

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1903.

JUDGE N. C. BLANCHARD.

Exercising the right inherent in American citizenship and also the function which the public press assumes in this country, The Gazette desires to give its endorsement to the candidacy of Judge N. C. Blanchard for the governorship of Louisiana.

We believe Judge Blanchard will prove faithful to the highest trust within the gift of the people of Louisiana. Endowed with a persevering spirit which won for him promotion to positions of honor and trust from the humble efforts of a struggling boyhood, and having enjoyed practical experience as a public servant, there can be no doubt that if chosen the chief executive officer of the State, he will perform the duties of that high office with a deep sense of its dignity and with consummate ability.

In the terrible days of the re-constructive period, the memory of which is but a dim tradition to the present generation, Judge Blanchard, at the time but a mere youth, proved himself a fearless exponent of white supremacy. After having served both as congressman and senator from Louisiana, he graced the bench of its supreme tribunal with marked ability, the clear and concise style of his able decisions illuminating the pages of our jurisprudence.

Without wishing to disparage the character and public virtues of General Jastremski or to ignore his devotion to civic duties during war and the piping times of peace, The Gazette not only exercises the privilege of free speech but feels it a duty to give its support to him who, in its humble opinion, will insure our fair State a continued period of prosperity and progress.

OUR SCHOOL OFFICERS.

"If forty or fifty determined and forceful men in Louisiana would begin an active, vigorous campaign in favor of forwarding the educational interests of the state," said President Alderman, of Tulane University in a recent interview, "in my opinion, within less than two years every parish in the state, or nearly every parish, would keep the schoolhouse doors open nine months out of every year, and the people would shoulder the burden without grumbling."

But why limit the number to forty or fifty? Why not give the people of Louisiana, the parents of school children, a chance to run their own school affairs, as every other state in the Union does?

What educational system—or rather lack of system—is more ridiculous than one whereby the office of school director is made merely stock in trade for the petty politician?

Let the politicians select the sheriff, and the clerk, and the assessor, and the members of the Legislature if necessary; but let the people choose their own school officers. Any system that contemplates any other mode of election than by the people directly is medieval, unprogressive, un-American.—Crowley Signal.

We are in favor of the election by the people of public servants. That the next legislative body to convene in Louisiana will remedy the evils which the white people of the state had to countenance in a time when the supremacy of the race depended upon the adoption of the most violent measures, is a foregone conclusion. The change, which will undoubtedly be effected, will come in a natural and quiet way. Every candidate for State office bases his claims for election on a platform favoring a reasonable curtailment of the appointive power of the State's chief executive officer. Very little differences exist, even as to the degree of the contraction of executive patronage.

But some seekers after office and some newspapers have taken up the popular demand for a change in the system as a campaign slogan against certain political aspirants whom they are pleased to term the forced heirs of the present and preceding state administrations, when, in truth, the appointing of officers was resorted to as the only safe plan at the time by the truest and noblest Democrats of Louisiana.

In their blind zeal to make political capital, they lose sight of whatever good resulted from

the object of their partisan attacks.

The members of the school board of Lafayette parish received their commissions by appointment from the governor. True it is, the time may be ripe for a return to the method first intended by our republican institutions, but it is both unfair and unjust not to give credit to whom it is due. If we could be certain that the choice of future governors would be as wise as was that of Governor Heard in the parish, then, we would be willing to oppose the most violent public demands in the advocacy of a maintenance of the present system.

The school board of Lafayette parish is composed of public-spirited citizens who are devoting their time and energies for the public good.

If the "stock in trade" of politicians is used to such beneficent ends, then, we say, let the politicians continue their dealings in such stock.

A REMINDER.

The editorial quoted below was taken from the columns of the New Orleans Times-Democrat. Though it will probably evoke but passing interest among our readers, still it will very likely serve as a gentle reminder of a little incident which a few weeks since opened wide the door of hope to some of our local politicians. Objection will hardly be raised to the source from which the article is taken as the T. D. for a long time daily furnished campaign material for some of our friends.

