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MISSOURI POLITICS.

Hon. B. Benson Cahoon Twenty-Seven Years Ago.

Prophetic Extracts From the First Political Speech of B. B. Cahoon Over Twenty-Seven Years Ago On the Enfranchisement of the Ex-Confederate and Negro.

Before us, as we write, is the old and time worn manuscript of the first political speech ever made by Hon. B. B. Cahoon in Missouri. It was made at Fredericktown, September 28th, 1868, when Mr. Cahoon had been in Missouri but two months and was then but twenty-two years of age. The speech was the first on that line made in Southeast Missouri if not in the State and thus early showed the breadth of the man, as we have ever since known him and it then betokened that the elements of a statesman were in him.

The circumstances under which that speech then in advance of public sentiment were made, proves Mr. Cahoon is and ever has been a leader and not a follower of public opinion. Among many good things in it we call these:

"The Republican party that gave to the world the dearest name of the nineteenth century—Abraham Lincoln and the greatest soldier of modern times—Ulysses S. Grant—stamped on them the impress of its genius and in return is animated by their charity, courage, humanity and patriotism. Under their inspiration, under the humane tendencies of true Republicanism, we must not, we can not tear down a single man but must build all men up.

As Grant showed at Appomattox in his generous terms to Lee that he was more than a soldier, that he was a great and broad statesman whose creed was and is that love is stronger than hate, and that we cannot and will not have a revolting Ireland in the United States as England has because of her inhumanity to Irishmen so we too, Republicans of Missouri, must here, at once, follow Grant's example by immediately enfranchising every disfranchised Ex-Confederate. We must do it because it is logical and humane Republicanism to do it because they are and we wish them ever to remain Americans, because they worship the same God we worship, kneel at the same altar and drink from the same sacramental cup we do, while their children and our children blend harmoniously together in loving social intercourse and marry and intermarry with each other. The nation, the party or the man who lives on his hates and prejudices is unwise. It is hard to subdue our prejudices but the noblest act is the one which enables us to do so. He who conquers the bad elements in himself is greater than he who conquers a city. To nurse ones wrath to keep it warm is to make most miserable the man who eternally hates. The enfranchisement of all the ex-Confederates should be done at once because it is right in itself, because it is unjust to disfranchise an American citizen for a political offense, how so ever grave, as certainly was the rebellion, after you, under Grant's noble example, have said the surrendered ex-Confederates shall not be molested. To longer disfranchise any man because of his attitude in the war now that it is over is only to unnecessarily irritate the man already justly forgiven by our great leaders, Lincoln and Grant—the man, too who is now a tax paying and law abiding citizen. Wrong! Certainly he was wrong. So each of us are often wrong, for who of us is without fault? As often as we are wrong we need some injured person's forgiveness. The true spirit of real Republicanism, my friends, is the spirit of Pope's universal precept:

"Teach me to feel another's woe
To help the fault I see
That mercy I to others show
That mercy show to me."

That was the sentiment of Lincoln—that noble man who never permitted his resentments, if he had any, to control his public action, and it is that same spirit which must and will at once enfranchise both the ex-Confederate and the negro. It matters not to me that when I couple both these demands I receive from you no applause, and only get frowns, I care not. Time, and the stars in their course will prove I am right. The passions of pride will pass away and the better and kindlier elements of our nature will soon assert themselves and you who listen disdainfully to me now and perchance call me a crank, will

yet declare I am right in advocating at one and the same time the enfranchisement of both the ex-Confederate and the negro.

Remember to that—
"Humanity moves onward!
Where to-day, the martyr stands
On the morrow crouches Judas with
The silver in his hands.
And the hooting mob of yesterday
In silent awe returns
To gather up the ashes
Into history's golden urn."
So that, I speak not so much for the hour as I do for the eternal principles of justice, which, as God liveth, will prevail in the end.

I appeal to the future. Why should not the negro be enfranchised? In a republic, every man who is a tax payer however small his contribution, should be a voter. As in peril, he must bear on his shoulders his rifle and be the hope, the faith and the life of the nation, so any man, good enough to fight for his country, no matter whether an Indian or an African sun has bronzed his brow, is good enough to vote in it. But you say, the negro is ignorant. So he is, but I hope public school instruction of which I see we have entirely too little in Missouri, not even a public school district in this pretty little town, will as it should, in separate public schools for the benefit of the negro boy and girl, remedy that defect of ignorance in the negro race in one generation.

