

THE LIBERATOR

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

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LOS ANGELES, CAL., JUNE 20, 1913

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Abolish the Death Penalty

By Hon. Frank H. Mouser, Member of the Assembly.

Should the State of California abolish the death penalty? Yes, the State of California should abolish the death penalty. Why? Because it is inhuman and unjustifiable in this age of human progress and Christian advancement. Who are the usual victims of this ancient barbarous custom, handed down from the Mosaic law? It is the man without money and without influential friends. Therefore, a law that only hangs the poor—and never hangs the rich—should be repealed. What right has the State of California to take the life of any man when the State of California cannot give, or restore life to any man? Who is to say a man is guilty of murder—a judge and twelve men? A judge is not infallible, and jurors sometimes make mistakes, and many an innocent man has paid the death penalty for those mistakes. It is said to protect society it is necessary to kill the murderers as a deterrent to prevent others from committing such a crime. What a fallacy. Murders are committed by men who are mentally unbalanced—murders are committed in the heat of passion—murders are committed to revenge a fancied wrong. Therefore it is not necessary for the State to commit murder in the name of law. It is for the State to place the mentally sick in a home to be cared for and cured. It is for the State to restrain behind prison walls those who are vicious and dangerous. For a man confined behind prison walls cannot commit murder. This is the humane treatment that should be given to every murderer that so-

ciety may be properly protected. An effort was made during the session of the Legislature to pass a law abolishing capitol punishment. The bill was introduced in the senate and refused passage by a vote of 15 for and 23 against. The bill was not voted upon in the assembly. This prevents such a law being enacted for two years, unless by the initiative at an earlier date. Let us hope and fervently pray that in the near future capitol punishment may be forever blotted from our beautiful State.

LOGIC

The logical end of hatred is murder. Race prejudice is traditional hatred of human beings. Its end is lynching, war and extermination.

To say this thus bluntly and brutally is to invite strong denial. Race prejudice has often been professed by men of highest ideal and motive who would shrink at violence of any kind. But this is because such men are deliberately illogical, and their followers in the long run are not illogical, but carry their leaders' doctrine to the bitter end. For instance, it is said this group of people are inferior to my group. Therefore, they are not entitled to the same privileges. But suppose they demand rights beyond their desert; then refuse them; if they keep demanding, silence them by law; if legal means do not keep them in their place, mob law is justifiable.

Thus the doctrine of race inferiority runs down to murder. Let

us trace it in this country since the war. Negroes, being inferior, ought not to vote, said the reconstruction protesters. The nation, therefore, consented to their disfranchisement with the distinct understanding that all their other rights and privileges were to be preserved.

But if a man is not fit to vote why educate him and make him discontented? Consequently there was a movement against education which was so successful that today there are 2,000,000 Negroes not even enrolled, and practically half the Negro children in the land are not being decently trained in elementary schooling.

True, but one will give them good industrial training, make them skilled workmen, so that they can save their money and buy property. No, answers the white workman, they will compete with me and lower my wages. No, cries the white home owner, I don't want Negroes in my block.

Very well, says the compromiser, segregate Negroes in a Ghetto. But, answers the Negro, the Ghetto is in the worst part of the city, is unhealthy, ill-cared for, filled with prostitutes whom you segregate with us, and we can't better our condition because we cannot vote.

What then is the next step? Are we not harking right back to slavery? Is there any logical resting place on this downward path between a theory of inferiority and a theory of mob violence and extinction?

No. The man who begins by saying, "This man is not entitled to equal rights with me," ends by either himself saying or letting

others say, "Lynch the Nigger."

The next step which attacks the property of Negroes comes at this time because of the advance of the Negro in economic lines. Let us note this advance in a single State like Virginia, with 670,000 Negro inhabitants. The Negroes cultivate 48,114 farms and the value of the farms which they own and rent increased from \$24,529,016 in 1900 to \$54,748,907 in 1910, or 123 per cent. Or if we would have figures covering simply ownership we find that

In 1891 Negroes owned \$12,089,965
In 1900 Negroes owned 15,856,570
In 1911 Negroes owned 32,944,336

This astounding advance of over 100 per cent in property holding in a decade is the real reason for the attack on Negro property rights in Virginia, where three cities have tried to erect Negro Ghettos.

