THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.

Office, 73 Chartres street | NEW ORLEANS, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1865. | Vol. XXVII—New Series. Vol. XVII—Whole—13,649.

NEW ORLEANS:
WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 20, 1865.

The Press of New Orleans.

Agreement adopted November 16, '65.

The undersigned proprietors of the Press in the city of New Orleans, agree to be governed by the following uniform

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

Squares:	1 month net.	2 mos. net.	3 mos. net.	6 mos. net.	12 mos net.
One	$12	$22	$30	$50	$75
Two	22	38	50	80	125
Three	30	53	70	110	175
Four	38	67	90	140	225
Five	46	80	105	170	275
Six	54	93	120	200	325
Seven	60	105	135	230	375
Eight	65	115	150	260	420
Nine	70	125	165	290	460
Ten	75	135	180	320	500
Eleven	80	145	195	350	540
Twelve	85	155	210	380	580
Thirteen	90	165	230	410	640
Fourteen	95	175	250	440	680
Fifteen	100	185	270	470	700
Thirty	175	330	480	750	1200

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Transient Advertisements having the run of the paper, first insertion, $1 50 per square; each subsequent insertion 75 cents per square.

Second Page Transient Advertisements, each insertion $1 50 per square.

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All Transient Advertisements must be paid for in advance.

All bills with regular advertisers shall be rendered monthly.

G. F. WEISSE & CO., *N. O. Bee.*
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EDWIN L. JEWELL, *Southern Star.*

☞ Copies of the Bee can alway be found at Mr. Auguste Simon's Bookstore, No. 85 Bienne street, between Union and Bardido.

THE CONCERT OF MLLE ELIE LAST NIGHT—The vocal and instrumental concert at the Opera House last night, given by Mlle Marguerite Elie, gathered the most brilliant assemblage which those walls have held since the palmy days when they witnessed the magnificent representations of the grand opera. As a first public reception to the accomplished debutante since her return from Paris, it was a consummate testimonial of welcome and appreciation. We do not purpose her to review the execution of the musical programme, on our French side this is done with some minuteness and elaboration.

We will merely observe that Mlle Elie's style shows in an eminent degree cultivation, facility, accuracy, and, above all, exquisite delicacy. Nor does she lack vigor, but this she has too fine a taste to display in bold and garish specimens of musical gymnastics and pyrotechnics. Mr. Oliveira was welcomed as an old and steadfast favorite, and well deserved the enthusiastic plaudits that followed his brilliant instrumentation with the violin. If anything, he surpassed himself.

Mlle Elie is to give another concert on the 27th at Odd Fellows' Hall, assisted as before by Mr. Oliveira, Mr. Greuling, Mlle Lafargue, together with Herra Meyer on the violoncello.

ALMANAC FOR 1866—Mr. Francis Bouvain requests us to say that to-morrow is the last day when advertisements to be inserted in his Almanac, for 1866, will be received at his office, No. 62 Bourbon street.

GOLD PENS—Mr. Francis Bouvain, No. 62 Bourbon street, has made a reduction of ten per cent on the prices of Foley's celebrated gold pens, of which he has an immense stock. See his advertisement.

NATURE'S FURNITURE—Of the month, is far more preferable to any that art can supply. Therefore, keep your teeth clean, and in good repair with that toilet gem, Fragrant Sozodont. Brush them daily with the delicious vegetable preparation, and they will not be likely to crumble or decay.

HOLIDAY TOYS—Toys of all countries and of all kinds, at 50 per cent. below market prices, are advertised for the Holidays at 142 Chartres st cet. This is a rare chance to add 100 pe, cent to the happiness of childhood, and save 50 per cent. in so doing

Freedmen Labor and Other Labor.

Our contemporaries are slow to comment on the freedmen labor regulations of the recent circular issued by Gen. Baird. By silence, not less than by expression, they show that the prospect in regard to the labor question appears to them confused, clouded and uncertain. And this is in spite of, and some would say by reason of, the regulations just laid down by the Freedmen's Bureau. One journal is briefly congratulatory upon the single circumstance that there is "no clash between the newly promulgated labor rules of the Government and the rules recently adopted by our State Legislature on the same subject." Another, while not asserting that there is a clash between the State legislation and the circular of Gen. Baird, complains that the latter establishes additional conditions of contract which will prove onerous and in some cases impracticable. The gist of its objections is comprised in these words:

We regret, therefore, to find that the Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau for Louisiana has, in Circular No. 29, issued ostensibly for the purpose of establishing "rules for the interpretation of contracts between employers and freedmen"—apart forth an edict which, without adding in any respect to the protection given to the freedmen by the recently enacted laws, imposes upon the employer such onerous conditions that it will be in many cases utterly impossible to comply with them.

