

# THE LAFAYETTE GAZETTE.

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## THE LEAGUE AND THE BOSS.

There is being made, especially in New Orleans, an effort to prevent the holding of a Constitutional Convention. The super-esthetic silk-stockings, defunct members of the Citizens' League, apprehending the possibility of the defeat of their candidates by the regular Democracy, are doing their utmost to beat the convention on that cowardly plea. If the bosses are in power, theirs be the fault.

By their luke-warm interest in civic affairs, they have allowed men, some unworthy, to take charge of that which they themselves are striving for, the political machinery of the respective parishes. By defeating the convention, will they disturb the bosses? Not in the least. And by that cowardly action, they may place upon the necks of the people of Louisiana, negroism, ballot-box stuffers and election manipulators for the next quarter of a century.

Instead, let us stand together. He who votes against the convention in a jealous spirit is doing a mean-spirited thing. He wants to be rid of the boss, and with that object in view, he embraces the negro. It is a mistake to think that the convention will redound to the power of the boss; on the contrary, its defeat would be to his advantage.

The citizen leaguer charges that the boss is after the "stuff." Yet, we see the saintly leaguer supporting several brainy and influential corporation lawyers for the convention, who, if elected will bear close watching.

Come what may, we prefer to vote with the boss, than for the negro.

## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE CONVENTION.

Daily States.

Some of the kickers are kicking because the work of the constitutional convention is not to be submitted for ratification to the popular vote. It is right that it should not be submitted. It is not necessary, nor is it required as some ignoramus assume by our customs and institutions. A constitutional convention represents in its highest form the sovereignty of the State. It is the voice, the will of the State, expressed through its duly chosen representatives, and the submission of its work to the people is in government and politics what tautology is in composition and rhetoric—entirely cumbersome and useless.

Of course, those who raise this objection are like those who are hounding Governor Foster, those opposed to the disfranchisement of the ignorant negro voters, and would have another campaign like that of 1896, in which the whites, being divided by the aspirations of rival politicians and warring factions, the negroes can be called, or rather bought and bribed, to decide the issue, and be thus enabled to defeat the new constitution and the disfranchisement, as they were enabled to dictate the defeat of the suffrage amendment then.

Well, this dirty job will not work. The constitutional convention is going to be held; it is going to be composed of able, honest and representative white men; it is going to disfranchise the ignorant negro vote, and it is not going to be submitted to the popular vote, so that the demagogues, white rascal politicians and scrubs generally, joined with the negroes, can have a chance of defeating it.

The enemies of the convention had better hit upon some other dodge. The white Democrats of the State are going to win this election and run the convention.

The Lafayette Printing Shop does all work neatly and promptly. You don't have to wait.

## THE POPS' LATEST SHIFT.

However erroneous their schemes to legislate prosperity into the country may have been, it has always been conceded by fair-minded people that the Populists of this State have not, as a party, championed the social and political elevation of the negro. Their strength has always lain in the white parishes of North Louisiana, many of whose honest farmers, misled by cranky schemes to renew industrial prosperity by legislative acts, espoused those wild theories. Heretofore the Populists never marched under the black flag. True, it is, once or twice, they flirted with the negro leaders, yet their boast of being a white party has been admitted to be true. It was Benoit, a leader in their ranks, who in 1894, made a vain attempt to get rid of the negro in politics. His measure was more extreme in its conditions than the Democratic bill of 1896, which is now denounced by them as a means "of perpetuating a monopoly of the spoils of office."

But that party which once prided itself, and justly so, of being free of the negro element and influence, is now boss-ridden, and has accepted the suggestion of its leaders, who, urged by a notoriety-seeking and office-hunting ambition, want to add that degrading factor to the once honest and unsullied support, which the misled North Louisiana four-cent cotton farmer gave to the Populist party.

In 1894, we find them advocating a stringent measure to disfranchise the negro; in 1897, they pose as apologetists for an unlimited suffrage, and of necessity, champions of corruption in the political affairs of the State.

The Populist State Convention at Monroe, two weeks ago, enunciated the following in their platform:

"We denounce the attempt to disfranchise any class of citizens by degrading and fraudulent restrictions of the suffrage, which are intended merely to perpetuate a monopoly of the spoils of office. We declare that every man twenty-one years old and of the necessary residence who discharges all the duties of citizenship, including the payment of a poll tax, shall have the right of suffrage in Louisiana; that such poll tax should be devoted exclusively to the public school funds, and the poll tax receipt constitute the voter's registration paper."

