

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1895.

THIS PAPER RECEIVES THE COMBINED TELEGRAPH-NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATED PRESS AND THE UNITED PRESS.

The Drought.

The drought, which so seriously affected our crops of corn and tobacco, still continues.

In fact, the need of rain is felt in all sections of the country east of the Rocky mountains.

On some railroad lines water is so scarce that supplies of it for the locomotives have to be hauled scores of miles and emptied into tanks at the stations where needed.

On the upper part of the Ohio river navigation is suspended, and hundreds of coal-barges, loaded ready to be started down the stream, are lying more or less embedded in mud.

Here in Richmond we have not, as yet, been seriously affected by the low stage of the James; though at several places near our city it is no difficult matter for an active man to cross the river dry-shod, but to do so he must jump from rock to rock across many pools.

So far as the city's supply of drinking-water is concerned, if not larger, it is more satisfactory than usual.

The James seems to be now nearly as low as it was in 1881, the year of the Yorktown centennial; the year that we brought the big steam-pump.

Richmond got into a dreadful condition from the drought of 1881. Our new water-works were not then completed, and our main reliance was upon the old pump-house and a steam-pump, which was located on the edge of Hollywood.

That made matters worse, much of the volume of water coming down the river was drawn into the canal at the Three-Mile Locks, with the result that the old pump-house could barely get enough water to turn its wheels.

Meanwhile, the cries for water coming from residents of elevated sections of the city grew so loud and insistent that Mayor Carrington took a force of workmen up the canal to a point a little west of Hollywood, and there (without the consent of the canal authorities) opened a sluice-gate and emptied a large part of the stream of the canal into the river, so as to furnish power for the wheels at the old pump-house.

Later on, the City Council was aroused to action, and bought the big steam-pump, which was put into place and gotten to work before the drought ended; and well it served us then, and well it has served us since.

Richmond's high-point water-supply is not yet all that it should be, but we are blessed beyond most cities at this time, still in common with millions of our countrymen, we would like to see the autumn rains set in.

Richmond needs them, if for nothing else, to wash off her streets and alleys. We have a superabundance of dust here, and now that the winds are getting high it is becoming a great nuisance.

Battle of Ball's Bluff. To-morrow will be the thirty-fourth anniversary of the battle of Ball's Bluff, and the occasion will be celebrated by a reunion at the scene of the conflict of the survivors of the Eighth Virginia, General Epps Hutton's old regiment.

General N. G. Evans, who commanded the Confederate forces, says in his report of the battle to the Confederate Secretary of War that about 6 o'clock P. M. he saw that his command had driven the enemy near the banks of the Potomac.

He ordered his entire force to charge and drive them into the river. The charge was immediately made, and the enemy completely routed. They were driven back at the point of the bayonet, and many were killed and wounded by their formidable weapon. Many others, in their predicament, rushed into the water and were drowned, and others still, in overloading the boats, sunk them, and drifted down the river.

General Hutton and other distinguished Confederate officers will be present at the reunion, and the people of Leesburg and vicinity have for weeks been preparing to entertain all who may participate and make the affair a memorable one.

Atkinson and St. John. We have already stated that Messrs. Edward Atkinson, of Boston, and W. P. St. John, of New York, addressed the American Bankers' Association in session in Atlanta, Ga., on the 16th instant.

We need not add that both men were worthy of the causes which they respectively championed. Mr. Atkinson declared it was time for some one to say plainly that the national banks have not been free from blame in these troubled times. He held that it was not the banks to place all their god at the command of the Treasury.

The Trap Laid for Us.

The "honest-elections" bill is a trap laid for credulous Democrats. He who bolts the Democratic party and goes over to the opposition on this issue, as much as says: "I want the elections machinery taken out of the hands of the Democrats and put into the hands of the allied opposition."

If the coalition which was formed at the Petersburg conference, under the leadership of General Mahone, could be successful in the coming election, they would pass an elections bill that would put the Democrats in a minority upon every elections board in Virginia.

This trick-bill provides for the appointment of election officers to represent each party—said officers to be nominated to the equity judge by the county committee of each party; one representative for each party. Thus, at each precinct, the Democrats would have one judge; the Republicans one; the Populists one, and the Prohibitionists one. On the surface this seems to be a fair arrangement; but in reality, it is not, because all the other parties are banded together in a coalition against the Democrats.

In other words, if the dishonest elections bill were to become a law, the Democrats would be out-voted three to one on every election board. The polls everywhere would be under the domination of our enemies.

Are Democrats going to consent to any such arrangement as this? We hope not; but, if they should lose their senses and do so, they shall not have it to say that they knew not what they were doing.

We intend to continue to expose the pious fraud of the "Honest-Elections" party from this time on. We are doing all that we can to induce our speakers to read and digest the bill, and then go forth among the people to denounce it. Yes; it ought to be loudly and persistently denounced everywhere; denounced as a sham and a fraud; denounced because it is not only not "non-partisan," but because it is one of the most villainously partisan bills that were ever framed.

Ah! but, say many of our good, amiable, and confiding people, "the honest-elections fellows have no earthly chance of beating us in this contest." True, if we do our duty. Not true, if we are caught napping. It was overconfidence and indifference that brought us to grief in the lamentable campaign of 1879.

And the same things worked to our undoing and to the triumph of the enemy in the congressional elections in this State in 1882.

We are invincible when aroused; but, when the stupor of indifference falls upon us, we are clay in the hands of the politician.

In the great majority of counties our party is well organized, well led, enthusiastic, and defiant; but here and there there are counties where we are not displaying much energy and where public speaking and organization both are needed.

It rests with the county committees to say who shall be invited to speak in their counties. The State Committee stands ready to send out speakers wherever they are asked for, when in their power to do so.

