THE PROGRESS.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY
BY HICKS BROS.

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SHREVEPORT LA., MAY 9, 1896.

MADAM RUMOR SAYS

That there was a shaking up of the committees of the City Council.

That Chairman Wimbish, of the improvement committee, is expected to "make Lorne howl."

That John Wise will have to hustle to make the record that Keeney did.

That She hopes Engineer Hepburn will run two lines to conform to each other. She knows he can.

That the boss dog of the tan-yard is frequently a mangy cur, and some members of the present city administration will do well to be on their guard and not get puffed up by their elevation.

That the knowing ones still think the Katy road will take that phat bonus.

That the new city administration seems to be aiming right.

That the controller seems to have gotten in his work in the mayor's message in reference to the market house question.

That the little indiscrepancy in inducting the new city officials into office seems to have passed by unnoticed by the main parties.

That She wonders if the city attorney will read the charter and ordinances

That If some don't look out Paul Lowenthal will fool some of them.

That Louisiana wants no penitentiary lessee as Speaker of the House.

That our people are tired of the reign of the old political hacks.

That slippery Peter's ambition should be nipped right now.

That all honest people want only fair play in the recent State election.

That the Blanchard stock is way below par just now.

That Mose Weinstock seems to have a cinch on the City Council.

That John Wimbish is a power in the politics of Shreveport.

That our people are still hoping for those halt dozen funerals, so necessary to Shreveport's prosperity.

That Shreveport has felt Kruttschnitt & Co.'s perfidy most keenly in the defeat of the amendments, and his blatherskites will find it hard to induce any of her citizens to turn fool enough to shoulder a Winchester and go to Baton Rouge and help fight some of the New Orleans gang into a fat office.

That John Pugh, of Red River parish, is certainly a great leader of a chivalrous people. The State Central Committee must have been in a satirical humor when it made him chairman of a committee to issue an address.

That patriotism emanating from Kruttschnitt, Parker—C. Harrison—Zacherie & Co., is an article so spurious that Old Nick would turn up his nose at it.

That Caddo parish is opposed to the penitentiary lease and therefore is opposed to Trezevant for Speaker.

That slippery elfs like Trezevant should be set down on, and She hopes the Legislature will do it in great style when he bobs up for the Speakership.

That no man should be given a public position solely because he belongs to a partienlar race or faith. This She dedicates to the City Council.

That some of the live oak trees in the courthouse square seem to be very dead.

That both Blanchard and Trezevant should be set down on.

It will be very difficult to arm that 27,000 majority cast for Foster for Governor in the recent election.

What is the penalty for stuffing ballot-boxes? Hold on boys! don't get too badly frightened. THE PROGRESS wants information not to desire to make charges.

The people are weary of ring rule and all over the State will imitate the action of the Citizens' League of New Orleans and turn the rascals out.

In the great contest which will soon come on, Senator Blanchard will miss the aid of those friends he needlessly estranged in the last State campaign.

The Jeanerette News, in its last issue reproduces some brilliant (?) sayings from THE PROGRESS and gave the Judge credit for it. Thank you for the courtesy friend.

The Democracy of the Fourth Congressional District would do well to begin casting around for a strong man to represent their party; and our opinion is, "no ballot-box stuffer need apply."

To hear E. H. Farrar preach patrictism and white supremacy, after the conduct of his gang in murdering the suffrage amendment and coddling with the negro for his vote, is certainly akin to the devil quoting scripture, with odds in favor of Old Nick.

SEMI-WEEKLY.

The Progress Will Greet You Twice a Week.

After this issue THE PROGRESS will greet the public twice a week, coming out on Thursday and Sunday of each week.

This move has been made at the urgent request of many admirers friends and patrons who have for many months strenuously solicited the management to increase the number of our issue days.

These importunities and words of encouragement and indorsement have come from sources which are reliable and of unquestionable standing morally, socially and financially, from both city and country, and have reached an intensity that we find ourselves unable longer to resist it.

