

About the Electric Plant Award

There is one thing to which the Westinghouse Company especially desire to call the attention of the Richmond public. This is the charge contained in an afternoon paper on Saturday to the effect that the contest we are making over the recommendation of the award of the contract for the equipment of the municipal electric plant to the General Electric Company, whose bid is \$8,384 higher than ours in an attempt on our part to block the erection of the plant. We do not know where the writer of the article received his information, but we wish to state positively that he was misinformed, and the charge made is not true. We are in this business to manufacture and sell machinery; not to block its purchase.

AS TO MR. TRAFFORD'S PRESENT POSITION.

After ten days' consideration Mr. Trafford has made a report stating his opinion of the apparatus offered by the different bidders for the city electric plant. We wish this voluminous paper could be had by every one; it would then be unnecessary for us to suggest the evident predetermination of a conclusion and to argue back from that conclusion to any straw in sight.

This company, knowing the value of its bid to the city, has endeavored all along to find out the reason for its non-acceptance and to answer these reasons. With difficulty we have, at the last minute, obtained a copy of the report mentioned above, but, unfortunately for us, only one day remains in which to reply, but our answer, which is necessarily too long to print here, will be ready by noon to-day, and copies may be obtained at our local office, 606 American National Bank Building.

A FEW SPECIAL FEATURES.

In the meantime attention is called to the following remarkable features of Mr. Trafford's report: The paper is not a judicial opinion, weighing both sides, but a brief in his own defense, which omits all points that are favorable to the Westinghouse machinery.

The reasons he gives NOW entirely alter his previous position, according to his own statements.

Any one and all of his so-called reasons can be answered if we are given an opportunity. So far we have been compelled to speak first, and then NEW points are stated against us.

AS TO CAPACITY.

For instance, we are told NOW that the highest bid contemplates generators of greater capacity than ours.

Before the sealed bids on this contract were deposited, a representative of the company, which afterwards secured Mr. Trafford's recommendations, showed Mr. Trafford the specifications for the water-driven generators, as prepared by the General Electric Company. Mr. Trafford, on glancing at it, at once stated that the ma-

chine would not be satisfactory, nor would he accept it. Taking from his own files a specification of a General Electric machine dated in the previous year, and handing it to its representative, he stated that the latter machine would be satisfactory. As a consequence of this suggestion of Mr. Trafford's, the bid of the General Electric Company contained the suggested as well as the original machine. The former was accepted by Mr. Trafford, and thus arose his opportunity to vaunt the superior capacity of the General Electric machine, which, on Friday night, he made so much of before the committee. This is how the General Electric Company came to offer the machine of a superior capacity, on which Mr. Trafford laid so much stress in his recent paper, and which is now used by him to justify the award of this contract to the highest bidder. The specifications given to all bidders by Mr. Trafford called for a 425 K. V. A. machine, and it was this machine the Westinghouse Company agreed to supply. The machine suggested by Mr. Trafford in the private interview with the representative of the General Electric Company, above described, is estimated by Mr. Trafford as a 465 K. V. A. machine.

In making the above narrated suggestion to the agent of the successful bidder, we are unwilling to think that Mr. Trafford intended to act unfairly. But, when he told the committee on Friday night of the superior capacity of the General Electric machine, was it fair for him to withhold the fact that this superior machine was secured by a suggestion which was confined to the representative of the General Electric Company alone? The Westinghouse machine, Mr. Trafford admits, meets in every respect the printed specifications. Should the Westinghouse Company be criticized or blamed for not meeting his private suggestion, with which only the representative of another company was favored?

If Mr. Trafford wanted a 465 K. V. A. instead of a 425 K. V. A. generator, why did he not originally call for bids on this larger size machine? Had such a machine been called for by his public specifications, the Westinghouse Company would have supplied the larger rating at the figures of its present bid. By Mr. Trafford's action, whether intentional or unintentional, in confining this information to one bidder, he has lost the opportunity of securing this greater capacity and at the same time saving the city \$8,384.

AS TO CUT-OUTS.

In connection with the injustice done the Westinghouse Company, as above pointed out, it may be well at this point to call attention to the effort of the successful bidder to decrease the large difference between its bid and that of the Westinghouse Company after the amounts were made public.

