RANGE OF THERMOMETER.

The thermometer ranged as follows at The Times office yesterday: 9 A. M., 50; 12 M., 54; 3 P. M., 58; 6 P. M., 51; 9 P. M., 50; 12 midnight, 48. Average, 51 5-6.

The Times.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Virginia—Fair Wednesday and Thursday; warmer Thursday in southern portions; fresh west to northwest winds. North Carolina—Fair Wednesday and Thursday; warmer Thursday in west and central portions; light to fresh north winds.

VOL. 17. NO. 46. RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1902. PRICE TWO CENTS

ROBERTS GETS LETTER; OTHER SIDE HAS BOOKS

Contest in Old Bruton Church far from Settled.

ANTIS SEE THE BISHOP

Secure a Ruling Which They Think Offsets the Letter.

CLAIM LARGEST STRENGTH

Rev. W. T. Roberts Gained the Bishop's Ear First and Returned With Letter That Put His Vestry in Charge, But the Other Side Hold the Church Plate and Records of the Parish.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., April 1.—The dissension and split in Old Bruton Church, which was made more acute by the dual election of a vestry Monday, is far from healed.

While Rev. W. T. Roberts has apparently the support of the Bishop, as expressed in a letter he brought with him from Norfolk, the committee of the anti-Roberts vestry had a conference with Bishop Randolph, which they regard as satisfactory.

This committee, consisting of Dr. Van F. Garrett, Captain L. W. Lane, Sr., and H. D. Cole and Professor Hugh S. Bird, went to Norfolk to inform Bishop Randolph regarding the church election held yesterday, went down this morning, held a conference with the Bishop, and returned to-night. They made the following statement to your correspondent: "We had a very satisfactory interview with the Bishop, who declared that the ruling of the judges at the late election, that no communicant could vote unless a contributor, was absolutely illegal, and contrary to the canons of the church."

The Bishop stated that a communicant of the church, though a pauper, was more entitled to a vote at all elections for vestrymen than are those who contribute any amount to parish and are not communicants, and authorized the committee who waited upon him to-day to say: "That this was his decision."

There appeared in the columns of a Richmond afternoon paper to-day an article declaring the rector upheld, accompanied by a letter from the bishop sustaining him. This letter from the bishop was the outcome of the rector's visit to him Monday afternoon after the election and from ex-parte statements alone.

The bishop was not acquainted with all the facts in the case until to-day, when the committee named above waited upon him and laid all the facts before him. Then, after considering the rector's report and the committee's, the bishop made the decision quoted above.

Acting on the bishop's decision, the anti-Roberts vestry, composed of the following gentlemen: Dr. Van F. Garrett, H. D. Cole, L. Henley, Jr., Dr. P. L. Southall, James L. Christian, Dr. W. P. Hoy, W. H. Macon, L. W. Lane, Sr., and W. C. Johnston, organized to-night and claim to be the legally chosen vestry of Bruton Parish. This they claim because they have the vote and the moral right on their side.

The anti-Roberts vestry have in their possession the church plate and all the books of the registrar.

The first letter of the bishop is a technicality, behind which the anti-Roberts vestry allege the Roberts judges hide. They say that in addition to the fifty-four votes cast against Roberts yesterday there is a reserve of twenty-five more votes ready to vote when given an opportunity. These, it is stated, comprise some of the best members of the church, who were ousted by the rector some time ago.

Besides, the Episcopal students will also vote against him.

From this statement of facts, it is safe to say that fully three-fourths of the congregation condemn the rector. The congregation is distressed beyond measure, for never before in the history of their old church has an election been conducted in the sanctuary of the church. Heretofore all elections have been conducted in a less holy place.

As soon as the election was over Monday evening Rector Roberts started for Norfolk and spent the night with Bishop Randolph, and on representation made to him then, Bishop Randolph furnished him with the following letter sustaining his side of the controversy:

"Norfolk, Va., April 1, 1902.

