

LET ALL DEMOCRATS VOTE.

Prominent Party Leaders Call on the People to Go to Polls Thursday.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE TO BE DECIDED.

Cogent Reasons Given for Supporting the Constitutional Convention Proposition.

STIRRING LETTERS FROM MEN OF INFLUENCE.

State-Chairman Ellyson, Governor Tyler, Senator Daniel, the Virginia Congressmen, and Others Urge the Importance of Voting on Thursday—Address to the Democratic Voters of Richmond.

There are unmistakable signs of an increased interest in the constitutional convention question, as the election day draws near. The apathy which has characterized the Democrats of Virginia, has, to a great extent, disappeared. The people have been thinking. The result is that the sanction which the State convention gave to the convention proposition at Norfolk has been reinforced by an active and determined public sentiment.

THE DUTY OF DEMOCRATS.

Chairman Ellyson's Stirring Words as to Party Duty.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: The Democratic State Convention at Norfolk, representing the sentiment of an overwhelming majority of the Democrats of Virginia, has made the constitutional convention question a party issue, to be supported as such by all loyal Democrats by their vote at the polls on next Thursday, May 24th. I am firmly persuaded that the highest interest of our party, and hence the best welfare of the Commonwealth, will be promoted by the adoption of a new Constitution. The Democrats of every other Southern State have gone ahead of us in constitutional revision, and have long since replaced the corrupt institutions put on them thirty years ago with constitutions of their own making. The Democrats of Virginia will, I am sure, fall into line with their southern brethren. While we suffer less than they did from the large rule during reconstruction times, we have, in the end, suffered more. They abolished the system of State and county government instituted by the carpet-baggers, and restored to us the system of the Commonwealth, while we have gone on suffering it and stultifying every means to find money to pay for it for a whole generation. But, however tardy we may have been in making the change, the necessity for it at this time is imperative. The financial obligations which Virginia has assumed are about to be increased in weight. The alternative is reduction in the cost of government or increased taxation. The Democrats of the State bear the burden of the taxation, and are responsible for Virginia's credit. They are determined that, come what may, there shall be no impairment of Virginia's credit. They will enforce this determination by the adoption of a Constitution giving us a system of State and county government so economical as to make the credit of the State forever safe. A new Constitution will give us a better system of State and county government, a better system of schools, and a better system of roads, and will relieve us of the burden of the greatest of all questions to be considered by the convention is that of negro suffrage. We must grapple with, and eliminate, this question from our politics, or it will in a short time overwhelm and destroy us. A new Constitution will give us some relief from the presence of the mass of illiterate in our franchise. The blunder of making voters of a mass of ignorant slaves by the instantaneons stroke of a pen has been discovered and deplored at the North. The remedy for it adopted by the Southern States who were the sufferers by the blunder is a limitation of the franchise to the white race. It is the first step, and the only one, in sight in the South for the solution of our taxation, and no white Democrat of Virginia needs any argument in favor of a Constitution to produce this reform of an evil from which every white man in the South has suffered. The Democrats of Virginia have never been loyal in loyalty to the fair credit of our State, nor in loyalty to the white race. These two are included on the banner which the party has held for us in the near past. The convention is as binding upon every Democrat of the State as is the duty to support the electoral ticket named at the party convention. Let us, then, all be at the polls in June next Thursday, and make one supreme effort to give our Old Mother State a new birth and a new and glorious career.

J. TAYLOR ELLYSON, Chairman.

"WE MUST HAVE A CHANGE."

Governor Tyler Urges the Necessity for New Constitution.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: I think the necessity for changing the present Constitution so great, and my loyalty to my party is such, that I will go to the polls in June to vote for it. The city of Democrats is clear.

J. HOGE TYLER.

SENATOR DANIEL.

Why He Urges Our People to Call a Convention.

