# THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

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FRIDAY.....MARCH 25, 1887.


## The Legislature.

The press does itself injustice when it censures any man or any body of men for not doing what it is impossible to do. Given a deliberative body composed of a hundred men, and it is impossible to force action on any measure which does not command the hearty support of a majority of the members. So long as there are radical differences of opinion, self-respecting men are not going to take action which cannot be taken until these differences have been reconciled or explained away. So long as there are shrewd, penetrating minds pondering the problems which are to be solved, and there are thoughtful men determined not to act at all unless they can act understandingly, it is useless for "whips" of any sort to attempt to force action on any important subject.

Of course most men may at any time, without due reflection, express their opinions on any given subject. But this is because nobody values these opinions. But the men upon whom the community look as leaders, and who have a voice—perhaps a controlling voice—in legislation, must be thoughtful and guarded in th ir words and actions. The very same mischief-makers who now censure the Legislature for deliberating so long before taking action upon any new measure proposed for the settlement of the public debt, and who know now exactly what sort of measure ought to be adopted, would be the first to denounce the Legislature for having resorted to that measure if it should prove to be damaging to the interests of the Commonwealth. The grumblers can say what they please; because when they forget what they are now saying, and begin to find fault, nobody will recollect that they are denouncing what before they had recommended. The legislator has to make allowance for all things, and to act accordingly. He cannot say one thing to-day and another the moment the scheme he supported has turned out to be ineffectual or worse. He must "stand and take it" even when the censure comes from the men who clamorously called upon him to do that for which they now berate him.

What we have said will be admitted to be true not only by everybody who has served in the General Assembly, but by everybody who has served upon the Board of Directors of any State institution, or on the State Central Committee, or anywhere else where the sense of responsibility was strong because the State might suffer irreparable wrong as the result of a blunder. Hour after hour have we seen consumed—not wasted—by a few gentlemen assembled for the purpose of devising merely party measures. Why? Because a misstep might ruin the party, and, ruining the party, result to the great detriment of the Commonwealth.

For our part, we would not have the Legislature hurry through its work. That body ought to meet annually any how. There is always a demand for new legislation at least once a year in such a State as Virginia. A City Council must meet once a month but a State Legislature need meet only once in twenty-four months! As to the current extra session, we trust that it may last until May at least, and that before it is ended the new Code may be adopted, and all the other measures which the people so much need may become laws. The members of the Legislature cannot be expected to have nothing but the debt question for breakfast, dinner, and supper. *Toujours perdrix* will not satisfy their appetites. It will be a relief to them and will enable them to legislate more satisfactorily upon the debt question to allow them to drop that subject occasionally and take up some other by way of relaxing their minds. To consider local bills will be a recreation for them.

The Norfolk *Landmark*, in noticing General WOLSELEY's article on LEE, says:

"We have read this with genuine pleasure, and hope it will be studied by those gentlemen of the new South who are themselves so very new that they know little or nothing of the old South, its men and manners, its glories and achievements."

And again, after quoting the English General's comparison of LEE with WASHINGTON:

"In these words we have heard what will be the verdict of posterity, and it is to be hoped that the 'new South' will not be too sordid to understand the value of such a judgment on the old."

Well said.

A Harrisburg telegram states that after mature deliberation the Republican Legislature of Pennsylvania decided that no legislation could keep Mr. RANDALL out of Congress, and that it would be better from a party standpoint to have him represent a Democratic rather than a Republican district.

Therefore, Mr. RANDALL, who has already been in Congress twenty years, and who is a member-elect of the next Congress, will continue to serve his country as a law-maker for years to come, or perhaps as long as he lives.

The Washington correspondent of the Alexandria *Gazette* says that Mr. RIDDLEBERGER tolerates no thought of any departure by the Legislature from the terms of the RIDDLEBERGER bill, and advises that it be upheld and maintained to the last extremity; and that personally he is willing to stake his political *all* on that measure, and will continue the fight for it against all comers.

This is RIDDLEBERGER's best card as against MAHONE, who, it is guessed, is coquetting with the bondholders. CAMERON, RIDDLEBERGER, PAUL, and the other senatorial aspirants, will hardly allow General MAHONE to lead them into the "council of foreign bondholders"!