"Rev. W. T. Roberts, Rector Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, Va.:

"My Dear Mr Roberts.—The question as to the election of a vestry arising from circumstances at the election held in Bruton Church Easter Monday is a simple one and admits of no discussion with regard to qualification of voters; the majority of the judges of the election is decisive. The returns made of the persons elected by said majority are the returns made by the judges of the election, and under canon it becomes your duty as rector to call together such persons named as elected for the purpose of organization at such time and place as you may deem proper and customary as to returns made or alleged by anyone of the judges as against or other than those of the majority they have no validity and no existence as returns and have no bearing upon the election. They have been vacated and extinguished by the majority.

"Very faithfully yours,

"A. M. RANDOLPH."

What the next step in the controversy will be remains to be seen. Mr. Roberts, when he returned with the Bishop's letter, was apparently master of the situation, but the anti-Roberts vestry think they have equally strong assurances of support and they believe they have the strongest position.

BISHOP RANDOLPH TROUBLED

He Refrained from Discussing the Question at Issue.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

NORFOLK, VA., April 1.—Regarding the trouble at Bruton Parish Right Rev. Bishop A. M. Randolph this evening courteously declined to make any statement for publication. He had been very busy to-day, being closeted with the committees from Williamsburg, and to the correspondent who called at the episcopal residence to-night the names of the six gentleman here to-day were not divulged.

It was stated that these gentlemen left for home this afternoon. Bishop Randolph appeared greatly distressed over the affair asd very averse to speaking of it at present.

Asked whether Rector Roberts would be retained at Williamsburg, the Bishop answered that he did not know. He said Rector Roberts was not with the committee. During the evening, although the episcopal residence has been besieged by newspaper men, Bishop Randolph has diplomatically foiled every attempt to secure from him a statement of what his course in the matter may be.

He appears to be exceedingly anxious to see a peaceable settlement of the unfortunate controversy, and is evidently exerting every effort to that end, but just what is being done he will not say.

What he did say was that he had absolutely nothing to give out for publication.

The committee left here this afternoon for Williamsburg.

MANGANESE MINING.

Property in Frederick and Shenandoah Counties to Be Developed.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

WOODSTOCK, VA., April 1.—The promoters of the Cedar Creek Manganese Mining Company, who own over 2,000 acres of fine mining property, lying in Cedar Creek Valley, in Shenandoah and Frederick counties, recently held a meeting at Geary's Hotel here for the purpose of organizing and placing the best obtainable machinery on the land to begin the development of their properties. The party was composed of Vice-President John Heisberger, of Frederick, Md.; J. W. Galloway, of the firm of Galloway & Clayton, Baltimore, Md., and several others.

It is the intention of the company to make Mr. Galloway general manager and treasurer, and rush the development of their property as rapidly as possible.

The chemical analysis shows the manganese so far produced to be of fine quality, especially adapted for steel manufacturing purposes.

Dr. Samuel T. Hefner, of Frederick, Md., is president, and Dr. Fahrney, of the same city, secretary. The principal office of the company will be located in Baltimore, Md.

STRICKEN SUDDENLY.

Mr. Crawford Went to Sunday School and Dies Before Reaching Home.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

KEYSVILLE, VA., March 31.—Mr. Tom Crawford, who lives a few miles from Keysville, went to Sunday-school as usual Sunday with his family at Morse's schoolhouse. While there he was stricken with apoplexy and died before he could be removed to his home.

Mr. Crawford was an ex-Confederate soldier, having enlisted during the first year of the war, when a lad of sixteen, and fought gallantly until its close. He leaves a wife and four children.

YEAR'S EARNINGS MORE THAN HUNDRED MILLION

Statement of the Directors of Steel Corporation.

RETIRE PREFERRED STOCK

This Course Has Been Definitely Determined.

UNUSUAL DIVIDENDS VOTED

From Twenty-five to Fifty Million Dollars is to Be Expended in Improving Some of Subsidiary Companies—There is Possibility of Acquiring More Plants.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, April 1.—The directors of the United States Steel Corporation in quarterly meeting here to-day gave formal approval to the conversion plan under which it is proposed to redre preferred stock to the amount of $200,000,000, upon which dividends are paid at the rate of seven per cent. per annum, and issue bonds to a total of $200,000,000, with interest fixed at five per cent.