United States Senate, Washington, D. C., May 16, 1900. To the Editor of the Dispatch: This is the busiest season in Congress, which is pressing forward the measures before it with a view to adjournment early in June. I cannot leave, as matter deeply affecting the State and the coun-

try alike are partially in my charge, and require constant watchfulness and attention. Were I differently situated, I would gladly meet the calls upon me to speak in behalf of the constitutional convention. The considerations, however, that should move us to hold the convention are momentous, and may be stated in brief compass.

Virginia is the only State in the Union now living under a carpet-bag "black-and-tan" constitution. Just as soon as the horrors of the Reconstruction days were over every border State and every Southern State proceeded to disrobe itself of the Constitution which was tainted with the evils of those times. Our Constitution has been vastly improved by amendments. But it was made to be a punishment to our people. Copied largely from the Constitution of New York, it is a relic of the Reconstruction era. It is so long because of our natural conservatism and good nature, and our weariness of strife. But what a contrast! Virginia of 1776, making the first American Constitution—the first in the world to make the distribution of independent, executive, legislative, and judicial powers—the model of the United States, and of every separate State itself, and now the Virginia of 1900, the only State in the Union with a carpet-bag Constitution, and the only English-speaking community in the world under a "corrupt" constitution. It may be called "sentimental" but whatever be the name of the feeling, I feel, as do the masses of the Virginia people, that we are not entitled to the humiliating distinction which belongs to us, "solitary and alone," and that whatever the reasons there are practical economic and business reasons that should impel us to make a new constitution. Our Legislature for twenty-five years has had biennial sessions. The members of the House of Delegates are elected every two years, and sit three months in one year. By the time a member learns the rules, and is no longer a novice, his term ends. The calendar is congested, and legislation must be hasty, or not at all. We need a deliberative body that can take its time and go sedately over all the affairs of the Commonwealth, and then frame an economic, up-to-date constitution, eliminating the burdens that were imposed by the copied Constitution of New York.

Necessity presses upon us. With an additional burden of interest on the public debt of near \$20,000,000 to accrue next year, and with a Confederate pension bill estimated to cost a hundred million, or more, annually, we shall be put to our wits to make buckle and tongue meet, and any general financial disturbance might completely upset the finances of the Commonwealth. We should take time by the forelock and provide against the coming of that evil day. We can only do this by a State convention. Many other questions press for consideration. I will not go on to them now, but the time is ripe, and the opportunity has been given by the spontaneous and instinctive movement of the people, who have recognized the situation and are anxious to do with it in the right spirit.

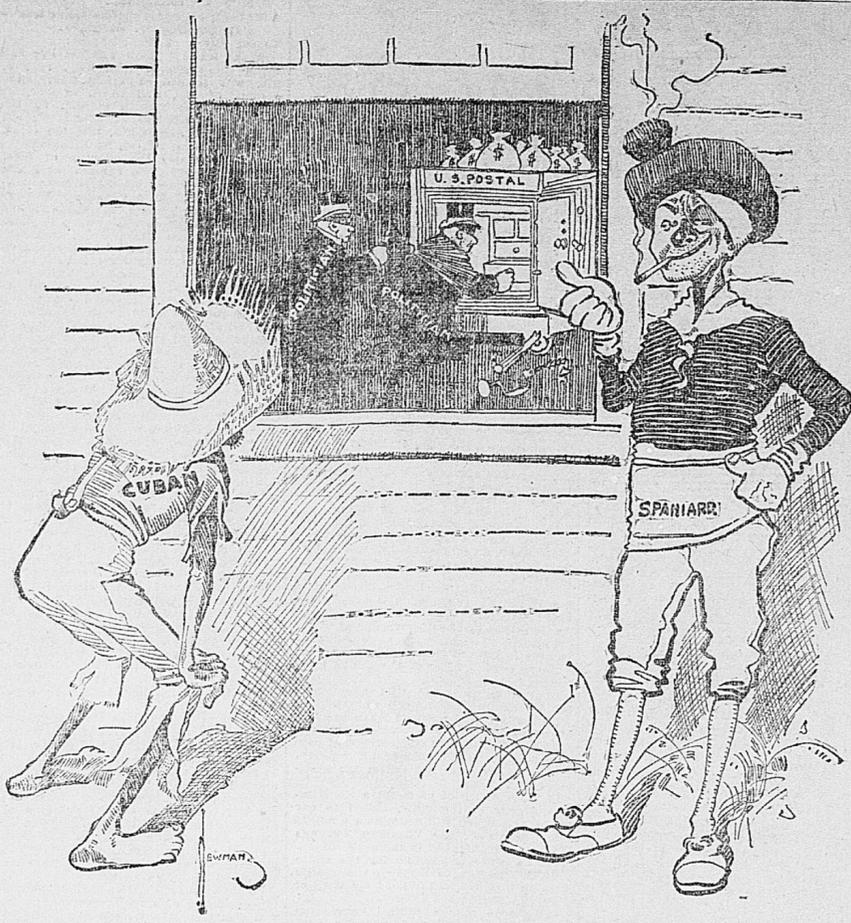
We must set our house in order, and the intellect, character, and energy of the State should now concentrate upon the paramount question of constitutional reform. The first step was taken by the people. The second has been taken by the Legislature in substituting the convention for the question of calling a convention. The third was taken by the Democratic convention at Norfolk, urging the people to vote for the convention on the 24th of May. They will then take the fourth step, and if it be as is hopefully anticipated, in favor of a convention, the State will proceed in one course to frame a constitution worthy of its history and its dignity, and in consonance with its interests. Very truly yours,

