THE GLOBE

WILL BE CLOSED

ALL DAY FRIDAY

TO ARRANGE STOCK

FOR

Fifth Anniversary

Sale.

SEE TO-MORROW'S PAPERS.

AFFAIRS IN NORFOLK.

SEVENTEEN OYSTERMEN HELD FOR VIOLATING THE STATE LAW.

CAPTAIN BUNTING ON TRIAL.

Effort Being Made to Show That the Fall and Not the Blow Killed Bell—Government Accumulating Coal at Naval Stations—A Coast Storm.

NORFOLK, VA., September 25.—(Special.)—Seventeen Norfolk county oystermen are thus early in the toils, charged with "roughing" and other violations of the oyster laws. The Commonwealth, through its counsel, Mr. Robert W. Shultice, is prosecuting vigorously all these violations of a law designed to keep alive the oyster industry in the Chesapeake and its tributaries. Former State Senator J. N. Grubbs, of Gloucester, a member of the Board of Fisheries, is here in the State's interest.

After examining nearly one hundred veniremen, a jury was secured to-day in the case of Captain William H. Bunting, charged with the murder of George Bell.

T. C. Sykes, the first witness for the Comonwealth, testified that for seventeen years he had been an intimate, personal friend of the prisoner. He testified to the fact, however, that aroused from the lethargy of great pain by Bell's (the murdered man's) abuse, Bunting followed him out of doors, and there struck him. An effort is being made, apparently, to prove that the fall not the blow was fatal. The trial will last another day.

That the government is continuing to accumulate coal supplies at naval stations in both hemispheres is attested by the arrival of the chartered British steamer Indriani to load for San Juan, Porto Rico, and the naval collier Hannibal with an extra large cargo for Cavite, Manila harbor.

The sailing craft in large numbers sought shelter in Hampton Roads this afternoon from a gale that threatened their safety. Choppy seas and high surf prevail all down the coast, and there were some narrow escapes from disaster by some of the craft before they found harbor.

In the Clerk's office of the Norfolk County Court to-day a mortgage from the Norfolk and Hampton Roads Company to the Norfolk Bank for Savings and Trusts, for the sum of $250,000, was admitted to record. The mortgage conveys the property of the Norfolk on the Roads to secure the payment of certain obligations.

ADELAIDE THURSTON.

Sweet Clover Splendidly Presented at the Academy Yesterday.

When Adelaide Thurston appeared here as Babbie in "The Little Minister" she won for herself a place in the estimation of Richmond theatre-goers, which would not have been forgotten, even though the clever young actress had dropped from public notice from that time henceforth. But Miss Thurston gives every promise of gaining for herself a position in the ranks of her profession which will make her name one not soon to be forgotten. This season she is starring, and she has made a happy selection of the vehicle in which she is to be exploited. "Sweet Clover," which was presented at the Academy at two performances yesterday, has in it all the elements of a successful play. The interest never flags and the climaxes of the play are strong, and well worked up. There is a contrast, too, in the drawing of the characters, which brings the one in bold relief against the other, in a manner that is very effective. But the playwrights have guarded against making exaggerated types of any of their personages, a fault which is a glaring one in many plays of a similar nature.

Miss Thurston, as Lois Holcombe, did splendid work, the part affording her most abundant opportunities to display both a sweet girlishness, in which she is charming, and the deep emotions of the woman who has married one man when her heart was given to another. Miss Thurston made a distinct and emphatic success of her impersonation.

Mr. Otis Thayer, as Jerome Holcombe, had a New England character study, and his interpretation of the part was delightfully free from the hackneyed methods which would have utterly ruined the role had they been employed. Mr. Fred Hearn, as Joe Masson, also gave a capital sketch, and Messrs. Waller Percival and Frank Hope sustained their roles very satisfactorily. Minnie Maude Allen was rather clever as Sunny Andrews, as was also Eleanor Sheldon in the part of the spinster, although she was a little inclined to overdo the role in the second act.

"A Crazy Guy" is a three-act musical farce comedy by Herbert & Morrow, in which Bert Leslie will assume the title role. "A Crazy Guy" is not only interesting, inasmuch as Mr. Leslie irresistible personal magnetism always wins an audience, but the fact that there is a steady flow of humor from the beginning, which, needless to say, calls forth laughter unceasingly. Mr. Leslie and his new play will appear at the Bijou to-night and the balance of the week.

