The Times-Dispatch

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1909.

TWO LOCAL OPTION CANDIDATES.

Those who prefer the principle of local option to the principle of prohibition by State law, as The Times-Dispatch does, will naturally be pleased by the outcome of the long-awaited Anti-Saloon League convention. "State-wide" will be let alone for a year at least. After that, it is true, we shall see what we shall see; but doubtless the friends of local option should be grateful for favors of all sizes. The theory that each community should decide for itself whether or not it wants to license the sale of liquor appeals to this paper as essentially an expression of the principle of local self-government. We should gladly commend the Anti-Saloon League for its decision for local option if it seemed to mean sympathy with it as a permanent method of relief. But policy rather than principle seems to have shaped its verdict, and the issue was merely one of strategics. If present tactics fail to give satisfaction, says the resolution, "we shall be obliged to change our policy."

At any rate, it is a relief to have it over, and to know where we stand. The contest for the governorship is to be fought out between two local option candidates; in truth, the situation has shaped up rather differently from what promised a fortnight ago. The idea that the Republicans will seek to decamp with the State-wide plank is all but unthinkable. What license have they to start out-Heroding Herod and shouting "holier-than-thou" at the Anti-Saloon League? Who would follow their lead? The league wishes it understood that it is not in politics, but its very strong influence in State affairs is hardly to be gainsaid.

"RACE PREJUDICES."

Referring to the Crum case, the esteemed New York Evening Post says:

We cannot believe that Mr. Taft will ever take the ground that the educated colored American citizen, tax-payer and liable for military service as he is, shall not hold office in that section of the country where his race is numbered by millions.

The Evening Post is a newspaper which has devoted much time and ability to the consideration of race matters in the South. Only recently one of its editors made himself tolerably conspicuous by taking an advanced oratorical part at the well-remembered inter-racial "harmony" banquet of the so-called Cosmopolitan Society. The Post's presentation of the case for a colored office-holder is, therefore, a well-considered deliverance. It seems to make a good case. American citizen, educated, tax-paying, liable for military service, representative of millions of people—shall the like of him be detached from government emoluments simply "because his skin is black?" As well object that an applicant's eyes are blue or that he parts his hair at the back.

So meditates the Post. Yet is it not a fact that the well-worn cuticle argument really cuts both ways? If it is unreasonable to reject a man because his skin is black, is it not equally unreasonable to select him for preferment for that reason? If a Nubian epidermis is senseless as a disqualification, is it not senseless as a qualification? There are perhaps 100,000 educated American citizens, tax-payers and the rest of it, who would be glad to be collector of the port at Charleston. Dr. Crum's race has no dealings with the Charleston customs house. Its taxable real and personal property amounted in 1903 to some $35,000 out of a total for the city of about $17,000,000. Crum's color alone won him his place. Why should not the people who make Charleston possible as a civic entity be privileged to use the "because his skin is black" argument as well as Mr. Roosevelt and the New York Evening Post?

We shall not ask the Post whether it would object to a Federal appointment which, however academically just, or even noble, was, in fact, highly offensive to 499 out of every 500 property owners in the city of New York. We are confident that any educated citizen liable for military service would be entirely satisfactory to the Post. That paper has no "race prejudices" of any sort. Its habitat is favorable for the continuance of this frame of mind. Its office stands where all the nations of the world surge round it—Germans, Italians, Swedes, Greeks, Huns, Slavs, Copts, Czechs, Croatians and Slavonians, dwellers in Mesopotamia and Phrygia, and now and then an occasional plain American. Cosmopolitanism kills prejudice. Are the Swedes to be prejudiced against the Copts, or the Turks against the Finns? Race feeling is no more possible in New York than it was at the Tower of Babel.

The Post thus comes fairly by the broad and catholic quality of its comments upon Southern affairs. A curious thing about these so-called prejudices of white against black and tan and yellow is that men have to experience them in order to know what they are really like. This many cities and towns have discovered, to their infinite amazement and enlightenment, as the negro moved northward and the outbreaks began. The Evening Post continues a staunch stronghold and repository of the sentiments of 1860. It is not so difficult to see why. There are 80,000 negroes in New York City—one in every fifty of population. If that were the proportion of negroes in the South, there would never have been any problem here. In Charleston, on the other hand, there is, approximately, one negro for every white man. If our Northern friend would imagine New York as a city containing 2,000,000 Americans of fairly pure descent and 2,000,000 negroes with aspirations to climb, he might possibly glimpse, as through a glass darkly, some reasons why New Yorkers might prefer not to have a collector of the port "because his skin is black." Ignoble "race prejudice" wakens suddenly in even the noblest bosoms, and thereafter the fact that it cannot be demonstrated by logarithms or justified by the rule of three becomes of rather minor consequence.

