The Times.

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THE TIMES COMPANY.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1898.

"A BRAND NEW" DEMOCRACY.

Mr. Tillman, of South Carolina, gave the public a still further insight into his proposed reforms of the Democratic party at the Academy of Music Wednesday night. He said amongst other things:

"The old party used to play the fool when it had the opportunity. But we have a brand new party; a party with new leaders. It was born at Chicago in 1896. It was the greatest convention I ever attended. A new Declaration of Independence was adopted. We must fight for this declaration. Washington was whipped in all battles except two, and we will reach our Yorktown in 1900."

It is gratifying to an old-fashioned Democrat to meet with this confession from one of the most illustrious professors of the present Democracy that it is a "brand-new party," and that the Democracy of old has been discarded and sent to the rear. That is precisely what The Times has been claiming ever since the Chicago Convention was held. The Times and all other Democrats who understood what Democracy meant, said when the Chicago platform was adopted that true Democracy was discarded and that a new kind of pseudo Democracy had been substituted for it. But many Democrats who loved their party said "No, we will hold on. These fellows who happened to be at Chicago got excited and allowed themselves to be carried off their feet. Let us stand by the party and things will come around all right after awhile."

Professor Tillman has now lifted the veil, however. Things will never come around right while true Democrats allow the Chicago platform to stand as the expression of their faith and Tillman and Altgeld to pose as the high priests of Democratic faith. True Democrats are now notified that the Democracy of Thomas Jefferson—the Democracy that we all knew and loved up to 1896—is the faith of a set of old fogies, and that a "brand-new" Democratic party was born at Chicago in 1896 that has new ideas and new thoughts. The Democracy of old won't do for them. Oh no! They must have a new Democracy of new aims and purposes. We have always looked upon this man Tillman as a sort of political curiosity, whose talk some people were inclined not to take very seriously, but he is unquestionably a factor in the new order of things that 1896 brought about. He held a chief part in framing the Chicago platform, and his statements of the purposes and views of those that framed it, are, therefore, entitled to great consideration. We have an authoritative announcement, therefore, that old-time Democracy was discarded at Chicago, and that the people who framed the Chicago platform intended by it to depart from the teachings of Thomas Jefferson and adopt those of a more modern school, Altgeld and Tillman being the favored professors. We ask every Democrat to pause and reflect well upon this statement of Tillman. Are you ready to abandon the Democracy in which you were raised and in which you have lived all your lives for this new Democracy that Tillman says has been prepared for you?

What do you think of Tillman's statement at Chatham last Monday, that this new Democracy proclims to the world that one of the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States received a bribe for his vote in the income tax case, and that the new Democracy intends to remodel the Supreme Court and make it consist of judges who will mould the Constitution into consonance with the theories of the new Democracy? What sort of permanence is there for your institutions? What protection have you for life, liberty and property, if the proposition is to be accepted that whenever a party comes into control of the Government the judges of the highest judicial tribunal of the country are to be adjudged to be bribe-takers, turned out of office, and their places filled with other judges who will make the foundation law what the agitators of a party desire it to be? Yet these are the "new thoughts and new ideas" that Tillman tells us his new party is formed to make prevail in this country.

We now have proclamation made by one of the high priests of Chicago Democracy of what that Democracy means. There has been but one recent announcement of true Democracy made, and that was at the Indianapolis Convention. Will real Democrats take that as the expression of their faith or will they accept the new Democracy of Tillman and Altgeld?

THE ISSUE IN NEW YORK.

Sound Money Democrats in New York have been asked how they can consistently support Judge Van Wyck for Governor, and Hon. William B. Hornblower answers that question for himself in a most sensible and convincing communication to the New York Times of recent date.

