and the Republican Party.

The Chief gave Henry N. Pharr zealous and loyal support in his recent candidacy for governor as the nominee of the Republican party of Louisiana, and we have nothing to regret or repent in that regard, for we still look upon him as an able, honest and sterling young man, who would make an excellent chief executive; but we feel under no sort of obligation to subscribe to everything he chose to say in his campaign speeches.

Particularly are we absolved from such an obligation with respect to utterances which were not only out of accord with his letter of acceptance and the address of his campaign committee, but diametrically opposed to at least one of the fundamental principles of the national Republican party.

It has been the lifelong contention of this party that the civil and political rights of a citizen should not be determined or circumscribed by his race or color, and so fully is this declaration identified and interwoven with the origin and entire existence of the party, that to repudiate the doctrine is wholly inconsistent with the affirmation of belief in and adherence to Republican principles.

When, therefore, Mr. Pharr injected into his campaign speeches the declaration that no negro should be sent to the National Republican convention from this state nor be permitted to participate or have a voice in Republican councils within the state, he made an unauthorized and unreplicable assertion that received merited discredit and rebuke in the subsequent action of the state convention and several of the congressional district conventions. Not only have three colored delegates and four colored alternates been accredited to the Chicago convention by the Republican party of Louisiana, but a vacancy in the Republican state committee resulting from the death of a former member has been filled by the selection of a colored man. Had the contention been that the colored voters of the state were so few in number that they were not entitled to representation in the national convention or the local party organization, the position might have been defended as reasonable and equitable, especially in view of the fact that a number of states—Republican states at that—with a great many more negro voters than Louisiana has, send no negroes to national conventions. It is doubtful if there are as many as one thousand negroes registered and qualified as voters in Louisiana today. States with five, ten, fifteen, twenty and more times this number of negro voters will have no negro delegates at Chicago. But the distinction is that none of these states have excluded the negro because he is a negro, and in no instance save that furnished by Mr. Pharr has it been proposed to go to a Republican convention seeking admission in the face of an emphatic repudiation of a basic Republican principle as embraced in the declaration that citizens were excluded from the delegation because of their race and color.

It is doubtful if the Democratic national convention would openly subscribe to such a declaration by admitting delegates chosen under it; and it is a matter of political record that no Democratic national convention has yet been willing to adopt the shibboleth of many southern Democrats that theirs is exclusively "a white man's party." The Democrats of the north don't drive away votes because they may be cast by negroes. On the contrary, such votes are desired and sought, and not a few are secured by northern Democratic candidates.

There is no real negro issue in Louisiana politics. This state does not and never will stand in danger of "negro domination," even if the negro vote increases a hundred fold. The white man will always dominate the state and the country and every state in the country, as he does now, and nobody appreciates the fact better than the sensible and intelligent colored man. No sensible and intelligent man, white or colored, desires a return of the abnormal conditions that prevailed in the southern states during the unsettled and troublous reconstruction period following the civil war, nor can such a man believe a recurrence of those conditions possible. There is a general acceptance, by Republicans as well as Democrats, of the suffrage qualifications as now prescribed by the constitution and laws of Louisiana, based on educational and property-holding requirements, supplemented by payment of poll taxes. The platform upon which Mr. Pharr entered his campaign pledged the Republican party to the maintenance of these requirements, and both in this platform and the Republican committee's address issued just before the close of the canvass the utterances of Hon. Wm. H. Taft in defense of the reasonableness and propriety of such suffrage qualifications were quoted with approval and endorsement. Mr. Pharr's intervening declarations that a certain class of citizens, though otherwise qualified under the law, would be excluded from Republican councils because of their color, was in clear contravention of the spirit, if not the letter of his own previous utterances, and of both the law and spirit of all authoritative Republican pronouncements on the same subject.

