The Times-Dispatch

Published Daily and Weekly at No. 4 North Tenth Street, Richmond, Va.

Entered January 27, 1903, at Richmond, Va., as Second-Class Matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 2 cents a copy.

The SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 5 cents a copy.

DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH by mail—50 cents a month, $5.00 a year, $2.50 for six months, $1.50 for three months.

SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH by mail, $2.00 a year.

The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH, including Sunday, by Carrier, 15 cents per week.

The SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH, by Carrier, 5 cents per week.

The WEEKLY TIMES-DISPATCH, $1.00 year.

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Uptown Office at T. A. MILLER'S, No. 519 East Broad Street.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 1903.

OUR STATE INCOME TAX.

If any one will recall the great importance which was attached to the provision in the Wilson Tariff Law of 1894 for an income tax to be levied and collected by the United States, and the profound feeling of dissatisfaction in the Democratic party when that law was declared unconstitutional, it will be hard to understand how it is that the same Democratic party, having control of the Government of the State of Virginia, has so neglected this source of revenue for the State Treasury, against which there is no constitutional objection whatever, and which professedly has the most cordial support of the people. We have heard a good deal lately about a possible deficiency of of revenue for the necessities of the State and certainly a deficiency for appropriations which are exceedingly desirable, some of which are very important. The appropriation for the completion of the improvements at the Penitentiary, a matter of the gravest importance, has been refused and the amount necessary to make the Jamestown Exposition a reasonable possibility is in grave peril, and yet there can be no reasonable doubt that if the revenues of this State were fairly assessed and faithfully collected, the State would have ample money for its current expenses and for those purposes of progress and development, which are essential to keep her abreast of modern civilization.

As to real estate, it is not pretended that the cash market value, which the law requires, is applied in the assessment of but a very small fraction of that class of property, while in many parts of the State it is assessed at less than half, sometimes less than one-fourth of what it is worth. The assessment of personal property is a proverbial travesty, not merely through the arts of the tax dodger, but the inefficiency and the political "tender mercies" of the assessors. We have referred to some of the absurdities which appeared on the face of the Auditor's report on the assessment upon personal property in different parts of the State, but the crowning absurdity of our whole fiscal system is reached in the income tax. This source of revenue, which ought to be prolific, and the justice and expediency of which have been declared in Democratic national platforms which were unanimously approved in State conventions, is so meagre that it will be far better to repeal it than to permit it to stay as it is on the statute books, only to be brought into the contempt of the taxpayers of the State.

It is conceded by all writers on economics that the income tax above all other forms of taxation more clearly responds to those maxims or principles which have been generally concurred in as essential to a wise tax law. Among these principles the first is that "the subjects of every State ought to contribute to the support of government as nearly as possible in proportion to their respective abilities; that is, in proportion to the revenue which they enjoy under the protection of the State." This is the principal maxim of taxation and it is the foundation of income tax. It is recognized, however, that as there are many features in the levying of an income tax which are troublesome and vexations, a direct income tax is preferable only as an extraordinary resource for an emergency. In England, however, the income tax is one of the principal sources of the Royal revenue, and it is the habit of that Government in cases of great emergency to increase the rate of income tax as the easiest way for meeting their necessities. From any people that are once educated to paying this tax, the State will have the readiest means of expanding or diminishing its revenue according to its necessities.

In the Auditor's report for the year ending September 30, 1901, the amount of income assessed for that year was $63,604.14. The total amount received that year from previous assessments for income tax was $46,046.86. In 1902 there was received $58,254.03 on account of the assessment made the previous year of $63,604.14. In addition to this there was received $1,779.63 on account of the income assessed for 1900. So that even when the income is assessed it is not very closely collected.

But there are some other interesting facts connected with that assessment of 1901. Of the one hundred counties of Virginia there were twenty-eight in which there was not one single man found by the assessor, who was liable to the income tax, that is no person in those twenty-eight counties had a net income of over $600 a year, that being the amount exempted by the State. These counties were:

Bland,	King & Queen,
Buchanan,	Lee,
Caroline,	Lunenburg,
Carroll,	Madison,
Charles City,	Mathews,
Dickenson,	Nelson,
Essex,	Powhatan,
Floyd,	Rappahannock,
Franklin,	Richmond,
Giles,	Russell,
Grayson,	Scott,
Greene,	Stafford,
Highland,	Sussex,
James City,	York.