JOHN W. DANIEL.

OUR PARTY HAS SPOKEN.

House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., May 16, 1900. To the Editor of the Dispatch: I am heartily in favor of a constitutional convention, and regret that the time is so short in which to present this important matter to the voters. The reasons for the change are apparent. While respecting the opinions of those who oppose the change, and recognizing the difficulties attending the transition period, I feel confident that the benefits to be obtained will far outweigh the inconveniences and dangers apprehended by some. The Democratic party has spoken through the Norfolk convention. The Democrats of Virginia are loyal, and will respond to the call of duty. Let their trusted servants and leaders of opinion speak frankly, and urge them

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.)



THE CUBAN: "HORRORS! THAT'S JUST THE WAY YOU SPANIARDS USED TO DO." —Chicago Record.

THE NEW HOSPITAL.

GROUND WILL BE BROKEN WITH FORMAL CEREMONIES JULY 15TH.

BE COMPLETED IN TWELVE MONTHS.

The Building Will Be Absolutely Fire-Proof—It is to Be One of the Largest Hospitals in the United States.

It has been decided that ground for the Charlotte Williams Hospital, to be located at the southeast corner of Twelfth and Broad streets, will be broken on or about July 15th.

There will be formal ceremonies of an interesting character. Ground will be broken by three little children—Charlotte Williams Bemiss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bemiss, and a niece of the lady to whom the hospital is to be a memorial; John Skelton Williams, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Skelton Williams, and nephew of the late Miss Williams, and little Ann Roy Johnston, daughter of Dr. George Ben. Johnston, one of the incorporators, and who will be the chief surgeon of the hospital.

A SILVER SPADE. The implements to be used on the occasion will be three little silver spades, made of the silver of \$100, representing the nominal capital stock of the corporation. The handles will be of wood from one of the two houses which are to be torn down to make way for the great building. The spades will be preserved as mementoes.

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the office of Dr. George Ben. Johnston last Wednesday night. The report of the Building Committee, recommending that the plans of Mr. Percy Griffin, the New York architect, be accepted, was adopted. The committee recently went to New York and examined the plans, which are now entirely completed.

The board ordered the committee to have the buildings on the site of the proposed hospital torn down, and the material disposed of. This work is to be completed by July 10th. As stated, it is expected that the building will be completed within a twelvemonth. As soon as the plans are received in this city local builders will be asked to inspect them and submit bids.

ABSOLUTELY FIRE-PROOF. The building will be of brick, with cement trimmings. It will be as nearly absolutely fireproof as can be constructed. Only the doors and the window-boxes will be of wood.