### The Cablegram.

The cable dispatch received yesterday by the Governor from the chairman of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, London, and which was laid before the Legislature, though not as explicit as it might be, indicates that the Governor's recommendation has produced good results. That is a point gained. It may be that the bondholders' proposition will prove ground from which a start can be made in the matter of coming to an understanding and lead to something tangible.

## *BRIEF COMMENT.*

"JOHN A. LOGAN'S son has become an Ohio man." What office is he after?

"There is nothing mean connected with General SHERMAN," shouts a contemporary. Yes, there is—his brother JOHN.

"A red-headed beauty show is in progress at Cincinnati." HALSTEAD ought to be happy, as anything lurid charms him.

"The new New York *Evening Sun* is properly named, but why not also an *Evening Moon?*" That would involve too many changes.

"JOHN SHERMAN is not the man to waive his principles under the seductive influence of southern hospitality." Has JOHN any principles to waive?

Emperor WILLIAM planted a chestnut-tree as a memorial of his birthday. Very appropriate. The birthday of a man ninety years of age is somewhat of a chestnut.

The Chicago *Inter-Ocean* says: "JOHN SHERMAN is a disciple of the South's great statesman HENRY CLAY." It is well for the editor of the *Inter-Ocean* that HENRY is satisfied where he is.

### The Figures.

[For the Dispatch.]

Your worthy correspondent X. X., in the *Dispatch* of Wednesday, says "the whole difficulty in our way has been the tax-receivable feature of the coupons"—*i. e.*, the interest feature.

I rather think "the whole difficulty" is that the claim of the creditors covers two items—to wit:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Consol bonds outstanding | $13,019,000 | |
| Ten-forties | 7,083,500 | |
| | | $20,102,500 |
| Outstanding coupons to 1905 | $15,623,880 | |
| Ten-forties to 1919 | 10,202,700 | |
| | | 25,826,580 |
| Total ("whole difficulty") | | $45,929,080 |

Now, admitting the very worst, and supposing that we shall be compelled to receive every cent of the consol and 10-40 coupons at par, still, by rejecting the principal, the State will save over twenty millions of dollars. Why should we refuse to save that money to the State?

It will further illustrate our gain to state, as has been done before, that if the consols and ten-forties had been funded when the Riddleberger bill went into operation they would have brought:

| | |
|---|---|
| Of principal | $11,211,547 00 |
| Interest (3 per cent.) to maturity | 16,817,320 50 |
| Total | $28,028,867 50 |
| But if the consol and ten-forty coupons *only* are paid, and they sell at 40—an extravagant estimate—they will bring | $10,330,032 00 |
| Gain to the State and loss to the bondholder | $17,698,835 50 |

Or if all the coupons are sold at 80—their price when they were currently receivable for taxes—then the gain to the State and loss to the bondholders will be $8,896,127.50. Are these figures worth the consideration of the representatives of the people?

PRACTICAL.

### A Valuable Find.

The *Tribune* says: Quite unexpectedly a very valuable series of letters recently came into the hands of Mr. George R. Morse, of Rochester, N. Y. They comprise a great portion of the private and official correspondence of John Page, of Virginia, Governor of that State in 1802–1804, at the time he was a member of the Council of Public Safety during the Revolution. Mr. Morse thinks they are a portion of the correspondence he left as materials for the use of a biographer. They comprise a number of letters from Washington, Jefferson—who was a life-long friend of Governor Page—Richard Henry Lee, Francis Lightfoot Lee, and other leaders in the Revolution. Many of these are of absorbing interest, and relate to the internal conduct of the war and the relations and jealousies of those engaged therein. One of the letters of Washington is an official report to the Council of the battle of Germantown. There are also many letters from Washington's generals. Of General Weedon's letters there are nineteen, nearly all official, setting forth the state of the army, movements of troops, and plans of the generals, as well as several reports, accompanied by plans of battles. These letters are being carefully looked over with a view to publication, after which they will be carefully catalogued and the majority sold.

The nearest living relative of Governor Page is Mr. John Page, Jr., of Hanover, father of Mr. Thomas Nelson Page, the author. It is to be hoped that steps will be taken to bring these papers back to Virginia, where it is evident they belong.

### Personal.

The Queen of Roumania presented Emperor William with a poem of her own composition on the events of his life, written in her own hand on white parchment, the margin being covered with pressed cornflowers.

Mme. Minnie Hauk has received from the French Government the title and insignia of "*Officier de l'Academie*" in recognition of her distinguished services for French musical art. She is the first American thus honored.