At a meeting of the Bijou Company held yesterday all the old officers were re-elected, and business of a routine nature was transactded.

"WINCHESTER" NEXT FRIDAY.

Edward McWade, the author of the new war play coming to the Academy on Friday and Saturday, has cause to be proud of his maiden effort. In his climaxes he displays remarkable originality, and the result is he has a play that will not bore the most fastidious play-goer. The title of the play indicates its location. Naturally, the war between the States furnishes the basis for the story, which is a romance, with the love of a southern girl for a northern soldier.

LAST

TRILBY EXCURSION

TO

NORFOLK,

OCEAN VIEW,

AND

VIRGINIA BEACH.

Sunday, September 29

VIA NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

Fast Vestibule Train leaves Richmond (Byrd-Street Union Station) at 8:30 A. M. for NORFOLK, OCEAN VIEW, AND VIRGINIA BEACH, arriving Norfolk 11 A. M., with through coaches between Richmond and Virginia Beach, and connecting at Norfolk and Western Depot, Norfolk, with SPECIAL CARS for Ocean View. Returning, leave Virginia Beach 6 P. M.; Norfolk, 7:15 P. M., arriving Richmond at 10 P. M.

VESTIBULED COACHES, ROCK-BALLASTED TRACK. QUICKEST AND "ONLY ALL-RAIL ROUTE."

Round-Trip Fares—to Norfolk or Ocean View, $1; Virginia Beach, $1.25. Tickets for sale at Norfolk and Western office and at train.

R. T. ADAMS.

se 24

AMERICAN ATHLETES DEFEAT BRITISHERS.

They Win Six of the Nine Events on the Programme at Berkeley Oval.

NEW YORK, September 25.—The athletes of Yale and Harvard met the athletic representatives of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, to-day, at Berkeley Oval, in track and field events, and as was expected, the brawn and muscle of the American collegians proved to be too much for the visitors, the Americans winning six out of the nine events on the programme, Points were counted for wins only, so that the Harvard and Yale men defeated their English opponents by a score of six points to three.

INTERCOLLEGIATE CONTESTS.

Between the American universities honors were equally divided, Harvard and Yale each winning three events. The Oxford representatives failed to gain a point for the visiting team, the light blue of Cambridge being in front in all three contests which were won by Englishmen.

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS.

The winners of the several events were as follows:

120-yard hurdle—Converse, Harvard. Time, 15 3-5 seconds.

100-yard dash—Hargrave, Yale. Time, 10 2-5.

Half-mile run—Workman, Cambridge. Time, 1:55 3-5.

Quarter-mile run—Rust, Harvard. Time, 50 seconds.

Mile run—Cockshott, Cambridge. Time, 4:26 1-5.

Two-mile run—Workman, Cambridge. Time, 9:50.

Hammer throw—Boal, Harvard: 136 feet, 8 inches.

Running broad jump—Spraker, Yale: 22 feet, 4 inches.

Running high jump—Spraker, Yale: 6 feet, 1 1-2 inches.

Westminister School Opens.

The opening exercises of the Westminster Presbyterian School, No. 816 Park avenue, were held yesterday morning. Dr. R. P. Kerr, president of the Board of Trustees, delivered the address of the occasion. His three heads of discourse were "Politeness, Punctuality, and Perseverence." He congratulated the scholars and teachers upon their last year's work, and encouraged them to do better this session. Miss Carrie Lee Campbell Ada Arundell is in charge of the kindergarten. The outlook is very bright for a successful session.

THE VIRGINIA

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

OFFICIAL REPORT.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3.)

your interests are protected, and that the grievances of the people are heard and redressed."

To give you some idea on that point, here (exhibiting a volume) is what you will have. Here are the annual reports of the various departments of government. You will have four volumes like this to consider at a quadrennial session. You will have a perfect library when you get here at your quadrennial session, and who will know anything about these reports, and who can investigate them and read them? I think forty-five days is not a sufficient time. I agree with the gentleman from Fairfax (Mr. Moore) that forty-five days is not a sufficient time if we have biennial sessions, but rather than not have biennial sessions I would prefer to take the forty-five days. But take four volumes like this one (exhibited), and who is going to examine them? The Governor does not know anything about them, because he has just got into office a few days before. The Senate does not know anything about them, because there are no hold-over members. They are all elected at the same time. You will not have the gentleman from Albemarle (Mr. Boaz) to give all the figures in relation to the matter. You will need and you must have time to consider those things.

