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TART, TERSE AND TIMELY.

Gov. Pingree has cut the last cord that bound him to the Republican party. He says the hope of the people is in the success of the Democratic party this year; and he is one of the people.

One of the significant political signs is the number of prominent Democrats that refused to support the regular Democratic ticket in '96, who are now predicting the nomination and election of Col. Bryan this year.

The English public is complaining because Lord Roberts does not lick the Boers faster. Lord Roberts appears to be satisfied not to get licked.

The man who would shoot a girl for refusing to marry him—he has become entirely too numerous of late—would beat her if she married him.

Western people are showing Admiral Dewey that they love him for his victories, even if they take no stock in his petticoat-made political ambition.

Hon. W. L. Wilson thinks Admiral Dewey will blunder out of politics as suddenly as he blundered in, and that Col. Bryan will be nominated and elected.

The Boer women are running the farms while the men and boys are doing the fighting. Surely such a people deserve liberty.

The Boer peace delegates are coming, but the English government isn't afraid of their accomplishing anything with Mr. McKinley.

Our occupation of the Philippines has up to date cost the lives of 2,257 Americans and permanently broke down the health of many more. It is not surprising that men should be asking if the game is worth the candle?

The Great Fire in Canada.

A dispatch of the 28th ult. from Ottawa Canada, gives further details of the big fire, as follows:

Little except ashes and ruins is to be found in the district five miles square that was swept by the flames in this city and Hull, Ont. There is practically no fire left. Every inflammable thing touched was consumed. Although under control for many hours the flames were not entirely extinguished until about noon to-day.

Seven deaths have been reported as the result of the conflagration, but the authorities are constantly asked about missing persons. Eight thousand persons are homeless and thousands have been thrown out of work for an indefinite period.

Insurance men and persons whose property was burned now estimate the total loss at about \$17,000,000. The greatest item in the figures is due to the destruction of 15,000,000 feet of lumber and several lumber works. Two thousand buildings were destroyed in Ottawa and 1,800 in Hull. The insurance is estimated at \$5,000,000.

Prompt measures have been taken for the relief of the sufferers. The Federal government has given \$10,000 for immediate relief, and Parliament will vote \$90,000 more. The Ontario Legislature at Toronto will contribute \$25,000, while private subscriptions to the amount of about \$50,000 have already been received from all parts of Canada. Half a million will be required to bring the fire sufferers safely through the emergency. The city council of Ottawa has decided to borrow \$100,000 to aid the destitute.

The Catholic Archbishops of Ottawa and Montreal will appeal to the country. The most serious problem that confronts Hull is that of work. The majority of householders who were burned out are poor and have large families. It is not expected there will be employment for a considerable period, and the way in which many of the poor are going to live in the meantime is puzzling.

Aycock Stands for Education.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., May 1.—All the State candidates except Dr. Dixon, Mr. Patterson and Mr. McNeill arrived here at 12:20 a. m. They were met at the train by a reception committee, and at an early hour this morning crowds began to assemble. At noon today the speaking began in the opera house.

Grimes, Lacy and Toon made their usual short, to the point, good speeches. Turner spoke longer than usual, a strong, forcible, vote gaining speech. His illustrations proving that all white men can vote were unanswerable and convincing.

Aycock began his speech at 2 o'clock. The opera house was packed. Jacob Battle, Esq., in introducing him said that many of us have known him for two decades and love him for his modesty, honesty and unselfishness. Aycock's pledge, if elected, to stand for the education of all children in the State however poor or humble, was received by long and continued applause. All the candidates made a favorable and strong impression. The white people of this section are more determined than ever to forever put an end to negroism, Butlerism and Russelism.

A terrific explosion occurred on the 1st in the winter quarters of the Pleasant Valley Coal Mine at Schofield, on the Rio Grande Western Railroad, near Colton, Utah, by which, according to reports, over 100 people were killed and many injured. It is reported that 90 bodies have already been recovered. The cause of the explosion is attributed to the blowing up of a number of kegs of blasting powder.

REV. SAM P. JONES WRITES OF FLOODS, RACES AND THE DEVIL.