Minister-to-Denmark Anderson has written to a friend in Wisconsin indignantly denying the report that he lives in a niggardly style. He says that his apartments consist of a first floor and part of the second, and that his housekeeper is the widow of a professor who taught King George of Greece. He further asserts that he dines out.

The "Criminal Club" of Yale College, an organization of students who have been arrested during their term for some misdeed or other, held its first annual banquet on Monday night, covers being laid for twenty-four. The *menu* was most elaborate, and the speeches sparkled with humorous reminiscences in which the New Haven police had largely figured.

A bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup will often save large doctors' bills. Price 25 cents.

# OUR STATESMEN.

## WORK OF THE TWO BRANCHES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY YESTERDAY.

### Resolution Condemning the Federal Courts—Constitutional Amendments Concerning Legislative Elections, &c.

When the Senate met at noon yesterday there was a full attendance of members and a large number of spectators, including many of the fair sex, were present. When the hands of the clock reached the hour of 12 Lieutenant-Governor John E. Massey ascended the platform, let his gavel fall, and said: "The Senate will please come to order; senators will be in their seats." Quiet soon pervaded the chamber, and Rev. Dr. Powell Garland, presiding elder of this district, offered a fervent prayer. The reading of the Journal was, on motion of Mr. Read, dispensed with.

WEST VIRGINIA LINE.

The Chair laid before the Senate the the following communication:

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
OFFICE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,
RICHMOND, March 23, 1887.

*To the President of the Senate:*

Sir,—In response to the resolution of the Senate March 22d asking for information relative to the boundary line between Virginia and West Virginia I have the honor to report that the records in this office show that May 23, 1873, the Governor appointed as commissioners to adjust said boundary E. S. Baker of Winchester, R. D. Cusher of Harrisonburg, and Mann Spitler of Page. February 12, 1878, the Governor applied to the Secretary of War for assignment of a corps of surveyers to ascertain the true boundary line. May 25, 1878, a letter was received from the Secretary of War designating Lieutenant D. C. Kingman as surveyor of the boundary line. No other records or papers on the subject are found here.

Very respectfully, H. W. FLOURNOY,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Laid on the table.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

Leave of absence was granted Mr. Thurman, of Bedford, for four days; Mr. Twyman, of Madison, for two days, and Mr. Staples for five days.

THE DIVORCE VALIDATED.

Mr. Diggs, from the Committee for Courts of Justice, reported, without amendment, the bill introduced by Mr. Meredith on Wednesday to validate and make effectual the proceedings in and the decree of divorce pronounced in the Corporation Court of the city of Alexandria on January 14, 1887, in the chancery suit of Mary E. Holmes, by her next friend, *vs.* E. C. Holmes.

The bill was subsequently taken up, on Mr. Meredith's motion, and ordered to its engrossment. Mr. Meredith then moved that the rules be suspended and the bill be placed on its immediate passage.

Mr. Berry opposed the bill, saying that he considered it a dangerous precedent for the General Assembly to legislate in these divorce cases, which are so distinctly provided for in the Constitution.

Mr. Meredith explained that a divorce had been granted in this case by a court of competent jurisdiction, and the General Assembly was only asked to validate the proceedings, in which it was thought there had possibly been some error or mistake. Holmes had been married since the divorce was granted, and to relieve them all from embarrassment he and both of his wives desired the passage of the bill.

The bill was passed.

HIRE OF CONVICTS.

Mr. McCormick, chairman of the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation, asked that his committee be relieved from the further consideration of the bill authorizing the Governor to furnish convict labor for the construction of the Roanoke and Southern railroad, between the city of Roanoke and some point in the county of Henry, on the line between the States of Virginia and North Carolina. The bill was referred to the Committee on Public Institutions.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

To amend and reënact section 5 of the act approved February 26, 1886, entitled an act to repeal an act providing for a new Board of Visitors for the University of Virginia, approved April 14, 1882, and to amend and reënact sections 2, 4, and 5 of chapter 80 of the Code of 1873, with an amendment; to incorporate the Manchester Railway and Improvement Company, with amendments; to incorporate the Holly-Springs, Church-Hill and Petersburg Railway Company; to amend and reenact sections 2, 3, and 4 of an act approved February 20, 1886, to incorporate the Virginia Construction Company; to incorporate the New York and Southern Construction Company; to incorporate the Richmond and Tidewater Railroad Company; to amend and reënact an act approved February 12, 1886, entitled an act to incorporate the Roanoke and Southern Railway Company; to enlarge the powers of the Richmond Union Passenger-Railway Company, with an amendment; to incorporate the Powhatan, Midlothian and Manchester Railway Company; to amend section 8 of chapter 61 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by an act approved March 9, 1880, in relation to turnpike companies, with an amendment; to provide a charter for the town of West Point; to incorporate the North Loudoun Telephone Company.

