

PORTSMOUTH LOCAL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

CHRONICLES OF INTEREST

Portsmouth, The Beautiful City By the Sea. FOUND HERE AND THERE

The Latest Happenings in the City and County Presented in Concise Form For the Edification of Virginian-Pilot Readers Here and Elsewhere - Gossip For People Who Desire to Keep Posted.

This is "All Fools' Day," set apart for everybody. Beware of spurious packages, etc., else you may be the victim of a practical joke.

It has been suggested that the clerk of the Weather Bureau must have made a mistake in letting it rain yesterday, which was one day too early, as it has rained or snowed every Saturday and Sunday except two since Christmas, and it should have waited until to-day.

Prof. W. A. Jenkins continues quite sick at his residence, in Park View. The stockholders of the Portsmouth Street Railway Company will hold their annual meeting in this city Monday afternoon.

Several well-known young men announced yesterday their intention to become members of the Portsmouth Rifle Company.

Today will be pay-day at the navy-yard for clerks and writers, as well as for the city employees.

Miss Nannie Stringfellow, who has been visiting friends in the city, returned to her home, in Philadelphia, yesterday.

Politics are warming up in the county. There are four colored men out for Magistrate in the Western Branch district, and a number of white men also. There are two colored candidates for Constable and more are looming up.

The Pythian ball next Tuesday night will, it is said, be a pleasant affair. A desirable house is offered for rent in to-day's issue. See advertisement and apply as directed.

The Democratic Executive Committee of Norfolk county will meet to-day at 12 o'clock at Brown's Hotel, for the purpose of making arrangements for the Spring election in the county.

THE FERRIES CHANGE HANDS. Now in the Hands of Four of Portsmouth's Prominent Young Men.

Last night at 10 o'clock the preliminary steps to transferring the Norfolk County Ferries from those who have had the management of them for the past ten years (ending last night at 12 o'clock), Messrs. Franklin D. Gill and Gaynell Thomas, to Hon. Harry L. Watson and Messrs. John L. Watson, A. J. Phillips and Theodore J. Wood, of Portsmouth, who by their aggressive business qualities, secured possession a month ago at public auction, of the property at the handsome annual rental of \$61,500 for ten years. These young gentlemen secured control of the ferries in the face of very active opposition from a score of bidders who were anxious to secure this valuable property.

The transfer was made around the banquet table spread in Brown's hotel. There were present the new lessees, the old lessees, members of the City and County Ferry Committees and several invited guests, who enjoyed the hospitality of the hosts, the new lessees, to the fullest extent. The young gentlemen were started on their new venture with all the kind wishes possible, and words of praise and commendation were spoken to encourage them in the trying position they now occupy of catering to a traveling public.

TRANSFER OF THE LEASE. At 12 o'clock all arrangements for the transfer of the property had been completed, and immediately thereafter the old and the new lessees, surrounded by the council and the County Board of Supervisors and several others who were present by invitation, met in the office formerly occupied by Mr. Gill, the manager of the ferries, and there the transfer of the lease was made. The old lessees spoke words of encouragement to the new, and the latter responded with remarks appropriate to the occasion.

Mr. L. H. Davis, by order of the new firm, then took formal control of the ferries, and the all-night schedule and all the other changes and facilities called for at this time by the new terms of the lease were immediately inaugurated, and at 12:30 o'clock the first trip of the all-night schedule was made. The lessees took with them a good luck emblem—a gilded horse shoe—surmounted by the stars and stripes, and on their return the event was further celebrated by an exhibition of fireworks.

A GROWING PLACE. What is Being Done at Pinner's Point and by Whom. But few people in our city have any idea of the immense growth of Pinner's Point. There are three thousand people living there and the population is continually increasing. Ten houses are in course of erection now and contracts for others have been awarded.

There is a pay-roll of \$60,000 a month there. Eleven hundred persons are employed by the Southern road, 250 by the chemical works and a large number by the Norfolk and Carolina and the Belt Line roads.

The Portsmouth Coal and Ice Company has purchased ten lots on which an ice plant will be established. Work on it will be commenced right away. A deal is about to be made with a Richmond company for several lots, which it is proposed to build a sash, door and blind factory. Besides these, there are other improvements that will shortly be made.

The deals for the property were made by The Dorst Company, dealers in real estate.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT. Yesterday morning at the residence of Captain T. W. Whisnant, No. 218 Crawford street, a serious accident happened—a little 15-months-old son of the Captain's accidentally falling down a flight of stairs, sustaining serious results.

Dr. V. G. Culpepper was called in, Dr. Charles T. Parrish being temporarily out of the way, but Dr. Parrish arrived a little later and both physicians agree that while the child had not suffered a fracture of the skull, he was suffering from concussion of the brain. The little fellow laid in an unconscious state for several hours, but at a late hour yesterday afternoon gave evidence of returning consciousness. Dr. Parrish did not say definitely how serious the fall was or may prove.

