

IMPROVE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Some days ago we published a letter from W. C. Digges, of Caroline county, in which he strenuously opposes any increase of taxation for the purpose of improving the public schools of Virginia. He assigns as his chief reason for this opposition the fact that those persons who pay the heaviest school tax do not patronize the public schools, but send their children to private schools, while the children of parents who pay little or school tax patronize the public schools. There is probably no reason to doubt the facts as stated by Mr. Digges, but with his conclusion we cannot agree. As citizens there are higher and loftier duties devolving upon us than simply looking after our own interests and our own advancement.

The good of the community should be the citizen's first concern, and the man who is sufficiently endowed with this world's goods to give his children a liberal education is lacking in public spirit if he will not cheerfully contribute in order that the children of his less fortunate neighbor may have the opportunity of securing an education. We agree with Mr. Digges that "a little learning is a dangerous thing," and it is for that very reason that the present agitation for better public schools and more liberal education has been inaugurated, and the promoters of the proposed improvements are relying upon the patriotic, unselfish and broad-minded citizenship of the land owners and taxpayers of Virginia to respond to the call. This is becoming an age of philanthropy, wherein the man who is satisfied so long as he and his prosper is regarded as selfish and narrow, and wherein every good citizen must have concern also for the welfare of his neighbor. No one doubts the benefits of a liberal education; therefore, let no man stand in the way of opening wide the gates to every boy and girl in Virginia who will enter.

The Russian government seems on the eve of preventing free speech, which has heretofore been permitted by the Czar. This action is to prevent the discussion of revolutionary measures which have excited and emboldened the populace. It will be a bad day for the masses if the pendulum of governmental authority shall swing backwards, and not only take the recent liberties granted to the people from them, but bring upon them increased hardships and oppressions. If this is done we may look for mass meetings, successful mass meetings until an outraged Christian world will be compelled to interfere and stop the wholesale murder.

If the State Board of Education appoints five of its number to supervise the county superintendents of schools, and the schools, at a salary of \$1,200 each and \$300 each for expenses, it is very questionable whether they will earn their salaries and expenses. Will they be any real benefit to the schools is the question, and will their service justify the expenditure of so much money? And again, if they are to supervise the schools in any use for county superintendents. Does it not look as if we are to have two sets of paid officials to do the same work when one set ought to do it?

The people of Philadelphia are in full sympathy with Mayor Weaver and are giving him their full support, pledging him their life, liberty and sacred honor. That is strong language, but they mean what they say, and many members of the city council heretofore favoring the lease of the gas works are changing their support to the mayor and will sustain his veto. The mayor seems to be master of the situation.

We are informed that if the grave of Betty Washington Lewis is marked at all, it is poorly marked, and likely to become lost to the public. This should not be allowed. The grave should be permanently marked and preserved from oblivion, and the matter ought to be looked after at once. The Betty Washington Lewis Chapter could find some pious work in this direction.

Some of the people of Alabama are railing against foreign immigration and want none of that class, but call upon the northern farmers and laborers who are moving toward Canada to come to Alabama where they will be received with open arms. The South generally wants immigration and is making efforts to get it.

The high tariff Republicans may wriggle so far as Secretary Taft and the President are concerned. There is no back down on the part of the Secretary to purchase Panama supplies and material in the open market, and the President is sustaining him. Good for both the Secretary and President.

Chicago and Philadelphia are both in a fever of excitement and the end is not in sight. Let us hope that no blood will be shed in either city and that the contests may be settled according to law and right.

The President killed ten bears while on his western hunt. It is suggested that he might find bulls and bears plentiful nearer home who might be despatched.

A colored man named Ben Harrison, died in Missouri the other day, his people claimed, at the age of 128. It was said that he was 22 when Washington died, and therefore could easily have claimed that he was Washington's carriage driver, but he didn't make the claim.

A man in Brooklyn is reported to have lived a year with a broken neck. He fell from a window, lighting on his head, which dislocated his neck, and he was sent to a hospital where he has just died. His case is probably the first of its kind on record.

The President is determined on an extra session of Congress, but the date has not yet been fixed. The speaker favors the 13th of November and he and the President are trying to come to terms, the latter appearing to favor at present a different date.

The Chicago strike has broken out with renewed energy, and it is spreading to all branches of trade. It will probably take the power of the government to end the strike and restore order.

AMERICAN YACHT WINS KAISER CUP

(Special to The Free Lance.)  
London, May 29th.  
The American yacht "Atlantic" won the Kaiser's cup, having come in first in the great international yacht race across the ocean.

POLITICAL

Senator Martin will speak Tuesday at Isle of Wight, and Thursday at Botetourt.

Arthur B. Shreve, of Lucketts, is a candidate for the house of delegates from Loudoun county.

Judge Samuel W. Williams, of Wythe, says he is in the race for Attorney-General to stay, and that indications point to his success.

Mr. B. W. Lynn, of Loudoun county, former superintendent of the State penitentiary, is a candidate for senator from the district composed of Loudoun and Fauquier counties.

C. M. Gibbons, of Winchester, is slated for a consular position, the President having promised a Virginia Republican delegation that he would find a place for Mr. Gibbons, who in 1900 ran against Representative James Hay for Congress, but was defeated.