THE HANDSOMEST MEN.

There are no $10,000 prize contests for male beauties, no photographic displays in the ten-cent magazines, no stunning opportunities in the front row of the chorus. Adonises get little public recognition beyond a certain amount of optical homage from the passing promenade. Being a "heart-smasher," at best, is no kind of platform to go before the plain people on. In short, handsome men get a pretty short deal, in any large public sense; and, therefore, we welcome the plan to provide Mr. Taft at the inaugural ball with an escort of the beautifullest statesmen in America. The proposal at once gives masculine beauty a national standing, along with conservation of our natural resources. It is formal recognition of virile pulchritude as an asset to be reckoned with. It is almost as good as a message from the White House. And incidentally it will create a pretty flutter among the hearts of the opposite sex. So luscious a cohort of dancing men, we wot, was never to be seen before.

But, ah! A doubt oppresses us. Do ladies love beautiful men? Is it not rather "strength" that wins their hidden tenderness, shoulders of Hercules, chest of a hogshead and a face steely, yet kind withal? Look at the books. Men of supreme loveliness are rarely your female novelists' most cherished characters. No, heroes are grim-visaged men; very square of jaw, with but a fair-sized central cleft; very straight and thin of lip; broad of forehead and frequently unruly as to locks; equipped with gray eyes which look so stern until they smile. Pretty men, so far from being heroes, are not rarely the foils to heroes. They are the men whose sweethearts heroes win away. Ripping good looks, if we understand the thing, win ladies' ready admiration artistically, but they hand their hearts to your rugged-faced chaps. We fear that it's much the same out of the books. One living man novelist who rarely fails to charm the women whom he meets personally has openly expressed the opinion that he is the homeliest man in America.

The Taft ball, though, is for the hour only, and not for life, which makes a big difference. Handsome men get their innings in the single meeting. Their big advantage comes in the fifteen-minute friendship. Moreover, they are magnificent dancers, while heroes have seldom had time to learn the waltz. Therefore, there should be no dampener of any kind in the appearance of the Beautiful Squad on the night of the ball, and stern men who aspire to be heroes are herewith advised to go off to the conservatory and smoke black cigars.

FOR RESPONSIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Lawrence A. Lowell, the recently elected head of Harvard University, has stated that the test of government is in the capacity of the people to choose experts. In that summary there is at least an expression of the demand of the public for the same kind of service that corporations and individuals receive. Theoretically a city or State offers as great inducements for experts as any manufacturing organization on earth, and at one time in the world's history the state had the pick of the brains and genius of its citizens. Such was certainly the case in Greece, Egypt and probably Assyria. And such is certainly not the case to-day, though governments still exist and human nature has not changed.

Two thousand years ago government, and not manufacture, offered the great prizes in wealth, power, place and ambition. Therefore, by the natural process of desire, men sought in government the field for their best endeavors and the government rewarded them. To-day, however, the highest type of scientist and administrator rarely ever comes to the front in governmental capacities, and certainly not in America. England has produced Lord Cromer, and he resurrected Egypt. Russia, despite its other weaknesses, produced Witte, who straightened out the chaotic finances of that empire. But the great constructive geniuses of recent generations have been in nearly every instance found in the domain of commerce, and not in politics; and this is because the business world offers a stability, certainty and opportunity for working out large plans, which is painfully lacking in the world of politics.

Especially has this instability been noticeable in the municipal affairs in America. Richmond, for example, spends $2,500,000 a year, and yet the people of Richmond who are taxed to raise this enormous revenue are almost without voice in the matter of its outlay. The people elect a Council for two years only. The Council is, therefore, almost as rapidly changing as the seasons; and, as if this were not sufficiently far removed from the people, the Council undertakes to appoint committees, who further subdivide responsibilities. The committees in turn appoint their subordinates and the subordinates spend the money. If, therefore, a subordinate makes a grievous error the people are practically without redress, for the error may have been committed under the management of a committee which has gone out of existence, and the responsible parties are no longer in a position where they can be made answerable to public indignation.

Without again rehearsing the process by which this system has grown up, it is sufficient to say that the weakness of this method is understood by all thinkers on municipal affairs, and that the same principles which have been used to make business organizations successful will inevitably be applied, sooner or later, to cities, and even to States and nations. The most recent statement on this question is by Hon. Joseph W. Folk, who wishes to make the Governor of a State more responsible to the people by giving him greater powers, and therefore greater responsibilities. Says Mr. Folk: "Paradoxical as it may seem, the fewer elective offices we have the more government by the people we shall have. It is this way: The people have no organization. They cannot organize for the election of many. They can concentrate their attention on one man. They can devote their thought to the election of a Governor and get a good man. But when it comes to electing the various other State officials it is a difficult task for them to become posted on the qualifications of the various candidates, and they vote more or less blindly."

