

The New Age

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AN UNREASONABLE DEMAND.

The white employes of a hotel in Baker City attempted a boycott of the hostelry last week because the proprietor employed some colored help, but it is reported that the boycott did not succeed very well. It would be strange if it had succeeded in Baker City, whose people generally are as intelligent and liberal as those of any place in the country. They believe in fair play and they have no objections to colored men coming among them and earning an honest living. If they can find a chance to do so. And to object to colored help in a large hotel is about as unreasonable as any proposition ever advanced by anybody. Trades-Unionism is all right as long as it keeps on reasonable ground and demands what is fair, but when, as it has done repeatedly it denies to other men the right to work because of the color of their skin, it becomes insolent and unbearably intolerant and unreasonable. Merely on account of their color, Negro laborers, who only sought or accepted an opportunity to make an honest living by hard work, have been driven out of several northern states, and Republican states, too, at various times; have been assaulted, and many in the aggregate killed. As long as this occurs and the authorities do nothing to prevent it or to punish such crimes, we cannot call this a civilized, much less a Christian country, nor one of equal or fair rights. Colored people are especially adapted to hotel work, and are employed in all the leading caravansaries of the country, and no reasonable guest, no person fit to put up at a decent hotel, makes any objection to them. The New Age is pleased to notice the position taken on this incident by the Telegram of this city, which says: "Such a boycott, under the circumstances stated, is entitled to no sympathy or support whatever. Why should not a 'colored person' work in a hotel as well as anybody else? Nobody but the guests have a right to object, and most of them rather like the colored people in such positions. These people do acceptable service. They have just as good a right to live, and to work, and to be employed, and to earn and spend money, as white people. Are we going to bar everybody with a dark skin from employment, from even menial service? Is this a specimen of the civilization with which trades-unionism is going to appeal to the world for moral support? The American people, of whom those of Baker City are a good type, love fair play, and the colored person is entitled to a chance just as well and as much as the person with a whiter skin. The skin is only a thin covering; the complexion is a test neither of competency or of character. Democracy demands fair and equal rights for men and women and children, under the law, and the great Democratic American people will demand, and not vainly, that this rule be not merely theoretical, but put and kept in practice."

USUALLY THE CASE.

It is a noticeable fact that a very large proportion of the people who are loudest in their condemnation of the Negro who commits, or is even accused upon insufficient evidence, of crimes of ignorance and brutality, are the very ones who object most to the education of the Negro, and sneer most scornfully at efforts to aid him to become a better man, intellectually and morally. These men, themselves not only inconsistent but ignorant, contend in support of their objections that the Negro is not the equal of the white man in mental powers. Granting for the sake of argument that this is so, it is no reason why he should not be educated. Educate him to develop his faculties and let him find his natural place in life. Professor Du Bois of the Atlantic University, in an article in the Atlantic Monthly, makes a strong plea for higher education for the Negro as the solution of the Negro problem of the South. The Negroes, he says, are not fools. They have tasted learning, and they will not cease to think or to try to read the riddle of the world. "By taking away their best equipped teachers and leaders, by slamming the door of opportunity in the faces of their bolder and brighter minds, will you make them satisfied with their lot, or will you not rather transfer their leading from

the hands of men taught to think to the hands of untrained demagogues? We ought not to forget the active discouragement and even ridicule of friends, the demand for higher training steadily increasing among the Negro youth. There were in the years from 1875 to 1880, twenty-two Negro graduates from the Northern colleges; from 1885 to 1890 there were forty-three, and from 1895 to 1900 nearly 100 graduates. From Southern Negro colleges there were, in the same three periods, 143, 413 and over 500 graduates. Here, then, is the plain thirst for training; by refusing to give this talented tenth the key to knowledge can any sane man imagine that they will lightly lay aside their yearning and contentedly become hewers of wood and drawers of water?"

A BIG VICTORY.

The elections last week went even more heavily Republican than at first appeared. The Republican majority in Washington mounted up to over 20,000, and in Idaho to 7,000, while Colorado and Montana also went Republican. This was a protest against Democratic policies to some extent, but it was still more an indorsement of the President. He will carry these states as well as all the others of the North and West, by tremendous majorities in 1904. The New Age congratulates the Republicans of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, in all of which it has large and increasing number of patrons, on this Republican victory—though considering mere personality there are no better men than the leading Democrats of these grand young states.

Hon. Levi Ankeny of Walla Walla, probably the next United States Senator from Washington, was in the city this week, on his way to Puget Sound. Mr. Ankeny will be away in the lead of any other candidate at Olympia next winter, and may be elected on the first ballot. He deserves the honor.

In nine cases out of ten the same man who helps "roast a nigger" for being a brute refuses to aid in the maintenance of an institution to teach the Negro to be something higher than a brute, and in nine cases out of nine he wishes that there were more brutes to be roasted.

Governor Geer has declined to call an extra session of the Legislature, and so, probably has greatly embarrassed the proposed Lewis and Clark fair; but the Governor had to consider his senatorial candidacy and has no occasion to love Portland overmuch.

Something must be done soon about our closed bridges. Where is the money coming from to replace them? That is the important question of the hour.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

The dialogue of "Pennsylvania," the new heart story of the anthracite district, by C. E. Callahan and Daniel L. Hart, is always forceful and often witty, the characters quaint and natural, being drawn from real personages living near Wilkesbarre; and the climaxes, while very strong and effective, are never overdrawn or beyond the bounds of reason. The comedy situations are extremely funny, and there are no more humorous beings upon the stage than Nancy Davis, the coal bank girl; Sam Potts, the man of cards, or Hughie Dougherty, the Hibernian American, who despises "Furriners." The Eagle quartet is acknowledged to be without a superior, if any equal. The scenery is all special, and extremely realistic. This big production, "Pennsylvania," is announced to appear at Cordray's Theater Sunday, Monday Tuesday and Wednesday, beginning with Sunday matinee, November 16.

Messrs. Gray and Heckert are presenting this popular comedy this season in a most elaborate and expensive style, and their efforts to delight the comedy-lovers of this country are meeting with the unanimous support that they justly deserve. For three nights only, commencing Thursday, November 20, with matinee Saturday, this play will be given at Cordray's.

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A Wholesale Philanthropist.
One of the plans of modern giving offers a certain sum provided an equal amount is raised to meet it. In a recent case the amount to be raised reached a tantalizing total and halted. A friend of the institution that was to be enriched went to Andrew Carnegie and laid the facts before him. These he drove home by all the eloquence he could command. Mr. Carnegie listened attentively. Finally the speaker paused and looked to Mr. Carnegie for the favorable word.
"My friend," said the great millionaire, dryly, "I am not in the retail business."—Philadelphia Post.

A Designing Woman.
Sue—She has designs on him.
Belle—Since when?
Sue—Oh, ever since he consented to wear a necktie that she embroidered.—Philadelphia Record.

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