

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1902.

FOUR-CORNERED RACE.

SWANSON, ELLYSON, WILLARD, AND ANDERSON TO CONTEST FOR GOVERNORSHIP.

SUCH THE PROSPECT NOW.

Besides These, There Are Several Others Mentioned.

GENERAL AYERS; AND MR. ECHOLS.

The Next Struggle Will Be a Great Campaign With Oratory and Brass Bands, and Parades, and All the Old-Time Spectacular and Declamatory Phases—A Review and a Forecast of Events.

In a little more than two years the State will be on the eve of an exciting contest for the Democratic nomination for Governor. The last, in the early spring and summer of 1901, was one of the most interesting of recent years. The real fight was for the nomination, for with that won, election was assured. Naturally, when nomination is equivalent to election a strenuous struggle for that honor is certain. The campaign of last year was much in the nature of a stump campaign, and the canvass reminded one of the strenuous battles between Democrats and Republicans fifteen or twenty years ago.

Now that the Democratic party has abandoned the convention plan and proposes to nominate by primary, the next struggle for the gubernatorial prize will be a great campaign with oratory and brass bands and parades and all the spectacular and declamatory phases of the old-time method. It is expected that the State will be divided into all parts of the State, and their friends and strong advocates may be drawn into this campaign of oratory. Clubs will be organized and literature will be sent broadcast over the State, urging the claims of the candidates.

No matter how many candidates may be entered for the honor, the man who gets a mere plurality of the vote cast will be the nominee, and he will be the Governor. The more aspirants there are, the less onerous the entrance fee, for the necessary expense of the primary will be shared equally by those who aspire to the honor. Now that the primary plan is to be amended so as to minimize the expense to the candidates, which under the present conditions and prospects would be so heavy as to deter many from running, and limit competition to those who are fairly wealthy.

More Interest Than Ever. Virginians are eminent for their interest in politics. Indeed, it is this keen, active interest and participation in all that concerns the government and welfare of the country that have made the Virginians of other generations so prominent in the affairs of the nation. Now that the negro has been eliminated as a menace and almost wholly as a political factor, it may be expected that interest in politics will be greatly accentuated and more universal than heretofore.

Already the forces are aligning for the struggle of 1906 for the governorship. The campaign promises to begin actively immediately after the presidential election of November. Eminent aspirants are quietly gathering nuclei of support and enlisting under their banners influential men of every section. Already five or six men have been mentioned as possible aspirants or as men worthy of nomination.

Ellyson a Candidate. When the Norfolk convention of 1901 adjourned, Hon. J. Taylor Ellyson, for many years State chairman, and several times frequently mentioned as a man who would prove a formidable aspirant for the governorship, stated to several friends with a view to the nomination, the lobby of the Monticello Hotel that he would be a candidate for the nomination "next time." He made the statement earnestly and deliberately, the occasion for the expression being the statement made to the effect that the delegates that they had hoped that they would have had the opportunity to vote for him. Just the day before, the chairman had a splendid exhibition of the wonderful heart he has upon Virginia Democrats. The great convention of 1,500 men, weary after an exciting struggle for several hours and eager to complete the nominations and adjourn, had been a howling, yelling, discordant mass, refusing to listen to speakers, or to hear any one, no matter on what subject. The president of the convention had exhausted his vocal powers in a vain attempt to secure a hearing, and several of the best speakers in the convention failed to secure a hearing, and the order of the chaotic confusion prevailing.

Instance of His Popularity. It was in this extremity, when nothing could be done, nothing heard, that the silent, imperturbable State chairman arose and, walking to the front of the rostrum, stretched forth his hand for silence. A momentary hush was received, and with the recognition of the man by the great audience the tumult was soon hushed, and Mr. Ellyson made a simple, earnest appeal for a hearing—not for himself, but for the speakers who were seated to second nominations. The chairman has never asked anything for himself of his party except work, and his long and eminent service entitled him to a hearing. It was probably due to this fact and the realization that he did not want to ask anything for himself that the audience was still by his uplifted hand and his waiting attitude, as he stood there statueque upon the rostrum.

This incident was so striking in showing the hold Mr. Ellyson has upon the masses of his party that many remarked upon it. His determination to be a candidate "next time," which he announced next day was no doubt due in part to a realization of the warm place he had in the hearts of Virginia Democrats. But whatever the cause, he announced unequivocally and unconditionally that he would be a candidate and he has never publicly retracted that announcement. On the contrary his friends are already urging him, and it may be taken for granted that he will be in the field in the fight of 1906.

Swanson Will Run. Congressman Claude A. Swanson, defeated for the nomination last time, but who made friends and won admirers in the very hour of his defeat by the manliness with which he met it, will, it can be stated almost with authority, be a candidate again in 1906. He has made no announcement, so far as known, of his candidacy at this time, but all who know him know that he is not a "quitter," and that it is not characteristic of him to be daunted or discouraged in a cherished ambition by a single defeat. He is full of pluck and fight, and has in him more than one good, sturdy battle, if appear-

LENINGTON, VA., September 27.—(Special)—When the Grand Camp of Virginia Confederate Veterans meets in Wytheville, October 22-24, two of Virginia's most charming daughters of the Tenth District will be present as sponsor and maid of honor. Miss Josephine Stephenson, of Monterey, Highland county, and Miss Nannie J. Sterrett, of Hull, Highland county, have been selected as the sponsor and maid of honor, respectively, by Grand Commander Thomas W. Smith, of Suffolk, upon the recommendation of J. Scott Moore, of Lexington, assistant inspector-general of the Tenth Virginia District. Both young ladies have signified their acceptance of the honor, and will attend the meeting of the Grand Camp.

