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GOOD CHEER FOR TO-DAY. It is a beautiful thing to be a charming young lady, but the best of all is to be a charming, helpful old lady.—Charles Dudley Warner.

Mr. Slomp and Public Schools. Representative Campbell Slomp is not noted, we believe, for the care which he exercises in matters of speech. Indeed, those who know the Ninth District congressman best affirm that he is prone to regard thought as a matter of secondary importance, as compared to speech.

The average length of the school term in 1885 was a fraction over five months. The average length of the public school term in Virginia this year was nearly seven months.

School funds raised by State and district taxation in 1885 amounted to \$206,520.62. The sum of State and district taxation for school purposes in 1905 was \$1,068,192.21.

A Democratic Legislature founded the State Female Normal School at Farmville, for the education of public school teachers at nominal expense, and rehabilitated William and Mary College, where young men are trained to teach in the public schools at a small cost.

Although the University of Virginia, the Virginia Military Institute are parts of the public school system of Virginia, we have not referred to them and the wonderful improvements accomplished in each, under the beneficent care of a Democratic administration. When Mr. Slomp used the term, "public schools," he referred, we have no doubt, to the common or primary schools.

Hard On Volunteer Officers. A board of officers appointed by the Secretary of War to ascertain how many of the commissioned men of State volunteers are competent to serve as officers in the regular army in case of necessity, has reported that it has found only eighteen men thus qualified.

Judge Lewis Was Inaccurate. Judge Lewis is making some rather careless statements concerning conditions in the State government, in his speech at Harrisonburg Saturday he attacked the method of bookkeeping in use in the office of the Auditor of Public Accounts, and said it was impossible to tell within ten thousand dollars the exact amount stolen by J. H. Shepherd, the clerk who was convicted of embezzling State funds several years ago.

be any method of ascertaining this fact with anything like even approximate correctness save through an examination. All volunteer officers have to be examined for commissions in the State service, possibly the War Department board had access to the results of these examinations.

But even these would not be conclusive. Members of the police force in some cities are selected from those who stand an examination conducted under civil service rules. It has never been demonstrated that there is any direct connection between the amount of information an applicant has regarding the flora and fauna of Thibet, or the physical characteristics of Uranus, and his fitness to wear a blue coat and wield a billy.

A military education is most desirable in the case of an army officer, but if he has not grit, and the faculty of making his soldiers try to do the thing he wants them to do, his school training will not supply the lack of them.

Loomis is Going. The latest news regarding Francis B. Loomis is even better than that which came first. He is to leave the State Department, where he has held the position of first assistant secretary since early in 1903, but he will not be appointed to a diplomatic post abroad, as was stated in earlier reports. He will retire to private life, absolutely unregretted so far as anybody can learn.

The connection of Loomis with alleged scandals in Venezuela during his term as minister to that country appears not to have been established to the satisfaction of the President and of Secretary Taft, who investigated the charges made by Minister Bowen. Mr. Bowen was dismissed from the diplomatic service, and Mr. Loomis was sent abroad to represent the State Department at the ceremonies in Paris and Chebourg in connection with the removal of the remains of John Paul Jones from French soil.

Southern Finances. Fifty-one banks have been established in Virginia since March, 1900. Their aggregate capital is \$2,576,000. Thirty-one of them have less than \$50,000 capital each, while twenty have more than that sum.

President Roosevelt has let it be known in Washington that he disapproves of the plan set on foot by the several thousand employees of the government in the city of Washington to give him an ovation when he returns to the capital from Oyster Bay.

Discharging an Obligation. We cordially congratulate our morning contemporary on the success of its first Monday morning issue. It was a departure which we have been expecting for some time.

Our contemporary has our best wishes for its success in the Monday morning field.—Richmond Evening Journal.

Judge Lewis's statement is striking. But it is true, though we do not charge that he would intentionally make a misstatement regarding this or any other subject. The truth of the matter is, Colonel Morton Myrre, the Auditor of Public Accounts, knows to within a penny the exact amount taken by Shepherd.

