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RICHMOND IS DISAPPOINTED

Army Engineers Oppose Further Improvement on James River

\$6,000,000 THE COST

Virginia Capital Wanted 22-Foot Channel to Sea—Project Started 30 Years Ago

Washington, May 16.—Plans of the city of Richmond to have the Federal Government develop the James River so that small ocean-going coastwise vessels may dock at Virginia's capital received a hard blow yesterday afternoon when the army engineers transmitted to Congress a report, recommending the abandonment of work on the proposed 22-foot channel from Richmond to the Sea.

Richmond for years has been trying to revive her ante-bellum coastwise shipping. In those days vessels from Baltimore, Boston, New York, Wilmington, N. C., Savannah and Charleston loaded and unloaded cargoes at the Virginia capital. Ships engaged in foreign trade frequently called for cargoes of tobacco. Therefore, the Richmond business men have told the Rivers and Harbors Committee of Congress that with a deep channel in the James river the city can be developed as a great inland port. They advocated the early completion of the proposed 22-foot channel authorized by Congress in 1884 and authority to dredge a 25-foot channel from Richmond to the sea.

The ambitious project of the Richmond people was to have cost \$6,000,000. Approximately \$2,500,000 has been spent in deepening the channel to 18 feet. During the last 10 years the work has practically stopped in spite of the efforts of Virginia's delegation in Congress. When Representative Montague came to Congress he determined to compel the army engineers to complete the 22-foot channel authorized more than 30 years ago. He brought the question before Congress, with the result that former Senator Burton, of Ohio, when he made his celebrated filibuster against the River and Harbor bill in 1914, picked out the James river project as one of the many objects for attack. Since that time Congress has made lump-sum appropriations for river and harbor work and the army engineers, in making allotments of this money, left out the James river. In the present River and Harbor bill, which has passed the House, Representative Montague succeeded in getting a \$190,000 appropriation for pushing work on the channel, which was about \$100,000 larger than the army engineers recommended.

For the last 10 years Congress had been appropriating annually only \$100,000 a year for work on the James river. At that rate, the army engineers stated that it would take a quarter of a century to complete the 22-foot depth. They therefore declared they regarded it as useless undertaking to try to dredge a deep channel from Richmond to the sea with the small dribbles of money which Congress has been allowing for that work.

The army engineers submitted their report to response to the Burton amendment to the Rivers and Harbors bill, approved March 3, 1915. This amendment directed that a re-examination of certain rivers and harbors be made, to determine whether or not the Government shall carry out the original authorized plans. In this report the engineers recommend that \$450,000 be appropriated in two annual instalments for the purpose of widening the turning basin at Richmond to 400 feet and to increase the channel width at City Point to 400 feet.

Richmond has a water-borne commerce valued at \$30,000,000. It has been gradually decreasing for 25 years, and this is the primary reason which caused the army engineers to veto the expenditure of \$3,000,000 more on the river channel, holding that the railroads from Richmond to Norfolk and Newport News gave the city an outlet for its ocean going traffic.

FOURTEEN KILLED IN BLAST

Explosion at Repauno Plant of the du Pont Powder Co. Wrecks Four Buildings.

Gibbstown, N. J., May 16.—At least 14 men were killed and about 30 injured yesterday in a terrific explosion at the Repauno plant of the du Pont Powder Company, near here. The blast occurred in the building in which trinitrotoluol is manufactured and wrecked that structure and three others.

The cause of the explosion is not known, and, according to officials of the company, may never be ascertained, as all of those believed to have been in the building where the first explosion occurred are dead.

BOTH BODIES ARE FOUND

Faces of Aviators Burned By Ex- plosion on Hydroplane Last Thursday Morning.

The bodies of Louis Crants and Charles A. Good, the two aviators who were drowned on Thursday when the big Curtis hydro-aeroplane, H-10 fell into the Potomac, will be sent to their homes tonight. Crants' body will go to Hammonport, New York, and Good's to Elyria, Ohio. Captain Thomas S. Baldwin, president of the Atlantic Coast Aeronautical Station, Newport News, arrived here this morning and made arrangements for forwarding the remains.

