The Times Dispatch

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1912.

RESURRECT IT.

"Dead" is the description which Senator West, of Nansemond, is reported as giving to the legislative attempt to get more light on the fee system. It is said that he has given up hope that his fellow Senators will allow the resurrection of his bill to surround the fee system with publicity. The West bill requiring such publicity is in the hands of the Finance Committee, of which Senator West is himself a member. "Repeatedly," says the Virginian-Pilot, "the colonel (Senator West) has tried to have the matter taken up, but his every effort has been in vain. Somehow or other the majority seem to think it better for the bill to remain undisturbed. There's plenty of time, they say."

The West bill only requires fee officers to submit annual statements showing the amount of their compensation. There is no provision requiring that fee officers be put on a salary basis. No such action is contemplated in any way in the West bill. Yet the Senate Committee on Finance seems indisposed to grant publicity to the people of Virginia. The voters wish the light turned on, but the Finance Committee puts up an impenetrable screen, taking by implication the position that the people must not know what their servants are getting. It is to be hoped that by speedy action the committee will negative such an implied position on so important a matter.

More than half the Senate Committee on Finance are lawyers. They seem to be ignorant of the fact that at its last annual meeting the Virginia Bar Association recorded itself against the fee system of compensating the clerks of the Supreme Court of Appeals. It has often been asserted by The Times-Dispatch and by others that one of these clerks is drawing considerably more compensation through fees than is received by Governor Mann, Judge Keith, Attorney-General Williams, or any judge in the Commonwealth. The spectacle is presented of a mere clerk who need not be a lawyer and yet who receives more money than the chief judge of the whole State, a man learned in the law. Such a statement has never been denied. In the absence of denial the rumor must stand confirmed. At any rate, the matter should be investigated. If these clerks are too highly compensated at least the fact should be known; if they are not receiving too much money, the more secure will their position be. Who is going to take this up? What are the lawyers going to do about it?

The West bill is too important to be buried. It ought to be brought out of committee speedily. It is in line with both the fee system messages of Governor Mann at the present session and cannot be objected to. It will cost the State not a penny. It will be of much value to the people. It will let the truth out about the fee system. Perhaps some fee officers are not as fat as they are painted; perhaps some who are depicted as poor are thriving. Much injustice to some fee officers will be stopped and much justice to others will be effected by proper publicity in this matter.

Senators Echols, Garrett, Holt, Harman, Early, Fletcher, Lesner, Massie, Moncure, Rinehart, Cummings, Wendenburg, West and Sowder compose the Senate Committee on Finance. They can render the State a notable service by reporting favorably the West bill so that it may go before the Senate to be discussed in the open. If the bill is condemned, let its execution be public.

CHARLOTTESVILLE'S NEW GOVERNMENT.

An improved form of city government has been voted for Charlottesville. By a ballot of 8 to 4, the Council of that city agreed Wednesday to ask of the General Assembly such changes in the charter of the municipality as will make the Council merely the legislative branch of the city government and a board of commissioners the administrative agency. The fundamental principle of the plan is similar to that of the improved form of government granted Richmond by the General Assembly. Charlottesville will compose its Administrative Board of four commissioners, one elected from each ward. Richmond will elect such board members at large from the whole city, a much better way, in our judgment, than that adopted in Charlottesville, for a wider field for the selection of good men is offered, and ward lines are broken down, because the board members owe allegiance to no particular section of the city and will represent and work for not a part, but the whole.

Council committee government, at any rate, is abolished by the Charlottesville plan. That in itself is a most effective reform. Charlottesville is spending anually more than $130,000, and the expenditure is increasing as time goes by. The disbursement of all but the fixed charges—interest, sinking fund, salaries—is in the hands of Council committees after the Council has appropriated. The money spent on streets is spent by the Street Committee, and similarly committees spend the city's money in the various municipal activities. There is little concurrence and conference between these committees, and co-ordination of expenditures and totality of results do not exist.

Under the bill to permit changes in the Charlottesville charter, now pending before the General Assembly, the Council will continue to levy taxes and appropriate money, but it is the duty of the Administrative Board to report at the beginning of each quarter the needs of the city in its various administrative departments and the necessary amount for its operations. The Council is thus requested to appropriate only for one quarter at a time, save in cases of emergency. The request to appropriate is made as the result of a majority vote of all the members of the Administrative Board, which will amount to a three-fourths vote. The reform is particularly plain here. The four commissioners are substituted for the Committee on Gas, the Committee on Water and Sewers and all the other committees now spending money and guiding the administrative affairs of the city. In such a way the board effects co-ordination and has a business-like perspective. The needs of the city are viewed as a whole. In considering the needs of streets the board will have in mind the needs of water and sewer departments. They are equally in charge of each and all departments. Expenditures will have relation to other outlays. Such a relating of work is impossible under the antiquated aldermanic form of government.

