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The People's Indicator.

THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE IS THE SUPREME LAW.

Official Organ of the White Citizens of Red River, Sabine, Winn and Natchitoches Parishes.

VOL. IV.}

NATCHITOCHE, LA., MARCH 2, 1878.

{ NO. 24

A real live Democracy... of no obsequious... and the friend of the people.

J. G. ... Editor.

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OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26, 1878.

Aside from politics the only event of interest in the House yesterday was the receipt of a communication from Secretary Sherman showing a falling off in the revenue. This seemed to surprise Representatives of the people who have forgotten that the country is somewhat in the condition of a squeezed lemon. Trade being dead, and labor unenterprising, from what source shall money come into the Treasury. But obviously the true thing to do when the receipts fall off is to reduce the expenses. If, as Sherman says, he has failed to receive all the money he needs, let Congress see that he needs less.

Of political subjects there were enough. The debate of the day began on the Louisiana middle amendment to the constitution, proposed by Mr. Gibson, of La., had a chance to say a word. Hale, of Me., who goes wild now that his preceptor and guide, Blaine, does not preside over the House, tried hard to say something but was not allowed.

Powers, of Me., the youngest and ablest of that State's delegation in the House, and now in his first year of his Congressional life, made all the points possible against the bill to pension Mexican soldiers. He made a political question of it, and that was the worst blow the project could receive. The misfortune of Powers is that he must do something to ensure his re-election, and knowing that were of the Mexican pension money would go to the South than to the North, he persuaded himself that an attack on the bill would help him among his constituents. He should know that the day when sectional ideas could give a man desirable popularity have passed away. But the men he follows will not consent to reward the soldiers of a war in which men of every section fought side by side.

In the Senate a vote was had on the proposition to close debate to-day on the silver bill. Before adjournment to-night the bill will have passed the Senate. There is still doubt as to its exact shape when it leaves the Senate. The speech of Senator Jones yesterday could be said in favor of re-remonetization and said it well. It is no reproach to the Senator to say that the speech was not his speech, but the work of an army of helpers whom he had engaged in its preparation.

Mr. Hayes said yesterday, referring to his intended special message to Congress, that other subjects besides Civil Service Reform would probably be touched upon. His friends have long understood that he wished to recommend to Congress the passage of a General Amnesty bill, and it is perhaps that to which he referred. He has, by the withdrawal of troops from the South, given himself the right to recommend such a measure, and it would come with grace from him; but with what face can he instruct Congress as to reform in a Civil Service which he has himself done so much to degrade by unfit selections for office, is not plain. As the latest indications of his desire for reform it is said he intends to retain in the Customhouse at New Orleans the man Anderson just convicted of forgery in connection with the events which gave Hayes his place.

"Bob" Ingersoll, who has been lecturing here on the follies of Christian people, has been greatly assisted by the Young Men's Christian Association and Mr. Francis Murphy who are engaged in a scandalous quarrel over the money made out of the late temperance revival. The peculiar distinction of Mr. Murphy is a temperance reformer is that he relies entirely upon help from the Lord in his work. Yet a set of lobbyists quarreling over the profits of purchasing Congressional votes could not say more things of each other than Murphy says of the Association and the Association says of Murphy. And it is all about a few hundred dollars. Ingersoll can teach these men charity for each other. Of the value of the work of Murphy here it is too early to give an intelligent opinion, but many have signed the pledge, both among hard drinkers and light drinkers. ALBION.

The Gas Company Bill. (N. O. Democrat.) The extremity to which the champions in our Legislature of exclusive rights and monopolies carry their prejudices in favor of corporations is strikingly illustrated by the report of the Judiciary Committee adversely to a bill repealing the Crescent City Gas Company. That company was one of the corrupt and fraudulent concerns bequeathed to us by the Warmoth dynasty. The company was given a monopoly of the privilege of selling gas in New Orleans for fifty years after the termination of the charter of the old gas company, which had enjoyed that monopoly for forty years. This grant was made on the condition that the company should construct new gasworks. This was to be done in ten years. An adventurer from the North came down to this city after it had been decided that the old gas company terminated in 1875, bought up a majority of the stock of the Crescent City Gas Company at a dollar and half dollar a share, "froze out" the minority of these stockholders, procured the passage of an act of consolidation with any other existing gas company through Kellogg's Legislature, and then sold the privileges and franchises to the old gas company for one million and a half dollars, or its equivalent, to wit: 23,500 shares of new consolidated company, representing the old gas company's property and establishment and the

stands indicted for murder in his own parish, having assassinated a brother lawyer on account of his success in practice over him.

Mr. Chas. Cavanaugh, the important and reliable witness of this trial of villain, Whitaker, Ogden and Egan, is a man of bad reputation for vice, especially when a political or personal interest is involved. Hundreds of men in this city would not believe him under oath. He holds a prominent position in the city government, although he has denounced the female teachers of the public schools as prostitutes.

