

**Richmond Times-Dispatch**  
 Entered January 27, 1905, at the Post Office at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter.  
 PUBLISHED every day in the year at 10 South Tenth Street, Richmond, Va., by the Times-Dispatch Publishing Co., Inc., Charles E. Hasbrouck, Editor and Manager.  
 ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO The Times-Dispatch, and not to individuals.  
 TELEPHONE: Randolph 1. Private Branch Exchange connecting with all departments.  
 SPECIAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES: Hasbrouck, Story & Brooks, Inc., Fifth Avenue Building, New York; Mutual Life Building, Philadelphia; Peoples Gas Building, Chicago.  
 WASHINGTON OFFICE: 716 Fourteenth Street, N. W.  
 SUBSCRIPTION RATES IN ADVANCE, by mail: Daily and Sunday, one year, \$6.00; 6 months, \$3.00; 3 months, \$1.50; 1 month, 50 cents. Daily only, one year, \$4.00; 6 months, \$2.00; 3 months, \$1.00; 1 month, 35 cents. Sunday only, one year, \$2.00; 6 months, \$1.00; 3 months, 50 cents; 1 month, 25 cents.  
 BY LOCAL CARRIER SERVICE: Daily with Sunday, 15 cents a week; Daily without Sunday, 10 cents a week; Sunday only, 5 cents.  
 If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.  
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 1916.

It is necessary, he declared, to attain unity of control in national concerns, while at the same time preventing the destruction of local autonomy by the extension of Federal powers.

The warning comes in good time. American liberty has been conserved by our dual system of government. In the beginning the State was the strong and aggressive partner in the concern. War and changes in our conditions of life have reversed the situation. The national government now wields far greater authority than ever before, and there is a tendency observable in the country at present to settle all difficulties by increasing the activities of the Federal government. It is indeed well to have a strong national government, but it is also well to carefully safeguard the power of the States. Justice Hughes is one of the most respected and admired men in the country, and his words will have their weight.

A quietus on the affairs in Mexico must come, but if there is ever any doubt as to the most expeditious way of doing it, and the government doesn't care to take the responsibility, the job can be effectually cleaned up if it is turned over to Texas.

**Count von Bernstorff**

Investigation shall verify the reports published from England and it shall be made affirmatively and definitely to appear that Captain Franz von Papen, former military attache of the German embassy at Washington, paid money to men connected with attempts to destroy munition plants and commit similar crimes in this country. Ambassador Bernstorff will not escape accusations of complicity. In such a case he would have difficulty in disproving them.

Papers and checkbooks taken from Captain von Papen by the British authorities when he was searched at Falmouth show payments of money to Werner Horn, the man who tried to blow up a bridge over the St. Croix River, on the Canadian border, and to other suspected persons. They reveal also the receipt of large embassy funds by Captain von Papen.

This, at any rate, is the information that comes from London. Count von Bernstorff says he does not believe it, but the story is supplied with such a wealth of detail as to make doubt difficult, if not impossible. The documents have been handed over to the American ambassador at London, and will be dispatched by him to the State Department. On their arrival we shall see what we shall see.

**"I" Said Cock Robin**

That fiction of imperial omnipotence conventionally assumed by monarchs has decided elements of humor. "I will not make peace," says the Czar of Russia, until certain things come to pass. In theory, at least, he is the most autocratic of all the rulers of Europe, but actually Nicholas II. can neither make peace nor declare war. His ministers, his family and, above all, his feudal aristocracy, to say nothing of the great mass of Russian people, settle these questions. He is the Czar of all the Russias, but he has little more actual power in determining international relations than the President of the United States. Even in Russia, the farthest east of European countries, the old Oriental scheme of government by one despot is only a lordly Romanoff theory.

**A Threat to Good Roads**

STATE SENATOR BYRD'S bill providing that the power of deciding what roads are to be built with State funds shall rest with the county Board of Supervisors, and that on their requisition the Auditor must issue a warrant on the treasury for one-half the cost of construction, should be killed.

