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The Next Legislature.

A letter from Richmond to the Washington, D. C., Star say:

It is estimated that about one-third of the regularly nominated Democrats will have opposition. The Republicans have made not more than half a dozen nominations. Most of those opposing the Democrats are independents, and in nearly every case they claim to be better party men than the nominees.

The vote in this state will be less, probably, than half of the registration. There has not been in a great many years such a lack of interest in the general result. The few stump speakers who have been sent out have found it difficult to get audiences of respectable size, and still more difficult to interest the voters in the issues.

All of the big contests are settled in advance. Senator Martin will have three fourths of the votes in the Democratic caucus, though Governor Tyler will not now admit it. In fact, he claims he has a fighting chance to win out. Speaker Ryan of the house of delegates will be beaten by E. W. Saunders of Franklin county by practically the same vote that will re elect Senator Martin. Mr. Ryan, who is from Loudoun county, is the oldest member in the house in point of service. He was first elected in 1883, and succeeded Judge R. H. Cardwell as speaker, when the latter was elected to the bench of the court of appeals. Mr. Saunders was badly beaten by Mr. Ryan two years ago. Mr. Ryan's downfall will be due to the fact that he does not speak the "language of the tribe." In other words, he is not a Martin man, and Mr. Saunders is Mr. Saunders has been a member for more than ten years, and has been a conspicuous leader on the floor. He is the ablest debater in the house, and is a very accomplished parliamentarian.

Most of the legislative and state officers will be unopposed. Henry T. Wickham will be again honored with the office of president pro tem. of the senate, and Joseph Button, the secretary of the state Democratic committee, will have no one to run against him. Frank B. Watkins of Charlotte, sergeant-at-arms of the senate, will be re-elected, but Dr. W. C. Nunn of West Point, the doorkeeper of the senate, will have opposition.

There is a pretty fight on for the clerkship of the house. This office was filled for about thirty years by the late Col. John Bell Bigger. When the colonel died Gov. Tyler appointed Thomas H. Bigger, the colonel's son, to the office. Young Bigger is running. He has opposition in Judge W. S. Gooch of Louisa, William Henry Mann of Petersburg, formerly assistant district attorney, who had to resign in 1896 on account of too active participation in politics; John T. Loving, the mayor of Pulaski; Clarence T. Boykin, a Richmond newspaper man, and John W. Williams, commonwealth's attorney of Giles county. Most of the candidates are making a canvass of the state. The clerk of the house is also keeper of the rolls of Virginia. It is one of the best state offices.

Col. Morton Marye of Alexandria, who was elected auditor of public accounts in 1883, has been re-elected every two years since that time. He is not only a model officer, but he left a leg upon the battlefield No one for several years has ventured to run against him. He will, as usual, have a clear field.

Virginia is fortunate in having good officials, and state offices have been singularly free from scandal. Treasurer A. W. Harman, Second Auditor Josiah Ryland, Jr., Secretary of the Commonwealth Joseph T. Lawless and Superintendent of the Penitentiary George M. Helms have no opposition up to this time. Register of the Land Office J. W. Richardson has a clear field, but the general assembly two years ago tried to abolish this position. The court of appeals decided that the bill was defective, and Richardson has held on. The legislature will doubtless abolish the position. The only state officer who has opposition is the superintendent of public printing, J. H. O'Bannon. L. E. Lookabill of Roanoke is running against him. Capt. O'Bannon has filled the office for twelve years.

The railroad commissioner and superintendent of public instruction have two years longer to serve. The governor appoints the adjutant general, commissioner of agriculture and commissioner of labor.

There are several judgeships to be filled. A reform will be started at this session. It has been the practice of the general assembly for some years to elect its members to the bench in most cases whenever they aspired. The people have been crying out against this evil, and it will not be an easy matter hereafter for a leglator to be elected by his colleagues to any office.

Ex-President Pierola of Peru is said to be the richest man in South America, being possessed of a fortune estimated at $50,000,000.

The Ohio Campaign.