The people want time for their representatives to consider the affairs of government. Why should you be so exacting with the representatives of the people? Why should you begin the reduction of expenses upon the Legislature? Why do you not begin in some other department of government? Why should you reach out your hand and place it upon the Legislative Department?

Mr. WITHERS: Will the gentleman name one department with which he is willing to begin?

Mr. HANCOCK: No, sir; I will not name it, because I have never yet had the opportunity of entering into and examining all the figures and facts as to the various departments of government to find out where anything could be saved. I have had the opportunity of being with the gentleman who has just interrupted me on one of the committees of this body, and for days and days he has endeavored to show where there could be a saving, and I have not been able, nor was the committee of which we were members able, to see where any reduction could be made in the expenses of this Commonwealth upon the lines indicated. I should like for him at the proper time to show, and I suppose at the proper time he will show, where the expenses can be reduced. But certainly the Legislature is not the place at which to begin.

The people ought to have their representatives here, and they ought to have time to consider the affairs of State and to pass proper laws, and the people ought to see that the officers execute them.

The gentleman from Brunswick (Mr. Turnbull) is as high-toned and honorable a gentleman as there is to be found in the State of Virginia or anywhere else. He is a splendid lawyer. I have been associated with him in the courts of this Commonwealth for the last sixteen years, and I regard his opinion upon legal matters very highly. In every respect he is a man to be admired and honored. He talks about the reduction of expenses. He talks about what should be done here, and, forgetting, I fear, that courtesy and urbanity which always control his conduct and his life, he spoke about this Convention in a way that caused me to feel that it was not, at least, complimentary to some of us. Who has any right to stand up here as the apostle of the reduction of expenses? I do not believe there is a man in this House who is not as willing to reduce expenses as is the gentleman from Danville or the gentleman from Brunswick. What right has any gentleman to appear in this Assembly and claim that he is any more in favor of the reduction of expenses than anybody else? Everybody here wants expenses reduced, but they do not want the efficiency of the service to be impaired.

If there is a man in this Assembly who wishes to reduce expenses, and thereby make the public service inefficient, let him come forward, and we will look upon him, and we will say to him, "The people of Virginia will not recognize you as one of her sons, devoted to her interests." But let anyone come forward and show where expenses can be reduced and the efficiency of the service preserved, and you will not find a single man in this Assembly who will fail to agree to the proposition. There is nothing in the idea that anybody here has a special monopoly on the line of the reduction of expenses.

The gentleman from Brunswick (Mr. Turnbull) went into Scripture and talked about Gideon. Who is the Gideon here? Where is the Gideon who is going to lead the hosts against the Midianites? Where is he? Is he on the other side of the House, or does he come from this side of the House? Where is Gideon. (Laughter.) I should like to see Gideon (laughter)—the Gideon who comes here with the empty pitcher for the reduction of expenses, with a trumpet in his hand, blowing his own praises. Where is Gideon? (Laughter.) He is out there in the lobby, someone says to me, and they will never get him into this House. (Laughter.) If Gideon should appear I should first ask him where he got his credentials.

The Gideon of the Bible, you know, had a fire come down from Heaven and consume his sacrifice. Where are the Gideons of this assembly? Have their sacrifices been burned up? Did they make any sacrifices? I do not know whether they ever made any sacrifices to be burned up? But Gideon had a sacrifice.

What will you accomplish? The Gideon here cannot be found. What did Gideon do? The gentleman from Brunswick said that he would call to these gentlemen and say we have too many weak-kneed and faint-hearted gentlemen in this Covention; and says to them, pack your knapsacks and go home. I would ask him what right has he to send anybody away. Where are your credentials, Gideon? I do not know whether they come from the people, or where they come from.

Mr. TURNBULL: I should like to have the gentleman point out anything in my speech to the effect that any gentleman ought to take his knapsack and go home.

