

MEETING PUTS STOP TO TALK OF DISBANDING

Eastern Fire Insurance Company Stockholders Propose to Go Ahead and Establish Business.

OFFER FOR BIG LUMP OF STOCK

Action Upon Proposal for Purchase of \$50,000 Worth by New York Firm is Delayed Until Next Regular Meeting—Change in Outlook for the Future.

Ninety per cent. of the stock of the Eastern Fire Insurance Company, incorporated of Newport News, Va., was represented by fifty stockholders of the company who attended an interesting meeting held at Rosenbaum's hall last night. There had been some talk of disbanding the company, but last night's meeting put an end to such talk and it is now practically certain that all of the stock will be disposed of and that the company shortly will be in a position to establish its business.

The company has received an offer for \$50,000 worth of its stock from a New York firm, and this offer and the renewed interest displayed by local subscribers to stock, are responsible for the change in the outlook for the company's future.

It was decided to take no action upon the offer for the stock until the next regular meeting.

THEATRICAL

If George Ains ever sees this season's "Peggy From Paris" and does not lose his tender, he will deserve a place on the list of patient men just a notch higher than Job.

"Peggy," with Miss Helen Byron in the title role, is just about the poorest excuse for a first-class attraction that has ever played at the Academy at class prices.

Miss Byron herself sings very sweetly, and acts very cleverly, just as she did in "Sergeant Kitty," and with a good company and production she would pass in the leading part. But even things that are ordinarily good become tiresome, and Miss Byron could not hope to keep an audience satisfied for two hours and a half by doing a few songs and dances at long intervals. And what happened in these intervals was awful.

Poor "Peggy," she has been a good old wagon, but—

"Peaceful Valley"

One of the most picturesque and interesting of all the pastoral plays is "Peaceful Valley," Edward E. Kilder's masterpiece, which is being revived this season by E. K. Martin. This play is the one in which the late Sol Smith Russell, one of the most popular of all American actors, achieved his greatest and most deserved triumph.

"Peaceful Valley" deals with life in a typical New England community where peace and restful charm abounds. The central character, that of Hosea Howe, a rather gawky country lad who is working his way through college and supporting his old mother, will be played by Edward Saxon, whose impersonation of the role has been favorably commented upon.

Among the members of the support company is Carson Bradford, a young actor who is said to be as clever as he is handsome.

"Peaceful Valley" will be presented at the Academy of Music today, matinee and night. The special ladies' and children's bargain matinee will start at 3 p. m.

More About "The Three of Us."

If anything had been said about "The Three of Us," in which Miss Carlotta Nilsson appears at the Academy Monday night, the one who said it must feel lonesome. Several very complimentary mentions of this attraction already have appeared in these columns, and here is another:

"It would be difficult to convey to a public which has not seen the drama, an idea of the charming delightfulness of "The Three of Us," with which Carlotta Nilsson in the principal role, opened a week's engagement at the Academy of Music last evening, playing to a large and well pleased audience. It is one of those plays which to be rightfully appreciated, must be seen—there is no other method of coming to a right comprehension of the breeziness, the whole-souled, clear-cut graphic naturalness—fory no better word could be used—that goes to make up the drama. Some plays are described as artistic—as a rule, there is some quibble as to the merit of such productions, but "The Three of Us" is a bit of nature set down on the stage of a theatre—you see real, natural people; real, natural situations; real, natural loves and hates."—Baltimore

A company has been organized to conduct the electrical shows which are held in New York annually. Although several have been held before, the next one will be known as the First Annual Electrical Show, being under the new management.

If taken patiently and persistently will relieve the most obstinate cases of indigestion, constipation, bad blood, bad liver no matter how long standing. That's what Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will do. 25 cents, Tea or Tablets. J. C. Gorsuch & Co.

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BATTLESHIPS INJURED

Target Practice at Cape Cod Marked by Many Bad Accidents

BIG GUNS ARE IN BAD SHAPE

They Have Been Cracked and Their Muzzles Torn Off and it Will Keep Ordnance Department Busy for Time Repairing Them.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 11.—As anticipated by many naval officers here, the Atlantic battleship fleet was returned from target practice off Cape Cod Bay badly shaken up by the firing of the heavy guns. Reports are coming fast to the Department of the damage done to the individual ships, and there is some apprehension that the Navy Department's idea to have the fleet in prime condition by December 1 may not be realized. The structural weaknesses in parts of the ships, which seem unable to withstand the vibration caused by the gun firing, is again forcibly brought home. It is believed considerable additional work will now be necessary in case the fleet is to be started out on a war footing.

For some time the firing of heavy guns has caused trouble to the department. The bureau of ordnance has been kept busy repairing guns which have given way or cracked or had their muzzles blown off, and the bureau of construction and repair has repeatedly been called upon to remedy damage done to the decks and other portions of the ships after target practice.

The battleship Missouri by firing her heavy turret guns at once at level recently damaged the deck so that more than \$1,000 had to be expended to repair it. Now the Ohio is damaged and a crack has been discovered in the powder chamber of one of her 12-inch guns, which may cause the department embarrassment.

Social-Personal

Mrs. Henry Burbage entertained at bridge whist Thursday afternoon in honor of her sister, Miss Simmerall, of Covington, Ky.

Mr. J. A. Massey and Dr. S. W. Hobson are in Richmond attending the State fair.

Mr. and Mrs. I. M. O'Neil and Mrs. A. A. Gault of Little Falls, N. Y., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. D. G. Brown, in North End.

