The Times-Dispatch

THE TIMES FOUNDED 1886.
THE DISPATCH FOUNDED 1850.

WHOLE NUMBER 17,688. RICHMOND, VA., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1907. PRICE TWO CENTS.

RAILWAY BUILT BY ROGERS'S MILLIONS

Standard Oil Magnate Obligated in Building Tidewater.

LARGE PORTION OF HIS FORTUNE

Wall Street Reports That He Has Spent Largely More, Sacrificng High-Class Securities to Meet His Obligations in This Project.

NEW YORK, September 19.—Reports have been current in Wall Street that H. H. Rogers, of the Standard Oil Company, had been a large investor in the Tidewater Railway project in Virginia, and that he had lost heavily by the investment. The Evening Post says to-day that it can be stated positively that Mr. Rogers incurred a personal obligation in the Tidewater project much in excess of $40,000,000. The Post also says that the situation has been entirely cleared up.

The Evening Post said:

"Confirmation was obtained in Wall Street to-day of reports to the effect that H. H. Rogers was heavily interested in the Tidewater Railway project.

"According to the stories previously circulated, upwards of 40 per cent. of Mr. Rogers's fortune had been involved in the Tidewater investment. It was reported to-day that the personal obligation incurred amounted to $40,000,000. It can be stated positively that the sum is much larger than the amount named; also that the situation has been entirely cleared up.

Had to Sell Stock Holdings.

"In order to meet the demands made upon him in connection with the construction of the railroad, Mr. Rogers was forced to dispose of a large amount of investment stock at a sacrifice. During the recent decline in prices the vice-president of the Standard Oil Company sold gilt-edged stocks, such as Standard Oil, Consolidated Gas, Union Pacific and St. Paul.

"Some five or six years ago, against the advice of his friends, Mr. Rogers started to build in West Virginia a low grade road, which would parallel the Norfolk and Western. His object was to carry coal and lumber to tidewater. The line was to be 443 miles long. Only 125 miles have been completed.

"Only a few months ago, in order to raise $10,000,000 for the Tidewater Road, H. H. Rogers issued his personal notes secured by $20,000,000 first mortgage bonds, $10,000,000 stock and $10,000,000 dividend or interest-paying collateral. These six per cent. notes were indorsed by H. H. Rogers personally.

"Railway officials who have watched the construction of the road with interest from the beginning, say that the project, even at this stage, is more or less problematical. It is confidently believed, however, that with the sacrifices already made in disposing of high-priced securities Mr. Rogers is in a position to gain his end and see the mileage completed.

Buys Lumber and Coal Lands.

It was learned some months ago that the Standard Oil man and his associates had bought up all the available lumber and coal lands in West Virginia. These purchases amounted to thousands of acres, and will in some future time supply the Tidewater Road with traffic.

"W. N. Page is president of the Tidewater Railway. When completed, the road will extend from Deepwater, W. Va., on the Kanawha River, to Sewell's Point, near Norfolk, Va.

"The authorized stock is $35,000,000. The first mortgage 5 per cent. bonds, none of which have been placed on the market, are issuable as follows: $35,000,000 for the construction of the line from Deepwater to Sewell's Point, 442 miles single track; for each additional mile of single track on the main line, $75,000 bonds may be issued; $50,000 a mile for branch lines, and $50,000 for main line second track."

NEW YORK STORY IS NOT CREDITED

NORFOLK, VA., September 19.—Reports to the effect that Henry H. Rogers is in financial straits as a result of the construction of the Virginian Railroad, formerly known as the Tidewater-Deepwater, are dismissed without credence in this city, where are located the general offices of the railway.

The condition of the railway enterprise justifies the discrediting of the reports. While Mr. Rogers has spent $40,000,000 and more, too, in the construction of the road, it is regarded as improbable that he has spent one penny more than he knew he would have to spend at this stage of the construction work. It will take other millions to complete it, but those millions are being spent.

The road will be 400 miles long, extending from Deepwater, W. Va., to Sewell's Point, at Norfolk, and, according to a statement issued from the general offices of the road a few days ago, 271 miles of the track have been laid. A train service was this week started over 125 miles of it at this end.

It is the common report among railroad men in this part of the country, that the road is being better built than is any road in the country now in operation.

