

Indiana American.

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BROOKVILLE —

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ALABAMA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

The most remarkable body in many respects ever assembled on the American continent, is now in session at Montgomery, Alabama. It is the first of the Constitutional Conventions held under the reconstruction measures of the Fortieth Congress. It is the first loyal body assembled in a Southern State since the beginning of the war, (if we except Tennessee, whose position is peculiar,) in which were a majority of Union men. It is making the first experiment that has yet been made of remodeling the organic law of one of the Cotton States, the one great stronghold of rebellion and slavery, so that such law shall accord with the Declaration of Independence and with the National sentiment which declared during the late civil conflict that the Union must never be dissolved.

It is the first Convention clothed with real power, ever held in all this vast Gulf region, in which the Unionists that never ceased to pervade the hearts of a large portion of the people, has at last free to utter itself. It is the first authoritative protest springing from the people themselves against the crimes and errors of the aristocracy that once governed the South; and it is the first Convention ever assembled in America, in which the views or interests of the colored race were consulted in the formation of an organic law. All this is the more remarkable as occurring in a State where slavery and Democracy were once enthroned, as it seemed, beyond a possibility of overthrow; and where, more recently, all the powers of the State Government, backed up, apparently, with the entire unanimity of the people, were engaged in a deadly struggle to throw off the national authority, to wrench the Commonwealth from its place in the American Union, and to make the slavery of the colored race, embracing a majority of the whole people, unassailable and perpetual.

The Convention assembled on Tuesday, Nov. 5th, at the Capitol, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, at noon.

The full Convention consists of 100 members, of whom fourteen are colored men; a few are gentlemen of Northern birth, who settled in Alabama before the war; one fourth, perhaps, are persons from the North who have settled there since the close of the war, and the remainder are natives of the State.

In the entire Convention there is but a single gentleman elected by Conservative or rebel votes—Mr. Howard, of Crenshaw. All the rest are Unionists, more or less penetrated with the idea that the only course of safety for the State or for the Union, is the present disfranchisement of the more malignant of the disloyal classes, and the more persistent and bitter enemies of the National Government. The settlement of this all-important question of the franchise, will be the most difficult and interesting duty devolving upon the Convention.

Hon. E. W. Peck, of Tuscaloosa, was unanimously elected permanent President of the Convention. Capt. Robert Barbour was chosen permanent Secretary; Henry Patrick, 1st Assistant Secretary; Moses B. Avery of Mobile, 2d Assistant Secretary; John D. Terrell, Sergeant-at-Arms; Henry Hunter Craig, of Montgomery, Doorkeeper. Of these, Moses Avery and Craig are colored.

A correspondent of the *Cincinnati Gazette*, to whom we are indebted for the above facts, telegraphs a daily report of the doings of the Convention, from which we extract:

A resolution was adopted that the members of the Convention take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and faithfully discharge the duties incident upon them.

Further on, Mr. Reynolds called up the resolution declaring sacred the indebtedness contracted since the close of the war, for meeting the necessary expenses of the present State government. Ayes and nays were called upon this resolution, and it was unanimously adopted. This action shows clearly that the members of the Convention are honest men, and that the honor and credit of Alabama are safe in their hands. The entire loyal debt of Alabama thus declared sacred by the Convention, amounts to six millions one hundred and thirty-nine thousand and nine hundred and ten dollars. Of course the rebel debt is utterly ignored.

The following substitute for the article, proposed by the majority of the Franchise Committee, was offered by Mr. Coon, of Selma, and, as it is considered a fair compromise between those who favor universal rebel suffrage, and those who favor universal rebel disfranchisement, it, or something like it, will probably be adopted:

SECTION 1. Every male citizen of the United States, and every male person, who has legally declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, twenty-one years old or upwards, who shall have resided in the State six months next preceding the election, and three months in the county in which he offers to vote, shall be deemed an elector, provided that no soldier, sailor or marine, in the military or naval service of the United

States, shall hereafter acquire residence by reason of being stationed on duty in this State. And provided further, that the existing political disabilities imposed by law upon persons resident in this State, for participation in the late rebellion, shall continue in force until removed by a vote of two thirds of the General Assembly.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide and maintain a system of registration of qualified voters, under which all elections in this State shall be conducted, and all voters shall be duly sworn to the qualifications prescribed above, and to support and defend the Constitution of this State, and the Constitution and supreme authority of the United States.

