

Federal Building Completed.

New \$100,000 House in Big Stone Gap Ready for Opening to the Public.

hidden pipes to points of connection.

The first floor, to be devoted to the postoffice department, has a large well lighted distributing room, and is supplied with money order and registered package vaults, has general delivery stamp, money order and registry windows, and is fitted with 24 lock boxes, a private office vault and toilet for the postmaster. The only other office on the first floor is that of Deputy Collector. The basement is fitted with a swing room for carriers, two toilets with shower bath, boiler room, fuel room, two storage rooms and janitor's room. A series of secret passages for use of inspectors, with suitable points provided with screens for observation in the carrier's rooms and connecting with another series in the postoffice department on the first floor,

making it possible for secret service men to see without being seen in carrying out their work, has been provided.

On the second floor are located the U. S. Marshall's office, with adjoining cell room for prisoners awaiting trial; two connecting rooms, with vault, for deputy clerk; female witness room, and toilet, two unassigned rooms; District Attorney's office; men's toilet. A public and private toilet and bath, and private passage from the court room is also provided on the second floor for the Judge. The court room, which occupies about half the space on this floor and of the depth of both second and third floors, is finished in fancy panel ceiling and side walls, well lighted by a battery of windows facing south, is well ventilated and heated with a combined direct and indirect system; has three general entrances of large free swinging oak double doors.

On the third floor are located the grand jury room; two petit jury rooms; two female witness rooms and toilets.

The office furnishings are of late pattern and in keeping with the idea carried out in the places to be used.

Anthracite coal was at one time an important factor in blast-furnace practice, but its use in that line of industry has now almost entirely ceased, according to E. W. Parker, of the United States Geological Survey, as it has been supplanted by coke made from bituminous coal. The principal demand for anthracite will be in the future, as it has been in the more recent past, restricted largely to domestic trade, for which such sizes as furnace, egg, stove, and chesnut are required. The breaking down of the lump coal, which was formerly a marketable product, for the preparation of the domestic sizes results in a much larger proportion of the small or undesirable size, all of which are sold at less than the cost of production. All the profits on the mining operations must be obtained from the prepared domestic sizes, for the revenue obtained from the smaller sizes, which are sold largely in competition with bituminous coal for steaming purposes, serves only to reduce the cost of the domestic sizes. The conditions under which the anthracite mines are operated, the greater depths to which the workers are carried, the consequent increased expense of mining, and the increasing cost of labor all contribute to make anthracite fuel more and more luxury.

During recent years the anthracite operators have adopted the policy of making an allow-

Anthracite A Luxury.

ance of 50 cents per ton from circular prices for domestic coal purchased in April of each year, with an advance of 10 cents per ton for each succeeding month until the schedule prices are restored in September. This has had a more salutary effect in steadying the anthracite trade than any other action taken by those controlling the anthracite industry. Its purpose is to encourage the purchase of coal in the spring and early summer, making the cellars of the consumers the storage places for the following winter, and at the same time to cause the mines to be operated more regularly, thus giving steadier employes throughout the year.

Avoid Draughts; Get Fresh Air

Board of Health Gives Rules for Comfort During Cold Weather.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 14.—December winds should not afford fright and a falling thermometer need not alarm, for comfort and cold are not incompatible and fresh air is still possible without draughts, declares the State Board of Health in a special cold weather warning issued yesterday.

"Mistaken idea of protection against cold weather," says the bulletin, are responsible for more deaths than cold weather. Close rooms kill more people than ever froze to death and insufficient clothing is as dangerous as a house without fire.

"Nothing does more harm than belief that a house should be sealed so tightly in winter that no fresh air can enter. The result of this is a closeness which weakens the bodily resistance and makes a person more susceptible to colds when he leaves the house. Every living-room and every sleeping apartment should have fresh air at all times regardless of the weather. This can generally be had without difficulty as a number of simple schemes have been devised which can be installed in any room. One of the most efficient is to fit a slanting board into the lower end of the window and to secure this to the sides of the window frame with smaller boards. The window can then be raised almost to the level of the board and will give a current of fresh air which will pass over the head of persons sitting in the room. A diagram of this plan can be found in the bulletin on Fresh Air issued by the board and available for free distribution.

"Draughts are of course to be avoided. They cool one part of the body while the other is warm and thus cause colds. But draughts can be avoided and fresh air can still be had with a little care.

"Insufficient clothing is another fruitful source of discomfort in winter. No one should leave a warm room and go into the outer air even temporarily without additional clothing. Fashions which proscribe light clothing in winter are among the worst enemies of health. To go without an overcoat or other heavy clothing in cold weather is to invite sickness.