Said a well-informed railroad official here to-night:

"There can be no truth in the reports about financial troubles of Henry H. Rogers and the Virginian Railway. Work is being pushed on the road, and its construction is the best in the country. Nothing but the best and costliest material and workmanship enters into it. From the spikes, which hold the rails to the ties to the locomotives, there is nothing cheap about it. The ballasting of the road-bed is the best in the country, and the stations being built along the line are of the most serviceable and costly kind. Mr. Rogers knew how much the road was going to cost before he started to building, and it is unlikely that a shovel of dirt was turned in its construction before he knew where the money was coming from. I do not think that these reports would have been circulated were it not for Mr. Rogers's present illness. Work is being pushed on the road from east to west."

COL. WITHERS IN EXTREMIS

Distinguished Veteran Grows Weaker and Death Is Expected.

WYTHEVILLE, VA., September 19.—Colonel Robert E. Withers, ex-United States Senator and formerly consul to Hong-Kong, is thought to be in extremis to-night. Although he passed through last night in comparative comfort, he has grown steadily weaker throughout the day, and it is feared to-night he cannot live until morning.

Colonel Withers is one of the most distinguished men of Southwest Virginia. He was born at "Rock Castle," Campbell county, Va., September 18, 1821, and therefore celebrated his eighty-sixth birthday yesterday.

RAILROADS SCORE POINT

Injunction Against North Carolina Litigants is Continued.

RALEIGH, N. C., September 19.—Judge Pritchard, United States circuit judge, to-day in the railroad matter of the Southern Railway against Lawyer Jacob A. Long, of Graham, N. C., and other attorneys in North Carolina and their clients in Alamance and other counties, continued the injunction on the bill of complaint and the answer, restraining the respondents from prosecuting their penalty suits in the State superior courts against the North Carolina Railroad Company and the Southern Railway.

The North Carolina Railroad is the three-hundred-mile road owned by the State of North Carolina and leased to the Southern for ninety-nine years, and extends from Goldsboro by way of Raleigh and Greensboro, to Charlotte.

The matter was disposed of without argument, as Mr. Long was not present at the hour set. It is considered a most important decision.

NAMED FOR ARMY CHAPLAIN

Rev. Mr. Parker Not Fully Decided Whether He Will Accept.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

NORFOLK, VA., September 19.—Rev. W. G. Parker, chaplain of the Seventy-First Virginia Regiment, has been notified of his appointment as a chaplain in the United States army, having stood the examination for the position last summer. He has thirty days in which to report for duty and will announce to his congregation at the Park View Methodist Church, Portsmouth, next Sunday whether or not he will accept the appointment.

He is quite undecided as to where he can do the most good as a minister of the gospel, and it is upon this point, he says, that his decision wil be made.

BOTH MATTERS GO BY DEFAULT

Majority Vote for Better Roads and Library Support, but Not Enough.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

CHARLOTTE, N. C., September 19.—The proposed issue of $300,000 in bonds to extend Mecklenburg's good roads, and the proposition to levy a tax of two and a half cents on the hundred dollars for the support of the Carnegie Library, which were voted on by citizens of Charlotte and Mecklenburg county to-day, both went by default There were fair majorities for both measures in nearly every precinct, but these figures had to be pitted against the total number of registered voters, and for lack of interest the propositions were defeated. There is considerable disappointment over the result.

FARMERS IN FATAL FEUD

Two Georgians Meet in Road and Renew Old Quarrel.

MACON, GA., September 19.—Elmer Orr, a farmer, thirty-five years old, was shot and killed while driving to his home seven miles from here late yesterday, and Johnson Langston, another farmer, aged nineteen years, is in jail here, charged with the murder.

It is said the men quarreled several months ago, when Orr threatened to kill Langston. They met on a narrow road yesterday and in endeavoring to pass the wagons collided.

A quarrel followed in which blows were exchanged. Langston then, it is said, attempted to use a shotgun, and in the struggle, for its possession the weapon was discharged, fatally wounding Orr, who died shortly afterwards.

THIRTY DIE IN COLLISION

Disastrous Wreck Blocks Mexican Central Railway Line.

