

The Newberry Herald and News.

ESTABLISHED 1865.

NEWBERRY, S. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1899.

TWICE A WEEK, \$1.50 A YEAR

THE CAUSE OF LYNCHINGS.

A SOUTHERN VIEW BY GEORGE CHANDLER OF GEORGIA.

Forcing the Ballot on the Negro, and then Flooding the South with a Horde of Carpet-baggers to Teach the Negroes to Hate the Southern White People, and Fools and Fanatics at the North are Doing Everything Possible to Make Things Worse and Stir Up a Race War at the South.

Atlanta, Ga., July 28.—Governor Chandler, since the Bainbridge series of lynchings occurred, has been asked by newspapers in various parts of the country to give his opinions on the race question in the South, and in reply to one of them the Governor has fully and freely expressed his views as to the cause of the conflicts and the remedy therefor. The Governor believes the present day cause of the uprisings is the intermeddling with the relations of the whites and blacks in the South by "fools and fanatics," who know nothing about the situation, but he thinks the whole trouble dates from the day of emancipation. Governor Chandler believes that a restricted suffrage will remedy the evil; that a ballot be given only to the intelligent negro. As to the disposition to be made of the large percentage of illiterate negroes the Governor makes no suggestion. The Governor begins his paper by referring to emancipation, contrasting the treatment of negroes by the white people of the South before the war to that of the "carpet-baggers" immediately after. He says:

"Before the ballot was thrust into the hands of the negro unprepared for it, and utterly ignorant of its sanctity and of the responsibilities of citizenship, notwithstanding he was a slave, he was happy and well contented to occupy that subordinate place in society to which his nature and his condition assigned him. But after his emancipation came his enfranchisement, and with his enfranchisement came a herd of carpet-baggers, penniless adventurers, without principle or patriotism, who took charge of him when his former master and protector, with whom he had lived for generations on the most friendly and often even on affectionate terms, was decimated by the partisan reconstruction laws.

"These carpet-baggers, calling themselves Republicans, but really only a band of marauders held together by the cohesive power of public plunder, swarmed all over the South like the locusts in Egypt of old, and falsely taught the negroes that the Southern white men were solely responsible for their enslavement and were their worst and only enemies, and that, therefore, it was their duty and their interest to vote against them and their party, and against anything they were in favor of and favor everything they were opposed to—in a word, to hate them. They taught them that freedom meant immunity from toil, that liberty meant license and that they were the 'wards of the nation,' and would be protected by the General Government, whose bayonets glistened in every hamlet, whether they were right or wrong.

"These evil teachings had but little permanent effect upon the grown-up negroes, but upon the children, the generation which has grown to manhood since that time, the effect has been most baleful. These were the prime causes of the alienation of the negro.

"A more immediate cause is the perpetual intermeddling with the relations of the races in the South by fanatics and fools who know nothing about the situation. They call town meetings and discuss imaginary wrongs of the Southern negro which do not exist, and denounce the Southern white people for crimes they have not committed; they publish in the newspapers greatly exaggerated accounts of such crimes as are committed against the negro in the South, and omit any notice of the crimes against the white woman which provoked the retaliation; they write incendiary letters to turbulent negroes all over the South, advising them to arm themselves with Winchester

rifles, and for every guilty rapist who pays the penalty for his crime to shoot down the first two white men he meets. Thousands of such letters have been written to Georgia in the last three months. By such methods they call into existence the very state of things they pretend to deplore, a condition of affairs that did not exist, and never would have existed, but for them and their senseless incendiary conduct."

Governor Chandler says the intermeddlers of the North do not represent a respectable minority, and that the lawless and criminal negroes of the South constitute less. He continues:

"A few abandoned, reckless, criminal negroes are responsible for all the rapes and lynchings that have occurred, and their influence on those around them is deplorably bad and far reaching. Still it is true that rape, the crime which nine times out of ten is the cause, immediate or remote, of lynching, is as much deplored by the better class of negroes as by the better class of white men. But as because some negroes commit rape, the whole race suffers, so because some white men lynch ravishers all the white people of the South are abused.

"It is a singular fact, too, that the Pharisaical fanatics who have most to say about 'Apaches,' 'Southern barbarians,' etc, always stress the atrocity of the lynching, but I have never yet heard of one of them saying or doing anything to discourage the crime which provoked it. Indeed in some cases, instead of denouncing his crime, they have assailed the character of the victim of the brute's lust, which not only encourages bad negroes, but exasperates the friends of Southern womanhood.

"Another and a continually present cause which contributes to race friction is corrupt politics. As is admitted by all candid men, the ballot was put in the hand of the Southern negro when he was utterly unprepared for it. He regarded it as only an article of merchandise, to be bartered away to the man who would pay him the most for it, whether a drink of whiskey or a dollar or two. In many places his vote, while not a majority, is a balance of power. Hence unscrupulous men of all parties contend for this vote and hug the negro around the polls and drink whiskey with him. He is forgotten after the election, and, like a spoiled child, becomes resentful and vindictive. This brings clashes with the whites."

In speaking of the remedy Governor Chandler says:

"In Georgia for a generation there has been scarcely a negro between 6 and 8 years of age who has not had access to a free school. As a consequence illiteracy has decreased among them from 85 per cent in 1870 to 40 per cent in 1890 and yet it is a startling fact that crime among them has increased in about the same proportion that illiteracy has decreased. There is, however, another sort of education which in time would greatly relieve the situation. This is moral education, which must be acquired at the family hearthstone, and in the churches and Sunday schools and by the daily contact of the inferior race with the superior for years and even for generations.

