

# CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.

\*\*\*\* ORGANIZED SEPTEMBER 1, 1891. \*\*\*\*

## To Test the Constitutionality of the Separate Car Law.

ARTHUR ESTEVES, President.	FIRMIN CHRISTOPHE, Secretary.	G. G. JOHNSON, Ass't. Sec'y.	PAUL BONSEIGNEUR, Treasurer.
LAURENT AUGUSTE, PIERRE CHEVALIER, M. J. PIRON,	C. C. ANTOINE, N. E. MANSION, R. B. BAQUIE, L. A. MARTINET,	R. L. DESDUNES, A. B. KENNEDY, A. J. GIURANOVICH, L. J. JOUBERT.	ALOE LABAT EUGENE LUSCY, E. A. WILLIAMS,

New Orleans, La., Oct 25 1891

Hon. A. W. Toussaint

Wayville, N. Y.

My very dear Sir -

Ever since  
the receipt of your last favor I have  
been trying to write, but could not get  
a chance until to-night. In  
addition to my usual labors I have  
nearly all the work our Committee  
to do & it keeps me very busy.

I am glad you were pleased  
with my mention of your  
name for the Interstate Commis-  
sion. I had this in mind for some  
time, but feared to say the wrong thing.  
In fact I thought of mentioning  
you on the Court of Appeals bench,  
but then the <sup>colored</sup> journals were asking

2

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New Orleans, La., ..... 189.

the appointment of a colored man, &  
I thought - the one might antagonize  
the other. I have not, however, in-  
dulged the hope that the President  
would appoint a colored man. The  
colored lawyer is not only beset by pre-  
judice, but he has yet his work to  
make at the bar. Longston is said to be  
well versed in the law, but he is ~~very~~<sup>too</sup>  
vain to add much dignity to the bench.  
I gave my support to Straker, as  
probably the best, though I have ~~not~~  
a moderate opinion of his attain-  
ments. I ~~do~~ not know whether  
I have done well, except in ~~the~~<sup>a</sup>  
general way ~~of~~ by booning a man  
of the race. Since we organized  
to fight the separate car, we must

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New Orleans, La., ..... 189

him our address, with circular asking  
his assistance, as we had done with others.  
We expected no money from him, but  
wanted his endorsement & moral support  
at least. His answer does not indicate  
that his heart is much in the cause.  
In fact he was more interested in  
the Ohio campaign. He was the colored  
lawyer we ~~intended~~ <sup>thought of</sup> having in the case.  
He did not know it, <sup>of course</sup> but I had men-  
tioned his name to the Committee, & he  
was acceptable, if you agreed with our  
plan. It is of no use now, & I sup-  
pose we'll have no colored lawyer  
in it. If I could I would go into  
it myself, but I have not the time.

Returning to the mention of your name  
for the Commerce Commission, I hope that

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New Orleans, La., ..... 189

the colored papers will take it up & press it. ~~Last~~ Last week, at my suggestion, the editor of the New Era wrote a nice little article in your favor & I suppose you got his paper - & this week I made one for the Standard-Pelican, which the editor made his "leader". I don't suppose you get this paper, so I enclose the article. I ~~hope they~~ have also sent the articles which appeared in The Crusader to the President, in the name of our Committee, together with our address that he might understand who we are. I hope all this will have the desired effect of helping your appointment. A letter this week from Ex-Senator Kellogg, from whom

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New Orleans, La., ..... 189

there are few men who keep better posted in Washington, leads me to believe that there is a probability of your appointment. He does not know that you have communicated with me on the subject any more than I knew that the President had your name under consideration until you <sup>told</sup> ~~wrote~~ to me. If you are nominated the Senate will confirm you. A Republican Senate will not dare reject you. Yes, I understand, if you are appointed we will be three more benefitted.

You puzzle me. I cannot imagine who was that enemy who proved a friend & who spoke to you of me. I thought few people outside of the State knew <sup>of</sup> me, except in a general way.

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New Orleans, La., ..... 189

Yes, I am sure we agree in the "Liberty League"  
 a "National Citizens' Equal Rights Ass'n",  
 and when organized on the lines you indicate  
 & for the purposes you name - which com-  
 bines those I had in mind - it will be  
 a success, I firmly believe; it will  
 have influence, dignity & effectiveness.

While we need resist the encroachment  
 on our rights in the South, the South  
 needs to be educated as to conditions in the  
 South & <sup>its</sup> ~~the~~ disloyalty & rebellious ten-  
 dencies. ~~in the~~ And we need do the  
 work soon.

