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THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

PAGES 13 TO 18.

WHOLE NUMBER. 15,201. RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1900. THREE CENTS PER COPY.

MAFEKING RELIEVED?

Siege Reported Raised "on Good Transvaal Authority."

REPORT FROM LORD ROBERTS

He Wires British War Office That the Situation is Unchanged.

GEN. METHUEN LOSES MORE MEN.

Boers Surprise and Surround a Strong Body of Infantry, and Kill and Wound Twenty-Three and Capture Fifteen.

LONDON, January 28—4:45 A. M.—The only news received by the War Office during the night is a dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated yesterday (Saturday), stating that the situation is unchanged, and that General French reports a reconnaissance of the enemy's position on Thursday, when he found the Boers strongly posted at Pietfontein. The maps do not show any such place in the region of General French's operations, and it is probable Reitfontein, ten miles north of Colesburg, is the place alluded to.

A special dispatch from Colenso, dated Wednesday, January 24th, says that Commandant Lucas Meyer's commando surprised and surrounded a strong body of General Methuen's infantry, killing and wounding 23 and capturing 15.

MORE BRITISH TROOPS.

LONDON, January 27—9:10 P. M.—The War Office has decided to embody two additional militia battalions and another battery of artillery.

LAST OF LONDON VOLUNTEERS OFF.

LONDON, January 27.—The last detachment of the infantry section of the London volunteers, numbering 134 men, were entrained this morning for Southampton, where they will embark to-day for South Africa. The route from Wellington Barracks to Nine Elms Station was thronged with cheering spectators, but not as on previous occasions, so the order of march was undisturbed.

The Lord Mayor and sheriffs accompanied the troops to Southampton. The battery section and ammunition column, completing the regiment, will leave February 3d.

FRENCH AND GATACRE IN TOUCH.

LONDON, January 27.—There are signs of important movements developing in the north of Cape Colony. General French has succeeded in getting in touch with General Gatacre, possibly presaging a combination of the two columns and the commencement of a concentration of the forces, which is believed to be the groundwork of Lord Roberts's plan of campaign.

BULLER IN RETREAT?

LONDON, January 27.—The Defence Committee of the Cabinet met at the War Office this afternoon, Lord Salisbury presiding. There are reiterated rumors that the gravest kind of news from Natal is being concealed by the War Office. It is even said that General Buller's forces are in full retreat.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, came to London purposely to attend, and Joseph Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, gave up other engagements for the same reason.

SEVERE FIGHTING UNREPORTED.

It is impossible to confirm or deny these reports of disaster to Buller's forces, as the officials maintain silence. They say they have nothing for publication. It is evident, however, from the War Office's announcement that the casualties reported by General Buller occurred in General Lyttleton's Brigade, which apparently was not engaged at Spion Kop, that there has been severe fighting not yet reported.

Lord Wolseley, the commander-in-chief of the forces, was also present at the meeting of the committee.

CLERY O. K.

There is no mention here of the reports circulated in the United States that General Clery has been defeated by the Boers. The last heard of General Clery was that he was participating in General Warren's movements.

WARREN'S REVERSE UNEXPLAINED

LONDON, January 27.—The War Office has no news of the catastrophe to General Buller's forces reported from Berlin, and discredits the story. Neither has the War Office any explanation, at least for publication, of the abandonment of Spion Kop, and there are no advices in regard to it from independent sources.

The disposition to-day is to regard the evacuation as not so serious as at first thought, and commentators are abusing the military authorities, both at the front and at home, for publishing hasty accounts of an incomplete, half-understood operation, thus alternately thrilling and depressing the nation.

DAMAGING TO BRITAIN.

The afternoon papers describe the General's dispatches as unpleasant reading for the British people, intensely mortifying to the national pride, and damaging to the country's prestige, and scathingly denounce the gazetting, at the present time, of reports which, the St. James Gazette says, "display academic frivolity, not uncommonly found in combination with considerable practical incapacity, lapsing into sneering when they ought to rebuke, and filled with the slang and humor of ipling's subalterns."

The St. James Gazette sums up its opinions as follows: "These dispatches show the folly which has prevailed throughout the period the campaign has covered, and which has exacted its usual tithe of lives and men."

ADDITIONAL BULLER LOSSES.

The War Office announces that the casualties reported by General Buller yesterday occurred in the battalion of General Lyttleton's brigade, which, so far as known at the War Office, was not engaged in the capture or defence of Spion Kop. It appears, therefore, that they are additional to the considerable casualties which General Buller has reported as having occurred at Spion Kop.

SPOIN KOP ANOTHER TRAP.

