

MUST VIRGINIA SELL?

Her Holding in the R., F. & P. Railroad Discussed.

THE MORRIS RESOLUTION.

The Charlottesville Senator Tells Why He Introduced It.

THE CIRCUIT COURT JUDGESHIP.

Judge Barksdale Has Retired from the Contest—Unipe Point Raised.

About Title to the Constitutional Convention.

Members of the Legislature still continue to discuss the advisability of the State's parting with her holdings in the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad, though it is evident that the majority of the law-makers do not as yet thoroughly understand the bills pertaining to this interesting subject.

Senator Morris, the author of the resolution which provided that the General Assembly should investigate the status of the matter and see what was best to be done, is perhaps more familiar with the situation than any other legislator.

He said last night that there was no "motive" in his resolution—that is, no motive save what was apparent on the face of the document. In other words, Senator Morris desired to know exactly how the State stood, whether the bond and certificate of the Richmond and Washington Air-Line were valid or not and what was best for the State to do under all the circumstances disclosed.

The Charlottesville Senator is firmly of the opinion that Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad stock will continue to be held in the Richmond and Washington Air-Line, and that the line has a magnificent future before it. He regards the road as the throat to southern commerce and sees no reason why the present market value of the securities is more than they are worth. He thinks that while it will be unfortunate for Virginia to lose the stock, it will be more fortunate to have a wise thing to do with it.

It is a well known fact that Mr. John Seaboard Williams, the president of the Seaboard System, connected to the introduction of the bills repealing last session's acts relating to the Richmond and Washington Air-Line. These measures put matters in statu quo, conditional obligations, nullify the conditional obligations of the new line. Mr. Williams told the legislators, when talking over the matter with them, that he wished to see the system in the seaboard in the position of being indifferent to public sentiment.

The Baltimore Sun, yesterday, in an article relating to the matter, says: "Next month the Seaboard system is to be offered for sale. It is understood that the bid to be made by the Seaboard Air-Line Railway Company will be in the hands of the Seaboard system, the Atlantic Coast Line, and the Pennsylvania railroad. The Atlantic-Coast Line owns a majority of the stock of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, but in order to induce the Seaboard to abandon its project to build an independent line to Washington the management of the Atlantic-Coast Line has taken a step which will make it an open highway by establishing mutuality of interests.

The Pennsylvania railroad is in accord with this idea, and President Cassatt, of that system, has been an advocate of such a plan. The Pennsylvania owns a part of the Richmond-Washington line from Washington to Quantico. Its relations with the Seaboard Air-Line are now said to be more friendly than ever before, and this is believed to assure the successful working out of the scheme for the mutuality-of-interest policy in connection with the Richmond-Washington line.

In view of Mr. Williams' interview with the Governor and legislators, the Sun's article appears to be based on fallacious or obsolete information, though there is no doubt about the fact that almost every corporation in the country would like to acquire the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac stock.

"The Record-Advertiser" of Houston, Halifax county, appears to think the Dispatch feels no fondness for Senator Barksdale, and that his recent account of his sudden attack of illness during the "malice aforethought" business, is a "hoax." It is intimated that the Senator had overworked and overexcited himself. Had the editor of the Record-Advertiser seen what persistently hard heels the general Senator put in for Judge Whitely he would have understood his collapse and appreciated the reasons for it. During that memorable fight men burned the midnight oil and allowed their feelings to be wrought up to a high pitch of excitement. There was not a scintilla of ill-feeling about the contest, but loyalty to friends ran high, and Senator Barksdale toiled day and night in behalf of his man.

It is hardly there is no question about his having overworked and overexcited himself, and he pleads guilty to the charge of having smoked forty cigars some days. But what if he did? His favorite won, and everybody knows Judge Whitely owes his victory largely to Barksdale. It is true the Senator was really very ill for the time being, but he wasn't too sick to show up at each roll-call and to joke about the incident afterwards. There was not a scintilla of ill-feeling about the contest, but loyalty to friends ran high, and Senator Barksdale toiled day and night in behalf of his man.