May 19th was fixed as the date upon which the project will be submitted to the shareholders. The directors also issued a statement showing that the earnings of the corporation for the first year of its existence, which ended on March 31st, with the last month estimated, reached a total of $111,067,195.

Before the meeting of the directors the Executive and Finance Committees were in session, and the Executive Committee, as well as the General Board of Directors, unanimously approved the conversion plan. Former Judge E. H. Parry, chairman of the board, stated that the extra $50,000,000 of bonds above the $200,000,000, to be used for retirement of preferred stock, would give the corporation a working capital of about $106,000,000 to be used in any way that the directors might deem best. He would not say that this implied the acquisition of any new plants. The legal advisers of the corporation laid special stress on the point that no preferred stock would be retired without the consent of the holder.

USUAL DIVIDENDS.

The directors voted the usual dividends at the rate of seven per cent. on the preferred stock and four per cent. on the common stock.

The statement said: "The net earnings were arrived at after deducting, each month, the cost of ordinary repairs, renewals and maintenance of plants."

The amount applied each month to "repairs, renewals and maintenance of plants and interest on bonds and fixed charges of the subsidiary companies," was about ten per cent. This is the first time the corporation has made an explicit statement on this point.

It is proposed to sepnd from $25,000,000 to $50,000,000 of the added working capital on improving a number of the subsidiary companies, which before the consolidation were in constant competition. Of the net earnings, sinking fund bonds and depreciation and reserve funds claimed $15,390,695; interest on bonds, $15,200,000, and dividends, $56,017,783, while the undivided earnings were $24,449,717.

The meeting of the stockholders to pass upon the conversion scheme will be held at Jersey City.

CHARGED WITH FORGERY.

Mr. R. M. Lamb Arrested and Held at Second Station Last Night.

R. M. Lamb, manager of the Elite Pressing Club, a clothes-cleaning establishment at No. 213 North Sixth Street, is held at the Second Police Station under three separate warrants charging him with the forgery of notes and checks amounting to something over $60. The name of the firm involved is that of A. Marchetti & Bro., confectioners, at No. 617 East Broad Street.

Lamb held a long conference with Mr. H. M. Smith, Jr., whom he has retained as counsel. He would not discuss the alleged forgeries further than to say he would come out all right and show that his transactions had been perfectly fair and honest. He said he had been doing business with A. Marchetti & Bro., and that the firm was in debt to him.

TO THE EXPOSITION.

Blacksburg Cadets Southward Bound on a Special Train.

The cadet corps from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, at Blacksburg, passed through Petersburg en route for Charleston and the Exposition shortly after midnight this morning. They traveled on a special train of nine cars. The Atlantic Coast Line officials had arranged for a rapid run over that line to Charleston.

FITZ MAY GO BACK.

President Thinking of Making Him Consul-General in Cuba.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, April 1.—A Sun Washington special says: "It is not unlikely that the President may send General Fitzhugh Lee back to the post in which he rendered such conspicuous service as Consul-General in the trying days before the declaration of war with Spain.

WRECK IN TRANSVAAL.

Thirty-nine British Soldiers Killed and Forty-five Injured.

(By Associated Press.)

PRETORIA, April 1.—Thirty-nine British soldiers were killed and forty-five were injured in a railroad wreck March 30th, near Barberton, Transvaal Colony.

LONDON, April 1.—The War Office, in reporting the railroad wreck at Barberton, Transvaal Colony, merely says that it was accidental. The victims nearly all belonged to the Hampshire Regiment.

Refuse Any Guarantees.

(By Associated Press.)

SAN DOMINGO, REPUBLIC OF SANTO DOMINGO, April 1.—The rebels in the Barahona District, on the south coast, are already seeking assurances that they will not be severely dealt with if they surrender, but the Government officials have refused to make any guarantees. The rebellion is limited to Barahona and its vicinity, where many important arrests have been made.

Confidence in the power of the Government to crush the rebellion is re-established.

