EXPOSITION TALK.

MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL SOCIETY.

President Starke Submits a Report—Resolutions Offered Which Lead to Much Discussion—Mr. Johnson's Proposition About Another Exposition Next Fall.

Yesterday noon saw an assemblage of life members and stockholders of the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical Society in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce such as never assembled before.

To-day was the time fixed for the sale o the society's property—the Exposition grounds. But an injunction granted by the Chancery Court of Richmond a few days ago restrained the sale, which was to have been made to liquidate a debt of about $40,000—the deficit of the last Exposition.

The meeting yesterday was called by Mr. Ashton Starke, president of the society. The attendance of those vitally interested was very large.

State Senator Henry T. Wickham was called to the chair, and Mr. Preston Noland acted as secretary.

This meeting was called to pass upon the action of the Executive Committee in placing the grounds on the market, and to say whether they shall be sold as a whole, or how much shall be disposed of, if only a part is offered. The complainants' bill praying for an injunction demanded a full financial exhibit, showing how every dollar was realized and spent.

Messrs. Dincon, Ruffin and Hobson were appointed a committee on organization. They reported as present:

Total shares	4,875
Life members	1,650
	5,525
Majority	2,763
Present by proxy, including stock of the city of Richmond	320

More than a quorum.

MR. STARKE'S REPORT.

Mr. Starke submitted the following, which was read:

To the Stockholders and Life-Members of the Virginia State Agricultural and Mechanical Society:

At the annual meeting of your society, held March 7, 1888, the present officers and the Executive Committee of the society, with those exceptions caused by resignations and expirations of terms of service, were elected.

Section 12, article 1, states tat the election of officers shall be held "at such times as the Executive Committee may designate during the annual exhibition."

The term of office of the present officers not having expired until January 1, 1889, since which time there has been no exhibition, though several meetings of the society have been called and held, by common consent the present officers have held over.

A great number of meetings of your Executive Committee have been held during the past year, and the minutes of those at which matters worthy of note were discussed and disposed of have been duly recorded.

It was found difficult to secure the attendance of those members of the committee residing in the rural districts, their presence at the large number of meetings being attended with such loss of time and money, and there being no provision for defraying their expenses, on March 21, 1888, a resolution was adopted at a meeting at which were present Messrs. Starke, Anderson, Buford, Branch, Williams, Dupuy, Lyman, Myers, and Sale, as follows:

"Resolved, That the city members of this committee be constituted a sub-committee authorized to transact all business, &c."

Though this resolution put the business of the executive committee in the hands of the sub-committee, several meetings have been held at which the entire committee was requested to be present, but we were not able to secure the attendance of the country members.

EXPOSITION.

In the spring of 1888 it was decided to hold a great Exposition in the fall of that year. The undertaking involved such labor as not one of your committee ever contemplated.

Prompted by a desire to do a great and needed work for our state and people, and though the labor and time required were so great, we gave it cheerfully, and were made to feel compensated since the Virginia Exposition, which began October 3d and closed November 21, 1888, was pronounced a signal success—a revelation to the world and to our own people in the display of Virginia's resources and her material wealth.

BUILDINGS.

We entered upon the work with only the grounds of the society, upon which were a few dilapidated buildings wholly unfit for the purpose of an exposition. It may truly be said that we had to begin at the beginning. To-day the grounds and the buildings thereon, as was the exposition held therein, are a credit to the State and those who contributed to the enterprise.

An exhibit of the property of the society since the Exposition may be shown as follows: As has been stated, we took the grounds simply with worthless improvements thereon. The society was in debt to the city of Richmond to the amount of $30,000 and two years' interest, and a further outstanding debt of $300, making a total indebtedness of $30,800. We have had the great Exposition, with all the benefits reaped therefrom, and its advertisement of this State; and to-day the society holds her grounds greatly enhanced in value on account of the Exposition, with improvements thereon which cost actually $112,113.17, with a debt now of $34,072.54. Since the time of making up the statement, in December, 1888—indeed, in the past thirty days—the payments of the notes due by the Basket Company have been made on certain notes due by them, amounting to $3,981.90, and to this amount the indebtedness has been reduced.

This debt, however, will be increased by the action of certain life-members who have recently sued out an injunction against the society.

A FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

We hold that, looked at from a business standpoint, the undertaking was a financial success, and it was remarkable that such should have been the result, when 1888 seems to have been a disastrous year to such enterprises throughout the land, causing in every instance, even where backed by Government aid, deficits running up to hundreds of thousands of dollars in the experience of other cities.

As soon as it was possible after the close of the Exposition, November 21st, and in the time all of the outstanding obligations had to be paid and all debts due the society collected, a statement of the financial condition of the society was made up. Taking into consideration the vastness of the work and the multitude of accounts, it was wonderful that Secretary Venable could have presented as he did December 16th following, less than one month's time, a full statement of accounts with balances brought down and every item of disbursement in his office and in that of the director-general, certified by double vouchers; nothing less than the admirable system of accounts kept could have enabled him to have done as much.

