POLITICAL SPICE.

A FEDERAL HOUSE DEBATE THAT MAKES "GOOD READING."

Sarcasm from the Radical Side Followed by Democratic Rolands for All the Olivers—Captain Wise Speaks.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, January 15.—While the committee clerkship report was under discussion in the House to-day Mr. Wise, of Virginia, not only supported the committee report, but went further and advocated the appointment of individual clerks to members. A clerk is necessary, he said, to the discharge of the duties devolving upon a representative.

Mr. Boutelle began a speech on the situation with the exclamation, "What a comical old humbug the Democratic party is!" Year after year, he said, Congress after Congress there had been the same old tune on one string. He had sat here yesterday and looked upon the remarkable spectacle presented by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Holman), who administered to the House around him, in allopathic doses, medicine of retrenchment and reform. There was something familiar about it, and he had tried to recall what it was. He had at last been able to do so. It all came back to him. It was very simple. History was repeating itself. The performance was simply a repetition of the play made by Dickens and the caricature of Crummlebank, who had depicted various event when Mrs. Squeers, the boys around her and administered to them with a long spoon their diet of retrenchment and reform in the shape of brimstone and treacle, for the purpose of breaking down their appetite for living provisions. [Laughter.] Now, according to the mearranged form, Mr. Holman arose and with toffee in one hand and an amendment in the other, began to follow the great onward movement of retrenchment and reform. Then another friend, the Rev. Chadband, of Kentucky, came in with, "Bless you, my children," and pronounced his benediction. There was more of history and fun in yesterday's proceedings than he had seen before when sat on the floor of the House.

THE DEMOCRACY TAKEN TO TASK.

Mr. Boutelle took to task the Democratic party for its lack of patriotism, saying that in the last six months he had heard only of one patriotic remark being made by a Democrat and that Democrat was himself. He referred to the estimate of the present Governor of the great State of New York. That lady on the Executive Mansion, which for years had been occupied by Democratic bachelors, had, in an interview with a newspaper correspondent admitted the necessity of returning home. She had said on that occasion that it was not necessary in order to put the Governor's Mansion in order to go beyond the confines of the American republic. [Applause on the Republican side.] She had further said that in order to buy her daughter's trousseau she had found little occasion to go to the shops of Watertown. When in this town there did not have the articles she would buy them of the manufacturers or the importers. [At the word "importers" the Democrats burst into laughter, and if the lady's remarks had moved the Democratic view of the matter.]

He then quoted further from Mrs. Flower in an interview, in which she states that she is an American through and through, and that she has yet to find a better or cheaper place in which to buy American stores. [Applause on the Republican side.]

Mr. Compton, of Maryland, commended the Mrs. and Mrs. Harrison the good advice given by Mrs. Flower—especially in regard to the purchase of china. [Laughter and applause on the Democratic side.]

Mr. Cummings, of New York, wished to add to the speech of the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Reed) that under the two Democratic administrations of the State of New York the State debt had been reduced $1,000,000, and that $3,000,000 had been left in the Treasury when Governor Hill retired—that Treasury having been empty when Grover Cleveland entered into office. [Applause on the Democratic side.]

THE POLITICAL TURNING OF TABLES.

Mr. Enloe, of Tennessee, said that he had enjoyed the spectacle of yesterday, the very harmless debate of to-day. And he enjoyed them much better than he enjoyed seeing the representatives of the people marched out of the hall twelve months ago by the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Reed) "under parliamentary law." He thought that the position of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Holman) might be characterized as an outburst of public conscience. It was broad enough to take in the Chicago Exposition and everything that related to the carrying on of the Government. The gentleman from Maine (Mr. Boutelle) had spoken of Mrs. Flower and of the fact that she had added brimstone and treacle to the diet. If the gentleman had read the story further he would remember that after a few students had overturned the administration, and, taking the long spoon, had fed her take the brimstone herself, that was exactly what the people had done. Twelve months ago the Republicans had compelled the Democratic party to take brimstone and treacle, but the people had overturned their Administration, and the Democratic party was now giving brimstone to the Republicans. [Laughter.] He did not think it was courteous in the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Boutelle) to read a newspaper interview with a lady whom he claimed for a friend and who was the wife of the Governor of New York. But as he had done so, he should tell the House where the last set of china bought for the White House had come from, and whether it was not of foreign manufacture. [Laughter on the Democratic side.]

EXTENDS FOR A LITTLE FREEDOM.

A Republican member rising to the point of order that Mr. Enloe was not addressing himself to the question under consideration, Mr. Enloe expressed the hope that the presiding officer would allow him to flap his wing a little. In the 13th Congress the Czar had cut them off with a hatchet and he had to go to his own State to seek that freedom of debate which belonged to all American citizens. [Laughter.]

Mr. Rusk, of Maryland, demanded the previous question.

