THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

WHOLE NUMBER, 14,474. RICHMOND, VA., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1897. THREE CENTS PER COPY.

THE LAST CONTEST.

THE CAUCUS FINISHES COUNTY JUDGESHIP NOMINATIONS.

LAST NIGHT'S SESSION A WARM ONE.

Committee's Report Exonerates Judge Oglesby, of Carroll, Who Is Re-Elected—Fight in James City Results in Judge Smith's Election.

The last of the judgeship contests was decided last night, when the judges for the courts of ten counties were nominated. It is rather remarkable that incumbents were elected in every instance, except in Princess Anne county, where Judge Woodhouse withdrew, and Mr. Benjamin White was elected without opposition.

The contest for the judgeship of the district composed of the counties of James City and York and the city of Williamsburg was very heated, though it resulted in the re-election of Judge Smith by a large majority.

Judge Baker P. Lee, of Warwick, who is criticised by the Legislative Committee investigating the criminal expenses of several counties, was renominated by acclamation, with great enthusiasm.

The next caucus will probably be held after the holidays, when a judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit will be nominated.

The caucus was called to order at 8:10 by Chairman Merritt T. Cooke.

Mr. Churchman, of Augusta, arose to a question of personal privilege, and proceeded to explain that while Judge Lyman Chalkley, the recently re-elected Judge of the County Court of Augusta, had not voted for Bryan in 1896, the reason he did not do so was that he had removed from one ward to another of the city, and forgot to get his transfer in time to cast his ballot. He said Judge Chalkley was as true a Democrat as ever lived, and the newspapers that had represented him as otherwise did him a great injustice.

DID NOT WANT SMOKING.

Mr. Wilson sent to the clerk's desk, and had read the following resolution:

"Resolved, That any member of this caucus who shall smoke during the session of the caucus shall be fined $1, to be paid to the pages of the House.

"Resolved, further, That upon any member being guilty of this offence a second time he shall be escorted to the door by the sergeant-at-arms.

Senator Eggleston arose from out a cloud of smoke to move that the resolution be laid on the table, which was done, with but two dissenting voices.

CARROLL COUNTY CONTEST.

Carroll county was called, and Captain Parks, chairman of the caucus committee appointed to investigate the charges against Judge N. P. Oglesby, presented the following report.

To the Democratic Caucus of the State of Virginia:

The undersigned, appointed to investigate certain charges against Hon. N. P. Oglesby, Judge of the County Court of Carroll county, beg leave to report as follows:

Charge—Having the signatures of L. A. Jennings and C. C. Worrell to papers endorsing the said Oglesby for re-election, the genuineness of which signatures is questioned.

The evidence shows that said Jennings had signed or caused another to sign his name to a paper endorsing said Oglesby for said judgeship, and had also signed his name to a paper endorsing W. M. Foster, the opponent of said Oglesby for said office; that said Worrell had signed or caused another to sign, his name to papers endorsing both candidates. While such conduct on the part of said Jennings and said Worrell cannot be approved, there was no evidence to show that Judge Oglesby was responsible for it, or that there was anything improper in his relation to this charge.

PEOPLE APPROVED HIS COURSE.

Charge—Illegal appropriation of the funds of the county. Your committee find no evidence to support this charge. Even if there had been technical irregularity, the people approved the expense and got the benefit of it. Certainly, not one cent of benefit accrued to Judge Oglesby.

Charge—That said Judge Oglesby, in the discharge of his official duties, had pandered to the Republican party, and by reason of such conduct the Democratic party had sustained injury. The acts complained of were approved by the people, as shown by the evidence. In the matter of appointments, which is the gist of the offence complained of, there was nothing in the evidence to show that Judge Oglesby was actuated by any motive of a political nature, or that the Democratic party had been injured thereby.

Respectfully submitted,
R. S. PARKS,
S. H. LETCHER,
GEORGE W. LEWIS CATO,
WILLIAM H. BOAZ.

THE MINORITY REPORT.

The following report, dissenting from the majority, was submitted:

The undersigned feels constrained to dissent from the finding of the committee in regard to charges second and third.

Charge second relates to the illegal appropriation of the funds of the county. It is clearly shown that Judge Oglesby did appropriate money for the building of a bridge in Pulaski county. While it may be true that this was done for the benefit and with the approval of the citizens of Carroll county, yet the fact remains, in the opinion of the undersigned, that there is no warrant in law for such an appropriation.

The third charge, and in the judgment of the undersigned the most serious one, that Judge Oglesby pandered to the Republican party, has, in the view of the undersigned, been clearly shown. The facts are that during his administration he appointed seven or eight Republicans to the position of constable and magistrates. While the undersigned fully recognizes that Judge Oglesby had high authority for making such appointments, being no less than that of the appointment by President Cleveland of Mr. Gresham to his Cabinet, yet the undersigned is strongly of the opinion that when a Democratic official appoints to office Republicans, it is prima facie evidence that he is pandering to that party, and it rests with him to disprove the charges which, in the present instance, he has failed to do.