When the Constitution of the State decided that biennial sessions of the Legislature were sufficient to transact the legal business of the State, the lawmakers evidently did not take into consideration the needs of local candidates for office. This oversight of the makers of the Constitution has given rise to another law-making power in the State, as we learn from the Franklin Progress, published in Washington parish, this State. The candidates for office in that parish have not found the election laws to their liking and have, with the assistance of the Democratic executive committee of the parish, started a movement to nullify them. The following agreement to be signed by all the candidates for office under the primary system of nomination is to be found, of all places, in the office of the clerk of court of Washington parish:

"We, the candidates now running for the nomination of the Democratic party for sheriff, clerk, representative, treasurer, assessor, superintendent of public education, and all ward officers do hereby agree that a poll tax receipt for the year 1903 will not be a requirement as to the qualification of any voter in the coming primaries which are to be held in Washington parish, Louisiana, on Oct. 12 and 27, 1903.

"We further agree to abide by the decision of these said primaries which are to be held according to the primary laws of this State, except as to the poll tax requirement as above mentioned."

If the candidates and the Democratic committee are bent upon the nullification of the law, it would seem that they are putting themselves to unnecessary trouble and expense. Such a small matter as the law of the sovereign State not being permitted to stand in the way of their convenience, why should these candidates have any election whatever? Why not settle their differences among themselves and induct each other into office, without going through the formality and the expense of an election? The thing has been done before, and why should the "sovereign parish" of Washington and its "sovereign" candidates hesitate? "The intention of the agreement is not to set aside any law," we are informed by the Progress, "but to save the party from a contest or split in its ranks." Commendable nullification, truly; but why not be hung for a sheep as well as a lamb? The law not being permitted to stand in the way, why not do away with the election? Why not let the man have the office who can break into it?

That is "The good old way, the simple plan, That they may take who have the power, And they may keep who can."

All the talk about the difficulty in the construction of the election laws of the State is nonsense. These laws are as readily "understandable of the people" as are the laws against burglary or arson, and, moreover, they are equally as binding. The trouble is that the meaning of the election laws of the State are not dubious in meaning or intent, as is claimed by certain seekers after office, but that they are much too plain to suit certain politicians. Nothing can be more certain than that any man who is not capable of understanding the plain language of the franchise clause of the Constitution which has to do with poll taxes and the sections of the primary and general election law as to the qualification of voters, is not mentally capable of fulfilling the duties of any office in the State or any of the parishes thereof.

Goes Like Hot Cakes.

"The fastest selling article I have in my store," writes druggist C. T. Smith, of Davis, Ky., "is Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, because it always cures. In my six years of sales it has never failed. I have known it to save sufferers from Throat and Lung diseases, who could get no help from doctors or any other remedy." Mothers rely on it, best physicians prescribe it, and all druggists guarantee satisfaction or refund price. Trial bottles free. Reg. sizes, 50c and \$1.

W. J. BRYAN ON NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

We publish in this column a portion of Mr. Bryan's reply to a series of questions propounded to him and other public men on the question of negro suffrage. The letter will serve as a standing reply to the negrophile press of the North. It is written in a dispassionate temper and shows logical deductions drawn from an honest and unbiased study of the problem:

"The question which the white people of the South have to meet is whether the white race, with its more advanced civilization and its higher ideals, shall permit its progress to be turned backward by the dominance of the black race. Unless all arguments in favor of civilization are without foundation, the superior race, if dominant, would be more considerate toward the inferior race than the inferior race would, if dominant, be toward the superior race.

"The provision which the white people of the South have, at heavy expense, made for the education of the negro, shows that they realize that it is to their interest to raise the standard and elevate the condition of the black man. The excesses of the black legislatures after the war show, on the other hand, the indifference of the blacks to their own interests, as well as to the interests of the white people. If I lived in the South, and had to act upon the question, I would favor such qualifications as seemed to me necessary to protect the interests of all, making those qualifications as easy as conditions would permit, and doing justice to the black man and the white man both according to my best judgment. The position which I take does not in the least convert the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence. A qualification for suffrage does not deny the natural and inalienable rights of the black man.

"Where the two races must live together under the same government, the superior race, as a matter of self-preservation, will impose conditions upon the inferior, just as the individual may defend himself even to the point of taking life in the protection of his own life, or he may put a dangerous enemy under bonds to keep the peace. It is not a denial of the equal rights of others to protect one's own rights, but as it is always necessary for one to show that he acted for the protection of himself, so at the bar of public opinion, those who fixed the suffrage qualifications upon others must show that it is done in self-defense and for self preservation."