This simply means that as special interests maintain their organization of forces and pay lobbyists all the time to carry out their will, the people must have an equally efficient organization to combat these forces, if they are to retain their real freedom. Nothing is more remarkable in the present tendency of government than the swing of the pendulum back towards a limited dictatorship, in which the people elect a dictator in order that they may both hold him more responsible and secure for themselves better representation than has proved possible under the present cumbrous methods.

The Allentown Call announces that Adam was a Democrat, though failing signally to show that he favored high protection for home industries.

If all of those honorably mentioned get in, Mr. Taft's Cabinet is going to be a place for transients only.

Lincoln's birthday has helped to sell a lot of low-priced magazines.

The attention of Mr. Hisgen is called to the fact that Mr. Taft has now been elected President of the United States. You remember the name, don't you? Hisgen.

The President is "astounded" at Mr. Perkins's conduct, and we suspect that this phase of modern life is mutual.

It was a question, we are told, of a steel merger or a panic. And yet the plain fact is that the merger merged and then the panic went ahead and panned.

Doubtless the impression will get abroad after a while that Pittsburg is a city inhabited solely by millionaires and tramps.

Mr. Lowell, were he alive and here to-day, could hardly help observing that Old Virginia's February days are rarer both ways.

FROM WASHINGTON TO RICHMOND.

"Lincoln Way" Connecting Two War Capitals Eminently Appropriate.

The proposed national road from Washington to Gettysburg may not be authorized, but if such a "Lincoln way" be constructed as a memorial to the great President the advocates of a road from Washington to Richmond have a strong argument for this as an alternative.

A Lincoln way from Washington to Richmond will connect the capitals of the two belligerent powers of the Civil War and be an appropriate symbol of the union which Lincoln did so much to save. He declared immediately after his election that he considered it his first duty to save the Union and perpetuate the national existence. And although he goes into history as "the great emancipator," it should not be forgotten that from beginning to end of the Civil War everything he did was, by his own statements, done with this one end in view: To save the Union.

There is nothing at Gettysburg to suggest this purpose except the great deeds there done which were celebrated by Lincoln's great words. But to paraphrase a sentence of his address, what he said at Gettysburg is not so important as what he and the armies under his command did on the bloody way to Richmond.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

BARBAROUS THIRD DEGREE.

Ghastly Methods Employed by Detectives in Christian Community.

One of the most ghastly and barbarous exhibitions of the so-called "third degree" yet recorded occurred in Newark, N. J., the other night, when a woman suspect was awakened from a sound slumber in the middle of the night and taken to the morgue, where she was suddenly confronted by the dead body of her husband. The woman collapsed, and is now in a condition of nervous prostration. The outrage was perpetrated by detectives who hoped by that means to frighten the poor woman into saying something in the extremity of her anguish and terror that would incriminate her as a participant in the dead man's murder. This is supposed to be the age of civilization and enlightenment. We are informed that our methods of dealing with suspects and condemned criminals are now humane. Yet in many cities detectives still maintain the cruel and unjustifiable "third degree" in all the horror of the inquisition of the Middle Ages. The woman thus mistreated at Newark was only suspected of having had a hand in the killing of her husband. There was no positive proof. The professional reputation of the detectives was at stake, so they resorted to the "third degree." This expedient is a form of torture employed by many police departments to force some sort of confession from a suspect by means of mental torment scarcely less terrible in the anguish suffered by the victim than that inflicted by the rack or the iron pincers.—Kansas City Journal.

Borrowed Jingles

THE THEATRE-GOERS.

Oh, say,
Do you go to the play,
Or do you stay
Away?
And if you go,
Do you always know
If is the sure
Pure?
And if you know it is
Morally passle,
Do you lift your hands in horror
At the rottenness and sin
Of the drama in Manhattan
And skip out—or hurry in?
Does an orgy of obscenity
Appeal to you as Art;
Or does it so disturb you
As to give your bile a start?
Do you run away
Or stay
When Art is reeskay?
By gum!
The orgy is going some
These days,
Because it pays;
And the men who run the drama
With a yearn for greater wealth
Are hardly going to run it
For their patrons' moral health
When these patrons are demanding
Something mighty hot and strong
And they've got the money ready
That will hustle Art along.
Wow!
Ain't it awful, Mabel, how
Decadent the drama is getting to be
And how our best Society
Will crowd the house
To get a salacious souse?
And say, Mabel,
A theatre wouldn't be able
To keep open a minute
If it weren't for the Better Element in it.
Would it?
What?

—W. J. Lampton, in New York World.

MERELY JOKING.

Worth Considering.

"Think of the glories of ancient Rome."