Mr. Reed: "Is the effect of that to cut off debate?"

The Speaker *pro tem.*: "The Chair will leave the inquiry that that is the effect."

Mr. Reed (drily): "We will have to go to our own States in order to have that freedom of debate which belongs to an American citizen." [Laughter].

JEFF DOOLEY INDICTED FOR MURDER.

Annual Meeting of Association of Virginia Engineers—Officers Elected.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

BUCKNER, VA., January 15.—Jeff Dooley stood was indicted by the grand jury today for the murder of officer Mabrey, wounded on the 8th instant of injuries received on December 16th at the hands of Dooley.

The Association of Engineers of Virginia met here to-day at 3 o'clock, with about twenty-five members present. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Clarence Coleman; Vice-President, J. H. Wingate. Directors—M. E. Yeatman, J. E. M. Humphries, W. E. Anderson, and C. G. Cushman; Secretary and Treasurer, J. R. Shick. At the meeting tonight a number of papers on engineering subjects were read.

MRS. MEADE DEAD.

A telegram was received here to-day announcing the sudden death at Shawsville, Va., of Mrs. Alexander Meade, of this city. Deceased was a sister-in-law of Rev. W. H. Meade, rector of St. John's Episcopal church.

LUNENBURG'S NEW JUDGE.

Prosecutor in the Famous Garland-Adison Duel Trial—"Wet" Once More.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

MCFARLAND'S, January 13.—Monday was our regular court-day, and our newly-elected county judge, George C. Orgain, presided for the first time. Judge Orgain is the father of Mr. E. Thomas Orgain, a well-known young business-man of your city, and prior to his election as judge was Commonwealth's-attorney of Lunenburg for thirty-one years—from 1860 to 1891.

At the time of the famous Garland-Adison duel trial Judge Orgain, then Commonwealth's attorney of the county, and Judge Drury Hinton, now of the Court of Appeals of Virginia, and Mr. Archer Taylor, of Baltimore, conducted the prosecution, while the defence was represented by Governor Philip W. McKinney as leading counsel and the late G. S. Finch, of Boydton, Va. The trial was a famous one at the time and was fully reported in the DISPATCH and the leading papers of the country.

NOW "WET."

This county has been "dry" for several years, the late county judge refusing to grant license, but under a local-option election held some years ago, the county voted in favor of "license," and Judge Orgain, in consequence of this action of the people, granted license to sell liquor at the Courthouse to Foulks & Cheatham and C. N. Saterfield, at "Maya" Hotel, these parties proving by a large number of witnesses that they were proper and "fit" persons to sell it and that the Courthouse is a "suitable and convenient" place for its sale, no one opposing the granting of the license. License was also given to Mr. P. Anson to open a bar at McFarland's, no one opposing the granting of the same.

The Judge gave notice that any one desiring to oppose the granting of liquor-license would be heard by the court, but no one opposing it the Court granted the applications.

Although it has been quite cold here but few persons have filled their ice-houses.

The grip has been very prevalent in this neighborhood, but is on the decrease.

Colonel R. H. Allen, president of the Board of Supervisors, has been quite ill, but has recovered.

THE HEAVIEST SNOW FOR YEARS.

Arlington Reservation as an Experimental Farm—Another Charter Granted.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

ALEXANDRIA, VA., January 15.—Alexandria just now is having a variety of weathers. For four or five days past warm, rainy, and foggy weather has been in order. Last night it turned cold, and when the town awoke this morning, snow to the depth of eight inches covered the ground, with it still coming down. The prospects are that this snow will be heavier than any that has fallen here in several winters past.

ANOTHER EFFORT.

The people of Alexandria county will make another effort to have the unused portion of the Arlington reservation made an experimental farm by the United States Government. A petition will be sent the Virginia members of Congress praying them to use their influence with Congress to forward this object, and influential residents of the county will make personal efforts at the Agricultural Department.

A BUILDER DEAD.

Mr. William Gibson, a well-known contractor and builder here, died at his home on Pitt street yesterday. Mr. Gibson, who was a native of England, has resided here for a quarter of a century past and has identified himself with the town, having put up many of the finest buildings here.

ANOTHER CHARTER.

The Travellers Banking, Publishing and Insurance Company has been granted a charter by Judge Norton. The new corporation proposes to do a life insurance business, to publish a newspaper, "The traveller's Friend," and to loan money. A hundred thousand dollars is its capital stock. Mr. J. G. Slater is its president, and S. H. Moony secretary and treasurer.

Mr. T. E. Corbett has been re-elected president of the City Investment Company. A divident of fifty cents, or 8½ per cent. on each share, has been declared by this company.

The Mechanics Building Association has declared dividends as follows: No. 1, $7.75; No. 2, $2.65; No. 3, $2; No. 4, $1.25.

STORM EFFECTS IN LYNCHBURG.