All that we ask of our speakers is that they will carry this "honest-elections" war into the heart of Africa, and thoroughly expose the trickery of the so-called "honest-elections" bill. Wherever this is done, well done, we shall see the ranks of the coalitionists breaking and their leaders retreating from the field in disgust.

So, clearly, it is our duty to familiarize ourselves with the dishonest-elections bill. When our voters understand that this bill means to put the Democrats on election boards in a minority of one to three they will need nothing more to convince them that it is a dangerous measure, emanating from dangerous men, whose acquaintance they would better cut, forthwith.

The Sultan's Backdown. There seems to be some doubt as to the scope of the scheme of Armenian reforms approved by the Sultan. One set of dispatches conveys the impression that he has yielded unconditionally to the demands of the three Powers—Great Britain, Russia, and France—while another set to the effect that he has agreed to the reform-scheme with "certain modifications," which are not explained.

To add to the confusion, we were told the other day that the Powers had temporarily renewed their demand, but it was not clear whether this meant an insistence on the carrying out of the programme of May 11th, or on the acceptance of an amended scheme.

But, in any event, the Porte has displayed wisdom, and again staved off the inevitable partition of Turkey. Not only had the three governments that formulated the scheme about lost their patience, but there was a pressure behind them, urging that the sick man must submit or go, that could not have been resisted much longer.

If the Sultan has approved the scheme of May 11th his backdown is complete. That scheme was most drastic and far-reaching. It provided for a general reorganization of the gendarmerie, and police, and the judiciary under a thorough system of checks against the reorganization's becoming inoperative or ineffective. Mahometan was to be a check on Christian where the Mahometan population was in the majority, and vice versa; and this arrangement was to be so adjusted as to avoid conferring arbitrary or irresponsible power under either condition.

No matter, however, what the scope of the scheme approved, a great point has been gained in the interest of humanity, and there has been concert of action among three of the leading Powers touching this matter for the first time in place years ago. In this light alone the situation is most encouraging, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the jealousies of Great Britain and Russia will not prevent the pursuit of the good work until the "amelioration" of the condition of the Christians and others not of the Moslem faith living in Turkish provinces shall have been fully accomplished.

The Hon. John Sherman, of Ohio, who is now 72 years of age, and still tenacious of life and public office, has complied with the dearest wishes of his enemies and written a book, which will soon be published—a book of reminiscences of life in Washington, mainly. He indulges freely in criticism of Andy Johnson, Grant, Garfield, and Harrison. Grant's administration, he says, was a period of scandal and slander. Being of the opinion that Garfield had eulched him out of the presidential nomination, it is no wonder that Mr. Sherman fails to admire Garfield as a patriot and statesman. Of Hayes Sherman speaks in terms of great praise. Harrison's nomination he describes as the result of a corrupt bargain.

Of his boyhood Mr. Sherman seems to speak frankly. He writes that he is inclined to drink, and relates that he came home one night so steeped in liquor that his mother had to put him to bed. But the old lady didn't scold him at all. Touched by this astounding mark of maternal affection, he resolved never to drink again, "on such a condition again." We judge from this that the honorable gentleman thereafter never "took on" more than he could conveniently "carry."

Of his wealth and the various personal and political attacks that have been made upon him, he makes this statement, after giving his reply to an accusation on that score made years ago: "I have often since been accused of the crime of 'being rich,' but as nearly all my possessions are visible to the naked eye, and their history and acquisition are known to many, I think I am not required to prove that I have not made them as the result of legislation, or my holding of public trusts."

All the same, it is the wonder of the country how he, who entered the public service poor, and who was never in receipt of any but a moderate salary, could have become a rich man. If his fortune were not made "as the result of legislation," or of his "holding of public trusts," how was it made? The common belief is that Mr. Sherman's public positions gave him opportunities to forecast financial events, and that he availed himself of these opportunities to invest what-ever surplus income he had to great advantage.

It is expected that the book will add to Mr. Sherman's list of enemies and will set his bank account that it will sell well in the North and West, we do not doubt.

Is This Jingoism?

A cablogram in yesterday's papers pleased us very much. We reproduce it as follows: LONDON, October 18.—It is ascertained on high authority that the memorandum in relation to Venezuelan affairs, presented by Ambassador Bayard, to the British Foreign Office in August last, embodies for the first time in diplomatic correspondence a definition of the so-called Monroe doctrine, and an assertion that the United States regards the acquisition of territory by European Powers on the American continent as a menace to republican institutions, which would not be encouraged by the American people.

This is the Monroe doctrine exactly as we understand that doctrine.

Two Things.

We think that two things may be set down as certain. The first is that the Democratic National Convention must be controlled by the Silverites next year, or never. Single-issue parties have short lives. The second is that it is already reasonably certain that the Silverites will not control the Democratic National Convention of next year. In view of these facts, if facts they be, it would seem to be the part of wisdom on the part of all good Democrats to work for the success of the old Democratic party, and leave side-issues out of the question.

Great Britain is understood to be diligently studying the Monroe doctrine, recently again pronounced by Mr. Olney. It is an old lesson, but as Johnny Bull is never a very bright pupil, it is still a difficult lesson for him to learn.

The Darkey's Soliloquy.

"Dis honest 'lections party," Says Sambo to himself, "Is new, but den dey tell me De ole one's on de shelf." "De honest 'lections party— Does it mean me and bread? Dishonest 'lections," says he, And his nail on the head.

A Modern Reformer.

He had given all his energies to movements of reform, In trade and in society, in politics and church; Wherever evil threatened virtue's citadel to storm; In the cause of reformation he was never in the lurch.

After a Cycle Run.

In dual character my wife appeared when coming home a laggard; A "She" personified, of course, And all the same a Rider Haggard.

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