

negro franchise during the dark period of reconstruction to dominate and plunder the South; and in its last national platform, adopted in St. Louis on June 20, 1900, it has formally declared that "it was the plain purpose of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution to prevent discrimination on account of race or color in regulating the elective franchise. Devices of State Governments, whether by Statutory or Constitutional enactment, to avoid the purpose of this amendment are revolutionary and should be condemned."

Again, since the last election, President McKinley has kept up the principles and traditions of his party by turning down the sugar Republicans in the State, who professed a desire to create a white man's party, to recognize, deal with and appoint to office men who affiliate with the old time Republican party.

Bearing this in mind, we can readily believe that, as asserted by leading colored men, the cry has gone forth from Republican headquarters to attack the Constitutions of Southern States, regulating the franchise, with a view of forcing again upon these States manhood suffrage, pure and simple, and harling once more again the white people, now somewhat divided, the full strength of the brutish and corrupt negro vote. Such an attempt to throw back the South into the reign of terror, strife and turmoil from which she has just emerged evinces malice, envy, prejudice and hatred of so black and pronounced a type as to be ill disguised by cant and hypocrisy of its instigators in their pretended love for the negro.

It behooves the people of the South to meet the onslaught like brave men. The Fifteenth Amendment, with its negro suffrage, was forced upon the South when its men, broken in for time and sore in spirit, were virtually disfranchised by the then all powerful Republican party. The South is bound to regard the letter of the law, but its people can never sympathize with the spirit of it. It is contrary to the genius of their civilization and in sharp contradiction with the traditions of their glorious past, and since the adoption of that ill-advised amendment, the life and death struggle of the white men of the South against negro domination has been one long, continuous, and strenuous protest against the spirit of that enactment, and he who expects them to prove false to themselves and craven now that the end is almost in sight, little knows the temper and characteristics of the true Southerner.

The white people of Louisiana have fought against negro domination in the past by all means at their command. They have at least adopted a suffrage law which, they believe, will insure them in the future from any disaster from that source, and since then, the two races have been in a spirit of amity and peace, and have fought out their differences without the interference of a broker, and in a quiet, unobtrusive manner.

The fact that the two races in this State under the provisions of the present Constitution have been the quietest, the fairest and most orderly ever held anywhere in the United States. Louisiana believe they have solved the suffrage question without violating the Fifteenth Amendment. Certain it is, their suffrage enactment does violate the letter of that amendment; for it does not in terms deny the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. Sections 3 and 4 of Art. 197 apply equally to the white man and to the negro; there is no distinction whatever.

The same can be said of the much abused and misinterpreted section 5. Under it all negroes who come within its provisions, and there are some who do, are entitled to vote, regardless of any question of race, color or previous condition of servitude, just as any white man equally qualified thereunder; while all white men who do not come within its provisions, and there are some who do not, are not entitled to vote thereunder, any more than the negroes in the same category.

The present attempt to nullify this suffrage enactment can but react against the people who have set the machinery in motion. It will react in the first place against the Republican party itself and drive away from it many honest sincere men, who, believing the danger to be over from ignorant negro suffrage under the present conditions, had joined its fold, but will quit it the moment the old danger once more menaces us.

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It will react against the negro himself by bringing him back into politics and in necessary conflict with the white man. It will react against the Northern capital invested here, as the strife and turmoil the agitation will engender must necessarily create uneasiness and instability in business affairs, a condition which always affects that sensitive agency of industry and commerce.

It will react against the peace and prosperity of the whole country by the sectional hatred and strife which the injection of the issue into politics must necessarily arouse. Cranky negroes of the North will stir up the sentimental and emotional people of that section against the South, and bad men and fanatical leaders and imprincipled demagogues will spur on the simple, as well as the bold, bad negroes of the South to acts which will bring on race conflicts and bloodshed.

Viewed from whatever point, the situation is critical and calls for the prudent exercise of all the bravery and firmness of the South and all the true patriotism and exalted statesmanship of the North, to avert the dire consequences with which the country is threatened.

