

THE WOBLEK STRIKE. Sixth Day of Trouble Marked by Absence of Disorder.

MATTERS AT A STANDSTILL. No Signs of a Settlement of Differences Being Reached.

AVON OFFERS TO ARBITRATE. Street-Car Men Say They Are Willing to Abide Decision of a Board of Disinterested Citizens—The Company's Position—Military Dispersed Shell Throwers—New Men Coming To Electric Plant Still Running.

NORFOLK, VA., March 6.—(Special).—The sixth day of the strike of the employees of the Norfolk Railway and Light Company was marked by the absence of disorder, and an offer on the part of the Central Labor Union to submit the differences between its members and the company to a board of disinterested citizens, with a view to settling the strike at once.

Despite all this, at the close of the day there is apparently as little prospect of anything being accomplished as there has been at any stage of the strike.

Should the company flatly refuse to arbitrate an effort may be made to push the ordinance revoking its franchise. It was suggested in the newspapers.

NEW MEN COMING IN. President Williams said today that the company's offer to take back its old men up to the expiration of the twenty-four hours time allowed them, and that new men are coming in and will be set to work.

The electric plant is still in operation, despite the strike of electricians and mechanics.

President Williams says he expects to keep both his electric and gas plants going, and that the latter, being separate from the Railway and Light Company, is not seriously affected.

Cars were operated today with only soldiers aboard. A stray passenger boarded them at intervals, but the public is afraid to ride while the strike lasts.

MILITARY DISPERSED SHELL-THROWERS. Near Lambert's Point this afternoon a party of strike employees threw shells at a car and the military dispersed them.

No force was necessary, however, the crowd scattering at the first bayonet charge.

Police Yellines fears that the unwonted quietude of the strikers means further trouble. He has no idea what form it will take, but is prepared to meet it.

Unless the present moderation of the strikers and their friends is widely commended, for business is suffering to the extent of more than \$500,000 daily as a result of the strike.

CENTRAL UNION'S REPLY. A reply has been made to the letter of the company to the Central Labor Union regarding a settlement.

The union declares that it never acquiesced in the attitude of the company toward the men, but agreed that bonding for honesty was just. They protest against the bonding of the men in a single company, however.

The company is arraigned for bad faith in agreeing to take back 50 per cent of the men and then ordering 60 per cent to be rehired.

SAY MILITARY IS UNNECESSARY. The committee charges that the presence of the military has been unnecessary, and has aggravated feeling. It urges the company to withdraw its troops.

THE LETTER THAT SETS FORTH THE committee's authority for proposing arbitration, pledging the car-men to stand by the result, the men mean time to return to their cars and the military to be withdrawn.

CITY WILL ESCAPE DARKNESS. Assistant District Attorney Hugh G. Miller, counsel for the strikers, issued a statement to-night to the effect that his clients have assured him that they will not seek to plunge the city into darkness, which a shut-down of the electric light and gas plants would accomplish. He deemed it injurious to their interest to do so.

SITUATION UNCHANGED. NORFOLK, VA., March 6.—The strike situation is unchanged. The strikers declared themselves as opposed to violence, and to-day the city was much calmer than yesterday.

Militiamen guarded the front and rear platforms of the cars. Obstructions are continually being placed on the tracks, and all along the line refuse and missiles are thrown at the non-strike men.

For the first time since the strike began, the company operated its entire system, with the exception of one branch; but the cars carried few passengers.

WHEE-CUTTING. The wire-cutting done since midnight apparently was the work of the hoodlum element and not of the strikers.

Newspaper men were warned against driving along the Church-Street tracks, and shortly afterward the lights went out in that section.

"Did you see 'em dim the dums," was the only reply to questions. The Chamber of Commerce held a social meeting to-night, and until after midnight its special committee on Arbitration was in conference with the strikers and the street railway magnates.

