

The Times Dispatch DAILY-WEEKLY-SUNDAY

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MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1910.

HOW R. F. P. MATTER STANDS.

Despite a very crowded calendar, there is still time in the few days that remain for the Legislature to deal broadly and finally with the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad. But, first, the Legislature must untangle the snarl into which this matter has been thrown by ill-considered action.

At present, therefore, the whole question is still badly mixed, and the railway and the Legislature are apparently at loggerheads. We say "apparently," for we believe that at the core there is no real difference that cannot be satisfactorily removed.

The State is naturally willing to receive \$75,000 a year in additional revenue, but hesitates to permit the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac to go into any consolidation whatsoever.

It is also plain that as no one believes that the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac intends to attempt any unjust or predatory raid on its minority stockholders, that railroad could with perfect propriety give to a committee designated by the Legislature the right to veto any consolidation of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac as such.

Such a bill can be framed, and if it is offered it ought to pass. The State's duty and interest both point to that conclusion. And there is still time to gain \$75,000 additional revenue and at the same time remove the reproach of special penal legislation intended to nullify a contract that cannot legally be broken.

THE SYMPATHETIC STRIKE.

Philadelphia is certainly paying the price. Her industries are stagnated. Her manufacturing plants are tied up. Her streets are unsafe for traffic. Her working people are in ferment. And now, on the top of all this, the city is facing the greatest general strike in its history.

On the other hand, the sympathetic strike will certainly do a vast deal of damage. Already it has paralyzed the manufacturers of the city. Almost every man who has invested capital in the industries of the town must pay for the fight between the carmen and the owners.

believe it. The union, for example, which has won its recognition, by exactly the reverse methods of those followed by the riotous carmen, can hardly feel sympathy with the strike. The high-paid union men, who are always in demand, and who are protected by iron-bound trade agreements, cannot be expected, by any fair process of reasoning, to lose their earnings and perhaps their places, because the carmen, who are practically unskilled laborers, want to win a point against their employers.

The city, however, will suffer more damage than either the laborers or the employers of Philadelphia. As we pointed out yesterday, the lawlessness fostered by the strike will not pass with the strike. The mob, should it win a victory, will feel its power and will be emboldened for the future.

Our unions have been slow to adopt the general sympathetic strike in this country. They have hesitated to adopt the methods employed last year in Sweden and before that time in Russia. But before the thing is settled, the Philadelphia strike will show them that they had better abandon the plan altogether and fight peaceably the battles of labor.

THE LAST OF TOM PLATT.

"Tom" Platt is dead. He was nearly seventy-seven years of age. He was a student at Yale College in 1853, but was forced to give up his course there by ill health. He was given the M. A. degree in 1876. His whole life was spent in mercantile employments largely, and in political work. He acquired great wealth and had a strong hold on those with whom he was associated.

NOT AN "INSURGENT" IN SIGHT.

The Postal Savings Bank bill has passed the Senate in Washington by a strictly party vote, and when it came to a show down, not one of the much-advertised "insurgents" voted against it. That was precisely as we expected it would be, and as it would have been if the measure could have been acted on sooner.

It has been reported from time to time that old Taft was almost in extremis, that he was worried to death about the recalcitrancy of his myrmidons, that he and Speaker Cannon were at daggers' points, and that he was swearing at the unhappy day when he was sentenced to lead the hosts up out of the wilderness.

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were a Democrat. He should not find this very difficult, seeing that he is putting so many of the Bryan planks into working condition.

The only purpose of these discursive remarks is to note the fact that the Adulterates are getting together, and that Mr. Taft is really not so dead as some of the reporters have said that he was.

SUNSHINE IN NEBRASKA.

The sun is beginning to shine again. Colonel William Jennings Bryan, according to newspaper dispatches from Lincoln, Neb., has "faced himself as a Democratic candidate for any office." His recent pronouncement upon the question of "county option" in the settlement of the liquor business has made him solid with the Prohibitionists, and it is said, that they are holding meetings all over the country applauding his course.

