THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE

WILLIAM C. JOHNSTON, - Editor and Proprietor

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THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1912.

ONE REASON WHY VIRGINIA IS POOR

A Williamsburg feed house (one who advertises) has sold in the past three months $6000 worth of feed. As a matter of course, a large part of these supplies went to town people, but there was still a large quantity that was sold to farmers around the city. There are also one or more feed dealers besides the firm we speak of which no doubt sold a great deal of hay, corn, oats, etc., considerable of which went to the farmers.

Is it any wonder the Peninsula farmers are poor? Not content with using northern made machinery of all kinds, wearing northern made clothing, and eating northern cured meats and nothern canned goods, they even depend upon that section for the feed that goes into the mouths of the live stock, not withstanding the fact that this soil and this climate will produce greater crops than the states that ship their produce here. We mean no reflection when we refer to the north in this connection, but on the other hand commend them for their thrift and evidence of prosperity. What we do mean is to condem the conditions that make it necessary for any other state in the Union to ship foodstuff into this section.

This section will be poor until we are sellers and not buyers of products of the kind mentioned. The feed dealers have to buy this produce from the north and west. The local market should be supplied by the Peninsula farmers, who should never have to buy a dollar's worth of feed of any kind. Let our farmers turn to alfalfa, timothy, clover, and build up their land till it produces the crops needed to supply the local demand and some to sell. As long as they pay tribute to other states, they will be poor and the entire section will be likewise. No section is what it should be where the farmers are not thrifty.

It is true, the past year or too have been poor crop years, but the condition to which we refer is as old as the hills. There is not the slightest excuse for this state of affairs, for with common sense and a few years hard work, the situation can be absolutely changed.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE BOSSES

The end of the political boss in this country is in sight, thanks to the primary system that is being adopted in all of the progressive states, which, being a good thing, will finally be on the statutes books of all the states. The preferential primaries about which we hear so much these days and in which the presidential candidates have figured, have proven so satisfactory to the masses that it is only a question of time when we shall see presidents nominated wholly by primaries.

It is perfectly natural that the old-time political boss should oppose the primary plan, for it is simply a matter of self-defense. With that system in vogue passes to a great extent his unholy power. No longer is he able to dictate men and policies and without that power his reason for wanting to be a boss passes away. The people are beginning to realize that all power is with them and rests in them, and that their chosen representatives must be their servants indeed. He who is not willing to be a servant in the highest sense of that word has no reason to expect political preferment.

THE INVIOLABILITY OF PARTY PLATFORMS AND PLEDGES

The Gazette has for years tried to impress upon its readers that political platform should be held absolutely inviolate and that he who betrays a platform pledge should be dealt with in the most summary fashion. We have no reason now to change our position in this matter, but rather to more positively declare that this position is the only correct one to hold.

This being a government by parties, the party and its machinery are sine qua nons, with the sole aim of securing for the people the very best government possible. They are the means to an end and should be made the vehicles for the accomplishment of the greatest good to the greatest number. The platform is a pledge to the people to secure for them something they need and which is of use to them.

The party with strength and virility has a platform representing all its powers, one that reflects its ability and invites the commendation or disapproval of the voter Great party tenets like all truths, never change, and he who departs an iota from them violates the faith. Such an one renounces not only his party but his faith and while it is his personal right to do so, he no longer bears the same relation to those who still keep the faith and are true to their principles. A Democrat has a right to become a Republican, if he change on principle, but he has no right to pose as a Democrat and seek at the hands of that party further honors. His usefullness is gone and he should be retired.

We would urge upon our younger readers the necessity of holding men and political parties absolutely to their platform pledges and to place upon the brow of him who violates it in letter or in spirit the sign of your disapproval. Let us hold each man and each party to its pledges and cast out those who do violence to them. In that way only can we hope to have parties whose promises mean something.

The campaign started by the Civic and Educational Association against the house-fly deserves the hearty support and cooperation of all our people. The common house-fly is the most prolific carrier of disease germs known. With it out of existence, consumption, typhoid and kindred diseases would diminish rapidly. Help the boys who are engaged in this warfare, in every way possible. But the easiest way to help is to do all you can to destroy the breeding places in stables, closets and garbage heaps. Let's "swat" the fly before he is born on the principle that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Williamsburg is face to face with a tremendous problem and one that Williamsburg must solve for itself. That is the matter of providing for the education of over one hundred school children. It is not a question of will we do it, but one of how we will do it. There is no shirking our responsibility in this matter. Williamsburg must provide for its own children to the end that every child of school age is admitted to a school next fall. The college will come to the board and the council with what we believe to be a good and practical proposition. However, that is for the authorities to decide. What Williamsburg expects is proper educational facilities for the children. The closing of the Model School brings us to the rack quicker than we had expected. It is either educate the children ourselves by increasing the tax rate, or combine with the college. We prefer the latter, not because it is cheaper, but because it is better. William and Mary must maintain a high standard in all things and if it should come into control of the schools that high standard is assured. But if the taxpayers are willing, they can maintain their own school independent of the college.

There never was a better time than this for the Williamsburg merchants to begin a campaign for business, a concerted effort toward attracting trade to them. A farmer was in this office a few days ago and said that he had no recollection of ever seeing a special sale of seasonable goods offered here. He said he read the Richmond and Newport News papers and it was a daily occurrence to read the big special sales of the city stores, and confessed that he some times patronized them. "But," said he, "I would prefer to spend my money at home with the men who patronize me, if I were offered the same inducements to buy here." Let the Williamsburg merchants, by circulars, posters, newspapers and what not, set before the people their claims for patronage. We believe it will build up a fine trade here from Yorktown to Toano and even beyond. Why let business go out of town?