No money will be expended in any department unless three of the four members of the Administrative Board approve. They will act as a salutary check on the city finances. If the board wishes to go too far, the Council has the string to pull it back, because the Council appropriates.

The power of the Council over the board has been objected to by those seeking a strong administrative government plan. Such objectors would leave the board free to do what it pleases, but the Charlottesville Progress, supreme in the University City, is of opinion that

"The conservative entering upon an experiment ought to be commended. This proposed new form of government will have been in force just about sixteen months before the next convening of the General Assembly. If it is undoubtedly a failure, the charter can be so amended as to return to present conditions or to introduce others. This reason alone is protection enough, and no more should be demanded even by those who do not wholly approve the proposed amendments. The patriotic thing to do is to give the measure this much of a trial. To our minds it is an unequivocal demand of the people, and anybody seeking to defeat an experiment so moderate and conservative as the present one would find it hard to justify his act."

It is believed that a fair trial is all that is needed to prove to the people of Charlottesville that the old form of government is archaic and inefficient. The new plan is not by any means perfect, but it paves the way for commission government, which is so much better because it concentrates responsibility and does not divide it. Governmental changes must be effected slowly, for improved city administration in this country is even yet in an experimental state. Charlottesville has performed a service for better municipal government in Virginia by having the courage to step forward and venture the new and modern. The example of the Albemarle capital will doubtless soon be followed by other cities. Fredericksburg and Petersburg should now compete vigorously for the next place in the list of Virginia cities adopting improved forms of government. Charlottesville has a bit the advantage of the other municipalities that are stirring with the consciousness of new life, for the University of Virginia aided materially in the achievement of this new plan in the city of its location. The enlightened views, the hearty co-operation and the stimulating expert advice of Professors Charles W. Kent and William M. Hunley helped substantially, and other Virginia cities seeking light would do well to invite the university's commission experts to address their citizens and inform them as to the blessings and benefits of modern forms of city municipal administration.

MODIFYING THE RECALL.

Complete failure marked the recall movement against the present Mayor of Tacoma, Washington. This fact caused the Springfield Republican, usually conservative, to say that such a lack of success "tends to confirm our impression that, as soon as the novelty of the thing wears off, the voters of no community where the recall exists will suffer its application or use for trivial causes." The recall should be an emergency restorative and not a stimulant for daily use. Already the recall is being improved through experience with its operation. For instance, Tacoma now wishes to amend the municipal charter so that recall petitions can be signed only at the city clerk's office. Such a modification cuts off the employment of idle men and women to peddle recall petitions for five cents a name and keeps peripatetic busybodies out. No one who is unwilling to go to the city clerk's office to sign a petition, however, can be so aggrieved against a city official as to really wish him turned out of office before his term expires. Such a modification as this is reasonable and fair, and if the recall is hedged with other such proper restrictions its use will perhaps be more general.

WHAT IS A STATESMAN?

It was Tom Reed who defined a statesman as "a dead politician." The definition is, in many cases, all too true in relation to public life to-day. In times like these, when statesmen are so rare and politicians so plentiful, it may be well to recall Balzac's opinion as to the qualities which constitute statesmanship:

"Ever to look beyond the present moment, to foresee the ways of destiny, to care so little for power that he only retains it because he is conscious of its usefulness, while he does not overestimate his strength; ever to lay aside all personal feeling and low ambitions, so that he may always be master of his faculties and foresee, will and act without ceasing; to compel himself to be just and impartial, to keep order on a large scale, to silence his heart, that he may be guided by his intellect alone; to be neither apprehensive nor sanguine, neither suspicious nor confiding, neither grateful nor ungrateful; never to be unprepared for an event nor taken unawares by an idea; to live, in fact, with the requirements of the masses ever in his mind, to spread the protecting wings of his thought above them, to sway them by the power of his voice and by the keenness of his glance, seeing all the while, not the details of affairs, but the great issues at stake. Is not that to be something more than a mere man?"

Few men in politics to-day measure up to such a standard, but it is well to have some ideal set up for him who aspires to highminded service to the people. Statesmanship is more than a vocation; it is a character.

