



FRIDAY EVENING, JAN. 9, 1903.

That a well defined plan exists among the large western shippers to keep up the artificial price of meats is evident from a statement just made by Col. J. H. Bingham, assistant Secretary of Agriculture. Col. Bingham, in reviewing the condition of the market, goes so far as to call upon the public to rise in protest against what is designated as extortion. Col. Bingham says: "There is no reason why the consumer should be required to pay an exorbitant price for beef now in view of the fact that the price of cattle is reduced to its normal rate. The people have but one redress, and that is to make a fuss about the price of beef and organize among themselves to procure it direct from the producers of cattle. I am not prepared to say whether the wholesale dealer or the retail dealer is responsible for the high price of meat to the consumer. This I do know, that the raisers of cattle are not getting more than the normal price for their beef. It, therefore, stands to reason that the trouble lies between the wholesaler and the retailers. I am a raiser of cattle myself, and my men who look after my stock have written me that the market is so well stocked now that we are selling our beef at \$2.50 a hundred pounds on the foot and \$5 for the side meat. That is about the price we received for our cattle prior to the beef famine last June, when prices jumped skyward."

THE GROWTH OF socialism in the United States is causing no little apprehension to the leaders of the respective political parties of this country. In twenty-nine of the forty-five States candidates representing one body or another of the socialists were before the people, and received about 250,000 votes. The socialists are almost entirely confined to the north although a handful of them are found in Texas. From no other southern State is any return made of socialist votes. In Massachusetts the socialist organizations cast 39,000, in New York 40,000, in Illinois 28,000, in Pennsylvania 27,000, in Ohio 17,000, in Wisconsin 16,000, in California 9,500, in Indiana 8,700, in New Jersey 5,000 and in Michigan 5,000. Socialism is manifesting itself also in the wholly agricultural States. Its vote in Kansas was 4,000, in Iowa 6,000, in Nebraska 3,000, in North Dakota 1,000, in South Dakota 2,700 and in Utah 3,000, in Washington 5,000 and in Oregon 5,500. The slow but steady rise of socialism naturally causes uneasiness. The fact that it is flourishing in the north and west and not in the south is gratifying and is another proof of the fact that southern people are not restless spirits as are those of other parts of the country.

PRESIDENT GEORGE F. BAER says the price of coal in the Reading Railway's territory will not go above \$6.75 a ton. In other sections coal will cost from \$10 to \$15. Mr. Baer is making a fight for principle, the outcome of which is vital to the entire eastern section of the country. He has entered a campaign against organized and short-sighted greed. In the contest that is being waged the public sees powerful corporations struggling to keep down prices which grasping individuals are striving to force upward. For the present the dire need of the people places them at the mercy of the 150 independent coal operators, but these men who prey upon misfortune simply invite their own extinction as factors in the coal situation. They array public opinion solidly against them and hasten the time when a coal monopoly which has been successfully fought against for years will be formed.

THE COLORED postmistress of Indianola, Miss., now denies that she was subjected to indignities or threatened with violence. Her husband, who is employed by the government in the railway postal service, corroborates her statement. This fact makes the action of the President in refusing to accept the woman's resignation still more incomprehensible except on the theory that he has determined to humiliate the people of Indianola by keeping her in her position. The fact that her husband is holding a place in the railway mail service shows the prediction of the present administration for negroes when two from one family are given government positions. Hon. Holmes Conrad in a speech in Alexandria last fall said he entertained great hopes of the present executive. If the past few weeks of the latter's capriciousness are to be taken as an idea of his future career we fail to see the basis for hopes.

IN THE SENATE on Monday while Mr. Culberson was endeavoring to secure immediate consideration of his resolution pending for the admission of anthracite coal free of duty, Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, made the reckless statement that there is no duty on anthracite coal and then assisted his republican colleagues in staving off action on the resolution. Now a pertinent inquiry would be, if there is no duty on coal why should the republicans oppose legislation making that fact indisputable?