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thrusts of repartee which put the Senate in a roar of laughter at their expense.

Judge W. R. Barksdale, of Halifax, has decided to withdraw from the contest for the judgeship of the Fourth Judicial District, and, therefore, Judge Saunders is the only one who will be remembered, is only for an unexpired term, which ends next January. At that time the Legislature again will have to elect a judge for the circuit, and it may be that the general election will enter the field.

Judge Barksdale, who has served as County Judge of Halifax for the greater part of the past two decades, was splendidly endorsed by the Fourth Circuit, and is held in high esteem throughout the State. He does not care to push his claims for election, however, and will graciously retire.

The hearts of his admirers were set on his obtaining the honor, and there was great disappointment at the recent turn of affairs.

There is a bright future in store for Hon. John W. Price, the county clerk who represents the town of Bristol. He is regarded by his brother legislators as a man of exceptional ability, and is one of the recognized leaders of the House. In parliamentary matters he is a national figure. He always keeps a cool head and remembers just the right thing to do for the people of Southwest Virginia.

Mr. Price's education counts for aught, is a doctor, and is a lawyer. He graduated in medicine from a Georgia college, and wrote prescriptions for four months, after which he concluded that he would prefer law for a profession. He then went to law school for the bar, and now he is a well-rounded lawyer, with ability to cope with the deepest questions.

Mr. Price's hair is remarkably thin for so young a man, and this, combined with his strong, clean-shaven face, makes him a striking looking individual. The most remarkable thing about the Bristol representative, however, is his keen, steely gray eyes, which evince constant alertness and energy.

There was quite a novel point raised in connection with the title of the constitutional convention bill drafted by the former committee on Courts of Justice. As originally introduced the measure was entitled, "A bill to provide for the election of delegates to the constitutional convention, for the convening of said delegates, the organization of the said convention, and the adoption of the revised and amended Constitution of the State of Virginia for ratification or rejection."

Old English precedents, as well as American precedents by the hundreds, justify the title of the bill. The word "convention" is applied indiscriminately to citizens, but Delegate Early, of Greene, thought the word might cause some perplexity among voters, and he raised the point in the committee.

Mr. Early was well aware that the term "good people" has appeared in the preamble of other Virginia constitutions—indeed, it is in our present Constitution—but he stated that he did not wish to take any chances, though he thought, doesn't mean to imply that the folks in the Old Dominion aren't equally as good now as they always have been.

Mr. Early has succeeded in securing the change of the bill to incorporate the Greene County Telephone Company, which will run from Barboursville to Stanardsville, and have its principal office at the last mentioned town.

People like to hear Delegate Charles T. Bland, of Portsmouth, talk. In the last fortnight he has received two invitations to speak in public—one from the Junior Order of American Mechanics, and the other from the Red Men. He will speak at the Casino in Newport News, on February 22d. Mr. Bland will address the first mentioned organization on "Our Country and Our Duty." He will speak at the Casino in Newport News, on February 22d. Mr. Bland will deliver his speech before the Red Men in the Academy of Music, at Norfolk, on the 14th.

Dilatory tactics are being pursued by the friends of Judge Dew in the fight for the second auditors. There are legal complications connected with the Legislature's right to amend the charter of the Board of Public Utility, which is to be established in Amherst county. The expected contest was cut short by an agreement between the parties, and the committee will report a compromise plan for the establishment of the institute.

About six months ago Mrs. Indiana A. Williams died in Amherst county, leaving an estate valued at about \$700,000. Trustees were created for the purpose, with instructions to equip an institute for girls. After the death of the lady her heirs-at-law began a contest of the will, claiming that she had seen a vision of an institute in favor of the proposed institute. The heirs were opposing the charter, hoping to stop the efforts to establish the school until the courts could hear and determine the contest by which it was expected that the will would be set aside. At the same time the county of Amherst had a large claim for back taxes.

