

The New Age.

A. D. GRIFFIN... Editor and Proprietor.

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BIENNIAL LEAGUE CONVENTION

On Tuesday next, delegates from the various Republican league clubs throughout the state will meet in this city in convention to elect new state league officers and discuss the issues which are likely to become interesting elements in the election contest now practically upon us. It will be a notable gathering of the vigorous young manhood of the state; and it may be said in passing that there will not be a total absence of that class of wisdom which "comes with age," for a few of the "old war-horses" will be there to temper the aggressiveness of those younger in the diplomacy of effective field-work.

New questions of much importance will confront the Republicans of Oregon in the pending campaign when the work shall have actually begun. The league convention will probably determine the lines upon which they shall be met. Many aspirants have already appeared for each of the most important offices. The question of personal competition for nominations may, in some degree, take definite form, and the fate of some of the aspirants will thus be settled.

The daily papers have for sometime been urging that nothing but absolute fairness should characterize the course of all factions in the matter of the nominating convention's work. "A square deal" is what they demand. The state league can aid the party largely in securing that general desideratum.

But, to be permanently effective, the action of the league convention, first, must be absolutely harmonious. There may be a clash of personal interests in determining all of these matters, but party interests should prevail by all means.

The league convention has a big task before it.

It is intensely important and interesting era in which we are living. As a nation we are making history very rapidly, and the Republican party is in charge of the nation's political destinies, and is therefore clothed with heavy responsibilities. It is a time when intelligent Republicans, who are, or seek to be leaders in their several localities, should be discerning, discriminating, and candid. It is very well to be enthusiastic about your party, and loyal to it, and to follow to a reasonable extent those who are in positions of national leadership; but it is even better to point out your party's faults and failings, and help to keep it on the right track, so that it will both receive and deserve the confidence of the people. The Republican party may win once or twice when it is partly or mostly wrong, but if it persists in being or doing wrong it is sure to suffer punishment in the near future in the form of an ignominious defeat. The leading Republicans from every locality in the state will be present at the ensuing convention, and their voice and declarations will have an influence not only upon the party in this state, but will be noticed by the officials and leaders in the national capital. Hence, it is a proper occasion to mingle a little thoughtful conservatism with mere party effervescing enthusiasm, and so help to guide the great Republican party aright.

NEGROES DEMAND RECOGNITION

Again, and more than ever before, the Negro citizens of the United States have the right, and it is their privilege and duty, to demand better recognition; and a more faithful performance of promises always made before election, at the hands of the politicians, and especially the Republican officials, leaders and candidates, who biennially expect and almost demand all the Negro votes. Has the present federal administration treated the Negro voters fairly? It is true that the Negro votes are not counted in the South, and so the Republican party does not expect to carry most of those states, and does not carry them. But without the al-

most solid vote of Negroes for the Republican ticket, the Republican party could not, in one campaign out of ten in the past 30 years, have carried Ohio, or Illinois, or Indiana, or New York; nor without Negro votes would that party at the last national election, have been able to carry Maryland or West Virginia. To sum up the proposition, the Negro voters of these and other states elected McKinley. Without this solid phalanx of Negro voters he could not have been elected in 1896; and it may be considered doubtful if he can be elected without them in 1900. It then becomes proper and pertinent to ask: What has the administration done, politically, for the Negro race? Has it even fairly begun to pay this great debt? And, further, is it not time for the Negro voters of the United States to demand their rights or honestly and sincerely threaten, whenever a proper occasion arises, a revolt? The Negro voters are generally true, faithful Republicans, and most of them know the reason why; but they deserve and demand, not only in the nation at large, but in the several states and communities where they have the balance of power at the polls, due recognition.

NEED FOR GREAT CARE.

In the school election soon to occur in this city there is need for great care to choose only the best available man for a position on the board. Many people are prone to overlook the great importance of proper service in the work of the school board. Along with Portland's growth as a city have come large questions as to the course to be pursued in the proper management of the local schools. Economical administration of school affairs is not the least of these. First of all, however, effort should be made to select a board of thorough business men who can work together harmoniously for the one common purpose of advancing most expeditiously the interests of both teacher and pupil. This cannot be well done when the board is continually quarreling with itself about minor matters. Personal affairs should not in any degree hinder the work of those who have the destiny of the rising generation in their keeping, so far as official work may affect it in the common schools. Much bickering has hurtfully influenced the work of the present board. To such a degree has this been the case that charges of evil motive have been whispered about concerning some of its members. Frequent complaints are made of the "graft" acquired by official influence; but, of all the public service from which "the graft" should be absolutely eliminated to the last degree and in every form, the public school board should hold first place.

