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Staunton



Spectator

"It Is More Blessed to Give Than to Receive."

21ST YEAR. NO. 117.

STAUNTON, VIRGINIA, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 22, 1911.

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STAMPEDE IS ON IN LEE COUNTY

Illegal Voters Flee From Grand Jury Probe

HIE TO KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE

Many Politicians Accept Immunity Offer and Tell "Whole Story"

JONESVILLE, Va., Dec. 21.—Coming events cast their shadows before, and, picturing in these shadows storm clouds of dreadful reality, men guilty of political bribery are leaving the county fearful lest they be dragged before the grand jury, which is investigating the November election frauds or made defendants in the criminal proceedings which will speedily follow the grand jury's report.

News of the preliminary batch of fifty indictments returned yesterday doubtless served to lend wings to the feet of many who were hesitating. The unmistakable evidence of the intention of the grand jury to indict the guilty is causing a stampede.

Fugitives are scurrying across the state line into Tennessee and Kentucky. They represent in large measure that element which, being without civic conscience, sells every year to the highest bidder.

Though a sensational big suit is being tried before the circuit court—one of the most prominent citizens of the county suing a neighbor for \$25,000 for the alleged alienation of his wife's affection—the accompanying scandal oft repeated is almost lost sight of in the avalanche of political disclosures.

Officers Admit It. Five county officers-elect, taking advantage of Judge Skeen's promise of immunity, have appeared before the jury and admitted that large sums were spent buying votes at the November election.

A prominent county merchant has admitted that he acted as treasurer for the Democrats in the vote-buying campaign.

An ex-sheriff of the county has admitted that he banked the game for the Republicans. Witnesses, six of them, have sworn that the Commonwealth's attorney advised them that they did not live to testify. Judge Skeen has retained two other attorneys to represent the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth's attorney being excused from service.

In justice to the judge and the grand jury which is conducting the inquiry, it may be said that the investigation is not being pursued along party lines. The judge warned the county against corrupt practices and is now earnestly working with Olin Woodard, foreman of the grand jury, with the interests of the county at heart, to eliminate the floating vote from Lee county politics for all time by hunting down every man who sold his vote and disfranchising him for life. Previous to the election the Democrats, having the county clergy and county treasurer, controlled the county.

The Republicans now have both offices and are more or less satisfied regardless of the outcome of the investigation.

There are two kinds of floaters and all were listed in alphabetical order in a ledger now in Jonesville. With each man's name his record and price were entered.

The Derelicts. These two classes are derelicts and party floaters. The derelict will vote for the party paying him the greater amount of money. Frequently, however, when once bought, his sense of honor will rise like a bubble to the surface and he will regret his action. Under such circumstances he will immediately hire himself to the vote of the other party and sell himself over again. In this way a man is frequently able to get as much as \$75 for his vote.

The Floaters. The party floaters will not under any circumstances vote against his political convictions, but they will not vote at all unless liberally paid. A Democrat could never induce a Republican floater to vote the Democratic ticket, but by seductive argument can keep the floater from voting.

EMPTY STOCKING FUND MAY REACH \$100 TODAY

People Who Expect to Contribute Will Have to Hustle or Miss Out

The Empty Stocking fund is nearing the one-hundred-dollar mark. If the good people of the community come forward today as well as they did yesterday and the other few days since the fund has been started the fund will pass \$100 today. With the amount of money which it now seems will be contributed, a whole lot of Christmas cheer can be spread among the needy poor children of the city, and the little stockings which remain entirely empty on Christmas morning will be only those which have not been reported to the committee.

Yesterday's contributions amounted to \$12, and the total was \$91.65. Today and Saturday morning are all the days left for making contributions, so if you intend helping the cause along a bit, it would be best to bring or send the money in today. The committee can only plan on spending what it has in sight Saturday morning. Here are yesterday's contributions:

Table listing names and contribution amounts for the Empty Stocking Fund, including Miss M. P. Duval, Miss Mary Grasty, Master Jack Grasty, Cash, and others, totaling \$91.65.