Negro suffrage has been fairly tried and has proven a miserable failure. Nay, worse; judged by the untold misery and suffering, the loss of life and property, it entailed, the lamentable experiment was a heinous crime against both races in the South. The failure of the experiment is recognized on all hands; the South is trying by constitutional limitations of the suffrage to minimize the evil effects of the situation; why not give its work a fair trial? It is the part of wisdom and good statesmanship to do so.

If let alone to work out the difficult race problem which confronts it, the South will solve it in a spirit of justice and equity to all its citizens. The negro has more to expect from that spirit of justice and equity of Southern men, than from the maudlin sentimentality and meddlesomeness of Northern philanthropists operating at long range.

Whatever be the outcome of it all, let the South be true to herself, to her civilization and her traditions, come what may. This sentiment will find an echo in the breast of every true Southerner.

School Board Proceedings.

Thibodaux, La. April, 6th. 1901. The Parish Board of School Directors of the Parish of Lafourche met this day, with the following Directors present: Dr. Thomas Stark, President, Messrs. N. C. Eller, L. C. Roger, Paul Scott, Alcide Chauvin, Thomas A. Badeaux, Secretary and Superintendent. Absent: Directors Meyer, Deramee and Caillouet. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Superintendent presented the following report: Report of the Parish Superintendent. To the President and Members of the Parish Board of School Directors of the Parish of Lafourche: In accordance with the resolution of the Board, the public schools of the Parish, with few exceptions, opened for the session of 1901 on, or about the 14th of January. In some instances, the schools did not begin their session at the time appointed, for the reason that there were no teachers to take the vacant positions. At the last examinations of applicants, although there was a number of candidates, only two received certificates of qualification. Both of the successful applicants were awarded third grade certificates and were assigned to schools. In order to fill the vacancies, I was compelled to appoint persons who, either had no certificates or were, in my judgment, qualified to teach, and I am happy to state that among the newly appointed teachers, are some whose qualifications are very high. The persons who were without certificates have been advised that they must submit to the examination which will be held under the rules of the State Board during the present month of April. It will be well to state, that examinations may be held by the Parish Superintendent but twice in the course of the year that is, in April and October, on questions especially prepared under the direction of the State Superintendent. Hence, the teachers holding no certificates are now filling the positions to which they have been assigned, under the condition, well understood by them, that they are subject to the examinations prescribed by the State Board. For the information of the Board, and to place the same on record, I herewith submit a list of the schools now in operation, with the names of the teachers in charge, their post office addresses, and their grades. Angeloz, O. S. Fremin, Pugh, La. 3rd. Grade. Ariel, Miss Celeste Guedry, Ariel, La. 3rd. Grade. Barilleaux, Miss Sarah Williams, Raceland, La. 3rd. Grade. Baton Pilon, Miss Marie Manch, Rathbone, La. 3rd. Grade. Bayou Blue, Miss Emma Ledet, Shriever, La. 3rd. Grade. Bayou Boent, Miss R. A. Melanson, Kraemer, La. 3rd. Grade. Bergeron, Miss Sally Beatty, La fourche, La. 1st. Grade. Benoit, A. R. Coulon, Thibodaux, La. 3rd. Grade. Billin, Mrs. Mary Davis, Thibodaux, La. 3rd. Grade. Bourgeois, Miss Lydia Lambert, Larose, La. 2nd. Grade. Bowie, Wm. McCormick, Bowie, La. 2nd. Grade. Bourgeois Settlement, A. J. Richard, Thibodaux, La. 3rd. Grade. Breaux, A. H. Foise, Raceland, La. 3rd. Grade. Brule Guillot, A. J. Michelet, Principal, M. T. Higginbotham, Assistant, with Michelet as 2nd, and Higginbotham 3rd. Grade, P. O. addresses, Thibodaux, La. Celina, Miss Theresa Foret Lockport, 3rd. Grade. Chacbay, Jos. Meyer, Thibodaux, La. 3rd. Grade. Cheramie, L. L. Harang, Larose, La. 3rd. Grade. Choppe Upper, Mrs. Clara Stuart, Thibodaux, La. 3rd. Grade. Choppe Lower, D. H. Kerne, La badeville, La. 3rd. Grade. Columbian, C. E. Gaude, Ariel, La. 3rd. Grade. Delaune, Miss Theresa Palughi, Lockport, 3rd. Grade. Elliott, Miss Nellie Price, Lockport, La. 3rd. Grade. Enterprise, Miss Corinne Aycock, Thibodaux, La. 3rd. Grade. Foise, A. M. Foise, Raceland, La. 3rd. Grade. Gheens, Miss Mary Bourgeois, Raceland, 3rd. Grade. Guion Academy, A. F. Kaobloch, Principal, 1st. Grade: Thibodaux, Miss Clara Levron, Assistant, 1st. Grade. Miss Mary Laforest, Assistant, 1st. Grade. Miss Frances Mailhot, Assistant, 1st. Grade. Kraemer, Miss Julia Head, Kraemer, La. 3rd. Grade.