Respectfully submitted,
B. L. WINSTON.

THE CANDIDATES NAMED.

The report was adopted, and Mr. C. H. Jennings, of Washington, nominated Mr. W. M. Foster, dwelling upon the strong endorsements Mr. Foster had received and the evidence alleged to show that Judge Oglesby had catered to the Republican party.

Senator James read a telegram from Judge D. W. Bolen, at Hillsville, the county seat of Carroll, saying that yesterday was court-day and everybody wanted Judge Oglesby re-elected. Mr. James said every Democratic delegate and senator in counties adjoining Carroll, which had no Democratic representative in the caucus, favored the renomination of Judge Oglesby.

Mr. Jennings replied by showing that an immense number of the Democratic voters of Carroll, the solid Democratic bar, and the only Democratic paper in Carroll county endorsed Mr. Foster.

Mr. Winborne urged the nomination of Mr. Foster, as did Dr. Wirston, who signed the minority report, going into the evidence at length in trying to show that the charges against Judge Oglesby were sustained.

Mr. Minter thought the party would be helped by the infusion of new blood into the office-holders of Carroll county, and seconded the nomination of Mr. Foster.

JUDGE OGLESBY IS NAMED.

Mr. Parks and Mr. Saunders discussed the evidence against Judge Oglesby, declaring that it established none of the charges.

Senator Tate said he simply wanted to testify as a citizen of Pulaski, which adjoins Carroll, that the misappropriation of county funds charge, by which a bridge had been built between Pulaski and Carroll, was of great benefit to the people.

Mr. Minter and Mr. Jennings again made strong speeches in favor of the nomination of Mr. Foster.

Mr. T. D. Jennings then made an earnest speech in favor of the nomination of Mr. Foster.

The ballot was then taken, but when little more than half completed the nomination of Judge Oglesby, on motion of Mr. C. H. Jennings, was made unanimous.

THE FRANKLIN JUDGE.

Franklin county was next called, and Mr. Saunders nominated Judge George D. Peters, the incumbent, who was nominated by acclamation.

A VERY WARM CONTEST.

The district composed of the counties of James City and York and the city of Williamsburg, was then taken up, and developed one of the strongest caucus fights of this session.

Mr. T. T. Powell, of Newport News, presented to the caucus, in a very chaste speech, the name of Judge Sidney Smith, the incumbent, saying it was a solemn duty placed upon him by the people of his district to do all in his power to have Judge Smith re-elected.

Senator Barnes, of New Kent, made a very strong speech nominating Mr. Robert A. Armistead for the position. He payed the highest tribute to his character as a man, a Confederate soldier, and a lawyer.

The vote was taken, but before the roll-call was finished it was seen that Judge Smith was elected by a great majority, and on motion of Senator Barney his nomination was made unanimous by acclamation.

KING WILLIAM COUNTY.

King William county was called, and Mr. Diggs nominated Judge O. O. Gwathmey, the incumbent, who was chosen the nominee without opposition.

LUNENBURG COUNTY.

For Judge of the County Court of Lunenburg Senator N. S. Turnbull nominated Judge George C. Orgain. Judge Orgain was elected without opposition.

PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY.

Princess Anne county was called, and Senator Lowrie, chairman of the committee appointed to investigate charges against Judge J. J. Woodhouse, reported that no charges had been submitted, and the committee, on motion, was discharged.

Senator Foster, of Norfolk, withdrew the name of Judge Woodhouse, and Delegate Snead, of Princess Anne, renominated Mr. Benjamin White. Mr. White was nominated unanimously.

A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. Diggs, arising to a question of personal privilege, stated that he had received a letter from Mr. W. McK. Woodhouse, in which he said that the statement made by Mr. Diggs in caucus a few nights ago in regard to Dr. Snead, based upon information received from him (Mr. Woodhouse), was erroneous. Mr. Diggs said he also wished to state that nothing was further from his purpose when he arose from his seat than to say anything that would reflect in the slightest degree upon the gentleman from Princess Anne, but the remark was drawn from him by numerous questions propounded while on his feet, which questions, as he considered, were asked in jest and answered in jest. He did not think it would get in the papers.

JUDGE BAKER LEE NOMINATED.

Warwick county was called, and Mr. Winborne, as a member of the joint legislative committee appointed to investigate as to the responsibility of the county judges for excessive criminal expenses in certain counties, stated that its partial report, submitted Saturday, would show that Judge Baker P. Lee, the present judge, was guilty of carelessness in the matter of criminal expenses.

Mr. E. E. Montague, Delegate from Elizabeth City, nominated Judge Lee for re-election, and Mr. Powell, Mr. Withrow, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Boykin, Mr. Stubbs, Mr. Foster, and Mr. George C. Bland, in short speeches, paid tributes to the high character of Judge Lee.