MEXICO CITY, September 19.—There has been a disastrous wreck on the Mexican Central Railroad. A freight train and a passenger train came into collision at Encarnacion, near the city of Aguas Calientes, and it is reported that thirty persons were killed and many injured. The passenger train was the regular El Paso express, which left that city Tuesday. No train from the United States has come in to-day over the Central, but one is expected to-night. It is impossible to get further details of the wreck at this moment. The railroad officials here admit that the wreck occurred, but refuse to talk of the matter.

LADY INJURED IN RUNAWAY

Mrs. Bywaters Thrown from Buggy on Farm Near Winchester.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WINCHESTER, VA., September 19.—Mrs. Annie Bywaters, member of an old Frederick county family, was seriously cut and bruised about the body to-day by being thrown violently from her buggy by a runaway horse on her farm. She was starting for a drive, when the horse dashed into a gate-post, hurling Mrs. Bywaters to the ground, inflicting serious injuries. A physician is in attendance.

EXODUS OF ENGLISH GIRLS

More Than One Thousand Sail for America Seeking Husbands.

LIVERPOOL, September 19.—The remarkable exodus of marriageable young women from this country to the United States and Canada is emphasized by the departure to-day of a thousand unmarried women on the steamer Baltic alone, while several hundred more were among the total of 5,000 passengers carried on three transatlantic steamers which sailed to-day.

PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES NOW

Seven Virginia Towns Raised Thereto

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 19.—The following Virginia post-offices have been advanced from fourth-class offices to presidential offices, the figures indicating the salaries of the postmasters under the new order:

Burkville, $1,100; Charlotte Courthouse, $1,100; Elkton, $1,100; Fairfax, $1,100; Parksley, $1,000; Scottsville, $1,000; South Norfolk, $1,000.

VISITING KNIGHTS ARE NOW IN CHARGE

Pittsburg Commandery, No. 1, Is Given Keys to City.

MAYOR MAKES WELCOME ADDRESS

Informal Reception at Jefferson and Cordial Exchanges of Gifts. Trolley Ride and Luncheon To-Day and Banquet To-Night—Leave To-Morrow.

Pittsburg Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templars, arrived in Richmond last night 150 strong, and will be the guests of St. Andrew's Commandery, No. 13, of this city, until to-morrow night, when they will leave over the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad direct for home.

The commandery, which is a most distinguished organization, and which is noted for its extensive tours of the country, came South at the instance and upon the invitation of St. Andrew's Commandery, many of whose members have enjoyed the hospitality of their brethren in the "Smoky City." The party is composed of a number of distinguished men, their wives and lady guests, and their entry into Richmond was attended with much pomp and ceremony. They had spent almost a week on their way from home to Richmond, via Washington, including several days' stay at the Jamestown Exposition, and were met at Dutch Gap by a committee from St. Andrew's Commandery, who went down on the steam launch of Mr. W. B. Bradley. When the Pocahontas, on which the party came, was nearing the city the Howitzers fired a salute from Libby Hill in honor of the arrival of the distinguished guests.

JOHN H. NEIBAUM,
Eminent Commander.

Mayor McCarthy was at the wharf with a huge gold key, which, on behalf of the city, he formally presented to Eminent Commander John H. Neibaum. The speeches of His Honor and the eminent commander were eloquent and well-timed, and the latter took the key and opened the gate to the city.

The party then boarded street cars and went to the Jefferson Hotel, which is headquarters for the commandery, and after partaking of claret punch and other light refreshments, repaired to the Masonic Temple, where an informal reception was given in honor of the ladies in the party. Here Major Sol Cutchins delivered an address of welcome, which was loudly applauded, and which was gracefully responded to by the eminent commander on behalf of the visitors.

Chairman Ways and Means Committee,
MICHIGAN JUNCTION.

Following these speeches there were ceremonies altogether unexpected by most of those present. Major William H. Sands, on behalf of St. Andrew's Commandery, in a brief, but eloquent speech presented to the visiting commandery a handsome gold-handle sword and scabbard. Major Sands referred feelingly to the brotherly love that had long existed between the two commanderies, and when he had concluded his remarks, Grand Prelate Thomas N. Boyle, or the Grand Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania, and moderator of the Methodist Episcopal Church of that State, responded, receiving the beautiful gift on behalf of his people. Dr. Boyle's remarks were eloquent to a degree, and there was prolonged applause in greeting the sentiments expressed by both himself and Major Sands.

