

Stanton Spectator.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1890.

The World's Columbian Exposition.

When the purpose of celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus was projected, the plan did not embrace all the nations and civilized countries of the world as finally agreed upon. The first proposition included only all the governments of the American continent with invitations to Spain and Italy. The agitation and discussion of the matter which was so thoroughly and advantageously conducted by the National Board of Promotion located at Washington, of which Mr. Alexander D. Anderson was secretary, aroused the spirit of the people of the United States to a high degree of interest and had much to do in the final result of the legislation by Congress. The invitation, therefore, will go abroad to all nations, and the exposition at Chicago will be national and international, embracing the arts, industries, manufactures, and products of the soil, mine, and sea the world over from the countries that will participate in the event.

To follow this great exposition of 1893, and in connection with that event, 1893 will witness one never before attempted and of no less importance to many respects than the first named. The 8th section of the law authorizing the exposition originated with our own Senator Hon. John W. Daniel, and is as follows: "That the President is hereby empowered and directed to hold a naval review in New York harbor in April, 1893, and to send ships of foreign nations in the United States Navy in rendezvous at Hampton Roads and proceed thence to sail review."

The work of preparation for the exposition at Chicago has commenced as agreed upon by the Board of Commissioners representing the country at large and all the States and territories. Passing by the proceedings of the commission over which body one of the Virginia commissioners, Hon. Jno. T. Harris, was the temporary president, and organized it from its first state, the selection of officers to conduct the exposition including many committees, among which will be a board of lady managers, coming from all the States and territories, we go on to the arrangement of this compilation to the absorbing interest of site and space which will have much to do with the success of the exposition not only in the exhibits but with the world of people who will be there "from all nations and kindred and tongues."

The grounds for the exposition were discussed at length after thorough interviews between committees and the city authorities. It may be termed a dual site of lake front and parks all connected. Following are the dimensions:

The Jackson park has 680 acres with its annex of 160 acres; Lake front 150 acres, making over 900 acres, with 80 more of the Washington park which can be added if necessary. All will be connected by continuous rail and the Lake front and Jackson park by both rail and water. The passage from one point to another, and by water or rail, will be on the same ticket of admission. The question came up on the consideration of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the site proposed by the president and the directors of the Chicago Columbian Exposition for the World's Columbian Exposition be, and the same is hereby formally accepted by this commission; and that all questions about the site in the said site and facilities for transportation, be referred to a committee of ten to be appointed by the president of the commission; and said committee shall be instructed to report at the next meeting of this commission.

The site referred to in the resolution is substantially stated above. The vote upon the adoption of the resolution was yeas 77, nays 11. It is generally supposed that the whole matter of site will be thus arranged to the satisfaction of the committee and secure a report of that character to the next meeting of the commission and thus lead to the confirmation of the proposition recommended. A large number of engineers and contractors approve of the plan, and the Illinois State Association has agreed the co-operation of the City Council, the press and people generally to disregard all private and personal interest, and to unite heartily in the location recommended.

We have referred to the services of the National Board of Promotion and the work of its able and efficient secretary, Mr. Anderson, in the preliminary efforts in behalf of the exposition, but that was not all that was embraced in connection with that service. The Pan-American Congress was a part of the programme, and a more intimate and profitable international commerce and social intercourse between the United States and the Spanish-American States to follow was thoroughly propagated. The session of the Congress has been held, and if all the objects attainable, or that can be set on foot for accomplishment through its instrumentality are not consummated, a commencement, at least, has been made in that direction.

In selecting a location for the exposition, Virginia, through her organized commercial associations and the press expressed a preference for Washington city, but Congress determined otherwise, and gave the exposition to Chicago; but heartily concurring in Senator Daniel's proposition, a different, but no less interesting, display of the power and resources of the nation of the world, selected Virginia and New York for the demonstration in 1893.

Preparations for participation in the exposition should now be of engrossing interest to us. It concerns us as a whole country, as a State, and as a community. The means to secure the intelligent observation of all peoples of our resources, what we have and what we are capable of producing, are now plainly offered to us. Two weeks ago we wrote of our opportunities in these particulars, showing that they were to be estimated to the degree in which they commanded our confidence. Here now is an opportunity of communicating with the world, and common sense and the just pride in the possession of the resources we lay claim to, and really have, should impel us to quick and active action, and to be ready for participation in the great event to come off at Chicago two years hence. We possess the material to manufacture steel, and, in all probability, we can in this section of Virginia have some of such product to exhibit at the Columbian Exposition, and if so, and no more is done than to inform Chicago itself of the new source of supply, something will have been gained in the race of enterprise, for that city is becoming a very large purchaser of the utilization of all the products of the machine to which it is applied. Chicago can use a strip of her enterprise with a building of which the frame is wholly, and much

Death of Col. John T. Preston.

A distinguished man in letters, with high attainments as a professor and a teacher of languages and rhetoric, a leader in Christian work, a pillar in the Presbyterian Church, and an exemplar in the progress of a great community, passed to his final rest at Lexington, the home of his life, on the night of the 15th instant, at the ripe old age of 74 years. His death occurred just four months after that of his colleague and friend of fifty years, General Francis H. Smith, with whom he was associated in the establishment, under State authority, of the Virginia Military Institute in 1839.

Colonel Preston was a member of the distinguished family of his name. His father was Thomas L. Preston, of Montgomery, afterwards of Rockbridge, who was a captain in the United States Army, and as a member of the Virginia Legislature was the author of the resolutions of that body sustaining President Madison's war policy, and grandson of Colonel William Preston, of Augusta county, member of the House of Burgesses of the Colony, and Colonel in the Indian wars of the Revolution. His mother was a daughter of Edmund Randolph, Attorney-General of the United States from 1789 to 1794.