Dieting Invites Disease.

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The Gazette has received a copy of The People, a publication launched to promote the political fortunes of General Jastremski and Mr. Wm. G. Randolph, candidate for sheriff of East Baton Rouge parish. Not satisfied merely with bearing quite a euphonious name, The People has taken from the Beginner's Latin Book, the captivating motto, "Vox populi, vox Dei." It champions the cause of Wm. G. Randolph, "a man of the people." Clearly, the rights of the people will not suffer as long as The People lives. It is a well edited paper and bristles with earnest appeals in behalf of its friends.

A Whole Rib-Tickling Circus.

"An honest laugh," says the sawdust scribe and Solon, "is the one sovereign remedy and specific for universal administration in this often very sad and weary world." The Adam Forepaugh and Sells Brothers greatest united shows have the extraordinary number of forty capital clown chemists to extract a big canvast of this cheering, strengthening tonic from sunshine, and they are such happy and hilarious experts that they fill the great tents with laughing gas. They don't say much, as even Scentor's voice would be lost under the vast hippodrome and circus tent, but they do a whole lot, and art can make action far funnier than words.

All the melodious and mirthful glories of comic opera fade before the strains of their literally incomparable "Soo-see Band." As the pig-skin champions of the football field they discount Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Carlsle combined. Their prize fights are beyond the conception of any referee on earth. It is rumored that Carnegie will pension their golf team for life. "Pop" Anson never dreamed of such a game of baseball as they put up. Their agonizing acrobatic feats, their ridiculous races and rivalries, their hits and skits at fools, freaks, fads and follies are the talk of the times. And with them are associated three arenas full of quadrupedal and amphibious clowns to make Rome howl with mirth. And how the children do enjoy it all!

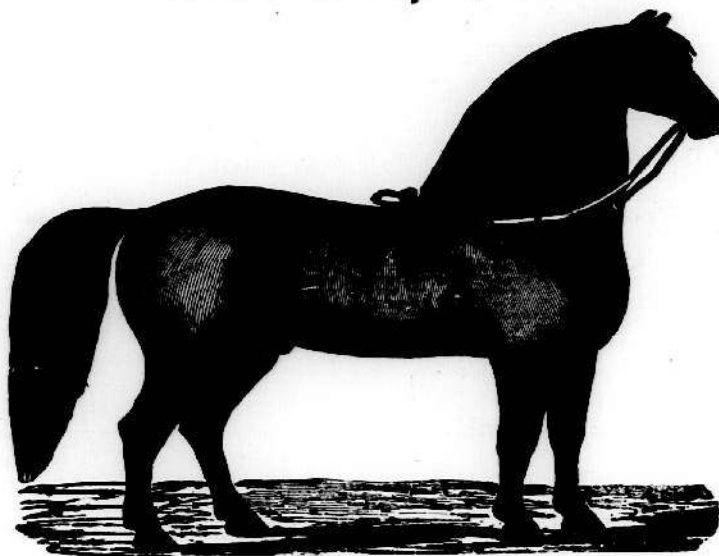
The big show will be at Crowley on Monday Oct. 26th, and at New Iberia Tuesday Oct. 27th.

Millinery at Cost.

Mrs. W. B. Bailey is selling out, at cost, her stock of millinery, including up-to-date hats, ribbons, chiffons, veilings, etc.

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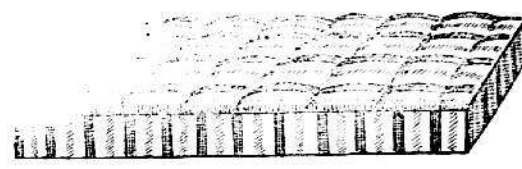
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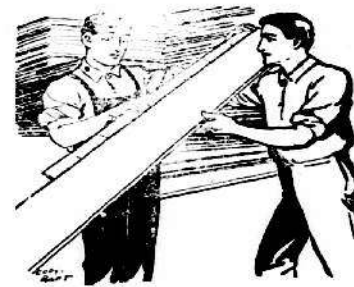
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