State Corporation Commission of Virginia. From a conscientious, high sense of duty they have been silent under these attacks until the legislative body of this State have come and called for the facts at their hands. They welcome that call, and feel grateful that their tongues have been loosed, and the facts as to which they have been silent for all these weary days are now before this committee and before the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I shall not discuss these facts, so far as they relate to Major Lanier and Mr. Upshur, unless it is essential to a consideration of the facts developed by this evidence as to the position of Judge Crump.

Now, from this testimony, as here, with all its mass, it is perfectly easy and clear to determine what has been Judge Crump's connection with all of these unfortunate troubles, and to determine whether in these matters he has been indiscreet, whether he has been to blame, or whether he has been guilty of any wrong.

There are three things that this evidence shows that Judge Crump has done, and none other. First, Major Lanier advised with him as to whether he should organize the Virginia Corporation Company, incorporated; there is no question of that fact. Second, that Judge Crump did know that Mr. Campbell, the general counsel of that company worked at the rooms of the commission at night. Third that Judge Crump was a subscriber to a share of stock of the Virginia Corporation Company, incorporated. And these are the only three facts established by this testimony, or claimed to be established, in connection with which he can be criticized, considered with reference to this unfortunate affair.

Give Lanier Warning.

Now let us consider these facts more in detail. Let us read them in connection with all of the testimony, and let us see if there have been any impressions there as to the formation of the company. Judge Crump has explained to this committee too well that this commission was overworked and that a great deal of routine would be saved to the commission if those details were attended to orderly and properly by those familiar with them.

In addition to that it would proclaim to those outside the State the advantages of the corporation laws of Virginia; they are regarded by those familiar with them as very great and in some respects superior to any State of the Union. He felt that any such institution of that kind, properly conducted, would be of great good to Virginia and a great relief to the commission. But when an employe of the commission goes to organize a company of that sort—and I recognize the indiscretion of an employe of the commission holding stock in a company of that sort, what did Judge Crump say—"Yes, get up such a company." But what else did he say to Major Lanier? "Major, get up a company, but be careful to have no official connection with that company and do nothing to mix its affairs with your duties as clerk of this commission." Is there any intelligent body of men that can say that anything there reflects upon Judge Crump, his integrity or his fitness for the position he fills with such distinguished ability and with such high character?

Unwise? Yes. God Almighty has put into our prayer not to lead us into temptation, and it was a temptation for Major Lanier to own stock in a company that he could benefit as an employe of the commission. And Judge Crump erred therein, and that was the head and front of his offending.

Is there any doubt about Judge Crump having warned Major Lanie? Major Lanier has said that he consulted freely with Judge Crump. He has never said that Judge Crump was familiar with the acts of the employes of the commission in aiding the Virginia Corporation Company. As often as he has risen to his feet, he has never made that charge. But when examined by the commissioners, these facts were pointed out to him, and he said to Judge Crump: "You, sir, approved of my going in and organizing this company." "Oh, yes, but I warned you not to have any official connection with it and not to permit it to mingle with your duties as an employe of this commission." This is his admission; it is testified to by all three of the commissioners, and Major Lanier admitted on that occasion that it is true, and he has never denied it on the stand here. Mr. Fairfax testified on that; he said that his understanding of the warning of Judge Crump was that it covered all these transactions that went on in the offices of the commission. Was there any indiscretion there?

As an abstract proposition, can you say it is more than unwise for an employe to get up such a company, had it properly conducted and had no official connection with it, and not have mingled it with the affairs of the commission. He would have been placed, however, in the position of temptation, and where he might be criticised, and where he was liable to be led by his interests into unwise acts. Isn't that all there is to it? Had Major Lanier lived up to what Judge Crump told him, would there have been all of this talk, would there have been all of this investigation? I say no, there would have been nine.

What more: take the second fact, and that is that Judge Crump knew that Mr. Campbell was working at the offices of the commission at night. Judge Crump has stated, and it is not contradicted, that he knew of this by complaints, I believe, but he said that his opinion was that that office should not be opened at night; but if Mr. Campbell wanted to work there and one of his employes came there and supervised him, that he thought he might do so. There was nothing wrong in that; nothing unfitting to Judge Crump's high position and high character as a man.

One Remaining Fact.

These are two of the facts. The third and the only other fact, and there is no testimony of anything else in this cace except these, is that Judge Crump subscribed to one share of stock upon which he had not paid a dollar at the time of this occurrence.

He paid fifty dollars afterwards and sold it in the open market. Let us look at men's motives that color their acts.