It is reported that in gaining the favor of the Prohibitionists of Nebraska he has lost touch with his Democratic supporters, and that the "leaders are getting more and more bitter against Bryan every day." This is important, if true; but the Nebraska is a very clever politician, and much depends, of course, on the extent to which the alleged defection in the party goes, how much he will insist upon cutting loose from the company he has been keeping since 1896.

THE NEW CATHOLIC COLLEGE.

By Saint Patrick the work goes bravely on, and we are glad of it. There cannot be too many educational institutions in this country, nor too much moral training for the youth of the country, whether it be according to the Westminster standards or according to the beliefs of any other communion of the saints whatsoever.

Our friend, the Mathews Journal, is very much worried because we printed the statement that his county paid taxes at a lower assessment on its real value than any other county in the State. We advise our friend to consult the Finance Committee of the Senate. The facts came from them, and are a part of the records of the State.

Germany has decided to try for the South Pole. Let the University of Copenhagen prepare new laurels. Madame Tetrazzini, of the high D, is not a bit disturbed because her former manager sues her for \$39,000. She'll sing to the fellow for a few minutes and demand a receipt in full.

There is life in the old hand yet, our beloved friend Loeb is to be the bass-drummer in the Republican brass-band of New York that will welcome One back home. "Politics crops out," announces the Baltimore Sun, about the Maryland Legislature. Our impression was that Politics had already reached cutting-time in Annapolis.

No use for that New York husband to name a Russian prince as co-respondent in his divorce case. The fellow's too far off to shoot and too poor to sue. The Daughters of the American Revolution are making an effort to preserve county records. In Fulton County, Georgia, says the Atlanta Constitution, "important records have been illegible to mold and become almost insurmountable and rehabilitation." The language is bad, but the intention is good.

It has been proposed to make Matt Honson a Rear Admiral. Why not? Didn't he go to the North Pole and fight Commander Peary to plant the flag there? Didn't he take observations and photographs of the situation? Hasn't he made good on the lecture platform? Why draw the color line at the Pole?

The graves of the Confederate soldiers who died in Federal prisons are to be marked at the expense of the Government at Washington. That would seem to be about as little as the Government could do. Having starved them to death—but it would be unprofitable to nurse the subject further. Ben Hill, of Georgia, discussed this question very fully about twenty-five years ago, and his speech has never been answered.

Tolstoy's statement that "a beautiful woman says foolish things; you listen to her, but you do not hear her nonsense, you only hear her cleverness." That is rather clever itself; but Tolstoy was speaking of the Russian women. He never could have said such a thing about the women of Richmond, nearly all of whom are beautiful; but none of whom is foolish.

The frigidity of the temperature in grand old Richmond yesterday reminded one of Augusta, Georgia, in the month of August.

St. Paul had a fine sense of humor when he declared that men were saved by the foolishness of preaching. A better translation would be foolish preaching.

"Jersey to keep her water," says a headline in the New York Tribune. Well, that is all right, so long as she gives us her milk.

Be it said to the eternal glory of Virginia paragraphs, not one of them asked whether that fellow Hyde, of Kansas City, had ever Doctor Jekyll'd any.

Last reports from the peaceful clime of Nicaragua indicate that the rebel army has been reduced to fourteen generals and a water-carrier.

An express car has been looted and 1,000 packages were rifled. This, of course, was in New York. Men do not sleep on their jobs anywhere else in the Union.

They have given the Governor of Rhode Island a body-guard. By a similar count, every constable in Craig county should have a militia company with him.

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A man in London is said to have a marble face; and that is soft, his friends suggest, compared with his head.

The only trouble about that proposed triple duel in Italy is that one man says he really intends to shoot.

They are going to pay a batch of young artists \$500 each for portraits of the ex-Speakers of the House in Washington. It is reported that no one will take the job of reproducing Uncle Joe's phiz at any price.

