GREENVILLE TIMES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1890.

THE GOVERNMENT LEVEE LETTING.

The bids for work in this, the upper Miss. and the Arkansas Districts were received at the U. S. Engineer's office in Memphis on the 19th. Proposals were opened by Capt. J. W. Rossiter, who consulted with and was assisted by the Civil Engineer officers of the various Districts.

The lowest bids were forwarded to the Secretary of War for approval, and are given below; corrected as to this district and as published in the Memphis papers for the others. In the Upper Mississippi District or sections including and adjacent to Yazoo Pass, 120,000 cubic yards, Harvey & Scott at 22 and 24 cents; the sections next below, 126,000 cubic yards, Timothy Sullivan at 19 1-2 cents; Hastingsburg, 41,000 cubic yards, same at 21 cents; Rolleyville, same, 30,000 cubic yards at 25 cents; Appersonia, 61,000 cubic yards at 24 1-2. T. S. Addleton; total for mid District 471,000 cubic yards. Some of the work above will have to be thrown out as the total cost is considerably in excess of the District allotment, $90,000.

In the lower (or this) Mississippi District, Timberdale, 52,000 cubic yards at 25 cents and Offutt's to Greenville, 368,200 cubic yards at 28 cents, to Harvey and Scott; from Fort Anderson to Offutts, 37,800 cubic yards, A. E. Fudge, at 22½ cents; Longwood, 70,000 cubic yards, at 30 cents, to T. Sullivan; Clover Hill, 44,000 cubic yards, same, at 21 cents. Total for this District, 608,200 yards.

For the Lacosta circle work in Arkansas, 219,000 cubic yards, Harvey & Scott were the lowest bidders; for that in the Helena District, 300,000 cubic yards, Arnold & Co; in Desha county, Boggy Bayou, 116,000 cubic yards, at 24 1-4 cents, went to A. E. Fudge; at Lacos Loop, 420,000 cubic yards, at 21 cents, to Capt. Wittenhill; work on the front of Chicot county, 80,000 at 19, 21,000 at 18 3-4, 60,000 at 17 1-2, 104,500 at 16, total, 225,000 cubic yards to E. E. Craig.

It will be observed that the work in this District, from Greenville to the Bolivar line, called "Offutt's front" in the letting, was let as advertised, in a single block; instead of as bided and furnished by Major Starling in sections suited to ensure the competition of smaller contractors. The lowest bidders on this, Messrs. Harvey & Scott, have in addition to the 368,000 yards in this District, near as much more in Ark. and over 100,000 yards in the upper Mississippi District. Such an award to a single firm of contractors would be regarded by experienced levee men as injudicious at any season—at this late date it seems positively dangerous. All sections have to go ahead at once and rapidly. It is not possible for any one firm or contractor to bestow the needed attention over such a quantity, and so widely scattered a lot, of work. Nothing but an exceptional season of fair weather and low water can justify such an award. It is true the work may, probably will, be sublet—always an objectionable practice. It is also true that the senior member of this firm is recognized hereabouts as one of the most energetic and reliable of contractors.

It is proper to say that the manner of the letting of this work was over the earnest protest of Chief Engineer Starling. The 868,200 (wrongly advertised as 827,000) yards it comprises, extending from Port Anderson to Greenville, will cost not less than $10,000 more than if let in sections suited for small bidders; as listed by the Engineer's office here. It is to be said in justice to Capt. Rossiter, now in levee letting, that upon realizing his error he expressed much regret and offered to re-advertise. But the further delay which this would involve was positively out of the question. The matter is not reviewed for any purpose of censure or reprimand, but only to afford true and proper information to the readers of the TIMES, who are so vitally interested. The mistake appeared so obviously that it will surely not be repeated by the engineer corps, who have all along shown the most earnest desire to act to the best interest of the districts.

This letting, it is hoped, completes the "outlook" which has attended this District throughout the year—especially in the sharing of the Government appropriation. Only the hope is left, that this last mistake will not result in disaster. The River and Harbor Bill became a law on September 6th. Every day of this time was of utmost value and still the work under the appropriation is not yet let. It has been bandied backwards and forwards between the Secretary of War, the River Commission and the Board of Engineers until there is a faint and dawning sense that there is just a little too much circumlocution in the process. The Commission having devised the plan of work and conducted it through its experimental stage, has not its mission been achieved?

