

The Times-Democrat

BY THE TIMES-DEMOCRAT PUBLISHING CO.

THE DAILY TIMES-DEMOCRAT

Has a Larger Circulation Than Any Other Daily Newspaper

South of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers

ADVERTISING RATES.

Table with columns: Per Line, Each Time, Cons. utra, One Week, One Month. Rows include Wants, General, Reading, Do. headed, Do. unheaded, Local pages.

First, fifth or last page, 50 per cent extra. Ours, or space of ours, 25 per cent extra.

SUBSCRIBERS' TERMS.

IN ADVANCE. DAILY-SEVEN (7) PAPERS PER WEEK. Per annum... \$12 00. Six months... \$7 00. Three months... \$4 00. One week, payable to the carrier... \$0 25.

To Newsagents and Newsboys, 50 per cent.

SONDAY—(22 PAGES OR MORE.)

Per annum... \$12 00. WEEKLY—(12 PAGES) PUBLISHED FRIDAY.

Per annum... \$1 00.

Remittances should be made by post-office money order, registered letter, check or draft. When remittances are sent, subscribers should note, by referring to the printed label on their papers, whether proper credit has been given them.

Washington Bureau—No. 501 Fourteenth street.

New York Bureau—Herald Building, Herald Square.

Eastern Advertising Representative—R. A. Chalk, 41 Times Building, New York.

NEW ORLEANS, NOVEMBER 21, 1893.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

Want advertisements and marriages and death notices for insertion in The Times-Democrat at regular rates may be left at the following places until 9 o'clock P. M.: H. E. Grice, corner St. Charles and Washington avenues.

A. D. Blanchard, druggist, corner Magazine and Felicite streets.

Algiers, La., Branch—H. L. Sause, Herald office, 30 Peter street.

In Chicago.

The Times-Democrat will be found on sale in Chicago at the Palmer House, Bretnau Bros. Postoffice News Stand, Auditorium Hotel and Auditorium Annex.

In New York.

Visitors from New Orleans to New York need not feel that they are far from home. They can secure The Times-Democrat at the Astor House and the Hotel Marlborough within two days of issue.

Up town or down town in the metropolis they can get their home paper, that does not forget its locals in its eagerness to beat the world with its cable and telegraphic facilities. In The Times-Democrat offices in New York there is a welcome for every visitor from the Crescent City.

In the evening they will find the paper represented in room 17, Herald Building, Herald Square, and in the daytime at Room 41, Times Building.

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

The Times-Democrat will pay two hundred dollars to such person or persons as may capture the negro murderer Julien and hand him over safely into the custody of the regularly constituted officers of the law.

The police jury of Jefferson parish also offers a reward of \$200 for the capture of the murderer.

CONTEMPT OF COURT.

Yesterday, as will be seen from our court reports this morning, the Supreme Court of Louisiana rendered a decision in the case of the State of Louisiana ex rel. Ashton Phelps and Page M. Baker vs. Judge Monroe, of the Civil District Court.

The Times-Democrat, it will be remembered, in a local article under the caption "A Hauling Contract," commented upon testimony in a suit brought by Peter Fabacher against Bryant & Mather, while the suit was still sub judice, the jury not being in confinement. Some of the attorneys interested in the case formed and expressed the opinion that the comments of the paper influenced the minds of the jurors; and, in accordance with that opinion, suit was brought against The Times-Democrat Publishing Company, Ashton Phelps, president, and Page M. Baker, manager, for contempt of court.

In that suit, before the Civil District Court, Judge Monroe's division, The Times-Democrat was adjudged "guilty of contempt" as charged; and, while Judge Monroe took the subject of appropriate penalty under advisement, an appeal was carried by The Times-Democrat to the Supreme Court of the State.

The Supreme Court rendered its decision yesterday, as we have said; and that decision upheld the decision of the lower court, and was adverse to The Times-Democrat. The attorney of The Times-Democrat will make application for a rehearing of the suit.

THE SUFFRAGE QUESTION.

The Jefferson Democratic Club of this city discussed the question of suffrage Saturday, but came to no conclusion, deciding to leave the matter over for two weeks, so as to give it more consideration. The suffrage committee, of which Mr. B. R. Forman is chairman, submitted a report expressing its views of what the qualifications of the suffrage should be, and what amendments were needed in the Constitution to put its plan into operation. The question has thus again been brought before New Orleans for discussion.

Some months ago this subject was extensively discussed in the columns of The Times-Democrat, which were thrown open to anyone who wished to express his views thereon. Some very interesting communications were published, several of them by gentlemen who spoke before the club Saturday.

The State press joined in the debate, as we showed at the time. Nearly every paper had one or more articles on the suffrage, giving its views and the arguments supporting them. The discussion was most interesting and shed much light on the subject, bringing out the desires of the parishes and the advantages and defects of the several electoral systems proposed.

On one point all were agreed—that it was necessary to eliminate a certain element of voters, who, from ignorance or venality, are a danger to our institutions. This has been done successfully

in Mississippi, and with such good results that it was desired to similarly protect Louisiana from ever falling into the hands of its ignorant negro voters through any division in the ranks of the whites. The necessity for some protection is proved by the registration returns, which show that a majority of the voters at elections are unable to read the ballots they cast. The only question was as to the limitations to be placed upon the franchise that would best eliminate the undesirable class of voters from our politics.