"A Mrs. Childress, of Virginia, is a mother of twelve children and is once a great-great-grandmother. It would be a very careless printer indeed who would substitute an 'I' for the 'r' in this estimable woman's name," says the Montgomery Advertiser, who should know that a member of the Virginia Senate is the proud father of fifteen fine children.

It would be easy to compile a long list of mendacious sayings in legislative speech. For instance: "My distinguished friend from Black," "Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to speak on this bill, until so and so," "My opponent, for whom I entertain great respect," "I offer this antijunebug bill at the request of many constituents," and so indefinitely.

No place like Virginia for college presidents. The University of Montana wants Dr. John H. Latane, professor of history in Washington and Lee University, for its president, recognizing his brilliant scholarship and fine abilities.

"A Miss Love, of New York, N. Y., desires to open a beauty parlor in Orange, but there is certainly no necessity for having one here, for we have all the beauty without needing a parlor for it. We also have oceans of love, too, and it doesn't seem as if she could add materially to that, either," says the Orange Observer.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Miss Glasgow.

Please give me Miss Ellen Glasgow's address. A. B. C.

A letter sent to 1 West Main Street, Richmond, Va., would reach her.

Lands.

A buys a farm from B on January 18, 1911. Who should pay the 1911 taxes?

A buys a piece of land at a delinquent tax sale and is informed by the county clerk that there is no chance to get title because there are dower rights, etc. Please explain what the sale is for? INQUIRER.

The person in whose name the land was on February 1, 1911, must pay the tax for the time to February 1, 1912. The State gets her tax from the owner of record at the date February 1. Any arrangement which buyer and seller choose to make as to pro rata division of the tax is good between them, of course, and some such arrangement is usually made, and is fair, but the State has nothing to do in the matter except to look to the record owner for the tax whether he ever gets any part of it back or not.

Delinquent land sales are designed to force the payment of taxes. The "landgrabber" is properly looked upon with little consideration, and every reasonable opportunity is given for the recovery of the property by those who have some moral right in the premises.

Moses and Frogs.

Is it true that frogs and fish have come down in rain showers? Where did Moses get the data for his account of the creation, etc., seeing that the records were probably destroyed in the flood? A. S. J.

It is asserted that frogs have descended in rain, and the same thing may, with quite as much probability, have been stated as to fish. The explanation is said to be that the "suction" of the sun takes up minute eggs into the clouds, and that these hatch, etc. There is not the least likelihood that frog or fish ever descended in rain.

A person who writes from inspiration has no need of records.

Confederate Pensions.

Will the 10 per cent. of pension under the recent law be paid before the regular payment in September? S. D.

Checks will be mailed by the 1st of April.

Poem Wanted.

Please publish the verses, "Let me live in the house by the side of the road." READER.

If some one will send copy and it is suitable in length, etc., we will try to make room for it. Otherwise, the copy will be forwarded to the correspondent if stamp is sent to cover postage.

A Quotation.

Whose is the statement that the world will wear a path to the door of that man who can do any useful thing better than others can? N. Y. Z.

Ralph Waldo Emerson's.

Rock of Chickamauga.

Please tell me what Federal general was called "the rock of Chickamauga." TEACHER.

George Henry Thomas.

VERSE FOR TO-DAY

Sympathy.

No wave upon the broad expanse of ocean
But every other wave must take its motion;
No star in any far ethereal place
But knows the power of every star in space;
No earth, nor frozen moon, nor fiery sun
But by each heavenly body is wrought upon;
No atom in this infinite creation
But feels each atom's tiniest vibration;
No single soul that walks the rolling earth
But lends to every soul some grief or mirth;
A common destiny enwinds them all,
And binds them to each in endless thrall.

McHENRY LEWIS.

WASHINGTON

By Roy K. Moulton

The United States Senate.,

Washington, February 18.

Dear Editor,—The United States Senate is a small body of statesmen entirely surrounded by ice. If Eliza had ever tried to get across the Senate with her child in her arms the bloodhounds would have got her, and a good story would have been spoiled. Ferry and Cook never tried to explore the Senate. If they had, it would have been polar exploration worth while. I put on an extra union suit, fuzzy side in, and wore my overcoat and earmuffs, but couldn't stand the frigid atmosphere more than six minutes at a time. One stranger who stayed in ten minutes rushed back into the press rooms with his nose frozen and his ears turning black.

