The Times-Dispatch
DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1909.

PUT THE NEGRO OFFICE-HOLDERS IN THE NORTH.

The President's determination to appoint negroes to office only in the Northern States is reported to have created some consternation in the North and considerable pleasure and amusement in the South. The Charleston News and Courier doubts the latter part of this report, saying that "this is a white man's country, up North as well as down South," and that "there is no good reason why the North should be punished just because the South has been punished." The Lynchburg News agrees that there is no reason for punishing the North, but thinks that the South would be very glad to see the negro office-holders go there all the same. We should say that the News is quite right.

The sentiment which controls this country, which writes its laws and shapes its ideals of government, is Northern Republican sentiment. Under that way of looking at things, color is not supposed to exist in our government. There is no "line" theoretically, and none practically so far as the people have been able to come to their ideal. Men of certain qualifications, abilities, experiences and services are eligible for political preferment, whether black or white, and conscientious Northern Republicans like Mr. Taft would try to make it a point of honor to ignore all color distinctions and treat the black man exactly like the white. In our present stage of development, at least, negro office-holders can be surely looked for. We are certain to have them. The one open question about them is where they are to be located, and it seems to us, palpably and by all odds, the part of wisdom to put them, not where their presence is violently resented, but on the contrary among those who are both responsible for their existence and have personally the least objection to their proximity.

There is not the slightest desire to "punish" the North in this. Southern men have not contrived to call into being a lot of negro office-holders simply to harass and annoy with wile and cunning another section of the country. On the contrary, the negro office-holder is already here, by Northern desire and arrangement, and the South asks only, in perfect sincerity and good faith, that he be put with his political friends rather than his political enemies. On the long reckoning of their own utterances, our Northern brothers can have no possible objections to offer, and the colored official himself should welcome and enthusiastically indorse such a disposition of him.

This is the fair, sane, wise, just basis for believing that negro politicians should gather their rewards north of Mason and Dixon's line. At the same time, it cannot be denied that this policy has an educative side, which Southern men watch with interest. The presence of a negro office-holder is likely to be an object lesson, and object lessons are what some parts of the North, and no parts of the South, still badly need. To sum it all up in a word, the more the North sees of the negro at first-hand and in all sorts of relationships, the more surely it will come to view the "problem" surrounding him exactly as the South views it. Naturally the South desires to hasten that consummation. But here again her wish is entirely sane and intelligent and free from vindictiveness or merely punitive promptings.

SOUTHERN RAILROAD PROGRESS IN 1909.

When Progress is spelt with a big P it must spread itself widely. Success or advance in one line is not enough. A bumper corn crop, or a record year in manufactures, or an unequaled cotton crop does not make a year notable of itself. The steady progress of the many industries, rather than the sensational spurt of the few, alone makes progress lasting and large.

It is on this basis that the recently reported figures of Southern railroad construction during 1909 are chiefly important. To be sure, 2,030 miles of new railroads is not a small matter in itself; but even 5,000 miles of construction, unaccompanied by success in manufactures, in farming and in other general industries, might mean calamity as it did in 1857. When, however, this amount of construction is but one of the many things the South has done during the year, and when it is side by side with many other excellent records, it may justly be hailed with rejoicing.

Nor is it fair to presume that the year's record in railroad building in any particular State means that that State is enjoying a period of unequal prosperity above its neighbors. By such a test some of the Southern Commonwealths would be far outstripping the others, when, as a matter of fact, they are solidly moving forward together. Texas, by such an argument, based on the strength of this year's showing, would have made more progress than any three other States, since its railroad construction amounted to 798 miles of the total. Georgia would be a sorry second, and North Carolina would finish a dragging third.

But railroads come as much to make progress as they do to crown and reveal it. They sweep their way often through wilderness and forest to make future growth possible. They come that others may come, and coming, prosper. States which have already been fairly covered with railroads and States with long coast lines cannot be expected to keep pace with those which have neither. Georgia's record, North Carolina's, and those of a half-dozen other States mean as much as that of Texas.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL SALE.

Only one other man in Virginia has been mentioned in connection with more appointments under the new administration than Colonel W. W. Sale. Rumor has before now made the Norfolk Senator Secretary of the Commonwealth, Adjutant-General, Commissioner of Fisheries. Probably this constant association of his name with various posts of totally different sorts has given considerable currency to the idea that Colonel Sale was going to be "taken care of" in any case. But considerations of this sort are of little importance compared to his fitness for the place, and there is no reason to doubt that he will fill the place very capably and well.

