THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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WEDNESDAY.....AUGUST 9, 1899.

CORRESPONDENTS should not send us speculations, predictions, or estimates as to the strength of candidates for the United States senatorship. What we desire is impartial reports of the proceedings of county and city committees and of other public meetings, and results of primaries or conventions.

STREET-CAR FRANCHISES.

Atlanta's City Council is engaged in wrestling with the subject of street-car franchises, as Richmond's soon may be. Several propositions are pending there. That the city will demand for itself a percentage upon the gross receipts of the companies to which new privileges are given seems certain; indeed, it is expected by the gentlemen who are seeking the franchises.

There seems to be a question whether a flat rate should be fixed or the percentage in question should be small at first, but to increase gradually from time to time—with the prospective increase of population, we suppose. We find the latter proposition favored by some of the newspapers. What the petitioners think of it we do not know. We dare say much might be said on each side of the question. If a City Council only could be sure of estimating rightly what the population is going to be five, ten, or twenty years hence, one great objection would be removed from the rising-scale plan. But a council can only judge the future by the past, and guess that the future increase will be ratably about what it has been in bygone years.

In granting new street-car franchises, it seems to us that Atlanta, Richmond, and all other cities ought to seek to secure, above all other things, a good service. The prime object ought to be to have good tracks, good cars, and good schedules, and, where possible, a general transfer system. After making sure that the proposed franchises will secure these objects, the Council should endeavor to get a reasonable amount of revenue in consideration of the privileges granted. It will profit a community very little to extort a large sum in taxation and have a poor service.

Street-car companies now organized should take into consideration the improvements being constantly made in railway equipments, and fortify themselves financially to adopt such as recommend themselves to the public judgment. The inventive genius of our countrymen is great, and the public is ever insistent that the latest improvements shall be adopted. Therefore, every well-organized company ought to provide a fund with which to meet these demands. It is almost as necessary to be beforehanded in this matter as it is to make provision to meet the interest upon the bonded debt.

Another essential to the success of a street-car company is that it should have as few miles of track as may be consistent with its duty to the community. A concentration of cars upon the main thoroughfares of a city, instead of scattering them over several streets, not only reduces operating expenses, but makes the intervals between the cars much shorter, and thus gives better accommodations to the public.

Here in Richmond we have a number of tracks which would better be abandoned in favor of other tracks. Such a change would be of advantage to the companies and the public as well. Hitherto circumstances have prevented such consolidations, but we earnestly hope they may be made when the old company is reorganized under a new grant from the Council.

MR. GAGE'S DECISION.

The decision of Secretary-of-the-Treasury Gage to issue $10,000,000 of gold certificates, in order to meet the demands for currency necessary to "move the crops," has imparted new life to the discussion of the question of currency reform, and is eliciting some striking expressions of the defects of our present financial system.

In the first place, it is only in a roundabout way that the putting out of gold certificates can relieve the currency famine. The law provides that these certificates shall be issued in denominations of $20 and multiples of that sum up to $10,000, and obviously that is not the kind of currency that is needed to "move the crops" and to enable the farmer to settle up after he has sold his crop. This difficulty it is proposed to meet by inducing the banks to accept the certificates for their reserve funds, and give up legal-tenders. But while the banks will doubtless prove willing, just in proportion as the operation is carried on the power of the speculator to raid the gold in the Treasury will be increased. Every legal-tender that is given up in exchange for gold certificates will be an additional link in the endless chain let loose so that it may be used to menace the Treasury in the event that conditions are such that that course will pay.

But this aside, and to the comments on the defectiveness of our system in other ways, that Mr. Gage's decision has elicited. Here is a specimen one from the New York Times:

"The fundamental absurdity, of course, is that the Treasury should need to concern itself about the supply of paper money. If we had a proper currency system the needs of business would regulate the supply of the circulating medium without recourse to the Treasury."

