

# Stanton Spectator

AND VINDICATOR  
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R. S. TURK, Editor and Proprietor.  
A. S. Morton, Business Manager.  
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Friday, March 15, 1907.

## W. S. HOSPITAL REPORT.

The 7th annual report of the Western State Hospital, situated in this city, is before us, and shows a healthy condition of affairs and many subjects for congratulation. There are hundreds of persons within these walls who have found there an asylum indeed, a place where their bodily comfort may be looked after and are looked after, as they could be nowhere else, save in such an institution, and whose friends should be thankful that they are so happily situated, and so well provided for.

The hospital contained on Sept. 30, 1906, the end of the fiscal year, 1090 patients—an increase over the corresponding day of the previous year of 25. There were admitted during the year 268, and discharged 128, and during the year 107 have died. Of these the report says: "2 were over 90 years of age; 4 between 80 and 90; 21 between 70 and 80, and 20 between 60 and 70, making a total of 47 over 60 years of age."

The sanitary condition of the hospital is good, and no contagious disease beyond one case of typhoid fever occurred during the year. Only one suicide occurred, and this was in the case of a farouged patient at her home in Petersburg, who stuck a pair of scissors in her head and broke off the point. She was not operated on there for its removal, and shortly after she reached this hospital and the piece removed inflammation set in causing death.

The financial report shows a balance of \$1,823.22 on hand, which is a narrow surplus for so large an institution, since it is always unwise for the Legislature to compel the management to struggle along on barely enough money to meet the most economical administration.

There was a surplus at the end of the fiscal year of 1905 of \$18,256.27—\$6,000 of which by the efforts of the Board had been raised from collections of over due accounts. Such sums will now be no more or will amount to little, owing to recent legislation. The other \$12,000 was for the appropriation for that year, but was practically spent on hospital improvements at the making of said report of 1905.

The per capita for the year ending Sept. 30, 1906, is figured at \$99.55, the lowest in the history of the institution. Whilst we cannot agree that the mode of figuring out this small per capita is exactly fair to previous years or previous managements, we do believe that even a per capita of \$123.05, which seems to be about the apparent per capita, is just as low as the occupants of that hospital can be well supported, and the management, we believe, usually commits an error in efforts to reduce the per capita too low. If for the next year, it should not fall so low, too much explaining might be necessary. The best and safest thing in the management of a public institution is to do the best possible and let the figures show accordingly charging every reasonable to the per capita. The Legislature is very apt to grow more and more stingy on a small per capita.

Much commendable effort on the part of the superintendent is visible in his medical, surgical and scientific departments, and under his charge a new morgue has been built. He recommends competitive examinations for assistant physicians, and will start a training school for nurses. He reports the removal of all physical restraints, and the unlocking of patients doors at night. He also reports segregation of epileptics from other patients.

He recommends strongly the colonization of consumptives. He again, but we fear with the same results of formerly, calls attention to the improvements needed. This seems such a hopeless task. Year in and year out has the Legislature been importuned to supply means for intercommunicating telephones, for an infirmary, for a better kitchen, for employes quarters, for associate dining rooms, and some places where industrial avocations may be carried on, and a chapel and a public hall placed elsewhere than where it is, saturated by the fumes of the kitchen. All these have long been needed, indeed begged for, but they have been denied.

Modern plumbing, began some time ago and was last year completed in a portion of the hospital. The residue needs it as the report shows, and the money should be supplied. Probably future Legislatures may be more liberal, and these necessities be made possible, but the hospital, considering its opportunities, has done splendid work, and without any intention to draw invidious comparisons, it may be safely said that it will compare favorably with any of its size in the South, and is nearly double in size that of the other two white hospitals in the State.

The hospital has passed through unusual vicissitudes during the fiscal year of this report. On Dec. 13, 1906, over two months after the year began the superintendent, Dr. Ben. Blackford, died. Dr. Geo. S. Walker, first assistant physician, then acted as superintendent and managed the affairs of the institution until March 8, 1906, when Dr. J. S. DeJarnette, the present superintendent, was elected. Since then a total change of the medical staff has taken place. Seldom has any such institution been under the care of three superintendents in one year or in six months undergone an entire change in its medical staff.

## A LEAF FROM A CLOSED VOLUME.

In 1871 Maj. N. H. Hotchkiss, then traveling agent for the C. & O. and York River Railroad, conceived the idea of an excursion of Northern Editors through the South. 'Twas a grand idea, and it was unique. Nothing of the kind had ever occurred. The war had ended only about six years before, and there was little mingling of Northern and Southern people. Maj. Hotchkiss saw the possibilities and knowing the wisdom of such a move began it.

