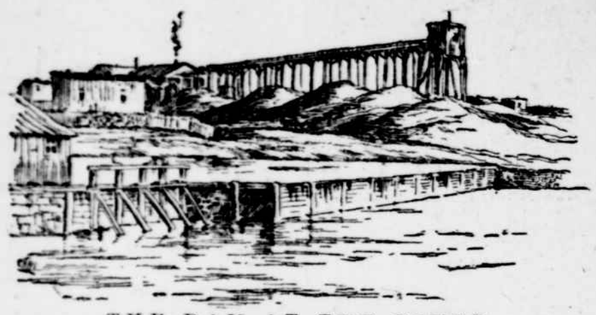


THE DAM AT THE RIVER.

A MILE OF SEWAGE.

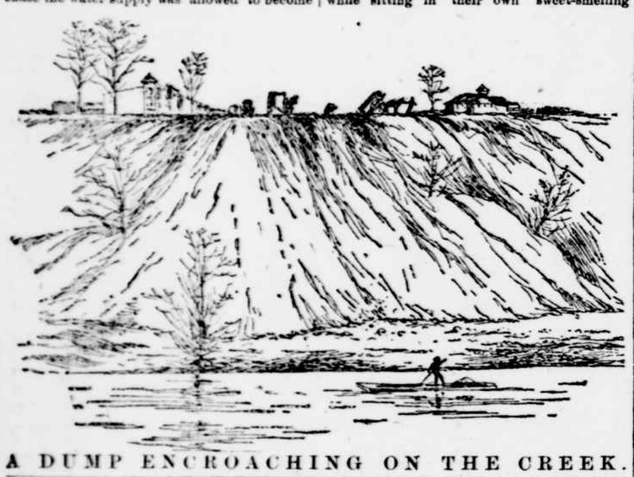
Rock Creek Turned Into a Frightful Cesspool.

THE DAM AT THE MOUTH.

Sewers That Deposit Their Filth in the Stream—Practically No Outlet Into the River—The Results of a Star Reporter's Trip of Inspection.

AN OPEN SEWER EXTENDING through a thickly populated section of a great city like Washington isn't pleasant to think about, especially in the light of the narrow escape made by this country last summer from the scourge of cholera and the apprehension now felt that we may not be so fortunate when the hot weather comes again. In the event that cholera visits Washington the citizens will be in a position to appreciate the feelings of the burghers of Hamburg when they read in the newspapers accounts that were sent out of the terrible unsanitary condition of this city. It will be remembered that the city of Hamburg was held up to scorn because the water supply was allowed to become contaminated and precautions in other particulars were neglected. But when the summer solstice of 1893 is upon us and the slimy length of Washington's plague spot lies festering under the scorching sun and belching forth germs of disease over the city, then Washington will come in for a storm of abuse and scorn and derision such as it has never known even in its eventful history. There is no question but that if the people of Washington or the representative citizens could be induced to take a walk along the banks of Rock creek from the P street bridge down to the dam, which chokes up its outlet into the Potomac river, there would be such a feeling of popular indignation aroused that all opposition, whether grounded in self-interest or merely indifference, would be swept away and steps would be at once taken to improve the condition of affairs.

FROM THE M STREET BRIDGE NORTH.



A DUMP ENCROACHING ON THE CREEK.

AT M STREET BRIDGE.

One reason why there is so little known of this plague spot is that it has grown gradually into its present proportions. Of course people generally know that the sewage of a large area of the city west of Connecticut avenue and of a good portion of Georgetown is emptied into Rock creek, but they do not realize that the volume of this sewage has increased, owing to the rapid growth of the population. Nor do they know that the mouth of Rock creek has been shut up by a dam built there for the convenience of the canal company. Instead, therefore, of this vast amount of sewage being poured, into a live stream and hurried along on a rapid current away from the abodes of men to be swept out into the river, it is dumped into a body of water that has about as much movement as a duck pond on a sultry day in August. There is no current to speak of along the entire length of that portion of Rock creek which is used as a sewer. The water is simply backed up behind the dam, and it is only after a rain that more than a slight stream or two finds its feeble way over the dam into the river.

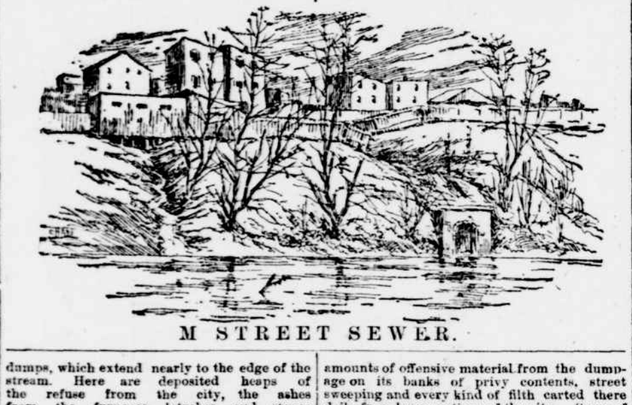
P STREET SEWER AND DUMP.

A DEPOSIT OF SEWAGE.