It is evident that there is to be no reduction in the price of coal through a removal of the tariff duties, if Senator Aldrich and the other tariff leaders in the Senate can prevent it. This was demonstrated yesterday when the discussion of the duty on coal was shelved over without action in the Senate. The adjournment until next Monday was for the purpose of heading off further debate if possible and permitting the republicans to complete their plans for continued inactivity. Senator Vest placed the entire republican side upon the defensive with respect to the tariff law, and has forced them into a position where they must explain why certain rates were placed so high that they can be lowered in reciprocity treaties without affecting the protected industries, whose products are included in the international agreements. The narrowness of the republican side of the question was shown by Mr. Aldrich, who in reply to Mr. Vest said: "The only reason I can discover for the introduction of the resolution (to take the duty off of coal) is to furnish the text for a political speech or a series of political speeches." And this statement in the middle of winter when the entire eastern section of the country is suffering for the want of coal! But the inconvenience and expense to which other people are subjected are of no consequence to Mr. Aldrich.

FROM WASHINGTON.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.) Washington, D. C., January 9. It is the understanding in congressional circles, that the democratic contest for the floor leadership in the next Congress will be greatly simplified by the elimination therefrom of Mr. Richardson of Tennessee the present leader. It is understood that not only will Mr. Richardson retire from the contest, but that he will retire from Congress as well and devote himself fully to Masonic affairs, he being the head of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite. "I am not out of the contest for leadership in the next Congress," said Mr. Richardson, when questioned on the subject today, "because there is no contest. It is too early for that. As far as retiring from Congress is concerned, I can only say that the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite has been urging me to give my entire time to the Rite, and that I have had this matter seriously under consideration. My retirement therefore is not altogether unlikely."

Despite stories to the contrary, the Cuban reciprocity treaty will not have plain sailing when it comes up for ratification. Besides the opposition likely to arise from the reputation of Mr. Oxnard by the Michigan beet sugar men, to accept the treaty in its present form, it develops that a number of democratic Senators have pledged themselves to vote against ratification. Senator Foster, of Louisiana, has been canvassing the democratic Senators for votes against the treaty. He has secured the promise of the Senators from Texas, Florida, and Alabama to join him and his colleague, McEnery, which makes eight democratic votes in opposition to ratification. The meeting of the Senate foreign relations committee which was to have been held today to consider the treaty has been postponed until Monday. If the treaty is amended in any particular, of course, it will mean delay in its ratification. Senators Burrows and Dietrich, of the republicans, intend to fight the treaty outright and vote against its ratification, but what other support they will get on that side of the chamber is uncertain.

The Grosvenor resolution authorizing the House committee on merchant marine and fisheries to conduct an investigation for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of the scarcity of coal in the North Atlantic States will come before the House tomorrow for consideration. General Grosvenor said this morning that the committee on rules had no objection to the resolution, and that he would be allowed to call it up as soon as the House meets tomorrow.

The bill establishing the gold standard in the Philippines was approved by the House committee on insular affairs today and Chairman Cooper was authorized to get a day in the House for early consideration. Mr. Patterson, of Tennessee, the only democrat present at the meeting offered a substitute providing practically for an extension of the financial system to the United States to the archipelago, but it received no support beyond his own.

The House judiciary committee today voted to report favorably the Littlefield bill, based on the recommendations of the Attorney General, providing for the expediting of civil suits brought under the Sherman anti-trust law. A bill creating an additional judge for the eighth district was approved, also the bill to increase the salaries of certain federal judges. Supreme Court salaries remain the same. Circuit judges are to get \$7,000, district judges, \$6,000; chief justice of the Court of Claims, \$6,500; associate justices of the Court of Claims, \$6,000; District of Columbia judges and judges of the Court of Appeals, to remain the same. The allowance for traveling expenses is cut out. The committee also adopted resolutions congratulating Mr. Lanham, of Texas, a member of the committee, who will become Governor of Texas, upon his promotion and eulogizing him for his sterling qualities. The House committee on naval affairs today refused to report the bill to retire Lieutenant Commander Richard P. Hobson, of Merrimack fame, who asked that this step be taken on account of his weak eyes. President Roosevelt had joined him in making the request of Congress. Mr. Hobson is said to aspire to a seat in Congress from the Alabama district now represented by Mr. Bankhead.