Colonel Preston graduated at Washington College (now Washington & Lee University) 1827-'28. In the graduation class were the late Judge Francis T. Anderson, James D. Davidson, and Dr. Socrates Manly, in all nineteen, of whom but two or three, if any, are now living. He qualified himself for the practice of law, but shortly thereafter abandoned it for the profession with which his name is indissolubly associated in a grand era in the history of the State.

About 1830, the State established an arsenal of arms for military defense at Lexington, and placed there a company of regulars as the guard. About 1835, in the Franklin Literary Society of Lexington, then in prosperous existence, Colonel Preston introduced the proposition for the conversion of the arsenal into a military school to teach the branches of learning as afterwards adopted—the cadets to become the guard of the public property. He was thoroughly equipped for the debate and carried his point. The matter excited much interest in the community and throughout the State. Colonel Preston further discussed the matter in the local and State press, and also appeared before the committee of the Legislature having the subject before them for report to the whole body. The proposition became law and the Board of Visitors were appointed, with the late Colonel Crozet President of the body, to establish the Virginia Military Institute, appoint the officers, and set it to work. General Smith was appointed Superintendent with duties as a professor, and Colonel Preston a professor of mathematics next to General Smith, and on the 11th of November, 1839, the work of his life as an instructor of the youth of Virginia, and an States commenced and continued actively for nearly fifty years, with the results which have passed into history.

When it is said that for fifty years or more Colonel Preston was an Elder in the Lexington Presbyterian Church, and an exemplar in Christian work and in maintaining the doctrines and progress of the denomination in its legislative assemblages and government, those who did not know him can form an opinion of his fine attainments which he was called to fill through the love and confidence of his brethren.

Colonel Preston was twice married; first to Miss Carathers, of Lexington, Miss Margaret J. Preston, the second wife, who survives him, was the daughter of Rev. Dr. Junkin, a former President of Washington College. Rev. Thos. L. Preston, D. D., pastor of the Lexington Presbyterian Church, is his eldest son, Rev. John A. Preston, of Florence, Ala., is another son. Three others were killed or died from effects of service in the Confederate Army. A younger one is a member of the legal profession of Baltimore, and another of the medical profession of Philadelphia. The late Colonel William Allan, whose memory is so affectionately cherished in the valley of his birth, was a son-in-law, and Captain Edmund R. Cooke, of Cumberland county, a leading farmer and popular citizen, is another son-in-law.

The funeral services took place during the forenoon of the 17th, Rev. D. A. Penick, D. W. Shauck, D. D., and D. C. Irwin, officiating. The faculties of the Virginia Military Institute and Washington & Lee University and the citizens generally in large numbers attended.

The Cumberland Valley Railroad. The articles which have appeared in the SPECTATOR in reference to the Cumberland Valley Railroad in the mission it could fill as a great North and South line of railroad, have excited the interest of the people, as the proceedings at Middlebrook on the 15th instant tend to forward the objects in view already at hand, as will appear by the appended proceedings to the meeting which created the same.

The interest in this movement is extending an enthusiasm which will go far towards a favorable consideration of the suggestion for extension by the Railroad Company. This movement of enquiry Mr. McCorkle and his committee are determined to press to a conclusion, and such will be the interest manifested by the 17th of September when all the committees shall meet in this city for an interview with the President of the Railroad Company, that the topic will be one of a decidedly leading character. We feel warranted in saying this, because the spirit of the Middlebrook meeting justifies it. The same consideration, and even more in some instances, will move the people all along the proposed line.

THE DEFICIENCY BILL.—The General Deficiency Bill was reported to the House on Saturday. Among the appropriations is one of \$3,250.84 to pay George L. Naville for timber delivered to the Norfolk navy yard. The contesters for seats in Congress are allowed \$9,000 each, among them being Venable and Langston, Bowen and Buchanan, Waddill and Wise from Virginia.

The total amount appropriated to pay for contested election cases is \$71,060.85. Another item appropriates \$11,783.50 to pay Col. John S. Mosby, formerly of Virginia, for fees decided by the Courts to be due while on duty at Hong Kong.

The Federal Election Bill.

IT MENACES THE LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE—THE ELECTIONS TO BE CONTROLLED BY MILITARY FORCE. From the admirable speech of Congressman Crisp, of Georgia, delivered in Baltimore on the night of the 15th instant, we copy that portion which discusses the Federal election bill as follows:—

The republican leaders do not want a fair and free election. They slander and vilify the South to revive animosities and prejudices against that section, and under the plea of wanting honest elections they enact a law which will deprive the people not only of the right to elect their own representatives, but also of the right to elect their own judges at all power to repudiate them at the polls.

AN INQUISITIVE BILL. "Under the House bill the circuit courts of the United States appoint chief supervisors of the polls, and the judges are nearly all republican. The chief supervisor, when appointed, is the master of the situation. Supervisors are appointed for each voting place. Any citizen may be appointed; there is no limit to the number. These officers are all paid out of the treasury, and may employ 'two days or more.' The marshals may make a house-to-house canvass to inquire into the qualification of voters, and must do what the chief supervisor directs them to do. The States may have election officers, but whenever there is a conflict in the returns the State returns give way to the federal returns, and the marshals may employ 'two days or more.' The marshals may make a house-to-house canvass to inquire into the qualification of voters, and must do what the chief supervisor directs them to do. 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