

# THE FRANKLIN TIMES.

JAS. A. THOMAS, Editor and Proprietor.

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## FRANCHISE LAW OF LOUISIANA. STANDS THE TEST OF CONSTITUTIONALITY AND WORKS ALL RIGHT.

Every Native Born White Man Whether Educated or Uneducated Votes and is Protected in His Vote—Only Negroes and Unnaturalized Foreigners Who Cannot Vote as Illiterates—What Distinguished Citizens of Louisiana Say About the Operation of the Law in That State—The Grandfather Clause, &c.

(The Wilmington Morning Star.)

Mr. Josephus Daniels, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, who has been in New Orleans making inquiry as to the working and effect of the franchise law of Louisiana, has written his paper some interesting letters bearing upon that question. In his letter of the 9th inst., he gives us the result of an interview with Hon. H. G. Gage, ex-Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, who in speaking of the disfranchisement of white men, said:

"The only white illiterates disfranchised in Louisiana are those foreigners who were permitted under the Constitution of 1879 to vote under a mere declaration of intention to become citizens. Of this number those who took out naturalization papers were very few, but thousands continued to vote from 1879 to 1893 under their declaration of intention. This illiterate foreign born vote, especially that portion which was Italian, had gotten under the control of so-called political bosses, and a prejudice against it had arisen in the better element of the people, second only in intensity to that against the negro vote, and when the Constitutional Convention of 1893 undertook to eliminate the negro vote, there was, especially in the city of New Orleans, a determined demand that this illiterate boss-controlled foreign vote should also be eliminated, and the effect of the suffrage provision adopted was to eliminate every illiterate foreigner who had not been naturalized previous to January 1st, 1893.

"To-day no foreigner can vote in Louisiana as an illiterate, who had not been naturalized prior to January 1st, 1893, and in the future foreigners can only vote in Louisiana who are duly naturalized, and possess either the educational or property qualifications.

"The elimination of these thousands of illiterate foreigners, voting upon declaration of intention only, accounts for the falling off of the white registration in Louisiana.

"Every native-born white man in Louisiana, whether educated or uneducated votes and is protected in his vote."

The bulk of the foreign vote in Louisiana, especially in the cities, is composed principally of Italians, against whom in recent years a strong feeling or dislike has grown up on account of the lawlessness of these people and the murders and other crimes perpetrated by the secret bands known as the Mafia, which had carried things with such a high hand, and showed such an utter contempt for and defiance of the officers of the law that the people of the city of New Orleans concluded that it was necessary to do something to awe this element into respect for authority and visited summary punishment on several of them a few years ago by shooting them in jail, where they were held charged with conspiring to assassinate and killing the chief of police, who had incurred their enmity by too closely pursuing some of the malefactors. This feeling does not extend to all Italians, for there are people of that nationality in New Orleans who stand well and are much respected; nor does it extend to people of other nationalities, in which the distinction is always made between the rabble and respectable.

No one who has read the accounts of the atrocities perpetrated by these secret, oath-bound law transgressors and defiers and stiletto wielders will find fault with the people of Louisiana for depriving them of the franchise and of the political influence and power, especially in the cities, that the franchise carries with it, when the voters are as numerous as these Italians are in New Orleans and some of the other cities of the State.

The better class of foreigners need not be disfranchised long, if at all, for as most of them read and write their own language it will not require much time for them to learn to read and write the English language, as they no doubt will do, where they set much of an estimate on the privilege of the bal-

speaker, and a member of the constitutional convention, in which he made one of the most powerful speeches made in that body in advocacy of the "grandfather clause." Being asked by Mr. Daniels how it worked he replied:

"How does it work? I know hundreds of white men who cannot read and write who vote and vote intelligently. They vote now just as well as they did before the Constitutional amendment was adopted, and now they are not in danger of an unworthy negro's voting to kill their vote. They vote and their vote counts. I live in St. Mary's parish; the home of the three big party leaders, Governor Foster, Democratic leader; Mr. Pharr, who was the Populist candidate for Governor in 1896, and their leader; and Senator Caffrey, leader of the Gold Democrats. The parish has a large negro population, but in the recent April election only three negroes registered, and only one of them voted, and he claims to be an Indian. We cast as big a white vote as ever. There was no discrimination, educated and uneducated white men voted, and it was a hot fight between white men. In 1896 there was about 3,000 negroes who voted in this parish. There was absolutely no intimidation and the election was perfectly fair. With such leaders as Senator Caffrey and Captain Pharr against us, we had a hard fight to win, but elected our entire ticket. Before the election some of our opponents talked about fraud, etc., but they were given representation at all election precincts and they cannot say a word now except that upon an appeal to the white electorate of the parish they were defeated.

"The negroes took no interest in the election as is shown from the fact that only three registered. The Fusionists did not try to help the negroes to vote. They knew that if many negroes voted their ticket, it would unite the whites in opposition. There was no complaint about the vote and the better element of the negroes are glad that the amendment was adopted, and do not hesitate to say so."

Speaking of other parishes besides St. Mary's, the one in which he lives, Mr. Daniels quotes the substance of Mr. Sanders' testimony thus:

"Speaking of conditions in other parishes, Mr. Sanders instanced the parish of Calcasieu, that borders on the State of Texas, which is largely populated by Western white men, some of whom are unable to read and write. They registered under Section V and voted all right—and voted the Democratic ticket mostly. In the belt of counties embracing such parishes as Texas, Concordia, East Carroll and Madison, the negro vote before the amendment was adopted amounted to between 12,000 and 15,000. Under the new Constitution there were not more than twenty negro votes cast, and in those parishes there were not to exceed 1,500 white votes registered and cast."

We see by the testimony of ex-Governor Foster, Governor Heard, General Jastrzemski, Mr. Sanders and others that instead of disfranchising any native white man or any other reputable white man who has in him the elements of good citizenship, it insures them the ballot and makes the "grandfather clause" a roll of honor, upon which many of the best and most prominent citizens of the State, well educated, are enrolled. It elevates the white voter because it frees him from attending political meetings and mixing with negroes or coming into collision with them, and from walking to the polls alongside of a negro to cast his vote and have that vote when cast nullified by the vote of a sabbie denizen, who knew no more of the importance of what he was doing than a gorilla would if he were in the same place. By eliminating this element the ballot is dignified and the men who cast it have more respect for it.

As it is in Louisiana so it will be in North Carolina, where every native white man who is of age now or will come of age before the amendment is voted upon will be a voter and continue to be a voter, as will every white resident of this State from other States or other countries who is now entitled to the ballot. It disfranchises no white man and will hereafter disfranchise none who does not knowingly and voluntarily disfranchise himself. There will be few in North Carolina who will do that and those few will be persons who set no value upon citizenship.

The man who asserts that this amendment will disfranchise any white North Carolinian by birth or adoption asserts what he knows to be false and does so only to deceive others.

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## THEM AND NOW.

Two Years Ago the Democrats Were Criticized Because They Had Not Disfranchised the Negro—Now They Are Abused for Attempting It

Baltimore Weekly.  
Senator Butler says that disfranchisement of the negro has not removed the negro issue from politics in Louisiana, South Carolina and Mississippi. That is what he says now, but the Populist hand book said the very reverse two years ago. In that campaign document, issued by the Populist State executive committee, the Democratic party was denounced for being too weak and cowardly to stand up as men and enact laws disfranchising the negro vote, which laws would have been constitutional. We will quote from the Populist hand book:

"In nearly every Southern State except North Carolina the negro is disfranchised, and the result that racial antagonisms cannot be aroused because of the absence of a basis on which to proceed. The same power that disfranchised the negro in these Southern States has been wielded by the Democratic party in North Carolina for twenty years and yet no advantage has been taken of that power."

The Democratic party was thus criticised because it had not used its power to remove the negro from politics, as had been done in Louisiana, South Carolina and Mississippi. Race prejudice could not be appealed to in those States, "BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF A BASIS ON WHICH TO PROCEED."