Craig county returned 60 cents, Middlesex $1.50, Westmoreland $1, so they escaped the "total disability" list, but there are fifteen others who showed up but very little better as their returns are under $20 each. The greatest amount returned by any one county was Albemarle, $1,152.31. Chesterfield returned $452.88 and Bedford $14. Who would have supposed that there were so many more prosperous men in Chesterfield than in Bedford? The total amount levied in all the cities of the Commonwealth was $45,241.92. Of this, Richmond paid more than one-half, namely $23,939.45, Lynchburg, $5,175.15 and Norfolk, $4,591.50.

The total amount of income returned by colored people was $28, $6 of this came from Chesterfield, $6 from Charlottesville and $16 from Richmond. Altogether, we think that Chesterfield makes a very fine showing, comparatively speaking.

So much for the assessment of 1901. Now let us see how the prosperity of the country affected the incomes of our people in 1902. For this year we find twenty-seven instead of twenty-eight counties on the "total disability" list. The disabled ones remaining the same except Amelia and King George which had each returned $5 and Middlesex $1.50 in 1901, dropped out entirely in 1902, while Caroline, Charles City, Nelson and Sussex returned respectively $14.50, $15, $50 and $3.50. Craig stuck to its 60 cents. There is some wag of an assessor in that county. To the ordinary mind there is some sort of relationship between capital and income. But that is not true of the investments in Virginia, according to the assessors of income. Let us compare some of the assets with the returns of some of the counties.

Accomac has personal property assessed at	$1,693,423 00
and real estate assessed at	4,182,853 00
a total of	$5,876,276 00
and returns an income tax of	254 71
Albemarle county, the next on the State list has personal property	$1,933,097 00
real estate	4,026,576 00
total	$5,959,673 00
and returns an income tax of	1,105 38
Augusta county has personal property	$2,797,093 00
real estate	7,717,481 00
total	$10,514,574 00
and returns income tax	305 03
Rockingham county has personal property	$2,566,003 00
real estate	7,647,979 00
total	$10,214,042 00
and returns income tax	108 50

And so the whole list of counties might be gone through with, each showing some surprising statement, but all united in confirming the utter inconsistency and incompetency of the administration of the law for assessing and collecting the income tax.

We do not mean to make any invidious distinctions against the counties named. There are others just as bad, but some have to be used for illustration.

We do not believe that the people of Virginia are any worse about paying taxes than they are elsewhere, and we think the great trouble about the collection of an income tax is the inefficiency of its assessment. When the United States had an income tax, there were elaborate instructions given the assessors with blanks covering all the conditions which experience had shown would likely arise, and it was made a serious matter. In Virginia it has been made a farce. A further reason why this tax is not paid in Virginia is the obscurity of the law. If the Legislature determines to continue this income tax the law should be elaborated as clearly as it was in the United States statutes and then a prolific revenue would be derived and in the most absolutely just and equitable way.

What we desire to emphasize is that this State is not only able to merely meet her current liabilities, but to meet all reasonable requirements to keep her in the forefront of modern progress. The State is rich and getting richer every day. Her people have an abundance of money to meet all these demands. They are willing to pay it provided their neighbors are made to pay as well as themselves according to law, but when the law is notoriously and scandalously ignored by assessors and evaded by the tax-dodgers, the whole system becomes rotten and it is only surprising that the State gets as much as she does considering the inefficiency of her fiscal administration. We do not mean the Auditor of Public Accounts, but we mean the whole system from the Legislature down. By common consent the dues to the State have been withheld and it is only where trust funds belonging to the helpless are held by courts or in some other way so as to be accessible, that the last dollar is eagerly wrung by commissioners who are paid a per centage on all they assess, while the vast majority of the property of those who are able to take care of themselves goes free.