There are other men in the State who are better fitted to take charge of Virginia's military than Colonel Sale, but these men, like George Wayne Anderson, of this city, were all, we believe, out of reach of the appointment. Probably Colonel Sale is as well qualified as any man who might be described available for the post. He has had some practical experience as a member of a militia company. In the Legislature he has shown his interest in the military by introducing and securing the passage of a bill increasing the appropriation for this branch. It is much in his favor that large numbers of military men in the State desired his appointment. Many officers, it is said, whose first choice was some man who proved unavailable, desired him as their second choice.

Colonel Sale made a good impression on many people by his attitude toward the position of Secretary of Commonwealth, when the State Committee met to name the Democratic nominee. It was generally known that he might have had the nomination, but he withdrew when it became evident that his appointment would arouse dissension and factional difference. We trust that he will carry exactly the same spirit into the management of his new office. This appointment opens to Colonel Sale a large field of usefulness to his State. We hope sincerely to see him take advantage of his opportunity in such a way as to justify the Governor-Elect's confident in him to the fullest.

BLIND LEAKS IN ADMINISTRATION.

How many little leak-holes are there in the administration of government through which the tax-payers' money pours out in utter waste or extravagant expenditure? If an experienced but financially "stressed" magnate of the best modern type took over all the departments, with the knowledge that he must bring operating expenses to the lowest point consistent with efficiency or go himself to ruin, how large a leakage of dollars could be cut off in the aggregate? Probably the figure would be appallingly large. From time to time we cry economy and pat ourselves solidly on the back whenever we reduce an appropriation or otherwise shave down a dollar. But there is no telling how much hard-earned money slips away forever in the darkness and dullness which hangs over the routine of the departments.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury calls attention to an old abuse of this sort, trifling enough, but characteristic in its way. Tables are printed showing the amount of money in customs collected at certain ports and the cost of collecting this money. Most of us are more or less familiar with the figures, since they are printed every year. At York, Maine, $7.30 was collected during the past fiscal year, and the expenses of collecting it amounted to $365. At Coos Bay, Ore., $79.81 was collected at an expense of $1,464. At Crisfield, Md., the people paid out $3,286 in order to take in $95. At Annapolis the proportion was much worse, since there the people paid out $956 to take in a beggarly $3.09. In sixteen of 160 customs districts it cost an average of $23 to collect every dollar taken in. A half-witted infant can see what sort of business this is. No doubt there are reasons why ports should sometimes be run at a loss, but such reasons do not apply to most of these ports. Secretary after secretary has pointed out their uselessness, and they would have been shut up long ago but for the deficiencies, remissnesses, ineptitudes and inadequacies of Congress.

The other day we spoke of the great difficulty of eliminating all railroad accidents. Probably defective material or weakness brought about by wear and tear will always be danger spots as long as railroads are run. But that railroads can do a great deal to reduce risk to life and limb, and have usually done much less than they should, is as well understood as anything could be. Just how the toll of injury and death can be cut down is shown vividly by figures in the annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, illustrating the gratifying results of the safety-appliance law. In 1903 one man in every 349 employed in coupling and uncoupling cars was killed; in 1908 only one man in every 983 was killed. In 1903 the number of injured was one in every 13, while in 1908 it was cut to one in 62. This shows graphically what the safety-appliance law has done in the saving of valuable human lives and the prevention of bereavement and misery. In the light of it the recollection that the roads fought the law and secured postponement of its complete application is not recalled to their credit.

An ineradicable trait of human nature has shown itself in the West End, where everybody wants a new car line, but wants it on the other fellow's street. Various routes have been proposed for a line extension to tap the large population not now reached by the cars, and each suggestion has been greeted with a howl. Any street in the world but this one, cry those who live there. We have here a situation something like what existed with the new post-office building, which was blocked for months while a lot of us were squabbling over where to put it. It is quite satisfactory to the car company, which is probably no more anxious to pay out a large sum for fresh construction than a public utility corporation would naturally be. We should say that the best thing for our West End friends to do is to face the knowledge that the new car line, if it is to go down at all, must go on some street, and to try to reach a commonsense agreement among themselves as to which one it shall be.

