

THE LIBERATOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the American Negro

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LA FOLLETTE FOR WILSON

Articles Show He Will Vote for New Jersey Man

Warmly Commends Him in Recent Editorial

Strikes a Hard Blow at Hopes of Roosevelt

Madison (Wis.) Oct. 1—(Special Dispatch.) The reader of the five La Follette articles on Roosevelt, which will run in a series at intervals of a week beginning Friday, will come to this conclusion:

Senator La Follette and his following will vote for Gov. Wilson for President.

Roosevelt will be out of consideration by the attack on him as a fake progressive, who is parading around the country with a false-face platform and hollow promises which his record shows he will not endeavor to keep.

Taft will be pictured as a conservative, but thoroughly honest, a quality not conceded to Roosevelt.

La Follette's Advice.

There will be no discussion of Wilson, but in his advice to Progressives La Follette will point the way out of the dilemma presented by the Taft and Roosevelt candidacies. It will be this:

Real Progressives should maintain their organization within the Republican party, so that in 1916 they will be ready to take upon their shoulders the task of leadership and the work of reform.

To maintain this organization within the party bind allegiance to party nominee and the party

declaration is not essential. No aid or encouragement should be given to a third party, which is trying to divide the Progressive Republican movement.

In his articles La Follette will clothe both Taft and Roosevelt with reactionary mantles and he will leave his readers to judge which of the three candidates is wearing a Progressive cloak.

Friendly to Wilson.

La Follette's magazine has taken an unusually kindly interest in Woodrow Wilson. An editorial in the current issue entitled, "A Worthy Sentiment," pours encomiums on Gov. Wilson for the way he handled the New Jersey fight for the United States Senator. The editorial bears the stamp of La Follette's own workmanship and reads in part as follows:

"Considerations of party harmony appear to have modified Woodrow Wilson's opposition to boss Smith not in the least degree, Smith thought the election of Wilson as Governor of New Jersey and the rise of the Democratic party to power in that State opened the way for his easy accession to a seat in the United States Senate. Wilson thought otherwise. He declared the voice of the voters as expressed in the Democratic primaries should prevail. A pitched battle ensued. Wilson was victorious.

"Now Smith is again pressing his desire to be United States Senator. Perhaps it occurred to

him that Wilson as a candidate for President, might find it inexpedient to show the same aggressive opposition to him that he showed as Governor of the State. If so, he found that the other formula of boss politics do not apply this time."

COL. ROOSEVELT'S MISTAKE

In his ambition to succeed president Taft as president of the U. S., Col. Roosevelt has made the mistake that wrecked the political hopes of both Webster and Blaine. Mr. Webster destroyed forever his chances to be president by voting for the infamous Fugitive Slave law—that law although violating every principle of justice and reducing to slavery, as it did, every free man of the North, Mr. Webster voted for it to win over the support of the slave holders to his presidential aspirations. That vote drove away from him the friends of liberty and won for him the bitter contempt of the slave holders.

To make friends with those who opposed the enjoyment by the Negroes of their civil and political rights, Mr. Blaine vacated the speaker's chair and went down upon the floor of the House to defeat "The Force Bill," a Grant administration measure designed to enable the Federal Government to enforce its guarantees of political and civil rights to all regardless of race or creed. As the result of the defeat of that bill, The Negroes are denied the right of civil protec-

tion and subject to the caprice of the mob from one end of the country to the other. When too late, Mr. Blaine discovered his mistake and like Webster summed up his brilliant career in two words—*"Disappointed Hope."*

At the outset of his administration, President Taft paved the way for its failure by promising to violate the oath he was taking to uphold the constitution and laws of the country—by denying to the Negro citizens of the South the right to hold public office in that section unless the Democrats there agreed to their appointment. Pres. Taft was the first ruler of this great nation to recognize the color line in the performance of his duties as president. President Taft possessed many good and great qualities; but when he agreed to abridge the rights of the Negroes, because they were weak, he committed a fatal blunder, and, as a result, he faces certain, humiliating defeat.

But Col. Roosevelt is attempting to secure a third term as president by repeating, in a more aggravated form, the blunders that wrecked the political fortune of Webster and Blaine, and threatens to make president Taft a nonentity, the equal of the forgotten president, Hayes. Col. Roosevelt's now famous "Julian Harris letter," reduced to its logical conclusion, would nullify the rights of the entire Negro race.

President Taft would recognize the rights of Southern Negroes to hold office—provided that no white man of that section opposed it. In other words, he would make the Negro's enjoyment of his constitutional rights depend upon the willingness of his white neighbor to respect them.

Col. Roosevelt, to get the Southern white vote and the Northern Negro vote, would go president Taft one better—by completely nullifying the Southern Negroes' constitutional rights, until such a time in the remote future, that the people with whom the Negroes are competing, will regard themselves as far enough ahead to grant the Negro the exercise of his

God-given rights without inconvenience to themselves.

President Taft, so far as we have been able to learn, has made no attempt to keep Southern Negroes out of National Conventions; but Col. Roosevelt, head of the Progressive Party, agreed to their exclusion from the Progressive National Convention at its very outset.