Dignity is the keynote of the senatorial symphony. They put the loud pedal on it during the whole piece. The Senate is so dignified that it is in danger of falling over backward, and it does, sometimes, especially when a rank outsider like Lorimer breaks into the sacred portals. Lorimer looks as lonesome as Napoleon at St. Helena. They don't cuddle up to him and whisper sweet nothings in his ear as they do to each other. He sits on a back seat away off in the corner and tries to look as unconcerned as a defunct porcupine quadruped hanging in front of a meat market, with his hands snugly folded over the place where his waist line ought to be.

All in all the Senate is about as interesting a deliberative body as one could meet in a day's walk in Washington, provided he stayed away from the House and the Supreme Court. The stage settings are elaborate, Belasco could not have done much better, and the costuming is all that it should be. We have not yet noticed a single celluloid collar or red necktie in the place.

Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, is a dapper man and perhaps the Beau Brummell of the Senate. The Senator is partially in ambush behind a very correct and carefully parted beard. It is said that if one hair of this beard gets on the wrong side of the part, the Senator finds it difficult to navigate on a straightaway course, but that is only a press gallery story, and we are here to report facts. The Senator was the mouthpiece of the Roosevelt administration, but is not doing any mouthpiecing at present.

Senator Elihu Root, who sits near Lodge, wears bangs, like those of Bertha, the sewing machine girl, and he doesn't appear to care who knows it. Senator Root looks like his picture. It isn't necessary to say anything more sarcastic than that about him.

Near La Follette sits an old chap from the beautiful sucker State of Missouri, by the name of Gum Shoe Bill Stone. Stone wears one of those old-fashioned Civil War stovepipe lids and is almost a replica of the more or less immortal Henry Clay. He is something over six feet in height, and when he gets up to speak you would naturally expect to hear a sound similar to the bellows of an enraged male bovine who has just caught sight of a red petticoat, but you are disappointed. Gum Shoe Bill has one of those gentle, lyric tenor voices which comes from nowhere, goes nowhere and makes no noise while going. He is known as the voiceless orator, and is therefore, one of the most interesting men in the Senate to listen to. You can't hear him at all.

Jeff Davis, of Arkansas, gets on by his name. He is the fire-eating statesman from the wild Southwest who was going to walk down to the centre aisle in his stocking feet, and who said that nobody but a consummate ass would wear a dress suit. He hasn't walked down the aisle in his sock feet yet, and he still sits in a back seat right near the door. The Senate has a way of its own of cooling off these tempestuous characters. Henry A. Dupont, the powder king of Delaware, looks more like a boot and shoe merchant in Oskaloosa, Ia., than like one of these dimmed trust magnates. He wears a necktie that fastens behind with a rubber.

Voice of the People

For the Lime Bill.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—A few days ago an article was printed in your paper, written by a man who was opposed to the ground limestone question. He thought the money should go towards something that would benefit all the tax-papers. I know of nothing that would benefit all the tax-payers more than something that would benefit the farmers and make the land more productive. A man buys a pair of shoes once in a few weeks or months. But he and his family eat usually three times a day, and they look to the farmer principally to supply them.

The price of this food is regulated according to the supply. If this State does not raise enough to feed its people, some other State will. Will we help our State to supply this food, or pay for shipping and send our money to the others?

The prosperity of the country depends on the prosperity of the farmer. The high price of lime and heavy freight prohibits the majority of the farmers from using it as they should. That means half a crop for the same amount of labor. Also, it means very much higher prices for what is raised.

The more money a farmer makes the more he has to spend. So when the people help the farmer, they are helping themselves.

In to-day's paper a man who has been prospecting for Boston capitalists says: "If the policy of your State is to enter into competition with private enterprise, I will advise my people against investing."

Which should the State help—their own people or Boston capitalists?

The aim of the government should be to build up the State instead of aiding private individuals. Impoverished farms do not make a rich State. Some of your writers say our industries must be protected. Make the farmer pay any price we see fit to charge him. Illinois said, "No! Be reasonable, or we will grind it ourselves." And, by the way, Illinois did not need lime anywhere near as badly as we do, with her naturally rich soil and less amount of rainfall to sour the land. If Illinois can grind lime for 60 cents a ton, why do the farmers of Virginia have to pay eight times as much? It is not right. Will the State protect such things for the sake of a few rich capitalists? Let her show the Boston capitalists and all other capitalists that her policy is to protect the greatest industry in the world, and the one which benefits all the people. Shall we still leave our farms impoverished and our farmers handicapped? Why don't you capitalists invest your money in the millions of acres that are on the market and build up the farms and raise food for these people you are so solicitous about? If the farmer has such plain sailing, you ought to be willing to increase your capital by feeding the multitude.