OUR OYSTER INDUSTRY.

Mr. Stubbs, from the special joint committee appointed at the last session of the General Assembly, submitted his report, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed. The report is quite voluminous, and accompanying it are ten large charts showing the various natural oyster-rocks and planting-grounds in the waters of the Commonwealth; and a large bulk of testimony taken by the committee touching the various interests connected with the "oyster industry"—viz., tonging, planting, dredging, packing, shipping, and propagating the oyster; also the raparian rights and the carrying trade. The most important features in the report were published in this paper about ten days ago. Mr. Stubbs is chairman of the committee and the following other gentlemen constitute it: Messrs. Blackstone and Lovenstein, from the Senate, and Wise, Bohannan, Loving, Mayo, and Eastwood, from the House.

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. Causey: To incorporate the Chowan and Southern Railroad Company.

By Mr. Dalton: Authorizing and empowering the Councils of the city of Norfolk to establish and maintain a public park.

By Mr. Edmunds: To authorize the trustees of the Baptist church of South Boston, Halifax county, to borrow money and secure the same by deed of trust.

By Mr. Jones: For the relief of Jacob L. Fisher.

By Mr. Keezell: To amend and reenact sections 1, 3, and 4 of an act entitled an act for the annual sale of lands delinquent after the year 1884, to extend the provisions to said act to certain lands delinquent for taxes for the previous year.

By Mr. Diggs: To amend and reenact section 25 of chapter 58 of the Code of 1873, in relation to the bank depositories for the funds of the State.

By Mr. Gordon: To repeal section 22 of chapter 10, subdivision of chapter 311 of the Acts of 1877–'78, approved March 14, 1878, in reference to criminal proceeding.

By Mr. Williams: To authorize the qualified voters of Chanicsburg magisterial district, in the county of Bland, to vote a tax for road purposes in said district.

By Mr. Stubbs: To establish a normal school at William and Mary College in connection with its collegiate course.

By Mr. Rhea: To repeal the charter of the Iron-Belt Railroad Company.

By Mr. Grim: To amend an act to provide for working and keeping in order the public roads in the county of Page, approved February 27, 1886, and adding independent sections thereto.

The report of John A. Parker, agent of the State of Virginia in the claim of the State of Virginia against the United States for advances made for the year of 1812, was presented.

SENATE BILLS PASSED.

To confirm the rights and privileges of the Gay Manufacturing Company and to grant certain additional powers.

To authorize the Lynchburg, Halifax and North Carolina Railroad Company to consolidate with the Roxboro' Railroad Company, the Durham and Roxboro', and any other railroad company in the State of North Carolina.

To incorporate the Cripple-Creek Iron and Steel Company.

To authorize county and city treasurers in paying jurors, witnesses, and others to retain taxes due the Commonwealth.

To amend and re-enact section 3 of an act, approved February 23, 1867, entitled an act to incorporate the Shenandoah-Valley Railroad Company and to issue preferred stock and convertible bonds under the plan of reörganization thereof.

To incorporate the Mercantile Club.

To incorporate the Virginia Transatlantic Steamship Line.

To authorize any corporation of this State to subscribe for, guarantee, or acquire the stock and bonds of the Roanoke Water-Works.

To allow B. A. Rowe and others to erect a pier on York river, in Gloucester county.

To allow John T. Fosque and others to erect a pier on York river, in Gloucester county.

To amend an act entitled an act to incorporate the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's Academy and Orphan Asylum, of Richmond, Va.

To allow W. W. Allmond to erect a wharf on York river, in Gloucester county.

For the protection of deer in the county of Rockingham.

To authorize and enable the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, a corporation created and organized under the laws of Kentucky, to construct and operate an extension of its line of railroad into and within the State of Virginia.

AFTER THE UNITED STATES COURTS.

