

THE TIMES Est. 1886 THE DISPATCH Est. 1830

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Entered January 27, 1905, at the Post Office as 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. Hasbrook, 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: Hasbrook, Story & Brooks, Inc., Fifth Avenue Building, New York; Mutual Life Building, Philadelphia; Peoples' Gas Building, Chicago.

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 216 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, 50 cents. Local advertising rates: 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.

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1916.

Volunteer Automobile Mobilization

In view of the important part played by automobiles in modern warfare, the mobilization of the Virginia Automobile Corps and sections of the Virginia Volunteers, will serve an excellent purpose. As a drill, an experiment in the rapid transportation of troops, it will, to some extent, accustom those who participate in it to that method of movement. But, more than that, it will manifest the spirit of willingness to serve of effort and sacrifice on behalf of country, which is the basis of true patriotism, and on which effective preparedness by this nation must be built.

Villa has one chance in his favor. He won't have to stop to wash up.

State Constabulary

NEW YORK'S legislature will consider this week a bill creating a State constabulary, the purpose of which will be to relieve the National Guard from strike and riot duty. It is a good bill and ought to be passed, not only in New York, but in other States where such an organization is not now provided.

Strike duty is exceedingly distasteful to organized labor from the ranks of which many thousands of excellent soldiers are recruited every year for the National Guard. Many other citizens could be recruited for the function of the guard, if its police duty eliminated and its military purpose made practically exclusive.

Learning to be a soldier is no waste task, and is about all that should be required of a man who volunteers for service.

The Red Guard has no terrors for Function. It can be as good as walk over it if it should march across.

Time Consumption From Carranza. Under the circumstances, it would be unwise to make Carranza's own position as a political figure, and his own position as a political figure, and his own position as a political figure.

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be found a sort of practical zoology applied to the art of war. In order to warn men in submarines of one of the dangers attendant on submergence, the escape of gas, many of the undersea boats are equipped with—white mice! The first fumes, not detectable by the duller senses of humans seriously annoy the mice, and they squeak. It would seem, for the present at least, that the mice are more useful than the seismographs.

William G. Simpson, of Michigan, would like to be President. The only thing we know about Simpson is that he used to be in a Glee Club, and we only know this from reports. There is another man in the country who used to sing in a club of that sort, but he didn't use the fact as an argument in favor of his election.

Financing the City's Needs

MANY and varied are the projects, inclusion of which in the proposed municipal bond issue now is demanded. In addition to those embraced in the plan of the Finance Committee, which was sent back to it for revision, the Administrative Board has half a dozen others, at least. There is strong support of the movement to build a bridge across the Seventeenth Street valley and equally strong support of the proposal to bridge the James River and connect South Richmond with the West End. Councilman Jones stands sponsor for a separate \$500,000 issue for street improvements. And there are others.

All of them probably represent justifiable and some of them nearly necessary expenditures of the city's money, but it is as clear as anything can be that all of them will not be included in any bond issue that receives final approval. They could not be, with proper attention paid to the conservation of Richmond's credit.

The handicap under which the city suffers is the constitutional prohibition against the assessment of benefits for public improvements. Virginia is alone among all the States in so shackling municipal enterprise. Richmond suffers from the prohibition at every step of its progress. Improvements are not made because they represent, when the whole expense must be borne by the community, too heavy a drain on municipal resources.

If it were permitted, as it should be permitted, to assess against property owners who derive special benefits a reasonable proportion of the expense, the situation would be very different. Those whose holdings advance in value because of the construction of public works would contribute to the cost.

In the single matter of street paving the reform would be great. The thoroughfares selected for paving would be those which really require it, and the material chosen would be adapted to traffic requirements. Property owners themselves would object to being saddled with a share of the cost of a type of paving unnecessarily expensive.

Beneficial assessments enabled Baltimore to transform Jones Falls from an open sewer into a handsome boulevard. Without the power of placing a part of the cost on property owners, the city, without neglecting other and more pressing obligations, could never have effected the improvement.

There is no secret about this matter. There is hardly an intelligent student of government who does not agree that the provision of the Virginia Constitution is most harmful to municipal progress. There are plenty of men in the City Hall who know that the prohibition should be lifted, but the trouble is that these men are afraid to urge repeal. The specter of political unpopularity frightens them off.

What Richmond needs is a city administration that will have the manhood to lead a movement for this reform. Men of vision are required, with the courage of their convictions. It is the easiest thing in the world to get up in a neighborhood meeting and promise the assembled voters everything they say they want, but it requires another sort of mental and moral stability for a candidate for office to say how those needed improvements ought to be obtained.