At 1 o'clock the committee stated that it had met with much encouragement from both sides, and that it expects to be able to effect an adjustment of the trouble to-morrow, when another conference will be held. The committee believes that the business of the city is being kept to the extent of many thousands of dollars daily. The committee deprecated newspaper reports giving exaggerated significance to small strike details.

At midnight wire-cutting began north of Charlotte street, and no lights are burning in the entire eastern section of the city is in darkness. No disorders have been reported.

General Nalle On Situation. Adjutant-General Nalle, who returned from Norfolk yesterday, when seen at the hotel last night, said that, though the strike situation was such that the outcome could not be told, yet from messages received a late hour from Colonel Higgins it seemed that conditions were somewhat improved. The cars ran on schedule throughout the day and until 10 o'clock last night. No troubles of any consequence occurred during the day.

The New Elks' Home. The new Elks' Home will be ready for occupancy about the middle of this summer, unless unforeseen difficulties should

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF JOHN COLGIN. Inspector of the Raines Lights in the James River Fell Overboard and Was Drowned.

Deprived of the use of one arm and leg by a paralytic stroke sustained some years ago, John Colgin was unable to swim when he fell overboard from the house-boat in which he lived, and went down to his death in the swollen, turbid waters of the James. His dead body was recovered yesterday afternoon and removed to No. 215 Nicholson street, Fulton, where Colgin rented rooms, which he occupied when ashore, and where the two children who survive him live.

The drowned man was a brother of Marlon Colgin, small fish-scene, which he was, perhaps, casting in the water at the time the fatal accident occurred, was found a few yards from the boat. It is supposed that while standing on the narrow deck his feet became entangled in the netting, which tripped him and threw him overboard.

The dead man was well known in Fulton. For many years his figure was a familiar one on the streets in that section of the city.

County Coroner Lorimer James held an inquest yesterday afternoon. The jury in the case was "accidental drowning."

ESTIMATES TO BE ASKED ON THE MAIN-ST. SIDE. Architect's Plans for the Jefferson Nearly Ready to Be Turned Over to the Contractors.

The architect's plans for the Main-street end of the Jefferson are about completed and will be turned over to the contractors for estimates in a few days.

The people of Richmond have always looked upon the burnt building as one of its beautiful corners, and the architect's plan is to rebuild it in a more substantial and permanent structure.

The building will be seventy-five feet long on Main street, extending toward Adams street. In addition to this outside improvement, two and a half stories have been added, making in all six and a half stories.

The new dining-room will be built on the second floor, and will be a kitchen. One trouble with the old dining-room was that the dining-room was across the building from the kitchen, necessitating not only much more work, but also a long and narrow passage.

Another serious objection to the old building was the men's being made known to the guests through the obligatory necessity of entering the Main-street entrance. This will be remedied by the location of the cafe, and the insertion of a large electric fan between the dining-room and the kitchen.

The plan of the stairs is, as before, the workingman's plan, and is in the stair-case leading from the court to the lobby, and the arrangement of the lobby extending around the room, and opening from the main lobby to the kitchen.

The Jefferson is it given out, will reopen on March 29th.

DR. RICHARD FERGUSON DEAD AT COLUMBIA, S. C.

Promising Young Virginia Physician, Educated at Ashland and in Richmond, Inhaled Chloroform—An Accident.

The following telegram was received in the city last night from Columbia, S. C.: COLUMBIA, S. C., March 6.—Dr. Richard Ferguson, Jr., 28 years of age, of Richmond, Va., who came here eighteen months ago, was found dead in his house to-night. He had been suffering from nervousness, and it is supposed that while attempting to put himself to bed he inhaled a handkerchief.

His wife is on a visit to Hampton, Va. The local Elks took charge of the remains.

A Well-Known Virginian. Dr. Richard Ferguson was well known in Richmond as a young physician of great promise. He was born in Chester, Va., April 4, 1874. He graduated at the University College of Medicine, 1898, standing high in his class.

