

THE LACLEDE BLADE

A. J. CAYWOOD, Editor and Publisher.

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FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

Our Special Correspondent Writes Entertainingly of Things at Washington.

There is genuine concern among republican leaders, including some who are not particularly partial to Secretary Taft, over the program of the anti-administration forces who are bent on bringing to Chicago contesting delegations from every southern state. Senator Foraker's name is generally used as the anti-Taft candidate, but "uninstructed delegations" is the cry, the purpose being to secure, if possible, a large number of delegations to trade with. In many of the southern states the Forakerites are dealing with the negroes. In Alabama, however, this is not the case. The negroes will have none of the anti-administration crowd and accordingly the Forakerites are dealing with the so-called "lily-whites," or anti-negro faction. One William Youngblood, a lily-white leader, is going about the state hiring a hall in each town where a district convention is being held and, with the liberal use of money, is "electing" a contesting delegation without pretense of regularity. In many of the southern states the men who are at the front of the anti-administration movement are those who have been discharged by Presidents McKinley or Roosevelt for dishonesty or incompetence, or both.

The program of the anti-Taft forces, who are amply provided with money, is to bring all these delegations to Chicago and endeavor to have them placed on the "temporary roll" of the national convention. Of course it cannot be pretended that these delegations are entitled to such recognition, but their hope is to influence the national committee to seat them regardless of the merits of the cases. When the convention is called to order, the roll of the states will be called and as each is named, its chairman, elected by the majority of the delegation, rises and names three men for membership on the committees on credentials, resolutions and permanent organization, respectively. Of course, if a majority of spurious delegates are placed on the temporary roll, the men named for the credentials committee will be anti-Taft. Then the credentials committee will pass on the various contests and the result must be obvious. Only anti-Taft delegates will be placed on the permanent roll wherever there is a contest. It is obvious, therefore, that if the anti-administration forces can control the national committee, they can control the convention, although that is admittedly a big "if."

The feature of this situation which occasions anxiety to the leaders, however, is not the possible outcome of the program, but the effect which, however it results, it will have in the election. Let the people become convinced that a republican candidate for president has been nominated by the corrupt manipulation of negro delegates from states in which there is practically no republican vote, and the result will be to make democratic votes by the million, say the wise ones. Again, suppose Taft is nominated, will not the fact that such a concerted effort was made have a decidedly serious effect on the fortunes of the party? Can any party have it become generally known that there is even a possi-

bility of such corruption in its national councils, or that such quantities of money have been expended to sway its choice without grave loss of confidence? These are the questions which some of the most disinterested leaders are asking.

This has been a quiet week in congress, the most important event having been the vote of the senate committee on military affairs on the Brownsville case. That committee, by a vote of 11 to 2, refused to adopt a resolution offered by Senator Foraker declaring that none of the negro soldiers of the 25th infantry did the shooting, and of those two, Mr. Bulkeley a moment later voted for the Dupont resolution declaring that the evidence showed that the shooting was done by negroes with the rifles issued to the commissioned officers of the 25th infantry, so that really Mr. Foraker was the only member prepared to say that the negroes were all innocent. The vote declaring the opposite, that the negroes were guilty, stood 8 to 4, Mr. Dupont not voting. Mr. Foraker has already introduced a bill providing that all the discharged soldiers shall be restored to the army and given their back pay, a bill which he fully appreciates will not pass, but which is intended to have its effect on the negro race. Senator Warner will introduce a bill authorizing the president to restore to the army and give back pay to any negro soldier who can prove his entire innocence of complicity in the affair to the satisfaction of the military authorities.

Steady progress is being made on the Aldrich bill in the senate. The fact that the president favors the measure and is willing that it shall be called an administration measure constitutes the chief strength of the Aldrich measure, which conforms in all essential details with the recommendations contained in the last annual report of the president. The house seems at present to favor the Fowler bill, which is based largely on the green-back principle, but Speaker Cannon says that the house does not know its own mind on the subject as yet, and that he will lead the lower chamber as it should go when the time comes.