Mr. Stubbs offered the following:

Whereas from recent actions of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Eastern district of Virginia in assuming jurisdiction in the trial of suits against various county treasurers in Virginia and the Board of Indemnity; in entertaining a motion to enjoin and restrain our State officials from paying out the money of the Commonwealth as the laws of Virginia direct; in taking from our State officers parties who were in their custody charged with the violations of the laws of this State and discharging them against law and without law: now, therefore, &c.,

1. *Resolved by the Senate* (the House of Delegates concurring), That this assumption of power by the Circuit Court of the United States for the Eastern district of Virginia is against law and without law, and we earnestly and emphatically protest against the usurpation of power by said court.

2. That in the usurpation by said court of the above power it is an insult to Virginia, an utter disregard of our State's rights guaranteed to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and wholly unwarranted by the United States Constitution or by Federal legislation.

Mr. Stubbs wanted the rules requiring the resolutions to lie over one day to be suspended and let them be referred, but there being opposition, he withdrew the motion.

DOWN WITH THE CONVICTS.

Mr. Hurt, of Pittsylvania, presented the following petition, to which there were sixty-two signatures:

*To the Senate and House of Delegates, General Assembly of Virginia:*

Your petitioners would respectfully represent that they are manufacturers of and dealers in the great staple of tobacco; that we pay tribute to the great tobacco-growing country of this State; that we reside in the city of Danville, where the farmers marketed nearly 50,000,000 pounds of this great staple last year; where there were 3,000 laborers employed by us, giving peace, plenty, and happiness to honest toil; that owing to the action of the Board of Public Works in leasing convict-labor to contractors for the manufacture of tobacco we have been compelled to come in direct competition with such labor. We have had to stand quietly by and see our once-prosperous trade pass in a helpless condition beyond our honest efforts to save it. This state of things is partially the result of your action in permitting competitors to employ convict-labor, and thus, by paying 44 cents per day, not only compete with our goods (the labor for which we pay $1 and $1.50 per day), but the fortunate possessors of this boon go on the markets and boldly proclaim that we cannot compete with convict-made tobacco. Is this just? Is this right? Can you, in justice to the 3,000 operatives who are our co-laborers, allow this state of things to continue? We humbly pray that you will not longer permit this injustice. We appeal to you to protect us, and we ask that you will at once repeal all such contracts. We as the citizens of the State call upon you as the representatives of the intelligence, labor, and worth of the Commonwealth to expunge from your records all such laws as permit such a blot upon the honest efforts of home industry, enterprise, and toil as does this law, which permits such a blow to be struck at the principal industry of the State by the employment of convict-labor in the manufacture of tobacco.

With considerations of great respect, and with the confident hope that you will right our wrongs, we are, most respectfully, &c.

Mr. Diggs, of Lynchburg, presented a petition signed by sixty-four dealers in his city containing exactly the same language as the above. The petitions were referred.

THE CHARLESTON, CINCINNATI AND CHICAGO ROAD.

The bill to authorize the Charleston, Cincinnati and Chicago Railroad Company to construct and operate its road through and within the counties of Scott, Wise, and Dickerson came up on the question of adopting the substitute proposed by the Committee on Roads. The original bill provided that the road should pass to the west of Bristol, in Washington county, and the substitute leaves it to the engineers to select the most practical route.

Mr. Rhea moved to amend the substitute by providing that the road shall enter Virginia at Bristol or at any point east of Bristol on the line between Virginia and Tennessee.

Mr. Rhea strongly advocated his amendment, saying that unless this route is taken the road, if built, will be decidedly detrimental to his town and district.

Mr. Lovenstein, who presented the bill at the request of its friends, opposed the amendment and advocated the adoption of the substitute as reported from the committee.

Mr. Heaton, chairman of the Committee on Roads, defended the course pursued by the committee and opposed the amendment.

Mr. Koiner had doubts as to whether the construction of the road would benefit the State, and urged that the Senate proceed in this matter with caution.

Mr. Wickham, at the suggestion of Mr. Heaton, presented his views very beiefly. He, as a general rule, was opposed to too many competing lines, but thought this one would help greatly in developing the rich mines of Southwest Virginia. He spoke on the merits of the bill and hoped it would pass.

Mr. Rhea again urged the adoption of his amendment, but it was lost—the recorded vote resulting: Ayes, 14; noes, 14. The vote was reconsidered and the bill passed by to await the arrival of the Senator from Wise, through whose district the road will pass, who is expected here in a day or two.

At 2:45 P. M. the Senate adjourned.