Eugene C. Massey, a widely known attorney of Richmond, has announced himself a candidate for the legislature. Mr. Massey has for years been the champion of the Torrens system of land registration, and his idea is to make a fight for it in the legislature.

Judge William H. Mann addressed a meeting in Danville Saturday night in the interest of his candidacy for the governorship. He made a statement of the principles he had espoused in the canvass. The address consisted chiefly of an elaboration of the principles.

A largely signed petition has been presented to Gov. Montague, requesting him to speak at Buckingham Court House June 13, when Senator Martin is expected to deliver an address there. It is contended it is likely that the first joint debate of the campaign will be held.

BLACKSTONE FEMALE INSTITUTE

The programme for the closing exercises of the sessions at Blackstone Female Institute to be held June 23, 24 and 25, is as follows:

Friday, June 23, 10:30 a. m., annual concert, 8:30 p. m., annual address by Rev. J. N. Layman, Portsmouth.

Saturday, June 24, 10:30 a. m., class day exercises, delivery of distinctions, diplomas and medals; 8:30 to 10:30 p. m., reception by class of 1905.

Sunday, June 25, 11 a. m., annual sermon by Rev. John J. Tigert, D. D., of Nashville, Tenn.

LIQUOR FINES SUSTAINED IN LANCASTER

In Lancaster circuit court last week (Cesar) Ransome was convicted and fined \$150. W. O. Harding, lower Lancaster, was convicted and fined \$500. Both were liquor cases. Counsel for Harding and Ransome appealed, but Judge Wright sustained the jury. Wednesday the judge sentenced each to two years in jail. Counsel for Harding and Ransome have taken appeal to the State Supreme Court.

PROPOSITION TO LEASE GAS WORKS WITHDRAWN

President Dolan, of the United Gas Improvement Company, which sought an extension of its lease of the Philadelphia gas works, wrote letters to the presidents of the respective branches of county, recalling his proposition. He added that his company would not accept the ordinance even if it were passed over the Mayor's veto.

WOMEN PALLBEARERS

Saturday eight Virginia women acted as pallbearers and carried to the grave the body of Mrs. Maud Collins, wife of Dr. G. T. Collins, of Highland Springs, near Richmond, who died after an operation for appendicitis. She was president of the Highland Springs Woman's Study Club, members of which were the pallbearers.

BATTLE-SHIP SQUADRON ENDS CRUISE

The battle-ship squadron, under Rear Admiral Evans, consisting of the flagship Maine, the Kentucky, Kearsage, and Missouri, has returned to anchor in Hampton Roads after a cruise of several days over the southern drill grounds.

MARSHAL TREAT

Morgan Treat, reappointed U. S. Marshal, has received his commission and will assume office next Thursday. All of his old employes will retain their positions. Mr. E. N. Enright to remain as of his deputy. The office is now located at Norfolk, but will be moved back to Richmond.

DIES UNDER CHLOROFORM

Mr. Thomas Hayes, of Loudoun county, died suddenly Friday in Frederick City, Md., while having a number of teeth extracted, when under the influence of chloroform, administered at his request by local physicians. He expired after the sixteenth tooth had been drawn.

JAPAN'S GREAT NAVAL VICTORY

TWELVE OF ROJESTVENSKY'S WARSHIPS SUNK OR CAPTURED.

It is officially announced from Tokyo that Admiral Rojostvensky's Russian fleet has been practically annihilated. Twelve warships have been sunk or captured, and two transports and two torpedo boat destroyers have been sunk. This announcement of the practical annihilation of the Russian fleet is accepted as removing all doubt as to the result of the great battle in the strait of Korea, and it seems apparent that Japan has won her greatest victory of the war and is in control of the sea.

RUSSIANS DEFEATED

JAPS WIN THE NAVAL BATTLE

(Special to The Free Lance.)  
Tokyo, May 29th.  
The Russian battleships Borodino and Alexander, three armored cruisers Admiral Nakhamoff, Doumitroff, and the cruiser Vessouf were today sunk by the Japanese fleet. The battleships Oshio and Nicholas Ist, coast defense vessels Admiral Senavin and General Admiral Yuzine were captured.

PRISONERS TAKEN

RUSSIAN CAPTAINS DROWNED

(Special to The Free Lance.)  
Tokyo, May 29.  
Togo captured two thousand prisoners. Eighteen captains of Russian warships were drowned.

GREAT NAVAL BATTLE OFF JAPAN COAST

Rojostvensky and Togo Struggle For Mastery of Sea.

LOSS ON BOTH SIDES HEAVY

Two Russian Battleships and Three Other Warships Sunk—Japan's Loss So Far Said to Be One Cruiser and Ten Torpedo Boats—Running Fight in Straits of Korea Continues—Russians Sink American Steamer.

Tsushima, May 29.—There is a running naval engagement between the Russian and Japanese fleets in the Straits of Korea, near the island of Oki. It is reported that the whole Russian fleet is not participating, all the slower vessels having steamed around Japan. The Japanese losses so far are stated to be one cruiser and 19 torpedo boats.

