

## PEOPLE WIN OUT IN THE REVENUE FIGHT

### The Conference Adopts a Compromise Plan.

### NO ONE IS BOUND

### For Election First, Then Appointment by Judges.

### PENDING BILL TO BE PASSED

### Measure for Popular Elections to Pre-vail and Promise Made for Appoint-ment Later On—Newhouse Calls It a "Dog Fall"—Major Edmondson Stirs Meeting

by His Humor.

The Democratic legislative conference held last night on the question of the mode of selecting commissioners of the revenue resulted in the adoption of a compromise resolution providing for election by the people for the first term, and thereafter for appointment by the circuit judges, being so amended as to apply to cities. While calling a compromise the action was clearly a victory for those who favor election by the people, and insures the passage of the bill now pending in the House with this end in view. It was agreed that no one should be bound by the action of the compromise, and as one Legislature cannot bind another by its acts, and as a composite act such as was endorsed in the conference would not be constitutional, the action of the latter body is taken only as a promise that after the first term there shall be appointment. Indeed, in the opinion of many the meeting really amounted to but little, as it has all along been evident that the bill for popular election would be finally passed.

UP TO THE PEOPLE.  
The matter is now passed up to the people to be fought out in the next legislative contest and determined by the people in making their nominations. Colonel S. M. Newhouse, of Clippert, who has all along favored appointment, though the resolution was offered by Mr. Duke, of Charlottesville. A number of speeches were made on all sides, and the matter was closed at ten o'clock. Major J. A. Edmondson, of Halifax, who by his sparkling wit and quick repartee kept the conference in a roar of laughter for some time. Major Edmondson favored appointment by the circuit judges, in discussing the result, Colonel Newhouse said it was a "dog fall," but was the best compromise that could be reached.

NOT BINDING.  
The conference was called to order at 1 o'clock by Chairman Boaz, and Secretary Charles T. Bland read the call and called the roll, seventy-one members answering to their names.

Mr. Sebrell offered a resolution providing that no member should be bound by the action of the conference, and that no vote be taken on the question of the mode of appointing commissioners of the revenue. Mr. Sebrell spoke for his resolution, and declared that there should be no binding action by the conference.

There was considerable cross-firing as to what was the object of the conference, and the call was read again. There were indeed three of these calls, in one of which the word "binding" was used, and in the other two, Mr. Sebrell raised the point that not a sufficient number had signed the "conference" call, but the point was overruled by the chair.

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(Continued on Fourth Page.)

## NEW FEATURES IN CAMPBELL CASE

### Biting Charges Made by the Prosecution.

### MAY NOT ALL BE ALLOWED

### Committee Will Likely Not Go Beyond the Cowhiding Affair—Rumor That Hon. Holmes Conrad Will Defend Judge Campbell.

There were some interesting developments in the Campbell-Crawford case yesterday, one having been the filing of drastic specifications of the charges made against Judge Campbell by the prosecution, another the submitting of the names of additional witnesses for the defense, and still another the unofficial rumor that Judge Campbell had employed Hon. Holmes Conrad, the brilliant lawyer from Winchester, to look after his interests before the committee. The specifications, which are an amplification of the biting charges heretofore filed with the committee, and which are to be read in full before the committee, were presented in the meeting of the Judiciary Committee yesterday afternoon, but no action was taken. It is believed, however, that the committee will not allow all these specifications, from what can be learned unofficially, but that Nos. I, II, and III, will likely be disallowed on the ground that they go back and seek to air Judge Campbell's record on matters not germane to the charge upon which he is to be tried. The last three of the specifications will in all probability be admitted by the committee.

This matter, however, will not be decided until the trial comes on next Wednesday.

The additional list of Judge Campbell's witnesses contains the names of prominent people, all from Amherst county, and he writes that he will probably send in other names from time to time.

A STRONG LAWYER.  
The rumor that Major Conrad will defend Judge Campbell at the investigation is of great interest, as he is regarded as one of the most powerful advocates in the State. If this be true it is generally admitted that there will be strong counsel on both sides and that no inch of ground will be yielded by either side.

