

CH 18, 1896.

Convention of Passenger and Ticket Agents.

RICHMOND, Va., March 17.—The American Association of Passenger and Ticket Agents met here to day. Most of the session was consumed in the election of officers and in the appointment of committees. The association has been for some time without a head on account of the resignation of Capt. W. W. Davidson, of the Plant system. The following officers were elected: Deas J. Standers, of the Boston and Maine road, president; W. A. Turk, of the Southern railway, vice president, A. J. Smith, of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railroad, secretary, re-elected.

A committee on reorganization was appointed. Its duty will be to infuse interest into the organization and enlarge the membership and powers of the association. The association, after transacting some other routine business, adjourned until to-morrow morning.

Opposed to Women Delegates,

BALTIMORE, Md., March 17.—The 112th Baltimore conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which has been in session for a week adjourned sine die at noon to day. Rev. C. W. Baldwin, of Washington, introduced the only important feature of the closing session. He precipitated a discussion of the question of admitting women as delegates to conference and proposed to instruct the delegates to the general conference to vote in favor of such admission. The question was debated for some time and then laid on the table.

A Swindler arrested.

RICHMOND, Va., March 17.—Police Sergeant Tomlinson has arrested here on a telegram from New York a man giving his name as de Ligne and claiming to be a French Count. It is charged that he has attempted to swindle several Frenchmen here. The telegram was from a New York detective agency and stated that de Ligne had a penchant for passing worthless checks.

Movements of the Warship

THE RAILROAD MYSTERY.

An Underground River Believed to be the Cause of the Peculiar Conditions on the Carolina Central —Wells that Flow Over.

The article in Sunday's MESSENGER about the mysterious squeaking of trains over six miles of the Carolina Central railroad, between the forty-ninth and fifty fifth miles posts, going from Wilmington towards Charlotte, has created a great deal of curiosity. The part of the road that furnishes the mystery is in Bladen county, and the country is swampy. When we published the item it struck us that the ground over which the road runs might be a swamp or muck foundation, that was spongy or unsteady and caused a squeaking similar to that produced by a train of cars running over a trestle. Touching this matter the following from the scene of the mystery will be read with interest:

BLADENBORO, N. C., March 16.

Editors Messenger:

In your issue of March 15th I notice an article headed "A Mystery," describing a mysterious noise along the Carolina Central railroad, about this place.

The noise along the railroad and public county roads under ground is nothing unusual to the citizens in this section. On one of the county roads northeast of this place one mile, the noise is so perceptible that it is called by every person "the hollow ground." It is believed by some people that there is an underground river at this place. If you dig a well thirty to forty feet deep the water will rise to the surface and flow off continually. There are five wells at this place which flow continually with pure water, as cool and clear as the water from the mountain sides.

These noises are certainly a mystery. Who can explain the mystery? F.