

The Mass Meeting and Barbecue.

Monday was certainly a big day in Colfax. Since the parish of Grant was created, a gathering of such magnitude never before assembled within its boundaries.

General Francis T. Nicholls was the first to address the multitude. We cannot say that the General is a great orator; but his auditors could perceive that the words which emanated from his lips, were direct from his heart, and that they were full of truth.

Col. E. G. Randolph next introduced the Hon. L. A. Wiltz, candidate for Lieutenant Governor. This gentleman is a sound reasoner, a good speaker, and in a plain, straightforward manner conveyed to the most ignorant of his hearers the things he would have them to understand.

Col. John McEnery was the next speaker to take the stand, and he made the most statesmanlike speech we have heard for many a day. He received a great deal of applause and sat down amid the cheers of the multitude.

Mr. Ogden, candidate for Attorney General, was the next speaker introduced. This gentleman did not make many preliminary remarks, but came right down to his subjects in a vivacious and eloquent style.

The next speaker was Judge Spofford, of New Orleans. The Judge went in pretty strong on the Kellogg usurpation; spoke at some length upon our disturbance in 1873; said that it was Kellogg and Packard's work, and that, they being backed by Federal bayonets, there was then no tribunal for the people of the State to have recourse to.

Col. Randolph then introduced Judge Smith, of New Orleans. He took the stand at a good time. Standing so long, the people were growing tired; but under the sound of his voice their fatigue was soon forgotten.

the next they were convulsive with laughter. His speech was relished by white and black.

Major W. F. Blackman, of Alexandria, was then called upon; but refused to make a speech. He said that those present had heard enough from the speakers who already addressed them, and spoke in very strong terms against independent voters.

Mr. Blackman was followed by Flowers and Ward, who reiterated what they said in their New Orleans speeches. They were listened to with great attention by the colored men.

There was plenty at the barbecue for all to eat, and to spare; and the day was agreeably spent by all who participated.

A Rise that Did Not Work.

During the speaking on Monday last, a sham quarrel was gotten up by some Republican negroes, headed by C. H. Thomas, the colored nominee on the Republican ticket for Representative from this parish. He made himself very officious, and complained to the speakers on the stand, and said that they came by invitation, and that the colored men present could not stand a chance with the whites.

The School Board.

GRANT PARISH, LA., Oct. 17, '76. Editor CHRONICLE: I was in your town on Saturday, the 14th inst., for the purpose of meeting that august body, the School Board; but no such body did I meet.

Now, let it suffice for me to say this to the School Board: How is it that they can take an oath to discharge the duties belonging to said office, and very seldom appear to attend to the duties devolved on them?

Now, there is very little fun in riding twenty-two miles to Colfax to meet the School Board, and have to come back as you went.

The people want schools, and they want them now. There are six or seven hundred dollars on hand, lying idle, and the people want the benefit of that fund, and want it now.

What has become of our esteemed friend, John W. Odum, Secretary of the School Board? We never get to see him, nor do we ever hear from him.

What has become of our esteemed friend, John W. Odum, Secretary of the School Board? We never get to see him, nor do we ever hear from him.

payers may know what their public servants are doing in the way of education.

The Police Jury meets in Colfax on the 28th inst. I would like to meet all the members of the School Board at that time. I hope also that the Secretary will be on hand and have all his papers fixed up, so that we can have the proceedings of the Board published and let the people know how many school stations there are in the parish, and where they are located, and how many months have been taught at each station, and many other things that would be interesting to the citizens of the parish.

S. C. CUREY, President School Board. BIG CREEK, GRANT PARISH, LA., Oct. 11, 1876.

Editor CHRONICLE: I see my name used as a nominee for Constable of Ward 3, upon the Republican or Radical ticket, at the Convention lately held at Colfax. My name has been used without my knowledge, and entirely without my consent; therefore, I do not want my name to appear on the ticket.

Yours, etc., J. F. CORLEY.

The State Elections.