The subject of the anti-trust legislation was also given considerable attention. The introduction yesterday of the administration anti-trust bills by Chairman Jenkins, of the House committee on judiciary, has accentuated the rivalry already existing between that gentleman and Mr. Littlefield. Mr. Littlefield's sub-committee has been busy at work ever since Congress convened, in an endeavor to formulate an anti-trust bill. The work is nearly completed now, and the new bill is to be submitted to the full committee next Monday.

The members of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce, in executive session this morning, took up the Elkins bill to enlarge the jurisdiction and powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission. After a full discussion of its provisions it was decided to push consideration of the measure with a view of its passage at this session of Congress. Among the amendments agreed to was one investing the several courts of the United States with full jurisdiction and all necessary powers.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The House yesterday passed the Philippines constabulary bill, amended so as to provide for a chief and four assistants, who shall be army officers.

The coal situation in Toledo, Ohio, has reached the point where a physician's certificate is required by local coal dealers before they will sell even a ton of coal.

Heavy snowstorms prevailed east of the Mississippi river yesterday and freezing weather extended over Kentucky and Tennessee and the southern half of the cotton belt.

It is announced that John D. Rockefeller, jr., is to build, at a cost of \$350,000, a clubhouse for the Men's Club of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, New York.

The Marburg tobacco factory, the largest branch of the American Tobacco Company in Baltimore, closed down rather unexpectedly yesterday throwing a larger number of men out of employment.

Mrs. Mamie Benedict, whose husband, Mr. John Benedict, of Athens, Ga., disappeared in Georgia about three years ago, ended her life by shooting herself in the mouth at the home of her sister, Mrs. Frank Martin, in Baltimore, yesterday.

Madame Humbert, in a preliminary examination in Paris yesterday, is reported to have said that the story of the Crawfords and their millions was true, that she took the responsibility of the whole affair and that her family had nothing to do with it.

The American Beet-Sugar Association at its session in Washington yesterday agreed to withdraw its opposition to the Cuban reciprocity treaty provided it be made for a period of at least five years. A protest was made against stimulating the tobacco and sugar industries in the Philippines.

W. J. Lewis, of Nebraska, whose appointment to the postal service had been deferred because of his Seventh Day Adventist objections to working on Saturdays, has received a temporary appointment in the Postoffice Department. The issue will be adjusted in some way that will comply with the law and not enforce undue hardship to the appointee in connection with his religious principles.

Senator McLaurin called on Postmaster General Payne yesterday and urged that the department reopen the office closed by Mrs. Minnie Cox, the negro postmaster at Indianola, Miss. The Senator was told that the hands of the President; that the resignation of Mrs. Cox had not been accepted, and that, so far as he was aware, there was no present intention of accepting it.

The Washington authorities now hope that the Venezuelan affair may be settled by a commission, to meet in Washington, composed of representatives of the British and German governments and Minister Bowen as the representative of Venezuela. President Castro has submitted another answer to the allied powers expressing willingness for arbitration, although it is not yet known how he will receive the demands for a money payment and the allied powers, rejection of his demand for the raising of the blockade.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

Mr. H. St. George Tucker, of Lexington, and Miss Martha Sharpe, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., will be married on Jan. 13.

The President yesterday appointed Charles Buff, to be postmaster at Farmville, and Robert A. Anderson, at Marion.

A mortgage to secure \$5,000,000 was filed at Newport News yesterday by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company.

Governor Montague yesterday went to New York to attend a dinner given to a number of gentlemen interested in matters of education.

Mrs. Connie C. Chesterman, wife of Mr. E. B. Chesterman, a Richmond newspaper correspondent, died suddenly yesterday after an hour's illness.