William R. Stewart, the custodian of the Vernon records, would omit no "fish" that he could utter that would be likely to convict me. During the rebellion he stole my stock, killed my hogs and poultry, and put the life and burn my dwelling over the heads of my family.

E. A. Burk, another prominent witness, absconded from the litigation of Xenia, Clay country, in the State of Illinois, and changed his name from A. E. Burk to E. A. Burk. Debts have followed him here, liquidation over the signature of E. Burk, and some of them have been paid by him, thus affirming the fact of his absconding and changing his name.

THE GREAT RETURNING BOARDER.

Mad. Wells Addresses the Republicans of the Country.

Rage and Despair did the Better of His Discretion and He Indulges in Calumnious Language - He says His Trial Was Inspired by Mr. Tilden and David Dudley Field.

New York, Feb. 19.-The Times of this morning, publishes the following letter:

To the Republicans and all fair minded men of the country: The peculiar position in which I have been placed by the enemies of the Republican party and the inveterate traitors to the Union in the State of Louisiana must be pleaded as my excuse for addressing you. As the vilest calumnies, unsupported by a particle of sufficient evidence, have been scattered broadcast over the whole country, I deem it a duty to myself, my late associates and to the great party to which I belong to send after these calumnies such an antidote as a few facts in the personal history of the chief conspirators and their tools can supply. When it is known that five successive Grand Juries have firmly and positively refused to find a true bill against me at the high behest of the Attorney General, and as the prosecution against me and my associates is based upon "information," some public interest will attach to the personal character of the informers. The central figure in the conspiracy is that most supple tool of the traitors of Louisiana - Judge William R. Whitaker. He conspired to defraud the government of the United States of \$600,000, with which he was interested as Assistant Treasurer, succeeded in the conspiracy and stands indicted for the felony.

On the seventeenth day of April, 1877, a noble prosequest was entered in the case. The celebrated declaration of the Nicholls government was made about the same time, the declaration that it was the purpose of that government to ally anxiety and discontentment all attempts, from whatever source, to prosecute persons for political offenses. Judge Whitaker has conducted himself in the late trial of Gen. Anderson as though he had undertaken a contract with the Democratic party to do its dirty work, and receives as his reward full rehabilitation into their society. He stated to several persons, and to lawyers of high standing before the trial of Anderson that the jury was packed for the purpose that no motion having for its object the removal of the cause from his jurisdiction would have his sanction. That all motions for that object would be overruled. Judge Whitaker was elevated from the criminal dock to do the dirty work of the party that is now controlling him. Nine of the jurors in the Anderson trial swore that they were prejudiced against the prisoner, yet they were forced to serve. Two of them had declared openly that Anderson ought to be hung. During the greater part of the trial Judge Whitaker was in a beastly state of intoxication.

Attorney General Ogden is an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He, too, was aware of the fact that the jury was packed, and aided and assisted in the nefarious scheme by which the packing was accomplished. He said he intended to force the trial because he had his jury prepared for conviction - that he kept concealed in his room Littlefield, to prevent his testimony being taken on Anderson's trial. This Attorney General is wholly unreliable as a sworn officer. He has speculated upon the collection of taxes. He attempted to force the Grand Jury last summer to find bills of indictment against the Returning Board. Appeared before the Grand Jury and insulted witnesses, and threatened them with incarceration if they refused to swear exactly what he desired. Failing to procure such evidence from the witnesses as he wanted, he accompanied the judge before the Grand Jury, and had him (the judge) to reprimand the witnesses and threaten them with incarceration if they did not give such testimony as required by him. The judge attempted to force the Grand Jury to find a true bill to satisfy the wants and wishes of the Attorney General against the Returning Board, but finding all their extraordinary efforts futile, they were compelled to fall back upon the alternative mode of "information."

Assistant Attorney General Egan is a worthy and pliant tool in the hands of the Attorney General. He stands indicted for murder in his own parish, having assassinated a brother lawyer on account of his success in practice over him.

Mr. Chas. Cavanaugh, the important and reliable witness of this trial of villain, Whitaker, Ogden and Egan, is a man of bad reputation for vice, especially when a political or personal interest is involved. Hundreds of men in this city would not believe him under oath. He holds a prominent position in the city government, although he has denounced the female teachers of the public schools as prostitutes.

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The names of the jurors that were impaneled for the trial of Anderson and myself were furnished by the Democratic committee. Their political status, as well as their views as to the proper punishment, was canvassed by the judge, Attorney General and Democratic committee before being placed on the panel.

One of the jury commissioners testified before the court that the list of jurors placed in the jury box from which talesmen were drawn after exhausting the panel was furnished by the Democratic Executive Committee, and this fact was known to "Deacon" Ogden, the "assassin" Egan and the "pettifogger" Finney.

The returns from Vernon parish were made up in the town of Alexandria, in the parish of Rapides, fully eighty miles from where the election was held. And yet the Returning Board are charged with and made responsible for all the changes which it is alleged have been made in these returns since the votes were counted by the commissioners of election, every one of whom was a Democrat.

