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FORTUNES OF POLITICS.
(Hampton Monitor.)
Six little candidates
Heard the gubernatorial hive
But the Byrd Law re-acted
Then there went but five.
Five zealous aspirants
With lots and lots in store,
Duke fought the primtry
Then there went but four.
Four anxious runners
Beneath the old plum tree,
Glass broke into public print
Then there went but three.
Three earnest stumblers
Against a sky-line blue,
Stunt fined the politicians
Then there went but two.
Two old-time campaigners
Basking in the sun,
Bryan came to the Exposition—
[But we do not care to
Enter into personalities.]

MISSIONARY MEETING.
Rappahannock District, June 16,
17 and 18, '08.
Amid surroundings most promising,
weather delightfully pleasant, fragrant
flowers, radiant faces and music inspir-
ing, the meeting of Rappahannock Dis-
trict Woman's Foreign Missionary So-
ciety convened in annual session in St.
Paul's church, East Mathews circuit,
Mathews county, Va., June 16, 17 and
18th, 1908.
Miss Fannie Robinson in the chair.
Scripture lesson, Isaiah 62 chapter.
Prayer by Rev. R. F. Gayle, P. E.,
after which all united in singing
"Christ for the world; The world to
Christ we bring". Cordial greetings
were extended the body by Rev. W.
L. Ware, pastor in charge, and Miss
Mattie Hudgins of the Auxiliary, and a
hearty response earnestly rendered by
Mrs. Clark, of Middlesex.
Rev. R. F. Gayle preached the annual
sermon. Text ninety-sixth Psalm and
third verse—"Declare His glory among
the heathen, His wonders among all
people". Subject: "Our responsibility,
growing out of our relations to God, to
tell to all the wonder working power
of the gospel we enjoy, and make this
conference a benediction," causing the
words of the text to find an echo in
each heart and a hearty response in our
lives.
Wednesday was a day full of interest
and missionary enthusiasm, the
crowd present being the largest we
have ever had and the gentlemen taking
special interest. It was our great
pleasure to have with us Miss Bomar,
teacher in Virginia school, Hoochow,
China, and though she was not physi-
cally equal to taking any part in pub-
lic we felt her presence an inspiration
and loved to look at and talk with one
who has wrought so faithfully for those
in foreign fields. Each session was
opened with devotional services con-
ducted by the preachers of the district
and each gave us such helpful talks,
the subject of prayer and faith in the
unseen being employed, so that we
hope our knowledge of prayer may be
more appreciated and our faith greatly
strengthened.
The report of the Secretary shows
the work to be moving onward and we
feel encouraged each year as we see the
increase in number, interest and finance.
The guiding power of the Spirit was
with us and to His name be the praise
for such gratifying results. Several
selections of interesting character were
read before the body. Miss Sue Watts,
of the volunteer students' band, gave a
very helpful talk, telling sweet experi-
ences of direct answer to prayer. May
the life of this dear girl, consecrated so
young to the Master's service, be pro-
ductive of great good, and in blessing
others she shall be blessed. A Missionary
address by Rev. J. R. Laughton was
one of the feasts of the occasion. After
an explanation of hidden treasures
this thought, "The whole world
the field bought by the blood of Christ,
waiting to be claimed by his followers,
and may we never be satisfied until
the light of the gospel illumines every
darkened soul and we, with the redeemed
singing:
"Oh that with yonder secret throng
We at His feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all."

FORAKER ON THE WAGON.
If there were Democrats who were
building hopes upon the division of the
Republican forces in the coming cam-
paign, those hopes must have been
ruthlessly shaken by the acrobatic feat
performed by Foraker in jumping on the
Taft bandwagon.
Instead of being an insurgent, an
antagonist and the leader of the col-
ored vote against the Roosevelt nomi-
nation, Foraker hops up as the original
Taft man or the sagacious statesman
who first discovered the inherent force
in Taft, and gave them opportunity.
Here is the correspondence that passed
between them just after the Chicago
Convention:
"DEAR MR. SECRETARY:—Although I
fear it may be unwelcome and probably
misunderstood, it is nevertheless my
pleasure to avail myself of the privilege
to send you my warmest congratulations
and best wishes for success in Novem-
ber.
Very truly,
J. B. Foraker."
Secretary Taft's response follows:
"MY DEAR SENATOR:—I assure you
that your kindly note and congratula-
tions gave me the greatest pleasure,
and I thank you for it from the bottom
of my heart. I have never ceased to
remember that I owe to you my first
substantial start in public life, and that
it came without solicitation.
With very best wishes, believe me,
my dear Senator,
Sincerely yours,
WILLIAM H. TAFT."

