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The Negro Still a Factor in Politics.

In discussing the "black incident" in the erstwhile Lily White Republican party, our youthful and sprightly contemporary, the Assumption *Eagle*, remarks:

"There is not a white man, irrespective of party, who does not condemn the displacement of Earhart to make room for a coon politician, but even so, this beating of drums and clashing of cymbals with which the Democratic organs are falling all over each other just now, does not deceive anyone as to the real cause of their "I told you so" vaudeville performance. No one save the unwary will be taken in by this negro dodge, as it is too well-known that the negro as a factor in Louisiana politics is as dead as an autumn leaf."

Is not the *Eagle* just a little bit too optimistic and cocksure in its declaration that "it is too well known that the negro as a factor in Louisiana politics is as dead as an autumn leaf?"

Is not the negro still a considerable factor in our politics when the Lily Whites themselves have been forced to recognize him and take him into their political household in order that they may be admitted themselves into the full fellowship of the national Republican party? And since the proud leaders of the Lily Whites have been compelled by the judicious application of the party whip to surrender the long cherished convictions of Southerners on the racial question, to submit, if not to subscribe, to the Republican doctrine of negro equality, who can doubt that the same influences, which coerced them to this, will in due time likewise constrain them to take the next step and bring back the negro into active politics in our electoral campaigns?

The negro "as dead as an autumn leaf," "as a factor in Louisiana politics,' indeed!

What an optimistic dream! Would that it were something more substantial than a dream, than a mere figment of the imagination!

We should not delude ourselves; the negroes may never again dominate our politics to the same baneful extent as they did in the past, but they are still a factor to be reckoned with.

Their power has been badly crippled; all the illiterate among them have been eliminated, but there is still enough of them left who possess the electoral franchise to make them a disturbing element in our politics.

It is true that these have not tried to vote in the last three elections, because there was no incentive to move them; but now that their recognition has been forced upon the Lily Whites, and that the leaders of the latter will be bound to protect them in their rights, the dormant force will be roused into activity, and once more the negro will become a factor in our political campaigns. Designing and bad white men, to achieve their own purposes and ends, will marshal the qualified negro voters as in the past, and counsel, advise and direct them; and, must we say it, turmoil, strife and conflicts between the whites and the blacks will again be witnessed in the land.

This may seem to the unwary optimist to be a phantasmagorial picture drawn by the overheated fancy of a pessimist, but it is not; it is a sound deduction from the experience of the past, resting upon a fair appreciation of human nature and of the spring of human conduct. Granting that the negro is good enough to share office with the Lily Whites and to participate in their party councils, as the Lily Whites have conceded by their acts and conduct, then it necessarily follows that he is good enough to help his party friends to get the offices and keep up the party by participating in elections; and the political bosses at Washington will see to it that he does it.

This will be the logical outcome of the political situation as fixed by the latest move of the Lily Whites in recognizing the negro and taking him into their fold, and it must be admitted that impalatable as the truth may be, it leaves the negro still a pretty lively factor in our politics. True, the negroes may not be able to vote in any great numbers in the next election, because they may not have qualified themselves by paying their poll taxes, but what is so short a delay in the working out of a political problem?

The point we make is, that the negro is still a factor in our politics, and that the force represented by the number of that race possessing the right of franchise lying dormant during the past few years, will be roused into pernicious activity by the reprehensible acts and conduct of the leaders of the Lily Whites in recognizing the negro as a factor and submitting, if not subscribing, to the obnoxious Republican doctrine of negro equality.

The Sugar Industry of Louisiana.

