

City Library Cayton's Weekly

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CAYTON'S WEEKLY

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In the interest of equal rights and equal justice to all men and for "all men up."

A publication of general information, but in the main voicing the sentiments of the Colored Citizens.

It is open to the towns and communities of the state of Washington to air their public grievances.

Social and church notices are solicited for publication and will be handled according to the rules of journalism.

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EMANCIPATION

Fifty-five years ago the colored folk of the United States distinctly heard the blow that broke the shackles of slavery from them and three months thereafter they stepped forth from their prison cells free men and women. For two hundred years the ancestry of the four million freedmen had prayed for the coming of this emancipation day. Generations of them came and went without seeing any hope or signs of the coming day, but they prayed on and prayed without ceasing and even without discouragement, until at last a cloud of protest made its appearance in the far Northeast and as it rose higher and higher above the horizon it grew blacker and blacker until it took on the appearance of a genuine storm cloud, and still it grew until our entire land and country was overshadowed with its dark and ominous forebodings. It was in this condition when the angel of fate struck the terrible blow that broke the shackles of four million black folks at one fell swoop. There seems to be no doubt but that the Almighty God created the immortal Lincoln to direct the fates in order that this emancipation blow be struck at the opportune time, and he faltered not, though being human, he delayed it for a moment at the crucial moment to give him time to once more communicate with Him who sent him to determine if the time was yet ripe to strike the final blow. It was, He struck it! Bless his memory.

The angel of Freedom had hovered over and about the hearts of Christian white men and women for scores of years praying for the emancipation of the blacks of this country, but the demon of Avirice had prevailed in the minds of a great majority of the citizens so long that they refused to give up the opportunity, whereby they thought they were getting something for nothing, and so they took a firmer grasp on the chains that bound the blacks and listened not to the prayers of the angel of Freedom. The anti-slave agitators, who in spite of oppression and even death, worked without ceasing to educate the human mind against enslaving a fellow man, but it took the blood of the martyr to this cause to arouse the nation to the evils that were being practiced in this alleged "land of the free and home of the brave." John Brown marched upon the scaffold of death with as bold and unhesitating step as did the three Hebrew children into the fiery furnace or the lion's den and taking up a little black child on the way to the gallows, he kissed it and exclaimed, "I die that you may be free." He died and the black folks were made free before the skin worms had des-

troyed his body, and it is not overdrawing the mental picture to say, "today the spirit of John Brown sits by that of the immortal Lincoln and watches from the battlements of heaven the fight of the black folk against odds for a general uplift aof themselves and they pray together for the God of the Universe to give them strength to succeed.

It was no idle threat on the part of Lincoln, when he on the twenty-second day of September, 1862, said to the men rebelling against the flag of their country, "unless you lay down your arms I will emancipate the slaves of those states in secession," and they knew it, and that's why they fought with a desperation that knew no bounds. Lincoln knew they would not lay down their arms, but being the messenger of Him, who doeth all things well, he gave them a final opportunity. He lived up to his threat January 1st, 1863 and on that day the human chattels of the United States became free men and women. God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform, and the way the emancipation of the black folks of this country was brought about thoroughly demonstrates the proph-ecy.

Four million uneducated, penniless Negroes in 1862, turned adrift without friends, food or raiment did not sicken and die as was predicted by their former owners, but they have multiplied and accumulated in the way of worldly possessions, until that four million now numbers twelve millions and have increased their worldly possessions from nothing to more than a billion dollars. Instead of hanging about the plantations of their former owners they have scattered to the four corners of the earth and all over this land of the free their black and tan faces are to be found and they identify themselves with the various communities in which they cast their lots the same as white folks. In spite of their handicaps Lincoln's spirit smiles on them today and says, "well done." The children of those emancipated slaves today are strong men and women and do much toward making this the great and good government that it is. The hope of success came with the message of Freedom and they at one and the same time presented themselves to the ex-slaves and both were eagerly embraced and taken into their hearts to become a part of their lives for all times to come, and fifty-five years after the issuing of that precious document, which meant so much to them, the hope of Success is as strong in their bosoms as it was the day that they looked for the last time on the old farm on which they had been so long held as chattels. It is now the spirit of Justice that the offsprings of those who prayed for freedom are praying each day and night and as the prayers of freedom were eventually heard so will the prayers for justice likewise be heard. God is not dead.

NEW REPUBLIC BORN

Russia is now a republic and long may it live. After floundering about like a ship in a storm without sail or rudder that unfortunate country, with its teeming millions, has cast its lot with the republics of the world, but it is not expected that it will improve its conditions to any extent over what they have been for the past few months—since the abdication of Czar Nicholas. The country is both anti and pro German and it is very doubtful if it even

as a republic will be able to solidify its dissenting elements and fight for a common cause. Russia is the largest country in the world and, if it was made up of a united people, it would be able to defy the world, but, owing to the chaotic conditions that do and have prevailed therein for many years, it can not command respect from the most inferior nation in the world. Its strongest character at present seems to be M. Kerensky, who is the provisional president of the new republic, and it is truly hoped that he will be able to bring peace and unity out of the chaotic conditions which now prevail throughout the entire land and country.

BLOW AT LYNCH LAW

Every loyal citizen of this republic should rise and take his hat off to the efforts of W. H. Lewis of Boston, who has drafted an anti-lynching bill and turned the same over to United States Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, who has expressed himself as very kindly disposed to the proposed measure. Mr. Lewis, under the Taft administration, was a deputy in the office of the U. S. Attorney General and made a record as one of the reliable legal lights of the administration. Of course the present administration and his party, which control both branches of the U. S. Congress, are bitterly opposed to the passage of such a measure because it would interfere with the modus procedure of the politics of the South and its passage can hardly be expected, yet in their heart of hearts they must highly commend the measure. The bill is as follows:

"If two or more persons in any state, district or territory of the United States conspire to lynch, burn, murder or maim any citizen of the United States, or to deprive any citizen of the United States of his right to migrate from one state or territory of the United States to any other state or territory of the United States, or to any foreign state or territory, and the local authorities of any such state, territory or district shall within three months from the date of such offense fail, neglect or refuse to bring to justice such persons so conspiring, such persons shall be deemed guilty of the offense against the United States, cognizable in the federal court having jurisdiction of such state, territory or district, and each of such persons shall upon conviction of such offense be punished by imprisonment for not more than twenty years; or if loss of life results from such conspiracy, each of such persons so conspiring shall be punished by imprisonment for life, or by death, at the option of the jury."

Despite the fact that Senator Lodge has interested himself in the proposed federal law preventing lynching, yet there is not a possibility of it ever passing so long as the democratic party runs the White House, for that party is there from the very fact that the lynching of colored men, women and children was permitted.

In naming Erastus Brainard as one of the food commissioners, no mistake has been made for a more efficient man could no where be found. His peculiarities to the contrary notwithstanding. Brainard is one of the big brained men of the Northwest and has few, if any, superiors in any section or part of this country.