Mr. Hornblower says that the Democratic State convention nominated a clean candidate and adopted a clean platform. That by confining itself to State issues and omitting any reference to the Chicago platform, it invited the co-operation of all Democrats as well as all good citizens of all parties, whether they agreed or disagreed with the doctrines of the Chicago platform. He then points out the difference in the attitude of the Democratic party and the Republican party towards State government, and adds:

It is urged, however, that a victory for the Democratic party in this State this fall will give aid and comfort to the Free Silver Democrats in other States, and will help to secure a free silver victory in the Democratic convention of 1900 and in the elections of 1900. This is a very ancient device to frighten voters from the path of duty. The idea that one must vote wrong in one election to prevent somebody else from voting wrong in another election is an idea that the politicians do much to encourage. Experience, however, shows that the result of one election has absolutely nothing to do with the result of the next election. Both in the State and in the nation there are waves of popular sentiment or conviction which sweep the country alternately in favor of one party or the other. The greatest victories are those that have been won immediately after the greatest defeats. Thus, the Republican victory of 1888 was followed by the Democratic landslide of 1890, and on the other hand the Democratic victory of 1892 was followed by the Republican landslides of 1894 and 1896. It is difficult, however, to perceive how even the most fanatical silverite in the Democratic party could claim that the election of Judge Van Wyck would be a victory for the silver cause, in view of the omission of the Democratic State convention to mention the subject, or to indorse the Chicago platform, and of the well-known and well-understood fact that Sound Money Democrats are rallying to the support of the State ticket. It seems to me, on the contrary, that the inference would be irresistible to any intelligent mind that the Democrats can carry the State without free silver, but cannot carry it with free silver in its platform.

Mr. Hornblower states the case correctly. If the New York platform had not been a blow to free silver, the free silver Democrats in that State would not have rebelled; Mr. "Coin" Harvey would not have said that in his opinion the delegates from New York would not be recognized at the next national convention; Mr. Tillman would not have said in his speech in this city night before last that he would be gratified to see the Van Wyck ticket defeated.

There is a large element in the Democratic party in favor of free silver, and if Chairman Jones and Candidate Bryan and others of that extreme wing shall have their way the Chicago platform of 1896 will be reaffirmed in the national convention of 1900. However, there are many men in the Democratic party who supported Bryan in 1896, but who are unequivocally opposed to a repetition of that programme. These men constitute a majority of the Democrats in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Connecticut and Delaware and they must be reckoned with when the convention next meets.

Mr. Croker mapped out his plan of action many months ago as was exploited in these columns at the time, and the campaign in New York this year is a part of the general plan. The Sound Money Democrats will be at the convention of 1900 in full force and the silver men will see then, if they do not see now, that it is simply impossible to win without them.

THE SOUTH'S WORSE FOES.

The article which the New York Journal of Commerce recently printed concerning the cotton situation in the South has attracted wide attention throughout the cotton belt. The Populistic papers had contended that the low price of cotton was due to the gold standard, and that five cent cotton was ruinous to the Southern planter.

If these papers are to be believed the South to-day is poverty stricken and there is no sort of inducement to any capitalist to invest his money in this land of bankruptcy. But the bankers throughout the South who have financed the cotton crop and who are in a position to know what they are talking about have assured the Journal of Commerce that there is a fair margin of profit in five cent cotton, and that the Southern planters are to-day in better condition than they have been since the war.

Here then was another attempt on the part of the calamity howlers for partisan purposes to disparage the South, and the real facts in the case had to be brought out by a newspaper published in the very heart of Wall street. When will the Southern people open their eyes to the fact that the greatest enemies to the progress and prosperity of this country are those pessimists who in order to promote their cause are advertising the poverty rather than the advantages of the section which they misrepresent.

When the campaign in southwest Virginia was opened, some of the newspapers and politicians started out to make calamity the keynote. The Times entered its protest at once and we are gratified to be able to state that the enterprising men of that section without regard to their party affiliation saw the force of The Times argument, heartily endorsed the stand that we took and made the calamity shouters so ashamed of themselves that they adandoned that ignoble method of campaigning. We say this in no sense of brag, but rather as a tribute to the good sense of the thoughtful men of that rich and progressive section of Virginia.

ANTI-TRUST LAW IN GEORGIA.

A few years ago a great wave of Populism swept over the State of Georgia, and there was an hysterical outcry against trusts and a demand that an anti-trust law be enacted. As soon as the Legislature met a bill to throttle trusts was introduced, and in due time was passed by both branches and signed by the Governor. But when the law went into operation it was found, to the amazement of some of the merchants, that the pesky thing was loaded at both ends and that it seriously embarrassed the jobbing trade of the State. The jobbers sorely complained of it, and it would now appear that most of them disregarded it and the law became a dead letter.