The passage of such a bill would mean a serious setback to State roads. By its terms, the State Highway Commissioner would become a figurehead, and each locality would do what seemed good in its sight. Instead of a well-planned road system, there would be confusion and waste. Instead of the superintendence of men qualified by knowledge and experience to carry out road construction on a large scale, the entire administration would lie in the hands of men whose experience is open to question. It is difficult to think that such a measure has any chance of success.

**For the Relief of Jewish Sufferers**

UP to Saturday, the American Jewish Relief Association had received in cash contributions amounting to \$1,143,608, besides pledges for nearly \$200,000. With the possible exception of the Armenians, no people have suffered so fearfully from the cruelties of the European war as the Jews, especially the Russians and Galicians; and their loneliness, as a people, in the sections where they have endured most distress makes their situation doubly appealing.

Since the President's proclamation making January 27 a day of nation-wide giving for the relief of Jews in Europe, many donations have been received by the central committee from Christians, one letter reading that the contribution was made "in His name," and another saying that the gift was offered "in recognition of Christianity's debt to the Jews." It is this spirit that will make for everlasting peace some day, not the mouthings and junketings of doctrinaires.

**Let the Aldermen Be Frank**

NOT a city in the country that enjoys the privilege of holding special elections or submitting special subjects of legislation at general elections, is hampered by any such provision as Alderman Nelsen proposes to inflict on Richmond. He would permit an election for a charter commission only on the petition of 50 per cent of the qualified voters, which means 75 per cent of the ballots cast in the ordinary political contest in this city. Of course, that is the same as forbidding a charter commission election at any time.

Statutes of this character provide that an election shall be held on petition of a percentage of the votes cast in the last preceding election, the percentage ranging from 5 to 25. Wilmington, N. C., requires 35 per cent of the vote cast at the last election, but in this respect it is believed to be unique. Certainly, no village in the land fixes the percentage at 75, for to do so would be utterly ridiculous and absurd.

We have very great hope that before to-morrow evening members of the Board of Aldermen will see the light in this matter and join with the Council in approving the reasonable and sensible measure recommended by the Charter-Change Committee. The people of Richmond have the right to expect from their representatives assistance in obtaining a privilege enjoyed by the people of other cities in the State and throughout the United States. If the Aldermen continue opposed, however, we hope they will have the frankness and courage to defeat the resolution openly, and not endeavor to kill it by a foolish and patent subterfuge.

**The Essential Elements**

FEW things could be more timely than the plea made by Justice Hughes at the annual meeting of the New York Bar Association for the preservation of the essential elements of our governmental system, both State and national. Justice Hughes pointed out that the great extension of governmental jurisdiction over business affairs brought a certain danger of Federal encroachment on the functions and powers of the States. It

**SEEN ON THE SIDE**

**Masked Batteries.**  
 When Polly lifts her glowing eyes  
 And views you with a naive surprise,  
 You might as well surrender;  
 For Polly's eyes, so innocent,  
 When they are on their victim bent,  
 Quite foolish thoughts engender.

Too well I know that Polly's eyes  
 Are deadly to the heart that tries  
 To flee their witching glances;  
 Meet them but once, and you will be  
 Caught in a sweet captivity,  
 That struggling but enhances.

Yet, why complain? Dear Polly's eyes,  
 That rob you of the ease you prize,  
 Give recompense ample:  
 Held fast, you wait the moment when  
 Those eyes will smile on you again—  
 So much you like the smile.

**Guide Feels His Oats**

As the Guide of Capitol Square pulled on the clear given line by Newsome he said: "Thank you for this solace. But I am feeling better to-day. Fact is, I'm sort of stuck on myself. I heard a neighbor caller ask wife why I always looked so sheepish. Wife said I was more like a ground hog than a sheep; that whenever I saw her shadow I crawled in a hole. It's a smart man that can see where danger lurks, don't you think?"

**What No Fellow Can Find Out**

"Say," said the tailor man, "I can make you a pair of trousers with a secret pocket—something just out."  
 "What do I want with anything like that?"  
 "So your wife can't find your spare allowance."  
 "She gets that before I can pocket it, but if you know any dressmaker who can put up a gown so that a man can find the pocket, send her around, and I'll pay whatever price she asks."

