

Entered at the Postoffice at Accomac C. H., Va., as second-class matter.

In a late issue of this paper resolutions adopted in mass meetings of the citizens of Harborton and Saxis were published, recommending Dr. Frank Fletcher of this county, and W. McDonald Lee, of Lancaster, for chairman and secretary of the Board of Fisheries of Virginia. These resolutions the editorial writer of the Accomac News did not approve, and since that time similar meetings have been held at Sanford, Cattail, Mearsville, Hunting Creek, Cape Charles and other points, almost from one end of our peninsula to the other, it goes without saying, that the afore-said editor is not happy now. But if open to conviction, he cannot hold longer to the opinion "that the matter has been but little discussed on the Eastern Shore" and must say, if he respects the will of the people, that they are too much in evidence for him to doubt longer "how the matter, of the appointment to the Board of Fisheries, would be decided if left to them." If then the people of the Eastern Shore want Dr. Fletcher as chairman of said Board what objection could there be to the endorsement we gave him? If we believe, as we do, that he is as well posted as any man in Virginia on the oyster question, and if he commanded, as he does, our support for the position because of our confidence in his ability and integrity to discharge the duties of the office to the best interests of the State and its people, why should we be taken to task by the editor of the News for saying so? He cannot justly dispute his fitness for the position, and the people of the Eastern Shore will not be misled by the inquiry, of the editor of the News in referring to the endorsement by the people of Mr. Lee also and our approval, "why this peculiar combination of names?" If the editor of the News was in closer touch with the people and had been better posted as to the qualifications and services of Mr. Lee he could not have honestly asked that question and for his enlightenment in the matter we have to say that Mr. Lee is eminently qualified as secretary and no one is more entitled to it for the faithful and efficient service which for years he has given to Tidewater Virginia. Having submitted our reasons and we believe those of most of the people of the Eastern Shore, for endorsing Dr. Fletcher and Mr. Lee, the inquiry is pertinent perhaps, if not these men on the Board, whom does our critical contemporary want? Has he some candidates in hiding? If so, the people have the right to know who they are. We know that the men whose name we present as candidates for the positions on the Board of Fisheries are thoroughly qualified to discharge its duties. Others who are willing to serve the people as members of said board, should be willing to let the people pass between them, to see if "they come up to the standard" which the Governor, as our contemporary says, "has set for the men who are to occupy the positions of chairman and his assistant.

In another column we publish the new law in respect to fishing which was enacted by the recent Legislature, and approved by Governor Tyler, March 3d. Other measures were introduced into our legislature which, if they had become laws would have almost swept out of existence the fisheries of Virginia, and have destroyed practically thousands of dollars of real and personal property. That they did not prevail was due to no one outside of the legislature more than to W. McDonald Lee, editor of the Virginia Citizen. The editor of the News, of course, did not know the valuable assistance which he rendered our legislators in the matter, or he would say with us "honor to whom honor is due," and that they who bear the burdens should reap some of the rewards. Because our people knew of his services to them, though, they endorsed Mr. Lee, and surely the editor would not have them to be ungrateful for favors received. Practically unanimous as we all are for Dr. Fletcher as chairman of the Board, by all means let us, including the editor of the News, pull together to give the second place to one who is so eminently qualified for the position as Mr. Lee is, and who is entitled to our support for the valuable service he has rendered us.

The National Association of Democratic Clubs will celebrate on Wednesday, April 13, in Washington city, the one hundred and fifty-fifth birthday anniversary of Thomas Jefferson. Hon. William Jennings Bryan will be the orator of the occasion.

London advices recently announced the withdrawal from the bank of England of \$510,000 more gold for export to this country, and it was predicted by those well informed that more would follow. This money was in American eagles.

The committee having charge of the contested election from the second Congressional district of Virginia decided Saturday to recommend that Dr. Wise be seated in place of Mr. Young, who now holds the seat.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, that section two thousand and eighty-six of the Code of Virginia, in relation to license to residents to fish with purse nets, pound nets, and so forth, as amended and re enacted by an act approved February eighteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety, be amended and re enacted so as to read as follows:

1. Any resident of this State desiring to fish with a purse-net, pound-net, fyke-net, weir, or other fixed device except a gill net or trot line, or haul seine hauled in other manner than by hand in any of the waters of this Commonwealth, shall apply to the oyster inspector of the district within which the person so applying resides, and state on oath the true name of the person or persons applying for such license, that they are and have been for the twelve months next preceding residents of this State, the place at which the net, seine, fyke, weir, or other fixed device is to be fished, and that during the period of the license they will not violate any of the laws of the State in relation to the taking and catching of fish. Such oyster inspector shall thereupon grant a license to use such net, fyke, weir or other fixed device, of any size mesh, or haul seine hauled in any other manner than by hand, during any season of the year, and state in such license the name or names of the person or persons who shall use the same, the place at which it is to be located or used, the depth of water to be used in, and the amount of taxes as hereinafter provided: provided, however, that it shall be lawful for a resident of this State to employ any vessel or net owned within or without this State for the purpose of taking and catching fish; provided that nothing in this act shall be construed to permit fishing in portions of the York river prohibited by law and in seasons prohibited by law in said river, and provided also that nothing in this act shall be construed to permit fishing in James river, Nansemond river, Elizabeth river, Chickahominy river or within one mile of the mouth of either, or in the tributaries of either in any manner or with any net prohibited by law; nor be so construed as to require a license or impose a tax, for the privilege of taking and catching fish by any resident in any manner for the use of such resident or his family. For granting such license the oyster inspector shall receive a fee of one dollar from each person so applying, except, where the license is to fish in water of six to twelve feet deep, the inspector shall receive a fee of fifty cents from the person so applying.

2. Every such resident who shall apply for such license to catch or take fish from the waters of the Commonwealth, in addition to the fee of one dollar, shall pay to the oyster inspector of such district a specific license tax, which shall be in lieu of all taxes levied upon such person for the taking and catching fish or for selling the products thereof, as follows: On every sail vessel, fishing with purse net of not more than four hundred meshes deep, five dollars; on every sail vessel, fishing with purse nets of more than four hundred meshes deep, twenty five dollars; on every steam vessel, fishing with purse net, one hundred dollars; on every pound net, fyke, weir, or other fixed device, to be fished in water of six to twelve feet deep, one dollar; on every pound net, fyke, weir, or other fixed device, to be fished in water more than thirty feet deep, ten dollars; depth of water to be based upon measurements at mouth of main pound; on every haul seine, hauled by windlass, horse or mule power, or other power than hand or steam, five dollars; on every haul seine operated by steam power, ten dollars.

3. Any resident of this State desiring to fish for crabs with scrapes in any of the waters of the Commonwealth, shall apply to the oyster inspector of the district within which the person so applying resides, and state upon oath the true name of such person or persons so applying, and that they are and have been for the twelve months next preceding residents of this State. Such oyster inspector shall thereupon issue to the person or persons so applying a license for the purpose of taking or catching crabs, and the oyster inspector shall mark upon the starboard bow of such person's boat the number of such license in conspicuous figures of not less than five inches in length, preceded in all cases by the number of the oyster district, and the letter C, example: 4 C 1, 4 C 2.

(4). The oyster inspector shall record in a book, to be kept in his office for that purpose, the name of all persons obtaining license for fishing or crabbing; the place at which the net, seine, fyke, weir or other fixed device is to be used; the kind of net, seine, fyke, weir, or other fixed device; the amount of license tax paid, and the fines or other revenues accruing under this act; and it shall be the duty of each and every oyster inspector to furnish the board of fisheries with a monthly report of same. Each and every oyster inspector shall report to the board of fisheries or some commander of the oyster navy the failure upon the part of any and all persons to conform to the provisions of this act; and any such commander shall be and is hereby empowered to arrest such person or persons so reported by an oyster inspector, or who may be known to him as not conforming to the provisions of this act and carry him or them before some justice of the peace; and upon conviction, such person or persons shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than two hundred dollars, to be recovered according to law. If any oyster inspector knowing fail to report violations of this act, or to perform any of the duties herein required of him, he shall for every such offence forfeit one hundred dollars. The money collected for license taxes or fines under this act shall be paid over to the auditor of public accounts, and accounted for in the general oyster fund of the State; but shall in no wise be considered a part thereof, or in any way be used to defray the expenses of said oyster commission. And the board of fisheries shall make a separate report of the subjects in this act, and the revenue derived therefrom, respectively.

(5). Should there be no oyster inspector for the district within the jurisdiction where such fishing or crabbing is desired to be carried on, all the duties devolving upon oyster inspectors under this act shall be performed by the commissioner of the revenue for such county or district, and such commissioner of the revenue shall be empowered to issue all licenses in conformity with this act, to receive all fees and taxes here in provided and shall make such report, and be liable to such penalties for failure to perform the duties as are hereinbefore prescribed.

(6). All acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

(7). This act shall be in force from its passage.

The Above Law Reviewed.

Tax.—Under the old law purse nets paid a license tax of \$5; the new law places it at \$5, \$25 and \$100, according to boat and size of net. Pound nets, fykes and weirs here-

before paid \$1; now they will pay \$1, \$5 or \$10 (in addition to the inspector's fee), according to depth of water. Haul seines (except hand ones) heretofore paid nothing; now they will pay \$5 or \$10, according to size.

Crabbers (with scrapes) have never paid anything heretofore; now they will pay \$1, and 50 cents to the inspector, who numbers their boats to distinguish them from non residents. This was done at the request of the Eastern Shore crabbers, whose grounds are depredated on by Marylanders.

