

### CITY EMPLOYE TO OVERSEE CLEANING

#### Aldermen Request Mayor to Detail Man to Visit Gas Plant Daily.

### BODY DOESN'T ACCEPT PROMISES OF COMPANY

#### Mr. West, Who Introduces Resolution, Declares That He Believes Public Will Feel Better When it Knows That City's Representative Actually Sees Purifiers Cleaned.

Acting in accordance with a request contained in a resolution adopted unanimously by the board of aldermen last night, Mayor Maryus Jones this morning will designate an employe of the city to visit the plant of the Newport News Gas Company daily and see that the purifying boxes at the plant are properly cleaned. The mayor stated before the board last night that he would take this step if the body requested him to do so. He will consult with the health officer, Dr. Pretlow, before selecting the city employe to perform this duty.

Alderman C. D. West brought up the gas question again last night. He called attention to the fact that several reputable physicians had stated that the gas supplied by the local company was injurious to the health of the consumers, and declaring that he did not care about accepting the company's statement that the evil was being remedied by daily cleaning of purifying boxes pending the installation of new and adequate purifying equipment. He went on to say that he had heard about all the promises he wanted from the officials of the lighting companies, and that he, and he believed the public, would be better satisfied if some city employe actually saw that the boxes were cleaned every day.

#### Mayor's Statement.

Mayor Jones made a brief statement, outlining what has been done in regard to the gas situation. He said that this matter was brought to his attention first by Dr. R. T. Still, who told him that his (Dr. Still's) recently serious illness was directly attributable to the fumes thrown off by illuminating gas burned in his home. He said that he directed the attention of the health officer to this matter, and that as a result of Dr. Pretlow's activity the company had installed a new purifying apparatus.

Dr. Longan stated that, while the company had ordered the new purifying equipment the equipment had not yet been installed. He explained, however, that the company had given the health officer assurance that its product would be kept pure and harmless pending the arrival of the new equipment by a daily cleaning of the purifying boxes now in use.

#### Mr. West's Resolution.

Mr. West asked the mayor whether or not he would designate an employe of the city to see that the boxes are cleaned if he were asked to do so by the board. The mayor gave an affirmative reply and, in spite of some opposition on the part of President Robinson, who expressed the opinion that the board should not interfere with the mayor in the matter, Mr. West submitted this resolution:

"Resolved by the board of aldermen, that the mayor is hereby requested to detail some employe of the city to supervise the cleaning each day of the purifiers at the plant of the Newport News Gas Company, pending the installing of a new and adequate purifier, which it is represented to this body, has been ordered."

The resolution was adopted unanimously, all seven members present voting in the affirmative.

### DUELLING NEGRO IS CAUGHT IN RICHMOND

#### Esau Johnson Will be Brought to This City for Trial on Felony Charge.

Esau Johnson, a negro, who fought three duels in Rochetts on last Thanksgiving Day with George Tinsley, also colored, and who believed that the local police thought he was "dead" and "buried" more than a month ago, was arrested in Richmond yesterday morning and is being held there for the authorities of this city. An officer will go to Richmond this morning to bring Johnson here for trial on a felony charge.

Johnson and Tinsley fought their first duel on Jefferson avenue, the Pullman parlor car old point to Washington, Pullman sleeper old point to New York, via C. & O. and Richmond. Washington Parlor Car on train leaving Old Point 9:20 a. m. and Newport News 10:05 a. m. arriving Washington 2:45 p. m. daily except Sunday. New York sleeper on train leaving Old Point 4:30 p. m. Newport News 5:05 p. m. arriving Washington 11:50 p. m. New York 6:30 a. m. daily. 16-18-20-22-25-27.

Automobiles—Call W. E. Rouse.

men drawing guns and firing five times at each other. Neither man secured a hit and later they engaged in a second duel with the same result. Still later they met again and on that occasion Tinsley winged Johnson.

The local police searched for Johnson after the duels, but failed to locate him. Two weeks later Johnson went on a rampage in Dawson City, near Chesapeake & Ohio coal dock No. 12. He threatened to kill Tinsley and any policeman that came after him. The police were advised and officers hurried to the scene, but Johnson had made good his escape.