Judge Lee's nomination was unanimous.

THE WISE JUDGESHIP.

The county of Wise was then taken up, and Senator Kane, in a short speech, presented as a candidate for re-election Judge H. W. Skeen. Senator Kane took occasion to defend Judge Skeen against imputations of carelessness in allowing the criminal expenses of Wise county to mount up to such a great figure. He said that the discovery and development of coal mines in Wise had brought into the county probably the most heterogeneous population in this country. Among these was a great criminal class of every nationality, which largely accounted for the very heavy criminal expenses of Wise.

Judge Skeen was nominated without opposition.

This was the last of the county judgeship nominations, and the caucus adjourned sine die.

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASS'N.

Summary of Its Work—Great Need of Funds.

NEW YORK, December 20.—The American Missionary Association made public to-day its fifty-first annual report. It shows that during the last few months hundreds of students have been turned away from the schools for want of funds. The educational work includes six higher institutions—to wit, the Williamsburg Academy, Kentucky; Grand View Academy, Tennessee; Saluda Seminary, North Carolina; Bending Oaks Academy, Alabama; Santee Normal and Training School, an academy for the Indians, and 108 other normal, industrial, graded, and primary schools. Eighteen new churches, with several hundred members, have been organized in the South and West. Interesting movements have taken place on plantations in several Southern States. Some of the older churches have come forward in self-support, and several churches present striking illustrations of self-denial and courage. The Indian outstation missions probably now reach twenty tribes, in five different States.

The American Missionary Association missions, in their varied forms, are said to stand in unyielding protest against paganism, superstition, oppression, and immorality in the darkest regions of our land.

The church work in the South includes 224 churches, 133 missionaries, and 11,317 members.

The work among the Indians includes 17 churches, 23 schools, 86 missionaries and teachers, 592 pupils, 26 missionary out-stations, and 2 missionaries in Alaska.

The work among the Chinese contains 20 schools, 320 teachers, 1,084 pupils, 164 Christian Chinese, and 60 professing faith in Christ during the year.

The general summary of association work includes 120 schools, 14,664 pupils, 600 missionaries, 141 churches, and 12,288 church members.

The receipts from the different sources for the year were $401,371.08.

Esterhazy to Be Court-Martialled.

PARIS, December 20.—It is understood that the preliminary inquiry into the charges made against Count Ferdinand Walsin Esterhazy has resulted in his committal for trial by court-martial.

Supreme Court Takes Holiday.

WASHINGTON, December 20.—The United States Supreme Court adjourned for the holiday recess to-day, to convene again on January 3d.

For diseases of the liver, stomach, and kidneys the Water of the Greenbrier White Sulphur Springs is the most valuable in America.

THE FINANCE BOARD.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER TO BE CONSIDERED.

HOT TIMES ARE EXPECTED TO RESULT.

Light and Poor Committees—Estimates for Running These Departments Next Year—Ninety-Cent Gas Possible.

Every present indication points to "hot times" at the meeting of the Common Council to-night. The session is to be a special one, and has been called solely for the consideration of the proposal of the Committee on Charter Changes that the finances of the city government shall be regulated and controlled by a board of finance.

Members of the committee believe that the measure will pass both branches of the Council with a snug majority. There will be delegations present from several clubs, with instructions to oppose the amendment, but the organizations from which they come are by no means solidly arrayed against the change, and there appears to be a very strong sentiment abroad in its favor.

The object of the change is to divorce the executive and legislative functions. The duty of the board, as set forth in the amendment to be submitted to the Council to-night, will be to make a budget each year by the 1st of December, appropriating to each of the different departments of the city government a lump sum for its respective expenses; said departments being as follows: Charities, cemeteries, fire, police, gas, water, health, streets; and for each of the following special purposes: Interest and redemption, schools, sewers assessment, collection and refunding of all taxes, pay of judges, fixed salaries of city officials, stationery and printing, courts and juries, Coroner's inquests, city jail, discount and interest, elections, electric lights, and secret-service fund. It may also set aside a sum out of the revenues of each year to meet and pay unexpected and contingent claims or sums arising during that year, and only so much of said sum shall be used by the Council as the said board may from time to time appropriate, and the board shall only expend as much as may be necessary to pay claims arising out of negligence or breach of contract. And whenever asked by the City Council to appropriate any money for any other special purpose, or to any new department, or to enlarge any appropriation for the purposes above mentioned, the said board may appropriate such a sum as it may deem proper, or may refuse to make any such appropriation.

MAY CONSIDER ELECTRIC CHARTERS.

An effort will be made to get the Council to take up the ordinances granting charters to the Southern and Home Electric Companies, the lives of which were reduced by the Board of Aldermen when that body met last week. It will be remembered that the ordinances had been passed, but the vote being reconsidered, they were subsequently amended as indicated. The vote in each case was 11 to 5, and three hours afterwards a franchise for thirty years was granted to the Virginia Company by the same vote.