BERLIN, January 27.—Some of the papers here claim to have a telegram from Pretoria, saying that General Warren was enticed into Spoin Kop, where the Boers fell upon him, so that seventeen of his cannon were captured, and that Buller's hasty retreat over the Tulega river alone can save him.

The alleged Pretoria telegram adds that the British losses were 800 men killed and 1,500 wounded.

The dispatch comes through Brussels, and does not receive much credit in this city.

BRITISH FIRE INEFFECTIVE.

BOER CAMP, MODDER SPRUIT, UPPER TUGELA RIVER, Tuesday, January 23.—The British are now endeavoring to force, with 40,000 troops, the Spion Kop route to Ladysmith. The firing on General Botha's position yesterday was terrific. The grass was fired, rocks were dislodged, and trenches pierced, but the battle was practically one-sided, the Federals only firing thirty shots. A ball from a shell landed in General Botha's pocket. The only Boer casualties were some horses wounded. The firing ceased at dark, but was resumed this morning in the vicinity of Ladysmith and here, but up to noon lacked vigor.

MAFEKING REPORTED RELIEVED.

LORENZO MARQUES, DELAGOA BAY, Friday, January 26.—It is reported, on good Transvaal authority, that Mafeking was relieved Tuesday, January 23d.

LEYDS RECEIVED BY VON BUELOW.

BERLIN, January 27.—The North German Gazette this evening says that Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic agent of the Transvaal, who arrived here for the celebration of the Emperor's birthday, was received by Count Von Buelow, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to-day.

The Lokal Anzeiger publishes a report of an interview with Dr. Leyds, in which he is quoted as saying his presence in Berlin has nothing to do with politics, but is due merely to an invitation to a diplomatic dinner, which he had received from the Imperial Chancellor. He proposed to remain some days, but had no particular designs.

BOER OUTLOOK SPLENDID.

Regarding mediation, Dr. Leyds said the Boers had no occasion to appeal to any one. Everything was going splendidly. As to the conclusion of peace, his personal opinion was that Great Britain would have to return a large portion of the territory she had seized from the Boers, and the Federal republics would, of course, obtain every guarantee that not a hair of the heads of their kinsmen would suffer. No words, he continued, need be wasted about the absolute independence of the two republics.

Ladysmith, Mafeking, and Kimberley, Dr. Leyds added, were simply prisons, with the sole difference that the British had to consume their own provisions.

HINDOOES FOR BRITISH VICTORY.

CALCUTTA, January 27.—A monster meeting of Hindoos and Mohammedans in the town hall here to-day passed a resolution expressing unswerving loyalty and attachment to the Throne, and deciding to offer prayers for the victory of the British in all places of worship. The meeting also subscribed 63,000 rupees ($30,538) toward the Mansion-House fund for the relief of the widows and families of the victims of the South African war.

VERY LIKE A REVERSE.

LONDON, January 28.—Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, whose articles on the war situation have attracted much attention here and abroad, wrote the following review of the situation for the Associated Press at midnight, and after the War Office had given out a telegram from Lord Roberts, dated at Cape Town, Saturday, saying there was no change in the situation:

"The affair of Spion Kop appears very like a reverse at the decisive point of a decisive battle. According to General Buller's telegram, General Warren determined to take the hill because it commanded the enemy's positions. Having taken it Tuesday night, he abandoned it Wednesday night, presumably because he was unable to hold it.

CAN MISHAP BE MADE GOOD?

"The published words of General Buller's telegram have the tone in which a reverse is announced. Whether the mishap can be made good it is impossible to say.

"A general attacking has, to some extent, the power of making his own decisive point. General Warren may yet best the enemy by success at some other point, or he may retake Spion Kop and keep it; but unless in one way or another the battle now going on can be won, there is no probability of Ladysmith's being relieved.

BULLER IN TIGHT PLACE.

"General Buller's army, unless successful, will be in a critical position, for its retreat would be a difficult operation. The main Boer force is as near to any point on the railway as is General Warren's wing of Buller's army; and the Boers have the advantage of speed. For this reason, as well as because of the importance of his purpose to relieve General White, we may expect General Buller to do his very utmost before giving up the attempt; and in this necessity lies the best hope of success.

LESSON FROM OUR CIVIL WAR.

"The American civil war showed how rifled firearms, by rendering assault difficult, produced battles lasting several days, and as since then the range and rate of fire have been greatly increased, the prolongation of the duration of battles was to be expected. But without a fuller knowledge than the telegrams as yet afford, it is not possible clearly to interpret the episodes of the unfinished fight.

RELIEF OF MAFEKING.

"The report from Boer sources that Mafeking has been relieved is credible, for Colonel Plumer has been persistently working in that direction, and there has been time since he was last heard of, near Gaberones, for him to cover the intervening distance. Moreover, the Boers have wisely been concentrating their forces at more decisive points, but the news requires confirmation."

