

The True Democrat

ELRIE ROBINSON,
MRS. MAY E. ROBINSON,
Editors.

Official Journal of the Parish of West Feliciana, the Towns of Bayou Sara and St. Francisville, and of the School Board.

We also own and publish the Feliciana Record, a weekly newspaper for the town of Jackson, La. Advertisers will do well to get joint rates for both papers.

Entered at the Post Office at St. Francisville, La., as second-class mail.

Subscription \$1.50 a Year in Advance.

Saturday, December 11, 1915.

THOSE PLEASANT PROHIBITIONISTS

The True Democrat has never been a worker for prohibition, not because of being in favor of the liquor traffic, but merely for the reason that prohibition was regarded by us as impracticable under present conditions, in Louisiana. We have been and still are of the opinion that unless a large percentage of a community, be it town, parish, district or state, favors prohibition it will work imperfectly and unsatisfactorily. At the same time, we believe in the fullest freedom of any community, large or small, to declare in favor of prohibition, when such community so desires, and in that sense we are prohibitionists, and will always use our voice and influence against liquor.

These questions of whether the parish, the district or the state shall decide upon prohibition are not matters of principle, but only of expediency. A man favors, or he does not favor the liquor traffic. He is or is not a prohibitionist in like manner.

But these prohibitionists of the Pleasant brand, are a queer sort. They profess to be ardent in the cause, but—First, there's Col. Fred Price of Ruston. He paid out good money to the Anti-Saloon League, until the latter really took some steps to bring the matter into political notice. Then hear Col. Price screech. He grasps at any excuse. "Barret is not a true prohibitionist" he cries. In battle, one follows the leader, and asks no questions, if he really wants to fight.

Then there's J. Y. Sanders. He broke out, as with small-pox, with anti-saloon sentiment. He was ready to follow as soon as the question of prohibition came up. And now, as Mr. Barret says, "She's up," but a profound silence apparently exists in the Bogalusa neighborhood. The champion now declares in favor of national prohibition!

And "Florida Parishes," the newspaper that has preached against the saloon in and out of season, now "has its reasons" (see squib reprinted in another column) for not supporting the cause of prohibition. Its reasons are probably spelled with seven letters, S-a-n-d-e-r-s. It also is probably for national prohibition, and will so declare in the time hinted at in the before-mentioned squib. National prohibition is farther off.

Then there's Brother L. E. Thomas, whom Rev. Claude Jones in a recent open letter inconsiderately reminds of having supported in the Legislature, both congressional district and state-wide prohibition submission without constitutional amendment as in the Doussan bill of 1908. Mr. Thomas is not a prohibitionist now. He is for Pleasant, and being both seems incompatible.

These any-day-but-now prohibitionists are queer birds. They are like the captious little girl who cried for a piece of cornbread. "Cake? No! Candy? No! Finally a piece of cornbread was given her. "O, I thought there wasn't any" she said as she flung it away.

MAKING A CHOICE.

The article from the Baton Rouge State-Times, which we have dubbed "About the Size of It," is especially commended to such of our readers as are letting their anti-prohibition proclivities mislead them in their choice of governor. As our contemporary plainly implies, the question of state-wide or even congressional district unit prohibition is not within the province of the governor to decide. Any measure that will stand the test of the courts must be one that has been passed upon by the suffragans of the entire commonwealth, and actual state-wide prohibition only when enacted into a constitutional amendment. A governor in the latter case has absolutely no voice in the matter. His influence in the institution of a congressional district unit is also negligible.

Then why let these questions influence one in the choice for governor? Rather, the choice should be made as to which of the two, Barret or Pleasant, is best fitted by superior ability, greater age and experience, strength of character, unobjectionable backing for the position. In our opinion, this is unquestionably Thomas C. Barret. The fact that he is not the choice of the city bosses is alone a sufficient reason for endorsing his candidacy. That the bosses have found in him—after supporting him in the last campaign—qualities unsuited to their uses, should be very enlightening to thoughtful observers of the signs of the times, and no other consideration should obscure this one.