Several weeks after Johnson's disappearance, the dead body of an unknown negro was found on the Chesapeake & Ohio railway yard in North End. The face was so badly mutilated that identification was well nigh impossible. However, some of Johnson's friends claimed that the body was that of Johnson, their idea being it is said, to make the police give up the search for the negro. The police let the negro's friends think that he had been duped and Johnson was advised by his friends that he was "dead" and his body "buried."

It seems that Johnson has been living in Richmond since his disappearance from this city. He told the Richmond police that he was "dead" and "buried," but they produced his description sent them by Chief Reynolds and then Johnson admitted that he was very much alive and confessed to the duels here.

### PUBLIC HEARING ON STRODE ENABLING ACT

#### Newport News Citizens Going to Richmond to Support State-wide Measure.

Rev. E. T. Wellford, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, and a member of the executive committee of the Virginia Anti-Saloon League, and a number of representative citizens of this city will go to Richmond this morning to appear before the senate committee on privileges and elections in support of the Strode "enabling" act which provides that if at any time within ninety days after the passage of the bill 25 per cent of the voters who participated in the November election sign a petition for a State-wide prohibition election the governor shall order such election. Among those whom Mr. Wellford says will accompany him to Richmond are: City Treasurer J. M. Curtis, Former City Sergeant Emmett W. Milstead, W. E. Barrett, W. E. Rouse, Councilmen E. I. Ford and J. C. Wallace, Col. W. J. Nelms, E. J. Patton, Secretary E. M. Hall, of the Young Men's Christian Association; R. L. Phelps, George Nelms Wise and J. C. Curtis.

Although no announcement to that effect has been received, it is probable that some of the local opponents to the Strode measure also will go to Richmond to oppose it. The liquor and other interests of the State no doubt will be out in full force for the hearing. The Anti-saloon league will be well represented by preachers and other enthusiasts in the cause of temperance.

The hearing before the committee will begin at 10 o'clock this morning and both sides will be given a full hearing. In all probability the public hearing will not be completed before tomorrow.

#### C. T. PHILLIPS DEAD.

#### Father of Louis C. Phillips Passes Away at His Home in Portsmouth.

C. T. Phillips, father of Attorney Louis C. Phillips, of this city, died at 5:10 o'clock yesterday afternoon at his home in Portsmouth after a long illness. Mr. Phillips, who was about 58 years old, was stricken with apoplexy several weeks ago and had since been in extremis.

The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock from the Monumental church, Portsmouth, and interment will be made in that city.

#### Sue Joseph Reyner.

Through his attorney, W. B. Colonna, J. H. Huffman, trading as the Virginia Fruit and Produce Company, entered suit in the clerk's office of the Corporation Court yesterday against Joseph Reyner for damages in the sum of \$500. The suit grows out of the refusal of Mr. Reyner to accept a car of white potatoes from Mr. Huffman.

#### THIEF MAKES RICH HAUL.

Unknown Man Steals Fifteen Revolvers From Pawn Shop. I Cohen's pawnshop on Jefferson avenue was broken into sometime Monday night and robber or robbers stole fifteen revolvers of various makes, sizes and designs. The thief forced an entrance to the place by breaking open the back door and helped himself to nearly all of the goods in the place. The robbery was discovered yesterday morning and reported to the police, but as yet no trace of the thief has been found by the police.

#### Zaandyk Heeded This Way.

The Dutch steamer Zaandyk of the Holland-America Line, steamed from Rotterdam on February 12, at 2 a. m. for Newport News via New York and Baltimore.

#### Rev. J. T. Riddick Ill.

Rev. J. T. Riddick, pastor of the Second Baptist church, is confined to his home in East End with an attack of grip.

Everybody talking about "CONQUERINE."

W. E. Rouse—Funeral Director.

### SHIPYARD DELIVERS DELAWARE TO NAVY

#### First Dreadnaught Completed Six Months and Seven Days Ahead of Time.

### NO CEREMONIES MARK TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

#### General Manager Post Reports to Captain Marshall, Commandant, Upon Arrival of New Ship at Norfolk Navy Yard and Takes the Officer's Receipt—End of Race.