Mr. HANCOCK: If the gentleman will pardon me, I understood him to say that if gentlemen here were not willing to do the will of the people or to reduce expenses or to carry out the wishes of the people, they had better pack their knapsacks and go home. I do not think he really meant that, and I know him so well that I cannot believe he did.

Mr. TURNBULL: If the gentleman will allow me, I do not think I really said that.

Mr. HANCOCK: Pardon me. I do not wish to misrepresent you; but I should like to have you state what you did say.

Mr. TURNBULL: I did say that when Gideon was selected to defeat the Midianites he had too many men in the army for certain reasons, and I said the people of Virginia had selected this band of men because they believed that this band of men would do what the people wanted them to do, and that if there were any here who did not want to do that, it would be better for them to lie down.

Mr. HANCOCK: I understood him to say that they had better take their knapsacks and go home, and that as to others it would be better that a millstone should be hung around their necks. That is the way it appeared to me.

But what did Gideon do! Gideon saw the whole hosts of the Midianites there. Gideon saw the mighty army in front of him. He had but three hundred men. With what were those three hundred men armed? They had empty pitchers, and they had trumpets. That, I fear, is the way the followers of the modern Gideon are equipped. They have nothing but empty pitchers and trumpets. What did Gideon and his army do? How did they destroy the army of the Midianites? Did they take their pitchers and break them over the heads of the Midianites? Did they rush across the stream and enter into mortal combat with them? No. They struck their trumpets against their pitchers and broke the pitchers and had their trumpets to blow the song of their praise and of their honor and of their glory. I believe that the modern Gideons in this assembly will do nothing more than blow their trumpets, break the empty pitchers of reduction of expenses, and march on to receive the plaudits of their friends for having discomfitted the Midianites.

Now, leaving all this aside and coming back to the point of quadrennial sessions, I hope, gentlemen of the Convention, that we will stand by the customs and the traditions of the Anglo-Saxon people. I hope we will stand by the genius and the spirit of representative and republican government. I hope we will stand by the rights of the people against every one else, wherever he comes from and in whatever capacity he comes.

I hope we will stand up for the administration of justice complete, ample, and secure, under the supervisory eye of the General Assembly of Virginia, so that the judges who sit upon the bench, so that the Executive who sits in his mansion, so that the officials of government, wherever they be, handling the people's money, administering justice or executing laws, may feel that they are under the supervisory control of the people, and that the eye of the people is upon them, and that they are expected to perform their duties without fear, without favor, and without affection, and that they are required to make a return and a report to the Legislature and to the people for the work they have done and the manner in which they have performed it.

Now, gentlemen of the committee, I thank you for your long continued patience, and in conclusion let me say that we may take this temple of liberty and may bar its doors for awhile against the people; we may prevent their voice from being heard in these halls for a while; we may prevent them from coming into this Capitol and making known their grievances and being able to have them redressed in the method which they may desire and prescribe; we may destroy this building, this temple or liberty, as it may be called, and scatter the ashes from one end of this Commonwealth to the other, but we can never destroy the spirit of liberty and freedom and independence of the people of this Commonwealth. It dwells not in temples made with hands, but it dwells in the hearts, in the thoughts, and in the great deeds of this brave and noble people. (Applause.)

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I rise with more than diffidence, because I am unaccustomed to public speaking, but I will detain the Convention only a very few minutes. I realize that members are already weary.

One question to which I wish to address myself is that of the benefit to accrue from sessions of the Legislature balanced against the expense involved. I will not go into the details of it, but it seems to me, from the speeches we have heard, that the expense involved is not considerable. A wide latitude, however, in appropriations covering four years would be necessary, and as opposed to that we should consider the care and frequent scrutiny of appropriations that would be possible with biennial sessions.

The question with me, therefore, is what are the benefits to accrue from a biennial session of the Legislature compared with a quadrennial session of the Legislature? I do not think the question is whether we shall abolish the Legislature altogether.

I will cite briefly the practice in other States, first as to the frequency of elections. In seven States the House of Representatives is elected annually; in thirty-three biennially; in one quadrennially, and that State has biennial sessions of Legislature. I leave out Alabama and Mississippi, because those two States have recently adopted Constitutions, and I believe they provide for quadrennial sessions.