In his defense Mr. Trafford dwells at length upon what he terms the main feature of the contract—namely, the arc lamps—and rests his case upon his recently discovered superiority of the

General Electric lamps over those of the Westinghouse.

Now, on the floor of the Council Chamber members of the committee stated, as an argument in support of the award to the General Electric Company that this company offers, along with its arc lamps, absolute cut-outs, worth \$3,500, and that the Westinghouse Company offers no such feature. It was charged before the committee on June 3, that these cut-outs, considered so valuable, were added to its bid by the General Electric Company after the bids were opened in the public meeting of the committee, added along with the performance specifications for its arc lamps, which the General Electric Company failed to supply with its bid as publicly offered. This charge has never been denied. The statement cannot be contradicted. Yet this feature has been used as a weighty argument in the General Electric Company's favor. The defense so carefully prepared by Mr. Trafford pointedly fails to refer to cut-outs; he never mentions this further bit of history.

No explanation and no apology is made by Mr. Trafford for recommending the acceptance of a bid not in accordance with the city's specifications and including apparatus on which NO specifications were submitted with the bid.

CHARGES MADE BY MR. TRAFFORD NEW EXPERIENCE.

Many charges against our apparatus are now made by Mr. Trafford. We have no fear of these charges if they are investigated. We have sold many millions of dollars' worth of this apparatus to customers all over the world, in many instances at prices higher than those asked by the General Electric Company for similar machinery. This is our first experience with such charges of defects as are now put forth. No sensible man will imagine that we would court the full investigation and discussion and wide publicity we are inviting in this instance if, in fact, such defects exist.

MR. TRAFFORD'S REASONS NOT PROPER GROUND FOR AWARD.

To support his position in recommending this award to the General Electric Company—the highest bidder—Mr. Trafford, in his paper of Friday, June 11, has put forward thirteen reasons. As stated above, we cannot go into them in detail here, but in our full reply we have pointed out definitely and clearly the following:

Three of them, Nos. 3, 10 and 11, are the result of private suggestions made by him to the General Electric Company, and not to this company. The weight that might be ascribed to No. 1 is offset threefold by that of No. 12, which latter is so stated by Mr. Trafford as to present the converse of the real facts. Four of them, Nos. 2, 4, 7 and 8, are absolutely erroneous, due evidently to ignorance of the apparatus which the Westinghouse Company proposes to furnish. Nos. 5 and 6 are both personally opinions of Mr. Trafford on questions as to which competent engineers the world over disagree with him, and in them he has reversed his own recommendation in favor of Westinghouse turbines made on former occasions.

No. 13 is a summary of the preceding twelve, which falls with the individual items upon which it is based.

THE WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

H. H. Seabrook, Manager.

Adv.

JAMES M. BECK TO DELIVER ADDRESS

Former Attorney-General of United States Invited by State Bar Association.

Announcement was made yesterday that Hon. James M. Beck, of New York, former Attorney-General of the United States, will deliver the annual address before the Virginia State Bar Association, which will meet at the Homestead Hotel, Hot Springs, on August 10 to 12. Mr. Beck conducted a number of prosecutions for the government against so-called trusts during his administration, and it is expected that he will deal in a measure with the trust problem of the day.

By special invitation, Professor William M. Thornton, of the University of Virginia, will deliver an address on Thomas Jefferson. Papers will be read by Judge Robert R. Prentiss, chairman of the State Corporation Commission; George E. Caskie, of Lynchburg, and W. W. Old, of Norfolk.

Many matters of importance will be discussed and acted upon by the association, notably the reports of the special committees on amendment of practice and on revision of criminal law and procedure. In order to promote the social features a reception with light refreshments, will be held on the evening of the opening day, after the adjournment of the first business session. The convention promises to be the most largely attended in years. One of the principal events will be the annual address of Michael Woods, of Charlottesville, the president. New officers will be elected, although up to this time no names have been prominently mentioned for the higher honors. Secretary and Treasurer John B. Minor said yesterday that he would send out return postal cards, which will give an idea as to how many lawyers will attend. George C. Gregory, of Richmond, is chairman of the executive committee.

