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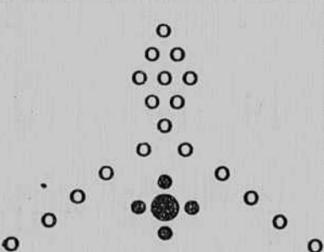
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ADDRESS OR CALL ON The Roanoke Times.

The Official Count in Iowa. DES MOINES, Ia., Nov. 10.—[Special]—The official canvass of votes was made yesterday by the county boards of supervisors. Returns are coming in slowly. The register has heard from about sixty counties out of ninety-nine. Boies' plurality will be between 8,000 and 9,000 in the same counties. Sabin, for State superintendent of instruction, ran 3,000 ahead of Wheeler, Republican, for governor. If this rate is kept up Sabin will be elected by a small plurality. The other Republican candidates on the State ticket, it is thought, cannot pull through.

DISCUSSING A CITY CHARTER.

The Commercial Association Room Crowded

To Hear Mr. A. C. Denniston's Paper on Municipal Reform—The Principles of City Government Explained—The Inherent Difficulty of Treating a City as a Business Corporation—Seventeen New Contributing Members Elected to the Association.

The meeting at the Commercial Association last night was the largest in attendance of the series. Mr. A. C. Denniston's paper on "A New City Charter for Roanoke" proved to be a carefully prepared discussion of the fundamental principles of municipal control. The speaker pointed out the tendencies of municipal legislation, but refrained from entering into the details of Roanoke's immediate needs, leaving that, by preference, for future discussion and more elaborate analysis.

The forms of National and State governments, Mr. Denniston pointed out, are well defined, and the scope of each and the relations between them well established. The problem of city government is, however, comparatively new. The similarity of conditions often enables one city to draw lessons from the experience of others, and it is obviously the proper thing for us to do.

Johns Hopkins University studies for January and February, 1891, define the principal duties of city governments as—

- 1. Collection of taxes. 2. Public schools. 3. Administration of justice. 4. Police supervision. 5. Fire department. 6. Care of streets. 7. Street, gas and electric lighting. 8. Sewerage. 9. Water supply. 10. Public parks. 11. Sanitation and public health. 12. Prisons. 13. Suppression of the liquor traffic. 14. Regulation of street railways. 15. Making and enforcing building regulations. 16. Supervision of charities, hospitals, asylums, etc.

This enumeration, though possibly incomplete, is sufficient to give an idea of the various duties of a city government. It is a national reproach that our cities are ill-governed; in fact, the worst governed in the world for a nation of our commercial importance.

The conclusion almost universally reached is that our difficulty lies in the fact that we do not look upon the government of our cities as a business matter; that we regard them in the same light as we do national and State legislatures, and not as we should, in the light in which we would look upon any private corporation in which we were interested. Nine-tenths of the questions coming up in city government are purely business questions, and failing to so treat them explains our failure.

Americans are accustomed to the management of business corporations, more so than any other nation, and keenly alive to business necessities. Why, then, are not city governments modeled after the simple and almost uniform plan of private corporations? In one important particular the analysis will not hold in city government. There is nobody corresponding to the stockholders in a private corporation. In the latter the voting power is held by those that furnish the money, and in the proportion in which it is furnished. I venture to say that a city run on the same plan would be properly governed. The fact that it is not so is the first difficulty encountered in discussing municipal government, and is by some regarded as an inherent weakness of a democratic form of government.

Mr. Denniston quoted from Andrew D. White's article in the Forum, favoring the election of aldermen on a general ticket instead of by wards, thus requiring candidates to have a city reputation and further advocating a board of control, elected by property owners, without whose permission no franchise should be granted and no expenditure made. But under universal suffrage this latter feature is regarded as impractical and other plans must be devised.

The tendency of our cities is strongly toward giving the executive comprehensive powers, and the plan of trusting largely to the honesty and sagacity of one man elected by the people has worked well. On this line the charters of the cities of New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, and Boston have been reformed. The mayor has generally been given the power of appointing heads of departments, but not always subject to the approval of the council. With the power of appointment the power of removal ought to go, but does not always. The mayor is frequently given the veto power over acts of council, his veto being overcome by a two-thirds vote.

