

BY COWARDIN & ELLYSON. CASH-INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

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Richmond Dispatch.

THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF THE CITY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1878.

WEATHER REPORT. INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the South Atlantic and East Gulf States, falling barometer, northeast winds, stationary or higher, and cloudy and rainy weather, will prevail.

For the West Gulf States, falling barometer, warmer northeast to southeast winds, cloudy and rainy weather, possibly followed by westerly winds in a portion of Texas.

For Tennessee and the Ohio Valley, southeast to southwest winds, falling barometer, and warmer, cloudy and possibly rainy weather.

For the Middle Atlantic States, falling barometer, southeast to southwest winds, warmer, cloudy weather, and possibly rain or snow.

The temperatures will rise above freezing in the canal regions of Maryland and Virginia.

Cautionary signals continue at Indianapolis, Galveston, and New Orleans; and are ordered for Key West, Wilmington, Sable Island, Cape Lookout, Cape Hatteras, and Kitty Hawk.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was partly cloudy and cold. At night it was very threatening.

At midnight last night the mercury was above freezing, and between 12 and 1 o'clock this morning a few flakes of snow commenced falling.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 14; 9 A. M., 24; noon, 40; 3 P. M., 38; 6 P. M., 37; midnight, 39.

LOCAL MATTERS.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Virginia State Agricultural Society was held last night at the Exchange Hotel.

Mr. Harrison of Sussex offered as a substitute that members will vote to go into election for all the State officers on Wednesday next.

Mr. Barbour presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the diversity of opinion which has heretofore prevailed in reference to the rights and privileges of the Riding Club, and to the end that with the hope that all differences may be equitably and amicably settled, it is hereby ordered that a committee of three be appointed to confer with a similar committee, which is hereby requested the Riding Club will appoint, said committee to report the result of said conference either at this or the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Barbour, Carter, and Moore.

Mr. Barbour presented the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That it is proper and expedient that an adequate premium shall be offered for a competitive exhibition of practical horse-shoeing during the progress of the annual Fair, and that the inspection and subsequent decision of a committee of competent judges.

Dr. L. B. Dickinson presented to the committee a number of essays competing for the premiums of W. N. Armstrong, of York, as offered in the Planter and Farmer.

The President appointed Dr. Moore, Dr. Walker, and Colonel Watkins to read and report on the same.

Mr. Barbour offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee have heard with pleasure that the National Grange proposes to hold its next annual meeting in Richmond, and would be gratified if that meeting were coincident with the next meeting of the State.

Resolved, That the committee call on the Governor in a body to-day at 12 o'clock.

The consideration of Senator Hurr's bill to amend and reenact an act to establish a Department of Agriculture, Mining, and Manufacturing for the State, was postponed.

Adopted.

The following was offered by Mr. Smith of Nelson:

These representations have been published editorially and otherwise by which it is alleged that the caucus composed of some of the regular Conservative members of this General Assembly, about twenty Independent (so called), and several others whose political status is uncertain, if they are not Republicans, which caucus is presided over by Dr. W. D. Quisenberry, is constituted in accordance with the usages which have prevailed in reference to joint caucuses of the Senate and House, and consequently it is claimed to be the true expression of the will of the Conservative party in the General Assembly; therefore it is

Resolved, That a committee of nine—four from the Senate and five from the House—be appointed, who shall prepare and make a report to this joint conference at the next meeting, setting forth the causes which vitiate and justify the action taken by it, the regularity and legitimacy of its organization, and the necessity and duty of maintaining it, in order to perpetuate the purposes and preserve the plan of organization of the Conservative party; and shall also report what, in the judgment, should be the future course of this conference in regard to making nomination of all officers of the State which are to be elected by this General Assembly, including judges of the circuit courts.

Mr. Wallace moved to strike out the preambles.

Mr. Koiner was in favor of laying the whole subject upon the table.

Mr. Marshall spoke in support of the preamble and resolution.

General Taliferro offered the following substitute for the preamble:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with the proper officers of the other conference, claiming to be the Conservative conference of the General Assembly, in order to discuss the propriety of a joint-meeting conference with agreed nominations.

In advocating this resolution he made use of the expression, alluding to the division of the party and the doubt in men's minds, "I don't know where I stand." [Great laughter.]

Mr. Smith, replying to the speech of Mr. Taliferro, said that gentleman had a good head and heart, but possessed about a good backbone as a sack of salt with the salt out; also, that the lines (attributed by Mr. Smith to Hudibras) about the snake wiring in and wiring out were somewhat applicable to the present case.

Mr. Brooks said he was disposed to go into the history of the disruption of the Conservative party here he would be compelled to inquire to what extent Mr. Smith was responsible therefor, and without allowing himself to get angry he would state that the gentleman was as much in error about his facts as about the authorship of the lines quoted.