Miss Emily Kerfoot, daughter of the late Daniel Kerfoot, died after an illness of several months on the 2nd inst., at her home "Montmorency," about half way between Upperville and Delaplane.

Bluemont, Loudoun county, will, it is said, be transformed into a resort town. The new observatory of the weather bureau is to be located in the neighborhood and a company is securing options on land for laying it out in building lots.

The report of the State board of fisheries, just submitted to the Governor, shows that the revenues of the State from this source have grown steadily. The entire receipts from all sources since the creation of the board in 1898 have been \$234,362.11, while the expenses have been \$106,180.30, leaving the net revenue for fifty-four months, \$128,281.81. Virginia now keeps up a navy of oyster police boats.

LEGISLATURE.

SENATE. In the Senate Mr. Wickham referring to his speech of Wednesday in reference to the financial affairs of the State said under the new constitution the loss in the revenue occasioned by the reduction of ten cents upon real estate and tangible personal property, would amount to \$464,000; that if the ten cents reduction was applied to intangible property also, the amount of the decrease would be about \$522,000; that the expenses of administration of the State government would not be decreased under the provisions of the new constitution, and that the amount derived by the State from the increased tax upon railroads, while very considerable, would not be enough to meet the reduction in the revenue caused by the reduction in the tax rate by a very considerable sum.

The bill amending section 2717 of the code in relation to summary remedy for unlawful entry and detainer was passed. The following were introduced and referred: Providing for payment of State tax by party on whose motion the estate of a decedent is committed to the sheriff of any county or corporation or the sergeant of the corporation.

Regulating the grant of franchises, etc., by cities and providing for the advertisement thereof and the public reception of bids therefor. The bill is essentially the same as the one heretofore introduced providing for the advertising of all franchises in all cities and towns, and the opening of bids in public session.

Senator Wickham offered the following, which was adopted: Resolved by the Senate, That the auditor of public accounts be, and he is hereby, requested to furnish an estimate, in detail, of the receipts of the State of Virginia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1903, based upon the laws now enforced, and also for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1904, having reference to the provisions of the new constitution, and also an estimate of the expenses for the State of Virginia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1903, and for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1904.

Resolved further, That he be also requested to furnish a statement in detail, showing the items of reduction in revenue of the State, which will be caused by reduction of the tax rate prescribed in section 189 of the constitution.

Resolved further, That he also be requested to furnish a statement showing the amount of money which would be derived by a special tax, if levied, under section 189 of the constitution of five cents on the hundred dollars of the assessed value: (1) on all lands and improvements thereon; (2) on all tangible personal property not exempt from taxation, and the aggregate thereof.

Resolved further, That he also be requested to furnish a statement showing, in detail, the amount of the unexpended appropriation authorized by the legislature at the session of 1901 and 1902.

HOUSE.

Several Senate bills were reported to the House and referred to committees. Mr. Hunley withdrew his resolution as to reference of bills offered to committees and sub-committees on code revision, in favor of the substitute joint resolution of Mr. Baker. The Baker joint resolution, as amended by Mr. Edwards, was then passed and ordered communicated to the Senate.

When the bill on the calendar, providing for the election of commissioners of the revenue, was called, another fight was made for consideration, but the advocates of the motion to pass by again triumphed.

When the House bill to amend the act to protect sheep and other stock, known as the Mathews dog law, came upon the calendar, Mr. Schrell, of Southampton, made an effort to amend the bill so as to exempt his county from the operation of the general law. The amendment was voted down, and the bill was thereupon ordered to its engrossment.

Bills were introduced to amend section 3211 relative to remedy by motion after fifteen days' notice on contracts generally.

To require the corporation commission to fix rates of storage to be charged by railroad companies or car service associations.

A delegation from Newport News had a conference with Mr. Bland, of Portsmouth, in reference to the advisability of introducing a boiler-inspection bill, as well as looking after the interest of the child-labor bills now pending before the Senate committee, and which will be heard on the 12th instant.