This statement showed a deficit in available money to meet the obligations of the society of $38,904.53.

LOOKING FOR A LOAN.

Under the provisions of the charter your committee was anxious to ascertain a channel through which it could negotiate a loan to the society of an amount equal to the deficit before calling a general meeting of the society. It having been found that there was a deficit, immediately a general meeting was called for December 15, 1888. The records show that there was no quorum present in response to this call; the meeting was thereupon adjourned to January 15, 1889. Again no quorum was present, though before the members then assembled the president read his report and stated that the financial statement, which was your committee's report, was ready when there could be a meeting to consider it. Again an adjournment was voted until April 10th, and again no quorum was present, though the financial statement, your committee's report, was laid before this meeting. This meeting was adjourned until April 20th, and by extraordinary effort and a canvass for proxies, a meeting with a majority of stock represented was secured on this last named day.

PROPOSED MORTGAGE.

At this meeting it was resolved "that the executive committee be authorized to negotiate a loan and to this end mortgage the property of the society to the amount of any part of $40,000 that may be found necessary to meet the indebtedness of the society."

Your committee finding it impossible to negotiate a loan on account of its inability to guarantee the interest, a general meeting was called for May 16, at which no quorum was present. This meeting was adjourned to May 30, and again no quorum was had. Another adjournment to June 7 was decided on, and on that day there was once more no quorum present.

So little interest being manifested on the part of the members and stockholders, as shown by their failure to attend the meetings, your committee saw that the burden of the matter was upon them, and that whatever was to be done they would have it to do.

DEBT DUE ON CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT.

Just here it is perhaps proper to say that this indebtedness is due wholly on construction account, except $15,000, which is in one note endorsed by the individual members of your City Committee. This note was given to meet premiums due principally on county exhibits and in the tobacco, horse, and cattle departments. As will be appreciated, these amounts were due persons scattered throughout our State and North Carolina. Your committee felt that for the credit of our State, city, and the society it would never do to defer these payments, and perhaps bring upon the society numerous suits at the hands of these creditors. Therefore, getting the builders and machinists in our city to accept negotiable notes for the amounts due them, though the burden of all the work had fallen upon this committee, and its members being amongst the largest subscribers to the stock of the society, they were willing to go even further, and so made this joint note upon which to raise the money and save the credit of all concerned.

EFFORTS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL.

For reasons perfectly manifest, we think, in which we believe we had the sympathy of a majority of the citizens of Richmond, your committee appeared several times before the Finance Committee and Council of this city. They succeeded in having the loan recommended by the Finance Committee and passed by the lower branch of the Council. The matter then passing to the Board of Aldermen, your committee, after being invited to appear, went before that body only to have the measure defeated and themselves rudely repulsed.

Your committee has to confess, under the circumstances, to no little reluctance in passing a resolution January 3, 1890, which reads as follows:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of the Virginia State Agricultural and Mechanical Society, earnestly desiring that the valuable property of this society, for reasons already made manifest, shall not be sold for the payment of its debt, we make this final appeal to the Board of Aldermen of this city that they will reconsider and take such action as will avert this calamity to Richmond, and that the president of the said board is requested to call a meeting at the earliest possible day to consider the matter.

SCANT COURTESY.

The above was duly transmitted to the president of the Board of Aldermen of this city, but its receipt was never acknowledged by any one, nor was an invitation extended, as is customary, to your committee to be present at the meeting which we subsequently learned had been held.

However, the whole subject had been previously presented to that body in every conceivable shape, and the members of the Board of Aldermen were in full possession of all the facts.

It is needless to say that the matter asked by your committee was defeated.

There appeared no alternative other than to make sale of a portion or the whole of the property of the society as might appear best, all things considered.

Another general meeting of the society was being discussed when the creditors notified us that provision must be made for the liquidation of our indebtedness, or something looking in that direction, at once, or suit would be immediately instituted. Thereupon your committee deemed it proper to make an advertisement of the sale of the property to take place on March 13, 1890, and at the same time a general meeting of the life-members and stockholders was called for March 12, 1890—as it will be seen one day before the proposed sale—your committee well appreciating the fact that such sale must either before or subsequently have the ratification of such general meeting.

LIFE MEMBERS' RIGHTS.

At this juncture William C. Knight, Robert Beverly and a few others, life-members, raised the question as to the property rights of old life-members—a question which could have been as well raised years ago, and one which has not been brought about, or the status of such members, changed by any action on this committee, either taken or proposed.

Through this question thus raised they have obtained at the hands of the Chancery Court of Richmond, an injunction prohibiting the sale of the property for the present. Your committee employed counsel to represent the society, but made no objection to the injunction, because since questions as to the status of life-members and the liability of the real estate of the society for its debts have now been raised, the Court must settle them before anyone would be willing to purchase the property.