Sec. 3. Conviction of treason or other crime having the grade of felony at common law, shall operate for disfranchisement in this State.

An ordinance accompanied this, which declares that so much of Section 1, as makes a vote of two-thirds of the General Assembly necessary to the removal of political disabilities, shall not apply to persons who may be relieved by act of Congress previous to next meeting of General Assembly.

A committee of thirteen was appointed to inquire into the expediency of removing the rest of government from Montgomery. The vote upon the appointment of this committee stood 53 to 33, indicating that a considerable majority of the Convention favors the removal.

A resolution was adopted by a vote of 57 to 53, instructing the proper committee to change the names of all new counties created at the last session of the Legislature that were named in glorification of the rebels, or after those who participated in the rebellion.

The ordinance, proposing compensation to slaves for services from the date of the emancipation proclamation to their actual freedom by the Union army, caused a good deal of excitement. Some delegates are determined to carry it, and fix the compensation at the present rate of ten dollars per month. It is scarcely possible that so extensive a measure can pass the Convention, but it is quite likely that some compensation will be voted.

The Convention adopted a memorial to Congress, praying for the removal of the cotton tax, and that all taxes paid since the 1st of September be refunded to the producer.

On Saturday, in the Convention, a resolution was adopted that the several Committees to whom the different subjects have been referred be instructed to report finally on Wednesday 20th, with a view to an adjournment as early as Monday, the 25th inst. This will allow the question of the ratification to be decided before the end of the present year.

D. H. Bingham introduced an ordinance for the confiscation of so much of the Alabama & Mississippi River Railroad as extends from Uniontown west to the State line, the same having been built by the rebel Government in aid of the rebellion, and to confiscate other roads built for the same purpose, the one-half of the proceeds accruing from confiscation to go to the State of Alabama, as informer under the act of August 6th, 1861, to constitute part of the State School Fund, and Congress is to be memorialized to donate the other half to the State for the benefit of the same fund.

The Conservatives have backed down from their first position of universal amnesty for rebels, and are now in favor of the disfranchisement of those who are not permitted to register under the Reconstruction Laws of Congress. On this ground they will meet a great many Republicans, and the combination will probably succeed in carrying through some compromise measure.

COMPLIMENTARY.

We are in receipt of quite a number of highly complimentary letters commending the course of the *Indiana American* in the straightforward policy it has adopted in political matters. We shall endeavor to not disappoint our friends, but shall continue to advocate go-ahead principles, leaving the few Johnson men in the rear. These "pull-back" men are getting scarce now-a-days, and their defection will prove a benefit to the great Republican party, if that party will only "lop off" the incubus, so that it can act untrammeled. Let us have no cowardly, dough faced men in our ranks.

Congress.

Congress convenes on Thursday of this week. Members continue to arrive at Washington, and there is a prospect of a full attendance in both houses the first day of the session.

Letter by Senator Wilson.

Senator Henry Wilson has written a letter to some colored politicians of the South, which closes with the following regarding the cotton tax and disfranchisement:

Third Attempt.

The Washington Democrats who sometime ago nominated Johnson and Sherman for the next national campaign standard bearers, have made two bad failures trying to get up a ratification meeting. January 8th has been fixed upon for a third attempt.

Conservative Opposition.

The Conservative press of Georgia advocates the meeting of a Convention in Macon, on the 5th of December, for the purpose of organizing a party in opposition to reconstruction under the military bills, and with a view of defeating the Constitution to be submitted.

Florida.

Returns from Florida show that the Convention has been carried by a decided majority of the registered voters. Nearly all the blacks voted, and but few whites. A large number of negroes are elected to the Convention.

Religious Discussion.

A discussion began on Monday night, at Indianapolis, between O. A. Burgess, of the Christian Church, and Rev. W. W. Curry, of the Second Universalist Church, upon the subject of Eternal Punishment.