Indiscreet? But let us see if we cannot find the touch-stone by which it questions that act and see what it means and whether his conduct has not lived up to that. There is no evidence that my friend had the slightest interest in the company, that he ever attended a meeting of the stockholders. He had no connection with it himself, but lived up to the warning that he had given Major Lanier. He never was an officer of that company and he never mingled it with the affairs of the State Corporation Commission—absolutely, never.

The Wiser Course.

Regarding Lanier, Mr. Hunton said:

"I thoroughly agree with the statement of Mr. Stuart that it would have been wiser to have demanded of Mr. Lanier his resignation without giving any cause therefor at all. I, however, say, and I say without fear of successful contradiction, that, in my judgment, if any one of the five members of this committee were faced with that situation, and believed, as this commission believed, that Major Lanier was guilty of no intentional wrong-doing, however indiscreet he had been, I do not believe that any one of you five members of this committee would have undertaken to brand Lanier and send him out with a stain upon his character, while believing that he intended no wrong; I say that no one of you five men would have undertaken to send him out with a brand upon him and a stain upon his character, when you believed that he had only been indiscreet, that though he had overstepped the bounds of propriety, and so far as keeping him as an employe was concerned the possibility was gone, yet you had not lost your idea of his integrity of purpose.

I say that no member of the committee would have undertaken or sought to brand a man under those conditions, when there were two reasons for his dismissal, one of which was no reflection upon his character. There is not a man of proper sense and of proper heart and of proper human kindness who would not have given that man the advantage of integrity of purpose that this commission believed that he had.

Is there anything for criticism there? If there is, God knows it was done in behalf of a young man whom they believed intended no wrong, but who committed wrong, and whose usefulness was destroyed as an employe of that commission.

Gentlemen, it is so easy after a thing is over and done, to look back and condemn an act which looked straight and simple at the time the act was done. I say that criticism after an event is easy, while the conduct at the time is a matter of difficulty and doubt and uncertainty.

What was the occasion for an investigation? They called these men in, one of them a stockholder in this company and the other two having no official connection and no financial interest in it, but merely employes of the Virginia Corporation Company, incorporated, an employe; would you have had a formal trial and presented charges, unless there was grave doubt about the matter and you wanted to find out whether it was true or not? They called this man in, after telling Upshur, "Stay here, we want you, we may need you." They called Lanier in and talked with him in the freest, frankest way. It develops what he has done, and it develops facts that they regard as improper, and that disqualify him as an employe of the commission, though done absolutely openly, without concealment, under the very eye, some of them, of Mr. Upshur himself. The very rubber stamp was left openly in his desk. He attempts to defend himself and says that he has done no wrong at all. They point out to him, in the candid way that it seems to me it becomes every superior to deal with the men under him—they point out to Major Lanier wherein he has done wrong to this commission and to himself.

No Use of It.

Speaking in defense of the commission not granting Lanier an investigation, Mr. Hunton said:

What was to be gained by it? They had gotten all the facts necessary to convince them that it was not wise for him to stay; they determined that he could not stay. If there had been any doubt in their minds as to the wisdom of keeping him, they might have investigated further, but there was no difficulty in their minds in determining that he was no longer a proper employe. And so with Newby and so with Tyler. Is there anything wrong there? Haven't they done their full duty in these respects? Haven't they discharged it in the highest, most considerate way, and yet with absolute regard for the welfare of the Commonwealth of Virginia?

And yet those men have been in a position of crucifixion, and they have been attacked and assailed, and their mouths remained closed? Why? Because Mr. Upshur, the chief clerk of that commission, who had supervision of that office, came to them and reported the improper conduct on the part of their employes, and was threatened with a libel suit, and was sued; and these men, realizing that they wanted the employes of that commission to understand that whenever any of them came to them and reported that a fellow-employe had been guilty of wrong-doing, had been guilty, of that which was prejudicial to the good of this commission and prejudicial to the good of this State, under circumstances of crucifixion, the commission itself would stand by that man and protect him to the best of their ability, suffer as they might under the terrific conditions to which they have been subjected!

High Conduct His.

Could there have been higher conduct than that on the part of any three men? Reflect upon how long they have borne these horrible attacks. Reflect upon how long they have borne them in silence, on account of their duty to their chief clerk, their high duty to satisfy a man and a clerk who brings them information of wrong-doing, that he will be protected.

I know how they thank God that you have given them an opportunity to bring all of these facts and circumstances before this committee and the Legislature and the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ah, they have borne it, and borne it patiently and borne it bravely.