Gentlemen of the Legislature, make your income tax an effective means of revenue or repeal it. As it now stands, it is a reproach to the State and a positive injury to her revenues, in that it brings the whole system of assessing and collecting taxes into contempt.

Our own preference is distinctly for a well-digested law for assessing and collecting an income tax which should be made a large, reliable and equitable source of revenue to this State.

THE MORTGAGE TAX.

We have received the following communication from a well known real estate agent of Richmond:

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I read with a great deal of interest your editorial headed "The Mortgage Tax," in to-day's paper. I wish to say that your view of the matter is exactly right, and I speak from experience. I have been through this matter once before in St. Louis.

The General Assembly of Missouri considered a similar bill imposing a tax on the owner of the mortgage and taxing the owner of the land for the equity only. On its face the proposition looks fair. It does seem as if the property owner does not own anything but the difference between the amount of the mortgage and the selling price of the property. But the practical operation was this: As soon as the bill was proposed in the Legislature, all money to be loaned on real estate mortgages was withdrawn from the market until the matter was finally settled by the Legislature, especially foreign capital. It was impossible to interest money lenders outside of the State of Missouri in Missouri mortgages. They waited to see whether the bill would be passed or not. Some loans were made on the following terms: Upon application by a property owner for a loan, he was told by the money lender that he could have the money at 6 per cent., if the bill should not pass, and 8 per cent., which is the contract price, if it should pass. As beggars are not choosers, and all lenders made the same proposition, there was nothing to do but to accept the money on the 8 per cent. basis, which is the legal rate, under contract, in Missouri, and then, aside from the mortgage, the money lender had a written agreement with the mortgagor that he would refund 2 per cent. in the event the law did not pass. The law was finally defeated.

As its operation here seems to be impracticable, the same proposition holds good with the proposed Virginia law. It is easy enough for a man to transfer his property to a "straw man," who will in turn give him back a mortgage for part purchase money, and this "straw man" will in all probability be a non-resident of the State. Thus you will see the State will not only lose the tax on the mortgage, but will also lose a large portion of the tax on the lands, which are now free and clear and subject to taxation. There are many ways of dodging taxes, if a man is dishonest, and it is impossible to pass any law that will get it all. But our Legislature don't want to make the mistake of "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel."

CHARLES B. COOKE.

Richmond, Va., March 27.

In this connection we not a communication in the New York Evening Post of Thursday last, from Mr. E. F. Hall, a former member of the New York bar, now residing in Montgomery, Alabama, in which he calls attention to the fact that the Supreme Court of the United States has on two occasions held that a State cannot extend its powers over non-residents so as to tax claims held by them against citizens of the State. In Mr. Hall's view, so far as regards outsiders, a law such as Senator Barksdale proposes would impair the obligation of the mortgage contract and would be null and void as a violation of the contract clause of the Federal Constitution. One of the decisions he cites is in the case of a railroad company against Jackson, from the State of Pennsylvania, reported in 7 Wallace, 262. Jackson was a British subject, residing in Ireland, and that being the case, the court held that the coupons or interest of certain mortgage bonds owned by him and issued by Pennsylvania railroads could not be taxed by that State. The other case cited is that of the State tax on foreign held bonds, decided in 1872 and reported in Volume XV of Wallace's Reports. The opinion was delivered by Mr. Justice Field. As to the statute of Pennsylvania (which required that 5 per centum should be deducted from the coupons and paid into the State treasury), he said:

"It is a law which interferes between the company and the bondholder, and, under pretense of levying a tax, commands the company to withhold a portion of the stipulated interest and pay it over to the State. It is a law which thus impairs the obligation of the contract between the parties."

Again, he says:

"It may undoubtedly be taxed by the State when held by a resident therein, but when held by a non-resident it is as much beyond the jurisdiction of the State as the person of the owner."

In an editorial review of Mr. Hall's letter, The Evening Post says that these decisions have a direct bearing on the mortgage tax; that a mortgage on real estate in New York is a sign and evidence of the claim held by a lender against a borrower; the lender may be a citizen of another State or country; he may or may not pay his own State or county a tax on the claim, but under our Constitution and system of government he cannot be called upon to pay a tax on it in a jurisdiction other than that of his domicile.

