

The Press and Banner

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

Published Every Wednesday by
W. W. Bradley, W. E. Bradley,
President Vice-President

Wednesday, June 17, 1914.

SEEK TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

Editor Press and Banner:
Recently you published an article credited to a missionary to Mexico from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in which he said:

"The church of Rome, not as known in the United States, was the arrogant possessor of three-fifths of all the personal property and real estate of Mexico, the sole ruler of the oppressed, ignorant millions. The simplest truths of morality have never been instilled into the people, nor imbibed by them. Moral law in the individual, in the home, in the state and church, is a principal of which the masses are as ignorant as the people of darkest Africa. Ignorance, superstition and vice is the product of the Roman church in Mexico, and has been a power in keeping the multitudes in their decadent condition, more powerful in its influence for ignorance than all the agencies employed the last thirty years for the uplifting elevating and civilizing of the country."

"Surely this must be a partial view and not truly descriptive of religious conditions in Mexico, for other observant and truthful men have been there and have said:

"The parish priests of Mexico, as a class, are men of devout and godly lives, who are entitled to all honor and reverence. Since the laws of the Reform there is nothing to tempt men to adopt the clerical life save a genuine love of God, and a strong desire to administer to the religious welfare of their fellows, according to his ordinances."—T. A. Janler, "Mexican Guide," p. 94.

"Protestants full of prejudice against Catholics charge the Catholic priesthood as the cause of nearly all the political troubles; when the truth is, the influence of the Catholic Church and priesthood is conservative and quieting, generally counselling submission to the administration in power, and very rarely encouraging revolutions, or a revolutionary spirit."—Seaman in his "Progress of Nations."

"To call a country barbarous whose enormous Indian population, excepting a few wild tribes, is absolutely docile, law-abiding, and Christian; whose upper classes compare favorably with the aristocracy of any nation in the world, in birth, education, character and gentility,—is certainly employing the phrase to signify what its very antithesis would better express. Voltaire has been written about the religion of Mexico. As a rule, they contain an ounce of truth and a ton of fiction, and are begotten of their ignorance or prejudice. Without doubt they are flagrantly unjust to the Church and people."—J. B. Frisbie, (who lived in Mexico for thirty years)—"The Interest of 'Fair Play,'" said to be a jewel of the world over, I beg you to publish the above.

Veritas.

E. H. Blake Writes of Compulsory Education.

Editor The Press & Banner:
"Those who, through honest conviction, have opposed the compulsory school attendance in South Carolina, have overruled the injustice that is done the working man, an especially the cotton mill worker, by the absence of such a law."

A man who describes himself as a cotton mill-operative pleads for compulsory education as follows in a letter to The Belton Journal of May 29th:

"It seems to the average man working to better his condition that the compulsory education bill would have been a great help. Had it been passed, it would then force the parent to give his child at least an elementary education. It seems inconsistent to say to the cotton mill parent, you must not work your boy or girl until a certain age and then fail to encourage him to send that boy or girl to school a stipulated time. Give us compulsory education and in a very short time you will perceive our condition greatly improved an educational standpoint. We realize an education is the basis for better conditions in our community and the foundation for a more stable government, or one more constructive at least. Compulsory education will force better school facilities, thereby giving more advantages for having and making better citizenship. The cheap politician says we are not ready for it and stops right there. Wonder why we are not ready for better citizenship? Will some of those opposed to the bill explain the views they entertain and tell us how long it will be until we are ready for it? Also tell us how to prepare for its passage? Some are using the poor negro as an argument. They fail to know we read and are keeping up with conditions as they really exist, or else are not keeping up with conditions of the present day. Statistics as they are compiled by our state superintendent of education say there are more negro children in school in our state than whites. So if the negro goes ahead of us along these lines we can blame no one but ourselves for our conditions."

Nearly all the states, including North Carolina, and Tennessee and other southern states have seen the need and passed compulsory attend-

ance laws. Time will not wait on children in South Carolina growing up in ignorance. How long must these helpless children wait on South Carolina?

E. H. BLAKE,

June 15, 1914. Greenwood, S. C.

WILSON MAKING HAY.

Of the many wise acts that have characterized President Wilson's administration, the wisest was his calling an extra session of Congress to consider legislation long delayed and trifled with by the republican party.

Of course this act of the President has entailed long months of extra labor on the part of Congressmen, with a consequent melting away of salaries in the very expensive capital city, but be it said to the credit of congressmen, that they have entered heartily in to the President's plans and except where the President took issue with his own platform which he had heartily endorsed in every detail, the national Democratic representatives have stood to him almost to a man.