Again we find that the growth of of our city, the demands on our space and policy make it imperative for us to take this step. THE PROGRESS occupies a position in Louisiana journalism that no other newspaper does, and the forces which emanate from this plane have made drafts on us which we do not feel at liberty to refuse to honor:

As a weekly, our paper has steadily increased in circulation in both Shreveport and the country—in Caddo and surrounding parishes—until to-day, without desiring to make bombastic, self-laudatory claim for it, the management asserts that it will compare favorably with any in North Louisiana. And from the numerous words of encouragement which have been tendered us since it was hinted that we would comply with the request to do so, we feel encouraged to assert that within a short while, the semi-weekly will assume a numerical strength that few can equal.

The subscription price will remain the same, $1, per year, for the bi-weekly; 65 cents for six months; 35 cents for three months; 15 cents per month.

The Suday issue will be delivered by carriers in the city, and all stores which now take THE PROGRESS and who desire this Sunday issue left at their residence can have it done by leaving word at THE PROGRESS office. This Sunday issue will be printed and delivered before 12 o'clock Saturday night, so as to avoid working on the Lord's Day.

Having now taken this step, entailing much additional cost and labor, we hope to receive from the hands of the public, from the readers and advertisers that full and complete encouragement in the way of patronage that we believe such enterprise and energy deserve.

Just this in conclusion. THE PROGRESS is ready to do all kinds of job work at most reasonable rates; and within the next thirty days, when our new type and presses arrive, we wil have one of the best equipped offices for job work in the State.

Asking that our efforts be liberally encouraged, we remain the public's obedient servants,

PUBLISHERS.

YES, KENT, BUT—

Let us drop politics now for awhile and talk more about the material development of our State and country; agitate immigration, discuss diversified farming, the best and cheapest of fertilizers, labor saving machinery, the advancement of our educational institutions, the maintenance of good roads, the building up of enterprises of all kinds, stock raising, grain raising, sugar culture, tobacco culture. Talk about church matters, social matters, picnics, fish fries, sewing circles, Christmas, New Year's Day, May Day, Decoration Day—in fact anything except politics.—Webster Signal.

Ordinarily this would be good advice, Bro. Kent, but remember we have both the Congressional and National campaign on our hands to be settled in November. However, we can devote a great deal of our time to looking after the developments you mention.

Hon. Andrew Price has formally announced himself as a candidate for the United States Senate. He has opened headquarters at Baton Rouge.

A STARTLER.

EXTRAORDINRY DEMAND

An Inquiry That Caused Some Trembling.

The New Orleans Grand Jury Wanted to See Some Political Telegrams.

This Put the Tricksters and Trimmers on the Jump, and Put Their Manipulating Genius to Work.

However, Judge Ferguson Well Played His Role, and Saved the Boys as Judge King, Saved Fitzpatrick.

This Learned (?) Jurist Proved a Valuable Jewel to the Powers Who Created Him, and Rallied to Their Rescue in Their Sore Extremity.

Again has the saintly (?) gang of New Orleans been cast far out in the troubled seas of sore distress, and again was an opportunity granted them for the display of their wonderful genius for managing public matters relating to politics, and manipulating and paralyzing the very machinery of Court. The latest development in the great State drama, in which New Orleans played the heavy villain in a manner which the immortal bard, Shakespeare would have envied, was presented when the grand jury asked Judge Ferguson to issue a mandatory order to compel the manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company in the Crescent City to bring before that inquisitorial body the original of all telegrams sent by McMurray, Kruttschnitt, Parker (C. Harrison) McCaleb, Gleason, Harry McEnery, Judge Smith, Flynn, all ring men and Gov. Foster himself; also to the managers of the campaign there, all correspondence received and letters and instructions sent and issued relative to the election recently held, to include all matter sent and received between the dates April 18 and 21 inclusive.

To Mr. Butler, district attorney, who bore the request to this eminent (?) jurist, Judge Ferguson, replied:

"This is a very serious matter. My recollection is that the Supreme Courts of several States have held that the telegraph company could not be compelled to produce private dispatches. I will, however, consider the matter and decide it to-morrow morning."