A great many things that are said and done by silly asses are most conveniently laid off on the "yellow press."

Why, Mr. Carnegie, if you could make South America peaceful for $20,000,000, or anything like that, we'd do it ourselves.

Mr. Bryan doesn't seem to understand that it is of no importance that the Democratic party has dominated the affairs of the nation so long as the Republican party has waltzed off with the postmasterships.

If Mr. Taft were to join hands with Albert B. Cummins and Vic Murdock, we should probably hear very little indeed about this Back-from-Elba movement.

Been monkeying with Rock Island any?

We trust that Congress is enjoying the long rest which it does not so sorely need.

Peary not only got $50,000 for his story of his polar trip, but now has the finest monopoly on the platform end of it that the polar heart could wish.

"What the Democratic party needs," begins the Washington Herald hopefully, "is not so much leaders as followers." What the Democratic party needs is not so much getting more advice as taking some of that already gotten.

Few people have changed their opinions about whiskey since the President pronounced his historic decision.

With the collapse of Dr. Cook, there may yet be a little piece of mon in the reach of Professor Matt Henson.

NEW ENGLAND NIGHT VISIONS.

Presence of Weird Mysteries Rather Suggestive at This Season.

In the days of the Salem witch mania New England saw queer sights and heard queer sounds after nightfall. The air was full of things of the underworld, evil imps chaperoning withered beldames, who had taken to broomstick riding in their old age. New England is nearly as much wrought up now as it was then, though nobody is going to be hanged for exciting the popular curiosity.

From Willimantic, Conn., comes the news of a wonderful searchlight that "suddenly came from the East" and held up the Christmas traffic in the streets. The light wiggled about in the most astonishing fashion, and "there could be seen the outline of something trailing behind." Furthermore, we are told that "Tillinghast's airship was the outcry that came from every one. From the suburb of Baltic, a little to the east of Willimantic, a citizen whose sobriety is so far unimpeached actually saw the airship with two men navigating it. From Marlboro, South Framingham, Natick and Ashland, comes other testimony to the appearance of this mysterious nocturnal visitant. Matthew McCant and John Davis, of Lynn, swear they saw a "large, black object" pass over the city, going in the direction of Salem, which is somewhat slow in sending in reports, probably mindful of its old reputation for delusions. But from Boston comes the most remarkable evidence. At 7:45 last night members of the Puritan Club, the very name of whose organization is a guarantee that they were behaving decorously at the hour mentioned, saw a winged something hovering far above the Common. Why there should be no corroborative evidence from Tremont Street and Brimstone Corner we do not profess to know, but possibly the groundlings in those neighborhoods were too busy with their Christmas shopping or the mayoralty election to observe what was going on among the stars.

Mr. Wallace E. Tillinghast, of Worcester, who claims to have flown from his own town to New York and back in a single night, will doubtless be responsible for a great deal of trouble unless he offers a daylight demonstration of his alleged invention. These are nervous times. People want to be "shown." They will accept nothing on the credit even of a dozen Puritan clubs. Unless Mr. Tillinghast comes forward pretty soon with positive proofs that he can really fly, New England wives will be justified in rigorously investigating the growing tendency of husbands to stay out late on the ground that they are watching for the Worcester airship.—Brooklyn Eagle.

December.

We hail thee, December,
With joy, with delight;
No month of the year
Holds promise so bright.

In hearts of all mankind,
Thou love dost instill;
Universal's the cry,
"Peace on earth, good will!"

An event in thy times
Shed light o'er the world;
Rejoicing brought forth—
God's love was unfurled.

For, oh! 'twas in thee
That the Almighty gave
His Son to the world,
Vile sinners to save!

Hence in thee 'tis the custom,
Like wise men of old,
To sing praises, give presents,
And think of life's goal.

The sweet little children
In thee often pause,
And wonderingly say,
"I love Santa Claus!"

Most favored of months,
With record so clear,
We rejoice for the birth
Of Christ Jesus, so dear.

JANE JOHN.

Borrowed Jingles

A NIGHT IN JUNE.

Long I had loved her, long had dared
To hope she might return my love,
And now at last I knew she cared,
Forth from her window, high above,
She fondly looked and heard my plea,
And modestly encouraged me.

