THE BANNER-DEMOCRAT.

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JAMES N. TURNER, Publisher and Proprietor.

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Saturday, March 5, 1898.

Mr. Amous L. Ponder of Sabine, has introduced a law to be part of the new constitution prohibiting gambling in futures in agricultural products.

Last week at Salamanca, in Spain, a crowd of three thousand workmen, accompained by woman carrying flags, paraded the streets shouting for work and bread.

A few papers in the State are advocating that the Constitutional Convention change the name of "parish" to county. Never, let it remain forever as it is now. It would not be Louisiana without its parishes.

The sinking of the big battle ship Maine, has been a harvest to the big dailies. The daily reports are eagerly scanned by thousands and thousands of men who never invested a cent piece in a newspaper before.

Major General Merritt of the U. S. army, says that all reports sent out from Havana in regard to the investigation of the sinking of the Maine, is all manufactured and no truth should be put in these sensational dispatches.

Hon. Wm. J. Bryan has been invited to address the Constitutional Convention, and has accepted the invitation. Sometime during this month he will address the honorable body on the "Science of Government."

The Republican delegation of Louisiana that went to Washington a few days ago to testify before the committee against the confirmation of Demas, say that the nigger bribe taker and corrupt politician will never be confirmed.

The sensational war news keeps up. How many of the jingoes who are loud mouthed for war that would toe the scratch if it did actually occur. There would be several to take to the woods at the sound of the first bugle call.

It seems to be a hard matter for the suffrage and elections committee of the Constitutional Convention to frame a law favorable to the entire committee, and there is no doubt when they get ready to report there will also be a minority report sent in.

Chicamauga Park, on a high ridge overlooking Chattanooga, Tenn., consists of ten square miles, and has cost the government nearly two million dollars; besides hundreds of thousands of dollars spent by Northern states in the erection of monuments.

The hotel men, merchants and others of New Orleans find such a good thing in the carnival for raking in the dollars, that they are already planning the next carnival, and instead of having it to last only three days they intend to carry on the fun for one week.

The Supreme Court has affirmed the decision of the lower court convicting W. P. Nicholls, president of the Bank of Commerce, of New Orleans, which was wrecked last year. Nicholls has been sentenced to the penitentiary for three years, and deserves his punishment.

If there should be war between the United States and Spain, what effect would it be on the price of cotton? The price is down pretty low now, but if war should be declared, it would drop several points no doubt, although Spain takes very little cotton from this country.

The New Orleans carnival was a great success. "Harvest Queens" and the plays of Shakespeare were beautiful subjects to display. It is said there were fully seventy-five thousand visitors to the Crescent City, and that the two street car lines carried 210,000 persons from Tuesday morning to Wednesday morning.

A special from Washington under date of Feb. 28th says: It can be stated positively that no river and harbor bill will be reported at this session of congress. The house leaders are opposed to a river and harbor bill and the friends of the bill on the committee believe it would be better to wait until the short session, after the congressional elections next fall, when a complete and comprehensive bill can be reported, rather than attempt to pass an inadequate bill at this session.

THE SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE.

The Times-Democrat of Tuesday last has the following to say on the suffrage question, and it is to be hoped that it will be settled as soon as possible, so that the other important work before the convention can receive their attention. Nothing can be done until the suffrage is settled:

At a late hour last night the subcommittee on the suffrage agreed upon a plan, which will be submitted to the full committee, and by it to the convention. This plan is practically on the lines urged by The Times-Democrat, an educational or property qualification, with provision for the patriarchal conditions prevailing in Southwest Louisiana, the only addition being a clause granting the suffrage to those who were voters Jan. 1, 1868, that is before the fifteenth amendment was adopted. This last proposition was urged in South Carolina, but rejected by the Constitutional Convention of that State. It is a sentimental suggestion intended to prevent any Confederate veteran from being disfranchised because of illiteracy or poverty. It amounts to very little practically, and will affect the suffrage only insignificantly. We do not imagine that more than a few hundred persons will secure a right to vote under this clause who would not enjoy that right under the property or educational conditions, and for that reason it would have been better, we think, if the committee had not weighted down the ordinance with this additional provision. However, the desire to do something for the Confederate veterans and the old voters brought about this clause, which creates a new class of voters—those who are to enjoy the suffrage to-day because they enjoyed it thirty years ago. We do not know why the South Carolina convention declined to accept this proposition. As the committee consulted a number of eminent lawyers on the matter we presume that it was satisfied on the question of constitutionality. It would be well, however, to place this condition in a separate clause of the ordinance, so that if it is attacked or declared unconstitutional, it will not affect the other provisions of our suffrage.

It is to be hoped that the entire committee and the convention will accept the report of the sub-committee, which is trying to do all it can for the white voters of the State, but which will not lend itself to any plan of fraud to reach that end.