"I've seen 'em," answered Senator Sorghum, "It's terrible to me to consider the graft they must have contended with in putting up all those improvements!"—Washington Star.

Felled.

The Constable: "Now, gen'l'men, we've traced these hero cloes—the fut-prints o' the ho'se an' the fut-prints o 'the man to this stump; from here on thar's only the fut-prints o' the hoss. Now, the question is—Wot's become o' the man?"—Life.

Near-Drunkenness.

"What makes you so nervous?"

"Liquor."

"I didn't know you drank."

"I don't, but I have a friend who has been on the water wagon for two weeks, and he tells me all his symptoms."—Cleveland Leader.

In a Corner.

"Who is that singing so dreadfully out of tune?"

"It is my wife."

"Perhaps the accompanist plays out of tune."

"She is accompanying herself."—Megendorfer Blaetter.

In Disguise.

Mrs. Knicker: "Does your husband know that you manage him?"

Mrs. Bocker: "No, I call myself a commission."—New York Sun.

Stung.

He: "Won't you miss me when I'm far away?"

She: "No; I'll always think of you as very close."—Cornell Widow.

THE WHISPERING GALLERY.

HIRAM PERCY MAXIM is no friend to Messrs. Owen Davis, Theodore Kremer, Langdon McCormick and Hal Reid. Think of a maximed melodrama.—New York Evening Mail.

* * *

Ed. Mclunkins says they have stolen the last chicken he had, but he hasn't got a hog for them to get, and he doesn't care a darn whether he marries now or not.—Warrertown (Ga.) Clipper.

* * *

Is it sublime confidence or reckless daring that induces a mother to send her little boy to the grocery for a dozen eggs?—Chicago Record-Herald.

* * *

Burglars who entered an East Side apartment house and stole a bracelet and watch entered the place again, a week later, and left the watch and bracelet where they had taken them from. It is to be feared that other burglars will not regard this as a precedent.—New York Herald.

* * *

It must have given the prospective leaner a momentary shock when his eye first fell on the headline announcing that Taft will lean on Knox.—Ohio State Journal.

Mr. Zayas seems to have demonstrated that down in Cuba, at least, a vice-president can be more than ornamental.—Pittsburg Gazette-Times.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Senator James P. Taliaferro, of Florida, is sixty-one years of age and a Confederate Army veteran, yet he is one of the youngest looking members of the Senate.

The sword which Admiral Frank A. Cook, retired, wore as captain of the Brooklyn when Admiral Cervera surrendered to him has been used by him to cut a wedding cake at New Haven.

At Easter, Rev. W. B. Selbie will succeed Dr. Fairbairn as principal of Mansfield College, Oxford. He's a graduate of the university, is now forty-six years old, and was one of Principal Fairbairn's first pupils in theology.

When Rev. Dr. Corky, of Londonderry, Ireland, arises on Sunday to expound the gospel he does so with the proud consciousness that on the same day in eight other Presbyterian pulpits his eight sons are performing a similar Christian service.

A scientific labor of the utmost importance and interest is about to be commenced from Shanghai. This is a magnetic survey of China, and Dr. Edwards, of the Carnegie Institute, Washington, who is to carry it through, is at present in Shanghai preparing for the work.

Glass is made iridescent by being exposed, in a red hot condition, to the fumes of salts of tin, barium and strontium. Red is produced by the strontia, blue by the baryta and bluish white by the tin. In ancient glass, which is more paque, iridescence is due to partial decay.

The Navy League of Brazil is thinking of ordering in Europe four sailing vessels of 4,000 tons each, with auxiliary screws, all fitted with every modern improvement and destined for the training of sailors for the merchant marine. The ships will be used to carry Brazilian goods for exhibition in Europe.

Second in importance to the exportation of china from the Limoges district of France is that of "English" walnuts. The walnuts are exported either unshelled for use as dessert nuts or in nut kernels—generally in halves. The proportion is about one-third sent unshelled and two-thirds shelled.

The Maharajah Gaekwar of Baroda has melted down and converted into bullion the celebrated gold and silver cannon of Baroda. Of these costly, but useless toys, the silver guns were the inspiration of a former Gaekwar. In order to "go one better" than his predecessor, the late Gaekwar had the gold guns cast, and mounted at a cost, it is said, of £100,000. They reposed in the state armory and were the wonder and admiration of all visitors to the capital.

NIGHT WORK FOR CHILDREN.

North Carolina Mills Should Forbid This Practice.

