

OUR COMMON COLUMN

NORTHERN NECKERS MOST ANXIOUS FOR A BROAD GAUGE ROAD.

CORN IS BADLY DAMAGED

Some Say It "Went Through a Heat" Rev. J. Pribble May Leave—Worried by Decline in Price of Beef—Personal.

COMMON, KING GEORGE COUNTY, VA., October 4.—(Special.)—It is said on good authority that the Eastern Construction Company have made a canvass of a portion of Stafford county, with a view to building an electric railroad there in the very near future, and the best citizens of the community are manifesting their approval of the proposed enterprise. It is supposed that this road will run from Washington, in Stafford county, down through Stafford to the Potomac Creek, or some point on the Potomac river.

The King George people are receiving this news with peculiar interest, and express the hope that the enterprise will be followed by the construction of a road through the Northern Neck, and the best citizens of the community are manifesting their approval of the proposed enterprise. It is supposed that this road will run from Washington, in Stafford county, down through Stafford to the Potomac Creek, or some point on the Potomac river.

It is not generally believed that the long-talked-of road from Fredericksburg to the Chesapeake Bay will be built under the charter granted some few years ago, but some of our most enterprising people are trying to interest other parties in the proposition to build a broad-gauge road through the neck while the thermometer ranged up in the eighties.

It is rumored in Methodist church circles here that Rev. J. L. Pribble, the pastor here, may not return to the King George circuit after the meeting of the Annual Conference in November. All the churches of the circuit are pleased with Mr. Pribble, and as far as is known, he is pleased with King George and the people, but if he makes a change, it will be none in order to educate his children. He has several sons who are at the age to need better school facilities than can be found here. It may be said in this connection that Mr. Pribble is a successful pastor and a good preacher.

The recent decline in the price of beef-cattle has caused something of a sensation among the people here, who have large herds of fattened heifers which had been prepared to be put on the market the first of this month. The sudden drop in prices means a loss of hundreds of dollars to several King George cattle-raisers.

A large ice lying at Chatterton, on the Potomac river, near here, taking on a cargo of 8,000 railroad ties for the northern market. The cargo belongs to Major S. Embrey, of Fredericksburg, and was taken from the woods in this neighborhood.

It is reported here that Miss Maggie Maddox, who fell head-foremost in Mr. Alexander Pratt's house some days ago, and in a very broken, her nose is cut and broken, her face, head, and body bruised, and it is feared that her spine is injured. The report is to the effect that Miss Maddox has been unconscious a good deal of the time since the distressing accident occurred.

Miss Sue Washington, of this county, is arranging to leave for Powhatan College, in West Virginia, where she will be a student till 1904.

Miss Nannie S. Rogers has returned to her home here, after spending a few days in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. John E. Mason has returned from a trip to Staunton, Va., and Washington city.

Rev. J. R. Thomas, who has been on a visit to his daughter in Charles county, has returned to his home in the lower part of King George.

The death of Captain John F. Dickinson on Thursday removed one of King George's most prominent men. Captain Dickinson had been a man of large means, and up to the time when his health failed some years ago, he was the most successful agriculturist in this section.

Presiding Elder Joseph Amis, who visited King George this week and conducted a quarterly conference at Trinity Methodist Episcopal church on Wednesday, has returned to his home at Bowling Green.

Miss Helen Caruthers, daughter of Dr. V. O. Caruthers, of this county, has gone to Fauquier to visit kinsfolk.

The public schools of this county will be opened on Monday next, October 6th.

PIANO ECONOMY

consists of getting the best possible instrument at the least possible price. There are no better pianos than the

CONOVER, CABLE, KINGSBURY, SCHUBERT & WELLINGTON PIANO.

We sell you direct from our large factories thereby saving middle profits.

Talk this matter over with any prominent musician and you will be assured that these pianos are the proper instruments to buy.

Used by the People. Endorsed by Musicians.

A chance to prove these facts to you is all we ask.

The Cable Company, 213 East Broad Street.

J. G. CORLEY, Manager.

CIRCUS IN BEDFORD.

Everybody Came to Town—New Realities—Society Notes.