It should be remembered that the State laws left labor contracts open to supplementary conditions. After establishing general provisions concerning engagements for labor, they remitted a variety of details to be agreed on at discretion by the contracting parties. In the absence of such a circular as just issued, the freedmen could have insisted on terms even more exacting than those prescribed in the circular, and reports from the country concerned in representing the prevalence among them of a disposition to demand wages and accommodations for the coming year that would prove impracticable. Thus, while freedmen are recognized as voluntary agents in entering into contracts—an involuntary contract or is a legal impossibility—it is impossible, under any general law on labor, to get rid of the possibility of inconvenience and hardship in effecting engagements with them. And while the Freedmen's Bureau shall exist it must be expected to exercise the supervision of a tutor over freedmen's contracts. If it did not perform this function under general rules, such as just promulgated, it would do so through the interference of its parochial agents.

This view of the matter brings us back to a remark we have previously made, that, as regards general remarks in the employment of freedmen labourers, everything will depend upon the administration of them charged by the National authority with the guardianship of the freedmen's rights and interests. If such administrators are what, just, well informed as to the true interests of freedmen and the actual necessities of business, and, freed from the bias of partisan Government bigotry, are inspired by a purpose to maintain that general welfare and prosperity, the ample signal from them a policy, even under the provisions of the circular in question, which will be fruitful of a great measure of happy results. But if, on the contrary, they are, as heretofore, to be controlled by the dictates of fanatics in labor questions elsewhere, they will, indeed, be able to commend not new to arrangements based on the laws of the respective localities, which are intended for equitable labor arrangements in general, not for freedmen likewise considerably. The answer is to be known whether the utilization of freedmen is to be defeated by the Federal interference, the better.

No State laws can correct that interference so far as freedmen labor is concerned. The utmost that State legislation can do is to provide legal facilities the greatest attainable compensation, and in this way much is done in the laws recently passed. It does not seem to be generally considered that, under these laws, besides Coolies and whatever white laborers may choose to contract under them, all colored persons born free, or who are not freedmen, may engage themselves at discretion. If we do not mistake the purpose and scope of the Freedmen's Bureau, this class of colored laborers would not be subjected to its "provision."

However this may be, and in any event, it is the obvious policy of our people to make the most of for agricultural purposes of white labor already at hand, and to encourage early immigration of industrious whites from all parts of the world.

There is not the least objection in the Southern mind, as some of the Radical papers have insinuated, to their coming from the North. No matter what political opinions they may bring with them, if they are honest and diligent they will soon make good enough Southerners; they will not fail to love the land which yields blessings, such as few may yield, to the faithful worker, and to glory in the sky that smiles with a brightness and geniality such as few may equal, upon homes of plenty and comfort.

In the last aspect of the question, our city contemporary, the *Crescent*, makes this reasonable remark:

The only escape from the uncertainties attending the administration of freedmen's affairs, is to hold out such inducements as will cause a large immigration of white people to our State. They will add to our strength, and will develope the resources of the country in their own way. And though the freedman, who is the special care of the Bureau, may eventually perish under the vicious system which his self-styled friends are endeavoring to force upon the State, it will not be the fault of the Southern people, who to-day entertain for the negro a more kindly feeling than is entertained for him by the people of the North, with all their boasted philanthropy.

As regards the natural ability of the white man to supply the requisites of agricultural labor in the production of the great Southern staples, there is considerable contrariety of opinion. While it is conceded that, of all races, the Caucasian is the most versatile, physically as well as mentally, it has been common to doubt heretofore his efficiency in the labor above indicated. But the question is open, and the following statements, (which we find in a recent number of the *Planter's Banner*, Franklin, La.,) in opposition to the common theory, are certainly interesting and suggestive:

Some of our young men are making arrangements to unite in bodies of ten or a dozen to cultivate land and make sugar the coming year. We are glad to see this, but rise is equally as profitable as sugar, and can be made with little or no expense beyond fences, farming utensils and labor.