"We favor an adoption of the Australian ballot system which will disfranchise no one, but shall effectually preserve the secrecy of the ballot."

That is a clear and concise statement. It means that the negro shall vote. Under this infamous standard, the combined forces of republicanism, the ever unalloyed negro party, and the Populists, will again try their hand. But we cannot believe that the rank and file of the Populists will join this nefarious scheme.

Two thousand votes were cast in the recent primary in St. Landry held to choose a Democratic candidate for the convention. The issue was fought in the ranks of the party, the administration against anti-administration forces. The result was a signal victory for the former, led by Ex-District Attorney Dubuisson and Sheriff Frazier. Among those mentioned as probable candidates are the names of Marion L. Swords, Drs. G. W. Martin and Tarleton, and L. J. Dossman.

The submitting of the anti to a primary shows that harmony has been restored in the Democratic ranks in St. Landry.

The opposition to the regular Democracy in this parish are not saying much, but, for all we know, they may be sawing wood. Judging from their tortuous record in the past it is impossible to say what they will do. They may visit one of their private grave-yards and exhume one or more of the sundry and divers committees which did duty in the campaign, or they may manufacture a new one for the occasion.

## WARD MEETING.

In accordance with the call issued by the Democratic Parish Executive Committee, a number of the Democrats of the third ward met in the court-house Wednesday at 11 o'clock and selected 11 delegates to represent this ward in the parish convention which is to be held Saturday. Chairman Hahn, of the executive committee, presided over the meeting and Homer Mouton acted as secretary. Upon motion the following delegates were elected: I. A. Broussard, Leopold Hirsch, A. M. Martin, E. C. Voorhies, Julian Mouton, A. J. Moss, Joseph Ducote, Paul L. DeClouet, Theolin Dupuis, Edmond Mouton and John Hahn. It was agreed that the delegates present will cast the vote of the ward.

The parish convention which is called to meet to-day will select delegates to the State convention to be held at Baton Rouge on Dec. 9, when thirty-six delegates at large will be nominated. It will also choose a candidate for delegate from this parish.

The Gazette knows of no candidate in this parish. There seems to be no aspirants for constitutional honors. Whether this poetic stillness in our parochial politics is due to the innate modesty of the local statesmen or not, we are not in a position to say, but the fact confronts us that although we are on the eve of the election no one has offered his services to the people in the present emergency. May be this will be one of those rare instances where the office will seek the man.

## THE NEGRO REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Daily Picayune.

The negro wing of the State Republican party yesterday held a meeting of its Executive Committee. The Kellogg-Booby faction of the committee was promptly expelled, and the white Sugar Republicans made no attempt to participate.

The meeting was dominated throughout by Henry Demas, the negro naval officer appointed by the President of this port. Demas is now the supreme and authoritative head of the Republican party in Louisiana, and all who affiliate with the party must bend and submit to him. He alone apparently holds the endorsement of Senator Hanna and the President, and is virtually dictator for the Republican party of Louisiana.

The Picayune has always contended that the negro party is the only genuine Republican party of Louisiana, because it is made up of the original Republican element in the State. The negroes have generally received authoritative recognition from the headquarters of the National Republican party, and now, under the lead of Demas, they are in full control. The white sugar element is now apparently entirely out in the cold, and must follow in the lead of Demas if it is to have any recognition.

To-day the Demas committee will in all probability nominate 36 candidates for the State at large for the constitutional convention.

The Picayune has constantly contended that there can be no Republican party in Louisiana that is not chiefly composed and dominated by negroes, and this will be so as long as the negroes are able to furnish nearly half the voting power in this State. While this is the case, the dream of making a respectable Republican party in Louisiana is wholly futile.

## CORRECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE.

Home and Farm.

The season is now here for special opportunity for reflection by the farmer. He can look back over the year's work and see how it all was, and as a rule it will be unfortunate for him if he does not see

places where he could have done better.

There is also opportunity at this season, as not at the season of active growth of plants and constant stirring of the soil, to look after repairs and other like details; matters that at that specially busy season may have been passed.

In regard to all these affairs the tendency is apt to be still further wait. Thus the thing needed to be done gets added to an accumulation that in due course overwhelms and results in a sample of the worst in farming.

There is a fine training in our compelling ourselves to act for the greater part on the instant. The mending of the broken gate and the putting up of the fence that is down should not be postponed.