No fairer maiden ever gazed
Out on a lover in the night;
My ladder carefully I raised,
My arms were strong, my heart was light;
The deep concern she showed was sweet
A moment more and we would meet.

Up, up I climbed to her and bliss,
Her arms around my neck were thrown;
Our glad lips met in one long kiss,
My yearning heart had claimed its own;
It seemed as if the stars with glee
Were singing down to her and me.

Out from the window ledge she swung,
Her glad heart beating on my breast;
I bore her downward, rung by rung,
What time she looked her loveliest;
But presently the ladder broke,
And I awoke.

—S. E. Kiser, in Chicago Record-Herald.

MERELY JOKING.

One Satisfaction.

"I enjoy grand opera."

"But they sing it in Italian or French."

"That's all right with me. They can't sing it in dialect."—Washington Herald.

All at Sea.

"Johnny seems to be somewhat doubtful about Santa Claus."

"Well, you can't blame him. He saw a fat one at the department store, a gouty one at his uncle's, and a thin one at the Sunday-school entertainment after Christmas."—Pittsburg Post.

Of Course Not.

"Can you paint me a gallery of ancestors from this old tintype?"

"Yes; but they'll all look much alike."

"Well, a family resemblance won't hurt none."—Houston Chronicle.

No Garland for Him.

"I'll give you a quarter to carry home these wreaths for me. You can put one under each arm and the third one around your neck."

"Wot, and be took for an Arctic explorer?"—Kansas City Journal.

His Little Yarn.

"I thought you were going to take me to the grand opera?"

"Well, you see I ordered two seats in the front row."

"Good enough."

"But then they had to take the first row out to make room for the orchestra."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Papa Is Wise.

Stella: "Know anything about the English budget?"

Bella: "Yes; papa says he won't buy me a lord till he knows where they are at."—New York Sun.

THE OBSERVANT PARAGRAPHERS.

MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT'S delight that women may become census takers is readily explainable. Of course, a woman would rejoice in backing another woman against the wall and forcing her to admit her age.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

* * *

The new activities of very fashionable women make it somewhat difficult to determine these days whether it is a pink tea that is going on or a waistmakers' strike.—Providence Tribune.

* * *

It is one of the queer things about Nicaragua that San Juan del Sur, whither our gunboat Princeton has just gone, is considerably further north than San Juan del Norte.—New York Tribune.

* * *

It seems that Colonel Roosevelt will enrich the Smithsonian Institution with quite a few beasts and birds that African zoology never dreamed of. Strenuous work!—Milwaukee Sentinel.

* * *

Zelaya should not plume himself upon his accidental resemblance to Paul Morton. It will not get him anything worth while.—Chicago Tribune.

* * *

You cannot talk to any of your honorable ancestors via a spirit medium unless you have the price. No matter how useless the long green and coin of the realm may be in spookland, the mediums need the money in this world, it seems.—Washington Herald.

STATE PRESS

Corn in Pittsylvania.

Corn is king! Great interest is being taken in the raising of this important crop. Some "outrageous" yields are reported from different sections of the country, ranging from 152 to 226 bushels to the acre, some of the producers being boys. And what one person can do another can duplicate. Our farmers are interested, and many will try for a larger yield of corn. It requires the same amount of labor and the addition of improved methods of working the crop, and a little fertilizer, which any intelligent boy can easily manage. If an increase in yield from thirty to forty bushels to one of 100 even can be made to the acre, it would make Pittsylvania farmers rich and end at once their slavery to the tobacco crop and the destruction of their timber in curing same.—Pittsylvania Tribune.

Thinks State-Wide Still Distant.

The Virginia Anti-Saloon League will meet in Richmond next month, and this question will come up for settlement. While the leaders of the organization will be in favor of legislation giving the people the right to demand an election, there doubtless will be a strong sentiment in favor of petitioning the Legislature to submit the question of State-wide prohibition at the approaching session. It is believed that the leaders will be able to control the action of the organization. In no event, however, need a State-wide election be expected in the very near future, since even if the Anti-Saloon League should ask for more radical legislation than a bill giving the people the right to demand an election, it would not be granted.—Bristol Herald-Courier.

The Constitutional Amendments.