And another from the New York Journal of Commerce:

"If the Treasury were taken out of the currency business entirely, there would be a modern and adequate bank currency law, and the banks would store their own gold, and at this season of the year they would increase their note issues to whatever extent might be necessary, and in the spring or early summer they would have to take them up because, being in excess of the needs of business, they would be returned for redemption."

Both of our contemporaries practically summarize the financial necessity of the country, which is a banking system based on business principles and responsive to business demands.

THE MOTORMAN.

Hamilton, the motorman, who was on duty on the trolley car which jumped the track near Bridgeport, Conn., on Sunday and killed thirty persons, has been arrested and is charged with criminal carelessness.

He may be guilty, for aught we know to the contrary, but we shall not believe it until he is fairly convicted. It is possible that the crime—if crime it was—should be laid at the door of some higher official.

Motormen have failings as other men have, but as a class they are careful and conscientious. Their employment requires of them ceaseless vigilance, and this they know full well. It is not their desire to kill or wound, and aside from the humane feeling, which is as strong in their breasts as in the breasts of others, their business success demands that they should be watchful and prudent. Nevertheless, whenever an accident such as that near Bridgeport occurs the motorman becomes the subject of the public's indignation. And this, though the officials who made the schedule, and who may have made it too fast, are at the bottom of the trouble.

In the Bridgeport case it appears that the line was a new one. Work upon it was hurried to completion at great speed, so that the company might profit as much as possible by the summer's business. There is reason for supposing that the track had not settled well. The car is supposed to have jumped the track on a down grade when about thirty feet from the bridge, and after having run some distance upon the ties, toppled over and fell into the marsh, some forty or fifty feet below.

It, therefore, becomes proper to ascertain—first, whether the track was, or was not, in proper condition; next, whether the schedule was suitable, considering grades and distances; next, whether the brakes were used and failed.

The contractors say they wash their hands of all responsibility because they warned the company that they were hurrying the work too much and were beginning to use the line too early.

That Hamilton survived the accident and received no serious hurts is taken by some to be proof of his culpability, but we see no justice in that conclusion. It is certain that he jumped from the bridge to the bank, forty feet below. Moreover, he asserts that he used the brakes for all they were worth to stop the car. That he is in great distress of mind goes without saying, but he firmly protests that he in no wise failed in his duty.

We hope he may be able to establish his innocence; but public feeling seems to be running high against him, augmented, some of the newspapers report, by the efforts of his superiors to saddle all the blame upon him.

The Baltimore Brick-Trust deal has been finally consummated, it appears, there having been filed for record on Monday last, according to the Baltimore papers, about thirty deeds, conveying the several individual properties to the promoter of the deal, and from the promoter to the trust. Only the realty of the properties is conveyed by deed, it is stated, the personal property, consisting of stocks of brick on hand, etc., being otherwise conveyed. The total amount represented in the conveyance is $764,000.

The announcement that Mr. Andrew Carnegie has been appointed a justice of the peace in Sootland naturally gives rise to the question whether he has become a British subject, since he cannot act as a justice unless he is a Briton by reason of natural condition or some process of law. He will have to inform the American people, among whom he lately dwelt, as Mr. Willie Wallie Astor has done, exactly "where he is at" in the matter of citizenship.

The field of usefulness of the goat in this country has been a little restricted, and the animal has figured chiefly as a drawer of baby-carriages and as a picturesque adornment to suburban lots.—The Savannah News.

Why, have the secret orders gone back upon Billy?

Rennes, the French city where Dreyfus is now undergoing trial, is pronounced "ren." It was the capital of ancient Brittany, and is now the capital of the department of Ille-et-Vilaine. Its population is about 70,000.

Gas-Works Resolution Will Pass.

The resolution looking to appropriating $21,500 for the improvement of the gas-works is gaining friends, and though regret is expressed that it was laid on the table by the Council Monday night, because of the lack of a two-thirds vote, it is confidently believed that it will be passed at the next meeting of the Council.