But there was one man who had the key that could have unlocked the situation, and but one man until the Legislature directed this investigation, and that is the man that they were protecting. They said to him, "Major Lanier has demanded a copy of these charges of us, and we do not want you to understand that because we do not give them up, you are not to give them up."

And ever since the 30th of May, 1905, believe, as was stated by Mr. Stuart, the only man in the Commonwealth of Virginia that held the key to the situation, and who could have disclosed all of these facts, was John A. Upshur, and he failed to do it! And he has not given out that letter, because it would put him in the position of having made charges, and he was not willing for them to go to the public while there was a libel suit against him. They meant to stand by him under those circumstances, high men as they are, whatever the consequences might be! Far be it from me to be severe or harsh on him. Yet with this opinion of the Attorney-General of Virginia declareing that paper to be a privileged communication, and with the commission holding that it must not be given to the public, this chief clerk, who has permitted them to suffer in silence all of these weary months, quietly tells this committee that he has given the newspapers this privileged communication, belonging to the files of this commission!

Those are the facts; those are the facts. Is there anything there except the highest and most gentlemanly and the nicest feeling on the part of these gentlemen in all of this whole transaction?

Not Indiscretion.

Indiscretion? Far be it from me to say that my friend has not been indiscreet. I recognize and accept it, and it is his splendid and honorable character to which that indiscretion is due. Because of simplicity and purity and character of life, there is his superior nowhere, in my judgment, in this Commonwealth. And the very simplicity of the man makes another to come before him and lay on him his troubles. Major Lanier comes to him for information and advice on his private affairs. Those are the qualities of the man, and, as is so often the case with a man of those high traits, a lack of worldly wisdom is coupled with that legal acumen which has safely guided this commission as it traveled through unknown fields and over unknown ground, and safely guided them through all of the difficulties that have beset them, and, to my great regret, there was yesterday affirmed against me in the Tidewater Railroad case the correct decision of the same learned lawyer who alone could have furnished the legal ability to those other gentlemen, who, with all their ability, are not lawyers.

Indiscreet, learned, wise and able, he is the man, yes, who told Lanier that he might organize such a company as that for the benefit of the Commonwealth and the benefit of the commission and the benefit of himself. That was the man who said: "Yes you can work there if you have an employe of the commission with you, but I don't think the office ought to be open at night." That was the man who said such a company ought to be organized, and you remember there is testimony that he urged the organization of other companies. I say that was a man who might be misled because of the simple, earnest faith of the man and his belief that everybody, until he found him wrong, was of the same high plane as himself.

Thank God They Are Out.

I do thank God, gentlemen of the committee, that these facts are out and are before the public. That these things which have been exaggerated, from the fact that they were unknown, and about which these gentlemen were compelled to keep silent, are now before the people of this Commonwealth. I say there is nothing in them that would cause any member of that body to feel ashamed from any fact that comes forth.

Indiscretion? I admit it, and it is undenied. There is nothing in this case but that which reflects honor upon the Virginia gentlemen.

I trust that this committee will feel it their duty under this evidence to report that there is nothing in any facts detailed before them but an indiscretion on the part of the chairman of this commission in taking a share of this stock and, if you choose, in agreeing that an employe might undertake to organize such a company, but warning him at the same time to have no official connection with that company and not to mingle its business with the affairs of this commission.

I feel that it is not possible to go into the facts with the limited time before me. I thank you, gentlemen, for your attention.

Chairman Byrd:

"The committee will now arise to meet in executive session on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

T. A. Miller,

Incorporated.

FOUR DRUG STORES.

Rubber Gloves,

The Soft, Pliable Kind, Only

49c

Usual Price, 75c. to $1.00.

These Gloves are Indispensable to Housekeepers.

BROAD STREET PHARMACY, 519 East Broad Street.

JEFFERSON HOTEL PHARMACY, Jefferson Hotel.

CHESTERFIELD PHARMACY, The Chesterfield Flats.

RED CROSS PHARMACY, Corner Cherry and Cary Streets.

FREQUENT BURNING OF LITTLE CHILDREN

Three Seriously Injured and One Dies From the Effects

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

DANVILLE, VA., March 2.—Three children have been seriously burned here during the past several days, one of the victims dying yesterday. Wednesday evening Richard Adams, the four-year-old son of Sam Adams, a cotton-mill operative of Schoolfield, was playing before an open fireplace, when his clothing caught afire. Nearly all of the clothing was burned off. The mother of the boy had her hands frightfully burned in her effort to save the child's life. Death came yesterday after twenty-four hours of intense suffering.