Senator Opie, chairman of the committee on counties, cities, and towns, yesterday announced that the committees of the Senate and House on counties, cities, and towns would meet January 15 at 4 p. m., jointly, for the purpose of discussing questions of corporate extension and municipal franchises. The joint committees will afford all citizens and representatives an opportunity to be heard if they desire it.

The House committee on banking and currency determined to hold a meeting Thursday, January 15, at 10 a. m., to consider the bill of Mr. Woodward, creating a bureau of banking and a commissioner to regulate the banks and building and loan and other similar companies of the State.

The House committee on agriculture will meet on Tuesday to consider the no-fence law for the State. The committee on banks, currency, and commerce met yesterday afternoon to consider the bank examiners' bill.

Present indications point strongly to the passage of the bill offered by Mr. Boaz, authorizing the board of visitors to the University of Virginia in their discretion to elect an executive head for that institution.

Proceedings in the McLean case were suspended, owing to the receipt of a letter from him.

COURT OF APPEALS. Johnson vs. Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company. Argued and submitted.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

From Richmond. Richmond, Va., Jan. 9.—Mr. Cato offered a bill in the House today for the relief of the estate of Mary White, deceased.

Mr. Newhouse offered one appropriating \$50,000 additional for penitentiary improvements.

A bill was offered to amend the pension law so as to allow persons to come in who so less than \$500 worth of property.

The centenary bill was set for hearing before the finance committee on January 22.

The Legislature is flooded with petitions favoring the Mann liquor bill.

Hot charges have been sent by counsel for the prosecution in the Campbell-Crawford case.

German Ambassador Recalled.

Washington, D. C., January 9.—It was learned today that in leaving Washington yesterday afternoon, Herr Von Holleben, the German Ambassador, failed to pay his respects either to the State Department or to President Roosevelt. As he is known to have engaged passage for Germany, this fact substantiates the report that he has been definitely recalled by his government. Had he expected to return after an extended visit abroad he would undoubtedly have called at the State Department and the White House before his departure and explained the reasons therefor. The Department was today officially informed of the appointment of Baron Speck von Sternburg as charge d'affaires of the German Embassy. It was stated also that the Baron would come on a special mission, which, although not divulged, is supposed to be as commissioner on behalf of Germany in the arrangement with Minister Bowen representing Venezuela for the settlement of the international claims against that country. President Roosevelt has directed the State Department to reply to the notification of the German government that he is personally pleased with the appointment of Baron von Sternburg.

Wide interest has been aroused among Senators and other public men by the publication of the report that Germany is trying to secure control of the Panama Canal. Some of them are disposed to see in the simultaneous recall of Ambassador von Holleben an evidence of his government's displeasure because his negotiations in this matter have become known.

The appointment of Baron Speck von Sternburg as charge d'affaires of the German Embassy is regarded here as a personal compliment to President Roosevelt. When the Baron was secretary of the Embassy during Roosevelt's term as assistant Secretary of the Navy, they were daily companions on horse and foot. It is understood that when Herr von Holleben, the German Ambassador, expressed his desire for an indefinite leave of absence on account of failing health, President Roosevelt sent an intimation to Emperor William that he would look with great favor upon the appointment of Baron Speck von Sternburg as charge d'affaires.

The Baroness was a Miss Langham, daughter of a wealthy Idaho mine-owner, and niece of Arthur Langham, of Louisville, Ky., at whose home she spent most of her life before her marriage. Washington is shedding its tears over Ambassador Von Holleben's recall. His conduct was brusque, impolitic and impudent. Newspapersmen disliked him cordially because of his rudeness. German-Americans the country over were offended by him, by his assumption of feudal superiority. As a promoter of friendly relations he was a flat failure—a fact which Prince Henry is said to have brought to the attention of the Kaiser upon his return to the Vaterland. The Kaiser's determination in the matter has caused all Washington to breathe a sigh of grateful relief.

The Strike Commission.