This is law, and it is common sense. Under the laws of Virginia we tax, or at least try to tax, notes held by our citizens and secured by mortgage in other States. It is to be presumed from Virginia's point of view that such notes held in other States and secured by mortgage in Virginia are taxed where the holder resides. We could not, therefore, with any sort of consistency attempt to tax both resident and non-resident mortgage-holders. To do so would lead to all sorts of confusion, and even if the attempt should succeed, after all the borrower, as our corespondent points out, would have to pay the tax.

There ought to be some relief for the borrower. He catches it every time. He has to pay the tax as surely as the tax is levied, and if there is a double tax, he has to pay it all. For our part, we can see no possible relief for the borrower except to exempt the mortgage, and in this way give him the advantage of a lower rate of interest.

THE DANGERS OF THE DRINK HABIT.

We are distressed that some of our remarks on the liquor question seem to have been entirely misunderstood by certain esteemed contemporaries, for whose editors we have the most friendly regard. One of these is the South Boston News, which replies at some length to a recent article contained in The Times-Dispatch, commenting on a letter of President Davis on the subject of prohibition. Mr. Davis said that the evil resulting from alcoholic drinks was "in the abuse, and not in the 'use.'" The South Boston News contends, on the other hand, that the only way to prevent the abuse of alcoholic drinks is to abstain from the use of them, and asks if its premises are not correct.

Certainly not. Total abstinence is one way, and the safest way to prevent the abuse of alcoholic drinks, but many men may, and many men do, use alcoholic drinks to their comfort, if not to their benefit, without abusing them.

It is nonsense to say that no man can use alcoholic liquors without getting drunk, without injury to himself or to others. And because it is nonsense, and because it is not true, we have controverted the statement. It never does any cause good either to misrepresent or to overstate the truth.

Again, our contemporary argues that it is wrong per se to use alcoholic liquors in any form, for the reason that "moderation" always precedes "immoderation" in the course of development. By the same token we may say that it is wrong for men to eat simply because some men eat to gluttony; that it is wrong per se for people to dance simply because some people dance immoderately; that it is sinful to play an innocent game of cards at home simply because some men use cards for gambling purposes; that it is sinful for men to race their horses simply because horse-racing is abused. We cannot subscribe to any such doctrine. We cannot agree that it is wrong for a man to do a thing which is innocent in itself, simply because somebody else makes wrong of that same thing.

But we had not intended to go into a further discussion of the subject. We started out to disabuse the mind of our friend at South Boston of an erroneous impression and disabuse the minds of others who have fallen into a similar error in drawing conclusions from our articles on this subject. We have not intended, God knows, to encourage men, and especially young men, to drink whiskey, even moderately. While we have said and while we hold that there is no harm per se in taking a drink, it is most dangerous for any young man to form the drink habit, and the way to avoid it is never to take the first drink. The man who acquires a taste for alcoholic liquors does so at his peril, for the appetite once acquired is sometimes hard to control. Indeed, there are men who are utterly powerless to control their thirst for strong drink, and for this reason the path of safety lies in total abstinence. We feel the keenest interest in young men, and we warn them against forming this dangerous and expensive habit.

Especially do we warn women against drinking alcoholic liquors, and more especially do we warn them, as they value their reputation and their honor, against drinking liquor with men.

We have not meant to minimize the danger of the drink habit, and it is a distress to know that anybody has so construed our remarks.

PAIR NO PAIR.

The Marion Democrat says it "fails to see the necessity for all the talk and delay that has and probably will characterize the consideration of the Campbell case by the Legislature."

What's past is past, and there is no sense in crying over spilled milk, but it is proper enough to adopt safeguards for the future. In the House of Delegates fifty-one votes will be required to pass the resolution proposed unanimously by the investigating committee. But though the House may be overwhelmingly in favor of the resolution, absenteeism and pairs may so reduce the effective strength of the affirmative side as to cause delays, if not defeat. It is, therefore, essential for those who favor the resolution to be in their seats on the day agreed upon for taking the vote.