Hear me Ex-Confederates for the negro! When we were grappling in our late death struggle and you fought us as only Americans can fight—heroically—where were your mothers, your wives, your sisters and your sweethearts? Who tilled your fields, peacefully, while you fought for a Government whose very corner stone was negro slavery. Your former slaves did it. They, bound to you by precious family ties, cared for those dear to you while you fought further to enslave them. All your household Gods were safe in their keeping.

I appeal to you, brave men, generous men as you are,—that you owe a deathless debt of gratitude to the negro. I shall not long appeal to you in vain. The time will come when you will say: "We were wrong; slavery was wrong, but the negro was ever kind and faithful to us under unprecedented circumstances." Because he was, so should we reward him; so should we build him up and help him and help his children by education, by moral and material assistance and by giving him a ballot so he can politically help himself. That result will all come by your help and your children will be proud of it. It will soften the asperities of this hour; it will make us forget the war with all its horrors; it will bind us in tender ties of devoted Americanism. We can not delay the enfranchisement of the negro until present ignorant members of his race who are of voting age are educated, because it is unjust to you and unjust to us that we do so. The negro was loyal to us both!

Remember that he was loyal to you because he loved his old master, his old mistress and their children and your home and his old home; so loyal to you that never by rapine or disobedience, did he fail to obey and to care for your loved ones at home, when, had he been inherently mean, the torch and the sword, in his hands would have devastated the South. While he was loyal to you, so he was loyal to us. To you he gave his toil and to yours his care. But when our flag, in the low lands or on the highlands of the South, greeted his gaze, his eye grew tender, his heart beat faster; with bedewed cheeks and on bended knees he greeted it, for he instinctively knew that flag meant for him, and for all men thirsting for freedom, as all men ever have and ever will do,—that it meant for him, and for the oppressed of all climes, races, conditions and times, liberty,—liberty, the last, best gift of God to man! And so the negro was loyal to us both. Fidelity is the rarest and noblest virtue in all human existence. It should be rewarded first and prized the most. In gratitude is the foulest and filthiest crime man can commit against his brother man who has helped him. Then, Ex-Confederates and Republicans we must enfranchise the negro because we are his debtor—because we owe him, weak and helpless as he is, a debt of gratitude. You are not aware we are ungrateful. We are forced to be just and generous to and are compelled to give the negro a ballot because of the gratitude we both owe him, for his loyalty to us both, paradoxical as that may seem. Listen to this story:

A one armed soldier rushed through applauding crowds to the side of

Frederick the Great. "O King!" he said "my brother's life, because he is a malefactor, is declared forfeited to you! Spare him and give me my brother!" And the courtiers said: "Away! who gave you leave to break thus abruptly upon the King?" But the King said: "Stand back, you sycophants, and let me hear the man," and to the old soldier he said: "By what right do you demand of me the life of your criminal brother?" Raising his stump of an arm, the old soldier shouted: "By the former might of my good right arm I gave to you and to my country?" The courtiers were abashed. The King melted. In a broken voice, he said: "Give to my faithful old soldier his brother; let him have his brother's life; let him keep him." The story points, as we recall the loyalty of the negro both to North and South during the war, to his immediate enfranchisement as a reward for that loyalty. Trust me, a race kind and docile as is the negro will not bring woe to us. No man must be disfranchised because he is ignorant. Education is a matter of circumstances and conditions. But for the public schools of my native little State, I, the tenth child of my precious mother, who was the mother of twelve children and died at the age of thirty-three years, I, the brother of eight more children by my father's second marriage, that noble father, poor but ever loving and unselfish, as are all American fathers and mothers in their purpose to give their children a better start in life than they ever had, would perhaps never have been able to be, at twelve, a printer's apprentice, nor had the mental clearness, at fifteen, to be a Union soldier. So perhaps, in different degree it has been with you all. You are men first, he you learned or unlearned. The same sentiment that would deny to a negro the ballot because he is ignorant, if it has any foundation in logic, would deny an ignorant white man a vote. Would that be right?

