The Big Stone Gap Post.

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THE Chinese exclusion act is to be tested in the court.

IT is said that England is threatened with a coal famine.

THE keenest disappointment has always some compensation.

A MAN is generally known by the company he keeps out of.

IT seems as if ammunition has about given out in Kentucky.

SOME people think its hard to be poor, when, as a matter of fact, it's the easiest thing in the world.

IT has been intimated that Joe Bailey, of Texas, got his plug hat in order to be ready for the woman's suffrage convention.

AN exchange says a candidate for office always has an ax to grind, and that when elected he sets all the people to turning the grindstone.

IT is probably true that a good many things come to him who waits, but more things wait for him who goes after them.

THE Secretary of the West Virginia board of health states that smallpox in various forms exists in one-third of the counties in that state.

THE *Messenger*, Holston Bridge, Va., suspended publication with last week's issue. It had attained the ripe age of Vol. III, No. 23.

IT is claimed that the profits of the Carnegie Steel Company last year amounted to $21,000,000, and that this year the profits will be fully twice that amount.

THE Knoxville *Sentinel* says that Joe Wheeler might get even with Joe Bailey when he gets back to congress by introducing an anti-beegum hat resolution.

THE hearing of the Walker-Rhea contest has again been postponed, and this time on account of the absence from Washington of Representative Fox (dem.), who has been called to his home in Mississippi by the extreme illness of his wife.

BRYAN'S visit to Richmond Monday of last week was the signal for great enthusiasm. He was the centre of interest from the time of his arrival in the city till his departure. He spoke at the Academy of Music, which was crowded with an enthusiastic audience.

THIRD Assistant Postmaster General Madden has introduced an innovation in the postoffice department which promises to be the most popular thing of his administration. It is the issuance of stamps in book form at so small an advance in cost that the public will gladly pay the difference in exchange for the great convenience it affords. The books will be ready in the next month or so.

AMONG the many things which the British government provides for its soldiers are blank forms for a will. According to Harper's Weekly, "the war office supplies every soldier that goes to the front with three blank forms of wills—the first for the man who wishes to leave all his property to one person; the second for those who wish to bequeath legacies to several persons, and the third for use of married soldiers like most other people, usually neglects to make his will until the very last moment, and frequently waits until wounded or dying upon the field. It is said that formerly the men would scribble their will in a few words on some stray bit of paper or on the inside of a helmet, the lid of a cartridge box, or perhaps on a stone lying near by." The idea is a good one, and the Philadelphia Medical Journal suggests that "if hospitals and emergency physicians, as well as soldiers, were provided with such blanks, they might prove of great convenience in many cases of emergency and severe illness, and legal complications might many times be avoided by their use."

The Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Company.

There is now pending in the Senate of Virginia, a bill introduced by Senator Sands, of Richmond, to incorporate The Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Company, which proposes to build and operate telephone lines into every County in the State. The corporators are some of the most reputable business men in Virginia, Col. John B. Purcell, R. S. Bosher, S. W. Travers, Hon. J. Taylor Ellyson and Judge George L. Christian, of Richmond; Judge John D. Horseley, of Lynchburg, and R. E. Byrd, of Winchester. The bill provides that the Company "may construct and acquire, by lease, purchase or otherwise, and maintain and operate telephone and telegraph lines, or either, with all necessary fixtures and appliances, in, under and along the streets, alleys, highways, public works and parks, and through, across or under the waters of this State, in any city, town or county, in the State of Virginia, subject only to the following conditions—namely: That the ordinary use of such streets, highways, works and waters be not thereby obstructed, and that the said Company shall be subject to reasonable regulations by the corporate authorities of any city or town as to the use of streets and alleys, and in respect to the location and proper maintenance of such lines of telephone or telegraph within the limits of such city or town."

It is further proposed that in the event the Company and any city or town disagree as to what are reasonable rules and regulations, that a petition may be filed in the City Court, or the court having jurisdiction over the town, to determine the question with a right of appeal to either party.

These provisions in the bill are opposed by the city of Richmond, and a number of other cities and towns in the State, which claim that the cities and towns in the State should have the absolute power to determine.