Southern Dialect In Sunday Times.

One of the most interesting of the many attractive features of the next issue of the Sunday Times will be the first of a series of articles on Southern Dialect, written by a prominent Virginian, who has given close and careful study to the subject.

The South has a dialect decidedly and peculiarly her own and it is of this that our correspondent writes. The first paper will discuss some of the expressions in general use among the common people of the South and the sources from which they have come. Everybody will read it and enjoy it.

And they will find much else to entertain and instruct, as well as the news of the world in the

POPULAR SUNDAY TIMES.

WILL PAY TRIBUTE OF LOVE TO COLONEL WILLIAM E. PETERS.

His Retirement from Chair of Latin at the University to Be Made Occasion of Presentation by the Old Pupils.

Colonel Wm. E. Peters, for thirty-seven years professor of Latin at the University of Virginia, will at the end of the present session retire from that honorable and responsible position, and his former pupils, who are scattered all over the United States, are preparing to present him with some handsome and fitting testimonial of their esteem and admiration.

"Old Pete," as he is fondly called by his former and present pupils, is a native of Nelson county, Va., and is one of the ablest and most distinguished educators in the South. After long years of successful teaching he will retire to spend his latter days in the quiet of his home, loved, honored and admired by all who know him, and with the hearty good wishes of his pupils and countless other friends. The movement to present some fitting token of esteem to Colonel Peters was inaugurated by President Denny, of the Washington and Lee University, and some other of Colonel Peters' former pupils in Lexington, and the call upon their associates on the subject has met with enthusiastic co-operation all along the lines.

The present, whatever it shall be, will be presented at the University of Virginia on June 18th, when it is urged that all of Colonel Peters' former pupils shall attend and take part in the happy exercises.

The following circular letter, which fully explains itself, has been sent out by President Denny, and is being widely and favorably replied to by former students under Colonel Peters in many sections of the country:

Lexington, Va., Feb. 15, 1902.

Dear Sir.—Colonel William E. Peters, after thirty-seven pears of distinguished and continuous service, will retire from the professorship of Latin at the University of Virginia with the close of the present session. During all these years he has been one of the great forces in the educational system of our Alma Mater. He has labored long and well, always with conspicuous ability, with unflagging zeal. All his pupils will recall the contagion of his enthusiasm as scholar and student; they will ever remember with gratitude the unwearied patience of his personal interest as teacher; they can never forget how he made them not only learn, but also intelligently understand, "The Latin." They cannot fail to regret his decision to retire, but they will, one and all, recognize that he deserves a well-earned rest. His retirement from active labor should not go by unnoticed. It is purposed, then, to make Wednesday morning, the 18th of June next, a memorial occasion, on which as many of his former pupils and friends as may be able to attend shall come back to Alma Mater, and, with affectionate greeting and good wishes, present to Colonel Peters some fitting testimonial of their esteem and admiration of him as a man and teacher. The undersigned committee has undertaken this labor of love with no other thought, than, by their united and concentrated effort, to enlist the sympathy and secure the support of all the former pupils of our distinguished friend and teacher, and thereby make the occasion one ever to be remembered by him and by us. To insure the purchase of a suitable testimonial, you are asked to contribute the sum of three dollars. Any suggestion as to the kind of testimonial you may deem proper will be gladly received.

Please send your contributions (preferably by money order) to H. C. Ford, secretary-treasurer, Lexington, Va., and at the same time signify to him whether you will be able to be present or not at the reception to be held at the University, June 18th. A prompt reply is solicited.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE H. DENNY,
President Washington and Lee University;

HUNTER PENDLETON,
Professor of Chemistry, Virginia Military Institute;

H. C. FORD, Treasurer,
Adjunct Professor of English and Latin, Virginia Military Institute,

Committee.

UNION MEN ON JAIL MAY STRIKE

Edict Issued from Trade Council Last Might—Trouble Arose Over Iron Workers.

There are indications of a strike of the union men now at work on the new city jail unless some adjustment can be reached which will avert it.