INDIANA. INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 13.—Complete returns from eighty-three counties, nearly all of which are official, gives a net Democratic majority of 1621. The remaining nine counties gave a Democratic majority in 1872 of 1837.

The counties to hear from are Benton, Clay, Crawford, Harrison, Perry, Pike, Spencer, Sullivan and Switzerland. Complete official returns may swell the majority to 4000. The congressional delegation stands as follows:

Democratic—First District, Fuller; Second District, Cobb; Third District, Bicknell; Twelfth District, Hamilton.

Republican—Fifth District, Brown; Sixth District, Robinson; Seventh District, Hanna; Eighth District, Hunter; Ninth District, White; Tenth District Colkins; Eleventh District, Evans; Thirteenth District, Baker.

From the most reliable returns received the Legislature will stand; Senate—Democrats 23, Republicans 25, Independents 1, doubtful 1. House—Democrats 43, Republicans 52, Independents 1, doubtful 1.

It is impossible at present to give a correct estimate of the independent vote for Harrington; it will probably reach 7000.

OHIO.

COLUMBUS, Oct. 12.—Returns indicate some doubt as to the election of McMahon in the Fourth District; it will probably take the official count to decide.

Complete, authentic and nearly official returns from all the counties of Ohio show total Republican gains 9398, total Democratic gains 8950, net Republican gain 448. Apparent Republican majority 5992.

TOLEDO, O., Oct. 12.—This congressional district gives Cox, Republican, 1800 and Barnes 1400 majority.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 12.—There appears to be no doubt about the election of Banning, in the Second District, by about 50 majority. Saylor, in the First District, has about 600 majority. Republicans concede their election.

COLUMBUS, Oct. 12.—Republicans claim and Democrats admit the election of Barnes by about 6500 and Boynton by about 8000 majority.

COLUMBUS, Oct. 12.—The Republican State Committee to-night revised their returns, and now estimate Barnes's majority at 677. The 52 counties reported on Boynton, Supreme Judge, indicate that the majority on the balance of the State ticket, will reach 9000. The Republicans gain five Congressmen.

WEST VIRGINIA.

WHEELING, Oct. 12.—Matthew's

majority will reach 10,000. The Legislature will stand two-thirds Democratic and one-third Republican.

The Southern Belle Disaster.

Further Particulars.

Capt. J. P. McElroy, master; Capt. J. C. Libano, chief clerk; Mr. Walter Maers, assistant clerk; Thos. Holt, second engineer; Messrs. Hebert and Truxillo, pilots, with several of the deck crew of the ill-fated Southern Belle arrived in the city this morning.

The boat was in or about the middle of the river under full headway (time 1, 50 a. m. Tuesday 10th inst.) when the engineer on watch discovered fire amongst the cotton in the engine-room aft. He immediately turned the hose upon it and gave the alarm of fire.

Capt. McElroy had just gone off watch, and after making every possible effort to save the lives of those on board, barely escaped with his own life. He made the descent from the hurricane to the main deck by means of the falls used in hoisting the stage; the first engineer, Mr. Thos. Roberts at the same time jumped from the hurricane roof to the lower deck, and was seriously injured in the back and right ankle.

The second engineer, Mr. J. Hos. Holt, who was on watch at the time, stood nobly by his post, and did not quit the engines until the boat struck the shore; he was pretty well scorched, but not severely injured.

Mr. Wm. Henry, the barkeeper, made a narrow escape; he was asleep when the fire broke out and barely escaped with his life, losing everything else that he possessed. He informed us that as he ran down the forward steps, two gentlemen who came on board at Port Hudson were behind him a short distance; finding the steps giving away, and fire on all sides of him, he made a leap for life, and landed safely on the fore-castle; what became of the parties behind him he does not know, but supposes that they fell into the flames and perished.

The Katie landed near the wreck whilst it was still burning, and a number of those who were on the Belle returned by her to their homes. In consequence, at this time, it is impossible to say who amongst the number reported missing are really lost.