How wisely the President has acted in taking up needed legislation immediately, can be read best in a prospective of coming political events.

Col. Roosevelt has returned from the jungles of South America, radiant in all his newspaper glory, whether bought or otherwise, and bringing an olive branch to the poor old disconsolate elephant, the G. O. P. The clear majority that the combined wings of the republican party would constitute in all the northern and most of the western states, looms up not as a possibility but as a strong probability.

If there is a coalition of the wings of the Republican party the next Senate is almost sure to be republican and the House will likely be reduced to a majority of less than twenty. Such a condition would block legislation, for though sad to relate, national legislation is too often influenced by party lines, rather than public good.

Suppose then this deviation, along the party lines, should obtain between the upper and the lower house the democrats will never-the-less have until the 4th of March 1915 to push through most needed legislation and with a democratic president and a democratic house, or even with a democratic president, if the worst should happen democratic legislation could be repealed, or radical legislation passed for the two years following March 4th 1915, which will close the present term of President Wilson. This period should not be allowed to pass without some legislation giving the former and equitable basis of credit on his hand.

There is no necessity for lengthy or cumbersome legislation of this subject, but some such well digested and simple method as that proposed by Hon. Wyatt Aiken should be taken up and passed before adjournment of the present session. The President and the democratic leaders are committed to such legislation, and the people expect it. It should ever be borne in mind that the republican party is unfriendly to such legislation; and granting that Mr. Wilson has made one of the best presidents this country has ever had, and that the democratic party has fulfilled its pledges and to the satisfaction of even a majority of the people in so far as the time has allowed; it should not be forgotten that old party ties are easily reunited and March 16th 1915 may mark the end of democratic legislation, by the present administration.

There is just one strong contingency that may save the Democratic party intact for another four years term. Roosevelt is not so much interested in Progressive principles as in Roosevelt preferment. If he were not a more politic man, he might very consistently say as did the old French monarch of the state: "I am my party." There is a strong probability that condition of the union of Progressives and Republicans will be that the "mighty Nimrod" will head the ranks, and this same "Nimrod" is "persona non grata" with the old conservative party.

Can Roosevelt lay aside his burning desire to personally lead, for that of dictator under a leader of his own choosing, or will he stake his personal ambition to win or lose? If he does the former, the way is dark before the democrats, even granting their splendid work and their unprecedented honesty of performance. If he does the latter, the Democrats will likely be returned to power for another term; and with a full demonstration of the benefits of their work they may be returned for many terms. In the meantime, President Wilson and Congress "should make hay while the sun shines."

Tillman on Coastwise Vessels.

If we correctly interpret Senator Tillman's recent speech on the canal tolls question he takes the position, First: That representatives in Congress generally were bound by the party platform to vote for free passage of American coastwise vessels through the canal, and representatives from South Carolina particularly were bound by the party pledge exacted of candidates in South Carolina. Second: That the exemption of coastwise vessels from tolls was in the nature of a subsidy and should

never have gone into the Democratic platform, but once there and solemnly ratified, it was the only rule, and binding on all Democrats until there was some subsequent expression from the people. Third: That the last State convention, held subsequent to the vote in the House, in a measure directed the vote of South Carolina's representatives in the upper house, but of course could not affect the votes of members of the lower house, who at that time had to stick to the party chart:—the platform.

Fourth: That the President, of whom he spoke in the highest terms, made a mistake in precipitating this fight, when it could just as well have been taken up after the Congressional elections.

Herein Senator Tillman spoke a parable. Whatever the merits or demerits of the proposition, the Democrats should learn a lesson from their time honored opponents: that delay is not always dangerous; and especially on the eve of an election. A mere statement of his views on the subject, by the President, at this time with the promise that it would be taken up as soon as practicable, would have left no gap down to our adversaries. Senator Tillman believes that many voters of the East and South who would have been benefitted by increased competition with transcontinental railroads, by means of reduced water rates, will allege a definite grievance, and will announce their grievance through their votes. Of course this has special reference to the eastern section where the voting is heaviest, and not to the South where party lines decide everything.

The fact is, but for the undue importance given this matter in Congressional discussions and newspaper comments, it would have passed as a "nine day's wonder." The people are not worrying themselves about it one way or another, except as admirers of a great president some contend for his infallibility. It is now pretty generally conceded that the honor of the nation was not at stake; that England could not reasonably have forced us, through her treaty rights. From the Democratic standpoint the question resolves itself into one of two queries:—should the representative in Congress vote to annul the mere shadow of subsidy or should he vote to uphold the plain dictates of his party platform?