"Many persons who are anxious to have abundant fresh air in their bed rooms in winter complain of cold during the night. This is always to be avoided. Those who can afford to do so should supply themselves with ample bed clothing, but persons who cannot purchase additional blankets will find a simple substitute to hand in old newspapers. If a layer of newspapers be placed between the blankets, much warmth will be retained which otherwise would be lost."

To those who say that Wise will vote against the bond issue: Just hold your taters; the polls have not been opened and the vote has not been counted yet. The people of Wise know a thing or two and they are not as selfish as you might suppose—not a bit more selfish than the people who are making these loose assertions. Wait till the full returns are in from Wise—then you will find a majority for and bond issue.—Wise Virginian.

Judge Skeen for Governor.

A correspondent writing from Cripple Creek to the Raconoke Times under date of December 4, suggests that Judge Skeen, of this place, is the most available man for the next governor of Virginia. Things are just about as corrupt politically at Richmond as they were in Lee County a year ago, and should Judge Skeen be elected there would be such a shaking up of things as the Old Dominion never seen before. Virginia needs a man of Judge Skeen's nerve and ability in the governor's chair. The correspondent referred to says:

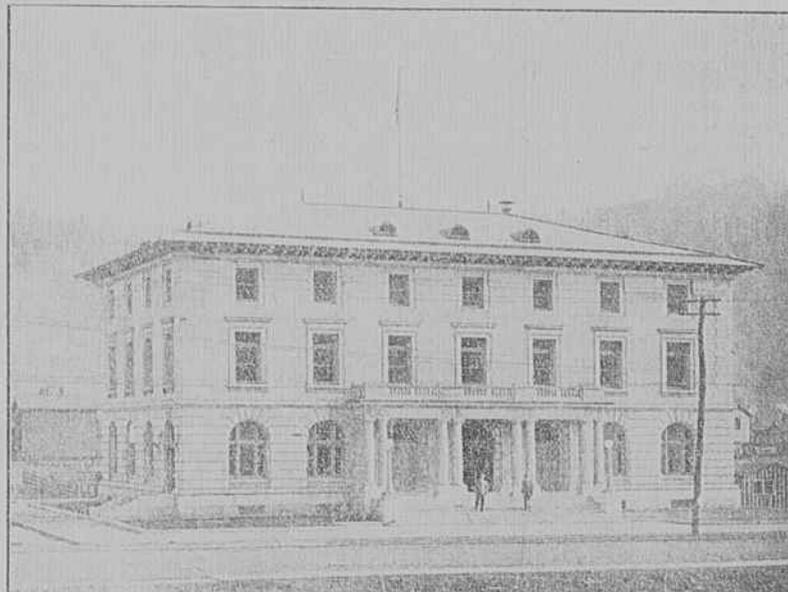
While we are passing into a new political era and are discarding the old slogans, such as "fight the devil with his own fire," "all's fair in love and war," and are injecting into politics many moral principles, it is high time that we pay our highest tribute to the man among men who has really started this great innovation in our political life in Southwest Virginia.

No man in Virginia has been so prominently connected with reform movements in the last few years as has Judge Skeen. He has stood for the pure ballot, when his life was perhaps in jeopardy; but anonymous letters, threats, etc., never swerved him from his post of duty, until now he has the love and confidence, brimming over, of our best citizens all over the State, and has excited admiration of good citizens in many other States. His work is without a parallel, except by Judge Blair, of Adams county, Ohio. So I have been thinking for a long time why don't all Virginians in sympathy with his work center on him for our next governor?

As governor, he could bring pressure to bear on all our corrupting influences all over the State.

Every citizen knows he would do it, because he has been tried and has proven himself. Many of our old time politicians, who are really falling in line with our new principles, such as pure ballot, etc., have a past history which makes them shudder when they behold it. For one of them to be governor, he would have to come out boldly, confess to his past, and promise to be in sympathy with the "new life," or else his governorship would be a sad failure and to himself a sadder failure than to his constituents, for no man surely finds pleasure in flying false colors, even though multitudes follow.

As our standard bearer, we want Judge Skeen, for we owe him our highest compliments, and he is able to render greater services even yet than those already rendered.



BIG STONE GAP FEDERAL BUILDING.