The question that is of vital importance is what becomes of the sewage matter that is constantly pouring into Rock creek from the large number of sewers, both great and small, that have their only outlet into this body of water. It cannot be carried down the creek, for there is practically no current. It therefore must find its way to the bottom, where the accumulation of years of the product of the city's sewers lies, a festering mass of corruption. Some of it is probably carried on for a short distance from the mouths of the sewers and finds lodgment along the banks. The latter are constantly encroaching upon the stream as the public dumps which exist in that locality grow in size. As this refuse matter from the city streets and the city ash barrels is deposited it may be washed at high water and left covered with the sewage matter. Then when the water goes down, as is most apt to be the case during the hot weather, the sun is able to get in its deadly work and from the corrupt and rotten shores and from the surface of the water which then thinly conceals the putrescent mass beneath arises those deadly gases and germs which laden every breeze that sweeps across the city from the northwest with disease and death. That is the actual condition of Rock creek today from the P street bridge to the river, and without the slightest exaggeration it may be said to yield a smell that is a mile long and as wide as the breezes can carry it.

A TRIP ALONG THE CREEK.

A STAR reporter went over the entire route the other day, and the artist of THE STAR went along with camera and sketch book. It is a trip that every good citizen ought to take, and THE STAR enables them to take it comfortably while sitting in their own sweet-smelling houses. It is not exactly a pleasure trip, as perhaps the cuts that accompany this article may indicate. Everybody who has had occasion to walk or drive over the P street bridge has probably seen the open mouth of the large sewer which empties into the creek just north of the bridge. This marks the beginning of the open sewer. Then there is another great sewer at O street, and on the opposite side one that empties a part of the sewage of Georgetown into the creek. Below are the public dumps, which extend nearly to the edge of the stream. Here are deposited heaps of the refuse from the city, the ashes from the furnaces, latrobes and stoves and the sweepings and the odds and ends of a great city. Dead cats find a last resting place here. Farther along are other large public sewers, and where, on account of the underbrush, their mouths are concealed, the steady flow and fall of the sewage indicates plainly their location. Perhaps the worst excuse for a sewer is the large one that empties from the Georgetown side just south of the Pennsylvania avenue bridge. For some reason the mouth of the sewer was not extended to the water's edge, and the result is that the filthy contents pour out on the ground and trickle along to the creek. In the hot weather, it is said, there is no difficulty about locating that sewer, and no one who sees it in its present condition will have any doubt that it has the ability to loudly and persistently appeal to the senses of every one within quite a wide radius.



M STREET SEWER.

MANY SMALL SEWERS.

Besides the public sewers there are any number of small sewers, one in particular arresting the attention because of the advanced and progressive ideas shown in its construction. It is square and made of boards. It is no doubt a type of the revolutionary sewer, if there was anything of the sort known in that period of Georgetown's existence, and it will take a revolution, in all probability, to abolish it. Rock creek does not improve in appearance as you get near to its ancient outlet, but there are not so many sewers emptying into it. Still, there are enough. The mouth of the creek no longer exists and the anomaly is presented of a stream of water which drains an area of about forty-five square miles and runs through a valley about twenty-one miles in length, having practically no outlet.

A CIVIL ENGINEER'S VIEWS.

The present condition of Rock creek, as the result of this dam, is clearly set forth in a letter which Mr. Henry B. Looker, a well-known civil engineer of this city, prepared and sent in September last to the health officer of the District. This letter is as follows:

"Over three years ago I was called upon to make a careful examination of the amount of fall in the surface of Rock creek from Lyons' mill to the dam near the river. My report was to be made use of in court in a case then pending. I found that in a distance of about 1,600 feet, from the mill to P street, the fall was 0.45 feet, there being a slight current observable at the bend of the creek. At P street a sewer empties in from Washington side. Some 600 feet below P street the large O street sewer comes in from Washington, and the creek level is 0.77 feet below that at P street. From O street to the dam, about 4,500 feet, the fall is 0.62 feet. Thus the total fall from P street is about 1.39 feet in a mile, and into this practically level pond sewer after sewer, both public and private, are continually emptying. A large and important Georgetown sewer empties in at some point near Dumbarton avenue, I think. Another empties just below the Aqueduct bridge. While engaged in this examination, on the 8th of May, 1889, long before the summer sun had had continuous effect upon the valley, the stench was something fearful, especially between Beall street and M street, on the west side, where I noticed a number of small pipe sewers flowing into the creek, in some instances open for several rods, i. e., they do not enter below the water level. Doubtless the canal company does all it can under the circumstances to prevent unsanitary conditions, the outlet lock being very frequently used to send boats out and take them in from the river. When the canal was built, some seventy years ago, the amount of sewage entering the creek was immaterial. At present a large portion of our population, and a rapidly growing portion, depend wholly on the creek as a sewer. That such a state of affairs is, to say the least, a very serious menace to the health, not alone of Georgetown, but of Washington, is a something that hardly needs proof. A complete interception of all sewage now flowing into the creek and the purifying of its foul bottom is, and has been for a long time, one of the most urgent public needs. At the present time, awaiting the session of Congress, I venture to urge the great necessity of disinfecting as far as possible all the shores of the creek, and as to the main proposition, that you give the weight of your official sanction to a most determined effort to obtain from the next Congress redress from this grave public peril."