Your committee think it but simple justice to itself, in the light of facts, to say that the members who have now raised this question have known the same conditions to exist in their minds for years past. Yet with their approbation in 1882 the city was asked to make a loan of $30,000 to the society, and the same was affected by the society, giving what was intended and understood to be a bona fide deed of trust on the unincumbered property to secure the same.

THE RECORD.

Indeed, as far back as November 1, 1876, a general meeting authorized the Executive Committee to issue bonds for $15,000 and secure same by mortgage of its property or "to raise the money in any other way that they may deem proper."

The Executive Committee had previously sold bonds owned by the society and applied the proceeds to the reduction of its debt, and in 1882, before obtaining the loan from the city, the society had authorized a mortgage on its property which was prepared by J. A. Jones, Esq., to secure an old debt of $18,000, and the further sum of $9,012.05, borrowed from R. H. Dulaney on the 12th day of January, 1882, which sums were finally paid out of the money loaned by the city of Richmond.

BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE.

A sub-committee, consisting of the President and Vice-Presidents Buford and Branch, of this society, appeared, by invitation, before a committee of the Virginia Legislature, which it would appear had been appointed to investigate the status of the life members of this society—a question which your committee submits belongs to the courts alone.

Before that committee of the Legislature Messrs. Knight and Beverly were urged not to thrust this matter into the courts at the expense of the heavy expense to the society and the complications which might arise in a chancery proceeding, but these gentlemen were not willing to leave the adjustment of the matter to the meeting called for March 12th and pressed the matter before the court, so that now an injunction has been awarded, and the society must take such steps as are found necessary in the premises

THE TITLES.

As before stated, your committee deem it useless to oppose the motion for an injunction, for if set aside the titles have been placed in such shape by the action of these parties that no one would be willing to make purchase of the property until this matter shall now have been finally disposed of by the Court.

Another matter which must be considered at this general meeting is the ratification and the acceptance of a certain act passed by the Legislature of Virginia, Acts 1889-'90, entitled "A bill to amend and re-enact section 8, of chapter 106, of the Acts of 1887-'88."

This act of amendment was obtained at the hands of the Legislature to meet in future such an emergency as arose in the matter of a sale of a portion of the society's grounds to the Richmond Basket and Woodenware Works. When your committee attempted to collect the money on the sale of this piece of property, it was demanded by the purchasers that such a bill confirming the sale of the Basket Company should be obtained. Hence it occurred to your committee to amend section 8 of your charter, subject to an acceptance by a general meeting of the society. Had this not been done there would have been no opportunity to provide for contingencies then imminent until another sitting of the Legislature. We advise the prompt acceptance of this act by this general meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

ASHTON STARKE, Chairman,
and for the Executive Committee.

The report was accompanied by a balance sheet.

Colonel W. C. Knight moved that the report be received and accepted.

Major Joseph Walker, of Chesterfield, seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

Major Norman V. Randolph then offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this general meeting of the stockholders and life members of the Virginia State Agricultural and Mechanical Society, whatever may be the relative rights and interests of stockholders and life members, the real estate held by this society should be held liable for its honest debts and obligations, and should be sold if necessary to pay the same.

Mr. B. F. Johnson seconded the resolution.

Mr. E. Y. Cannon did not think the resolution amounted to anything. The concession was generally made that honest debts should be paid, and Mr. Cannon said he could see no practical use in passing a resolution endorsive of such a widely accepted sentiment. Referring to the suit pending in the Chancery Court, in which an order of injunction, restraing the sale of the exposition property, had been granted, Mr. Cannon inquired as to its character. He had not heard or read the bill if one had been filed, and he would like to have the object of the proceedings explained to him, if somebody present could do so.

Major Charles S. Stringfellow arose to answer Mr. Cannon's questions. A bill had been filed in the case on behalf of certain life members, to ask the commissioner of the court to take an account of the obligations of the society; and further, to have defined the relative positions of the stockholders and life-members and their rights. The point had been raised whether the real estate of the society is liable for the payment of its debts. Interitially, he believed it was not; that only the income could be subjected to the settlement of debts.

"It the property is not liable," remarked Mr. Cannon, "who is to pay the debts?"

"Echo answers who," replied Major Stringfellow.

NOT BOUND IN LAW.

Colonel Knight said he did not think the property was bound in law. The bill passed by the Legislature places the property in the hands of the stockholders and life members as trustees, and if the property is taken hold of the trust fund is subjected. The object of the suit is not to evade the payment of debts. There is a clause in the bill, he thought Major Stringfellow would admit, that indicates that.

"Distinctly there is not," answered Major Stringfellow.