While the bill to be introduced in the Senate to-day will not say so, it is understood that the compromise was effected with the heirs by the promise of payment to them of \$25,000, and \$30,000 will go to the county for taxes due. The bill will pass without further opposition, and the work of equipping the institute will be pushed by the trustees as rapidly as possible.

SAD AFFAIR IN AMELIA.

Mrs. Booker Expires as Result of Excitement—Mr. Leary's House Burned. News of a very sad affair in Amelia county was received here last night. Yesterday morning the roof of the house of Mr. David Leary, who lives in Amelia county, about five miles from Mattox, was discovered to be on fire. Among the inmates of the house was Mrs. Booker, the venerable mother-in-law of Mr. Leary, and who had been in bed for a long time. In moving her in a chair to the yard, it is stated, she was overcome by the excitement and expired. Mrs. Booker belonged to one of the best-known families in that section, and was universally beloved. She illustrated in a degree the sweetness of a beautiful old age, and drew to her young and old alike. By all the young who were thrown in contact with her she was affectionately addressed as "Grandma." It is understood that the house was not destroyed, but the damage to it could not be learned. The deceased is prominently connected in Richmond.

LEE CAMP VETERANS.

Invite Members of the Legislature to Visit the Hall on Broad Street. R. E. Lee Camp, No. 1 Confederate Veterans, held their regular meeting last night, Commander Joseph C. Dickerson in the chair.

The report of the annual meeting of the Louisiana Daughters of the Confederacy, held in New Orleans, was communicated to the camp through Miss Mary. The camp voted to extend to the senators and members of the House of Delegates a cordial invitation to visit and inspect the Soldiers' Home on Thursday, February 14th, at 10 o'clock in the evening, and to request the members of the Board of Visitors to be present on that occasion.

The camp also invites the Senators and Representatives to visit the camp hall, No. 54 east Broad street, at any time during the day during their stay in this city, but especially to visit the camp in person.

ATLANTA'S EYE-SORE.

The Famous Car-Shed Officially Declared Unsanitary.

RAILROAD MEN HAULED UP.

Charged With Failing to Abate the Alleged Nuisance.

TEMPORARY INJUNCTION GRANTED.

Board of Health Restrained from Foreboding Tearing Up the Flooring—Governor of State Asked to Protect the Structure.

ATLANTA, Ga., February 8.—President and General-Manager Wickensham, of the Atlanta and West Point railway; Charles E. Harman, general passenger agent of the Western and Atlantic railway, and S. E. Magill, general agent of the Georgia railway, were before Police Judge Broiles to-day, on the charge of failing to abate a nuisance, brought by the Atlanta Board of Health.

The cases were made by the city health inspectors, on the ground that the Atlanta depot, which is controlled by the lines represented by the officials named, is unsanitary. This was the result of a long fight which has been waged by the city for the construction of a new depot.

CASE CONTINUED. Judge Broiles continued the case against the railroad officials, to await the ruling of the Superior Court, where a bill for injunction has been filed by the attorneys for the railroads, to prevent the Board of Health from enforcing the mandate that a new flooring shall be placed in the carshed.

A partial hearing took place in the Superior Court to-day on the bill. Judge Lumpkin granted a temporary injunction restraining the Board of Health from forcibly tearing up the flooring, but allowed it the right to remove sufficient planks for the purpose of inspection.

APPEAL TO CANDLER.

President Thomas, of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railroad, to-day appealed to Governor Candler for protection of the depot, which is placed upon the State's property, and is leased by the roads controlling the terminal facilities, and against whom the criminal action has been taken.

Governor Candler held a conference with Attorney-General Terrell and Special-Attorney Brown, of the Western and Atlantic railroad, but no decision was reached.

SWEETBRIAR FEMALE INSTITUTE.

Compromise Effected—Institution Will Be Chartered. The Senate Committee on Public Instruction and Education held a meeting yesterday afternoon, at which time a compromise was effected over the proposed charter for the Sweetbriar Female Institute, which is to be established in Amherst county. The expected contest was cut short by an agreement between the parties, and the committee will report a compromise plan for the establishment of the institute.