As we said in a former article on this subject, we are not undertaking to advise Delegates or Senators "how" they ought to vote. No, our intention only is to point out that this is a case where pairs between members cannot be made upon equal terms. Hence "all" members would better arrange to be in their seats when the vote is taken.

If the resolution should be rejected in the House, that ends the case; but if agreed to there, it will be transmitted to the Senate for its concurrence.

"HUMILITY."

(Selected for the Times-Dispatch.)

"He riseth from supper, and laid aside His garments, and took a towel, and girded Himself. * * And began to wash the disciples' feet." St. John, xiii; 4-5.

In Palestine shoes were not generally worn indoors. The first duty of a host was to provide for their removal and the refreshment of the guest. Usually a slave was ordered to remove the sandals and wash the feet.

On ordinary occasions it is probable that the disciples would perform this humble office by turns where there was no slave to discharge it for all. But on this evening, when they gathered for that last supper, all took their places at the table with a studied ignorance of any such necessity, a feigned unconsciousness that any such attention was required.

As a matter of course the pitcher of cool water, the basin and the towel had been set as a part of the necessary furnishings of the upper chamber; but none of the disciples betrayed the slightest knowledge of the fact, or that any such custom existed. Why was this?

We are told "there had arisen among them a contention which of them was accounted the greatest."

Heated, then, and angry, and full of resentment and pride, these men hustle into the supper-room and seat themselves like so many sulky schoolboys, and doggedly take their places; and then came a pause. For any to wash the feet of the others was to declare himself the servant of all, and that was precisely what each one was resolved, he, for his part, would not do.

Filled with selfish ambition and anger, they were separated alike from their Lord and from each other. How, then, can they receive what He has to say to them on that last evening? How will He quench their heated passions and stir within them humility and love? "He riseth from supper and laid aside His garments and took a towel and girded Himself. After that He poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples feet and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded."

Each separate action is a fresh astonishment and a deeper shame to the conscience-stricken disciples. Already the cruel darkness of the coming night was touching the spirit of the Lord with its shadow. In twenty-four hours He would be in the tomb, and the agony of the cross lay between. If ever any man might be excused from outside cares and duties, Jesus was that man.

With the weight of a world upon Him, could He not have His hands free from such a trifling attention as this? With his whole soul pressed down under the heaviest burden ever laid on man, was it to be expected He would notice or relieve such peevish conduct?

But His love had made Him wholly theirs, and now, though standing on the brink of death, He was ready to do them the slightest, the humblest service. His was a love, devoted, enduring, constant. He had loved them, and would love them unto the end. The very fact that they showed themselves still so jealous and childish, so far removed from His teaching, drew out His affection towards them all the more. He was departing from the world; they were remaining in it, exposed to that hostility directed against Him—how, then, can He but pity and try to strengthen them?

Do not let this picture of Christ's humility fade from your minds. Recall it often; dwell on it until it becomes a part of your being.

If we catch the meaning of Christ, our highest moment of inspiration is to express itself in the beauty of social charity and service; to prove itself divine, in visible and useful labor.

The eternal meaning of this lesson is humility. Criticism of others is not humility; inverted pride is not humility; the confession of some barren sentiment is not humility. Humility is dumb; humility keeps no looking glass; is unconscious of its own flushes; it wists not that the heart turned to God in long fellowship has caused the face to shine with the reflected glory of the Father. Humility wields an active power in life. The greater the powers given us, the more humble should be the service we render, with no tinge of self-display.

True service must be rendered in the spirit of the Master, for, done in the letter, it is not done at all.

Washing feet, or doing any service, symbolized by that phrase, cannot be done—let us repeat—except in the spirit of Christ, and then it is no longer menial, but glorified.

When this spirit is ours we shall have no dainty dislike for any kind of service. It will all be done to Him and for His glory, among our poor brothers. We now sometimes pick and choose. We have no objection to high office, and leave to others the drudgery.