Endowed Athletics. The so-called "literature of exposure," which writers of the Steffens-Lawson-Tarbell type have developed so rampantly in recent years, has touched, among other things, on the misdemeanors of college athletics; and a couple of months ago we were told by one of the most widely-read of all our magazines that sport at our big universities had fallen upon most unhappy days, and that sharp practice and even dishonesty were now-a-days all too evident on every side.

Steel centres report billets as being in briek demand. Even though you wouldn't know a billet if you met it in the road, you'll probably know enough to tell it from a billet doux.

Practically all the unpleasant features of athletics at our universities spring from a single cause—the overmastering desire to win at all costs. To the unworthy end of victory for its own sake various gentlemen's pastimes have been largely degraded to the status of mere professionalism.

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HEAVY TIMBERS For Wharves, Bridges, Trestles, Derricks, Large Buildings and other work requiring Southern LONG LEAF YELLOW PINE. In our ten yards, covering seven acres, we carry the LARGEST STOCK IN THE STATE, and we respectfully solicit a share of your patronage. WOODWARD & SON, Lumbermen, Richmond, Va.

known as automobile. Literally translated the name suggested means an evil smelling baker. We would suggest "carus foetidus," i. e., an evil-smelling chariot or wagon. But we will not quarrel with our friend over a question of terminology. We may not call the machine by the same name, but we both think the same thing when it passes us in the road.

Mr. Shaw wishes it understood that the rumor of his approaching resignation from the Cabinet ought always to be yoked with the rumor of his presidential boom. A good many people show a disposition to forget the latter rumor.

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As to Continued Papers. Fayetteville, N. C., Aug. 31. Editor The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Dismissing in toto from your comment on a query from some correspondent in it an issue of yesterday, in which you virtually held that a subscriber who takes his paper out of the office after his time has run out, is implicitly a rogue and a rascal if he refuses to pay for continuous enforced subscription, in a colloquy in the lobby of the H. B. store on twenty years ago, the question was incidentally raised as to the effect of the law, as it then stood, bearing on the subject. By unanimous verdict it was adjudged unjust and irrational, consensus of opinion being that onus of responsibility for non-discontinuance was in the printing house, and not at the postoffice of delivery, or, to be concise, on the editor instead of the subscriber.

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date for the majority of New York in 1880 and was defeated. Bull Bats and Martins. Editor Times-Dispatch: Sir,—It is unlawful to kill bull-bats, leather-winged bats and martins? A SUBSCRIBER. Lynchburg, Va., 1905. There is nothing in the Code forbidding the shooting of bats of either variety. The shooting of martins is forbidden.

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THE WEATHER. Forecast for Virginia and North Carolina—Partly cloudy Wednesday and Thursday; light, variable winds, becoming northeast. South Carolina—Fair Wednesday and Thursday; light, variable winds.

CONDITIONS YESTERDAY. Richmond's weather was pleasantly clear, and, with the exception of some cloudiness in the forenoon and evening, clear. Range of the thermometer: Clear. 9 A. M. 70 10 P. M. 60 12 M. 50 3 P. M. 70 12 M. 50 Average 65-2-2.

MINIATURE ALMANAC. Sun rises 5:54. Sets 6:32. Moon sets 11:47. HIGH TIDE. Morning 10:10. Evening 10:14.

RHYMES FOR TODAY. Truckmen I Have Heard of. I hate the country's stouth pleasure, it's brooding peace and rustic joys; Give me the city's livelier measures, I love me the crowds and lights and noise.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY. September 6th. 1678—Fonge and Oates furnished a narrative of a plot to overturn the English government.

Our First Anniversary Sale. To show our appreciation of the public patronage during the first year of our business, we will, for thirty days, throw down the bars and offer over a entire stock of our Drugs, Medicines, Toilet and Household Goods at prices that will be of great saving to the purchaser.

BLANKS. The Prescription Druggist. 214 EAST BROAD STREET, 110 WEST CLAY STREET, 623 B. F. BROADWAY, 333 SOUTH PINE STREET, 2801 VENABLE STREET, 725 N. TWENTY-EIGHTH ST., SHINE'S DRUG STORE, Twenty-eighth and Broad Sts.