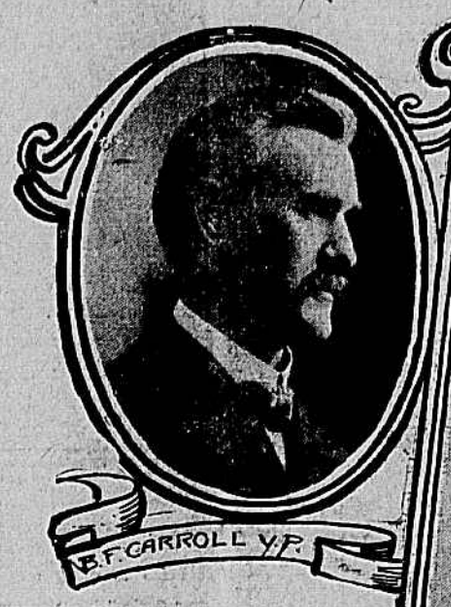
The next pleasant surprise came when Dr. Boyle turned on Major Sands and presented St. Andrew's Commandery with a handsome stand of colors, and the speeches in this connection were equally as happy and appropriate as had been the others.

Honor Jackson's Memory.

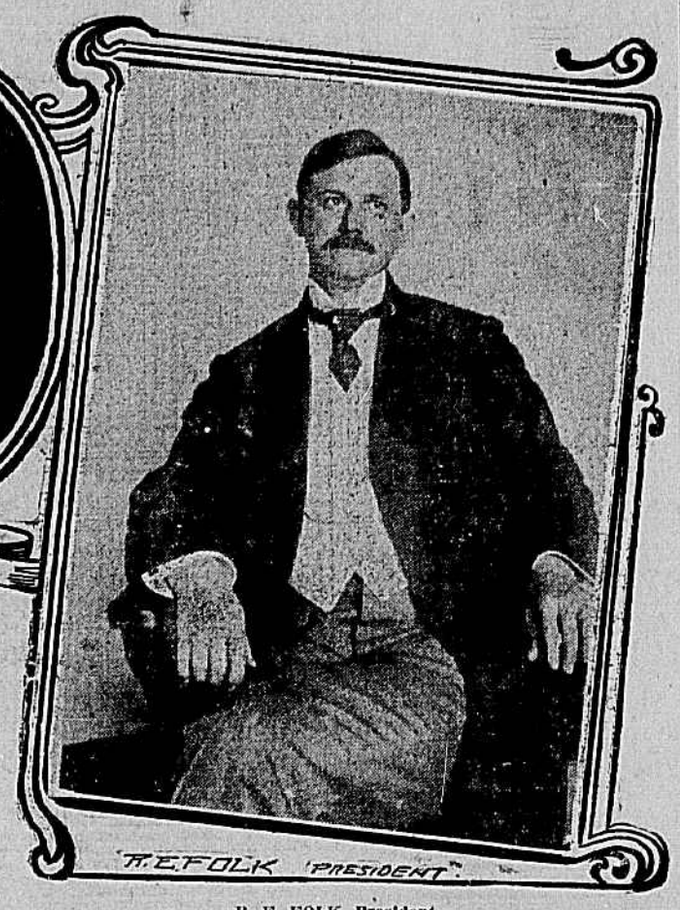
One of the underlying principles of the Knights Templars is understood to be a steadfast devotion to the Christian religion, and when the party entered the Jefferson last night the orchestra

(Continued on Second Page.)

OFFICERS NAT'L INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS



B. F. CARROLL, Vice-President.



R. E. FOLK, President.

TAFT IS POPULAR ALL OVER SOUTH

Secretary of War Choice of More Than Half Those Polled.

PRESIDENT COMES SECOND

Noteworthy Demand for More Conservative Candidate Is Also Shown.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

CHICAGO, ILL., September 19.—The Chicago Tribune's "presidential ballot," which to-day included the Southern States, shows Secretary Taft in the lead as presidential choice. A surprising situation, however, is shown in the demand for a more conservative candidate as compared with President Roosevelt. The States of Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia cast a total of 607 ballots, and it is significant that of this total there were 58, or nearly 10 per cent. of the whole, which were distinctly recorded in opposition to the progressive policy of President Roosevelt.

The returns show that Taft is the first choice of 358 of the voters, Fairbanks following with 51, Foraker with 42, Hughes with 48 and Cannon with 27. President Roosevelt received 146, Root 2, and LaFollette 9.