Those interested in the two local companies are indignant at the action of the Board.

A director of the Southern Company said last night that the reduction in the life of the franchise would very materially influence the investment of money by business-men, and might defeat the enterprise absolutely.

"Taking a bonded debt for $100,000 to be redeemed in fifteen years," he said, "it would be necessary to carry on compound interest a sinking fund of at least 5 per cent., or $5,000 a year for each $100,000 invested, whereas in a 30-year franchise, it would only benecessary to carry 1 6-10 per cent. in such sinking fund, or $1,600 a year for each $100,000 invested.. The necessity for carrying a larger sinking fund would not only tend to defeat the enterprise, he thought, but would materially affect the price of lights.

The Light Committee's Meeting.

The Committee on Light met at 6:30 o'clock last night, with the following members present: Messrs. Wallerstein, Hardwicke, Vaughan, Witte, and Noble.

The proceedings opened with an interesting discussion over a resolution, adopted at a former meeting, which provided that Mr. John T. Goddin should be refunded the sum of $10 paid by him for gas supplied to a residence of which he is the agent. This resolution was recommitted by the Board of Aldermen for further information. It was developed that the amount represented a mistake on the part of the bill clerk of the gas office. The committee was an unit in the opinion that Mr. Goddin was not responsible for it. Mr. Witte suggested that the bill-clerk should bear the burden of his mistake, and the discussion was along this line. It was agreed, however, that the clerk was a most careful and reliable man, and it was decided to summon him to appear before the committee at the next meeting and explain how the mistake occurred, and show reason, if any, why he should not pay the bill. The Superintendent was instructed to advertise for bids for supplying the city with 500 arc-lights for three years. This proposal will remain open until noon on January 15th.

The report of the Superintendent was received and ordered to be filed. Its prime feature was that the receipts for gas for the month of November this year were $492.38 larger than they were in 1896. Mr. Knowles estimates the cost of running the works next year to be $167,000, and his report was referred to the Finance Committee. A further report from the same source as to the advisability of charging 90 cents a thousand feet for gas was not acted upon, it being thought best to defer the consideration of the matter until the January meeting of the committee. The present cost to the city for making gas, Mr. Knowles states, is 29 cents a thousand feet.

The petition of the citizens of Barton Heights that the light now in the ravine should be moved to the Richmond end of the First-street bridge was refused, the Superintendent of the Gas-Works stating that he had investigated the matter, and was of the opinion that it would not be an improvement, throwing the ravine into almost total darkness, and not improving the conditions to any material extent on the bridge. It was the sense of the meeting that the Barton Heights Council should light the bridge themselves.

The petition of Messrs. Copeland and Holderby that the gas-mains should be extended for two blocks on Grove road, was granted.

The committee instructed the Superintendent to have a light placed on Eighth street between Clay and Leigh streets, and several irregularities in lighting were reported which the Superintendent was ordered to investigate.

The Almshouse Reports.

The Committee on Poor met at the Almshouse last night at 8 o'clock and remained in session for two hours. There were present Messrs. Brock, Hobson, Miller, Noble, and Smith. Chairman Gunst was unavoidably absent on account of the serious illness of his mother. The report of the Superintendent for November was as follows: Number received, 66; discharged, 58; died, 9. There were 231 inmates on November 30th, showing an increase of 1 over the corresponding month last year.

The hospital report showed patients received, 43; discharged, 45; died, 3; in the hospital November 30th, 61—an increase of 4 over November, 1896.

The following financial report was submitted:

Appropriation almshouse	$13,900 00
Expended	12,542 69
Unexpended balance	$1,357 31
Appropriation poor of the city	$7,012 00
Expended	6,363 73
Unexpended balance	$648 27

The regular monthly bills were passed for payment, as follows: Pay-roll, $683.75; poor, $145; bills, $1,505.06.

On motion of Mr. Smith, the Superintendent was authorized to spend $95 in laying a concrete floor to the almshouse kitchen.

Mr. R. A. Hughes, the newly-appointed steward, submitted his bond of $1,000 in the American Bonding and Trust Company, which was accepted.

The committee decided to recommend to the Finance Committee that the following appropriation should be made for the department: Almshouse expense, $14,100; almshouse pay-roll, $8,280; poor of the city, expense, $7,000; pay-roll, $1,320; construction account, $1,000.

A REP-POP CONFERENCE.

Complete Co-Operation in North Carolina Next Year.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 20.—(Special.)—A Republican-Populist conference, lasting from 11 o'clock until midnight, was held at the National Hotel yesterday. The gathering was suggested by Sheriff Hoskins, of Guilford county, N. C., who came to Washington as a peacemaker between Assistant-Attorney-General Boyd and ex-Congressman Settle. Boyd and Settle are at war over the Greensboro' post-office, and the effort to adjust their differences appears to have resulted in the selection of ex-Postmaster White as a compromise candidate. The contending candidates—Glenn and Sharpe—will be provided for in some other way hereafter.