A dispatch from Columbus, Ohio, says:

"Senator Foraker, who passed through Columbus, Ohio, last Saturday on his stumping tour, predicted, after a conference with Chairman Dick, the election of Judge Nash by 50,000 majority. The Senator also said that, in his opinion, Hamilton county, in which Cincinnati is situated, would go Republican by its normal majority of 8,000 or 9,000 Cincinnati is the home of both Foraker and McLean, and the former ought to have some idea of its political condition.

"While the senior Senator talks confidently, it is nevertheless true that some remarkable developments have occurred in the progress of the Ohio campaign. Not the least of these is the fact that McLean has actually placed the Republicans on the defensive. All the talk of his residence in Washington, which was to have been emphasized against him in the campaign, has, for instance, died away The Republicans admit that they are kept too busily engaged to wage warfare upon McLean personally. He is pressing them so closely at every point that the character of the campaign has completely changed.

"The second remarkable fact is the organization which McLean has built up in the State There are 3,000 voting precincts in Ohio, and McLean has one or more personal representatives in each one, who are engaged in seeing that the Democratic vote is fully secured. The Republican organization, in comparison, is weak and ineffective.

"The growth of Jones' strength is the third unexpected fact. He will get over 100,000 votes, and will draw largely from the Republicans. A leading Republican said to The Post correspondent recently that in one little township of Summit county, hitherto strongly Republican, he had found twelve Republicans who were going to vote for Jones. If this were an isolated instance it would not be significant, but similar reports come from all over the State.

"It is the opinion of Senator Foraker that the prosperity now universally enjoyed is the great factor which insures Republican success. Other prominent Republicans frankly admit it is the only peg upon which they have a hope of victory. Impartial opinion is unanimous in asserting that were it not for good times and a desire to stand by McKinley Judge Nash would be overwhelmingly defeated. Even as it is, his election is by no means beyond the shadow of a doubt."

A Coming Meteoric Spectacle.

On the 14th or 15th of November next a magnificent display of meteors is to be expected by persons who watch the sky at night—especially late at night, toward sunrise. Meteors are small, solid bodies shooting through space at a velocity averaging 25 miles a second. The fragments of wrecked comets, they travel in orbits more or less regular. Owing to the perturbing influences of other heavenly bodies, they no longer all travel together, but are scattered along the whole length of their orbits, being thicker at some places than at others. As their orbits approach very nearly that of the earth, they can be seen at all times of the year, but particularly in November, when we encounter an unusually large group Such as pass through our atmosphere are heated by the friction of the particles of air to a white heat and become visible. Their velocity is checked and they sometimes fall to the earth, either in masses known as meteoric stones, or more frequently as a fine powder produced by the anvil-like resistance of the air. As a single observer can see, upon an average five meteors an hour any night of the year, it has been calculated that if the whole earth were covered with observers the number visible daily would be from fifteen to twenty millions. Adding those too faint to be seen with the unassisted eye, it is estimated that 100,000,000 meteors traverse our atmosphere daily. The number on November 14 or 15—if the astronomer's prediction is verified—will far exceed the average of 15,000,000 or 20,000,000, approaching, perhaps, billions.

ORANGE.

A Rising Minister—Sickness Bailed for His Appearance Before Grand Jury—Notes and Personals.

Correspondence of The Free Lance).

Orange County, Va., Oct. 18, 1899

Rev. M. H. H Lee, who wedded Miss Lillian Martin last week, is taking high rank among the preachers of Baltimore, and at each pace the star of his destiny gathers luster. Miss Martin, the bright and popular bride is a daughter of H. K. Martin, of Unionville, and will add grace and sunshine to her husband's home and life

Mr O. T. Terrell captured a negro boy, about nineteen years old, on the roof of his dwelling Tuesday night about 10 o'clock. The boy was brought before Squire Jackson and bailed in in the sum of $50 for his appearence before the grand jury at next term of county court.

We regret to note the continued illness of Dr. Woolfolk's child. The little one is very sick and the family have the sympathy of a host of friends.

Typhoid fever is prevalent about Unionville, there being nine cases near that place, some very ill, others convalescent.