Bridge Accident.

GREENVILLE, N. C., January 27.—(Special.)—The railroad bridge that crosses Tar river at this place had an accident to-day. The draw had been opened for a steamer to pass, and as the keeper undertook to close it the high wind blowing at the time sent the draw back with such force as to knock a long section of the structure and track out of position. Trains had to wait more than an hour to-night before they could pass. This is the second accident of the kind that has occurred at the bridge here.

Funds for River and Harbor Work.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 27.—General Wilson chief of engineers, reports to Congress that on the first of the year the funds available for river and habor work included the following: Virginia, James river, $143,923; North Carolina, Cape Fear river at and below Wilmington, $120,518; South Carolina, Winyah bay, $358,543; Georgia, Savannah harbor, $606,455; Florida, St. John's river, $243,556; Hillsboro' bay, $122,531; also, Cumberland sound, Ga., and Florida, $856,600.

Cost of Federal Buildings.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 27.—The Treasury Department has sent to Congress a statement of additional amounts required for public buildings now in course of construction, due to the rise in building-material prices. They increase the cost limit at Brunswick, Ga., to $120,000; at Elizabeth City, N. C., to $83,000; Tampa, Fla., to $350,000; Winston, N. C., to $63,000, and Newport News, Va., to $220,000.

"Black Diamond" Survey Completed.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., January 27.—The survey of the Ohio, Tennessee, and Carolina railroad has been completed. This proposed road is better known as the Black Diamond Line, but it was recently chartered under the above name. It is the Boone sceme to build a road from Columbus, O., to Port Royal, S. C. A deal is pending to secure sufficient funds to build the road.

Mormon Conference in Georgia.

MACON, GA., January 27.—The annual conference of the Mormon Church of Georgia was held here to-day. It was reported that the work of the Mormons in Georgia for the past year had met with success, and that there are now 150 converts in the State. An open session will be held to-morrow.

SALISBURY "SOLID."

No Change Likely in British Government Politics.

THE LIBERALS ARE DIVIDED.

Impossible for Them to Unite, Even on Lord Rosebery.

BRITAIN'S MISTAKES IN BOER WAR

Underestimation of Enemy—Ignorance of Power of Modern Weapons—Desertion of Strategy to Satisfy Sentiment.

(Special London Cable Letter.)
(Copyrighted, 1900, by the Associated Press)

LONDON, January 27.—Though the criticism of the government, and its methods of handling the war, is unabated, it is safe to say that when Parliament meets, Tuesday next, nothing serious will result. There will be the usual motions of censure, with, perhaps, more than usually impassioned denunciations of the various departments of the administration, especially the War and Colonial offices, but such is the patriotism of the average Englishman and the strength of the Conservative organization that it will be surprising if Lord Salisbury's majority is even appreciably weakened. This mere tally of votes, however, must not be construed as a real index of national feeling, for many a man will go to the government lobby, who, outside, has privately declared that some one ought to be hanged for maladministration, and that if Lord Salisbury did not disassociate himself from the system of culprits responsible for the national humiliation, he must eventually take the consequences.

The inner circles are perfectly well aware of such an eventuality, but they have no fears for the immediate future, implicitly believing in a successful climax of the war, and trusting it will offset the initial blunders.

OPPOSITION DIVIDED.

Another cogent reason for prophesying that the session will be barren of changes affecting the balance of power is that the Opposition, apparently, is hopelessly divided. Nothing showed this better than Mr. John Morley's speech at Forfar, January 24th, when, for the first time, he publicly sneered at Lord Rosebery, who numbers among his devoted adherents such brilliant Liberals as Mr. H. H. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey. Lord Rosebery's magnificent speech this week, and the other speeches which he has recently delivered, have been convincing to men of all parties of his exceptional breadth of mind, patriotism, and ability to face a national crisis sanely, and perhaps it is not stretching the bow to say he to-day commands British confidence to a greater extent than Lord Salisbury; yet it is impossible for the Liberals to unite on him, and, as the Saturday Review says, "He is so admirable out of office that no one would risk putting him in."

LIBERALS WITHOUT A LEADER.

With Morley so bitterly opposed to the Rosebery section of the Liberals, and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman such a non-committal nonentity that his own party press scarcely ever refers to him, the Liberals have no leader upon whom to unite, even should they cohere sufficiently to make a determined attempt to oust the government. So it is probable that the Opposition will adopt tactics of the guerilla order, contenting themselves with putting up Sir Charles Dilke and others to criticise individual points, and while not directly challenging a vote upon the morality of the war and the government's waging of it, for fear of incurring the accusation of being unpatriotic, gaining their end by vigorous academic criticism of the ante-bellum diplomacy, bringing up the Jameson raid skeleton, and demanding the production of the withheld correspondence which was referred to by Mr. B. F. Hawksley, counsel for Mr. Cecil Rhodes, in the letters recently published by the Independence Belge.

