

The Virginia Citizen.

DEMOCRATIC WEEKLY.

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All communications or business letters should be addressed to the Virginia Citizen, Irvington, Va., to receive prompt attention.

Friday, January 8, 1904.

MORE OYSTER NONSENSE.

Our vanity is somewhat punctured by recent remarks of our Valley friend, the Staunton Spectator, because we had flattered ourselves that the VIRGINIA CITIZEN was pretty well digested weekly (not weakly) by our friend, and that our verbose articles on the oyster had shed some light on this dense subject in that land of oysterology darkness. We have really regretted having to devote so much space to late to this subject, but to us it is one of existence, almost, while to our hill-country brethren it stood out for puncture—as the boy pinning the fly, fun for the boy but death to the fly. Here comes the Spectator with this old shot of generalities:

THE STATE AGAIN LOSSES REVENUE.

The oyster question, which has been the subject of more talk and confusion than any other in our Legislature for years, has been up again, and again a bill to rent the depleted beds of the State has failed. Nobody understands the question up there as well as we do. Everybody admits the State has large territories which could be made valuable if properly planted, but for some reason unknown the Tidewater people defeat a measure that has ever been introduced.

It is interesting to note that it has been found that if our oyster territory were rented it would pay the expenses of the State in a few years, and we might be practically free from taxation, but when a bill comes up one man opposes it because he does not consider it constitutional, another because the bill lacks some essential element, and so on, but it is believed that there is some grave personal or political reason behind all. There must be some fear that a legislator from the Tidewater section will lose his place if he votes to farm out the beds, because he has constituted himself as one of the State's do-gooders, just as we hear the western manager to get rich off the lands of the government, and of course do not want them opened for settlement.

It does seem that a valuable asset to the State ought to be changed from a purely worthless and unreturnable thing into one of value, but somehow enough of our representatives from the Tidewater section, either by having the wool pulled over their eyes or having some log rolling to do which causes them to need the votes of the Tidewater people, have assisted in depriving the State of revenue from this inestimably valuable asset. Will the State be hoodwinked and impoverished much longer by such vicious legislation? We hope not.

To think that men like Opie and Garrett, and others, who stood by the oyster people, are playing the game of "You tickle me and I tickle you" is quite absurd. Foolish thoughts will sometimes come, and sometimes they are written on paper, and often the exponent unconsciously inhabits the land "where ignorance is bliss," etc., but wise men are they who live and learn, and truly great men are those who after learning hold out for their convictions. Now the whole truth is that the editor of the Spectator, if he were in the Virginia Legislature, would learn a few things for oysters, and we give him credit for original intellect and sincerity to align him with the other great and good men who have changed their opinions after learning. True, many hill-country legislators are of the opinion of the Spectator's editor, but that is because they have not yet had their eyes opened. Some few, a very few, may be of the calibre the editor depicts—rolling-statement—but they are logging the log mountains and playing to the galleries where are seated their constituents.

When our friends up there learn that not one-half of the planting grounds allotted the planters is utilized because they hope to get a slice of more fertile fields (the natural rocks) they may take another tack—tell the planter to improve the barren wastes first, and then there may be more demand for arable areas.

WITH THE FRATERNITY.

Our little friend, The Echo, of Heathville, passes into a new year and a new volume. May it continue to find its youthful echo until bigger things shall come to pass. The Alexandria Gazette has closed its 104th volume, bringing the history of Alexandria down from the close of the eighteenth century to the present day. It has existed in three centuries, and is still showing the age and spirit of the times.

The Liberty Star is the title of a new monthly magazine published by the Liberty Publishing Company at Bedford City, Va. It consists of continued stories, short stories, special departments and miscellaneous matter. This magazine will be sent for a whole year to any address on receipt of 10 cents.

The Daily Press is about as old as the city of Newport News and both are celebrating the advent of their ninth year. Newport News couldn't have been what she is but for her press, and we suppose friend Thacker is equally as magnanimous in saying that the Press couldn't

have come into life without Newport News.

The Southern Methodist Recorder, owned and edited by James Cannon, Jr., has consolidated with the Baltimore and Richmond Christian Advocate. Revs. Cannon and Sidney Peters will aid Rev. J. R. Lafferty, D. D., on the editorial end. Rev. H. M. Hope, long associated with the Advocate, quits the newspaper field. The loss of the able Hope is more than balanced by the addition of the other two.

Widespread regret is felt at the disaster that has befallen the Norfolk Landmark. The whole mechanical department was destroyed by fire on the night of December 28, entailing heavy financial loss to the owners. The paper did not suspend, but in a modest editorial told of the accident and that it was being published on time from the press of a city contemporary until its own plant could be rebuilt. This is the nature of American pluck—no better exemplified than by its press on trying occasions.