Little Bessie Axsom, aged four years, and the child of E. R. Axsom, also a mill operative, is at the hospital here suffering from burns sustained while playing with a torch. The skin on over half of the child's body has been burned away, and the only hope of saving the life of the little one is by grafting new skin on the raw places.

Bertha Rickman, aged six years, and child of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rickman, was badly burned several days ago by turning the contents of a pot of boiling coffee on herself. She is getting along nicely and will recover.

Missionaries From Japan.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Cowman, of Tokio, Japan, arrived in this city yesterday, and will remain several days, conducting services at the West End Rescue Mission, No. 727 West Cary Street, during the Missionary and Holiness Convention now being held in the Mission. Mr. and Mrs. Cowman have a Bible school and two Rescue Gospel Missions in Tokio. There will be three services at the West End Mission to-morrow and every day next week—11 A. M., 3:30 and 8 P. M.

NOTED SPEAKERS.

Sir Mortimer Durrand and Others Address Immense Audience.

(By Associated Press.)

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 2.—Distinguished speakers appeared before the student volunteer convention at both its sessions to-day, and the eleven conference meetings held during the afternoon were also addressed by notables in the field of Christian labor. To-night, despite a storm of wind and rain, the auditorium was packed.

Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, British ambassador at Washington; John W. Foster, former Secretary of State; H. B. F. Macfarland, president of the District of Columbia commissioners, and J. A. Macdonald, of Toronto, were heard.

Died in West Point.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WEST POINT, VA., March 2.—Mrs. Lee, the mother of Mrs. A. F. Smither, after ill health for several months, died this morning. She was from King and Queen county, and a member of the Baptist Church. Dr. C. V. Waugh will conduct the funeral exercises.

GUTH'S BEAUTIFUL CAFE OPENS TO-DAY

Decorators' Art Has Been Almost Exhausted in Making Place Attractive.

To-day will witness the opening of another new cafe in Richmond—one that is modern and up-to-date in every particular, and one that will suit the fancy of the most fastidious. The new place is the Guth Chocolate Company, situated at No. 309 East Broad Street.

The store and cafe have been arranged with the view of giving comfort, absolute cleanliness and the best of service to each patron. The cafe is located on the second floor and is reached by an elevator of the most modern design. The cuisine is in charge of one of Chicago's most noted chefs, who will personally superintend the cooking and serving of the articles on the menu. Expense has not been spared in the construction, and it will not be in the maintenance of the handsome store. The management promises that the latest creation, the newest and most appetizing dishes will continually be served. Special attention will be given to dainty club lunches.

As the cafe is extremely cosy and well adapted for rendezvous, it will afford an excellent place to spend a pleasant half-hour during the day while shopping. Guth chocolates and bon-bons have a national reputation, because of their extra fine quality and the unvarying standard that is maintained in the selection of the materials used for their manufacture. The candy will be put up in specially imported baskets, which in their originality cover a wide variety of ideas.

Besides all this, the store will have the most improved soda water fountain and will serve both hot and cold drinks.

The place was beautifully furnished and fitted by A. Alperin & Company, who did the painting and decorating; L. A. Becker Company, who erected the soda fountain and the onyx tables; R. L. Peters, who did the sign work, and by the Taylor Electric Company, who did all the electric wiring.

COL. HUGHES HAPPY.

His Hounds Capture Prize Under Most Adverse Conditions.

Colonel W. T. Hughes, proprietor of the Mecklenburg Hotel, Chase City, was one of the happiest men in Washington last night. His hounds, under great disadvantages, won the second prize, with the English pack third. The first report that reached Richmond was to the effect that the hounds did not reach Washington at all, through a failure to make proper connection at Keysville, but this was erroneous, and Colonel Hughes is confident that had there been no delay he would have captured the first prize.

REAR-END COLLISION.

Conductor Has One Leg and Both Hands Crushed.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

BRISTOL, TENN., March 2.—As the result of a rear-end collision between freight trains on the Southern Railway to-day, Conductor Edward Goodin, of Morristown, had one leg and both hands and arms crushed. His condition is critical. The cab he occupied was torn to pieces. A flagman on the same train was injured.

VIRGINIA BRIEFS

Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

BRISTOL, VA., March 2.—Following an important lease made yesterday to the Lee Coal Company, a Kentucky corporation, the Black Mountain Coal Lands Company to-day leased to the Dominion Coal Company, composed of Ohio capitalists, a 700-acre tract of valuable coal lands in Lee county, Va., and the lessees will establish mining operations. The company's capital is $50,000.

BIG STONE GAP, VA.—The extension of the Interstate Railroad, which is being constructed between Appalachia and Norton, Va., will soon be completed. The track is now being laid and trains will be running over the road within sixty days.