The election came on and the people gave the Democratic party an overwhelming majority in the Legislature. The question then presented itself: Shall we leave the negro question unsettled, to be fought over every two years, or shall we settle it by a constitutional amendment as other Southern States have done? What was the sentiment of the Populist party at that time? Cyrus Thompson, Senator Butler's ablest lieutenant, said, after the smoke of battle had cleared away:

"It is evident that the Democrats will have to eliminate the negro question now. I do not think that the people who have given the Democratic party power will be satisfied with anything else than the elimination of the negro from politics in North Carolina."

The Democratic Legislature met the responsibility of the occasion and framed a measure that Senator Butler's own representatives in the House voted for. Why does he oppose it now? The answer to the question is found in this fact. He esteems the chance of being re-elected to the Senate by negro votes of more importance than the future peace and welfare of the State. The Democratic party has done what his hand book said it was too cowardly to do, and what Cy Thompson said the people demanded should be done, viz., laid the axe at the root of the tree. It has done this without endangering any white man's right to vote. It not only protects the white man who cannot read and write, but says his ballot shall not be killed by one of Pritchard's ignorant and servile negroes.

## IMPORTANT TO THE PUBLIC.

The Seaboard Air Line Railway, "Florida and West India Short Line," begs to announce that in addition to the through vestibuled trains which it now operates between Atlanta and Washington, beginning Sunday, June 3rd, it will operate through sleeping cars between Atlanta, Richmond, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York.

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## MENTAL CALM.

There is Nothing So Conducive to Health and Happiness as a Quiet Mind.

Baltimore Sun.  
There is nothing more conducive to health, long life and happiness than mental quietude or calm—the quietude of stagnation, but that of a gentle current flowing smoothly without agitation. It is much easier, however, to define such a desirable element than to tell how it may be attained. It is quite certain, however, that to attain mental calm one must have a clear conscience. He who has done no wrong to any man is armed against accusation. The Martyrs could meet their fate calmly, not only because of their faith in the life to come, but also, we may be sure, because their consciences were clear. In the ordinary walks of life there is little to disturb one's mental calm except the excitement arising from evil passions and unsatisfied ambitions. The man who does his simple duty, who wrongs no one, whether he be rich or poor, has nothing with which to upbraid himself. He moves along contentedly and sleeps the sleep of the just. But if, moved by ambition, such a man should seek political or other preferment requiring the use of chicanery, his mental calm is sure to be disturbed; he will pass restless nights and his health will likely suffer, for there is a very intimate relation between the condition of the body and that of the mind. Or, if such a man should commit a fault, his conscience will disturb him; he will learn to dread possible exposure and punishment; he will no longer enjoy the blessings of mental calm and, suffering for want of brain rest, his health will fail him.

Mental activity in itself is not a disturbing agent, but there is danger in too great concentration upon one line of thought. Men break down physically and mentally from too much work of one kind, but they may work almost unceasingly if they make part of their work take upon itself the nature of rest from other occupations. Mr. Gladstone, in his long and useful life, illustrated this important truth to a remarkable degree. He was never idle, but he had a great variety of mental and physical operations and he rested even while at his work. His mental calm was no doubt disturbed at times, but he would turn to his books or seek forgetfulness in his woodlands and thus restore his mental equilibrium. The greatest foe to mental calm, however, is one that is called a bad conscience, one that keeps on reminding us night and day of some duty neglected or wrong done. One's conscience may be dull in time, but it is not desirable that it should be quieted by neglect of its admonitions. As long as it is active it will bring disquiet to the wrong-doer and thus deprive him of mental calm. Incidentally it will affect his health and deprive him of happiness. Those, therefore, who would "live long and prosper" should aim to keep their consciences clear. They cannot hope to be mentally calm if they are conscious of wrong-doing, and they will be in a worse state if they can do wrong without upbraiding themselves. One essential element to mental calm, therefore, is an alert conscience that has little to say. The man who has done no wrong enjoys the sleep that knits up the raveled sleeve of care, and rises each morning refreshed for the duties of the day.