Col. Roosevelt professes great friendship for the Negro race, and proposes to prove it by abridging their constitutional rights. The slave holders took the same position and claimed that the best way to promote the Negro's interest was to keep him in slavery. The Colonel is, doubtless, well acquainted with the history of the world and its people; but we doubt his ability to point out a single instance where the opportunities of a people have been increased by keeping them in shackles. Brownsville might have been forgotten; but the "Julian Harris letter" will prove a political millstone about Col. Roosevelt's neck. If after

he bolted the Republican Convention at Chicago and formed his new third party he had made the absolute freedom of every American citizen to enjoy his constitutional rights, without regard to race, color or section, one of the cardinal principles of the Progressive party, he not only would have secured the 600,000 Negro votes of the North, but would have challenged the admiration of the people of the South, and been swept into the presidential chair. As planks in Col. Roosevelt's new third party platform his "Door of Hope" and his "All men up and not some men down," would have proven a talisman, that would have attracted to his party the lovers of liberty, and seekers for larger opportunities in every section of the country.

But the Colonel has crossed the Rubicon.

THE LADIES OF THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON ART AND INDUSTRIAL CLUB ENTERTAINS. EDITOR EDMONDS PAYS GLOWING TRIBUTE TO WOMEN OF THE RACE.

The reception tendered their husbands by the ladies of the Booker T. Washington Industrial and Art Club, at the home of Mrs. A. Lively, 910 East 32nd street, on the evening of Sept. 26th, was one of the pleasantest as well as the most profitable entertainments of the season. The spacious front rooms were tastefully decorated; the color scheme being green and yellow. These, with a profusion of cut flowers, gave the place the appearance of a fairy land.

At an early hour the guests arrived; every section of the city being represented. The beautiful suburb of Hollywood sent in its full quota showing that Hollywood is taking a lively interest in the good work the Club is doing.

Music was furnished by Masters Perry and Patrick, young musicians who have charge of the Club's orchestra, which is made up entirely of young boys and girls.

The club has given the young people of the neighborhood a prominent place in the organization, and many of the exhibits of excellent handiwork are contributions of the young people. The club is putting forth special efforts to keep the young people in school, and is rapidly raising a fund to open a place of business that will furnish them employment in keeping with their fitness. This will be strictly an industrial store and the goods sold will be largely manufactured by the club. Furniture and house furnishings, made by the club members, will constitute the bulk of the stock. One of the club members has promised a long lease free on a lot upon which the club will erect a building. The club is preparing to give a public exhibit in a short time at which visitors from all over the city will be invited.

Program.

After a short program the speaker of the evening, the editor of this journal, delivered a short address, devoting his time mainly to what the colored women have contributed to race progress. He highly complimented the ladies of the club for the efforts they were putting forth to keep the boys and girls in school and at the same time preparing to make them self-supporting on the conclusion of their education. Discussing the nobility of Negro womanhood, he showed how far hundreds of years, the dominant race around us have thrown every protection possible around their women. They have given them education, and comfort, and leisure, for physical and mental culture, placed them in splendid homes, provided them with everything to delight the eye and stimulate the imagination; the walls of the living rooms of the mothers were decorated with splendid paintings and costly statuary. With an eye to the future, this was done that children born amid such pleasing surroundings would make men and women as physically and mentally perfect as human beings could be.

"Note the difference: For more than two hundred years your mothers were slaves having nothing they could call their own, not even their bodies. The men who owned the black women made their virtue a plaything. Amid cheerless and uninviting surroundings, amidst squalor and want, their children were forced to be born out of wedlock, placed upon the auction block, sold as articles of merchandise and scattered like the leaves of the forest. Thus, generation after generation, went through that heart-crushing mill. In spite of all these hardships and heart-breaking scenes, your mothers have given the country some of its greatest soldiers, statesmen, philosophers, scholars and poets; and it is conceded today that the only American music is that which originated in the souls of your noble mothers. Although their homes were poor, with no paintings

or statuary to lend a charm to the cheerless walls of their cabins, they furnished the country with men and women whose physical development, beauty and intellectual equipments are second to none under the sun.

"Look about you, and you will find that the percentage of mental and physical deformity is less among you than any other people while the percentage of physical beauty is as great as that of others. The power to think and construct where opportunity is equal, is nowhere wanting. These are the tests by which time estimates the worth of a people. These are the tests by which you are to be measured in years to come. These things show that although your mothers possessed neither material power nor wealth, they possessed that which is better—pure hearts, nobility of character, beautiful and vivid imaginations. Taking no part in the sins they were forced by their masters to commit, hence they transmitted to posterity only the best that was in them. These are a few of the things which your mothers accomplished under the most adverse circumstances. Free from their handicaps, the future of your race is very largely in your hands. What the Negroes of the next century are to be is in the hands of the Negroes of today. I congratulate the ladies and members of this club for the high place you are trying to make for the young people of this city. It is high time that some one should commence the work, that you are doing. The fact that there are twenty thousand of us in this city and that the men among is in spite of the thousands of dollars they earn annually do not furnish employment for twenty skilled young men and women only goes to show the importance of your work and its urgent necessity."