One of the warmest advocates of the appropriation stated after the meeting Monday night that of the absent members, at least five were, he knew, in favor of the improvements, and would, had they been present, have voted for the proposition. One of the members present voting adversely afterwards said that he would, when called upon again, vote for the passage of the resolution. These votes, with the original eighteen, would give a total of twenty-four, or four more than the number required.

"Our baby was sick for a month with severe cough and catarrhal fever. Although we tried many remedies, she kept getting worse, until we used One-Minute Cough Cure; it relieved at once and cured her in a few days."—B. L. Nance, Principal High School, Bluffdale, Tex. Bodeker Brothers. T. A. Miller.

ON THE PENINSULA.

Proposed Telephone Line—Personal Notes.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—A meeting of citizens of Lower York county was held at Grafton to take steps towards extending the telephone line from Poquosin through the county as far as Yorktown, and securing the right of way for a trolley line from Hampton to Yorktown. The telephone wire will run from Poquosin through Warwick Courthouse to Yorktown, thence by cable across the York to Gloucester Point, which will connect the Peninsula with all that country between the York and the Rappahannock. The meeting was largely attended and considerable interest was manifested.

A special term of Judge Smith's Court was held to-day to hear the habeas corpus proceedings instituted by Mrs. Logan Luchard for the possession of her children. Mrs. Luchard requested the Court to assign her counsel, and his Honor appointed Mr. J. F. Hubbard, of York county. By agreement, the father was allowed to take the oldest child home and the mother the two youngest, to await the hearing of the case, which was set for Friday, the 18th.

Mr. B. D. Peachy, Mr. Ro. T. Armistead, and Mr. J. F. Hubbard are in James City to-day, taking depositions in the contested election case of Peachy vs. Armistead, for the office of Commonwealth's Attorney for the county and town.

Thirty-five thousand watermelons were shipped to-day from Toano to the northern markets.

A strict quarantine is still enforced here, special officers meeting all trains, and none are allowed to leave unless they have a certificate signed by the health officer, Dr. George Hankins.

Mrs. Kate Lamb, from near Toano, is here, visiting at the home of Mr. H. G. Spencer.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Wolfe have visiting them at their beautiful home, Avondale, Miss Gussie Switzer, of Staunton.

Miss Rosa Emory left this morning on an extended visit to Staunton.

Mrs. Morecock and daughters leave Thursday for the Plains, in Fauquier, to remain until October.

Mr. N. L. Henley leaves Wednesday for West Point, on professional business.

Mr. Thomas Shoesmith, postmaster at Jamestown Island, was here to-day mingling with his friends.

Mr. Robert S. Bright sails from New York to-morrow on the American liner, St. Louis, for a visit to Europe.

Mr. D. R. Norment, from Hills, York county, who had his shoulder dislocated in a runaway, was here to-day to have the injured part reset. He may have to go to Richmond to see a physician in regard to his injuries, which are very serious, and from which he has suffered intensely.

BRUNSWICK.

Delegates to Blackstone—The Small-Pox Situation.

LAWRENCEVILLE, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—The following delegates were elected from Brunswick to the Democratic Senatorial Convention, which meets at Blackstone on the 9th: R. B. Turnbull, Lawrenceville; O. L. Seyman, Brodnax; J. W. Palmer, Butlers and Phipps; C. P. Heartwell, Rock Store; J. D. Ross, Thomasburg; D. C. Thomas, Smoky Ordinary and Sturgeonville; Meade Haskins, Trotters and Elmor's; R. E. Bradley, Tillman's; N. M. Neblett, Edmund's Store; W. H. Valentine, Dromgoole's. Brodnax Precinct instructed its delegate to vote for a Tyler man; otherwise, the delegation is uninstructed. Most of the delegates left for Blackstone to-day.

Mr. E. R. Turnbull, Jr., the junior member of the law firm of R. Turnbull & Son, is seriously sick at the home of his father, in Lawrenceville. It is feared that he has typhoid-fever.

Mrs. D. S. Hicks, who has been sick for some time, is no better.

It is reported here on what seems to be good authority that the Atlantic and Danville railway has been purchased by the Southern Railway Company, the sale to take effect on September the 1st.