Stop night work in the mills by forbidding women and children from working in factories between 8 P. M. and 5 A. M. That one act will do more than all other remedies that have been suggested. Last year was a hard one on most mills. There was little demand for goods. This caused many mills to end night work, and some had to close down part of the time on day work. But to-day there are said to be sixty out of the 350 cotton mills working at night in North Carolina. This is just sixty more than should be at work, if night work requires, as it does in every case, the employment of women and children at night. It is tenfold harder upon the child to work at night than in the day. The same thing is true of women. They ought not to have this strain upon their delicate constitutions. As far as men are concerned, most of them are robust, and the law does not need to protect them. Let the night work be stopped, and that will be the best law as to children that this Legislature can pass.—Raleigh News and Observer.

The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenoy.

To Build Russian Ships in America.

ADMIRAL STEPHEN WOJEWODSKY has just been appointed by the Czar minister of the navy, and the nomination is not without interest on this side of the Atlantic, in view of the fact that a number of Russia's new ships are to be built in the United States. The appointment is a distinctly personal one on the part of the Emperor, who knows Wojewodsky extremely well, and entertains the highest regard, not only for his seafaring and administrative capacities, but above all for his personal integrity and high sense of honor. The principal aim of Nicholas II. in making the appointment is to subject the Navy Department to a radical reorganization and reform.

The recent trial of General Alexieff (who must not be confounded with Admiral Alexieff, the former Viceroy of Manchuria) has revealed the fact that the department in question is a perfect Augean stable of graft, which extends to the entourage of some of the grand dukes, though not to the grand dukes themselves.

General Alexieff, with rare courage, had exposed some of these scandals, in a series of letters to the press, bearing the signature of "Brutus." The great personages concerned, on ascertaining the authorship, inaugurated a persecution against him, with the object of discrediting and punishing him. Charges were brought against him of having himself received commissions from an English ordnance concern. The accusation, which few sensible people believe, was not proved. If he had been really guilty the only punishment which should have been accorded to him would have been that of dismissal and imprisonment. Instead of that, he was merely subjected on an alleged minor count to a fine of 10,000 roubles, that is to say, about $5,000.

This sentence, by a packed court, indicated that it had no real proof of his guilt, and that its only object was to discredit him. The aim of his enemies has, however, been frustrated, for everybody regards the verdict in the light of a complete acquittal. Within twelve hours after the pronouncement of the sentence, the fine of 10,000 roubles had been covered several times over by popular subscription, the general being a poor man, and while the sentence will probably be reversed on appeal, which is the only reason why the Emperor has not already quashed it, he has already shown what he thinks about the matter by demanding the dismissal of Admiral Dikoff, who until now has been minister of the navy.

In this matter, as in so many others, the Czar has shown his independence, and given evidence of the fact that he is a man of far stronger character than that with which he is universally credited. Whatever reforms have been accomplished in Russia may be ascribed to him, as well as all the concessions in the direction of popular government, which he has put through in the face of willingly insuperable opposition on the part of the reactionary element, consisting mainly of members of the imperial family, people of the court, and, most important of all, that very bureaucracy upon which he was obliged to rely for the execution of his views and of his wishes. The prime minister, Stolypin, is a good and honest man. But he could not hold his place for one day if it were not for the backing of his sovereign. He was the Czar's own choice. It is an excellent augury, under the circumstances, that the Emperor should have insisted upon putting another man of the same kind and of his own selection at the head of the naval department, with the object of evolving order out of chaos, and of endeavoring to rid the Russian navy of what was responsible more than anything else for the destruction of the Baltic fleet in the battle of Tsushima, namely, corruption.

Lord Terence Browne, who has arrived here from England, and who is a frequent visitor to the United States, is a younger son of the Marquis of Sligo, one of the veterans of the mutiny, and former minister of finance to the Governor-General of India, at Calcutta. The marquis held a civil appointment in Bengal when the mutiny broke out in 1857. He had left his wife and his then twelve-months-old boy at Monghyr, in what he believed to be complete safety. But to his dismay the insurgents cut off all chance of his rejoining them, and, worse still, surrounded Monghyr. His wife and her baby sought refuge in the collector's house, with the few other English people in the district, and during four weeks sustained a siege which cost the lives of most of the defenders, through thirst, hunger, disease and the onslaughts of the foe. Lady Sligo, or as she was then, Lady Ulick Browne, realized that her little boy would succumb if he remained, and accordingly took the desperate chance of permitting her devoted Hindoo nurse to dye the child a dusky color with chestnut leaves, and to make her way with him through the Sepoy lines by passing off the little fellow as her own offspring. Two weeks later Monghyr was relieved by the English troops, Lady Ulick Browne being among the very few of the gallant survivors of the siege. But not until many weeks afterwards were she and her husband able to ascertain what had become of their child and its nurse, or to discover whether they had managed to get safely through the Sepoy lines around Monghyr and to the rebel-infested country to safety, or had perished in the attempt. Eventually, however, the Ayah turned up with the little fellow, who is now the Earl of Altamont, elder brother of Lord Terence Browne. Lord Altamont is a soldier by profession, served through the Afghan War, but has not retired from the army, making his home in Surrey, where he has a charming place at Haslemere, and devotes himself to travel and to yachting. The British Museum owes to him those columns from the treasury of Atreus, at Mycenae, which are the pride of the archaic room. Lord Terence Browne, like his father and all his brothers, has seen service out in India, and may be regarded as a scion of those houses of the British aristocracy that are more particularly identified with England's great Oriental dependency.