At the same time with the Government work Major Starling let 30,000 yards of enlargement at Waxhaw to W. C. Boyd at 19 cents; and 35,000 yards, hoop levee, at Shipland at 16 cents, to P. F. Lamb. The levee in front of Greenville will not be rebuilt, but 15,000 yards of enlargement will be put on. At points where the levee is dangerously close to the bank it will be retired to a comparatively safe distance. The levee here will be faced with a substantial and permanent plank revetment. Similar structures are being placed in front of the levee at Lake Lee and Longwood and will be built at Choctaw, Skipwith's, Clover Hill and other places of less extent. These are being located according to exposure to waves and importance. They will save the greater part of the high water expense—in sacking and plank facing when high water is actually at hand.

THE ERA OF INTEREST.

After ten days of unparalled strain and excitement in the financial world the idea of November have been passed without an actual crash. It was little thought when, some months since, all trail of the infamy in securities of the Argentine Confederation, that the matter was of vital consequence to the whole commercial world. Beginning in the great banking house of Baring Bros., the consequent stringency spread and increased until the firm had to call upon the great money powers of the world, the Bank of England, Sentiment and France and the Rothschilds for aid. To do this necessitated the withdrawal of vast sums of gold from all the currency arteries of commerce which involved all banks, stocks and every form of produce and trade. The distress falls with peculiar hardship upon this section—where the crop is not only unusually short but so late as to intensify the full effect of the depressed price of cotton. For several days each was the uncertainty and the loss of confidence that cotton was not saleable—something unknown in the history of the markets of the staple.

It is believed that the business stringency and stagnation has touched the lowest point and will rapidly recover. The following from the Appeal-Avalanche will be found of interest:

Cablegrams from London announcing that the Government had come to the rescue of the business world and authorized the Bank of England to issue notes to the amount of $10,000,000 and, later, that the "bank law" had been suspended, permitting the bank to issue notes ad libitum, has had a most reassuring and quieting effect upon the commerce of the world. Some little excitement was created during yesterday, occasioned by a misapprehension of the news received. In some quarters the suspension of the bank act was mistaken and misinterpreted for the suspension of the bank, but a more careful examination showed that instead of the supposed disaster, which is almost an impossibility, the contrary was the truth and the stringency was relieved. A good many causes conspired to produce the panic across the water, actually, the most potent being the withdrawal of many millions of deposits by Russia from the Barings when it was discovered that that bank was involved largely in Argentine bonds. This sudden draft upon the gold supply circumscribed the volume of currency and made money much dearer. When the Bank of England went to the assistance of the Barings, that institution became likewise insufficiently supplied with a basis for circulating notes and the scarcity was felt all over the world. When money is plentiful, the Bank of England reduces its rate of interest to 2 per cent. If necessary to keep its money at work. When money becomes scarce the rate of interest is raised and loans are called in, and, when these resources and expedients fail, the Government can authorize the issuance of notes in certain amounts or suspend temporarily the banking act and permit the Bank of England to issue notes in sufficient volume to meet the demand. This means that the market will be supplied and the stringency relieved. In America the same method was pursued under a different name. Instead of the Government authoring the National banks to issue notes beyond their deposits or basis of circulation, the New York Clearinghouse issued certificates to be used in settling balances so that the actual cash would be always available for customers and borrowers. In this manner banks that had assets upon which they could not immediately realize, were enabled to tide over and continue business.

THE POLL TAX.

The TIMES has received a number of queries as to whether or not the compulsory poll tax law was yet replaced by the section thereon in the new Constitution. Practically the new provision is now in force. Under the schedule of the Constitution the Franchise article, containing abrogation of criminal proceeding for delinquent poll tax payers, goes into effect Jan. 1st, 1891. This anticipates the time of enforcement of the penalties for non-payment of poll tax under the present law. This law has borne heavily on the planter, who has perforce paid the polls of tenants to prevent their arrest. The sections of the new Constitution covering this question are herewith published. The closing sentence of Sec. 243 will show that planters need no longer pay this tax for the purpose above stated:

Section 241. Every male inhabitant of this State, except idiots, insane persons and Indians not taxed, who is a citizen of the United States, twenty-one years old and upwards, who has resided in this State two years, and one year in the election District, or in the incorporated city or town, in which he offers to vote, and who is duly registered as provided in this article, and who has never been convicted of bribery, burglary, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy, and who has paid, on or before the first day of February of the year in which he shall offer to vote, all taxes which may have been legally required of him, and which he has had an opportunity of paying according to law, for the two preceding years, and who shall produce to the officers holding the election satisfactory evidence that he has paid said taxes, is declared to be a qualified elector; but any minister of the gospel in charge of an organized church shall be entitled to vote after six months residence in the election district, if otherwise qualified.