General Grant the Representative Man. The Hon. W. D. Kelley has written a letter on the nomination of Grant, in which he refers to the General in the following concise and emphatic manner:

"It is the earnestness with which he pursues a great purpose—the tenacity with which he advances to victory on his own line—that impels the American people to insist on presenting him as their representative man. His duties as General have made him generally and minutely familiar with the question at issue. In his administration of high office, he has had daily proof that the Democratic party is positive and vigilant on one side, that of wrong, oppression and inequality, and that the Republican party, as represented in Congress by nearly three-fourths of the House of Representatives, and a large portion of the Senate, is as positive on the other, that of right, justice and equality. Were he ambitious of the office for which you propose him, do you believe you could persuade so able a soldier that the victory in such a contest will be won, not by either of the organized armies who fought for a cause, but by a mob of camp followers, whose object is plunder?"

Mr. CHERLEY DOES GRANT JUSTICE. Greeley, while expressing his preference for Chase for the next Presidency, does Grant justice in this paragraph:

"General Grant we esteem by no means a great man, nor even a very great General. Yet he has, in every position he has filled, evinced a modest good sense, a practical, unostentatious sagacity, which have justly won for him a large measure of public confidence. He is not by training a statesman; yet his negotiations with General Lee and the terms of capitulation conceded by him at Appomattox evince a wisdom and breadth of view which few among our statesmen could have equalled, and none of them has surpassed. We do profoundly honor and esteem him that he has never uttered one syllable that savored of exultation over the defeated rebels, or called down vengeance on their heads. The blood and thunder policy of execution and confiscation, which we intensely loathe, has had no more effective opponent than this taciturn, reticent first soldier in the politics of the State."

WHAT GENERAL LOGAN SAYS.

Washington special to the Cincinnati *Enquirer* states that General Grant had a long interview with General Logan on Saturday, and says that the General is radical enough for him. He thinks there is no doubt General Grant will be nominated by the Republican Convention.

List of Broken National Banks.

The following is a list of the National Banks that have suspended and passed into the hands of receivers:

Craton National Bank, New York.

National Bank of Whitestown, Oneida County, N. Y.

Atlas Bank of Providence, R. I.

Unadilla National Bank, Unadilla, N. Y.

Kingston National Bank, Kingston, N. Y.

Farmers' and Citizens' National Bank, Brooklyn, N. Y.

First National Bank, Utica, N. Y.

First National Bank, Medina, N. Y.

First National Bank, Columbus, N. Y.

Venango National Bank, Franklin, Pa.

Merchants' National Bank, Washington, D. C.

Tennessee National Bank, Memphis, Tenn.

First National Bank, New Orleans, La.

First National Bank, Carondelet, Mo.

First National Bank, Selma, Ala.

The notes of these Banks are not affected in value.

General Order by Grant.

General Grant has issued a general order containing thirteen regulations, arranged with a view to the more economical administration of the affairs of the army, and the more uniform and systematic mode of letting contracts for supplies, or services required.

Conversion of Seven-Thirties.

It is understood to be the decision of the Treasury Department, that unless holders of 7 3/4s shall present them for conversion into 5 1/2s bonds at maturity, the option to make such conversion is lost, and the 7 3/4s will afterwards be paid in greenbacks.

Information for the South.

The Congressional Executive Committee has sent a volume containing the original Constitutions of all the States, and the amendments thereto, to each of the Southern States, as a book of reference, for use in Conventions in session or about to assemble.

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Galbreath vs. Atkinson.

An important suit which has been pending some time in Tipton and Howard counties, brought by Miss Galbreath against Mr. Atkinson of Hancock county, for breach of promise, was decided at Kokomo recently in favor of Miss Galbreath. The jury awarded her \$5,000.

Take Warning.

For the information of those who contemplate shipping hogs to Cincinnati, we will state that there is an ordinance in force in that city prohibiting the sale of diseased hogs or swine with pig. It is made the duty of an officer to inspect every car load of hogs arriving there, and throw out all such. The owner can not have them unless he goes before the mayor of the city and gives bond, agreeing not to sell them except to parties residing in the country. He can ship them back home if he wants to do so. Parties in the country have had to bring hogs home, in consequence of this regulation, which they had shipped to Cincinnati. Let others take warning.

—[Connersville Times.]

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How He Stands Among His Old Contemporaries.

George W. Julian is still canvassing his new District for the nomination to Congress. He addressed his fellow citizens of Delaware county yesterday.