Philadelphia, Jan. 9.—At the opening of the morning session of the coal strike commission General Wilson stated that a telegram had been received from Wilmington stating that Judge Gray had been taken suddenly ill and would not be able to be present at today's session. As a preliminary to the day's testimony attorney John T. Lenahan read a number of court records showing that four men, members of the United Mine Workers, had been indicted and pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy. He also sought to show that one of the present attorneys for the miners went bail for these four men, the idea being to connect the union directly with the outrages charged against these men. Chairman pro tem Wilson decided that it was immaterial who had gone bail in the cases and declined to receive such testimony. The actual work of the session was then begun with the calling of witnesses who recited various outrages which the sheriff's officers had been called upon to quell at various points.

Brigadier General J. P. S. Gobin, of the Pennsylvania National Guard, next detailed at length how the militia had been called out. He said he had been boycotted by owners of teams who refused to permit the latter to be used for the transportation of military stores and of equipment. General Gobin detailed several instances of alleged insult to and assault upon soldiers by strikers. Rev. Karl Houser, a Hungarian Protestant clergyman, told a harrowing story of the strikers' efforts to prevent his holding burial services over a dead non-union man. He could get no pallbearers or assistants and was assailed by "Scab priests," and "throw the body in the street and let the dead dog lie there." The crowd also spat on the corpse. The men who interfered with the burial, he said, were Americans and included the sexton of his own church.

Senator Aldrich and the Coal Tariff.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 9.—The dinner given last night by Col. Samuel R. Honey, of Newport, to Col. Garvin, brought together a large number of leading democrats. Senator Aldrich's speech on the coal tariff was given particular attention. Governor Garvin said that every Senator and Congressman from New England must take a position wholly at variance with that of Senator Aldrich. The General Assembly, of Rhode Island had unanimously declared in favor of free coal. If the Senator decided to commit political harikari he had but to keep on speaking just as he had yesterday. State Senator Jackson said that if Nelson W. Aldrich persisted in the attitude he had taken he would assuredly cause the defeat of Aldrich in 1904.

The Market.

Georgetown, Jan. 9.—Wheat 70 7/8.

Anniversary of Emanuel's Death.

Rome, Jan. 9.—Today being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of King Victor Emanuel, thousands of Italians gathered in Rome from all the provinces, and in solemn procession made their way to his tomb in the Pantheon. That the government might not have a greater honor than the church, the Vatican is putting forth its greatest efforts to have the demonstration on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the coronation of Pope Leo for out rival today's demonstration.

Disorderly Students.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 9.—Augustus Fish and Truman Draper, two Yale students, were in the police court this morning, charged with breach of the peace. The students elevated their feet on the orchestra rail in a local theatre and after the play had an altercation with an usher, who had ordered them to keep order. Both the Yale men were worried in a fight which ensued and were arrested.

Removed Death of Chamberlain.

New York, Jan. 9.—A London special says that securities have been unfavorably affected by an unconfirmed report that Colonial Secretary Joseph Chamberlain has been shot in South Africa. The Colonial office believes there is not a vestige of foundation for the report. It is possible that the Capetown report of Alfred Beit's illness started the Chamberlain story.

Fifty-Seventh Congress.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 9. SENATE.

The Senate was not in session today, having adjourned on Thursday till Monday.

HOUSE. Mr. Hull, chairman of the committee on military affairs, presented the army appropriation bill, giving notice that he would call it up for consideration on Monday.

Mr. Henry was appointed by the Speaker to the vacancy on the judiciary committee, caused by the resignation yesterday of Mr. Lanham, who becomes governor of the State of Texas.

Today being pension day, pension bills on the private calendar were considered in committee of the whole.

A colloquy between Mr. Gaines and Mr. Grosvenor added much to the gaiety of the proceedings. Mr. Gaines rose to a question of personal privilege, to reply to Mr. Grosvenor's statements of yesterday, which reflected on the accuracy of Mr. Gaines' knowledge of the history of pension legislation.