But what does Jesus Christ do? Instead of laying down a doctrine, He gave the example. Christ's method did not admit of debate. It was not a theory, it was a fact.

There it was—an action that could never be forgotten; an argument which no ingenuity could ever impair. It was practicable; the Lord and Master had done it. It was worth doing, or He who never trifled with life would not have set the example.

This shows in a wonderful manner the responsibility of the men to whom God has assigned mastery in life. What is our duty when God puts us in an eminent place; gives us great talent or great wealth? Our plain duty is to set examples of lowliness and charity—the lowliness that comes out of righteousness—the charity which stands upon law.

Oh, Thou washer of the disciples' feet! We dare not look at Thee. In Thine eye is not anger, but pity, weeping pity and tender reproach! It hurts by its pathos; but it also urges us to new effort.

Oh! to be swallowed up in the love of God and the burning desire to cleanse the lives of men!

In what spirit are we working? Are we willing to be anything, or nothing, as it pleases Him? Is our constant cry, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" Do we covet honors? Or do we esteem drudgery an honor? Dost thou so reckon?

Some of the Chicago papers note the visit there of General George T. Alford, of Dallas, Texas, who is described as "the only ex-officer of the Confederate army who clings to his uniform." It is said he has been wearing the gray since 1861. He "has been a judge, a banker, legislator and Congressman."

We do not know whether the military title given our friend is his proper one, or is a courtesy one. His name does not appear in the list of Confederate generals published by the War Records office.

We learn from the Baltimore Sun that Mr. W. C. A. Hammel, professor of manual training, physics and zoology at the State Normal School, in that city, has accepted a call to become director of manual training and physics at the North Carolina State Normal School, at Greensboro, N. C.

Professor Hammel is one of the best and most distinguished teachers of this branch in the United States, and North Carolina is fortunate to secure his services.

The municipal contest in Baltimore is growing very warm. In some degree it seems to be a fight between the Wabash and the Pennsylvania Railroad people. Mayor Hayes is ranked with the former clan, and he has added a curious interest to the election by promising to get married should he be renominated. It is understood that his Honor is in the neighborhood of sixty years of age, but is said to be very bright and chipper.

There comes from St. Louis the complaint that President Dave Francis is absorbing so much of the supply of enthusiasm, there will robably be none left for President Roosevelt when he gets there.

Among the few facts brought out by the Buffalo coroner's jury, the important one is that the beginning of all this Burdick-Pennell trouble was at a progressive euchre party.

From the lowgrounds of Illinois comes the horrible rumor that ex-Senator Mason is threatening to break into the weekly newspaper business.

Mrs. Maybrick will get out in time to visit the St. Louis fair, and she will be there. Another victory for Mr. Dave Francis.

Castro made a home run when he consented to hold office "until peace and order are restored in Venezuela." He will die in the harness.

Up to the present writing the Georgia peach crop is safe, and as for the melon crop there is never any question.

The Hon. Reed Smoot has been sufficiently advertised to be able to draw good houses as a popular lecturer.

A strike of staffmakers is reported from the West, but we are assured that they are not corn and wheat raisers.

And now the question arises: how much of the business boom will be taken hence to Panama?

All fools will have their inning on Wednesday.

Chicago anticipates much difficulty in enforcing her new anti-smoke ordinance.

Anyhow, Mrs. Burdick will not lecture.

North Carolina Sentiment.

The Concord Tribune makes this interesting note:

"'Tis said that the lettuce crop of Cumberland will bring into the county more than $50,000. This is quite a neat sum to realize on the lettuce beds, and proves that there is money to be made in many sections of the State on such crops."

The Winston-Salem Sentinel fires this center shot:

"The South, on its part, is not doing anything to close the sectional breach when it sends Senator Tillman up North to make speeches. He has the unhappy faculty of saying the wrong thing at the right time. Taking it home to ourselves, we would not stand for being abused right at our faces."