**Not a Late-Stayer**

"Is Winkum good for anything?" asked Old Bullion.  
 "Yes; what he says goes."  
 "Does he go with it?"  
 "He does."  
 "Send him around; I want to introduce him to my daughter."

**A Go-Between**

"Hello, Johnny, are you fond of music?"  
 "That's me."  
 "What instrument do you play?"  
 "I'm the instrument. Sister's bean plays me for a sucker."

**The Peasantry Says**

Complaints of gloomy skies come with peculiar ill grace from the man who is a grouch in his own home. So far as he can, he emulates the weather man's mistake.

**Perfectly Normal**

"Isn't that stock company's leading man rather conceited?"  
 "Not at all. He merely thinks Mansfield showed good judgment in dying some years ago, before his reputation as an actor became overshadowed."

**Shakespeare Day by Day**

Claudio, in "Much Ado About Nothing" (act iv, scene 3), foresees what is occurring in Europe and Mexico: "O, what men may do! what daily do! not knowing what they do!"

**A Virginian's Prayer at Antietam**

As this story is near home we print it, but how did it ever get in the Boston Transcript? He was lying flat on the battle field, and, to quote his own words, "the shot and shell were going over me so thick that the whole firmament above me was lead color. I felt just then that I was six feet long and pretty high four feet thick, and that the chances for me were only two feet better lying down than they were standing up. I made up my mind that my only safety lay in praying. 'O Lord, good Lord, I prayed, please stretch me out as thin as a shoestring, with the pointed end towards the enemy!'"

**Partial Explanation**

A brilliant young lawyer named Green in courtrooms quite seldom was seen.  
 Despite all he could say,  
 Clients would keep away—  
 They thought he was cracked in the bean.

**Gossip From "Down Home"**

According to the Lexington Dispatch, Davidson County hunters have found a new source of revenue in the sale of possum hides. They have advanced in price and are selling for fancy prices, making a night's hunt hold profit as well as fun.

The Troy Montezumian brags as follows: "For health Troy exceeds them all. During the year only ten deaths occurred at Troy out of a population of nearly 2,000, and these were largely from age and not disease. There were three months during 1915 in which not a death occurred. The fact was so unusual for a town of this size that both the State and the United States health officials made inquiry of Dr. C. Dalgny, the registrar for Troy, as to the correctness of his report for that quarter."

**An Enemy Within Our Borders**

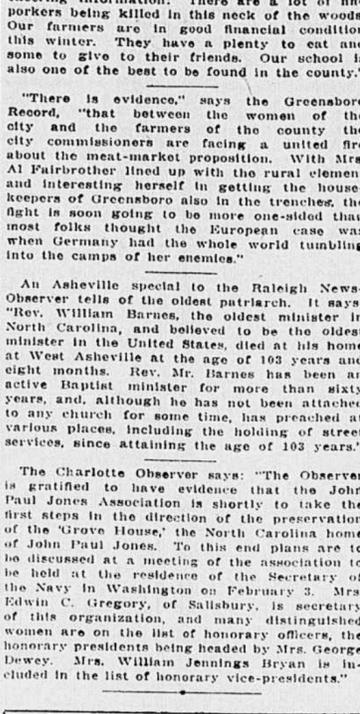
The disgraceful scenes at Youngstown, O., indicate that there is an enemy within our borders greater than that of the foreign foes that might be raised against us. The drunken mob that fires through streets, kills and wounds innocent residents and surges forth like the uncivilized tribes of the West, is a greater menace to our nation than anything in the whole realm of our affairs. It was a mob that ruined Rome; that tore Carthage; that deserted France; that was a mob that forced Italy into the greatest of all wars. It is the mob spirit that marks the first evidence of decay for the religion of the mob is death. The mob outrage calls for the most drastic action. This mob spirit must be crushed. National security will be jeopardized until the Americans learn that the mob wrecks of savagery and barbarism.—St. Louis Times.