Both bodies were badly decomposed from having been in the water for five days and the faces were burned from the gasoline flames which were ignited when the explosion took place. The first body was found by George Pettit and Charles Williams shortly after noon yesterday near White House Landing, on the Virginia side of the river, nine miles south of Alexandria. They were fishing from a small boat when they saw the body floating.

The second body was recovered at 3 o'clock by Mathew Johnson, colored keeper of a light for the Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Co., at White House Landing.

The bodies were brought to Wheatley's undertaking establishment of this city. Justice of the Peace Harrie White of Fairfax county was notified, but deemed an inquest unnecessary.

LEAVE FOR GREAT COUNCIL

Representatives of the two tribes of Red Men of Alexandria Osceola No. 1, and Seminole, No. 35, left this morning for Lynchburg where they will attend the sessions of the great council of Virginia. The official delegates of the tribes were A. J. Butcher, past sachem of Osceola and H. H. Newton, past sachem of Seminole. Roger C. Sullivan of this city, great junior sagamore, is also in attendance.

SECOND WEEK OF REVIVAL

The Rev. J. R. Esais, of Washington, preached the sermon at the opening of the second week of revival services of Trinity M. E. Church last night. Tonight the Rev. G. A. Luttrell, former pastor of the church will preach, and the pulpit will be filled during the remainder of the week by the following clergymen: Wednesday night, Rev. E. C. Powers, Tenley, D. C.; Thursday night, Rev. C. F. Noss, Jr., Arlington; Friday, Rev. H. F. Downs, Washington.

HUNTING STOLEN SUITCASE.

Baltimore detectives are looking for a suitcase containing clothing and jewelry, valued at \$75, which was stolen from an automobile standing near the Hotel Belvedere Sunday night. The suitcase is the property of W. E. Huger, a student of the Episcopal High School near this city. He was at the hotel with a number of friends and when he left discovered the suitcase had been taken.

CONCERT
By the
Choir of St. Paul's Church
Tuesday Evening, May 23, 1916
8 o'clock
In The Norton Memorial
Tickets Thirty-five cents.
Can be obtained at Allen's and from members of Choir.

WEARERS OF GRAY AT BIRMINGHAM

Fifteen Thousand Former Confederates Meet at Reunion

HEARTILY WELCOMED

Decided Opposition Manifested to Suggestion That This May be Last Gathering

Birmingham, Ala., May 16.—Sentiment among the thousands of Confederate Veterans who arrived here yesterday for their twenty-sixth annual reunion, which opened today seemed distinctly opposed to the suggestion that this might be the last gathering of its kind, and bidding for the reunion next year has already become spirited.

"Welcome meetings" were held by the United Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Confederate Sons' Memorial Association, nearly forty special trains having arrived with visitors within the past twenty-four hours. Most of the twenty hands which reached here in the course of the day were immediately pressed into service to assert the claims of the various cities seeking the next reunion. Memphis, Tenn., and Tulsa, Okla., are the leading rivals, and it is believed that Washington, D. C., will be a contender later.

General Bennett H. Young, of Louisville, Ky., commander-in-chief of the Veterans, who with his staff arrived early in the day declared he is not an active candidate for re-election. General George P. Harrison, commander-in-chief of the Alabama delegates of the Army of the South, is the most outspoken as the successor of General Young.

Governor Henderson, of Alabama; Mayor Ward, of this city, and Major W. J. Behan, president-general of the Confederate Southern Memorial Association, welcomed the visitors at an afternoon meeting yesterday. Greetings also were given by General Young, W. N. Brandon, of Arkansas, commander-in-chief of the Sons of Veterans, and Mrs. Frank G. Odenheim, president-general of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Birmingham was prepared to care for the largest number of visitors in its history. Every effort has been made to provide for the comfort of the old soldiers. In addition to the thousands of tents spread out over the big fair grounds, hundreds of private homes have been thrown open to them.

Numerous social functions will be given in honor of the veterans and visitors. The concluding feature of the three day encampment will be a big ball.

A movement is on to name Montgomery, "the cradle of the Confederacy", as the city in which the last of the reunions shall be held whether next year or later. Citizens of that city are behind the movement, which is an outgrowth of the suggestion that the present reunion may be the last to be held.