No! Why? Because the poor and uneducated man needs his ballot more than the rich or learned who can always protect himself, needs it to protect himself, to extort respect and consideration for himself and his family and to protect his rights, needs it, above all else, for its educative influence on himself. Who so eager to be informed as the ignorant voter? To know what is right in politics with him, is a passion. Hence, he attends public meetings more and is more eager to vote than is the educated man, all to improve his mind. He is just as patriotic as is the learned man, often more so. Unlike the pharisee of old, he does not think he is better than other men and unlike so many of our rich men who often refuse he never refuses to vote. Do not forget that in a republic the best thing in the ballot is its educative influence. It makes every voter think. Because a man can not read or write it does not follow that he is always unwise, as your own observation of men will concede.

Moreover, as suffrage builds up a poor ignorant man, men who are superior to him owe it to their better nature to give him every aid to better his condition. Greece and Rome were not destroyed by ignorant but by corrupt men who were educated demagogues. If our republic goes down, it will be through the corruption of its public men or through the avarice and greed of its rich men and not from the vice of the people, be they learned or unlearned. They ever mean well. Educate them all to do well, but do not handicap them by depriving any of them of suffrage at the outset because they can not read or write. The American who says the negro should not vote because he is ignorant ought to blush with shame. He will do so if he will recall our former national injustice to the negro race, an injustice the South alone is not responsible for, but the entire nation. Who made the negro ignorant? The United States. How? By maintaining slavery. Why did we do it? Because at one time or another we all upheld slavery. We have now learned better but do not let us longer visit upon the negro, by depriving him of a ballot, the reflex action of our former error in sustaining slavery. Yes, the negro is ignorant! So should we be, if like him, for generations we had been slaves, had been driven to and from his work like cattle; had been denied all light and knowledge; had not even been permitted to read the Bible and whose lot year after year had been his— toil, toil, unrelieved by books or pictures or by the many like blessings that have made the Anglo-Saxon world conquering race. To deprive the negro of the ballot because we made him so ignorant as to be unfit

for it, is to fling in our faces our own moral turpitude and to add insult and injury to his heavy burden of ignorance—things, trust me we will not long do, for when this days' prejudice is gone justice will shame us, and make us do the right thing to the negro—give him a vote, give him a fair chance by it and by education to work out his better destiny, as in time he surely will do, for with us, he is a child of God and is never absent from His care.

An amusing incident connected with the above speech, Edgar P. Caruthers, now the brilliant and gifted editor of the Dunklin County Democrat and who has lately said many kind things of Mr. Cahoon, Democrat though Mr. Caruthers is, was, when Mr. Cahoon delivered the speech, the printer's devil and the newspaper carrier, in the office in the Fredericktown base, the then Democratic paper in Fredericktown, which commented very severely on the "troxy checked abolitionist," as it called Mr. Cahoon, for advocating negro suffrage. Mr. Caruthers has often said, that with a bundle of papers for sale he, yelling: "Here's the paper giving Cahoon hell," he turned the corner to the court house, where he was suddenly confronted by Mr. Cahoon who, instead of eating him, as he expected, laughingly said to Caruthers as he paid for them: "Let me have a half dozen of them hell." Mr. Caruthers has often said, boy as he was, that incident deeply impressed him, for there was Cahoon whose speech had pleased nobody and who was being damned on every side, as calm, in the face of it all, as a May morning, taking it all philosophically and patiently waiting for the day when all men, as they since have done, would come to view both subjects as Cahoon did and approve them and honor the young prophet for being in advance of themselves. It gives us infinite pleasure to be able to resurrect that old speech, and it confirms us as it will confirm all who read it, in the conviction that as Mr. Cahoon in youth was brave, manly and in the front rank of all that was progressive so he has ever been and ever will be, and that he has more than his moving eloquence to point to, his fixed convictions, his deeds, his courage, his consistency and his personal success in all he ever undertook as the sure bases of his candidacy for the Governorship.

