

THE DISPATCH is delivered to subscribers... BY COVARDIN & ELLYSON.

THE STATE DEBT AND THE RICHMOND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

NOTICE. In accordance with the resolution of the Board of Directors...

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE VIRGINIA STATE EXCHANGE COMPANY...

OFFICE MERCHANTS AND MECHANICS INSURANCE COMPANY OF VIRGINIA.

THE REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THIS COMPANY...

AMUSEMENTS. MOZART HALL. "MY STILL, MY HEART, ST. STILL."

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS. SATURDAY MATINEE.

THE LONE FISHERMAN. DANCING HEIFER. LIVELY WHALES.

GRAND MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2 O'CLOCK. RICHMOND THEATRE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 16TH. THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 17TH.

FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 18TH. GRAND SATURDAY MATINEE, 2 O'CLOCK.

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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 16, 1878.

WEATHER REPORT. INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the South Atlantic and East Gulf States, stationary barometer, warmer, clear weather, and northwest to southwest winds.

For Tennessee and the Ohio Valley, rising followed by stationary barometer, stationary temperature, westerly winds, and partly cloudy weather.

For the Middle Atlantic States, rising barometer, north and west winds, stationary or slightly lower temperatures, and partly cloudy or clear weather.

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

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear, mild, and delightful.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 38; 9 A. M., 40; noon, 54; 3 P. M., 56; 6 P. M., 46; midnight, 35.

LOCAL MATTERS.

THE VIRGINIA WINE-GROWERS' COUNCIL. The Virginia wine-growers had a meeting at the office of the Southern Planter and Farmer at 12 o'clock yesterday.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. C. C. McRae.

The first motion in order was a report from the committee appointed to ascertain the facilities for the manufacture of wine in the vicinity of Richmond.

Drs. Crenshaw and Pollard, the committee, reported that they had examined three or four cellars and recommended that Mr. Heckman, on Eighth near Leigh street, as the best in the city.

Upon this report there was a running canvass held with reference to the temperature, &c., necessary in the making of wine, which was participated in by Dr. McCarthy, Dr. Crenshaw, and Messrs. Heckman and Ott.

The report of the committee was received and laid over for future reference.

Mr. Louis Ott then read a report on the present and prospective production of grapes in the Piedmont section.

He reported that there were about one hundred acres of vineyard on the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, this exclusive of the vineyards around Charlottesville.

He thinks that there are grapes enough to make 30,000 gallons of wine along the line of this road. The report was very full, and gave general satisfaction.

Dr. McCarthy, from the local committee, then read a report on the regular session and delegates invited all "members of the General Assembly who had been elected as nominees of the Conservative party, and those who had been elected as Conservatives by Conservative voters in counties or districts where there were no nominees of the Conservative party."

He proposed that the regular session be held in the hall of the House of Delegates on Friday the 14th instant, at 7:30 P. M., to confer together and act as to such matters as may be considered necessary for the interests of the State and the preservation of the organization of the party.

Notice of the proposed meeting was freely circulated, and published in the Richmond press; and, at the time designated, the conference convened and organized. Previous to this occasion there had been no meeting of any joint conference of Conservative members and delegates, and no notice of any such conference had been issued by any person or persons whatsoever.

There had, however, prior thereto been some promiscuous outside caucusing, and a regular conference of Conservative members and delegates, into which had been admitted all who proclaimed themselves as Conservatives, albeit a number of them had been elected as Independents, in open defiance of the rules governing the organization of the Conservative party, in opposition to its regular nominees.

Dr. McCarthy, in his address, stated that some of the members of the party were not Conservatives and did not recognize any party allegiance.

With the action of such conference of delegates we claimed no right to interfere. The delegates had the right to regulate their own course as to the organization of the House of Delegates as they thought proper, and although the majority of them were in our opinion, as to the wisdom of that course, we recognize fully their undisputed authority to be controlled by their own free will.

If we admit the right of the House caucus to establish the test of membership of a joint caucus, the authority of the Senate and the House to hold simultaneously in session (which chamber) to exercise the same right must be conceded. But such right belongs to neither separately, but to a joint caucus only; and in the organization of the joint conference of Conservative members of both houses we asserted our independence of the House and Senate, and we determine who were entitled to membership. Therefore, in our judgment, none but those who were duly accredited Conservatives, acting within and not in hostility to party organization, had the right to participate in directing the policy of that party.

THE UNQUESTIONED PRIVILEGE of every citizen to unite himself with any political party, or to hold himself entirely aloof from all parties.