OLD COUNTY BOARD HOLDS LAST SESSION

Resolutions Adopted Apropos Retirement Three Members and Attorney Ker

Convening at the courthouse yesterday for the last time in its official history, the old Board of Supervisors adopted appropriate resolutions apropos of the retirement of Mr. Elijah Coiner, the chairman, Mr. Bruce, Mr. Whitmore and Captain R. S. Kerr, the Commonwealth's attorney for the county.

The new board will hold its first meeting on the fourth Thursday in January.

The board approved expenditures making a total of \$2,500 for the quarter ending January 1. The Long Meadows road in the North River district will be macadamized. The cost of the two bridges on the Middlebrook road is \$1,500. The board ordered establishment of the road in the Middle River district for which A. E. Alldredge petitioned. The auditing committee reported that the cost of fire and a half miles of the Spring Hill road completed to date was \$1,750.

BRIDAL COUPLE BUNCO PASTORS

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The police are searching today for a thrifty bridal couple, who have been married at least seventy-five times, each ceremony costing an unsuspecting clergyman \$10.

Every minister who smiled over them and bade them good fortune and success is the possessor of a check for \$20 for which he gave \$10 in change. The checks were bad.

It is entirely a new swindle and was apparently worked with the greatest ease.

COURT ADJOURNED. Judge Letcher found that it would be impracticable to conclude the business of the circuit court by tomorrow and so yesterday adjourned his court until the 2nd or 3rd of January, as will later be determined.

TREATY ACT IS SIGNED BY TAFT

Final Step Taken for Abrogation With Russia

PRESIDENT AND CZAR EXCHANGE GREETINGS

Congratulations Wired to Monarch on Anniversary are Cordially Returned

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—With Secretary of State Knox as the only witness, President Taft at 10:17 o'clock this morning signed the joint resolution passed by Congress ratifying his action in serving notice on Russia of the abrogation of the treaty of 1832 with that country. The treaty automatically will continue in effect until January 1, 1913. In the meantime efforts will be made to negotiate a new treaty eliminating the causes of friction which led to the termination of the old one.

The House late yesterday accepted the Senate resolution as a substitute for the Sulzer resolution which initiated the legislation.

Coincident with the signing of the resolution of abrogation there was made public at the White House an exchange of cablegrams between President Taft and the Emperor of Russia. The president under date of December 19 sent his best wishes to the emperor in connection with the celebration of the feast of St. Nicholas, the name saint of the Russian ruler. The message follows:

"I beg to offer to your majesty my cordial felicitations upon this anniversary and the assurances of my high regard and good wishes for yourself and for the nation over which your majesty reigns."

The emperor replied: "Pray accept my cordial thanks for your congratulations and good wishes."

INSURANCE HEAD SUFFERS STROKE

LYNCHBURG, Va., Dec. 21.—It was learned here last night that Wallace A. Taylor, president of the American National Life Insurance Company, of this city, sustained a slight stroke of paralysis in a Pullman while enroute home Sunday morning from a business trip to Norfolk. Mr. Taylor was taken to a hospital and today his condition is reported to be slightly improved. Mr. Taylor's left side is involved but there has been a marked improvement in the use of his arm and legs since Sunday.

HOT COFFEE FOR SANTA

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Mary Connolly, of Brooklyn, in a letter opened at the Dead Letter Office, told Santa Claus to be sure to call on her as she would have hot coffee for him after his cold trip.

The Weatherman Says

I love to see the autumn leaves go swirling in the breeze that whistles softly in the tops of the denuded trees. I like to watch the capers of Jack Frost upon the panes and trace imagined pictures he has left there. When it rains, and cold winds turn the rain to sleet and coat the earth with ice, I revel with the youngsters in skaters' paradise. I love to hear the snowbirds' song; their plaintive twitter seems to fill me with the sweetest semi-melancholy dreams. I think I love the winter time the best of all the year, except for just two reasons: Gee, I shiver when I hear my wife call, "Get up, William, build the fire—now, no back talk—and then go out and shovel off the snow from our front walk."

THE FORECAST:

Unsettled, probably rain Friday and Saturday; light to moderate variable winds. Temperatures Yesterday. 8 a. m. 30 3 p. m. 34 12 m. 34 6 p. m. 35

TAFT INDORSES ALDRICH PLAN

Favors National Reserve Association in Message

URGES PARCELS POST FOR BENEFIT OF ALL

Discusses Subject of Tolls for Use of Panama Canal and Other Topics

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—President Taft sent another of his promised series of messages to Congress today. This time he dealt with currency reform, Panama canal tolls and various governmental questions.