For three months previous to the last general election in this State there was published in a newspaper of general circulation in each of the "cities of the first class" in Virginia a long advertisement setting forth the text of proposed amendments to the Constitution of Virginia. It would naturally have been assumed by the public that this publicity was for the purpose of letting the voters inform themselves previous to voting on the proposed amendments at a referendum. But no; the amendments must go again before the Legislature before they go before the people, and it is for the Legislature itself to decide when they shall go before the people. Moreover, the Constitution fails to provide any publication of the text of the amendments between the time of their second adoption by the Legislature and their consideration by the people, who have the final say! In other words, when the amendments reach the voter they will be hazy in the public recollection, because published as advertisements anywhere from eight months to a year before.—Norfolk Landmark.

No Backward Step in Road-Building.

In its issue of Monday The Times-Dispatch made comment upon the fact that an effort would be made during the session of the Legislature to reduce the State appropriation to public roads, and that a strong fight would be made to have this done. There has always been opposition to this measure, but it has been overcome, and we feel sure it will be similarly met this winter.

The work of road-building is in its infancy in Virginia, and there should be no backward step. All can see the great amount of good that is being accomplished, and those who stand for progress must now stand together and keep the good work going forward. Not only do we want State aid, but national aid as well, and those who oppose these ideas will, doubtless, find the people of the State so far out of sympathy with them that they will be in hopeless minority. No, there must be no cessation in road-building. This is bringing Virginia to the front more rapidly than anything has done since the war, and we boys want to see it keep going along same lines, so that in our old age we can look back at the good that was done in our generation.—Blackstone Courier.

MLLE. DE LESSEPS TO WED DUKE'S SON

Was Favorite Daughter of Originator of Panama Canal Scheme.

KINSWOMAN OF EMPRESS

Both Fiances Are Related to the Aged Empress Eugenie, Who Made the Match.

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

SOLANGE DE LESSEPS, whose betrothal to the eldest son and heir of the Duke and Duchess of Tamanes has just been announced, was the favorite child, and in the closing years of his life the constant companion, of old Ferdinand de Lesseps, the creator of the Suez Canal. She came with him to America, as an extremely pretty little girl, on the occasion of his last visit to the United States in his vain attempt to interest American capitalists in his Panama Canal enterprise, shortly before the collapse of the company which he had organized, and will be remembered by most of those who met him here at that time. She is his only remaining unmarried daughter, and since the loss of her mother a couple of years ago has spent much of her time with her kinswoman, the Empress Eugenie, in the South of France and in England. One of her sisters is married to the Comte de Miramon; another to Baron Prosper de La Grange; the third to the Comte de La Begassiere, and the fourth to the Baron Louis de La Caze.

The relationship of the de Lesseps family to Empress Eugenie arises from the fact that old Ferdinand de Lesseps's mother and the grandmother of Empress Eugenie were sisters. They were both daughters of Henri Grevigny, who was the head of a thriving grocery business at Bruges, in Belgium. Of Grevigny's two daughters one married a French officer of the name of Matthieu de Lesseps, father of the creator of the Suez Canal, and the other became the wife of Kirkpatrick, a native of Belfast, and the unpaid United States consul at Malaga, where he was engaged in trade as buyer for a number of Belfast and Dublin grocers. It was on one of his visits to America in connection with his business that he secured the appointment of United States consul at Malaga. Only when the Comte de Montijo became infatuated with one of the daughters of Consul Kirkpatrick did the latter put forward pretensions to lineage and blueness of blood, in order to overcome the opposition raised by the Montijos to a member of their house marrying his daughter, on the ground that it was a mesalliance. He claimed the nobility of the Netherlands for the Grevignys, although the latter had always been in trade for generations—honest retail merchants, figuring as such in the Guilds of Liege and of Bruges. He also insisted that he himself belonged to the Scottish house of Kirkpatrick of Closburn, a claim which was indignantly denied by the late Sir Charles Kirkpatrick, of Closburn, sixth baronet, and likewise by his successors, the seventh and eighth baronets, the chiefs of the Kirkpatrick Clan of Closburn.

Solange de Lesseps, in marrying Don Fernando Mesia y Stuart, is wedding a relative, for the young fellow's mother, the Duchess of Tamanes, is a sister of the late Duke of Alba, and her mother was Empress Eugenie's elder sister, married to the fifteenth Duke of Alba. The future Duke of Tamanes is therefore, like Solange de Lesseps, descended from Henri Grevigny, the Bruges grocer. Empress Eugenie is very much attached to her niece, the Duchess of Tamanes, and to the latter's husband, the duke, and is credited with having been the fairy godmother who has brought about the marriage between their son and her favorite, Solange de Lesseps.