CHATHAM, VA.—Joseph Webster, of Langdon, N. D., who recently purchased the farm of F. A. Van Denburg, near Chatham, for $9,000, took possession of his purchase on Thursday. Mr. Van Denburg will leave this week for Richmond with his family, where they will reside in the future.

DANVILLE, VA.—Sheriff Lee, of Greensville county, arrived in the city today for Ryland Hicks, a desperate negro criminal. Hicks is wanted here for highway robbery, having robbed an aged darky several months ago. He is also an escape from the chain gang.

NORFOLK, VA.—Harold L. Albert, of Portsmouth, has acceded to the demands of the Plumbers' Union, and his men will return to work Monday. J. J. Gallagher, speaking for the striking workmen, says there will be no compromise in the demand for the wage scale and for eight hours to constitute a day's work. Gallagher also says that the statement given out that the masters agreed to meet the striking plumbers half way is erroneous.

STAUNTON, VA.—On Thursday while Mr. W. H. Dryden was digging up a gas pipe an Sear's Hill he struck an opening to the Sear's Hill cave, and felt himself gradually going down, but after descending several feet he succeeded in extricating himself. The cave is very deep, and when one throws a rock into it a person at the entrance cannot hear it strike bottom. An effort will be made to fill the cave with rock.

URBANNA, VA.—The steamer Potomac, which went ashore near here during the snow-storm Tuesday, has not been pulled off yet.

WINCHESTER, VA.—After spending a large sum of money on improvements at the Taylor Hotel, one of the most famous civil war hostelries in the South, J. T. Ritchhart, who signed a long lease last fall left to-day for Chicago, not intending to return. He made a statement to the effect that he had been unable to regain the hotel's former extensive trade. Some of his personal property has been attached by A. L. Shearer, agent for Miss Robins, the owner. Ritchhart was formerly a hotel manager at South Omaha, Neb.

DIED AT AGE OF NINETY.

Mrs. W. H. Harrison Leaves Her Husband Alone at Ninety-two.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

CHESTNUT, AMHERST COUNTY, VA., March 2.—Mrs. W. H. Harrison died at her home near here last Monday and was buried Tuesday in the family burying-ground, in the presence of a large gathering of relatives and friends. She had reached the ripe old age of ninety years, and is survived by her aged husband, who is at the advanced age of ninety-two years.

Mrs. Harrison was a Miss Foster, of Appomattox county, and came from a widely connected and very old family, and she was a descendant of a Revolutionary soldier.

Three daughters survive her, as well as her aged husband Mrs. C. H. Foster and Mrs. R. N. Stinnett, and a maiden daughter, Miss Bettie who is about sixty years of age.

Fell From His Engine.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

CREWE, VA., March 2.—Mr. Volston, fireman on the Norfolk and Western, had a fall from his engine to-day while nearing Wilson's Station and hurt himself badly. The extent of his injuries cannot be determined as yet. He is at Sydnor's boarding house.

He is from North Carolina and this was his first trip as fireman.

VOICE TO PEOPLE IN MAKING LAWS

Guarantees of Liberty Granted in Russia and a Manifesto Issued.

HAVE ASSEMBLY AND COUNCIL

Both to Have Power to Initiate Legislation Which Does Not Affect Fundamental Laws.

(By Associated Press.)

ST. PETERSBURG, March 2.—As the result of a series of special councils, held at Tsarskoe-Selo, the main guarantees of liberty have been granted and a manifesto has been ordered to be coded and incorporated in the fundamental laws of the empire.

No law will hereafter be effective without the approval of the National Assembly and Council of the empire. The latter body will consist of an equal number of appointed and elected members taken from the clergy, nobility, zemstovs, Academy of Science, universities, trade and industry.

There will be two houses, both of which will have power to initiate legislation, which does not affect the fundamental laws of the empire, the question of succession, etc. The annual sessions will be convoked and closed by imperial ukase.

Both the Council of the Empire and the National Assembly will enjoy the right to interpellate ministers for alleged unlawful acts. The sessions will be public.

VIGOROUS PROTEST AGAINST LOBBYING

Senator Fulton Rakes the System of Importuning for the State Colleges.

Senator Fulton, of Warren county, in a speech of great earnestness, raised a vigorous protest during the afternoon session of the Senate yesterday against what he stigmatized as a shameful lobby maintained in the Capitol by the public institutions of Virginia, and declared that the time had come when some effective check should be administered to the ever-increasing demands of the State colleges, and plainly intimated that more important general objects were in his judgment suffering, while the spoils in the treasury were parceled out among the swarm or money-seekers representing special interests.