What lies beyond if the nation allows this last attack to succeed?

--*The Crisis.*

Mr. Milton W. Lewis, who was recently injured in an automobile accident, is improving slowly and is out of danger. Mr. Lewis is a prominent real estate dealer and agent in charge of Birch Court.

MR. COLEMAN IS MAKING A TELLING FIGHT

Mr. Coleman is making a vigorous fight for the presidency of the Forum and feels confident of landing the office. Hundreds of cards containing his platform are being handed out by his friends, who are sanguine of his success. His platform is as follows:

Vote for J. W. Coleman for President of the Forum. Hundreds of people have drifted away—a change will bring them back. No foes to punish; no friends to reward. Our motto: "In union there is strength. Peace and harmony, good will to all mankind is the strength of organizations." The Forum is owned and ought to be run by the people. Election June 29th, 1913.

"ATLANTA, GEORGIA, SINCE THE RIOT"

was the subject of a very interesting lecture delivered by Dr. Geo. H. Trever, of Gammon Theological Seminary, at Wesley M. E. Church Monday evening, the 16th inst. The lecture, which proved very entertaining, was delivered to a large audience. Dr. Trever, after describing the unfortunate conditions existing in Atlanta before the riot, showed how that outburst of lawlessness was followed by a reign of law. It was one of those human thunderstorms that cleared the moral atmosphere.

After that dreadful week of lawlessness the white people of Atlanta realized as never before their duty to their black citizens. They began by putting the saloons out of business, and forced the white men, who profited by the vices of Negroes, to seek other and higher employment. The newspaper immediately responsible for the outbreak was suppressed by the withdrawal of their patronage by the business men. The white people also decided to cease holding the whole Negro race responsible for the crimes of individuals; and that even-handed justice be meted out to all by the courts. He says that what is true of Atlanta is slowly taking place throughout the South. That everywhere in the South that white men are slowly learning that it does not pay to profit by the ignorance, crime and shiftlessness of certain Negroes; that the better way to lessen crime is to increase the intelligence; and that prosperity built upon a square deal for all is the only lasting prosperity.

He urged the colored men, wherever they have the ballot, to use it intelligently and wisely. That the ballot must never be surrendered or compromised. He stated that the belief on the part of some that it was a mistake to grant the franchise to the Negroes at the time it was done is erroneous. And that if the ballot had been withheld from the Negroes their

condition would be as deplorable as in the slave days.

Having been a long resident of the South, teaching and preaching, Dr. Trever is very optimistic as to the future of that section.

CAPT. G. W. HAWKINS

On Monday afternoon we spent a very pleasant half-hour at the home of Capt. G. W. Hawkins, 1114 E. Washington St. The residence of Capt. Hawkins is one of a group of attractive homes that have made that section of Washington street the beauty spot of the southeast.

After leaving his residence we stopped at the Captain's furniture store, corner Washington street and Central avenue. His is the largest and most complete colored furniture establishment in the city. While the Captain buys and sells second-hand furniture, his large stock is made up mainly of new furniture of the finest grade. The Captain's establishment is a credit to the race.

THE ELDORADO GOLD STAR MINING COMPANY IN THE MIDST OF A BOOM

The mining in the neighborhood of Gold Star properties is taking on a big boom. Mining machinery amounting to many hundred thousands of dollars is being shipped into the camps adjoining the Eldorado property, and scores of miners are arriving daily to operate the mines. A couple of millianaire companies that have bought up much of the property in that locality have decided to develop their claims, which, with others, are known to be valuable. This has brought the Eldorado Gold Star Mining Company to a realization of the immense value of their holdings, and puts the company in fine shape, and gives their property a big boost. Without doubt these people have a good thing, and those who buy up the remaining shares of the company's stock are making good investments.

NOT THE MAN TO SUCCEED JUDGE ROSE

Attorney J. B. Holley, whose office is in the Copp building, is a candidate for police judge, the position just vacated by Judge Rose. The position of police judge is an important one, and the man selected should not only be a good lawyer, but should be a man of broad gauge. From the following petition, which is a copy of the one signed by Mr. Holley, it appears that he is too small for the job, and should not be appointed.

We trust the Board of Supervisors will exercise care in the selection of a man to succeed Judge Rose to the end that all interests be properly served.

