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POLITICAL PUZZLE

That South Carolina Statesmen Have Been Solving.

THINK THEY HAVE THE THING DONE

Constitutional Article That Was Framed to Disfranchise Ignorant Negroes and Allow Ignorant Whites to Vote—Some Gossip About the Convention—The Republican Problem of How to Enable the Republican States to Nominate a President.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 29.—South Carolina's constitutional convention will adjourn sine die next Tuesday. The body has been in session continuously, with the exception of a ten days' recess, since the 10th of September. The new constitution will be different in many respects from the one it will supersede, but the most important change will be in the suffrage article. In round numbers there are 145,000 adult male negroes and 100,000 adult male whites in South Carolina. The present constitution of South Carolina was adopted in 1868, and was framed by a convention composed mostly of recently liberated slaves dominated by northerners, who came into the state at the close of the war. It was patterned after those of Massachusetts and Ohio.

Natural Negro Majority of 40,000.

The greatest objection to it was against the suffrage article, which bestowed the franchise on all male citizens of the age of 21 years and upwards not laboring under certain disabilities named. Some of the most intelligent negro members of the convention of 1868 were opposed to universal suffrage and wanted an educational qualification imposed, which would have prevented a vast majority of the members of their own race from voting. Under the present constitution there is a natural negro majority of 40,000, which has been overcome by an "ingenious" registration law and the vote-buying law, which required each officer to be voted for in a separate box, the voter being compelled to select the proper box. The leading men of the state have always recognized that there was a possibility of one or the other or both of them being overturned in the federal courts.

Had to Consider the "Poor Whites."

This possibility induced them to advocate the calling of a convention for the purpose of framing a constitution permitting such qualification of the suffrage as would insure the maintenance of white supremacy. There are about 10,000 illiterate white adult males in this state. The convention could never have been called had not most explicit promises been given that these men would be taken care of. How to cut down the negro majority and preserve the vote of the white men, and do it in such a way as to run the gauntlet of the federal courts, was the difficult problem which engaged the attention of the convention, in which there are only six negroes. Senator Tillman, who led the fight for the calling of the convention, was made chairman of the suffrage committee.

The New Article on Suffrage.

The suffrage article of the new constitution provides for an alternative educational or property qualification for voters. Any man who can read or write, or who pays taxes on real estate or property, has the right to vote. Had the convention stopped there the illiterate whites would have been disfranchised. They are provided for in a clause which says that any one who cannot vote under either a property or educational qualification shall be given the right to vote for life if he can understand a section of the constitution when read to him by the registration officer. This clause is only to be operative for two years. All males obtaining their majority after 1898 must comply with the educational or property qualification in order to be allowed to vote.

How It Will Work in Practice.

This clause was fought vigorously, though unsuccessfully, and is regarded with dissatisfaction by a large proportion of the citizens of the state. Doubt is expressed as to whether it will stand the test reviewed by the federal courts. The way it is intended to work is this: The registration officers are left to choose the clause of the constitution to be interpreted by the would-be voter, in each case. They will choose, it is understood, that white illiterates will be given easy clauses to construe, while the negro illiterates will be given hard ones.

REPRESENTATION IN CONVENTION.

A Matter That Will Come Up Before the Republican National Meet.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The Republican national committee at its meeting here on Dec. 10 will be called upon to decide a very grave question. Last winter Manley, the chairman of the committee, sent circulars to each member of that organization, to all the Republican senators and representatives in congress, to governors and other state officials throughout the country, to editors of prominent newspapers and to various other persons who have been conspicuous in the councils of that party in the past, or have contributed liberally to the payment of the expenses of its campaigns, inviting their views as to the proposed change in the representation of the several states and congressional districts in the next national convention. Agitation of this matter was begun in 1884, the object of the agitation being to throw more strength to the states that give Republican majorities or strong pluralities and weaken in national conventions—those states were the Republican vote in no value in the election of a president. The new basis now under discussion was proposed by Scott, of West Virginia. He proposed that the call for the convention of 1892 be issued upon a new basis, giving each state and territory and the District of Columbia two delegates at-large at the next convention instead of four, and each congressional district one, with an additional delegate for each 7,000 votes cast for the Republican electoral ticket in 1890. This scheme, if adopted, will increase the number of delegates in the convention from 92 to 1,165, a difference of 263, and the strong Republican states would enjoy a decided gain at the expense of the south.