Houses Shocked by Telegraph Wires—Telephone Exchange Burned Out.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

LYNCHBURG, VA., January 15.—Four inches of snow fell here early this morning. It was unusually heavy and damp, and the telephone and telegraph wires suffered in several points of the city, and several houses were shocked by coming in contact with the wires. The Telephone Exchange was burned out by the loose wires coming in contact with the Electric-works wires, which rendered the telephone service useless during the day.

The river rose rapidly last night on account of the thaw in the mountains, and this morning registered eleven and one half feet, but is falling to-night.

THE STRIKE EXTENDING.

The strike of the express messengers of the Southern Express Company has extended to this point on the Richmond and Danville railroad, but the officers of the company say they have employed enough of experienced men here to avoid all trouble, and everything is working smoothly.

A SLIGHT ACCIDENT.

The vestibule train on the Richmond and Danville road last night struck a large rock which had fallen on the side of the track near Tye river. The pilot of the engine was slightly injured and a step broken off one of the cars. Nobody was hurt.

The track watchman discovered the rock and flagged the train down in time for it to slow up, but not in time to stop entirely before reaching the obstruction. The rock fell just as the watchman approached the spot and the train was too short a distance behind for him to flag it down sooner than he did.

THE STORM AT FREDERICKSBURG.

Snow Eight Inches Deep—The Rappahannock Out of Its Banks.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., January 15.—The heaviest snow-storm that has visited this section for several years occurred here today, covering the ground to the depth of over eight inches. It began about 1 A. M. and continued to 11 A. M. For several hours travel was almost entirely stopped, and it was both dangerous and difficult for pedestrians to venture out.

Owing to the heavy rains for the past few days the river at this writing is about three feet out of its banks and still arising.

The steamer Essex, which arrived yesterday evening, returned immediately to Norfolk after discharging her cargo, her officers fearing high water.

The Baptists of Fairmouth, Stafford county, will at an early day begin the erection of a handsome new church.

MURDER AND HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

Jerry Barbour Shot, Killed, and Robbed—Suspected Young Man Arrested.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

ROCKY MOUNT, VA., January 15.—A murder and highway robbery was committed six miles south of here, near Wadesboro', last night. Jerry Barbour, an old man, who had been drinking and was *en route* to his home, a few miles distant from that point, was shot on the roadside and instantly killed.

A young man eighteen years of age named Robertson, of North Carolina, was last seen with Barbour and was arrested by Sheriff Price to-day. Barbour's pocket-book containing seven dollars and some cents, was found on Robertson's person, also a knife, which was recognized as Barbour's knife.

The young man denies all knowledge of Barbour's murder, but the circumstances point strongly to Robertson as the guilty party. Robertson was committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury.

THE GARZA MOVEMENT.

Heavy Alleged Reinforcements from the Texas Town of San Angelo.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., January 15.—The following dispatch from Major Morris, in command at Fort McIntosh, has been received by Colonel J. P. Martin, Adjutant-General of this military department: "It is rumored that a large party of revolutionists and of Garza men left San Angelo, Tex., about January 6th or 7th headed for Del Rio, Tex. I give this for what it is worth." The town of San Angelo is in Tom Green county fully 150 miles from the border. It has a large Mexican population which has been known all along as pronouncedly in sympathy with the Garza movement.

The Dispatch of to-morrow will be a ten-page paper. It will have all the news; all of its usual Sunday features, and many other special articles of great value.

Virginia Measures in Congress.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, January 15.—Colonel O'Ferrall introduced in the House, for Dr. Lawson, who is absent, a bill authorizing the purchase of Cedar Grove, opposite the Gosport navy-yard, and similar to the measure introduced in the Senate by Mr. Daniel.

Virginia and North Carolina members generally voted against Dickerson's minority report, which, if adopted, would have deprived Farmer Edmunds's committee of a clerk.

Mr. Eggleston, of Charlotte county, has been appointed clerk of his committee.

Speaker Crisp Not So Well.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, January 15.—Speaker Crisp was not so well this morning, having passed a less restful night than usual of late. There was no serious change in his condition, however.

Too Much Snow at Guttenburg.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

GUTTENBURG, January 15.—There was no racing here to-day because of the quantity of snow. To-day's entries stand for to-morrow.

The Most Pleasant Way

of preventing the grip, colds, headaches, and fevers is to use the liquid laxative remedy Syrup of Figs, whenever the system needs a gentle, yet effective cleansing. To be benefited one must get the true remedy manufactured by the California Fig-Syrup Company only. For sale by all druggists in 50 cents and $1 bottles.

FOR THE CAP-STONE.

THE BILL MAKING THE MONUMENT APPROPRIATION PASSES SENATE.

Mrs. Smith Wants the License Laws Changed—The Duane-Yarrell Contest—To Tax Dogs—Safety of Boilers.