The Warrock-Richardson Almanack, familiarly known as the "Virginia Almanack," is out for 1904. It is from the splendid press of Clyde W. Saunders, 1116-19 East Cary street, Richmond, Va., who is by recent purchase the owner of the copyright. Mr. Saunders, a really live man, has added features of improvement to the almanack, and whereas a Virginia household was heretofore hardly to be found without it, now that its improved features are known it will become indispensable.

NEWSPAPER "SQUIBS."

"Is it not time that such rumors and newspaper squibs should have an end?" asks our friend of the VIRGINIA CITIZEN in replying to what this paper said concerning Senator Martin, Governor Montague, the Senators and the Jordan oyster bill. Well, yes, if they have no foundation in fact, no, if they have. But our friend says they have not, and certainly he is an honorable man, a Martin of the strictest sect, who speaks well "the language of the tribe," a man who knows whereof he speaks, and a politician without guile. But, yet, isn't he just a little "sneaky" in this Martin business, or else why this nervousness? Why should he apply the undignified, belittling term "squib" to the very best, honest, and deeply earnest effort of our part to discuss a very grave subject, and to give timely warning to his brethren on the presence of a commit-hazard in the presence of the assembly at Richmond? We meant "only this, and nothing more." By the way, if our brother of the CITIZEN becomes so nervous, why not take to the woods by this friendly little "squib" of ours, when our friend Montague, in the Peninsula Enterprise, begins to land his 15-inch dynamite bombs around his editorial sanctum? What?—Accompany News.

Pretty good; pretty good. Nothing offensive meant to friend Noek in using the term "squib"—meant for the other fellows, of course, who are always shying their paragraphs on that line. He does us too much honor in our political sphere. At the same time we cannot be far wrong when we assume that the Accomac News is one of the staunch papers of the "old First" that no longer sees through a glass darkly, but thinks pretty much as we—and a majority in the State—do about Senator Martin. Save and excepting this, friend Edmonds, of the Enterprise, is all right. He is riding with the powers that be, but it may be the other fellow's turn soon. If so, we will welcome him in the synagogue, and not give him too low a seat, either.

ALMOST with one accord the newspapers of Tidewater that are close to the people and informed of their needs concur with us in urging that something be done to meet the existing demands of western legislators on the oyster subject. We have reproduced extracts from the Tidewater press in another column. The Norfolk Landmark strikes a note that is fair and just to all, but the hill-country folk demand more, and the press agree that some concessions must come from us. Legislators that stood by us and against the Jordan bill have served notice on us that they will not do so again—or, rather, that they will join us in offering moderate concessions, but if we persist in suggesting none that they will be obliged to join with the members from their section and act independently of Tidewater. We have been berated by some shallow-minded oyster people for daring to suggest compromise; but this is of little consequence. The oyster people of reasonable judgment know that such suggestions as ours come from unfaltering friends. We have but one fear—the rabid, unreasonable man is going to put a barrier in the way of getting easy terms, and while he professes fealty to the oyster rocks he is one of its worst enemies, because of his hard-headedness. All enterprises have some unreasonable adherents, and it is these people that divide a house against itself. If the CITIZEN—one of the first to see the situation and point it out to our people—if the CITIZEN is to be berated by these cranks then all the newspapers heretofore friendly to the oyster interests are in the same category. The knowledge that all follow one another in all the papers that have stood by the oyster interests. Whether he or they are in the worse predicament is a question easily answered.

THE L. E. MUMFORD BANKING COMPANY's pretty bank at Colonial Beach is nearing completion. Rev. Frank F. Berkley, of Fauquier county, has declined a call to the Urbanna and Saluda churches, Middlesex. The election at Williamsburg last week resulted in a victory for the dry by vote of 62 to 60. The dispensary was over at the saloon in Farmville.—The saloon won in Roanoke. The post-office at West Point, Va., was broken into Monday night last week by three masked men, who blew open the safe and robbed it of money and bonds. The burglars first captured and bound the town watchman, who in his helpless condition was a witness of the robbery. They took him to the post-office with them and made him take a watch and watch them as they blew off the door of the safe.

Gen. Longstreet Dead. Gen. James Longstreet, at the age of 84, the last of ranking lieutenant-generals of the Confederacy, except Gen. J. B. Gordon; veteran of the Mexican War and United States Commissioner of Railways, died at the home of his daughter in Gainesville, Ga., Saturday, of pneumonia. His malady was greatly aggravated by an old wound received by him at the hands of his own men through mistake at the battle of the Wilderness. A few days ago he contracted a cold, which developed into pneumonia, producing death quite suddenly.

BOATS AND MAIL DISARRANGED.