The Raleigh News-Observer furnishes this bit of information:

"The passage of the Watts act and many local temperance acts by the Legislature was but the first gun in the battle to shut up the saloons and dry up the stills in North Carolina. A great Anti-Saloon State Convention will be held on July 7th and plans matured for a vigorous campaign in scores of towns in the State this summer and fall."

The Durham Herald says:

"We claim to be a little ahead of Virginia, for we believe the Legislature would have voted a handsome appropriation if it had been our exposition."

Personal and General.

W. B. Crowinshield, a brother of the Admiral, who recently resigned from the navy, is a day laborer at Bluffton, Ind., where he works as a horticulturist.

George D. Haworth, inventor of the first corn planter and other agricultural instruments, died last Tuesday in Decatur, Ill.

President Jordan, of Stanford University, worked his way through Cornell by waiting on the table, husking corn and digging ditches.

Frederick R. Coudert, the foremost authority on international law in this country, is the son of a distinguished French family that was prominent in the Napoleonic wars.

Gilbert T. Walker, assistant to Sir John Eliot, reporter in meteorology in the Government of India and director of observatories, and who will succeed the latter on his retirement next December, has been in Washington for several weeks studying the workings of the United States Weather Bureau and collecting information that will be of benefit to him when he assumes his new duties.

Cost of School Houses.

Precisely why school houses in one city cost $90 per pupil and in another $151 per pupil must be left to the reader to conjecture. But the citizens of a town where the cost is at the latter figure might well be forgiven an attempt to find out why their houses were so much more expensive, and whether they were actually getting good value for the excess in cost. Mr. Gardner makes the sensible suggestion that "in itself, it is neither creditable nor discreditable for any city to have either the most expensive or the least expensive school buildings." That he says, depends on other things. And yet cost is a rather important factor in these days of multitudinous demands on the public purse. If a city find that on the whole its school houses are costing more than the school houses of cities of about its rank, there is at least a reason for looking up the matter with a view to knowing why. That is the way adopted by successful business men, who, while they do not steer their course by statistics, are not averse to discovering what statistics may mean.—New Bedford (Mass.) Standard.

Spring Time.

(For The Times-Dispatch.)

Winter's lef' us, bless de Lord,
De leaves am bustin' out,
En flowers er spillin' sweetness
Everywhar erbout.

Frogs is singin' "fishin' time,"
En 'skeeters hatchin', too,
But watermillions growin'
En skies am turnin' blue.

Flies is gettin' pesterin',
De sun shines jes' like gole,
En low groun's talkin' bisiness
Tur corn en cotton boll.

Nights is gettin' sof' en mild,
Hit won't be long, I know,
'Fore music be er dancin'
Frum fiddle en banjo.

Winter's lef' us, bless de Lord,
Niggers, git up en shout,
En thank Gawd for de springtime,
En turn yerselves erbout.

M. R. W.

Trend of Thought in Dixie Land

Macon Telegraph: We doubt if President Roosevelt reads the papers. Even a glance through the most prominent newspapers and periodicals of the North would show him how far out of touch he is in some particulars with the spirit of the intelligent public.

Louisville Courier-Journal: It is unfortunate that Senator Tillman is a Southern white man with a resistless yearning to make speeches in the North on the negro question. No proposition, however meritorious in itself, can be aided by Tillman's manner of championing it.

Memphis Commercial-Appeal: Mr. Bryan is entitled to his opinions, as is any other private Democrat, but the leadership of the party must go to other hands. He has made a pronounced failure of it, and it would be suicidal to make him chairman of the National Democratic Committee. The Deocratic party is no longer the tail to his kite.

Nashville American: It is a reflection on the Democratic party to mention W. R. Hearst as its possible candidate for President. His claim to distinction is that he is a rich man by inheritance and that he publishes three yellow newspapers. He is no speaker, and there is hardly a man connected with his yellows who is not his superior as a writer.

PRESTO
as quick as a wink

Men Prominent Before the Public.