At the opening of the fall term of the Superior Court in Atlanta the other day Judge Calloway charged the grand jury concerning this anti-trust law and told them that it was their duty to indict any wholesale merchants who had entered into a contract allowing manufacturers to control the prices of coffee, sugar and other articles, thus interfering with legitimate competition. We gather this bit of information from an Atlanta correspondent, who adds that it is thought that there are numerous violations of the law among the merchants.

Now look out for a mighty outcry against the anti-trust law. It all goes to show what a miserable mess they make of it when the lawmakers attempt to interfere with the business affairs of life. It is mighty good campaign thunder to howl against trusts and combinations and to demand that they be outlawed, but when these theorists begin to put their theory in practice the last condition of the land is worst than the first.

The Times has contended from the start that unless this nation is to take a stand against all sorts and conditions of corporations, no class of corporations can be outlawed, and every anti-trust law that has been enacted, so far as we have observed, and we have watched them as closely as we could, has proven itself a dismal failure and a farce.

NEGRO POSTMASTERS.

In reply to the statement recently made by the Fredericksburg Free Lance to the effect that there was in the First district a negro postmaster appointed by Congressman Jones, Mr. Jones writes the Richmond Dispatch as follows:

The circumstances under which the appointment was made were these: The colored applicant, who owned the only building at the place in which the office could be located, was endorsed by the white patrons of the office and leading white Democrats of the county, including the Democratic county chairman, and it was fully understood that the office was to be conducted by a one-legged Confederate veteran. It was done and gave universal satisfaction to the Democrats and to everybody else, so far as I know.

As we said the other day, if the patrons of this office are not opposed to a negro postmaster it is their own affair and no outsider has any right to object. Local self government is good Democratic doctrine and we heartily believe in it. The patrons of the office are the only people concerned. If they petition for a negro postmaster they should have one, but if they protest against the appointment of a negro then the administration has no right to force a black man upon them. That seems to us to be the equity of the case.

The Danville Register announces that Mr. H. C. Ficklen has been appointed by the court as receiver to take charge of the paper and conduct it pending a dissolution of the firm of J. Richard Lewllen & Co., and a settlement of the partnership accounts. The Register has always been a good property and the receivership is due, as we understand it, to a disagreement between the publishers. We are glad to know that the paper is to be continued, for it is an institution not only of Danville, but of the State of Virginia, which is serving its day and generation well.

A baby was born the other day on a Pullman car in Ohio, and of course at once demanded the good offices of the fellow passengers.

Quay says he gets into trouble every time he tries to help a friend, but he shouldn't help one friend by shaking some other fellow's plum tree.

Jerry Simpson is running for Congress on his record. A sort of slack rope exhibition.

The New York Sun names twenty-eight different ways of dying, but wait until we see the repertoire of the Chinese Emperor.

Tillman's able and comprehensive argument on State banks is a part of his speech he never delivers.

Speaking of watered stock, how about the new bath tub trust?

Tillman calls Cleveland many bad names, but agrees with him fully on the expansion theory.

Senator Billy Mason has introduced a song into his campaign speeches, and next he will have calcium lights and a pretty disrobing act. Oh he's vaudeville all over.

In Kansas a calf swallowed a timepiece and the coroner's jury brought in a verdict of death at the hands of the watch.

New York is now advertising a "Snake Show." Another crooked performance.

The editor of the Memphis Commercial Appeal says "Jack Frost is in our midst." Try a hot Scotch.

Of course McKinley will remain a Doctor of Laws as long as he has the veto power.

The Republican State Committee has one deaf mute among its list of speakers. He is the fellow perhaps who is expected to do all the talking about Teddy's taxes.

A Nebraska groom deserted his bride-elect at the altar because he detected that she had been smoking cigarettes. It is plain that girls should not smoke on their wedding day.

Just 723 divorces were granted in Philadelphia last year. Oh, Philadelphia is not so slow.

From all reports it would seem that Mr. Swanson's stock is considerably above Parr.

Tillman says he's the only farmer in the Senate and that's the way the people all look at it too.

Not Until Then.

Mrs. Binks—A noted Anarchist of Chicago says that people will wake up some fine morning and find that Russell Sage has lost every dollar.