You desire to abolish the "Jim Crow"  
 car & paralyze the Mississippi ballot  
 restriction. We are going to do what we  
 can against the "Jim Crow" car now,  
 and when we have the car well

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New Orleans, La., ..... 189

Under way, we must turn our attention  
to the suffrage restriction. The signs are  
ominous also in Louisiana. There is a  
row going on now among the Democrats  
over the Lottery question - they are fairly  
split. ~~But~~ By the power of its money the  
Lottery will start with a solid delegation  
to the State Convention, which convenes on  
Dec. 16, from this large city, which is <sup>Delegation</sup> ~~about~~ <sup>yearly</sup>  
one-third of the convention; ~~and~~ whereas the  
feeling in the houses is largely against  
the Lottery. ~~But~~ both <sup>sides</sup> are as unanimous  
against the Negro - I send you some  
papers by which you can see their style  
of oratory in speaking of the Negro during  
the meeting of the Democratic State Committee  
here last week, which perhaps may have  
escaped your attention - Each side would

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New Orleans, La., ..... 189

like to shut the Negro off on this question if it was not afraid of the other. Both sides want him dispatched, and above the din & noise of the campaign in their own ranks, I see looming up the ominous figure of a Constitutional Convention to qualify suffrage after the Mississippi plan. The calamity will be greater to us than to our Mississippi friends. Louisiana is the only State in the Union where illiteracy is on the increase, & that among both races & proportionately in a greater degree among the whites, though having twice the number of schools & teachers. But ~~this~~ ~~discrepancy~~ will be rectified when they ~~will~~ have their heels on the Negro's necks.

The bitterness of the fight between the Anti- & the Pro- Lottery may postpone the calamity.



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New Orleans, La., ..... 189

& then something may turn up - The National Citizens' Equal Rights 'Com' might then be able to pull us out. But one unfortunate thing in the present emergency is that the Republican leaders, notwithstanding all the infamies of this ~~own~~ gambling corrupt corporation which throttles Republicanism in this State, from the Lottery, <sup>even</sup> ~~own~~ <sup>Pending</sup> Harrison is a participant. They latter do not say it, but they are all that way. The lottery keeps them up, as it has always <sup>most regrettable</sup> done. I think it one of the ~~worst~~ things in Republican politics in Louisiana that every Republican member of the Legislature has ever voted for the Lottery on any measure in which it was interested. They all - including ex-Gov. Warrick - <sup>in the Constitutional Convention of 1879</sup> voted to put it in the Constitution.

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New Orleans, La., <sup>to gain votes</sup> ..... 189

When the argument on the Democratic side was that it had furnished the money to put down the Packard Government.

Now to the business more immediately on hand. Our fund is near \$1900. We expect it to be about \$2000 for the first. Though we are having some spokes in the wheel ~~we are~~ <sup>the people are</sup> ~~we are~~ <sup>standing. They</sup> going right ahead. To-morrow night our Committee meet to consider the proposition of ~~a~~ <sup>for</sup> local attorney counsel. The party we hoped to have, because of his <sup>supported</sup> ~~reputation~~ Republicanism ~~is~~, is a little high I find. He wants \$750 as a retainer, \$750 at the Circuit Court, & \$1500, or as much

11

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New Orleans, La., ..... 189

thereof or we may have, at the Supreme Court. I think we can do better than this, & have a lawyer of equal <sup>higher</sup> standing at the bar. I do not think the terms too high, considering that the rights of a people are involved, but we do not wish to obligate ourselves beyond our ability - to cancel obligations. We want, under the circumstances, to do the right thing, without appearing meekly.

I shall write again after our meeting to-morrow night & send the official resolution of your appointment as our leading counsel. Of course it is understood that, wherever we have here in the case, you shall have control

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New Orleans, La., ..... 189

from beginning to end. We shall have none except on those terms, and those already spoken to agree perfectly or to that.

We shall be glad if you can have Senator Edmund in the case <sup>to a certain extent</sup> or if you ~~expect~~ <sup>hope</sup>, & will like to know the terms of other associates you ~~expect~~ <sup>expect</sup> to have, and this as soon as possible that we may make final arrangement here.

Yours very truly, now & always  
L. A. Martinet

P.S. Of course you must enclose our Committee or of the "National Citizens' Equal Rights Assn." Give the names & the required stamp.

L. A. Martinet

(Over)

I had not thought of chartering the National  
C. & P. Co. I think it a capital idea.

It will insure stability & uninterrupted  
succession, besides many other not  
less valuable advantages.

L. G. M.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013