The consensus of opinions of several mayors were read. Several cities have checks upon extravagant expenditure in restraining appropriations not recommended by the board of public works or the heads of the various departments. President Eliot, of Harvard College, attributes the shortcomings of city government not so much to corruption and dishonesty as to a want of knowledge of the subjects in hand by city officials. Such matters as sewerage, paving, water supply, care of highways, lighting and cleaning of streets, taxation and control of corporations performing public functions require expert knowledge in a high degree, and persons not trained in these lines cannot be expected to act wisely in regard to them. To come down to the subject in hand, a charter for Roanoke, the Virginia statutes must first be consulted to find a legal basis upon which to work, and the present paper is intended merely to pave the way to the actual work of perfecting details for a revised charter. Mr. Denniston's remarks were warmly

received. A brief paper was presented by President Pechin, in which he commended the charter of St. Louis as one of the most perfect in America.

Stress was laid on the necessity of perfecting a system of checks, mutual supervision and direct responsibility to the people for the prevention of financial irregularities. Mr. Pechin suggested that the association work in conjunction and co-operate heartily with the City Council in preparing a new charter for submission to the legislature.

Mr. W. A. Glasgow offered the following resolution, which was adopted: Resolved, That a committee of five members of the Commercial Association be appointed by the president for the purpose of considering and hereafter reporting to this association such material and information as they may think will aid the City Council in their effort to secure a suitable charter for the city of Roanoke.

After a few more remarks the meeting adjourned. The subject for the next meeting will be "The Sewerage Question," and Mr. C. C. Wentworth, of the Bridge and Iron Works, will read the opening paper. A lively meeting is expected.

The Association is taking on a new lease of life. The following contributing members were elected last night: W. J. Kerr, W. D. Williamson, R. H. Soule, W. B. Beville, R. A. Gregory, John Bird, G. L. Boissevain, H. von Hewert, Wm. M. Dunlap, C. G. Cushman, J. B. Imhoff, W. F. Patterson, Jas. S. Groves, Francis H. Waters, Wm. C. Noland, H. O. Rogers, C. F. Whaling.

A BUSY FORGER.

Two Letters Signed by Miss Winnie Davis Begging for \$1,000.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., Nov. 10.—[Special]—Two letters have been sent South from Jersey City recently, purporting to be written by Miss Winnie Davis, daughter of the late Jefferson Davis, begging for \$1,000. One was sent to Dr. Wm. Morrow, of Nashville, Tenn., and the other to General Gordon, of Atlanta, Ga.

There is little doubt that they were written by Stoddard, the forger, who lies in Hudson county jail, and who forged his way out of the Tennessee mines by a letter to the governor asking for his pardon, purporting to be signed by the State's attorney, and a petition pretending to be signed by a lot of the foremost people of Kentucky.

Superintendent of police Smith received a letter from Dr. Morrow enclosing a copy of the note sent to him. He turned the case over to Chief Murphy, who wrote to Dr. Morrow for the original. A day or two later a friend of Miss Davis came from New York with the note to Gen. Gordon.

The general knew the address of Mrs. Davis and her daughter in New York, and knew that they would not need to write to him for money, so he sent them the letter to put them on their guard.

FOR ARSON AND MURDER.

Henry Custis, Colored, Hanged at Portsmouth.

NORFOLK, Nov. 10.—[Special]—Henry Custis, a negro, was hanged in Portsmouth to-day. At midnight on the night of September 8, 1889, Custis went to the store of Jas. T. Waller, in Norfolk county, and aroused him under the pretext of being ill and wanting medicine. When Waller, who was alone, opened the door, Custis knocked him down and beat him to death. After robbing the store he set it on fire. When first apprehended he confessed the murder, but since then has stoutly maintained his innocence. Before his death he received the rites of the Catholic Church.

Virginia Methodist Conference.

PETERSBURG, Nov. 10.—[Special]—The Virginia annual conference, M. E. Church South, will convene in Petersburg, Va., to-morrow and continue in session for seven or eight days. Bishop J. C. Keener, residing in New Orleans and senior of the College of Southern Methodist Bishops, will preside. This will be the 109th session of this venerable body. It embraces a small part of Eastern North Carolina and Eastern Shore of Maryland, extends as far north as the Rappahannock river and west to the summit of the Blue Ridge and south to the North Carolina line. It comprises eleven districts, presided over by eleven presiding elders and 197 pastoral charges.

The clerical members of the conference number 230 and the lay 44, each district sending 4, who are elected annually by the district conference.

The Indian Cyclone.

CALCUTTA, Nov. 10.—[Special]—As further details regarding the cyclone which passed over this part of India on Monday of last week are received it is seen that the damage done is very extensive. Besides the loss of 77 lives by the sinking of the Indian government steamer Enterprise, which foundered at Andaman Island, and the killing of 60 convicts, there was no doubt a large loss of life at other places along the coast. Advances from various parts of Orissa, a province of India, in Bengal, state that the cyclone passed over that section of the country and did great damage. The storm extended over a large territory and scarcely a house is left standing in its track.