Mr. Binks—That's so; every word of it.

Mrs. Binks—My goodness! When will it be, do you think?

Mr. Binks—When he dies.—New York Weekly.

Yet!

"Hello, Wakely," cried Smitz; "I haven't seen you for some time. Married yet?"

"Yes," replied Wakely, sadly, "I'm married yet."—Philadelphia North American.

Too Tame.

'I understand the Beezerleighs' divorce case is to be tried privately."

"Yes. They didn't want to disappoint the public."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Dream That Was.

In youth he sought a hero's crown,
Alas, he thinks of that no more!
To-day his sole ambition's just
To raise nine children, as he must,
Upon an income built for four.
—Chicago News.

From Store to Store.

He—Don't you women ever know what you want when you go shopping?

She—Gracious, no! Why, that wouldn't be shopping—it would just be buying things.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Timely Bric-a-Brac.

"Clara is always up-to-date."

"What now?"

"She rented wooden Indians to decorate her parlors for that afternoon tea."—Detroit Free Press.

Doubt Saved Him.

"So," said Mr. Donegan, "they've been printing the funeral notice av a man that wasn't dead yit. It's a nice fix he'd be in if he had been wan of these people that believes iverything in the newspapers."—Roxbury Gazette.

One Signal.

Irate Passenger (who has managed to board a trolley car that didn't stop)—Suppose I slipped and lost a leg—what then?

Conductor—You wouldn't have to do any more running then. We allers stops for a man with a crutch.—Boston Traveler.

A Family Affair.

Sybil—It's no use denying it, Maud. I was too dark for me to see who it was, but I distinctly saw some young man kiss you in the garden. I'm ashamed of you.

Maud—I don't see why you should be. I've often seen George kiss you.

Sybil (engaged to George)—Yes, but I allow no body but George to kiss me.

Maud—Well, it was nobody but George who kissed me.—Tit-Bits.

Lyric Frauds.

All these poets of the summer
Are a gay, deceptive lot—
For they marvel about nature
Without being on the spot.

The wild bard who chants the ocean
From far inland writes his yarn;
And the man who sings of haying
Never even saw a barn.
—Detroit Free Press.

A Chord.

I love you dear. When I have said the words
My lips grow dumb, speech has been beggared quite,
As if some mastering hand had swept the chords
Of all my life into one chord of might,
That rang—and snapt! . . . .And I, the quivering lute,
Throbbing with music still, must evermore be mute!
—The Century.

A Discord.

You love me, eh? So hard that when you've said
Four little words your speech is beggared quite!
Ah, that is tough! Have some one rub your head,
Your tongue may yet be made to wag all right.
'Tis nice to rouse love that thus raises hob,
But out on him who can but sit around and throb.
—Cleveland Leader.

Before the Day.

We wakened at the dawning, but we never saw the day;
And we spoke our little prologue, but we never reached the play.
Oh! our love was sweet and certain till gray Sorrow dropped the curtain,
Ay, we wakened at the dawning, but we never saw the day.

There were buds within our garden, but they never came to flower;
There were birds among our bushes, but they only sang an hour.
And we laughed to see the swallow, but the summer did not follow;
There were buds within our garden, but they never came to flower.

'Tis a garment white and silken, 'tis a white and misty veil,
'Tis a pair of little slippers—Oh, dear love!—so white and frail.
Is the manhood in me dying that I'm sitting here and crying
O'er a garment and a slipper and a never-opened veil?

Dear, the world is empty—empty as the gemless golden band,
The token I had flagered and that never found yor hand
They've been telling me the story of an everlasting glory,
But you were the only preacher I could ever understand.

Ah, we wakened at the dawning, but we never saw the day;
And we spoke our little prologue, but we never reached the play.
But our love was sweet and certain till gray Sorrow dropped the curtain,
Hark! a single bell is calling * * * and this should have been the day.
—Chambers' Journal.

Dixie Doodle.

A century of peace has dawned; the North and South are plighted,
And all their lovers' quarrelings have been forever righted.
There is no North, there is no South, no Johnny Reb, to handy;
No feud, no scores to settle up—no Yankee Doodle Dandy.