The sessions of the reunion were held in the Bijou Theatre, commencing at 10 o'clock this morning. Richard W. Massey, chairman of the local entertainment committee called the gathering to order, and Rev. J. W. Bachman, chaplain-general of the veterans, delivered the invocation. General John G. Smith, commander of the Fourth Alabama Brigade, representing the Birmingham veterans, delivered the opening address. President George B. Ward, city commissioner responded for the city; K. W. Bush, president, for the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce; J. Asa Rountree, in behalf of the sons of Confederate Veterans; Mrs. Chappell Cory, in behalf of the United Daughters of the Confederacy; Charles Henderson, Governor, in behalf of the State of Alabama, and General George P. Henderson, commander of the Army of Tennessee, in behalf of Confederate veterans.

Robert A. Brown, chairman of the general local committee, was introduced, and he in turn turned the

GAZETTE One Week 10c

convention over to General Bennett H. Young, commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans, who delivered the response to the addresses of welcome. Committee were then appointed. Patriotic music was rendered during the opening session.

In the afternoon the feature will be an address by John T. Goolrick, of Fredericksburg, Va., on "Confederate Soldiers," and a play by R. C. Rogers.

In the evening the annual oration will be delivered by Irvin S. Cobb, author and newspaper man, and the official sponsors and maids will be presented.

The banquet in honor of the president-general of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will be held at the Southern Club, and the ball of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans will be given in the Hippodrome.

LOCAL BOARD OF REVIEW

Will Meet and Organize During Week and Meet Commissioner of Revenue.

The local board of review on taxation will meet and organize during the week, at which time the Commissioner of the Revenue will be requested to appear, make recommendations and inform the board how the taxation laws are being complied with. It is understood that the merchants have been paying state taxes much faster than formerly, and that returns for taxation are larger this year than last. It is understood that at the coming session the board will review not only assessments of personality or intangible property, where present assessments are unsatisfactory, but also review unsatisfactory real estate assessments. It is generally understood that the state in contest will probably have present a representative of the Attorney General's office to represent the Commonwealth, who will appear as counsel for the State. He will doubtless insist on full valuations where it is supposed there have been undervaluations, that is in cases brought to his attention.

Among the new laws which become operative June 1, 1916, is one which compels every merchant to keep a list of his purchases. In default he will not only be compelled to pay the proper license tax, but will be fined not less than \$25.

While business and professional men are paying more promptly than usual, the Commissioner of the Revenue desires delinquents to pay up as soon as possible, as he is compelled to make two reports a year to the local board of review, and the State Auditor informs him that license matters will be inquired into by his department, and a state representative be sent here to make inquiries.

LOCAL BREVITIES

The regular meeting of the Reliance Engine Company will be held tonight at 8 o'clock.

Martin M. Lollo, 44 years old, of Alexandria, while loading glass in a car at the Anacostia freight yards yesterday afternoon, fell on a piece of broken glass, cutting his head. He was taken to the Casualty Hospital.

Large boiling rock, pan rock, Potomac bass, salt water trout, roe shad, buck shad, white perch and herring, will be for sale all week by Geo. E. Price, City Market, Phone 321J.

The Rev. Father Michael Galleher, of Washington, will make an address at the ladies' night of the Holy Name Society at the Lyceum tomorrow night. The Holy Name Society Band will furnish the music.

Attention is invited to the notice of the concert to be given by the Choir of St. Paul's Church one week from tonight. These entertainments are always greatly enjoyed by the music loving public of Alexandria. Tickets can be obtained at Allen's and from members of the choir.

—MAY DANCE—
Benefit of
Cardinal Athletic Club
Odd fellows' Hall
WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 1916
8:30 p. m. Tickets 50 cents

REPUBLICANS LOOK TO HUGHES

Demand For Jurist as Presi- dential Nominee Increasing

COLONEL'S TIDE EBBS

Former President Counted as Having Talked Himself Out of Chances of Nomination

Washington, May 16.—Sentiment in Republican politics is definitely crystallizing behind the movement to nominate Associate Justice Charles E. Hughes for the Presidency at Chicago. Only the rankest partisanship could be blind to this fact.