Mr. Smith claimed to know more about politics than poetry.

Answering Mr. Smith's intimation that he was chargeable, Mr. Brooks declared that his views on the debt question had been the same from the beginning; that they had never been altered or amended.

Mr. Smith admitted that.

Mr. Brooks went on to show that he had been true to the Conservative party, and to defend his position in attending all the caucuses now being held, on the understanding that he was to be bound by its action and judgment dictated, and he did not care to change him in his decision. He maintained that wise men change their opinions for good cause; fools never; and that at any rate, wherever he found himself in error he, for one, would change his course no matter who criticized.

Mr. Brooks's resolution was passed by a large vote.

THE CAUCUSES. THE RIVAL BODIES IN SESSION YESTERDAY.

THE QUEENSBERRY CAUCUS VOTE TO GO INTO ELECTION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS ON THE 17TH.—THE LEE CAUCUS APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO DRAW UP A DECLARATION OF REASONS FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF THAT ORGANIZATION—PERSONAL.

THE CAUCUSES.

THE QUEENSBERRY CAUCUS VOTE TO GO INTO ELECTION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS ON THE 17TH.—THE LEE CAUCUS APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO DRAW UP A DECLARATION OF REASONS FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF THAT ORGANIZATION—PERSONAL.

On Monday afternoon at the adjournment of the two houses of the General Assembly a notice was read out from General W. H. F. Lee, chairman, for a meeting of the Conservative caucus in the hall of the House last night at 7:30.

Yesterday afternoon a similar notice, signed by Senator W. D. Quisenberry, calling a meeting of that caucus for 4:30 P. M., was read out to the members by the clerk of the two houses.

The latter caucus met at the hour appointed—Senator Quisenberry in the chair, and Messrs. Wood and Fowler secretaries.

There were about seventy-five members of the two houses present or vouchered for.

Mr. Paul moved that the members of this caucus will vote on Thursday next, as the time for the election of the officers outside of the Basement offices, or snow.

Mr. Barbour thought that by the time named the General Assembly would be ready to vote for all the officers.

Speaker Allen believed it would be unwise to fix a time for the election previous to final action upon the resolution creating a commission to reorganize the offices. Perhaps if that resolution from the Senate were adopted in the House it would be well to have the caucus on Thursday next.

Personally, he had no objection to going into election.

Mr. Massey thought the time had better be fixed without further delay.

Speaker Allen said that if they went into election on Thursday next, it would be in favor of doing away with one of the officers—as he thought not unlikely—that officer would have been elected for his term, and could not be cut off.

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THE VALLEY RAILROAD.

MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE JAMES RIVER AND KANAWHA COMPANY.—YESTERDAY EVENING AT THE CITY OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

An adjourned meeting of the stockholders of the James River and Kanawha Company was held yesterday evening at the city of Richmond, Virginia.

The President stated that Messrs. A. M. Davies and C. W. Button, of Lynchburg, and William A. Anderson, of Lexington, were present as delegates from those cities.

On motion, these gentlemen were requested to take part in the proceedings of this meeting.

The President submitted the following papers for the consideration of the stockholders:

1. Concurrent memorial adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Rockbridge county and the Mayor and Council of the city of Lexington in relation to the preservation of the canal and the construction of a railroad along the James-River valley.

2. Report of the president to the Board of Directors in regard to convict-labor on canal repairs.

3. Report of William Joffe, civil engineer, in relation to a railroad from Clifton Forge to Richmond.

4. An estimate of cost of completing the repairs of the canal.

Colonel Cabell, chairman of the committee of the stockholders appointed at the last meeting, presented and read a report embodying the draft of a bill authorizing the James River and Kanawha Company to construct upon or near the line of its existing works a railway from a point at or near the city of Buchanan to a point at or near the city of Buchanan, and to use in the construction of the said railway such part of its existing works as may be suitable for that purpose.

The bill also provides for the repair of the canal from Lynchburg to Buchanan, including the branch at Buchanan, and to use in the construction of the said railway such part of its existing works as may be suitable for that purpose.

Colonel Cabell offered a resolution, which, after discussion and amendment, was adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That the president and directors be authorized and instructed to use their best endeavors to secure the canal through restoration of the canal from Richmond to Buchanan and to Lexington; and as it is evident that the resources of the company, even with the aid of the convict-labor furnished under the recent act of the General Assembly, will not be sufficient to furnish the needed repairs, therefore that the president and directors be directed to apply to the authorities of the cities of Richmond and Lynchburg and the counties upon the line of the canal for the means necessary, with the convict-labor of the State granted under existing laws, to furnish the needed repairs, therefore that the president and directors be directed to apply to the authorities of the cities of Richmond and Lynchburg and the counties upon the line of the canal for the means necessary, with the convict-labor of the State granted under existing laws, to furnish the needed repairs, therefore that the 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