A Merry Cabinet.

The Duke of Tamanes will be recalled by many here as having accompanied the Infanta Eulalie when she visited this country at the time of the Columbian celebration, to represent the kingdom of Spain at the festivities in connection therewith. Although he is now somewhat elderly and impresses mere acquaintances with the possession of all that gravity and impressive dignity which we are wont to associate with the grandees of the old Spanish nobility, yet he has a very keen sense of humor, and during the lifetime of Alfonso XII. was his boon companion in all sorts of merry pranks.

On one occasion—it was during the last few days before the beginning of Lent—the King complained to the duke that the carnival was frightfully dull, and that of all dull things in Madrid there was nothing that he found more dreary than the Cabinet meetings, one of which was scheduled for the following morning. The duke took the matter to heart, and the next day, when the King entered the council chamber to take his seat at the head of the table, around which the Cabinet officers were assembled, he found them overcome with laughter at the spectacle presented by one of their number, namely, the Minister of Agriculture, over whose head and shoulders the Duke of Tamanes had unexpectedly dropped a large sack of flour, from which he was endeavoring in vain to disengage himself, scattering the flour about in every direction. Like a sensible man, when released from the sack he joined in the merriment, and on that day at any rate the Cabinet meeting was far from dull. In fact, the amusement afforded by the aspect of the Minister of Agriculture was so great that but little business was accomplished.

For a time the Duke of Tamanes was Governor of Madrid, and as such chief of the metropolitan police. While in office one of those mysterious murders took place which completely nonplussed the ordinary police officers. Their superintendent, visiting the duke one morning to report that no progress had been made in the discovery of any clues, found Tamanes surrounded by yellow paper covered novels of Gaboriau, dealing with the adventures of "Lecocq," that French prototype of "Sherlock Holmes." The duke, seeing the superintendent's gaze directed toward the novels, declared that he had found therein what he believed to be a clue to the mystery. It was followed up by the superintendent with immediate success, it being ultimately discovered that the criminal, a man of birth and breeding, had also been a constant reader of Gaboriau's books, and that he had found in one of them the inspiration for the extraordinary ingenuity which he displayed in the perpetration of his crime and in the concealment of its traces.

This incident often occurs to me as an illustration of the harm which may be done by novels of the Gaboriau and Sherlock Holmes order, furnishing, as they do, ideas to criminals which might not otherwise have occurred to them, and it may be questioned whether this disadvantage is in any way set off or atoned for by the fact that occasionally the head of a police department may find in the perusal of these novels a clue to the perpetrator of some mysterious deed of evil.

Care for Veterans.

Jean de Castellane, the Vicomte d'Harcourt, the Comte d'Haussonville, the Marquis de Vogue and Ex-Ministers Etienne, Lebon and Doumer are the moving spirits of an association which has lately been organized in Paris in order to provide for the welfare of veterans of the colonial army on their honorable discharge. Whereas in France the compulsory service is brief and enables the young soldier on his completion to return to his family and to resume his trade, the voluntary service in the colonial army and foreign legion is for very much longer terms, and when these are completed the veteran, who receives his discharge at Marseilles, in nine cases out of ten finds himself without money, home, friends or means of getting employment—in fact, homeless and friendless in the country for which he has been serving, either in Africa or in Asia.

The association just formed has obtained from the government an unused barrack on the Boulevard Kellerman, and has fitted it up for the lodging and boarding of several hundred of discharged soldiers, with kitchens, dormitories, reading rooms, billiard rooms, etc. Here the men are kept by the association, and at its expense, until employment can be found for them.

If I call attention to this form of patriotic philanthropy in these columns, it is because every country where voluntary enlistment is the rule should have organizations of this kind to look after honorably discharged soldiers, so that one may be spared such conditions as those which now prevail in England, where the government professes itself unable to assist in any way a body of over 5,000 honorably discharged, gray-haired veterans of the army, who are unable to find civil employment and are wholly destitute.

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"AMERICA'S FOREMOST BRAND."

LUZIANNE COFFEE

Its Quality means satisfaction; Its Purity means safety;
Its Strength means economy; Its Freshness means delight,
Any patron-pleasing grocer will supply you.