The present schedule of the Weems line, which offers good facilities for reaching Baltimore, but inconvenience to many wharves returning; also the single trip to Norfolk, will last only through the winter months. When transportation opens up the schedule will be arranged more conveniently, resuming, among other trips, the two to Norfolk. The weather of last week somewhat disarranged boat schedules. Owing to heavy ice up the bay the Lancaster became disabled and could not reach the Rappahannock Friday morning. In consequence there was no boat to Baltimore from this section on Friday. The Potomac, from Fredericksburg Saturday, had to lie up at the mouth of the river until Sunday night, owing to the blizzard. While up the thermometer in the north of Virginia has only been in the low 10's above zero the cold has been steady and continuous. Tuesday night the Rappahannock, five miles wide, froze from shore to shore with this ice. No transportation or mails here since Monday except via the steamer from the land, bringing daily Richmond mail from Urbana. Steamer Potomac came up from Norfolk Wednesday night to Tappahannock, and will try to get to Baltimore today (Friday). No other Weems or B. C. & A. boats are running, though the Bay line boats have not stopped. The thermometer along the Hudson has been in the "thirties below," an unusual thing this early.

HAIL THE NEW-BORN YEAR!

The past has been one of distress to many, so many, but, barring a few individual cases, we of this favored section have oceans of blessings to be thankful for. While not visiting us personally, our hearts have been melted by the misfortunes of some of our friends, and the great calamity in Chicago should make us more mindful and thankful of the manifold blessings that surround us. Our troubles are small, very small, compared with those of the outside world, and we should not forget for one moment that ours is a blessed lot and cast in an almost heavenly land. Our little trials and sorrows, our disappointments and piques are as nothing compared to the burdens of sorrow and woe that are laid upon many, and the man who grumbles at his lot here will never find a better in this life or the one hereafter.

ALL honor to the men of Norfolk, Newport News, Hampton and vicinity, who came to the rescue of the Jamestown Exposition, and saved it from going under. The charter would have expired at midnight of December 31st unless a million dollars had been raised. On the last day a quarter of that sum was lacking, but a few minutes before midnight subscriptions had been received sufficient to make up the grand total; and now the work will go on. It behooves the press and people of the western part of the State, who have done little or nothing towards helping the cause, to stop their geyring, and give at least their encouragement to the work that will redound to the good of the whole State. Do not let Virginia sportsmen forget that the days for bird shooting have passed.—Times Dispatch. So it has for those west of the Blue Ridge mountains, but east of them we have until February 1st.

ARE YOU A READER?

Do you subscribe to the VIRGINIA CITIZEN? If a reader and not a subscriber, are you helping a local enterprise? We are thankful for good wishes and opinions, but the \$5 is also necessary to keep up a good paper. We have been very lenient with our delinquent subscribers. We rarely drum them. But the time has come when we must ask settlement. The increased cost of labor, paper and materials in general has not induced us to raise on subscription or advertising rates, but we must ask settlement for amounts due us. We are just now sending out a few bills. If you get one kindly send us check. If you do not get one, and owe us, don't wait for a bill. Respectfully, VIRGINIA CITIZEN.

NEWS ITEMS.

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THE JORDAN BILL.

Little remains to be added to what we have already said of that measure. Under no circumstances should it be enacted into law until so amended as to provide: 1. For the commission of sufficiently long life to lease the unproductive bottoms intelligently. 2. For the ratification of leases by the General Assembly or the right of appeal from the commission to the courts. 3. For the lease of grounds to the highest bidder under certain reasonable restrictions. 4. The absolute limitations of the number of acres one man or corporation shall be allowed to secure by lease or sub-lease. With amendments covering these points the Jordan bill would be all right. Without them, or some of them, it will be vicious, pernicious and destructive legislation.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

SENATOR MARTIN AND JORDAN BILL.

The Virginia Citizen of last week thinks our information was not correct concerning the efforts of Senator Martin's friends in the legislature to push the Jordan Bill through, breaking the day's survey, in order to force Governor Montague either to sign or to veto the measure, knowing that if he signed it he would lose Tidewater support for the Senatorship, and that if he vetoed it he would lose strength in the western part of the State. Our informant as to the Jordan Bill is a very reliable gentleman, and occupies such a position at our State Capital as to give him unusual facilities for acquiring knowledge of current political thought and events; and we have no doubt that in this instance he knew what he was talking about, and that it is true that the various parties of Mr. Martin's had that object in view in working for the bill, but as will be shown further on in this article upon the statement of Senator Martin himself such action, if taken, was entirely without his knowledge, and this being true, his indiscretion on the part of his friends cannot properly

BE CHARGED UP TO THE SENATOR HIMSELF.

We will state here that this paper has no desire to do Senator Martin the slightest injustice, and we gladly give the Senator and his friends the opportunity which our columns afford to be set right before the people of the Eastern Shore so far as the matter under consideration, or any other, is concerned. The CITIZEN says: From personal observation we are glad to be in a position to inform our Eastern Shore friends that the bill which has been his dissertation are entirely without foundation of facts. Rather to be set right before the people of the Eastern Shore so far as the matter under consideration, or any other, is concerned. The CITIZEN says: From personal observation we are glad to be in a position to inform our Eastern Shore friends that the bill which has been his dissertation are entirely without foundation of facts. Rather to be set right before the people of the Eastern Shore so far as the matter under consideration, or any other, is concerned. 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