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The Daughters of the American Revolution are making an effort to preserve county records. In Fulton County, Georgia, says the Atlanta Constitution, "important records have been illegible to mold and become almost insurmountable and rehabilitation." The language is bad, but the intention is good. How does it happen, however, that there are any records in Fulton County? What business has the New South with records? The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities has done a great deal of invaluable work; but in this State there are many antiquities that ought to be preserved, and the Association is taking care of them in a splendid way and with the spirit. A land without memories is a land without character.

Henry Harrison has jumped the game in Richmond and gone out into the cold and unfeeling world, but taking a lot of sunshine with him.

Now comes the Roanoke Times with a tribute to "Buck" Presley, who is to play short stop, or something else, with the alleged base ball club of that town. "Buck" is fleet of foot and can pull down flies from the blue empyrean, and hardly ever falls to hit the sphere right square on the nose, exactly where it ought to be hit. "Buck" hails from Due West, and was brought up in the right sort of nurture and admonition. It was only the other day that the Times was pretending that it did not know where and why Due West was. "Buck" explains why; but when the Richmond Inevitable gets through with him and the stiffs who will play with him next summer he will wish that he had never left his dear Drumtochty.

When Mrs. Alma Webster Powell, of Brooklyn, dressed up one of her waitresses the other day in fine clothes just to show that she could fool Sassafras, she doubtless had in mind the history-making epigram of the late Benjamin Harrison that "a cheap coat makes a cheap man."

A religious revival is now in progress in Chattanooga, and is crowded at every meeting, which goes to show, among other things, that good preaching has not lost its power. Whenever the pulpit has a message to deliver and knows how to deliver it, there never will generally be filed.

WHAT THE PAPERS THINK.

In the opinion of the Peninsula Enterprise, the "compromise bill" on the oyster question "is not worthy of consideration on the part of the Tidewater members. There is nothing like knowing exactly what is the right thing to do with any public measure."

Senator Aldrich, the deus ex machina of the Republican party, has excited the applause of our rock-ribbed contemporary down at Accomac by telling the truth, that it would be possible to save \$300,000,000 the year to the tax-payers of the country by running the Government on a strictly business basis. But what would become of Aldrich's party if all the graft should be cut out? Isn't it true now as it was when somebody said that the Republican party was held together by the cohesive power of public plunder?

The Fredericksburg Daily Star seems to be keeping its head about the income tax amendment, and is not prepared to concede that because a National income tax has received the endorsement of more than one National Democratic convention "this fact makes it a Democratic principle, because many things have received Democratic endorsement in recent years which are at variance with old-line Democratic conception. The income tax proposition is not the least of these, for, however much it has to be amended, it is certainly stretching Democratic ideas in two respects at least, viz., that it is an infringement of the much cherished rights of the State, and in its operation it will prove injurious."

Brother Barham, of the Petersburg Index-Appeal, is warming up to his work like the man that he is, and warns every member of the Virginia Legislature who "records his vote for such an iniquity (the same being the income tax amendment to the Federal Constitution) that there will be a strict reckoning for him when he faces the outraged people of Virginia." We like that sort of talk, whether we agree with it or not, because it shows that some of us are left who do not let our feelings run away with our heads, to paraphrase another very good saying of the prophet in Petersburg.

There is a wide difference of opinion among the Democratic papers of the State as to the income tax proposition, the Fredericksburg Free Lance holding that "if defeated by the votes of Democratic legislatures, the defeat will react on the party." But what about the Republican party, whose measure the amendment now under consideration is?

The Loudoun Mirror says that "regardless of politics, the candidate who refuses to show his hand on this question (the State-wide prohibition question) had best take a back seat at the beginning. When people are denied the right to vote on a question, when an overwhelming sentiment demands it, they want to know the reason why, and they will not be long finding out. Possibly so; but the members of the present Legislature were not elected on this issue. It is not a part of the Democratic creed; indeed, it is not in any sense a Democratic measure, and so far as anybody actually knows no such thing as an overwhelming sentiment demands it."

The Alexandria Gazette hopes that the Legislature will be very careful about voting for the income tax amendment, as it "virtually gives the Government the power to tax the people of the several States ad libitum, which would take from the States the money which they so badly need, and its adoption would be a body blow at States' rights and a further step in the growing Republican idea of a central government."