Of course the great (?) Judge knew better; every tyro in law study does. But the ring is in desperate quarters, beaten, kicked about and stamped into a shapeless mass, it is now leading a forlorn hope for honorable or even tolerated recognition as a political factor; and being the rings friend, Judge Ferguson; this immaculate (?) arbiter of the rights and prerogatives of others, doubtless felt that he must save them; even though the ermine of the district bench be clouded with suspicion in the effort.

However, the grand jury, if really in earnest, need not be deterred by the Judge. It is all powerful and can compel all men, no matter what their vocation or political position, to become before them and divulge all things, the revelation of which will unearth and punish crime. Of course the inquiry must be in the interest of pub-lic justice, to to ferret out crime; and when the inquisition is for this purpose, nothing can be withheld and all men and all matters can be made to appear and reveal whatever secrets that may be necessary, except that which may criminate one's self.

Judge Ferguson denied the request. Of course he did. All the State who knows him thought he would. His reasons were apparently good, bound on law; but the political demagogue is evident all the way through; and deceives no one.

Is the grand jury trying a cunning game of unholy politics, or does it want light on a subject which all the honest and moral people of our State will back it in? It has the power to have the information whether Judge Ferguson wills it or not.

A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY

Rests on the Legislature at its Assembling on Monday Next.

The Fate of the Democratic Party and the Peace and Prosperity of the State Depends on its Mode of Meeting the Great Issue, and its Manner of Dealing Out Justice.

Honor, Honesty and Fairplay Demand That Frauds be Investigated, and That He Who Has Been Honestly Elected, Be Inaugurated Governor.

Not for years has the General Assembly of our State been called upon to deal with matters so delicate as confronts the members who will meet next Monday. It devolves upon this body to examine and promulgate the returns for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and as great frauds have been alleged, it is a matter of grave consideration, a muchly mooted question whether the Legislature has the right to go behind the returns as made by the commissioners of election. But in matters of this kind The Progress has no patience with technicalities and quibbles; and it does not hesitate to state that, under the circumstances, the fullest examination should be made. We should court an investigation; should be glad to let the sunlight of truth shine on all our actions, and if they are honorable and true; based on fairplay and justice, they will throve all the more and be more strengthened before the eyes of the world, for the test.

If the election was honestly conducted; if perfect fairness existed everywhere; if no votes but those honestly and legally cast were placed in the ballot-boxes, why need we fear a look behind the scenes, a scrutiny behind the returns? Do we doubt our own members of the Legislature? If so, it were better to tamely submit to the inevitable and admit that we have been betrayed by the men we have selected.

But the time for side plays has passed; the day of the ballot-box stuffer's reign has gone, never to return we hope; it is the duty of the Legisture to go behind the returns and investigate, with an eye single to a sublime duty, with the determination to do right though the Heavens fall. The Democrats in the Legislature owe this much to their party; it is the only way to perpetuate its organization. Hundreds of men who have never cast anything but a Democratic vote, refused to vote at all at the recent election, because grave, stupendous frauds were anticipated; and thousands will never cast one again under the present regime, if the Legislature refuses to make an investigation of this matter, where such grave charges of dishonesty are preferred.

It is worse than idle now to say that Pharr represents the negro element our State. The Progress once honestly thought so, but now declares that one but arraigns his own intelligence who says such a thing. Our own journals have proven the utter fallacy of such allegations now.

These wholesale frauds; these marauding assaults on the ballot-box must stop. Decency, humanity, civilization have risen in judgment and condemned it. If Pharr has been fairly elected, then by the eternal; by the ever living spirit of truth he should be seated; if Governor Foster is entitled to his seat let him be seated at all hazards: but let us find out by a full, free and untrammeled investigation who is entitled to it; and this can only be done by going behind the returns and sift the matter from Alpha to Omega. Never mind the technicalities which may be interposed; never mind what precedent may be established, our State is in the throes of a mighty upheaval; our rights and liberties are in jeopardy, and if we allow the politicians, the place hunters, the hangers-on; those who live by politics and politics alone to control this matter and prevent an investigation, then will the right of franchise in Louisiana be a hollow mockery to all, and citizenship will be just what some political bosses choose it to be.