On the subject of currency reform and in connection with the forthcoming report to Congress of the monetary commission, President Taft said it was exceedingly fortunate that "the wise and undisputed policy of maintaining unchanged the main features of our banking system rendered it at once impossible to introduce a central bank." He gave his approval to the proposed national Reserve Association.

Independence of Banks. "I trust also that the new legislation will carefully and completely protect and assure the individuality and the independence of each bank, to the end that any tendency there may ever be toward a consolidation of the money or banking power of the nation shall be defeated," said the president.

The immediate establishment of a rural parcels post was urged. The president took the position that the post would not destroy the business of the country storekeeper. "Instead of doing this," he said, "I think the change will greatly increase business for the benefit of all. The reduction in the cost of living it will bring about ought to make its coming certain."

On the subject of the Panama canal the president dealt at length with the question of whether American shipping should pay tolls. "I am very confident that the United States has the power to relieve from payment of tolls any part of our shipping that Congress deems wise," said the president.

More Men for Navy.

Among the president's recommendations were the following: An immediate increase of 2,000 men in the enlisted strength of the navy.

Abolition of the smaller navy yards. Contributory pension system for government employes.

The elimination of all local offices from politics. Increased appropriation for the completion of river and harbor improvements along the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Missouri rivers.

An extension of the term of service of the special board of engineers on the waterway from the lakes to the gulf.

Power in the president to remove clerks of federal courts for cause. Payment of the French spoliation judgment.

Employers' liability and workmen's compensation legislation called to the attention of Congress.

VACATIONS FOR HOLIDAYS BEGIN

Two weeks of holiday vacation for the public school pupils began with yesterday's dismissal. The formal closing at the Mary Baldwin Seminary was of Wednesday's date, and at Stuart Hall of Tuesday's, but by an arrangement permitting completion of student work some days in advance, the seminary vacation practically commenced with the beginning of the week. Some of the home bound trips involve travel to destinations as far as Texas. Of the hundreds of young ladies gathered in Staunton during the school terms by the two seminaries, only about ten, respectively, will remain at each to make an intimate, jolly party through the holidays, the easier because of the spirit of mutual friendliness long developed between these two institutions of high grade cultural preparation.

Leslie Curry is at home from Washington and Lee University.

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL PUPILS ENTERTAIN

"Santa's Gold Mine," a Pretty Christmas Story, Told by Young Actors

The sisters in charge of St. Francis school always have their students so well drilled and give such interesting entertainments, that these entertainments are greatly enjoyed, and none have been more enjoyed, than "Santa's Gold Mine" as presented yesterday afternoon. The stage was most attractively arranged and the children acquitted themselves with honor and credit.

The costumes were elaborate and each group seemed to cause renewed interest as they made their appearance. The story, acted, as told in a few words, was that Santa Claus was in trouble because his enemies, the Jig-A-Ree, had combined to put up the prices of materials he had to use for his Christmas gifts. News had reached the poor children, near the factory, that there would be no Christmas for them. Tom and his companions, undertake to give the unfortunate juveniles some taste of Christmas joy, because "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

This fact brings "Good Cheer," who discloses the fact that at the spot where the forget-me-nots bloom in springtime are the hidden mines in Santa Claus. His majesty is warned against the wiles of the queen, of the Jig-A-Ree, but he falls into her trap and is rescued by Miss Lucy, the teacher in charge of the poor children. Everything ends happily and Santa gives the largest store he has ever bestowed.

Cast of Characters.

- Santa Claus—Hobart Cassidy. Good cheer—Merle Croghan. Queen Genevieve—Margaret Meredith. Queen of the Jig-A-Rees—K. Bowers. Percival, Tom, Felice, Alice, Susan, Catherine—The rich children. Miss Lucy, The Teacher—A Toscana. Bridget, Sadie, Henry, Chorus—The poor children. Nuggeteers. Jig-A-Rees. Fairies. Little Eaters.