POLITICAL HYBRIDISM.

In Mr. John M. Parker's speeches, there is an obvious attempt to minimize the fact that he is a Progressive-Republican. While he admits that he is one in a national sense, he stresses the point that there are no national issues involved in this campaign, and he therefore makes a bid for Democratic support by asserting himself to be entirely in accord with Democratic principles on state issues as economy, efficiency and direct government. No man should however be so carried away with his admiration for John M. Parker, the individual, as to suppose that Mr. Parker can escape from the results of political hybridism. Mr. Parker may be sincere in thinking he can be a national Bull Moose and a state Democrat, but while such a thing may be possible in a private citizen—however much of a political monstrosity it may be—it is beyond the bounds of reasonable expectation in any public man, and supremely so in the governor of a state.

Suppose, for argument's sake, that Mr. Parker were to become governor. Who would come first with him? It is an open secret to whom Mr. Parker's political heart's love is given: Theodore Roosevelt, and no one can foretell what that erratic being will do, or where he will go. It is safe to say that Mr. Parker will go with Roosevelt, however daring the tangent. What becomes then of the Democratic issues with which Mr. Parker is now making his campaign? Louisiana would occupy the remarkable position of a Democratic state with a head involved in an entirely different sort of politics. The position of Louisiana at Washington has long been a despicable one, on account of the hybrid politics of some of its senators and representatives. The sons of Japhet have dwelt in the tents of Shem to their shame. It has put Louisiana in the bad books of a Democratic administration. With the prospect of a continuance of that administration, can Louisiana AFFORD to have any but a Democratic governor? It is the height of folly even to propose it. And fine private citizen though he is, Mr. Parker, the close personal friend of Theodore Roosevelt, could never be recognized at Washington as even part-Democrat, though he were unanimously elected governor of democratic Louisiana.

Again, there may be no national issues in this campaign, as Mr. Parker cleverly insists, but can he, or any other man, guarantee that such issues as the tariff, preparedness, etc., may not take on a local nature at any time? And how would real Democrats overcome the handicap of a Progressive-Republican governor?

And be it remembered that the Third District Bull Mooses are Progressives locally as well as nationally. Were Mr. Parker governor they would command and deserve first attention from him. The "young" Parker Democrats would find themselves taking second place in the councils of a hybrid political administration. There is no reason to suppose that these "young Democrats" are less selfish than are other men who are active in politics. Most of them may not care for office of any description, but they will look to have their ideas of public policy carried out. The Bull Moose district has different ideas and principles. It is a truism that two cannot walk together unless they be agreed.

The conjunction therefore is not promising for future satisfaction in any appreciable degree.

FIVE THOUSAND ENOUGH.

R. Mumford Phillips, who is a candidate for sheriff of Pointe Coupee parish, in a communication printed in his local paper, estimates that the sheriff of that parish receives from all sources a net income of over ten thousand dollars. The estimate is made as follows: Contract with the police jury, \$7,200; tax collector fees, approximately \$6,000; fees in civil suits, approximately \$3,500. Not having access to the sheriff's books he cannot be accurate, but the estimate, he thinks, is a fair one. It is certain that the sheriff of Pointe Coupee receives more for his services than does the governor of the State of Louisiana for his far more arduous and important duties, more than any man at the State House, or in any of the State institutions.

It is small wonder that the people of Pointe Coupee are arousing to the blood-sucking condition of affairs, and are determined to devote their funds to more important uses than fancy salaries for one man and his bevy of deputies.

Mr. Phillips pledges, if elected, to keep his salary down to \$5,000, and to permit inspection of his books. This is a fair offer and augurs an economical administration of the affairs of the sheriff's office. The matter is, however, of interest to outsiders for two reasons. It is a horrible instance of the extravagant lengths to which the fee system can go in a parish still undeveloped, educationally and industrially; and it is also a hopeful sign that at least the axe is whetting to cut out this unwholesome growth upon the body politic of one parish in Louisiana at least.

Bill Bryan didn't go with Ford because he thinks no ship can have two masters.

