

THE NEW AGE

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EDITORIAL

EDUCATION OF COLORED PEOPLE.

A large number of educators and philanthropists have been in session during the week in Columbus, South Carolina, in the eighth annual convention of the Southern Educational Society, whose object is largely the forwarding of the work of education among the colored people of the southern states. Reports made of the work are encouraging, and great faith is felt that the condition of the Negro race in the south will be gradually much improved by education.

There is yet a large and probably a predominating portion of the well-to-do and influential white people of the south who do not believe in and will not encourage the education of the Negroes; who believe and teach that education is not beneficial but on the contrary injurious to the black people; that they thereby get false ideas of their importance and vainly and disastrously seek to get out of their proper sphere, and that education of the colored people only causes trouble between the races. These white people are those who think that Negroes, merely on account of their race and color, cannot rise and should not be encouraged or permitted to rise above the status of menial service, or to become to any extent independent and responsible citizens. On the other hand, however, there is an increasing number of influential southern whites who are disposed to encourage Negro education, at least to a limited extent and especially along industrial lines, and we think it may be safely predicted that this sentiment will grow in the south until, perhaps, in the somewhat distant future, it will be generally acknowledged that the education of Negroes to a considerable extent will be beneficial not only to them but to the whites. Intelligent labor is always the best and cheapest labor, even if higher wages have to be paid for it, and there is no reason to assume that colored people furnish an exception to this rule, and if a far larger proportion of southern Negroes should become workers in many ways for themselves, independent of employers, and householders and business men, surely that would be no detriment to the people of either race in that section of the country.

Some writers, among them W. E. Curtis, in the Chicago Record-Herald, have recently represented the Negroes in the south as a trifling or mischievous, if not a vicious lot of people, whose appreciable elevation and advancement, even gradually, were both impossible and undesirable; but most of these estimates are made from representations made by the class of white people first mentioned in this article, and from observation of exceptional cases rather than from a scrutiny of the whole race. Of course in so large a population there are many worthless or worse Negroes, and too often these are held up by southerners and northern visitors as samples of the whole race. But it is proved by abundance of other testimony and admitted by many southern whites, that a reasonable amount of education is good for black as well as for white people, and must and does ultimately benefit both races.

It being granted that education is a good thing for the common people, for farmers and mechanics and workers of all kinds as well as for professional men, and it having been demonstrated in numberless instances that Negroes are capable not only of obtaining but of using properly an education, it follows that the theory that the education of colored people is either impossible or undesirable has nothing left to stand on. We think, however, with Booker Washington that as a rule Negroes should only

aim for and desire only a common and not a higher education, and especially one along industrial lines, one that will be practical. But the same rule applies to white people for that matter. The masses of them do not need and cannot profitably use a professional or even a higher education. There are many exceptions among the whites and not so many among the Negroes, but the latter have only had a little over a generation in which to gain or manifest attainments, while the white race has had centuries in which to evolve. We do not say that there are no racial differences, but do maintain that neither these differences, such as they may be, and still less the color of the Negroes, should not prevent them from encouragement and aid in gradual evolution and advancement through the process of education, and also through a reasonable degree of common contact with the at present admittedly superior race in attainments.

The Negro is a citizen, a man or woman, a taxpayer, almost invariably an intelligent worker in some way, and can no longer be considered as a poet said an Englishman considered his wife, "A little better than his dog, a little lower than his horse."

A WEEK OF HUSTLING.

It is only a week now till the primaries, and naturally the campaign of the candidates, especially for mayor, is warming up, and indications are that it will be at summer heat the latter part of next week. Each republican candidate for mayor is now "putting in his best legs," or his friends are for him, and the result is in doubt.

Mayor Williams has no club, but he needs none, as the other candidates do, for not only does everybody know all about him, but nearly everybody body knows him personally, and he has a small army of men, more effective perhaps than any club, practically in his official employ. He is their superior, and a word from him would retain or discharge them, hence he needs to rent no hall nor distribute any literature.

The Glafke and Albee booms are growing; Mr. Rowe, who returned home only a few days ago, has many adherents; Mr. Cooper promises to cut no small figure in the fight, and it would not be safe to leave Mr. Merrill out of the calculation.

While a pretty safe guess might be made as to the outcome, we might be mistaken, and it is best to make no predictions, except that each candidate will receive quite a large complimentary vote, and the nominee will become the candidate only by a small plurality, unless some withdraws take place.

The most numerous list of candidates for any other office is that for municipal judge, but in this case the result appears less doubtful, though three or four candidates will receive a large number of votes each. The other contests of most interest will be for the office of city attorney and city treasurer, with the chances, at least in the latter case, in favor of the present incumbents of those offices.

The probably nominees for councilman in two or three wards, at least, can be easily picked out while in other wards the result is uncertain.

It seems to be generally believed that Dr. Hary Lane will be the democratic candidate for mayor, and whether he will have any chance for election or not depends, of course, on how much the republican vote is split up, for there may be one or more independent republican candidates.

EARLY TRIALS NOW.

The decision of Judge Bellinger on the motions in abatement in the land fraud cases, as was generally anticipated, was in the government's favor, and as it cannot be appealed from and the demurrers will doubtless be decided the same way, the defendants will be brought to trial at an early date, probably early in June, and it is expected that Senator Mitchell will be first tried on one at least of the indictments against him, and Representatives Hermann and Williamson next.

as their present position is not only humiliating to them but an injury to the state, which needs them or some successor in Congress next fall.

They may not resign if convicted, for they would still have the right of appeal, which they would doubtless exercise, but if the evidence is sufficient to convince the jurors of their guilt, even though the degree or quantity of guilt may not appear very great to most people, yet it would be their duty to resign before Congress meets again, for their usefulness as members of Congress would be destroyed, and, as stated, it would be injurious to Oregon to be represented in the next Congress by only one man.