At first there seemed to be a strong sentiment in favor of a provision requiring the prepayment of a poll tax; and it was urged that it would increase the receipts from this source and give us more money for the schools than we now receive. The discussion of this point did not, however, result favorably to the poll tax plan. While the provision would have given more money to the schools in New Orleans, which do not need it so much, the prospects were that it would reduce the receipts in the country parishes. There has been so much improvement in the collection of this tax of late that in some parishes 95 per cent of it is paid, and with equal efficiency that proportion of it can be collected everywhere. If the prepayment of the tax were made a prerequisite for voting, it would have one of two effects—either the negroes would pay it and vote, and it would, therefore, have no effect in cutting down the ignorant negro electorate, or they would not pay it, and the school revenue would be consequently reduced. It was shown also that the protection afforded by such a limitation of the franchise was of no value, as had been proved in Massachusetts, Virginia and other States, where voters had been bought in blocks by the payment of their poll taxes. And, finally, the inadvisability of mixing up alien questions like taxation and suffrage were clearly set forth.

The result of the discussion, therefore, was a decided expression of opposition to the poll tax qualification on the part of the country press, and several papers which had at first expressed the opinion that the plan might prove good admitted that it was not the change Louisiana needed; that something more far-reaching and vigorous was required.

The educational qualification, which is the chief feature of the new Mississippi Constitution, naturally suggested itself. That it would be effective in eliminating the negro question from Louisiana politics, as it had in Mississippi, could not be denied. There were two objections to the plan; first, there is a considerable body of illiterate white voters in Louisiana, men who through neglect or misfortune cannot read, but who are otherwise good citizens. The Mississippi Constitutional Convention found itself confronted with this same difficulty, there being 11,000 illiterate white voters in that State whom it was not desired to disfranchise. The difficulty was overcome by the famous "understanding clause." As this was not a thoroughly honest provision it was not proposed to adopt it in Louisiana, but it was suggested to except from the educational provision those paying taxes on a certain amount of property, on the ground that such property owner was a citizen who could be trusted with the franchise. Thus the franchise would be limited to those citizens who can read and write, except that such as pay taxes on a certain amount of property, but are illiterate, should enjoy the franchise, say until 1903, they being given ten years in which to master reading and writing. It was argued that a man who had no property and could not read or write was, with the rarest of exceptions, an undesirable if not dangerous voter. An electoral qualification with these provisions would admit to the franchise nearly all the white citizens of the State, and certainly all who were entitled to enjoy it.

Another possible objection was that the public school system of Louisiana is not yet efficient enough. It is the height of political cruelty not to provide sufficient schools for the education of all, and yet disfranchise those who cannot read and write, because the State failed to give them the opportunity to learn. When, therefore, Mississippi decided in favor of an educational qualification it provided in its Constitution that every child in the State should have a chance to attend school, and that no one should grow up illiterate and thus be disfranchised, except through his own fault. If they were to adopt this provision we must pursue the same just course as Mississippi, give more liberally toward education, so that every child in Louisiana will have a chance to attend school.

Such were the main suggestions of the State press—an educational instead of the poll tax electoral qualification, with an exception in favor of those paying taxes on a certain amount of property, this exception to continue only for a limited period, so as to give those illiterate property holders a chance to fit themselves for the franchise by learning to read, it being presumed that they would do so if they cared for their votes. And it was announced, in a semi-official way, that the members of the Constitutional Commission, whose duty it is to recommend needed changes in our organic law to the Legislature, were impressed by the showing made, and would favor these suggestions.

We recall these matters because the Jefferson Club has reopened the question and invites consideration. The plan proposed by its suffrage committee differs considerably from that advocated by the press. It favors the poll tax instead of the educational qualification, would require the prepayment of that as well as all other taxes six months before the election. The educational qualification is not to go into effect until 1900. As to the proposition to abolish the stupid law which grants the franchise to unaturalized aliens, there is such unanimity throughout the State that no one can doubt that it will be repealed as soon as possible, whether or not the Legislature takes any other action in regard to the franchise.

Mr. Forman spoke before the club in favor of his tax provision. Mr. Zacharie and Judge Monroe opposed it, while Dr. Bruns wanted to greatly increase the poll tax, which would have the effect of reducing the electorate, and there was a general discussion. We do not think that the suggestions of the suffrage committee of the Jefferson Club are any improvement on the

plan so generally approved by the press of the State. We would not use the election machinery as an adjunct to collect the State taxes. The poll tax can be collected in the parishes without this condition, and we regard it as most unreasonable that the country districts should be subjected to a plan which will cut down this source of revenue as far as they are concerned, in order that New Orleans may collect its poll taxes when a little more vigor on the part of its tax collectors will get the money. Nor do we believe that it is wise to tax ballots. Disfranchise those who, from ignorance or venality, are unfit to vote, but nothing to prevent or even discourage any good citizen, however poor, from exercising the franchise. A vote should never be taxed; it would be better to pay the citizen to go to the polls, as has been proposed in some countries, rather than drive him away by a poll tax, which will make it a hardship for the poorer classes to vote, or encourage them to depend, as they have done in Virginia and Massachusetts, upon some boss or committee to pay these dues for them.