"Well, it was intended to be stated there," asserted Col. Knight. If the property is sold to-morrow, he continued, it will be at a disadvantage and the matter had better be settled in the courts, so as to remove any cloud as to the title of the estate. If the suit continued a receiver would probably be appointed. He objected to Major Randolph's resolution. The charter of the society authorized the borrowing of $50,000; and if the title to the real estate was cleared, he believed that a committee could go out and in a day—between sunrise and sunset—raise the money on a mortgage.

"Were you not a member," asked Major Randolph, "of the committee that appeared before the Council and asked for an appropriation to the society of $30,000?"

"I was not a member," declared Colonel Knight.

"Well, Mr. Chairman," continued the Major, with vehemence, "I want a vote on my resolution. I want the debt paid. If Colonel Knight can go out and raise the money before sun-down I'd like to see him do it. We've tried it and we couldn't."

Colonel Knight wanted the wording of the resolution changed, so as to read "that it is the sense of the meeting that the just debts of the society should be paid."

Mr. Everett Waddy said: "I would like to know how many life members are here, and the amount of stock held by them. I think the question is pertinent, as we are making up a record."

The Chair: "Mr. Waddy is out of order. It has been already decided that the body is legally constituted in person and by proxy."

"I know it is out of order, but I thought it a pertinent inquiry under the circumstances," said Mr. Waddy, as he resumed his seat.

EXISTING OR NOT.

Major John Howard here came forward. The debts ought to be paid, he averred. Those who have guaranteed them ought to be secured. A partial investigation he had made led him to question the actual existence of the society. Originally, its charter was a contract between the State on one side and the society on the other. Afterwards it was amended, and the question arose how the amended charter was to be accepted. There were many departures in the new charter differing from the old. Some of the changes were very radical. The first was an agricultural society, the next was an agricultural and mechanical society, and——

"Does the chair understand the gentleman as opposing the resolution?" interrupted Mr. Wickham.

"I oppose it as I understand it."

Major Stringfellow remarked: "If we are not in existence we might as well break up go and down stairs."

"We have gone sufficiently forward," said Mr. Julian Ruffin, of Hanover, "to put this whole matter in the courts. Of course we ought to pay the debts. We are bound to pay them, in fact. But let the proceedings be in order. Let the learned doctors of the law arrange the matter in the courts."

SUMMARY OF EVENTS.

Mr. John P. Branch said he wanted to call the attention of the meeting to a few facts. In the fall of 1887, it was decided by the old Agricultural Society to get an amendment to the charter. "I think this was unanimously agreed upon by the life members, and one of those present drew the bill for this incorporation—this amalgamation." In March, 1888, a meeting was held to ratify the new charter. "The record does not show it, but I believe I am safe in saying that it was adopted unanimously, but it was certainly passed by a quorum."

"What do you consider a quorum?" Mr. Waddey asked.

"I don't know. I know a quorum was present, and if any life member had had any objection he should have raised it then. So far as my stock in the society is concerned, I am willing to cancel that for the good of the society. I think I own about as much stock as any—"

"I must call you to order," put in Mr. Bryan. "You are wandering away from the subject."

Major Randolph called then the pending question. Before it was ordered, however, Major Walker, of Chesterfield, moved to add, as an amendment, at the end of the resolution the words: "To be determined by the courts."

The Walker amendment was lost, also the Knight amendment. The Randolph resolution was then adopted.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Starke here rose to a question of personal privilege. There were some few things he wanted to say and in order to do so comprehensively he would be compelled to use names. "It has been stated by Colonel Knight," he began, "that no statement has been made by me of the financial condition of the society. Not one of you shall leave this meeting with uncertain feelings in his mind as to this matter. I shall not drift off from the subject. I only want to vindicate the executive committee of the society, over which I have had the honor to preside for two years, and the other officers by whom I have been surrounded."

"If you will allow me just here, Mr. Starke," said Colonel Knight, "I would like to make a correction. I never said no statement had been made. I remarked at one of the meetings that you said a statement had been made, but it was the property of the executive committee, and you could not exhibit it."

Mr. Starke: "If my memory serves me right there is a charge in the bill before court to-day that no statement had been made."

Colonel Knight: "I think it says there was no detailed statement made."

Mr. Starke, continuing, said the book he held in his hand was the bound aggregated statement. He defied any man to take it and say that the full itemized statements of bills payable and bills receivable were not correct.

MISAPPROPRIATION DENIED.

The intimation has been put in print in this connection that would lead to the inference that some of the funds of the society had been misappropriated. How such a falsehood had received currency, Mr. Starke was unable to imagine. "In my hand I hold a blank voucher, and every cent paid out was with the use of one of these, and just here I will say some business men might learn a lesson from the method we pursued. In every case the secretary had to sign the voucher, and the president in writing to approve it. The stub of the voucher, which is a check, had to be approved by the president and signed by the treasurer. The routine you will see makes a payment known by three persons, the secretary, treasurer and president. I merely want to vindicate myself and the other officers. No business was ever conducted on better business principles, and all the statements I have made in my report are itemized in full in the book.