The Senate was called to order at 12 o'clock by the Lieutenant-Governor, and the proceedings opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. E. N. Calisch.

Mr. Dunn introduced a bill to fix the times for holding the terms of the Corporation Court of Charlottesville and the trial of appeals from magistrates in the same, which, under suspension of the rules, was passed.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. Marshall, to incorporate the Potts Valley railroad; by Mr. Southall, to authorize the Board of Supervisors of Amelia to increase the salary of the judge of the County Court; by Mr. Hurt, to amend section 3191 of the Code, and authorize any two judges of the State to grant licenses to practice law, so that females as well as males may obtain license; by Mr. Walton, to provide for the working and keeping in repair of the roads of the county of Shenandoah; by Mr. Tyler, to amend the Code in relation to the bonds of officers; by Mr. Marshall, to provide a system of pleading in actions at common law; by Mr. Flood, to amend and re-enact section 2485 of the Code in relation to lien of employees, etc., of corporations, companies, etc., on franchises and property of company; by Mr. Harrison, to authorize the boards of supervisors of Clarke county and Warren county to increase the respective salaries of the judges of the county courts of their respective counties.

Mr. Hurt presented a memorial of citizens of Danville for the passage of the Kent bill or any other that will do justice to that city. Referred to the Committee on Roads.

FEMALE LAWYERS.

When Mr. Hurt presented the bill to amend the Code so that females as well as males might obtain license to practice law, he stated that he did so by request of Mrs. Smith, of Danville, and as he could not vote for it he turned it over to the Senator from Henry, Mr. Peters.

The latter moved that the rules be suspended and the bill be placed on the calendar, and explained that as there was a female physician in the House, he wanted a female lawyer to keep her in order.

The Chair decided on a sixty-one vote that the motion to place on the calendar had prevailed.

Mr. Echols called for a recorded vote, which was ordered and the motion to place upon the calendar was lost—ayes, 16; noes, 18.

THE DEBT REPORT.

Mr. Hurt offered a resolution that 4,500 copies of the report of the Debt Commission with the accompanying message of Governor McKinney be printed for the use of the members of the General Assembly.

The bill to amend the charter of the Old Point Villa Site Company was passed.

THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

When the bill to appropriate $3,200 to the Confederate Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Association came up Mr. Gordon spoke in opposition to it on the ground that the deeds of the Confederate soldiers constituted an eternal monument to their fame; that it was the duty of Virginia to husband all her resources to meet her debt obligation, and that she owed a higher duty to the Confederate soldier than the erection of monuments—and that was to provide the maimed veterans with bread. Mr. Gordon paid a magnificent tribute to the valor of the Confederate soldiers and to the Confederate cause. His position was that a monument was useless in the face of the verdict of history, and that the money could be better applied to relieving the wants of the disabled living.

Messrs. Lovenstein, Stubbs, Marshall, Sands, and Scott advocated the bill, which was passed by a unanimous vote, Mr. Gordon voting in the affirmative. Mr. Gordon's vote was received with applause. Senator Lovenstein was instructed to communicate the passage of the bill to the House.

IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

At 1 o'clock the Senate went into executive session and confirmed the following nominations for superintendents of public schools: King William county, James H. Gwathmey *vice* William V. Croxton, resigned; Richmond county, Robert Williams *vice* Robert Hall, deceased; Sussex county, Alexander King *vice* J. F. West, resigned; Wise county, J. C. Carter *vice* James M. Durham, resigned; York county, W. J. Stores *vice* William H. Shield, resigned.

DUANE VERSUS YARRELL.

The executive session being concluded, the Senate took up a resolution offered by Mr. Gose, that the Committee on Privileges and Elections do proceed as soon as practicable to consider the right of J. C. Duane to a seat in the body as Senator from the Twenty-seventh senatorial district, now occupied by Hon. L. D. Yarrell, and report such resolution or resolutions thereon as may be proper.

After considerable discussion the resolution was made the special order for 12:30 P. M. next Tuesday.

THE DREDGING COMPANY.

On motion of Mr. Lovenstein the bill to incorporate the Virginia Dredging Company was taken up and passed.

Mr. Barnes offered the following, which was agreed to: That the Committee on Counties, Cities, and Towns be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the road laws as to require the public roads of the Commonwealth to be worked within certain fixed periods of the year.

House joint resolution memorializing the President and Congress to erect a memorial to Mathew Fontaine Maury was passed by.

At 2:30 the Senate adjourned.

House of Delegates.

The House was called to order promptly at noon, and the proceedings opened with a prayer by Rev. Jabez Hall.

Leaves of absence were granted Messrs. T. S. Mason, Utz, Michaux, Anderson, Miller, Campbell, Kerfoot, and Ellis.