"When I came to this Senate two years ago, more or less unfamiliar with legislative methods," declared the senator from Warren, in effect, "I discovered a condition which brought the blush of shame to my cheek. I refer to the lobbyists sent to this General Assembly by the State colleges and universities, who stood forever knocking at the doors uttering their demands. I have returned to the Senate again and find the same conditions.

I spoke not of the man who came simply to lay before the General Assembly the conditions in the schools, as is their duty, and then leave, but of the others who are here from the beginning of the session until the end, or at least until they get all the money they want, when they suddenly vanish. They arrive here early in the session, find out the condition of the treasury with reference to the surplus, and after that it is simply a question of dividing the spoils. Everything else has to content itself with what is left, if there is anything left.

While these colleges thus have men here plying the General Assembly with arguments for special favors, great objects like the primary school system have to rely entirely upon what individual members of this Senate can do for their benefit."

Mr. Fulton also objected to the primary and high school departments of the Farmville Normal School, from which, he said, but sixty teachers a year are given the State.

Senator Thomas to some extent agreed with the Warren senator, and a discussion of much interest and spirit followed, in which some half a dozen senators joined.

By a practically unanimous vote, the Senate Committe for Courts of Justice yesterday afternoon decided to report favorably, without amendment, the bill providing that in the event of the consolidation of Richmond and Manchester, the latter city shall retain its present court, to be known as Division No. 1 of the Hustings Court of the city of Richmond.

Strenuous opposition to the bill was made by representatives from Richmond, including City Attorney Pollard, who declared that a separate court was not necessary, and that if it should become necessary in time, the City Council could deal with the question. On the other hand, it was held, among other things, that the location of the two cities, with a river between them, and the fact that Richmond courts are already claimed by some to be so congested as to demand a new court, whether the consolidation occurs or not, made it necessary that Manchester should have a court of its own. The committee, with the exception of one member, took this view.

The question is one of the very greatest importance, upon which the fate of the consolidation plan itself may depend.

The Senate Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns spent a long session last night considering the proposed new Norfolk charter. While no vote was reached, the committee practically agreed to all the amendments proposed by the House committee, and added one additional of its own, forbidding the city to engage in the water supply business outside the corporate limits. This protects the Pender Water Works now operating in the suburbs. Several gentlemen representing the city, were present and spoke. The committee will meet again this morning at 10 o'clock, at which time it will report the bill favorably, as amended.

The House Finance Committee last night reported a bill making the Bank of Commerce and Trusts, of this city, a State depository.

Hon. John J. Owen, member of the House from Prince Edward, who was stricken with an attack of acute indigestion on Thursday, has fully recovered and has resumed his legislative duties.

Christian Science Service.

At First Church of Christ, Scientist, lesson sermon to-morrow morning is on "Substance," and the line of argument is that God's thoughts, perfect and eternal, are the only real substance, while human conceptions, being material and temporal, involve error, and are the counterfeits of the spiritual and eternal.

One of the familiar and picturesque sights of Paris is the postage stamp market, which meets, both in summer and winter, under the trees of the Champs Elysees. Here stamp collectors meet, buy and sell and discuss prices.

Insomnia

is generally caused by exhaustion of the nerve forces. Revive, rebuild and replenish them. Don't use dangerous drugs to do it, but try

Fehr's Malt Tonic

It enters the system through the blood, and feeds the nerve centers with the food they need. A simple combination of health-building and nerve-making foods. It soothes like a mother's voice at the cradle side. You will awake in the morning with a rested body and a clear mind.

FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS

FEHR'S MALT TONIC DEPT., Louisville, Ky.

OVER 100 LIVES ARE LOST IN A TORNADO

(Continued From First Page.)

town. Nearly every house on Front Street is reported to have been demolished. The Armour packing plant, from which this message was received by long distance, is the only building left standing, and the roof of this is gone. Fire broke out in the ruins, and despite the heavy rain the flames were burning fiercely when this report was filed. A number of bodies are reported to be in the ruins, and the rescuers are working by candle light.

The city is in total darkness, the electric lighting plant having been put out of business. The cyclone did severe damage at other points adjacent to Meridian and all trains entering Meridian are delayed indefinitely. The Western Union Telegraph Company reported having lost fifteen miles of wire, and the Postal Telegraph Company also suffered great damage.

The wires are down between Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis and other points, and it is impossible to secure communication with the stricken city.

Fire Rages Into Night.