"It is very strange," continued Mr. Starke, "that men should come here and say we are for peace. Who then has brought on this trouble? It certainly did not originate with the officers of the society.

"Here is a paper called the Southern Planter, of which Colonel Knight is editor."

"I am not," said Colonel Knight, "I am not connected with the paper."

"You were not connected with it at the time these numbers were issued—February and March? asked Mr. Starke."

"I was not."

THE PLANTER'S REFLECTIONS.

Mr. Starke then read several extracts of articles from the magazine, which reflected very severely on the officers and executive committee of the society. Mr. Starke answered all the charges made with evident satisfaction to the meeting, and when he touched upon an article in the Planter by Colonel Robert Beverley, in which reference was made to "a majority of town members determining to make it an Exposition," Mr. Starke quietly said: "I simply submit that the language of the gentleman is not such as should be expected from a gentleman." Another extract regarding the stock subscriptions, declaring they were bogus, Mr. Starke declared, was "language, if it means what I construe it to mean, is unbecoming the language of one gentleman to another. A countryman occupying the position of Colonel Beverly should have been here to explain these strange assertions."

Mr. T. W. Wood: "He'll be here at 3 o'clock."

"He ought to have been here in time for the meeting," insisted Mr. Starke. "He ought to have come at 3 o'clock yesterday."

Mr. Starke next read an article from the Dispatch, which had been written by Colonel Knight, in the concluding paragraph of which the assertion was made that it was "a pity the real friends of the society should be driven into such unpleasant litigation."

Colonel Knight: "You should state the connection in which the sentence is used."

Mr. Starke: "It's a separate paragraph. I has no connection with the rest, so far as the sense goes."

CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING.

Mr. Joseph Bryan here offered a resolution, which caused a great deal of discussion, and ultimately resulted in a "bolt" of some of the country members. The resolution was as follows:

Resolved, That the act passed by the General Assembly at its session just closed, entitled an act to amend and re-enact section 8, of chapter 106, of the Acts of 1888, entitled an act to incorporate the Virginia State Agricultural Mechanical Society be, and the same is hereby accepted by this general meeting of the stockholders and life members of the Virginia State Agricultural and said Society.

Mr. Waddey seconded the resolution.

Colonel Knight strongly opposed it and so did Major Walker, of Chesterfield. The latter said he had always regarded the society as a trust for the farming interests of the State. The resolution, as he understood it, was to give countenance and authenticity to acts of the past. He favored a friendly suit.

Mr. Woods said the bill referred to in Mr. Bryan's resolution had been very hastily passed one day when a great many members of the Legislature were absent.

Mr. John P. Branch gave a detailed account of the passage of the bill, and the powers it conferred on stockholders and life members.

Mr. Waddey, to cut off further debate, called the previous question, and asked for a sealed vote on the resolution.

Mr. E. Y. Cannon rose to ask what was a sealed vote.

The chair explained.

Mr. Waddey said he had asked for it in order to show that the act had not been approved by any uncertain majority.

The motion was carried, and Mr. Waddey was appointed chairman of a committee to solicit the vote and count it.

BOLTING MEMBERS.

At this point Colonel Knight, Major Walker, Mr. Ruffin and some half dozen or so others—mainly country members—got up and went out, as they did not want to be present when the resolution was acted upon. A majority of life members remained.

When the vote was counted it was found that 3,348 shares—the unanimous vote of all present—had been cast for the resolution.

Colonel A. S. Buford then offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, The president is hereby authorized to employ counsel to take such steps, by and with the approval of the executive committee, as he may deem best, to protect the interests of this society, in the suit brought against this society and others by Robert Beverley, W. C. Knight and others, and now depending in the Chancery Court of the city of Richmond.

TO RAISE THE MONEY.

Mr. B. F. Johnson then offered this:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the chairman of this meeting to take immediate steps for the raising of the money to pay the $40,000 now due, or for providing the money to pay the interest thereon.

Mr. Johnson said he believed his resolution would do away with the necessity for putting the matter in the courts.

Mr. Stark favored the resolution "and if in your judgment you can elect a new set of officers I shall be glad."

Mr. John P. Branch: "Mr. Johnson can put me down for $500 under his resolution."

The resolution was adopted.

EXPRESSION OF APPROVAL.

Dr. Charles H. Ryland said he could not go away from the meeting without expressing approval of the work rendered by the officers and the society's confidence in them. He then offered the following, which was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That this meeting has heard with sincere satisfaction the report of the president and Executive Committee in regard to the management of the affairs of the society, and hereby express their confidence in and approval of the said management as business-like and thorough, wise, and prudent in every essential particular.

Resolved, That the said officers and committees are entitled to and receive the cordial thanks of the society.

ANOTHER EXPOSITION.

Mr. B. F. Johnson showed his enterprising spirit in the following resolution, which he offered:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take into consideration a plan for holding an exposition next fall.

