

**Alexandria Gazette**  
 AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER

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**RAILWAY SMOKE SCREEN**

The statement of the Washington-Virginia Railway Co., published yesterday in our news columns is a rather poor attempt at a smoke-screen. Were it just a trifle more ingenious we could dignify it by the name of camouflage. The statement made is a frank confession of weakness. The company says that to "properly operate and maintain its property it will be necessary to secure additional revenue." This may be true, but why should the commuters and passengers be mulcted in order to obtain it. Would it not be far wiser to increase the traffic and the travel? The very first result of the proposed increase in fares would be to drive hundreds to seek permanent homes in Washington. We speak by the card. Thousands of trips would be abandoned monthly, in addition, which would mean a reduction in revenue that would not, in years, be compensated by the increase in fares. "But"—says the Company—"it is now estimated that that the tariff filed, and to be effective February 13th, 1921, should produce, after making due allowance for falling off in travel, approximately \$179,000 more additional gross operating revenue than it did obtain for the calendar year 1920 with the tariffs now in force." Is this prophecy or exhortation? If the former, we may as well say right here that we have lost all faith in the W.-Va. Ry. Co., as prophets. Their record is bad. Their predictions do not pan out. They say, in the same breath, that they estimated that the former raise, effective December 7th, 1919, "would yield additional gross operating revenue of \$253,408.00, whereas the operating results for the year 1920 indicate that the increase so obtained was only \$65,000." Angels and ministers of grace defend us! One of our own high-school boys could have made a better guess. They underestimated by \$188,000 per annum. They obtained only one-fourth of their expected increase. What assurance have the citizens that their new guess is any more reliable than their former? How can we know that next year they may not ask another raise, based upon the same plea that they under-guessed? No, gentlemen of the Railway Company, this will not do. Your raise of 1919 was a failure. You admit it. By the inexorable rules of logic your new raise will prove even a worse failure. The citizens bore with the former increase, and retained their residence in Alexandria. But this recent attempt, if successful, will cause a wholesale migration from which the city will not recover in many years.

Again, the Railway Company claim that "since May, 1920, there has been an increase in the cost of power." Now, is this a deliberate statement—or is it only the desperation of stupidity? We have before us their very own words, uttered in 1920, which say: "Electric current is purchased from the Potomac Electric Power Company under a long time contract. As this contract was drawn before the war period, its terms are reasonable." We do not ask which is the truth! We happen to have evidence that the latter statement is correct. There is a legal maxim that an argument false in one thing is false in all. We might paraphrase another and say that a taint of fraud vitiates the whole fabric.

The Railway Company has not chosen to be frank in its statement to the citizens: We asked this because we believe in fairness to both sides of a controversy. The company has committed an error.

The meeting at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce last night was an overwhelming success. We have just a word or two more before closing the GAZETTE'S campaign. We shall take up the matter from time to time as occasion offers. But our part in arousing public interest came to an end last night. We have just a word to say to the very active and competent committees that now have charge of the fight. Falls Church has already employed its lawyer, filed its brief, and asked for a hearing. Alexandria will have the co-operation of the city's attorney, but the other counsel has not yet been employed, so far as we know. Any lawyer, however able, will have to devote his undivided attention to the matter, even for the preliminary argument asking for continuance. There is not much time. We believe that before we are through with the contest it will be found necessary to have an expert accountant audit the company's books. If we take their ex parte testimony as to their records the City will be at tremendous disadvantage. Figures, as it is well known, can be made to prove anything. And with the experts of the railway company, skilled in all the wily ledger-main of book-keeping, the most astute lawyer will need professional assistance in the analysis of the company's carefully fabricated statistics.

In conclusion, the GAZETTE thanks its readers for their interest and co-operation. When the occasion again demands it will be found alert and on the job!

of a certain corporation that enjoys a monopoly in this city. This discourteous conduct should not be tolerated, and we trust the company will give the proper instructions for its remedy. Politeness costs nothing and invariably brings large returns.

**NO REST—NO PAIN**

the one who suffers from a bad back and distressing urinary disorders. Alexandria people recommend Doan's Kidney Pills. Be guided by their experience.