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A Terrible Accident in Louisa—Small-Pox.

LOUISIA, Va., February 8.—(Special.)—Mr. James H. Warren was killed instantly by an accident at 5 o'clock while at underground labor at the Athens coal mines, near Mineral City. He was boss of the mucking gang, and while he was standing near a loaded car of ore a shot struck him in the roof, crushing him literally to pieces. Warren is the daughter of T. G. Bowles, living near the mines, and has five small children. Deceased was 37 years old.

CRUSHED IN A MINE.

Lewis Johnson died suddenly at his home, near Centreville, Wednesday morning.

The small-pox has disappeared from this county, and the Board of Health, it is thought, will, to-morrow, stop further expense about it.

FINANCING OF PACIFIC RAILWAY DEAL.

NEW YORK, February 8.—It was learned to-day on good authority that the Union Pacific Company's purchase of Southern Pacific stock is to be financed by the issue of \$20,000,000 of Union Pacific 4 per cent, ten-year convertible gold bonds, underwritten by Kuhn, Loeb & Co. They can be converted at the option of the holder into common stock of the railroad company at any time before May 1, 1906, and are redeemable on any interest day after that date, at the option of the company, at a premium of 2-1/2 per cent. The bonds will be offered to stockholders for subscription at par.

Dr. Dickinson in Florida.

Dr. A. E. Dickinson, of Richmond, Va., senior editor of the Religious Herald, one of the leading Baptist papers in the South, arrived in Ocala to-day, and is stopping at the Ocala Hotel. He is well known in our city, and will spend some time mixing with his old friends and acquaintances and enjoying the elegant entertainment of our friend, Phil F. Brown, at the Ocala House—Ocala (Fla.) Star.

Business of the Mutual Life.

NEW YORK, February 8.—The last of the annual statements of the three great life insurance companies—the Equitable, the Mutual, and the New York—is just out. The amount of business written by these companies in 1900 was \$23,297,175, and their insurance in force at the beginning of the year reached the enormous total of \$4,975,950. The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York is far in the lead, and easily maintains its position as the largest, strongest, most progressive life insurance company in the world. Its income was over six millions, and the volume of its business was the greatest in its history. Nearly two and a half millions were paid in dividends at the end of the year, and looking forward to an exceptionally prosperous year.

session on next Friday night, at 8 o'clock. Lee Camp hopes to have many of the General Assembly present at this time, and looks forward to a royal time.

Mr. N. Randolph, treasurer, and Mrs. B. A. Blinn, the acting secretary of the Lee Camp Auxiliary, were present and made gratifying reports of the work of the auxiliary. The reports are directed to be entered on record, and the thanks of the camp was voted to the ladies.

Comrade D. C. Richardson made a happy speech in commending the work of the Ladies' Auxiliary Corps, and a stirring appeal to all Confederate ladies to join this auxiliary.

Hon. Tipton D. Jennings, of Lynchburg, who was present, made a short talk.

NEWPORT NEWS SCANDALS.

Probing May Go Further and Reveal More. (Special.)—It is not at all improbable that another grand jury will be empanelled to continue the investigation of the Twenty-eight street bridge scandal. The report made last night by the grand jury, which has labored so long and faithfully to sift the muddle to the bottom, intimated plainly that something of a sensational character could have been unearthed had the jury had more time in which to work. The term of the court expiring at midnight, the jury could not continue the investigation over even another day. A number of leading men, who discussed the report to-day, expressed the opinion that the jury had discharged its duty well, and were satisfied that it went as far as it could go in the Twenty-eight street bridge matter, with the time it had at command.