Let us say here that we are equally opposed to the plan which called for the acceptance of the registration of 1897 as the basis of the suffrage as we are to the Boatner plan, and hope to see the convention kill both measures should they be brought up when the question is finally voted on.

The Times-Democrat is opposed to the Boatner suffrage plan because at its foundation lies the element of fraud manipulated through the understanding clause; because it makes a registration list the basis of suffrage, and places under the control of the registrars the right to determine who shall and who shall not vote. The same reasons which induce us to oppose this plan must make us oppose the similar one—the proposition to accept the registration of 1897 as the basis of suffrage and to give the permanent right to vote to all those borne upon that roll, whether or not they fill the other requirements of the suffrage.

The Times-Democrat has already pointed out the reasons why this proposition should not be accepted. We know that the registration of 1897 is not only unequal, but full of fraud; that it contains a large number of illiterate negroes; that many persons are fraudulently borne on the rolls who should not be allowed to vote under any circumstances. In a number of parishes illiterate negroes were registered either to help local leaders, or to give these parishes greater power in district conventions and elections. No careful examination has been made of the registration, but the most casual investigation of it has disclosed so many frauds as to cast suspicion on the entire roll, and to warn us against accepting any list tainted with fraud, as it is, as the roll of honor and suffrage upon which the political honesty of Louisiana is to be built up.

We could not make a worse beginning in the great work before us than to start with a registration list full of fraud. A suffrage system built upon a corrupt foundation cannot possibly meet with success.

It has been suggested that the frauds in the registration of 1897 might be corrected by a revision of it, but as that revision would be in the hands of the same men who prepared the registration for the late election, we could scarcely expect any improvement. Moreover, what possible excuse could the convention give the people for taking as the basis of the suffrage a registration so fraudulent that it has to be doctored and revised before it can be used?

The sub-committee has done well in rejecting both these plans and in deciding that no registration list shall form the basis of our suffrage, and that the element of fraud shall have no part in the new suffrage system of the State.

☞Extra heavy Navy Blue top shirts at Levy's, selling at $1.50 and $1.25, are being closed out at 75cts.

Rev. Irl Hicks' Foecasts for March.

The storm diagram for March shows that Earth and Vensus are combined from the beginning to the end of the month. The Vensus period is central on the 16th, and earth on the 22nd, both of them are as liable to result in violent storms ten to twelve days before and after, as on the central days of their equinoxes.

The first regular storm period for March runs from the 1st to the 4th. Beginning in the far west early in the period, the temperature will rise, the barometer will fall and wide areas of rain and snow will pass eastwardly across the country from the 2nd to 5th.

From about the 7th to 9th, the elements will react into falling barometer, warmer, southerly winds and general tendency to more rain and snow—snow, of course, toward northern, and rain in central and southern states. High gales generally, with tropical hurricanes in the south, especially along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, need not surprise anyone on and touching the 8th. Moon is on the celestial equator and full on that date. The reading of local barometers, temperature, cloud formations and wind currents will all give ample and timely admonition if violent storms are impending. A great rush of polar air from the northwest, in every probability, will spread over most of the continent from about the 8th to the 13th. Keep this in mind, watch incipient indications and save yourself possible discomfiture and loss.

Unless there is a balancing or neutralization of forces, not yet understood and foreseeable, storm disturbances of very great energy and wide extent will visit land and sea from about the 11th to 15th. If very warm weather, southerly winds and low barometer prevail at this time in any section of our country, storms of dangerous proportions will be possible and probable. No one in the north and west should be caught unawares by heavy sleet and snow storms, amounting to blizzards, at and about this period. The probabilities are great and unlooked for wintry visitations will come upon many sections like a snare at the sequal to these general pertubutions.

Unsettled and threatening weather will most likely continue during the reactionary dates; the 17th to 19th, in all probability growing warmer generally and showing signs of tropical and equinoctial storms in the extreme South, up to and during the passage of moon across the celestial equator and new on the 21st and 22nd. Change again to much colder may be reasonably looked for immediately after the 22nd, but reacting quickly into much warmer and falling barometer as we enter the storm period reaching from the 24th to 28th. About Friday the 25th to Monday the 28th do not be surprised if very wild storms develope.

The Times-Democrat says that "if war should break out between the United States and Spain, it may be in order to consider how we should be prepared to meet it. Spain is, certainly, not one of the great naval powers of the world; but, notwithstanding, she has a compact and well equipped fleet of men of war that might be relied on to give a good account of themselves in case of hostilities. And, indeed, it is questioned in many well-informed quarters whether Uncle Sam's fleet wouldn't have all it could possibly do to protect the cities on our seaboard from the ravages of that fleet."

Three deaths occurred from pneumonia in Vicksburg on Friday last.