Setting on a foundation of brick laid in cement and fully waterproofed, the building is of granite from grade line to first floor; limestone from first to second and brick stuccoed on second and third floors with limestone cornice, corners and window panels; slate roof with copper valleys and gutters. The interior framing is of steel, with reinforced concrete filling between the floors, gypsum block and brick partitions and strict fire proof. The only wood entering into the building is the hardwood finishing of the floors in the court room, office rooms, distributing room of the postoffice, the doors and window casings, which are of quartered oak and yellow pine. A fire line with hose and hose racks is provided on every floor. The public lobby on the first floor is finished overhead in small fancy panels, is floored with common marble, with border and base of Brockidillo inlaid with Rutland marble. The public stairway leading from this floor and throughout the building is of steel with marble treads and hand rail of polished brass, and winds around a steel enclosed space provided for an elevator. The corridors on second and third floors are finished in Trazzole tile with marble base and border. All toilets are finished with marble wainscoting base and screens with floors of Trazzole tile made-in to fit a marble border, and equipped with white porcelain furnishings.

The building, 63x90 feet, 3 stories and basement, is located on corner premises 130 feet square, and sets in the center surrounded by a pretty lawn and has concrete walk approaches to limestone steps, ornamented with huge gothic pillars with granite side trimmings supporting globe-light posts. There are three front entrances, the center one being equipped with revolving glass doors and one side entrance equipped the same; both capped with copper.

The building is fitted for gas, electricity, and telephone and steam carried in conducts or

C. W. Bondurant Buys the Dominion Coal Company.

The property of the Dominion Coal Company, at St. Charles, was sold under a decree of the federal court of Cincinnati, Saturday to C. W. Bondurant, of the Bondurant Coal Company. His bid being \$55,000, which was the upset bid by the court. Disagreements between the stockholders of the Dominion Coal Company, who were principally in Cincinnati and Indianapolis, is said to have resulted in financial embarrassment, after upwards of \$200,000 had been spent on the property. Mr. Bondurant announces that he will add to the machinery and equipment and will increase immediately the monthly output of the property from ten thousand tons to twenty-five thousand tons.—Jonesville Star.

We hope you will have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and that Santa Claus will fill your stockings brim full with good things.

Home Mission Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South, was held at the home of Mrs. L. O. Pettit, Thursday, December 5th, with the president in the chair. The meeting opened by singing "Holy Spirit Faithful Guide," followed by scripture reading and prayer by the president. Mrs. Mathews then read the monthly Missionary bulletin. The treasurer's report was read and dues amounting to \$1.50 paid.

The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting and 15 members answered roll call. The fourth vice president made her report as follows: Visits to sick and strangers, 32; delicacies, 22; flowers, 1; shut in cheered, 6; garments given needy, 72; money, \$2.25; papers, 4; invited to church, 8; Sunday school, 12; prayer meeting, 2.

Officers were then elected for the coming year. President, Mrs. H. A. W. Skeen; 1st vice president, Mrs. J. A. Gilmer; 2nd vice president, Mrs. Irby Nickels; 3rd vice president, Mrs. Garrison; 4th vice president, Mrs. L. O. Pettit; record-

ing secretary, Mrs. C. S. Carter; corresponding secretary, Mrs. D. H. Bruce; treasurer, Mrs. Malcolm Smith; agent of Missionary Voice, Mrs. James Dillon; Supt. of press work, Mrs. J. H. Mathews.

The meeting adjourned to meet with Mrs. Mathews, the first Thursday in January. After repeating the Lord's prayer in concert, a social half hour followed in which the hostess served delicious refreshments.

Mrs. J. H. MATHEWS,
Supt. press work.

Great Values In Government Coal Lands.

During the past three and one-half years the United States Geological Survey has classified a coal land 17,459,105 acres in the public land States, and this land has been restored to sale. The appraised value of this land, as fixed by the Survey as a result of geologic examinations, and promulgated by the General Land Office aggregates a total of \$742,620,640. The minimum valuation for the same lands, at which they might have been purchased a few years ago before the policy of classification was adopted, is but \$295,989,140.

Corn Crop 50 Per Cent Increase.

Freeling, Va., Dec. 5.—The corn crop of this immediate section is practically gathered, and farmers say that there is at least fifty per cent. more corn raised this year than last. The quality of the grain is much better than usual, at least three fourths of the entire crop being of merchantable quality. Only seventy-five cents a bushel is being offered for corn by the home merchant, and it is hardly likely that the price will go as high as it did for last year's crop.

MEN WANTED.

50 MINERS wanted by Stonegap Colliery Company, Glamorgan, Va. Steady work. Highest price per ton paid in the district. Healthy camp. Excellent water. School and church facilities.

Stonegap Colliery Co.
J. S. CHEVNEY, Gen'l Supt