**Dardanelles and Our Own War**

The complete collapse of the Gallipoli campaign strengthens the parallel with the first period of our own Civil War. It is the same story over again of stubborn defensive engagements, enormous losses and masterly retreats by the attacking army, and of great military reputations ruined by the new tests of warfare. The failure of the Dardanelles expedition is perhaps no worse than the failure of the "Richmond" campaign. The sense of disappointment and discouragement can be no keener in London to-day than it was in Washington in 1862. The outright conscription in England curiously echoes the draft laws in New York in 1863. But how far is the parallel to extend? Do the disasters to the British forces portend a new birth of national vigor promising ultimate victory? The number of generals who have fallen behind in the hour of need in the Dardanelles and in Flanders is no greater than the number who disappointed the North in the Peninsula and around Richmond. But is there a Grant in sight there? Perhaps not; yet the British need support from the fact too little recognized by historians that of the navy which really decided the Civil War and saved the Union.—New York World.

**"I Can't Stand That Gas!"**

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the New York Evening Sun.

**Chats With Virginia Editors**

"If kissing is the medium in chief for communication of gripple," says the Northampton Times, "some folks could have it a lifetime without endangering our health." You mean old thing!

"Cape Henry, when fortified," says the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch, "will be the Dardanelles of this country." But it does not necessarily follow that Virginia will be the Turkey or Richmond the Constantinople.

"Now that Roanoke has a company of Coast Artillery," observes the Franklin Chronicle, "the Roanokers may sleep in peace, feeling reasonably assured that no hostile fleet can sail up either Roanoke River or Tinkers Creek." Nothing like preparedness in these uncertain times, when nobody can guess what a day may bring forth.

The Halifax Record-Advertiser, whose habitat is the town of Houston, in Halifax County, is unkind enough to remark: "Forty-one breweries and 108 distilleries failed during the year just passed. We thought something like that would happen when these Houston folks got on the water wagon."

"The blowing up of passenger ships without warning," says the Chase City Progress, "is hardly creditable to civilized people, but it would affect this country if the Americans would stay at home and attend to their own business." And see America first, especially the Virginia part of it.

A German professor has discovered a way to feed old newspapers to cows. This may increase the circulation of some of the publications over there, but it won't make the cows give milk.—Richmond Times-Dispatch. We don't know about that. Some of the yellow variety have succeeded in making the public give milk.—Blackstone Courier.

What an awful thing is the gripple! Just look at the following from the editorial column of the Wakefield Enterprise: "The Enterprise force has been slightly 'under the weather' for the past ten days. The editor suffered with a severe case of gripple, Ed Allen contracted a severe cold, and Hatley Faison, being some basic, called his ailment a la gripple. Nevertheless, we are all taking the same kind of medicine."

**Current Editorial Comment**

**To Maintain Respect of Nations**  
 To maintain the respect of the other nations of the world, this nation must be conscious of its own absolutely impartial neutrality as regards the belligerents involved in this fearful war in Europe, Asia and Africa, so that through the struggle, and after the close of this "bloodiest page in the Book of Time," the United States of America may be in position to recall the nations of the earth to acknowledgment of the power of law and the sacredness of treaties and by very power of example and practice force the abandonment by nations of this barbaric, so-called necessity, which knows no law and recognizes no power save that which exists in brute force.—Chicinnati Enquirer.

**An Enemy Within Our Borders**  
 The disgraceful scenes at Youngstown, O., indicate that there is an enemy within our borders greater than that of the foreign foes that might be raised against us. The drunken mob that fires through streets, kills and wounds innocent residents and surges forth like the uncivilized tribes of the West, is a greater menace to our nation than anything in the whole realm of our affairs. It was a mob that ruined Rome; that tore Carthage; that deserted France; that was a mob that forced Italy into the greatest of all wars. It is the mob spirit that marks the first evidence of decay for the religion of the mob is death. The mob outrage calls for the most drastic action. This mob spirit must be crushed. National security will be jeopardized until the Americans learn that the mob wrecks of savagery and barbarism.—St. Louis Times.