MEMPHIS, TENN.—I waited over in Atlanta three days last week on account of washouts and floods on railroads. I left Atlanta the 23rd inst. for some points in Mississippi and to Memphis. I have not been through the worst flooded districts of Alabama and Mississippi. A man will have to swim much to do that yet, and if what I have seen is only a taste of what has happened for the south and west, then devastation must be complete. I esteem railroads more highly now than ever. When the trains stop it looks like everything stops. The heroic, herculean efforts the railroads have made and are still making to repair the tracks and replace the bridges, trestles, etc., is marvellous to behold. The railroads in Mississippi alone have been damaged more than a million dollars. The farms and loss of stock and crops, etc., are more than two millions more. The oldest inhabitant has never seen the river and creeks so high or the lands so badly washed. I believe when the costs of the floods in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi are fully counted up it will reach ten millions of dollars or more. The railroads are able to repair their tracks, the landlords can stand the loss of stock and the washing of their lands, but there are ten thousand poor tenants who lost their all in the floods. Poor fellows, I am sorry for them.

The races are on in Memphis, and that means much for any city. It's a pile for the hotels, saloons and gamblers. Its wreck and ruin to the fellow who bets. The gang who attend and bet on the races are going to ruin and hell faster than any thoroughbred horse ever went around the track. There is nothing more fascinating and so hurtful to the young men as the race course. A prize fight, a masquerade ball, a Louisiana lottery, a faro bank, a salo, n'ouise, any one or all of these can't wreck manhood and character quicker or more surely than the race course. I like a thoroughbred horse, and I love to see him go, but I think scrubs make up the crowd that attend the races, largely.

Memphis is a great city. Her trade is large, and she is a growing town, but the devil has pretty much his own way here, as he does also in Atlanta. It will be a sad day for Atlanta when she adds a race track to her other devilry.

A street preacher (dressed like an Episcopal clergyman, except he has those large crosses on vest and coat, and long hair) named Blanford, from England, and who by the way married one of our Cartersville girls, has been preaching on the streets and in the auditorium of Memphis for six weeks. He has gotten up no small stir in Memphis. He preaches salvation from sin and heals the sick. He has a fine face and splendid address and seems to be about 26 years old. The good people are divided on him and I suppose the sinners consider him a crank. One thing is certain, he can't hurt anything in Memphis. The devil himself has done about his worst on them here, and still they survive.

I am amazed, as I travel over this country, and see the life and push and vim in the business world and the activity of the devil and his gang. Then look on and see the church, how dead and how indifferent it is to the condition of things. Many of the deacons and some of the preachers talk like they think that matters are going on lovely.

The Methodist pastors have just left my room. They are anxious that I come to Memphis. They admit that the thing is in a hole, and are anxious that something be done. But engagements already made will prevent my coming back to Memphis in the near future. I begin meetings in Baltimore May 6th, and will continue there until 27th; and will spend the summer largely in campmeeting and chautauqua work.

Farm work is badly behind in all sections. May is upon us and not a tenth of corn or cotton either planted in the sections where I have been. But we have still left to us the blessed fact that we will live until we die, and the hard-shell brothers say we won't die until our time comes.

The people everywhere though seem happy and hopeful. The towns and cities say trade was never better and the farmers say there is plenty of time yet left to them to make a crop.

I met a drummer this morning, just from southern California; he said it had not rained out there in three years; so we are better off than they. It's like the old woman, who always said it might have been worse, to every calamity. Her husband was run over and killed by the train, and the friends went to her and told her of the tragedy. She asked, "Is he dead?" They said "Yes, madam." She replied saying, "It might have been worse." How they asked. "Oh!" She said. "They might have just crippled him and left him here on my hands to wait on."

So, whatever betides us, we may say it might have been worse.

SAM P. JONES.

THE AMENDMENT.

Hon. Geo. E. Boggs, Populist, Tells in a Letter to The Progressive Farmer of Restricted Negro Suffrage in South Carolina, and Urges the Adoption of the Amendment in This State.

Progressive Farmer.

Editors Progressive Farmer: I am very deeply interested in the success of the effort to secure a limited suffrage to the negro in North Carolina, by the adoption of the proposed Constitutional Amendment. I am fully persuaded it would prove a great blessing to the State of North Carolina, to all of its citizens, including the negroes.

