The Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1912.

AN OPEN AIR SCHOOL FOR RICHMOND.

The city school system will take a long step forward when, on February 15, the first open air school in Richmond will be opened on the roof of the new Madison School building. Its pupils are to be those children who, by heredity, environment or otherwise, are of tubercular predisposition, although no active cases of consumption will be admitted, since the school will not be in any respect a hospital. Its function is preventive rather than curative. It will be simply a healthy place for the teaching of the children whose physical condition is such that they cannot remain in a close schoolroom for many hours every day without imperiling their health.

The City School Board, at its meeting Thursday, approved the plan for the open air school. The idea was broached last spring by Dr. Moses D. Hoge, then a member of the School Board, but nothing was done. Dr. Lawrence T. Price, a new member of the board, took up the proposition, and with the aid of his colleague, Dr. Charles R. Robins, prevailed upon the School Board to set apart $1,000 for an experiment class in the open air. Charles M. Robinson, architect of the new Madison School building, has offered without charge to draft the plans for arranging the roof for open air school purposes, with the necessary shelter of the latest type. The Richmond Education Association, intensely interested in the innovation, will supply for the first school not only the extra clothing, or "Eskimo suits," necessary to keep teacher and pupils comfortably warm in the open air, but also the eggs and milk for the diet considered best for children below normal physical vitality.

New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston and Cleveland and other cities have already established open air schools with marked success, and the cities named have ordered that in preparing plans for all new school buildings hereafter the roof shall be arranged for open air classes. The experience of the cities which have established open air schools indicate that even where there is no predisposition to tuberculosis, astonishing results have been obtained with children who in close schoolrooms could neither keep up with their classes nor pass examinations. In the open air, such pupils have had restored to them their physical and mental vitality.

The first open air class will be composed of twenty pupils, drawn from all of the schools. They will be committed to the care of a teacher especially selected for them; individual instruction will be given them because they represent several grades. It is safe to say that the first twenty will like the new style of classroom so much that they will never wish to go back into the heat and closeness of indoor rooms. Air and sunshine will do for them what no amount of studying ever could. Mental and physical vigor will be reclaimed by the healing forces of God's outdoors. Richmond's first open air school will be of inestimable value to the school children of the city because its success will cause many more of them to be established and blaze the way for better care of the physically defective in our schools.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY'S OPPORTUNITY.

Arguing that the Balkan crisis presents Austria-Hungary's great opportunity to bind to her the allies, with whom she must live, to enhance her prestige and strengthen her influence with the powers, and subserve her own best interests in general, the London Spectator constructs a suppositious Austro-Hungarian statesman and tells us what he would do. He would, says that contemporary, in outlining his policy, begin by declaring that all Austria-Hungary wanted for herself was a commercial arrangement affording her commerce free access to the Aegean by a railway completed from Uskub to her frontier. Given that, he would have Austria-Hungary permit Servia and Montenegro to partition the Sanjak of Novibazar between them, Montenegro taking possession also of Scutari and the region around it. Under this arrangement he would satisfy Montenegro, since her area would be doubled, and at the same time too great a task in the matter of settling and pacifying an unruly population would not be imposed upon her. Under the arrangement, also, the Spectator explains, Servia would not seek the sea on the Adriatic, but at Salonica. As for Greece, the program would be for her to have the Aegean Islands and extension of territory in Epirus and in Thessaly, while to Bulgaria would fall Thrace, its boundaries to be determined between her and Servia.

The Albanian problem, the Spectator's statesman would solve by erecting Albania, which our contemporary aptly describes as "that impracticable province which stands out like an island in a flood" into an autonomous state. Recognizing that it would be madness for Greece, Servia and Montenegro to attempt to subdue a people whom both the Roman and the Turk had failed to conquer, and believing that the Balkan powers named would come to see the matter in that light, he would grant the Albanians "independence," but under suzerainty—not Turkish suzerainty, however. He would urge that in view of the changes in geographical relations of the allies to Albania and the geographical situation of Austria-Hungary, the dual monarchy would be the logical and most capable suzerain to select. Other questions as to the status of the newly created autonomous state, or principality, and the privilege to be granted to outside powers, he would leave for settlement to the dual realm and its ally, Italy.