There is a limit to the bond issue method of financing a city—and not merely the constitutional limit. Either Richmond has many and great problems, complicated and enlarged by the recent additions to the city's area. As the annexed territory becomes more densely populated its needs are not unlikely to exceed the city's ability comfortably to supply them. If the issue of bonds is overdone, interest and redemption charges will become a tremendous burden. It is time now to consider how these difficulties the future holds are to be overcome.

A New Jersey man has just died at the age of 107 years. In ninety-five years of that time he chewed and smoked. If he had not lived in New Jersey, he might still have been expostulating and puffing.

"With the Sword"

Violence and reckless disregard for law and life have been sorely punished in the men of the Allen clan of Carroll County, so that almost to a man they have verified the Scriptures: "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

With them the doctrine of personal responsibility, of freedom from conventional or even legal restraint, was almost as strong as it was in the days when all men were tribesmen. Constituted authority, officers of the law, courts and the justice of the State were not for them. They settled their disputes according to the law of the tribe. A slight, a word, a blow, and frequently a shot, and there was no need for a court.

Brave and strong a man of brains and force, Jasper Allen lived his life by standard centuries old, and he died because of that. A man spoke in uncomplimentary terms of one of his kin; there followed the blow, then the shot, and Jasper Allen perished "with the sword."

A Republican contemporary wonders why the Democratic party selected the jackass as its emblem. There is nothing to show that the party made any such selection. But there is one thing to be said about the jackass. It is a faithful and industrious animal, while an elephant is never used for anything in this country except as an attraction in a circus. And a circus is all show.

If Colonel Churchill had a premonition that he would be killed in the next battle, as is reported, his sudden return from the front to London may be explained. Still, many Londoners would prefer to take their chances in the trenches rather than stay in the old town.

The back doors and yards of Constantinople will soon be in such a state of siege that the prayer rugs in front will be worn threadbare.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

Bringing it to Date. There is not hardly anything that men can whisper about or sing. The horses no more. Than loud recitals of the days. When they won all the people's praise—Talk of what's gone before. Talk of ourselves does not amuse. But still, if our friends must choose. They would prefer to hear of what we do and are to-day, or what folk now think us say. Not what they said last year.

You Can Hardly Help It.

Grubbs—You've noticed the new styles in women's hosiery? Stubbs—What's the matter with you? Do you think I am blind?

Shakespeare Day by Day.

For the soldier: "Fride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war"—Othello, iii, 3. For the resolute: "We should do what we would"—Hamlet, iv, 1. For the hapless: "That comfort comes too late. 'Tis like a pardon after execution."—Henry VIII, iv, 2. For the cautious: "The better part of valor is discretion."—Henry IV, v, 4.

The Tender Grace of a Day That Is Dead.

If you ever lived on the rim of a small town from which you could look out upon the fields beyond and up and down a long road that stretched out of sight, you must recall the days when from your open window you saw a girl mounted on a galloping horse, the strings of her sun bonnet fluttering in the breeze, coming to town. She was on a mission for a hurried purchase. You watched her until she dismounted at the public square. She made the rounds of the stores, or as many of them as was necessary, and then she resumed her mount and away her steed went on a lurch. You didn't know that the picture made a dent on your mentality until the years went by and you had wandered many miles. Then one day when you went back to the old home town, a long time after, and saw a girl in another kind of attire whizz into the street in her motor car, you recalled the picture of the girl who had come in on horseback, and if you were human, you tried to swallow the lump in your throat as you thought of a picture that will never come again. And when you went back to the city you felt as if you had left something in the little town. And you had.

"A's" You Don't See.

FOUND—A silk-covered gentleman's umbrella. LOST—A dotted Swiss girl's veil. FOR SALE—An easy-of-access family's cottage, within 5 minutes' walk of the station when the train is on time. DECEASED—A young woman who desires to break into music, with references.

Call-Backs.

There is nothing new but that which is forgotten—Mlle. Bertin, modiste to Marie Antoinette, replying to the question whether the model of a costume was quite new. There is nothing that is meritorious but virtue and friendship, and indeed, friendship is only a part of virtue.—Pope. The officer who forgets that he is a gentleman does more harm to the moral influence of this country than ten men of blameless life can do good.—Earl of Derby. The human mind is so limited that it cannot take in all the parts of a subject, so that there may be objections raised against everything.—Dr. Johnson. The belief in the immortality of the soul is the only panacea for the ills of life.—Byron. Six hours' sleep is enough for a man, seven for a woman and eight for a fool.—George III.

Couldn't Hide It.

