

REFORM MEASURES DISCUSSED

Chamber of Commerce Committee and City Council Talk of Proposed Legislation—Committee is Named to Draft Plan

A very interesting informal discussion of proposed legislation for the city and county was held yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock in the office of Mayor Jos. D. Smith at the City Hall, by the Chamber of Commerce committee named upon the invitation of Council to go over a number of important propositions with the members, with a view of ascertaining just what should be asked of the Legislature at this session.

There were present Mayor Smith and Councilmen B. C. Moore, P. G. Moore, W. E. Perdew and M. G. Tencken; Assistant City Attorney Geo. L. Peschau and Capt. Thos. D. Meares, clerk, representing the city government; and Col. Walker Taylor, Mr. J. A. Taylor, Mr. William Gilchrist and Mr. H. C. McQueen, from the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. McQueen was called to the chair and presided over the meeting. Mr. Peschau stated the purpose of the meeting, going over a number of subjects that are claiming the attention of the city and county at this time. He said that what was desired was an understanding of the Legislature most needed. There were the questions of an amendment to the city charter, an act that would separate the city and county tax districts, so that the city could assess its property at nearer its true value, without having to bear the burden of a county and State tax on the increased valuation; the wharfage question, the right to condemn property for wharves; a bond issue for continued improvements of the streets; the incorporation of suburbs; a greater control of public utility companies; the right to fix telephone rates and control public vehicles, and more power as to buildings, so that a more uniform building plan could be followed; the proposed State-wide law which would give a blanket form of commission government to the towns and cities of the State, allowing them to change their own charters when the Legislature was not in session, after having had the Attorney General pass on the legality of changes proposed, which would be then submitted to a vote of the people—a plan that has produced admirable results in New Jersey.

Councilman B. C. Moore also discussed the need of the city, stressing the situation as to the subject of the assessment of city property. The city, he said, had gone the limit with bonds unless the assessment of property were increased, so as to admit of the sale of more bonds for needed improvements. The real estate of the city is valued at eight or nine million, and it was declared that twenty-five millions would be nearer right. Mr. Moore pointed out that the city had no control over leasing street docks, and that the situation was a constant source of annoyance to authorities in charge. The city receives no revenue from the present dock arrangement and private parties occupy the wharves. He declared that with power to act, the city could rent these properties and that the industries along the river front would be willing to pay rent for them. The fact was pointed out that the city has a right to vote on the building of warehouses, but the present might not be the proper time to discuss that. The speaker suggested that the city secure authority to sell its 100 acres of land at Wrightsville Sound, which he understood was worth at least \$100 an acre, and apply the proceeds to the development of the park property. The children of the city had been neglected, he declared, in the matter of parks. There was the question of public toilets at the intersections of Front with Walnut, Grace, Chesnut or Princess streets; the pressing need of facilities for the reformation of incorrigible youths, and Mr. Moore declared that if the State did not provide ample facilities of this kind, he wanted to see the city do something. The Stone-wall Training School at Concord, he said, was forever crowded.

There is need, he continued, of an auto "Black Maria," which would cost about \$2,000, and he suggested that if 50 cents or \$1 were added to the costs in each case of conviction in the Recorder's court, this needed vehicle could be paid for. Last year there were about 2,000 arrests. The city supports the court while the county gets the benefit, but as the money goes into the school fund, it was not so bad. The city last year received about \$46 from the court. Mr. Moore, noting that ten bids were received yesterday on the sewer extensions, said these bids ran from \$135,000 up and that only about \$100,000 would be available for the work. Therefore, if the assessment idea of Mr. Peschau could be carried out, the city, with a larger showing of wealth, could sell bonds sufficient to meet the expense of this improvement. The speaker earnestly declared that the street improvements should never be stopped where they are, that the city's future was dependent on continued progress in this way.

On the enforcement of prohibition laws, Mr. Moore gave his support to a search and seizure law such as Asheville has, asserting that with such a law, there would be little trouble in carrying out the law on this subject. He touched on the increased efficiency of the fire department by reason of the purchase of motor-driven trucks, stating that if the cost of new horses, their feed, the pay of drivers were considered, and the further fact considered that the city has three years in which to pay for these trucks, it would be found that the investment was a good one; and he said the same of the \$6,500 police call system, for which the city has three years to pay. He considered this increased the efficiency of the department fully as much as an appropriation of \$10,000. Before all these things, however, came the question of means, that money must be first considered.

Mr. J. A. Taylor, speaking of the present inability of the city to float any more bonds, thought well of the

idea of an arrangement whereby the assessed valuation of the city property could be increased without the county or State sharing in resultant taxes; and he advocated the New York plan of floating bonds for terminals, based on which could be applied to the bonds, which would be entirely separate and distinct from the bonded debt of the city.