Virginia voted for Cannon 4, Fairbanks 12, Hughes 6, Knox 6, Taft 58, Roosevelt 22, Root 8, LaFollette 8, and Foraker 8.

President Roosevelt's progressive policies were approved 86 to 12, and 87 voted in favor of a progressive nominee, to 13 for a conservative.

CRIMES IN NAME OF REFORM

Judge, in Annulling Lower Fare Law, Roasts Legislature.

HARRISBURG, PA., September 19.—The two-cent fare law, enacted at the recent session of the Pennsylvania Legislature, was adjudged invalid, unconstitutional and void in its application of the Susquehanna River and Western Railroad Company, which connects Duncannon and Bloomfield, in an opinion delivered to-day at Bloomfield by Judge Shull, of the Perry County Court. The law, he declares in his decree, is the derogation of both the United States and the Pennsylvania Constitution. He quoted figures of the company's earnings to show that the enforcement of the rate ordained by the act would be confiscatory. He says that the act is a caprice of a Legislature, "many of whose members without rhyme or reason, acts or figures, information or reputation, were pledged to perform the act in the name of reform, and that we might say of reform as was said by Madame Roland of liberty in the days of the French Revolution:

"Oh, liberty, liberty! How many crimes are committed in thy name?"

The opinion also states that to compel this company to comply with the two-cent fare law would rob the bondholders of their securities, deprive the community of the facilities for transportation of freight and confiscate the property and franchises of the stockholders.

HAS SKULL FRACTURED

Former Richmond Man Meets With Serious Accident in Norfolk.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

NORFOLK, VA., September 19.—Thinking that he was opening the door to the stairway leading to the cellar, H. H. Roberts, of Richmond, made a mistake and opened the door to a freight elevator and walked into space. He landed on his head in the cellar, and is now at St Vincent's Hospital with a fractured skull.

The accident occurred in one of Norfolk's large furniture stores. Mr. Roberts did not heed the sign of "Danger" over the doorway. At the hospital he is reported as doing nicely, and it is thought that he will recover.

Mr. Roberts is a painter by occupation. He lives in Norfolk, but has a sister and other relatives here.

NOT TO LEAVE SEABOARD

Superintendent Hix Denies That He Will Go With the Virginian.

NORFOLK, VA., September 19.—Asked to-night as to whether he is going to leave the Seaboard Air Line Railway to accept a berth on the Virginian, General Superintendent Hix replied: "No, sir." He would discuss the matter no further.

There was a report current in Richmond that Mr. Hix would go with the Rogers system.

TO WORK AGAINST WILD CAT CONCERNS

Insurance Commissioners Pledge Themselves to Seek Honesty.

FOLK THE NEW PRESIDENT

Convention Concludes Its Work. Many Able Papers Were Read.

President—Reau E. Folk, of Tennessee.

Vice-President—B. F. Carroll, of Iowa.

Secretary—J. J. Brinkenhoff, of Illinois.

Chairman Executive Committee—J. V. Berry, of Michigan.

Place of next meeting—Detroit.

Pledging its united support in an effort to suppress "wildcat" companies, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners went on record yesterday in advocacy of publicity as a means of ridding the country of fraudulent concerns and in protecting the public against the crooks of the trade.

The resolution, considered the most important of any adopted at the Richmond meeting, was introduced by Mr. E. E. Rittenhouse, Commissioner of Colorado, as follows:

After Wildcat Concerns.

Whereas deceptive and fraudulent insurance methods and promotions designed to evade the law, are constantly being originated and placed before the public in various States of the Union;

Resolved, That in order that the people may be warned and protected against such impositions, and also enlightened as to stock and other inducements offered with, but not germane to insurance, the Commissioners of Insurance of the United States hereby pledge themselves, so far as possible, to investigate all irregular and wildcat schemes which come to their notice, to exchange with each other reports of such investigations and to give the facts the widest possible publicity.

Greeting New Officers.