There has been from time to time a good deal said about some treatment of the problem presented by the ravine of Rock creek, separating as it does the two cities which are now one in name and in the other particulars that constitute municipal life. Of course the plan of arching over Rock creek is familiar to the public, and this plan has not been abandoned. In addition to curing the evils of which the open sewer is now the fruitful cause a large area of land would be reclaimed and additions made to valuable building ground. But as far as the mere reclamation of the land is concerned this scheme could be still further postponed. However, the present condition of Rock creek is recognized as a menace to the public health, and there is a growing public sentiment that something must be done and at once. The necessity is imperative and urgent.

A PETITION TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

Some idea of the popular feeling can be gained from a petition addressed to the District Commissioners which has been signed by many leading physicians of the city and many prominent citizens. This petition is as follows:

The honorable the Commissioners of the District of Columbia:

Gentlemen: The undersigned respectfully call your attention to the condition of Rock creek where it empties into the Potomac. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company converted the lower part of said creek into a basin by damming it near its mouth so as to raise the surface of the water of the creek between four and five feet above the surface of the water of the Potomac. The result is that Rock creek has become a cesspool, and is receiving the sewage of a dozen or more large sewers, instead of remaining a rapid stream to aid, by its natural current and the tide, in hastening the sewage down into the Potomac.

In addition to receiving the sewage from so many sewers the cesspool also receives large amounts of offensive material from the dumpage on its banks of privy contents, street sweeping and every kind of filth carted there daily from large sections of the city. Some of this is burned daily on the dumps, to the great annoyance of the people from the sickening smoke. But much of it is washed by rains down into the creek.

The accumulation of so large an amount of the worst kinds of filth in that cesspool is very offensive to the senses and must of necessity be injurious to health. In short it has become a nuisance and should be abated. It is in the condition due to the great advantage of the region through which it flows. A similar remedy should be applied to Rock creek.

The basin is no longer needed for passing boats between the Potomac and the canal, as the canal company has an outlet incline for that purpose above Georgetown.

The undersigned request of you a careful consideration of the matter and such action as in your judgment will be most effective to abate the nuisance.

Robt. Reyburn, M.D., N. F. Graham, M.D., E. A. Balloch, M.D., W. W. Johnston, M.D., H. B. Noble, D.D.S., C. M. Matthews, S. C. Busey, M.D., Z. T. Sowers, M.D., G. L. Magruder, M.D., T. S. Verdi, M.D., F. A. Gardiner, M.D., J. F. R. Appleby, M.D., John Leetch, president Georgetown Gas Light Company, Walter Wyman, M.D., surgeon general Marine Hospital service; Wm. Ward, M.D., Armistead Peter, M.D., D. R. Hagner, M.D., J. Ford Thompson, M.D., N. S. Lincoln, M.D., Chas. C. Glover, E. Francis Riggs, Thos. Hyde, Jas. M. Johnston, J. W. H. Lovejoy, M.D., Henry H. Dodge, C. H. A. Kleinschmidt, M.D., Louis M. Ritchie, M.D., Henderson Suter, M.D., J. H. Yarnall, J. D. Cathell, Wm. King, C. W. Birdsall, M.D.

VARIOUS REMEDIES PROPOSED.

It will be noticed that no plan of remedying this evil is recommended by the petitioners. There have, however, been a number suggested, notably the plan of arching over the creek and making it a sewer in name as well as in fact. Some who are now desirous that action be taken at once propose that high retaining walls be built on each side of the creek and extending the streets over the wall by means of bridges, with the expectation some day of arching over the top and forever disposing of Rock creek within the city limits. It is proposed to build the walls in such a style that they can be utilized and made a part of the arching scheme when it is carried out.

SEWER OUTLET NEAR O STREET.

As far back as 1888 Capt. Symons in his annual report to Congress noted the necessity of something being done to abate this foul nuisance. He made the following pertinent suggestions:

"Rock creek, within the city limits, is in an unsanitary condition, brought about chiefly by its receiving large amounts of sewage and the fact that its mouth is closed by the outlet lock and dam of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, causing a large stretch of comparatively stagnant and sewage-polluted water." He then proceeds to give his views as to the proper steps to be taken to remedy this crying disgrace. His plan simply proposed the construction of a tunnel along the west side of the creek from Lyon's mill to a point about the line of O street. By this device the long bend in the creek at this point would be done away with. From the southern end of the tunnel Capt. Symons proposed to arch over the creek all the way down to the south line of Pennsylvania avenue. He stated that this route of tunnel and archway will give a comparatively straight line for the flow of water from Lyon's mill to the mouth of the creek. The estimated cost of this work was only about $600,000.

A QUESTION OF TIME.

