

THE COMMERCIAL

Marshall & Baird, Union City, Tenn

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1910.

Democratic Ticket.

For Congress,
FINIS J. GARRETT,
of Weakley,
State Senator,
F. J. CALDWELL,
of Lake,
Plaster,
S. F. HOWARD,
of Obion,
Representative,
E. N. MOORE.

Run Amuck.

The Commercial has never decided to support a Republican candidate for Governor. As between the Republican party and the Patterson machine there is not much choice. On the one hand we have the robber trust-made tariff, pension, departmental and congressional corruption, on the other an unscrupulous, conscienceless political machine, insulting to popular rights.

The outlook at present denotes the election of Hooper for Governor. The administrationists are taking advantage of the Governor's withdrawal to sound a note of harmony. They ask for unity and peace in the Democratic household, and the independents see a "negro in the woodpile." The supposition is that the administrationists want to control the Legislature and repeal the State-wide law as it affects the large cities. There is also suspicion that Governor Patterson wants the Legislature to give him the United States Senatorship to succeed Senator Frazier. These propositions seem to be the incentive to harmony and they are confirming a large element of the independents in the determination to vote for Hooper.

The independents do not believe that the administrationists are sincere in their overtures to vote for any good man. It is held in case the independents should select a candidate the administrationists would swap places with them and fuse with Hooper in order to further their plans in controlling the Legislature.

As far as The Commercial is concerned it does not take to the theory that the independents are obligated to turn Tennessee over to the Republican party as the price of a voluntary vote on the part of Republicans for the independent candidates for the Supreme Court. If the Republicans were moved by a sinister motive altogether in voting for the independent judicial candidates then they are not entitled to any reward. If they were moved by a sense of honor and patriotism to see the judiciary of Tennessee wrested from political domination and influence then they are entitled to some consideration, but not to the control of Tennessee, and we will never consent to vote to it them.

But with all this it looks to us that the impossibility of electing a Democrat for Governor confronts us. The Commercial would prefer to have a compromise candidate if it were practical, but could the fighting factions ever be induced to get together. Is it possible. Will the administrationists ever vote for a State-wide candidate or will the State-widers ever vote for an administration candidate, that is the question.

The Commercial wants to see the sovereignty of the people of Tennessee restored to them. It wants to see the election commission neither responsible to the Governor nor to the Legislature for its appointment, but to the people for its election and authority. It wants to see many of the useless bureaus and offices, whose existence is simply a product of machine politics and a burden to the taxpayers, abolished. It wants to see the Tennessee State Fair bureau, one of the same kind, abolished, and the State Fair where it belongs—to individual enterprise. Government ownership is the antithesis of Democracy, and hence the State Fair owned by the State cannot be a Democratic institution.

The Commercial would come out boldly and advocate a compromise candidate on these grounds if there were proper assurances that the administrationists would not turn to the Republican candidate for co-operation in their schemes.

This paper is against the abuse of power, State or national, against corrupt machine politics and therefore against the present administration in this State, but we do not propose to worship at the shrine of Republicanism whatever may happen—the Republicanism that is ruling and ruining every vestige of American manhood and freedom and heaping into the laps of the favored few its riches. We decline the office of political counselor in the present condition of affairs and reserve the right to act with judgment and discretion during the remainder of the campaign.

Reelfoot Lake Matter.

Last week we interrogated a member of the West Tennessee Land Company with regard to the proposed deal, whereby Reelfoot Lake lands now in litigation, were to be bought by a syndicate, headed by John B. Wheeler and Walter W. Talbert, of Memphis, and comprising some New York capital. The member referred to responded to the effect that so far there was nothing definite and not enough in the prospects to warrant a statement. Asking if an option had been made, the answer was to the contrary. The result was that we penned a small paragraph last week in the paper discrediting the rumors of a deal. This week we reproduce the article which appeared in the Memphis Commercial Appeal on Sunday, Sept. 4. This article we overlooked last week, and since that time we have it direct from reliable authority that there is something in the deal, that an option has been made including some of the rights.

The reader is, of course, familiar with the contents of the statement in the Commercial Appeal. The article recites that the titles have been practically cleared, and assumes that the Supreme Court will so hold. It is also claimed that the prospective buyers have assurance from the residents of the country on the lake that there will be no more Nightrider troubles.

The Commercial will hail with pleasure any solution of the Reelfoot Lake question that will be satisfactory to all parties concerned. If the sale to the syndicate will do this then it will be one of the most fortunate events to the citizens of Obion County.

One thing is evidently certain, New York capital is not easily induced to invest in property of doubtful ownership, and if an option has been taken on Reelfoot Lake lands there must have been assurances of the clearing of titles so long a bone of contention.

We trust that, whatever is done, the matter will be allowed to take the proper legal channels, and that there will be no chances left for further trouble in that region. Further than that we would be glad to see the Reelfoot property developed, and any arrangements properly approved looking to that end will indeed be fortunate to all concerned.

Frank Dudley.

Mr. Frank Dudley and his accomplished wife with a splendid company are with us again on an annual visit to Reynolds Opera House. There is a perennial charm to Mr. Dudley's visits here. Our theatre-going people always look forward to his coming with pleasurable anticipations, and the house is always filled to welcome the company. It must be that Mr. Dudley is more than an actor-manager of the usual ability. Not only that but it is due to the fact that he gives us a superior class of plays—attractions that are instructive and elevating. Mr. Dudley's personality and versatility go far to the success of his work, but he comes to us with a good, clean bill of fare with the result that the reward is usually liberal.

