

GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE HOPEWELL CHARTER BILLS

Powder Town Now Is City of the First Class, Under Law of Virginia.

WILL APPOINT NEW OFFICERS

Temporary Board to Relieve Military as Soon as Possible—Mayor and Council Go Into Office July 1—Situation Unique in State's History.

Governor Stuart on yesterday morning signed the three bills which make Hopewell a city of the first rank. The first bill is an emergency act, and contemplates the appointment of five commissioners who will administer the affairs of Hopewell until July 1, when the Governor will appoint a mayor and two branches of the city council. This bill will have authority in part until 1918, the majority, and in part until September 1, 1920, the minority. The bill also appropriates \$25,000 to administer the affairs of the city until taxes may be levied and collected.

Considerable interest attaches to the naming of the commission. The bill provides that each member of the commission shall be at least 25 years of age, and shall be a resident of the city for at least one year immediately preceding the date of his appointment. The bill also provides that the commission shall have the power to make and execute all laws necessary for the government of the city, and to do all things which the mayor and council are authorized to do.

CHECK ON EXPENDITURES

The bills are to be paid by the warrants of the Auditor of Public Accounts, drawn on the State Treasurer. This temporary measure will automatically expire upon the qualification of the Mayor and Council, which becomes effective July 1. The purpose of the temporary bill is to avoid a city election, provided by general law for the second Tuesday in June. If such an election were held there would be less than 100 voters among the population of some 3,000.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen, consisting of three and a Common Council, consisting of five, all of whom must be qualified voters of Hopewell. Prince George County, or in the alternative have been residents in the proposed limits for three months previous to their selection, are to be appointed as the Governor on July 1. At this time the Administrative Board of the city will automatically go out of office.

This new set of officers, the Mayor, Board of Aldermen and Common Council, will elect the officers needed, among which are the Common Council, City Commissioner, City Treasurer, City Engineer and city sergeant, constitutional officer, a police justice, a civil justice, city attorney and such other officers as are necessary, and will fix their compensation. The new officers will hold office until the next general election for city officers, as provided by law.

DU PONT ADVANCES \$25,000 WITHOUT INTEREST

The appropriation of \$25,000 is but half of that estimated to be needed before the new city government is organized and collected taxes. Governor Stuart vetoed the first bill calling for an appropriation of \$50,000 after he had conferred with the representatives of the Board of Newburgh County, who are to furnish one-half of the needed amount. This money is to be loaned to Hopewell without interest, and is to be repaid to the State and to the Du Ponts in ten equal annual installments.

A corporation court is established from and after July 1 the judge to be chosen by the present general assembly. A Circuit Court will be established in the city which is made a part of the Third Judicial Circuit. It will be presided over by Judge Jess B. West. It is understood that a number of well-known men are seeking the position of judge of the corporation court. Rumor has it that a well-known South Richmond man will be chosen for this position by the general assembly, which in the choice for this position is not limited to the local.

CONTINENTAL ARMY PLAN AS BASIS FOR RESERVE

While no word would be given out here as to the appointments, well informed Hopewell citizens suggested as the probable men on the first Administrative Board, Richard Eppes, the original land owner of the tract on which Hopewell is situated, J. I. Vaughn, the head of the street car and other large interests, M. A. Pinn, one of the best known builders, Max Neustader and A. Milfa.

Whether these same men will be appointed on the permanent Council to take office in July is a matter for the Governor to determine.

PLAN OF ADMINISTRATION

To meet this situation there was projected by Mr. Cumming the plan of an administrative board, appointed by the Governor, to equalize the military authorities from the time of taking office and to continue to operate the affairs of the city under the permanent constitution until the new officers take office on July 1. This board is submitting to the new qualified electors on the ground the selection of a mayor and council for the first class city as contemplated in the constitution for cities of the first class. The council and mayor will also be appointed by the Governor, and they will elect the subordinate officers until the succeeding constitutional election, therefore, in 1918, by which time a large number of proprietors, workers and workers have acquired citizenship with the city, and a council will be submitted to the voters.

Author Hopewell Charter



S. GORDON CUMMING.

government as the present constitutional provisions will allow.

Another bill, general in its character, but drawn to meet the unique conditions in Hopewell provides that whenever a city of the first class has more than half of its area assessed as acreage, a new assessment may be ordered. Most of the Hopewell property under the State assessment as of February 1, 1915, was assessed as acreage on a valuation of \$50 per acre. Some of the land now has almost fabulous values, per foot front, and is bringing good cash prices on the market, but without a reassessment it would be 1920 before the city would begin to reap in taxes an income adequate to its needs, especially in view of the immediate demand for street paving, water and sewer improvements, and the limitations on city bond issues based on taxable values.