Spain's Greatest Need.  
Mr. R. P. O'Leary, of Barcelona, Spain, spends his winters at Aiken, S. C. Weak nerves had caused severe pains in the back of his head. On using Electric Bitters, America's greatest blood and nerve remedy, all pain soon left him. He says this grand medicine is what his country needs. All America knows that it cures liver and kidney trouble, purifies the blood, tones up the stomach, strengthens the nerves, puts vim, vigor and new life into every muscle, nerve and organ of the body. If weak, tired or ailing you need it. Every bottle guaranteed, only 50 cents. Sold by W. G. Thomas, druggist.

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All who suffer from piles will be glad to learn that DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve will give them instant and permanent relief. It will cure eczema and all skin diseases. Beware of counterfeits. W. G. Thomas.

## HOW NEGROES DOMINATE.

By Standing Solidly Together They Can, With a Small Minority of Whites, Outvote the Majority.

Chatham Record.  
The opponents of the amendment say that there is no danger of negro domination in North Carolina, and consequently that there is no necessity for disfranchising the negroes. The painful experience of the past, however, has fully proved that there is such danger and that negro domination has been a sad reality. And it may be so again.

The opponents of the amendment allege that there are twice as many whites as there are blacks in North Carolina, and ridicule the idea of one negro outvoting and controlling two white men. Yes, it is true that there are twice as many whites as negroes in the State, and there would be no danger of negro domination if all the white men were as true to their color and voted together as solidly as the negroes!

But unfortunately, and to their shame be it said, enough white men sometimes vote with the solid mass of negroes to give the latter a majority, and thus outvote and defeat the great majority of whites. For instance, suppose at some precinct there are 100 white men and 50 negroes. As long as the 100 white men vote together they can outvote and defeat the 50 negroes. But if 26 of the whites vote with the 50 negroes their combined vote will be 76, and they will outvote and defeat the 74 white men who did not join the negroes. Thus 26 white men with 50 negroes can, and oft times do, outvote and defeat 74 white men, and in this way the negroes with a small minority of the whites, can and do control and govern the great bulk of the whites.

Now, is this right? How can any respectable white man say it is right? How can any decent white man say it is right for one white man with the votes of negroes to defeat and control three white men? While we believe, and the Democratic party believes, in the majority ruling, yet we also believe and insist that the majority should be white men, and not be a small minority of whites combining with the solid mass of negroes!

And to prevent this amendment is needed. When the amendment is adopted it will no longer be possible for a small minority of the white to outvote and defeat the great bulk of the whites by combining with the negroes. And for this reason the amendment is being so vigorously opposed by those white officeholders and office-seekers who only hope for office in by and through the votes of ignorant negroes!

## "POSITIVE PRINCIPLES."

Mr. Bryan was asked the other day why he declared:

"The people are with us this year, and they are in sympathy with the principles which shall be embodied in the Kansas City platform, and which represent the feelings of the great mass of the American people."

And his answer, which appeals to every American citizen who has the welfare of his country at heart, was:

"Because every principle of the Democratic party is a positive principle, more positive than was the declaration of the Republican party in 1860, and while my party has grown all the while in its firmer adherence to principle and positive declaration, the Republican party is 'trekking' in just the opposite direction. It is less positive and its adherence to its own heretofore fixed declaration of faith is now quite disregarded."

## CANNOT AFFORD TO BE TYRANTS.

Democratic party has never acquired an inch of territory that it did not sign and seal a covenant with its inhabitants that they should have all the rights of American citizenship and that their territory should be finally admitted as states of the Union. The Republican party was the only party in this country that has ever proposed to hold vassal provinces, and the Democratic party wanted no share of the honor. If a people were not fit for free institutions, or free institutions were not fit for the government of such people. We could not afford to become tyrants on the ground that another people were not fit to be free—Hon. R. B. Carmack, Tennessee.

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