The Reily-Taylor Company
New Orleans, U. S. A.

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

Moving Picture Theatres.

Are there any restrictions on the operation of moving picture machines in Richmond? If not, it seems to me there should be, in view of the frequent accidents reported from other cities. INQUIRER.

All the moving picture theatres in this city are under strict supervision. The operators are required to pass an examination, and must work in rooms of special construction, under directions rigidly enforced by the electrical inspector.

Roanoke Daily Papers.

Please tell me the names of all the papers in Roanoke. READER.

Roanoke has three daily papers—The Times (morning) and The News and The World (evening).

Yoont Eel, Etc.

Please explain for me the terms yoont eel and hobys. T. N. G.

These words are not found in the Century Dictionary. Hobys may be some form of hoby, which is an obsolete style of hobby, meaning either an ambling horse or a small falcon. We would advise you to go to the State Library and look in some of the dictionaries of obsolete words.

Supervisor of the Census, Etc.

Please give me the name and address of the supervisor of the census for the Tenth District. H. C. G.

W. L. Hyde, Buchanan county, Va.

Mr. Munford's Book.

Please give me the exact title of the book recently written by Mr. Beverley Munford on Virginia's part in the War of Secession; also where I can get the book and price of the cheapest edition. READER.

"Virginia's Attitude Towards Slavery and Secession." The names of the publishers and the price of the book cannot be given in this column. Any book dealer can secure it for you.

Weekly Papers in Third District.

Please tell me the names of all the weekly papers in this congressional district. SUBSCRIBER.

Weekly Times-Dispatch, Hanover Herald, Manchester Bee, Williamsburg (Va.) Gazette and West Point News. In addition to these the Louisa Enterprise is also credited to Goochland county.

Leap Years.

Will 1910 be leap year? READER.

No. The next leap year will fall in 1912. The old rule, you remember, is that the leap years are those divisible by 4, except years ending in 100, which must be divided by 400.

Southern Workman.

Please tell me whether there is a magazine known as the Southern Workman. CONSTANT READER.

Yes; it is printed by the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Hampton, Va.

Quotation From Burns.

Please give me the exact wording of that quotation from Burns, "To see ourselves as others see us." INQUIRER.

"Oh, wad some power the giftie gi'e us
To see oursel's as ithers see us!
It wad frae mony a blunder free us
And foolish notion."

Histories of the United States.

Please tell me what is the best history of the United States. SCHOOL TEACHER.

This depends altogether upon what point of view you wish to study our history. If during the early period, Bancroft, though his history ends with the adoption of the Constitution, Schouler's history begins where Bancroft stops and covers our history down to 1865. This is in some respects an admirable work, but it is marred by a considerable prejudice against the South. McMaster's History of the People of the United States is an admirable work, especially in its use of unusual sources, such as newspapers, advertisements, etc. Winsor's Narrative and Critical History of the United States is another valuable work, particularly in its many bibliographies. Hart's American Nation is an excellent work in twenty-six volumes, written by more than twenty historians. Its various parts, however, are of more than unequal merit. The connection between the various works is not all that might be desired. Professor Edward Channing is at present engaged upon a history of the United States which bids fair to equal any of its predecessors. Avery's is especially valuable for contemporary pictures and facsimiles. Woodrow Wilson's History of the United States is merely an extension of his little volume, entitled Division and Reunion. These are a few of the principal works.

Celebrations for New Year's Eve.

Please give me some suggestions for New Year's Eve celebrations. INQUIRER.

The following have been suggested as appropriate:

At a dinner to be given on the eve of the New Year a lovely table decoration is the New Year's wish tree. The top of the Christmas tree may be utilized for this purpose. Attached to a gilded wishbone for each guest have a tiny envelope containing a good wish. These may be made out by the hostess, who probably has some idea of what would be the dearest wish of most of her guests; or suitable quotations may be written. In fancifully-shaped boxes good luck talismans may be concealed and tied to the tree. Suspended over the table there may be the face of a large clock or watch with the hands at 12 o'clock.

It is an old custom handed down from ages remote, that promptly at the stroke of midnight the front door must be opened for the passing of the old year out to join the centuries of the past, and for the entrance of the baby New Year, who is just about to commence his earthly career. It is a pretty ceremony and worthy of continuation."