This line of policy, however, will not prevent the Irish members and most of the advanced Liberals from bringing to vote most sweeping measures of censure. But the Liberal leaders of all sections are likely to abstain from supporting the war itself, which has now been in progress over three months, and the British position is worse than when Parliament was hastily assembled to grant supplies.

BRITAIN'S MISTAKES.

An eminent British general, reviewing the campaign to a representative of the Associated Press, thus summed it up:

"First of all, we underestimated the enemy; secondly, we knew nothing of the power of modern weapons when opposed to each other in the hands of tolerably equal forces; thirdly, we deserted strategy to satisfy sentiment. By that I mean that Ladysmith and Kimberley appealed to us, and we answered as quickly and as unthinkingly as does an electric receiver a transmitter.

MIGHT HAVE LEARNED FROM US.

"We have learned many things; but, chiefly, we have learned that long-range guns and rifles minimize tremendously the advantage which formerly accrued to the aggressor. Yet, I thoroughly believe, and I am not speaking without experience, that had any Continental nation undertaken the same task with the same force, it would by this time have been wiped out. There are a lot of things which might have been learned, had we watched your land-fighting at Santiago, but we did not, and as a result, we did not have nippers to cut wire, and we knew nothing about Mausers. But the appreciation of our short-comings only makes us the more determined. It may be six months, and it may be a year; but we shall achieve our object."

THE CASE OF ROBERTS.

It May Be Brought Before the Supreme Court.

(Washington Star.)

Although Mr. Roberts, who was excluded from the House of Representatives, has announced that he would take no further steps personally in urging his claim to a seat in Congress, it is understood that steps are being taken to bring the matter before the United States Supreme Court, on the ground that the action of the House was in violation of the rights of a sovereign State.

Mr. Roberts, it is said, has been looking up the law, and believes that he can make a good case before the court.

Mr. Roberts, when seen by a Star reporter to-day, refused to either affirm or deny the report.

GAYNOR HEARING POSTPONED.

Defence Anxious to Have E. A. Geisler Testify in Case.

NEW YORK, January 27.—The hearing before United States Commissioner Shields in the matter of Gaynor Brothers and D. B. Greene, the contractors indicted in Savannah, Ga., with former Captain Oberlin M. Carter, for fraud and conspiracy against the government, which was set for to-day, has been further adjourned until next week. This action was taken on the appeal of the counsel for the defence to allow further time to produce E. A. Geisler, the witness whose appearance was expected to-day, and who is at present in Savannah.

Commissioner Shields decided that if the missing witness turns up by Wednesday next his testimony will be included in the record, and if not the examination will be considered closed. The summing up was set for next Thursday.

PHILIP D. ARMOUR, JR., DEAD.

Son of the Millionaire Packer Passes Away in California.

CHICAGO, January 27.—The news of the death of Philip D. Armour, Jr., youngest son of the millionaire Chicago packer, at Montecito, near Santa Barbara, Cal., came as a complete surprise to his friends here this morning, as it was known that when he left for the Pacific coast he was in the best of health. A telegram from a member of the party that accompanied young Mr. Armour from Chicago a few weeks ago, when he went to California to join his father, conveyed the information to J. Ogden Armour, a brother.

J. Ogden Armour prepared to leave for California to-day to take charge of the funeral arrangements. He is undetermined as to whether the remains will be shipped to Chicago or interred in California, where the senior Armour has decided to live permanently.

Philip D. Armour, Jr., with his wife and two children, aged 7 and 5, went to California two weeks ago, the double purpose of the visit being apprehension for the health of Mr. Armour's oldest child, Philip D. Armour III., and a desire to be near Philip D. Armour, Sr., who had preceded them with his wife a fornight or more.

Philip D. Armour, the elder, whose health is not of the best, had taken a residence in Pasadena, and his son went to Santa Barbara, seventy-five miles distant, believing the climate there would be of greater benefit to his child's health. Mr. Armour, the younger, leased a winter residence, and, so far as reports were received, he at no time was ill after his arrival there, until the sudden malady which ended last night in his death.

PARIS SELECTS THE SITE.

Statue of Washington, a Gift to France, to Be Unveiled in July.

(Washington Star.)