The Indianapolis *Herald* of a recent date contained the above paragraph, in which it failed to display its usual accuracy, Delaware county, as also Henry and Randolph, "not being included in the 'new district.' " The occasion referred to by the *Herald* was a series of meetings recently had in those counties by our Representative to the last six months that parties who had arranged to "fast" each other, after weeks of training, had met over the river on the Indiana shore and have pounded each other, for so much a side, until one or the other could pound no longer; or, in the language of the law, in the case made and provided, could not scratch to time. Two miles were arranged to come off yesterday morning; and just as they were beginning they had the mortification of seeing themselves, and all the spectators, arrested by a company of military under orders and in charge of the Sheriff of the County. A few of the spectators escaped, but about eighty of the sporting gentry were marched off under the stimulus of bayonets sharpened at one end, to Alexandria, about five miles where they were piled in the jail yard in a heap, without regard to care or previous social position. After an imprisonment of a few hours, all were released, wiser if not better men. This arrest and drill of sportsmen afforded almost unlimited merriment to all the city except those caught, who thought that they can't see the fun of it. All losers of order and law give credit to Gen. Scofield, whose orders the arrests were made, and hope that the proceedings yesterday will effectively end prize fighting in this vicinity. Can the exiles find an asylum in Butler Co., Ohio?

Base-ball games which are degenerating into sports with influences somewhat akin to the prize-ring, still continue. Originally instituted under pretence of affording bodily exercise to those of sedentary habits, with any claims to any other benefit, this game has become the occasion of much profligacy of time which young men should apply to better purposes. The excess is not as good as wood-sawing or walking. It is too violent to the body and too exciting to the mind, to say nothing of broken fingers, sprains, bumps, and an occasional death. An excellent young man of the Interior Department died a few weeks ago in consequence of over-exercise on the base ball field. A lad belonging to this city was killed by a club, in a town in Maryland, and brought home for burial. Aside from these results, the game of base ball is becoming a common vehicle for gambling and bacchanalian revelries. Young men and old men and everybody ought to have exercise. If there is no garden to hoe, or wood to saw, or corn to shuck, then walk or ride or skate or dance, or do any thing that but what leads the way to physical or moral danger.

The Central Committee determined to call a Delegate State Convention to be held at Indianapolis the 22d of February next. Senator Morton was not one of the members of his party in the State that he has been unable to attend since its formation in 1854. —[Rising Sun Recorder.]

The Whisky Ring in Trouble. The Hamilton Telegraph gives the following particulars of whisky seizure in the Third District, already referred to in these columns:

The following is a complete list of all the establishments seized in Butler and Montgomery counties, by Gen. Vandever up to yesterday afternoon:

R. L. Howard's and John Neipp's receiving establishments in this city, and the distilleries of Hancock & Williams and McPherson & Irwin, near Mylestone; Weaver & Petrie, at Kelly; D. V. Brown, Wm. L. Dodsworth and John Kleber, near this city; and in Montgomery county the distilleries of H. P. Lane, Levi C. Herr, H. M. Turner & Herr, Turner & Heck. Other seizures will probably be made before this meets the eye of the reader. The whisky "ring" is in trouble at last. All these parties are charged with making false returns of amounts of grain mashed, and with removing whisky without permits in general terms, defrauding the U. S. Internal Revenue.

About the Whisky Tax.

The New York *World* has the following regarding the investigation of the Revenue Committee in New York:

One remarkable fact was developed yesterday. After the law was passed by Congress fixing the price of whisky at not less than two dollars, it went down to one dollar and fifteen cents per gallon. A few days ago the Revenue Board required that no whisky should be sold unless accompanied by a tax receipt, showing that the tax had been paid. The price of whisky immediately fell, and tax receipts are now sold in market as currently as whisky.

The Committee is of opinion that the tax should be reduced to fifty cents per gallon and collected at the still, thus abolishing the bonded warehouse system.

Progress of Reconstruction.

Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, Mississippi and Arkansas have voted in favor of reorganizing their State Governments in the manner prescribed by Congress. North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas are the only States yet to vote. The only doubtful case of the three is Texas, but it is not likely that she will stand out against all the rest.

With the exercise of reasonable discretion by the Constitutional Conventions of these several inchoate States, speedy reconstruction will be assured. This will be a severe blow to Copperhead agitators who conceive their party interests will be served by keeping the country in hot water; but the general good is more important than their potty schemes for party gain and personal profit.—[Journal.]</p