We quote the words which inspired his action. He reasoned: "The press is the acknowledged vehicle of public sentiment. Each journal has a center from which radiates impressions to light thousands of people. The masses have no other means of gaining information."

Acting on this idea he labored until he arranged an excursion of fifty editors, principally from the lesser towns of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, most of whom had never seen any portion of the South. From Baltimore he brought them to Richmond, thence over the C. & O. to White Sulphur Springs, thence back to Charlottesville, into North Carolina, and thence back to Richmond, where they again embarked for their homes via Baltimore.

In Stanton they were feasted at the Virginia Hotel, then kept by Frazier & Sale, and managed by the late D. C. McGuffin. They were greeted with a welcoming address by Col. John B. Baldwin, and were addressed also by Hon. A. H. H. Stuart. They visited the female school, heard Prof. Scharf read and Miss Santoni of New Orleans recite at the V. F. I. Saw the faculty and the girls at the A. F. Seminary. They also visited the Western Lunatic Asylum, where they were received by the superintendent, Dr. Stribling, and his assistants, Drs. Hamilton and Berkeley, and the steward, Samuel A. Hoshour, and invited to partake of refreshments. At the D. D. & B. Institution they were welcomed by Mr. Covell, principal, and his assistants, Messrs. McCoy, Job Turner, H. A. Bear, and Prof. A. J. Turner. The story of this visit is told in a printed volume published by Maj. Hotchkiss a little later, after the Southern editors had gone North, entitled "The Pine and the Palm," a copy of which has just come into our hands.

How well we remember many of the people of those days. Many living in Stanton remember well and with never ending pleasure Major Nelson H. Hotchkiss. His tireless energy, his indomitable will, his happy smile, his keen black eyes which like those of the eagle swept to the horizon from beneath shaggy eyebrows. His cordial and kindly hand shake, his pleasure at imparting information, his loyalty to his road, his pride in its development, his hopes for its future, his anxiety for general industrial development, his splendid appreciation of Virginia's needs, along with his dream of the great things he hoped to accomplish, calculated to lift her up, and place her where she belonged once more, in her rank as an influential and great State. How he sought to heal the wounds of the war, how he knew that War, Pestilence and Famine were bound together, whilst Peace, Prosperity and Plenty were hand maids. Neither can those who knew him forget that long piping beard and that merschaum pipe, without which he would not have been his major.

But if Major Hotchkiss were living today and he should give voice to such an idea as that embodied in the dedication of his book "The Pine and the Palm" which is in these words: DEDICATED TO THE EDITORIAL FRATERNITY, THE GREAT LEVER POWER THAT MOVES THE WORLD, and Mr. Cassatt were also living, and had the power, he would hurl Maj. Hotchkiss from his place as unit for the service of railroads, as a heretic, if not an ignoramus. He would be dismissed in disgrace. But those were days when the Railroads admitted the existence of other powers beside themselves, and when they did not placard the country with these words: "Thou shalt have none other gods but me." If the railway world had a few Maj. N. H. Hotchkisses today their troubles would be lighter.

In 1872 a similar excursion of Southern editors was taken North by Maj. Hotchkiss, and the scheme was a magnificent success.

Mr. I. Freeman Rains of Baltimore is dead. He was a man possessing many traits of character which endeared him to those with whom he is associated. He was endowed with ability of no mean order, but he acquired the unenviable sobriquet of "political boss," and in doing so was of course found training with various political elements. He was one of the many "renegade" Democrats of Baltimore whose policies swept that city into the Republican gutter in 1896, and from which it will be a long time emerging, and when it begins cleansing and fumigating its political raiment, will find it much besmeared and begrimed with just such politics as Mr. Rains and his friends preached and practiced, that of the "traitor in the camp" variety which cannot be condoned, or properly apologized for.

Mr. Spooner says he is not to become the general counsel of one railroad. Mr. Spooner is determined to make more than \$50,000 for a few years, and he is also determined to let his friends know that he has no presidential aspirations.

Mr. Harriman says "Let us have peace." It may possibly come, since in this world of ours his voice is as the voice of one crying in the wilderness "make ye my paths straight," or of that other voice which said, "Let there be light, and there was light."

The Democrats in West Virginia held Republican extravaganzas down by refusing to support a measure carrying \$200,000, unless reduced to \$80,000.

It is doubtful whether the Weather Bureau or Hicks has predicted all the Brain Storms likely to occur in March.