SPECIAL BILL TO PROVIDE FOR JURORS

Another special act was necessary to provide jurors. This General Assembly will elect a judge of the Corporation Court, and provision is also made for holding a term of the Circuit Court in Hopewell, but under present conditions there are hardly qualified voters enough in the city to furnish a venire from which to draw a jury. The bill provides that the judge, in his discretion, under such circumstances as to summon a venire from within a radius of twenty miles. Special provisions are also made for a bond issue by the new city and for accepting a loan from the F. I. du Pont Company, which has agreed to advance the new city \$25,000 for working expenses, the State to appropriate a similar amount.

At the Governor's office last night no hint would be given of the probable appointments. The membership of the council to take office on July 1 may not be announced for several days, but it is expected that the Governor will name the Administrative Board to-morrow, and that the members will qualify and take office at once, this including Mayor E. W. Bowles, the military commander, who has been in charge of conditions at Hopewell since the afternoon of the 19th last fall. The administration of Mayor Bowles has been highly praised, both by the authorities and the people of Hopewell. He and the military commands have done much to preserve order and secure the evacuation of the city, and especially to break up the illicit importation of whiskey, the soldiers having stopped fitfully on the roads and destroyed thousands of bottles of liquor.

Former Commitments Sulfide

Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WINCHESTER, Va., February 26.—Joseph Roe, aged about sixty years, a prominent Frederick County farmer, blew off his head to-day with a shotgun, shooting himself in the mouth. He was suffering from nervous collapse, and returned only a few days ago from a sanitarium near Philadelphia. A widow, one son and two daughters survive him.

Richmond, Va., February 23, 1916.

To Whom It May Concern:

The partnership heretofore existing between the late George W. Walford and the undersigned Aubrey H. Reinach, under the firm name of the Walford Stationery and Printing Company, conducting business at No. 1211 East Main Street, Richmond, Va., has been dissolved. The undersigned Aubrey H. Reinach has purchased all interest of the estate of the late George W. Walford therein, and has assumed all liabilities of that concern. The said Aubrey H. Reinach has transferred the same to the corporation known as Reinach & Schwartz, Incorporated, which has also assumed said liabilities, and will continue to conduct the said business at the said place.

The undersigned Julia B. Walford, executrix of George W. Walford, deceased, bespeaks for the new concern the continued patronage of the old partnership.

AUBREY H. REINACH, JULIA B. WALFORD, Executrix of George W. Walford, deceased.

The Transo Envelope advertisement featuring an illustration of an envelope and the text: 'You Can Now Secure From Us in Any Quantity Printed From 1,000 Up. Call for Samples and Prices. Reinach & Schwartz STATIONERS 1311 EAST MAIN STREET Phone Madison 5467 for Quick Service'

U. S. MAY DISCUSS SIZE OF DEFENSIVE ARMAMENT

(Continued from First Page.)

The situation in Congress, the submarine crisis shifts back to the negotiations between Secretary Lansing and Count von Bernstorff. NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO BERLIN. Mr. Lansing said to-day there was no intention of transferring the negotiations to Berlin to be conducted between Ambassador Gerard and the Berlin Foreign Office, as was intimated in dispatches published abroad, and reiterated that the State Department had heard nothing more from Germany on its request for a declaration that the new submarine campaign would not be conducted in violation of previous assurances for the safety of Americans traveling on unresisting liners.

Administration officials still were awaiting the receipt of the appendices to the latest German memorandum on the subject, which contain what is alleged to be a copy of confidential instructions given to British sea captains. If this document contains what the German government claims, it is said to be probable inquiries may be addressed to Great Britain on the subject. The British government some time ago assured the United States that its merchant ships would not operate offensively.

Germany, in its memorandum, gives as one of the cardinal reasons for its determination to sink armed merchant ships of her enemies without warning the fact that German submarines have been fired upon repeatedly by merchantmen which apparently were engaged in peaceful pursuits of commerce.

GERMANY SEEMS DISPOSED TO CHANGE POSITION. It also was indicated at the State Department to-day that Germany, by recent acts, had shown a disposition to change her original position in regard to the right of merchant ships to carry defensive armament. Originally, the Berlin government denied that it was legal for merchant ships to arm at all. Now some officials here consider that Germany appears willing to admit that armament is legal, if purely defensive.

Instructions to port authorities issued on September 9, 1915, permit merchant ships to clear from American ports, provided they are carrying no more than two guns, mounted aft, not more than six-inch caliber. No merchant ships ever have come into American waters with the maximum of armament provided for.

State Department officials were emphatic in saying that, while additional limitations might be placed upon the inclusion of armament, the complete exclusion of armament would be equivalent to a change of international law, which cannot be made during the course of hostilities except by general assent. Leaders in both houses of Congress, who for several days have agitated passage of a resolution warning Americans not to travel on armed ships, seemed convinced to-night that no such measure could be put through at present. Senator Gore, who has such a resolution pending, issued a statement saying that, while he still favored a warning, he believed the objects sought by his resolution already had been accomplished through public discussion. Representative McLemore, whose warning resolution in the House has been kept from coming up by administration leaders, said he was content to wait until the President and Secretary Lansing had opportunity to try out their policy of asserting determinedly the right of travel on ships bearing arms.