This is a good form for a resolution to be passed instructing delegates as they are elected in each county. We advise the friends of Hon. B. B. Cahoon to get it out and to offer it in their respective county conventions just as soon as the delegates are elected:

Resolved that the delegates elected from this county to attend the Republican State Nominating Convention to be held at Springfield, Mo., on July 22nd, 1896, be and are hereby instructed to vote for Mr. Cahoon, and all the time for the nomination of Hon. B. B. Cahoon of Madison County for Governor.

Christian Sunday School.

By mere chance we discovered the people gathering at the Christian church, and thinking something unusual on foot we followed; but mark our surprise when we entered and beheld one amongst the finest decorated churches in this city. We were at no trouble to trace the artist, for the hand of that prince of decorators Otto Holm was traced in every line and flower.

Our second surprise was the large number of Sunday School scholars in attendance, and the crowded house. It proved to be an entertainment given by the little ones for the benefit of the Christian Orphan Home at St. Louis. The programme was lengthy but the children did their parts exceedingly well. "The Pilgrim" and "Home, Sweet Home," were both admirably rendered, especially the last.

This splendid Sunday School is the work of that noble, christian worker, Mrs. Dr. Peters, who for years could be seen in season and out of season on our by ways and back streets gathering together the little children at play; and in few kind and motherly ways leading them to the "Good Shepherd," that has blessed her work. Those little children when they become Grandfathers and Grandmothers will look back to their childhood and bless the Good Angel who led them to peace and rectitude. In their troubles they will repeat the prayers she taught them and be comforted. She is sowing seeds that will bring fruits and flowers that will crown her brow with a chaplet of glory when the cares of this life are over. Mrs. Peters has even captured our deputy Sheriff, Hy. Kopper, who attends regularly.

You will never regret sending three 2-cent stamps to pay postage, to A. P. Ordway & Co., Boston, Mass., for a copy of Dr. Kaufmann's great Medical Work; 100 pages, colored illustrations; of great value to every family.

A DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

Bossism and Ring Rule Wins—Democratic Wolves pose as Populist Lambs.

We have been a close reader of the esteemed Cash-Book for several years and have read with considerable interest the scathing editorials contained therein on "rings" and "bossism," and corruption, generally. We have fancied that the old party had been chastened by adversity and have yearned sometimes for a return to our first love.

We were denounced, bemeaned and accused of bossism because we stood up in a convention, recently, and fought for instructions there. But the convention of last Saturday furnished an object lesson for Democrats to consider at their leisure. After a great deal of advertising and hustling, about 30 of the faithful congregated at the court house. The crowd was composed of the aforementioned "disorganized mob," 15 or 20 Populists, 30 or 40 Republicans, and 8 or 10 negroes.

The meeting was called to order and Geo. Peterman elected president and "Grand Mogul," Frank McGuire, secretary.

It was, very soon, evident that the Stone cuckoos had the thing out and dried. Sam Williams arose and with tears in his eyes, stated that after a thorough search he had found eleven patriots who were willing to sacrifice themselves in the Stone machine. These eleven were required to stand and give reasons for their faith: confess their sins before all the world or be cast out of the synagogues and Stone-d. Ye gods! What a sight for a disciple of Jefferson! No matter what his views on the tariff, income tax, Monroe doctrine or state banks; no matter whether he sold whiskey or preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ, if he stood the 16 to 1 test he suited the Grand Mogul, was received as the prodigal son and declared one of the lords anointed. The list was adopted, of course, as all cut and dried affairs have been in Democratic conventions for the last 20 years.

The list went through and another cuckoo was transformed from a high private in the rear ranks to a boss of the first rank.

The Democrats beaten at every point and worse demoralized than any party since the foundation of the government, are now following in the path blazed by the Populist party in its infancy. We have not been indifferent to the gentle wooing of the Grand Mogul, but in the future we shall bitterly fight any alliance, combination or association with the party of one idea.

The 16 to 1 Democrat is odd if not original. After this public confession of faith: after the victims had declared themselves uncompromising, 16 to 1, die-in-the-ditch Democrats, a resolution was passed instructing them to vote their sentiments. After the delegates had been chained, collared and branded, the Hon. L. H. Davis in a vain effort to inspire a little enthusiasm into what was left of the old party that used to roll up its 400 majority before bossism, selfishness and scheming had sapped it of its strength. For a half hour he sang Populist hymns and covered the arena with Cleveland gore. The convention adjourned and the goddess of liberty wept.—Jackson Comet.