Mr. Bryan moved to adjourn, and meet on the 16th of April at noon. Adopted.

The chair said he would announce the committees required by the resolution later.

RESIGNATION TENDERED.

During a lull in the proceedings, Mr. Normand Smith tendered his resignation as a member of the executive committee. No action was taken on it.

Mr. Branch announced that General Joseph R. Anderson had been prevented from attending the meeting by illness.

THE BOLTERS.

The members who left the meeting agreed to hold a conference in the office of the Southern Planter in the Virginia Mechanics Institute building, yesterday evening at 4 o'clock.

Colonel W. C. Knight and three others of the bolters gathered soon after the appointed hour. Colonel Beverley, who reached the city shortly after noon, was expected at the meeting, but did not arrive, and the few present decided that there were not enough members at the meeting to take any steps, and agreed to adjourn to meet at some later hour. It was their opinion, that it was useless for the life members to take any further steps in the matter, but to leave the affair to the decision of the court in whose hands it had been placed when the injunction was asked for.

BOND GIVEN.

The bond required by the injunction order recently entered by order of Judge E. H. Fitzhugh of the Chancery Court, in the case of Robert Beverly and others, vs. the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical Society, was duly given yesterday. Had this not been done, under the provisions of the order the injunction would have been invalid.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO.

President Ingalls Speaks of Various Improvements on That Road.

Mr. M. E. Ingalls, president of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, is in the city. He says that during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1890, the Chesapeake and Ohio will have spent in improvements in various ways about $2,500,000; one hundred and fifty miles of main track have been laid with seventy-five-pound steel rails, which take the place of the fifty and fifty-six-pound rail; thirty-five locomotives and 1,800 freight cars have been bought, and the supply is not yet equal to the demands of traffic. Thirty thousand dollars' worth of new machinery is being put in the Richmond shops, and the additions to the plant here cost about $100,000. The vestibule train is paying better than any other train, and is the finest in the United States; that the mineral wealth of Virginia is attracting Northern capitalists, and the State has a great industrial future; that the business of the Chesapeake and Ohio is increasing rapidly, and has already surpassed the expectations of the owners.

THE CAR LINES.

The Meeting to Consider the Consolidation Scheme Was Not Held.

Captain Andrew Fizzini said Tuesday that the meeting to consider the consolidation of the street car lines would take place Wednesday at 12 o'clock. Yesterday, however, he received a telegram from Mr. George E. Fisher, of New York, who is president of both the roads, stating that he would be here to-day and hold the meeting.

Mr. Fisher is not only president, but as representative of the Flynn interests, he practically controls the management of the three electric light plants in this city. About the same people own these enterprises, and it has not been difficult to get matters into a proper shape for the consolidation and reorganization.

In the Courts.

Supreme Court of Appeals.—Davis and wife against Strange's executor and others. Argued by R. G. H. Kean, Esq., for appellees and Major T. J. Kirkpatrick for appellant.

Police Court.—Alice Dabney (colored), charged with being disorderly and attempting to cut Margaret Mann. Fined $5.

R. J. Mosby (colored), charged with being disorderly and creating a disturbance at the armory. Fined $5.

Wilbur Turner, charged with being disorderly in the street. Fined $5.

Burton Poindexter and Chat Tompkins (both colored), charged with taking one cheese, valued at $7, and $4 in currency, the property of R. M. Ford. Each were jailed for four months.

John Bennet, charged with fighting in the street. Fined $2.50.

Chancery Court: P. A. S. Brine qualified as executor of his wife, in this court, yesterday, and gave bond in the sum of $3,000, no security being required.

The court will adjourn to-day until the first Monday in April, which will be the 7th day of that month.

Hustings Court: This court was engaged yesterday in hearing civil cases. The court will be in session at 11 o'clock to-day, and the jury will then be called.

Circuit Court.—Mary J. Fitzpatrick against city of Richmond. Judgment for plaintiff for $50.

Lewis Stewart and Clarence Peyton against Isham Matthews. Judgment for plaintiffs for $216.50.

The following suits were instituted: The Eppers, Smith & Wiemann Company (limited) for, &c., against W. R. Gascoyne and others. Action of debt for $65.92.

Maaly B. Ramos & Co. against Martha S. Williams. Action for debt for $156.08.

PROPERTY TRANFERS.

Chancery Court.—E. C. Garrison to Seth Muire, 58 11-12 feet on the east side of Thirty-fourth street, near Marshall, $648; E. C. Tinsley to Ida M. Turner, 19 feet on the west side of Twenty-eighth street, near O, $1,000; same to Mary B. Vest, 17 1-12 feet on the west side of Twenty-eighth street, near O, $1,000.