A private long distance message received from Meridian, Miss., at 9:40 P. M., says the fire is raging in the devastated district. The work of rescue is going bravely on, but owing to all lights being out lanterns and candles are being used, and the work is necessarily slow. It is thought that 150 bodies are in the wreckage. The Union depot is one of the buildings blown away. The telegraph wires are still down between Meridian, Mobile and other points.

A Heavy Rain-Storm.

A long distance message to the Item from J. D. Breaux, service man of the Cumberland Telpehone Company at Meridian, Miss., gives details of the cyclone that struck Meridian at 6:30 this evening, as follows:

"During a heavy rainstorm at 6:40 o'clock a storm cloud developed in the south and moved quickly over the city, striking Front Street, the business centre, with full force. The wind was probably blowing 75 miles an hour. The cyclone passed over in about two minutes, and during that period three of four whole squares were devastated. A conservative estimate places the number of buildings blown down at between thirty and forty. Among the heaviest losers are the Meyer and Neville Hardware Company; Tom Lyle & Company, wholesale dry goods and groceries; the New Orleans and Northeastern railroad freight depot and other buildings, the names of which are not obtainable at this hour.

The Mobile and Ohio depot is safe as well as the Southern Hotel, but the Grand Avenue Hotel was considerably damaged. The guests in the latter building escaped and no one was injured.

Loss of Life Small.

From the business center the cyclone jumped to the East End, where a number of residences were blown down and others badly damaged. Mr. Breaux states that the number of lives lost is small, probably not more than three or four persons. One of the victims, a man named Johnson, is hemmed in by the wreckage and at 10 o'clock to-night he was reached by the rescuing party, to whom he spoke and begged them to hurry and extricate him.

Several fires were started as a result of the cyclone, but the only one of serious consequence was that in one of the compresses. All fires were extinguished by 10 P. M.

Mr. Breaux reports all trains entering the city on time.

Wires of the telegraph companies are still down.

OVER FIFTY ARE DEAD AND SCORES ARE INJURED

(By Associated Press.)

JACKSON, MISS., March 2.—A special to the Clarion Ledger from Meridian says it is estimated that over fifty persons are dead and scores are injured. Among the buildings destroyed are the Mobile and Ohio passenger and freight depots, the Meyer Neville Hardware Company, and a cotton compress. D. E. Bennett, Claude Williams and Frank Woodruff, employes of the Meyer Neville Company, were buried in the debris when that building went down. Bennett escaped, but the other men are still beneath the ruins.

Depots Demolished.

(By Associated Press.)

MEMPHIS TENN., March 2.—A special to the Commercial-Appeal from Meridian, Miss., says:

The Union and Queen and Crescent depots were among the buildings demolished, and it is estimated that more than a score of bodies are among the wreckage. Eighteen bodies have been recovered.

SPIRITED CONTESTS.

Evenly Matched Races at the Reservoir Rink Last Night.

Seldom have the patrons of the big rink at the Reservoir seen racers so evently matched as were Fred Haley and Thomas Figg last night in the Reservoir rink in the mile match race for a prize and time records. Figg won by three yards in 3:47. Haley took the lead at the first turn and held it until the half-mile post, when Figg passed him. For the next quarter it was neck and neck between them with the winner very much in doubt until after the three-quarter mile had been passed when Figg gradually forged ahead. Figg won on his superior ability to make short turns. Haley was best in the stretches.

There were two preliminary mile races before the match race and a final mile dash between the four best from the preliminaries. In the first of the preliminaries R. L. Parker won in 3:42, with C. P. Parker second. The second was won by Walter L. Newberry, with Julian Eubank a very close second. In the final race all four got away in a bunch and stuck close together for the first quarter of a mile. Finally R. L. Parker took the lead, with C. P. Parker closely following. In the stretch C. P. Parker took the lead and won in 3:46.

Next Friday night there will be a fat man's race for men weighing not less than 200 pounds. Ben Jones, weighing 255 pounds, has issued a challenge to the winner of this race. He has also issued a challenge to race any other man weighing over 250 pounds.

Dwyer Defeats Klank.

(By Associated Press.)

TAMPA, FLA., March 2.—In the best wrestling bout yet seen here, M. J. Dwyer, of Jacksonville, Fla., to-night defeated Emil Klank, of South Omaha, Neb, winning first and third falls.

ADAMS CONFESSES TO PART IN THE MURDERS

The Statement Full and Sweeping Even More Important Than Orchard's.

(By Associated Press.)