The lawyers in the case as well as Judge Campbell and the first batch of witnesses are expected here about Tuesday, and most of them will be quartered at New Fort.

New and interesting developments are expected each day until the trial is over, and the case is earnestly discussed by all.

THE SPECIFICATIONS.  
The specifications which were prepared by Messrs. Brown and Loving and Aubrey E. Strode, counsel for the prosecution.

(Continued on Second Page.)

## GEORGE P. BUTTON DIES FROM A FALL

### Accident Happened in the Wall House in Lynchburg Where He Was Boarding.

LYNCHBURG, VA., January 9.—Mr. George P. Button, well known in Virginia newspaper circles, to-night fell down the steps of the Wall House, where he boarded, and was almost instantly killed. Nobody saw him fall, but it is supposed that he was going up the steps and had reached nearly the top when he tripped and fell. There was an ugly gash on his head, and it is thought that his neck was broken.

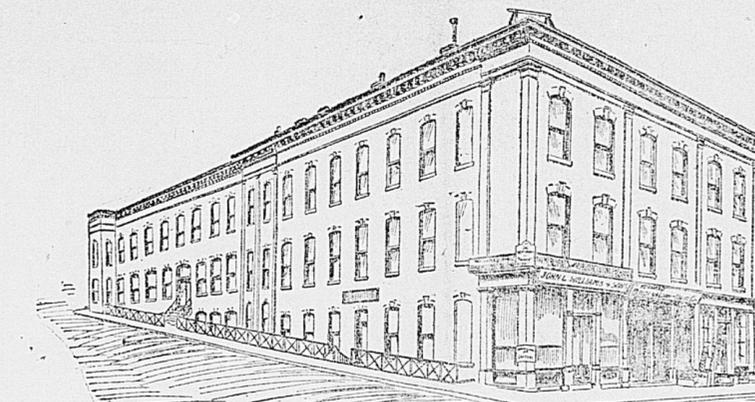
Mr. Button was born at Harper's Ferry sixty-nine years ago. As a young man he was a pharmacist, but afterwards went into newspaper work, having followed that vocation at various times in San Francisco, New York, Louisville, Washington, Lynchburg and other places. He has lived most of the time for the last fifty years in this city, with the exception of a few years spent in the government service at Washington and on Brick Pomeroy's Democrat. He served in the medical department of the Confederate army until the weakening of his eyesight compelled him to leave the army.

He was a brother of the late Charles W. Button, widely known as editor of the Lynchburg Virginian in years gone by, and an uncle of Colonel Joseph Button, clerk of the State Senate.

Mr. Button was about to offer a substitute endorsing the resolution filed in the House, but he decided not to do this and accepted the one offered by Mr. Duke for election first and then appointment.

FOR POPULAR ELECTION.  
Mr. Whitehead spoke strongly for popular election. He declared earnestly that the proposition offered by Mr. Lyle was to take the commissioners out of politics and to put the judiciary in politics. On this line he was consistent from start to finish, and has been a consistent and persistent advocate of this plan all along. His plea for the rights of the people in the matter was an eloquent one, and he declared that the judges were saying, "For God's sake don't thrust his power upon us."

Mr. Board of Portsmouth, followed in



SHAHER BUILDING, WHICH GOVERNMENT MAY BUY.

## SHAHER PROPERTY MAY NOW BE BOUGHT

### Way Clear for its Purchase for Postoffice Site.

### CITIZENS WILL BE HEARD

### Congressional Committee to Hear Their Preferences As to Location—Mean-time Condemnation Proceedings to Begin.

News came from Washington late last night that after all Richmond people are to decide on the site of the post-office building, which it is confidently believed the government will soon erect here.

The committee of Congress will hold a special meeting next Friday at 11 o'clock to give the people of this city an opportunity to appear before it and urge their preference as to the location of the building on Main or Broad Streets.