A correspondent writes to THE STAR as follows:

There are few subjects which can come so near to every man, woman and child in the District of Columbia as the necessity for something being done with Rock creek—and that at once. A great trough closed at its lower end, and containing the filth emanating from the refuse of about one-fifth of the most populous area of a great city of nearly 300,000 people, is what the lower section of Rock creek is. This section, as now intended to be embraced, begins at the Chesapeake and Ohio canal draw, where Rock creek enters the Potomac river, and extends to Lyon's mill, above the P street bridge.

Should not the mere statement of the case in the simplest words seem to be sufficient to put every citizen upon his mettle? Should it not be enough at any time to make those having their homes, wives and little ones here rise in a body and go and beg Congress to remedy this awful evil?

The physicians have all stated the danger from this festering mass—this night soil pit. How much more reason for action is there when we consider that the Asiatic cholera is likely to begin its scourge next summer?

Now, that Rock creek should be arched all agree, the only question left being can this be done or practically completed before the cholera comes? Now, after appropriations are made it might take some six months to a year before the work could be finished.

Will you, Mr Editor, through your valuable paper suggest the best means to put this question before Congress, whether by petition, mass meeting or both? In this connection let me recall to your recollection how admirably our citizens responded in the matter of a call, made by mass meeting I remember, to establish Garfield Hospital.

We have thousands here interested in this vital subject—many Senators and Representatives being included—into whose houses enter the emanations from this pest trough.

If it could be gotten between walls before hot weather, even should cholera appear, disinfecting and flushing could then be accomplished and the arching could be done later.

LAUREL.

Correspondence of The Evening Star.

LAUREL, MD., Dec. 17, 1892.

The late rains have been of great benefit to the people of this section in filling wells and streams. The wheat crop is greatly improved in appearance since the drought has been broken.

Saint Mary's Catholic Church will celebrate Christmas on a much more elaborate scale than ever before attempted by it. The music will be of the highest order and the leading talent of the state has been secured for its rendition. The decorations of the church will be in charge of the ladies of the congregation, and the greatest abundance of flowers and evergreens have been secured by them.

Centenary M. E. Church will observe Christmas this year in the usual manner and the program includes the entertainment under the auspices of the Sunday school and the treat to the scholars. A special choir is now being trained by Mrs. Murphy, wife of the pastor, for the rendition of the musical part of the program.

Rapid progress is being made in the erection of the power house for the electric light company, and it is expected the building will be finished within ten days from this date. The light will be turned on not later than January 15.

A row of eight brick buildings will be erected shortly on Washington avenue near Main street for business purposes. The builders are said to be well-known Washington business men.

Two years ago when a national bank was established here by the leading business men of the town there were plenty of people who were loud in their predictions that the business of the place was not sufficient to support it, but since the last report of its condition was published this week every one is surprised at the large business done.

A comparison of the growth of Laurel this year has been made with that of the past ten years, and it is claimed that the value of the improvements has been greater in the present than in the past three years.

Tomorrow will be temperance Sunday at Centenary M. E. Church. The pastor, Rev. R. R. Murphy, will preach the morning sermon at 11 o'clock. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the Epworth League will hold the services, and at night there will be a general temperance meeting, which will be addressed by Prof. H. R. Stewart of Pennsylvania and others.

Messrs. John C. Bentley, Charles F. Brooks, H. H. Miller, F. M. Hallowell, William Gilpin and Lemuel Wear, jr., of the neighborhood of Sandy Spring returned home Thursday from a successful hunting trip to Virginia. They report killing four deer, a number of ducks and large quantities of partridges and rabbits. They brought a doe weighing 130 pounds home with them.

A number of shooting matches for turkeys are to be held in this vicinity between now and the end of the holidays, and several well-known shots from Washington expect to take part in the sport.

Mr. Isaac T. Bewley of Catonsville is erecting for Mr. Henry Kaiser a store building and residence on Main street near Washington avenue and expects to have it completed early in January, when it will be occupied by the owner.

Mr. William E. Gilbert and family are now occupying their new residence on Washington avenue extended, which has just been completed. This residence is the finest in all this part of the county.

Mr. William Feige has commenced the erection of another house on Main street near Avondale.

It is reported that the family of John Collins, the old man who was killed by a fall of dirt in the iron mines near here a few days ago, are in need of help from charitable citizens. Collins was an excellent soldier during the late war, and was the recipient of a small pension at the time of his death.

Col. J. H. Sothoron is the guest of his daughter, Mrs. Barnes Compton, and will remain here till after Christmas, on which day he will celebrate his eighty-sixth birthday. Notwithstanding his great age the colonel is still very active, and his health is much better than it has been for several months past.

Dr. and Mrs. Evans of Washington have returned home after a pleasant visit to their daughter, Mrs. Richard L. Wallach.

Mrs. Susan L. Wallach, widow of the late Charles S. Wallach of Washington, died at the residence of her son, ex-Mayor Richard L. Wallach, here yesterday morning. Mrs. Wallach was a great sufferer for several years past. The remains will be taken to Washington, where funeral services will be held in St. Patrick's Church.

Quite liberal contributions are being made to the fund being raised to give a suitable Christmas gift to each of the children attending the night school. This school is largely attended, but only by those children whose circumstances compel them to labor during the day.