When he had concluded Mr. Grosvenor arose to tell the story of a man who had been asked to write "poetry" extolling the beauties of the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky. He wrote as follows: "O Mammoth Cave, what a spot, In summer cold, in winter hot; Great gosh almighty, what a wonder!" Then he stopped. He was told he must finish it in some way. He wrote: "Andrew Jackson, hell and thunder."

FOREIGN NEWS.

France, it said, will join the other powers in the Venezuelan blockade.

The Right Hon. Henry De Worms, Baron Pibrich, died in London at six o'clock this morning.

A dispatch from London says Perthshire was visited by a blizzard last night, and this morning. Eight inches of snow fell.

A dispatch from Capetown states that Capt. Jameson is hurrying to Johannesburg, having received news of the serious illness of Alfred Beit, the millionaire, who is reported to be dying.

Twenty-six petroleum wells at Boryslav, Galicia, caught fire this morning. Before the blaze was under control, the conflagration had spread to surrounding houses and twenty were destroyed. One girl died as the result of burns.

TELLS ON MR. PILCHER.—Senator Donohoe is telling a good story at the expense of "Farmer" T. C. Pilcher, of Fauquier, a former member of the House.

Senator Donohoe was on a train coming out of Washington, and was seated in the smoking compartment. He was smoking, as usual. In came Mr. Pilcher, who produced a cigar, and the two were soon puffing away and talking. The smoke was thick. Senator Donohoe was smoking a preparation which had been given him to relieve a severe cold in his head. "Gentlemen," said the conductor standing in the door, "this is the smoking compartment but a lady back in the car requests that you will open the windows, as the smoke is a little unpleasant." Senator Donohoe had quit smoking for a few moments, while Mr. Pilcher was doing duty on a big, black, strong Havana. He said: "Pilcher I have noticed that that cigar of yours was of a strange odor. Where did you get it?"

"Go it on Pennsylvania avenue, paid a quarter for two, and the fellow who sold them said they were good. But they are simply hell," and he threw the half-smoked cigar out of the window. The joke was on "Farmer" Pilcher, but Senator Donohoe did not divulge it until "Farmer" Pilcher came to Richmond a short while ago.—[Richmond News.]

A LEESBURG MAN.—Lewis Nixon, the New York shipbuilder and politician, was born at Leesburg, Va. in Leesburg, which is not a teeming metropolis at the best, the great day of the year is when the March court is in session. Then all the farmers for miles come in and the town is really lively.

"Last summer," said a Virginian, "a prominent citizen of Leesburg went to New York. He called on Mr. Nixon. He was cordially received and taken out to see the sights. Mr. Nixon drove up Broadway with him. When they came to the corner of Twenty-first street, the Virginian, who had been gazing with open-mouthed astonishment at the crowds, asked: 'Say Lewis, what's going on here today, anyhow?'"

"Oh, nothing," Nixon replied; "nothing out of the ordinary."

"You don't tell me," said the Virginian. He thought for a moment and then said: "Say, Lewis, if all these people are here when nothing special is going on, what a crowd there must be for the March court!"—[New York World.]

Locomotive firemen on the Chicago & Alton system have voted to go on strike for the increase in wages of 12 1/2 per cent. A referendum vote had been taken by the membership, and the proposition was carried by an overwhelming vote.

THE DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION.

The diplomatic reception, the President's annual greeting to the diplomatic representatives, was held at the White House last night. This yearly reception has always occupied first rank for brilliance in the list of the social affairs of the season at the capital, but beautiful as every diplomatic reception is, last night's was declared on all sides to have surpassed all previous receptions, for to the traditional glory of the uniforms and the radiant magnificence of the Old World splendor, together with the customary charm and beauty of the gowns, was added the perfect setting furnished by the new White House.