Congress has appropriated \$150,000 for the purchase of a site for a postoffice and Federal building in Richmond, or an annex to the present one, and the Committee on Public Buildings has notified that the owners of the Shafer building will take that sum. The committee is willing to pay that amount, and is ready to do so as soon as the mere form of condemnation proceedings is gone through with, provided the people of Richmond want the office on that site.

Apparently the majority earnestly favor Main Street because the ground is not entirely level.

The one thing settled is that the city is to have a new Federal building, which will cost probably a million dollars.

The questions to be settled relate to the site, whether the present location, and that of the Shafer building, another one on Main Street or on Broad Street, between Seventh and Twelfth Streets. And these matters are largely in the control of those most interested—the business men of Richmond.

JUDGE LEWIS TO ACT.  
In the meantime the government is going ahead.

Judge L. Lewis, District Attorney, said late yesterday that he had received instructions from the United States Attorney-General to institute condemnation proceedings for the purpose of ascertaining the value of the Shafer property. He would do so early next week.

Ten minutes after this statement was secured from Judge Lewis, Mr. James A. Moncure, administrator of the Shafer estate, said that the owners of the Shafer building had given their consent to the condemnation proceedings.

Postmaster Knight said that the amount, \$150,000, was now actually lying in the vaults at Washington, but there for the express purpose of buying a site for the postoffice here. No string held it and it was available at any time.

Mr. Moncure stated that semi-official assurance had been received that the government considered the property worth \$150,000, and that there was no danger of the commissioners appointed to fix the value estimating it at less than the sum appropriated by Congress. Mr. Moncure declared that in his opinion the property was worth more, and that so strongly convinced of this were the government officials that they would not think of trying to condemn it at this price until the family consented to take it.

POSTMASTER NOT WORRYING.  
Postmaster Knight says he does not purpose to leave the city and the new office and the problems then to be met until the Shafer property is actually acquired.

"What then?" was asked.

"I will go to Washington and see Mr. Taylor, the government's architect, and have a talk with him concerning plans for the new office and the needs here."

"If the property is acquired speedily, will a bill be offered at this session of Congress appropriating \$150,000 for the location of the new office?" was the next question addressed to the postmaster.

"No, sir," he said. "That step will not be taken, I think, until the supervising architect has drawn his plans for the new office and makes his report."

Mr. Knight was asked what he held to be the ideal building for a postoffice. He replied that the most desirable one he had ever seen was the temporary office of Chicago, which was one story high and covered an entire square.

"What are you going to do while the building is in progress?" was asked.

"I am not bothering about that yet," he said. "But I think we'll have to move out, even if only one side of the present office is taken out, and where we can go I haven't any idea."

## VON HOLLEBEN WILL NOT RETURN

### A Virtual Recall of the German Ambassador.

### HE IS SAID TO BE VERY ILL

### Trouble Seems to Be That He Did Not Handle the Venezuelan Matter to Suit the Kaiser, William of Germany.

(By Associated Press.)  
BERLIN, Jan. 9.—Ambassador Von Holleben was not recalled from Washington, but learning that his government was not wholly satisfied with his work, and feeling ill and depressed, he cabined for a long leave of absence, which was immediately granted. He will not return to Washington. Baron Speck von Sternburg's temporary assignment as charge d'affaires of Germany at Washington, will be followed after an interval by his appointment as ambassador.

The baron, in the meantime, will retain his position as consul-general of Germany to Calcutta. All the Foreign Office officials will say about Von Holleben, is:

"He has not been recalled, and his leave is granted upon his own initiative. The government would never recall an ambassador in the midst of important negotiations without grave reasons, and these certainly do not exist in this case. The supposition that the government in any way intended to recall the ambassador failed to obtain President Roosevelt's acceptance of the arbitratorship of the Venezuelan dispute is wholly incorrect."

Will Not Return.  
(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The State Department has been informed that Baron Speck von Sternburg is to come to Washington as a minister on a special mission. Meanwhile Herr Von Holleben the present ambassador, who has been granted a sick leave, is expected to return to Washington from Germany. He left the city without saying farewell to the President or to Secretary Hay, but it is understood by both officials that the ambassador is an extremely sick man, and his condition is accepted as sufficient excuse for any omission of form in his departure.