The Judge, Attorney General, the Assistant Attorney General and the District Attorney have thrown every obstacle in the way, and need every exertion to prevent us from producing or having our witnesses, by urging a speedy trial, and have denied every legal right claimed by our attorneys.

These are samples of the principal tools and the means employed to secure the conviction of the members of the Returning Board in the case improperly called the State of Louisiana vs. J. Madison Wells et al., but really and truly is and should be called the case of "Samuel J. Tilden vs. Rutherford B. Hayes."

An Explanation of the Keener Wells Transaction.

New York, Feb. 19.-In view of the present grave complexion in Louisiana, doubtless growing out of the arrest of Anderson, Wells and other members of the Returning Board of that State, the presence in this city of Duncan P. Keener, who has so prominent a part in the supplementary proceedings in Congress during the investigation before David Dudley Field's committee, is not without a particular interest. Mr. Keener, it will be remembered, is the gentleman whom Gov. Wells charged openly with having offered him a bribe of \$200,000, to cast the vote of the board for Samuel J. Tilden.

Mr. Keener says: Wells, after several meetings at my office, asked me what I wanted him to do. I said all that was wanted was a fair count of all the votes cast. He was contented, and said that he must throw out some parishes but could have enough votes in to elect Nicholls. He said he would do that if I would place in his hands \$200,000 in greenbacks. I told him the truth when I said I had no money. That is all there was about it. I consulted with Dr. Samuel Choppin, John Phelps, Gen. J. S. Brent, Samuel Simpson, A. J. Krumpholtz, J. A. Morris, Dr. Board, Martin Gordon, Henry Miller and others, but money was not raised and not a cent was paid. I am glad President Hayes has not thought fit to lift his hand to stay punishment which is meted out to violators of law. Secretary Sherman will soon discover his mistake in protesting against it when the people of the South asked for justice. They made no bargain. The government, in the withdrawal of the troops, simply did what should have been done long before. I think there is no chance whatever for Gov. Nicholls extending pardon to convicted members of the Returning Board. I speak, however, without any official knowledge.

The Lottery Party.

(N. O. Democrat.)

Gen. Young's vote in the House on Monday in favor of retaining Souer in his seat deserves some remark. It is very clear that the object of the Lottery Company was to prevent the seating of Barbin, and to retain their tool, Souer, in the seat to which he had no earthly title. Gen. Young had signed the majority report of the Committee on Elections recommending the seating of Mr. Barbin, and it might have been expected that, as he was a Democrat, representing a thoroughly Democratic constituency, he would vote with his party in a case in which a report he had signed was in line with such a vote. Strange, however, as it may seem, Gen. Young deserted his party, ignored the report he had signed, and voted with the Radicals and Lottery party to seat Souer. All the Radicals voted for Souer and all the Democrats voted for Barbin, except Gen. Young and Mr. Paralta, who voted with the Radicals, and Mr. Wilde, who dodged the vote.

Messrs. Wilde and Paralta are employees and agents of the Lottery Company, and we are not astonished at their vote. To understand Gen. Young's vote a retrospect is necessary. In the Legislature of 1876, our friend, Mr. Booth, of this city, introduced a bill to repeal the charter of the Lottery Company. In the course of the debate on that bill Gen. Young read what purported to be a report, but what was in reality an able and laboriously prepared brief sustaining the monopoly. During the first session of the present Legislature he was one of the most active opponents of a bill, which finally passed the House, to repeal the charter of the lottery company. During this session he has stood unflinchingly with Messrs. Peralta and Wilde in all cases affecting the interests of the Louisiana Lottery Company. He voted against his party on the amendment to repeal all monopolies, and he has more recently voted with the Radical and lottery party against the Democrats to keep in his seat one of the most infamous and obnoxious Radicals in Louisiana, and who he himself reported, was not elected.

We hope that Gen. Young may be able to reconcile those votes with his conscience and his honest theories of Democracy; but he cannot reconcile them with our sense of right, nor, we venture to say, with the views of the Democracy of Claiborne.

The Press Defence.

(Richland Beacon.)

One Newsum, in the House of Representatives of this State, during the discussion of the proposed constitutional amendments last Monday, took occasion to reiterate the vulgar and slanderous falsehood of Warmoth that "the press favors a convention because it would put money in their pocket?" and that all who favor it are parties in interest. We are all parties in interest so far as relates to the general welfare of the people; but when these political thimble-ringers and would-be statesmen bring such charges as these against the entire class of honorable and patriotic gentlemen, they either utter a known falsehood or are too ignorant to know anything about the matter of which they are speaking, and merit only the contempt of the intelligent class they attempt to slander; for it is well known that the press has made greater sacrifices for the good of this State than all other enterprises and professions combined. There are very few newspaper men, in fact, in this State who have not made very great personal sacrifices in the interest of the people.

If it were possible, would you put any money in our pocket, except in the way of taxes saved, we are not aware of the fact; but we cannot say that opposition there to has not put money in the pockets of our slanderers. Dishonest persons all ways suspect other of dishonest motives.

J. MADISON WELLS.