Quotation and Comment

POOR THOMAS JEFFERSON.

The Florida Parishes would be glad to support the lieutenant-governor if we thought for a moment that he measured up to the real proportions of a staunch prohibitionist. This paper intends to support prohibition in the future, but the issue must be espoused by one who is not using it as a subterfuge and as a chosen policy for self-aggrandizement. . . . In making our choice for governor we do not wish to be misunderstood or incorrectly quoted. We have picked Colonel Pleasant as the most available of the two candidates. From time to time through these columns we shall endeavor to substantiate our position, but in the main we offer the argument that Colonel Pleasant truly represents the democracy of this state, the rank and file of the followers of Thomas Jefferson.—Florida Parishes.

Speaker L. E. Thomas of Sareveport is still of the opinion that Col. Pleasant's majority in the state will be 25,000 votes, seeing no reason for changing his first prediction, unless it is to raise the figures.—Ruston Leader. Our brother is much stronger as a predictor than as a fulfiller, as everybody knows.

In fact it is evident that they [the bosses] have consolidated on Col. Pleasant with the idea of defeating Barret, and then knocking the stuffing out of Col. Pleasant by voting for Mr. Parker. In other words, they will stick a knife in the Colonel's spine, just as they did into J. Y. Sanders when he aspired to the United States Senate. They calculate that the conscientious prohibitionists will sulk in their tents if their candidate is defeated, and give them a fair chance to knife Col. Pleasant. Any person who has observed the methods of the whisky gang can clearly see that this is their program, and we all now realize that the real contest is finally to be against Mr. Parker.—Mansfield Enterprise.

You are probably wrong. The organization will not risk its very existence by bolting the party. And why should the ring object to any one who wears his prohibition principles as lightly as does Mr. Pleasant. They are like an overcoat, worn only when needed.

Why should Governor Hall wait until the eleventh hour of his administration, and in the midst of a heated political campaign to perform his sworn duty?—Hammond Vindicator.

This question, referring to the demonstrations in Jefferson parish, would be pertinent if Gov. Hall had waited until the eleventh hour. But as every reader knows, he has been trying to do something with the bad child ever since he came into office, but with Marrero officials and even Marrero grand juries, peaceful efforts were of no avail.

Facts, the periodical circulated free by the whisky people, would be more convincing if it did not seek to prove that only wet communities are prosperous, that it is useless to make laws that people will break, and that prohibition does not prohibit. These are self-evident absurdities, although the non-prohibitiveness of prohibition is possibly more insidious than the other statements. One must believe, however, not from its friends but its enemies, that prohibition must injure the saloon trade, or why should the latter so bitterly oppose it? "Facts" itself published at great expense, is a visible refutation that prohibition must be fought, as inimical to whisky.

Looking over a Hannibal, Mo., paper, the fact is noted that the tax-payers of Mark Twain's old town pay 25 cents on every \$100 valuation of their property. Even Mark wouldn't see any joke in that. But every where in the North, West and East, taxes are higher than here, and yet we have heard our rates called confiscatory!

A fight for one cent letter postage will be made in this session of Congress. Many proponents of the measure are using stamps on their bills and other papers, bearing the words: "More than one cent letter postage is a tax." It is doubtful if Uncle Sam would lose by it either, as more letters would be written.

Judge Hughes and Mr. Taft declined standing for Republican nomination for president. But no chances have been taken with T. Roosevelt yet.

Henry Ford may be going on a fool's errand, but his guests were not fools to accept his invitation.

We've said so before, but we say it again, that we do not appreciate as fully as we should the fact that feeding is more important than breeding. We have seen many a high-priced bull degenerate into a scrub through lack of feed and care, and this thing is going to continue until we realize that all the breeding in the world can never atone for poor feeding and poor management. An animal may be good, but it will remain so only so long as it is under "the eye of the master."—The Progressive Farmer.

MORALLY BINDING MERELY.