With the election of officers, and with the reading of two addresses and reports of various committees, the convention adjourned to meet next year in Detroit. Commissioner Cole, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the name of Mr. Folk as president and that of Mr. Carroll as vice-president, the body casting its unanimous vote. Though politics is not supposed to dominate the association, four candidates for Governor got to the front. There is talk in Tennessee of putting President Folk forward for that honor. Vice-President Carroll was introduced as the next Governor of Iowa, and he was escorted to the stand by Commissioner Scherr, of West Virginia, and Commissioner Barry, of Michigan, both of whom are said to be seeking the nomination in their respective States. Democrats and Republicans mingled in friendly union. Notwithstanding this element of politics, however, it is admitted by all members that they picked wisely and well.

The convention was entertained at luncheon at the Jefferson after adjournment, and later in the afternoon there was a carriage drive around the city in its honor. At 8 o'clock this morning the visitors will leave by boat for the Jamestown Exposition.

Deceptive Insurance Methods.

Commissioner Rittenhouse, of Colorado, delivered an address on "Deceptive Insurance Methods—the Cure." He arraigned those companies which had attempted to mislead the public by one means or another, expressing belief that insurance departments stood by the people as their protectors, and urging publicity in every line of the business. The exposures in New York, he said, were not alone for the officials of companies, but for those who had properly failed to supervise. On

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

EACH ACCUSES OTHER OF KILLING SMITH

William Seal Lays Crime at Feet of Jenkins, Whose Confession Puts Murder on Seal.

THE NEIGHBORS ARE AROUSED

Many People from the Section of the Crime at Culpeper and Say Feeling Runs High.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

CULPEPER, VA., September 19.—This town was much enlivened today by the presence of a number of denizens of the mountain fastnesses of Culpeper and Rappahannock counties, some friends, all neighbors, of William Seal and his son-in-law, Byrd Jenkins, in jail here for the foul murder of William Smith, son-in-law and brother-in-law himself, respectively, to Seal and Jenkins.

All the comers from the neighborhood to-day reported that the feeling was bitter and intense, and growing against Seal and Jenkins, some of them saying that it would not be surprising if a mob came from their neighborhood to take them out of jail and hang them, but the sheriff says that this cannot be done.

William Seal, in an interview in the jail this evening, said that he believes his son-in-law, Jenkins, killed Smith, and that Jenkins, who lived at Seal's house, was away all last Sunday, the day of the night of the murder, until 9 o'clock that night; that he was not there to his supper; that on coming into the house he complained of being sick at the stomach, and appeared very much agitated, and on being asked what kept him away so late said he was too sick to talk; that later in the night Jenkins was heard to say that he guessed he, presumably meaning William Smith, was fixed now, and where he would not harm anybody else.

Seal, who detailed this conversation to-day as between himself and Jenkins, does not yet know that Jenkins in his testimony before the coroner directly charged him with the murder of Smith.

Jenkins in his cell some feet away from the cell of Seal during this interview, stood for the most part entirely mute, only saying in response to questions that he know nothing about the killing of Smith himself, but that "old man Seal must have done it."

So each to-day during this interview accused the other of the murder, and there the mystery still hangs.

Judge D. A. Grimsley, of the Circuit Court, will on his arrival from holding court in another county set the time for the convening of a special grand jury to indict Seal and Jenkins. The judge will then decide as to the probable safety of the prisoners remaining in jail here or whether they shall be taken to the Alexandria jail.

TOM JOHNSON SWEEPS CITY

Cleveland's Democratic Mayor and Supporters Win in Primary.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, September 19.—Returns from ward primaries held this evening indicate that Mayor Tom L. Johnson will be renominated for Mayor by the Democratic city convention Saturday by acclamation.

The indications also are that all of the candidates for places on the Council ticket, who had the indorsement of the Mayor, including Councilman E. B. Haserodt, Republican, who was recently defeated in the Republican primary, and who has been a supporter of Mayor Johnson's street railway policy, have won.

Staunton Man Stabbed.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

STAUNTON, VA., September 19.—Frank Lambert, of this city, who has been keeping books at the Erskine Mine at Thurmond, W. Va., was stabbed by a mine helper last evening, and is in a critical condition.

He was stabbed through a lung and through a kidney. He was taken to Hinton Hospital and the kidney removed. His assailant has been apprehended.

WILTSHIRE DID NOT VIOLATE STATUTES

City Attorney So Declares, But Thinks the Act Was Improper.

LOVENSTEIN GOT CITY HOME WOOD

Hobson Says Charles Gunst Palmed Off Worthless Stuff on the City—Forty-Five Cords Disappear in Three Years.