The Browne family first came into prominence when Queen Elizabeth's sovereignty was asserted over Ireland, and John Browne, a lawyer, is on record as having drawn up the articles of the treaty, by the terms of which the chieftains and freeholders of Mayo agreed to accept English laws and tenures. So well did he do his work that by way of a reward he was appointed sheriff of Mayo, but was in course of time assassinated by the Burkes, then the deadly enemies of the Brownes; many matrimonial alliances having, however, taken place since then between the two houses. His great-grandson, Colonel John Browne, was colonel in the army of James II. and was taken prisoner at the siege of Derry, but managed to escape to Limerick, where, when the Stuart cause was finally lost, he drew up the terms of the capitulation in lawyer-like style. He married a daughter of Theobald, third Viscount Burke, and established himself at Westport House, in County Mayo, which is the home of the Marquis of Sligo to this day. It was this Colonel John Browne's grandson who became Lord Monteagle of Westport and Earl of Altamont as a reward for political services, and his grandson, the third Earl of Altamont, was created Marquis of Sligo, on the occasion of the union, in 1800.

It is a pity that Miss Charlesworth, the young lady who has lately been rivaling in England the exploits of Mme. Humbert in France, did not seek refuge a little further north than Oban, if she had managed to reach the Orkneys, for instance, she would have been secure from discovery; at any rate for a time. The Orkneys and the Shetlands, although off the coast of Scotland, are so completely cut off from the outer world that the inhabitants of the Orkneys only heard of Queen Victoria's death a number of weeks after King Edward's accession, and long after her funeral; this, however, being a distinct advance on St. Kilda, where the ministers, for several years after Queen Victoria had come to the throne, in 1837, were still praying on every Sunday for King George IV., who died in 1830. William IV.'s reign of seven years had escaped their notice altogether.

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STATE PRESS

Will Mr. Tucker Please Step Down?

Inasmuch as Judge Mann and Mr. Tucker are both committed to the principle of local option, and as there is no other burning issue on which to fire the popular heart, the inference is fair that the forthcoming campaign will be devoid of excitement, and even of the ordinary interest incident to such contests. It will simply be a choice of men, and as both candidates are men of high character and unquestioned ability, and as the following of Judge Mann is overwhelmingly greater than that of his opponent, it would be the wise and graceful thing for Mr. Tucker to follow the example of Mr. Stuart and withdraw from the contest, and thus spare the Democratic party the necessity of holding what is clearly an unnecessary primary. Will Mr. Tucker measure up to the greatness of his opportunity?—Petersburg Index-Appeal.

Local Option Is Democratic.

The Antisaloon League, now in session in Norfolk, will do well by adopting the committee's report, which stands for local option and not for State-wide prohibition. The latter measure is un-Democratic and contrary to home rule ideas upon which Democracy is founded.—Alexandria Gazette.

On Ex-Governor Tyler's Attitude.

It is most remarkable that a man of ex-Governor Tyler's prominence and ability should not only oppose State aid for the permanent improvement of public roads, but that he should publicly oppose, in a lengthy letter to The Times-Dispatch, this recent step by the State which well-nigh every progressive citizen in the Commonwealth regards as the line of demarkation between a hopeless trailing in the rear of many of the other States of the Union to a place among the leaders which she rightly should occupy. Why should not Virginia do, and do successfully, what others are doing and have done successfully? No State of like area very far surpasses Virginia in natural advantages, and she is now in a far more prosperous condition than she ever was before. Prosperity, however, depends upon good roads as much as or more than upon any other single thing, and the State which fails to improve its roads as other States are doing will soon find its population dwindling away.—Fredericksburg Free Lance.

Staunton Wants Our Weather Man.

We don't like to take anything good away from Richmond, but as she does not wish the weather station send it over this way, please, Uncle Sam, and we will supply ground, lightning rods and all other accessories.—Staunton Dispatch.

To the Ragged Gray Line.

The testimonial that Virginia is to rear on the heights of Gettysburg should be inscribed to no one individual, however illustrious. It is to stand where the waves of Virginia blood dashing against the Federal ramparts traced the high tide of the fortunes of the Confederacy. It should be consecrated to the daring and devotion of every son of Virginia, from Lee to the humblest bearer of a musket, who bore well and manfully the part of a patriot and a soldier during the three days of stress and storm. Rank and renown have fallen in abundant measure to the few. Of no avail had been their skill, had not the ragged jackets, subject to their behests, harbored the stoutest hearts that ever upbore in battle the banners of liberty.