Mr. Catlett Gibson, of Culpeper, introduced the following:

Whereas there are many dogs of great value in the State of Virginia which are not assessed for taxation and many which commit great depredations upon flocks, herds, and game; and whereas good dogs are luxuries, safeguards, and blessings undisguised and our best friends, and bad dogs are nuisances, curses, and enemies to the human race, and whereas dogs have been held to be *feræ naturæ*, and whereas it is deemed proper that good dogs should be protected and bad dogs restrained, and that all domesticated animals should be assessed, taxed, and subjected to the domination and control of man and of his laws; therefore

1. *Be it enacted*, That dogs be deemed and held domestic animals and personal property, and be assessed to their owners at their true and actual value, but no dog shall be assessed at a less value than $10.

2. All puppies over nine days old shall, for purposes of assessment and taxation, be deemed and held dogs.

3. All taxes collected under this act shall be appropriated to the maintenance of the public schools of the State.

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. Kent, to amend the charter of the town of Wytheville, define the jurisdiction and power of certain officers and extend the corporate limits; by Mr. Chambers, to amend and re-enact section 2069 of the Code in relation to licenses required for catching fish for oil or manure; by Mr. M. C. Thomas, to rearrange the fifth and fourteenth circuits and to form a new circuit. The amendment proposed removes Bedford from the Fifth circuit and Roanoke city from the Fourteenth, and constitutes Bedford and Roanoke a separate district to be called the Eighteenth circuit. By Mr. Hoge, to amend section 1889, Code of Virginia, in relation to shooting along public highways. The amendment provides that unless the shooting is absolutely necessary for self-protection and protection of property the offender shall be fined not less than five dollars. By Mr. Howe, to relieve S. B. Shannon, of the county of Giles; by Mr. Withrow, to authorize the town of Covington to issue bonds and borrow money; by Mr. John W. Jackson, to incorporate the Virginia Land and Investment Company. Messrs. R. C. Marshall, Alfred P. Thom, Albert Young, Norborn Lewis, Legh R. Page, and George B. Finsk are named as the corporators of the company. By Mr. Shepperson, for the protection of game in the county of Charlotte; by Mr. Magruder, to amend and re-enact section 2485 of the Code of Virginia in relation to the lien of employees of transportation companies, etc., on franchises and property of company.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PRINTING.

The House concurred in the joint resolution of the Senate, which provides for the printing of 4,500 additional copies of the Governor's special message on the debt.

Considerable time was consumed in the discussion of the Senate bill to amend and re-enact an act entitled an act to amend and re-enact section 277, Code of Virginia, in relation to the printing of acts of the General Assembly, approved June 15, 1886. The House Committee when they considered the measure reported an amendment in the form of a substitute, which provided that the public bills be printed in one volume and the private and local bills in another. Messrs. Saunders and Gibson favored the substitute, while Mr. Ryan opposed it. The substitute was voted down and the bill passed.

The announcement by Senator Lovenstein that the upper branch had passed the bill appropriating $3,200 for the sailors' and soldiers' monument was greeted with applause.

GIVES UP THE CONTEST.

Mr. Mallet, of Norfolk, requested the clerk to read the following letter addressed to him from Mr. J. W. Bidgood, contestant in the Norfolk county election case:

"My Dear Sir.—Your telegram received, and in response thereto I desire to say to you for the committee that while my confidence in the justice of my cause is undiminished, believing that a continuance of the contest between Mr. Stewart and myself would not redound to the interest of the Democratic party, and feeling that the most important objects of my candidacy have been accomplished for the constituency which so nobly supported me I can now honorably lay down the burden imposed upon me and withdraw from the contest, which I accordingly do. Very truly yours,

"J. W. BIDGOOD."

The paper was ordered to be spread upon the Journal, and upon motion the Committee on Privileges and Elections relieved from further consideration of the case.

STEAM-BOILERS.

The bill regulating the use of steam-boilers in the State, of which Mr. Chambers is patron, came up on its second reading. Mr. Chambers explained the measure at some length, while Mr. Gibson also entered in the argument. These two gentlemen exchanged some very facetious remarks in their discussions and frequently convulsed the House in laughter. Messrs. White of Accomac and Pilcher also made suggestions concerning the measure and proposed several amendments.

While the debate was pending the gentlemen were asked to suspend for a few minutes, as Mr. Stratton's bill making Labor-day a public holiday came up as a special order. This bill was passed by an almost unanimous vote.

The discussion of Mr. Chambers's bill was then resumed, but the House adjourned before the measure was disposed of.

The following House bills were passed: To amend the third section of an act incorporating the Fauquier-Memorial Female College, of Wytheville, approved February 7, 1884; to incorporate the Richmond and Southwestern Railroad Company.

WHAT THE COMMITTEES ARE DOING.

Bank Holidays—Roads—The Fertilizer Tax—The Kent Bill.