A partial understanding was also reached with reference to the appointment of Colonel Boyd as Judge of the Western District. Senator Pritchard, it is agreed, will have no opposition if he wants the judgeship, and the intimation from him to-day is that he will accept the appointment. In that event, it is understood that Governor Russell will appoint Mr. Virgil S. Lusk as United States Senator.

Representative Skinner, S. Otho Wilson, and H. E. Hodges, all anti-Butler Populists, attended the conference, and it is given out to-day, semi-officially, that there will be complete co-operation between the Republicans and the Populists in the legislative and congressional elections in North Carolina next year. Speaking on the subject to-day, a Populist congressman said: "The Populists will never fuse with the Democrats in the election of a Democratic Legislature." Both Republicans and Populists assert to-day, without reserve, that the basis of Republican-Populist co-operation is already settled. The first step on the part of the Populist leaders is to repudiate Senator Butler. In this movement they claim the support of the national Populist organization. The State Populist Committee, it is said, will soon be called together, for the purpose of reorganizing the committee against Butler, and arranging the details of co-operation for the next State campaign.

The Postmaster-General consented to-day to recommend the appointment of Colonel Lybrook as postmaster at Winston; Ormsby at Salem, and McBrayer at Shelby. This ends the contention over these appointments, and practically assures Representative Linney's renomination for Congress.

ROBBERY OF MEXICAN MONEY.

Loss of Some $3,000 from Steamer City of Washington.

NEW YORK, December 20.—The reported robbery of some $3,000 in Mexican money from the steamer City of Washington during her last trip from Vera Cruz to this port was confirmed to-day. The City of Washington belongs to the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company. A. G. Smith, secretary of the company, said to-day:

"The City of Washington reported at her pier last Wednesday morning, and immediately began discharging her cargo. Among other things there was a consignment of 103 cases of Mexican coin for a firm in London. Each case represented about $3,000 in Mexican money, equal to about $1,200 in our money, and weighed about 200 pounds. It was stored in the strong box, between decks, built for the purpose. After the rest of the cargo had been discharged the door of the room was opened, and the cases were carried to the pier and piled in tiers, to be reshipped to London. On counting it, it was found that there were only 102 cases, and as the bill called for 103, it was apparent that one had been stolen, either before the steamer sailed or after its arrival at this port. A bundle of canvas, in which about $100 of the coin was placed, was found in the baggage-room, and leads us to believe that the robbery was committed during transit, and that the bundle was left where it was found to throw suspicion in the wrong direction. The only keys to the strong room were in the hands of Captain Burley and his first mate, and as no violence had been used in entering the place a skeleton key must have been used.

"Captain Burley is one of our most experienced and trustworthy officers. If the matter is not cleared up the company will have to stand the loss."

"KID" M'COY, THE BURGLAR.

He Is Struck on the Head, and Probably Fatally Injured.

NEW YORK, December 20.—John (Kid) McCoy, the noted bank burglar, whose record is known to the police of all countries, was struck on the head with a club and probably fatally injured to-day by John McGinnis, proprietor of a Bowery lodging-house. The men quarrelled because McCoy said the reputation of the house was not good, and he would not allow his wife to work there. McGinnis threw McCoy down a flight of stairs, and then struck him on the head with a heavy club, causing hemorrhage of the brain. McCoy was taken to a hospital and McGinnis arrested.

Lately McCoy has earned a precarious living by selling locks. At one time he took part in a realistic drama called "The Stowaway," in which he and "Spike" Hennessy cracked a safe on the stage. Norman Shelby, the Indian pugilist, it is said, after witnessing a performance of "The Stowaway," announced that thereafter he would call himself "Kid McCoy," and he has ever since appeared in the ring under that name.

STRIKE OF PAWTUCKET WEAVERS

It Will Render Necessary a Closing of the Mill.

PAWTUCKET, R. I., December 20.—The trouble between the weavers and the management of the Royal Weaving Company, which has existed since the reduction in wages was announced to take place, culminated to-day in a virtual discharge of the weavers, because of their refusal to comply with an order from Manager Ott, embodying a request by the company to have several cotton weavers taught the business. The weavers informed the manager that they would go out rather than comply with the order, and they were discharged. The mills will have to close.

The mills employ about 250 people. The reduction referred to in the weavers' wages amounted to 16 per cent.

RUSSIA IN CHINA.

COMMENT ON THE OCCUPATION OF PORT ARTHUR.

PARTITION OF CHINESE COAST.

British Press Regards It as Bound to Come, and Asks, "What Does Britain Get?"—America's Attitude of Interest.

BERLIN, December 20.—The Paris correspondent of the Cologne Gazette telegraphs that paper that he learns on reliable authority that the Russian occupation of Port Arthur was connected with the visit there of the British warship Daphne, a week ago, when, in spite of the protests of the Chinese, the Daphne entered the inner harbor, allegedly to ascertain what Russian ships were there. China complained to the representatives of the Powers at Pekin.