I have been sojourning in South Carolina, my native State, for about two months, and see the great benefit to all classes of its people, negroes included, from the practical retirement of the negro from political influence and power. This was virtually done by the great revolution in 1876, which wrested the power from the negroes and their leaders, and vested it in the white people. For some time the whites retained the political power by the entire control of the election machinery. The management of the election was entirely in the hands of the Democratic party. This law required that there should be a separate box for the reception of each vote for a candidate for any particular office. Each box was to be marked for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, for Senator, for members of the House and the law provided that in any case if the ballot was not deposited in "the right box it was invalidated. It also provided that each voter should deposit his ballot in person, with no one near him. As a result illiterate persons could not vote, unless the managers of the election chose to give information as to the right box in which to deposit each ballot. As a result illiterate voters where votes were not desired were practically debarrred from voting. There were grave objections to this system, and many thought that it was unwise to hazard its continuance in case of division among the whites. To fully secure the victory that had wrested the power from the ignorant and incompetent negroes and their self-seeking leaders, the amendment to the Constitution was adopted.

Before my recent careful investigation into the actual workings of the law, I had always been distrustful of it and feared it might limit the rights and influence of the plain common people for whose rights I am ever jealous. That such has not been its effect is plainly shown by the fact that the plain, common people who revolutionized the government in this State a few years ago, and got full control of it, still retain this power.

I have spoken with quite a number of persons, of men of different professions, of different occupations and various positions in society, and have found not a single one who did not speak of it with full approval and commendation. It is very singular the good effect it has had upon the negroes. They have had their eyes opened to the fact that casting ballots into boxes was not going to secure for them either the financial or social advancement which they expected, and as a result the masses of them have lost all interest in politics, and many of them who can read and write and can therefore vote if they choose do not exercise their right. Their whole demeanor is changed. They are for more industrious and contented than they were during their days of political power.

I lived here during that horrible nightmare of Reconstruction, and can vividly recall the anxiety as to life and property, that hung like a pall over the whole people, can but note the amazing change that has taken place.

I wish to say a few words, more especially to my Populist friends, in regard to the pending contest in our State. We have often criticised and not infrequently abused the Democrats for making the negro issue a paramount one.

Now the amendment will practically eliminate the negro question from our political contests in the future and give to us the opportunity of discussing issues of far greater importance.

Now, will it be consistent in us to refuse to assist in the effort to suppress the ignorant negro vote? I think it the duty of every true lover of the State to put aside any bitterness or estrangement that may have occurred in the past, and unite in the request from all to secure this modification of suffrage and relieve us from this irresponsible and dangerous negro vote.—G. E. Boggs.

Story of a Pass.

Troy Times.

The following is a history of the railroad pass which, if true, is very good of its kind. When R. N. Rice, who was afterward president of the Michigan Central Railroad, was the general manager of the New York Central, he received by mail an expired pass, across the back of which the holder had written in red ink:

Bless my stars! no more on the cars As a deadhead I'll ride on the rail. Unless Mr. Rice should take my advice, And send me a pass by the mail.

Without a moment's hesitation Mr. Rice turned the pass over and traced in red ink on its face the following:

The conductor will pass this bundle of gas From July to the middle of Lent. Like any other deadhead, without paying a cent, Let him ride to his heart's content.

The pass was never taken up, and today kept in the family of the holder.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

Baltimore Sun, 28th.

Wepener has been relieved, the Boers who besieged it are hurrying northeastward and Lord Roberts is bending all his energy to catch them. So far the Boers have escaped and it is believed in London that they will have little difficulty in making their way to join their comrades in a place of safety.

This is the situation in the eastern part of the Orange Free State: A British success has been won by the relief of Wepener, with the faint prospect of a bigger one—the capture of some or all of the late besiegers. As an offset to their retirement from Wepener the Boers in the western part of the Free State have forced Lord Methuen to retreat and have occupied Boshof, which, for some weeks, has been his headquarters. Hence the Boers, so far as is known, are in complete control of the country west of Bloemfontein.

Simultaneously with the abandonment of the Wepener siege, which occurred Tuesday night, the Boers also evacuated De Wet's camp. Both columns are doing their best to escape to the north. It is believed in London that the chief hope of catching them lies in the movements of Gen. French's cavalry, which is going east from Vaalbank, but great results are not expected.

Wepener has endured a siege of 16 days, losing in killed and wounded about 165 out of 1,500 men. His relief was accomplished by General Brabant's column, operating from the south.

Baltimore Sun, 28th.

A fight has begun at Thaba Nchu, 40 miles east of Bloemfontein, in the Orange Free State. The Boers having escaped the net that Lord Roberts spread for them, Roberts is directing his energy to getting command of all the important roads in the district lately occupied by the burghers.

It is now said that Gen. Louis Botha, the Boer commander-in-chief, directed the brilliant retreat of the burghers from De Wet's camp and Wepener. He arrived at De Wet's camp last Monday and at once took the situation in hand. Many signs or intelligence marked the retreat. The wagons were sent north far in advance of the burghers, and it is believed they had relays of oxen waiting on the road.