NEW COMPANY CHARTER. Judge Robert R. Prentiss, of the County Circuit Court, in vacation, has granted a charter of incorporation to the Building Manufacturing Company of Norfolk county.

A NORFOLK COUNTY MYSTERY

Farm House Window Haunted by a Ghost.

DROVE A FAMILY AWAY

A Strange Night Discovered by a Young Farmer, Who, With Many Others Tried in Vain to Solve the Mystery—Man and Wife Desert Their Home—Portsmouth Policemen to the Rescue.

There are mysteries and mysteries, but one has developed in a Norfolk county farm house that bids fair to tax human ingenuity beyond its power to fathom. While it may be divine in its conception it is decidedly ghostly and satanic in appearance, and capable of raising the hair on the head of the average white person, and from the cranium of a majority of the descendants of Cush, the progenitor of the Ethiopian. To state the case plainly and in few words this mystery is a ghost, not, however, of the perambulating species, but stationary and with a partiality for light instead of darkness.

A few days ago a young farmer was passing the farm house in question and saw outlined in a large window glass the bust of a woman. Knowing that the house was occupied by negroes he thought it strange that a white woman should be in it, but passed on. Returning just before nightfall, he was still more astonished to find the woman there, glancing toward the road, or rather at him. He brought his horse and buggy to a standstill and proceeded to investigate.

The young man gazed long and intently at the window and thoroughly satisfied himself that the profile was that of a white woman. The hair was smooth and black, the eyebrows heavy and regular, the nose aquiline, and lips thin and regular—all indicative of Caucasian lineage. He left his vehicle, went to the door of the house, knocked and was admitted, and glancing at the window and seeing no one, asked: "Where is the woman I saw at that window (pointing to it) awhile ago?"

"There was no woman there," answered the colored woman. "Do you mean to tell me that my eyes deceive me?" he answered, somewhat impatiently. "Didn't I stand out in the road and look straight at her for five minutes? Besides, I saw her there as I passed your house about two hours ago, on my way to Portsmouth."

"Look a here, boss, what you been drinking? There's been no woman here but me, this you, and I aint been of en dis stool by my sick baby's cradle. If it was anybody it mus a been a ghost."

The now indignant and disappointed young man left the house and when about half way to the gate, glanced over his shoulder at the window, and beheld the woman had resumed her former station. He called loudly to the colored woman, who soon appeared in the door way. He beckoned her to him, and when she came to his side, said: "Look at that window!" She took one look and cried: "Hit's a ghost; I done knowed it. Mr. —, for de good Lawd's sake bring me my baby. I wouldn't go back in dar for six babies, and ise got but one."

THE HOME ABANDONED. She was frightened terribly, and he, now both mystified and terrified, managed to return to the house and bring out the pickaninny. When the woman, at his command had seated herself in the buggy, he gave her the child, mounted to his own horse, seized the reins and lashed the horse into a rapid gait. He glanced at the window as the animal started, to find its occupant still looking straight at him. The hair of his head pushed his Derby hat off. He let it remain in the roadway where it found lodgment.

The colored woman could not be persuaded to return to her home. Her husband, on coming in from the field, found only the dog to greet him. The door was open, the cradle empty, the fire out and a feeling of desolation took possession of him. He closed the door, left the house and after a long and weary search located his wife and child at the home of the young white farmer, whose name is withheld for prudential reasons.

OTHERS SEE THE WINDOW. The next morning, accompanied by the negro, he and the young farmer drove to the front of the house inhabited by the feminine ghost. A glance at the window revealed her presence. She was in the same position and was apparently there to stay. The negro, who had partially recovered from the fright his wife gave him by her horrible revelation in the early morning, resolved to venture inside. He did so, remained quite awhile, but finally emerged with the cradle, packed full of things, on his shoulder. He called out: "Nuffin in dar; you and Maria done gone and got skeered at a shadder; but ise gwine to take her dese things, cause she aint a gwine to come back till I put in a new windah."

"Look behind you!" the young man in the vehicle commanded. The negro looked, dropped the crib, shrieked "Lawdy, Lawdy," and shot through the gate and down the highway at a speed that would have made his partner turn green with envy in his paralytic running days. The young man returned home, where he found the negro, his wife and baby and his mother victims of the terror that possessed them.

be seen in that window again. The colored people returned this morning and the cradle is again rocking to the music of the mothers crooning, the song of the bluebird and the chatter of the English sparrow.

BUILDING PERMITS GRANTED. During the month ending yesterday City Surveyor, Mr. Bacom Sykes, has given lines for the following new buildings:

W. G. Maupin estate, four one-story frame stores on north side of Columbia street, near Crawford.

Mrs. P. C. Johns, two-story frame, single, on south side of North street, near Hatton.