BEDFORD CITY, VA., October 3.—(Special.)—A gala day indeed was Friday in Bedford's capital, where from early dawn came the people flocking from every avenue leading into the town, to be in time for the grand circus parade.

All sorts and conditions in comfortable democratic proximity crowded the sidewalks for hours until a pedestrian desire of advancing in any direction must needs have taken to the middle of the street and dispute the way with the vehicles and horses. But the circus, if it has no other mission, puts everybody in a good humor, and a rough jostle provoked only a good laugh or "excuse me."

BETTER VEHICLES NOWADAYS. A student of progress will observe one very significant feature in the better vehicles in which the country people now make their journeys to the circus. The rude old ramshackle carriages, warranted to fall to pieces like "the wonderful one-horse shay" are superseded by nice, spruce-looking drays, jerseys, or comfortable carriages with good stout harness innocent of twine strings tying it together in exciting hazards. Roomy farm wagons filled with nice, clean hay, formed the chariot for large families from grandparents down to tiny infants. There were few that did not imbibe the gala spirit of the occasion, and attend the show which took place upon a large green common on the east end of the town where never before had there been a circus.

The festivities of the day were concluded with a feast of music of a very high order—a concert by the New York Mozart Club, given at the opera-house to a crowded audience, under the auspices of the Bedford Library Association, who have secured a lyceum course of entertainments for the season, a branch of the Alkathist.

The entertainments will all be of a high order.

NEW RESIDENCES. Quite a number of handsome new residences are now in course of construction in the East-End. They will add greatly to the appearance of that very desirable portion of the town, which command splendid views of the mountains. The residence of Mr. L. O. Thomas, which is the largest and most elegant of them, is rapidly nearing completion. Not far distant a residence is being built for his father, Mr. Rufus N. Thomas. That of Mr. William R. Abbot, Jr., is nearly ready for occupancy. In the same locality, Mr. O. C. Rucker is building a large and handsome home.

Mr. R. K. McCormick has this week moved into his home upon north Bridge street. He purchased the property for \$3,500. Two stories in height, the house being built and there are numbers of smaller houses going up in other parts of the town.

SOCIAL NEWS. On Thursday the Ladies Social and Book club resumed their meetings for the season.

Mrs. S. M. Bolling entertained the First-teen Club very delightfully at Oakwood, her charming home in the East-End. There was a business meeting of the

Thursday Club at the home of Mrs. E. D. Gregory, when the officers for the year were elected. Mrs. Gregory was again chosen president. Mrs. T. D. Berry was elected vice-president, and Miss Lula Jeter, secretary-treasurer.

The nuptials of Miss Elizabeth Davidson and Mr. Maurice Lusk Barnett will be celebrated next Thursday at high noon at the Presbyterian church.

Miss Sadie Tucker has left for school, at Cantonville, Md.

Mrs. E. S. Lambert and her son, Mr. S. Sommerfield Lambert, of Norfolk, are visiting friends in Bedford City.

Hon. John Goode, after spending the former here, has returned to Washington.

GLEANED IN MARTINSVILLE.

The Week's Happenings Summarized G. E. Townes Seriously Hurt.

MARTINSVILLE, VA., October 4.—(Special.)—Mr. G. E. Townes was seriously hurt by a fall from the roof of a stable Thursday. He was unconscious for some time, and the physicians have not yet been able to determine the full extent of his injuries.

Mr. James R. Stovall is critically ill of erysipelas.

Mrs. A. S. Gravely and Miss Mary Williams returned Thursday from a two-weeks' visit to the home of their grandfather, Colonel R. E. Withers, of Wytheville.

It is stated here to-day that a telephone line will in a short time connect Danville with Martinsville, and that the construction of the line has already begun from the Danville end.

Mrs. John R. Bondurant, Mrs. W. H. Parrott, and Mrs. E. L. Dickinson, of Martinsville, are attending the State Convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, at Richmond.

The Norfolk and Western railroad was held up Tuesday for obstructing, with its trains, the public road at Ridgeway. The company having agreed not to let the obstruction occur again, the minimum fine was imposed.

Miss Lucy Reamey has gone to Newberne, N. C., where she will be assistant principal of the public schools.

Mrs. T. P. Parrish, of Smithfield, is visiting her sister, Mrs. G. A. Brown.