Under this law, which it is expected will be rigidly enforced by the Board of Fisheries, the State will derive a revenue of ten or twelve thousand dollars at the least. Even the most selfish should see that this moderate tax will work for good to those in the fishing business, as their occupation will cease to be so much agitated by the law making body of the State. Otherwise the time would have been near, when, if fishing were not entirely legislated out of our waters, it would have been injuriously restricted, as, for instance, it now is in Maryland.

It will be noticed, however, that the new law exempts from taxation all gill-nets and trot lines and all pounds, fykes, etc., fished in less than 6 feet deep; also hand haul seines and fishing in any manner for the use of one's family.

Restrictions removed.—As under the old law, the new law allows none but residents to license or be the principals in any fishing enterprise, but permits the hiring of non-residents, their boats or nets, or the use of their capital in any fishing industry.

The dead-letter law prohibiting the use of nets upon which there was a lien is wiped out. Under the Board of Fisheries management it would have been executed.

Pound nets and purse-nets were prohibited from being used in certain waters and certain seasons (the former were obliged to be taken up over Sunday, which at times was impossible, and at the best very expensive.) The new law permits pounds of any sized mesh to be fished at any season and anywhere, except particular places in York river.

Purse nets may be used at any season of the year and in any waters except the York, James, Nansemond, Elizabeth and Chickahominy rivers.—Virginia Citizen.

War With Spain.

There have been no developments during the week with regard to our trouble with Spain, tending to show whether or not we must have war. The report of the cause of the disaster to our battle ship, the Maine, has not yet been handed in, but on one point there seems to be no doubt, and that is, that it was blown up by a torpedo or a mine. All our war preparations are being hastened with the greatest possible expedition, and reports are current that we have bought several war vessels from foreign nations. The Fifty Millions is being rapidly used, and whether we have war or not, we will have spent more money soon than the island of Cuba is worth. The reports that England, Russia and Japan are putting their navies on a better footing, have tended to cause many to believe that there is pending and rapidly approaching a period of great seriousness throughout the civilized world. It is thought that England would be glad to form very close relations with the United States, and that she will make overtures to this effect. There are at present no signs of any one offering to help Spain in the event we have trouble with her. Until the report of the commission it made to the President matters will remain as they now stand, viz: Active preparations for war everywhere, and a mobilization of our navy at Dry Tortugas. Should the report be as is expected the question of the extent of our demands on Spain for the loss of the Maine is the one which absorbs public thought, and this can only be conjectured. In any event it seems concluded that Cuba will be freed. It is not thought that Spain will permit war to be declared if there is any possible way to avoid it. That she has spent so much money and lost so many men in trying to subdue her subjects in Cuba and the Philippine Islands that she will eat very humble pie before she actually burns powder in killing Americans.

Of course the papers have been full of sensations, not one thing has happened of a sensational nature, nor one thing new made public within the past week. All has been going on in exactly the same lines as before. The new Spanish minister has been received at Washington and fraternal greetings have been passed between him and President McKinley. Mr. Dingley, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, has stated that our expenses now being on a war basis we must increase taxes to provide the revenue, and it is likely that internal revenue taxes will be increased in a short time. But the crisis is near at hand, and the report of the Maine disaster will surely be handed in during this week and with its receipt will come results which cannot be at present foretold.

For some time, I have suffered with rheumatism and tried every imaginable remedy, without effect. Mr. F. G. S. Wells advised me to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm, telling me that it had cured many cases of long standing like mine. I have used four bottles and feel sure that one more bottle will make my cure complete.—A. P. Kontz, Claremore, Ark. Sold by all druggists.

Business Locals.

NOTICE—The undersigned offers for sale several pairs of wild geese at \$5 per pair. For further particulars call on or write to me. Joshua Whealton, Chincoteague, Va.

NOTICE—A male hog, no marks, color red and black, weighing about 100 pounds came to my premises near Accomac C. H., about 2 months ago. The owner will call for him, prove property, pay charges and take him away. Geo. W. Holland.

FOR SALE—Single comb, brown Leghorn eggs at 50 cents per setting of 15, delivered at Cheriton or Cape Charles. A. A. Lake, Cheriton, Va.

FOR SALE—Lady Thompson strawberry plants, \$1 per 1,000, roots straightened 50 in a bunch, information how to save half the usual labor in working strawberries free with all 10,000 orders, also the best rust proof kidney wax beans very early, \$2 25 a bushel, f. o. b. I take up the entire bed of strawberry plants, which will give you large, healthy, well rooted plants. Jos. S. Bunting, Bloomtown, Va.

1-13-98.

NOTICE—I offer at private sale my lot in Horntown, improved by two dwellings and a storehouse. For further particulars apply to Mrs. E. M. Wallop, Horntown, Va., or Dr. T. T. Taylor, Atlantic, Va.