For the rest he would acquiesce in a plan for converting Constantinople and a limited district adjacent into a "free city or principality guaranteed by a contract between the great powers and ruled either by a senate or, better still, by some neutral prince from a Northern royal family." It is exceedingly interesting to follow the program of the Spectator's suppositiious statesman with the aid of a map. It would be infinitely more interesting, however, if he should, and in person, lead Austria-Hungary to appreciation of her opportunity, and to becoming, after all the apprehension she has caused, the arbiter of the Balkan issue, with the result of insuring the peace of Europe. The wheel of events has, at the critical moment of its full turn, brought about much more improbable things.

UNWISE AND UNNECESSARY.

The dispatch employed by the Common Council last night in approving the bid of the Richmond and Henrico Railway for a light and power franchise was discreditable and wholly disregardful of the interests of the people of Richmond. The Times-Dispatch regrets exceedingly that no desire to protect the welfare of the city was evidenced by the lower branch of the City Council. The franchise approved last night is not in the proper or in the best form; it promises no lower rates, and it promises no service save in a congested manufacturing section. Without protecting the rights of the people, the Common Council has recorded itself in favor of granting for nothing to the Richmond and Henrico Railway an asset of vast value to the people. Without debate, it was put through; without a word in reply to the serious criticism as to the propriety and legality of the proposed franchise, it was sent up to the Board of Aldermen.

The favorable action of the Common Council is no reason for favorable action by the Board of Aldermen. The latter body, out of the duty it owes to the people, ought to reject all bids and require the creation of a model franchise for the fuller protection of the city's welfare. The Board of Aldermen should protect the interests of the people and refuse to concur in the action of the lower body.

THE INEVITABLE.

The disastrous and deplorable wrecks which have befallen the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad during the past few weeks are the logical outcome of the policy of that transportation company. In other words, they are the inevitable result of the attempt of President Mellen to secure a monopoly of the New England transportation industry. Active and potential steam railroad competitors, trolley lines and steamship companies have been acquired during the past decade on the basis of inflated values. The surplus earnings of the parent company, which has one of the most profitable transportation fields in the world, have been absorbed by the dividend and interest requirements of the enormous increase in stocks and bonds issued to secure control of the properties of present and prospective competitors. If the New Haven had been content to manage and develop efficiently its own properties it would now have one of the best and most profitable railroad properties in the country. As it is, it has allowed its equipment and that of its subsidiaries to deteriorate in the effort to carry out its policy of bottling up New England. The last step in the perfection of this gigantic railroad monopoly has only been made public within the past few days by the announcement that the Grand Trunk had abandoned work on its New England extension. As a consequence, the traffic and industrial development of New England will be completely dominated by the New Haven unless the recourse of the business men of Boston and other cities to the courts and the Interstate Commerce Commission meets with success.

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT IN LARGE CITIES.

Two hundred and two cities are now governed by commission. They range from Hartsellis, Alabama, and Hamilton, Illinois, with less than 1,500 people each, to Memphis, with more than 100,000, St. Paul with 230,000 and New Orleans with more than a third of a million.

The larger the city the better the commission plan will work. It is a system based upon a general principle that responsibility and concentration of power go together, and there can be no real government of the people unless public authority is fixed and definite. Only in this way can we have government by experts, because the responsibility vested in the commission will compel it to put experience and expert knowledge at the head of all the departments. The commission plan substitutes expert knowledge for bossism.

THE LITTLE MAN WHO WOULD BE TALL.

A Japanese official now in this country asserts that the Sunrise Kingdom is encouraging large importations and consumption of American beef in the hope and expectation that by eating meat the natives of Japan will increase in stature.

The expectation will be slow of realization, if, indeed, it can ever be realized. The vegetarians will deny the value of such cure for the lack of inches. They will counsel the Japs to stick to their rice and not to wander into new dietary fields.

The main interest in this statement is in the fact that it gives a new angle from which to consider Japanese ambitions and aspirations. It is illuminating as to the Jap's estimate of himself. He has done many big things in the world, and demonstrated himself big in many ways, but physically he is a small man in the eyes of other peoples, and they dwell on that phase too much to suit him. He wishes no longer to be called a little man, although he has often been called "a great little man."

Perhaps the Japanese will find a method of making themselves tall, but is the result desired worth the price? The task of raising their average stature several inches is the most gigantic that they can undertake. It would mean a social and economic revolution. Nations might by a slow process produce bigger men, but national eugenics is an unborn science. Can a nation answer the question of Him who laid down the law for all nations in all ages, "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?"