POLL TAX RULING.
(Times-Dispatch.)
There was a good deal of adverse
comment around the State offices yester-
day concerning the action of the
State Supreme court at Wytheville in
refusing to reopen the poll tax cases,
from Norfolk city, in which it was re-
cently decided that in order to qualify
to vote a citizen must "personally"
pay his taxes. This is construed to
mean that a man may not send a check
to the treasurer, but that he must actu-
ally and physically present the amount
to the treasurer in person. This was
the effect of the original decision hand-
ed down some months ago, which was
written by Judge Buchanan. Attorney
General Anderson asked for rehearing
which the court refused.
It is said that the practical workings
of the decision will be to disfranchise a
large number of business men, who
never "personally" pay their taxes,
and to let in an unsatisfactory class
who will "personally" pay if the mon-
ey is placed in their hands by candi-
dates and party managers. The deci-
sion is not at all popular, and though it
is perhaps final, Democratic leaders say
it is capable of great abuse, and may
result in bringing about the very con-
ditions the court sought to prevent.

DEMOCRATIC VOTES BY DISTRICTS.
Mr. E. Lee Trinkle, of Wytheville, in
his speech at the Roanoke convention
nominating Hon. J. Hoge Tyler as a
delegate at large to the national con-
vention at Denver, made the statement
that the Ninth Congressional District
cast more Democratic votes than any
other district in the State. Here is a
table showing by districts the number
of Democratic votes cast at the elec-
tions held in 1902, 1904 and 1906:
District, 1902, 1904, 1906
First, 9,282, 9,282, 9,282
Second, 9,746, 10,762, 9,282
Third, 9,282, 11,211, 9,282
Fourth, 9,282, 9,031, 9,282
Fifth, 10,282, 8,282, 9,282
Sixth, 9,282, 7,798, 9,282
Seventh, 8,446, 9,031, 5,272
Eighth, 9,282, 9,282, 5,272
Ninth, 13,475, 17,710, 17,710
Tenth, 9,189, 9,189, 5,282

WILL MAKE 20,000 HAPPY.
Los Angeles, June 5.—C. W. Aver-
hill, of Los Angeles, Cal., who recently
inherited \$10,000,000 from an aunt in
Massachusetts, declares he is going to
make 20,000 more persons happy.
After a visit to his old home in Maine,
he will establish headquarters in a big
city—Chicago perhaps—where he says
all who need help and deserve it can find
it.
"I am not going to be a fool about
this," he said, "but if being a fool is
being deceived occasionally, all right.
I have succeeded in piling up a few
hundred thousand by my own exertions,
but can never spend the income of
\$10,000,000.
"If a man has \$500, and needs as
much more to carry out his plans and
make a success, and thereby be happy,
I propose to give him the added \$500.
"Another thing, I am going to help
bad people as well as good. The good
people, churches and respectable folks
care for them, but the bad have no one
but the devil and the police. I want to
help the intemperate, the convict, the
girl who has to hang her head, the
man who has made a failure of himself.
Lots of us cannot resist temptation,
I know.
"I have set the number I will aid at
20,000, but if I succeed in helping them
I will look for 20,000 more."

TRIBUTE TO BRYAN.
At the recent Roanoke convention
Governor Swanson, in reaching the cli-
max of his speech, referring to Mr.
Bryan, figuratively, "laid Virginia's
loving hands upon the head of her dis-
tinguished grandson," and bade him
"Godspeed in his great work for the
human race." The invitation extended
him by Mr. Bryan, and accepted, af-
fords him the opportunity of laying the
State's hands on Mr. Bryan before the
eyes of the assembled Democracy of
the nation, and the Governor's friends
say he may be relied upon to do it in a
most graceful manner. The suggestion
of a Cabinet berth for the Governor, in
case of a Democratic victory at the
November election, is not a new one,
for many of his friends have been dis-
cussing it from time to time since Mr.

THERE'S A RACE OF MEN.
There's a race of men that don't fit in,
A race that can't stay still;
So they break the hearts of kith and kin,
And they roam the world at will.
They range the field and they rove the
wood,
And they climb the mountain crest.
Theirs is the curse of the gypsy blood,
And they don't know how to rest.
If they just went straight they might go
far;
They are strong and brave and true;
But they're always tired of the things
that are,
And they want the strange and new.
—From "The Spell of the Yukon."