On the situation as it now stands President Wilson is firm in his determination to insist on the rights of Americans to travel on ships armed for defense only. From German sources come suggestions that the Teutonic governments were inspired to issue their new notice by the American circular note to the allied powers proposing disarmament of merchant ships, and the German belief is that the allies will not accept the American suggestion. From British sources comes the

positive statement that the British government, at least, has not rejected the American suggestion, but is consulting her allies. The same sources pointed out that no British or French merchant ships have come into American ports with arms since the United States expressed a preference for their

your chances for defeating this dread disease depend largely on your ability to restore and maintain the body's natural functioning. To do this, one requirement is proper attention to diet and pure food. Also rest and fresh air, day and night. Hygienic living is the best insurance against tuberculosis.

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A trial can do no harm, since Eckman's Alternative contains no poisonous or habit-forming drugs. Sold by Tragle Drug Co. and other leading druggists.

Eckman Laboratory, Philadelphia.

The Weather

Forecast: Virginia probably snow Sunday, in the mountains Monday fair, not much change in temperature. North Carolina Overcast Sunday, probably snow Monday, in the mountains Monday fair, not much change in temperature.

Local Temperature. 12 noon temperature 40. 3 P. M. temperature 43. Maximum temperature to 8 P. M. 43. Minimum temperature to 8 P. M. 34. Mean temperature 42. Normal temperature 42. Deficiency in temperature since January 1 170. Deficiency in temperature since February 1 166. Accumulated excess since January 1 170.

Local Rainfall. Rainfall last twenty-four hours. Trace. Deficiency in rainfall since March 1 9.10. Deficiency in rainfall since January 1 7.02.

Local Barometer Readings. S. A. M. 29.46. S. P. M. 29.47.

Local Observation at 8 P. M. Yesterday. Temperature, 36; humidity, 43; wind, direction, southwest; wind velocity, 15 miles; weather, clear.

General Weather Conditions. WASHINGTON, February 26.—The indications are that there will be show-furries Sunday in the middle Atlantic States, followed by generally fair weather on Monday. Over the Atlantic seaboard, from Southern New England to Florida and in the East Gulf States, the weather will be generally fair Sunday and Monday. Moderately low temperatures will prevail during the next forty-eight hours in all districts east of the Mississippi River. Storm warnings are displayed on the Atlantic Coast from Boston to Delaware Breakwater.

CONDITIONS IN IMPORTANT CITIES. Place. 5 P. M. High. Low. Weather. Asheville 38 28 24 Snow. Atlanta 38 28 24 Snow. Atlantic City 34 40 34 Clear. Boston 32 44 32 Cloudy. Buffalo 32 44 32 Cloudy. Calgary 30 36 26 P. cloudy. Charleston 30 34 24 Cloudy. Chicago 24 34 24 Cloudy. Denver 40 16 24 Cloudy. Duluth 12 18 4 Clear. Galveston 62 46 38 Clear. Hatteras 46 46 38 Clear. Havre 24 26 21 Cloudy. Jacksonville 62 46 38 Clear. Kansas City 28 32 28 Cloudy. Louisville 26 34 26 Snow. Montgomery 24 34 24 Cloudy. New Orleans 60 66 46 Clear. New York 22 38 30 Cloudy. Norfolk 40 44 34 Clear. Oklahoma 44 50 36 Cloudy. Pittsburgh 24 26 21 Snow. Raleigh 40 44 34 P. cloudy. St. Louis 28 38 28 Cloudy. San Francisco 60 60 54 Clear. Savannah 62 46 38 Clear. Spokane 44 46 34 Rain. Tampa 28 38 28 Cloudy. Winnipeg 22 16 2 Clear. Wytheville 26 30 21 Snow.

MINIATURE ALMANAC. February 27, 1916. Sun rises 6:16 Morning 11:22. Sun sets 6:09 Evening 12:17.

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The Cohen Co. advertisement for millinery featuring an illustration of a woman's hat and the text: 'New Millinery Models Inspired by Rebox, Varon Lewis, Talbot, Georgette and Louise. More fascinating than ever before—more interesting from the standpoint of real dress art. Styles drawn from no one period of history or dress, but adapted from many in models for Tailleur, Dress and Sports Wear. High draped Hats, some with stepple trimmings of ribbon, Lacquered Straws, Tricornes and Revolution types, exquisite Georgette Crepes, Bangkoks and Suede and Satin combinations and other interesting originations too numerous to mention. Prices Range From \$3.98 to \$15.00 SECOND FLOOR'

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disarmament in September, 1915. The issue is still kept alive, however, by the attitude of the Italian government and the presence at New York of three armed Italian merchantmen, the Giuseppe Verdi, San Guglielmo and the Napoli. Though technically an entirely separate question from that of the right of merchant ships to carry defensive armament, the Lusitania case remains in abeyance because the State Department fears that the German pledges to refrain from attacking liners without warning may not extend to future operations. Therefore, the department has called upon the German government for information on that point, and is now awaiting a response.

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