First, whether the company will be permitted to enter the city or town upon any conditions, and

Second, to prescribe such conditions, rules and regulations as they please, without any power vested anywhere to change or alter such terms, no matter how unjust, unreasonable and prohibitive.

It seems to us that this position is untenable in any light we may view it, and that such action will be putting the breaks on the progress of public improvements, rather than facilitating its march. The long distance telephone is a boon to any community, often saving valuable time and great expense.

Tennessee, South Carolina, Ohio, Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, and a number of other States, have adopted in their code of general laws the privileges sought by the charter of this Company, and Virginia should have a general statute of the same character.

We need only look across our border into Tennessee to see the great advantages which our neighbor is having under her liberal laws. Every important city and town is rapidly being connected by long distance phones with the great South and Southwest. A connection can now be made as far Southwest as Galveston, Texas, and they are in communication with all the great cities of the South Mississippi Valley.

The cities of Virginia are not the State of Virginia, and have no more right to arrogate to themselves the absolute right to control their highways than the counties have to control theirs. The State is supreme and she is trustee for all her people. The greatest good to the greatest number is the the principle which should prevail. The whole State will be greatly benefitted by the construction of the lines proposed by this Company, and it appeals with great force to the people of the rural and remote districts. There is no doubt about the good faith of the corporators, besides being men of the highest character whom Virginians have been proud to trust. The bill contains the following:

"The said Company shall not have the benefit of this charter unless the said Company shall, within ninety days from the passage of this act, deposit with the Treasurer of the State of Virginia, One Hundred Thousand ($100,000.00) Dollars of the bond of the State of Virginia, issued under the Acts of 1891 and 1892, or Acts amendatory thereof, commonly called century bonds, which are to be forfeited to the State of Virginia if the said Company shall not, at the end of three years from the passage of this act, establish, either by its own lines or by arrangements with other lines, a telephone system which will afford communication between every County in the State of Virginia."

It will thus be seen that the Company means business. There is every reason why the members of the General Assembly outside of the cities should vote for the measure, and no good reason why the city members should not. If the Company is only permitted to enter the cities and large towns upon unreasonable and very costly terms, the result will be to make the operation of the system dearer to the country districts that would have not only to pay tolls, but in addition pay enough to make up for the unreasonable exactions made upon it by the cities and larger towns. We believe we voice the wishes of a vast majority of the people of this section, in urging that the Company be granted the charter asked for.

IN the last issue of the Jonesville *Virginian* appears the following paragraph:

The "Slempses" have downed Walker and Blankenship and downed them badly. Mr. Will Slemp has been appointed Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue to succeed Bent Kilbourn, resigned. The appointment is a direct and open-handed slap square in the faces of jinneral jeems and kernul george. We are glad to state that the most deserving and the best man has won. We are also glad to state that jeems and george have lost. Col. Slemp deserves a pension at the hands of the white republicans of the 9th Congressional District for so quietly and snugly placing jim and george on the cooling board of "has beens." The appointment of Will Slemp sounds the death knell to the political aspirations and hopes of both the jinneral and kernul and brings to the front Campbell Slemp, Phil Strother and Jim Browning—men who are Republicans from sake of principle and not "for revenue only."

SNIPS.

The iron furnace has been banked for the past week owing to a shortage of ore and coke.—*Radford Advance.*

Nations, like individuals, are powerful in the degree that they command the sympathies of their neighbors.—*Our Dumb Animals.*

The headline artist says that "both sides in the struggle are resting on their oars." Then there really is water in Kentucky!—*Bristol Courier.*

Some men do more "bossing" when having a dollar job of carpentering done than others do in the management of a line of railroad.—*East Tennessee News.*

W. S. Palmer, of Big Stone Gap, purchased a large boundary of land last week for the Interstate Investment Company, of Louisville, Ky.—*Pennington Gap News.*

We doubt not in the least that Bent Kilbourne's "Last Raid After Moonshiners," will make him a hero worthy of a place in a dime museum.—*Jonesville Virginian.*

The people who have convictions respect the convictions of others. Those who have no convictions of their own to respect do not know how to respect other people's.—*Religious Herald.*

Congressman Brownlow has written to a friend in this city that if Morristown wants a public building, all she has to do is to keep a "statesman" in Congress.—*Morristown Gazette.*