Tate Mason, whose long and serious illness elicited the interest of the community, is nearly well and his cheerful voice will soon be heard on the college campus.

One of Mr. L. G Burruss' little boys has been very ill this week; while he is something better, he is yet a sick child.

Mrs. Dr. Cowardin, of Richmond, is visiting Mrs. L. G. Burruss.

The Misses Woolfolk, of Louisa, have been recent guests at Mrs. J. S. Jackson's

Mr. Henry Baker, of Washington, is visiting at Mr. John Frazer's.

We are ever reminded of the truth "Necessity is the mother of invention." This time it is not that, Mr. W. T. B. Frazer invented a plow or child, but last week, by the rare combination of the two, he planted a beautiful onion patch.

A full and attentive house greeted Dr. Taylor, of the Baptist Church Orphanage at Pamunkey, Sunday. The congregations received two fine sermons, and the Orpanage over $23 in cash. Noticeable in this large gathering was the handsome, courtley Mayor of Orange with Miss Weyer, a pretty and popular belle of Baltimore.

Rain has again delayed wheat sowing. Some are done, but many have just gotten fairly well at it.

The corn crop is not over 75 per cent. of average.

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In speaking of the taxes on the estate of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Richmond Times says:

"This estate probably ranges in value between $85,000,000 and $150,000,000. Assuming that it will amonut to $100,000,000, and that it is devised to the direct heirs, it will pay an inheritance tax to New York State of $1,000,000, of which 1 per cent, or $10,000, will go to Controller Bird S. Coler to compensate him for the cost of collection. Another tax upon the estate will be collected by the collector of internal revenue as a war tax, and will be paid into the treasury of the United States. The law provides for a United States war revenue tax of 2½ per cent., on bequests of $1,000,000 or more to children of the testator, 4½ per cent. on legacies to nephews and nieces, and 15 per cent. on bequests to other than blood relations. If the estate is $100,000,000, therefore, the government tax will be at least $2,500,000, so that to the State and nation $3,500,000 will be paid before the property is divided. The sum that will actually be paid may reach $4,000,000, as the State collects 5 per cent. on collateral bequests."

Sugar Beet Raising.

The Richmond Times prints the following from Commissioner of Agriculture Koiner in regard to his recent trip to Nebraska to investigate "sugar beet" growing:

Commissioner of Agriculture Koiner found the sugar-beet industry, as it is conducted in Nebraska, exceedingly interesting, and returns from his trip deeply impressed with the possibilities in store for the successful raising of the beet by Virginia farmers, adjacent to factories yet to be established in the State, but one of which is practically assured now. The Commissioner, who was accompanied to Nebraska by Colonel C. C. Talisferro, an ex-member of the Legislature and an agriculturist known beyond the borders of his native county of Orange, returned to Richmond Saturday night. That only the two gentlemen named composed the party is due to unavoidable postponement of the trip, which was projected for the middle of September. The busy farm season prevented the other Virginians from making the trip at this time.

Commissioner Koiner spent most of his time familiarizing himself with the details of the industry as he found it conducted in Norfolk, Nebraska and vicinity.

A large factory is located in Norfolk, a town of 5,000 people, and the farmers who raise the beets for the factory live in a radius of thirty or forty miles. Opportunity was thus afforded the Virginians to study both sides of the industry—that of the manufacturer and that of the farmer.

IN A BIG FACTORY.

"The Norfolk factory cost $350,000 to build and equip," said Mr. Koiner to a Times man last evening, "and employs 150 hands. The plant must be kept going night and day and on Sundays, the nature of the industry requiring it to be constantly in operation. It was established nine years ago, and has passed the experimental stage. I was surprised to find that the juice of the beet is extracted, not by pressing, as one might suppose, but by a system of washing The beets are cut up, placed in receptacles, and water forced through the mass by hydraulic pressure. I found too, that a limekiln is an indispensable adjunct of a beet factory. Lime is burned to obtain carbolic acid gas, which is used in purifying the sugar juice. When the juice finally reaches the centrifugal kettle it is of the consistency, and very nearly of the color of thick molasses. The motion of the kettle throws the sugar, as it is rendered into a solid state, against the sides of the vessel, from which it is removed from time to time. Emerging from the granulating process, the sugar is put up in 200 pound sacks. The quality of the sugar compares with the whitest and purest in the world. The market quotation on it is the same as on standard granulated sugar."