The title to the public building site was examined this week by District Attorney Thomas Lee Moore, and though there was a slight break in the record of the title many years ago, it is not deemed sufficient to affect the estate of the present owner.

Hotel on the Frontier. (New York Press.) There is no longer a frontier in the United States. We must go to Canada to find it. Here is an advertisement of a hotel on the fringe of civilization at Three Forks, B. C. "Hotel Slooan, this old-time hotel has recently been bought by the redesigned and renovated into an up-to-date hostelry. Miners, tourists and all classes of this world's people can always get a square meal and an easy bed within the portals of my door. The bar contains many kinds of nerve bracers, ranging from the brew of Cody to the sweet cordials of sunny France. If you are hungry, weary or sad when passing through the Rockies, lift the latch and walk in. Hugh Niven."

AN AUTUMN SKETCH.

GLIMPSE OF OCTOBER LIFE IN THE TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE.

AN IMMENSE SPIDER KILLED.

They Say It Was as Large as the Palm of One's Hand and Showed Fight—The Birds and Woods—Preparing for Winter.

SCOTTSVILLE, VA., October 4.—(Special.)—Every one here is preparing for winter now while labor beneath sunny skies is practicable. When one cannot get pudding, it is more than likely that the same person will be glad to get pie, so one tries to forget there was ever such a thing as coal, and lays by a generous supply of wood, saying all the while, "If there is one thing I like more than another, it is an open wood fire." Wagon loads of corn are coming in, as well as other kinds of feed, and the prospect is that stock will be well fed, even if the owners should by chance go hungry some time.

An abundant crop of hickorynuts and chestnuts in the country around may account for the presence of hordes of squirrels.

A WHOPPING BIG SPIDER. Dr. J. P. Blair, of this place, and Mr. R. I. Wade, of Richmond, returned from their hunt one day this week, having bagged sixteen in one morning. While tenting out Dr. Blair's eyes he encountered an immense spider, as large as the palm of his hand. He struck at the insect with a small stick, whereupon the spider immediately showed fight, and sprang at him with his mouth (one-inch in width) wide open. The Doctor struck at the spider again, and the insect leaped towards him a second time. "This so incensed a little darkey, who accompanied the gentleman on the hunt, that he jumped on the insect with both feet and ground the "varmint" to powder. The woodpecker, with his black coat, white apron, and red cape, and the purple-crowned crow, with his "peewee," are paying calls in the neighborhood before leaving for the Southland.

The trees are festooned with wild grapes and scarlet berries, and October is striving every nerve to outdo September in beauty of attire.

Wild turkeys are numerous, and are enjoying life as long as the law allows—afterward the man with the shotgun will end the dream.

The circus will be the center of attraction in Scottsville on Saturday. The meeting at the Methodist church, is still in progress, and there has been one convulsion so far.

A BIRTHDAY PARTY. Miss Elizabeth Tompkins, the pretty little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Tompkins, of Richmond, gave a delightful birthday party one day this week to her friends in the neighborhood, at the home of her uncle, Mr. John Hompkins. Those present were: Messes Ellen Goodwin, Robert and Max Langhorne, Susie Blair, Elizabeth Hancock, Katherine Hancock, and Master Willie Wade, of Richmond; Barclay Hancock, and Samuel Tompkins, Jr.

Miss Lizzie Stevens has returned home from a visit to Miss Lillie Snead, of Fork Union.

Miss Annie Jarman, who has been the guest of her aunt, Miss Mattie Jones, has returned to her home in Scottsville.

Mrs. S. S. Rountree left for Quitman, Ga., this week.

Miss Hallie Hill, of New York, and Mrs. Jordan are guests at General J. C. Stovall's.

Miss Mary Bull, of Richmond, arrived at Mrs. D. P. Powers' Thursday.

Mr. Emory Hill will leave shortly for New York.

Miss Lucy Davis has returned home from Staunton.

Ex-Senator F. M. Parrish, of Goochland, is in Scottsville.

Miss Lizzie Poland is quite sick. She is being attended by Dr. J. C. Stovall.

Front Royal Friday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Luther T. Hitt are at "Belle Haven."

