

Portland New Age

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**JOSEPH BENSON FORAKER**  
Of Ohio

EDITORIAL

TILLMAN AND THE NEGROES.

Discussing Senator Tillman's recent speeches on the Brownsville affair the Detroit News, a conservative, independent paper, says:

"While it is easy to characterize Senator Tillman as a blatherskite or a fanatic, as has been done on previous occasions when he has vehemently expressed the sentiments and convictions which were the subject matter of his tirade in the senate on Saturday, it is no longer possible to overlook the fact that his utterances are representative of an opinion and a determination sufficiently widespread to constitute a most serious menace to the social and political tranquility of the nation.

"However reckless and incendiary may be the forms of expression he chooses, it is not safe to forget that, as to the fundamentals of the problem that so excites him, he speaks with a many-tongued voice. His intemperance and unreason should not be permitted to conceal the facts as to the extent to which the south as a whole is prepared to go to insure the continued dominance of its ideas on the race question.

"It is a singular fact that, to date, the very measures which at their inception were advertised as a panacea for the difficulties involved have apparently produced a notable increase in the intensity of race feeling, and in the frequency of its violent outbreaks. When southern congressmen were pleading a few years ago that their people be left alone to work out their own problems as best they might, and protesting against resort to the fifteenth amendment in correction of the disfranchisement provisions of their new state constitutions, the dominant party was clearly inclined to listen sympathetically. With such exceptions as Crumpacker, of Indiana; McCall, of Massachusetts, and a few other republican leaders there appeared to be a distinct disposition in the dominant party to at least await the observation of such results as might be achieved by the practical elimination of the negro vote.

"Instead of increased tranquility at the south and the abatement of the intenser aspects of the conflict, there has followed a period of disturbance and of epidemic race wars unparalleled since reconstruction days, and these outbreaks have not been confined entirely to the former slave states. It is Tillman's value in this situation that he utters frankly thoughts which are in many minds and glories in declarations which other men are suppressing, in the waning hope that some means of avoiding a direct meeting of the issue may yet be devised."

While Tillman's sentiments may find a responsive echo in the minds of many southerners, there are on the other hand a great many other people in that section of the country that do not applaud him or approve of much that he says, while in the north and west, the sections of the country that will dominate on any issue that may arise, even, if it be necessary the negro or race question, there are comparatively few who agree with him. The north and west were and are willing to leave the suffrage question in the south to the states of that section and are making no loud or concerted protest about the practical disfranchisement of the colored voters in violation of the constitution of the United States, nor do they care how closely private social lines are drawn between the races; but the country as a whole will not quietly submit to seeing the negroes deprived of oppor-

tunities and advantages for earning a livelihood in freedom, acquiring the rudiments at least of an education and bettering their condition as best they may.

This is what Tillman insists shall not be done, and he roars in violent wrath at the proposition to give the colored man equal opportunities, to give him an equal chance to become independent and self respecting, and as far as may be in fact as well as in law, equal. He would give the black man no chance to be anything but a drudge, a serf, a creature entirely dominated and in all respects subordinate and dictated to by his white master. He goes on the theory, and draws conclusions from the assertion, that the negro is utterly incapable and unworthy of being anything better or else than a slave in fact if not in law, and he considers official treatment of him as an equal or as entitled to equal rights as an outrage upon the white race in general and the Tillman tribe in particular.

With this the people of the north and west, and many of the south, will not agree, and they will not tolerate the carrying out of Tillman's theory and policy to a very great extent. The colored people are citizens, entitled to the laws protection, and while partly for policy's sake and partly out of ancient prejudice the people of the country may allow discriminations against the blacks to a certain extent, they will not allow either their re-enslavement or extermination, which seems to be Tillman's ultimatum. If the race war predicted by Tillman and other blatherskites and negrophobists should ever occur, it is they who will be chiefly responsible for it and not the colored people, and this the people of the great north and west will understand, and will act accordingly.

MR. BRYAN.

Mr. W. J. Bryan has paid Portland another visit and was the object of much attention. He is on a lecturing tour, receiving, it is said as high as \$500 a night, and so can well afford to look pleasant and talk optimistically. It is nothing to his discredit that he makes a great deal of money in this way; almost anybody would do the same if they could; but it is an indication that he is just about like the rest of mankind, and likes to see the dollars rolling his way. He is a pleasing and entertaining speaker, a good citizen, a man with a large store of knowledge, much of it gained by observant travel; but there is slight if any evidence that he is or ever could be a great statesman, or that he would be entirely a fit or safe man to elect president of the United States.