Now is the time and Gettysburg is the ideal place to signalize the mother's all-embracing pride in the multitude of her children by such a token of enduring remembrance as will prove her worthiness of such heroic offspring. * * * And the same is true as to the Carolinas and Mississippi and all the other Southern States whose troops were distinguished in the series of death grapples around those Pennsylvania hills.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Voice of the People

About Getting Good Roads.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I have just read your editorial comments on my article regarding good roads, etc. You fail to get my meaning. I was endeavoring in my feeble way to show that we were now taxed beyond the limit of benefits the ordinary man received; the extraordinary officeholder, of course is excepted. Some six years ago I spent several months in New York and New Jersey and occasionally happened over into Pennsylvania. I traveled no little on their roads, and I said: "These are just right, and we must get to work in Virginia for similar ones there." I was told that the cost to build them was $2,000 to $5,000 per mile. This made me get to figuring, and to save me I could not make a satisfactory solution of the problem; but because I failed I don't mean to say it can't be done, for this is a progressive age.

The other day I met a youngster coming from school, loaded down with books. Says I: "Well, young man, how are you getting on in arithmetic?" He answered: "Gone into division to-day." Says I: "Tell me what's nine times six." Says he: "Fifty-six." Says I: "When I went to school it was fifty-four." Says he: "They have changed books since then," and I am sure they have, and more than once, nearer a dozen times.

Now, you tell us in your editorial above referred to that "If a county could attract new trade worth $100,000 a year to it, but had to issue $100,000 worth of bonds to do so, there would always be reactionaries to protest against the extravagance of the issue." I stand ready to vote for issuing said bonds for our county roads for five times the amount you mention if we can get new business to be worth $100,000 to said county per year by so doing. I stand ready to be convinced of these things, and maybe I will before the week's business is over in the convention now in session in Richmond.

B. H. WALKER.

Stevensville, February 10.

The Chapman Meetings.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The executive committee of the Chapman-Alexander campaign desire to publicly acknowledge their cordial appreciation of the blessings our city received through the series of meetings conducted by Dr. Chapman and his associates from January 6 to 24, 1909, and to return thanks to all who contributed to the success of the meetings.

The services reached and benefited all classes, stimulated Christians to renewed activity, and brought all the protestant churches into closer fellowship and effective co-operation for the extension of the kingdom of Christ.

The methods of Dr. Chapman and his associates were conservative and commendable, and the effectiveness of their message consisted in a strong but simple presentation of the claims of an atoning Saviour for the love and loyalty of men. The power of the gospel in song to reach the hearts of men was strikingly exemplified, and Mr. Alexander revealed the possibilities of sacred music in evangelistic effort.

Eternity alone can reveal the ultimate outcome of the campaign, and we record our sincere thanks to Dr. Chapman, Mr. Alexander and their efficient associates for the valuable services rendered, and we are profoundly grateful to God for the manifest blessing which attended the efforts of His faithful servants.

We wish to express our appreciation of the courtesy of the Mayor, the City Council and the Buildings and Grounds Committee in making the Auditorium available for the meetings; our thanks to the Police and Fire Departments for valuable assistance rendered; to the press for extended notices of the meetings; to the Passenger and Power Company for special courtesies; to the church officials who tendered their buildings for special services; to the directors of the Young Men's Christian Association for office space for headquarters and other help; to the members of the choir, personal workers, ushers, committeemen and to all who by their co-operation made possible the success of the meetings.

THE COMMITTEE.

Richmond, February 11.

The Japanese Question.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I have read with much pleasure and high approval the communication you publish to-day, "The Japanese Question," written by Cornelius H. Fauntleroy, of St. Louis.

There is no question about Mr. Fauntleroy having the whole subject well in hand, with a masterly and comprehensive treatment of premises involved. The writer feels much interest in a matter of so much importance under our supposed understood form of constitutional government, as originally bequeathed us more than 100 years ago, which of late has been receiving some very hard raps by the well-known firm of Messrs. Roosevelt & Root, who are standing to the Hamiltonian theory of the Constitution in opposition to the Jeffersonian, under which we have lived and prospered most wonderfully for six-score years. The writer would be glad to see an editorial notice of the communication he is now approving.

In a number of ways have the Japanese become a problem of no little interest since they entered at a bound, as it were, our Occidental civilization. Only a few months ago I saw proper to publish an article, "Asia for the Japanese," in opposition to Captain Richmond P. Hobson's views on Japan's warlike intentions toward the United States' interests on the Pacific, which recent events may help to accentuate along the line of Captain Hobson's most insistent contentions. "The Japanese question" in California is one to be dealt with as that State may see proper, in due exercise of all her rights, protecting and defending her own interests, granted and reserved to her under the Constitution as a free and sovereign State, duly respecting the power of the Federal government, but not expecting any interference from same.