### House of Delegates.

The House met at noon—Speaker Stuart in the chair.

Prayer was offered by Rev. George M. Funsten, of St. Paul's Episcopal church.

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. Johnson: To authorize and empower the Councils of the city of Norfolk to establish and maintain a public park.

By Mr. Noblin: For the relief of Alexander Bruce and William S. Betts, of the county of Halifax.

By Mr. Terry: To amend the act of January 18, 1884, exempting farmers during harvest-time from jury service.

By Mr. Jordan: In relation to moving steam engines or any other portable machinery on the public roads of the Commonwealth and over the bridges thereon.

By same: For the relief of R. C. Tyree.

By Mr. Roberts: For the relief of George W. Henderlite and sureties.

By Mr. Bolen (by request): To authorize the reprint of so much of the report of the Bureau of Statistics of the United States on Internal Commerce for 1886 as relates to Virginia, and to pay freight charges on samples of Virginia products to London.

By Mr. Roberts: To amend and consolidate into one act the laws relating to the public printing and binding, and defining the duties of the Superintendent of Public Printing.

By Mr. Cherry: To incorporate the Norfolk Dock-Improvement Company.

By Mr. Matthews: To amend the Code in regard to duties or levy on property not exceeding twenty dollars in value and title disputed.

By Mr. Stuart: To prevent grants by the Register of the Land Office of any natural oyster-bed, rock, or shoal.

By Mr. Schoolfield: Petition signed by all the tobacco-manufacturers of Danville asking legislation preventing the competition of convict-labor in the manufacture of tobacco.

By Mr. Lockett: For the relief of maimed Confederate soldiers.

By Mr. Ruggles: To submit to the voters of Stafford county the question of a poorhouse.

By Mr. Goad: To provide for working the public roads in the county of Bedford.

By Mr. Row: Providing for a general hospital for the treatment of noncontagious and curable diseases and surgical injuries of indigent patients of the State of Virginia.

By Mr. Darst: To authorize the Board of Supervisors of Pulaski county to increase the salary of the county judge.

By Mr. Acker: To amend the charter of the town of Broadway, in the county of Rockingham.

By Mr. Echols: Memorial of the Staunton Chamber of Commerce in relation to the system of taxing merchants.

By Mr. Pollard: To require the amount of damages claimed in actions for the unlawful taking or detention of property or for injury to a trespass against property, real or personal, to be verified by affidavit.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES.

Mr. Figgat introduced a bill amending the Constitution in relation to the Legislature so as to read as follows:

"The House of Delegates shall be elected by the voters of the several cities and counties on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November, 1890, and biennially thereafter, and shall from and after the said date consist of not more than one hundred and not less than ninety."

The bill was referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN ELECTION LAW.

Mr. Wise offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That a committee of seven members of this House, as equally divided as possible between the two political parties, be appointed to prepare and recommend to this House such an election law as may be acceptable to all the people of this State as a guarantee that it is the determination of this body to assure equal fairness in the conduct of all elections in this State in the future, and to frown down any appearance of an attempt to gain partisan advantage through the election laws of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Wise moved to suspend the rules and pass the resolution. Lost.

The resolution was then referred.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

Leaves of absence were granted Mr. Hurt for three days; Mr. Thorne, three days; Mr. Mallory, four days; Mr. Row, two days.

REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

To incorporate the Clinch-Valley Construction Company; to incorporate the Roanoke and Northwestern railroad; to incorporate the Portsmouth Street-Railway Company; to incorporate the Suburban and City Railway and Improvement Company; to allow the future purchase of the Richmond and Alleghany railroad to issue bonds and stock; to incorporate the Chowan and Southern Railroad Company; to incorporate the Byrd-Creek Iron Company, of Virginia; to repeal the laws for the protection of fish in New river and its tributaries; to incorporate the Chesterfield and James-River Railroad Company; to repeal an act to authorize the Board of Supervisors of Halifax to let public roads, and to amend the act providing for working and repairing public roads and bridges; to provide for a division of the Norfolk county ferries between the city of Portsmouth and county of Norfolk; to amend the law incorporating the Petersburg and Chesterfield Railroad Company; and directing the Board of Public Works to deliver to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company certain maps and papers.

REDUCTIONS OF SALARIES.

Mr. Figgat offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform to inquire whether a reduction can be made in the number or salaries of the officers of the State without injury to the service; also, whether there can be any reduction in the expenses of the State government. Adopted.