Mr. EGGLESTON: The gentleman is mistaken about that. Mississippi has biennial sessions.

Mr. BROWN: I am glad to be corrected.

Mr. FLOOD: Certainly, there is no question about it.

Mr. BROWN: In regard to Senators, five States elect Senators annually; five States quadrennially; eleven biennially, for a two-years' term; eighteen for four-year terms, one-half of the Senate being elected biennially, however; one State elects for a two-years' term, but half of the Senate are elected annually.

I simply cite this as the practice in other States. I think we are sovereign, but I do not think we are all wise, and I therefore think some regard should be paid to the practice of other States.

Reference has been made to the acts of 1900. The volume has been held up here as a very large one. It is a large one. The first 243 pages were approved before February 1st; the next 339 pages were approved during the month of February, and the last 834 pages were approved between March 1st and March 7th. What does this show? It shows that we must guard the passage of private and special legislation to avoid the other extreme of blocking legislation.

If we provide for quadrennial sessions of the Legislature as against biennial sessions, there is one question that looms up before us, and that is officers to be elected. I know that some gentlemen here say "We will elect all officers by the people, the Legislature will never have to elect any more officers." That may be, but it is not granted.

Now, if we provide for biennal sessions of the Legislature, and the first session of that Legislature commences January 1st, 1904, that Legislature will have to elect two United States Senators—one whose term commences in 1905 and one whose term commences in 1907. It will also have to elect the Supreme Court judges of the State and the basement officers. The next Legislature coming in will have to elect a Senator of the United States, all the circuit judges and the basement officers. The next Legislature will have to elect one United States eSnaror and the basement officers. The fourth quadrennial session of the Legislature will have to elect two United States Senators, and all the judges of the Circuit Court and of the Supreme Court and the basement officers. The next Legislature would have to elect only one Senator and the basement officers. The sixth session of the Legislature would have to elect a Senator, circuit judges and basement officers. So it would continue, repeating itself every sixth session of the Legislature. I do not know whether the people would allow a Constitution containing such a provision to remain in force so long, but that would be the order if they did allow it.

The States which have biennial sessions of the Legislature are: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, New Hampshire, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The States having annual sessions of their Legislatures are: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Wisconsin and Vermont, while Rhode Island has a semi-annual session.

The gentleman from Fairfax (Mr. Moore) stated that in his opinion we cannot get along with a session of forty-five days biennially. I agree with the gentleman. If we are to have biennial sessions, I suppose it would be his opinion that sixty days would be better; but I think the statement of the gentleman that we cannot get on with the business of the State with two sessions of forty-five days each is shown to be very forcible, when we see the elections that will have to take place in a Legislature once in four years. It strikes me that these statistics, which I have compiled very hurriedly, and there may be mistakes in them, are of enough importance to be put before the body.

In the matter of limiting the sessions, there are twenty States in the Union that have an unlimited session; three States have a session limited to ninety days; eleven have a session limited to sixty days; one has a session limited to seventy-five days at a per diem of $5, and an unlimted session thereafter at $1 a day; one has a session of sixty days and a per diem of $5, with an unlimited session thereafter at $2 a day; one State has a session of sixty days with pay, with an unlimited session thereafter without pay; one State—Georgia—has a session limited to forty-five days, but two-thirds of the Legislature, I understand, can continue the session indefinitely. One State has a Legislature elected for forty days, but two-thirds of the Legislature can continue that indefinitely. Only three States in the Union have a Legislature limited to forty or forty-five days.

I appreciate the courtesy of the committee. (Applause.)

Mr. STEBBINS: Mr. Chairman, like the gentleman from the city of Richmond (Mr. Newton), who addressed this body yesterday, my occupation has confined me to a business office rather than to the hustings or to the floor of a deliberative assembly. Therefore I shall ask at your hands the same kind indulgence that was accorded him.

Mr. Chairman, the discussion of this question has taken a wide range—from an economical standpoint to the destruction of the liberties of the people; from a criticism of the Legislature to eulogiums on the Legislature; from sneers and ridicule to personalities. It does seem to me that it is not improper for us to recur to fundamental principles and to restate the question before us, so that we may be enabled more intelligently to vote upon it.