The editor closed his address by making a strong plea to the ladies urging the necessity of education—the practical education. that one gets after leaving school; "Books," he said, "tell only of the past, they fit us for grappling

with the future, but the education which fits us for dealing with the present, the education which makes us practical men and women of today is the education we get from the study of the newspapers and magazines that come from the press by the thousands daily, weekly and monthly. The people who fail to read the newspapers and magazines are ignorant for all practical purposes of today even though they hold college diplomas. When the Negro becomes well acquainted with himself by reading his own books and papers he will no longer need look elsewhere for ideals, but will find that his own race has furnished ideals in abundance, and when in want of inspiration, he will read the writings and orations of Douglass, Dunbar, Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, Kelly Miller and a host of others. As a race we are rich in ideals in every noble department of life. The trouble with us is that we are ignorant of our own achievements. If we would read and support our own newspapers we would soon discover that some of the most brilliant newspaper men in the country are Negroes. If the Negro press of this country had the support of the Negroes a powerful press would spring up which would change the sentiment of the country towards us and their power would be felt and the "Door of Hope" everywhere be forced wide open. If the Negroes of America are to enjoy their constitutional rights they will have to own and operate a powerful press to build up a sentiment favorable to the enforcement of law regardless of race or creed. This, they can and must do.

At the close of the address refreshments consisting of sandwiches, cream pie, punch, cakes, candies and ice cream, all furnished by the baking department of the club.

The following guest were present: Mr. and Mrs. A. Lively, Mr. and Mrs. John Russell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Stovall, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Laurey, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bridges, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Vaughn, Mr.

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PRES. TAFT, COL. ROOSEVELT OR GOV. WILSON—WHICH?

The Negro voters of the country are face to face with a situation they have never met before. They have a choice of three presidential candidates: Pres. Taft, candidate of the old line Republican; Col. Roosevelt, Bull Mooser Republican candidate; and Gov. Wilson, candidate of the Democracy. Pres. Taft's Southern Negro policy has made him unpopular with the Negroes everywhere. Col. Roosevelt's "Julian Harris letter" and the Brownsville memories have

won for him the solid hostility of the leading Negroes throughout the land. Of Gov. Wilson not much is known, so far as the Negro is concerned. However, the fact that the leading Negroes of his state are loyally supporting him is significant. With respect to the Negroes, Mr. Taft's platform is his "Southern Negro policy." Col. Roosevelt's platform is his "Julian Harris Letter." From the above it will be seen that both Pres. Taft and Col. Roosevelt recognize race, color and section in their platform.

Gov. Wilson says: "If elected president I will be president of the whole nation. I will know no white or black, no North or South, no East or West, no home-born or foreign-born; but will treat every citizen according to the law. If, as president of the United States, any law should be passed by Congress abridging the rights of the Negroes I would veto it."

You have here the positions of the three principle candidates respecting the rights of the Negro. While it is true these men are only representatives of parties, as president, their policies, respecting the Negro's rights, whether favorable or unfavorable, will be very apt to become the nation's policy. Hence, while the Negro is debating this subject, it would be well to pay some attention to the individuals.

It must not be taken for granted that Mr. Debs will be over-looked by the colored voters. On the contrary he will receive thousands of their votes.

Out of all this confusion of presidential candidates the Negro will be benefitted. It will not be possible this year to repeat the blunder that has so long proven fatal to their rights—voting solidly for one party regardless of issues.

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

The address to men only, delivered at Wesley Chapel by Rev. Charles Stewart last Sunday afternoon, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., was attended by a

large audience. The absence of boys from 14 to 20 years was not only noticeable but regrettable as well. Dr. Stewart vividly described the dreadful effects upon the health and character of the race by ignorance of hygiene and fast living. And the warning that he gave those present should have been heard by every young colored man in the city.

The El Dorado Gold Star Mining Company, having employed an expert mining engineer, have commenced development work in earnest. They expect to reach paying ore in a short time. The two years work since reorganization have been productive of much encouragement to the Company. The engineer declares that 60 feet more of development work will open up the mine in good shape and put it on a paying basis.

Under the auspices of the Literary department of the Epworth League, Rev. Chas. Stewart delivered his lecture: "Uncle Ned and His Son," to a crowded house. The lecture proved both instructive and amusing.

THE LYCEUM'S DEBATE

The debate: "Resolved that the Progressive Party ought not to have the Negro Vote," will be continued at the Lyceum next Sunday. The debate is attracting considerable attention, big crowds attending the meetings. All persons are allowed three minutes to discuss the subject, while the judges are preparing their decision.

Messrs. E. B. McClellan and L. A. Watson will again take the affirmative, and Mr. J. Thos. Norris and Miss Maude Morrison will take the negative. Those wishing to hear a live, interesting discussion will do well to visit the Lyceum, Sunday, Oct. 6.

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