Senator Owen, the eighth-blood Cherokee from Oklahoma, greatly promoted his standing in the senate by his speech on finance the other day, and the next day seriously injured his prestige by advocating the removal of all restrictions which congress has placed on the alienation of his lands by the Indian, when it was known that Mr. Owen held options on a ranch consisting of 3,000 acres of the finest land in Oklahoma, the title to which he could secure only by a passage of the amendment he advocated.

Skins Cowherd

Simultaneous with its endorsement of the candidacy of Judge Evans for the democratic nomination for governor, the Chillicothe Constitution, the leading democratic newspaper of this part of the state, grabs a big club and lands a few on W. S. Cowherd, who seems to be the choice of the leading democratic papers of this part of the state. The Constitution makes some charges in the following editorial that are worth remembering because Cowherd is going to be the democratic nominee:

"All the church members who worked and prayed for the cause of temperance in Ray, Clay, Daviess, Livingston and other counties are branded as hypocrites by W. S. Cowherd, candidate for governor backed by the old machine, the brewery interests and corporations. "In a speech at Joplin Wednesday night Cowherd came out bold-

ly on the brewers' side of the liquor side of the question by stating that he believed high license to be the best solution of the liquor question.

"He further pledged himself to the advocacy of 'personal liberty,' the motto of all liquor organizations.

"But his most remarkable keynote declaration was this:

"Religion has its field. Its duty is to point the way to heaven. Politics has its field and its duty is to direct men's feet on the pathway of life. When religion attempts to control government or vice versa we have the worst possible condition—hypocrisy in religion, tyranny in government."

"So it is hypocritical and wrong for ministers or devout church members to attempt to control election, but it is personal liberty and righteousness for the saloon keepers to control the city, county and state and defy the people through faithless public servants.

"That is Cowherd's idea of democratic principles.

"But if that is democracy the Constitution, after forty-eight years of service in that party, must respectfully disagree.

"The Constitution idea of democracy is the rule of the majority, even if that majority believes in religion.

"Why should religion be a bar to political activity any more than tending bar?

"The Constitution has been down in the trenches and has been computing returns from Livingston county. It knows the sentiment in the hearts of democrats in this neighborhood. Its advice, therefore, to the democrats of the state is not to burden the ticket with a load like Cowherd. He will not do. The old machine was enough to beat him without the brewery and railroad interests to handicap him.

"The fact that a christian citizen expresses and votes his sentiments is not sufficient to brand him a hypocrite.

"At least, Candidate Cowherd will have a hard time showing Missouri to the contrary."

State Pure Food Law

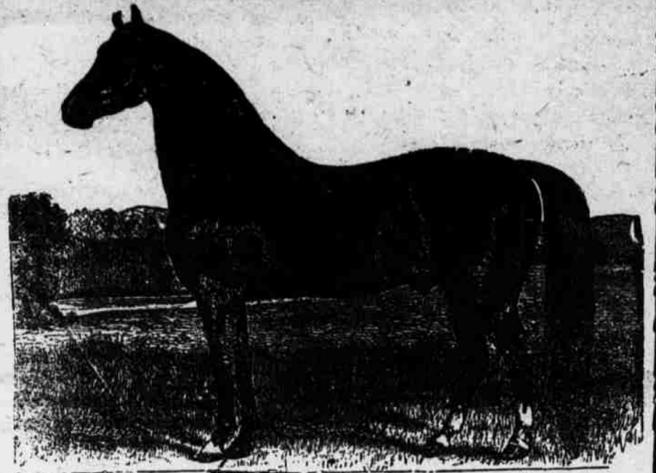
R. M. Washburn, state dairy and food commissioner, has issued the following bulletin concerning weights and measures of flour and other food stuffs offered for sale in this state:

"The inspectors of this department have, during the past six months, weighed foods in hundreds of stores in this state, reporting on blanks furnished for the purpose.

"It has been found that flour in sacks was often short from 1/2 pound to 4 pounds per sack; even where there was an apparent attempt to comply, the gross weight scarcely equaled the required net weight.