Col. Walker Taylor thought that, in view of the proposed annexation of Northwest township, Brunswick county, the city should secure by condemnation or purchase, the property across the river for wharfage purposes. He also spoke of the need of a more concrete form of law whereby the county and city, practically one, could operate together without needless duplication of machinery.

Captain Meares, referring to the recent meeting of representatives of municipalities in High Point, and the second meeting to be held in Raleigh this week, brought out the very gross injustice meted to towns and cities by the State and county, and he emphasized the necessity of an enactment whereby the incorporated communities of the State could get a square deal.

After the discussion, on motion of Councilman Perdew, a committee was appointed as follows: to prepare a definite statement of what the situation needs and demands in the way of reform measures:

Assistant City Attorney George L. Peschau, Councilman B. C. Moore and Capt. Thos. D. Meares, representing the city; Chairman M. S. Willard and Col. John Yarb. Meigs, representing the County Commissioners; and Mr. J. A. Taylor and Mr. Wm. Gilchrist, representing the Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting was marked by a spirit of harmony, co-operation and earnestness in the work of smoothing the way for a Greater Wilmington, on the part of this representative body of citizens.

TRIED TO SHOOT OFFICERS.

Joe and Jess Mason, Charged With Robbery, Resist Policemen.

Officers T. M. Hall and J. S. Lane had an exciting moment last evening when they arrested Joe and Jess Mason, at the Mason boarding house on Front and Orange streets, on complaint of William B. Register, who alleged that they had robbed him of articles of personal property and would not give them up. When the officers entered the room where the two men were, they found both of them armed, and when the policemen attempted to disarm them and effect the arrest, Joe Mason, the officers say, tried to use his gun.

Officer Lane managed to hold Mason's pistol hand down, so that when Mason shot, the ball entered his own foot. Officer Hall laid out the other one with his night stick, and they were soon in the lockup.

They had four razors, the pistols and plenty of ammunition. They bear pretty bad reputations, and it is said they have served sentences for crimes prior to this. They will appear this morning for a hearing. The incident was one that will rank with about the toughest jobs the officers have had and but for quick work, one or both might have been shot by the men.

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.

Little Colored Girl Dies in Hospital as Result of Burns.

Carolina Hill, a little colored girl about eight years of age, died in the James Walker Memorial Hospital yesterday afternoon shortly after 3 o'clock as a result of fearful burns received yesterday morning when her clothes became ignited from an open fire place at her home in an alley between Dawson and Wright streets. The flesh was so badly burned that it was actually charred, and the child lived only about six hours.

Statement by Mr. Brock

In regard to the altercation between himself and Mr. L. W. Warrock Monday afternoon, in Mr. J. O. Brock's place of business on Market street, between Front and Second, Mr. Brock last night stated to The Star his side of the matter. He said that Mr. Warrock came in his place and asked for credit on a brass solder torch, and that he declined to extend credit because, he said, Mr. Warrock had denied an account once. The refusal angered Mr. Warrock and he approached Mr. Brock, says the latter, with an electric sad iron concealed under his coat, and without warning, struck Mr. Brock on the head with the iron. Mr. Brock says that the assault was wholly uncalculated for and unexpected, else he could have defended himself easily; and that he did not strike Mr. Warrock before the attack, and in fact, was only parrying a lick when he knocked off Mr. Warrock's glasses. The full evidence will be heard tomorrow.

Tried to Escape.

Sam Wilson, the negro whom Mr. D. D. George shot and wounded at Masonboro Sound, and who was placed in the hospital for treatment, decided that he would try his hand at an escape, but was arrested and this time was put in the county jail where he will be quite safe. It will be recalled that Wilson drew a pair of pliers from his hip pocket in the style gunmen employ when drawing their guns, and Mr. George let drive at him with a shotgun. The case is likely to come up tomorrow.

PHYSICIANS PRAISE CONSUMPTION REMEDY

Most Eminent Throughout Europe Indorse Preparation Brought to New York

During the last year there has been introduced into the United States a remedy for Consumption which comes to us with most remarkable list of indorsements from the leading specialists of Europe. It has been used for several years on the other side, and case after case has yielded to it. This preparation is called Sirolin, and judging from the condition of some of the patients whom it has saved, its consumptive need that he is too far gone to be benefited by it.

Sirolin builds up the body by increasing the appetite and assisting digestion, checks the racking cough and lessens the gathering of mucus on the lungs in a regular manner. If you or any of your friends are suffering from any throat or lung ailment do not fail to send for full information about Sirolin to the Sirolin Co., 228 West Broadway, New York City. All leading druggists are recommending and distributing Sirolin with considerable success. (Advertisement.)