Mr. Ernest Buzzards and Miss Ethel Burgess, of Central Plains, were in town this week.

Dr. W. M. Wade, of Richmond, is here, and will leave for home Monday with his family.

Mr. Frank Parkinson visited Scottsville Thursday.

Mr. Jackson Beal has returned from an extended northern trip.

Miss Louise Abrams left for St. Louis Thursday. She is being attended by Dr. J. C. Stovall.

STRANGERS IN TOWN. H. B. Coghlin, of Richmond; L. C. Watts, Lynchburg; T. C. Jopling, Bedford City; C. V. Smith, Robert Harner, of Staunton, are in town. They are registered at the Home Hotel.

Mr. R. J. Wade, of Richmond, and Mr. William Matthews, are off on a hunt. Mr. T. P. Tutwiler is in town. Miss Louise Ivory visited her grandmother, Mrs. Nannie Glimmer, this week. Mr. Harry Hogg, of Richmond, was here a few days ago. Miss Jennie Scruggs is visiting friends in Charlottesville.

UNUSUAL FOSSILS.

DISCOVERIES MADE BY A GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST IN WISE.

THE PRESENCE OF CORAL.

Generally It is Far Away from the Coal Deposits—New Coke Plant to Be Established—Railroad Notes—C. L. Blanton Badly Hurt.

BIG STONE GAP, VA., October 4.—(Special.)—Mr. Charles Schuchert, of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C., spent several days in the Gap recently, looking up the various formations and deposits in the neighborhood. He reports that the geological formations of this section are peculiar and unusual. He found coral and other fossils in abundance. He says that, as a rule, where coral is found there is no coal within 500 miles. Yet this country is very rich in this mineral. Mr. Schuchert explains the geological mystery on the ground that the formation here is so broken, tilted, and irregular. According to Mr. Schuchert, almost any mineral might be found in this region.

NEW COKE PLANT. The firm of Kelly & Irvine, composed of Dr. J. W. Kelly and Hon. R. T. Irvine, is getting ready to put up a new coke plant near West Norton. Messrs. Irvine and Patrick Hagan recently bought 400 acres of fine coal land from John M. Wampler, lying on Powell's river, near another tract of 250 acres, which they own. Dr. Kelly leases Mr. Hagan's interest, and the Kelly-Irvine firm will operate. The new firm has put a large force of hands to work grading and driving entries. The necessary dwelling-houses, commissary, and tipples will be built at once, and about 100 ovens will be erected. During the week Messrs. J. C. Stamper, H. G. Kyle, A. E. Rogan, and B. P. Simpson, of Roanoke, organized the Great Mountain Coal and Coke Company in this county. A charter was secured from the Wise County Court for a company, with \$200,000 paid up capital. This company owns 1,000 acres of valuable coal lands in the county.

WORK ON THE RAILROAD BEGUN. Work on the railroad from Wise to Glamorgan has begun. The distance is about two miles.

Stonora now boasts a new hospital, with first-class equipment. The building is two stories high, 130 feet long, and 40 feet wide. The first floor contains the main office, the operating room, and two wards

Fit, Style, and Finish.

MANY men consider the fit to be the most important item about a Suit of Clothes. We do not think so. A garment may fit perfectly, and still be so far off in style and finish that the wearer will not look well.

You may get a ready-made suit to fit you, but cannot get the style and finish that you must have to look well dressed.

We will fit you, and we will give you garments up to the minute in style and finish at very little above ready-made prices.

Special Suitings to Order. \$15, \$20, and \$25.

Morton C. Stout & Co., TAILORS, 704 East Main Street. FRANK MARECK, Manager.

IN SALEM TOWN.

Results of the Registration—Educational Notes—Personal.

SALEM, VA., October 3.—(Special.)—The returns from the registration in this county proved very satisfactory, there was little contention, and only one case of any worth was noted. A negro wished to register under the soldier qualification, but as he could bring no proof, he was disqualified. The total number of whites rejected was ten, and the number of colored ninety, making a total of one hundred rejected.

Some time an effort has been made to establish a kindergarten school at this place. A teacher will soon be secured, and many of the children here will be given an opportunity of attending the school.