Shortly after he was attached to the Virginia Hospital as assistant resident physician, where he remained about a year. He then became associated with J. J. White, and for three years was at the Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Infirmary as specialist.

Finding that there was need in Charleston, S. C., for a specialist in the diseases which he closely studied, Dr. Ferguson had established a large and lucrative practice there, and was considered one of the ablest specialists in the State. At the examination before the South Carolina Medical Board Dr. Ferguson attained the highest grade ever recorded by the board. He graduated with the degree of Master of Arts at Randolph-Macon College in 1893, and was a student of marked ability in that institution.

While attending the University College of Medicine, Dr. Ferguson married Miss Elizabeth Shotts, of Hampton, Va. Not having completed his medical course, Dr. Ferguson was unable to practice, and he and his wife were advised of it. Mrs. Ferguson was visiting her parents in Hampton when the news of her husband's death reached her.

The deceased physician was a son of Dr. Richard Ferguson, a native of Dinwiddie county, and a prominent minister in the Virginia Conference of the Methodist church.

Dr. Ferguson's three brothers—R. T. J. W., and C. G. Ferguson—now reside in this city.

No definite arrangements for the funeral have been made, but the interment will take place in Petersburg, where the family burying-ground is located.

THE RECORD BROKEN. Veteran Legislators Do Not Recall So Many Meetings.

COMMITTEES IN SESSION. Staunton Proposes to Own Street Railway, Gas, and Light Plants.

Each Member of Elections Committee to Submit a Congressional Redistricting Plan—Child-Labor Bill Considered, But Not Acted On—Town of Cape Charles Wants to Extend Limits.

There were more committee meetings at the Capitol yesterday than any of the older members of the Legislature remember to have ever seen. The committees commenced to meet early in the day, and the sessions continued until after midnight. Some of the bills considered were very important, but in the majority of cases they were of a local nature.

So many committee meetings are taken up on the calendar without reaching to get away, and that they will rush and present their objections against any change in the present law on the pending question.

The next meeting of the body will be held at the Capitol Hall Tuesday night next at 8:30, when further discussion of the 'phone question will come up.

BATTLESHIP MAINE CLAIMS REJECTED. Seaman Injured by Famous Explosion Not Entitled to Award from Spanish Claims Commission.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6.—The Spanish Treaty Claims Commission today handed down a decision against the claims for death and injuries received by officers and seamen in the sinking of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor. The committee holds that:

"Individual claims of citizens of one nation may arise against the government of another for redress of injuries to persons or property which such citizens may have suffered from such government or any of its agents; but such individual claims do not arise in favor of officers and seamen of a ship of war who receive, in the service of their duty, injuries to their persons for which a foreign government is responsible. The claim against the foreign government is wholly national, and all injuries to such officers and seamen are merged in the national injury, and they can only look to their own government for such remuneration as it may choose to give to them.

A seaman injured by the explosion which destroyed the battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, on February 15, 1898, had no individual claim against Spain, even if that government was responsible for the destruction of the ship, and therefore such a claim is not entitled to an award in his favor from the Spanish Treaty Claims Commission, organized by the act of Congress of March 2, 1891, to adjudicate all individual claims against the United States against Spain, which the United States released to Spain, and agreed to pay by the treaty of peace of December 10, 1898.

The claim so far filed with the commission, which would be affected by the decision, amount to about \$2,500,000, which probably would have been increased to \$3,000,000 had the decision been favorable to the claimants.

PECULIAR ACCIDENT TO DETECTIVE DUKE. Bullet Entered at the Ankle and Went in and Out, Ranging Upward, and Lodging in the Thigh.

A pistol bullet cut fantastic capers in the anatomy of Chesapeake and Ohio Detective Charles D. Duke last night. Entering the left leg above the ankle, the lead bullet went in and out in a zig-zag course under the cuticle, piercing the outer skin in five different places between that point and the thigh, where it finally lodged.