A CHAMPION IN HIS CLASS.

The champion henpecked husband, according to the Washington Herald, lives in Chicago. His title to the belt is established by his reply to his wife's suit for divorce. He is a lawyer, and goes into painful detail. If he has neglected to mention anything it was because he was in a constant state of intimidation.

According to the affidavit, she tortured him by using on him a hammer, a pair of scissors, a plate, a section of gas hose, a small gas stove, her shoes, his razor, a butcher's knife and several pieces of light furniture.

How about woman's inhumanity to man?

SEVEN WAYS OF REDUCING THE COST OF LIVING.

Frank W. Blackmar, dean of the University of Kansas, in an address to the Kansas Agricultural and Industrial Congress, gave these seven ways of cutting the high cost of living:

"Let the government check the decline in the purchasing power of gold by taking, automatically, seigniorage of the bullion that is behind the dollar, thus leaving the value of the dollar stable, and allowing the weight to rise or fall in correspondence with the rise and fall of average prices.

"Induce, if possible, more people to engage in the production of raw material.

"Introduce scientific, intensive agriculture in order to double the production per acre.

"Revise the tariff by a scientific treatment which will eliminate present evils.

"Prevent as far as possible organizations from advancing prices arbitrarily. Place a maximum limit to prices, if necessary.

"Introduce simpler and less expensive methods of bringing the commodity to the consumer.

"Finally, educate people in the principles and habit of true economy, thus doing away with extravagance and waste."

The last rule is the best, although it will never be enforced. It restates James J. Hill's epigram that what's to blame is not the high cost of living, but the cost of high living. False standards, fixed by false social pride, have had more to do with increasing the cost of living than anything else. The small boy now has to have two or three new suits a year, when one suit made out of papa's pantaloons of yesteryear would do.

Henry Watterson suggests in the Louisville Courier-Journal that the place for Mr. Bryan is the ambassadorship to Great Britain, adding:

"Not long after General Jackson had been seated in the Chief Magistracy he was advised that John Randolph of Roanoke was likely to come back to Congress and to make himself troublesome. Old Hickory put on his thinking cap. The 'gentleman from Roanoke' was still capable of raising as much h——l to the square inch as—well, let us say as Mr. Bryan!—and the Jacksonian talent for tactics and common sense, which supplemented the Jacksonian genius for fighting, came to the rescue. Next day Mr. Randolph was appointed minister to Russia."

No doubt Old Man Watterson and a good many other Champ Clarkites would like to see Mr. Bryan go a lot farther than England or Russia.

"Thomas Nelson Page is among those mentioned as the next ambassador at the court of St. James. Would he be credited to York Harbor or Richmond?" is the impertinent inquiry of the Boston Transcript. It's bad enough that Georgia is claiming Woodrow Wilson as "a Georgia man," but for Maine to appropriate our ambassadorial timber is simply "outlandish."

The prolific parent of peppery paragraphs in the Columbia State observes that "having jamped Brother Hanford's Shakespearean soiree at the grand old theatre yesternight, we are in position to state authoritatively that Othello was the guy that put the moan in Desdemona." As it looked to us, Iago is the guy who put the—never mind what—in Othello.

Feverish excavation into Wilson genealogies is now going on in all our libraries, and the exhumation of Wilson ancestors is passing remarkable.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Language.

I love to hear the brakeman yell in
his peculiar tongue,
So loudly that it seems as if he
wants to split a lung.
I cannot understand him but I like
to figure out
What he is trying to convey when
he comes to shout:

"Hickeyvillejunction changeheresfor
alltrains east andwesttwentyminutes
for refreshments."

It's entertainment rich for me to try
and understand
The language of the candy boy,
who's always right on hand.
In theatrees to sell his wares. It al-
ways makes me smile
To hear him warble joyfully as he
walks down the aisle:

"Choc-latecreamsandbon-bons, sal-
tedpeanutschew--inggum and sal--ted
almonds."

The waitress in the Hick Hotel has
language all her own.
There's anger in her voice and
there's defiance in her tone.
She pokes her back hair deftly and
she shifts her chewing-gum,
An' then she rattles off her speech
and makes her language hum:
"Roastbee--fandbrowngravy, roast
porkandap--plesauce short--ribswith
brownedpotatoes custardpie, teacoffee
ormilk."

According to Uncle Abner.