The bankers of Richmond met Thursday afternoon in the directory-room of the Citizens Bank to consider the bank-holiday bill pending in the Legislature. The sense of the meeting was in favor of the observance of Labor-day and Memorial-day, but opposed to Saturday half-holidays in the summer months. The meeting employed ex-Judge Leake to look after the bank legislation and see that the holiday bills were drawn in such a manner as to be understood and easily workable.

Mr. Barnes introduced into the Senate yesterday a resolution directing the Committee on Counties, Cities, and Towns to inquire into the expediency of requiring the roads to be worked at a fixed time during the year. The object of this resolution is to have the roads worked in the spring so as to get them in good condition for the fall and winter months.

The Committee on Propositions and Grievances of the House decided at their meeting yesterday to report a large number of bills—among them that to incorporate the R. M. T. Hunter Association.

TO PREVENT BLACKLISTING.

The sub-committee appointed by the House Committee on Courts of Justice to consider the bill introduced by Mr. D. L. Toney for the protection of discharged employees and to prevent blacklisting and for other purposes, met yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock to discuss the measure. Mr. B. O. James, the sub-chairman, presided. Several employees of railroads in this city were in attendance and gave their views upon the bill. The committee will not report for several days.

A meeting of the House Committee on Roads, will be held this morning to consider the Kent railroad bill, but it is hardly probable that the measure will be discussed at any length, as several gentlemen who were expected to address the committee will be unavoidably detained on account of unforeseen engagements.

The Committee of the House on Public Property yesterday presented their report instructing Major Gaines, the Superintendent of Public Buildings, to continue the use of electricity in lighting the Capitol building. As stated in the DISPATCH of yesterday the wires will be placed under ground and will be strung in accordance with the rules of the New York Underwriters' Association.

The sub-committee of the House Committee on Mining and Agriculture held a meeting in the hall of the House of Delegates yesterday afternoon and discussed the proposed fertilizer bill which substitutes a tonnage tax for the old brand tax upon the article. Mr. Lyman, a member of the State Board of Agriculture, appeared and spoke on the bill, which will shortly be drafted.

The Senate Committee on Public Institutions met yesterday afternoon to consider the bill passed by the House providing for female assistant physicians in each of the asylums of the State. There not being a full committee, however, no action was taken.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections of the two houses met last evening to consider the resolution of Senator McDonald looking to the incorporation of the Australian ballot system into the election laws of the State. Captain Ham. Sheppard appeared before the committee and favored the adoption of a modified form of the Australian system which would not vitiate the present election system. The committee postponed further consideration of the matter.

THE CHURCHES SUNDAY.

Special Services and Special Sermons—Mission and Other Meetings.

Rev. Dr. H. A. Tupper will preach for the Pine-Street mission to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock at their rooms on Jacquelin near Randolph street. This mission, which is one of the most prosperous ever inaugurated in Richmond, will be organized as a regular church on the first Sunday in February, and a pastor will be called. It is said that the leaders in this good work already have their eyes on an eminent minister. They propose to build at once on the lot recently purchased a nice chapel that will seat about four hundred persons.

The pulpit of the Church of the Covenant will be filled in the morning by Rev. Mr. Walthall. There will be no service at night.

At the night service at Laurel-Street Methodist church Rev. Dr. Judkins will preach on "The Duty of the Citizen and the Claims of the Bible in Our Educational System."

Rev. R. F. Beadles will preach for the congregations of Clay-Street Methodist church morning and night.

The subject of Dr. Tudor's sermon Sunday morning at Broad-Street Methodist church will be "The Voice of God or the Bible," in compliance with the request of the Order of United American Mechanics.

At Trinity Methodist church the pastor, Rev. P. A. Peterson, will preach in the morning on "The Children Are Not Punished for the Sins of Their Fathers," and at night deliver an address to the Christian Workers of the church.

Rev. W. A. Laughon will occupy the pulpit at Washington-Street Methodist church at night.

There will be a union meeting of all the men of the Richmond and Manchester Christian churches at the Seventh-Street church at 3:30 P. M., looking to a united effort for the city missions in and around the two cities.

Rev. S. A. Goodwin will preach for the Leigh-Street Baptist congregation in the morning.

Rev. W. F. Claybrook will occupy the pulpit morning and evening at Pine-Street Baptist church.

The regular monthly meeting of the Baptist City Missionary Society will take place at Leigh-Street church at 3:30 P. M. The meeting is not confined, as some have been thought, only to males; ladies are always welcome.

The Rev. Thomas A. King, of Baltimore, Md., will conduct the services of New Jerusalem church at Smith's New Hall, 308 north Fifth street, morning and evening.

Dr. R. H. Pitt will resume on Sunday evening his series of sermons on Last Things. "With What Body Do They Come?" will be the theme of the discourse.

