

THE INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER

The Recorder

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Geo P. STEWART, Publisher

SATURDAY OCT. 3, 1908.

TIME FOR REFLECTION

With the election just four weeks from next Tuesday, the time for sober thought and sound reflection is at hand. We are being confronted daily with the issues of the campaign, with its multifarious discussions, and every citizen of this grand country must by this time have full knowledge of the party platforms and the party candidates. So we repeat, that the time for sober thought is at hand. And again, as usual the Negro question is injected into the campaign, purely for campaign purposes, it would seem. For if there be those politicians and race leaders who feel to advise that the Negro should support the Democratic ticket, such advice is given without sober thought and good judgment.

The democratic party promises the Negro nothing in return for his suffrage. It makes no platform pledges concerning his franchise rights which are denied in the Southland, right at this minute. It gives him no encouragement even as an humble citizen of this great country. But even if Mr. Bryan's party platform is silent, his party's record stands as an open book and tells the story of lynchings, burning, peonage, disfranchisement, anti-educational laws and a closed door to a race of people whose chief sin is a black skin, and in the face of such a record, could there be found one who would conscientiously support the democratic party.

We doubt if the Brownsville case warrants any such conclusions, for what the colored man to gain by defeating the only party that ever befriended him, for a party that has always been his sworn enemy and persecutor, and is the same today as yesterday. What principle is to be established by voting the democratic ticket for one such offense, when the democratic party has been guilty not of one, but of thousands of even greater crimes?

And while Mr. Bryan is willing that the Negro might be fooled into voting for him, on the other hand, the democratic south is just as bitter against the Negro as is evidenced by the following from the Jacksonville (Miss.) News, concerning the Negro vote, which we publish in full elsewhere in this issue. Says the News in summing up the votes of the Negro in the Northern states:

It is thus apparent that the negro votes are so distributed in the Northern states that they cannot hold, or control, the balance of power in a Presidential election, taking as a basis for this conclusion the vote in the three Presidential elections for 1896, 1900 and 1904.

These statistical figures show very clearly and unquestionably that, giving the solid negro vote of the Northern states to Mr. Bryan, he would still be far short of an election. And this must prove a gratifying view for the Southern white men, who stand invincibly for white political supremacy, and who cannot complais with any toleration the idea of the Northern negroes holding the balance of power in a Presidential election, in which they will control and decide the destiny and policy of the nation between two national political parties. Such a state of affairs would be bad for the country, and would prove a calamity to the South. Nobody apprizes more accurately and intelligently than the Southern men the significance of and sad consequences of such an event.

If Mr. Bryan is elected, it will be by the white voters of the United States, and not by lugging the negro back into politics. The Daily News has heretofore said, and here reiterates, that the white Democrats of the South would rather sustain another defeat than to see Mr. Bryan elected if his victory carries with it a pledge to extend political recognition to the negro and accord to him office-holding privileges.

SENATOR FORAKER.

Senator Foraker is again before the American people pleading for somebody. In his characteristic way he "muddies the oil" by asking, "What does he mean? Does anybody imagine that the President is unable to see that he is rubbing a sore he should have brought a plaster? Does he imagine, or can anybody suppose, that the Republican colored voters of this country can be brought to the support of Judge Taft by parading in these closing days of the campaign Judge Taft's belittling of their chief grievance by mentioning it as an incidental matter which has been seized upon and magnified, using in this without scruple a blind race prejudice, and then adding the charge that all this is done only to embarrass the Administration of President Roosevelt? and we are constrained to ask of the Senator, "What does he mean?" Does he imagine that the colored brother does not know that the United States senatorship is the stake being played for and not Brownsville? and that the Negro judges his friends by their unselfish acts and devotion, rather than by word of mouth.

Jesse Overstreet

In the present campaign, one question of vital interest to the Negro voters should be the proper selection of representatives to the National House of Congress. In this, the 7th Congressional district of Indiana, the Negro is happy and deservedly cared for in the person of Hon. Jesse Overstreet as Congressman who has represented this district in Congress for 14 years. His length of service and his various appointment on important committees, has rendered his presence available, not only to the Negro voters of this state and country, but to all citizens desiring effective administration in the halls of Congress. Mr. Overstreet



Congressman Jesse Overstreet

THE NEW LOCAL OPTION LAW.

The local option law enacted by the special session of the legislature provides that whenever a petition has been signed and filed with the county auditor praying for the Board of Commissioners of any county for the privilege of determining by ballot whether the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage shall be prohibited within the limits of such county, such Board of Commissioners, at its next regular session, shall order a special election to be held at the usual places for holding general elections.

The ballots in special election shall be in the following form:

[YES] Shall the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage be prohibited?

Edward Robinson

All votes marked with a cross in the square containing the word "yes" shall be counted in favor of prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and all votes marked with a cross in the square containing the word "no" shall be counted opposed to prohibiting such sale.

Whenever an election has been held under the provisions of this act, subsequent election shall be held thereunder until the expiration of at least two years from the last preceding election.

Upon investigation the Recorder finds that the colored vote, almost to a unit, is in favor of the Republican county, Congressional and State tickets, and this is natural conclusion for the open door of political opportunity, in Indiana is the gift of the Republican party. There is a fear that a Democratic governor and a democratic legislature would lose but little time in passing disfranchisement laws in Indiana for political supremacy, for Mr. Kern publicly admits the large Negro vote always defeats the democratic party. Even the most rabid of the "Brownsville sympathizers" know that the best interests and the best government of the people is secured at the hands of the Republicans. Not only in Marion county, but in many other Indiana counties the colored vote rewarded with political office, which would not be under democratic rule.

For Congress, JESSE OVERSTREET.

For Judge Circuit Court, HENRY CLAY ALLEN.

For Prosecuting Attorney HARRY O. CHAMBERLIN.

For Judge Superior Court, Room 4, LAWSON M. HARVEY.

For Judge Superior Court, Room 5, CHARLES T. HANNA.

For Judge Probate Court, MERLE N. A. WALKER.

For Judge Juvenile Court, GEORGE W. STUBBS.

For State Senators, WM. E. ENGLISH.

JAMES T. LAYMAN.

ALFRED F. POTTS.

For Representatives, JAMES A. ALLISON.

THOMAS A. DAILY.

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For Coronor, GUSTAV A. PETERSDORF.

For Surveyor, HENRY W. KLAUSMANN.

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