Mr. Pharr claims that certain leading Republicans knew of his views as to negro exclusion and were committed to the support of the policy he advocated, but it is very evident that a great preponderance of the rank and file of the party did not share their gubernatorial candidate's ideas and prejudices on this question, since the Republican state convention that met in New Orleans on the 11th of May upheld by a vote of 422 to 49 the report of a committee on nominations that proposed the election of a colored delegate and a colored alternate from the state at large to the national Republican convention. This decisive result showed conclusively that no man or set of men, however prominent and influential, hold a brief to commit the Republican party of Louisiana to the proscription and heretical doctrine, as viewed from a Republican standpoint, that a citizen's color should be made the basis of his right and privilege to have any share, however small and humble, in political and public affairs.

Some attempt has been made to claim that all Republicans who spoke from or appeared upon the same rostrums with Mr. Pharr, and all who listened to his anti-republican utterances without openly expressing their dissent, virtually indorsed his views and are bound by them. The claim is untenable. Any public demonstration of the character suggested would not only have been violative of common courtesy and public order, but demoralizing to the Republican campaign. It is unquestionable, however, that many of the Republicans who sat and spoke with the gubernatorial candidate, deprecated his attitude as to the subject under discussion and deplored its injection into the state campaign as irrelevant, unnecessary and unwise. We have in mind a conspicuous instance of this dissent, where one of the state's oldest and ablest Republican leaders officiated as chairman of a meeting addressed by Mr. Pharr and subsequently in a personal letter avowed his inability as a Republican to accept or indorse the candidate's opinions. Surely, it could not be expected that the chairman of such a meeting, as such, would then and there proclaim his disagreement and thus break up the meeting or destroy its effect. Mr. Pharr was privately advised of the ineligibility of his course, but declined to be influenced or dissuaded.

The duty of the Republican convention to put the party of this state right on the issue forced in the front by Mr. Pharr was plain, and the manner in which this duty was performed was eminently satisfactory. It is apparent that the Louisiana Republican organization is in line with the national party, as it should be, and that leaders who refuse to subscribe to Republican principles can no longer be regarded or followed as Republican leaders.

Gov. Sanders Inaugurated.

Jared Y. Sanders was inaugurated as governor of Louisiana on Monday last, the 18th inst., and expectations were fully realized as to the elaborate and imposing character of the civic display and social entertainments incidental to the important event. Baton Rouge probably never had a larger number of people within her corporate limits, and in the throng were representatives of every part of the state. The parade that preceded the inaugural ceremony was a big affair; the crowd that listened to the inaugural address was of vast proportions, and the inaugural reception and ball at night was a brilliant function. From a spectacular point of view the advent of the new administration was a great success, and the governor's speech outlining the policy he proposes to pursue and indicating the reforms that should be effected in the government of the commonwealth, is eliciting general praise and endorsement from the people and the press. If the results to be achieved during the next four years even approximately bear out the assurances of this address, Gov. Sanders will have established a large claim upon the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens of Louisiana when he surrenders the gubernatorial trust to his successor.

Among the more important topics and recommendations of the inaugural address are the following: A higher state liquor license should be exacted, with a minimum of \$500 for parishes and municipalities; groceries and saloons should be separated, liquor licenses should not be issued to women, and the practice of women and girls serving in barrooms should be prohibited; local option is preferable to state-wide prohibition; race-track gambling should be penalized by law; so should miscegenation; amendment of the "Tulane lease" is favored; the primary election law should be amended so as to protect the purity of the ballot, require declaration of party affiliation and safeguard the count; the legislative assembly should be reorganized from Baton Rouge; dual officeholding denounced; child labor laws and more liberal provision for old soldiers should be enacted; the state board of education should be given advisory control over the higher institutions of learning, and the salary of the state superintendent be increased to \$5000; secret sessions of public boards should be prohibited; corporations should be compelled to bear their just share of taxation, and surplus revenues applied to reduction of the state debt; legislation for the refunding of this debt at a lower rate of interest will be proposed; further reduction of the state tax rate cannot now be made, if all legitimate demands upon the revenue are to be met; an improved system of checking public accounts should be adopted to prevent defalcations; exemption of manufacturers from parochial and municipal taxation is recommended as a means of attracting capital; the work of the New Orleans port investigation commission is praised; the practice of borrowing money by the governor without authority of law is condemned, and the high officers of the board of liquidation in emergencies is suggested. The address was concluded with the declaration that every pledge made by the speaker in the late campaign will be fulfilled so far as the governor's power permits.