It is the general opinion that the report left plenty of room for further investigation—in fact, went so far as to intimate that a great deal more could be found out if the searchlight was put on again. There is a strong probability that Judge Barham will be asked to empanel another, if not the same, jury to continue the investigation. Attorney Samuel Register to-day appeared before Acting Police-Justice E. S. Robinson. The copy of the indictments had not been filed in the Police Court by the Clerk of the Corporation Court, but Judge Barham instructed Mr. Robinson to set a day for the trial of the case, and bail Mr. Register to appear. Mr. Register was accompanied by Mr. A. S. Segar, who he has retained as counsel. Mr. Register said that he did not want the case put off, but would like to have a trial as soon as possible. Justice Robinson set the case for February 25th, and Mr. Register was bailed in the sum of \$500 for his appearance on that day. Mr. Register left this afternoon for Richmond.

The gentlemen interested in the new electric-light company are very much wrought over Mr. Register's published statement in Richmond that his indictment by the grand jury was the result of the fight between the two electric-light companies. The jurors give out a complete denial of Mr. Register's charge and a statement to the effect the matter was not brought up before the jury at any time.

CONCERNING THE STEEL DEAL.

Statement Given Out From Office of Federal Company. NEW YORK, February 8.—A Wall Street news agency reports that the following statement was obtained to-day at the office of the Federal Steel Company: "J. P. Morgan & Co. are undoubtedly considering plans for the acquisition of the properties of some of the largest iron and steel companies of this country. Presumably they will not make or authorize any deal after the plan is perfected. It is probable that it will be such ownership or control as to secure perfect and permanent harmony between the lines of this industry. It is not intended to acquire or to control any line of business, or to obtain control of any property, or to create a monopoly or trust, or in any way antagonize any principle of policy of the law."

The method to be adopted in acquiring properties will not permit any minority stock interest to interfere, if such stockholder were so disposed, which is not probable, as his pecuniary interest will be protected. The success of the enterprise will result in a great benefit to the investor in securities, to consumers and the workmen or employees. Little if any new cash will be required, and, therefore, the present financial condition will not be disturbed."

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ESCAPED GALLOWS.

Wilson Who Attempted Assault On Mrs. Watkins.

THE JURY FOUND HIM GUILTY.

But the Death Penalty Was Not Imposed.

A VERDICT OF EIGHTEEN YEARS.

Notice of Appeal Given, But Uncertain—Sentence Pronounced; and the Prisoner Taken to Petersburg Under Military Guard.

NOTTOWAY, VA., February 8.—(Special.)—The jury in the case of William H. Wilson, the negro charged with attempted criminal assault on Mrs. W. T. Watkins, returned this evening a verdict of guilty, and fixed his punishment at eighteen years in the penitentiary. This closed one of the speediest and most exciting trials that have ever taken place in this county—a trial in which the prisoner was under the protection of bayonets.

Snow covered the ground here this morning, and the space about the courtroom presented an unusual appearance. It was covered by camp fires, and men in military dress, with their rifles in their hands, were hovering around the fires.

The soldiers did not present the same fresh appearance that was commented upon by every one on the arrival of the company yesterday. They looked more like old veterans who had fought a hard engagement. They showed the fatigue and wear of their night's service. Twice during the late hours of the night squads were sent in the direction of the depot to disperse crowds that had gathered in that direction, and one or two arrests were made. Other than this the military spent a quiet time.

HAD A PISTOL. An incident was brought out to-day which happened yesterday. During the argument for a change of venue Watkins, the husband of Mrs. W. T. Watkins, was charged with attempting to assault, was standing near the outside of the courtroom railing, with his hands near his hip pocket. Sergeant Barlow, thinking that perhaps he had a pistol in his pocket, called him to one side and took him into the jury room. His suspicion was correct. Later he sent for Lieutenant Skipwith, who told Watkins he had better give up his pistol. This Watkins did, after the lieutenant threatened him with arrest. Later Watkins went to Lieutenant Skipwith and thanked him for what he had done, saying that he might have so far forgotten himself as to have used it on one of the jury.