Miss Fanny O'Connor—this lady was reported by our morning contemporaries as having been lost—is, we are happy to state, safe at her home in Baton Rouge, having escaped, as also did all the other lady passengers. For this information we are indebted to Mr. Alex. Benjamin of this city.

The following are known positively to have lost their lives. Geo. Thomas, (colored) steward; three cabin boys and five or six of the deck crew, names unknown.

Wm. Von Phul, of West Baton Rouge; A. C. Griffiths and J. J. Ligon, of Port Hudson, and a young man, 19 years of age, named Droze of Baton Rouge.

It is possible that some of these parties may have taken passage on the Katie or have gone home by land.

The officers of the Southern Belle speak in the highest terms of the hospitality displayed by the citizens of Plaquemine in ministering to their wants. Nothing that could be done, to make them comfortable was left undone.

The Southern Belle had on board nearly 800 bales cotton, between 1500 and 2000 sacks cotton seed, and a large lot of sundries. She had between forty and fifty

cabin and a few deck passengers. Capt. McElroy will in a few days place a boat in the trade to represent the lost one.

The Carrie A. Thorn left this morning for the wreck, for the purpose of saving all that could be saved. The boat burned to the water's edge and sank in near the bank. Her safe, engines, boilers, etc., will, no doubt be recovered in time.

As the books and papers were destroyed, it is impossible to give a list of the consignees of her cargo.—N. O. Democrat.

Jail Delivery at Coushatta.

The following is from the Coushatta Citizen of October 7:

Some time during last Wednesday night a party of unknown men visited the parish jail in this place and set at liberty all the criminals confined therein. One of the prisoners, who conversed with parties after getting out, says the men who set them free were white men, ten or twelve in number, and well armed. They first tried to force open the front door of the jail, but finding it too much for them, they got a ladder and effected an entrance by a window in the second story of the building. Some of the prisoners were under sentence and were shackled and chained; the chains and shackles were filed loose, and after being set free the whole crowd left town in the direction of Springville, and have not since been heard of, with the exception of one negro, who is up the river patiently waiting for the sheriff to come for him.

The New State Engineer.

The New Orleans Republican has the following to say of Gen. Jeff. Thompson's successor:

The appointment of Col. A. F. Wrotnowski to succeed Gen. M. Jeff Thompson as chief State engineer, will be peculiarly gratifying to all who know what the office requires and the qualifications of the appointee.

Col. Wrotnowski is the son of the late Hon. Salathiel Wrotnowski, at one time Secretary of State of Louisiana. During the war he was a volunteer lieutenant colonel of the Federal army, and detailed as an officer of engineers. A brother of his was killed at Port Hudson while serving on the staff of Major General Weitzel.

In theory and practice of all branches of engineering and surveying, civil and military. Colonel Wrotnowski is thoroughly educated, and he has had more practical experience than falls to the lot of most of his profession.

In addition to this he is exceptionally familiar with the duties of his present office, because of his long connection with it. Learned in his profession, he is exceedingly modest in presenting his opinions, though positive in maintaining them. A gentleman by birth and education, a lover of his profession for the sake of it, conscientious and indefatigable, he will do honor to an appointment which, unsought, is only a promotion for distinguished merit.

John D. Lee Sentenced.

SALT LAKE, Oct. 10.—At Beaver, Utah, to-day Judge Boreman passed sentence upon John D. Lee for participation in the Mountain Meadow massacre, nineteen years ago. In doing so he called attention to the atrocity of the crime, the inability heretofore of the authorities to procure evidence; that the conspiracy to murder was widespread; that Lee was offered up as a sacrifice to popular indignation, but the others equally guilty might hereafter expect punishment. The prisoner having the right, under the laws of the Territory, to choose death by hanging, shooting or beheading, and having chosen to be shot, was sentenced to be shot to death January 26, 1877.

Amendments to the Constitution.

