The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1906.

These as they change, Almighty Father! These
Are but the varied God. The rolling year is full of Thee.
—Thomson's Seasons.

Let Well Enough Alone.

The Virginian-Pilot does not at all agree with The Times-Dispatch that it would be improper or impolitic for the State of Florida to enact all it can under such legislation as would force judicial review of the validity of the fifteenth amendment. If there surprise in any section of the Union an element of citizenship so attenuated as to resent a movement to have the Supreme Court decide what is or is not the binding law of the land, the sooner and more violently such supersensitiveness is shocked the better. Our only fear about the matter is that the long run of silence which has elapsed without contest will close the door to adjudication.—Virginian-Pilot.

Don't make a disagreement where none exists. This paper has persistently advocated the repeal of the fifteenth amendment. We have repeatedly argued that as it has become a dead letter, the nation should have the courage and honesty to strike it from the Constitution. But there appears to us no shadow of hope that at this juncture the Supreme Court of the United States would decide, upon the plea of illegal adoption, that it was null and void. What is to be gained, therefore, by compelling the court to declare and emphasize that the fifteenth amendment is the accepted and established law and doctrine of the United States government? We are getting along very well in the South with our restriction suffrage, which the Supreme Court is not disposed to disturb.

As the Roanoke Times says:

"So far as the south is concerned the fifteenth amendment has as well not be in existence. It has not been enforced to the extent it could be, and there does not appear to be a disposition on the part of the Supreme Court to enforce it. This will leave the matter directly up to the south, and to what extent it will be forced cannot be told at this time."

Precisely, and that is why it seems to The Times-Dispatch that this is a case in which it is the part of wisdom to let well beyond alone.

Constitutional Obstacles.

In his speech of Rochester Mr. William J. Bryan said that the adoption of the plan of government ownership of railroads would incorporate strengthen the States. This is certainly true, where the roads were owned by the individual states, the sentiment would be in favor of the roads, and states would not sell.

But how are we to differentiate between trunk lines and local roads?

In this day the local roads, that is to say the interstate roads are few and insignificant. Most of Mr. Bryan's means [illegible] of Mr. Bryan means [illegible] all the lines within those borders would be the same thing as a trunk line, all interstate lines and subject to the general government to own.

But perhaps, however, in such referring to the states it is to emphasize the point made by senator Foraker that under our Constitution the [illegible] of the States [illegible] Senators [illegible] of the States, not of the democratic city of town, which [illegible] or influence, [illegible] persuade what people, [illegible] Chicago [illegible] Richmond. Many people [illegible] all the time [illegible]