

**The Richmond Palladium**

— and Sun-Telegram —

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**FIRE PROTECTION OF THE WEST SIDE.**

The citizens of Richmond who live on the west side of the river comprise about one fourth of the population of this city. They pay the same amount of taxes every year into the city treasury in proportion to their wealth that people do on the other side. They are within the corporation lines and therefore pay for and should receive all the benefits of Richmond. They are above all other things desirable citizens, most of them own, or are paying for, their homes. Moreover factories have begun to be erected in sufficient numbers across the river to warrant the assumption that it is one of the places which will play a great part in the town's future growth. Among the benefits of paying city taxes is the benefit of fire protection. This is a vital matter to every citizen but especially is it a thing which enters the mind of the man who has just built his house.

The people of West Richmond are right when they say that they are entitled to and have not adequate fire protection. They are justified in demanding that they have a hose house over there. Few people will be found to doubt the justice of their claim. But—

The fact is that the city of Richmond has not the money to spend in that way, or any other way. Of the reason for this we shall speak later. But that one fact, no one who has looked over or knows much about the finances of this town, will question.

The city's finances have reached such a point that it is absolutely necessary that there be a decided retraction.

Leaving out specific instances, there is little doubt that the present administration and the ones preceding it have been too extravagant. In other words though there is no graft to be connected with the present administration, there has been too much money spent in a way which would have brought a business house to destruction and bankruptcy long ago. It is not charged that the expenditure of money has been dishonest—it is merely that it has been ill advised.

Too much money has been spent at once on improvements, every thing has been attempted in one administration, money has perhaps in some instances been wasted in putting in temporary improvements which are in the end more costly than permanent ones, in some instances also these very improvements have been torn up shortly after their completion and were only to be done over again. About the size of it is, that too much money has been spent and the treasury will have too take a vacation. This town can not go on borrowing \$25,000 at 3.65 per cent payable six years from date. It has got to stop. And the sooner expenses are logically cut down and the city run on a business basis the better.

The newly married couple who must live on a definite salary after having stocked their house with all the pretty gew-gaws which seemed necessary to a lovely and dovey existence, wake up and find the installment man at their door asking his pay. Thereupon they lie to them to a very kind man who will lend them money for a consideration. They soon find that the dream of wedded bliss is cut in the bud. There they are. They have to cut out the foolishness and some of the necessities. They haven't any money left for fire insurance. They might have—Oh yes they might have had. But they haven't.

However necessary; however needful it may be that the citizens of West Richmond shall have a hose house, it is manifestly impossible with the finances of the town in their present condition.

It has been said that the fire rate on ordinary and special risks in West Richmond has been increased by the insurance companies over the rates on this side. On inquiry it has been stated that this is not the case. It has also been said that people will not build in West Richmond until adequate fire protection is given. Real estate dealers cynically remark that

**CHURCHES DUTY?**

Question Discussed Among Other Things at Presbytery Meeting.

**DELEGATES ATTENDING**

Weyland Kelsey, Arthur L. Smith and the Rev. T. J. Graham of the First Presbyterian church, and the Rev. Robert Dunaway and Prof. Wissler of the Second Presbyterian church are in Rushville today attending the all-day rally of the Home Mission of the Whitewater Presbytery. Ministers and laymen from nearly all the churches in the Presbytery are in attendance.

Following the all-day program a popular and practical meeting will be held in the main auditorium of the Rushville Presbyterian church this evening and either Dr. Dixon or A. T. McGarragh of Grove City, Pa., will make the principal address.

The idea of the conference is that all may meet for a mutual good, to understand the times and know what the church ought to do. A sentiment in the program—invitation, which might be termed the keynote of the meeting reads:

"Enlightened laymen are essential factors in the development of an enterprising church."

**HELD BECAUSE HE IS AFTER ROOSEVELT**

New Jersey Authorities Have Suspicious Character.

people do not think of such things. They point to the South End as an illustration of this fact. They say that the building went on in just the same way. They were forced to admit that the people in time might be disengaged from building over there and that it certainly would have some effect on the location of factories.

There are beside shipping facilities and such things two very vital things in which a town's administration affects the location of new factories and industries. These are fire protection and taxes. In this the question of taxes is by all odds the most important as it is the more certain, than the contingency of a fire.

Richmond can not even afford, for the sake of better fire protection of which we admit there is a crying need afford to raise the tax rate to a higher point than it is at present, nor can she afford to risk apparent ruin by making any more expenditures at the present time.

The Palladium believes that the West Richmond citizens have a good and just cause for complaint and it sincerely hopes that the finances can be so arranged that the city can soon give them what they deserve. This is the first thing the city should do on recovering from its financial disability.

Citizens of Richmond must also bear in mind that this matter is not confined to the west side alone. The installment of a hose house means a reduction of the high insurance rates which are now in effect in Richmond. Therefore the sooner the hose house can be logically built the better for all concerned.

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**MASONIC CALENDAR.**

Friday, Dec. 11—King Solomons Chapter No. 4 R. A. M. stated convection; election of officers.

**CHURCHES****DUTY?**

Food is more tasteful, healthful and nutritious when raised with **ROYAL BAKING POWDER**. The only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar. Made from Grapes. Absolutely Pure.

authorities at Washington have been notified.

Kestowski was taken from the Congressional Limited early when the train reached this city. He got aboard at Newark, but refused to pay his fare, saying he had no money.

An interesting and valuable collection of fulgurites has recently been mounted and placed on exhibition in the Geological Museum in Nassau Hall. It comprises four specimens of the

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The Artistic Canopy in the rear of the store is filled with Christmas Toys and Novelties in great variety to please children.

The last to be mentioned, but the first in importance is the enormous and carefully selected stock of books, including Family and Pulpit Bibles, Teachers' Bibles, the St. James, the American Revised, the Combination Bible, the Red Letter Editions, Etc.

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