Sec. 243. A uniform poll tax of two dollars, to be used in aid of the common schools, and for no other purpose, is hereby imposed on every male inhabitant of this State between the ages of twenty-one and sixty years, except persons who are deaf and dumb or blind, or who are maimed by loss of hand or foot; said tax to be a lien only upon taxable property. The Board of Supervisors of any county may, for the purpose of aiding the common schools in that county, increase the poll tax in said county, but in no case shall the entire poll tax exceed in any one year three dollars on each poll. No criminal proceedings shall be allowed to enforce the collection of the poll tax.

INTER-STATE LEVEE ASSOCIATION.

[Appeal-Avalanche]

The Executive Committee of the Inter-State Mississippi River Improvement and Levee Association met at the Gayoso House Monday at 12(0) noon. The object of the meeting was to take such action as would facilitate the passage of favorable appropriations by the Fifty-first and Fifty-second Congress.

Chairman Charles Scott, of Kentucky, called the meeting to order. There were present: Capt. Pat Henry, of Boston, Ark.; Capt. J. M. Witherspoon, of Arkansas City; Hr. W. F. Holiday, of Cairo, Ill.; Gen. John H. Rice, of Fort Scott, Kas.; Mr. J. J. Dean, of Fort Scott, Kas.; Mr. J. S. Brunnin, of Louisville, Ky.; Mr. F. L. Maxwell, of Manvel, La.; Gen. William G. Yerger, of Greenville, Miss.; Col. Green Clay, of Missouri; Col. W. H. Worrell, of Morrell, Miss.; Mr. E. W. Gould, of St. Louis, Mo.; Mr. R. C. Graves, of Memphis, Judge J. W. Carr, of Memphis, and Secretary W. A. Everman.

After a short discussion the Chairman called Capt. Pat Henry to the chair and read the following:

Resolved, That the Inter-State Mississippi Improvement and Levee Association cordially endorse the bill introduced during the last session into the National House of Representatives by the talented Congressman from Michigan, the Hon. J. C. Burrows, and into the Senate by Senator B. Gibson, of Gibson, of Louisiana, appropriating $10,000,000 for purposes of levee construction in the Mississippi Valley, and we pledge our aid, support and influence in securing their wise efforts to secure the early passage of this wise and important measure.

Mr. Yerger offered a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Inter-State Mississippi River Improvement and Levee Association be and is hereby authorized to select from among the members of said association or other persons, such persons as he may deem necessary and expedient to visit Washington City during the sessions of the Fifty-first and Fifty-second Congress of the United States, for the purpose of inducing Congress to take charge of the levees on the Mississippi River, and to make the necessary appropriation from the National Treasury to construct and to maintain the same.

Resolved, That the President of this Association appoint a committee of three from each of the following cities: St. Louis, Cincinnati, Chicago, Louisville, Cairo, Paducah, Evansville, Hickman, Fort Gibson, Helena, Kansas City, Greenville, Vicksburg, Natchez, Baton Rouge and New Orleans, to solicit subscriptions to aid in the work of this association, and that the several zone boards take charge of subscriptions and solicit the same to raise funds to carry on the work of this association.

Those important matters disposed of, a report of the resident secretary, John R. Oberly, at Washington, was read and adopted.

Col. E. E. Craig moved that a committee of six be appointed to obtain money from Memphis merchants. The resolution prevailed and the following committee was appointed: Messrs. J. T. Ferguson, Thos. H. Allen, Sr., Napoleon Hill, James Lee, J. W. Fulmer and E. C. Graves.

Gen. Rice and Mr. Green Clay were appointed a committee to meet with the National Alliance in convention next week at Ocala, Fla., to secure their indorsement.