On this account, and also because of the good they have done for Oregon, and the strong and numerous friendships they have made in the state, it is to be sincerely hoped that the evidence will not be sufficient to warrant conviction. Even then the defendants might not have the influence they would have had they not been accused and indicted and it is improbable that any of them even if acquitted would be returned to his present position at the end of his term, though it might be otherwise if the evidence was flimsy or the offenses trifling in the public judgment, and if in popular estimation, they are the victims, as they or their defenders insinuate, of persecution.

At any rate, it is well that the cases will soon proceed to trial, and that the public as well as jurors carefully selected will read or hear all the evidence and be better able therefrom to form an opinion respecting the charges against the distinguished defendants. There may be two or more opinions even then, but the evidence as produced fully in court ought to give the public more light on the subject than it has yet obtained.

RELIGION AND REASON.

A Seattle man became violently and hopelessly insane on account of attending the Chapman revival meetings, there, and very likely many cases, most of them less aggravated, may be found in every city visited by the revivalists. Religion is a good thing, at least it is so regarded by a great number of very intelligent and conscientious people, but it is only a good thing when entertained and acted reasonably, practically and in moderation. It is not good for a steady sole diet for the mind, for in this very practical world many other things are absolutely necessary to think about, talk about and act upon.

Emotion is not religion, nor any part thereof, though it may be a symptom and an outward expression of genuine as well as fancied religious conviction and conversion. A little occasional emotion does no harm either to the mental or physical system, rather good, perhaps; but too much emotion is bad; one must be careful not to let emotion make reason captive.

The trouble with the crusades of revivalists like the Chapman company is that they play almost altogether upon the emotions, upon fears and vague desires and longings, and superstitions, instead of appealing to reason. Thereby they may make many additions to the churches of people who do not go insane, but incidentally they drive or lead a good

many people in the aggregate over the mental precipice at whose base lies the dark and terrible gulf of insanity.

We cannot believe that true religion requires, or that the Almighty desires or even purposed or approves, that method of teaching or portraying religion that make some people crazy, should be employed.

It is well for preachers and their religious teachers to be earnest, even enthusiastic, and for religion to be a warm, living, acting sentiment, but under the frantic and theatrical appeals of professional revivalists religion in weak or ill balanced brains becomes a destroying flame, consuming reason and driving many annually to asylums.

ROOM IN OREGON.

The population of Oregon is rapidly increasing now and will increase still more rapidly in the near future, and we would like to see, among the many tens of thousands of immigrants, a good sprinkling of industrious, thrifty colored people. A considerable number of such could find employment here in one capacity or another if they arrived with little or no means, though there is no urgent demand here for a large additional amount of colored labor. But as the city, and other Oregon cities grow, a larger number of colored workers in various capacities for which they are especially adapted, can find employment or occupation, and there is no good reason why the number of urban colored residents in Oregon should not gradually increase, along with the great increase of white population.

There is also room and opportunity in the country, remote from towns or even near them, for colored families with means enough to buy a little land and make a start thereon, and who are willing to work in raising grain, stock, garden truck, fruit and poultry. Prices of such products are high here. The climate is mild, the people are generally fair and liberal, and colored men who desire and are able to engage in an agricultural occupation could find no better Northern state, at least, than Oregon.

MARSHAL MATTHEWS.

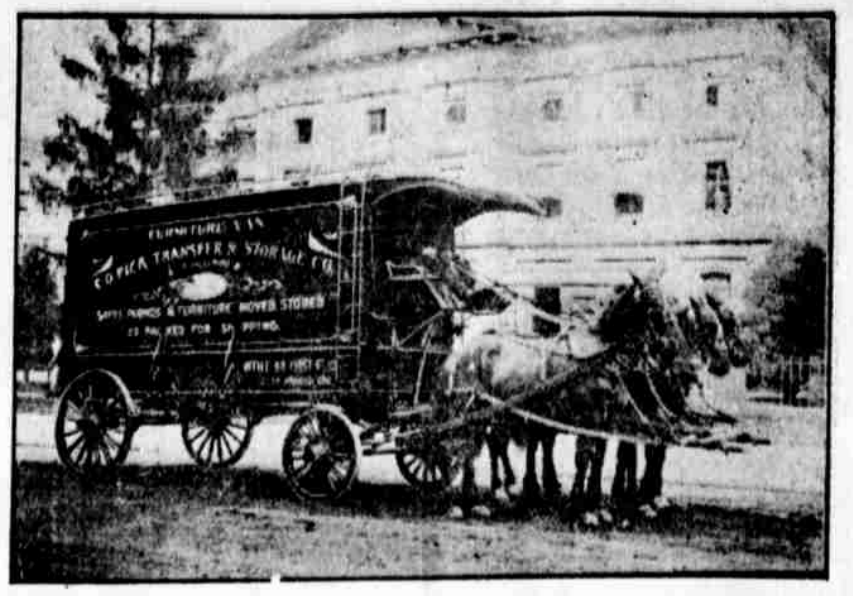
One of the federal officials of Oregon who, notwithstanding some rumors months ago of his removal, has held on and appears to have given entire satisfaction to the government at Washington, is United States Marshal W. F. Matthews. Mr. Matthews has been a political leader here, and generally a very successful one, for a long time, and in the fierce factional fights that have occurred he of course made some temporarily bitter enemies, who strove mightily to dislodge him or bring him into disfavor; but without avail. Close investigation evidently convinced the government that "Jack" was all right, and everybody knows and admits that he is a peculiarly competent and efficient officer. So he is likely to remain where he is during President Roosevelt's term, and Oregon could not have a man in that position capable of filling it better.

Nobody need go into the exposition grounds dry inside, or remain dry long after coming out.



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