Lottery Officials Indicted.

SAN ANTONIO, Nov. 10.—[Special]—The Federal grand jury in session here yesterday returned four indictments against the president, Paul Conrad; vice-president, John A. Morris, and thirteen other members of the Louisiana Lottery Company. They are charged with using the mails to distribute lottery advertisements in violation of the law. Warrants have been issued for their arrest.

The Democrats will nominate a candidate for the election of Gen. W. H. F. Lee's successor November 24.

WILL TAKE THE CASE TO-DAY.

The Feagles Trial Drawing to a Close.

Attorney Williams Makes an Eloquent Appeal For the Prisoner—The Commonwealth's Attorney to Close the Argument To-day. When the Case Will be Given to the Jury.

NEWBERN, Va., Nov. 10.—[Special]—The Feagles murder trial, which has now occupied the attention of the judge and jury in the circuit court for over two weeks—is this the fourteenth day of the trial—is fast nearing its close.

To-morrow Mr. Pollock, the commonwealth's attorney, will have "his say," and then it will only remain for Judge Bolen to give his charge to the jury, and they will retire to deliberate on the verdict they shall render.

T. N. Williams, Esq., of Lynchburg, has occupied the entire day in analyzing the testimony and in construing it in a manner favorable to the theory that some other persons possessed the means and opportunity to have committed the crime.

Mr. Williams this morning pronounced a beautiful and just eulogium on the jury system, as did General Walter yesterday.

The case being considered was a sad one. None more than he and those he represented wished it was possible to bring back to life the treasurer of the county, who had been slain; but because it was impossible that this could be done there should be no bitter vituperation against the living. There was solemn work before the jury, and it was therefore advantageous to look a little back into the sad tragedy. The victim had been murdered on the highway. Four days after the killing the prisoner at the bar, his client, was suspected of the crime.

Up to the present time seven persons have been arrested and put upon trial for the crime, and his client made the eighth thus treated. On the other side the jury was told this was the last investigation that would be had; that there was "luck in odd numbers." Why had the other parties been brought to trial, if none but Feagles were guilty was one of the mysteries of the case. It appeared to him that the trial of Smith and Goings was only ostensible, and that Feagles was being prosecuted over their heads.

Immediately after that trial it became a sort of public talk that Feagles was the man suspected, and the prosecution occupied the somewhat equivocal position of putting him on the witness-stand as a witness when they were dealing with a murderer. If that was true, it was the beginning of an unfair prosecution. Every material fact here presented in this trial was known to the prosecution months and months ago.

The prisoner, said the distinguished counsel from Lynchburg, for more than twelve months has lived in this community with those whisperings against him. The gentleman said it seemed to him that we should deal with each other in that spirit of charity which is the crown of our civilization. The funeral of Mr. Caddall was attended with Masonic honors, and his client was present. The prosecution say he looked wise and smoked there. Why that complaint against poor Feagles? In closing at 4:35 p. m., Mr. Williams said he would leave the prisoner with the jury, confident that before another day's sun had passed they would bid him go free, in which case they would be followed with their benedictions and prayers.

A Socialist Leader's Release.

PARIS, Nov. 10.—[Special]—The release from prison of M. Lafargue, the socialist leader elected member of the chamber of deputies for Lille Sunday, made an occasion last night for great jubilee by various workingmen societies. The parades were orderly at first, but soon became so disorderly that the police had to break up the processions and disperse crowds. Lafargue has been released only during the term the chambers is in session, as during the sessions of a legislative body the person of a legislator is exempt from process.

A Rector Arrested for Homicide.

DUBLIN, Nov. 10.—Rev. Samuel Cotton, rector of Carogh, Kildare, who was recently charged with criminal neglect and ill-treatment of children in the Carogh Orphanage, has been arrested for homicide in having caused the death of a child by placing it in a cold bath and leaving it in the open air all night, covered merely with a sack. The child was found dead in the morning, the sack being frozen to its body.

The Belgian Treasury Defrauded.

BRUSSELS, Nov. 10.—The chief of the municipal finance department of this city has informed the municipal council that clerks in the comptroller's office have aided certain contractors who performed work for the city to perpetrate frauds upon the treasury amounting to 50,000 francs. The municipal council will bring an action against the contractors to recover the sum in question.

A Failure in Nashville.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 10.—[Special]—The Rankin Manufacturing Company, wholesale clothing house, made an assignment this morning for the benefit of their creditors. Assets, \$193,000; liabilities, \$133,000. Tight money and bad collections are said to be the cause.