SEWER SOUTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

A Clergyman Charged With Murder.

Rev. John Arnold has been arrested at Wellington, Ohio, charged with the murder of Eliza Arnold, his wife, by stabbing her in the throat with a penknife. Arnold is an ordained minister of the United Brethren Church.

VOLAPUK AND POSTAL REFORMS.

How the Reply Postal Card Came to Be Adopted.

A link in the history of the introduction of the reply paid postal card is given in the following paper by Mr. Jacob Frech of this city, read at the third annual convention of the North American Volapuk Association, held at Worcester, Mass., in October last:

No ardent volapuk student is content until he has tested the language by writing to volapukans of different countries and nations of the earth, and the final adoption by the United States of the reply-paid postal card appears to have grown out of this circumstance. The writer, a member of the North American Volapuk Association, received in September, 1891, a volapuk communication from his correspondent, Pietro Poletti, in Amoy, China, in which he expressed the hope that there would soon be adopted a universal postal card current between all countries whatever. This remark set the recipient to thinking. While it may be a long time before all nations might agree to a universal postal card, why not, as a beginning at least, adopt some form of a reply-paid postal card to facilitate correspondence? Investigation at the patent office developed a number of slumbering devices invented years ago, soon after the introduction of the ordinary postal card, to accomplish the purpose of reply-paid postal card. Why none of these had been adopted is not known. It is probable that they were too complicated for general use. However, this volapuk communication was immediately forwarded to the Postmaster General, with suggestion that an international postage stamp, and also a reply-paid postal card, would be of commercial advantage. A reply was received that at the proper time the suggestions would be duly considered by the Post Office Department. Soon afterward an actual reply-paid postal card written in volapuk was received from Yosef Bernhaupt, post controller of Beyrut, Syria (who had been written to in the mean time on the subject), stating that such cards have been in use in that country and in Austria for many years. This was the first reply-paid postal card seen by the writer.

The form of this card was very simple, more so than any of those forms found in the patent office. It was also immediately sent to the Post Office Department, with suggestion that this form be speedily adopted by the United States. In a few days reply was received that the department has now under consideration the advisability of issuing reply postal cards, both domestic and foreign.

That volapuk has been instrumental in the dissemination and growth of practical thought and ideas springing up in different countries, no two speaking the same language, and resulting in the adoption in this country at the present time of a factor in the social and business world of great convenience to over 50,000,000 of people, is evidenced by the result attained.

With regard to the international stamp Mr. Frech suggested, under date of October 27, 1891, as a preliminary and experimental step toward the adoption of an international postage stamp, current between any two countries whatever in the postal union, that agreement be entered into between the United States and the countries composing the postal union to the effect that the postage stamp now issued by any country shall be also originally current in any of the other countries on letters addressed to the country issuing the stamp, in the same manner that it is now current in those countries on letters addressed from the country issuing the stamp. This would necessitate no change whatever in the present system of stamps and would fill a long-felt want in foreign correspondence, viz., the means of inclosing stamps for reply and for settling small balances too trifling to warrant trouble and expense of foreign postal orders.

Transfers of Real Estate.

Deeds in fee have been filed as follows: E. P. Burket to Washington Loan and Trust Company, pts. Mt. Airy and Friendship; $—. Cecilia M. Coughlin to Rose Wilson, lot 39, blk. 15, Le Droit Park; $3,500. Joseph Auerbach to G. B. Rose, sub 142, sq. 619; $—. P. G. Saur to J. R. Webster, sub 75, sq. 546; $—. C. H. Fickling to T. H. O'Neill, sub 3 of sq. 59, Georgetown; $—. R. Jones to Carrie C. Lackey, sub 29, sq. 727; $—. M. Ashford to J. A. Simmons, subs 39 and 56, sq. 112, Georgetown; $—. C. D. Volland to Eliza Balluf, sub 7, sq. 613; $—. Catharine Whitten to J. B. Grinder, sub 142, sq. 546; $—. Alice Adilmon to C. H. Parker, sub 46, sq. 495; $—. C. S. Garratt to Emily Poole, sub 88, blk. 15, Le Droit Park; $4,500. A. A. Lipscomb to W. H. West, sub 44, sq. 207; $3,500. Mary Brown to John Farnkopf, pt. 43, J. B. H.'s sub Mt. Pleasant; $—. G. Seitz to G. Lorenz, lot 30, blk. 2, Twining City; $—. R. H. Goldsborough, lot 21, blk. 11, Kalorama Heights; $—. M. J. Colbert to Kate Murphy, lot 16, sq. 586, and pt. 10, sq. 497; $—. James Pilling to H. C. Borden, sub 4, sq. s. 744; $—. Blanche Carter to Annie J. Murphy, sub 194, Long Meadows; $—. F. I. Gregory to Sarah L. Gissy, pts. 102, 103 and 104, Long Meadows; $—. A. Burgdorf to W. H. Burch, lots 16 to 18, sq. 1067; $—. M. G. Emery to to same, lots 10 to 14, do.; $—. S. Cross et al. to Blanche Carter, lot 19, sq. 557; $—. W. H. Weed to J. A. Massie, lot 2, blk. 42, addition to Brookland; $—. C. S. Garrots to H. M. Walker, sub 87, blk. 15, Le Droit Park; $—. John Pizenger to D. F. Lee, lot 79, Anacostia, and pts. 177 and 178, B. and H.'s addition to Georgetown; $—. D. F. Lee to Pauline Pizenger, same property; $—. Capital Investment Company to H. A. Howell, sub 46, sq. 972; $—. Thos. Burns to Hannah E. Grinder, sub 2, sq. 738; $—. R. Reyburn to E. A. A. Dunn, pt. 3, sq. 59; $—. E. A. A. Dunn to Catherine Reyburn et al., same property; $—.