The people like to meet Mr. Bryan, like to have him drop around occasionally, even like to roll up their shining plunks to hear him talk, though he says nothing new or of any especial importance; but when it comes to electing him president they balk, and vote for his opponent. Mr. Bryan was beaten pretty badly for president in 1896, and being nominated again in 1900 was beaten a good deal worse. In 1904 he dropped out, and Parker was beaten even worse than Bryan had been four years before. That turned the tide toward him again, and it is considered certain that he will again and for the third time be the nominee in 1908. He will very likely run somewhat stronger than he did on previous occasions; he is older, wiser, and more trustworthy; the people like him rather better and are not quite so much afraid of him—that is as a president; but they are not likely to elect him in 1908, unless events now unforeseen should take place. Mr. Bryan is a thoroughgoing democrat in politics, and the democratic party is still largely in the minority in this country and is likely to remain so for a considerable number of years to come.

But Mr. Bryan need not worry. If he can stand two crushing defeats so easily, he won't much mind another one, and for years yet he will have the ability to keep the white plunks rolling his way by the thousands, which, while it isn't everything on earth, does a good deal to make a man contented, good natured and optimistic. O yes, we all like Mr. Bryan, but when it comes to voting for him for President—well, that's different.

RAILROAD COMMISSION.

The legislature may enact a railroad commission law, but it will not put the power of appointing the commissioners in the hands of the governor, and he ought not to expect that this will be done. Politics should figure as little as possible in the selection of a railroad commission, but it will figure no more to have it appointed by the legislature or by a board of three officers, one of them a democrat, than if left to a governor, who must be a democrat or a republican. Why should it be assumed that the secretary of state or state treasurer would be influenced any more by politics or be any more prejudiced than the governor? Why, the idea is untenable, if not preposterous. It is said the people elected Chamberlain notwithstanding he is a democrat; but at the same time they elected Benson, Steele, Crawford, Dunniway and Judge Eakin by far larger majorities. Again, admitting that the governor has a pretty good head and would mean to do right, haven't those other men the same qualifications. And are not three good heads better than one on such an important business?

But after the first choice is made the commissioners ought to be elected by the people. It is a strange and untenable proposition again that the people who elect other state officers, who elect the governor, who it is contended should appoint these men, that elect our supreme judges, surely filling a very important position, that now even elect United States senators, cannot be trusted to elect these commissioners. Why should the people be trusted in all these cases and not in the case of railroad commissioners? We have read some alleged or attempted reasons, invented, we suppose, by Mr. Teal, but really could see no logic, weight or reason in them.

Railroad legislation is certainly very necessary, and a commission is probably the best way to secure desired results, but the first members of the commission should be chosen by a board of state officers—one of the supreme judges would be a good person to have on it—and after that elected by the people, one every two years. It might be added that if the people don't get good commissioners in this way it will be their own fault; they will get as good ones as they choose and deserve.

STREET RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

There were three street car collisions Wednesday morning, and although nobody was killed several people were injured, and that there were no fatalities is due to good luck rather than to good management or judgment or due care on the part of the crews. We don't know what the facts are in these cases as to the experience and general capability of the platform men, but it is pretty safe to assume that they are incompetents put in to take the places of men who have become disgusted with the business. However this may be, it is certain that men really competent for these positions cannot be obtained in sufficient number permanently. There are a good many competent and careful motormen and conductors, no doubt, men who have long engaged in this work and would hardly know how to take hold of anything else, or who think it better to hang on at present wages in hope of a raise before long; but the public can't and doesn't expect good, careful service of men paid the wages these men are paid for the work they are required to do.

This is not a matter, as the company assumes it is, entirely between itself and its employes. It is a matter in which the public at large has a lively and vital interest, for the public is entitled to good service and to the employment of only competent and decently paid men, who will carry people in safety and with as little inconvenience as possible, and in the public's interest the daily papers ought to call upon the company to raise the men's wages and employ only experienced and trustworthy platform men. The people don't care particularly about the smashing up of a few cars—rather enjoy that, in fact—but they do or ought to object to being subjected not only to constant and irritating delays but to danger also. When a few more people have been

killed, perhaps the railroad company will hear from the people in a way that will cause some improvement in the service. In the meantime representatives from Portland in the legislature ought to examine the subject and see if any law could be passed that would compel the company to treat the public decently.

Every organized government except that of the negro republic of Liberia, is said to have been invited to the approaching Hague conference. As Abyssinia, which is specially invited, is a negro kingdom, and as Hayti is a negro republic, and Santo Domingo very much so, it is difficult to see why the original negro republic is excluded.