The Rothschilds Drop the Spanish Loan.

LONDON, November 10.—It is reported that the negotiations between the Rothschilds and the Bank of Spain for a new Spanish loan have been broken off.

THE CHRISTIANS.

Encouraging Reports at an Informal Meeting.

The State meeting of the Christian Missionary Board held an informal meeting last night, and, after exchange of greetings and assigning homes for the delegates, the board was called to order by the vice-president, I. J. Spencer, the president, Judge Gooch, being absent.

The work of the meeting consisted in hearing the reports of the work done by the evangelists sent out by this board. Reports were made from all the different circuits, which proved very satisfactory and showed that the preachers have not been idle. Churches have been erected at Clifton Forge, Radford, Palaski and several other important points in Southwest Virginia. The church at this place was shown by its pastor to be in a growing condition, and with a little assistance from the board will soon be self-sustaining.

The reports throughout, with a few exceptions, were very gratifying to the board. There is in attendance about 30 or 40 ministers and delegates, among whom there are some bright and brainy men. There is also in attendance ministers from other States and many more are expected to-day, as the real work of the ministry does not begin till then.

The Ministerial Association will meet to-day at 9 a. m., and will discuss a number of important subjects. The services for the public will begin at 10 o'clock. The Christian Woman's Board of Missions will meet in the Presbyterian Sunday school room at 10 a. m., and will be addressed on the subject of missions in India. There will be no services at the Christian to-night.

The following is the program for to-day:

BUSINESS SESSION. Election of new members. Appointment of committees.

PUBLIC SESSION. "The Preacher in the Sick Room," W. J. Cooke and B. A. Abbott. "The Preacher in His Study," Jabez Hall and George Lobingier. "The Preacher in the Pulpit," J. L. Darso and H. J. Seaman. "Clerical Jeeting," L. M. Omer. "How to Fill an Empty Church," C. E. Moore and W. H. Book. "The Need of a Fearless Pulpit," L. A. Cutler and Z. P. Richardson. "How to Draw the Young," F. E. Bullard and A. A. Ferguson. "Sermon Literature," Thomas Munnell.

"The Necessity of a Co-operative Ministry," J. D. Hamaker and George W. Orden. "Preparation for Preaching," I. J. Spencer.

EVENING SESSION AT GREENE MEMORIAL CHURCH.

Five minute speeches on Sunday-school work and its relations to the church by Jabez Hall, M. W. Mason, H. C. Carrison, H. E. McWane, Peter Ainslie, E. Bagby. The question for discussion, "Shall we have a Sunday-school Board?" Rev. I. J. Spencer, of Richmond city, and now in attendance upon the State meeting of the Christian Church, holding its session in this city, will preach for Rev. Mr. Duffey, at Trinity Tabernacle to-night, at 7:30. Mr. Spencer is one of the most popular ministers of his church in this State; he is a pleasant and persuasive speaker and never fails to attract his hearers. Revival services are now in progress at Trinity Tabernacle.

THE SOUTHERN SURGICAL SOCIETY.

Many Papers at the Fourth Annual Convention in Richmond.

RICHMOND, Nov. 10.—[Special]—The fourth annual convention of the Southern Surgical Society met here to-day. Dr. Lewis S. S. McMurty, of Louisville, presiding. Papers were read by Drs. J. W. Long, North Carolina; Bedford Brown, Alexandria; Frank Lydson, Chicago; N. W. McKee, Atlanta; J. Edward Michael, Baltimore; W. N. Glenn, Nashville; W. F. Westmoreland, Altoona; W. M. Polk, New York; Joseph P. Price, Philadelphia; Thos. Opie, Baltimore; John Brown Riggs, Mississippi; C. Kollack, South Carolina; J. A. Goggins, Alabama; Jas. M. Matthews, Louisiana.

To-night the delegates are being entertained at the Westmoreland club.

A Blaze in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 10.—[Special]—Fire early this morning completely gutted the wholesale cloth and woolen goods house of Lippincott, Johnson & Co., 629 Market street, causing a loss on the stock and building, estimated at \$200,000; fully insured. The occupants of the adjoining buildings, Graham, Emson & Passmore, wholesale hardware, No. 631; Williams, Yerkes & Co., wholesale dry goods, No. 627, and Jones, Bechtel, Shelby & Co., wholesale notions, No. 625, sustained losses from water and smoke, variously estimated at from \$10,000 to \$15,000 each; all fully insured.

TELEGRAPH FLASHES.