This charming party was arranged and carried out as the crowning function of the year by a hostess who is noted for her clever and original entertainments: Twelve young ladies received invitations, each with request to come in a costume representing the month designated, and an equal number of men were asked to appear each in a costume representing a special day in a month. When all arrived partners for the cotillion were found by "January" escorting the little "New Year"; "February" was appropriated by "St. Valentine"; "June" was a grave reverend signior in cap and gown, and claimed the rose-crowned maiden in the white-rose-trimmed gown; and so the months were all present and accounted for. The hostess was attired as the "Old Year," all in black, with a watch worn as a chatelaine, the hands pointing to 12 o'clock. Promptly at the stroke of midnight the figures of the New Year appeared in a blaze of electric lights, the company formed in a circle and sang "Auld Lang Syne." The decorations were the Christmas greens with a generous bunch of mistletoe over every doorway.

Voice of the People

County Superintendents of Schools.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Desperate evils require desperate remedies. Therefore, years ago, when the negroes were largely in the majority in our State, it was necessary to create an appointing board to elect our county superintendents of schools, to prevent negroes from being placed over our schools. That danger has passed away, and the desperate remedy to which we resorted should now be abolished, and the election of county superintendents should be remanded to the people.

Article I., section 2, of our Constitution says: "That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amenable to them."

For many years the appointing board recognized the object for which they were created, and made their appointments to please the best element of people in the respective localities.

But a change has come o'er the spirit of the dream, and the "State Board" no longer regard themselves as trustees and servants of the people to do their bidding, but have become arbitrary, despotic and objectionable, and should be now abolished, and the election of county superintendents be referred back to the people.

A young man graduates with honor and leaves the military school at West Point, and enters the army as lieutenant. Lee, Jackson and Grant were all lieutenants in the Mexican War, and it took them years and years of patient toil and experience to qualify and perfect themselves before they could be safely intrusted with the command of a great army.

The same facts obtain as to the graduates of the Naval Academy. They must start at the bottom, and it is years before they are placed in command of a single warship, and still some years longer before they are intrusted with the command of a squadron.

Thus it should be with the boys who graduate from William and Mary College. They should be employed as teachers in the third room, and if they are efficient, promote them to the second, and after discharging these duties faithfully, then make them the principal of the high school, and then after eight or ten years of successful work they will be qualified to be county superintendents. Would it not be folly to appoint a great lot of inexperienced boys (although they have graduated from West Point with honor) in command of the American Army and send them out to fight against the army of Japan, with the old war dog, Field Marshal Oyama, with his sixty-five years of experience, in command? What could these boys do against such an antagonist? It would be supremely foolish to appoint the graduates from the Naval Academy at once, without any experience, in command of the squadrons of the great American Navy.

It is no less unreasonable to appoint a whole lot of inexperienced boys superintendents of our schools. The people would never elect them to these positions, where it is so pre-eminently necessary to have actual personal experience in teaching. Let the boys by all means graduate, and then let them, like the army and the navy, start at the bottom and work their way up and demonstrate their efficiency before they are elevated to the high position of division superintendent of schools.

Our approaching Legislature should by all means pass a law that no man is eligible to the office of county or division superintendent of schools until he has taught school for ten years. This would add greatly to our educational system and would render our division superintendents a great boon.

QUIET OBSERVER.

Lunenburg, December 20.

Fountains in the Capitol Square.

Editor of the Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Now that clear water is assured for the city, it is apropos for the committee which has charge of the fountains in the Capitol Square to make an effort to improve them. These fountains are so familiar to us that we do not notice how unsightly they are. A few feeble streams issue from them, and these generally on only one side. The basins connected with them are to a large extent filled with trash, and a rough plank, for the use of the squirrels, rests against the curb, with the lower end projecting nearly to the centre of the pool. There is nothing attractive or artistic about them in any respect. With the exception of the one in front of the Governor's Mansion, each of them, instead of being "a thing of beauty" and "a joy forever," is a mere travesty on what a fountain should be. With clear water, there should be nothing to obstruct the flow of the streams, and with remodeled fountains we would have attractions which would beautify the grounds and please the senses, instead of objects which are scarcely above contempt. The grounds would present a better appearance, under present conditions, if the fountains were not there.

OBSERVER.

Richmond, December 22.