Mrs. Chas. Cook, 410 Queen St., Alexandria, says: "After an attack of

"flu" my kidneys were left in bad shape. My back pained me so I was in misery all the time. It seemed as though a dagger were being thrust into my kidneys. I could get no rest at night. Mornings I would be so tired and so worn out I would feel like giving up. A friend saw what condition I was in and told me what a wonderful remedy Doan's Kidney Pills are. I sent to Creighton's Drug Store for some. Doan's fixed me up all right in a short time. The pains all left me and before long I was entirely cured. It was Doan's Kidney Pills and nothing else that did it."

Price 60c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Cook had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mpls., Minn.

**CORRECTS STATEMENT**  
 (Communicated)  
 Editor of Alexandria Gazette:

In your issue of Thursday you reported me as having said to city council, that in 1920 850 monthly books were sold each month, and the sale of 25 trip books, the last named which they desire to take off, increased 102 per cent and they sold 11,600 per month, either you misquoted me or I misstated the figures which were read from the sheet furnished by R. R. Co.

However, I desire to correct the statement, and know enough of the fairness of the Gazette in this and other matters pertaining to our fight to feel assured you will publish this correction.

In 1920 the R. R. received \$11,900 for 52 trip books and \$36,900 for 25 trip books, this shows there were sold approximately 222 of 52 trip books, and 1,118 25 trip books each month on Mount Vernon Division. The 25 trip book, as can be readily seen by the above figures, is the most popular book sold. It is used by mechanics, whose work is contingent upon conditions of the weather, used by hundreds of regularly employed persons, such as Bureau of Engraving employees, clerk in stores, etc., by families, as it provides for as many as seven in a family, and by persons whose business carries them to Washington frequently.

In December, 1919, the R. R. granted a ten per cent increase on all books and tickets. In August of 1920, they applied for a further increase on 25 trip books, our association vigorously resisted this, after numerous postponements they finally withdrew their application now, as we suppose, owing to its convenience, they propose to withdraw it from sale.

Have you read the Gazette's Classified Columns today? Worth looking over.

**Clearance Sale**

of

**Men's High SHOES**

Values From

**\$10 \$11 and \$12**

**\$750**

**A. KATZ**

400 King Street  
 Alexandria, Va.

4-12tc

Why not try the Gazette's Classified Columns? The best market place in the city.

**The Old Homestead**  
 Memories  
**At Trinity M. E. Church**  
 TOMORROW NIGHT 7.30

This is a plain practical gospel talk by the pastor Dr. D. H. Martin. It will take you back to the scenes of your childhood and will do you good. Come and bring your neighbor.

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**SWAN BROS**  
 ALEXANDRIA'S LARGEST DEPARTMENT STORE

**Three Big Special Hosiery Bargains**  
**For Boys - Girls and Misses**  
**To Be Placed On Sale Monday Morning**  
**At Very Low Prices**

Our inventory shows we have too many of these hose on hand, so we are going to dispose of them quickly—buy all you need at these prices and feel safe in saving money on them.

- 100 dozen children's black, brown and white ribbed hose, all sizes, regular price 35c, special price, pair 19c
- 50 dozen misses and boys black, brown and white, heavy and fine ribbed hose, all sizes, regular price 50c, special price, pair 35c
- 25 dozen misses and boys black, brown and white, heavy and fine ribbed hose, all sizes, regular price 60c, special price, pair 49c

**VIRGINIA'S UNPRODUCTIVE BARREN ACRES.**

Judge Payne, a native Virginian, and present Secretary of the Interior, says in a recent letter to Governor Westmoreland Davis, that the waste and unproductive land in Virginia totals 20,000,000 acres. Much of this, he says, consists of marsh, swamp and mountain lands. He estimates, however, that 10,000,000 acres may be brought under cultivation. If these acres, at present producing no wealth, no revenue, were to be put into tillage, their annual crops, estimated at the low average value of \$20.00 per acre, would bring to the state of Virginia \$200,000,000 every year. This is worth considering, and we trust that some one of our State Bureaus or Departments can devise plans that would stimulate the cultivation and create the wealth now non-existent but potential.

**COURTESY DEMANDED.** A number of complaints from our readers have reached the editorial rooms as to the rude and insulting behavior on the part of the employees