The Cologne Gazette regards the occupation as merely a continuance of the co-operation of Germany with Russia in Eastern Asia.

NO POLITICS BEHIND IT.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 20.—The Novosti declares that the occupation of Port Arthur has nothing political behind it, adding: "It must be a matter of indifference to the Powers who are not planning seizures of Chinese territory as to which point the Russian squadron chooses for its winter station."

BRITAIN WITH JAPAN.

LONDON, December 20.—An unconfirmed report is current here that part of the British far-eastern squadron will be stationed at Wei-Hai-Wei this winter. If true, this indicates that Britain is working in harmony with Japan. The latter Power still occupies Wei-Hai-Wei, pending payment of the Chinese war indemnity.

The evening newspapers are much disturbed over the situation. "What do we get?" is the burden of their complaint, and they all insist upon the necessity for immediate action.

The Globe says: "Russia and Germany now have the two most important strategical positions in Northern China, and Great Britain, whose commercial interests are ten times greater than those of either, must be content with the crumbs from the St. Petersburg and Berlin tables."

The Pall-Mall Gazette echoes the Standard's inquiry as to America's attitude, and says: "Of course, the partition of the coast, which is bound to come, will not be confined to the Czar or Germany. Other Powers are actively concerned in the disturbance of the equilibrium of the far East, Great Britain, France, and Japan especially.

THE UNITED STATES.

"But the United States cannot be treated as a quantity to be ignored. The tame acquiescence in these seizures is not worthy of our past, and is fatal to our future. We may remark that we shall not be without sympathizers, as the Japanese will most joyfully back any scheme, to redress the bitter humiliation they have suffered at the hands of Russia."

Advices received here from Paris show that Franec is awaiting Great Britain's action. If Great Britain follows the lead of Russia and Germany, and occupies a seaport, France will forthwith follow suit.

The officials of the Chinese embassy here do not conceal their belief that the Powers are intending to seize Chinese forts. They discredit the report that Great Britain has been requested to assume a protectorate over the Yang-Tse Valley and the West river, saying they have no information on the subject, but would know if the rumor were true.

Sir Halliday McCarthy, of the Chinese embassy, was asked if Russia's possession of Port Arthur would be temporary, and he replied that this plea was usually made a pretext for occupation.

JAPANESE ON THE MOVE.

YOKOHAMA, December 21.—Russia has notified Japan of the temporary occupation of Port Arthur, and a large Japanese squadron has left Nagasaki.

BRITAIN AND QUELPAERT.

BERLIN, December 20.—The rumor is current here that the British East Asiatic squadron has been ordered to sail for Quelpaert Island, at the entrance of the Yellow Sea, presumably to occupy it. The tone of the German press is favorable to some such action on the part of Great Britain.

Quelpaert Island, which is sixty miles south of Korea, is forty-five miles long and twelve miles broad. It is subordinate to Korea, and has been used as a penal settlement.

CUBANS FORSWEAR AUTONOMY.

They Propose to Fight Until Their Country Is Free.

NEW YORK, December 20.—Copies of a statement signed by the officers of the Fourth Army Corps of the Cuban army, operating in the Department of Las Villas, renewing allegiance to the Cuban cause and forswearing autonomy, were received in this city to-day. This action by the officers of the Las Villas Department makes the opposition to autonomy practically unanimous among the Cuban officers.

The statement says, in part: "We are convinced that the promulgation of reforms is an evidence of weakness on the part of Spain, and is in itself a triumph for our arms. Our fighting attitude will continue, just as it is to-day, until our country is made free. We will accept no other settlement than that based upon absolute independence, which must be agreed to with our government and assembly of representatives."

Among the signers are Juan Maso Parra, brigadier-general of the First Division, and Calixto Garcia, adjutant.

CUT IN COTTON-MILL WAGES.

Reasons Therefor same as those Operating at Fall River.

SUNCOOK, N. H., December 20.—Notices have been posted at the China, Pembroke, and Wasster cotton-mills here, announcing a reduction in the wages of operatives of about 10 per cent. on January 1st. The cut will affect the superintendents and overseers, and, in fact, all of the employees of the three corporations, including nearly 1,500 operatives. The monthly pay-roll amounts to about $27,000. The three mills are engaged in the manufacture of print-cloth. It is probable that the cut-down will be accepted.

Colonel David L. Jewell, superintendent of the China mills, says the reasons for the reduction are the same as those which caused the cut at the Fall-River mills and the Amoskeag corporation at Manchester.

COTTON-MILL WAGE QUESTION.

Proposition From Labor Unions to Manufacturers.