What have we, then? A land serene, united, heart-to-hand, sir,
Which, like a sum of numbers, never yields but one true answer.
Who have we, then, in this great land, above its bonded boodle,
With Northern pluck and Southern nerve? His name is Dixie Doodle.

Then hip, hurrah! for this brave youth, unbought of bond or boodle—
The conqueror of future worlds—the growing Dixie Doodle!
—Margaret Andrews Oldham in Leslie's Weekly.

SOUTHERN NOTES.

Various Items of More or Less Interest From DixieLand.

The Atlanta Journal says:

Bailiff Ahern, of Judge Orr's court, found himself yesterday, like the man in "Wang," for he had an elephant on his hands. To make matters worse the elephant was a man hater. He has killed two, injured many others and his desire for gore has not yet been satisfied.

Yesterday morning an attachment for $400 was sworn out in the justice court of Judge Orr at the instance of a negro who said his name was Hollowfield, against the Harris Nickel Plate shows. The attachment was sworn to in the morning, but was not served until too late in the afternoon for the owner of the circus to make bond, and a levy followed. Bailiff Ahern decided he would take Gypsy, the man killer, and Barney, the baby, to satisfy the claim of the negro, who said he had been beaten by some men attached to the show while he was in the employ of Harris.

He swore he had been beaten until he was almost a hollowhead instead of a Hollowfield, and that the proprietor of the circus was responsible for the act.

Gypsy is a mild-appearing animal, and Bailiff Ahern was trying to make friends with her when a man told him she killed two people in Chicago one day two years ago, and turned a barn over. That dampened the ardor of the court attache to a considerable extent, and he allowed the animal ample room.

Under the law Ahern was compelled to feed the two elephants and he sent a man out to get bids on a car of hay, while he made a tour of the elephant market to see if he could make a quick sale. He found a good demand for horses and well broken mules, but none for elephants. W. H. Harris, the owner of the elephants and of the circus, secured an attorney as quickly as possible and prepared to fight the case.

Hollowfield seeing that he would have to act quickly or have a hollow pocket, finally decided to compromise. Harris rather than be annoyed by a litigation paid $100 the elephants were released and the circus departed.

* * *

ALABAMA COKE.

PRATT CITY, ALA., Oct. 18.—The first train which left the Pratt City railroad yards of the Tennessee Company this morning contained seventeen box cars loaded with coke for consignees in New Orleans and points in Mexico. Shipments of export coke have been going on for some time in small lots, but it is a rare thing to see an entire train load of this product leave the yards at once. Shipments of coal are also quite heavy at present, the demand far exceeding the supply available.

* * *

RELICS OF THE WAR.

DECATUR, ALA., Oct. 18.—Special.—While repairing the Southern railway bridge to-day a workman dropped one of his tools in sixteen feet of water. He descended and dived to recover his tool. He came up with a sword and scabbard. Diving a second time, he came to the surface with a thirty-two pound bomb with a portion of the fuse still attached. The workman said there were several large square iron boxes and what felt like a cannon where he found the bomb. Both sword and scabbard were in a fair state of preservation. An old resident of Decatur said the articles were relics of the Federal army, which crossed the Tennessee on pontoons in 1863, and he remembered when two cannons and a caisson fell overboard. Steps are being taken to raise the cannon and place it within the town hall as a relic.

* * *

PROHIBITION FIGHT IN MACON.

MACON, GA., Oct. 18.—The Prohibition fight in Macon bids fair to be red hot. The anti-saloon crowd are holding nightly meetings and promise to bring Sam Jones and other eminent campaigners here. The liquor men and their friends held a meeting to-night and organized. Among their number are many of the most prominent and influential citizens of Macon. It bids fair to be a close and ugly fight, and it is feared many lifelong enemies will be made.

* * *

KILLED HIS FATHER.

LEWISBURG, TENN., Oct. 17.—A telephone message just received from Belfast, five miles of Lewisburg, announces a fatal shooting affray between son and father. The result of this horrible affair is that Captain Joe Dye lies dead at his home near Belfast, shot through the head twice with a pistol by his son John.

The story of the sad affair is as follows: Captain Dye is the railroad section boss between this place and Belfast. He had been in Lewisburg during the day and went home late this afternoon in a drunken condition and became very obnoxious to the family. His son John, who has been sick for several months, grew angry with his father and demanded that he keep quiet. At this juncture the father showed bitter anger with his son, and, approaching him, was shot in the forehead twice, resulting in the father's instant death.