Lieutenant Governor Paul M. Lambremont was also inducted into office on Monday and made a well-timed speech to the state senate upon assuming his seat as presiding officer of that body. The standing committees of both houses of the general assembly have been appointed, and many bills have already been introduced in both houses. The work of legislation should be in full swing next week, and a big crop of important new laws is in prospect.

What the Cohentites Amount To.

When the Cohen faction of the Republican party in Louisiana announced the withdrawal of their state ticket several weeks before the recent election the belief was general in political circles that the action was superfluous because of the inability of the factionists to obtain the signatures of 1000 qualified voters prerequisite to the placing of their ticket on the official ballot, and that, even if these signatures had been available, the Cohenite leaders would have shrunk from a trial of strength with the regular and recognized party organization of which Frank B. Williams is chairman. The announcement that the Cohen-Coleman ticket had been withdrawn in order to give the Williams-Pharr nominees a clear field against the Democratic party, was intended for political effect with the Republican national committee and convention, but it could not and did not deceive any one familiar with the political conditions in this state. It is well known here that if the Cohentites could have got their candidates on the ballot and had dared to measure votes with their Republican competitors, the opportunity would have been eagerly embraced for the sake of the political capital the result of the contest might have yielded at Chicago next month.

The Cohentites did venture and invite a little test of strength in the city of New Orleans, where they succeeded in mustering the 100 votes required to nominate a candidate for the single tax collectorship, and their nominee, Ed. Young, was supported with the avowed purpose and expectation of receiving a larger vote than that to be polled by Louis P. Bryant, the regular Republican candidate for the same office.

The returns show this result: Bryant, 2617; Young, 232. The Cohentite candidate was beaten more than eleven to one, and in a state-wide contest there can be but little doubt that the factionists would have been distanced still further.

Reunion of Louisiana Newspaper Workers.

The literary program for next week's meeting of the Louisiana Press Association, which is to open on Tuesday at Baton Rouge, has been formulated by President C. C. DeGraffenreid of the Shreveport Times, and includes the following papers and addresses:

"The Editor in Politics," Horace A. Mangham, Richard Reuss-News.
"The Country Newspaper," W. H. Scanland, Bossier Banner.
"The Duty of Journalism in Shaping the Policies of this Government," Will A. Strong, Winnfield Sentinel.
"Journalists, Men and Women," Mrs. Camilla L. Breazale, Natchitoches Enterprise.
"High Ideals," Col. J. W. Nicholson, Baton Rouge.
"Tax Reform in Louisiana," Solomon Wolff, New Orleans.
"Child Labor in Louisiana," Miss Jean Gordon, New Orleans.
"National Monuments in the Vicksburg Military Park," Gen. A. B. Booth, New Orleans.

Hon. Joseph Ransdell, member of congress from the fifth district, has promised to address the association if congress adjourns today as expected, and will select some topic of statewide and national interest, probably improvement of waterways. Hon. John Dymond of the Louisiana Planter has been designated to respond to the welcome addresses on behalf of the press association.

Taken in connection with the attractive schedule of entertainments already outlined in these columns, the literary feast arranged by President DeGraffenreid should assure the newspaper people of the state one of the most edifying and enjoyable reunions they have yet held.

Strenuous Journalism in Iberville.

Rev. John J. Holtgreve, the able and fearless priest in charge of St. John's Catholic congregation at Plaquemine, has found the running of a newspaper in connection with his clerical duties rather too strenuous a task even for his well-developed energy, hence he has retired from the editorial staff of the Iberville Sentinel. Father Holtgreve declares that this step was prompted by "cowardly attacks upon his character," which had no other provocation than his "efforts to build up a sound and healthy public opinion;" that his sole purpose in entering the editorial arena was "the betterment of Plaquemine and Iberville parish;" that because he "could not be used as a tool" he became the object of foul and vulgar abuse to which as a gentleman he could not resort in kind, therefore, rather than expose himself to such unwarranted attacks, he retired from the Sentinel, "begging an appreciative public to give its full moral and financial support to those who will continue the good work." The paper is now in the hands of J. Howell Pugh and Alfred G. Whidden, both former residents of Donaldsonville, and they are making it one of the best looking and spiciest little sheets in the state.