J. C. Norcom, two-story frame, single, on north side of Caledonia street, near Green.

D. Sullivan, one-story frame, shop, on south side of King street, near Middle.

James W. Outten, two-story frame, single, on east side of Green street, near Columbia.

Mrs. Minnie E. Dunn, two-story frame, single, on east side of Fifth street, near Henry.

Charles W. King, two-story frame, single, on south side of South street, near Dinwiddie.

Mrs. M. Y. Minton, two-story frame, single, on south side of Scott street, near Green.

Dr. R. R. Robertson, two double one-story frames on Grace street, near Green.

Dr. R. R. Robertson, one double one-story frame, on Grace street, near Green.

Dr. R. R. Robertson, one double one-story frame on North street, near Effingham.

TWO CARGOES NEWLY MINED COAL. STOVE, NUT and GRATE. W. & J. PARKER, CRAWFORD AND COUNTY STREETS.

EASTER NOVELTIES! Full line of BOBNET and MUSLIN TIES from 25c. to 85c.

SPRING KID GLOVES. Will open in the next few days a full line of the latest seasonable goods. Goods arriving daily.

EMMETT DEANS, TERMS CASH. 320 HIGH STREET. WE CAN "Knock Them All Out." FIVE OF THE BEST MADE BICYCLES. Call and let us talk the matter over. We can save you money. W. N. WHITE, Portsmouth, Va.

EASTER CARDS, BOOKLETS Catholic and Episcopal Prayer Books. Fancy Goods and Bric-a-Brac for Easter. ANDERSON & THOMPSON, 224 HIGH STREET.

EASTER GREETING -FROM THE- NEW YORK CLOTHING CO.

Do you want a nice up-to-date Suit of Clothes, either made to measure or ready-to-wear? If so, call and see our line of Suitings, then note prices, fit and finish, you can then be assured that we can give you more for your money than any house in the South. Our line of stylish and popular Men's Furnishing Goods, Hats and Children's Clothing, is by far the largest and most complete in the city.

OUR PRICES THE LOWEST! NEW YORK CLOTHING CO., (THE LEADING HOUSE OF PORTSMOUTH) 214 High Street - Portsmouth, Va. A complete stock of Boys' White Percal and Silk Shirts, Boys' Shirt Waists and Blouses, Underwear and Stockings at moderate prices.

YOUR EASTER EGG, of course, should be in all the colors of the rainbow. We have a large variety of Easter Egg Dyes with twelve colors to a package. Price 5c. per package. JEROME P. CARR, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGIST, Corner Court and County and Green streets. All patent medicines at cut rates. Both phones. Goods delivered to all sections of city and suburbs.

D. G. PORTER. PORTER & PAGE, Railroad Contractors, Grading and Bridge Work, Office 315 High Street, Portsmouth, Va. PHONE 227. mh23-3m

R. S. BROOKS, Real Estate and Rental Agent. RENTS COLLECTED AND SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR NO CHARGES. LOTS FOR SALE IN PARK VIEW, BRIGHTON, COTTAGE PLACE AND PINNERS POINT, TWO OR THREE NICE LOTS IN THE CITY. BELL PHONE 222.

NEAT AND ATTRACTIVE. HAMS. This is what every one says who has visited Pearson's Dairy Lunch; it is the neatest place of the kind in the city. Call and be convinced. H. O. PEARSON, Ferry Dairy Lunch. 18c.—OLD HAMS—18c. GRAND PYTHIAN BALL! AT PYTHIAN CASTLE TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH. Under the auspices of ATLANTIC No. 1 and PORTSMOUTH No. 15, Companies Uniform Knights of Pythias, for the benefit of the two companies. Special Ginger Snaps, 5c. graded. New Mixed Nuts, 7c. R. E. KING, 200 COURT STREET. mh20-4t

"Indapo" Made a well Man of Me in 30 days. This old, yet marvelous, Hindoo Remedy for men cures all Nervous Debility, Falling Memory, Night Emissions, Sleeplessness, Loss of Energy, etc., caused by overwork, past excesses or early abuse. Prevents insanity, enlarges shrunken organs and restores ambition and vigor in old or young within 30 days. Price \$1.00 a package; \$12 for \$5.00, with written guarantee to cure or money refunded. INDEPO can be had of druggist named below, or if preferred, we will send it prepaid securely sealed on receipt of price. Book of value free. H. D. & M. CO., Proprietors, Chicago, Ill. BURROW, MARTIN & CO., Norfolk, and J. W. S. BUTT & CO., 222 High street, Portsmouth, Va. ja10-tu,th,sa-ly mh20-3t

YOUR CAPITAL, YOUR CREDIT AND YOUR GOOD NAME ARE INVOLVED IF YOUR INSURANCE FAILS YOU. We charge no more for SAFETY FUND POLICIES, which are CONFLAGRATION PROOF, than other charge for inferior protection. The Best is the Cheapest. JOHN L. WATSON, Portsmouth, Va.