The Virginia Democrats.

The Virginia Democratic Association last evening wound up the affairs of the late campaign. Maj. H. L. Biscoe, president of the association, explained that several applications had already been made to the association for indorsement by candidates for governmental positions, but that it was not deemed advisable to commit the organization to any particular applicant especially at this time.

The Second Army Corps Association.

Through the energetic and untiring efforts of the resident survivors of the second army corps the reunion of the veterans of that noble body of men was a noted feature of the late encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic and a pronounced success, so much so as to stimulate the wearers of the trefoil in Washington to form a permanent organization. With that end in view a meeting was called last night at Union Veteran Legion Hall, at 910 Pennsylvania avenue, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather was largely attended. All divisions of the corps and all arms of the service were well represented.

It was unanimously resolved that the association should be named the Second Army Corps Association of the District of Columbia, and its objects should be the gathering, preservation and publication of historical material concerning the second corps; the perpetuation of the associations of the war for the preservation of the union, the cultivation of fraternal relations among its members and their intellectual improvement and social enjoyment. It is to be entirely non-political and any man who rendered military service in the corps, was honorably discharged and bears a good character and reputation is eligible to membership.

The following officers of the association were unanimously elected for the ensuing year: President, Chas. Lyman, fourteenth Connecticut infantry; vice president, representing first division, J. P. O'Niel, one hundred and sixteenth Pennsylvania infantry; vice president, representing second division, A. H. Nickerson, eighth Ohio infantry; vice president, representing third division, Geo. A. Armes, second New York H. A.; secretary, Chas. E. Troutman, twelfth New Jersey infantry; treasurer, Frank C. Jones, sixty-fourth New York infantry. Executive committee—M. E. Urell, eighty-second New York infantry; John Finn, eighth Ohio infantry; W. P. Seville, first Delaware infantry; James B. Coit, fourteenth Connecticut infantry. After appointing a committee on by-laws and design for a badge the harmonious and enthusiastic meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the president.

Late South American Advices.

A special to the New York *Herald* from Valparaiso says: "News reaches here from Rio Janeiro that the federalists are entering the city of Rio Grande do Sul and Gov. Castilho of Rio Grande do Sul is flying south. He will resign. Capt. Garzia and Lieut. Bahamanda have been decided guilty of suborning revolt and will be shot.

"Everything is now quiet. The radicals of Cordoba, Argentina, protest against the appointment of Julio Astrada as governor and threaten a revolution. Ex-President Felligrini has assumed the chieftainship of the Argentine national party."

FOR NERVOUS PROSTRATION

Use Horsford's Acid Phosphate.

Dr. W. Greeves, Northfield, Minn., says: "I have used it in cases of nervous prostration, and also in combination with other remedies in indigestion it has proved as satisfactory as could be expected."

SECRETARY BLAINE'S CONDITION.

He is Said to Be Just a Little Better Today.

"Mr. Blaine is just a little bit better today; but there is no great change in his condition."

This was the day's story of the ex-secretary's illness as told to a STAR reporter late this afternoon.

A STATEMENT BY HIS PHYSICIAN.

The following statement is furnished the press today by Dr. Johnson, Mr. Blaine's regular physician, as regards the illness of the ex-Secretary of State:

Evidences of local organic disease have been manifested recently and it is believed that Mr. Blaine's present condition is due to this cause.

While there is nothing in the nature of this disease to warrant the fear of any rapid progress he has shown within a month past more signs of serious illness than before. It is hoped that this aggravation may pass off, but no positive statement can now be made as to the changes which may take place from day to day. At the present moment he is better than for a week past.

POSTMASTERS TO RESIGN.

Many of Those in the Larger Cities Have Made Other Business Connections.

A statement has been published to the effect that information has been received from this city that the resignation of Mr. John Field, the postmaster of Philadelphia, has been or would be in a few days sent to this city. At the Post Office Department today nothing was known of this contemplated resignation. Mr. Wanamaker has gone to his home in Philadelphia to spend Sunday, as is his custom, but those about the department who are in a position to know have heard nothing recently about Mr. Field's resignation. It is well known that Mr. Field has desired for some time to be relieved from the cares of his position, in order that he might turn his attention to his private business, which is very large. It is the wish of Mr. Wanamaker that there should be no change in the head of the Philadelphia office during the present administration, and in deference to this wish Mr. Field has withheld his resignation. Whether he will continue to do so is not known, although, of course, Mr. Wanamaker will be reluctant to have him go.