Meanwhile the main British advance to Pretoria is delayed. Lord Wolsley, the British commander-in-chief, is credited with having said, when Bloemfontein was first occupied by Roberts, that the British would be in Pretoria by May 15. Like General Buller's reported promise to be in Pretoria by last Christmas, it seems that this will have to be revised. Murmurs of dissatisfaction with Lord Roberts are beginning to be heard in London.

The Boers are preparing to spend the winter in Natal. The South African winter is now setting in.

A Lorenzo Marquez dispatch says that the latest authentic estimate of the Boer army places it at 30,900 men.

Baltimore Sun, 30th.

Lord Roberts is again collecting the British troops whom he sent skurrying over the southeastern part of the Orange Free State in an effort to trap the Boers at Wepener and De Wet's camp. The divisions of Generals French, Rundle and Hamilton are massed at Thaba Nchu, 40 miles east of Bloemfontein, and other troops are arriving there. As a good road leads from Thaba Nchu in the direction of Brandfont and Kroonstad, where the main Boer army is massed, this may foreshadow that the main British advance will be started from Thaba Nchu.

Baltimore Sun, 1st.

The next few days promise to develop a situation which will settle definitely the fate of Mafeking. So far as the censors permit the world outside to know, the paramount movement in South Africa is the relief of Baden-Powell and his garrison in the long-beleaguered town.

It is understood that the expedition will be more formidable and will consist of General Hunter's Tenth Division, assisted by Gen. Methuen's forces. If the handful of Boers who have so tightly tied up the place for six months do not yield to this imposing column, then Mafeking may well be considered beyond relief.

The last few days have witnessed continuous, although not very severe, fighting in the vicinity of Thaba Nchu, the Boers, according to the British version of it, being constantly thrust back by General French's cavalry. Their retreat seems to be toward Ladybrand, which is almost due east, where they doubtless will offer a strong resistance. The character of the country along their retreat is rugged and affords a most effective protection in covering a retreat.

According to Kimberly advices the Boers in strong force have occupied Windfontein, which is about twenty-five miles by rail southwest of Warrenton, the nearest point held by British troops. The occupation is the result of determined efforts, but until yesterday the British succeeded in keeping out the burghers.

The region north of Sunday's river appears to be fairly well clear of Boers. General Louis Botha has returned to Pretoria, where he will resume supreme command of the Transvaal forces.

FORREST'S HONOR.

One of the fiercest and most determined fighters in the Civil War was General N. B. Forrest, cavalry commander in the Confederate Army. His name was a redoubtable one and few of his opponents were aware of a humorous side of his disposition, familiar to his friends, says a writer in the Youth's Companion. For many years the General loved to tell the story of an incident which occurred near Cowan's Station.

The few troopers he had with him were being hotly pursued by the Federals, and the General was galloping along at top speed. A fiery Southern dame happened to be standing by the roadside, and when she saw the flying Confederate officer her indignation boiled over. Shaking her fist in scorn, she screamed:

"Why don't you turn and fight, you cowardly rascal? If old Forrest were here he'd make you fight!"

Fortunately the General's horse soon carried him out of range.

Forrest's biographer relates that once at a dinner party, where he had been invited as the guest of honor, there was a loquacious widow, with hair of raven black, who rudely interrupted the conversation by asking General Forrest why it was that his beard was still black while his hair was turning gray.

With great politeness Forrest turned toward her.

"I fear I cannot give a satisfactory answer," said he, "unless, possibly, the reason is that I have used my brain a little more than I have my jaw."

In the midst of one of his campaigns a captured Federal chaplain was brought to his headquarters. The man showed the deepest anxiety and depression, for stories of Gen. Forrest's severity were rife in the Union camp. A little later supper was announced, and Forrest, to the chaplain's surprise, invited him to share it; but his surprise grew to amazement when the General turned to him reverentially and said:

"Parson, will you please ask the blessing?"

The next morning Forrest courteously gave him an escort through the Confederate lines, for he wished no non-combatants for prisoners, and bade him good-by with the remark:

"Parson, I would keep you here to preach for me if you weren't needed so much more by the sinners on the other side."

A Witch Runs the Rats Away.

Mooreville Enterprise.