"The millers of Missouri are reminded that there is a law in this state which requires all sacks or barrels in which flour is sold to be plainly labeled or stamped with the number of pounds of flour contained therein. Section 10578 Revised Statutes 1899, vol. 2, page 2448, reads: 'A barrel of flour shall consist of 196 pounds net; a sack of flour shall consist of 98 pounds net; a half a sack of flour shall consist of 48 pounds net; a quarter sack of flour shall consist of 24 pounds net; no manufacturer or dealer in flour shall sell flour in barrels, sacks, half sacks or quarter sacks containing a less amount of flour than the amounts above specified. Before any barrel, sack, half sack or quarter sack of flour shall be sold, the number of pounds therein contained shall be plainly labeled or stamped thereon.' The state pure food law on this subject reads: 'In the case of foods, as

HORSES WANTED



For the Eastern and Southern markets; from 3 to 10 years old and from 900 lbs. up. They must be fat and well broke to harness. Drivers, Coachers and heavy horses a specialty. If you have a good road horse or a nice pair of drivers, be sure to show them to me. Also mules from 14 hands up. Will buy some good mares in foal.

WILL BE AT

Power's Livery Barn, Laclede

Tuesday, March 10

A. W. Cotter

herein defined, an article shall also be deemed to be misbranded: if, in package form, and the contents are stated in terms of weight and measure, they are not plainly and correctly stated on the outside of the package."

"A statement of quantity is required, (Section 10578, R. S. 1899.) This statement must be true, (Section 7, S. B. 47, p. 240, Session Acts 1907.)

"Flour shipped into this state from another state, which flour does not have on its sack a statement of quantity, may be expected to be short. The consumer is advised to watch for the statement of quantity and to purchase from those companies guaranteeing full weight.

"A large per cent of foods that are sold in sealed packages fall far short of the quantity commonly supposed to be present, but the absence of any statement of quantity renders the manufacturer exempt from prosecution under the pure food law. Again the suggestion that those companies be patronized that state the quantity of goods on the label, for such statements will usually or soon be found to be accurate. In the matter of vegetables sold by the grocer—the measured half bushel or peck seldom weighs out a half bushel or quarter bushel, although in section 10576 p. 2447, vol. 2, Revised Statutes 1899, is clearly stated what number of pounds shall constitute a bushel of various vegetables and grains.

"This department will do all it can to assist the consumers of this state in getting all they pay for, but considerable will still remain for the individual purchaser to look out for."

An Unexpected Reform

When Chicago doubled its liquor license fee it hoped to gain two objects—the wiping out of the cheap saloons, notoriously the haunts of vice and the breeding spots of

crime, and an increase in the revenue which would permit the enlarging of the police force. But the increase of the saloon license from \$500 to \$1,000 seems to have wrought another and unexpected reform. It has reduced Chicago's consumption of liquor and inferentially its drunkenness.

As soon as the high license law was enacted, the saloonkeepers set about to make it as objectionable to their patrons as themselves. They cut out the free lunch, abandoned the schooner and began serving small glasses on the ground that they cannot afford under the new rate to be as generous as of old. The purpose is, of course, plain, as reproachfully stated by one saloonkeeper to his protesting customers: "We got to make the drink fit the wishes of the community, which is not you fellows." It is thus put up to "you fellows" to get a majority and be the community.

But the saloonkeeper overlooks the fact to which a contemporary calls attention that the reduction may be a double-edged object lesson. If doubling the license fee cuts the size of the drink in half, is it not likely that the opponents of the saloon may be found asking how high the fee would have to be raised to cut out the drink altogether? This is a pertinent inquiry and it seems to be a logical one.

On account of the unusual activity of anarchists in many cities of late the secretary of commerce and labor has issued a sweeping order to all commissioners of immigration and immigrant inspectors in charge directing them to confer with the police in their jurisdictions with a view to securing the "co-operation of the police and detective forces in an effort to rid the country of alien anarchists and criminals falling within the law relating to deportation."