This is, however, the object which the authors of the plan desire to accomplish. They argue that the states which contrib-

ute no votes and no money for the support of the party are now entitled to an equal share in the selection of the candidates, which is unfair and illogical. They do not wish to deprive the few Republicans of the south of a voice in making the nominations, but insist that districts in Georgia which cast no Republican votes cannot justly be allowed the same representation as those in Iowa or Ohio, which must be depended upon to elect the ticket, and claim that the nominees should represent Republican sentiment. In support of their arguments they cite cases in which candidates have come into the convention supported almost exclusively by delegates from states that are never represented in the Republican electoral college.

The replies to Manley's circular are numerous and have been briefed for presentation to the committee on Dec. 10. The great majority is favorable to the new plan, and to the authority of the committee to adopt without reference to a convention. The minority, which is from the states that will suffer, earnestly protests against any action that will reduce its representation. A few conservative men recommend that the new plan be submitted to the next convention, so that it may be adopted with due formality in a manner that will leave no ground for complaint. No attempt has yet been made to poll the committee on this subject, but if each member votes in the interest of his own state the new plan will be adopted by a large majority.

THEY DROPPED INTO POLITICS.

Incidents of Georgia and South Carolina Day at Atlanta.

ATLANTA, Nov. 29.—Yesterday was Georgia and South Carolina Day at the Cotton States exposition and was marked by some political talk by the leaders present. The big guns were Governors Atkinson, of Georgia, and Evans, of South Carolina, and Senator Tillman, of South Carolina. The sensation of the day was the new departure taken by Evans and Tillman. Up to this time all the speeches delivered at the exposition, whether by northern or southern men, had been pitched upon the keynote of fraternity and national unity. Governor Evans and Senator Tillman struck out on a different line, however, the governor declaring in a dramatic manner that the south going out of his way to attack the president and abuse northern pensioners.

The attendance was the largest of the exposition and Governor Atkinson, referring to Evans and Tillman, said that the large audience present showed that the people had at least their higher opinion of the worth of the two leaders present than that of the president of the United States. Evans in his speech declared that without phariseism Georgia and South Carolina could thank God that they were not as other states, and that by the help of God the south would rule the country again. Tillman made the exposition a groundwork for a talk about pensions. He said the south had paid not less than one-fourth of them—\$10,000,000 to her conquerors.

However, he was not getting up a new rebellion. He referred to the bankers and brokers as sitting in their offices "and every time old Governor grants they say 'me too.' It did his soul good to be told that two hotbed governors like himself and Evans had been received with greater enthusiasm and by more people than the president of the United States.

SAYS WE ARE NOT CHRISTIAN.

Thanksgiving Day Allegation of a Cleveland Jewish Rabbi.

CLEVELAND, Nov. 29.—Rabbi M. Gries, of Wilson Avenue Temple, the most prominent Jewish synagogue in the city, preached a remarkable sermon at the Church of the Unity yesterday to an audience composed of Unitarians, Universalists and Jews. Rabbi Gries said he objected to the form of observing Thanksgiving day and was opposed to the issuing of proclamations by the president calling upon the people to meet for prayer and thanksgiving because, he declared, this was not a Christian nation. While the majority of the people were Christians a strong minority were not and that minority was entitled to consideration. He said he did not desire to detract anything from Christianity, because he realized what it had done for the country, but he was in favor of larger religious freedom and the most of his sermon was devoted to a plan for such freedom.

Tank Falls on Four Men.

IOWA FALLS, Ia., Nov. 29.—While workmen were engaged in elevating an Illinois Central water tank here, and when about thirty feet from the ground, the tank fell, fatally injuring two men and seriously injuring two others. The injured are: Nick Gregory, breast crushed, will die; Frank McHugh, internal injuries, arm and shoulder crushed; Tom Sullivan, internally injured; J. K. Quinn, foreman, seriously cut about the head.

Birmingham Boats the Flag.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Nov. 29.—United States flags were raised over the city hall and all public school buildings here Wednesday for the first time in the history of the city. Appropriate ceremonies were conducted in each place. Addresses were made by members of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the United Confederate Veterans. "Dixie" and "America" were sung. Such scenes were never before enacted here.

Michigan Penitentiary Riot.