The Washington Statue Association, of which Mrs. Justice Field is president, and the object of which is to present to France a statue of Washington, commemorative of the gratitude of the women of America for the aid rendered to their country in its infancy and hour of need by France, has just received a concession from the municipality of Paris of a site for the statue on the beautiful Place de Jena, at the intersection of the Avenue de Jena and the Avenue du Trocadere.

The monument will be thoroughly American, in that the statue was modelled in this country by American sculptors, and has been cast in bronze by an American company. Moreover, the pedestal was designed by an American and will be executed in American granite.

The incident chosen is when Washington took command of the army at Cambridge, and he is represented with uplifted sword, invoking Divine aid. The statue is equestrian, of bronze, and of heroic size, being about 21 feet in height to the point of the sword, and is to be erected on a classic pedestal of granite 14 feet in height. It is designed to unveil the monument on the 3d of July next, the anniversary of the day on which Washington assumed command of the army.

The statue has been fully paid for. But several thousand dollars are still needed for the completion of the pedestal, and for the expenses incident to the unveiling, and the association hopes for the prompt co-operation of all the patriotic women of the United States in raising the additional amount required.

KOBBE'S SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN.

Participation of the Navy Therein—Seven Americans Wounded.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—Admiral Watson has cabled the following account to the Navy Department of the participation of the navy in General Kobbe's successful campaign through the islands south of Luzon, which contain most of the hemp product:

"Manila, January 27.—Kobbe's expedition to Southeast Luzon, conveyed by the Nashville, the Helena, and the Mariveles, was a complete success. Sorgoson, Donsal, Bulau, Virac, and Legaspe were taken and garrisoned. Legaspe was captured Tuesday after sharp fighting, the Nashville co-operating inside of 500 yards. Private Marine Franklin was wounded, and on board the Nashville Captain Bradley and five others were hurt, but none seriously. Fifty-one dead Filipinos were found in the trenches. Captain Rogers commends Moore, of the Helena; Gilpin, of the Mariveles; Moale, Cook, Yuenseli, Castleman, and Cadet Evans, for services rendered during the expedition.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Eulogies on the Late Congressman Baird, of Louisiana.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—After transacting minor routine business the House turned its attention to eulogies on deceased members. The date of February 10th, heretofore fixed for eulogies on the late Representative Settle, of Kentucky, was vacated, the time for the exercises to be fixed later. Eulogies were then pronounced on the late Representative Baird, of Louisiana. Those who spoke were Representatives Ransdell, of Louisville; Eddy, of Minnesota; Meekinson, of Ohio; Meyer, of Louisana; Clayton, of Alabama; Wheeler, of Kentucky; Broussard, of Louisiana; Henry, of Texas, and Epes, of Virginia.

At the conclusion of the eulogies resolutions of respect were adopted, and then, at 1:20 P. M., as a further mark of respect the House adjourned.

The Senate was not in session to-day.

MILITARY MOVE IN BRAZIL.

Naval and Land Forces Sent to Acre to Protect Citizens.

RIO JANEIRO, January 27.—The Brazilian gunboats Juruema, Jutchy, Timbira, and Tocantins, besides a force of troops, have been ordered to proceed to Acre to enforce the protocol agreed upon between Bolivia and Brazil, and to protect all citizens.

General Leite Castro has been made commander of the National Guard, in place of General Fernando Mendez, editor and proprietor of the Journal de Brazil.

BURGLARS GET $1,700.

Bind and Gag the Watchmen and Then Use Dynamite.

CHICAGO, January 27.—Three masked robbers entered the factory of Dr. Peter Fahrney & Sons' Company last night, bound and gagged four employees of the concern, blew open the safe, and escaped with $1,700 in currency and a considerable amount of notes and other valuable paper. The explosion shattered the safe and made a complete wreck of the office in which it stood. The shock was felt a block from the scene of the robbery, and the whole neighborhood was aroused by the detonation.

JAPANESE BATTLESHIP SAILS.

Reported in London That Shikishima is Off to China.

LONDON, January 27.—Some of the afternoon newspapers associate the departure to-day of the new Japanese battleship Shikishima with possible complications in regard to the situation in China, especially as it is announced that the Shikishima will endeavor to traverse the Suez canal by divesting herself of her armament. Up to the present time no ship of such size has traversed the canal.

VERY STRONG LOBBY.

Prominent Men Fighting for and Against Seaboard's Bill.

GOVERNOR TO GIVE RECEPTION

He and Mrs. Tyler to Receive Members of the General Assembly.

PUBLIC EXAMINERS OF ACCOUNTS.

Mr. Glass's Bill to Appoint Them—Members Visit State Hospital at Petersburg—Senator St. Clair for Lieutenant-Governor—Gossip.

