

THE TELLER COMMITTEE.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE ELECTION IN NEW ORLEANS.

Eighth Day.

The committee re-assembled at 9 o'clock yesterday morning. Senator Garland absent through illness.

In connection with the proceedings of the day preceding, G. B. W. Newman, one of the witnesses, desired it stated that he was incorrectly reported as having said he killed one of the men who made an attack on his house. He claims that the man was killed by one of his own party.

WM. T. HARPER (COLORED), was recalled to testify that Madison Reams and Isaac Reams, who were the instigators of the Caldonia riot, had left the parish of Caddo, because they were afraid of being killed, and that he (witness) did not know where either of them were.

CLEMENT L. WALKER, sworn—Am a resident of New Orleans; am an attorney at law. I have always supported the Democratic-Conservative party up to the last campaign, when I was a member of the executive committee which controlled and directed the movements of the Citizens' Conservative Association.

The reason which induced myself and other gentlemen to organize the party was that the control and machinery of the Democratic party had become centered in the hands of a few persons who were not interested in the affairs of the city, and whose object was to get possession of the most lucrative offices. The election machinery was considered as worked by them did not admit of a fair expression of opinion of the members of the party; they had it all their own way. The numerical strength of the association can best be told by the vote. There were sixty candidates in the field. The Democratic ticket according to the returns received about 13,000 or 14,000 votes and the Citizens' ticket from 6,500 to 8,000. I do not, however, consider that the vote is indicative of the results of the election.

In the first place it is based on the registration, and the registration of the parish is four or five thousand at variance with the truth, and then the election was conducted in a grossly irregular manner. And not in accordance with law. I cannot tell just now at how many polls was the election held, but the number was small and the representation inefficient.

The citizens applied to the State Registrar of Voters for representation. Messrs. Wm. A. Bell, Chas. Johnson and myself were called upon as a committee, and asked it. He said he did not recognize our association as a party. That there was but one party he did recognize, and that was the Democratic-Conservative party. The Republican party had no ticket in the field, and was not entitled to representation. The Citizens' Association was not a party, he said, and neither was the so-called National party. He then offered to give us representation, but said we would make the selections himself. It is my opinion that the appointments as a whole did not give a guarantee of a just, fair and accurate return of the votes cast. At each poll there was a majority of known workers of the Democratic party, who had been prominent in the primaries. The law was ignored by these commissioners.

In the selection of polling places the law was not complied with. They were informed, would admit but a few persons at a time. The law provides for the admission of as many citizens as desire to see the vote. In most instances the count was made in secret or in the presence of a few persons, and was determined to elect the Democratic ticket. I am satisfied that the statement of votes at many of the polls are incorrect, and were made up purposely to give the Democratic party a majority. I have good information that in some instances the vote for the Conservative candidates were counted for the Democrats, and I have reliable information that the tickets were changed. I believe that the law was not complied with in more than one poll. I do not think a true count would show the character of the vote, because a good many fraudulent votes were cast on illegal certificates issued by the commissioners.

The principal support of our association was from the business men. We had mercantile men, merchants, manufacturers, professional men, laborers and property-holders.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. BAILEY.

Q.—Were you a candidate at the last election?

A.—I was not. The gentlemen of the committee agreed that they would not nominate any of its members for office, nor allow them to accept a nomination from any other organization.

Q.—Did you make any nominations for Congress?

A.—No. The association was for local purposes—merely for the purpose of reform in local affairs.

Q.—Some merchants, professional men, manufacturers, laboring men and property-holders did not belong to your association?

A.—Yes, sir; some did not.

Q.—And some objected to the manner of conducting the affairs of the party, and organized the Citizens' Relief Association?

Witness (interrupting).—The Citizens' Conservative Association. There was no serious complaint against the Citizens' Association. I believe that the Citizens' Association was not a party, and that the probable nominations of the Democratic party would not be acceptable or satisfactory.

Q.—Objections were then made to the probable nominations. Some persons wanted to get control of the city and some wanted to retain it. Is that it?

A.—No, I don't think that is a correct statement of the condition of affairs. The political machinery of the party had got into the control of men who were very interested in securing office, and we were satisfied that the men they would nominate would be unsatisfactory.

A.—By the candidates themselves. There have been no suits instituted by the party.

Witness (in reply to question).—I stated that there were suits pending in which he was not employed; that he believed the National party was made up mainly of members of the Republican party, and that it had no connection with the Citizens' Conservative Association.

Q.—Was it not contemplated to make you city attorney in the event of the success of your party?

A.—No, sir. I know a great many persons thought I had an object in my advancement, but I am able to say that I had no personal advancement view. I was actuated by the motives of a good citizen.