Judges Bean and Moore each received a few complimentary votes for senator. Oregon might be glad and proud if either one of them could have been elected.

Well, hurrah for Bourne, then. The New Age gives in, and hopes he will make a very influential and useful senator.

The governor is a "good fellow," of course, but he can't expect to have quite his own way about everything.

The initiative one hundred seems to be preparing to ask for a good deal more than the people will stand.

The senatorial question is settled for two years. Then it will be Fulton against the field.

Senator Mulkey can't learn many of the ropes by experience before March 4th.

Besides, we might have a rather poor stick for governor some time.

Politics can't possibly be wholly weeded out of office getting.

The country will have to suffer six years more of Tillman.

The mayor finds trouble Bruin in the police department.

Bryan didn't make any new democrats by his talks.

Well, who all want to run for mayor and councilmen?

Beginning to get down to business in Salem.

MUST APOLOGISE OR RETIRE

Fate of Swettenham Unless He Can Give Good Excuse.

London, Jan. 23.—The incident arising from the exchange of letters at Kingston between Governor Swettenham and Rear Admiral Davis now appears to be entering the waiting stage, as the government, after doing all possible in the absence of advices from the Governor of Jamaica, is obliged to defer further action until he reports.

In the meantime the trend of official sentiment is toward having Governor Swettenham apologize or retire, but this is based on the press accounts of the incident and on letters, and it may be modified by Governor Swettenham's version, giving extenuating circumstances.

In the absence of a report from the Governor to his government, his dispatch to Secretary Root, which has been reproduced here, tends further to mystify the mind of the public, which finds it difficult to reconcile the Governor's present recognition of the assistance rendered by the American squadron with the terms of the previous letter.

SEIZE FOOD SUPPLIES

Mayor of Cincinnati Orders Police to Stop Extortion.

Cincinnati, Jan. 23.—Mayor Dempsey yesterday afternoon issued orders to the police to confiscate food and fuel where needed for relief of food sufferers and where dealers attempted to extort unreasonable prices. This action was taken because of numerous reports of extortion in charges for transportation and for relief supplies. Those attempting extortion will be arrested.

The high water in the Ohio river is slowly but steadily receding tonight. The railroads have begun preparations to resume regular traffic, although it will be several days before the tracks are safe.

Relief work continues actively. Six school buildings have been turned over as temporary homes for the sufferers. The city council tonight appropriated a sum for a relief fund which is being augmented by private subscriptions. Appeals for aid have been received from many Kentucky towns.

Disgusted With Swettenham.

London, Jan. 23.—In a dispatch from Kingston the correspondent of the Chronicle records the extreme indignation of all classes at Governor Swettenham's conduct and says so much disgust is felt that people will demand his recall. "In every direction the government has blundered," the correspondent says, "and is still blundering badly, while it is painfully unable to cope with the situation." The Tribune and other papers publish telegrams couched in similar terms.

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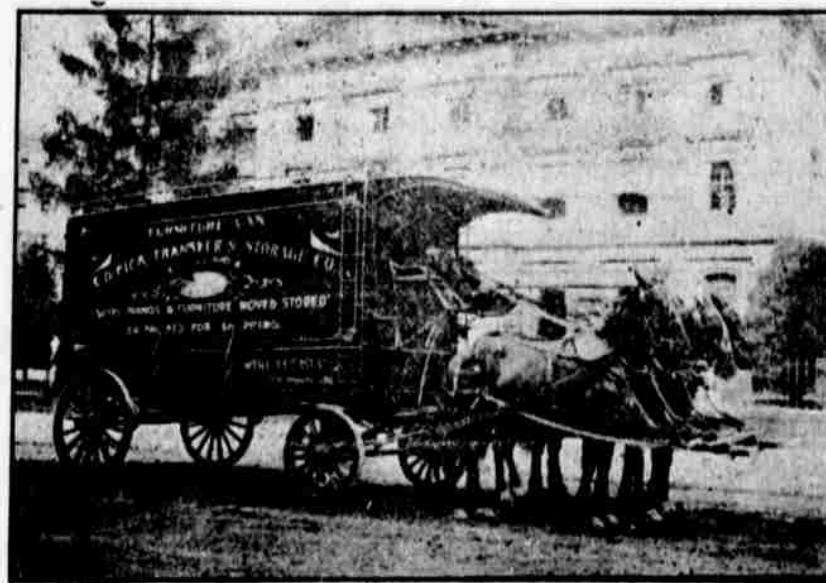
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