It is stated that the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company have finally decided to abandon Luke, Md., and concentrate their work at the new mills at Covington, Va.—*Daily Telegraph.*

It is said that the Baldwin Locomotive Works have received an order from the French State Railways for the construction of ten passenger locomotives, which must be completed early in the summer.—*Scientific American.*

The sublimest moment of William Goebel's brilliant career, or of any man's career as to that, was when, with his expiring breath, he begged his followers to commit no illegal act.—*Washington (Va.) Herald.*

The Virginia and Southwestern Railway company continues to receive consignments of bridge iron for use in the construction of bridges on its Carter and Johnson county extension. Several car loads now stand on the railway yards in West Bristol.—*Bristol Courier.*

The Holston Christian advocate hates with the whole of its little heart everything which God hates. We give no place to the devil in the form of combines and trusts; neither have we much respect for parties which prefer power and spoils before the welfare of the country.—*Holston Christian Advocate.*

Peanuts have been recommended by medical authorities as the best possible food for boys for a school luncheon. No doubt the boys will welcome this idea until they learn that the peanuts are thought to be good for them, and then they will quickly develope a distaste for the delightful goober. Human nature is as strong in boys as in other people.—*Orange Observer.*

On Tuesday morning a colored man named Hayes Pannill, whose home was at Martinsville, Va., fell from a westbound freight train just this side of the West End furnace, and was instantly killed. He and another Martinsville negro, Tom Mitchell, were stealing a ride on the train and fell off.—*Salem Times-Register.*

A statement of the light plant was made by the Light Committee from February 1, 1899, to February 1, 1900. There has been some extra expense for repairs, but to run the plant has cost the town above the earnings $1,007.71, and thirty-two lights have been run regularly. The town paid previously over $1,800 for twenty-four lights.—*Bedford Bulletin.*

Complaint has been heretofore made that congressmen do not earn there wages. This year they seem determined to dissipate the charge. Five thousand and fifteen bills have already been introduced into the house and 1,974 in the senate. Now, if the honorable gentlemen really want to earn their pay, with satisfaction to the people, they will simply let these bills take their course, without discussion.—*Whitewright (Tex.) Star.*

The young people who indulge in the giddy mazes of the waltz will hear with interest that the heads of Washington and New York society have declared that "sitting out" a waltz will be more fashionable from now on than dancing. The "sitting out embodies the same position as dancing—the only difference is that you sit instead of dance. The man's right arm is around the girl's waist, while his left hand holds her right. Her left hand is placed on his shoulder, while her head rests lovingly on his bosom, and all they have to do is sit and listen to the music. Now that is something like it. We have always regarded it as quite a nuisance to have to gallop a mile or two in order to get a hug or two. A whole room full of people sitting around on sofas hugging to music is more to our notion. This will give the old rhumaticy brethren another good chance to waltz. Most men waltz, not for the dance, but for the position, and while many a man may lose his appetite for dancing, he has to get powerful old before he loses his appetite for hugging a pretty girl.—*Greenville Times.*

WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our regular correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Hawaiian and Porto Rican legislation now has the right of way in both branches of Congress. In the Senate, the bill providing a form of government for Hawaii, on territorial lines, is the "unfinished business" and will remain such until disposed of. In the House, the Porto Rico tariff bill, which was reported from the Ways and Means Committee last week, has been called up and will be kept up until disposed of. Both bills will prorably pass as party measures although the sentiment in the House in favor of allowing Porto Pico unrestricted trade with the U. S. will cause not a few members to vote for the tariff bill reluctantly; but the announcement by the President that he would sign it, if passed, although in his message he had recommended free trade for Porto Rico, ended the serious opposition to it in the ranks of the majority. But the minority will utilize the bill to make some extended speeches, which they hope to use later for political ammunition.

Spain put a new tariff into effect the 1st of this year, which contained some items which can only be explained on the ground of hatred towards this country. For instance, the U. S. Consul at Barcelona, in a report to the Department of State, points out that the duty on typewriters, which under the old tariff averaged about fifty cents a machine, is now from $13 to $20. As no typewriters are made in Spain, the big duty seems to have been imposed for the purpose of heading off the use of American typewriters in Spain, as they are almost the only ones yet introduced in that country. The new tariff has doubled the duty on parrafine wax and lubricating oils, which has shut out American trade in the former and crippled it in the latter. As these duties afford neither protection nor revenue for Spain, they can only be regarded as having been imposed for spite. The spite policy is never a good one in the long run, either for nations or individuals.