A feller always knows a durned sight more at twenty than he does at thirty.

It is a long lane that has no house with a mortgage on it to pay for an oatmobile.

The difference between the costly oatmobiles and the cheap ones is mainly the price.

When I see a feller who carries his handkerchief in his sleeves, I always wonder where he trims hats.

The West Hickeyville Intelligencer was forced to suspend publication last week bekuz somebody had stolen the editor's shears.

There are more greenhorns in the big cities than there are in the country.

A German scientist has invented a milk which he says is just as good as that given by the cow, and probably it is a good deal better than that given by the well pump.

But it will be a long time before the new President will be able to find a Secretary of the Navy with a niftier middle name than has George von Lengerke Meyer.

A star ball player must spend about all his salary trying to live up to the automobiles that are presented to him by an admiring public.

A feller who is paying alimony to two or three ex-wives can be pardoned for indulging in a bit of pessimism occasionally.

Miss Pansy Tibbitts got into her tight skirt the other day and couldn't get out, and they had to cut it up the back from the hem to the waistband.

There are times when even a lodge button doesn't guarantee you that a feller is going to give you a square deal.

Many a feller is judged by the cigars that are named after him.

Hank Tumms and Hod Peters are such bitter enemies that they vote different tickets every four years just to knock each other out.

There are a lot of book critics in this country who couldn't get one of their own published on a bet.

It takes a man a long time to get rich by saving cigar coupons.

There are just about as many homely women as there are homely men in this country, but the former are better hands at concealin' the fact.

There is only one thing more unreliable than boardin' house hash, and that is boardin' house gossip.

The trouble with a good many ball players is that they do too much batting at night and not enough in the daytime.

Now that there is a war in the Balkans, everything seems to be running about as usual.

The piece of pie which is added onto the end of the meal is what causes dyspepsia.

Hank Tumms says he believes in divorce, but he dassent say it when his wife is around, or he might lose his meal ticket.

Voice of the People

Ecclesiastical Politics.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Judging by the silence of the daily papers, the general public takes little notice, and manifests less interest, in an agitation now absorbing denominational journalism, namely, the movement toward federation of the churches. This movement appears to be more popular in the North than in the South, the latter section thus indicating a conservatism as pronounced in religious matters as in secular. Three leading denominations in Canada have federated into one, and the recent union of the Northern Presbyterian and Cumberland Churches marks a very great, a very unexpected, advance in ecclesiastical liberalism, inasmuch as doctrinal differences between those two churches were supposed to be irreconcilable. Mutual concessions have, however, made union possible, with no more friction of adjustment than should be expected, while yet a minority element of ultra-conservatism magnifies matters of indifference to the size and dignity of essentials.

The whole controversy illustrates the world-old conflict between conservatism and liberalism, each decrying the other, as they are always used to do, and each unable to recognize the function of the other in human progress. Reading a long drawn out debate with as much patience as possible, which recently filled the leading columns of a religious weekly, I have been struck with the half-view logic, the scarecrow declamation, which even learned champions of the two schools employ in the discussion of a topic that ought to be lifted to a very much higher philosophical plane. One would imagine that each party, respectively, expected that the world would either be set forward, or set back, by the decision of a congress of preachers. There was a time, perhaps long, long ago, when such momentous results might follow synodical deliverances, but that time has passed, never to return. The church, ecclesiastically considered, has come to be as fractional in its moral influence upon the world as it is fractional in its external organization, and the subconsciousness of the world awaits with growing impatience the disappearance of a fractionalism and factionalism which had its beginnings in hair-splitting dogmatics, about which it is now next to impossible either to enlighten or to interest anybody, and owes its perseverance more to denominational heredity than to anything else.

The church, as such, has less influence in the world, but the truth, of which it is yet considered to be the divinely appointed conservator, has more influence in the world than ever before. Dogmatists and sectaries have done all they could do, and are even now doing all they can do to weaken that influence, but it persists in spite of them, and this fact stands like an impregnable wall of evidence that the Christian religion has Almighty God behind it. No human system either of moral philosophy or of religion could possibly survive an equal amount of narrowness and folly upon the part of its votaries. But the church survives because the truth upon which it is founded—which it so often interprets as a mere charter of partisanry, which it so greatly obscures by its ignorant dogmatics—is nevertheless divine, and as fundamentally essential to human happiness and human progress as the whole system of natural law. That truth is moral and spiritual first, and intellectual only incidentally, for it can be realized without being analyzed, and bursts with all its unexampled splendor upon the inner experience of the humblest man, who would only be hopefully confused by the definitions of the trained theologian.