The Capitol is now the scene of one of the most vigorous lobbies which have been here for or against any measure presented for legislation in Virginia in recent years. The measure which has brought forth this lobby is the bill offered by Mr. Cogbill in the Senate and Mr. Patteson in the House in the interest of the Seaboard Air-Line for a charter to construct a railroad between this city and Washington.

The officers of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad and their friends are fighting the bill, and among those engaged in the fight are some of the most prominent men in the State. The contention is being made that the State's interests would suffer if she disposed of her holdings in the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, in that she could not invest the money now invested in the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac stock to such good advantage elsewhere.

One of the counsel for the Seaboard Air-Line, in discussing this contention yesterday, said that, according to his figures, the State was losing money by her present investment. "The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad is paying no taxes in the State treasury," he said, "and the dividends she is paying are not even equal to the amount the State is losing in taxes. Under the present condition the State has her money invested and is getting about $30,000 in dividends at 7 per cent.

"Now, let's see what benefit the State will derive by disposing of her stock. She will receive $721,335 in cash, on which in century bonds she would save in her treasury after 1901 $21,604.05 annually. That as against about $30,000 being paid annually in dividends into the State treasury by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, would make the State an annual loser of $8,360. "Now, to offset this, the Seaboard on its new line would have to pay about $32,000 in taxes, which, as against the $8,360 decrease, would make the State the net gain each year of $23,640."

Those who are looking after the interests of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac claim to be able to demonstrate that the State's investment cannot be improved. There will be plenty of figures on both sides. This bill comes up in the Senate committee February 6th.

The bill offered by Senator Glass last week, providing for the appointment of three examiners of accounts to examine the books of officials who handle public funds, is receiving favorable attention at the hands of senators. Mr. Glass stated yesterday that a number of his colleagues had told him they would vote for his measure. The bill is now pending in the Committee on General Laws of the Senate.

The measure proposed by Mr. Glass provides that it shall be the duty of the Auditor of Public Accounts to appoint three persons, to be known as "Examiners of Accounts," each of whom shall be an expert accountant, who shall, under authority of the Auditor, at such times as he shall direct, and without notice, visit the various counties and cities in the State, and make a thorough and careful examination of the books and accounts kept and settlements made by the various State, county, and district officers charged by law with the collection and disbursement of public funds, or relating to such funds, and ascertain whether the same are accurately kept and made, and immediately thereafter make a written report as to the condition of such books, accounts, and settlements in detail to the Auditor of Public Accounts, together with such suggestions as he may deem advisable for the correction of any errors in or as to the mode of keeping such books and accounts or making such settlements. And said examiner shall file a copy of any such report made by him in the office of the clerk of the county court of the county in which such examination was made. It shall be the duty of the Auditor of Public Accounts to cause an examination of the books, accounts, and settlements of every such officer to be made at least once each year.

Upon the receipt of any report made under this act it shall be the duty of the said Auditor of Public Accounts to examine the same and furnish to the Attorney-General a copy of so much of said report as shows any error or irregularity affecting the interest of the State of Virginia. And it shall be the duty of said Attorney-General to take the necessary and proper steps to correct such error or irregularity.

It shall be the duty of the clerk of each county court in this State to notify the attorney for the Commonwealth of his county, immediately upon the receipt of any such report, of the filing thereof, and such attorney for the Commonwealth shall proceed to examine the said report and take all necessary and proper steps to correct any error or irregularity shown by said report to exist in any such books, accounts, and settlements, except such as are given in charge of the Attorney-General by this act.

The examiners appointed under this act shall hold office for the term of one year from the 1st day of January next succeeding their appointment, except that the first appointees hereunder shall hold office from the date of their appointment until January 1, 1901.

The said examiners shall receive as compensation for their services the sum of $5 per day for all the time actually employed in the discharge of their duties, and all sums actually paid for necessary expenses, to be paid as the clerks in the office of the Auditor of Public Accounts are paid; and the Auditor of Public Accounts is hereby directed to apply to each railway company operating its lines in Virginia to furnish transportation to said examiners of accounts free of charge to them or to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"The Southwest will have to have a candidate for the lieutenant-governorship," said a member from that section who formed one of a group in the northwest corner of the lobby at New Ford's last night. "I nominate Senator Alexander St. Clair, of Tazewell. So many as favor the nomination say I." The vote was unanimous, Mr. John T. Loving, of Pulaski, one of the committee clerks of the House, qualifying his vote with the remark that he was for Mr. St. Clair providing Senator Tate was not a candidate.

"I withdraw in St. Clair's favor right now," said Senator Tate.

It is not improbable that Senator St. Clair's name will be presented to the convention.

The members of the Senate Committee on Public Institutions and the House Committee on Prisons and Asylums went yesterday to Petersburg, where they visited the Central State Hospital. They went all over the buildings and grounds and inspected closely everything pertaining to the institution.