From practically every section of the country the demand is growing for the return of the jurist to active politics, and if the demand gains in volume during the few remaining days of the pre-convention campaign it is apparent that only two circumstances can prevent Mr. Hughes nomination—the opposition of Roosevelt or the flat refusal of the New Yorker to accept the first place on the ticket, if it is offered him.

Justice Hughes has never made any declaration to the effect that he would not accept the nomination, and his friends feel that he will never make it. They believe that he will take the nomination if it comes to him without his seeking.

This shouting for Hughes proceeds from no enthusiasm for the man from no magnetism of his personality from no understanding of the things for which he may stand. It proceeds solely from the conviction that he could come nearer defeating Woodrow Wilson than could any other living Republican. That is the whole story.

The belief prevails among average party men that the Bull Moose, as a body, could not deny their support to Hughes; that Roosevelt himself would be compelled to go along, and that, with the old organization again united behind a man whose record is on straight, party success in November would be a foregone conclusion. This is the line of reasoning which has suddenly given Hughes the leading position in the fight.

His supporters are reminding Republicans everywhere, it might be added, that the German voters opposed to Wilson would be solidly for Hughes; that the Irish vote opposed to Wilson would of course be for the ticket, and that the Progressives could find nothing in the jurist to kick against. They are saying that Hughes has a record of progressive achievement, whereas Roosevelt has only a record of progressive shouting.

Even all these elements of strength it would seem that Justice Hughes would be the ideal candidate, and that no question need arise as to his nomination. But it so happens that the selection of Mr. Hughes means the elimination of Theodore Roosevelt—a circumstance which must be taken into profound consideration.

Roosevelt is himself a candidate for the nomination. Three months ago it looked as if he would capture the convention. The tide was so set in his favor that it seemed impossible for any man or group of men to head it off. But that was three months ago. Since then Roosevelt has done much talking. It has been heroic talking. It has been war. It has been a challenge directed at every interest that has sought peace with Europe or peace with Mexico. It has been just one sledge-hammer attack after another upon the processes where by President Wilson has sought to maintain friendly relations with the German government on the one hand and the Mexican de facto regime on the other.

This militant attitude on the part States are for peace on any hono-

FEAST OF THE SEVEN TABLES
Under the Auspices of
The Ladies' Aid
Of the Second Presbyterian Church
Thursday, May 18, 1916
Tickets 25 Cents

able terms, and they are against any man who would precipitate them into of Colonel Roosevelt has alarmed the country. The people of the United war as long as war may be honorably avoided. The decline of the Roosevelt Presidential boom began with his "heroic" statement issued from Trinidad. Each successive utterance from him since that time has further contracted this campaign. In other words, it now looks like Roosevelt has absolutely talked himself out of the Republican nomination.

This does not mean, however, that the former President is no longer a factor. He has behind him a hand-made political party which will do his bidding.

Roosevelt himself may be unable to land the Republican nomination, but he is still in a position to dictate the name of the nominee.

DEATH OF OLD RESIDENT

Peter Aitcheson Passes Away at His Residence on Duke St., Early Last Night.

Peter Aitcheson, senior member of the firm of Aitcheson and Bro. lumber dealers and manufacturers, died at 8:30 o'clock last night on the seventy fifth anniversary of his birth. He has been in failing health for some months and has been confined to his bed recently. Mr. Aitcheson was born in Greenock, Scotland and has been a resident of Alexandria for the past half a century. Beside his widow he is survived by two sons, Frank Aitcheson, of Philadelphia, and Donald Lee Aitcheson, assistant post master of this city. Three sisters and five brothers also survive him as follows: Mrs. Noble Lindsey, Mrs. John T. Johnson, Miss Margaret Aitcheson, DeWilton Aitcheson, Robert P. Aitcheson, John Aitcheson, Harry Aitcheson and Albert Aitcheson.