## ACQUITTAL OF THE STROTHERS.

The acquittal of the Strotthers was looked for event. It was an application of what we know as the unwritten law, for the plea of insanity though made was only a device, or a threat upon which to hang a hope or an opinion. The jury would have acquitted just as soon without it as with it. It is plain that all the surroundings were in favor of acquittal, and there was great provocation, but now that the cloud has passed, the mist has cleared away, it was a very ill advised affair, and one in which the brothers had little real right to interfere after marriage. There was no evidence of permanent abandonment, and they were not their brother-in-law's keeper even though he had just assumed that relationship to them. The Baltimore Sun pertinently says: "The person most cruelly wronged, it seems, by the slaughter of Byratt was the sister of the men who killed him. If the man had been permitted to live, even if he had left her, she would have been saved from the ordeal she was put to after his death, which cannot fail to cast a shadow over the life that she is yet to live. In his argument before the jury one of the counsel for the prisoners referred to a precedent in the Bible, where two of the sons of Jacob put to death a man who had wronged their sister, and he said that this act was not rebuked. He is mistaken in this statement, for he is told that Jacob on his deathbed condemned the act and punished it. 'Cursed be their anger,' he said, 'for it was cruel; I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.'"

The New York Times tells of an eight cent breakfast served in that city in the department of domestic science at Teacher's College. The menu consisted of prune and apricot sauce, cream of wheat and cream, light omelet, rolls and coffee. In a varied experience we have never known this beaten for cheapness, except on some occasions when we had no breakfast at all.

The New York Central officials had to appear before a justice of the peace and give bond to appear before the grand jury last week. The charge is that they were guilty of criminal negligence on account of the accident on that road in which 23 were killed, and 117 wounded.

Hon. Thomas S. Martin is in the Nubian Desert. So are other lions.

Had Mr. Griggs, of Georgia; Mr. Henry, of Texas; Mr. Ellerbe, of South Carolina, and Mr. Flood, remained in the House the ship and bill would have been defeated.—Washington Post.

WASHINGTON LETTER  
(From our regular correspondent.)  
Washington, D.C. March 9.—Every southern state will be interested in the decision rendered this week by the Department of Justice as to the South Carolina Immigration case. It will be remembered that recently the state appropriated a considerable amount of money to which was added by private subscription, and the State Commissioner of Immigration was sent abroad, bringing back a whole shipload of immigrants who were landed at Charleston instead of at some northern port and were promptly welcomed and employed as soon as they landed. There was some question at the time whether the state had not violated the alien contract labor law in bringing the immigrants to this country, for the passage of most of them was prepaid. The case was referred to the Department of Justice at the time and it decided that under the law an individual state could do what a private employer could not do, in the way of assisting foreign immigrants to its borders.

But under the new law, a decision has been rendered that cuts off part of the states privilege. The Department decided this week that a state might spend money in advertising abroad and might do what it wanted in drumming up immigrant traffic, but it could not pay the passage of aliens to this country as had been done in the South Carolina case. This will operate as something of a drawback in getting other shiploads of foreigners direct to the South, but it is not likely to stem the tide of immigration if it can be once induced to set that way.

Hearings were continued this week on what has been known as the "car stake case" before the Interstate Commerce Commission. The railroads all over the country have been transporting much of the billions of feet of lumber carried annually on flat cars, and to do this it has been necessary to place stakes along the sides of the cars to keep the timber in place. The railroads have forced the shippers to use this equipment in accordance with the rules of the Master Car Builders' Association. It seems like a little matter, the cost of equipping a car being only \$4. But in the aggregate it costs the lumbermen of the country about \$6,000,000 a year. They claim that there should be properly equipped cars with permanent stakes furnished by the railroad companies and a number of iron stakes, folding stakes, and the like have been patented. The lumbermen claim that some of these will serve the purpose, but the railroads insist that the problem has not yet been solved, and that it remains for some inventive genius to perfect a stake that will answer the call when a flat car is loaded with lumber and will be out of the way when the car is wanted for something else. The commission has taken the case under advisement, and it has not yet been decided who shall foot the bill for equipping the cars.

Ambassador Bryce called on Secretary Root this week and went over with him the general situation between Great Britain and this country where there are still a number of rough edges to be smoothed by diplomacy. Some of the most pressing things, however, are the matters between this country and Canada, the Great Lakes Fisheries, the reciprocal tariff, and the New Foundland Shore question. These matters, it is understood, were not touched on in the conference, and will be allowed to go over till the approaching visit of the new ambassador to Earl Grey in Canada, when the wishes of the Canadian government can be expressed and the ambassador can come back to Washington with a clear notion of what basis of settlement will be acceptable to Great Britain's most important colony.