FALL RIVER, MASS., December 20.—A conference of representatives of the cotton manufacturers and the employees, on the wage question, was held to-day. The representatives of the labor unions submitted three propositions, and each of the delegates made some comment thereon. The manufacturers decided to take the matter under consideration, and will give a written answer to-morrow. These propositions, formulated at the meeting of the various labor unions last week, are:

"1. It being the general opinion that there will be an improvement during the ensuing year, and that the manufacturers will be in a far more prosperous condition than at present, we request the manufacturers to postpone the proposed reduction until the 1st of March. If there is no improvement at that time we will hold another conference with a view to settling the wage question.

"2. Believing that reducing wages is not a remedy for an overstocked market, we respectfully request the manufacturers to work four days per week until the 1st of March. If there is no improvement at that time we will hold another conference.

"3. If neither of the above propositions is accepted, and we cannot settle the questions satisfactorily, we are willing to submit our case to the State Board of Arbitration, wages to remain as at present until the State board makes its report."

The attitude of the big plant of the Fall-River Iron Company, which employs about 3,000 operatives, and which has been questioned by some, was settled today by the announcement of the owner, M. C. D. Borden, of New York. He announces his willingness to reduce wages to a point 20 per cent. below the present basis, if the company so decides.

CIVIL-SERVICE LAW ENQUIRY.

Pension-Commissioner Evans Says Law is a Failure.

WASHINGTON, December 20.—Commissioner-of-Pensions Evans to-day appeared before the Senate Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment, which is conducting an investigation into the operation of the civil service system. Mr. Evans was questioned at length by Senators Lodge and Pritchard about the civil service system and its application to the Pension Office force. He expressed the opinion that the law did not accomplish the results its friends insisted that it did. The best men in his office were those who had come in under the so-called "spoils system." They did their duty, and expected to hold their positions by so doing. The Pension Examining boards, he said, ought not to be in the classified service, as it was desirable to secure men as members of such boards who had had wide surgical experience—army experience, if possible—and such men would not enter into competition for the places with young men just out of college. He thought, however, that the entire system of appointing the boards was wrong, and that they ought to be under a uniform system of appointment.

The Commissioner believed that the head of a bureau was the best qualified person to pass upon the efficiency of a clerk, and that he ought not to be hampered in removing a clerk for inefficiency. If permitted to do so, he could remove at least one hundred clerks from his office without affecting the efficiency of the force. He thought it would be desirable to have a definite tenure of office, not exceeding ten years, so that every year about 10 per cent. of new blood could be infused into the service. This would do away with the abuses resulting from some clerks remaining in office too long.

The Commissioner thought that some reform would have to be enacted, or the country would have the infliction of a civil pension list. He believed it was a mistake to include in the classified service the special examiners, medical boards, chiefs of divisions, and all others receiving salaries exceeding $1,400.

Steamer Appomattox in Trouble.

LIVERPOOL, December 20.—The British steamer Floridian, Captain Bullock, from New Orleans, December 1st, for this port, has arrived here, and reports having passed on December 16th, in latitude 50, longitude 22, the British steamer Appomattox, Captain Foall, from London, December 8th, for Newport News. The Appomattox signalled that her shaft was broken.

The British steamer Virginian, Captain Prentice, from London, December 8th, for Boston, was standing by the Appomattox and preparing to take her in tow.

Oriental Rugs and Carpets.

The very best quality of Turkish and Persian Rugs, in all varieties and sizes, are put for sale at 1004 east Main street, by Michaelian Brothers. They are natives of Armenia, direct importers from the Old Country. They will be really sold, regardless of cost. The said gentlemen, who have come here from time to time with their Rugs, have given to Richmonders perfect satisfaction. If you ever have any idea of buying Rugs for holiday gifts, don't fail to go there.

Graphophone Talking Machines, $10.

Regina Music Boxes, Washburn Guitars and Mandolins, Aeolians, and all kinds of Musical Novelties. Open evenings until 9 o'clock.
WALTER D. MOSES & CO.,
1005 Main street (opposite post-office).

Calendars and Christmas Cards

at the
J. W. RANDOLPH COMPANY'S,
1302 and 1304 east Main street.

Kaempf's,

at No. 110 north Ninth street, is the place to buy your Christmas Candies. Made fresh every hour.

What's More Appropriate

for a Christmas present than Handkerchiefs? We have them in Japanette, with silk initials at 15c.; All-Silk at 25, 50, and 75c.
JACOBS & LEVY,
707 east Broad street.

An Appropriate Present.

A box of Lowney's Bonbons, fresh, at Twin City Drugstore, Seventh and Main streets.

Combination Flour-Bin, Sifter, and Spice Cabinet, Patent Graters, Lemon Squeezers, Carpet Sweepers, Coal Vases, and many other useful article for housekeepers.
N. KLEIN & SON,
620 east Broad street.

Open Until 10 o'Clock!!

Jahnke Brothers, jewellers, 912 Main street, wish to state that their place of business will be open until 10 o'clock all next week, to give the public a chance to examine the new and beautiful stock of goods and compare prices. Ten per cent. discount will be allowed on all purchases for this week only. Old gold and silver taken in exchange.