Graft Development.

City Attorney holds that Councilmen can accept bona-fide subcontracts from the city.

City Accountant shows loss of forty-five cords of wood at City Home in three years.

Same official finds that Isadore Lovenstein hauled five cords of wood from City Home to his residence.

Charge by G. B. Hobson that Charles Gunst delivered wood on contract at $5 a cord that public would not buy

City Attorney Pollard's opinion, that members of the Council do not violate the Code of Virginia in accepting subcontracts from the city, was not the only development that came out in connection with the graft investigation yesterday. The Committee on Relief of the Poor had another session and received a report, prepared by City Accountant Crenshaw, which threw fresh light upon the wood scandal at the City Home. The showing did not reflect credit upon the management of that institution, Dr. Williams and Graham B. Hobson objecting strenuously to a vote of commendation in view of the record.

Mr. Crenshaw's report showed that within the past two years five cords of wood had been hauled from the institution to the residence of Isadore Lovenstein, at that time assistant superintendent. Coming to the rescue of his former associate, Superintendent Davis said that Mr. Lovenstein had bought wood for delivery at the City Home. The fact was also brought out that there was a discrepancy in the accounts, showing the amount of wood delivered and received, this shortage aggregating about forty-five cords in three years. By far the most sensational charge, however, was lodged by Mr. Hobson, to the effect that Charles Gunst, the contractor, had bought wood from dealers which could not be sold to the public and had turned it over to the home at the rate of $5 a cord.

Shrinkage Only Normal.

There was a long discussion as to a resolution, finally modified to read that the forty-five cords represented shrinkage or stealage, the discrepancy being no more than normal. In this shape it was adopted, Dr. Williams and Mr. Hobson voting against it. The recommendations of Accountant Crenshaw as to changes in the method of keeping wood records were adopted.

While members were on the wood subject, Dr. Williams got the floor.

"Mr. Crenshaw," he said, "in the examination of the wood, did you find the nigger in the woodpile?"

"Yes," said the accountant, "but he was employed there to saw it."

As this was not the individual the graft seekers are after, the committee let it pass.

After referring to the matters brought out in the report of Dr. Williams, City Attorney Pollard went directly at the question, and agreed with his predecessor, Mr. Meredith, that Councilmen could be subcontractors. He declared, however, that in his opinion "it is not proper for the chairman of a subcommittee to become a subcontractor for work under the circumstances stated. To recognize the propriety of such a practice would leave wide open the door for the grossest wrong to the city."

City Attorney's Opinion.

The full text of the opinion follows:

September 18, 1907.

Committee on Relief of the Poor, Richmond, Va.

Gentlemen,—I have had under consideration a written statement and protest submitted to you at your meeting held on September 16, 1907, by Dr. Ennion G. Williams, one of your members, concerning "the manner in which certain work at the City Home was given out, how the work was done, by whom, etc.," with the request that I give you my written opinion and advice in connection with the questions raised therein.

First. It is stated in said paper that a subcommittee of your body, consisting of Messrs. Chas. H. Wiltshire, as chairman; J. A. Hobson, J. L. Satterfield and E. G. Williams, met at the City Home in March last and decided that it was necessary to have the whole of the exterior of the home painted, and cornices repaired and covered with galvanized iron, and the gutters and the slate roof repaired, and that the chairman, Mr. Wiltshire, was requested to prepare specifications, and to request bids for the work. It appears from a clipping from one of the daily papers of the city, dated June 27, 1907, signed by George B. Davis, Supt., that bids were asked for, and that two bids were received, and at a meeting of your body held on July 2, 1907, a report signed by C. H. Wiltshire, chairman of said subcommittee, with all of the other members of his committee present, was presented, reporting said bids for the doing of the proposed work as follows: John E. Rose & Co., at the price of $3,450, and Thos. N. Kendler, at $3,300, with the recommendation that the work be awarded to the lowest bidder, Thomas N. Kendler, and that in said meeting, on the motion of Mr. E. W. Miner, the recommendation contained in the said report of the subcommittee was adopted and the subcommittee was requested to see that a proper contract be prepared and executed and an acceptable bond given for the faithful performance of the work. Subsequently a contract between the city (by your chairman) and said Kendler, was executed in the usual form, to which was attached the specifications for the