A telegram from Chinese sources says that in the naval battle in the

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VIRGINIA NEWS

Wm. L. Crutchen has been appointed postmaster at Pine View, Fauquier county.

Senator Daniel has gone to Portland, Oregon, to attend the Lewis and Clark Centennial Celebration.

Mayor F. B. Perry has no opposition for re-election. The time for filing notices expired on Tuesday.—Orange Observer.

Dr. Porter, of Newport News, will conduct the meeting at Kirkland Grove Baptist camp meeting in Richmond county this summer.

Mrs. Mary E. Hinely, mother of Hon. Geo. V. Hinely, of Mathews county, was stricken with paralysis a few days ago and her condition is serious.

Edgar Augustine Barry, of Loudoun county, is among those who will receive the degree of arts degree from the University, Providence, R. I., June 21st.

In the Circuit court of Orange county last week in the case of H. W. Stockton against the Southern Railway, \$10,000 damage claims for injury received, the jury failed to agree and was discharged.

The Republican city committee of Alexandria Friday night accepted the resignation of the city chairman, Mr. Joseph L. Crupper, and several members of the committee, and reorganized with F. M. Phillips as chairman.

The green pen raisers along the Rappahannock were disbanded last week by the low prices of the crop and the scarcity of labor to save the peas. Only those who planted seed saved from last year's crop, come out clear. The cost of the seed is a considerable item.

According to a statement from Scranton, Pa., where the late Judge John H. Miller resided, the estate of that jurist, the bulk of which was left to the town of Winchester, has troubled since his death, and is now estimated at about five million dollars.

St. Martin's Episcopal church, at Doswell, which has been without a pastor since Rev. Mr. Heppner's resignation, is undergoing repairs and will be ready for services in June. The members of the congregation are desirous of making it a memorial to the late Mrs. T. W. Doswell, who was for a long time the head worker.

Edolph Baumgardner, Staunton, colored; Robert Leavy, Page county, lieutenant colonel; S. R. Miller, Warrenton, and R. A. Moody, Petersburg, majors. These are the staff officers of the Seventy-Seventh Regiment, Virginia Volunteers, recently formed, chosen at a meeting held at Staunton Saturday for the election of regimental officers.

The pen crop is about over. The yield in this section has been good but prices have been poor. Of late years the pen crop has not been very profitable to the farmer and the average sowed in pens is smaller year by year. The fishing season is about over and has been very unprofitable to those engaged in the industry.—Tidewater Democrat.

Lively Selves, of King and Queen county, lost a horse Tuesday at Ware's Wharf. Mr. Selves had just bought the horse for \$108. He had brought a shipment of green peas to the wharf and left the horse near a store. A window blind was opened which frightened the horse. He ran away, and after breaking the wagon to pieces, broke his neck. A subscription was raised to help the unfortunate man.

SCUFFLE IN BOAT FOLLOWED BY TRAGEDY

Archibald Timberlake, nineteen, was drowned Sunday in the Rivanna river, near Charlottesville. While boating, competition, Timberlake and the boat upset in twenty feet of water. Although both could swim, they grappled, and in the struggle young Timberlake went to the bottom. Graves had barely strength enough to reach the bank. The body was recovered.

The best assortment of solid 14 karat gold, twenty-five and twenty year gold filled, silver and nickel watches with the very best movements, worked in pens, the Waltham, Elgin & Co., suitable for ladies, gents, or boys, ever on sale in Fredericksburg. At Norris, the jeweler and optician.

the Russian warships have sunk an unknown American merchant ship off the Chinese coast. Heavy gun fire is plainly heard to the northward.

The belief in naval circles in Washington is that the Japanese resorted to a free use of their torpedo boats in their attacks on the vessels of Vice Admiral Rojostvensky's fleet. The Japanese have a large number of torpedo boats in their fleet, and they demonstrated their effectiveness in the operations around Port Arthur. Naval officers here express the opinion that it was unlikely that such serious losses as those reported could have been inflicted by ordinary fire.

A dispatch was received at the state department saying that the Japanese government had made the announcement that its fleet had engaged the Russians in the Straits of Korea Saturday and had held them.

From information which has been received in Washington it is believed that two of the Russian ships reported to have been sunk in the Korean Straits by the Japanese are the Orai and her sister ship, the Borodino. They are battleships of 12,000 tons. Three other vessels reported sunk are believed to have been cruisers, the remaining one being a regular Japanese Japanese Minister Takahira has received a dispatch from Tokyo saying in effect that the fighting in the naval battle thus far has been with favorable prospects to the Japanese. The minister's dispatch is from private sources.

NAME OF U. S. BOAT UNKNOWN  
Russian Admiralty Says Sinking of Steamer Was Probably Necessary.

Tokyo, May 29.—The name and destination of the American steamer which Vice Admiral Rojostvensky is reported to have sunk off Formosa on May 21 is unknown here. Details concerning the sinking of the vessel are expected to be made known when the crew of the steamer reaches Japan. Although nothing is known here about the case it is expected in official circles that Vice Admiral Rojostvensky will claim that the vessel was cruising.

Russia Has Ready Excuses.  
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