Attorney-General R. G. Pleasant is quoted with much apparent satisfaction by the New Orleans Item, in regard to primary elections not being legally binding. The letter was written on Oct. 5, 1913, to S. A. Alleman, secretary town Democratic committee, Napoleonville, La., and reads thus:

Dear Sir:—A few months ago the Supreme Court, in a case appealed from the Parish of Avoyelles, in effect decided that neither candidates nor voters were legally bound by the results of primary elections. Hence, it seems that your informer is correct in stating that "the result of a primary election for the nomination of municipal officers for the Town of Napoleonville would not, necessarily, be binding upon any one." It appears that the Supreme Court considers that the effect of a primary election is merely morally, and not legally, binding upon the participants therein.

Very truly yours,

R. G. PLEASANT,

Attorney General.

This is not news to any one familiar with the fact that a primary is only a piece of party machinery and has no legal status. Neither does it alter the fact that it is morally binding upon its participants. Mr. Pleasant says "merely morally and not legally, binding." We regret the adverb "merely" even more than the awkward construction of the sentence. We should like to see our public men measure up to their positions, both in point of education and ethics. To imply that the moral is less than the legal question may be induced by the lawyer's attitude of mind, but will be deprecated by the profession nevertheless.

To say anything is "morally binding" is the last word on the subject to an honorable man, and "merely" has no part in limiting or defining it.

Participation in a primary may be regarded thus. It is not legally binding, but a participant is no less bound in honor, to abide by the result, at least as much as if it were a bet with the stakes laid down, or a game of poker. Men of honor do not recede from their acts, real and implied in such cases. How much more in a party primary is the moral obligation of the righteous man "who sweareth to his own hurt and changeth not."

CALL A HALT.

In commenting upon the large gathering that responded to Mr. John M. Parker's date at the Athenaeum last week, the Times-Picayune in its leading editorial, Dec. 3, utters some plain truths, which should be regarded as words of warning rather than any sign of party treachery on the great daily's part. It says in effect what we said at the incipency of Mr. Parker's campaign, namely that the state democracy should cease bickering, stop following after vain issues, unite on a worthy standard-bearer and present an unbroken front to the strongest single opponent that the party has ever had in Louisiana.

Says the Times-Picayune: "The campaign so far has been discouraging and hurtful. Democratic issues have been ignored or side-tracked; and no plan worth a moment's consideration has been suggested to meet any of the difficulties confronting Louisiana or that can give any assurance of relief. The candidates have discussed prohibition from every possible angle, but * * * prohibition or anti-prohibition has never been claimed a Democratic issue. They have 'fired' charges against each other and engaged in criminations, recriminations and explanations; but this is not Democratic nor in the interest of the party which calls for the healing of old wounds and the bringing of Democrats together again instead of stirring up differences.

"Scarcely a blow has been struck for Democracy, for a return to government by the people, for the people." We are promised no change, no relief. Rule by rings and politicians is to continue with all the confusion and difficulties into which such misgovernment and undemocratic government naturally plunged us. It is this failure to take up popular and living Democratic issues on the stump which has alienated so many Democrats, and is responsible for Parker's big and imposing meeting of Wednesday; and which will mean more of such meetings unless a halt is called in the plan of campaign now being pursued, and it is made more truly Democratic.

"The sentiment in New Orleans—and we believe throughout Louisiana—is against machine rule, masquerading under the name of Democracy, as the elections of 1888 and 1896 showed. Unless there is more genuine Democracy injected into the primary campaign, unless Democratic issues, and not personal ones, are discussed, unless the candidates for governor take the people into their confidence and present some practical and intelligent plan for relief, and demand government by the people, the party will encounter the same fate it has met with in this and other states when, under the leadership and control of the officeholders and politicians, it has deserted the path of Democracy and abandoned the interests of the people in order to provide fat jobs for the large force of politicians and their camp followers and hangers-on."

Every word of the foregoing quotation is true. There is reason, truth and grave warning contained in every line, and all Democrats, who do not wish to see the party in Louisiana becoming the tail of the Progressive kite should do something to restore confidence in the party's aims and purposes, at once. "Faithful are the wounds of (by) a friend," and it is better that pride should be wounded now than the party's very life later.