On the return trip, Delegate Newhouse, who was the life of the party during the day, ran across a particularly handsome game-cock. He negotiated with an old negro for the purchase of the fowl, and had it shipped to his home, in Culpeper.

The title of a bill offered in the House by Mr. Leech, of Rockbridge, was incorrectly printed. It made the object of the bill as set forth by the title the election of a council of the city of Buena Vista and to provide for the issue of bonds for the payment of the same. The title of the bill in question is "To authorize the city of Buena Vista to issue bonds and to provide for payment of same."

Governor and Mrs. Tyler will hold a public reception at the Executive Mansion next Friday evening in honor of members of the General Assembly. The reception will begin at 8:30 o'clock. The public will be welcome.

The bill to make the American National Bank a State depository was reported favorably by the Senate Finance Committee yesterday. Mr. J. W. Lockwood advocated the bill, and other bankers urged that the bill be amended so as to become effective July 1st. The committee declined to amend the bill.

In the House Committee on Roads yesterday a favorable report was ordered on the bill offered by Hon. S. Wilkins Matthews, of Accomac, providing for separate accommodations for white and colored passengers on steamboats in Virginia. It is thought this bill will pass both houses of the General Assembly.

The House Committee on General Laws held a long-drawn-out session yesterday to consider the bill introduced by Mr. Dupuy, to provide for a commissioner of insurance. No action was taken, but it is understood that the committee will most likely report the bill adversely.

Ex-Senator J. Thompson Brown, of Nelson, was in the city yesterday.

Hon. S. E. Akers, member of the House of Delegates from Patrick, is somewhat indisposed, and has gone home to consult his physician.

TO COMPENSATE COUNCILMEN.

Resolution to Pay Them $300 a Year Will Be Offered.

It was learned yesterday from an entirely reliable source that a resolution providing for a charter change, so as to fix compensation for members of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council will be offered at the next regular meeting of the lower branch of the Council.

The subject has been discussed informally from time to time in the past, but no action has hitherto been taken with the view of ascertaining the sense of the members. This it is now proposed to do.

If the gentleman who has determined to offer the resolution adheres to his present intention, he will incorporate a provision specifying that the amount each alderman and councilman shall be entitled to shall be $300 per annum.

In order to provide for compensation of the members it will be necessary to amend the city charter, which now provides that the members shall serve without pay. In view of the fact that the Assembly will be in session only about a month longer, the patron of the resolution will present it at the next meeting of the Council, which will be held one week from to-morrow.

The idea to compensate councilmen is not a new one by any means. In a large number of the cities the councilmen are salaried officers, and the plan is said to work admirably. Atlanta, Ga., is cited as a notable example.

It is understood that the present proposition does not look to reduction of the number of members of either body, but leaves the representation as it stands.

It will be a source of general regret that Mr. James Caskie, President of the Common Council, has determined not to stand for re-election at the expiration of his term in the Council. He is an able presiding officer, and recognized as one of the most conservative and at the same time active working members of the body. It is known that since he indicated his intention other members of the Council have endeavored very earnestly to persuade him to recall his decision.

SAVANNAH BUILDERS ORGANIZE.

Result of Notices from Carpenters of Demand for Wage Increase.

SAVANNAH, GA., January 27.—The contractors and master builders of Savannah last night organized a builders' exchange, which includes every contractor and builder in the city. The movement was brought about by the letters of notification recently issued by the two carpenters' unions that an increase in wages, amounting to about 33 per cent., would be demanded on May 1st. The contractors say they expect no fight, but purpose to be in a position to defend themselves.

BRADFORD DUNHAM RESIGNS.

He Will Be Succeeded on Plant System by Captain Denham.

SAVANNAH, GA., January 27.—Bradford Dunham, general superintendent of the Plant system of railways, has tendered his resignation, to take effect February 1st. He was formerly with the Baltimore and Ohio, and later with the Alabama Midland. He has been with the Plant system five years.

Captain W. Denham, division superintendent at Gainesville, Fla., will succeed Mr. Dunham.

WILL NOT ROW AT HENLEY.

Decision of the Rowing Authorities of Pennsylvania University.

PHILADELPHIA, January 27.—The rowing authorities of the University of Pennsylvania have abandoned the idea of a Henley trip, and the proposed Paris trip will not be acted upon until after the Hudson-river regatta. This decision was reached at a presidents' meeting, at which every department was represented. The Rowing Committee reported that the crew could not be entered at Henley without losing at Poughkeepsie, and that "the game was not worth the candle."

APPEAL TO MANAGER GANNON.