CONGRESS ADJOURNS FOR HOLIDAY RECESS

Many Members and Families Will Remain Washington For Social Functions

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 21.—Both houses of Congress adjourned today for the customary holiday recess. Some of the members living in near-by States will return home to spend Christmas, but the big majority of the senators and representatives will remain in the capital.

Of late years the holiday season has become a period of great social brilliance in Washington and as a consequence very few of those prominent in public life, to say nothing of their wives and daughters, care to leave the city at this time. Then, too, the abolition of railroad passes has been a potent influence in changing the old habit of the members of Congress in making frequent trips to and from their homes.

CLERKS SIGH FOR "BREATHING SPELL"

"I wish I COULD get a breathing spell!" The clerk at the postoffice receiving window yesterday afternoon in that earnest ejaculation formulated the sentiments of clerks all over the business section of Staunton.

The home-stretch part of the rush week before Christmas was a thing as obvious as the weather.

FAANZ JOSEPH NEAR DEATH VIENNA, Dec. 21.—It is reported that Emperor Franz Josef is in a critical condition and can live but a few hours. All the afternoon papers published pessimistic reports concerning the emperor's condition, and the papers were seized by the police and burned.

PLANS ARE UNDER WAY FOR A "PUBLIC FORUM" MEETING

Dispatch-News Suggestion to "Get-together" on City Manager Matter, Meets Approval

STAUNTON'S FUTURE HINGES ON SOLUTION OF PROBLEM

Citizens of Community May Have Opportunity to Voice Their Sentiments on Subject

Plans for a citizens' forum on the city business manager subject will be formulated today by officers of the Chamber of Commerce and others representing Staunton organizations.

Independent initiative will thus be taken so that a possibly crystallizing new element may be introduced into the delicate situation. To that end the conference today is one as by informal organization practically improvised for the specific purpose. The conference is to be for the purpose merely of suggesting the time, place and scope of a more or less public meeting of citizens, as such, for the free and friendly discussion of the whole subject. The meeting-plan conference is not contemplated by its participants as one for any attempt at determination of issues involved. That is left for the now delayed joint meeting of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council. The projected citizens' meeting is planned as one preliminary to the official session, in which projected meeting those having vote on joint ballot may in their capacity of citizens dispose of the lycium part of the more formal session, and do it in company with other representative citizens not at the present time having seats in the city legislature.

On nearly every hand expressions were forthcoming yesterday to the effect that a meeting of some such nature would doubtless prove of pertinent present service; that it would be likely to "flush" the situation, crystallize public ideas and bring forth a proposal uniting in amicable, enthusiastic co-operation all those who earnestly seek the common good of Staunton, however much they may have found themselves in honest disagreement regarding details and methods of procedure.

Informal discussion of the issue, which was common on the streets and in offices yesterday, gravely recognized that about the present city business manager issue are focussed all the public questions and problems of Staunton.

Future Plans Hinge on It "Let People Say" Seems Popular

No action was taken on the new jail project by the old county Board of Supervisors at its final session yesterday. That matter had been left in the hands of a committee appointed some time since to confer with the city council.

This is, moreover, but one of a network of lines converging in the city business manager issue, as the organizing point of all municipal affairs of an economic nature, and resting on the whole big problem of city finance.

With the fiscal question involved in the business manager appointment are closely associated the lighting plant, the opera house or city hall, the Baldwin street primary school building, and the new jail project factors. These are all questions at present pending for settlement, and what can be done in regard to others should the primary school building not be further used for school purposes, there is a proposal by some that it be occupied by municipal offices. Another official suggestion is that instead of building a new jail on Sears hill, opposite the depot, the city and county jointly occupy property adjoining the present jail, and make that both the headquarters of the city police department and the seat of a county magistrate's court. This proposal hinges in some measure on the proposed sale by the municipality of the opera house property on Main street. It hinges likewise on the city revenues that will be forthcoming in the spring, and on the magnitude of cost saving that may result from still better organization of the city's business affairs under further development of the famous "Staunton plan" which individualizes responsibility in a general manager's office.

Much of the elucidating argument that is now going on among responsible figures in the handling of the local public affairs is directed to this point of the cost and the economic and social science that has just been

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May Write Book on the Plan

Seven pages are devoted to the city of Staunton and the "Staunton Plan" in No. 127 of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science that has just been

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