President Wilson himself fully endorsed the free tolls plank in his speeches prior to nomination. Mr. Bryan helped write the plank and must have approved it. If there was mischief lurking in the measure, far reaching in its effects, and it escaped detection for so long, by the President, the greatest of Democrats, it is not fair to assume that the averaged voter would have remained blissfully ignorant of any defect in this free tolls plank, but for the fight on it being precipitated at this time. However, the tolls exemption clause of the bill has been repealed by final vote in the Senate of 50 to 35, made up for and against, of both Democrats and Republicans. As good Democrats we should forget this issue, that unagitated, will pass out of the public mind. We can very justly say to the Republicans that it was not a party issue, for their votes show that they too were divided.

CAMPAIGNS ON.

The State and Senatorial campaigns open today. The people have a great responsibility upon them and it is believed that they will discharge it faithfully.

In choosing our servants we should keep in mind that the candidate, however much he may magnify his service or promise of service, is seeking the position and that the position is not particularly seeking him. He expects his pay and we expect his service. If he has been in office, and has served with that honesty and faithfulness that merits our "well done," it is a consideration for his continuance. The best of public servants like the best of private or corporate employees are known by the length and fidelity of their service. It would be an unheard of thing for a mill or a bank or a farmer to turn off a faithful employee merely because some one else wanted the job. If, however, the employee has been negligent of his duties, no matter how long or how short his service, he should be discharged. The best interest of the employer, consistent with fair dealing, is the governing principle. Public office is not different from ordinary business in this respect, except as there exists a false notion that we owe somebody something and must pay them out of public funds. When will we get around in this process of paying? When will we get to the individual voter?

In the present primary, reason and not passion should rule. We want to vote for our best interest. It should not be sufficient that a man belong to this faction or that to influence our choice. From the times of earliest history, commanders have ridden on the shoulders of the common soldiers. History has forgotten the soldier but it has handed the name of the commanders down to future generations.

The head of a faction, Caesar destroyed the Roman republic and was himself killed by Brutus, the head of an opposing faction and thousands of his friends died with him. Even Cicero, one of the world's greatest

orators, and a man whose life was spent trying to re-establish popular government in Rome, was murdered at the head of a proscribed list, furnished by the hated Triumvirate.

The leaders of the French Revolution, after deluging France in blood, were many of them beheaded by a still more radical faction.

Cromwell beheaded Charles I., and made his name feared by all the world, but Cromwell's followers perished by thousands with the reascension of monarchy.

The point is, the people bear the brunt of all revolutions or upheavals; they sustain the burdens of war, with all its carnage; and usually when the smoke of battle has cleared away, when reason reasserts itself and passion has been dethroned, there is little to point back to except the name of some one who has fed and fanned the flames while forging his own destiny. And so in politics, if we have been tearing our hair and scratching out our neighbors' eyes, let us stop deliberately and think for one moment, what substantial benefits have we derived? Who has really profited by our bursting enthusiasm?

If in selecting our public servants we will depend more on our judgment and less on our passions, regardless of faction, we will have better servants.

If we will vote against such men as do not show us proper respect in their public speeches, we will elevate the standard of political speeches in the State.

The State of South Carolina, ABBEVILLE COUNTY.

Probate Court—Citation for Letters of Administration.

By J. F. Miller, Esq., Judge of Probate.

Whereas, A. L. Bass hath made suit to me, to grant him Letters of Administration of the Estate and effects of William L. Bass, late of Abbeville County, deceased.

These are therefore, to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said William L. Bass, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Abbeville S. C., on Monday, the 29th day of June, 1914, after publication hereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause if any they have, why the said Administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 15th day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fourteen and in the 18th year of American Independence.

Published on the 17th day of June, 1914, in the Press and Banner and on the Court House door for the time required by law.

J. F. MILLER,
Judge of Probate.

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"Lucile Love" No. 6
(2 reels)

"Their Vacation"—Comedy

Thursday

"The Fox"—Drama.
(2 reels.)

"Neighbors"—Comedy

Friday

"The Disenchantment"
2 Reel Drama.

"Could You Blame Her."
Comedy.

Saturday

"The Triumph of Mind"
Three Reel Drama.

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Winthrop College Scholarship and Entrance EXAMINATION.

The examination for the award of vacant
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at the County Court House on FRIDAY,
July 3, at 9 a. m. Applicants must not be
less than sixteen years of age. When
Scholarships are vacant after July 3 they
will be awarded to those making the highest
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they meet the conditions governing the
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write to President Johnson before the exam-
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blanks.

Scholarships are worth \$100 and free tu-
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