Prominent candidates are already in the field for election to a membership in the school board at the approaching contest. The voters of this city should certainly have only one object in view in casting their ballots, and that purpose should be to elect the best man who will permit his name to be placed on the ticket. There should be no politics in such a vote, nor personal prejudice influence, one way or the other, the voter's choice. Let it be clean, business contest in every respect.

Representative White, of North Carolina, the colored representative in the house, has reported a bill for the "the protection of all citizens of the United States against mob violence," etc. It provides that all persons shall be protected from being murdered, tortured or burned to death by mobs known as "lynching bees," whether spontaneous or premeditated, and all parties participating, aiding or abetting in such affairs are made guilty of treason against the United States government, and subject to prosecution in the United States courts. This is certainly a timely measure and it ought to receive the support of every honest member of congress. The colored man is just as much entitled to protection under our constitution as any other class of citizens. This proposed measure may test the sincerity of Republicans.

An Albany, Oregon, paper announces that Hon. H. W. Corbett, of this city, has promised to give \$1,000 to the Albany college if the people of that city will raise the necessary balance to pay off the existing debt on that institution. This is only one of several such benefactions bestowed upon worthy institutions by Mr. Corbett. While he does not give indiscriminately and

injudiciously to everybody who asks, he has given many tens of thousands of dollars to deserving purposes, and has thereby helped to build up the institutions in this state.

No judge on any Oregon bench today is more popular than Judge M. C. George, of Department No. 4 of the circuit court of this district. He has a strong judicial mind, coupled with keen perception and a conscientious purpose to be just to all litigants of whatever class. He presides over his department with dignity and renders judgment with scrupulous precision. His friends, among whom are numbered the leading members of the Portland bar, are urging him to permit his name to be used in connection with the nomination for another term. The New Age will be extremely pleased to note his acceptance.

That portion of Kentucky immediately surrounding the capital is in a state of anarchy. The governor has declared Frankfort to be under martial law. Goebel was shot to death by an assassin, but before he died he was sworn in as chief executive of the state. His first official act was to depose Governor Taylor's lieutenant governor and appoint one of his party's own who will succeed to the governorship on Goebel's death. The situation promises other entanglements. The war in Kentucky is not yet over.

Judging by the number of candidates for the congressional nomination in the First district, there will be a warm contest in the convention for that place. The result is necessarily enigmatical at this date. Tongue has strength through the channel of administration patronage and a fairly good record; Brownell, of Clackamas, is accredited with being an able man; Claude Gatch, of Marion, is both able and popular; Carter, of Jackson, is able, clean and locally invincible. And thus the list runs.

Circuit Judge Alfred F. Sears, of Department No. 2, has made a most excellent record during his present term. He has greatly strengthened himself, personally, professionally and politically, in the friendship of members of the bar and litigants alike. Wisdom on the part of the local public will be evidenced by his return to the bench which he graces with dignity and judicial fairness.

Dr. D. H. Rand, the popular county coroner, has returned from a visit to San Francisco, accompanied by Mrs. Rand. Coroner Rand acquired much valuable information, during his stay in the Bay City, which will aid him essentially in his official work in this county. There is no especially noteworthy opposition to Dr. Rand's reelection.

The friends of Attorney Geo. J. Cameron are pleased to note the general approval with which his name is received as a possible candidate for the municipal judgeship. Mr. Cameron is a good judge of law, a most upright citizen in every channel of life and a gentleman who has shown in his present official work that he fully realizes the need of retrenchment in the conduct of municipal affairs.

The primary contests in this city promise to be particularly entertaining. Portland has made a record or two in "primary politics;" but, if the threats one may hear in certain opposing elements now should be carried to execution, there'll be a hot time in this old town before the nominating conventions shall have met.

The Democrats are having what they would probably call a h—l of a time in Kentucky, and, if a lot of them are "killed off", the old "Dark and Bloody ground" will be better for it. A few murderous Republicans there should meet a similar fate. There should be no discrimination as to party when it comes to murdering corrupt politicians.

The district attorney is going after the Chinese gamblers again in the circuit courts. He expects to make his cases stick this time, and may succeed in breaking up the demoralizing Chinese lottery games, at least for a time.

Ambitious contests for other offices have practically overshadowed the question as to who shall be named for county commissioner; and yet the latter office is one of great importance to the county just now.

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