Barnes—Yes, sir, Daniel Webster was certainly an impressive figure. Maybe you've heard how, when he was seen on the Strand in London, an Englishman stepped aside, removed his hat and exclaimed: "My God, there goes a King!"

Little Reminds me of what an Irishman who, when asked if he was recognized in a crowd, said he met a man who remarked, "Great Scott, Mike is this you?" A Minute With the Cop. "I understand," said the cop, to the cop on a Main Street crossing, "that you are to quit carrying your club from July 1 to October 1." "Is that so? I suppose you want me to bite at something. What's to be?" "You are to carry a wire fan to sweat the fleas."

"I'll get a sheet of hold-tight paper for you. You'll get stuck on it as you are on yourself. Gwan now and make that kyar before it picks you up!"

Do It, and Then Shoot.

If he says "Tiddled to death," it's fun; When he says "Listen," reach for your gun.

To-Day's Best Hand-Picked Joke.

Voice From Below—Are you a good girl now, dear? Defiant Daughter of the House sent upstair for naughtiness—No! Use pit on you hat, and use pit on you coat, and now use waiting for more pit.—Passing Show.

Gossamers.

And so the chappie stood without. And lingered there in fear, And waited patiently about. Till Mary did appear. He followed her to school that day. In regardance of her rule. Which made her turn to him and say: "Go chase yourself, you fool!"

Chats With Virginia Editors

A Kentucky man has been sent to jail for reading a bad book. Nothing like that was ever known to happen in Texas.—Norfolk Virginian-Post, or Norfolk.

When you meet a grinch on the street, smile at him if you see him in church, sing to him when he is at home, feed him if he creeps into your house, but do not let him see you.

The British Herald-Courier opens a worthy campaign against the central powers, and asks all the folks to pitch in and help each other make Bristol a business town this summer.

The Halifax Record-Advertiser talks through its hat as follows: "The co-ordinate college bill was defeated in the House of Delegates as it should have been, but in the vote was so close it frightened a fellow—18 to 16." Delegate Jordan says he was "generally understood" that the Republicans should have a say in the election of the Prohibition Committee. Understood with whom, where, and when, in what might prove interesting. Perhaps it was like that reported other trade.—Blackstone Courier.

candidate after the expected break comes at the bidding of the President. Mr. Wood says that the candidacy of Mr. du Pont will receive the cordial support of Hopewell and Wilmington, and that he will support the Index-Appel. And Suffolk, too. The Newport News Times-Herald claims to have discovered that T. Coleman du Pont, the Here is the opinion of the Chase City Progress. "Richmond is determined to clean up the picture show from their own picture. The picture show is necessary for selecting pictures, looks as if the people ought to be able to determine for themselves what they want. And they come mighty near doing it here in Richmond.

News of Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, March 20, 1866.) A ladies fair will commence this evening at the First Presbyterian Church in aid of the rebuilding fund of the Central Baptist Church. The fair will probably be continued for a week or more.

While St. Patrick's Day was generally celebrated in this city, as elsewhere, the celebration in Richmond, the expected Fenian demonstrations did not come off. Here, as elsewhere, the celebration was a quiet one.

The concert of the Manchester singing class, headed by Professor E. D. Tatem, came off at the Methodist Church, in Manchester, last night, and was a very successful one. The singing class, headed by Professor E. D. Tatem, came off at the Methodist Church, in Manchester, last night, and was a very successful one.

George E. Hoag, United States assessor for Amherst county and formerly a resident of Manchester, was found dead in a small room of water near Amelia Courthouse on Friday last. He had been in the city for several days, but had lived in Virginia for several years before the war.

The committees for the States of Virginia and West Virginia have arranged to meet in Washington on the 25th to inaugurate measures for the sale of the franchises and properties of the Covington and Ohio Railroad and the Potomac and Annapolis Railroad, and to convert them into a dining room. There was a plenty to eat and a good deal to drink. In fact, champagne was being served in the hall. The great credit was that the big engine was a great success.

General Frank P. Blair has been appointed colonel of the 10th Louisiana Infantry. He was a brave Union soldier, he was bitterly opposed by some of the more intense radicals, and at one time it seemed that his confinement in the hospital was doubtful. However, he got through by the skin of his teeth. General Blair is a Democrat of the old-fashioned school and is something of a thorn in the flesh of the radicals.

The resolution offered in the House of Representatives yesterday providing for the final adjournment of Congress on May 12 next. The indications are that there will be no adjournment until the heat of summer makes Washington too oppressive for the Congressmen to linger. The biggest Irish parade of St. Patrick's Day was in Chicago, but there was no kind of disorder.

Dr. George B. Steele has reopened his dental offices on Main Street.