Lagarde, Miss Fanny Kaobloch, Thibodaux, 2nd. Grade. Leeville, F. Bardou, Cut Off, La. 3rd. Grade. Ledet, Mrs. W. F. Harang, Larose, La. 3rd. Grade. LeBlanc, Miss Maggie Tuite, Norah, La. 3rd. Grade. Lockport, L. O. Brumfield, Principal, 1st. Grade, Lockport, La. Miss Nellie Tuite, Assistant, 3rd. Grade; Miss Alice Prior, Assistant, 2nd. Grade; Miss Agnes Tuite, Assistant, 2nd. Grade. Mathews, Miss Mary Kennedy, Principal, Lockport, 1st. Grade. The position of assistant in this school is vacant. Matherne, A. C. Lasseigue, Bourg, La. 1st. Grade. Lefort, W. C. Lorraine, Cut Off, La. 2nd. Grade. Pierce, Joseph H. Price, Cut Off, La. 3rd. Grade. Roussel, Mrs. M. Maddux, Principal, Raceland, La. 3rd. Grade; Miss Alice Maddux, Assistant, Raceland, 3rd. Grade. St. Ann, Miss Cecile LeBlanc, Principal, Thibodaux, 2nd. Grade; Miss B. Higginbotham, Assistant, Thibodaux, 3rd. Grade. St. Mary, L. A. Scott, Principal, Ariel, La. 3rd. Grade; E. A. Scott, Assistant, Ariel, La. 3rd. Grade. Thibodaux, Miss Mary Usé, Lafourche Crossing, 3rd. Grade. Raceland, Miss Clotilda Lyall, Raceland, La. 3rd. Grade. Toups, Miss Lea Chauvin, Ariel, La. 3rd. Grade. Scally, Miss Amelie Sabatier, Lafourche Crossing, 2nd. Grade. Vacherie, Miss Helena Bourgeois, Raceland, La. 2nd. Grade. Gaude, Miss Cecile Guedry, Ariel, La. 3d Grade, (this school was closed temporarily.) The Laforet School is vacant for the reason that no one in the locality can be found to board a teacher, and the Malgasy School has not yet opened its doors because no teacher has applied for it, and I have been unable to induce any teacher to take the position. The teacher assigned to the Vacherie School, having been incapacitated from opening the school through illness, I assigned Miss Helena Bourgeois to the school, and I am happy to say that her appointment has been warmly welcomed by the patrons of the school, and she now has a large attendance. The following colored schools are now in operation in this Parish. Corporation, Dr. G. C. Bryant, Principal, 1st. Grade; Mrs. Corneila Bryant, Assistant, 2nd. Grade; Miss Pinky Wilson, Assistant, 3rd. Grade. Bayou Blue, P. H. Reed, Thibodaux, La. 3rd. Grade. Crossing, M. Dickerson, Jr. Thibodaux, La. 3rd. Grade. Grand Bayou, John E. Ward, Thibodaux, 3rd. Grade. Laurel Valley, William Watson, Thibodaux, 3rd. Grade. Longueville, T. H. Matthews, Lockport, 3d. Grade. Highland, Enoch Dunn, Thibodaux, 3rd. Grade. Greenwood, Mrs. H. E. Lawless, Thibodaux, 2nd. Grade. Pittmann, J. W. Reed, Thibodaux, La. 3rd. Grade. Raceland, Isaiah Moreau, Thibodaux, 3rd. Grade. St. John, Miss E. S. Sutton, Thibodaux, La. 3rd. Grade. The State Teachers' Institute, under the charge of Prof. H. E. Chambers, was held in February, finishing its session of five days, the day before the last meeting of the Board, and it was impossible for me to report on the success of the undertaking, at that time. The session was very well attended by the teachers, very few being absent, and those who were present had a valid excuse. The lectures of Prof. Chambers were listened to very attentively and, as they were very practical in character, they made quite an impression on the teachers some of whom have stated to me since that they felt benefited by the suggestions made. It was my privilege to be present at nearly every session of the Institute and I entered heartily into the work of improving the teachers' professional standard. Prof. Chambers, having had charge of a country school, at one time, was in a position to appreciate the needs and requirements of our rural schools and, hence, his work was all the more profitable to our teachers on that account. Inasmuch as the fund at our disposal for the building and repairing of school houses is inadequate for the purpose, I took occasion of my visit to the room of the Grand Jury, to lay before that body our needs in that respect. I am happy to state that the Grand Jurors coincided in the view that the Police Jury should come to the assistance of this Board with an appropriation for the School House Fund. I quote from the report of the Grand Inquest, what pertains to school matters, as follows: "The Parish Superintendent of Education laid before us his annual report made to the School Board, showing that the schools in the parish are in a satisfactory condition. "The school session just ended was of eight months duration, which is the longest had in the parish in years. "The report of the Superintendent is full and complete, and we annex the same report as a part of this report. "Our attention was specially called to the condition of the School House Fund. This fund only has about \$300.00 to its credit and we find that the full amount has already been appropriated by the Board for the purpose of erecting school houses that are presigly needed. This leaves no money in the fund with