The matter has been brewing for some time, and had its origin in the contention by the union workmen that Contractor Fox is employing non-union structural iron workers and working besides the union men. These latter brought the matter to the attention of the Central Trades and Labor Council, and that body appointed a committee to wait upon the Contractor. The committee made its report to a called meeting of the council held at New Market Hall last night, which was to the effect that Mr. Fox had been waited upon and had declined to recognize the demands of the committee that the employment of non-union men be discontinued. The council directed the secretary to communicate to the several local unions of the city that it was the sense of the meeting that they withdraw their men from work on the building at once, if the wishes of the union as to the structural iron workers were not respected.

The men, it is understood, will go to work as usual to-day, as they could not be communicated with last night, but it is thought that the recalling order will be issued as soon as the various unions can have time to take action. Meanwhile some adjustment may be reached and trouble averted.

The iron workers employed on the building are not so many, but should there be a general strike, all the men on the building would become involved, as all the other work on the building is being done by union men.

TWO ARRESTS IN FOUL MURDER

The Mystery of Lou Wysor's Death May Be Cleared.

THE JARMANS ARE IN JAIL

John and His Wife Charged With Young Woman's Death.

WAS ABOUT TO MOVE AWAY

Two Men Saw the Girl Go in the Direction of the Murder, but Never Saw Her Again—Her Body Found After Several Weeks, the Appearance Showing a Desperate Struggle.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

DELEPLANE, VA., April 1.—John Jarman and his wife have been lodged in jail for the supposed murder of Lony Tharman, who was Miss Lou Wysor.

The woman in question was seen by two men near Markham on a certain day in December, inquiring the way to John Jarman's house. On that same day John Jarman and his brother, Jim, were shucking corn in the neighborhood of Iden's Crossing, very near the scene of the tragedy, and it is supposed, met the woman near there. The supposition is they either decoyed the woman by false representation into the woods and murdered her there, or murdered her first and carried her body there afterwards.

DECOYED TO HER DEATH.

It is not presumable that the woman would have wandered into the woods, should she have been returning to Orlean, for the road she came, or the railroad, would have afforded her a level walk and seemed direct, whereas the road near which she was found led over quite a steep mountain and was circuitous.

She was found about three hundred yards from this road in the woods.

Jarman's wife has never confessed guilt, nor has it been established that she has ever seen the murdered woman.

Jarman, before his arrest, had removed some of his goods and was preparing to leave the neighborhood.

THE PANGS OF GUILT.

On the day following the supposed murder the two Jarmans were at Markham very drunk; it is now thought, drowning the first pangs of guilt in whiskey.

Jarman was three times brought in the presence of the corps. Some think he betrayed no signs of guilt; others think otherwise.

This young woman, who left one employment to seek another, was missing for six weeks when her body was found dead, propped against a tree in a dense wood. Her skull was crushed and her clothes torn in such a way that it indicated a desperate struggle.

A DEEP MYSTERY.

The whole affair was a mystery. Some days ago it was reported that Mrs. Jarman had made a confession, but this seems not to be so, and just how strong the evidence is against the Jarmans will not be made plain until the evidence is taken at the trial.

ARRESTED WHILE PRAYING.

Likened His Arrest to the Persecution of the Apostles of Old.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

SUFFOLK, VA., April 1.—A. A. Keener, of York, Pa., an itinerant preacher, was arrested here this afternoon while on his knees praying. Rev. Keener continued his prayers, while being taken to the station-house, and after being locked up. Soon he was released and made a strong talk near the jail door, which was heard by a large crowd. Rev. Keener compared his persecution to that suffered by the apostles of old. He is a man of some ability. He would not ask for contributions, but after the sermon, which he closed with tears, people flocked to him with dimes and quarters.

STUDENTS ORGANIZE.

Ten Thousand Invited to Attend Revolutionary Demonstration.

(By Associated Press.)

BERLIN, April 1.—A dispatch to the Tageblatt from St. Petersburg, dated Monday March 31st, says the students are organizing a fresh revolutionary movement, and have succeeded in mailing 10,000 circulars, mostly addressed to persons belonging to the educational classes, imploring them to attend armed, if possible, a revolutionary demonstration in front of the Cazan Cathedral.