MURDERS IN WEST VIRGINIA.
Thomas F. Kelly, superintendent of a
coal mining company in Wise county,
Va., is suddenly missing, and is the fifth
person to mysteriously disappear in the
Black Mountains of that county since
Edward L. Wentz, the young Philadel-
phia millionaire, more than four years
ago. Kelly left his home at Appalachia
last Thursday, expecting to return a
few hours later. No trace has been
heard of him and not a clue that might
solve the mystery.
Edward L. Wentz, a handsome young
man of Philadelphia, a member of one
of the wealthy families of the Quaker
City, owning several million dollars in
Southwest Virginia coal and mineral
properties, left Big Stone Gap about
five years ago for a trip into the moun-
tains. He never returned. Rewards
aggregating \$250,000 were offered for
his body or for information that would
lead to his location. Searching parties
consisting of hundreds of men scoured
the country, explored caves and caverns
and dragged streams for weeks, but
failed to find a trace of the missing
young man.
It remained for a mountain boy to
stumble over the body in the fastnesses
of the mountains, six months later,
while driving cattle. It had been rid-
dled with bullets and the mystery was
never solved. Young Wentz was en-
gaged to Miss Brookmyer, a wealthy
and beautiful girl of St. Louis, to whom
he left a large estate, in a will dis-
covered after he disappeared.
Shortly afterward, Thomas Gearhart,
a prominent and wealthy insurance man,
went for a trip in the Black Mountains
and was last seen in a mile of the spot
where Wentz disappeared. He never
returned to claim his property here and
his relatives never discovered a clue
that might lead to his location or solve
the mystery. It is believed that he
met the same fate that befell young
Wentz.
Over a year ago Walter Kent, a young
civil engineer from Pennsylvania, left
the railroad camps in the Black Moun-
tains about three miles from where
Wentz's body was found, to go a mile
up the mountain to pay his washer-
woman. He did not return and there
was never a trace heard of him after-
ward. He had about \$150, his month's
salary, in his pockets and the theory is
that he was robbed and murdered by the
moonshiners and squatters that in-
fest that section. He never
returned from the feudist country of
Kentucky, whose slogan is "Dead men
tell no tales."
A half dozen revenue officers and
others have either been murdered from
ambush or mysteriously disappeared,
their bodies never to have been re-
covered, in the same mountains. Hope
of finding Kelly, the latest to disappear,
has about vanished.

SOME CONVENTION AFTERMATH.
Exit Roosevelt, and now that he has
really ceased to be the bugaboo of the
country, people are saying—even his
foes—that he was certainly a shrewd
politician. But is he a statesman? That
character is supposed to lead, not drive,
and even the supine and submissive
Republican party has shown evident
signs of wincing under the blows of the
"big stick."
The Republican Convention declined
to endorse the "publicity plank." They
know which side of their bread the
butter is on. Not to let the left hand
know what the right hand is doing is
useful in the workings of that peculiar
organization, and if the pockets of the
"rich malfactor" is picked in order to
help the party he turns his head away
and affects not to be aware of the theft.
The attitude of the Convention to-
wards the platform was that of sheer
indifference. Probably not one man in
a hundred had the slightest idea of what
it was, and indeed cared not. But it
is a marvellously skillful party for
posing for effect, and the platitudes of
the platform will form good speech-
making materials. It is like the witches
promises in Macbeth,—pleasant sound-
ing to the ear, and means anything or
nothing as may be.
There's one comfort, anyway. If
Taft is elected he will not be filling the
pulpits of the country and ousting the
divines from their special calling—
which, by-the-way, seems to have been
a shrewd political move to refute the
first statement that he was a Catholic.
He announces now that he is a Unitarian,
which sect denies the divinity of Christ.