**Dardanelles and Our Own War**  
 The complete collapse of the Gallipoli campaign strengthens the parallel with the first period of our own Civil War. It is the same story over again of stubborn defensive engagements, enormous losses and masterly retreats by the attacking army, and of great military reputations ruined by the new tests of warfare. The failure of the Dardanelles expedition is perhaps no worse than the failure of the "Richmond" campaign. The sense of disappointment and discouragement can be no keener in London to-day than it was in Washington in 1862. The outright conscription in England curiously echoes the draft laws in New York in 1863. But how far is the parallel to extend? Do the disasters to the British forces portend a new birth of national vigor promising ultimate victory? The number of generals who have fallen behind in the hour of need in the Dardanelles and in Flanders is no greater than the number who disappointed the North in the Peninsula and around Richmond. But is there a Grant in sight there? Perhaps not; yet the British need support from the fact too little recognized by historians that of the navy which really decided the Civil War and saved the Union.—New York World.



—From the New York Evening Sun.

**CITY COMMISSION GOVERNMENT**

NO. IV—FREDERIC J. HASKIN

OKLAHOMA CITY, January 15.—If you are an employer you know how hard it is to fire any one, and how much harder to keep the pay roll from growing at an alarming rate. To reduce and keep down the pay roll of a city is just about four times as hard. Yet that is what the commissioners of Oklahoma City have done, with a directness and lack of ceremony which is very characteristic of that city.

At an early meeting of the new commission, five of the members moved the proposal be reduced to three. Another one wanted the seven clerks in the water department reduced to four. So each of the commissioners moved a reduction in his own department, and in twenty minutes the pay roll of Oklahoma City was cut in half, and the people were saved a good many thousand dollars a year.

This actual economy in government is Oklahoma City's chief claim to distinction, and it is a very considerable one. In every commission government campaign, economy, efficiency and honesty have been held up as the things that commission government would bring. In most of the cities that have made the change, administrations have become more efficient and more directly responsible to the people, but very few of them have actually saved money, and still fewer have materially reduced the number of city employees. The city hall pie counter is too ancient an institution in American town life to be easily uprooted. Oklahoma City is young and its conditions are nothing to her. She abolished the pie counter at a swat.

**How Commission Is Formed.**  
 That same independence of tradition and daring directness are characteristic of the Oklahoma City charter throughout. It embodied all the principles of commission government. The commission consists of a Mayor and four commissioners, elected at large. The Mayor gets \$4,000 a year and the commissioners \$2,000 each, which is pretty good pay for the positions in a town of 65,000. The Des Moines plan of a free-for-all primary, in which anybody could run for nomination, was adopted. This is followed by an election of the five commissioners, and the two who received the highest vote for each office, making a field of ten, from which five are elected.

Machinery by which the people could recall any member of the commission at any time is provided. The people are also given power to initiate laws and to require the commission to refer any of its laws to them for approval or rejection whenever they desire. The commission has no power to create, refer, amend or recall—that they make public officials at all times responsible—seems to have been justified in Oklahoma City. The people have been so well satisfied with the government they have removed politics and politics from the city hall in much the same summary manner that the burly first executive took possession of the site.

**At Present Europe is in the throes of an internecine war in which the future of civilization is at stake.** Upon the outcome depend not only the liberties of Europe and of the world, but also the future of democracy. For in a world so unrepresented politically that its peace is at the mercy of one power, the crucial test of any form of political organization cannot be the more or less satisfactory nature of its inner life, but must perforce be its ability to defend itself and to survive in a struggle imposed by others. Were European democracy to fall in this crisis, its fate would be sealed, and America would become the last bulwark of popular government. For this fundamental reason there is an almost literal truth in the statement that the allies are fighting America's battles.—The New Republic.

**Yesterday.**  
 Say for me that, sad at heart,  
 From the world I stood apart,  
 Fearful of the coming night,  
 Tired and trembling, weary, worn,  
 Bleeding from the restless fray,  
 I was cheerless and forlorn;  
 But say,  
 That was yesterday,  
 Not to-day.

**Today.**  
 Say the skies were mantled black,  
 Life seemed not worth living out;  
 I was on Misfortune's track,  
 Wreck and ruin strewn about;  
 I was low in mind and soul,  
 All around was darkened gray,  
 But this moment flared me whole,  
 For say,  
 That was yesterday,  
 Not to-day.

**Tomorrow.**  
 Seems so long a time away—  
 Yesterday!  
 —New York Evening Sun.