JACKSON, Mich., Nov. 29.—Deputy Warden Northrup, Superintendent Coffey and Foreman Mueller, the three men assaulted at the state prison by convicts, are doing well and all are in a fair way to recovery. Three of the convicts concerned in the riot, Edward Huntley, William Carley and William Archer, were arraigned on the charge of assault with intent to murder. They pleaded not guilty.

Pottery Strikers Decide to Give In.

TRENTON, Nov. 29.—The sanitary pottery employes will return to work Monday. They have been on strike for eight days, the chief differences with the bosses being over an alleged excessive hiring of apprentices. The men in a meeting decided to surrender.

Bland Didn't Draw in Savannah.

SAVANNAH, Nov. 29.—Ex-Congressman Bland arrived here to lecture last night on free silver. At 1 p. m. only one seat had been sold and Bland called the lecture off.

HORSE IS DOOMED.

Motocycle Appears To Be Ringing His Knell.

TEST OF MACHINES AT CHICAGO.

Race of Self-Propelled Vehicles Results in Victory for the Duryea Machine—Fifty-four Miles Through Slush, Snow and Mud Done in Ten Hours and Twenty-three Minutes Without "Turning a Hair" on the Iron Roadster.

CHICAGO, Nov. 29.—The Charles E. Duryea gasoline motocycle finished first in The Times-Herald motocycle contest for prizes amounting to \$5,000. The contest in every respect was most novel, and the performance of the winning vehicle the most remarkable in the history of motor vehicle contests. When the race started the streets were twelve inches deep in snow, slush and mud. In the face of these odds six motocycles made the start, as follows: The Duryea, Springfield, Mass.; Morris & Salem electrobat, Philadelphia; H. Mueller, motocycle, Decatur, Ill.; R. H. Macy, New York; De La Vergne, New York, and Sturges electric motocycle, Chicago. Thousands witnessed the flight of these vehicles against the fifty-four miles of slush which constituted the course from Jackson park to Evanston and return.

Time of the Winning Motocycle.

It was considered impossible that any motocycle would complete the course, and the prediction was freely made that no one of the contestants would make five miles. Five of them passed through Lincoln park, the De La Vergne quitting at Sixteenth street. Duryea started at 8:55 and passed the Auditorium, a distance of eight miles, an hour later, and finished at 7:18 p. m., completing the course in ten hours and twenty-three minutes. For miles on the west side the boulevard was an almost unbroken field of snow banks and slush. The Morris & Salem electrobat made no attempt to complete the course, but made a creditable run of fifteen miles and returned to the testing headquarters in perfect condition.

Made the Run with an Old Machine.

The Sturges machine abandoned the unequalled after a run of twelve miles. Both these electric motors made a surprising showing under the circumstances. The fight for speed honors was between the Duryea, Mueller and Macy machines. Duryea is an American inventor, and his motor is a radical departure from the foreign type used on the wagons of his two competitors. The Duryea carriage which made the race was manufactured two years ago. Since then Duryea has made many improvements, but was unable to complete work on two new vehicles which he had entered for the contest. He accordingly made the run with the old motocycle. Prizes will be awarded on the showing made in the road race and in scientific tests which were made under the supervision of the best experts in the country.

The Vehicle of the Future.

These tests have been in progress for ten days and have been followed with great interest by hundreds of manufacturers from all parts of the United States. These tests have proved of great value. The Paris-Bordeaux race is worthless from a scientific standpoint, but the contest just closed may result in the establishment of reliable data concerning what many consider the vehicle of the future. The H. Mueller machine finished at 8:55 o'clock, making the second prize. The Macy machine did not finish, but being driven ten miles from the finishing point, and after several hours' work it was abandoned. The machine was in the second place when the accident occurred.

PANIC AT A CHURCH FESTIVAL.

Lamp Explodes and There is a Wild Rush for the Outside.

WOOSTER, O., Nov. 29.—During the progress of a church fair here an immense crowd was packed into the city armory, when a lamp in one of the booths exploded, setting fire to the draperies and Miss Myrtle Elzer, an attendant. A rush for the single exit followed in which dozens of women and children were trampled. Fully 100 persons jumped or were thrown from windows, many being badly cut by glass.

Mrs. Carey McKee, of Jefferson, was thrown through a window, sustaining injuries which will be fatal. Jennie Putnam, a 10-year-old cripple, could not help herself and received internal injuries which will cause her death. Mrs. Mildred Snyder and Mrs. Sharp were trampled by the crowd. Many others were more or less injured.