NEW FACULTY ANNOUNCED

Virginia Mechanics' Institute Preparing for Next Session's Work. The faculty of the Virginia Mechanics' Institute for the session of 1905-'06 has been announced as follows: Instructors: In Mathematics—J. S. Fleming, C. E.; A. H. Fitzgerald, A. W. Martens, D. H. Rucker, B. A.; W. M. Adams, B. S.; J. P. Nef, M. A.; In Drawing and Designing—C. J. Roelker, W. Duncan Lee, H. C. Houchens, H. L. Whitlock, P. P. Pilcher, B. M.; Richard Duckhart. In English Language—A. B. Chandler, Jr., M. A. In Mechanical Shop—Pattern making, W. H. Hill; machine and forge shops, E. C. Fisher; cabinet making and wood carving, G. L. Hayward. In Bookbinding—E. M. Redford, C. H. Urner. In Physics and Electricity—Frank Z. Brown, S. B., E. E. In Chemistry—M. Whitfield, M. D. In Engineering—J. A. Johnston, M. E. In Clay Modeling—G. L. Hayward.

SOME LITTLE HEART BEATS FASTER AT THOUGHT OF ICE

Hot Weather Increases Suffering Among Poor, Which Forces Ice Mission Managers to Issue Emergency Call for Help To-Day—Need To-Day Is Pressing.

The first call of the season was issued yesterday by the Ice Mission, the demands during the past few days having impressed the managers with the fact that funds are needed to relieve the suffering among the poor of Richmond. In former years contributions were exceedingly liberal, and there is every reason to believe that the same spirit will be shown this summer. The public, however, has not been advised that the situation is becoming serious, and as soon as actual conditions were reported it was decided to ask the aid of citizens generally. Without a quick response the suffering may be severe.

ALDERMAN BETS \$200 ON CHANCES OF SATTERFIELD

According to sporting men, the race for City Sergeant is better than a poker game, for it has opened a fine betting proposition which is attracting the players. In fact, all interest in the primary centers in this three-cornered contest between James C. Smith, James Anthony and Alderman John L. Satterfield, of Marshall Ward. The Satterfield people began the betting. One of the Alderman's associate colleagues in the upper branch of City Council excited the sporting element on Friday by placing \$200 on his chances against the field. The wager was quickly accepted. A Main Street plunger announced on Saturday that he had \$200 to gamble on Satterfield's chances, and it has been laid out among the players at even money. The interesting part of the proposition is that the bet that offered is quickly accepted, although the Satterfield backers are liberal to the point of taking him against all competitors. Many politicians who are not risking anything on the running qualities of the candidates are somewhat at a loss to understand the great activity of the betting element. They have various opinions as to who is likely to win, and while they are sharply divided they are not impressed with this attempt to exaggerate the importance of one office and those who seek it. If anybody has bet on a candidate for any other race nobody seems to know it.

Bond Issue Rally To-Night.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Highland Park Citizens' Association

have resulted in the course of a few hours. We try to distribute ice where it can do the most good and where it is absolutely necessary, and we are gratified to say that the appeals published in the newspapers last year did untold good. Indeed, the public cannot realize or appreciate what it means, for there are hundreds of people willing and anxious to give, though addressed as they are with other cares they are hardly expected to keep the unfortunate in mind. "Still one appeal will bring many tons of ice, and we must have money to buy tons of ice, and we must have the suffering of the poor, and especially the poor children. One ton can save many lives. Pennies count just as well as dollars. Some little heart beats faster and some little face smiles every time a coin is dropped into the collection boxes, for it is quickly turned into the product which is essential if we hope to give these little people from the grave." The Times-Dispatch will accept and acknowledge emergency contributions to-day.