Cases Before the Justice.

The following cases were disposed of in the Police Court yesterday:

Emmett Thompson (colored) was sent to jail in default of security as a suspicious character.

William Tribue and Joseph Pearman, charged with stealing eight bushels of corn under the charge of S. Cross, were sent to the county courthouse for trial, as the theft is alleged to have been committed about eight miles from Richmond.

Charles Noel and A. S. Donahoe paid $5 each and costs for creating a disturbance in the barroom of J. M. Ryall.

Keziah Burke (colored) was charged with assaulting, cursing, and abusing Robert Lawrence and stealing $18 from his person. The evidence showed that the money had been lost in a general row, and Keziah Burke, Robert Lawrence, F. L. Cullock, George Kinney, and Thomas Jackson were fined $5 each and costs for fighting in the streets.

Chapman Thompson (colored), accused of feloniously stealing a lot of wearing apparel belonging to Louisa Payne, was sent on to the grand jury.

The case of Lawson Epps (colored), charged with feloniously assaulting William Martin, was continued until January 22d, and that of J. W. McCabe, charged with throwing G. M. Vaugah down and breaking his leg, was postponed until the 27th.

The Police Justice and Petty-Larceny Cases.

The decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals in the case of Miller against the Commonwealth, which in effect declares that the section of the Code giving magistrates concurrent jurisdiction with county judges in certain cases is unconstitutional, has given rise to the question whether or not the Police Justice of Richmond can, under this decision, continue to convict in cases of petit larceny. Some lawyers, who have read a synopsis of the opinion, are understood to hold that he cannot. In that event the criminal expenses of the city will be greatly increased.

Property Transfers.

Richmond: J. M. Wallace and wife to Mary L. Ellyson's trustee, 30 feet on west side Laurel street, between Beverly and Albemarle, $3,000; J. F. Welcome to Frank H. Walton, personalty, $325.

Henrico: B. F. Johnson & Co. to Historical Publishing Company (same deed reported from Chancery Court January 9th); Samuel P. Waddill, clerk, to R. F. Morris, trustee, 31¾ acres on Mechanicsville turnpike, in name of Edward Crouch's estate for taxes, $2.44; L. Wright, T. J. Noble, jr., and their wives, to J. A. Stone, 25 feet on west side Meadow-Bridge road, $700.

Supreme Court of Appeals.

Langhorne against Richmond City Railroad Company. Writ of error and *supersedeas* awarded to judgment rendered by Circuit Court of the city of Richmond on the 8th of January, 1891.

Morgan against Commonwealth. Writ of error and *supersedeas* awarded to a judgment rendered by the Circuit Court of Montgomery on the 5th of December, 1891.

Roller against Effinger's executor. Further argued by Major T. C. Elder for appellant and G. G. Grattan, Esq., for appellee, and submitted.

The Turkey-Raffling Case.

In the Hustings Court yesterday Commonwealth's-Attorney Smith entered a *nolle prosequi* in the case against Alderman M. T. Page, charged with unlawfully raffling turkeys. The alleged offense was committed before Christmas and was fully reported in the DISPATCH. The Commonwealth's Attorney took this action because, after a full and careful investigation of the laws upon raffling, he did not think he could sustain the charge when the case would come up for trial.

All other cases set for trial yesterday were continued.

Final Performance of Pinafore.

Pinafore was not sung last night on account of the snow, but the final performance will be given this afternoon at a matinee, and the indications are that one of the largest audiences that has listened to this opera by Richmond talent will hear it this afternoon. Major Kirk Mathews, the musical director, has done excellent work in training his orchestra and chorus and deserves great credit for his indefatigable efforts.

The V. M. I. Board of Visitors.

The Board of Visitors of the Virginia Military Institute held a final session yesterday and further discussed the plans for the Jackson-Memorial chapel. It was decided to go ahead with the work and lay the corner-stone of the building in June. The committee, consisting of Messrs. Letcher, Love, and Otey, appointed to urge upon Congress the reimbursement of the institute for the destruction of its property by Hunter, will visit Washington next week.

All Trains Covered.

So far as Richmond is concerned the strike of the express messengers had not extended beyond the Danville road last night. Yesterday the places of the four messengers on that road who went out had been supplied, and the company is covering all trains leaving the city.

The dealers say Salvation Oil has stepped right to the front. Price only 25 cents.

KILLED OR BURNED.

TERRIBLE FATE OF AN OPERA COMPANY IN THE NORTHWEST.

Two Charred Bodies Taken Out of a Railway Wreck—Many Persons Seriously Injured—Their Losses.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., January 15.—A special from Brainard, Minn., says: A frightful railroad accident occurred on the Northern Pacific road, seven miles east of Brainard, at 4 o'clock this morning. The second section of No. 9, with the Andrews Opera Company on board, left West Superior at midnight for Grand Forks. Near Jonesville the train struck a broken rail, the engine and baggage-car passing over in safety, but the sleeping-car was derailed and ran some 300 feet on the ties, when it toppled over, breaking loose from the train, and went down an embankment some five feet high, lying on its side.