The hospital will be the largest charity hospital in the South, save one in New Orleans, and will be of the largest in the United States.

Died in Jail.

NOTTOWAY COURTHOUSE, VA., May 19.—(Special.)—Andrew Rogers (colored), a

MURDER IN PRISON.

CONVICT CUTS HIS CELL-MATE'S THROAT IN THE PENITENTIARY.

A DESPERATE DEED, INDEED.

William Woodson Attacks Ambrose Ferebee in the Shoe-Shop and Ends His Existence With a Knife-Attack on Another Prisoner.

WOODSTOCK, VA., May 19.—(Special.) Rev. J. E. McInturf, a well-known Baptist minister and Superintendent of the public schools of this county, stumbled on a pile of stones at his home, in Strasburg, yesterday and broke the large bone of the right wrist.

Two men were cell-mates, together with several other negroes, and on Friday night there was a general fight in the cell. Woodson engaged in battle with a negro named Jim Jones, and attempted to brain Jones, when Ferebee interfered and took the brick from the late prisoner. Quiet was restored, and it was thought by the cops that the incident had been closed. Yesterday morning the men were marched from their cell and given their breakfast. Woodson went along and ate his breakfast quietly, making no demonstration, and giving no evidence of the terrible thoughts that were within his brain.

CUT HIS THROAT. After breakfast the men were marched into the shoe-shop, and their day's work was begun. Woodson was seated some distance from Ferebee. The latter having a few moments leisure was engaged in reading a Testament, when, without warning, and before the guards could interfere, Woodson sprang from his seat, rushed over to where Ferebee was sitting, and grasping his head, pulled it back, and drew a sharp shoe knife across his throat. A gash, extending from the left ear to within two inches of the right eye, was made. The jugular vein was severed, and the head was almost cut from the body.

As soon as he had accomplished his foul purpose with Ferebee, Woodson rushed through the shop to where Jones was seated, and slashed at him, but the guards interfered before he could injure Jones, and Woodson was put in irons and placed in a dungeon. Ferebee had been, in the mean time, removed to the hospital, and Dr. Virgilus Harrison, the surgeon, was summoned to him. The physician did all that he could to alleviate the man's suffering, but the unfortunate prisoner was too far gone to make it possible to save his life, and, at 9:30 o'clock, he breathed his last.

TO BE TRIED FOR MURDER. Woodson will be kept in the dungeon (CONCLUDED ON PAGE 10.)

SHEET STEEL COMPANY STOCK ISSUE.

TRENTON, N. J., May 19.—A certificate was filed with the Secretary of State to-day, certifying that the American Sheet Steel Company had issued \$25,000,000 of capital stock, of which \$15,000,000 was for the purchase of property and the remainder, \$10,000,000, was paid in cash. The certificates were signed by George B. McMurtry, president, and H. B. Wheeler, secretary, of the company.

A PROUD WEEK FOR RICHMOND.

The Great Street Fair Brought to a Triumphant Conclusion.

VISITORS' EXPECTATIONS FULLY REALIZED.

The Attendance for the Six Days' Celebration Unprecedented.

THE MONSTER REVIEW PARADE OF LAST NIGHT.

The Culminating Event of the Day and the Week—Bostock Shows Leave-Outgoing Trains Laden Down With People—Final Scenes and Incidents—Association Officers Enthusiastic—Finances in Good Shape.

The Free Street Fair is ended. Carnival week closed with midnight last night. The affair proved a great success. As an entertainment it met expectations; as a crowd-bringer it exceeded the most extravagant estimates.

In one point only was it conspicuously weak—it did not adequately illustrate the general trade and manufacturing industries of this great community. But this weak point was not as noticeable as it might have been; the visiting contingent consisted of women in a strikingly large measure, and these, of course, were more interested in the Broad-street retail establishments than in any general trades and manufacturers. The Broad-street houses were seen at their best.