Don't Fail to See,

at No. 110 north Ninth street, and buy your Candies. Freshly made every hour.

For a Christmas present get a good Singing Canary Bird and Cage.
N. KLEIN & SON,
620 east Broad street.

Don't Use Any But the Best.

Lowney's Pure Boston Chocolate Bonbons fresh at Twin City Drugstore, Seventh and Main streets.

Every Mother's Son

between the age of 4 and 8 would be delighted if Santa Claus brought him a pretty Reefer Jacket. We have them—very nobby ones—from $1.98 to $5. Look them over to-day.
JACOBS & LEVY,
707 east Broad street.

Knabe Upright—A bargain.

Call and see it. Also, a Fischer Upright at $175. Fully warranted for five years.
MANLY B. RAMOS COMPANY,
119 east Broad street.

ATLANTIC-COAST LINE.

Holiday Excursion Rates.

The Atlantic-Coast Line will sell, account Christmas holidays, round-trip tickets between local stations on its lines at 4 cents per mile one way for the round trip.

Tickets Richmond to Lynchburg and return, $5; and Richmond to Norfolk and return, $3.50.

Tickets on sale December 23d to 27th, inclusive, and December 30, 1897, to January 1, 1898, inclusive, good to return until January 4, 1898, inclusive.

Tickets will be sold to students of colleges and schools at same rates as named above upon presentation of certificate signed by the superintendents, principals, or presidents thereof on December 16th to 25th, inclusive; final limit January 4, 1898.
C. S. CAMPBELL,
Division Passenger Agent.

Christmas Holiday Rates via Norfolk and Western Railway.

Richmond to Norfolk and return $3.50.
Richmond to Lynchburg and return $5.

Correspondingly low rates to all points on its line to parties desiring to spend their Christmas and New-Year at home. Tickets on sale December 23d to 25th inclusive, and December 30th to January 1st, inclusive, good for return passage until January 4, 1898.

Students attending colleges will be enabled to secure these reduced rates December 16th to 25th, inclusive, provided they present a certificate signed by the president or superintendent of the college they are attending.

For full information apply to the Richmond Transfer Company, 903 east Main street; B. G. Carter, Ticket Agent, Byrd-Street (Union) Depot, or at company's office, corner Ninth and Main streets.
R. W. COURTNEY,
District Passenger Agent.

C. & O. R'Y.

Christmas Holiday Rates.

Holiday Excursion Tickets will be sold between all stations of Chesapeake and Ohio railway on December 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, 30th, 31st, and January 1st, with final limit of January 4th, AT ONE AND ONE THIRD FARES for the round trip.

SPECIAL LOW RATES TO NORFOLK AND LYNCHBURG.

College students presenting certificates signed by principal or superintendent of institute, may be sold on December 16th to 21st, in addition to above dates, limited to January 4th.

10 Cents for Rubbers.

Ladies', sizes 2 1-2 to 4; worth 35c.
65c. for Little Boys' Strong Shoes, 9 to 2.
Big lot Ladies' $2 Kid Shoes for $1.50.
Gentlemen's Felt, Embroidered, and Leather Slippers, 50c.
Gentlemen's Colored Shoes, double soles, bull-dog toes, $1.69.
Ladies' Hand-Welt Button Boots, $1.85; regular $2.50 value.
Gentlemen's Patent-Leather Shoes from $2.
Children's Spring-Heel Shoes, Dongola Kid, sizes 6 to 11, 50c.
Boys' Strong School Shoes, $1 and upwards.
Ladies' Button and Laced Shoes, only $1 and upwards.
THE MODEL SHOE STORE,
607 Broad street.

Change in Passenger Rates, via Bay Line, James-River Route.

On and after Monday, December 20th, passenger rates via Bay Line, James-River Route, will be as follows:

Richmond to Baltimore, one way	$2.50
Richmond to Baltimore and return	$4.00
Richmond to Baltimore, second class	$1.50
Richmond to Old Point	$1.00

Round-trip tickets will be limited to December 29th.

For state-room reservation and other information apply to
H. M. BOYKIN, General Agent,
836 east Main street.

Oh, What a Surprise!

would be your husband's exclamation upon seeing the lovely Overcoat we could sell you to-day at $10. All colors, all kind, all sizes, silk finished, raw edge, very handsome. Not a penny under $15 is their worth.
JACOBS & LEVY,
707 east Broad street.

Open Until 10 o'Clock!!

Our place of business will be open until 10 o'clock all next week to give the public a chance to examine our new and elegant stock of goods, and 10 per cent. discount will be given on all purchases for this week only. Old gold and silver taken in exchange.
JAHNKE BROTHERS, Jewellers,
912 Main street.

See the Ecstatic Smile

that irradiates her beautiful face as she receives a box of Lowney's Boston Bonbons. Fresh at Twin City Drugstore, Seventh and Main streets.

**Handsome Neckwear