Mr. Chairman, there are two propositions before this body. The first is the adoption of section 2 of the report of the Legislative Committee, which simply provides for the election of members of the House of Delegates quadrennially and the number of members that shall constitute that body. The second proposition before us is the substitute of the gentleman from Fredrick (Mr. Harrison), which embraces in one article sections 2 and 7 of the report of this committee, modifying it so that the election of delegates to the General Assembly shall occur every two years, and that there shall be biennial sessions of forty-five days, which may be extended to sixty days.

While article 2 as reported by the Committee on the Legislative Department is but one part of a completed whole and leads up to quadrennial sessions of the Legislature, yet it is of such a character that it may be considered by itself without regard to quadrennial sessions of the Legislature. From the remarks made by one of the delegates from Richmond two days ago it would seem that there are in this body those who favor the quadrennial election of members of the House of Delegates and at the same time favor biennial sessions of the Legislature.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what is the objection to electing delegates to the General Assembly quadrennially, even though we may have biennial sessions? Are any of the liberties of the people infringed upon? Is any violence done to our Legislative Assembly? We elect our Senators now every four years, and yet we hear no complaint of it. Is a member of the House of Delegates of less dignity than a Senator? Can we not elect him every four years and place in him the same confidence and the same trust that we repose in Senators under our present method of electing? Then why should not the members of the House of Delegates be elected every four years as well as Senators, even though we may have biennial sessions?

Mr. Chairman, I do not conceive that any greater dignity pertains to a Senator than to a member of the House of Delegates. That mysterious awe in which the Senate of the United States was held as the representatives of the sovereign States rather than of the people has long since been dispelled. There has ben a clamor all over the country for the election of United States Senators by the people, and I believe an amendment has been proposed in the House of Representatives of the National Congress to submit to the Legislatures of the States the proposition to elect Senators by the people. That amendment has been passed by the House of Representatives on several occasions and it now lies with the Senate to say whether it will concur in it. Then why should a member of the Senate be elected for four years and a member of the House of Delegates elected for only two years?

But, Mr. Chairman, there is another reason why it is advisable for us to elect members of the House of Delegates every four years. In two of the committees of which I am a member, namely the Committee on Reduction of Expenses and the Committee on County Government, there is a dispositon and there is a demand that the number of elctions shall be reduced; and in formulating our plan for county government and in the recommendations of the Committee on Reduction of Expenses to the various committees, we have invariably recommended a term of four years for all State and county officers, so that all might be elected at one election.

It is true that in regard to clerks of county courts the bar in various parts of the State have remonstrated that that was too short a time for new clerks to become efficient in their duties, and rather than mar this plan of four-year elections we recommended that the clerks of county courts should be elected for a term of eight years, instead of six years, as at present.

Mr. Chairman, gentlemen may make light of the evil of the frequency of elections in Virginia, but I come from the body of the people. I am myself one of the plain people, and I mingle daily with them in busines. I know their views, their thoughts, their hopes, their aims, and I tell you the people of Virginia are tired of the frequency of elections. It is not alone the expense which it entails upon the State, but it is that greater expense which it entails upon every male citizen of this Commonwealth twenty-one years of age, by requiring him to leave his business and take his time to attend to the interests of the State in the contests in the primaries and before Conventions and in the political contests that follow the nominations, and on the day of the election throughout this Commonwealth. The people are growing tired and restive under this system, and they expect relief at the hands of this Convention.

Mr. Chairman, the second proposition, as proposed by the gentleman from Winchester, is to leave the Legislature exactly as it is at present, except to reduce the length of the sessions. Much has been said about unwise laws; much has been said about the unrest that the business world feels while the Legislature is in session; and while I am not prepared to enter into that subject, never having been a member of the Legislature, never having had much to do with the Legislature in seeking legislation, I do believe that all of the interests of the State will be conserved and none will be injured by quadrennial sessions of the Legislature.

Much has been said about the history of the past, and I claim to venerate the past as much as any one on this floor. It is true that under the Constitution of 1776 the Legislature met annually or oftener, but that was in the formative period of our republican government. We then had just shaken off the shackles of King George and monarchical government. It was necessary to formulate and adopt a code of statute laws for the Commonwealth. Besides, the Governor was then elected annually by the Legislature. Every officer of the State, from the Governor down to the justice of the peace, was appointed by the Governor, the Legislature, the privy council, or the judges, and that was the only body coming directly from the people.