And McDonald Went His Way.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Nov. 28.—Colonel Breckinridge was in the city on legal business, and Editor McDonald, of The Roundabout, a paper which opposed Breckinridge's renomination because of the Pollard scandal, met the silver-tongued orator on the public square. Being disposed to let the political dead bury its dead he extended his hand. Waving off the proffered courtesy, Colonel Breckinridge said, sneeringly: "Sir, I do not wish to have anything to do with you." McDonald went his way.

Hurt in a Game of Foot Ball.

DECATUR, Ill., Nov. 29.—In a foot ball game between Decatur and Springfield eleven the score was nothing to nothing. William McGorren, private secretary to State Treasurer Wulf, one of Springfield's men was hurt. It is feared that his skull is fractured. He is in the hospital.

Cattle Are Ready to Cross.

EAGLE PASS, Tex., Nov. 29.—The treasury department has just telegraphed the collector's office at Eagle Pass that the crossing of live stock at Presidio and Bexar will be facilitated. Thousands of head of cattle are waiting for permission to cross.

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HAS A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

Sequel to the Remarkable Conclusion of a Kansas Jury.

WICHITA, Nov. 29.—Mrs. Ida Dunlap, of Kingfisher, O. T., the daughter of Anderson Gray, of Sumner county, who is now in the state penitentiary serving a life sentence for the murder of T. C. Patton, at Conway Springs, Kan., has secured important admissions which exonerate her father. This is the famous hypnotic murder case, in which the man who did the killing, Thomas McDonald, was acquitted and Anderson Gray, who was supposed to have influenced him to do the deed by hypnotic power, was sent up.

Mrs. Dunlap has obtained a sworn statement from McDonald that his evidence used for the conviction of Gray was untrue. He claims that he gave the testimony he did because he was promised a remuneration and the leniency of the court by officials. But the officials went back on their word, he claims, and prosecuted him for murder. Now he wants Gray released, being troubled by a guilty conscience. McDonald and his wife were arrested and tried, and he concocted the hypnotic story which the jury swallowed.

THAT MYSTERIOUS CRIME IN A BOAT.

No Clue to the Perpetrators of a Quadruple Murder.

PARIS, Tex., Nov. 29.—United States Marshal Williams has returned from Arthur City, where he went to bury the three men and the boy found murdered there in a boat on the river. A big grave was dug on the bluff near the scene and the bodies hoisted with ropes from the boat and all buried side by side. No clew has been discovered, though there are a thousand theories advanced. Marshal Williams has offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the murderers and will besides give any assistance in his power. He says that it is the most mysterious case he ever dealt with in all of his long experience.

Two Victims of a Gotham Fire.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29.—Fireman John Halpin has discovered the bodies of two men in the ruins of the fire which occurred at the old Volks' building on the Bowery. They were found at the extreme back end of what was the stage of the theatre. They were partly covered by charred wood and other debris. One of the bodies was in a sitting posture and the other was discovered in a reclining position. Neither body has been identified.

Little Row Over Old Glory.

TORONTO, Nov. 29.—There are many Canadian students attending the Ontario Veterinary college and on Thanksgiving day they sought to honor the event by raising the stars and stripes in one of the lecture rooms. To this, however, the Canadian students objected, and rudely hauled down the flag, though they met with a vigorous resistance. Then ensued a free fight, several on both sides being slightly injured.

Thanksgiving Day at Berlin.

BERLIN, Nov. 29.—The Americans in Berlin celebrated Thanksgiving day by a dinner at the Kaiserhof, at which United States Ambassador Runyon presided. In proposing a toast to Emperor William, Ambassador Runyon dwelt upon the amicable relations existing between Germany and the United States. Later, in proposing a toast to the president of the United States, he eulogized President Cleveland and the blessing of individual liberty in the United States.

The President's Thanksgiving.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—President and Mrs. Cleveland came into town Thanksgiving day and after spending an hour at the White House attended services at the First Presbyterian church and listened to a sermon by Dr. Talmage. From church the president and Mrs. Cleveland drove directly to Woodley, where they enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner in the privacy of the family.

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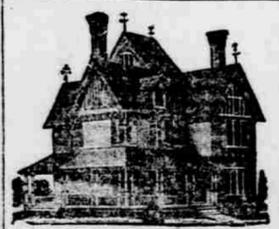
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