Both are daughters of brave Confederate soldiers. The sponsor, Miss Stephenson, is a most charming young woman, and a brilliant conversationalist, having obtained her education at some of the best seminaries of the present day. Of fine and commanding carriage, a brunette, she will be one of the leaders among the young women who will attend the meeting of the Grand Camp.

She is a daughter of L. H. Stephenson, a lawyer of Monterey, who has served as Commonwealth's attorney of Highland county. He entered the Confederate service as a private, and for gallantry rose to the rank of a first lieutenant. He was a member of Company C, Fourteenth Virginia Cavalry, a part of Jenkin's command, and later attached to McCausland's command. He participated in all the big battles of the war, and was with McCausland when he burned Chambersburg, and finally surrendered at Appomattox.

Miss Sterrett is a member of the Sterrett family, noted for their brilliant scholars and men of giant stature, and women of great beauty. She is a brunette of the extreme Soubise type, vivacious and charming in the extreme. She spent part of the summer visiting relatives in Rockbridge, and had many admirers.

Her father, Samuel W. Sterrett, is one of the leading farmers of his county, and is noted for its fine stock of every description. He served through the war with an honorable record as a member of Company H, Fourteenth Virginia Cavalry, as "only a private." It was his command on detached duty that lost two men after the final capitulation to place in Appomattox, and both of them Rockbridge men—Walker and Wilson.

Assistant Inspector-General Moore could not have found two more beautiful women had he sought intently, nor could his old command, the Fourteenth Virginia Cavalry, be more honored than in his selections, the daughters of two of its most gallant soldiers.

Some of the Commonwealth's Attorneys, magistrates, and other officers, it is asserted, fail, refuse, or neglect to press presentments, indictments, or prosecutions, for political reasons. Public sentiment in the counties is so pronounced against the present laws that these men cannot, for obvious reasons, afford to enforce the laws as they should be. This would lose them votes. The present laws are so framed as to bring everything within its power to better conditions, but so far has signally failed. The next probable step will be to have the whole matter of the violation of the oyster laws brought prominently before the Legislature with the idea of bringing the chief offenders to a better way of thinking.

In the counties of Gloucester and Mathews the people have generally been opposed to fishing to oppose the Board of Fisheries and to influence legislation.



MISS JOSEPHINE STEPHENSON



MISS NANNIE J. STERRETT

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THE OYSTER MENAGED

EDIBLE BIVALVE SLOWLY DISAPPEARING FROM WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE.

PATENT TONG GOES TOO DEEP.

Scoops to the Bottom and Buried the Seed Oysters.

LAW IS NOT ENFORCED.

Conditions Under Which the Popular Shell Fish Grow Must Be Changed or Else the Eastern Virginia Industry Will Be Well-Nigh Ruined in the Course of a Few Short Years.

The oyster industry is threatened. The edible bivalve is slowly disappearing from the waters of Chesapeake bay. According to a prominent member of the State Board of Fisheries the conditions under which these shellfish now grow must be radically changed or else the oyster industry, which now means as much to the State, will within five or six years be well-nigh ruined.

The trouble is partly with the present oyster law in Virginia, but mostly with the people themselves. The oystermen in some of the Tidewater counties are killing "the goose that laid the golden egg." Not only have many become pirates preying on public oyster fields during the closed season, but they go further and make no pretense of keeping the law. The great damage is done in summer, when they take the seed oyster from the public beds, transferring them to the private. They will state outright that they do as they please, and defy the authorities to catch them. While the law-breakers are at the bottom of much of the trouble, it does not end with them.

The Law Not Enforced. Some of the Commonwealth's Attorneys, magistrates, and other officers, it is asserted, fail, refuse, or neglect to press presentments, indictments, or prosecutions, for political reasons. Public sentiment in the counties is so pronounced against the present laws that these men cannot, for obvious reasons, afford to enforce the laws as they should be. This would lose them votes.

The next probable step will be to have the whole matter of the violation of the oyster laws brought prominently before the Legislature with the idea of bringing the chief offenders to a better way of thinking.

In the counties of Gloucester and Mathews the people have generally been opposed to fishing to oppose the Board of Fisheries and to influence legislation.

This association, known as the Selma and Pound Net Association, however, applies more to fishing than to clamming and oystering. Selma and pound net license taxes, especially in the counties of Mathews and Gloucester, remain unpaid. The State's revenue from the oyster grounds in Horn Harbor and other waters is greatly diminished. Numbers of indictments have for a long time been pending, but owing to politics there is little action and tardy justice.

The "Fleet" Inadequate. The oyster police own three steamers and one sailing craft, but these are