Experience has compelled us to recede a little from our former opinions in regard to white labor in low latitudes. During this war Southern negroes have fainted and been carried back when working on entrenchments in July and August, while Northern soldiers have proceeded with their work of the same kind and under the same circumstances. This was the case at Port Hudson. Negroes have not stood the fatigues and irregularities of campaigns of camp life as well as white men. The mortality among negroes in the South under the same circumstances with white men has been far greater than that of the latter. The white man excels any "colored man" on the face of the earth in any kind of skill, labor, or deeds, including deeds of rascality. He excels the Indian as a hunter or, in any kind of warfare. He excels the African in kidnapping negroes and hunting lions, he excels the Asiatics in hunting tigers and elephants, he penetrates further than the Esquimaux towards the north pole in regions of icebergs and eternal snows; on the prairies of Texas he tangles the wild bull with his lariat, and excels the Mexican in managing herds of cattle; and the white man with his harpoon captures the monsters of the deep with a facility which would astonish any of the inferior races.

And the white man is not long to be staggered at the labor question of the South. If the black man proves too lazy and trifling for such business the lords of the soil will take hold of this matter. And they will succeed. White men in the South will labor, and they will induce Europeans to come and help them. And they will draw labor from the hundreds of millions of men begging for labor in Asia, and who are willing and anxious to work. All we want is a little more pluck, patience, and perseverance, and this labor question will be effectually solved.

Louisiana Legislature.

Sitting—Tuesday, December 19, 1865.

Senate—This body came to order at the usual hour, the Lieut. Governor in the chair, and a quorum present.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Palmer.

The journal of the proceedings of the previous day was read and approved.

Mr. Kenner moved, a joint committee to select important bills for the public interest to be acted on by the General Assembly, which motion was adopted, and Messrs. Kenner, Munday and Newton were appointed on the Committee.

A message from the House, reporting concurrence to the bill punishing persons enticing laborers to break their contracts, and to extend the time for appeals to the Supreme Court.

On motion of Mr. Barthe, a homebill, establishing an election precinct at Kennerville, was taken up and concurred in.

Mr. Palfrey's bill then, to authorize the Governor to issue State bonds to the extent of $1,000,000 the proceeds to be expended for levees, etc., was taken up and passed the third reading, and was adopted with its title.

The act providing for the salaries of the officers and employees of the General Assembly was then called up. Several amendments were offered. Mr. Mohan's substitute fixing the salaries of the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House a yearly salary of $2000; the assistant Clerk and assistant Secretary $1500, and to the Sergeant-at-Arms $1500 per annum. The other employees to receive a per diem during the session was adopted, and the whole bill passed.

Mr. Durrignard's bill, relative to reapties, was taken up at the second reading. The bill provides that persons whose affairs became deranged by the war, may obtain a respite of three years on showing the same and the probability that he may be able to pay up within three years; but on an appearance of fraud or insufficient inventory, the creditor may be compelled to a forced surrender.

The bill to extend the time of appeals from the District Courts to the Supreme Court was returned from the House with the amendment defending the city of New Orleans. Concurred in.

The Committee on Education reported that the subject was too extensive to be reported on during the extra session.

Mr. Gordon reported favorable on the bill making State tax receipts, paid during the last four years, receivable as cash for taxes becoming due, during the suspension of the collection of taxes for the years 1861, '62, '63 and '64 (Considerable opposition was manifested and the bill was recommitted to the Finance Committee.

The Senate then adjourned.

House—Pursuant to adjournment, the House met at 10 o'clock, A. M. There being no quorum present, a motion to take a recess until half-past 10 o'clock was carried. On re-assembling, a quorum was present. The session was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. McCoy. The minutes were read and approved.

Mr. Baker introduced a joint resolution providing that the Legislature shall not adjourn or take up any legislative business, except the appointment of superintendent of this State. A motion to lay the substitute on the table was lost. The substitute was then adopted. Yeas 47, Nays 36.

Mr. Shaw, on behalf of the Committee on Judiciary, reported favorably on the bill relative to forced surrenders and the way of making the same.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the State Land Office, [illegible] year, ending on the 30th [illegible] which was [illegible] by the Speaker.

Mr. Hall, of St. Tammany, the Senate bill [illegible] Police Jury of St. Tammany, [illegible] money on additional clerk in his office, [illegible] justices per annum, was called up.

The rule, requiring the Secretary of State to call the roll of the members in order to ascertain the presence of a quorum before proceeding to business, was suspended.

The Speaker announced the following standing committees:

Ways and Means—Messrs. Bell, Hall, Bonnecaze, Bowman, Bonnecaze, Bell, Hall, Bonnecaze, Bowman, Bonnecaze, Bell, Hall, Bonnecaze, Bowman, Bonnecaze,