FROM GRANT TO ROOSEVELT

There were 756 delegates in the Republican national convention of 1880, with 379 votes necessary to nominate.

On the first ballot Grant had 304 votes out of the 755 that were cast, leaving him within 74 of the necessary majority.

On the thirty-sixth ballot Grant had 306 votes out of the 755 that were cast, leaving him within 72 of the necessary majority. But James A. Garfield had 399 votes and was nominated for President.

Illinois had 42 votes in the convention, and 24 of them went to Grant.

Pennsylvania had 58 votes in the convention, and 32 of them went to Grant.

Missouri had 30 votes in the convention, and 29 of them went to Grant.

These are now Roosevelt states, and Mr. Roosevelt's managers point to them as final proof that he will be nominated. Grant had a majority of the delegates from all three of them, and in addition he had 51 of New York's 70 delegates, with Roscoe Conkling, the manager of the Grant campaign, as their chairman.

Mr. Roosevelt's friends expect to swing the Southern delegates when the test of strength comes at Chicago. Grant had almost all the Southern delegates 32 years ago, but Grant was not nominated for Preeident.

Will the delegates who present Roosevelt's name at Chicago make a more appealing speech than that of Conkling when he stepped to the front of the platform and began—

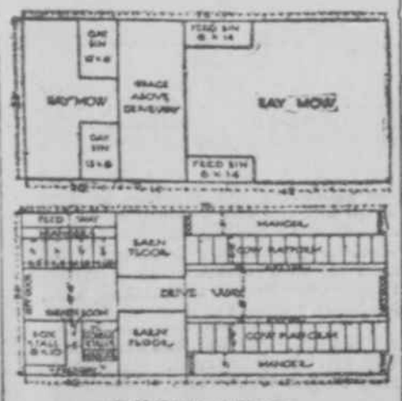
When asked what state he hails from,
Our sole reply shall be:
"He comes from Appomattox
And its famous apple tree?"

Conkling, with all his genius, with all his eloquence, with all of Grant's tremendous popularity and with 306 delegates behind him, could not nominate Grant for a third term. Can Theodore Roosevelt do for himself what Roscoe Conkling could not do for Ulysses S. Grant?—New York World.

PLAN OF SATISFACTORY BARN

Building With Cement Basement and Holding Twenty-Eight Cows Is Described and Illustrated.

My barn has a cement basement, the walls being eight feet in the clear, exeepting where the driveway goes through, writes W. J. Yarnall in the Breeders' Gazette. The side walls are 16 inches at the bottom and 12 inches at the top. The end walls are 14 inches at the bottom and the same at the top. The driveway goes through on the level of the ground or about four inches above the ground level. It all has a cement floor. The barn cost in



Satisfactory Barn.

all about $3,000. The cement basement cost with the wall about $1,000 of this.

The barn holds 28 cows, 14 cows on a side. It also holds eight horses. It has one box-stall, one double stall and four single stalls, and a harness room.

TOANO HIGH SCHOOL FINALS BEGIN TOMORROW NIGHT

The commencement exercises of the Toano Hign School will begin tomorrow night and will close Monday night. Class night will be celebrated Friday night, and Sunday morning the Rev. M. J. Hoover will deliver the baccalaureate sermon in Olive Branch church. Monday night will witness the final exercises. A most interesting programme has been arranged, as follows:

FRIDAY, JUNE SEVENTH, 8:00 P. M.

CLASS ROLL

Marie Louise Martin — Martha Katherine Wynne
Hannah Victoria Hazelwood
James N. Early, Jr. — Nathaniel Hall Jennings

James N. Early, Jr. ..... Salutatorian
Marie Louise Martin ..... Recommendations
Nathaniel Hall Jennings ..... Poet
Martha Katherine Wynne ..... Prophet
Hannah Victoria Hazelwood ..... Valedictorian

Play, "Mr. Bob," a comedy in two acts, assisted by Miss Elizabeth Baker and Edmond Cowles

CHARACTERS

Philip Royson ..... James N. Early, Jr
Robert Brown ..... Edmond Cowles
Jenkins ..... Nathaniel H. Jennings
Rebecca Luke ..... Louise Martin
Katherine Rogers ..... Mattie K. Wynne
Marion Bryant ..... Hannah V. Hazelwood
Patty ..... Elizabeth Baker

SUNDAY, JUNE TENTH, 11 A. M.

Baccalaureate Sermon ..... by Rev. M. J. Hoover
Olive Branch Church

MONDAY, JUNE ELEVENTH, 8 P. M.
FINAL EXERCISES

Invocation ..... Rev. J. E. White
To Sylvia ..... Schubert
School Chorus
Address by the Principal
Charge of the Uhlans ..... Bohm
Julia G. Carlton
Saeterelle ..... L. Gregh
Lucile Marston
Commencement Address ..... Dr. H. D. C. Maclachlan
Oberon ..... Weber
Herbert Martin
Invitation to the Dance ..... Weber
Anne Cary Geddy and Elizabeth Baker
Delivery of Diplomas. Announcements.
Bridal Chorus (from "The Rose Maiden") ..... Cowen
School Chorus