The unanimous nomination of Carter H. Harrison, who is now serving his third term as Mayor of the city of Chicago, to succeed himself, by the Democratic Convention is taken by some to mean an endorsement of municipal ownership of street railways by the party. Mr. Harrison, though opposed by the most prominent Democratic newspaper of his city, received the unanimous vote of the delegates and men whom he favored were successful over their opponents for other offices within the gift of the city. Mr. Harrison has recently expressed himself as favoring the municipal ownership of the street railways and the proposition seems to have found favor in Chicago, which already has an electric lighting plant under control, for which good results are claimed.

Carter H. Harrison.

Senor Manuel Candamo, leader of the Civil party in Peru and the probable next president of that country, was born in Lima in 1841, studied in that city and finished his education in Paris. He traveled extensively through Europe and in the Orient, visiting China and Japan. On his return to Peru he entered the diplomatic service, and was appointed secretary of the Peruvian Legation in Chili. In 1871 he joined the Civil party, which was organized by Manuel Pardo. During the administration of the latter he was already well known as a thorough man of business, and became manager of one of the leading banks and a director of several financial and industrial institutions. In 1878 he became colonel in the National Guard, and later was elected Mayor of Lima. In the war with Chili he enlisted as a private in the reserve army that defended the capital, and fought in this capacity at the battle of Miraflores on January 15, 1881. After the fall of Lima he was deported to Chili, together with many of the leading citizens of Peru, and held a prisoner until the Treaty of Ancon was signed, in October, 1883.

Senor Candamo.

On his return to Peru he aided materially in the reorganization of the Civil party, and became an ardent partisan of General Caceres, who was fighting for the supremacy of the Constitution, which had been in abeyance since the war. When in 1886 General Caceres became Constitutional President, Senor Candamo was elected Senator from Lima, and shortly afterward was chosen president of the Senate.

Since then he has distinguished himself as an able politician, upright and sincere and progressive in his ideas.

Personally, Senor Candamo has no enemies, because his public career has been so honest and sincere that he is known to be a man all parties can trust, and if called upon to fill the presidency will govern solely for the good of the nation, irrespective of party politics.

Premier Combes, who has been having a hard time of it in the enforcing of the law of associations, is coming out ahead, and recently the French Chamber supported him in a vote of confidence with a good majority. The Premier is a remarkable man. Born of poor parents, he was educated in one of the very institutions which he has been called upon in the exercise of his duty to suppress. But while studying in these schools he even at that early age thought that they should be abolished. They were opposed to Republican institutions, he told the deputies in a recent speech, and were the fomenters of discord. All or nearly all of the instructors were royalists, and there was hardly one who would not have rejoiced to see a Bourbon descendant on the throne as King of France. Under these conditions, he said, it was impossible for the Republic to allow their continuance.

Premier Combes.

The Crown Prince of Sweden occupies a most unique position. He has been made regent, and so is the actual ruler of his father's dominions. This has come about from King Oscar's amiability. By the Constitution of the country the ruler has to spend four months of the year at the Norwegian capitol. The question of separate consulships is to be discussed in Parliament and other important matters also. King Oscar so readily makes promises which are at times embarrassing and impossible of fulfillment, that it was deemed best that he should feign illness and have his son made regent. The Prince has more iron in his nature, and when the legislators come to him with unreasonable demands they may expect to be turned down. The regency will not last longer than the four months. The Crown Prince is a direct contrast to his father, being silent and phlegmatic.

Prince of Sweden.

Mr. John Kendrick Bangs is the American humorist of to-day. He has recently accepted the editorship of the Metropolitan Magazine, and it is his idea to make the magazine come up to its name, and be really metropolitan. Mr. Bangs is a man of ability, though his serious work is less known to the public than is his humorous sketches. He is the author of "The Idiot" and "The House Board on the Styx," "Mr. Bonaparte of Corsica," is another of his productions, and the Who's What and Why series of biographies that have been running in a number of the Sunday newspapers, have furnished as much amusement, though, perhaps not to as many people as have the sayings of Mr. Dooley and the fables of George Ade.

John Kendrick Bangs.

Best in That Section.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch is one of the best papers circulating in this section. In addition to its fine array of State news, it gives all the general news worth knowing. The Sunday edition is especially fine and entertaining.—Rural Retreat Times.