The small-pox situation is now considered well under control. No new cases have yet been reported.

There have been good rains throughout the county in the last few days, and the crops generally are better than we have seen them in years.

MARINE DRAFT

To Go to Manila—Attempt to Break Jail.

NORFOLK, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—A draft of forty-five marines, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Muse, left the Navy-Yard Barracks this morning for New York, where they will be sent to San Francisco and thence to Manila to be distributed on the fleet stationed there.

The police are satisfied that Jack Smith alias Cotton, arrested in Norfolk, is the man who murdered Mr. Charles last Thursday night. Mrs. Wyatt and others have identified the gold watch pawned by the negro as belonging to the murdered man, and other evidence is being accumulated against Smith.

Last night four negroes serving six months' sentences attempted to break out of the Portsmouth jail, and had worked a good-sized opening in the brick wall when discovered by Jailer Abbott. The men sprung a lower bar, thereby opening their cell-door, and as the brick-work on the jail is very poor, had little trouble in working through it.

The cases of Motorman Dunwright and Conductor Sanderlin, who were in charge of the street-car under whose wheels Samuel Corprew was killed Saturday night, were called in the Police Court to-day. The motorman was held for the grand jury in $1,000 bond to answer to the charge of manslaughter.

TAZEWELL.

Soliciting Labor—An Interesting Legal Proceeding.

TAZEWELL, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—The coal enterprises just north of this place, in Tazewell and McDowell counties, are very much crippled in their work by reason of the exodus from that section of laborers, who have left under contracts for employment with coal companies in the State of Missouri. Quite an interesting legal proceeding was started last week by the arrest of one Mr. C. L. McGrew, representing the Central Coal and Coke Company of Missouri, who was in this field soliciting laborers for his company to go to the State of Missouri, but the hearing on the warrant was postponed to this week, and Pocahontas fixed as the place for the trial of the defendant.

The legal profession and many others will no doubt watch with interest this novel step on the part of our companies. In addition to this criminal proceeding, the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company has entered suit in the Circuit Court of this county against the defendant, McGrew, and the Central Coal and Coke Company of Missouri, for interference with their labor, putting damages at $10,000. The defendant claims that there is nothing in either case, as he was only in this field soliciting labor for his company, as any person might do under laws of this or any other State.

DEATH IN SALEM

Of the Commonwealth's Attorney of Roanoke County.

SALEM, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—Mr. Henderson Lee, who was chosen Commonwealth's Attorney at the May election in Roanoke county, died at his home, in this place, this afternoon, after a short illness. Mr. Lee was about 35 years old, and was an active member of the Presbyterian church. He was a staunch Democrat, and was one of the ablest and brightest lawyers of this section. He is survived by his wife.

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DR. BAGBY'S STATEMENT.

Goes Into Detail Regarding His Position.

(Newport News Press.)

Newport News, Va., August 7, 1899.

Believing that the citizens of Newport News are misinformed and resting under an erroneous impression as to the facts and circumstances of my suspension as president of the Board of Health, and trusting that public excitement has sufficiently subsided to give an impartial hearing to my statement of the facts of the case:

I have to say, first, that as considerable criticism has been made because of my absence from town when the news of the fever at Soldiers' Home first reached town that my absence was due to the fact of my attendance upon a patient with typhoid-fever in Gloucester county. On my return to town on Monday morning I was informed that the Mayor, president of the Council, and the secretary of the Board of Health had been over to Hampton and held a conference with the Board of Health of that place in reference to the fever situation and quarantining arrangements, at which time it was decided to recommend to the Board of Health that Hampton, Phoebus, Soldiers' Home, Old Point, and the Normal School be quarantined.