The new electric lights added their lustre to the brilliance of the scene, and the renovated White House took on an almost palatial aspect. The President and Mrs. Roosevelt were assisted in receiving the corps and the other guests by the women of the Cabinet, and formed a linen at the back of the Blue Parlor. Mrs. Roosevelt wore white satin and lace, diamond medallions formed her necklace, and she wore diamond combs in her hair. Like all the women of the receiving party, she carried a bouquet of lilies-of-the-valley. Mrs. Shaw was in white brocade satin; Mrs. Knox was in white spangled tulle, with touches of pink; Mrs. Payne wore white satin paneled with lace; Miss Wilson French blue silk, trimmed with a scroll-work of black. Miss Alice Roosevelt wore white spangled tulle over white silk, with a corsage bouquet of red carnations.

VIRGINIA OFFICES.

The President devoted some time yesterday to the consideration of some of the larger Virginia appointments. There were several Virginia republican callers at the White House offices today, and the question of a collector of customs and a postmaster for Norfolk were both considered. Mayor R. G. Banks is one of the leading candidates for the collectorship, and George E. Bowden, the national republican committeeman, and Park Agnew, the republican state committeeman, have both endorsed him, while they have endorsed Capt. H. B. Nichols for postmaster, to succeed Col. J. R. Waddy, the present incumbent.

Major Banks has a number of candidates against him for the place, and Hugh Gordon Miller is among the leaders in the race, but he does not seem to be popular with the party leaders in the State, but he has always been active in behalf of the party during campaigns. Col. J. Hampton Hoge, who has also been conspicuous as a worker, but Colonel Hoge says that he will not be a candidate for collector unless the Virginia organization sees fit to present his name to the President. The President and the Postmaster General seem inclined to reappoint Postmaster Waddy, for he has made an efficient official and has a good record, besides much political support from leading republicans outside his State.

THE AQUEDUCT BRIDGE.—The District Commissioners have forwarded to Senator Gallinger, acting chairman of the Senate District committee, a report on the Senate bill, 6517, "To provide for the rebuilding of the Aqueduct bridge," saying: "The Commissioners are in favor of rebuilding the Aqueduct bridge, and if it is rebuilt it should provide for street railway cars, as indicated in the bill. However, until some arrangements are made by law for providing advances to the District of Columbia from the treasury, or other means are provided for meeting extraordinary expenses, the Commissioners do not believe that the revenues of the District should be required to bear this large expenditure, which is estimated at \$800,000, especially as an estimate, based on an examination of the bridge, as described in the report of Lieut. Col. Charles J. Allen, Corps of Engineers, dated February 25, 1901, has been prepared, according to which the bridge can be put in safe condition for ten or twelve years for a sum not exceeding \$90,000."

BEULAH CHURCH TROUBLE.

We saw an article published in your paper of January 8, 1903, headed "Congregation Dispersed." We wish to state that the Mr. W. H. Johnson, being asked to resign, is not the pastor of Beulah Baptist Church, and has not been the pastor since, and has not been in the church since the first Sunday in November last. On the 30th of August, 1902, the church giving him 3 months notice, and has not since that meeting for business and also at several subsequent meetings; his time expired November 4th, 1902. Therefore, hearing that he was coming to the church and believing in his promise to give us a trouble, we secured the aid of an officer to prevent trouble after our meeting was over. Therefore we asked the officer to disperse the crowd. Rev. E. B. Clark presided for us, which he did, and pronounced the benediction. Then Mr. W. H. Johnson rose and commenced a contention, at which time the officer was called in to disperse the crowd, because the congregation had been dismissed.

JAS. T. JACKSON, Church Clerk.

CAUTION.

This is not a gentle word—but when you think how liable you are not to purchase the only remedy universally known and a remedy that has had the largest sale of any medicine in the world since 1868 for the cure and treatment of Consumption and Throat and Lung troubles without losing its great popularity all these years, you will be thankful we called your attention to Boschee's German Syrup. There are so many ordinary cough remedies made by druggists and others that are cheap and good for light colds perhaps, but for severe Coughs, Bronchitis, Croup—and especially for Consumption, where there is difficult expectoration and coughing during the nights and mornings, there is nothing like German Syrup. The 25 cents size like German Syrup. This year by E.S. Regular size 75 cents. For sale by E.S. Leadbeater & Sons.

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