Perhaps in the season of fresh fruits and vegetables, when the farm-garden ought to have been abounding in market products, and there were few of them or perhaps none at all, it was purposed that the like should not be the fact again.

Now is the season for making the arrangements to insure that next year all will be well on this score. Get the ground ready. Take out and spread the manure. Arrange to have the trees and vines on hand, if any are to be planted, so that they may be set out in good time to be ready to grow when the spring opens.

Those long engaged in farming should welcome suggestions from the young and impressionable. Thus the interest every way is maintained and renewed.

## THE ELEVATION OF THE NEGRO.

New Orleans States.

Because the States has taken such radical and unequivocal ground in favor of the disfranchisement of the negroes by the approaching Constitutional Convention, we learn that the negroes have come to regard us as their enemy and as desiring to deprive them of their civil rights and subject them to a sort of peonage. On the contrary, the States is the best friend the negro race has in this State. That the negro is unfit to rule is proved by the whole history of his race for six thousand years. In all those centuries the negro in his native jungles and left to himself has never evolved a single feature of civilization. The only progress he has made in the arts and methods and ideas of enlightenment he has made under the institution of slavery and the force of the discipline of the white man, and wherever he has been released from slavery and left to himself, as in St. Domingo for instance, all the accumulated works of civilization, all the progress, all arts and religion created by the whites have decayed and perished, and the negro has again degenerated into a savage and into cannibalism. If then such has been his fate, left to the forces of his own characteristics, is it surprising, is it incredible to say, that, thrown into the arms of unscrupulous carpet-baggers and scoundrels, whose only interest in the negro was to use him as a tool to plunder the civilization of the South and whose only teachings of him were in the corruption, the disreputable trickeries and the profligacy of politicians; is it strange that, predisposed by nature to savagery the negro, under such conditions, rapidly accepted these evil lessons and instead of rising from the level of the disciplined slave he sunk to the very lowest social, moral and political plane, and hence, is it incredible to declare that, after thirty years of freedom, he is less fit to exercise the franchise than he was when he first came an emancipated slave from the cotton and cane fields of the masters, whose example and discipline had developed him into something of an enlightened and Christian being?

## ORTON WRITES

### And Tells of the Doings of the People at Great Scott.

The quarantine is raised at last. This may be State news to some, but still it is a good thing to repeat. The Great Scott World's Exposition was knocked out by Yellow Jack and quarantine, but it still lives and when we will mention the days and dates the world will know it as usual. The attractions will be greater and grander. We make mention of this merely as a reminder, fearing some may forget that Great Scott still exists.

Mr. A. Justice returned from New Orleans on Thanksgiving day, and reports thousands of people leaving New Orleans for their homes—leaving "Mike Robes" behind.

The turkey had a sad ending on Thanksgiving, but that day was a glorious one in Great Scott. Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Budro entertained the following people: Mr. and Mrs. P. Bourdier, Mrs. G. C. Addison and children, Miss Eva Stark, Messrs. E. Bourdier, L. Pucheu, H. McBride S. Perrodia, C. A. and B. Deane, E. Gonsoulin, A. McBride, all of Rayne; Mr. and Mrs. L. Breaux and daughters, Amelia and Marie; Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Deloane and daughter, Isaure; Miss Mabel Alford, of Houston; O. Delhomme, Miss Leda Delhomme, Miss Nini Doucet. The guests were nicely entertained by Orton and his better half, and to help make the day more agreeable the Rayne band played some choice selections. It was one day that some hearts will long remember.

Mr. J. T. Mulkern and his estimable wife entertained the following persons at their turkey spread: Mr. A. Justice and son, Leo; Misses Mimie, Octavie and Henriette Cayrette; Mr. and Mrs. D. Doucet, Dr. W. J. Waddington and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Cayrette. Mr. A. Trahan also entertained the same day.

Miss McCord made a Thanksgiving trip to her home in New Iberia. Miss McCord is the popular teacher at the Foreman school.

The raising of quarantine seems to have caused a scarcity of box cars, as Scott is at present blockaded with several hundred bales of cotton and nothing coming to get the bulk away.

On December 8, Scott will be entertained by the celebrated Raquet Clubs of St. Landry. We presume it will be a drawing card.

The lady folks are stirring around and propose giving a dinner and concert in December for the benefit of the Scott church. We wish them success, as it is always a good idea to push a good thing along. With the assistance of A. O. Budro and A. Justice, the popular managers, the success of the affair is an assured fact.