Besides, the members of the Continental Congress that assembled in Philadelphia were elected by the Legislature annually, and it was a time when we were struggling with Great Britain for our liberties. It was a time when it was necessary for the Legislature to remain almost in continuous session in order to provide the means and the men for the carrying on of that tremendous struggle, for that day, by which we secured all the blessings of Constitutional government and of civil and religious liberty which we enjoy today.

The Convention of 1829 continued the annual sessions, but it extended the term of the Governor from one year to three years. The Convention of 1850-51 adopted the plan of biennial sessions and extended the term of the Governor to four years. As our government had grown out of its formative period, as it had adopted a system and code of statute laws meeting the wants and conditions of the people, so much legislation and such frequent sessions were not necessary and the terms of the executive officers were extended.

We all know that the Constitutional Convention of 1850-51 was decidedly a reform Convention. We all know that the people had groaned for a long time under the exactions of the former Constitution and demanded reforms, and it was this reform Constitutional Convention that changed the terms of the Legislature from annual to biennial sessions. Let us take another step forward in progress and extend the sessions from biennial to quadrennial periods.

Much has been said about the changes necessary in our laws. Much has been said about the unwise laws, which it is necessary to rectify or repeal. I believe with quadrennial sessions, with the knowledge on the part of the people that the Legislature could not assemble oftener than once in four years, unless specially called by the Governor or the Legislature itself, the people would be more careful about the selection of their public servants for this great work. They would select men of wisdom, men of ability, men of wise forethought, statesmen who could foresee and who could wisely plan for them for the future.

One of the great complaints we have heard in this Commonwealth is the difficulty of getting the best class of our citizens to become members of the Legislature. Why this is so it is unnecessary for me to recite in detail, but if we can adopt any method which will serve to encourage our best men to become members of the Legislature and to represent the people in the important department of the government, it is our duty to do so.

Mr. Chairman, from the remarks of the gentleman who just preceded me you would have thought that we were here to tear down the temple of liberty and scatter the debris from the Atlantic to the Pacific. I was astounded; I was surprised at myself. I thought I came here animated by the highest motives of patriotism and duty and a desire to serve my people and to promote their happiness and their welfare, and I shuddered as I thought, could I have become a part of an assemblage of men which would destroy the liberties of the people of Virginia? God forbid.

Now there is but one point more that I wish to present to the Convention, and I shall be brief about it. That is the question of economy. Some have sneeringly referred to this as cheese-paring economy, and others have said that the amount that might be saved was so inconsiderable that it was not worthy of notice. Mr. Chairman, if I understand the temper of the people of Virginia, certainly of the people of my section of the State, next to the abridgment of the suffrage they expect this Convention to reduce the annual expenses of the State. They expect us to lop off every useless officer, every unnecessary department of this government that is a tax upon its revenues, to combine the duties of various officers and reduce the number of officers and in every way we can cut down the expenses of government.

Mr. Chairman, gentlemen have asked why attack the legislative department; why begin there? We have begun with juries. We have provided that where a prisoner charged with a felony pleads guilty, the judge of the court may pass sentence without the intervention of a jury. We have provided that in misdemeanors where there is a plea of not guilty, the judge in his discretion may pass upon the case. We have provided that juries may be reduced in number from twelve, so that smaller juries may try civil cases.

We have begun with the juries. Now we take up the legislative department. Soon we will take up the executive department; then the department of county government, and the judiciary, and when we get through, cutting a little here and a little there, the aggregate, I hope, will be no inconsiderable amount and will be greatly to the relief of the tax-payers of Virginia.

Mr. Chairman, I take it that none of the liberties of the people will be abridged by quadrennial sessions of the Legislature, that the government of the State and the people of the State will be amply provided for. If any necessity should arise, if any great emergency should occur in the future, the Governor can call the Legislature in extra session. But even though the Governor should refuse to do so, even though we should have a Berkeley or a Dunmore or even a Charles I, as alluded to by the gentleman from Petersburg, the Legislature by a majority of its own members can assemble in defiance of the Executive.

