The Times-Dispatch

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PROGRESS TOWARD ANNEXATION.

Annexation for Greater Richmond has been formulated in a concrete plan. All in all, we think the Council subcommittee, despite some useless delay, has done good work. It has given us a practical basis for action by the Council. Its proposal has been indorsed by the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Men's Club, and other civic and commercial organizations. There may still be reasonable doubt as to whether the outline submitted provides for the liberal expansion that would be best for the future of Richmond. There may be criticism of the details. Yet it has been shown that Richmond should extend its corporate limits, and that the citizens interested on both sides want to get together and produce results.

As we see the situation, the Council should act at once. The disputed points should be threshed out openly, and an ordinance submitted for official action. The important thing to be remembered is that the judiciary is the deciding element in determining any new city limits. The ordinance framed should endeavor to meet the tests of fairness to all parties. It will do no good to claim too much, or to try to escape taking in manifestly essential sections not now included. To the judicial mind, it will not be merely a question of doing what is best for Richmond, but also for the suburbs and for the counties. If, after deliberation, the Council believes that the lines proposed do not take in enough territory, let such changes as will conform to ideas of fairness be made. What we do want above all else is that annexation shall not be indefinitely postponed by legal difficulties.

Outside of a possible extension of the proposed lines to include more territory, there are three details that need explanation. The action of the subcommittee in omitting the so-called riverside estates from the corporation should be declared right, as should the facts about the noninclusion of the factory district beyond Fulton, and the segment on each side of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac tracks around Acca and Bryan Parks. We should be quite clear as to why these sections are not included, and as to what the future policy toward them will be.

Some definite policy should also be defined as to what territory ought (for reasonably short periods) claim jurisdiction over to protect its future growth. We do not believe that those are interested only in land that is subdivided and ready for improvement. The idea of planning for the future growth should also be preserved. Certain American municipalities have conferred with land-owners rights for two miles beyond the corporation limits, and it would be wise for Richmond to secure such rights.

The Times-Dispatch believes in a definite growth of Richmond. It does not believe that permanent prosperity for this section should depend upon that growth. Now is the time to have a thorough discussion of all the elements in the annexation problem, with the best results in view as the aim.

THE SENATORIAL CRISIS.

Immense interest centers in Hall's election to the United States Senate to succeed Senator Johnston, whose seat became vacant when threatening signals appeared in the tariff bill over the question of the death of Senator Bankhead, whose name, and the name of his father, Senator John Tyler Morgan, are still carried on the roll of Senators in spite of the fact that they have been dead for months. The Senate, in its dignity, has ruled that it will not permit the prisoners in penitentiaries to vote for Senators, but it has not yet ruled that it will not permit the Lieutenant-Governors to fill the vacancies in the United States Senatorships by the method of appointment. The provision of the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, providing for the filling of such vacancies by the Governors of the States, was inserted at the request of the Southern Senators, who feared that the Lieutenant-Governor might be a Republican, and that, if such a Republican should be appointed to the Senatorship, he might be expected to vote with his party on the question of the seating of Senator-elect Lorimer, of Illinois. The Senate, in reply to a request from the Governor of Illinois, ruled that the Governor of that State could not appoint a Senator to succeed Lorimer, because the Senate was then in session, and could take the matter into its own hands. The Senate, however, ruled that, if it should happen that the Senate should not be in session when a vacancy occurred, the Governor could make an appointment, but that the Senate could, when it came together, refuse to confirm the appointment, and could, if it should see fit, oust the man from his seat. The Senate, however, has never had such a case before it, and it is not certain what it would do in such a case. It is certain that the Senate would be very slow to oust a man who had been appointed by a Governor and who had been allowed to sit in the Senate for a long period of months, and who had, during his term of service, cast votes which might have turned the scale on important measures. The Senate is the most conservative of all bodies, and it would be very slow to do a thing which would be so revolutionary as to oust a man who had been allowed to sit in the Senate for a long period of months, and who had