The fair met expectations of visitors. They found what they wanted—entertainment. It is undoubtedly true that fairs, the shows, the bands, the parades made the show. The people, on a holiday occasion, want dessert. They get solid food at home. Visitors are bound to admire the enterprise of Richmond in providing them a show on so large a scale. There has never been a greater advertisement of community public-spirit.

There is every promise of a repetition of the fair next year, either in the spring or in the fall. With the experience gained in the first attempt the promoters will be able to provide an even greater entertainment. And those visitors who have been with us will come again, and bring their friends with them. Their welcome next year will be as cordial as it has been this time.

Great Crowd Witnessed Last Night's Parade—Closing Scenes.—The last day of the fair was ushered in with great sheets of rain, which came down almost continuously during the morning hours. Towards noon the skies became brighter, and the sun was shining during the greater part of the afternoon. Clouds again scurried above the city as afternoon was merging into evening. The threatened downpour, however, failed to materialize, and encouraged the people to assemble for the final event of the carnival—the review of the King, which took place last night on Broad street.

An immense crowd witnessed the parade. The absence of the Fairlyland float, thronged the sidewalks and gathered in great groups in the street. The parade was an hour late in starting. The head of the procession appeared on west Broad street, the procession turned after disappearing under the Tenth-street arch, and came back up the street before disbanding.

WHO PARTICIPATED. The composition of the procession is shown in the following order in which it moved: Knights of the Golden Horseshoe. King of the carnival, drawn by four white horses. Group of officers of the association riding camels. Junior Order of United American Mechanics, with two floats and "the Citizens" and "Blues" bands. The parade was headed by the Knights of Pythias, followed by the Knights of the Royal Arcanum float.

The absence of the Fairlyland float was quickly noted by the spectators, who had seen the handsome creations in Tuesday night's parade. At the last moment it was found impossible to get them in shape for the parade. They had been exposed to the rain of two days, and considerably worsened.

THE FRATERNAL ORDERS. The feature of last night's procession was the part taken by the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, the Pythians, and the Royal Arcanum. This portion of the parade was the most interesting. Mr. Davis Bottom, chief marshal, said, whose aides were Messrs. A. C. Nelson, from No. 12 Council, chief-of-staff; J. G. Pearson, No. 1; W. A. Stack, No. 7; B. Wharton, No. 12; J. T. L. Woodson, No. 15; E. W. Williams, No. 27; S. Coleman, No. 23; and C. A. Hill, No. 49. The following councils were represented in the Juniors' procession, taking precedence in the order named: Rescue Council, No. 1; B. G. Garner, marshal, 155 men; Jefferson Council, No. 57, J. J. Davis, marshal, 39 men; Patrick Henry, No. 12, O. C. Markham, marshal, 150 men; A. W. Glenn, No. 7, R. J. Carleton, marshal, 120 men; Grove, No. 49, C. A. Hill, marshal, 120 men; Goodwill, No. 29, J. J. Jewell, marshal, 65 men; Aurora, No. 23, T. J. Dance, marshal, 125 men; R. E. Lee, No. 11, A. L. Jones, marshal, 50 men.

The Juniors marched in column of fours, the colors, red, white, and blue—alternating down the line. Several American flags were carried by the marchers. Two floats in the Juniors' ranks represented the progress of popular education in this country, which is the proudest thing which the order stands. The first float pictured a log cabin school of the old days; the second, a modern brick school-house, with the inscription, "Public Freedom" over the door, and the national colors along the eaves.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS. The Pythians' float was a great conical stage, with nine column supports, wrapped about with the colors—blue, red, and yellow. The national colors were also in evidence. Conspicuous figures on the float were the traditional arch-angel, a red-headed devil, and the arch-angel's beard and plumed helmet in the devil's red. A group of Pythians, including one of the degree teams, rode in the float, which represented nine Richmond lodges, and the new Manchester lodge.