C. A. R.

Great Issues.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The questions of good roads, education and temperance are here for attention. Indeed, no man may seek to shirk them. Were they not entitled to merit they would have died "aborning"; but deep-seated in the hearts of the people of Virginia is the fixed purpose to keep eternally at these questions until there shall come a way to procure them. Two things are absolutely essential to the accomplishment of these three desirable objects—work and money. Printers' ink (a most powerful influence) and "hot air" (another good thing in its way and place) are not going to accomplish these things; but when the people fully realize their needs, then will come the loosening up of their purse strings, and then labor will commence. It is simple folly to say that either one of these desirable objects cannot be accomplished. What is it that the people cannot do when once they are aroused? I believe there was enough money spent in Virginia for needless things and enough idle and misspent time thrown away during the last ten years to build half the roads (at least) in Virginia. A man will go on a trip and "blow in" $25 or $30 and never grumble about it, but just ask him for that much money for road work or education, and his bristles rise and he tells you about the way his father or his grandfather got along.

I am fully convinced that what we need is to tax ourselves for what we know we need in the matter of good roads and education. I have always believed in the time-honored maxim, "Where there's a will, there's a way." All honor to the noble men of Virginia, who are waking up to the importance and the necessity of good roads in Virginia. Let us not cease our efforts in this laudable enterprise until the roads are made what they can be made and what they are in some other States. Why should not Virginia have as good roads as any other State? She should, she can, and I believe she will. "Croakers to the rear, workers to the front."

Cumnor, Va., Feb. 3, 1909. G.

Taxes and Roads.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I can but call your attention to a piece in The Times-Dispatch of date February 8, headed "Voice of the People," signed B. H. Baker. I, for one, am as much in for good roads as any man. But should our taxes go higher? Will it not run out of our State all of our young men who are now farming and trying hard to make a living and do justice to their little homes? As the cry is, taxes and labor take all they can make. Can't you advocate less offices, less pay, and let some of the revenue, both State and Federal, help to get our roads better gradually? If our taxes now collected were spent with judgment, our roads would gradually get better, as I know to my personal knowledge our roads in Louisa are getting better, notwithstanding bad labor we have. Cities will not be built up and kept prosperous if the farmers are run down, as a great many are now. It should be a serious matter with our lawmakers, I think.

W.

Louisa, February 10.

Revival at Colonial Beach.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Twenty years ago Colonial Beach was opened, and it has increasingly been given up to the sins and irreligion of a watering resort. Again and again have revivals been attempted without success. Now there is one on the like of which the writer has never seen surpassed anywhere.

Evangelist George H. Wiley, from Richmond, came here ten days ago, and from the first service to the last there were conversions, until quite 100 have been to the altars and professed conversion, and hundreds of Christians from all denominations have been lifted into higher living. Every kind of plan was tried to accommodate the crowds, but it was not done. Night after night they were turned away. People from the leading citizens to the worst sinners are converted. The meeting was union, all denominations taking part. It was held in the church used by the Episcopalians and the Methodists. Rev. R. J. James, the Methodist preacher, invited Mr. Wiley here, and was in charge of the meeting.

T. P. V.

Colonial Beach, February 9.

The Flume.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The much talked about flume fiasco reminds the writer of an article that appeared in a magazine a short while ago, viz.: A flea and a fly in a flume. "Let's fly," said the flea. "Let's flee," said the fly, and they fled through a flue in the flume.

FRANCIS.

Richmond, February 9.

ENFORCING LAW IN ATLANTA.

Rigid Measures Used to Enforce Prohibition.

Recorder Broyles, of Atlanta's municipal court, has hit upon the only true and effective method of enforcing the State prohibition law—infliction of the limit of penalty upon those found guilty of its violation.

A thirty-day sentence in the stockade and a $500 fine for violation of the city ordinance, and a $5,000 bond to answer to a higher court for violation of the State law, will unquestionably have a salutary effect in impelling respect for the law on the part of those inclined to ignore and disregard it.

Recorder Broyles is no respecter of persons when it comes to dealing with violators of the law, and if more of those in authority who have to deal with this matter, not only in Atlanta, but at other points throughout the State, exhibited the same determination and spirit, there would be less of the violation.

Whatever may be individual opinion regarding prohibition, and to whatever extent such opinion may go, there is now but one view to take of it: It is the law, and duty demands the law's enforcement.

And there is but one way in which this can be accomplished—by the imposition of severe penalty, without partiality or discrimination, upon all violators.

There is no question that the prohibition law has been grossly violated here in