No one is greatly disturbed by any ephemeral or accidental controversy who realizes that ideas and moral forces are essentially evolutionary in their mode of action. Men are merely infinitesimals and atoms in this irresistible stream of inevitable evolution, but this particular infinitesimal imagines that he can hold it back, the other particular atom that he can set it forward, and so they pull and haul at each other while the current of the ages carries them all along together. This pulling and hauling, this anxiety and agitation, is good for the atoms because it develops them into the best possible atoms, the most virile, the most potential, and it ought not to be regretted by anyone. It would be difficult to find anything more unphilosophical than the recent plaint of a church editor that the discussion of federation had disturbed the peace and quiet of the church. Your radical has no more useful mission than to disturb that peace of slumber, that quiet of stagnation, and your conservative fulfils his divine mission when by resistance he makes peace impossible. "I am not come," said the Master in that wisdom which separates Him from all men. "I am not come to send peace on the earth, but a sword." Jesus of Nazareth was not a conservative.

Church federation is not a fundamental question, although even the most uncompromising conservatives will admit that church fractionalism is essentially abnormal. The ideal is a universal brotherhood, not founded upon the shifting sand of mutual compromises, but upon the solid rock of spiritual unity. We observe two most significant phenomena—on the one hand the waning of the dogmatist, on the other hand the steady growth of spiritual unity. "Let patience have her perfect work." No amount of shouting will check the one, or advance the other. A new era evidently arises, but it asks the consent or guidance of no man, nor any set of men, nor any school of thought, nor any system of philosophy, nor any sect of religion. Zealous futilities neither block it nor help it forward, but if a man will he may bathe his soul in the splendor of its sunrise, and reflect more and more of its glory upon his times and upon his generation.

BENJAMIN C. MOOMAW.

Savannah, Va.

Another Side of the Allen Case.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Is there not another side to the Allen case which may be assumed and pressed without being either a morbid sentimentalist or wanting to set aside the action of the courts? You argue in your editorials that because the courts—trial and review—have listened patiently, weighed the evidence and come to a judicial decision, justified by the law and the evidence, that there the matter must end; that there is nothing left but the putting to death of these men. Suppose we all agree—as most men do—that the courts were shut up to this one course and the conviction of these men was inevitable—is there no room for leniency and clemency on the part of the Governor for these misguided people? Will not the ends of justice be subserved if they are given their life and not their liberty? As one who has spent years with these people as minister and otherwise, I cannot but think that if the true condition and situation were known to you that you would say, while the courts have done only their duty, and what they had to do, that the Governor now has a chance for clemency which he would honor his office by using.

We stood appalled—you and I—along with every other right-thinking man at the horrible deed—the worst, perhaps, in the annals of the courts—but we have been taught reverence for the courts and respect for the law from our fathers' knee; we drank it with our mothers' milk. It is not conceivable, Mr. Editor, that you in your right mind could have done such a thing. But these people have had no such training as yours, and the clemency is asked for them on different grounds and by a different standard from yours. They have not had your training. Theirs has been a life of isolation and separation—away from the busy marts of men, brought up under the one thought and idea that their rights, real or imagined, must be maintained. Then, might it not be best for these misguided people and those left behind, who are sought to be benefited by the law's course, to be shown the merciful side of the law? that while the crime cannot for a moment be condoned, the criminal will be deprived of his liberty and given his life, and that because he lacked the chance to learn to make the nice distinctions which long training and much education have taught more highly favored than he to make? The courts must execute the law; the Governor may show clemency, as he has so frequently done.

Cannot Mercy lend her ear, then, to these misguided people, and out of tender pity for their isolation from the rest of the world and their ignorance of the best that is in the world, give them the poor privilege of living the rest of their natural lives behind prison bars? All over this land today the courts, through their grand juries, are giving the "tax dodger" another day in court, and saying that if he will make report he will not be prosecuted. The courts are yielding to the side of leniency and mercy, and you are commending them. "This," as I see it, "you ought to have done and not left the other undone."

JOSIAH R. ELLIS.

The West Blue Ridge Mountain Mission, Yancey.

