

A GOOD-ROADS MEETING.

PEOPLE OF HANOVER OPPOSE A TAX, BUT WANT BROAD TIRES. Representatives Winston and Diggs, Major John Page and Others Speak—Henry Clay Council, Royal Arcanum.

ASHLAND, VA., Jan. 15.—Special.—This being County Court-day, the called meeting of citizens of Hanover county was held as previously advertised, to take action in regard to instructing its representatives in the Legislature upon the proposed tax bill.

Resolved, That we urge the General Assembly to enact and appropriate legislation, to encourage and induce the use of broad tires upon all freight and passenger cars, and upon all public roads of the State.

Resolved, That we heartily approve of the plan for the improvement of our roads, and that we recommend the General Assembly to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of improving the same.

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GOMEZ IS NEAR HAVANA.

The Insurgent Outlook More Hopeful Than Ever. HAVANA, Jan. 15.—Via KEY WEST, FLA., Jan. 15.—Gomez is again making headway to the west. The situation is more grave than at any time since the beginning of the war.

Thousands of troops have been thrown into Havana province, but the destruction of the roads, and the fact that the insurgents have burned the towns offering resistance are burning the towns offering resistance are burning the towns offering resistance.

The insurgents, since the invasion of the western provinces, have succeeded in avoiding the tax and the latter mounted by the Government.

Probably a third of the cane crop has been burned. Grinding has almost entirely ceased.

Gomez issued orders to stop burning the cane, and if it is attempted to do so, he will destroy the buildings and machinery.

The eastern provinces, under Jose Maeco, are coming west.

Cespedes Cardillo and Arguine have already reached Matanzas province.

The Government troops pursued the insurgents from town to town, and the latter mounted by the Government.

It is impossible to overtake the insurgents and force battle.

The censorship is most rigid. The Havana papers have stopped publishing extra, cablegrams are examined closely, and much is being eliminated.

The Cuban claim that all towns in Pinar province have surrendered.

Gomez and Maeco have gained many recruits recently.

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FIRE INSURANCE BILLS.

INSURANCE MEN FIGHT THE "VALUED POLICY" MEASURE. The Committee Declines to Recommend That It Do Not Pass—Petition From Insurance Agents.

Two sessions, both of considerable length, were held yesterday by the Senate Committee on General Laws, and bills of much interest to insurance men discussed. The committee took under discussion Mr. Williams' "valued policy" bill, and after argument had been made by several insurance men, decided to recommend to the Senate that it should not be passed.

PROMOTE INCENDIARISM. At the morning session, Mr. Virginia Newton introduced the committee report upon this bill. He stated that the committee had passed the bill upon the passage of the bill would place incendiarism at a premium, thereby causing the insurance companies to raise rates on the better class of property in the cities, and to decline all property not under the protection of fire department.

At the conclusion of Mr. Newton's address, the committee further consideration of the matter until 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

At the afternoon session Mr. J. B. Moore presented to the committee interesting and instructive statistics from the State showing the extent of fire damage in the State, and the loss of property.

Mr. Moore stated that his companies feared property under protection of fire departments so unprofitable as insurance risks that they refuse to insure country property for him, except in isolated cases.

INSURANCE MEN'S PETITION. Mr. Robert Lecky, Jr., presented the following from the Virginia Association of Fire-Insurance Agents:

We, the undersigned, representing the business of insurance in our vicinity, beg to submit our request that you very graciously introduce the bill known as the "valued policy" bill.

Numerous petitions were presented, but, for brevity, we name only three of the most important.

That for the safety of the villages in our State, having no water works or fire department, it is important that every village should be interested financially in all his property to the extent of one-fourth, thereby reducing the liability to a purely accidental cause.

That the operation of the three-fourths-value clause is not unjust and equitable, and that the same should be applied to all property.

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LEE AND STUART NAMED.

NOMINATED BY THE CAUCUS FOR THE AGENT JUDGSHIP. Both Nominations Made by Acclamation. The Speakers—Sketches of the Two Nominees.

The Democratic members of the two Houses of the General Assembly met in the hall of the House of Delegates in caucus last night for the purpose of making nominations for judge of the Corporation Court of Bristol and for judge of the County Court of Elizabeth and Warwick counties. Mr. Merritt T. Cooke, of Norfolk, chairman of the caucus, called the meeting to order and stated the object of the call.

Senator Buchanan, of Smyth, offered a resolution providing that nominations be made in the order named above.

Senator Kane, of Wise, offered an amendment to the effect that the nomination for judge of the Corporation Court of Bristol be postponed until Friday night.

Mr. Pickler, of Fauquier, warmly supported the amendment, but it was lost, and the original resolution was adopted.

Senator Buchanan then nominated Mr. William B. Stuart, of the County Court of Bristol, who, he said, was endorsed by the lawyers representing the legal business in that city.

Mr. Cooke, of Norfolk, nominated Major Baker P. Lee, of the County Court of Halifax, as his nominee for judge of the County Court of Elizabeth and Warwick counties.

Mr. Stuart, of the County Court of Bristol, was endorsed by the lawyers representing the legal business in that city.

Mr. Cooke, of Norfolk, nominated Major Baker P. Lee, of the County Court of Halifax, as his nominee for judge of the County Court of Elizabeth and Warwick counties.

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GOVERNOR'S CHARGES.

MADE BY HIS EXCELLENCY IN HIS RECENT MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE—PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION.

The State Grange held three sessions yesterday afternoon in a good deal of work. There were numerous reports from the subordinate and Pomona Granges, which showed a good condition of affairs in the past. The reports of the secretary and treasurer showed an improved financial condition.

The principal matters of public interest that were acted upon favorably were resolutions endorsing the National Grange and the American Grange, and the resolution endorsing the National Grange and the American Grange.

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LORD BALFOUR SPEAKS.

HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THERE CAN BE A WAR OVER VENEZUELA. He Says England Endorses the Monroe Doctrine and Only Wants What Belongs to Her—Other Foreign Matters.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—At a meeting in the House of Commons, the present Lord of the Treasury, in the course of an address, which he made on Tuesday, Emperor William of Germany, which was greeted by his hearers with grins and hoots.

Mr. Balfour admitted with reluctance that the concert of action of the European powers had failed to introduce reforms into the Transvaal situation.

Referring to the Transvaal situation, President Kruger, Mr. Balfour said, had displayed great generosity and political wisdom in accepting the reforms, but reforms would not be delayed longer than was necessary.

It is beyond question that the Transvaal republic is free in the administration of its international affairs, but its external affairs are subject to the control of Great Britain, and by its sovereignty or any name chosen, there is no mistaking this fact, and foreign interference is not to be tolerated.

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