A Virtual Recall.  
(By Associated Press.)  
BERLIN, Jan. 9.—Ambassador Von Holleben's leave of absence from Washington is pretty generally recalled, due, it is said, to the dissatisfaction of the government with his management of the Venezuelan affair. This is asserted without reserve in important newspapers, and no official denial has yet been forthcoming. It seems that the government feels it was misled or at least not fully informed by the Washington embassy respecting President Roosevelt's attitude when he was requested to arbitrate the Venezuelan dispute.

The opinion is also that Dr. Von Holleben's dispatches regarding the policy of the United States in the Venezuelan business and its general foreign policy have been neither adequate nor precise. A variety of other reasons may have contributed to the lack of confidence in the ambassador. The Vossische Zeitung, for instance, attributes importance to the telegram sent by Emperor William to Mrs. Kipling, on March 5, 1899, when Rudyard Kipling was in New York. The newspaper assumes that Dr. Van Holleben counseled the sending of the telegram and that the Emperor, especially since the publication of Kipling's recent poem "The Powers," feels he was misled.

Dr. Von Holleben's critics also aver that he showed an unskillful hand in the great champagne war and in the Witte incident, and also in permitting himself to become the object of press attacks, even though unjustly. The matter of the status of Frederick the Great is also remembered, with its different reception by part of the American people. This, it is alleged, Dr. Von Holleben ought to have foreseen, and he should have dissuaded the Emperor from offering the statue to the United States.

SNEAK THIEVES MAKE RICH HAUL IN NEW YORK.  
(Special Dispatch to The Times.)  
NEW YORK, January 9.—The mysteriously sensational looting of three houses in the fashionable residence section bordering on Fifth Avenue, all within a block of each other, on which the police have been working secretly and without success for many days, and of which they denied having any knowledge, was discovered late this afternoon.

The homes entered, presumably by the same gang of sneak thieves were those of Mrs. C. D. Mathews, at No. 3 West Fifty-seventh Street; of Mr. Samuel J. Rockendoffer, at No. 45 West Fifty-sixth Street; and of Dr. S. Newton Leo, at No. 16 West Fifty-fifth Street.

The looting, by a widow, a aggregate of three men, was attended at probably more than

## TRAIN ROBBERS UNDER ARREST

### Three Men, Who Are Held in New Orleans, Are Alleged Bad Characters.

(By Associated Press.)  
MEMPHIS, TENN., January 9.—It now looks as if the Memphis police made an important capture, when on Wednesday last they arrested Thomas Clarke, George Rogers and John E. Estelle. When taken into custody the men had nothing in their possession. Estelle has since been identified by the engineer as one of the participants in the Burlington hold-up near Marcus, Ill., on August 5th last.

To-day Mrs. E. Delap, of Wisconsin, positively identified Clarke as a man who had bought a skiff from her two days before the Burlington robbery. The robbers escaped in a skiff, which was found overturned. Q. C. Sanderson, a brakeman of the "Frisco" system, has identified Rogers as one of the prime movers in the hold-up on the "Frisco" at Jonesboro, Ark., several months ago.

Estelle Wednesday night was taken to Savannah, Ill., in charge of an officer.

## WHOLE FAMILY WIPED OUT BY PLAGUE IN MEXICO

(By Associated Press.)  
MAZATLAN, MEX., Jan. 9.—Thirty-six people are in the Lazaretos and six death have occurred to-day, one entire family having died of the plague. Many people have left the city and gone to live on the islands nearby. A number of Americans have also disappeared.

## MARRIED LONG AGO; JUST MADE PUBLIC

### THE STORY OF A DARING ROBBERY

### Four Men Who Held Up Train Now in Custody.

### THREE MONTHS ON TRIAL

### The Men Tell How They Hired a Skiff and Cross the Mississippi River, Shot One of Their Own Men.

(By Associated Press.)  
LACROSSE, WIS., January 9.—As prisoners on the same train they are alleged to have held up six months ago at Marcus, Ill., four men, who are believed to be of the gang which robbed the Burlington train at that place, were left at Savannah, Ill., by the train last night and were taken to Mount Carroll, in this county, where they will be arraigned on the charge of holding up the train.