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THE AUTHORITIES PUZZLED.

Tampa correspondence Jacksonville Times-Union: The United States Court authorities here are somewhat puzzled over some of the Chinese who have recently been tried for violation of the exclusion laws. When the special treasury agent took a census of the Chinese population he found that there were eleven Chinese who had no business here. Seven of these were placed on trial before United States Commissioner H. L. Crane, and after hearing all of the evidence he discharged the defendants. The Government took an appeal from his decision, and ordered the men held, pending the trial of the case in the District Court. The deputy marshal hardly knew what to do under the circumstances. The appeal of the Government, ordering the prisoners held, was a rather new one. The Chinamen were all able to give good bonds for their appearance, and the matter rests just that way, with one exception. One Chinaman was so anxious to get back to his native country that he could not wait for Uncle Sam to deport him. He ran away, and it has been learned that he went back home. There are several others in the seven who are anxious to go back to China, but they have not the nerve that this fellow had, so they are waiting for the slow process of the law.

Municipal Government.

Editor of The Times:

Sir.—A year ago you courteously granted me the use of your columns for the purpose of discussing the accounts of our city government and instituting a comparison between them and those of a town of like size in England. May I again ask the same favor at your hands. I do this not because of any desire to obtrude myself upon the notice of the people of the city, but because I feel strongly that the cost and administration of municipal government is one of the weakest features in our body politic a fact conceded by all who have ever given any thought to the subject or who have for a moment compared the results attained here — — — — with those attained in England. The only way to correct this is by arousing public opinion on the subject.

The influence of the press is the most potent factor which can be enlisted to bring about this change. The people will not give the time or the attention necessary to a clear understanding of the bearing of the columns of figures published in the city accounts. The study of statistics is at all times with most people a distasteful one. Figures are dry reading and to induce consideration of them requires that they be so analysed and dissected and their bearing on the cities' welfare be so brought out in connection with the results attained as to command attention before they will receive that consideration which their bearing on the daily life of the citizens demands. Whilst conscious that I may not be able fully to accomplish the end thus set forth with your permission I will essay the task assured that even though I may fail of its complete fulfilment I shall at least arouse attention and I hope discussion upon it. Out of such attention and discussion at least nothing but good can come to the city.

At the outset permit me to offer a few words of comment on the form in which the accounts are kept and published. I did not last year advert to this point because although the accounts were then presented in an equally objectionable form I had hopes of amendment. An expert accountant had but recently been appointed and I felt satisfied that he would undoubtedly advise a different system of bookkeeping and that in another year the published accounts would appear in a different and more business-like form. In this (so far as the accounts show) I have been disappointed. The old form is followed and practically all that is published is an abstract of two cash books kept by two different officers both dealing with the same figures and both handling them in the same unsystematic way. What possible object can be served by such a system I am at a loss to understand. It is as though a merchant should keep two bookkeepers who should each keep separate cash books and separate ledgers. Such a proceeding would be thought a most extravagant and useless one and I deem it such in the case of the city. I can understand the necessity for a collector, a treasurer and an auditor but I cannot understand the necessity of the auditor keeping a cash book to enter the receipts of the city revenues and their disbursement. This is the business of a treasurer. He is charged with the responsibility of receiving and disbursing the revenues. The business and duty of an auditor is not to keep accounts but to check the accounts kept by others and to certify to their correctness. Under such a system which is that in force in all business undertakings we should have not two abstracts from cash books published, but one cash account made out by the treasurer with the corresponding ledger accounts and these all certified by the auditor as being correct. As now published the city accounts do not bear any certification of their correctness by any officer of the city. The Auditor presents one account, the treasurer another and these are assumed to be correct. Again such a cash account as I have suggested should be published by the Treasurer, should not be as at present an unassorted aggregation of totals, some referring to one branch of the city government and some to another, but an assorted aggregation of the totals of the receipts and payments made on each separate repartment of the city's business. As now presented no citizen can tell from the accounts what are the receipts and payments properly chargeable to each department. If presented in the form I suggest, one side of the account would give the receipts and the other the payments on each department for the year. No one examining the accounts as now presented can tell what is the cost for instance of running the City Hall or of the Courts of Justice, nor the cost of the management of the financial affairs of the city. A proper account would show each department debited with every charge against it and credited with all receipts properly belonging to it. This would show the net profits or cost to the city. Such a system of accounts when inaugurated would be just as easy to keep as the present one and would intelligibly disclose to every citizen the departments where retrenchment was necessary and where the taxes were being spent. The English system of municipal accounts requires this to be done and its simplicity and usefulness is beyond question. There is room for great improvement in the system in force here and it should be the business of the City Accountant to inaugurate this at once. I will gladly place at his service the accounts of an English corporate town if he will accept of the help they will afford him. One word more on the form of the accounts as presented. Both the Auditor's and Treasurer's accounts commence with an item (a large one) nearly three-quarters of a million dollars. Bills payable. This item, appears in this form though the amounts differ on both the debit and credit side of the account. Surely this cannot be correct. The one it seems to me should be "bills payable" the other "bills receivable." This whole question of "bills" is to me an inexplicable one. I do not find such an item in the accounts of Baltimore, Philadelphia or Atlanta. What the city has to do with hundreds of thousands of dollars in bills floating I cannot conceive. Taxes are received in coin or currency and bonds sold are paid for in the like medium of exchange. The cities' obligations ought therefore, to be discharged in like currency. There is no place for bill, either payable or receivable in the city's accounts if the business was conducted and managed properly except it might be to the extent of any floating debt converted into negotiable obligations at short dates. The item "bills payable" entered in the accounts, however, greatly exceed the whole floating debt of the city. The existence of these bills means constant loss to the citizens and they should be retired. In a future article I will deal with different items of the accounts.