WEEK AT CITY HALL

Two Branches of Council and Many Committees to Meet. Beginning with a special meeting of the Common Council to-night, the week at the City Hall will be crowded with work for the two branches of Council and the various committees. The Committee on Water will meet at 8:30 to-morrow. The schedule otherwise is as follows: Tuesday night—Board of Aldermen, James River Improvement Committee at 7:30, subcommittee on Grounds and Buildings at 8 P. M. at Moore and Gilmer Streets to consider playground matter; Committee on Light at 8 P. M. Wednesday—Committee on Streets and Committee on Street Cleaning at 8 P. M. The Committee on Grounds and Buildings will meet Thursday night, and the Committee on Ordinance, Charter and Reform Friday night. Reported Drowning Not True. Though full inquiry was made yesterday, the reported drowning to the police of two white boys in the river at the foot of Seventh Street Saturday evening could not be verified, and it is believed that the report was without foundation. The police have not received information of any missing boys.

HAND WILD YARN TO RAILROAD MAN

Rattlesnake Crawled in Keg of Beer, and Eight Italians Who Drink It Drop Dead.

That some people die of beer was verified recently in a West Virginia mining camp when eight Italians died after imbibing too freely of the contents of a keg containing the real article. Joseph M. Staten, bridge inspector of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, brought the story with him when he came to headquarters in Richmond yesterday. "Harrowing details are contained in his recital of the facts, and the reputation of the man is authority enough for the truth of the tale he tells. It happened in a mining camp near Raleigh, W. Va., on an extension of the Raleigh and South Western Railway, a branch of the Chesapeake and Ohio main line. The Italians were engaged on a section of the road known as the Piney Branch extension.

All Died Together. On the night of their doom the men left their companions and retired to a small shanty which they occupied as members of one large family. They had previously procured the keg of beer, and soon after their evening meal proceeded to make way with it. There is no other house near, and consequently, if they made an outcry, it was not heard. None of the eight reported for work next morning, and a search was started.

The first man who entered the shanty witnessed a hideous spectacle. About the rooms, in various positions, eight dead bodies were found, and on a table in the center of the main apartment was the keg, almost empty. Not once did the unprofessional laborers suspect the cause of death, and the corner was called in.

Every possible clue was run down, and afterwards poisoning was determined upon as the cause. Then another mystery confronted the investigators. "Where could the poison have come from?" "Break open the keg!" shouted some one, and the suggestion was heeded. When the keg was opened, an apparently dead rattlesnake slowly uncoiled and crept through the foam.

There is nothing like it so far as I know," said Mr. Staten, "but the main facts are given to you as they were handed out to me. It is for the West Virginia authorities to trace the origin of the keg, and it remains for the coroner or some more well-versed authority to explain how the rattlesnake lived under such remarkable circumstances. Got Cards and Liquor. John Lewis Starnard, alias Minto, colored, was arrested yesterday on a charge of operating a speakeasy at 1207 Brown Street and running a scam, being caught with cards and liquor found on the premises were confiscated. Willie Gray, colored, was arrested on a charge of wounding Willis Daniels with a rock. Charles Piqua, colored, was taken in on a warrant charging him with having stolen a pair of trousers from Rosa Harris.

STAGE-STROCK GIRLS BEG ACTRESS TO GIVE THEM LIFT

By Telephone, Letter and Interviews They Seek Advice and Admit Ambition to Shine Before Footlights in Some Other Towns.

"There are more stagestruck girls in Richmond than in any town of its size in which I have played," said Miss Mabel McComas, the actress, to a reporter for the Times-Dispatch at the Richmond Hotel yesterday. "Since the season opened here I have received letters by almost every mail, telephone calls and requests for interviews. Girls without the least talent or training have a wild ambition to appear before the footlights. Most of them are between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, and some even younger who want to make their living by being a leading lady, and they invariably want to go away from Richmond to begin, which is probably due to the fact that their parents object to a professional career."

Miss McComas picked up a package of letters, which she had tossed into the wastebasket, and smiled. One young woman wrote that she was crazy to be as clever as Miss McComas, but not so fascinating. "Please don't let my father know," said another.

Being anxious to reach Atlanta, but being unwilling to travel on Sunday, a guest at the Jefferson Hotel made an unsuccessful attempt last night to have the Southern Railway train leaving here at 11:45 held until 12:01 o'clock, so that he could reach his destination without breaking his rule of long abstaining. He got the chief train dispatcher over the telephone, put the case to him, and then asked what could be done. "I never had a request like that before," said the dispatcher in speaking of the incident later. "I explained that this was a mail train; that it made connection with a through train in Danville, and that it would be impossible for me to hold it. He explained that while his request might sound curious he was averse to Sunday traveling. He did not give his name."