Who is McKinley?

"Who is William McKinley? A soldier of the republic, a boy volunteer, knighted by his country's commission for conspicuous gallantry on desperate fields. When Sheridan, summoned by the rising roar of doubtful battle, rode madly down from Winchester and drew nigh to the shattered and retreating columns of his army, the first man he met to know was a young lieutenant, engaged in the heroic task of rallying and reforming the Union lines, ready for the coming of the master, whose presence and genius could wrest victory from defeat. That young lieutenant was a private in 1861, a major in 1866. The years that others gave to educational pursuits he gave to his country. His alma mater was the bloodied field. He graduated in a class of heroes. His diploma bears the same signature as does the emancipation proclamation.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale at Blomeyer & Haman.

Resolutions Adopted by the Democratic Convention.

Following are the resolutions adopted by the Democratic convention at Jackson last Saturday:

Resolved, That we, the Democracy of Cape Girardeau, in convention assembled, regard the re-establishment of the true bimetallic standard guaranteed by our Constitution as of overshadowing importance to the welfare of our people; that we favor the re-enactment of the mintage law of 1837, which was approved by that great sound money Democrat and President, Andrew Jackson, and which act provided for the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver at the ratio, substantially, of 16 to 1, without discrimination.

Resolved, That we are unalterably opposed to the single gold standard, and the periodic issue of bonds to sustain the same.

Resolved, That all public creditors should be paid in either gold or silver at the option of the government and as may be most advantageous to the public interests; and that we denounce the practice which has grown up in late years, to pay the public creditors in gold on demand and of such creditors, as unwarranted in law and calculated to lower the value of silver as ultimate redemption money. That under the so-called Stanley Mathews act of 1878, all public creditors can be paid in either gold or standard silver dollars, containing 412 2/3 grains of silver, as provided by the act of 1837, without a breach of public faith.

Resolved, That we firmly believe that the adoption of the single gold standard has greatly increased the value of gold, and increased in proportion its purchasing power of commodities, and thereby directly added to the public debt as well as to private debt, making it harder for the people to pay liabilities incurred in the past and unjustly increasing the wealth of the credit class. That the single gold standard has lowered the price of land and increased the purchasing power of money, and is gradually paralyzing the energies of our people and reducing them to a condition of serfdom.

Resolved, That in view of the interests involved to the Democracy and people of Missouri in this great question of the re-establishment of true bimetalism we instruct our delegation to the State convention to favor a solid delegation to the national convention, a unit in sentiment on this subject, and containing no lukewarm or doubtful member.

Resolved, To the end that our delegation to the national convention contain only the ablest and most distinguished members of our party, we respectfully suggest that the entire delegation, except the four members from the State at large, be selected by a committee composed of one or two members from each congressional district, the delegation so selected to be ratified and confirmed by the convention.

Resolved, That we cordially approve and endorse the administration of Governor Wm J. Stone, and regret and condemn the uncalled for and intemperate assaults made upon him personally and officially by the gold standard, metropolitan press of this State; and we regard the factional warfare inaugurated on him as dictated by the money brokers of New York to destroy the harmony of the Democratic party in Missouri. And further, we endorse the acts and platform of the Pertle Springs convention.

Resolved, That our delegates to the Sodalia convention vote as a unit on all questions coming before the convention, and that those attending cast the full vote of the county, and that no proxies be given by the delegates from this county.

Resolved, That the delegates from Cape Girardeau county to the State convention to elect delegates to the national convention at Chicago be instructed to use all honorable means to elect Vest, Cockrell, Bland and Stone as the delegates-at-large to said convention.

The Discovery Saved His Life.

Mr. G. Cattonette, Beaversville, Ill., says: "To Dr. King's New Discovery I owe my life. Was taken with La Grippe and tried all the physicians for miles about, but of no avail and was given up and told I could not live. Having Dr. King's New Discovery in my store I sent for a bottle and began its use and from the first dose began to get better, and after using three bottles was up and about again. It is worth its weight in gold. We want keep store or house without it." Get a free trial at Blomeyer & Haman's drug store.