Henrico County.—Jesse G. Crouch to Alonzo F. Jones, 20 feet on west side Twenty-second street, near W., $90; J. M. Fourqurean to James H. Barton, one-half interest in 20 7-10 acres on North avenue, $3,622; James A. Hummer to Varina Mercantile Company's trustees, 2 acres on North side Charles City road, $36; Julia W. Morris to J. S. Forbes and John Mann, 14 acres on south side Westham road, $1,500; Isaac Thalhimer, Gustavus & Moses and David Mitteldorfer to George W. Frost, Sr., 27 3-12 feet on Sycamore street, between Main and Cary, $490.50.

Academy of Music.

For the remainder of the week, commencing to-night, "McCarthy's Mishaps" will hold the stage at the above house. This is said to be the best farce comedy traveling, and all who attend may be sure of a hearty laugh. It is a succession of amusing absurdities, together with musical and other entertaining specialties, interpreted by a first-class company.

Freor—Bibb.

Miss Bertha Bibb and Mr. J. G. Freor were married yesterday by the Rev. L. A. Cutler, at the residence of the bride's mother, No. 412 North Tenth street. The bride wore a traveling suit of gray. Mr. and Mrs. Freor went off on a trip to New Orleans.

MANCHESTER MATTERS.

The Military Company is an Assured Success for This City.

The military company for Manchester appears to be an assured success. A meeting was held Tuesday night to make plans for the organization and election of officers, but many who are interested in the matter received no notification, hence the meeting was slimly attended and no business was done. There will be another meeting next Friday night at Messrs. A. J. Bradley & Co.'s office, in the Leader building, and at that time the elections will come off. Mr. A. H. Fitzgerald will very probably be made captain, and many of the Manchester men, now members of the Richmond regiment, will withdraw from their present companies and accept positions as officers of the new company. The name of the company has not y et been decided upon.

Mr. Walter Patram died at his residence Tuesday night, at 10 o'clock. He was employed by the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, and was a member of the Red Men and the Junior Order United American Mechanics. His funeral will take place to-day at 2 o'clock, from the Central Methodist Church, and the above orders will attend in a body.

There is a large crowd in attendance nightly on the Druids' entertainment at Morrisette's Hall, in Swansboro. A change of programme is made each night.

The Chesterfield County Court was in session yesterday, and the case of John Jones was begun.

Bricks are being strewn along Eleventh street, from Hull to Bainbridge, for the new paving on that street.

Miss Sallie Bapty, of Richmond, is visiting Mrs. R. V. Owen.

Miss Mollie Harrison, of Richmond, is visiting Miss Norma Lithgow, on Perry street.

Mr. J. G. Snelson, who has been detained at home for several weeks by an attack of la grippe, was out on the street again this morning.

Mayor Attkisson and three friends went hunting Tuesday for a half day, and returned with forty-seven robins. One of the party shot at a stump twice before he discovered it was not a robin.

The Southside Land and Improvement Company say they will certainly have their cars, running direct from Richmond to Forest Hill Park by summer time. This will be an innovation for Richmond people, and will be patronized by them as much as by Manchesterians. Some of the iron for the new tracks has already arrived.

He Was Deaf and Dumb.

Mark Burwell, a colored man, is deaf and dumb. Tuesday night he went to Policeman Dunnington, near the Old Market, and made signs to him indicating he wanted assistance, and called the policeman's attention to various cuts on his vest and a slight wound on his left wrist. He gave the officer to understand that he had been attacked by his wife, and a warrant was at once sworn out and Mary Burwell, the wife, was arrested.

All the persons were before the Police Court yesterday. Burwell made signs, but explanations were readily understood. It seemed that Tuesday night his wife left home and returned about 12 o'clock with a person Burwell had forbidden her to associate with. He remonstrated about her conduct and she seized a knife and attempted to stab him.

Two other persons testified that they had heard a great noise in Burwell's room, and when they entered, Burwell and his wife was engaged in a quarrel. They saw no blows struck or knife used.

Many said her husband was very jealous, and did not even like for her to speak to her brother; that he had frequently beat her, and she put up with his treatment rather than to appear in court.

Her statement was very straight forward, and it impressed the court. The case was dismissed.

The Washington Artillery.

It is very probable that the Washington Artillery, of New Orleans, will participate in the unveiling ceremonies on the 29th of May. This company, including its veterans, which form an association, number over five hundred men, and is one of the best artillery organizations in the United States.

When the Richmond men were in New York at the Washington celebration, the New Orleans men said then they would attend the unveiling, and since that time several letters have been received here from down there in regard to their coming.

The Howitzers received a letter several days ago from them and turned it over to the Lee Camp committee to invite the Washington Artillery. As, soon as this is done Major Simons, on behalf of the Howitzers, will send an invitation for them to come as their especial guests. There is no artillery company that does or can make such a good showing as the Washington men, and it it is possible they should certainly be brought here.

Major Simons is also trying to get artillery battalions, which is composed of all the artillery companies in the State, to participate in the unveiling ceremonies, and has thus far received very encouraging replies to his letters.