The story of the findings of clues and their subsequent capture is interesting. A detective, Charles White, visited every creek and corner of the Mississippi river between here and the place where the robbery occurred, to find the persons of whom the robbers bought the boat which was found sunk in the river where they had temporarily hidden their booty. It took him three months, and he was not successful until he reached Lacrosse, when, in company with Detective William Lyman, of the local force, after two weeks of unfruitful work, they located the man from whom the skiff had been purchased. He and his wife went to Chicago on Wednesday night to identify the four alleged robbers.

The robbers, so the detective found, went down the river in the skiff, taking four days to make the trip, and were joined at Dubuque by two others, which made the party six in number. One of these robbers wore a pair of shoes just purchased in Dubuque. He was the one who was killed during the robbery. It developed from the story of one of the robbers that the dead robber was killed by his own party. They had a secret code of signals which they were to use.

The dead robber, in coming around the train, did not give the signal, and the party was not notified. However, after the safe had been blown open and the robbers unhit the engine, they put the wounded man on board. One of the party shot him, and he died.

He replied: "Yes," whereupon one of the party shot him through the head, killing him instantly. They then had a discussion as to whether to burn the body in the fire-box, but decided to throw it out of the engine cab, which they did. They then abandoned the engine and got into the skiff, went across the river, buried the money, and sure enough, several hundred dollars which fell from the pile of \$350 they scoured were found in the sand.

TROUSSEAU COMPLETED.  
Miss Tilman returned to her home and Mr. Bonifant to his. They were man and wife, but no one that is, very few knew it. From friends of Miss Tilman in Richmond it was learned last night that preparations are being made for the marriage of the couple within a very short time. It was not known whether invitations were sent out or not, but it was known that the bride's trousseau was completed.

It was impossible to reach the Powhatan office last night. No one could tell whether the public ceremony would be dispensed with, or that the secret one has become known.

Mr. Bonifant is quite well known in Richmond, where his profession often brings him. He practices law in the courts of Powhatan and Westmoreland counties and has a wide circle of acquaintances.

## JAKE WELLS IS MADE PRESIDENT

### Head of an Organization to Operate Summer Parks and Theatres in All Parts Country.

Jake Wells, the popular proprietor of the Bijou Theatre, ex-base-ball manager and wide-awake theatrical manager, has been elected president of what is known as the Summer Amusement Enterprise. This organization was formed at a meeting of operators and managers of summer parks and theatres held at the Bartok Hotel in New York Wednesday. The capital stock is \$25,000, and it is all taken by the theatrical and summer park men. There are no outsiders. Mr. Wells, in common with other men, have been annoyed by the difficulty of getting good attractions and the cancelling of acts on short or without notice. To remedy this he opened correspondence with men in Western, Northern and New England States, and as a result of this conference the organization was formed. The Wilson Plummer Company, a booking agency of New York, has been absorbed and will do the booking for the company.

The company will either operate summer theatres or agree to furnish the attractions. Mr. Wells says that by this new arrangement he will be enabled to get better attractions for his circuit of theatres.

HER DEAD BODY WAS IN A CHAIR

### Ghastly Find in the House of a Policeman in Meridian, Mississippi.

(By Associated Press.)  
MERIDIAN, MISS., January 9.—At a late hour last night a blaze was discovered in the home of W. D. Boyd, a city policeman, by persons passing and an entrance was made. In the dining room the dead body of Mrs. Boyd was found upright in a chair, the clothing entirely burned away and the body severely scorched. In another room the husband was found asleep in a bed.

Mrs. Boyd had been in ill health for some time. An inquest will be held. A few hours before the discovery of the body, Mrs. Boyd entrusted her ten-year-old daughter to a friend with instructions as to its upbringing should anything happen to her (Mrs. Boyd) during the night.