The Voice of the People

More About Wine for Sacrament. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch. Sir: In regard to the question of wine for the sacrament of the Christian Passover, a few of the members of the church have been back 15,000 acres, which had belonged to their family before the war. They are going in for scientific agriculture. Companies have been formed to reclaim the old estates which contain excellent soil. The National Department of Agriculture in town now to advise some Charleston men on such a project. They believe that by strengthening the old estates and using the soil, they can have these rich alluvial lands be placed under cultivation again. Other lands are being divided into small tracts and colonized.

Farmers' Friend in United States Senate. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch. Sir: The question of the importance of two measures before the United States Senate were being discussed by two Senators in that body—the water-power bill and the rural credits bill. Senator Vandenberg, of Michigan, rose in his seat and said: "Mr. President, I am in favor of the rural credits bill. The pending producers of this country are the farmers, and they deserve some attention from this body. They are the backbone of this republic, but from the way they are treated by the Government, they are not likely to be maintained for our army in Mexico. We are better prepared to fight than we were when we were here before. We have 100,000,000 people and Mexico has 14,000,000 and our dependable militia are ready and waiting to take up arms. Do something for the people who produce our foodstuffs, and our only citizens who are not continually looking to get some dollar full legislation. We are the backbone of the American farmer to do this for his benefit, and we should be as good as our word. While this is not the verbatim report of his speech, it is the substance of it. It was delivered in such a forceful manner that it attracted the attention of all. Such farmers' friends are badly needed in Congress." McCONVEY, Washington, D. C., March 16.

Current Editorial Comment

Way Clear to Settle War Issue. So long as there was the faintest doubt that Congress would support the president in his right to duty and honor and right under international law, American diplomacy was being fully handicapped. Now, until this all important aspect of the case was determined beyond question, could the State Department continue negotiating with the central powers or venturing any further suggestion to the allies, for a nation that will not uphold its own honor and right cannot be expected to have any respect for the rights of others. All such doubts having been dispelled, however, the way is clear for firm and careful steps toward settling the submarine issue. The President now can do more than urge America's just claims upon Berlin; he can deal decisively and, we believe, effectively with London as well. While saying to Germany that the right of Americans to travel on belated merchantmen armed only for defense must be respected and will be maintained, he can say also to England that as a matter of honorable expediency it would be well for her to disarm her merchant ships at least those engaged in transatlantic trade.—Arling Journal.

Less than a score of vessels, all of them peaceful merchantmen and most of them small, have been captured by the Germans. The campaign of submarine "raiding" officially under way for half a month, is told in a special cable dispatch from London. The New York Herald says that the majority of these vessels belonged to neutral nations. Holland is the greatest sufferer. After the capture of the steamship, the accomplishment is meager. Evidently the "bluff" was in German hands. The President has been expected to create conditions in Germany as reported from Holland shed light upon the reason for all the talk about what submarine prizes were going to do and for other things. According to the Frankfurter Zeitung, the moneyed classes of Germany are being urged to contribute to their pocketbooks to suit the war lords. Submarine "raiding" and the futile attacks upon the German fleet have been going on since March 1, were timed with a view to promoting subscriptions to lagging loans. Expenditures of this kind are not only being un-justified of Germany, but the hypocrisy and patriots of this country to the Kaiser's counter. The submarine is too small to be any bragging. There is patriotism in plenty, but it is not being translated into marks. Germany's war effort is fast approaching.—New York Herald.

Touch of Spring Is in the Air One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From St. Joseph News-Press

OLD AND NEW PLANTATION DAYS BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 19.—The South is going back to its plantations. Lands that have lain fallow for a generation are being tilled again, and long-deserted manions repaired and opened, sometimes as permanent homes, often as country places and shooting lodges. While the blaze of autumn and winter evenings, balls that have been silent for fifty years are filled with guests who the horns of hunting parties and the trumpeting bay of hounds. There is something peculiarly appealing about the rehabilitation of these old mansions, some of which have stood through the entire American war. After the war, the American people have been formed to reclaim the old estates which contain excellent soil. The National Department of Agriculture in town now to advise some Charleston men on such a project. They believe that by strengthening the old estates and using the soil, they can have these rich alluvial lands be placed under cultivation again. Other lands are being divided into small tracts and colonized.

Some Preserves Near Charleston. Much of the old plantations are hunting preserves. Nearly all of them contain great areas of swamp and woodland, and these are alive with game. Deer, wild turkey, quail, and other game are abundant within a few miles of Charleston. There is probably no another city of its size in the United States that commands finer hunting. Now that the game laws are being relaxed, these rich alluvial lands can be placed under cultivation again. Other lands are being divided into small tracts and colonized.

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