COLD BLOODED MURDER OF YOUNG NEGRO BUTLER.

Killed Mother and One Daughter and Mortally Wounded Another Child of Seven—Was Fearful of Arrest for Theft.

(By Associated Press.)

PHILADELPHIA, PA., April 1.—Fearing that he would be arrested for theft, William H. Lane, a colored butler, shot and instantly killed his employer, Mrs. Ella J. Furbush, her twelve-year-old daughter, Madeline, and probably mortally wounded another daughter, Eloise, aged seven years, at their home, No. 652 North Fifteenth Street, shortly before noon to-day.

Lane, who is twenty-five years old, escaped from the house, and four hours later was captured by Philadelphia detectives while waiting in Camden, N. J., to board a train for Bridgeton, N. J. He was immediately brought to this city, was identified by little Eloise, and confessed his crime. The murder was one of the most cold-blooded that has been committed in this city for some time. Mrs. Furbush lived with her two daughters in a fine four-story house. Lane had been her butler since Christmas and besides him she had another colored servant, a woman named Agnes. Recently Mrs Furbush had been missing small amounts of money and finally she informed the police, who began an investigation which was still in progress when to-day's tragedy was enacted.

PLANNED MURDER.

Supicion fell on Lane and a warrant sworn out for his arrest. According to Lane's confession, he saw Mrs. Furbush on Monday night counting a large roll of bills. Knowing where she kept the money he bided his time, and at an opportune moment late in the evening he stole $70. This morning Mrs. Furbush missed the money and questioned the colored man, but he denied all knowledge of having seen it. Expecting that the theft would be placed on him and that Mrs. Furbush would have him arrested, Lane planned to murder the mother and her children, rob the house and disappear. At 11 o'clock he went to the third floor and found Mrs. Furbush in one of the middle rooms. He instantly shot her twice, once in the breast and then through the heart. She died instantly. Eloise, who was in another room, hearing the noise, entered and Lane shot her in the abdomen. She fell and he thought he had also killed her. Without even attracting the attention of the other servant, who was ironing in the out-kitchen Lane went to the front door and called in Madeline, who was skating on roller skates in front of the house. He told her that her mother wanted her on the third floor, and without the slightest suspicion of the tragedy that was to be enacted and that she was going to her death, Madeline climbed the stairs. She went into a room adjoining that in which her mother lay dead. Lane followed her and as she cheerily called her mother, the negro shot her through the heart, killing her instantly.

WAS INTERRUPTED.

Lane, in his confession, says he then proceeded to rob the house. He quickly found $130, two watches and a pocket-book, and while he was searching for the jewelry he was interrupted by the arrival of two special policemen, who had a warrant for his arrest on the charge of larceny. They asked to see Mrs. Furbush, and Lane showed them to the sitting-room on the second floor, and said he would call his mistress.

Recognizing one of the men as an officer, Lane hastily donned his overcoat and escaped by the rear of the house. All was quiet in the house, and the policemen hearng a moan started an investigation, and on the third floor hallway found little Eloise. To the policemen she said:

"William shot my mother and my sister and tried to kill me." She was immediately sent to a hospital. Lane was traced to the Pennsylvania Railway station at Camden, where he was recognized by one of the policemen he had

(Continued on Third Page.)

BIG SHIPYARDS FOR NORFOLK

Bill to Be Passed To-Day for the Second One to Engage in Building Ocean Liners.

Probably the only measure that will be considered by the Senate at its session this evening will be a bill incorporating a Norfolk shipyard company.

This will be the second meaure of this character to come before this Legislature. Three weeks ago a bill was passed by both branches chartering a $10,000,000 shipyard company, backed by ex-Governor Atkinson, of West Virginia and other West Virginia capitalists. This enterprise purposes to locate on the east side of the Elizabeth River, between Lambert's Point and Sewell's Point. The water front properties, upon which it has secured options, have the finest deep water frontage, and are said to be well located for an enterprise of this character.