## SENATOR TELLER MAY BE REELECTED IN COLORADO

(By Associated Press.)  
DENVER, COLO., Jan. 9.—The Legislature completed its organization to-day and the House Committee on Elections and Privileges will at once proceed to hear the evidence in the numerous contests on the result of which hangs the election of United States Senator.

Mr. Wolcott has announced that he will stay in the contest for the Senatorship to the end, but he has expressed the belief that the deal between his Republican opponents and the Democrats means the re-election of Senator Henry M. Teller.

## Romantic Wedding of Mr. Bonifant and Miss Tilman.

### HAD BEEN KEPT A SECRET

### Occurred at Halifax in November, but Not Known.

### SURPRISE TO CLOSE FRIENDS

### Matter Becomes Public Through Entry on Records of Halifax County, Magistrate Was Bound to Secrecy and Kept His Pledge With Guarded Care.

Mr. Milton Bonifant, a prominent young lawyer of Powhatan Courthouse, and Miss Page Tilman, a pretty girl of the same place, and daughter of Mr. James A. Tilman, clerk of the County Court, were secretly married in Halifax, N. C., on the 13th of November last. Preparations are about complete for a public ceremony in Powhatan very shortly.

The latter fact is well known to acquaintances of the young people about the courthouse and to some of the friends in Richmond. The former is not even known to the close relatives of the bride. Only a few were entrusted with the secret and they kept it well. The fact leaked out in Weldon yesterday. It is still unknown in Powhatan.

The romance of the young people is not of recent origin. It was learned in this city last night from friends of Miss Tilman that Mr. Bonifant had long been in love with her. Their wedding had even been planned for last summer, but for some reason it was postponed.

But the young people decided not to wait. On the 13th of November they went to Halifax, N. C., and procured a marriage license. Justice M. H. Clark married the young couple. The ceremony was kept so secret, the couple left and returned to their homes. No one there except a few to whom the secret has been told, knew of the ceremony and who were sworn to secrecy remember the pretty young bride well. While waiting for the return train she amused those about the hotel by performing very skillfully upon the piano.

MISS TILMAN RETURNED TO HER HOME AND MR. BONIFANT TO HIS. THEY WERE MAN AND WIFE, BUT NO ONE THAT IS, VERY FEW KNEW IT. FROM FRIENDS OF MISS TILMAN IN RICHMOND IT WAS LEARNED LAST NIGHT THAT PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE COUPLE WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME. IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHETHER INVITATIONS WERE SENT OUT OR NOT, BUT IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE BRIDE'S TROUSSEAU WAS COMPLETED.

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## THE BASE-BALL PEOPLE SIMPLY GETTING TOGETHER

(By Associated Press.)  
CINCINNATI, O., January 9.—The two committees representing the National and American base-ball leagues, held a conference to-day which lasted until 10 o'clock to-night.

Chairman Hermann, having been designated by the conference to give out the news, said to the waiting correspondents that they spent the evening as they had the afternoon, in general discussion, but that they seemed to be getting together so that something might be done to-morrow.

## SHOT MAN WHO REFUSED TO TELL HIM A DRINK

(By Associated Press.)  
AUGUSTA, GA., January 9.—Solomon Lane colored, was hanged here to-day for the murder of a young white man named William Springs. Dunn was so nervous and frightened upon the scaffold that he had to be held up until the trap was sprung and he fell.

Springs was a bartender, and the negro shot him because he refused to sell him a drink about a year ago.

## TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED CHICAGO COAL CONSPIRACY

(By Associated Press.)  
SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Jan. 9.—A special grand jury will meet in Chicago to-morrow to investigate the alleged conspiracy between certain coal operators, railways and coal dealers to increase the price of coal on the Chicago market. Attorney-General Hamlin left to-night for Chicago and will lead the investigation. He took with him one proceed which he says will show that a conspiracy exists, and the whole matter will be thoroughly investigated.

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