An old saying that "straws show which way the wind blows" is doubly true of the sugar industry, for there are many favorable signs that the turning in the long lane of depression, low prices, unjust competition, is being reached. The recent steady rise in the London market is the effect of the abolition of European bounties and all the unfair systems of sugar disposition and distribution will soon be only a spectre of a very unpleasant and unprofitable past. Our European sugar producers deprived of the artificial stimulus cannot swamp consumption with inflated supplies, which came from taxation drawn from a mistaken and deluded people engaged in avocations that are unprotected. Now we may look for the legitimate factors of supply and demand to produce that healthy competition and stable market, that the experiments of socialism essayed to obtain, but failed. Since the sixties, our Louisiana planter has been obliged to make a fight that required eternal vigilance, as well as the highest order of courage and patience. The Civil War came and passed, leaving in its wake a ruined industry, nothing but the tall spectre-like chimneys, blackened by the relentless flames of the burning sugar-houses, was left of the hundreds of profit making establishments. Then came the demoralization following the horrors of reconstruction. Then the pitiless floods from the rampant Father of Waters, which like a wild animal, burst all bonds and such barriers as the weakened levees interposed, were easily leaped and the country inundated. Labor was demoralized and disorganized and the cost of production was increased at the very time when the most rigid economics were imperative. The advance of modern and scientific methods, made all the old time machinery useless, and they were relegated to the junk vendor, and in their place must be erected the high class, chemically controlled, large capacity central factory. All these great obstacles have been overcome. The labor is plenty and reliable, the great bulwarks of levees under supervision of Uncle Sam, afford protection from flood, and it would seem that once more we are on the high road to prosperity. Reciprocity, and all the disquieting schemes of the politicians have stood like beasts of prey in the path of the planters, but all such menaces will lose their power to frighten or depress when it is known that the power of bounty-fed competition is over. The English consumer has been heretofore getting his sugar at a merely nominal figure and the European taxpayer has been footing the bill. The Cuban planter will now have an outlet for his product in countries where he has been practically excluded. The effect on sugar values is bound to be of an encouraging nature. But this approach of prosperity should not lull our planters to fancied security. Even under the new order of things, the needs of economy will be self-apparent. Nevertheless there need be no longer the ghostly fear lest the fruit of their anxious endeavors be swept away by the unfriendly legislation of foreign competition of foreign lands. The outlook therefore is encouraging and means much to the holders of our sugar lands. Capital will no longer shun them as a precarious investment, but will come forward and help to realize that dream of the American sugar grower, the entire supply of the American demand, filled with American sugar.—*Southwest Louisiana Industrialist.*

Be Fair And Just.

"Billy Bryan's political adversity seems not to have carried financial defeat. He recently moved into his $20,000 home at Lincoln, Neb., and is said to be worth $500,000 in cold cash. Under the circumstances some men might be so sordid as to say: "I had rather be rich than president."—Ruston Leader.

The enemies of Mr. Bryan are forever finding fault with whatever he does or concerns him.

Mr. Bryan's political adversity has not "carried financial defeat" because he is a man of brain, push and energy, qualities which he has employed in honest work, and in fighting for the right and the general good.

It is well to remember that shortly after his defeat in 1896 he was offered a $25,000 attorneyship by a New York corporation, which he declined, though then a poor man, to continue his fight for what he considered the right.

In spite of all the slurs and detraction of his political enemies, the majority of the American people will continue to esteem Mr. Bryan as an honest, sincere, patriotic man, of brilliant parts, with strong convictions, and the moral courage to assert and maintain them.

If in his honest and patriotic work of a journalist and popular lecturer, contending for the rights of the masses against the encroachments of trusts, monopolies, combines and other evil influences, wealth flow into his lap why should envy degrudge it? Every laborer is worthy of his hire. However we may differ from Mr. Bryan, let us at least be fair and just.

Drifting Toward Hamilton.

Senator Spooner of Wisconsin has inadvertently given expression to a sentiment that prevails among the plutocratic representatives of the country. He thinks that the president ought to be elected for a long period, say fifteen years. A business man of Georgia at a commercial banquet made a similar suggestion a few years ago.

Jefferson believed in frequent elections in order that public servants might be kept in touch with the people and the republican party in its earlier years laid great stress upon the doctrines of Jefferson, but since it has become completely subservient to the moneyed interests of the country its leaders are inclining more and more to Hamilton's view. He wanted the president elected for life, the senate elected for life and the governers of the states appointed by the president and holding office during good behavior.

Very few, if any, of the republicans have dared to go as far as Hamilton did, but their increasing eulogy of him indicates the drift of their minds, and occasionally some one blurts out, as Senator Spooner has, giving conclusive proof of their real tendencies.—The Commoner.

Opelousas has a good side show attraction in the shape of a champion lazy man. He can outloaf any loafer that was ever born to breathe in this wide, wide world.—Opelousas Courier.

If the gentleman above referred to desires to contest for the title with which he is now endowed, we have one or two specimens in ths city that we would like to stake against him.—Crowley Signal.

If the contest is yet open we have a few in this town we would like to enter into the race. Franklin would be a sure winner.—St. Mary Banner.

In such a fierce contest, we fear Thibodaux will be outclassed, though she can produce some fair specimens of the genus *homo piger.*

The Avoyelles *Blade* thus admonishes a certain class of people:

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