Several of the postmasters of the larger cities are in much the same position as Mr. Field in the particular that they are anxious to resume private business. Mr. Van Cott of New York and Mr. Sexton of Chicago have already announced that they have made business connections to be entered into after the 4th of March. The terms of these officials expire at any rate early in April. Mr. Hart of Boston and Mr. Zumstein of Cincinnati, however, have two years to serve, and yet they have announced that they have made other arrangements. There are a number of other postmasters who have found other occupations than the government service, and this fact is regarded as an indication that the postmasters of this class are pretty good men. There will be about sixty vacancies in the ranks of first-class postmasters when the Senate convenes in extra session after March 4, or at least the terms of that number of postmasters will have expired.

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

THE WIDENING OF HIGH STREET.

Under the appropriation for "improvements and repairs" for the fiscal year 1893 appears a provision requiring that one-half of the cost of widening High street shall be charged to the Georgetown and Tenleytown Railway Company of the District of Columbia.

In submitting the estimate of widening the road the computing engineer says that he increased the width ten feet. The Commissioners have asked the attorney for a decision as the liability of the Georgetown and Tenleytown Railroad Company to pay half the cost of paving this extra ten feet.

NEW GAS MAINS.

The Washington Gas Light Company has been given permission to lay gas mains as follows:

In roadway of Jackson street between Pierce and Adams streets, Anacostia; in roadway of Adams street between Jefferson and Washington streets; in roadway of Jackson street between Filmore and Monroe streets; in roadway of Morgan street between Lydecker and Leman streets, and in sidewalk of parking on L street between 3d and 4th streets southeast. The permit is granted on condition that the proposed mains will not interfere with any existing or proposed construction in the District of Columbia and that the disturbed pavements will be restored.

THE ASSESSMENT.

The board of equalization and appeals is carefully going over the assessment, but as yet no individuals have been heard. One of the board in conversation with a reporter of THE STAR today said while the board had in view the interest of the taxpayers, it was not unmindful of the claims of the District and its aim was to produce a tax commensurate with the needs of the District, as that they believed was the intent of the act creating the board.

THE SUBURBAN RAILROAD.

The act chartering the Suburban Railroad Company contains two peculiar provisions. One is that wherever on the route of the road it coincides with that of a country road the railway shall be constructed along and outside thereof. The other is that the railroad shall be constructed along the Bladensburg road. The Commissioners have referred to their attorney the question, "Has the railroad the right to be constructed along the Bladensburg road (which is the country road) in view of the first stipulation?"

Capt. Rossell thinks that the specific provision relating to the Bladensburg road is all that is necessary for the construction of the road thereon.

This afternoon the attorney notified the Commissioners that while the act referred to prohibits the railway from constructing its tracks in the roadway wherever its specified routes coincide with that of a country road, it is evident that the Bladensburg road is not included within such inhibition.

MR. LEITER'S STONE FENCE.

Application was made to the Commissioners today for permission to put a stone fence about the grounds occupied by the Leiter residence, on Dupont Circle between Connecticut and New Hampshire avenue, and connect the same at one or more points with gates. The Commissioners granted the permission as far as the fence is concerned, but refused to allow the gates.

THE ROCK CREEK PETITION.

A long petition bearing the names of a number of doctors and others, setting forth the terrible condition of Rock creek on account of the dam at its mouth, was handed to the Commissioners today. It appears elsewhere in THE STAR.

THE MUNICIPAL LODGING HOUSE.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent S. O. Preston of the Municipal Lodging House the Commissioners have ordered that on and after January 1, 1893, the station houses be closed to lodgers.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent of Charities A. G. Warner W. H. Dunn has been placed in charge of the wood yard at $900 per annum.

BUILDING PERMITS.

Building permits were issued today to the following: Mrs. C. Harrington, two frame dwellings on Foxhall road, $1,300; C. J. Hanback & Bro., ten brick dwellings at 3005 to 3025 Cambridge street, Georgetown, $35,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Upon the recommendation of Chief Parris Private George W. Tenley has been promoted to the position of hostler in the fire department vice James Nolan, deceased, and John F. Willig has been appointed a private.

The surveyor of the District has been ordered by the Commissioners to mark upon the map the alleys in square 59.

William Joseph Saul of 513 M street northwest has made application to the Commissioners for the position of superintendent of Rock Creek Park.

THE U. S. S. ADAMS arrived at San Francisco today, seventeen days from Unalaska, Alaska. She is the last of Capt. Evans' fleet to return, having left in company with the Bear, which arrived at San Francisco several days ago.

GEN. RUGGLES, who was recently placed at the head of the branch of appointments and commissions, reported for duty at the War Department today. Gen. Ruggles was in Washington a number of years ago in charge of the same branch of the adjutant general's office.

Marriage Licenses.

Marriage licenses have been issued by the clerk of the court to the following: Richard Seher and Sophie Schulze; Charles R. Riley and Grace A. Mandley; Michael Smith of New York and Martha Mitchell; John Fifer and Mirtie Slambaugh, both of Baltimore, Md.