William Preston Quale, night clerk at the Jefferson, said that he did not know the name of the guest who had urged the dispatcher to hold up the train. Thomas Griffin, house detective, said that a man who had left the hotel before 11 o'clock had asked him about southbound schedules. "He was a right sporty looking fellow," said Mr. Griffin, "and if he is the one who called up the dispatcher he did not impress me with being the kind who is unwilling to travel on this happy day. You know we meet all sorts of people in this business, and I guess the railroad folk think the same way now."

TRIED TO HOLD TRAIN SO HE COULD ESCAPE SUNDAY RIDE

Four Officers Arrest Nineteen Crap Players in Room Near Brook Avenue. Caught like rats in a trap, nineteen negroes were arrested yesterday afternoon in a room near the corner of Brook Avenue and Baker Streets, where they had been playing crap.

Four officers of the Second District discovered the game and immediately surrounded the house. One stood on the outside, one at the rear, and two went upstairs. When the players heard the officers coming, there was a wild scramble for liberty. Half a dozen made for the windows, and the rest fled. One of the officers, who was a game of big stakes, with the week's earnings to go on, for some of the men had as much as \$20, which is a pretty big amount for a Sunday crap game. The whole crowd was taken to the Second Station, where some of them were afterwards bailed for their appearance in Police Court this morning. Bill-Posters to Meet Here. The Middle Atlantic States Association of Bill-Posters will hold a meeting at the Jefferson Hotel on June 21, with representatives in attendance from Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina and the District of Columbia. Annie Taylor Caught Yesterday. Annie Taylor, colored, who is charged with stabbing Ida Evans Saturday night so severely that she was in danger of bleeding to death before being carried to the Virginia Hospital on a stretcher, was arrested yesterday on

HIGHEST BIDDER NEEDS 24 VOTES

Twelve Members of Council Must Vote Together to Save \$6,384 on City Contract.

Although the Committee on Electricity will again recommend to the Common Council to-night the award of contract to the General Electric Company for the electric plant equipment, notwithstanding the fact that it is the highest bidder, it was stated by members last night that they will make every possible effort to defeat that program and thereby save the taxpayers a sum of \$6,384. The lines have been sharply drawn, though the proposition will be backed by the recommendation of the committee, which relies solely upon the professional advice of its engineer. Much bitterness has been injected into the matter, and it would not be surprising to find one of the stormiest meetings of the year. Members of the committee who are openly advocating a change from the old principle by which contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, admit that they do not know the difference between the class of equipment offered; that they are not experts; that they cannot understand all the fine technical points discussed by engineers, but that having absolute confidence in Engineer Trafford, they are willing and determined to abide by his recommendation. That is about the whole story in a nutshell. It will require 24 votes to adopt the committee's recommendation, and as the ordinance must be passed over the veto of Mayor Richardson. This being true, it is said that enough members will be secured to defeat the measure.

POLICE CHIEFS' CONVENTION

Major Werner to Head Paper in Buffalo. Meeting on Central Front. Major Werner and most of the Police Commissioners will leave this morning for Buffalo to attend the annual convention of the Chiefs of Police of the United States. They will be gone five days, returning from Buffalo on Friday. Many matters of importance will be brought before the attention of the body, and several important papers will be read. Major Werner will read a paper on the illegal traffic in cocaine, with which he is thoroughly familiar. He will show how tonight responsible for much of the crime committed in cities where it is sold, and how the Virginia Legislature, at the request of the Richmond commissioners, passed a law making it a penal offense. This law and its enforcement have done much to break up the traffic, and Richmond, compared with what it once was, is now comparatively free from the traffic in dope. Thomas Vaden Improves. The condition of Thomas Vaden, of 323 South Third Street, who suffered a fractured skull in a fall through a cellar door Saturday morning, was said to be more favorable when inquiry was made at the Virginia Hospital last night. The attending physician would not say, however, that chances favor his recovery. The boy is a son of Henry H. Vaden.