Q.—I understand you to say that the Democratic vote was from 13,000 to 15,000?

A.—Thirteen to fourteen; that is accepting the returns.

Q.—You do not accept the returns?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—What was the vote for the National ticket and the Citizens' ticket?

A.—Well, the balance of the vote was divided between the two.

Q.—You think the commissioners divided it?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Whether they were received or not?

A.—Well, the balance of the vote was divided between the two.

Q.—The two combined then equaled the Democratic vote?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You are an attorney in cases growing out of election law, and your information has been received from your clients as an attorney?

A.—I have gathered information as an attorney and as a member of the executive committee. I took a very active part in the campaign, and did in several other campaigns when working for the Democratic party.

Q.—Are you prosecuting those suits as a party?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—You are interested in getting justice, and as an attorney I conduct the case.

Q.—But you are to be paid a fee?

A.—I was applied to by my clients to take their cases, and the arrangement is a matter between us.

A.—I don't ask about the arrangements nor how much you are to receive. I merely want to know if you are to be paid a fee.

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Concordia parish. Did not know what Dick Smith was hung for.

CHAS. W. JOHNSON (COLORED).

Live in Concordia. At the outset of the campaign was with the Fusion party. The fusion of the Democrats and Republicans; but when it got rough I went in to elect the Republican ticket. Know nothing about the alleged outrages except from report.

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VI GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

FIRST SESSION.

THE SENATE.

Ninth Day's Proceedings.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1879.

The Senate was called to order at 11:30 a. m. Lieut. Gov. Wills in the chair; twenty-one Senators present.

MR. L. M. LUSHER, State Superintendent of Public Education, submitted his annual report.

MR. WILLIAMS: An act to amend and re-enact section 1 of act No. 46 of 1878. Ordered to lie over.

MR. BREXON: An act to fix the salary of the clerk of the Supreme Court at New Orleans, to provide for the contingent expenses of his office, etc. Finance.

MR. MERKEL: An act to fix the compensation of the judges of the Superior Court in criminal jurisdiction. Judiciary.

A message from the Governor was received, submitting the tabulated statement of the Secretary of State of the vote on the amendments.

MR. BREXON: An act for the relief of Mrs. L. C. Gallup. Claims.

MR. HARDING: An act authorizing the purchase of 500 copies of the Digest of the Decisions of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, and appropriating to pay for the same. Finance.

MR. WALKER: An act authorizing the parish of Terrebonne to purchase land for the purpose of erecting a levee. Finance.

MR. NEWLAND: An act to incorporate the town of New Iberia. Parochial Affairs.

MR. STEVEN: By unanimous consent, offered a resolution directing the Secretary to notify the House that the Senate was prepared to meet the House in joint session at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of voting on an election for United States Senator.

MR. BOUCHER: A joint resolution relative to the reclamation and sale of swamp lands. Federal Affairs.

MR. HERTON: A concurrent resolution providing for the appointment of a joint committee to compile the votes cast on the amendments at the last election. Adopted.

HOUSE BILL NO. 22.—The constitutional convention bill—came up on its final reading as unfinished business.

MR. CAGE spoke against the bill. He contended that the constitution should be amended, but he would not support the bill as it was now drawn. It would involve an expenditure of \$100,000, and would far exceed the results that would be attained. He saw no evidence of either a purpose or a desire to amend the constitution. He would support the bill only if it were amended so as to provide for a constitutional convention.

The convention, being superior to the Legislature in its power, and the limit of its amendment, would be governed by its own discretion.

Pending Mr. CAGE's remarks, the clerk of the House read the report of the committee on the bill, and the Senate adjourned to Thursday at noon.

THE SENATE RETURNED FROM THE JOINT SESSION AT 12:30. MR. CAGE was recognized by the President and proceeded with his remarks in opposition to the bill. He contended that the bill was a mere device to get the people to pay for a constitutional convention, and that it was a violation of the constitution.

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the supporting capital from seeking investment in our public securities or under our laws.

4. That the great need of the people of the State is rest from political excitement and turmoil, and a desire to have a fair and honest election, to be held under the supervision of a fair and impartial body, and to have the results of the election accepted by the people.

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sent his constituents, and if it is time to take up in this way he could not do so.

Representative Hammond accepted amendment to his amendment.

Representative Cordill offered a joint resolution, and the committee on Education and Labor was referred to the committee on Education and Labor.

Representative Byland offered an amendment that such clerks should be paid only such salaries as they actually received.

The amendment of Representative Chalmers was then adopted.

Representative Lyons, on behalf of Representative Marth of Claiborne, offered a resolution of the committee on Navigation and Commerce, relative to the removal of the parish relative to the Parish of Terrebonne.

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