THE EAST END ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

The Bill Providing for It Discussed Before the Commissioners.

Those persons interested for or against Senate bill 3524, to incorporate the East End Electric Railway Company, were given a hearing by the Commissioners today.

Mr. D. M. Hildreth of 1104 East Capitol street said he was opposed to the road running along his street.

He asked the Commissioners to consider the proposition of running up 11th to B and down B to 12th. Mr. M. I. Weller offered a general objection to the bill. He thought the route should be revised, as it was a duplication of the route already asked for.

Dr. Lee White, one of the representatives of the road, said he had no objection to the changes suggested.

LIQUOR LICENSES.

The Commissioners Will Act Upon Applications Without Waiting for Legislation.

By a unanimous vote the Commissioners decided today not to wait for legislation on the liquor question before acting upon the applications for licenses now before them.

Commissioner Douglass has finished, as far as he is concerned, with them all. He has gone over each application carefully and written on the file wrapper his action. Commissioner Ross will take the applications up Monday and as soon as he finishes Capt. Rossell will write his vote thereon. It is not necessary for an application to receive the unanimous action of the board. A majority of the three is sufficient for the license to issue.

THE SUBURBAN RAILWAY.

Conditions of the Permit From the Engineer Commissioner.

Mr. Gilbert Moyers, president of the District of Columbia Suburban Railroad Company, appeared before the Commissioners this afternoon to talk over the details of the permit for the construction of the road which was asked several days ago.

Capt. Fiebeger has been busy preparing a permit which the representatives of the road accepted. This permit provides for a double track road on the Bladensburg road from the District line on H street northeast, the distance of the east line from the east line of the road to be five feet. It provides for tracks on 12th street northeast, on Mount Olivet road (providing the road is widened to fifty feet), on Capitol and Corcoran streets, Ivy City and 12th street extended, Brookland.

The track must everywhere be laid to grades as given by the engineer department of the district.

Whenever the roadway of a street, occupied by the tracks of the railway company is paved, macadamized or otherwise improved, the same improvement must be made by the railway company on the portion of the roadway occupied by them.

Among other provisions is one that the work of construction must be so prosecuted that it shall not extend over the distance of one mile at any one time. Iron trolley poles will be used on Bladensburg road as far as Mount Olivet road and on 12th street and Mount Olivet road.

SCHNEIDER IN JAIL.

He is Morose, but the Jail Physician Considers Him Sane.

Howard Schneider, the condemned wife murderer, preserves about the same demeanor that has characterized him since his sentence last May. He is the same silent, moody being heretofore described in THE STAR, holding no converse with his fellow convicts, and having little, if anything, to say to the officials of the jail. The most of the little daylight which comes to him in the narrow confines of his cell he utilizes in reading, although he often sits for hours at a time in rocking to and fro in a small rocking chair sent him by his family. He is an inveterate smoker and a pipe is preferred by him.

His appetite, never being extensive, is perhaps not so good as it has been, but the delicacies sent him by his mother and brothers are always greatly enjoyed by the condemned man. His mother is his most frequent visitor and calls two or three times a week to see him. At these calls the prisoner is allowed the privilege of the warden's private office, a privilege not generally granted to the other prisoners, but during these interviews Schneider is never out of the sight and hearing of the prison officers. As in the case of all other prisoners, every article of food and clothing sent to him is carefully examined before being handed to him.

There are some who attribute the moroseness of Schneider to an unbalanced mind, but, in the opinion of the officers of the jail, it is due alone to the prisoner's nature and character. It is known that the physician of the jail, Dr. McWilliams, stated a short time ago that he could see nothing wrong in Schneider's condition, and that he considered him sane. It is understood that the doctor so expressed himself to District Attorney Cole. The opinion of Dr. McWilliams is that of the jail officials generally, it is said.

The sentence imposed upon Schneider was that he should be hanged Friday, January 20, 1893, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 m. There is another murderer sentenced to die the same day, Fred. Barber, the colored man who threw a woman into the canal in Georgetown. Barber's sentence was that he should be hanged between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., so should the condemned men fail in their efforts to secure a further delay they would in all probability be hanged together.

There is another murderer sentenced to be hanged next month, William D. Cross, the colored wife murderer, who, unless the President interferes, will be hanged on Friday, the 6th, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 m.

CONDENSED LOCALS.

RT. REV. DR. RANDOLPH, bishop of the new diocese of southern Virginia, will preach in the Church of the Ascension tomorrow morning.

MR. W. D. HUGHES will deliver a lecture against infidelity tomorrow evening in Society Temple, corner 5th and G streets northwest.

In the Equity Court Justice Bradley dismissed the divorce case of Mary A. Reardon against William H. Reardon, filed in November, 1891, at the defendant's costs.

For stealing three yards of oil cloth from E. L. Dungan, Judge Miller today sentenced Sam Tillman to thirty days in jail.

MIKE CURTIS, charged in the Police Court today with an assault on Policeman Bell, demanded a jury trial, and the case went over until next week.

THERE were ten garbage compla