We wish to call your attention to our Vulcanizing department—it is in charge of a first-class mechanic and all work is guaranteed as to quality and price. Send us your tires and be convinced.

CUT OUT THIS ADVERTISEMENT AND SEND IT WITH YOUR FIRST ORDER AND WE WILL REBATE YOU 10% FROM REGULAR PRICE.

S. D. Hogue & Son
BATON ROUGE, LA.

Save Money On Your Magazine Orders.....

Get our prices on any Newspaper or Magazine you read before sending your order elsewhere. Our catalog is free. Write for one.

Jacobs News Depot Co., Opelousas, Louisiana.

EDENBORN LINE

(Louisiana Railway & Navigation Co.)

THE SHORT LINE THE POPULAR ROUTE

BETWEEN

Shreveport, Alexandria,
Baton Rouge and New Orleans

and to all points in the East and Southeast

E. C. D. MARSHALL,

Freight and Passenger Agent

Shreveport, La.

Photographs Enlarging Finishing

When in Baton Rouge be sure to see.....

EWING, Inc., Photographers.

THE SOUTH'S GREATEST SCHOOL OF BUSINESS. SOULE COLLEGE.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

YOUR Boy & Girl

Should be given the best training to prepare them for success in business. Personal instruction, Free Employment Department, Complete College Bank, College Store and Wholesale Offices. No misrepresentations to secure students. Through the success of 11-22000 former students, Soule College is recognized everywhere as a Wise, Awake, Practical, Popular and Successful School. SOULE & SON.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The True Democrat is authorized to make the following announcements, subject to the action of the Democratic primary:

For State Senator:

G. L. CAULFIELD.
D. M. PIPES.
R. F. WALKER.

For Coroner:

DR. E. M. LEVERT.
DR. W. H. TAYLOR.

For Assessor:

IKE CUTRER.
BAT HARALSON.
C. T. TOORAEN.

For Sheriff:

ROBT. H. BARROW.
JOHN H. CLACK.
WILLIS R. DANIEL

VETERANS' CHRISTMAS BOXES.

Received to date: Mrs. B. Leopold, tobacco; Mrs. E. Robinson, tobacco; Miss Edith Leake, 1 qt. of preserves; Mrs. R. Pilet, 2 qts. preserves, jar of jelly; Mrs. Frier, tobacco, pint of preserves; Mrs. Jas. Kilbourne, 6 cans blackberries, 1 jar jelly; Misses Bowman, 2 bottles filé, 1 qt. preserves; Mrs. A. Schlesinger, 2 pts. preserves; Mrs. S. Powell, 1 pt. pickles, 1 pt. preserves; Mrs. L. J. Davis and Miss Lullie Davis, large box of pipes and tobacco; Miss Edith Bickham, 2 qts. preserves; Mrs. Chas. Munson, 1 pt. preserves; Mrs. Fish Carney, 2 1/2 pts. preserves; Mrs. O. D. Brooks and Mrs. J. R. Matthews, 3 pts. preserves, 1 bottle catsup; Mrs. M. O. Daniel, Misses Hilda and Lois Simmons, 3 pts. preserves.

This list closes Friday, December 17, at noon.

Xmas Holiday Excursion Rates

Via



To Almost Everywhere

CONSULT T. & P. RY. AGENTS FOR DATES OF SALE AND FULL PARTICULARS, OR WRITE,

GEO. D. HUNTER,
General Passenger Agent.

A. D. BELL,
Asst. Gen. Passenger Agent.

DALLAS.

CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to thank the friends who so kindly ministered to the wants of our dear daughter, Mrs. Rosa Palmer, in her severe illness; also to Mrs. J. W. Lea for the beautiful flowers sent to the patient's bedside, and to Dr. Lea for his untiring efforts day and night, in trying to restore her to health.

J. A. AND L. E. BECKHAM.

LOST—Between M. & E. Wolf's and Bayou Sara, old-fashioned breast-pin, containing picture of gentleman in old-style dress. Return to C. T. Tooraen and receive reward.