Suffrage in the Depot By-and-By.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Your usually observant sense of humor has overlooked a "good one" that appeared in your news columns the other day, in an interview with Miss Mary Johnston, who there rejoiced in the great progress of woman suffrage in Virginia. Starting three years ago with nineteen, we have now 1,000 members of the Equal Suffrage League," Miss Johnston, in effect, stated.

That's at the rate of 333 1-3 per annum, virtually without opposition. The 1910 census credits Virginia with 2,061,212 population, one-fifth of whom, or 412,000, are presumably mature women. A majority of 412,000 would be about 206,000. At the—to the suffrage leader—very gratifying progress of 333 1-3 suffragists a year, it should be over 600 years before a majority of the women of Virginia will be willing to reproach Providence for establishing distinctions between the sexes.

A sense of proportion is as valuable as a sense of humor. Don't you think the clamor and claims of this 1,000 out of all reason? Isn't it rather like—not the tail trying to wag the dog—the flea on the hair on the tail of the dog trying to wag the dog?

MALE ANTI.

Richmond.

University Law Men and the Bar Examination.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In view of the fact that this week's bar examination may arouse discussion of the standings of the several State institutions, the following extract from an article in the Virginia Law Register of October may be of interest:

"In our editorial in the September issue of the Law Register, entitled 'The Recent Bar Examination,' we took our statistics as to the number who passed from The Richmond Times-Dispatch, but as it has since been determined that those figures were erroneous and likely to work an injustice to these institutions, we wish to rectify the error here. Washington and Lee was not 'disappointed in seven degree men,' for only six graduates from that institution failed. In the case of the University of Virginia our statement that a class of thirty-six took the examination and twelve failed, was likewise erroneous. As a matter of fact, twenty-nine took the examination from the University of Virginia and only one degree man failed, and of the twenty-one undergraduates who stood the examination fourteen passed and one of them headed the list with a nearly perfect mark. In other words, not only did not twelve graduates from the University of Virginia fail, but the whole number of failures was only eight, of whom only one held a degree at last finals."

The comparatively small number of University of Virginia men taking the examination was due to most of the graduates living outside of the State. Nine of the ten highest marks were from the University of Virginia.

Portsmouth. ATTORNEY.

Can't Hear the Music.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I'll be one of a thousand who will agree not to go into the Academy of Music until the management or the city authorities grants us the right of hearing the musical features of an entertainment.

Did anybody hear any of the music Wednesday night? N.

Break Up the Talking Habit.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Can the papers do anything to break up the talking habit in first-class places of amusement?

Can the management at the Academy do anything to put a big stop to this at once?

When one goes there to enjoy the music and the dancing he expects to enjoy both. How about Wednesday night? REG.

Abe Martin

Pasmin' prosperity around would be all right if ther wuzn't so many o' us eatin' at th' second table. If war is anything like a war-time photograph it must be horrs.

THE SETTING STAR.

By John T. McCutcheon.

Richmond to Expand Again

How many American towns, especially in the South and West, would let 45,000 people, who might be annexed by a very considerable extension of city limits, remain on the outside? Richmond has been perhaps the only one, and now the Richmond Chamber of Commerce has started a movement for an extension along these lines. It feels assured that the City Council is favorably inclined toward the plan, which would annex such immediately adjacent territory as Swansboro, Woodland Heights, Montrose Heights, Chestnut Hill, Highland Park, Barton Heights and Ginter Park. According to an estimate made by The Times-Dispatch, Richmond would then have a total area of about fifteen square miles, of which one would be water. Birmingham has forty and Atlanta twenty-five. It is declared that this action would give Richmond a present population of about 200,000 and a population in the 1920 census of about 225,000.

Federal census figures show that Richmond is at present the most densely populated city in the United States, with the possible exception of Paterson, N. J. In consequence of this condition, it is complained, rents are excessive and constitute the city's one serious handicap. Besides, growth has been almost entirely in one direction, and it is hoped that a general extension of the limits would decrease this tendency and thereby relieve a downtown problem now becoming acute. The street car company on lower Main Street is regularly almost swamped at certain hours of the day, because nearly everybody is going in the same direction. Capitol Square, the civic centre, radiates only one way.

Within recent years Richmond has twice expanded her limits, but with extreme conservatism each time. She is clearly entitled to larger limits. They should benefit her in many ways, and we hope that she will throw them out on every side.—Charlotte Observer.

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