which to make necessary repairs on other school houses in the parish, and we therefore recommend that the Police Jury make an appropriation of at least four hundred dollars for the purpose of enabling the School Board to keep the various school houses belonging to the parish in good repair."

This strong and sensible recommendation was called to the attention of the Police Jury at its last session, for a copy of the report of the Grand Jury was transmitted to that body. I felt it to be my duty to appear before the Police Jury and urge upon them the advisability of making an appropriation from their general fund for the purpose of enabling this Board to do the work for the public schools which the necessities of the situation demand. I was treated with the greatest courtesy, and an attentive hearing was accorded me, but the Jury felt that their limited funds would not justify them in making the appropriation that we so much need.

I have had a neat and substantial fence built on the line between the Guion Academy property and the neighbor, and also, a convenient and much needed privy on the boys' side of that school. One of the corner posts of the front gallery having fallen from its place from sheer decay, it became necessary at once to prop the gallery and make an examination of the whole lower part of the gallery. The sills of the upper gallery resting upon the pillars were found to be decayed, and it is a wonder that a frightful accident has not occurred heretofore from this source. As it is, the post which fell, struck four of the children and injured them, though, fortunately not very seriously. If the falling post had been solid instead of hollow, a coroner's inquest might have been necessary at one of our leading school houses. I have had a new gallery made for the lower floor of the School house and I have had the decayed portion of the upper floor repaired. I have had the gutters, which were the cause of the decay of the wood work on the gallery, removed, and replaced by new gutters which will carry the rain water to the cistern and, at the same time, not allow its fall on the gallery foundations and cause them to decay. A coat of paint to the fences and repaired portions of the gallery, have added materially to the appearance of things about the school house. In accordance with law, I have begun to hold monthly teachers' institutes. The section about Lockport has been placed in the charge of Prof. Brumfield, the principal of the Lockport School, the colored teachers have been assigned to Dr. G. C. Bryant, as Institute Manager, while the white teachers, within a radius of ten miles of Thibodaux have been constituted into a district under my own immediate supervision. The Lockport Institute will hold meetings Continued on page one.

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