In extending its congratulations to Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, upon his recovery from his recent illness, the Northern Neck News goes over the line when it says: "He smotes an aristocratic political oligarchy in his own State, and on the ruins of old fogeyism he bulldozes his temple strong and sure in the view of the Nation. May his tribe increase." We all sympathize with the Senator in his distress, naturally, and hope that he will get well; but not because of anything he did to the best people of South Carolina. As for an increase of his tribe, it is to be hoped that the prayer will not be answered. His alleged temple is already beginning to tumble about his head.

The Brunswick Gazette has been impressed by the clap-net of many of the measures introduced in the Legislature at its present session, and calls upon the voters to "see that the demagogues are eliminated as much as possible from the next Legislature." We do not know who they are, just exactly; but they ought to go, whoever they are. Demagogues are the cheapest and at the same time the most dangerous of all the problems with which the voters have to deal.

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no cdms or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

The Distance Sound Travels.

1. Please tell me the distance sound travels per second; also, 2. When was the first automobile invented and by whom? 3. Can oil be pumped out of a tank? 4. Sound travels in air at the rate of 332 metres per second, or about 1050 yards.

The Central America.

E. W. E. Greenville, S. C. sends us the following additional note on the Central America, which supplements the information already placed before our readers a few days ago: "The Central America was the ship which went down with Captain Lewis Herndon and all on board, somewhere along the Atlantic coast or the Caribbean Sea, some time in 1857-'58. Captain Herndon was believed to be a native of Fredericksburg, Va., a kinsman of Commodore Maury, the father of Mrs. President Arthur and the explorer of the Amazon." We believe the note and distinction in his day.

Not for Us.

N. B. C. Petersburg, Va.: If you will read the appeal in this column you will see why your question cannot be answered here.

A "Minkry."

"Will you tell where I can find a minkry, or one who raises minkers?"

Experiment Station.

Please give me an address of an agricultural experiment station in Virginia, if it has any. W. B. S. The Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station is connected with the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.

Do Rocks Grow?

Please tell me whether or not rocks grow and continue to grow. G. M. W. Rocks do not grow, though they may weather or otherwise change in form.

Voice of the People.

Communications must not contain more than 200 words. When this limit is exceeded letters will be returned. No anonymous communications will be accepted. A stamped envelope, with the writer's address, must accompany every communication.

The Flag on the Schools.

Editor of the Times-Dispatch: Sir—I notice that there is a bill pending in the General Assembly directing the Federal flag to be placed over every public school house in Virginia. As a citizen of Virginia I wish to protest against this bill for the following reasons:

1. The purpose of the bill is misdirected. It is perfectly proper to place the Federal flag over the State Capitol, the post-offices and the custom houses. These buildings are Federal property, erected by Federal law and paid for with Federal money. But the schools are the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia, erected by State law and paid for with money of the State.

2. The object of the bill would impede the suppression of this State Treasury. I have heard it said that it would cost \$100,000 to provide the necessary flags and a sum annually of \$200,000 to pay for their maintenance. This is a sound practical objection, but its weight is not as great as that of the objection already mentioned.

3. The bill would tend to divide the people of the State into two classes, the one being the owners of the flag and the other being the owners of the State. The bill would tend to divide the people of the State into two classes, the one being the owners of the flag and the other being the owners of the State.

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A Tar Sin.

What will take juniper tar out of cloth? A. G. L. Benzine will probably remove this tar.

Head the Hending.

J. H. Cooke, Charlottesville, Va.: If you will read the caption of this column you will see why your question cannot be answered here.

Customary Highway.

Can a man force an outlet through my land if he and I fall out and I do not want his vehicles to pass through, though he has had an outlet on my land for thirty years? E. B. If the road through your property has been regarded as a public highway, it would be difficult to prescribe seriously whether you can close it. If the question is important, consult the Commonwealth's attorney of your county.

German Teacher.

1. Please tell me who in Richmond gives instructions in German? 2. Is the following sentence correct: "Would any one come to my room this evening he would believe I dwelled in dreamland." J. K. B. Insert a want ad. In The Times-Dispatch.