But when men have taken positions they must bear the consequences of their own action. Can they be any reason or pretence to take charge of and aid in managing that organization? Surely not. Belonging ourselves to the Conservative party, yielding full obedience to all the ordinances which it has established to secure its unity and action, and being entrusted by our constituents with the duty of representing the organization through which we ourselves were elected, we considered that it would not only be unjust to those who had been defeated while bearing our party standards and their supporters, but also to the organization of the party, to admit their triumphant opponents into our ranks, and to allow them to participate in our party action and in our party property.

For these reasons we resolved that none but Conservatives elected in conformity to our party organization were entitled to membership of this conference. If, however, a majority of regular Conservatives had assembled together and resolved otherwise, we should have submitted with deference to their decision.

This conference has in various resolutions fully disclosed the scope and object of its organization.

In one of those resolutions we declared that "the purpose of this organization of regular Conservatives is simply to bring them together to consult on party policy, and not to determine any legislative question."

THE RECORD.

The Conservative Causes of the General Assembly.

AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR ORGANIZATION AND PROCEEDINGS AS REPORTED TO THE LEE CAUCUS—THE LEGALITY OF THAT CAUCUS MAINTAINED—WHY INDEPENDENTS ARE EXCLUDED—THE DUTY OF THE PARTY AT THIS HOUR—A PLATFORM ON WHICH ALL CONSERVATIVES MAY STAND—ADDITION OF THE COMMITTEES REPORT.

A meeting of the Conservative members of the two houses of the General Assembly was held in the hall of the House of Delegates yesterday evening.

General W. H. F. Lee, chairman, and Major Walker, of Northumberland, secretary, of the report of the committee appointed at the previous meeting was presented and read, as follows:

To the Joint Conference of the Conservative Members of the Senate and House of Delegates:

The undersigned, appointed a committee under the following resolution:

Whereas this conference has been reported as not representing the Conservative party of the General Assembly; therefore, in a spirit of conciliation, and with a view of inducing a full cooperation of all who were elected as nominees of Conservative meetings, or where no nominations were made, be it

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 its 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 adopted to making nomination of all officers of the State which are to be elected by this General Assembly, including judges of the circuit courts.

—have the honor to report the following statement of proceedings, adopted by the joint conference of Conservative members of the General Assembly and vindication of its action:

THIS CONFERENCE OF CONSERVATIVE members of the Senate and House of Delegates, who were elected in conformity to the organic principles of the Conservative party, deem it proper to make a public explanation of the course they have adopted, and relate the reasons why those composing it have declined to admit other than regular Conservatives to participate in their counsels.

On the 14th day of December last a call was signed by a considerable number of senators and delegates inviting all "members of the General Assembly who had been elected as nominees of the Conservative party, and those who had been elected as Conservatives by Conservative voters in counties or districts where there were no nominees of the Conservative party."

It was proposed that the regular session be held in the hall of the House of Delegates on Friday the 14th instant, at 7:30 P. M., to confer together and act as to such matters as may be considered necessary for the interests of the State and the preservation of the organization of the party.

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THE CITY.

A Plan for a Reorganization of the Police.

A PROPOSITION MADE IN THE COUNCIL TO REDUCE THE EXPENSES TO THE CITY OF THE POLICE FORCE ABOUT FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS—THE ORGANIZATION NOW AND AS IT WILL BE UNDER THE NEW PLAN, &c.

At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on Monday afternoon, Mr. Z. W. Pickrel, of Clay Ward, presented the following paper in reference to the reorganization of the police force:

A PLAN FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE POLICE FORCE, WITH SCHEDULE OF SALARIES PROPOSED AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS.

The police force of the city shall consist of—

1 chief executive officer at \$1,200 per month, each \$1,200, 12 sergeants, each \$800, 10,800 70 privates, each \$750, 52,500 80 officers and privates at a total cost of \$65,480

The officers and privates shall be divided into three reliefs, or a night and day police. The day-police force to consist of six sergeants and fifty privates—two sergeants in each police district, one constantly on the streets, and the other in charge of the duties of their respective station-houses; the privates to be distributed—six in the first police district, five in the second police district, and four in the third police district.

The sergeants shall rank in their respective districts as first, second, third, and fourth sergeants, numbering from the date of their appointments. The first and third sergeants shall be the day-officers, and the second and fourth sergeants shall be the night-officers, and the ranking sergeants in each relief shall be in charge of their respective districts in the absence of the chief executive officer of the force.