J. F. JACKSON.

Richmond, Va., Oct. 20, 1898.

Southern's Good Work.

The Southern railway is one of the great railroad systems of the country which has reached the wise conclusion that in order to make the largest profit out of the conduct of its system it is necessary to develop and build up the country through which its road is operated. Some railroad companies have proceeded on much the same plan as Spain has followed in governing her colonies. Having competition throttled, they have attempted to get all they could out of the people and thereby have kept them crippled by exhaustive charges, at the same time doing nothing for their improvement. The Southern railroad, with some others, has realized that the South is an undeveloped country and that it is necessary to develop its industries and natural resources in order to obtain the largest profit from the operation of their line. They have given attention to turning immigration this way; have offered cheap rates to settlers; where such affairs as our carnival have been given they have offered liberal rates. The Southern has met the people of every town and city half way. Of course the system is liable to the criticism which every corporation of its kind is deserving. The process of railroad consolidation is one with many evils, which we have often enumerated. But the Southern has done much to merit praise. Its latest effort, and one which ought to be effective, is to direct attention to the South by the publication of a handsome volume, "The Empire of the South," descriptive of the region its lines traverse. This book is carefully prepared and elegantly gotten up. It will help turn the star of empire southward as much as anything the road has hitherto done.—Knoxville Tribune.

A Government Contractor.

Dick Puryear (colored) says he has worked harder, including head work, since he took the contract to carry the mail from Boydton to Chase City on the 7th of September than he has worked in five years all put together. He says that carrying the mail business just ruined him, and said he would never have taken the contract if it had not been a rainy day and he was sitting in his house in a cushioned rocking chair, a thing a negro is not used to, drinking hard cider and feeling better than he had since slavery time, when he belonged to his old master, Peter Puryear, forty years ago, when he looked out and saw two gentlemen riding up, and when they began to talk about a government contract he could just see the silver shining in it as numerous as the stars in the elements! Then he axed the gentlemen to have cider and took more himself. That money shined brighter and more bright than before, while his boy kept telling him, "Daddy, you had better keep out of that thing," but he did not even listen to the boy, he was feeling so good, and before he knew it he had gone down to Boydton and signed his hand to the paper. He first tried carrying it on horse-back till he broke down both of his horses, and then he struck out afoot till he broke himself down, and now he has agreed to charge nothing for what he has done and to carry the mail eight days longer for nothing if they will just release him from this government contract and set his forty acres of land free once more—Chase City Progress.

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