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POLITICS OF THE TERRITORY

An Estimate of The Classes of People Making Up The Population Favorable to a Republican State.

No careful record of the number of citizens of African descent of the Seminole nation was kept, but it must be fully 1,500. The Dawes Commission shows that in the Choctaw nation there are 2,983 freedmen whose application for enrollment have been approved, and 1,682 whose applications are undetermined; in the Cherokee nation, 2,749 applications approved and 437 undetermined; and in the Creek nation, 4,954 applications approved and 437 undetermined. This makes a total of 24,538 Negroes connected with the five civilized tribes. The census reports of 1900 gave a black population to the whole territory of 36,583 and of 18,331 in Oklahoma. There were about 6,000 Indians in Oklahoma and 51,363 in Indian Territory according to this report, but judging from the number of applications listed before the Dawes Commission there are over 100,000 Indians exclusive of freedmen and Quapaws in the Indian Territory alone.

Adding a five per cent increase for the last four years, the total combined black and Indian population of the two territories cannot fall much short of 170,000. The black voters in these numbers can be counted on as Republicans, and whatever put to the test, unquestionably the overwhelming majority of the Indian voters would be Republican also. The white population of the Indian Territory in 1900 was 392,678, and of Oklahoma 367,524. Since that date there has been a great immigration, which, excepting that part entering Southwest Oklahoma, has mostly come from the North. Texas and Arkansas have ceased to be the colonizers of the Twin Territories. Kansas, Nebraska, Northern Missouri and the Central States have taken their place.

The Hon. Bird S. McGuire, Oklahoma's Congressional delegate, in an interview yesterday's issues of this paper, claimed that the new state to be made out of the two territories would be Republican under the present conditions by about 15,000 majority. The figures given, which have been compiled from the best sources, would indicate that McGuire's claim is well within the limits of probability. Granting that at the last election the combined vote of the two territories showed a Democratic majority of 10,000, yet since that date the Republican immigration from the North has been a three to one Democratic immigration from the South. Adding to this gain the increase which will come with enfranchising of the Indians and freedmen, a Republican majority for the new state seems assured.

—K. C. Journal.

The Odd Fellows celebrate at Muskogee, the 20 and 21. A big time expected, as there will be many visitors in town.

Panama Canal Labor.

The important question of the sort of labor that shall be employed in the building of the Panama Canal may have to be settled by Congress. General Davis takes the position that the immigration laws of Panama and not of the United States will govern in the Panama zone, and that if necessary the Commission will be able to employ Chinese labor. The British government is placing severe restrictions on the employment of Jamaica Negroes, many of whom were badly treated by the French contractors. In a full running discussion of the Panama labor problem in the New York Sun by a number of people, Dr. Albert S. Ashmead of New York was the only writer who stood out squarely for Afro-American labor as being all sufficient. He said:

"Mr. Thorp thinks it will be a task of immense difficulty to obtain the necessary labor for the digging of the Panama Canal, and will cost far more than Uncle Sam expects to pay. 'The labor problem,' he says, 'is likely to delay the work seriously.' Not at all for we have our own Negroes in the Gulf states just as immune against tropical diseases—dysentery, malaria and yellow fever as those wretched Jamaicans. For Heaven's sake: do not engage Jamaica Negroes to build the canal."

There appears to us to be a great deal of method in the attitude of the Canal Commission and of those who have discussed the problem of labor for the Canal is giving such scant consideration to our Afro-American supply. What is this method? Is the fear of upsetting the Southern labor market, or fear that Afro-Americans would be unequal to the work? The Gulf States and Mississippi Valley Negroes are absolutely immune from the climatic severity and malarious conditions that rule in Panama, and if there is any member of the Commission who think that these laborers are inferior to the Chinese and Jamaican laborers he has not the nerve to say so. Some thirty thousand of these laborers will be needed, and the talk of employing aliens when our own citizens need the work and can perform it should have the gas pricked out of it.—New York Age.

Fate's Answer.

"What is the time?"
A little child asked on a fair June day.
"Tis time to play," said Fate;
And romping merrily it went on its way.

"What is the time?"
A boy said, half in earnest, half in jest.
"Tis time to think," said Fate,
"To weld the chain of knowledge link by link."

"What is the time?"
The boy to manhood grown now eases asks.
"Tis time to love and wed," said Fate,
"To give the heart precedence to the head."

"What is the time?"
A father with grave face is asking now.
"Tis time to strive," said Fate,
"To toil for others and for others thrive."

"What is the time?"
At last an old man, bent with years and care,
The question puts.
"Tis time to die," said Fate,
"And in the earth which nourished thee to lie."

And this was the last question and reply.
The last mid earthly scenes;
Yet who shall say
That in some gentler clime—
Unknown and here unknowable—
More answers will not follow those of Fate.

Mid all the glories of an endless day,
Answers indeed, but not like those of time—
Blunt, brief, and harsh of sound;
But filled with love that hath no mete nor bound.

—C. J. Augustin, Glenwood, Wis.

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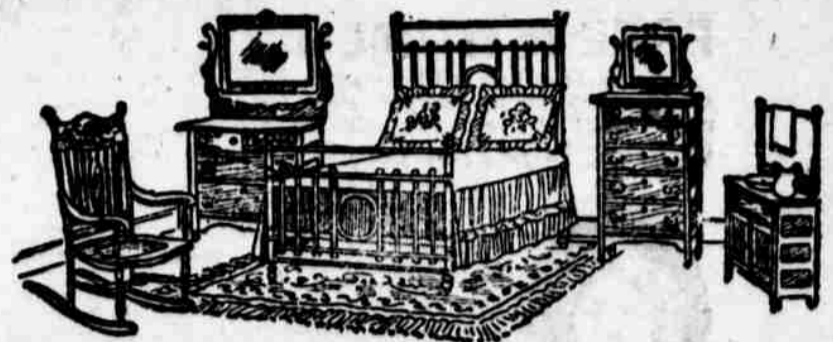
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