The action of the Inter-State Committee is timely and properly comprehensive. Chairman Scott's resolution rightly expresses and points out the immediate objective—the Burrowgis Bill. All—Congressmen and papers, speakers and writers—should concentrate upon it and work for its passage. There is no way of serving a cause so effective as to clearly and with collective singleness of purpose present a tangible plan of procedure.

To raise the necessary means to the end, the resolution of the Hon. W. G. Yerger covers the case. An administrative committee or bureau at Washington must be recognized and sustained, or all all efforts of an adequate and extraordinary nature are vain. For this purpose money must be raised.

There is nothing, political or commercial, of more future material consequence than the observance of the identity of interest the lower valley has with the upper, in regard to the improvement of navigation of the great river. The fact of mutuality of these interests should be urged on all occasions until it develops into an alliance in Congress, whose bonds cannot be loosened by any force of or appeal to sentiments and traditions which have heretofore divided and estranged the two sections. The Alliance Order is a fitting agency for the cultivation of relations for the co-operative support of these joint interests. The delegates, Col. Clay and Gen. Rice, are well and ably fitted to bring about and strengthen the Alliance between the two forces; the Levee Districts and the Farmers Alliance.

Re-Conveyance of a Senatorship.

After an infinite amount of skirmishing and jockeying the Georgia Legislature has re-conveyed to the "gallant Gordon" the seat in the Senate which he some years since transferred to ex-Governor Brown—when there was talk of arrangements and appearance of considerations. The ex-Governor has relinquished the seat voluntarily, on account of age and growing infirmities.

Georgia has a queer way of handing around her Senatorships. Men in public life of unmitted and National reputation for ability and reliability—like Crisp and Blount—do not seem to have been thought of in connection with the place at all.

WANTED.

A young, unmarried man wants a position as manager of plantation. Capable of handling large property; strictly temperate and can furnish gilt-edge references, a hustler. Salary must be $75 per month or better, as nothing less would pay me to leave present position. Address, for references and particulars, MANAGER, this office.

nov 1-4w

The Noss Family will take Summer Boarders and make "A Quick Match" at the Opera House Thanksgiving night, Thursday Nov. 27th.

TWO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES.

The Democratic organization of Sunflower county is embarrassed by a divided authority, there being two committees, each claiming rights and functions in law and in fact. The origin of the embarrassment is told in the following resolutions of the committee of which Mr. R. C. Green, is Chairman, published in the Tocsin:

"Whereas, A Democratic County Convention was held at Indianola, Miss., on Saturday, June 28, 1890, for the purpose of nominating candidates to the Constitutional Convention. Said convention, after transacting the business for which it was called, contrary to Democratic custom and precedent, proceeded to constitute and appoint certain parties as a Democratic Executive Committee of Sunflower county; and

Whereas, There was at that time a duly and legally appointed Democratic Executive Committee in existence; therefore,

Be it Resolved, That we, the only legal Democratic Executive Committee of said Sunflower county, without recording or resigning any of the rights or powers as said committee, but solely in the interest of peace and harmony of the Democratic party, do make and tender to the parties composing the so-called Executive Committee, appointed by the convention of June 28, 1890, aforesaid, the following propositions:

"That we are willing to submit our claim as the true and legal Democratic Executive Committee to the State Democratic Executive Committee without reserve, on agreed statement of facts as to the appointment of our committee, and as to the appointment of the so-called committee of June 28, 1890, together with the call for said convention, to be final. Or, we are willing to submit our claim to a mass-meeting of the white Democratic voters of said county, to be held at the Court House at Indianola, on a date to be agreed upon by a conference committee to be appointed. Or, we are willing for a call mass-convention to appoint a new Executive Committee, if they think best.

R. C. GREEN, Chairman.
C. H. McLEAN, Secretary."

To the foregoing there was the following response:

To C. H. McLean and Others:

Gentlemen—In response to your communication, as to supposed differences in the Democratic party of Sunflower county, in consequence of our appointment as the Executive Committee, by the people in convention assembled June 28, 1890, we beg leave to state in reply, that at any future time convenient to the people of the Democratic party, when they may see proper to meet in District mass-meetings, without detriment to their interests, we are willing to submit to any further appointments or changes, if they so desire and decide.