How to Treat a Cow.

Can you tell me if salt is injurious to a cow if given a handful twice a day in feed before being fresh, and also afterwards? If so, please tell me what to do for her. She seems to be suffering from jumping sickness. She had cramps. READER.

Write to Dr. J. G. Fernebaugh, the State Veterinary Surgeon, Burkeville, Va. We should hesitate to prescribe for cows we have never seen.

Summer Hotels.

In regard to the query concerning names of proprietors of summer resorts in Virginia, you advised me to apply to the State Board of Health for little booklets giving the information. Will you mail me a list of a few railroad men to whom I can apply?

Write to the Passenger Office of the Norfolk and Western, Chesapeake and Ohio, the Southern, the Seaboard Air Line, the Chesapeake and Potomac, the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroads, in this city, and you can secure the booklets which may give you the information you desire.

The prosecution of certain employers, who have appealed to the Supreme Court, and it is understood that these employers are interested in securing a change in the law for their benefit.

The friends of child labor reform and of the improvement in the conditions of working women might well have asked for the amendment of the law in the direction of greater restrictions. As to the age limit, for employment in the most of the most of the States, have made orphan and dependent children exceptions to the general law have given up the plan, as inhumane to the children, and as making an open door to the violation of the law. Children under fourteen years of age are too young to work in factories at all. Children who are already handicapped by poverty and orphanage ought not to be oppressed by the laws of the State. More fortunate fellows. This plan does not remedy anything, but only perpetuates ignorance and poverty to another generation.

With regard to the hours of labor for children, many States are already in advance of Virginia in this respect. Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, North Dakota and the District of Columbia have already passed laws which limit the hours of labor for children to ten hours a day for children in the Massachusetts Legislature. California, New York, Oregon, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Louisiana; for children under sixteen in most of the States. In Arkansas, South Dakota and Virginia.

So it would not have been unreasonable if the friends of the children had asked the Legislature to grant an eight-hour day for children under sixteen. Some of the employers of the children are asking for more than an eight-hour day for children under fourteen—that is, for the poor little orphans and dependent children. If by any chance their proposal should be enacted into law, Virginia would stand with five cotton mill States in the United States, and with ten hours a day in a factory by law.

The case is worse, if possible, when it comes to changing the law for working women. Virginia is one of the few States that have protected by law the women of the State. The law in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire, Maryland, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Missouri, Oklahoma and New Jersey. Some other States have laws not properly enforced, but in Virginia the law is completely unenforced. But there is a tremendous interest in this problem also throughout the country, and we shall soon see other States beginning to do better.

Ten hours of work per day means that the woman is not at home during the hours of daylight for a good part of the year. To add thirty minutes to this for five days of the week on the average, is to give her a total of work on Saturday is a proposition that is an insult to the chivalrous spirit of the people of the Old Dominion.

These manufacturers are really so benevolently inclined towards their employes as to wish them a little holiday on Saturday, there is an easy way to secure that holiday. A woman in the States giving a ten-hour day for women or children, or both, the most of them work a ten-hour day, or more than one of sixty hours. For example, Massachusetts gives to minors under eighteen years of age, and to all women, ten-hour days, and a fifty-eight-hour week; Mississippi, a fifty-eight-hour week; six days at ten hours a day would be sixty hours. But these States and many others do not allow a full week's work of sixty hours for women or children. If the manufacturers are sincere in desiring simply a holiday for their employes, let them accept as a substitute for their amendment on providing that the week's work shall consist of ten hours a day for fifty-seven hours, while the working day remains at not more than ten hours a day, and they will accomplish the desired result.

As a matter of fact, the employes will take the holiday anyway. The custom already obtains in some of the factories, and these are not working over ten hours a day, and are not making any complaint to the Legislature. The manufacturers that wish to work longer days simply know that they cannot keep their help if they do not allow a little time off on Saturday.

Nor is Virginia unduly concerned with what some States to the South of her are doing. Good men and women in

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

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