The evidence in the case for the Commonwealth was closed at 2:20 o'clock this morning. The first witness examined was Reina Archer, an aged colored woman, a near neighbor of Mrs. Watkins, and whom Mrs. Watkins sent for as soon as the alleged attempted assault was committed. Her testimony was a corroboration of Mrs. Watkins' story. She said Mrs. Watkins threatened her with a pistol, and caught her by her right arm and attempted to catch hold of her left arm with his other hand; that she (Mrs. Watkins) cried, "Willie, turn me loose," which he did, and left her with the remark, "Miss Archer, I am at your feet, but I did not intend to hurt Miss Archer."

Witness said she stayed with Mrs. Watkins until her husband came. She perceived that Mrs. Watkins did not even intend to tell her husband of the trouble until that night. She carried an overcoat and a pistol in her hand to Mr. Watkins that evening. Wilson was assisting Mr. Watkins in hitching a mule to a cart, and saw the pistol in her hand. She left Wilson at the barn late that evening, and he asked her to request Mrs. Watkins not to tell her husband.

THE ONLY WITNESS. The only other witness was William T. Watkins, the 8-year-old son of the plaintiff. After much controversy between the counsel Judge Goodwyn admitted his testimony. He testified that the court was asked early in the morning that Wilson asked where his daddy was; that he told him he had gone to Blackstone, and that Wilson was on his way towards his mother's house.

Mr. Watkins, the husband, was recalled, and testified that Wilson had no business whatever with him that day, but he (witness) raised a crop of tobacco and corn on shares with Wilson, and he (witness) took him to the barn when he felt like doing so.

It was the impression of every one that William H. Wilson, the prisoner, would be put on the stand, and that the case would be prolonged another day, but Mr. Wilson's counsel, stated to the court that he had no witnesses.

THE INSTRUCTIONS. Counsel agreed that the court should prepare the instructions, Judge Goodwyn read the instructions, and they were accepted without objection, a fact which caused the court to remark that it should be put on record, as it was the first time in twenty years that the instructions were accepted by counsel without a protest. The instructions were as follows:

1. The court instructs the jury that to convict the prisoner of attempted assault on Mrs. Watkins, it is incumbent on the Commonwealth to prove that the defendant made the assault as charged in the indictment with the intent to commit rape, and having the intent, he attempted to execute his purpose, and to this end used force, and that the acts of the defendant were against the will and consent of the plaintiff.

2. That if they believe from the evidence that the intention of the defendant was to commit the rape as charged in the indictment, then the attempt to commit the offense with the use of any force is sufficient to establish his guilt, provided that the defendant was not the consent of the prosecutrix; the slightest force on his part and the utmost resistance on her part being required to prove guilty.

3. An attempt is the intent to do a wrongful act, coupled with overt acts towards its commission.

4. That the presumption of law is that the prisoner is entitled to every reasonable doubt, and in order to convict the prisoner under the indictment it is incumbent on the Commonwealth to prove every material fact charged in the indictment beyond all reasonable doubt.

THE ARGUMENT.

The argument was opened at 3:30 by Attorney-Prosecuting Attorney T. Freeman Acton, extolling the virtuous woman. "There are many homes, he said, "where woman is left unprotected. It is because we must protect our homes that we deal with such crimes with so strict and severest justice. The crime has been committed. The whole thing was presented itself to me in such a way that I care not what Mr. Watkins did in his anger in going there. I want a verdict that will make the people see that the law is carried out."

Mr. Epes thought that the person committing such a crime should be hanged. "Is there a colored man in this county that would dare touch a white woman unless his intentions were evil?" asked Mr. Epes. "Gentlemen," he continued, "to me that is the most daring attempt to assault a woman that I ever heard of. But I am not a man to speak the most daring. You have a responsibility to render a verdict to protect all the homes around here."

MR. MILLER'S DEFENSE. Mr. Hugh Goodwyn, counsel for the prisoner, followed Mr. Epes. He said that he had stated at the outset of the trial that if the prisoner were found guilty of the crime he had charged in the indictment hanging was his only hope. He congratulated himself as a citizen of this Commonwealth that there were strong arms to protect a prisoner and give him a fair trial. "We are sitting here to-day," he said, "and the crowd is dispersed. The people who gathered here yesterday by thousands found evidently that there was a mistake. I know that there is no justice in a verdict which will sway the minds of the jurors in deciding this case."