Once more the House, sitting as a "Committee of the whole," when no record is made of the vote, decided, by a vote of seventy-five to sixty-seven to strike out the clause of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill carrying money for the support of the Civil Service Commission, only to reverse that action on a record vote afterwards.

The Loud bill, amending the laws for the regulation of second class mail matter, has been favorably reported to the House from the Post Office Committee. The bill differs slightly from the similar bill which was before the last Congress. It provides a uniform rate of 1 cent a pound for second class matter, which is to include all newspapers and periodicals issued at stated periods and as frequently as four times a year. It allows sample copies up to 50% of the bona fide subscription list, when that does not exceed 500 of one issue.

The House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds has arranged for a little junket to New York City on the 23rd inst., the excuse being a personal examination of the Post Office needs of the metropolis.

Senator McEnery, is one of the Senators who while opposing the permanent retention of the Philippines by the U. S., advocates the forcible suppression of the rebellion against our authority. In a speech he said: "I am not willing that the Philippines, or any part of them, should remain the property of the U. S., and I am unalterably opposed to their inhabitants becoming citizens of this country. We should get away from there as soon as our honor, dignity and interests will permit. I have no sympathy with the Filipinos. They are now enemies of the U. S. As soon as they have laid down their arms, perhaps we may be able to do something for them. It is absurd to suppose that they are now, or in the immediate future will be, able to govern themselves as we regard government."

Although the House has passed a Financial bill and the Senate has done likewise, the Financial bill that will become a law will be made by the six men who form the Conference and Committee, representing the House and Senate, which is charged with the task of reconciling the differences in the two bills. The gentlemen charged with this important duty are Senators Aldrich, Allison, and Jones, of Arkansas, and Representatives Overstreet, of Indiana; Brosius, of Pa., and Cox, of Tenn. The last named Senator and Representative represent the opposition to both bills.

While the question of praising the bravery of volunteers in the war with Spain from one section at the expense of those of other sections, enabled several members of the House to make little speeches that will add to their personal popularity at home, its good taste is doubted by disinterested persons. The bravery of Americans of every section is too well established to require either praise or defense. It is one of the natural acquirements of Americans.

THE RUSH TO CAPE NOME.

Many Going Over the Ice From Dawson, 2,000 Miles Away.

(Washington Star.)

The Cape Nome excitement continues unabated, according to a report to the State Department, dated December 8th, from Ronald Morrison, Vice-Consul at Dawson City. He writes that many people are making preparations to get to Cape Nome from Skagway via Dawson, over the ice, a journey of 2,000 miles. He says if all who are contemplating it make the trip this winter, there will be one continuous line of people from Bennett to St. Michaels. The transportation companies have already arranged to handle 3,000 passengers. The route to Cape Nome via Dawson is said to be four weeks earlier than the all-sea route, because of the open water along the shore north of the Yukon river.

Business at Dawson was said to be dull, though prices are maintained. The weather was comparatively mild, from 15 above zero to 18 below. This mildness has interfered with mining by flooding the drifts, and the gold output will fall short of the estimate of $25,000,000.

The Poor Man's Consolation.

I am thankful that the sun and moon,
Are both hung up so high,
That no rich robber's hand can stretch
And pull them from the sky.

If they hung low, I have no doubt,
Some corporation ass,
Would legislate to take them down,
And light the world with gas.

I am thankful that the shining stars,
Are far beyond our reach,
And that the rolling planets, too,
Are deaf to human speech.

If they were near, I'm very sure,
Rich men would own the skies,
And manage the whole business,
By private enterprise.

I am thankful that the God of all,
Whose laws we must obey,
Has changed his plan of making man
By shaping him from clay.

If he had not it's very clear,
'Twould be a doleful case,
Some man would form a big clay trust,
And stop the human race.—*Exchange.*

Analysis Virginia and Kentucky Coke made by

Water	
Volatile Matter	
Fixed Carbon	
Sulphur	
Ash	