In the mean time a meeting of the Business-Men's Association was held to discuss the situation, at which meeting a committee of five was appointed to confer with the Board of Health. On Monday afternoon a meeting of the Board of Health was held to perfect plans and arrangements by which a thorough system of quarantine should be inaugurated against the places above mentioned. At this meeting a resolution was passed authorizing the president and secretary of the board to issue passes to residents of the city who were at that time on the outside of the quarantine line, and also to persons employed in town and living elsewhere. The passes were to be valid until 12 o'clock noon on Tuesday, August 1st, and after that time no passes were to be issued except by special resolution. Passes were issued in accordance with the resolution by both Dr. Ayler and myself. Messrs. Bickford, Jones, Creasy, Garrett, Ford, the committee of the Business-Men's Association, and also the Mayor and Quarantine-Officer Hobson, were present at this meeting and concurred in the action of the Board of Health. So far as I know, no passes were issued except in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned resolution. Certainly, I am prepared to say most positively, that none were issued by me, nor from my office, that were not in accordance with the said resolution.

It has been charged that special provision was made for Mr. George A. Schmelz. I have to say in reply to such charge that I understood the resolution of the Board of Health to apply to all persons who were engaged in business or worked in the city of Newport News, and who wished to remain there during the time of quarantine. Complaint has also been made that Mr. Schmelz was permitted to bring his family and a lot of baggage. I can see no distinction between Mr. Schmelz's family and baggage passing through the city coming from Hampton, and Dr. Pressey and Mr. Peyser and their families, who returned to the city with their baggage from Buckroe Beach. The names of these were specially mentioned at the said meeting of the Board of Health on Monday afternoon as one reason why such resolution should be passed. I wish to say further that at the earliest possible moment I rode around the quarantine line in company with the Mayor, and we, deciding that the number of guards was not sufficient to absolutely quarantine the town, proposed to instruct the Chief of Police to increase the number of guards and place them at points where the line seemed weakest.

Before this could be done I was requested to appear before the Common Council to answer charges which had been preferred against me.

In conclusion, I beg leave to say that in no manner, shape, or form did I violate the letter or spirit of the resolution of the Board of Health, as passed at its meeting on Monday afternoon, as I understood it, save in making the nominal charge for passes issued, which I honestly thought I had a right to do, as I understood it was customary for all officers, both State and municipal, to charge extra pay for extra work. Certainly it is evident to every honest and fair-minded man, that I did not intend to evade or violate the said resolution of the Board of Health, for it was done openly, and any one who felt aggrieved had the privilege to complain to the proper authority, as was done. Certainly it is evident, at this time, after the excitement has in a degree subsided, to an honest, fair-minded, and intelligent public, that a mistake was made by the Board of Health and those present, as aforesaid, participating in said meeting, in issuing passes at all. I am entirely willing to bear my portion of the blame consequent thereto, but it does seem unjust that I alone should bear the burden, while others at fault should go entirely free. It would, indeed, be a corrupt man who could, for so small a consideration, be bribed and thereby lose his own self-respect and that of his fellow-man. It would seem that if the right-minded citizens of Newport News could so easily believe such to be the case, that my seven years' residence among them and my character for honesty and integrity has been but to little purpose. Very respectfully,

JOHN R. BAGBY, M. D.

WYTHEVILLE.

Struck by a Train—A Child Badly Hurt.

WYTHEVILLE, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—Walter Roark, a young white man living at Max Meadows, was struck by the eastern-bound local freight train on the Norfolk and Western road at Kenton yesterday afternoon and fatally injured, though he is alive this morning. He had been to Wytheville, and was returning home on a passenger train, when he was put off at Kenton. He sat down on the track and went asleep.

W. W. Canoy is a small farmer, who lives north of Wytheville. While he was cutting wood yesterday evening at his home his little 2-year-old son ran under the axe and received a blow on the head, which inflicted a painful, if not a fatal, wound.

Colonel Robert Sayers, of this place, is quite ill.

HANOVER.

The School Board Meets—Statistics—Small-Pox.