Misses Rose and Annie Fenimore have returned from Richmond, where they attended the State fair.

Mrs. Edward Carter, Miss Be nice Davis and Miss Florence Brahm left yesterday for Charlottesville, after spending several weeks with the Misses Allen, 219 Forty-third street.

Miss Gertrude Cole Hinman, and son, Luther, are visiting Mrs. Sharp on Twenty-sixth street.

Mr. and Mrs. Reichert who were recently married in Newark, N. J., are in Newport News, guests at the home of Mrs. N. P. Ridley, of 218 Twenty-fourth street.

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Ligon, of Richmond, are the guests of friends in the city and visiting the exposition.

Grapes are still trodden with the bare feet in many of the vineyards of Spain and Italy.

BUILDS AND OPERATES AIRSHIPS AND BALLOONS

Newport News Has the Only Company of Its Kind in the World.

LOCAL MEN OFFICERS OF CONCERN

Corporation Has Been Chartered and Already Has Contracted to Supply Aeronautics for Seattle Exposition—Two Ships in Operation Now—Chas. J. Strobel President.

Newport News has the only company in the world which builds, sells and operates airships and balloons. This is the American Airship and Balloon Corporation, recently organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, with Newport News men holding most of the offices, and a considerable part of the capital subscribed by local people.

The president and general manager of the company is Charles Strobel, who owns and operates the Beachy, Hamilton and Dallas airships, and is one of the foremost promoters of aeronautics in America. Mr. J. A. Willett, Sr., cashier of the First National Bank, is vice-president, and the assistant vice-presidents are Mr. A. E. G. Klor, the well known druggist of this city, and Mr. J. C. Mars, who also is superintendent of the company. Mr. Mars is an aeronaut, builder and operator of airships and has had charge of the captive balloons at Pine Beach, the Jamestown Exposition and Jacksonville Fla. Mr. M. R. Nock, auditor of the First National Bank, is secretary; Mr. W. H. Hodge, a well known merchant, is treasurer, and the assistant vice-president and general counsel is Mr. Israel Ludlow, of New York city, director of aeronautics at the Jamestown Exposition.

Contract Already Signed.

The company already is a reality, although it has been given little publicity. Already it has been engaged to furnish airships and balloons, with aeronauts, for the Seattle Exposition in 1909. Two airships which have been operated by the corporation during the season just closing are said to have earned net profits amounting to \$12,500 each, and work already has been started on five ships for use next year. Contracts have been signed for the use of one airship in Mexico and the other in Canada, and the company is signing up contracts for business all over the United States and Canada at state fairs and other special events during the coming summer. Five captive balloons are also being constructed.

Negotiating With Government.

Officers of the company expect great things to result from negotiations which are now in progress with the war department.

For the present at least, the headquarters of the corporation will be located here. The work on the airships and balloons is being done on the aeronautical concourse at the Exposition, but later the company will establish and maintain a concourse of its own.

A RIDICULOUS FINE.

William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., was arrested a few days ago in Long Island City for exceeding the automobile speed limit. There is so much discussion at this time about the danger and nuisance of automobiles going at full speed in city streets that it is interesting to note the procedure in this case, Mr. Vanderbilt being a persistent offender against the law, having made it is reported, one section of Long Island rather dangerous for everybody else by his constant use of it as a speedway for his machines. Upon being arrested, Mr. Vanderbilt was put to the inconvenience of going to a police station and depositing \$100 in cash as bond for his appearance in court. On Monday he pleaded guilty to the charge brought against him, was fined \$10, got back his \$100 deposited for bail, and was free to repeat the offense—which he did, very likely, before he was out of sight of the police court. An fine of \$10 to Mr. Vanderbilt, who is many times a millionaire, is about as serious a matter as the investment in a five-cent cigar to the average man. It amounts to nothing, either in the way of punishment or as a deterrent to future offenses. The only way the public will ever get relief from automobile speed mania is by the imposition of fines that will really mean something, and by refusing a license to those who repeatedly violate the law. Tame submission to the hoglike disposition of a certain class of auto-

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bile drivers is more to blame than anything else for their selfishness and lack of consideration for others.—Baltimore News.

Eels.

The eels form the suborder of the apoda, or footless fish, so called from the absence of ventral fins. These fish assume a form very similar to the serpents. Although on a hasty examination they seem to be devoid of scales, yet when the skin is dried very minute scales may be seen through the semi-transparent outer skin and may be easily detached by carefully separating the two skins. Eels inhabit muddy ponds and rivers and are common in many canals. They are susceptible to cold and constantly descend the rivers to deposit their spawn in the sea, after which the young when hatched work their way up the rivers, thereby precisely reversing the habits of the salmon. They are capable of living out of water for a long time and often make voluntary land excursions, either for the purpose of avoiding an insurmountable fall or in search of frogs or worms, on which they feed. In the winter, while they are lying torpid in the mud, multitudes are taken by eel spears—many pronged instruments, whose prongs are feathered with recurved barbs, which, when pushed into the mud, entangle the eels and effectually prevent their escape.

A Weighty Trojan.

One of the ladies in fancy dress was, though fair enough, a trifle fat, and we will not say that she did not look well out of the thimble. And there spake to her a reporter:

"May I ask what character you represent?"

"Helen of Troy," she answered. "What did you think it was?"

"Well," he murmured, ungraciously enough, as weights and measures confused his brain, and he gazed on her ample proportions, "I thought perhaps you might be Helen of Avoirdupois!"—Exchange.

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