Again, does the farmer and his children have equal chance with the city families socially and educationally? Stop knocking against any help for the man who is brave enough to tackle a job you capitalists dare not tackle. If you want to see Virginia boom, help the feeders and source of supply. Don't bite your nose off to spite your face. Just give her a chance to rise and stand in line with the other States.

In the recent investigation of the high cost of living by Congress, it was found that a large part of the trouble was caused by a shortage of food products in the thickly settled regions. Now it is an undisputed fact that the whole Atlantic coast, from Maine down, is lined with abandoned farms, and that several States are making special study of ways and means to rehabilitate these farms. Some of your writers have complained of class legislation for the farmer. Now, as to facts. Why are these abandoned? Why have old settlers and their sons given up the fight and gone to the cities, placing their farms on the market? Why are the railroads and real estate men spending thousands of dollars in trying to fill up these farms? And then, when they have succeeded in getting a few here to settle, why do they, too, give up the fight and go back to their old homes? I will give a few reasons. Every class of business is protected by laws made for that class of business. As shown by the congressional committee, the farmer only gets about 40 per cent. of the consumer's dollar. If a farmer wants to buy from a manufacturer he says: "I am only allowed to sell to jobbers, the jobber to wholesale men." The wholesalers say: "Have you a license? Well, I can't sell to you; laws to protect." By the time the goods have gone through all these hands, the farmer has to pay several dollars to get a dollar's worth of goods. It is the same in selling. Who is protected and who discriminated against? Should not the State protect its own people and interests instead of private individuals and concerns?

Newcomers find they need lime. They also find it too high to use as they would like to. They seek the aid of the banks, and to their surprise find that banks don't let money on real estate. Their real estate has no value as security. Where they came from it's the best kind of security—much more sound and sought after by banks than corporations—but not so here. The farmers is a back number.

The railroads are spending money to improve farming, because they know increase in crops means increase in revenue. Our Governor knows improved farms mean increased crops and conditions, and improved farms and crops mean increased values; hence increase in revenue for State expenses. This is where the State gets it back with interest for what they have done for the farmer.

Does not our Legislature know this, too? If they don't, next time we have an election let's see that they do.

J. M. LAWRENCE.

Chesterfield.

For Treating.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—It is quite out of the question to compliment the prohibition politicians of Virginia upon their wisdom, upon their good business sense, or upon their sense of what is due society in the way of the amenities.

As for the average layman, he has either little time to think the matter out, or little cares what happens between his shop and his home. Few, indeed, can understand why such gentlemen as, say, Charles Dickens, (and others equally more brilliant and intellectual than the prohibitionists) could enjoy a different fine wine with each course at dinner.

I indeed doubt if many presumably brainy prohibitionists know what a fine wine tastes like. If they did, "treating prohibited by law" would be regarded as a farce—the greatest farce since the age when Demosthenes, Cicero, Horace, Virgil, even the New Testament, were written.

The prohibitionists subserve one purpose—that purpose is not good living or good fellowship, but the degeneration of every normal human impulse. Besides the text of the law, "Treating Prohibited," is as stupid a thing as ever one read. Dickens said the law was an ass, and this new gag is the most keenly illustrative of the case of any I have ever seen.

It means that if I dine at Murphy's Hotel I cannot open a bottle of port with my guest. What rot! Now, let me tell you, readers, this: if prohibition goes through in this city of Richmond it will bring a great deal of trouble.

Trouble or work is what the prohibitionists are looking for to hold their jobs. It will mean that the taxes on the poor man will become quite unbearable. As in Montgomery, Ala. (no longer dry), as soon as prohibition went into (hypocritical) force the merchants, barbers, grocers, householders, every conceivable person doing every conceivable business were taxed in order to supply the deficiency left by the closing of cafes, hotel bars, saloons, etc.

Hurry through this fanatical prohibition and regret it at leisure.

AN ASSOCIATE OF GENTLEMEN.

Richmond.

The Memorial Hospital.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I thank you very much for your kind reference to myself and family in your notice of the Memorial Hospital. Please allow me a few words.

We are devoutly thankful to have had a hand in this most important enterprise, but it would not have been a success without the wise and liberal and active help and bounty of many large-hearted and distinguished men and women who have made it what it is. All of us may rejoice that out of a great bereavement felt by all there should come a promise of so much good to our city and State and the whole South.