TAXES AND COUPONS.

Mr. Porter offered a resolution that the Auditor of Public Accounts be requested to furnish the House as soon as possible with an itemized statement showing the total amounts received from each subject of license-tax during the past year, together with the total amounts paid for license-taxes with coupons, and also the amount tendered and not accepted. Adopted.

SENATE BILLS PASSED.

Directing the Board of Public Works to deliver to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company certain maps and papers.

To incorporate the Charlottesville and University Street-Railway Company.

To incorporate the Roanoke and Northwestern railroad.

In relation to sheep in the county of Clarke.

HOUSE BILLS PASSED.

To amend the charter of the New-River and Chambers-Valley railroad.

To amend the charter of the town of Columbia, in Fluvanna county.

To punish false pretence in obtaining registration of cattle and other animals, and to punish giving false pedigrees.

To enlarge the corporate limits of the town of New Market, in Shenandoah county.

To establish and concerning public cemeteries in the magisterial districts of the State.

Giving the consent of the State to the erection by ex-Governor Chamberlain of a hotel at Old Point.

For the relief of F. P. May of fines imposed on him by the County Court of Brunswick county.

NEW SCHOOLHOUSES.

Bill allowing each school district in the State to use one third of the school money coming to them in the erection of or repair of existing schoolhouses came up on its engrossment.

Mr. Cardwell had read a petition from Hanover county asking the passage of the bill.

Members desiring time to look closely into its merits, the bill, on motion of Mr. Cardwell, was passed by.

A NOVEL BILL.

The following bill was reported adversely upon by the Committee for Courts of Justice:

Whereas the citizens of Greensville county have been subject to much loss by the stealing of cattle, and in order to prevent a continuance of the same: therefore

1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia*, That it shall be unlawful for any person to offer for sale dressed beef in the village of Hicksford or anywhere else in said county without having therewith, subject to the inspection of any one, the head and hide taken from said beef.

[The second section prescribes the term of punishment.]

Mr. Tillar strongly favored the bill, but there being much opposition to it he moved to pass by, which was done.

At 2 o'clock the House adjourned.

### THE DEBT COMMISSION.

#### Proposition from the Bondholders—Senator McCormick's Resolution.

Governor Lee in his message to the General Assembly when it convened in extra session on the 16th instant recommended, as he had done in a former message, the "appointment of a commission whose duty it shall be to demonstrate to a similar commission from the bondholders the exact figures which make up the State revenues and expenditures, and point out not only what is the available revenue after providing for the constitutional appropriations for government, schools, and other public expenditures, but demonstrates to them what revenues remain after the annual legislative appropriations, and which are not included in constitutional appropriations. The recommendation has been much discussed and is generally commended.

THE BONDHOLDERS HEARD FROM.

Governor Lee yesterday received the following cablegram from the chairman of the Council of Foreign Bondholders at London, a copy of which he at once transmitted to each branch of the General Assembly:

*Governor Lee, Richmond, Va.:*

The committee will appoint a commission to go to Virginia to confer with representatives of the State for the settlement of the debt on receiving your assurance that the basis of any agreement which may be arrived at shall be available revenue as mutually agreed, after competent and independent investigation. If the Legislature will empower the government to consent to this basis of compromise I shall be glad of your intimation accordingly by cable. BOUVERIE, Chairman.

The communication was laid on the table.

A representative of the *Dispatch* called to see the Governor yesterday afternoon and asked him what construction he placed on the cablegram? He declined to give expression to any opinion.

THE COMMISSION.

Soon after the communication from the Executive was read in the Senate Mr. McCormick offered the following:

A JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION TO CONFER WITH THE PUBLIC CREDITORS AND TO DEFINE THE POWERS OF SAID COMMISSION.