"The greatest crime ever perpetrated, not only against American ideas and institutions and human liberty, but against the Southern negro, was when, without proper education, he was clothed with all the rights and privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

"We need a remedy immediate in its effects, and this remedy can only be found in a qualified suffrage. The ballot must only be entrusted to the virtuous and intelligent. Now many men vote who are intelligent, but not virtuous, and many more vote who are virtuous, but not intelligent. Restrict the suffrage to those having both these qualifications, and one of the greatest causes of irritation will be removed. The race prejudice, at least in politics, will be eliminated, and the happiness and the material and moral condition of the Southern negro will be greatly benefited."

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Symposium—A Clever Scheme to Bring Practical Matters Before the Association—Excellent Papers and Discussions.

(Special to News and Courier.)

Harris Lithia Springs, July 26.—The State Press Association is in session here. The attendance just now is not quite so large as in previous years, but today's arrivals have not yet been reported. President Aull says that it is the largest first day's attendance he has known.

J. H. Wharton, member of the house, welcomed the association on the part of the management and the good people of Laurens County. Mr. Wharton took occasion to make mention of the newspaper governor, who, he held, owed his deserved election and promotion to the press of the State.

Fitz Hugh McMaster, of the Charleston Post, on the part of the association delivered a most eloquent response, which was heartily applauded.

President Aull called upon Julius E. Boggs to say a few words for the association, and he spoke in an inimitable style, deftly interweaving humor and pathos with the warp of his speech.

Today when the association met Chaplain Sidi H. Brown delivered the opening prayer. The first work was the reading of the annual report of the various officers.

The first and most important report was that of President Elbert H. Aull, in which he took occasion to pay a handsome tribute to the late Robert M. Stokes, well known to the members of the press as for many years the editor of the Union Times. He stated how it happened that no delegates attended the National Editorial association, and reported the successful passage of the advertising law through the legislature, and other matters of interest to members of the association.

The treasurer, in addition to his financial report, wrote as follows:

Charleston, S. C., July 21, 1899. To the Members of the South Carolina Press Association: Gentlemen—Having been treasurer of this association since May 16, 1884, I am really sorry that I am compelled by the state of my health to sever this pleasant connection.

Secretary C. C. Langston submitted his annual report with an accurate statement of the work and expenses of the executive committee.

The association then took up the newspaper symposium, which was a clever scheme on the part of the executive committee, which invited the speakers.

"How to Buy the Stock," by James L. Sims, of the Times and Democrat, was a concise and business like paper.

August Kohn, of the Columbia bureau of the News and Courier, read a paper on "How to get the news."

Elbert H. Aull, of the Herald and News, of Newberry, read an able paper on how to make the paper readable.

There was then a general discussion of various subjects. One of the most interesting topics discussed was started by Mr. Jones as to whether it paid to run sermons and serial stories. Most of the editors seemed to think it useful and profitable to run sermons and stories every week.

Col. Hoyt, Mr. McMaster, Mr. Gonzales, Mr. Sims, Mr. Jones, Mr. Boggs and others discussed the topic generally.

President Aull appointed the following committees:

Resolutions—F. H. McMaster, E. B. DeCamp, E. C. Haynsworth, N. G. Gonzales and R. B. Harmon.

Report of Officers—R. H. Sweeney, Louis Appel, E. A. Gasque, W. M. Jones and August Kohn.

On motion of Mr. Stoppelbein T. B. Crews and J. A. Hoyt, of the association, were appointed, and Hugh Wilson was asked to serve on the committee to frame resolutions on the death of Mr. Stokes.

THE STATE ALLIANCE.

PRACTICALLY NOTHING IN THE WAY OF RESULTS.

Annual Election of Officers, Mr. J. C. Alexander Succeeds Mr. Wilborn as President—The Alliance Exchange Fully Discussed.

(The State, 28th.)

The annual meeting of the State Alliance has been held and most of the delegates have gone to their homes. So far as results are concerned the gathering does not seem to have amounted to anything. The report furnished the press does not show that anything was done of any interest. The bulk of the proceedings appears to have been devoted to a discussion of the State Alliance exchange, with the result that the exchange's business will be continued on the basis as heretofore, although Congressman Stokes and Mr. Keitt had considerable to say on the other side.

When the body met yesterday morning the affairs of the exchange were again taken up, and a long discussion ensued. Addresses were delivered during the day by State Lecturer Blake, Congressman Talbert, President Wilborn, O. P. Goodwin, Congressman Stokes, Rev. J. A. Sligh and others.

The alliance made a few minor changes in the constitution which were not made public.

The annual election of officers was held, resulting in the choice of the following: President, J. C. Alexander; vice-president and lecturer, J. R. Blake; secretary and treasurer, J. W. Reid; member of the executive committee for three years, J. L. Shuler.

The newly elected officers were duly installed by Mr. W. N. Elder, of York.

D. F. Eford was chosen as the State Alliance's delegate to the national council of the order, which meets in Washington in 1900, and O. P. Goodwin was elected alternate.

The thanks of the body were tendered to the railroads for their kindness in granting reduced rates for the delegates to the State Alliance.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted: "Resolved, That the thanks of this body are hereby heartily extended to the retiring president for his faithful services, his untiring zeal and unflagging energy in the discharge of his duties while president.

The alliance then adjourned sine die. The next annual meeting is to be held in this city in July next.

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