TWO KILLED.

"It was soon on fire, and two of the inmates were killed or burned to death. They were Mrs. Ed. Andrews and Mrs. Lillie Wallace, members of the troupe. Their charred bodies were taken from the debris after the fire had burned itself out. By the aid of the train-hands all the other inmates were gotten out, but most of them were badly burned and otherwise injured.

THE INJURED.

Florence Joy was severely burned on the back and head and will probably die. May Douglass was burned on head and arms, but will probably recover. Miss Letitia Fritch was burned on hands and arms. Mrs. L. F. Barker, shoulder dislocated; Miss Marie Roe, slightly burned and bruised; George Andrews, burned on arms; Miss Ella Harris, burned on neck and arms; J. C. Taylor, cut and bruised; H. Allen, burned on neck; Fred. Allen, bruised; Miss Jo Shearer, slightly burned; L. F. Barker, burned on hands and face.

LITERALLY WRAPPED IN FLAMES.

Miss Douglass, when she was brought from the car, was literally enveloped in flames, her hair being on fire. The members of the company lost all they possessed, except their stage clothes, including musical instruments, watches, and money. Even their night clothing was burned from their persons.

MACKAY LISTENS TO STOKES.

A Sarcastic Smile on His Face at Some of His Former Ally's Testimony.

Edward S. Stokes remained on the witness stand all day on Thursday in his suit before Judge Ingraham, of the Supreme Court of New York, to recover $75,000 that he alleges John W. Mackay and his former agent, Hector de Castro, owe him for alleged breach of contract. Mr. Stokes's moustache, according to the New York *Sun*, is now nearly as white as his hair. He and Mr. Mackay were friends until they disagreed in the telegraph stock transactions that are the basis for this and several other suits. Mr. Mackay smiled sarcastically at some parts of Mr. Stokes's testimony. Mr. Mackay's face in repose shows strong and rugged lines. It was in striking contrast to the smooth face of Mr. Stokes.

Joseph H. Choate, ex-Judge Esek Cowen, and Samuel Untermeyer represented Mr. Stokes, and for the defendants there were ex-Judge William G. Choate, Joseph Larocque, and Charles E. Lydecker.

Mr. Stokes gave his version of the stock transactions that ended his friendship with Mr. Mackay. He said that he had received a majority of the stock of the United Lines Telegraph Company, amounting to between $1,500,000 and $2,000,000. He expended considerable money of his own in the scheme in which he was associated with Mr. Mackay to consolidate several telegraph lines. He kept no account of the money expended in this way. When Mr. Mackay wanted him to turn over these securities to Mr. de Castro he refused unless he obtained a written agreement by which he was to share in the profits. When Mr. de Castro asked him his price in cash to withdraw from the scheme he at first demanded $300,000, but he finally agreed to sign a release for $100,000. This agreement was drawn up in duplicate by Colonel Ingersoll, acting for Stokes, and one copy was signed by Hector de Castro and Stokes on December 24, 1888. Mr. Stokes then refused to turn over the securities in his possession until he had heard from Mr. Mackay, who was in New Orleans.

Mr. Mackay denies that he agreed to give Mr. Stokes $100,000 to withdraw from the telegraph scheme, and Mr. de Castro says that he signed the agreement simply as a matter of form on representation that it would accommodate Stokes in his stock transactions.

In the afternoon session Mr. Stokes was cross-examined by Mr. Larocque. He said that he had met Mr. Mackay in California first, and that Mr. Mackay had been of some assistance to him in selling a mine in Virginia City. Later he had obtained loans from Mr. Mackay for the Hoffman House. It was in the summer of 1884 that he had suggested the telegraph combination as a way in which Mr. Mackay could save himself from loss in the Postal Telegraph Company. Mr. Mackay accepted his suggestion and began to advance money to invest in the Bankers' and Merchants' Telegraph Company with the idea of consolidating it with the Postal Telegraph Company. Mr. Stokes told of half a dozen conversations that he had with Mr. Mackay about this scheme, and a small bundle of checks amounting in all to over $1,000,000 that had been drawn to his order were put in evidence. The cross-examination will be continued to-day.

General Lee's Birthday.

The indications are that the observance of General Robert E. Lee's birthday, January 19th, says the Baltimore *Sun*, will be more general throughout the South than ever before. The formation of Confederate camps in most of the cities and large towns in the South, and indeed in many of the counties, forms a basis for this increased interest in the birthday of the great Confederate chieftain. Hundreds of camp-fires will be lighted on the evening of the 19th of January throughout the South, and ex-Confederates will me