Whereas the funding acts of 1871 and 1879 respectively not only compounded interest, but also omitted to credit certain payments made by the State on her debt between 1861 and the date of said acts respectively; and whereas subsequent investigation warrants the belief that the said funding acts were based upon computations which place the debt largely in excess of the amount which the Commonwealth then honestly owed; and whereas after years of agitation the people of Virginia have accepted the act of February 14, 1882, popularly known as the Riddleberger bill, as the ultimate settlement of the debt of this State; and whereas it is their unalterable purpose to make that settlement final, and any expectation that any settlement of the debt of this State upon any other basis is absolutely illusory and hopeless, and will not be tolerated by the people of the State; and whereas it is believed that the interest of the public creditors, as well as the welfare and safety of the State, require that this settlement shall be accepted by the creditors as well as by the State; and whereas it is not believed that the *bona-fide* holders of the bonds of the Commonwealth would ask the State to pay more than she honestly owes, but would, if they understood the justice and equity of that settlement and the prevailing sentiment in the State, readily accept its provisions; and whereas there is reason to believe that the public creditor distrusts the accuracy of that settlement, owing, as it is believed, to the fact that they do not understand the computation by which the result was reached; and whereas it is believed that a fair and dispassionate explanation of the settlement of 1882, if made under and by authority of the General Assembly, will in large measure remove the opposition of the creditors to the acceptance of that settlement; therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate* (the House of Delegates concurring), That the Governor be, and he is, hereby requested to appoint three discreet and impartial citizens of this State, whose duty it shall be, after carefully informing themselves of the provisions of the funding act of 1882, to invite the *bona-fide* holders of the bonds of the State issued under the funding acts of 1871 and 1879, or such representative as such holders may appoint, to meet them in the city of Richmond at such time as they may agree upon, and to explain to such creditors the provisions of the said funding act of 1882, the fairness and justice of said settlement, the reasons that led to its passage and acceptance, and to urge upon them an acquiescence in said settlement, and the funding of their securities under its provisions, and to use such other proper and legitimate influences as they can to accomplish the purpose of their appointment. And if the creditors or their representatives shall submit any proposition or propositions looking to a settlement of the public debt upon any basis other than the terms of the settlement of February 14, 1882, the said commission shall receive the same and submit it to the Governor, but they shall have no power either to accept or reject any such proposition. The said commission shall make a full report to the Governor of their action under this resolution, with such recommendations and legislation as in their judgment may be necessary to carry out the general purpose of the said funding act of 1882, and the conclusions arrived at in the conference between them and the creditors. And the Governor shall transmit to the General Assembly at its next session the report of the said commission, together with such suggestions and recommendations as they may make.

Mr. McCormick moved to suspend the rules requiring the resolution to lie over one day, but, there being objections, he withdrew his motion. The resolution was ordered to be printed.


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MEETINGS.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF ST. ANDREW, No. 12, K. T., RICHMOND, VA., March 23, 1887.—GENERAL ORDERS: SIR KNIGHTS,—Attend a stated assembly of the Commandery at the Asylum, St. Albans Hall, TO-NIGHT (Friday, 25th instant,) at 7½ o'clock, in citizens' dress. Members of Richmond Commandery, No. 2, and all transient Sir Knights are courteously invited to be present. By order of the Eminent Commander.

GEORGE P. STACY, Captain-General.

Attest: GEORGE C. JEFFERSON, Recorder. mh 25-1t*

AMUSEMENTS.

RICHMOND THEATRE. TWENTY-THIRD SEASON. FRED. WARDE, supported by an Efficient Dramatic Company. FRIDAY, 25TH MARCH, GALBA, THE GLADIATOR. SATURDAY MATINEE, 26TH MARCH, Double Comedy Bill, DELICATE GROUND and KATHERINE AND PETRUCHIO. Mr. WARDE and Miss BLAIR in both plays. SATURDAY NIGHT, 26TH MARCH, RICHARD III. PRICES: Gallery, 15 cents. Family Circle, 25 cents. Dress Circle, 50 cents; reserved, 75 cents. Orchestra, 75 cents; reserved, $1. Sale of reserved seats at Box-Office WEDNESDAY at 9 A. M. mh 25-1t*

RICHMOND THEATRE.—TWENTY-THIRD SEASON.—MONDAY, TUESDAY, and WEDNESDAY, and WEDNESDAY MATINEE, March 28th, 29th, and 30th. The original and world-famous HANLONS in their grand fairy spectacular, FANTASMA. Two special cars of magnificent scenery, wonderful mechanical effects, &c. Four gorgeous transformation scenes. The great cyclone and tableaux of destruction. Fifty people. Endorsed by the press and public of the entire country as being the greatest spectacular production ever witnessed in America. PRICES: Gallery, 15c. Family Circle, 25c. Dress Circle, 50c.; reserved, 75c. Orchestra, 75c.; reserved, $1. Sale of reserved seats SATURDAY 9 A. M. at Box-Office. mh 25-1t*

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