Respectfully submitted,
R. H. McLEAN, Chairman.
A. L. CARNOT, Secretary.
Indianola, Nov. 1, 1890.

Further correspondence between the two chairmen fell short of action and the two committees adjourned and the party division remains.

Though comprising a rather mild case of party division, the Sunflower affair again suggests the need of a rule and authority over questions and matters involving the integrity and conduct of party organizations. Especially in a State where the party is in fact the governing authority—where respect for law and order, social harmony, exists in proportion to party unity and agreement, should there be a system, a code of rules for the avoidance or adjudication of complications and divisions within the party organism—to check or prevent the abuse of party power by local combinations, conventions and Executive Committees.

Realizing the consequence of the party, its potentiality in the community weal, the elements of abuse and consequent evil therein, the present Constitution was made to include the following, Sec. 247: "The Legislature shall enact laws to secure fairness in party primary elections, conventions or other methods of naming party candidates."

The extent to which the Legislature can or should exercise the jurisdiction conferred by Sec. 247 is a question to be determined only after mature and thorough consideration and counsel. It is a subject which should engage the thought and discussion of the State Executive Committee and the next State Convention—as well as the commissioners (provided in Sec. 278) to prepare and draft laws contemplated or made necessary and proper under the new Constitution.

DEPLORABLE AND DISGUSTING.

The O'Shea-Parnell divorce suit was practically undefended and went to its close—a decree of divorce with the costs taxed against the great Irish statesman—speedily. It was utterly commonplace in its incidents—the testimony of its witnesses was unrelieved by sentimental palliations. The effect of the exposure upon the reputation of the most potent and distinguished person in English politics is deplorable; but will hardly be sufficient to retire Mr. Parnell from active leadership. His hold upon the Irish people is too strong—the need of him in Ireland's cause is too great.

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The Federal Grand Jury at Vicksburg has adjourned without any presentments of Democratic election officials. This proves a free ballot and a fair count by the record.

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Commissioners to Draft General Laws.

[Special to Vicksburg Evening Post.]

Jackson, Miss., Nov. 21.—In obedience to section 278 of the new Constitution, which reads as follows: The Governor shall as soon as practicable appoint three suitable persons learned in the law, as commissioners whose duty it shall be to prepare and draft such general laws as are contemplated in this Constitution and such other laws as shall be necessary and proper to put into operation the provisions thereof and as may be appropriate to conform the general statutes of the state to the constitution, said commissioners shall present the same when prepared to the Legislature as its next regular session, and the Legislature shall provide reasonable compensation therefor." Gov. Stone to-day appointed as such commissioners Hon. R. H. Thompson of Brookhaven, Hon. Geo. G. Dillard of Macon, and Hon. R. B. Campbell of Greenville, all three of whom were acknowledged to be among the ablest lawyers and most sagacious members of the late convention.

Governor Stone has displayed his characteristic judgement in the appointment of Commissioners as provided in the new Constitution. All are especially and pre-eminently fitted for the duties of the office. Washington county and the Delta appreciates the choice of one of the citizens of this section, so deeply and specially interested in certain branches of State legislation. Mr. Campbell has no superior in his profession for clear and correct perception of law and assiduous performance of all the duties which he undertakes.

DENIAL.

The communication to the Memphis Commercial relative to Judge Williamson's rebuke to the Grand Jury, extract of which is published in this issue of the TIMES, is thus authoritatively contradicted through the Appeal-Avalanche:

As to the statement that the Court lectured the Grand Jury for a failure to indict Mr. Cutrer I am authorized to state that it is absolutely unfounded in fact. The charge to the Grand Jury here, upon the law of homicide, differed in no respect from charges given elsewhere in the District upon the same subject, neither did the Court call the Grand Jury into Court once or twice during the term and give them special charges upon the Cutrer or any other case. The Court did not call the Grand Jury into court and instruct them upon any case during the entire term. The statements made here concerning the actions of the Court have been submitted to Judge Williamson for correction, and he indorses them as correct.

These matters are given to the public in vindication of the Judge, the Grand Jury and my client, Mr. Cutrer. Very respectfully,

SAM E. COOK.

Friars Point, Miss., Nov. 19, 1890.

OVERCOATS.

The crop here is immense and now's the time to reap. Every sort of an Overcoat and at every price that will allow good work and good materials.

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