Completed six months and seven days ahead of contract time, the 20,000-ton battleship Delaware was delivered to the navy department at the Norfolk navy yard at 1:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon by her builders, the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company. Although this was the first battleship of the Dreadnaught type to be turned over to the United States government, no ceremony marked the event. Upon the arrival of the monster warship at the navy yard, General Manager Walter A. Post reported to Captain Marshall, U. S. N., commandant of the yard, who formally accepted the ship on behalf of the department and gave Mr. Post a receipt for her.

Manned by a small crew of shipyard mechanics and commanded by Captain William G. Melvin, of this city, the Delaware pulled out from the shipyard at 11 o'clock yesterday morning and after turning her nose down, the harbor, the 57 craft began the journey to the navy yard under her own steam.

After the Delaware was safely moored at the navy yard the crew was transferred from her to the shipyard tug Dauntless, which had accompanied the Delaware. The tug returned here with the workmen and the yard officials late in the afternoon. Besides Mr. Post, Superintendent of Hull Construction Homer L. Ferguson made the trip on the Delaware.

#### Alterations to be Made.

While she is now 100 per cent completed, the Delaware will not go into commission until April as a number of alterations and improvements are to be made to her at the navy yard. Among other things some of the bulkheads will be rearranged and refrigerating plant will be installed in the magazines. When this and other work is completed, the crew of 822 men, which is being assembled aboard the receiving ship Franklin at the Norfolk yard, will be formally placed in commission.

Soon after being placed on the navy's active list, the Delaware will go to sea to have her final government acceptance speed and endurance trials. These trials will be run off the Virginia Capes and shortly after their completion, the Delaware will join the Atlantic fleet.

#### End of Great Race.

The delivery of the Delaware to the navy department marks the end of the greatest warship building race in the history of the world and establishes a new record for the construction of battleships on the Western hemisphere.

When the contracts for the Delaware and her sister ship, the North Dakota, were signed on August 6, 1907, the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company and the Fore River Shipbuilding Company entered into a race for the delivery of the two Dreadnaughts. The Fore River Company took the lead at the start and when that company launched the North Dakota in November, 1908, the victory was practically conceded to it. However, the officials of the local yard were by no means discouraged and renewed efforts were made to complete the Delaware ahead of her sister ship. The Delaware was launched on February 5, 1909—just twelve months and ten days ago. After the vessel was overboard, this yard began to gain steadily on the Fore River plant and so rapidly was the work on the Delaware rushed that in September the Newport News company was in the lead of its rival company. The Delaware went on trial last October and the North Dakota went out about two weeks later. The North Dakota, which is equipped with navy department next month, about thirty days later than the Delaware.

#### Delaware Superior Ship.

Figures deduced from the government records of the trials of the two vessels indicate that the Delaware is a superior ship to the North Dakota. The Fore River built ship is given credit for slightly higher speed than the Delaware under forced draft, but the officials of the local yard say that if live steam was admitted to the low and intermediate pressure cylinders of the Delaware the ship would be able to develop a speed slightly in excess of 22 knots as against the 21.64 knots of the North Dakota which is equipped with Curtis turbine engines.

The Delaware surpasses the North Dakota in cruising ability as the coal consumption of the local built vessel is less than that of the North Dakota. Steaming at twelve knots speed—the average speed maintained by the Atlantic battleship fleet on its cruise around the world—the Delaware can run 5,200 knots without replenishing her bunkers as against less than 9,000 knots for the North Dakota. Running at a speed of nineteen knots, the Delaware can go 5,400 knots without taking on a fresh supply of fuel. At

this rate of speed, the North Dakota could go only about 5,000 knots.