The shipyard company, whose bill will be considered to-day, is backed by the Watson syndicate. It proposes to locate on the Portsmouth side of the river in the vicinity of Pinner's Point. The representatives of the enterprise give all assurances that it is backed by capitalists whose resources render possible the projection of a ship building plant upon the largest scale.

The friends of both of these schemes argue that with the completion of the Isthmian Canal, Atlantic coast shipyards will be in position to compete for the construction of vessels for the rapidly growing Pacific trade, which hitherto has been to some extent impracticable. It is also contended that, apart from American Atlantic business, the recent notable industrial victories of Northern shipyards on bids for European contracts over the home builders and the increasing prominence of Hampton Roads in the maritime world lead to the belief that it is quite within reason to anticipate that within a few years shipyards on the Chesapeake will be building vessels for war and commerce that will float European flags.

PLAN TO GO THROUGH WITH LITTLE CHANGE

Compromise Clause Will Not Be Materially Altered.

GLASS FORCES CONTROL

Present Solid Phalanx Which is Unshaken by Amendment.

UNDERSTANDING FEATURE

Mr. Thom Leads Futile Effort to Strike it Out—Three Year Poll Tax Prerequisite Also Stands the Test. Talk of Final Vote Being Taken on Friday—Convention Gossip.

Yesterday was another day of debate in the convention, but in spite of the unceasing flood of oratory, substantial progress was made. Votes taken on amendments offered to the conference suffrage plan demonstrated beyond doubt that the majority had formed a solid phalanx, and would be able to conclude the contest for good whenever they saw fit.

All the fighting ground was passed over, and sections one, two and three, containing the gist of the temporary and permanent features of the plan, were adopted without any material amendments and by overwhelming majorities.

Amendments offered by Messrs. Thom and Flood to strike out the cumulative poll tax feature and the understanding clause received small support, while Mr. Gordon's property qualification amendment, which played havoc with the Glass plan two weeks ago yesteday, was unmercifully beaten, Republicans and Southwesterners seeming to be afraid of it as if it were a rattlesnake. And that about ended the fight. The other sections of the plan will probably be passed upon to-day without serious opposition, and when the vote comes to be taken on the plan as a whole there will be another spell of oratory.

The Republicans who have not already spoken, will unlimber then, and Mr. Glass and several others are preparing big speeches as a final round up of one of the most remarkably debated and belated public instruments that has ever appeared in the history of parliamentary annals from the days of Adam to the dawn of the twentieth century.

Morning Session of Convention.

There is nothing now between the completion of the suffrage article of the new Constitution but these speeches, and as soon as they can be made the convention will be ready to take a recess for a month or more, for members to recuperate and give the Committee on Final Revision an opportunity to finish its formidable task.

Several members last night were discussing a plan to require a final vote to be taken on Friday at 12 o'clock. If such a resolution is offered to-day it will certainly be adopted, and some arrangement can then be made for leave to print most of the speeches yet to be delivered, so that all can have a fair show.

Rev. C. D. Walker, of Marion, Va., opened the convention with prayer, sixty-four members being present.

Mr. Pedigo arose to a question of personal privilege and read a prepared speech on his belief that evil "spirrits" or some form of devilish enchantment had been at work on members of the conference in their secret sesions, and detailed how he had heard sepulchral and ungodly noises outside while the conference was in session, and declared that the faces of members when they emerged from the secret conclave looked like they had been bewitched or conjured by some curious demon. He then described how a "land tarrapin" was made to poke out his head and tail by putting hot coals on his back, and promised to bring about the same result on the Democratic majority by his own hot words before the session of the convention ended. He then declared that the Republican minority could not be "shet out" by the gag law sought to be forced on them by a refusal to go into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Pedigo's speech did not receive much attention, and when he sat down Mr. Glass secured the adoption of a resolution fixing the sessions of the convention each day from 10 until 12 o'clock and from 4 until 6 o'clock.

SENATOR DANIEL CONTINUES.

Senator Daniel (chairman of the Committee on Suffrage) continued his explanation of the conference suffrage plan, which was begun Monday.