ASHLAND, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—Hanover County School Board met here to-day to close up accounts and settle with County-Treasurer Shelton. The board was presided over by Mr. William H. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools. Eleven out of thirteen trustees were present. At the close of the meeting Clerk B. K. Cocke gave out the following figures, which show the funds available at this time from the county and district apportionment of 1898, coupled with what balances were on hand in the hands of the several districts: Beaver-Dam District—County fund, $274.56; district fund, $1,309. Ashland District—County fund, $43.11; district fund, $789.16. Henry District—County fund, $274.56; district fund, $1,289.29. Town of Ashland District—County fund, $88.35; district fund, $27.98.

Henry District last year employed thirty-two teachers and spent $4,160.65 for salaries and $584.14 for buildings and current expenses; Beaver-Dam District, $4,565.74 for thirty-four teachers and $365.27 for expenses; Ashland District, $2,971.81 for twenty-five teachers and $503 for expenses; Town of Ashland District, $1,300 for five teachers and $302.23 for current expenses

The board was in session all day, and every item of the year's transactions was audited by the various committees, and all were found correct.

A resolution was offered and laid over until the November meeting for establishing a high school for the county at Ashland. The matter was given to a committee to investigate and report at the fall meeting.

Dr. Paulus A. Irving was at Doswell to-day to investigate a case of small-pox, which has been located about three-quarters of a mile from the station. He reports it a genuine case of small-pox. The home and surrounding territory have been quarantined for several days. The man is in charge of Dr. C. L. Terrell.

FIRE IN LURAY.

Livery Stable and Most of the Contents Burned.

LURAY, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—A fire broke out last night shortly before 11 o'clock in the livery-stable of Walter Campbell, proprietor of the Marion Inn, in this place, and made such rapid progress that the building, with all of its contents, except the hotel omnibuses, was destroyed. Not a horse was saved, there being nine in the stable. Thirteen buggies, several surreys, phaetons, &c., were burned, as was also a large quantity of harness. The large wagons were in an adjoining shed and were saved. The shed burned, and one or two small buildings on the lot of Dr. W. L. Hudson, across the alley, running north from Main street, on which the stable was located. At one time it looked as if the handsome residence of Dr. Hudson would be destroyed, and also the stores of F. T. and B. M. Jobe, and the store and dwelling of W. L. Strickler, and only by the most heroic exertions were these buildings saved from destruction. Had there been any wind blowing the fire could not have been controlled.

Grant Redmon (colored) was asleep in the stable, but was aroused in time to escape without injury.

This is the second time Mr. Campbell's stable has been burned on this site.

Mr. Campbell's loss is estimated at about $3,500, with an insurance of $1,150 on building and $250 on vehicles in the Virginia Fire and Marine and Virginia State Insurance companies.

By 1 o'clock this morning the fire was under control. It is not known how it originated. Dr. Hudson's loss is estimated at $500, partly covered by insurance.

From Fluvanna.

FORK UNION, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—Rev. Dr. Woodfin, who had been engaged to do the preaching in a protracted meeting which began on Sunday last at Bethel church, could not meet his appointment on account of the Hampton quarantine. His place, however, was ably supplied by the Rev. Eldridge Hatcher, of Norfolk, who is fortunately summering at this place. The three-day meeting, which closed to-day, resulted in more than twenty additions to the church.

The local alumni of Hollins Institute held a meeting to-day and organized in the interest of their Alma Mater.

Miss Lilly Ford Snead, who has been for two sessions director of music in Central College, Arkansas, has left for Brooklyn, N. Y., where she will for a month study a new method of teaching music.

Miss Orie Hatcher and Mrs. J. N. Perkins, who have been referred to in this correspondence as very sick people, are now on the road to recovery.

Died in Asheville.

ROANOKE, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—The remains of Mrs. Alice Huff Girvin, who died yesterday at Asheville, N. C., were brought to Roanoke to-night and taken to the home of Ballard P. Huff, her brother, from which place the funeral will take place to-morrow. Mrs. Girvin was the daughter of Isaac H. Huff, one of the most prominent men in this section of the State. She was only 20 years old, and was married in May of this year to J. Harry Girvin, of Baltimore.

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MEETINGS.

Citizens' Exchange Bank, Richmond, Va., August 4, 1899.

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