

## JIM CROW CARS.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican is somewhat exercised on the subject of "Jim Crow" cars in the South, and especially on the proposition to separate the races in the street cars in Southern cities. Referring to the separate car legislation in New Orleans it says:

We may therefore venture the prediction that the proposed new law will not remain long on the statute books. The economic consideration will finally overcome the prejudice of color. Street transit depends for its greatest efficiency and cheapness upon a service strictly common to all the people without discrimination. And if it should chance that Southern and local capital is operating the service, the color discrimination will the more speedily be done away with. If the steam railways of the South had not been so largely owned by Northern capital Jim Crow car legislation would probably never have been so readily enacted.

The Republican takes the position that the separation of the races will be found unprofitable and will therefore be discontinued, but we do not apprehend anything of the kind. The feeling against indiscriminate mixing of the races in public conveyances is much more intense now than it was twenty years ago, and so far from diminishing it grows. Our theory is that those who pay equal prices should have equal accommodations, but there is little probability that the railroads in the South will ever go back to the plan of putting whites and negroes in the same cars. Our people would not submit to it and ought not.

The argument in the last sentence of the above quotation is thoroughly characteristic. It is a direct admission that the Northern capitalists who own stock in Southern railroads care nothing for the manner in which the business is conducted, provided it makes money. They wouldn't care if all races of people, together with dogs, pigs and fowls, were forced to ride in one car, provided it added to the profits of the road. This is not the Southern idea of travel, and we think The Republican is badly mistaken when it argues that if our people owned the railroads, "color discrimination would be more speedily done away with." The truth is it is not dependant on the owners or stockholders of the railroads to decide whether whites and negroes shall occupy the same cars. It is a question which the people in this section will be likely to control, it matters not where the road owners live.

The separation of the races in the street cars of Montgomery is bound to come. We do not yet know what influences will cause the change to be made, but feel sure that the right chord will be touched some day, and the management will be forced to adopt a regulation demanded by the people, or give place to those who will. Public sentiment among the white people in Montgomery is fast reaching a point where the crowding of white ladies into seats with or near to, dirty negroes will not be tolerated. Large bodies move slowly, and sometimes small ones are slower than the larger, but the time will come when they must be forced to yield to the demands of the public or go to the wall. There will eventually be coals of fire put on the back of the tortoise, if nothing else will get a move on him.