A resident of Mooreville tells the following true story of how he was relieved of rats several years ago while living in Mecklenburg county. He says:

"It was during the '70s, and I was running a grist mill near Charlotte. The rats became so numerous that I was annoyed a great deal and couldn't get rid of them. An old woman who lived near claimed to be a close communicant with the spirits, and had performed many miraculous deeds about in the neighborhood. Finally I approached the old lady and offered her a calico dress if she would rid my mill of the pests, and send them as a plague to a neighbor who did not love me any too well. The offer was accepted. The old lady wrote something on two little slips of paper—I don't know what was on them—and instructed me to place one on the floor at the meal chest and place the other one at the door of my neighbor; also to arrange a board for the rats to climb to the foot log crossing the creek. I did as I was told, and next morning to my surprise, I saw tracks in the sand where the rats had been scrambling to reach the foot-log. The rats left—every one of them. I remained there six years afterward and never saw a rat. The old gentleman to whom the old woman sent the rats was compelled to vacate his premises on account of the great number. It was a wonderful delivery. What I say can be substantiated."

May Take a Hand in the Strike Now on the Southern Road.

News and Observer, 1st.

Unless the Southern Railway settles its strike pretty soon the Corporation Commission will take a hand. The people all along the line are appealing to the Commission for relief, and have been for the past two or three weeks. These appeals have been referred to the Southern Railway officials for answer, and unless they can show good cause why it should not be done the Commission will order all offices along the Southern's lines opened at once.

Somebody has said that strikes are triangles. There is the angle of the company; the angle of the men who strike; with the last angle that large body of us who don't own railroads and don't work for railroads, but would, nevertheless, dwell in peace and have protection. It is from this last angle that the Corporation Commission is called upon to take part in this quarrel. The Southern Railway Company has rights; its operators have rights, but equal to both, in my opinion, is the untraded public.

The Corporation Commission is called upon to pluck the right from the right.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Pennsylvania Republican convention at Harrisburg, last week, endorsed the re-election of Quay to the Senate.

A canvass of the Presbyterian clergymen of the important churches of Boston shows that, of seven interviewed, five are opposed and two are in favor of a revision of the Westminster confession.

A tornado passed through a portion of Blum, Texas, Friday, destroying several residences and a two story school building. Two persons were seriously hurt, one of whom, a woman, will die. About 15 others were slightly injured.

The 10th annual reunion of the Veterans will be held in Louisville Ky., this year and great preparations are now being made to entertain and have as many old veterans present as possible. The fare from Concord to Louisville and return will only be \$11 and the expense of veterans there, nothing. It is probable that a large number will go from this county.

An Oxford special to the Raleigh News and Observer says: "It is reliably reported that a certain mouthy negro of Granville county made this threat: 'That there would be more ashes in Granville county before the election was over than there was in Hell.' A certain law-abiding Christian citizen said upon hearing the same: 'Find out the party who said it and we will increase the Republican majority in Hell one vote sure.'"

Safe Rules.

Do not be ashamed of hard work. Work for the best wages you can get, but work for anything rather than be idle. Be not ashamed to work, for it is one of the conditions of our existence. There is no criminal who does not owe his crime to some idle hour.

To industry and economy add self-reliance. Do not take too much advice; think for yourself. Independence will add vigor and aspiration to your labors.

One of the softest rules is to never allow a year to pass by without laying up something for a rainy day.

Keep your health good by adopting regular, steady habits.

Remember that steady, earnest efforts alone lead to wealth and high positions.

A man of honor respects his word as he does his note.

Never misrepresent falsely or deceive; have one rule of moral life; never swerve from it, whatever be the acts or opinions of other men.

Never form the habit of talking about your neighbor, or repeating things that you hear others say. You will avoid much unpleasantness, and some times serious difficulties.

The penitentiary farms will this season have 2,000 acres in cotton, a decrease of 33 1-3 per cent.; 1,000 acres in peanuts, an increase of 50 per cent. The peanut crop is expected to reach 75,000 bushels. Last year it was the most profitable crop. The corn acreage will be about 2,000.



"Sweet Bells Jangled Out of Tune and Harsh."

Shakespeare's description fits thousands of women. They are cross, dependent, sickly, nervous—a burden to themselves and their families. Their sweet dispositions are gone, and they, like the bells, seem sadly out of tune. But there is a remedy. They can use

McELREE'S Wine of Cardui

It brings health to the womanly organism, and health there means well poised nerves, calmness, strength. It restores womanly vigor. It tones up the system, and restores the vitality and health of the most perfect