The Monday night play was "Polly Primrose," and the title role was Miss Bonnie's and an interesting study of the war times, the proud old Virginia families and the delightful romances of that period. Miss Bonnie's "Polly" was exceptionally captivating and the support was equal to the demands of the play. Mr. Dudley's lead was a fine foil for the heroine and the play was altogether a treat.

Tuesday night "For the Love of a Woman," a new play, was presented for the first time in Union City. On Wednesday night the bill was "Hello Bill," and on Thursday night "The New Dominion."

To-night Mr. Dudley will present the well known powerful play, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." The house will no doubt be packed.

What do you think of it—Maine in the Democratic column, boots, baggage and all. Verily, the insurgents are having an inning.

Will those who owe The Commercial for subscription please let this remind them to send or come and pay up or notify us whether or not they want the paper continued. Please attend to this while you think of it.

Gold bullion valued at \$57,500 was stolen in transit from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Seattle, Wash. Lead was substituted for the precious metal. It was in three wooden boxes and weighed 250 pounds. It is supposed the gold was stolen on the Yukon steamer between Dawson and White Horse or on the steamer Humboldt between Skagway and Seattle.

Maine and Arkansas.

Maine and Arkansas were busy States yesterday. Both held elections.

The interest in Arkansas centered in the constitutional amendment carrying with it the initiative and referendum clause. In Maine the interest was greater, the seat in the Senate of the United States now held by Senator Hale, one of the Senatorial veterans, being involved. The campaign in Maine has been a peculiar one. The Democratic candidate for Governor, Frederick W. Plaisted, is the son of a man who once governed the State. He is the mayor of Augusta, and his nomination came as a general demand of the Democrats from one end of the State to the other.

Many years ago the elder Plaisted was elected Governor, and his administration has been conceded, by Democrats and Republicans alike, to have been one of the best the State has ever known. The son, like his father, has given the city of Augusta a wholesome and a clean administration. It is but natural that with the success of his father as an example he should be anxious to add another chapter to the State's history.

Democrats never hoped to win, but they felt sure that the usual Republican majority would be knocked sky high, and in this they were right. The younger Plaisted ran on a straight ticket, while his father headed the fusion ticket in 1880.

Gov. Bert Fernald has an excellent record also, and it was but natural that the Republicans should seek his re-election.

The vacancy caused by the determination of Senator Eugene Hale to retire was one of the real bones of contention. The next Legislature is to elect his successor, but the make-up of the next General Assembly will determine who this successor will be. It is yet merely a matter of conjecture as to who will take the toga of the retiring veteran. At any rate, the contest will be a bitter one.

Dropping in line with Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, Republicans have found themselves to be once more on losing ground. If this was the case in one State or two, it would be different; but being a story repeated every time an election is held, but one conclusion can be reached: The Republicans are up against a losing game. If they lose ground in New England, the home and birthplace of Republicanism, Puritanical and prejudiced in their Republican beliefs, what can the party expect from other States?—Commercial Appeal.

Had Good Revival.

Fresh from the green fields and pastures new to religion around the famous Nightrider district of Reelfoot Lake, the Rev. W. L. Norris is conducting a protracted meeting at the Central Avenue Baptist Church.

While the revival in Memphis is bearing fruit, it is hardly more successful than that in which Garrett Johnson, condemned in the courts to be hanged as a Nightrider, went to the altar of the little church called Antioch, in the Reelfoot district, and offered himself for prayer.

Mr. Norris says he was never better treated in his life than he was by the very people who are considered by the outside world as social impossibilities. "I was so well treated," said the evangelist, "that I am resolved to go back there in the hunting season and shoot drunks."

"A stranger who goes to the Reelfoot district to-day will find that he was either mistaken about conditions there or that there has been a remarkable change there since he formed those opinions. The people are humiliated by the fact that they are considered hardly civilized, and they are doing what they can to correct or wipe out old impressions."

"While I think that a real estate investment in any part of the South would be a good investment, I know of my own knowledge that certain loan companies have refused to accept real estate near the lake because of its traditions. The none too savory history of this people is a financial consideration of the wrong sort and the people recognize it."—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Mrs. N. Holloman.

Mrs. N. Holloman, wife of Mr. Nat Holloman, died Monday at her home in Mason Hall and was buried the following day in the Chapel cemetery. Mrs. Holloman was one of Mason Hall's oldest citizens, she having lived there all of her life. She and her bereaved husband have lived together happily for 60 long years. Mrs. Holloman was a true Christian woman. She loved the work that God called on her to do. An old heart-broken husband and seven children are left to mourn her death.—Troy Tribune.

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| No. 55 | 7.46 a.m. No. 3...3.06 p.m. |
| No. 58 | 11.15 p.m. |
| WEST BOUND. | |
| No. 52 | 6.44 a.m. No. 4...12.46 p.m. |
| No. 54 | 7.52 p.m. |

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No. 19.40 a.m. No. 106.12.07 p.m.
No. 4...11.48 p.m. No. 134...8.15 p.m.

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