The ladies' auxiliary of the Young Men's Christian Association, of Roanoke College, gave a reception to the old and new students in the Demosthenian Literary Society building at the college. An attractive and entertaining programme was rendered, after which refreshments were served. The affair was quite a success and enabled the new students to mingle with and meet many of Salem's hospitable citizens.

Rev. James M. Holladay, of Fincastle, Va., is visiting his wife at the home of her parents, Mr. Davis Ayres, on Market street.

After visiting her mother, Mrs. C. C. Tompkins, on High street, Miss Daley Tompkins, of Washington, D. C., has returned to her home.

Miss McConey, of St. Joseph, Mo., is the guest of Mrs. and Mrs. T. J. Henderson, of this place.

Miss Lucile Williams, of Pearisburg, Va., after a visit to the Misses Mann, on Main street, has returned to her home.

Miss Bessie Henderson, of this place, is visiting relatives in Blacksburg, Va.

Mr. J. Horace Smith, of Salem, left yesterday for Baltimore and New York city on business.

Miss Emma Mann, of this place, is visiting relatives in Buena Vista, Va.

Mr. Castro, of Spain, who has been in Salem for the past year, left yesterday for Richmond, Va., to attend the College of Medicine, in that city.

IN TRADE.

Ascum—I notice Mr. Kloseman has become a regular attendant at church. When did he get religion?

Brown—He didn't get it just because he had loaned Rev. Mr. Galtway \$100 some time ago and he's had to take it out in pew rent.—Philadelphia Press.

FIFTY CENTS Five Gallons Swineford's Arsenic Lithia Water. Delivered at Your Door. 6 Half Gallon Bottles in Crates, 40c. Swineford's Lithia-Water Co., Old 'Phone 1153. New 'Phone 763.

of eight beds each, each ward being fitted up with bath and toilet rooms. A large dining room is located on the first floor also. On the second floor may be found the nurses' room, the linen room, private wards, bath rooms, etc. The building throughout is first-class, and adapted to the purposes of the building. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company will care for its sick and wounded here, provide the arrangements can be made with the owners.

GORDONVILLE CHIT-CHAT.

Movements of Well-Known People—Improvements in Town.

GORDONVILLE, VA., October 3.—(Special.)—Workmen are erecting a new fence around the public school lot at this

place. The tin roof on the school building is also being painted.

Dr. H. H. Sargeant has purchased the Lowry property and will have it repaired at once, for a tenant. He has also bought the lot of Mr. T. W. Pass, adjoining the property of Mr. E. F. Davenport, on which he will erect a nice dwelling.

Miss Myrtle McAlexander, after spending several weeks with relatives at Clifton Forge, has returned home, accompanied by Miss Thomas.

Mrs. H. F. Allan, accompanied by her daughter, Miss Lillie Allan, left on Monday night to spend the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Bateman, at Ashland, Kentucky.

Miss Pierce, who has been visiting the Misses Eggleston for several weeks, has returned to her home in Norfolk.

Mr. W. F. Bolton, after spending several weeks with his family in Gordonsville, returned to his work in Richmond on Tuesday.

Messrs. A. M. Goodloe, G. H. Scott and Walter Wood left Tuesday night to attend the Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg.

Miss Lillian McAlexander went to Washington on Wednesday, where she will spend some weeks with friends.

Mr. Clarke, superintendent of the Louisa Telephone Company, has been in the city several days this week.

MITTELDORFER'S, 217 East Broad Street.

Our Fall and Winter Opening This Season Excels All Previous Ones in Our Business History.

Our stocks and variety are larger than ever; our prices smaller. Be sure to inspect our various lines before purchasing.

Special Offering of Dress Goods and Waist Material's.

Conduvys, in White, Tan, Green, Brown, Black; in fact, every shade in use, 25c. yd. Snowflakes, in all the newest shades, 95c. to \$1.50. Zebelines, in all the new shades—the popular street fabrics—75c. to \$2.00 per yard. Heavy Materials in all the new shades for Walking and Rainy-Day Skirts, 50c. to \$2.00 yard. Ladies' Cloth, for Tailor-Made Suits, 75c. to \$1.50 yard. We have a large line of New Plaid Dress Goods—40c. to \$1.25. Fancy Stripe Flannellette, all shades, worth 12 1/2c., for \$1.3c. Light and Dark Outings, worth 10c. to \$1.50 yard. Handsome Imported Striped Flannels, for waists, worth \$1.00; special, 50c. French Flannels—Persian borders, worth 35c., for 12 1/2c. Extra fine Applique and Embroidered Centres, Runners, Mats and fancy pieces, choice of lots for one-half their value.