The deceased in his early life was associated with his father in the mill and lumber business, occupying the building on the west side of Union Street, near Duke, which was the last house used by the late Stephen Shinn as a grocery and ship chandlery at the time the civil war was breaking out. After the death of his father the deceased and his brother, R. P. Aitcheson conducted this place. By close attention to business the Aitcheson mill and lumber yards soon became one of Alexandria's institutions. The plant was destroyed by fire last year, but is being rebuilt.

Mr. Aitcheson was a member of Andrew Jackson Lodge of Masons, Mt. Vernon Chapter and Old Dominion Commandery Knights Templar. For several years he represented the First ward in the Common Council, and his conservative and practical course made him a useful member of that body.

His funeral will take place from his late residence, 411 Duke Street tomorrow afternoon at 4 p. m.

MASONIC NOTICE.

A called meeting of Andrew Jackson Lodge, No. 120, A. F. and A. M., will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late brother, Charles Man-kin and Peter Aitcheson.
By order of the W. M.
M. J. E. ALEXANDER, Sec.

COMING

Friday, May 19, 1916
The Phi Mu Sigma Players,
M. E. Church, South, in
THE TIME OF HIS LIFE
A side-splitting, three act comedy.
Young People's Building 8 o'clock
Admission 25c
Tickets at Allen's Drug Store

MAY BALL

B. P. O. Elks No. 758
Tuesday May 16, 1916
8:30 P. M.

Tickets \$1. Admitting Lady and Gentleman

HARD SHELL CRABS NOW ON
SALE AT RAMELS CAFE

FRENCH MAKE BOLD THRUSTS

Germans Are Routed From Two Hundred Yards of Trenches

RESUME OFFENSIVE

Berlin Reports That British Have Been Driven Back After Failure to Retake Trenches

London, May 16.—The French troops about Verdun resumed the offensive yesterday and report in an unexpected thrust having forced the Germans to evacuate more than 200 yards of trenches on the heights of the Meuse.

Aside from this action the Crown Prince's infantry had a rest yesterday, but the German guns continued to smash away at the French positions on Hill 304, apparently in preparation for another assault on the line west of the Meuse.

Official reports giving the details of the fighting on the west front follow:

"Midnight official; In Champagne this morning's bombardment by the Germans of the region known as Mesnil-Maisons de Champagne was followed by several simultaneous attacks with weak forces against different points of our front. All these attacks were stopped by our barrage fire or were repulsed by our counter-attacks. They were entirely fruitless. "In the Verdun region there was an intermittent bombardment against our first and second lines to the west of the Meuse. On the heights of the Meuse, after preparation by our artillery, we launched a surprise attack which was completely successful. Our patrols cleaned out the German trenches on a front of about 200 meters and brought back some prisoners. Our artillery bombarded some German detachments which signalled as passing along the road from Essey to Pannes, southwest of Thiaucourt."

Berlin, May 16.—The British have been attacking the German lines near Hulluch, in Northern France, in an effort to recapture the trenches recently taken by the Germans there, but all their attempts have been repulsed, according to yesterday's statement by the War Office.

In the Verdun region the French failed in attacks near Dead Man Hill and near the Caillette wood.

COLLAPSE OF CAFE

Nine Persons Crushed To Death and Twenty-Six Injured

Akron, Ohio, May 16.—Nine persons were crushed to death and twenty six were injured, many probably fatally, last night in the collapse of the Crystal Restaurant Building, filled with diners, at Main and Quarry streets.

A blast of dynamite in the excavation for a new building adjoining the restaurant caused the collapse. So dense was the crowd around the scene of the wreck last night that Company B, Field Artillery, Ohio National Guard, was called out and aided the police in holding the people back so that the rescuers could work. It is estimated 15,000 people packed Main and Quarry streets.

A blast of dynamite set off in an excavation for a new building directly north of the restaurant unsettled the foundation. The restaurant was a one-story structure, with a two story false front, and the latter, toppling backward, added a weight of many tons to the falling roof.

The crash came at 6:10, when the restaurant was crowded. So suddenly did the building cave in and the wall crumble that those who were not instantly killed were rendered unconscious.

A figure, bleeding from cuts on her face, her hair and clothing disheveled, rose from the wreck. It was Mrs. William C. Lawson, who escaped strangely from the table where she and her husband and their 8-year-old daughter, Mary, were dining together.

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