Baseball Bulletin.

The redoubtable Phelps-Tulane, of New Orleans, will try conclusions with the local Blues at Cleveland Park tomorrow afternoon, and it is safe to assume that the game will be peppery and interesting from beginning to end. The Phelps-Tulane team is one of the fastest and best in the New Orleans Semi-Prof. League, and has held its own against such classy clubs as the Parker-Blakes, O'Harrigans, Chalmettes and Eddie. Among its players are Bonafee, Hauck, Skelly, Miller and other well-known stars of the baseball firmament. The Blues will present their usual fifty line-up and may be depended on to give the visitors a run for their money.

Cleveland Park was "dark" last Sunday, no game having been scheduled by Manager Leche on account of the holding of the annual Catholic fair. On Sunday, May 31, the Blues will travel to New Orleans and tie up with the far-famed Parker-Blakes of that city.

Duplessis Notes.

Among the prominent citizens of this locality who visited Baton Rouge for the inaugural ceremonies were W. A. Habin, Gerard Hebert, T. B. Marchand, A. P. Marchand, S. B. Bourque, V. J. Marchand, and Basil Bertheau.

Hon. Joseph E. Gonzales and Ulger Bourque, of Gonzales, were visiting friends here last Sunday.

J. J. LeSaichere made a business trip to Gonzales last Tuesday. Fernand Richard, a prosperous farmer of Dutchtown, was here Tuesday on business.

Parish Treasurer A. A. Kling and son, Edwig, were business visitors to Duplessis last Saturday.

John McCrory, of Gonzales, was circulating among his friends in this community during the early part of the week.

Louis Parent visited relatives at St. Amot on Wednesday.

The farmers of this section have been blessed (?) with a little too much rain.

JULIAN L. LESAICHERRE.

St. Amant Notes.

M. J. DuVernay, of New Orleans, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Bourgeois last Sunday. Amadee Savio went to Gonzales Sunday.

Edmond Bourgeois and Justy Thomassie, accompanied by their bright little sons, Allen and Earl, visited Gonzales last Saturday on business. Sidney Morin, of Arcy, was here Monday.

Joseph, Louis and Camille Bourgeois, Louis and Camille Guedry and Sidney Babin attended a meeting of the LeBlanc Lodge of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union at Black Bayou last Tuesday night.

The heavy rains of last week damaged the crops in this locality to a considerable extent. Practically all of the fields are inundated and many farmers will be compelled to replant. Prior to "the flood," the outlook was exceptionally promising, the crops having been remarkably well advanced for this season of the year.

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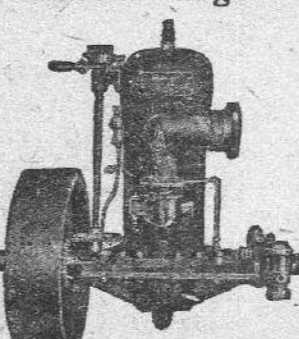
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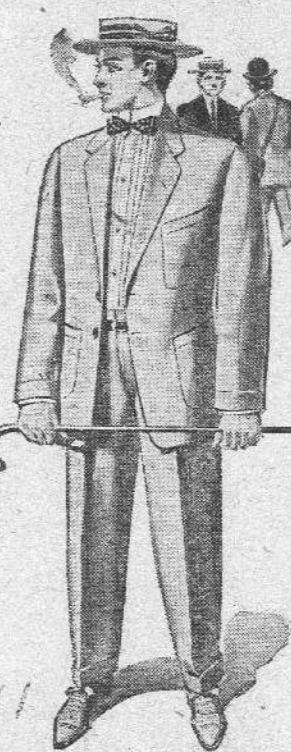
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