The following is a copy of the petition mentioned:

Los Angeles, Cal.,
Sept. 25, 1913.

Mr. Charles H. McFarland,
Lessee of Copp Bldg.,
City.

Dear Sir:

We, the undersigned tenants in the Copp Building, do hereby most vigorously protest against your leasing any offices in the Copp Building to colored tenants, and request that you refuse to lease further offices to people of color, and that you move from the building those now occupying offices therein. Our grounds for this protest are that offices in the building are undesirable for the undersigned so long as colored tenants are allowed tenancy therein.

(Among other names appended to the above petition is that of)
J. B. HOLLEY.

As the result of the above petition, Attorneys McDowell and Barnette and Harry M. Mitchell, the real estate man, all Negroes, who had offices in the Copp Building, had to vacate.

We again urge our subscribers, who are indebted to the paper, to send amounts due without delay. A prompt response from all of our friends will greatly aid the paper in the work it is doing.

SUICIDAL POLICY

Wilcox County, Alabama, has separate schools for colored children. Last year the county expended \$30,612.75 for the education of 2000 white children, and \$3,339.70 for the education of 10,758 colored children. Thirty-two cents each for the colored children, and \$15.50 each for the white children. From which it appears that it is a very serious thing for a child to be even involuntarily born black in Wilcox County.

A neglected, uneducated and wronged class is in danger of developing into a troublesome class. The disparity shown by these figures from Alabama only suggests the utter futility of trying to govern and control men by forbidding them to think and act intelligently. Wilcox County would save money, as well as put herself in line with a twentieth-century civilization, by justly treating the unfortunate Negro children within her borders. Suppressing human aspiration by processes of mental starvation has never succeeded and never will. —*The Express*.

DIES FROM SURGICAL OPERATION

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Stout, brother of Presiding Elder James A. Stout, at St. Catharine's Hospital at Santa Monica on the 14th. His death followed a surgical operation.

MRS. CHARLOTTE DEAN PASSES AWAY

The community was greatly saddened by the announcement of the death of Mrs. Charlcott Edwards Dean, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Edwards, former pastor and builder of the First A. M. E. Church, of this city. Mrs. Dean was an ideal mother and greatly beloved by her friends and neighbors. Besides her parents, a sister and brother, she leaves a husband and four children to mourn her loss.

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

Is an aphorism as true and homely as is, "Knowledge is Power." but both will be true to the end of time. Men, however, should be honest, not because it is the best policy, but because it is right. Don't be deceived by the selfish acts of some people around you. There are those who sacrifice principle whenever there is a chance to gain by so doing; and on account of their ill-gotten gains they seem to be popular; but it isn't so, the whole thing is a pretense and a sham. For selfish reasons men may pretend to put dishonesty on a par with honesty, but when the test comes—that is when vital interests are at stake—no man will trust a person whose honesty he has reasons to suspect. No matter how glittering things may appear, one can never afford to sacrifice principle in the hope of gain. When virtue is compromised, like Esau's birthright, the loser may seek it with bitter tears, but in vain.

We have frequently known people to sacrifice every principle of honesty in the hope of temporary gain; and have known men of influence and power in the community with a full knowledge of the wrong-doing, pretend to give the wrong-doer the same consideration given to men known to be loyal to principle. Such acts on the part of men who ought to know better are a mere pretense born of either selfishness, cowardice, or dishonesty.

Be not deceived—it will not do to trust yourself to the rapids of dishonesty for a single moment. Swayed by selfishness and prejudice, the wreath may be placed upon the brow of dishonesty, but the apple of every eye is the upright soul.

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THE LIBERATOR

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JEFF L. EDMONDS, JR., Assistant Editor.

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WHITE CLERKS VS. NEGROES

Louisiana Congressman Has Bill to Separate Them

Washington, June 10.—Representative Aswell of Louisiana introduced a bill today to separate white government clerks and employees from Negroes. It would provide that while there shall be no discrimination in favor of or against principles of equal efficiency on account of race, white clerks shall not be required to occupy the same offices in the government departments with Negroes nor to be under orders of Negroes, except in cases of emergency white clerks in the railway

mail service shall not have to serve in the same mail car with Negro clerks.