May Heaven bless and prosper the enterprise!

JOHN L. WILLIAMS.

Richmond.

Liquor in Virginia.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I read to-day with great attention the letter entitled, "Prohibition and Suffrage," and it occurred to me that it might interest your correspondent to know how the Virginia of to-day strikes a stranger.

I am Southern born, the descendant of generations of slaveholders, but in 1869 we went North, and since then I have lived in New York and Boston, and have known the cities of England, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. I mention these facts merely to show that I bring to my subject no narrow sectional point of view. Moreover, I am not a "white ribboner" nor a W. C. T. U member, which shows I am not a crank on the subject of drink.

Recently I have come back to Virginia to live, and have been utterly appalled and sickened by the well-nigh universal drunkenness. The men who do not get drunk take just enough to render their judgment on any subject absolutely worthless. Your workmen lose from one to three days a week from drunkenness, and so retard all work. The employers, not drunk, just "feeling good," allow time, money, business, to slip through their unstrung fingers because the two or three nips had made them feel too comfortable and easy-going to make any effort, and then they blame luck for their ill success.

I long for the sight of the clear-eyed, clean-faced men one sees in the North and West, men who are coming in and buying up Virginia land, not because "we lost everything in the war" (forty years have outlawed that excuse), but because Virginia men would rather be perambulating whiskey bottles than keep their brains clear so as to amount to something. It is simply the survival of the fittest, and the poor babies born here with faces stamped by their fathers' drunkenness and immorality, show plainly the decadence of the race which used to lead the colonies. This is what I see, now that I have come back.

COSMOPOLITE.

Albemarle county.

Taxation and Liquor.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Can't you persuade the legislators to adopt the Byrd bill on equalization of the taxes? What do they want? Let Richmond pay half of the revenue and $150,000 more. Land is worth double what it was ten years ago, and everything that is made on the farm has advanced 100 per cent., and tobacco 200 per cent. Some negroes sold red tobacco in Petersburg a few days ago at $30 per hundred. I know a piece of land sold in Roydton twenty years ago at 95 cents per acre. To-day it could not be bought for $20 or $25 per acre, I don't suppose, and that land is assessed at about $2.50 per acre. Then our lawmakers, or Lycurguses, are afraid to assess the land of the State. They can hit the railroads hard, and that is all right, but don't think the land ought to be taxed. Land ought to be taxed in this, my neighborhood, at least $10 per acre. While the land here is poor, I don't know any that can be bought for that. Keep the revenue down and keep the old soldier waiting, for he has a number of years before him, as he is only eighty-three years of age!

I read in your Sunday's Times-Dispatch of a few weeks ago of the old fellows who would pick up the grains of corn the horses had left and wash them and then parch them and fill himself and haversack that night; next morning if ordered would charge a battery of a dozen guns. Those old fellows of fifty years ago have a plenty of time to wait.

Then come the prohibitionists. They want the poor old fellows to wait. Can't you get that antisaloon party to issue an edict, as the Empress Dowager of China has done? She gave the opium smokers ten years to quit. Let the antisaloon party give the old fellows ten years to have their little whiskey, and the most of them will be willing to quit. I shall be eighty-nine, and I shall be willing to stop. Bring prohibition to a vote and you will bring bitter and hard feelings in the neighborhood that never existed before, and some old fellows will be buried with those feelings in them. We have a good, quiet neighborhood. I buy fifteen or twenty gallons of whiskey a year and drink about half of it. There is hardly a young man in this neighborhood that drinks whiskey, but the party would deprive the old ones of it. They will preach to you that whiskey is made in the infernal regions, and every man that drinks it goes there. Such fanaticism! Your Mr. White reminds me of John M. Daniel. I think he edited the Enquirer or Examiner during the Confederacy. He fought the Jeff Davis administration all the time; he advised nothing, but condemned everything. The Byrd bill does not suit him. He is like Shakespeare says of Cicero, "If he can't lead he will condemn."

P. H. HUBBARD.

Forksville.

WILL HE RUN?

By John T. McCutcheon.

[Copyright: 1912: By John T. McCutcheon.]

Abe Martin

Tilford Moots says it allus upsets his plans t' pay a bill. We are now makin' news from China in this country that you can't tell from th' real thing.

National State and City Bank

Richmond, Virginia

Solicits your account, active or inactive, small or large. We pay 3 Per Cent Compound Interest on all Savings Accounts. One Dollar will start you.

Capital - - $1,000,000
Surplus - - $600,000