Mr. Justice and son have purchased all the bricks left on hand, consequently the Scott World's Exposition will not be much out financially, and the machinery has all been taken back. This leaves us financially fixed for the biggest fair ever given in this country which will take place in the near future.

## Special Meeting.

LAFAYETTE, LA., Nov. 26, 1897.—The City Council met this day with the following members present: Mayor Caffery, Councilmen Hahn, Hopkins, Martin and Davidson.

Upon motion Dr. Martin, the secretary being absent, acted as secretary.

Dr. Martin, as a member of the Board of Health, reported that the board had adopted the following resolution:

Be it resolved, that we recommend to the City Council the adoption of the resolution adopted at the health conference held here on the 17th inst., relative to second hand goods from places where yellow fever prevailed lately, and furthermore that passengers will be admitted hereafter without any certificates.

Thereupon the following was adopted: Be it enacted, by the City Council that the above and foregoing resolution of the Board of Health be and are hereby adopted, and that the same be enforced under the penalty of a fine not more than \$100, in default of payment of fine imprisonment not exceeding thirty days.

CHAS. D. CAFFERY, Mayor.  
G. A. MARTIN, Secretary, pro tem

Omer Patureau, proprietor of the Railroad Shaving Parlor, has received six fine blue-steeled razors and a good supply of barber's material, which goes to show that he is doing a splendid business.

## MGR. JANSSEN'S SUCCESSOR.

The Pope has appointed the Most Rev. P. L. Chapelle, archbishop of Santa Fe, N. M., to the archbishopric of New Orleans. The Times-Democrat gives the following sketch of the new appointee:

"Archbishop Chapelle is well known in Washington. He assumed the pastorate of St. Matthew's Church after the death of the well beloved Father Boyle, a man whose magnetic eloquence and many charms of character endeared him to all without regard to sect or dogma. In taking charge of St. Matthew's Church, Father Chapelle had many difficulties to encounter. His predecessor's reputation as a preacher and acknowledged worth as a man, seemed to make the place impossible to fill. In addition to overshadowing popularity of his predecessor, Father Chapelle had to contend with an indifferent acquaintance with the pronunciation of the English language. In spite of these difficulties his sermons soon became among the most largely attended in the city. Apart from his comprehensive knowledge of all theories of modern thought, Father Chapelle, as pastor of St. Matthew's, made himself admired and beloved by his congregation by his whole-souled charity and succor and his practical, good, common sense. His promotion to the See of Santa Fe was welcomed as a tribute to one who well deserved the honor, but was universally regretted by Catholics as well as by those who are anxious to hear religion discussed as a study."

John C. Sheehan will not retire from the leadership of Tammany Hall. He made this announcement in order to dismiss rumors of his retirement that have been within the last few days the subject of speculation in Tammany Hall.

The Tammany leader also announced his intention to support Senator Edward Murphy, Jr., in the threatened rivalry over the State leadership and the United States Senatorship between the Senator and former Senator David B. Hill. His choice for leadership in the Assembly is Daniel E. Finn, of the Battery district, and he believes that Hugh J. Grant would be a good and winning candidate for Governor if the selection should fall upon him.

Col. B. W. Marston, who advocates woman suffrage, has met a formidable opponent as delegate to the convention from Red River, in the person of J. D. Wilkinson, now representing that parish in the lower house. One of the planks on which Mr. Wilkinson runs favors a pension for indigent and disabled Confederate soldiers and their widows.

The indications throughout the State point to the sending of able and honest men to the constitutional convention. Democratic candidates have already been chosen in the neighboring parishes, and the personnel of these men gives the people of this section reason for congratulation.

## Revived After a Depressing Period.

Two months of quarantine, shutting out almost entirely the traffic over the Southern Pacific between New Orleans and points in Texas, has not in any wise impaired the zeal of the line in opening the great highway for traffic.

Commencing November 25, the various communities have raised their quarantine and immediately the double daily train service with buffet sleepers was put in operation, making connection at New Orleans with all lines east and north.

Joe E. Mouton is agent for the following papers: New Orleans Times-Democrat, States, Bee, Picayune; New York World, Journal, Courier des Etats-Unis; Louisville Courier-Journal; Houston Post; Atlanta Constitution; Brann's Iconoclast. Orders at catalogue prices for 21 books sold by "Le Courier des Etats-Unis."