BOISE, IDAHO, March 2.—The Statesman to-morrow will say:

The Statesman is authorized to announce that Steve Adams, arrested at Haines, Oregon, on February 20th, in connection with the assassination of former Governor Frank Steunenberg, has made a full and sweeping confession.

This confession is far more important than that made by Harry Orchard. This statement was made by James McParland, a detective in charge of the investigation, last evening, in the presence of Governor Gooding, of Idaho, and J. H. Hawley, the latter in charge of the prosecution.

Mr. McParland added that Adams's confession fully and exactly corroborates that made by Orchard at every point touched on by both.

Still another statement made by Detective McParland was that the Adams confession gave the details of a large number of murders that were not referred to in any manner by Orchard. The further statement was made that Adams had made this confession without being promised anything. When talked with about the matter, he simply made a clean breast of all he knew of this case and of the secret workings of the Western Federation.

KING BECOMES DUKE AND GOES ON TRIP

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, March 2.—The Duke of Lancaster, as King Edward will be known for two months, left this evening for a two months' holiday in Paris and Biarritz and a subsequent cruise in the Mediterraneon. The King will spend the night on board the royal yacht at Portsmouth, leaving early to-morrow morning for Cherbourg, and will arrive in Paris in the evening. During his visit to the French capital he will see President Falliores, whom he has not yet met. From Paris the King goes to Biarritz, France, and will stay there until the end of March, afterwards joining the royal yacht in the Mediterranean, where, it is said, he will meet Emperor William. During his stay at Biarritz King Edward will see King Alfonso and discuss the details of the latters' marriage with Princess Ena, of Battenberg.

ASK TO BE ANNEXED.

Suburbs of Danville Knocking for Admission to City.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

DANVILLE, VA., March 2.—A meeting of the Special Annexation Committee, of the City Council, appointed to consider the petitions of the residents of West Main Street and vicinity, asking an extension of the corporation limits of Danville, was held last night. A delegation of the suburbanites were present and addressed the committee, expressing their desire to be taken into the city. The committee will recommend that the petition be granted, the terms to be as that prescribed by the law. The proposed extension will take in the city park.

The new and modern hall of Capitola Lodge, Odd-Fellows, was dedicated last night with elaborate exercises. Rev. E. H. Rawlings, of this city, delivered the principal address.

A. B. Cheatham, chief train dispatcher for the Danville and Western Railway, was operated on here yesterday for appendicitis, with abscess. The condition of Mr. Cheatham is regarded serious.

5 LOST WILL FOUND.

In An Unmarked Enveloped and Stuck to Back of Safe.

MARTINSVILLE, VA., March 2.—The last will and testament of the late Wythe M. Peyton, of this place, who died at his mother's home in Salem, Va., early in January, 1898, was found in cleaning out the safe of his brother, William M. Peyton, here yesterday. The will provided for the burial of the deceased, the payment of his debts, leaves his home here to his daughter, Louise M. Peyton, and his other property to be divided among his other children. The estate has been so managed by the administrator as to render the carrying out of Mr. Peyton's wishes very easy. The will was in an unmarked envelope and had stuck to the paint in the back of the safe. It is dated in 1896 and witnessed by N. R. Morris and T. B. Stultz, both of whom were at that time citizens of Martinsville, Mr. Morris being still a citizen of this place.

Deny Elopement.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

CREWE, VA., March 2.—Mr. and Mrs. E. W. H. Lewis wish to correct the mistake made in the announcement of the 24th of their daughter's marriage. There was no elopement, but a quiet marriage at parsonage in Roanoke.

The Southern's Earnings.

The gross earnings of the Southern Railway Company for the month of January show an increase of $322,242; the net earnings increased $335,882; from July 1st the gross earnings increased $2,196,852, a net increase of $742,017.

Very Brief Meeting.

The Committee on Cemeteries held its regular monthly meeting at 7:30 o'clock last evening. The committee found no business, other than regular routine on the table, and took up but little time in disposing of what was found on the table. The bills for the past month were audited and ordered paid, and that is about all the committee found to do.

Mr. Combs to Preach.

Rev. H. C. Combs, secretary of the Virginia Christian Missionary Society, will occupy the pulpit at the Seventh Street Christian Church, both morning and evening to-morrow in the absence of the pastor, Rev. J. J. Haley, who is abroad for his health.

Charter Granted.

The State Corporation Commission yesterday granted a charter to the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company (incorporated), of Norfolk. C. R. Carver, president; A. S. Stubbs, vice-president; Charles Hoofnagle, secretary and treasurer, all of Norfolk. Capital stock: Maximum, $10,000; minimum, $5,000. To conduct the business of bottling carbonated drinks of all kinds.