Southern Railway Telegraphers' Grievances Ignored by Mr. Barrett.

ATLANTA, GA., January 27.—General-Superintendent Barrett, of the Southern railway, to-day notified the committee of telegraphers having in charge the grievances of the operators on that road of his refusal to consider their complaint. The telegraphers then appealed their case to General-Manager Gannon.

DADY IS DOWNED.

His Case at Macon Practically Thrown Out of Court.

AN INJUNCTION REFUSED.

Obstruction to Seaboard Air-Line Consolidation Again Prevented.

JUDGE REFERS TO RYAN SUITS.

He Says Georgia Plaintiffs Are Privy to These, and Holds It is "Not Properly Maintainable That Williams Movement Should Be Enjoined."

MACON, GA., January 27.—Judge Speer this morning, in the case of Dady against the Georgia and Alabama railroad, refused the injunction sought to prevent the consolidation of the Seaboard Air-Line system.

He referred to the fact that causes substantially similar were pending in the Federal jurisdictions of Virginia and North Carolina, and held that the court first to take cognizance of the case should carry it to its termination. Holding also that the plaintiffs were privy with Ryan in his suits in the jurisdictions referred to, he held that those tribunals were the proper ones for him to resort to, the same issues being involved.

WILLIAMS MOVEMENT O. K.

He further held that only a majority vote of stockholders was necessary for such consolidation in Georgia, and that it was "not properly mantainable that, because the defendant, John Skelton Williams, occupied the position of a member of the voting trust of the Georgia and Alabama and the Florida Central and Peninsular, the movement for consolidation to be brought about through his instrumentality should be enjoined."

Mr. Morris Brandon, of counsel for the plaintiffs, said:

PLAINTIFFS TO APPEAL.

"The only way in which the consolidation can be carried out is by the method pointed out in the bill, and should the different companies attempt to merge, a final hearng will be had on the present bill, and the plaintiffs will then take an appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals."

"COURTS USED AS PAWNS."

In his decision Judge Speer said the gravest consequences have resulted, and may result, involving enormous loss, where courts and judges of concurrent jurisdiction ignore the salutary principles of comity, bring about a conflict of authority, pass conflicting orders, and render conflicting decisions on the same facts and in the same controversy, producing endless confusion and distrust in the administration of the law, and often rewarding parties who are stubbornly litigous, who are endowed with great resources for litigation, and who not infrequently seek to use the courts as pawns in the game they play on the gigantic chessboard marked by the transportation lines of the country.

He further decided that no importance is to be attached to the fact that at the present moment there was no physical connection between the Georgia and Alabama and the Seaboard; that they were separated by less than a dozen miles, and that the intervening track was now being laid.

THE MATTER OF COMPETITION.

An interesting part of the decision is that which bears upon the competitive character of the two roads. Tracing their general trend, and calling attention to the fact that after leaving Savannah they are in nowise connected, save through the intermediary of one or two shallow rivers on which small steamboats occasionally ply, and that intervening between the two lines are powerful competitive systems, he said:

VALUE OF THE S. A. L.

"It is not difficult to perceive that the contemplated system of the Seaboard Air-Line, instead of tending to defeat competition, must inevitably tend to preserve it. A new system will contribute to the transportation service of the country, now so admirably served by the lines there located. Surely it needs no argument to justify the statement that consolidation of three great railroad systems serving the Southern States will do much to prevent and make impossible, rather than create, monopoly in the railroad transportation of these States, and will do much to prevent an injurious control, if any such be attempted, of the vital powers of common carriers in a territory which, with all of its expanding interests, promises to be richer than the broad empire of Rome under a Caesar or a Trajan."

LOCOMOTIVE BOILER EXPLODES.

The Engineer, Fireman, and Conductor of the Train Killed.

DETROIT, MICH., January 27.—A special from Battle Creek, Mich., to the Journal says a Chicago and Grand Trunk locomotive blew up at Edwardsburg this morning, killing engineer, fireman, and conductor.

DEATH OF CHARLES MALTY.

He Was Associated in Business With Abraham Lincoln.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 27.—Charles Malty, who for three years was associated in business with Abraham Lincoln at Waynesville, Ill., is dead; aged 88 years. He was born in Vermont, and during an active life occupied many positions of public trust.

The Weather.

RAIN

WASHINGTON, January 27.—Forecast for Sunday and Monday:

Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina—Rain and warmer Sunday; fresh, easterly winds; Monday partly cloudy and colder.

THE WEATHER IN RICHMOND YESTERDAY was clear and cold. The range of the thermometer was as follows:

6 A. M.	22
9 A. M.	23
12 M.	25
3 P. M.	28
6 P. M.	28
12 Night	24
Mean temperature	24