The attempt by Representative Aswell to commit the national government to the suicidal policy adopted by several states of the Union to their everlasting disgrace, may temporarily succeed. Either President Wilson and the sane members of the Democratic party will have to call a halt to this attempt to disgrace the national statutes with enactments of class legislation, or the country at large will take a hand. The old abolition spirit of the country is not dead, and will tolerate attempts to re-enslave the Negroes just as far and no farther. We say re-enslave because the only result that can come from such narrow legislation is the enslavement of the citizens thus ostracized. Something like 600,000 Negro votes assisted in elevating Mr. Wilson to the presidential chair, and gave him opportunities to live permanently in history that has fallen to the lot of no man since Lincoln. And he should not allow his administration to be disgraced by laws aimed to humiliate Negroes simply because they are Negroes.

The Democratic party is on trial before the civilized world. Whether it has within its make-up patriotism and statesmanship sufficient to govern with fairness to all, a great cosmopolitan nation like this, is up to the party to answer.

These 600,000 Negro voters who cast their ballots for Mr. Wilson last fall did not do so as Democrats, but as intelligent Republicans, who voted the Democratic ticket to register their protest against the attempt of certain Republicans to disregard their rights. If the National Democratic party allows itself to be handicapped by attempts on the part of members who have no way of keeping themselves in the lime-light other than that of committing assaults on the rights of Negroes, the party will lose the independent Negro vote of the

North and West and President Wilson will have a Republican House of Representatives on his hands. If the national Democratic party could exercise the same spirit of fairness towards the Negroes that is shown them by the Democrats of New York and Ohio, the Negro vote would be permanently divided.



ASSEMBLYMAN FRANK H. MOUSER

Elsewhere in these columns we publish an interesting contribution from Assemblyman Frank H. Mouser in favor of the abolition of the "Death Penalty." The article is well worth perusal, the abolition of the death penalty throughout the country being one of the live issues.

As assemblyman, Mr. Mouser has made, and is, one of the coming men of Southern California. Already his name is frequently mentioned for the governorship. The plan is to send Governor Johnson to the U. S. Senate, and make Mr. Mouser governor. This scheme has the backing of a good number of our local Progressives. Mr. Mouser is very popular with the colored people in Los Angeles, and, in fact, in California. There is no doubt that Mr. Mouser will have to be considered as an important factor in the coming State election, as he is very popular and has a big personal following.

Grant Smith
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**REWARD WITHDRAWN, LEFT
THE CITY**

We are reliably informed that Prof. Wm. E. Easton has left the city; so the reward offered for information leading to the discovery of his whereabouts has been withdrawn. To be honest and candid, we owe it to the gentleman who is now editing the hog-wash column of our local contemporary to say that he possesses a brain so peculiarly adapted to the job that to remove him would be cruelty to animals. When the thing a man is doing gratifies his tastes it is best to keep him on the job.

A NEW BEACH RESORT

The new pleasure beach which is to be opened on the 19th with a big picnic, should be well patronized. No whiskey is sold at this beach, nor will any be allowed on the grounds. The object of the promoters of this pleasure resort is to furnish a sea-side play ground for our Sunday school and Church picnics that shall be absolutely free from rowdiness of every character. Knowing the absolute need of such a place, we trust that our ministers will become interested in this matter, and encourage the people to patronize this new venture so as to provide a permanent place for elevating pleasure outings for our Sunday school children.

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It is up to you to take advantage of this special dispensation price in the few days that remain.

As already stated in previous announcements, the Corporation is now having the final tests made preparatory to the installment of Machinery for the milling of ores on their properties.

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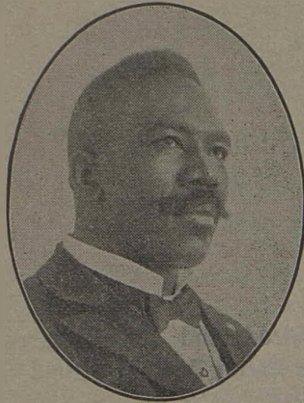
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MONEY

carried on the person is not safe!

MONEY

loaned without good security is not safe!

MONEY

risked in speculation is not safe!

—but money deposited in a Term Savings Account with the oldest and
largest savings bank in the Southwest is *ABSOLUTELY SAFE* and will
earn 4% compound interest.

Capital and Reserve.....\$3,400,000.00

Resources More Than\$47,500,000.00

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EQUITABLE BRANCH
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