#### Seventeenth Warship Built Here.

The Delaware is the seventeenth warship built here for the "new navy." These warships include the battleships Kearsarge, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Louisiana, Virginia and Minnesota, which made the cruise with the Atlantic battleship fleet around the world; the armored cruisers West Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and Montana; the protected cruiser Charleston, the monitor Albatross and the gunboats Wilmington, Helaman and Nashville. Five other vessels are now building here for the navy department. They are the torpedo boat destroyers Roe, Terry and Mohangan and two submarine cruisers of the Lake type.

#### "Fete in Flowerland."

Daily rehearsals of the beautiful floral operetta which will be presented at the Academy of Music on February 21 and 25, are proving successful. In addition to the excellent well known Newport News talent a revelation of new talent is promised.

The entire flower garden in artistic groups will greet the audience as the curtain goes up.

Some of the flowers are as follows: The sweet peas in rainbow hued colors, twinning in the background are impersonated by Misses Ruth Ford, Margaret Sommerville, Bentley Robinson, Dorothy Williams, Glenna Latimer, Ruth Smith, Margaret Jenkins, Virginia Jeffery, Madeline Daughter, Goldie Gardner, Grace Davis, Marie Ward, Miriam Sims, Mercedes Christy, Laetia Phipps, Bessie Bivins and Ada Brooks (soloist).

Lilies—Misses Julia Robinson, Ione Wilson, Elizabeth Pattee, Mildred Greasy, Lawrence Sims, Frances Semmes, Phoebe Pressy, Elizabeth Huxton, Frances Koch, Isabelle Lawrence, Jeane Hoskins, Marie Mackey, Sadly Blasenbarn, Elizabeth Hyman, Clara Tillery, Elizabeth Roberts.

Buttercups—Alma Branch, Virginia Branch, Stephen Johnson, Jr., Wilson Harris.

Pantries—Edith Miller and Marvel Koomt.

Forget-me-nots—Frances Strat, Alice Spiffen, Elizabeth Moore, Guerie Lawrence, Stella Ford, Marie Wilkins, Grace Manville, Louis Kleyentubur, Ethel Kinder, Elizabeth Cottrell, Louise Moore, Adelaide Christy, Minnie Hoskins, Fannie Christy, Ella Neise, Magdalen Grassan.

#### LANDS IN JAIL AGAIN.

#### George Williams Unlawfully Communicates With Prisoners.

After being released from jail yesterday morning by Justice Brown, George Williams, a negro, was arrested again by Special Officer Bedford on the charge of unlawfully communicating with the prisoners in the city jail. Justice Brown tried the case and fined the prisoner \$7.75, which he was unable to pay. Williams will have to work his fine out on the chain gang.

### TRUSTEES SUSPEND PASTOR OF CHURCH

#### Long Drawn Out Fight in Antioch Baptist Church, Colored, Ended at Last.

According to Trustee A. S. Wingfield, the long drawn out fight between the trustees and the pastor of the Antioch Baptist church, colored, at Ranko avenue and Twenty-ninth street, has been ended by the action of the trustees in dismissing the pastor, Rev. B. F. Gardner. The church is now looking for a new pastor and the trustees believe that the troubles are ended.

Wingfield says that the friction began several months ago when the pastor wanted to disperse with the services of the trustees. By this means, it is claimed, he tried to get possession of the church property. The trustees let him have his way in the matter with the result that he failed to meet the payments on the property. The owners of the property complained and then the trustees stepped in and deposed the pastor and again assumed charge of things.

#### Mid-Day Lenten Services.

Rev. E. T. Wellford addressed the mid-day Lenten services at the Dreamland theater at noon yesterday under the auspices of St. Paul's Episcopal church. Judge T. I. Barham will address the meeting tomorrow.

#### Small Boy—Pa, what is an optimist?

Pa—an optimist, my son, is a man who doesn't care a rap what happens so that it doesn't happen to him.—T. I. Bits.

#### Carriages—Call W. E. Rouse.

#### How often do you eat this food?

A short time ago there appeared in the columns of one of the prominent magazines an article on building brain and muscle by the proper selection of the foods you eat.

A good many people were surprised to find oatmeal placed at the top of the list of foods recommended, but if the article had appeared in an English or Scotch paper every reader would have expected to see first place given to good oatmeal.

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