An act to amend the Constitution of the State of Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, two-thirds of the members of each house agreeing thereto, That the following amendments be proposed and entered upon the respective journals of the Senate and House of Representatives, with the yeas and nays taken thereon, and the Secretary of State shall cause the same to be published three months before the next election for Representatives in the General Assembly, in at least one paper in every parish in the State which a newspaper shall be published, and said proposed amendments shall be submitted to the people, at said election, in such manner and form that the people may vote for or against the amendment separately, i. e. First proposed amendment, "For approval or disapproval," and in like manner as to the others; and a majority of voters, at said election, shall approve and ratify such amendment or amendments, the same shall be appropriately numbered, and become a part of the constitution, and be proclaimed as such by the Governor and Secretary of State.

1. The expenditures of each session of the General Assembly for per diem and mileage of members, for salaries of officers and employes, and for contingent expenses, shall not exceed the sum of one hundred and seventy thousand dollars; and members of the General Assembly shall receive no salary during their attendance, and a mileage of twenty cents a mile for actual distance from the courts house of their respective parishes to the State Capitol.

2. The last sentence in article six of the constitution, which reads as follows, to wit: "If any bill shall not be returned by the Governor within five days after it shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law in the manner as if he had signed it, unless the General Assembly by adjournment prevent its return, in which case the bill shall be returned on the first day after the expiration of said days, or be a law," shall be amended as to read as follows, to wit: "If a bill shall not be returned by the Governor within five days, not including Sundays, after it shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law in the manner as if he had signed it, unless the General Assembly by adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law unless signed and promulgated within twenty days after adjournment."

3. The judicial powers heretofore vested in parish courts are hereby amended and withdrawn. The District Courts of the State, outside of the Parish of Orleans, shall have original jurisdiction in all civil cases where the amount exceeds one hundred dollars exclusive of interest, and appellate jurisdiction over cases decided by justices of the peace when the sum in dispute exceeds fifty dollars, exclusive of interest. In criminal cases their jurisdiction shall be unlimited, and they shall have full jurisdiction over cases of probate and succession. Each said district judge shall receive a salary of four thousand dollars annually payable quarterly on his own warrant. Justices of the peace shall have jurisdiction in civil cases when, without reference to interest, the amount in dispute does not exceed one hundred dollars; with power to promulgate judgment for that amount, and such costs, not to exceed eight per centum annum, as may be proved, and they shall have, in addition to the criminal jurisdiction now vested in them, the criminal jurisdiction as is now vested in parish courts. Clerks of the courts shall have power to grant writs of arrest, attachment, sequestration, provisional seizure and injunction, receive and probate wills; to appoint administrators, executors, and tutors and under-tutors in cases in which no opposition shall be made; homologate accounts, tabulate schedules of debts when no opposition is made thereto, their judgments prima facie evidence of correctness; grant orders directing sale of property belonging to successions or minors, to grant orders of seizure and execution process, and shall receive such fees therefor as may be provided by the General Assembly.

4. The Governor shall receive a salary of six thousand dollars annually payable quarterly on his own warrant.

5. No fees or perquisites of any kind shall be allowed to or received by the Treasurer, Auditor, Attorney General or by district attorneys.

(Signed) E. D. ESTILETTI, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(Signed) C. C. ANTOINE, Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.

A true copy— P. G. DESLOTTES, Secretary of State.

The foregoing was received in the office of the Secretary of State on the 17th day of October, 1876, and is made public in accordance with article 147 of the State constitution, which provides:

An amendment or amendments to this constitution may be proposed by the Senate or House of Representatives, and if the same shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members of each house, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their respective journals, with the yeas and nays taken thereon; and the Secretary of State shall cause the same to be published, three months before the next general election for Representatives in the General Assembly in every parish in which a newspaper shall be published. And such proposed amendment or amendments shall be submitted to the people at said election, in such manner and form that the people may vote for or against each amendment separately.

(Signed) P. G. DESLOTTES, Secretary of State.

(Signed) P. G. DESLOTTES, Secretary of State.

(Signed) P. G. DESLOTTES, Secretary of State.