Therefore I say that no interest of the State and no interest of the people can suffer by this change. Then if no necessity should arise for an extra session, if a session only once in four years is found adequate, we will save about one hundred thousand dollars in four years as compared with the expenses under the present system of biennial sessions of ninety days.

I thank the committee for their patience and their kind attention to what I have said on this occasion. (Applause).

Mr. HATTON: Mr. Chairman, I ask the indulgence of the committee for just a few moments in order that I may express my views upon the pending proposition.

I believe, Mr Chairman, that economy is a principle to be observed in all government, but I believe that there are higher principles than the principle of economy, and that considerations of economy are useful only when made subservient to higher considerations.

I have listened intently, and I may say eagerly, to the gentlemen who have so ably presented the proposition advocated by the Committee on the Legislative Department If I have understood aright those arguments, the principle of economy is the chief consideration advanced for this proposition. Others have been advanced, but they seem to have been advanced incidentally.

I believe that the election quadrennially of the members of both Houses of the General Assembly is subversive of one of the fundamental principles of our government. The system of checks and balances wrought into our government has always up to this time been considered as the greatest achievement in the formation of free government ever compassed by the brain and patriotism of man.

One of those underlying principles in the formation of our government, and especially in the legislative department of the government, was its division into two branches, and why? Because the division of the government into two branches was the result of an endeavor to promote stability in legislation. How was that brought about? In the Constitution of 1776 it was provided that the Senate should be divided into four classes and that one class should retire from office with each recurring election of the members of the House. The result of it was that in every General Assembly three-fourths of the Senate represented a different condition of public opinion in the State from that represented by the members of the more numerous branch of the Assembly.

That this provision was wise, I believe has never been successfully questioned. The Constitution of 1829-'30 continued this scheme of government. The Constitution of 1850-'51 made some alteration and provided that the Senate should be divided into two classes, and that one-half instead of three-fourths should remain and represent the conditions of public sentiment, which might be different from that represented by the members of the House and the other part of the Senate. Now, I say that the proposition to elect the members of the Senate and the members of the House for a term of four years and to have the terms of both expire at the same time destroys utterly this principle.

Mr. Chairman, when we have a fundamental principle of government which the people of Virginia have always respected and revered and it comes to a choice between the principle and the dollar, I believe that the people of Virginia will always be found

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A BRILLIANT EVANGELIST

Pays High Tribute to Peru-na as a Tonic.

REV. MAX HOFFMAN.

Rev. Max Hoffman, Evangelist, writes from the Davidson Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis., as follows:

"I am pleased to indorse Peruna as a tonic, and a nervine of excellent value to public workers who are under constant nerve strain and in need of such. I speak from personal experience, having used it about two weeks ago, and off and on since with the most happy results."—Rev. Max Hoffman.

Even the busy evangelist manages to snatch time enough from his never-ending, indefatigable labors to praise Peruna in public print.

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Evangelist Hoffman is to be congratulated, not only that he has found exactly the remedy that he needs, but also that he does not lack the courage necessary to declare his convictions to the whole world. In carrying the truth to the people he has never uttered a greater truth than when he said that "Peruna is a tonic and nervine of excellent value to public workers who are under constant nerve strain and in need of such a remedy."

A BISHOP'S LETTER.

Bishop T. H. Lomax, D. D., Bishop of the Second District A. M. E. church, from China, writes from Charlotte, N. C.:

"I can cheerfully recommend your Peruna to all who want a strengthening tonic. It is also a very effective remedy for all catarrhal complaints."—T. H. Lomax, D. D.

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A becoming modesty keeps many afflicted women from consulting a doctor about female diseases and the fear of an unnecessary surgical operation keeps many others away. In this way the poor suffering woman who longs for relief but shrinks from seeking it, gives up in despair. But hundreds of thousands of women in this country to-day, like Mrs. Steele, know that there is no need of giving up—that there is a positive home cure for female diseases within the reach of every modest woman.

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made life worth living for Mrs. Steele, when the best doctors in Illinois could not help her without an operation from which she recoiled with horror. If you are despondent, suffering female ills and bearing pain, go to your druggist and buy a bottle of Wine of Cardui. It will relieve you.

Peoria, Ill., April 5, 1901.

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