



"If any man attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot."

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MASS MEETING. Speech of Dr. Renner in Answer to Morton.

On Tuesday last bills were posted in our city, calling a mass meeting of the citizens, without stating the object.

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens - In obedience to your repeated calls I come before you to express my views in regard to this Registration Law.

Unlike the gentlemen who have just now so bitterly denounced this law, I come before you without any preparation, without any documents in my pocket, and without any possible knowledge of the object of this "mass meeting" prior to its announcement by the chairman.

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens - In obedience to your repeated calls I come before you to express my views in regard to this Registration Law.

It is amusing to hear men talk as if a Registry Law was never heard of before, when such laws have been enacted in almost every State in the Union, and under the prevalence of every political party.

The Registration Law requires no other, no additional qualification of an elector than those prescribed in the old Election Law.

This is all I ask, and all that any good citizen ought to ask, no good citizen ought to object to it. Whoever objects to a system of registration, which has been gradually adopted by almost every State in the Union, does so because it interferes with the plans and purposes of his party to secure a party triumph through illegal terms.

If the spirit of the law is carried out both parties will be treated alike, and I have been yesterday and to-day that the officers appointed by the Executive are actuated by a spirit of resolute firmness, combined with the utmost fairness, the most rigid justice, and the strictest impartiality.

A great deal of stress has been laid by some of the speakers upon the fact that the Registration Law requires all persons of foreign birth to show their papers, or make oath, or bring witnesses who can prove that they have declared their intention to become citizens of this country, or that they have been naturalized.

I cannot possibly see any hardship in this provision, being a foreign born citizen myself, inasmuch as I had to do the same thing heretofore at almost every election whenever the democratic side saw fit to challenge my vote of which privilege they frequently availed themselves either from spite, pleasure or ignorance of the fact of my naturalization.

The gentleman who just preceded me (Mr. Morton) and who is in the habit of letting slip from his glib tongue many expressions that may please the low minded and vulgar, but are considered by others as indecent and ungentlemanly, seems to be considerably harassed over the fact, that the negro (or to use his own words) - the irrepressible gizzard footed, curly-headed and stinking African, is entitled to the franchise under the laws and Constitution of Nebraska.

The nigger and the nigger always comes up before the disturbed imaginations of the rebels and conservatives, and like Barquo's ghost, will not go down. Now I have a chapter on negro equality and negro suffrage that I wish to recite. Who indorsed and inaugurated negro suffrage in the State of New York? Answer, the democratic party, with Martin Van Buren at their head.

Who introduced a resolution in the Legislature of Ohio to strike out the word "white" as a qualification for suffrage? George E. Pugh, the war-horse of democracy; and he was elected United States Senator by the democratic legislature immediately afterwards.

Who has not read the reports of the shameful election frauds in the so-called northern precinct of Leauquicourt County, where a vote of 122 came in for Mr. Morton, although there was no such place as that in the Territory. The evidence taken in the contest between Daily and Morton shows the boldest, openest, and most outrageous frauds ever perpetrated in any country; it has been published in almost every newspaper in the world; it is recorded in the Congressional Globe and archives; it forms a part of the history of our State, and is so clear and positive that his children will be stopped from denying it.

His high perfection in the science of manufacturing fraudulent election returns, besides his natural gift of gab and billingsgate, may explain the repeated nomination of a man who lacks decency, discretion, veracity, patriotism, in fact all the essential qualifications of a party leader or an editor of a party organ.

It is not strange that a man who has been rejected by the vote of the people as often as three times in six months, should charge us with frauds at every successive defeat; but if true they would be so many forcible arguments for the necessity of a stringent registration law.

There they will be relieved of all such inconvenience. Pleasant arrangements exist by which all the burdens and annoyances of controlling the State, county and city government, are taken from the people and imposed upon certain personages, who pay themselves for their services as much as they please.

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