The duties heretofore performed by the wrecked U. S. S. Despatch as a "despatch vessel" will hereafter be allotted to the U. S. S. Dolphin, lately returned from the China station, now being repaired at the Norfolk navy yard.

Rose Lawless, youngest sister of Lord Clanconry, was found in the lake near the shore of County Kildare, Ireland, yesterday. It is not known how she met her death.

The Southern Cotton Harvester Company have contracted for the manufacture of their new machines for cotton-picking.

Joseph Bragg Dunn, a prominent citizen of Petersburg, is dead.

BLAINE AND SALISBURY AGREE.

The Bering Sea Disputes to be Arbitrated.

The News That a Treaty Had Been Agreed Upon to be Submitted to the Senate Leaks Out in the Supreme Court—Statements by the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General—Blaine Refuses to Talk.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 10.—[Special]—The public was taken into the confidence of the diplomatic branch of the Government this afternoon in the continuation of the hearing begun yesterday before the Supreme Court on the case of the Canadian sailor, W. P. Sayward, seized for illegal sealing in the Bering sea, and the first announcement made that the prolonged diplomatic correspondence between Secretary Blaine and Lord Salisbury had resulted in an agreement by which, with the consent of the Senate, the long-pending dispute over the seal fisheries in the Bering sea will be definitely settled.

Solicitor General Taft, who was addressing the court, made the first intimation that the correspondence between the two countries had reached a point of an agreement upon arbitration. He stopped at this point, and when Justice Gray desired some more explicit statement as to whether an agreement upon arbitration had been actually reached, the solicitor general hesitated to reply and intimated that perhaps he had revealed more than he (not being a cabinet officer, and being authorized to speak only on legal questions) should have done.

Thereupon Attorney-General Miller himself interposed, and not only substantiated all that the solicitor-general had said, but went further and announced that the Government had effected an agreement. This was practically the first announcement made as to the progress of the Bering sea negotiations since the last correspondence was made public, showing the difference of opinion between the two governments. It was surprising that news should come out in argument in court, and the Attorney-General was asked after adjournment, if he would throw some light on the subject.

"It is true that an agreement upon arbitration has been reached," he said. "Yes," he added, "the matter has been settled between the two governments, that is, subject to ratification by the Senate."

"What are the points of arbitration?" "I cannot say any more than I said in court. Why don't you go to the State Department? Yes, you can state as a fact that an agreement has been concluded."

Solicitor-General Taft was next seen, but would only confirm what the Attorney-General had said. "In the last correspondence, you know" said he, "there was simply a difference between the two governments as to the point of arbitration. Well, the correspondence since then has resulted in a treaty which now only needs to be ratified by the Senate."

The reporter suggested that it was something unusual to hear the announcement of such important news in argument in court. "But it is a fact," was the response, laughingly, but positively given.

The very significant remarks made by Attorney-General Miller and Solicitor-General Taft in the course of arguments upon the Sayward case before the Supreme court to-day, were brought to the attention of Secretary Blaine, but the secretary positively declined to make any statement touching the matter. Other officers of the State Department were either ignorant or refused to say anything upon the subject.

The inference drawn from developments to-day is that the President will submit to the Senate an agreement in the nature of a treaty between the United States and Great Britain, by which the parties bind themselves to accept as final and conclusive, the definition to be given by arbitrators of the exact right of the United States in the Bering sea, as well as to pay any awards of damages suffered by the nation that is declared to have held true contention. It is also presumed that arbitrators have been selected, but none of the officials seen would discuss the details of the agreement, doubtless for the reason that it has to be submitted to the Senate for ratification, and therefore comes under executive session rules of the Senate, which require secrecy to be observed.

The manner in which news of a practical conclusion of this controversy was first made public recalls the first news the public had of another diplomatic event, viz: the recall of Minister Mizner from Mexico, when, for the first time in years, a Presidential message contained a piece of live-news and made the announcement that Mizner had been summoned home.

The East Tennessee Dividend.

NEW YORK, Nov. 10.—[Special]—The East Tennessee directors to-day declared a yearly dividend of 3 per cent. on first preferred stock. Last year 5 per cent. was paid. President Inman, of the Richmond Terminal Company, leaves the city Monday to attend the East Tennessee annual meeting in Knoxville November 18. He will vote proxies on a majority of all classes of stock.

Ex-Gov. Lee Here.

Ex-Gov. Fitzhugh Lee, of Glasgow, was in the city yesterday. He was here to attend the regular monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Iron Belt Building and Loan Association. He returned home on the evening train.

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