A VALUABLE BY-PRODUCT.

Mr. Koiner says the pulp of the beet is in great demand as food for stock. Cattle, hogs and even horses eat it. The pulp from the Norfolk factory is fed to 1,400 head of cattle, which require little else in the way of food. The pulp is disposed of at the rate of fifty cents a ton. This pulp, Mr. Koiner says, would be of greater value in Virginia, because in the West there are other cheap cattle foods that compete with the pulp and bring the price down.

"Beets for the Norfolk factory," said Mr. Koiner, addressing himself to the farmer's side of the industry, in which he is more particularly interested, "are grown on 33,000 acres of land in the Elkhorn Valley, in which Norfolk is situated. The land is rich, but not so well adapted to sugar-beet raising as the soil of Virginia. The season, too, is shorter. In Virginia the climate is much more favorable to the full growth and maturing of the beet. While over three thousand acres are in the beet cultivation, the size of the plat each farmer devotes to beet raising will not average more than fifteen or twenty acres. Very often they raise only one crop on the same ground, transferring it almost invariably after the second year, certainly, to new ground But land devoted to beets one year will, if properly manured, be better the next year for other crops than it was originally.

HOW RAISED IN NEBRASKA.

"Beets are grown and cultivated much like corn. Virginia farmers, by removing every other point, could use the ordinary drill for sowing. The Nebraskan farmer gives his beets three plowings, and ends with either hoeing the crop with a peculiarly-shaped implement aptly named a 'goose-foot,' or by plowing it so that the earth is thrown plentifully about the beets, which must be completely covered. When harvested, the beets are kilned, and very often, in that harsh climate, the original covering of earth has to be increased as the weather increases in severity to prevent them from freezing. The crop is hauled to market from time to time, as the factory calls for them, the farmers taking their turn at marketing in rotation. The factory gives notice of from a week or ten days in advance to each farmer.

In Nebraska it costs from $25 to $30 an acre to produce beets. In Virginia they can be raised for a little more than half that sum, I am confident. Many of the Nebraska farmers, I was told, pay five dollars per acre rent for their land. Most Virginia farmers would save that. Again, in Nebraska farm labor is paid at the rate of one dollar per day.

Much of the work, such as thinning the plants, when they are young, and topping the beets, when they have been pulled, could as well be done by half-grown men and women, who receive in Virginia from twenty-five to fifty cents a day. That would be another considerable item in our favor. Then the climate and the soil, I am convinced, would give Virginia farmers an advantage.

A READY MONEY CROP.

"In Nebraska," said Mr. Koiner in conclusion, "those who have embarked in beet-sugar cultivation, find it their principal source of ready-money, the factory paying in cash. Occasionally, I was told a farmer omits to raise beets a year, but invariably he returns to its cultivation next year. He finds that it is his best paying crop, after all."

Mr. Koiner enjoyed his trip, but says Virginia is the place for a man to live. The climate and the people are superior. Every house in the West, he said, has a clump of trees flanking it on the north. He inquired the reason, and was told that the trees were relied upon to keep the houses on the ground. They break the force of the North winds, and are a kind of anchor for the houses when a cyclone comes along. The Sabbath, he said, was little regarded in the section in which he spent most of his time. The Sunday he was there a big pigeon-shooting match was going on in town, and after dinner the dining-room of the house at which he was stopping was cleared of furniture and fiddling and dancing succeeded the feast. Glancing out of the window, farmers were seen in the distance busily plowing.

Illinois ranks first in corn, wheat oats, meat, packing, lumber, traffic malt and distilled liquors, and miles of railways; second in rye, coal, agricultural implements and hogs; third in population, manufactures, iron, steel and cattle. First settlement French, Kaskaskea, 1682. Admitted to the Union, 1818.