THE ROYAL ARCANUM. The Royal Arcanum had a splendid float in line. A large white arch constituted the principal superstructure. Conspicuously displayed were figures showing the strength of the order—membership, 250,000; reserve fund, \$1,500,000. A group of ladies and children occupied the Royal Arcanum float. Mrs. Franklin L. Dickinson, in pure white, was seated under the arch. Mrs. Irwin L. Sutherland was surrounded by the chivalrous Misses Nellie, Martha, and Linwood Sutherland, and Masters Robert Bruce and Willie Dabney.

A great feature of the parade was the appearance of prominent, carnival officers riding camels. President A. H. Meyer, with a Turkish fez, made a tree of the desert. At his side, humping himself to look dignified, rode Mr. Harry

C. Eichelberger, secretary of the association, to whom Captain Morgan R. Mc directed attention as "King Harry the First Time." Mr. E. H. Clowes rode a six-sided dromedary, the supply of (CONCLUDED ON PAGE FOURTEEN.)

IT WAS THE GUTTER.

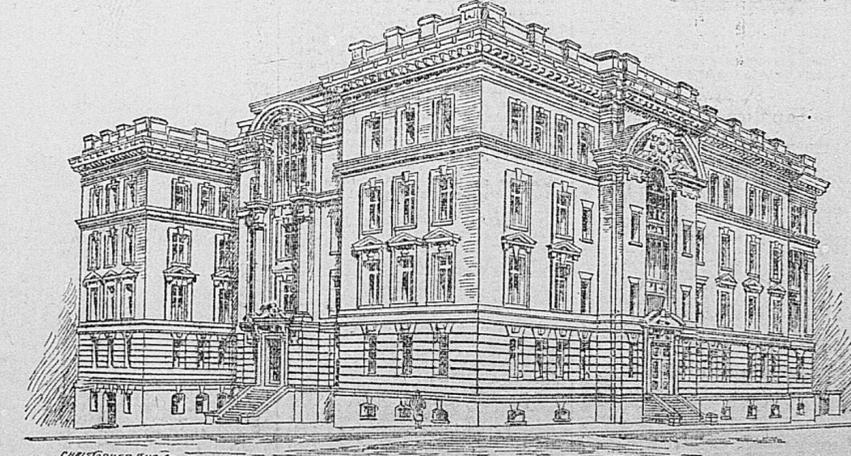
Thought Bank Was Being Burglared—Boydton Briefs.—BOYDTON, VA., May 19.—(Special.)—There was some uneasiness felt here last night in consequence of a report that the Bank of Mecklenburg, located in this town, was being burglarized. Two drummers were passing the building during the night and heard, as they thought, sawing and drilling going on inside the bank. They notified Cashier E. W. Overby, who immediately summoned help, and the party proceeded to the bank, heavily armed, expecting to find and overhaul burglars and capture them; but to their surprise, on entering the bank, there was not a living soul in it. They proceeded to investigate the regular and incessant noise, and to their relief found it was from a nearby gutter, which had become choked. It having rained a few hours before, the constant dripping in the gutter made the noise so loud.

The trial of Stephen Baptist, who stands charged with the murder of old Mr. Peter Jones, near Buffalo Lithia Springs, will begin on Tuesday of next week. I understand the Commonwealth has recently discovered new evidence, which is very damaging to the prisoner. Baptist is now confined in the Petersburg jail. It has been ascertained Council I have never learned of it.

W. J. B. Wells left here to-night for Washington city, where he goes to attend the meeting of the Imperial Council of Shriners, which convenes on Monday evening. Mr. Wells is a member of Acca Temple, of Richmond, and is a most zealous Mason.

Woolen-Mills Burned. FRIESTOL, TENN., May 19.—(Special.)—Fire, caused by spontaneous combustion, destroyed the Doe-River Woolen-Mills, at Elizabethton, Tenn., last night. The loss is estimated at \$50,000, with \$15,000 insurance.

King of Belgians in London. LONDON, May 19.—The King of the Belgians has arrived in London, on a visit.



DESIGN FOR THE CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS HOSPITAL, GOVERNOR AND BROAD STREETS.