One of the last things that Congress failed to do was to include in the Sunday Civil Appropriation bill any money for continuing the work of black and investigation that the Geological Survey has had on hand for some years.—This has proved a most important work in the west, and arrangements had been made to bring the bulk of the apparatus east and establish part of it at Chapel Hill, N. C., where the same work was to be done for the eastern states that had already been done for the west. The students of the state university at Chapel Hill were to have done much of the actual work under the direction of the scientists of the Survey, and it is believed yet that an immense amount of good will be done the country all along the Appalachian range by furnishing a method whereby the gold deposits of low grade that undoubtedly exist all through the foot hills can be worked at a profit beside extracting many other rare and useful minerals at a minimum of expense. As the case stands, however, the work will have to be done by the state of North Carolina, and residents of the other states in the south who want samples of mineral deposits examined will have to send them to the state university and pay the state for doing the work.

Just a little malicious fun was indulged in at the Navy department this week on the announcement of the release from the service of James B. Connolly, the literary friend of the President who shipped two months ago as a seaman on the battleship Alabama to accumulate "local color" and to do for the American navy in a literary way what Kipling has already done for the British Army. Mr. Connolly is a promising young author and has written some good sea stories, principally of the New England coast. This scheme of putting him in close touch with the navy and allowing him to write warship stories was well conceived. But the trouble was that it was heralded a little too much through the press, and the sailors "got next" before Mr. Connolly ever set foot on the deck of the Alabama. They resented being studied at close range even by a high class word painter, and they gave Mr. Connolly such markedly cold welcome that he decided to end his cruise at the end of two months. How much he got in the way of material in that time is not known, but it is to be feared that it was not enough to send him echoing down the corridors of time as the Kipling of the American Navy. Real life studies such as Kipling was able to make of Tommy Atkins are usually the result of a happy combination of accidents: circumstances and are not brought about by premeditated official action, however, well intended.

John Alexander Dowie, "Elijah II," died on Saturday at Zion City, Ill., the city he founded on Lake Michigan. His death was not unexpected, as he had been in falling health for some time.

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Mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on the prescription of some reputable physician, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by E. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In a very short time you will see the result of the genuine. It is taken internally, and made in Toledo, Ohio, by E. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

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Ambassador Bryce called on Secretary Root this week and went over with him the general situation between Great Britain and this country where there are still a number of rough edges to be smoothed by diplomacy. Some of the most pressing things, however, are the matters between this country and Canada, the Great Lakes Fisheries, the reciprocal tariff, and the New Foundland Shore question. These matters, it is understood, were not touched on in the conference, and will be allowed to go over till the approaching visit of the new ambassador to Earl Grey in Canada, when the wishes of the Canadian government can be expressed and the ambassador can come back to Washington with a clear notion of what basis of settlement will be acceptable to Great Britain's most important colony.

One of the last things that Congress failed to do was to include in the Sunday Civil Appropriation bill any money for continuing the work of black and investigation that the Geological Survey has had on hand for some years.—This has proved a most important work in the west, and arrangements had been made to bring the bulk of the apparatus east and establish part of it at Chapel Hill, N. C., where the same work was to be done for the eastern states that had already been done for the west. The students of the state university at Chapel Hill were to have done much of the actual work under the direction of the scientists of the Survey, and it is believed yet that an immense amount of good will be done the country all along the Appalachian range by furnishing a method whereby the gold deposits of low grade that undoubtedly exist all through the foot hills can be worked at a profit beside extracting many other rare and useful minerals at a minimum of expense. As the case stands, however, the work will have to be done by the state of North Carolina, and residents of the other states in the south who want samples of mineral deposits examined will have to send them to the state university and pay the state for doing the work.

Just a little malicious fun was indulged in at the Navy department this week on the announcement of the release from the service of James B. Connolly, the literary friend of the President who shipped two months ago as a seaman on the battleship Alabama to accumulate "local color" and to do for the American navy in a literary way what Kipling has already done for the British Army. Mr. Connolly is a promising young author and has written some good sea stories, principally of the New England coast. This scheme of putting him in close touch with the navy and allowing him to write warship stories was well conceived. But the trouble was that it was heralded a little too much through the press, and the sailors "got next" before Mr. Connolly ever set foot on the deck of the Alabama. They resented being studied at close range even by a high class word painter, and they gave Mr. Connolly such markedly cold welcome that he decided to end his cruise at the end of two months. How much he got in the way of material in that time is not known, but it is to be feared that it was not enough to send him echoing down the corridors of time as the Kipling of the American Navy. Real life studies such as Kipling was able to make of Tommy Atkins are usually the result of a happy combination of accidents: circumstances and are not brought about by premeditated official action, however, well intended.

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