After years of adventure with crooks of every description, and numerous escapes, it remained for Detective Duke to shoot himself. He had laid his revolver on a chair in a room at his home, on Laurel street, when, in some unaccountable manner, the weapon fell to the floor and was discharged. The detective was standing near, and got the bullet. It was extracted by Dr. Charles B. Brock, who pronounced the injury a remarkable series of flesh wounds, which, it is thought, will yield to treatment.

Richmonders in New York. NEW YORK, March 6.—(Special).—J. S. Williams, E. B. Addison, Waldorf, H. Blanchard, Imperial, E. W. Thomas, St. Denis, A. G. Jones, Herald Square, O. B. Morgan, Marborough, R. B. Seymour, Grand Union.

Fair Weather To-Day; Rain for To-Morrow. WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6.—Forecast: Virginia—Fair Friday; increasing cloudiness at night; Saturday probably rain; winds becoming south, and fresh. North Carolina—Fair Friday; Saturday rain; winds becoming southeast, and fresh.

THE WEATHER IN RICHMOND. YESTERDAY WAS cold and clear. The Range of the Thermometer was as follows: 6 A. M. . . . . 30 9 A. M. . . . . 38 12 M. . . . . 43 3 P. M. . . . . 47 6 P. M. . . . . 40 12 Night . . . . . 34 Mean Temperature . . . . . 40-1-6

THE GREEN GROCERS HOLD A BIG MEETING. Object to Proposed Reduction of Peddlers' License, and Decided That Two Phones Are a Nuisance.

The Retail Dealers' Protective Association met last night at the New York Hotel. A large number for it was held to consider a matter of great importance to the green grocers of Richmond. Mr. W. W. Tiller presided and A. H. Flournoy acted as secretary. The meeting was called to consider a bill now before the Legislature, granting the right to peddlers to hawk their produce in Richmond on the payment of a State tax of 35 cents.

George E. Wise addressed a circular to the members of the Legislature, asking their support of the measure introduced by Mr. Whitehead, of Norfolk, in which it is proposed to amend the present State law affecting peddling of produce in the cities by reducing the tax from \$500 to \$5.

Under the present law a peddler who has a footstool must pay a tax of \$25, and \$50 if he peddles from a wagon. It was the unanimous opinion of the association last night that the proposed reduction would place a severe hardship upon the large number of retail green grocers in the city.

Mr. James Flournoy stated in the meeting that the class of perishable produce sold by the peddlers on the streets was of a most inferior nature, and that, as it was not subjected to any inspection on the part of the State, the turning loose of a large number of peddlers in the city would jeopardize the health of the consumers of this class of food.

COULD NOT COMPETE. The retailers claimed last night that the class of stuff that the peddlers would handle was that which had been peddled by the peddlers, and that in competition with it the local dealers would be placed at a great disadvantage.

Under the present State law the small farmers and peddlers are compelled to produce their produce in the cities without any State license, and the purpose of the large tax on the peddlers who handled the imported stuff was to protect the local dealers who are compelled to conduct their business at a permanent stand.

Many of the members stated last night that they would be compelled to give up the business method of conducting their business and to conduct it in the amendment proposed by Mr. Whitehead should be adopted.

TWO PHONES A NUISANCE. The association also discussed the question of a single phone, and the members are compelled in many cases to keep two phones in their places of business. This entails considerable expense upon the small farmer and peddler, and the North arrangements with one of the phone companies that will reduce their expenses in this line.

The association decided to appear before the Finance Committee of the Legislature next Tuesday afternoon, and to present their objections against any change in the present law on the pending question.

The next meeting of the body will be held at the Capitol Hall Tuesday night next at 8:30, when further discussion of the 'phone question will come up.

STATION PROPRIETORS. The station proprietors are working to get away, and that they will rush and present their objections against any change in the present law on the pending question.

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