The officers of the force should be carefully selected from the force by examination by the Board of Police Commissioners, and their education, industry, and good address. The day-beat men should also be selected in the same manner.

NIGHT-POLICE UNDER SUGGESTED PLAN. The night police force shall consist of six (6) sergeants and sixty-one (61) private policemen, who shall be divided into two (2) reliefs, one half to be posted for duty at 5 o'clock P. M., and will stand post until 12 o'clock (seven hours), when the second relief will be posted and stand until 7 o'clock A. M. (seven hours), when the day relief will be posted at 7 o'clock A. M., and perform duty until 5 o'clock P. M. (ten hours).

The night-police shall extinguish and light all the street-lamps belonging to the city.

The chief executive officer shall strictly conform to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Police Commissioners, and have them strictly enforced in all his official duties.

The police headquarters shall be at the police headquarters by sunrise daily, and shall make his rounds through the whole city at least four times per month, and visit each station-house and examine the roll-book and criminal docket daily.

The chief executive officer shall act as assistant to the chief executive officer. He shall perform all clerical duty at police headquarters, attend the court of the Police Justice daily and call the criminal docket, and in case of the absence of the chief executive officer, he shall act in his stead temporarily as chief executive officer.

FOR DAY-DUTY. Distribution of Sergeants and Officers to Each Police District.

First district, 2 sergeants and 15 privates; 8 Second district, 2 sergeants and 15 privates; 8 Third district, 2 sergeants and 15 privates; 8

For active patrolling-duty during the day-time. 21

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The total number of active patrolmen for night-duty, 61

The force will be divided into two (2) reliefs, one half of the above number to be on active street-duty at one time, making thirty (30) beatmen in each relief and two (2) officers.

HOW THE PRESENT FORCE IS WORKED AND THE COST OF THE SAME FOR SERVICES RENDERED THE CITY.

The ordinance of the city provides that the police force shall consist of one chief, three captains, ten sergeants, and seventy beatmen—in all, eighty-four officers and men.

THE PRESENT PAY OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN.

1 Chief of Police at \$3,000 per month, 3 Captains at \$1,800 each, 10 Sergeants at \$1,200 each, 70 Privates at \$750 each, \$52,500 per month, \$63,300 per month, \$76,800 per year, \$921,600 per year.

54 officers and privates at a cost of \$79,475 per month, \$953,700 per year.

A saving to the people of \$10,995 per month, \$131,940 per year.

Making a total saving to the people of \$16,375 per year.

Note.—This system will allow the night-men to have seventeen hours of duty and seven hours on duty, but they will have to be exposed much more than the day-men; besides, they will have to light and extinguish all the city lamps. The day-men will be benefited, because they will have all the rest to themselves for rest, and they will not be exposed to the same night blasts. Therefore it is plain to be seen that the force would have much less duty to perform than they have at present and that they would be as well, if not better, paid at \$2 per day, or \$74 per month, than they are at \$2 per day, or \$74 per month, or \$921.60 per year.

I beg to suggest further that, instead of reducing the pay of the force as it now stands, the force be reorganized under the proposed plan, and the police be increased by appointing six more policemen and three more sergeants, as set forth in my foregoing suggestions.

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HUSTINGS COURT.

Civil business occupied the attention of the Hustings Court yesterday. The civil docket will be called again to-day.

Chester Page, whose case was mentioned yesterday, appeared before Judge Guigon under a writ of habeas corpus, on a motion for a new trial, and the evidence was partly heard.

Justice Crutchfield presided over the following business was transacted yesterday:

Alexander Davis was acquitted of a charge of having pig-iron in his possession belonging to some person unknown, but was required to give security in the sum of \$100 for three months as a suspicious character. Committed in default of bail.

The following were discharged: Lewis Anderson and nineteen others (all colored), for keeping a disorderly house on Poplar street; Charlotte and Georganna Brown, charged with petty larceny; John Allen, for consulting Susan Allen, Caroline Staudt, charged with threatening to assault Frank Staudt; Susan Allen, charged with assaulting Edward Allen; and using obscene language.

The following were continued until tomorrow: J. C. Rees, charged with seduction. The accused was refused bail and committed to jail.

Lawson Brown (colored), charged with assaulting and beating Thomas Randolph, Thomas Randolph and Nat. Glenn, charged with fighting in the street.

William Campbell and Charles Moore were fined \$5 each for assaulting and beating Alexander Holmes.