He proceeded to discuss the constitutionality of the understanding clause. The basis of his argument was that the law might take cognizance of a fraudulent administration of an otherwise constitutional act, when it became clear that it operated as an absolute denial of equal protection to all citizens coming under the same class. He then read the decisions in the (Mississippi) Williams case and the decisions in the California laundry cases, to differentiate between the two and to illustrate his assertion that the understanding clause was constitutional and fair on its face and would be made inoperative only in those cases where a community or a precinct so administered the law as to arbitrarily or fraudulently deny a citizen the rights guaranteed to him under its provisions.

His attention having been called by Mr. Wise to the argument of Senator George on the constitutionality of the clause, Senator Daniel showed that at the time the argument was made there was no provision for appeal of a voter who had been denied the right to vote under the understanding clause. Subsequent to this, the Legislature of Mississippi had given this right of appeal. He then proceeded to argue that this right of appeal was fixed in the plan under consideration, and was a part of it, firmly embedded in the Constitution itself.

EDUCATIONAL PROVISION.

He explained that education in a double form was the basis of the permanent portion of the plan proposed, with the addition of a full tax pre-requisite, age, residence &c. He thought this would prove all sufficient to meet the conditions that would exist after the expiration of the understanding feature.

Senator Daniel concluded the discussion of the legal aspect of the plan by saying that in the opinion of himself

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NEGRO FIEND HANGED BY MOB IN PRINCIPAL STREET OF ROME, GA.

(By Associated Press.)

ROME, GA., April 1.—Walter Allen, a negro, charged with criminally assaulting Miss Blossom Adamson, a fifteen-year-old girl, in this city yesterday, was taken from jail to-night by 4,000 people, who battered down the prison doors, and hanged him to an electric light pole in the principal portion of the city. A volley was fired afterward, and fully a thousand bullets entered the negro's body.

Miss Adamson was on her way to a dressmakers late yesterday evening when she was met by Allen, who told her that a dressmaker at a designated residence was waiting to see her. The young girl went to the house mentioned by the negro, who followed her into the house, which Miss Adamson found was vacant. A lady on a near-by porch, attracted by the noise of the struggle, succeeded in frightening Allen away and he escaped.

Late this evening he was captured and brought to this city and placed in jail. As soon as his capture was known a mob formed to-night and marched to the jail, demanding the negro. The sheriff refused to deliver up the keys and pleaded that the law should be allowed to take its course.

Upon the sheriff's refusal to give up the jail keys, the jail door was forced open with sledge hammers and the steel cage of Allen's cell broken in. The negro was carried a square and a half away and allowed to make a statement. Allen declared that he was innocent and prayed that the guilty party would be found. All the men who took part in the hanging were unmasked.

Miss Adamson belongs to one of the most prominent families in Rome.

THREE THOUSAND FOR SHAVE.

President of American Tobacco Company Gave Barber His Check.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

DURHAM, N. C., April 1.—J. B. Duke, president of the American Tobacco Company, arrived here Saturday from New York on a visit to his father, Washington Duke. Yesterday morning he sent for a colored barber to come up and shave him. The barber is a prominent member in St. Joseph's colored Methodist Church, which had an indebtedness of some $3,000. During the shaving process the facts were made known to Mr. Duke, who, when the operation was over, tendered his check to cover the indebtedness.

John Myrick says it is the largest price he ever received for a single shave.

BOYCOTT NOT LIFTED.

Street Railway Employes' Union Debate the Matter but Lay it Over.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

NORFOLK, VA., April 1.—The Central Labor Union did not, as it was anticipated it might at the meeting to-night, raise the boycott recently placed upon the Norfolk Railway and Light Company's street cars because the railway employes were out on strike.

A motion to lift the boycott was debated, but was finally laid over until the next meeting of the union.

No Action Taken.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

NORFOLK, VA., April 1.—There was a special meeting of the Central Labor Union to-night, called for the especial purpose of considering the request of the street car employes that the boycott be raised. After a long session the union adjourned without action.