As yet nothing definite can be said of either the Washington Artillery or the battalion, but it is fully expected that both will take part.

General M. E. Conference.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South will meet in quadrennial session in St. Louis on the 7th of May next. This is the supreme body of the Methodist Church, and is composed of an equal number of ministers and laymen from each State Conference, and corresponds very strikingly with the United States Congress. The delegates from the Virginia Conference are as follows: The clerical delegates—Rev. John E. Edwards, D. D., of Lynchburg; Rev. R. N. Sledd, of Norfolk; Rev. P. A. Peterson, D. D., of Danville; Rev. Paul Whitehead, D. D., presiding elder of Lynchburg district; Rev. J. J. Lafferty, D. D., of the Christian Advocate; Rev. A. G. Brown, D. D., presiding elder of Charlottesville district; and Rev. J. Powell Garland, presiding elder of Richmond district.

The lay delegates are: Messrs. W. W. Smith, president of Randolph-Macon College; Hon. E. E. Jackson, Governor of Maryland; John E. Pettyjohn, of Lynchburg; E. V. White, of Portsmouth; R. W. Peatross, Danville; W. T. Chandler, of Caroline, and James O. Shepherd, of Fluvanna.

Richmond Theatre.

The "Little Coquette" company with Rettie Bernard Chase, in the leading role, will be the attraction at the Richmond Theatre for two nights and Saturday matinee, commencing March 14th. Though essentially a comedy, and a most laughable one, the play is full of strong situations and emotional scenes, but changing so rapidly from the sublime to the ridiculous that the laughter is almost continuous. The parts are all well taken and the cast evenly balanced throughout. Miss Chase is acknowledged to be the best female banjoist in the world. She is a beautiful singer, and is one of the best dancers on the American stage. One of the best scenes in the play is the base ball act. Seats now on sale.

Order of the Fraternal Circle.

Last night between forty and fifty charter members assembled at Schiller Hall, on Broad street, and District-Deputy J. A. Cosby instituted Henry Clay Lodge, No. 81, Order of the Fraternal Circle, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing term and duly installed by the District Deputy:

H. M. Smith, Jr., past president; S. Taylor Evans, president; Henry L. Denoon, vice-president; James B. Angle, secretary; J. Mack Tiller, treasurer; Henry E. Hare, chaplain; William A. Huxter, marshal; Louis A. Walton, inner guard; J. W. DePrato, outer guard; Frank W. Cunningham, James C. Lamb, and Thomas A. Allen, trustees; Dr. W. F. Farrar, medical examiner.

A Pleasant Entertainment.

Enterprise Council, J. O. U. A. M., No. 9, gave an enjoyable entertainment last night at Laube's Hall, First and Broad streets. An oration was made by Mr. Cowan, and duets and solos were rendered by the Misses Doherty. A handsome basket of flowers was given to Miss Maggie Small as being the most popular young lady of the evening.

St. Patrick's Day.

The Irish and Irish Catholic Societies of Richmond have sent an invitation to THE TIMES to their banquet at Monticello Hall on next Monday evening. The banquet committee is composed of Messrs. J. L. Capston, E. P. Murphy, P. McGovern, John Hart, F. J. Reilly, P. McDonough, T. F. Hannigan, W. Rankin, and C. W. Burr. Major John H. Dinneen will preside.

Personal Mention.

Mr. James A. Baber, of the firm of George D. Thaxton & Co., returned to the city yesterday from his home in North Carolina, where he went on account of sickness.

Mr. Eugene Gill, of Cincinnati, formerly of Richmond, is in the city visiting his relatives.

Evangelical Alliance.

The next monthly meeting of the Evangelical Alliance will be held next Tuesday evening, at Leight-street Baptist Church, the Rev. J. M. Frost pastor.

MEAT INSPECTION.

History of the Bill Which is Causing Comment—Governor McKinney's Position.

The bill passed at the last session of the General Assembly of Virginia, entitled "an act to prevent the sale of unwholesome meat," slaughtered outside of one hundred miles from the city of Richmond, has caused more widespread and diversified comment than any other act passed by the last Legislature. So much has been said and written on both sides of the question, so much that seemed at least to have the stamp of carelessness on its face, that a brief outline of the history of the bill, and the causes which led to its passage, might not be out of place at this particular juncture of affairs, when the first practical operations of the bill are being felt. It is especially due to the Executive of the State, that he should be heard from in the premises, because, in some portions of the State, some of the Governor's warmest supporters and staunchest friends have seen fit, through the columns of their papers, to express surprise at the Governor's action in approving the bill.

ABOUT ITS ORIGIN.

In the early days of the late session, Mr. Dupuy offered a bill having for its object substantially the ends set forth in the present act. The primal cause for this bill was to be found in the clamor raised by the farmers and cattle growers of the State. It will be remembered that when the Farmers' Assembly of Virginia convened here, a short time before the Legislature met, that it was cl