Black Goods.

Sharply reduced prices the great attraction. Black Chevot, extra good quality, 49c. Venetian Cloth, a rare bargain, 50c. Ladies' Cloth, already sponged, and with lustre, \$2.98 a yard. Black Beaver Cloth, for walking suits, \$1.19 a yard.

Silks.

Never before have we been able to collect at one time to show you such richness, elegance and low prices in Silks.

New creations in Plaid Silks—your sure-want one—55c. to \$2.00 a yard.

Ladies' Shirt-Waists.

A very choice line of new effects in Tailor-Made and Embroidered Waists. Combinations and patterns entirely new.

Polka-Dot Flannellette Waists, 50c. Black and White Satine Waists, 75c. Black and Colored Waists, beautifully trimmed, 95c. Hand-Embroidered Flannel Waists for \$1.98 to \$4.00.

Lace Curtains and Drapery.

Most beautiful effects in Imported and Domestic Drapery. Prices the lowest.

Nottingham Lace Curtains, 3 and 4 yards long; special, 50c. to \$4.00. Tinseld Drapery, in all colors, worth 12 1/2c. a yard, for 9 1/2c. The newest shades in Art Draperies, worth 16 1/2c., for 19 1/2c. a yard.

Cloaks and Suits.

Few ones arriving every day. The fashion's craze will be found here at surprisingly low prices.

Norfolk Jacket Suits, in Green, Blue, and Brown Mixed Velvet and Button-Trimmed; special, \$13.98. Fine Tailor-Made Suits, in all the new shades and cuts, \$9.98.

The new Monte Carlo Coats, in Tan, Black and Brown, \$3.98, \$4.98, and \$6.98. Handsome New Cut Cloaks, latest shades, \$9.98.

We have a full line of Walking, Rainy-Day, and Silk Skirts at special price.

Carpets, Matting, Druggets and Rugs.

Red, Green, and Blue Matting; special, 10c. a yard. Hemp Carpet, very wide, special, 12 1/2c. a yard. New Shades and Patterns in Carpets, 49c. a yard. Rugs and Druggets at special prices.

Domestics.

Our prices in this department are always the lowest. Androscoggin Bleached Cotton, 7 1/2-Sc. Fruit of the Loom Bleached Cotton, 6 7/8-Sc. East Island 4/4 Brown Cotton, worth 7c., for 5c. Bleached Canton Flannel, worth \$1.3c.; special 6c. a yard. Bedtickings, special, 5c. a yard. Bleached and Unbleached Sheetings at special Monday prices.

Are You Ready for the Cold Weather That is Coming?

Perhaps a Stove is Needed—

the kind that will burn wood, soft coal, or anything that you may want to put in it. We have that kind—we have the latest ideas in Heating Stoves—some are being shown the first time. Also, Oil and Gas Heaters and Oil and Gas Cooking Stoves.

Our Immense Carpet and Matting Sales would indicate that the prices are right in that department. Do you know of better evidence? Our aim has been, and will continue to be, to sell reliable Floor Coverings at the lowest possible prices, which fact is being recognized and appreciated, as shown by the great mass of Carpet buyers who insist on buying their Carpets here.

Chamber and Dining-Room Furniture is Never Overlooked Here.

By the addition of every new and worthy style the stock is kept bright, fresh, and attractive. It is a pleasure to show our DINING TABLES, and a pleasure to use them. They are easy to extend, are made with large legs or pedestal bases, with either round or square tops—made right and priced right.

ALL-WOOL BLANKETS, NICE COMFORTS FILLED WITH WHITE COTTON, LACE CURTAINS and PORTIERES, TABLE COVERS, Etc., are among the many useful things found in our Housefurnishing Department.

RYAN, SMITH & TALMAN, 609 East Broad Street, Between Sixth and Seventh.