BURY THE HATCHET.
(Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.)
People who allow the temper of a political
campaign to sever friendships and
engender hatreds do a great injustice
both to themselves and others. A
choice bit of philosophy along this line
comes from Georgia, where a fierce
Governatorial contest has just ended.
The Waycross Herald suggests:
"Don't get mad because I am for
Brown and you are for Smith. It may be
that after the full moon in June you
will want some of our fish bait, and it
may be that we will want to borrow
your fishing pole, and then we'll give
you the bait and you'll lend us your
pole alle same."
Under the jocular exterior there is a
little sound, common sense and good
nature in the above. Political battles
come too often in this country for
neighbors and friends to cherish wounds,
and bear scars over their outcome.
A good square fighter feels the
bruises a little, of course, but a few
days and they are gone, and then with-
out animosity the good loser smiles
upon the world, and harbors no resent-
ments. The political opponents of one
contest are too apt to be comrades in
the next for any antagonisms, and even
if not they are all stockholders in the
community and the general welfare is
best subserved by a lack of personal
hostilities.

**VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA
FOR TAFT.**
It was old Zach Chandler who said
"claim everything and keep on claim-
ing it," and already Taft Clubs are
being organized in the Valley and Re-
publicans are saying we are "going to
wheel Virginia into the Republican
column. And they will try, for his
Satanic majesty has little less audacity
than those same Republicans. The
thing is of course not likely, but it is a
good plan not to underrate the strength
of one's adversary, and if the voters of
the Old Commonwealth sit idly down
and assume that everything is going on
smoothly and that it does not matter
whether one votes, or "it's all
right anyhow," who can tell but that
an audacious boast may not turn out
the literal truth? Disgruntled you may
be, and dissatisfied at some things
about the party and the party's nomi-
nation, but if Democracy was good enough
for your father it should be your natural
inheritance as well. Don't be afraid to
be an old-fashioned Virginia Democrat.
And while you are at it stir up your ap-
athetic neighbor. What have you to
do with a party that brags about prosper-
ity and charges you \$12 for a plough
made in Pennsylvania and which sells
the same plough in England for \$8 and
makes a good profit at that?

THE DREAMER DREAMETH.
The political dreamer of the Richmond
T-Dium continues to interview himself
with the usual results, a feeble effort
to boost the candidacy of some one
whose aspirations his paper supports.
This political ventriloquist makes his
puppets say what he himself or his em-
ployer desires said, and possibly de-
ceives some credulous persons into the
belief he really did interview some
"prominent leader"—for he only talks
to "prominent leaders". Of course the
names of the persons whose views are
so much desired and are worth much
space are carefully suppressed. In re-
ality the enterprising political sleuth is
interviewing himself.—Danville Regis-
ter.

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It builds new blood and tones up your nervous
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HIS BUSY DAY.
"The glorious Fourth is here again!"
Now doth the doctor say,
"Get out the lint and bandages:
This is my busy day!"
—July Lippincott's.
SOMETHING ABOUT RAILROADS.
The demagogues that have been
teaching that railroads are the natural
enemies of mankind are learning some-
thing. Says the Washington Post:
"That school of politics which teaches
that a railroad is an evil, a monster
that devours the people, has had its day.
It taught that railroad presidents
hailed with fiendish delight floods that
devastated and droughts that blighted
the farmers' crops. The same set
taught in 1896 that as soon as a bank
loaned a citizen money it set about
schemes to make him a bankrupt and
pauper.
The fact is that the railroads depend
on the general prosperity of the people
for business, and depend on business
for dividends. Whatever works as a
calamity on the community, in the ex-
act ratio works injury to the railroads
that serve that community.
In fact the railroads are a perfect
and infallible business barometer.
When they have more freight to haul
than they have cars in which to trans-
port it, prosperity is abroad in the land.
When they have more cars than there
is freight with which to fill them,
calamity is abroad in the land. Then,
what folly it is to say that a railroad is
a nuisance and a public enemy.

FLOAT ON WRECK OF HOUSE.
After floating on the wreck of their
home down the Red river 70 miles from
a point near Bonham, Texas, to the
lower end of Bowie county, George H.
Durst, his wife and their six children
arrived in Little Rock last night. They
are going to Paducah, Ky.
Durst, who is about 32 years old,
was a timekeeper for the Illinois
Central Railway at Paducah, and was
also a minister. He went to Texas
and rented a strip of land about seven
miles east of Red river. On the night
of May 18 he retired with his family as
usual. In the middle of the night he
was awakened by a rumbling noise and
saw that the yard was covered with
water. At first he thought it was
merely a heavy rain. The water, how-
ever, advanced on the house, and be-
fore he could do anything to save his
family the building was afloat. The
house floated and before many hours
they were in the channel of the stream.
On the night of May 19th they were
rescued by a steamboat. Durst said
that until his perilous journey he was
black-haired. His hair is now white.