☞Lace Shams going at 25cts. Call on Levy.

IMPROVED SERVICE ON Y. & M. V. RAILROAD.

Beginning Sunday, Feb. 27th, the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley railroad will run elegant Parlor Cars on its day trains Nos. 23 and 24 between Memphis and Vicksburg. A nominal rate for seats in these cars will be charged.

Train No. 24 will leave Vicksburg at 9:10 a. m. arrives at Memphis at 7:30 p. m., connecting wish the Illinois Central railroad fast Vestibuled trains for St. Louis, Chicago, Evansville, Ind., Louisville and Cincinnati. To all points mentioned through Sleeping Cars are operated. Elegant Reclining Cars are run between Memphis and St. Louis and between Memphis and Cincinnati, seats in which are free. See condensed schedule.

Leave Vicksburg 9:10 a. m.—First day.
Arrive Memphis 7:30 p. m.—First day.
Supper at I. C. dining-room.
Leave Memphis 8:20 p. m.—First day.
Arrive St. Louis 7:16 a. m.—Second day.
Arrive Chicago 11:15 a. m.—Second day.
Leave Memphis 8:45 p. m.—First day.
Arrive Louisville 7:40 a. m.—Second day.
Arrive Cincinnati 11:40 a.m.—Second day.
Arrive Washington 6:47 a. m.—Third day.
Arrive Baltimore 7:50 a. m.—Third day.
Arrive Philadelphia 10:15a.m.—Third day.
Arrive New York 12.35 p. m.—Third day.

Close connection is made at Louisville and Cincinnati with solid Vestibuled trains for points east.

Dining car service on connecting trains from Cincinnati.

For further information and reservation of sleeping car accommodations call on or write to your station agent or the undersigned.

A. Q. PEARCE,
C. P. & T. A., Vicksburg, Miss.
JNO A. SCOTT,
Div'n. Pass'r. Ag't. Memphis, Tenn.
WM. ALFRED KELLOND,
Ass't. Gen'l Pass'r. Ag't., Louisville, Ky.
A. H. HANSON,
General Passenger Agent, Chicago, Ill.

The Chicago Times-Herald, one of the leading Republican papers in the West says that "northern silence in regard to the virtual deprivation of suffrage to the negroes in the south is the concession that the sons of the reconstructionists make to the sons of those upon whom negro suffrage was forced. That suffrage was the inevitable result of the war. Its curtailment is the inevitable result of experience." This is quite a change of opinion from ten years ago, and no northern paper would have dared to utter such a thing. Their love for the colored brother is fast disappearing, and the negro will yet learn their true friends are the southern people.

Notice.

The death of W. P. Burney will cause no change in the business conducted in his name and same will be continued in my name, all liabilities being assumed by me.
R. J. BURNEY.
Lake Providence, La., March 5, 1897.

Dessolution Notice.

The firm existing under the name of Reese & McIntyre is this day dissolved by mutual consent. A. A. Reese assumes all liabilities of said firm from date.
A. A. REESE,
L. M. McINTYRE.
Attest:
R. H. Hamlin,
A. M. Green.
Elendale Store, Bunch's Bend, La., Feb. 28, 1898.

LOCAL NEWS.

Miss Gussie Wachsman and brother, of Greenville, attended the wedding of her friend, Miss Mamie Stockner, last Sunday night.

Mr. D. V. McAlpine, father of Messrs. E. K. and C. M. McAlpine, who have purchased the Lewiston plantation, was in our town on Monday.

Miss Nellie Montgomery left Saturday on the steamer New South for Cincinnati, where she will remain for a month visiting friends. We wish the young lady a pleasant trip and a safe return home.

The river continues to fall, and from the highest point reached on the last rise it has declined over ten feet. The rise coming out will not amount to anything and will hardly check the fall now going on.

Capt. Rea, of the East Carroll Guards should start his boys again in the manual of arms and give them a round or two in double quick. There is no telling what might happen, and the boys may be called out if the U. S. say fight.

PRIZE LONG STAPLE COTTON SEED.

Several years ago a stalk of long staple was found in a field of King cotton. Two springs ago I obtained some of these seed, and in the fall of 1896 I was awarded the first prive of $150 at the Vicksburg Fair for the best bale of long-staple cotton, and sold the bale at 16 cents a pound. Last spring after the high water went down I planted this cotton again, and on rich land it made just as much as the most prolific short staple. The Vicksburg Cotton Co., sold this cotton for me, as it was picked by ordinary tenants, over the whole plantation at 9¾ cents at a time when other cotton was selling at 5½. The length of staple is 1⅛ inches, and the seed are small. I can ship seed by boat on Mississippi River. I have extra pure seed which I will sell at very reasonable rates.

SAM. H. JAMES.
Mound, La.