Mr. Miller stated that he wrenched from the mouth of the statement that Wilson had a right on the case. "That is what you believe that Wilson laid his hands upon Mrs. Watkins, with the intent of criminal assault, they believed more than the box of soap which was placed in the case, and not for mercy."

Commonwealth's Attorney Watson followed Mr. Miller. He stated that he found himself able to occur in the remarks of Mr. Miller concerning the jury. The authorities of this county out of tender care of the military guard, when Wilson went to that house he went there without business. Now, gentlemen of the jury, what did he go there for? He is not charged with having criminally assaulted Mrs. Watkins, but he is only charged with an attempt."

Mr. Watson did not believe that Wilson intended to play with Mrs. Watkins, he had never used violence against her before. He could scarcely characterize such a brute in human shape. He could not, to save his life, see but one object in Wilson's mind, taking hold of Mrs. Watkins, and that was to accomplish his desire to commit an assault. He asked why did Wilson ever get up there thinking if he did not have some fendish purpose?

The jury retired to their room at 5:45 o'clock. Twice they informed the court that they would not be able to agree, but at 6:40 o'clock they returned to the jury-room and informed the spectators that the jury had agreed.

WAR TAX REDUCTION.

Congressman Swanson Saves the Day Regarding It.

MORE FREE-MAIL DELIVERY.

Several Routes to Be Established in Southwest Virginia.

MARSHALL STREET, WASHINGTON.

There Will Be One in Future—Government to Coin Medals in Aid of the Project for a Washington Monument at Alexandria.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 8.—(Special.)—The action of the Ways and Means Committee, in finally agreeing to a conference with the Senate on the war-revenue reduction bill, insures the final passage of the measure. The committee, however, did not concur in the Senate amendments, but their action is considered as a surrender, and all of the reductions made by the Senate will finally be agreed to. It is not saying too much when it is stated that the victory belongs to a great extent to Representative Swanson, of Virginia. The fight was a bitter one. It was the intention of the Republicans to report the bill back to the House, with a recommendation of non-concurrence, but without a request for a conference. This would require the Senate to ask for a conference, if any was to be had.

The Senate would never have asked for a conference, and the bill would have failed, with the consequent result that there would have been no reduction in the war taxes.

At the meeting of the Ways and Means Committee Mr. Swanson made a determined fight for a conference, saying that the House demanded some kind of reduction in the war taxes. He pointed out the great interests affected, and spoke at some length on the oppressive taxes imposed on the tobacco industry of the country. Mr. Swanson then appealed to the minority to vote for a conference.

A vote was finally taken, which eight Republicans voted to kill the bill and two answered present. As there are only seven Democrats on the committee, the proposition was carried. Mr. Bland, a Republican, however, withdrew his vote and answered present. This made the direct vote a tie 7 to 7. Mr. Payne of Maryland voted for present, and Mr. Swanson is jubilant at the victory, and a reduction of the war taxes is now assured. As the senior minority member of the Ways and Means Committee, he is being congratulated for his fight, as the bill is one of the most important that will be considered at this session of Congress.

VIRGINIA-TENNESSEE LINE.

Representative Rhea has introduced a bill which provides for the ratification by Congress of the treaty between Virginia and Tennessee, relating to the boundary line between the two States. It has been agreed upon that the center of Marl street at Bristol shall be the dividing line, and Congress will take the necessary action to legalize and make this the permanent boundary.

Mr. Rhea also saw Chief-of-the-Rural Free-Mail-Delivery for the construction of a public building at Charlottesville. The measure carries an appropriation of \$50,000. As the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds has determined to make no further provision for Federal buildings at this session of Congress, the Charlottesville project will not be finally authorized until next year, when it will be one of the first enterprises on the calendar.