HEARD HIS EXPLANATION

Medical Society Listens to Statement of Dr. Nesbitt as to What He Knew of New York Newspaper Article.

"Whereas, certain statements have appeared in the New York Globe and Commercial Advertiser which were reprinted in the Wilmington Dispatch of January 11th, which statements are an untrue and libellous attack upon the medical profession of Wilmington, be it

"Resolved, That the secretary of his society be instructed to secure as far as he may be able from Mr. Corey who appears as the writer of the article in the Globe and Commercial Advertiser, his authority for his statements."

The above resolution, offered by Dr. A. H. Harris, in a nut shell tells the action of the New Hanover Medical Society in special session in the Mayor's office last night for the purpose of investigating the sources of information upon which was based an article, statements in which were considered a reflection on the medical profession and the people of Wilmington, published in the New York Globe and Advertiser a few weeks ago and reprinted in a local newspaper last Saturday.

It was without a doubt the largest meeting of the medical society in years, more than 25 members being present, nearly all attracted there because they expected a rather lively discussion. In this they were disappointed. It is doubtful if a more cool and dispassionate session of the body had been held in some time. There appeared to be a natural aversion to talking and very little was said, the session lasting less than one hour.

Among those present were noted Drs. M. M. Caldwell, J. B. Cranmer, S. E. Koonce, William Houston Moore, J. W. Willingham, J. H. Borneman, R. Farlee Bellamy, R. B. Slocum, Joseph Akerman, E. J. Wood, W. D. MacMillan, John LeGwin, Chas. T. Harper, Ernest S. Bulluck, G. Murphy, John T. Schenck, DeWitt Schowalek, C. F. Bolles, G. G. Thomas, Thos. S. Burbank, A. H. Harris, W. C. Galloway, Pridie Thomas, J. H. Honnet, D. W. Bulluck, Thos. M. Green and others.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. J. G. Murphy; the president, and Dr. Ernest S. Bulluck, the secretary, kept a record of the proceedings and disarranged them and effect the arrest, Joe Mason, the officers say, tried to use his gun.

Upon motion of Dr. Joseph Akerman, the secretary was instructed to read the article, which he did. The article, as stated, appeared in a recent issue of the New York Globe and Commercial Advertiser under the head of "New York Day by Day" and was written by Herbert Corey. It contained a humorous vein by Herbert Corey. There were frequent references to Dr. Chas. T. Nesbitt, the city superintendent of health of this city, and many uncomplimentary and unfounded statements about conditions in Wilmington. A large portion of the article purported to be Dr. Nesbitt's opinion of the conditions in the Borough of Queens, New York, and the remainder was taken up with exaggerations of Wilmington and the changes that had been made under the crusade of the health department, and accredited Dr. Nesbitt with doing everything from the installation of the sanitary can to closing up the "blind tigers" and running the women of the underworld out of the city.

About the only fun of the evening was occasioned when the secretary, in "following copy" read that Dr. Nesbitt had introduced the "new and modern method of filtration," the last word evidently being a misprint for filtration.

When the secretary had finished reading the article in question, President Murphy asked for the opinion of anyone present. Dr. Edward Jenner Wood said he was one of the number glad to see the meeting and advocated it for several reasons. First, the question is one that concerns all the profession here and all feel a certain righteous indignation about the statements contained in the article. Second, he felt and still feels that if Dr. Nesbitt, who, he said, was present, could give a satisfactory explanation of why the article in question was published his work in Wilmington, which, he said, in many respects has been a great success and has much to commend it, would be continued with more or less cooperation of the medical profession, but if he could not give an explanation satisfactory to the society he would have the antagonism of the profession and consequently his work here would be practically at an end so far as getting good results are concerned. He expressed the hope that Dr. Nesbitt would make an explanation that would be satisfactory to the society so that he could continue to have the aid of the profession in his work regardless of the article in the New York paper.

Dr. Nesbitt said that the article to which reference had been made had already been fully explained in the local newspapers. He said that even before the society had taken cognizance of the local publication of the article he had in mind telegraphing the writer of the article for a statement as to whether or not he (Dr. Nesbitt) had anything to do with writing it. But as soon as the Medical Society took notice of it was made a telegram, in the office of President Murphy, who saw it, to Herbert Corey, of the New York Globe, and the reply he had received he thought quite sufficient to answer any person desiring to know the course of information for the article. The telegram, which Dr. Nesbitt received yesterday from Mr. Corey, was read by the secretary, and was as follows:

"Dr. Chas. Nesbitt, Health Officer, Wilmington, N. C. "You did not inspire article recently published in Wilmington, nor are you responsible for any of the statements save those upon Queens county of New York. The facts upon the situation in Wilmington were gathered by one of the foremost and most reliable magazine writers, who made

a visit to Wilmington and whose story has yet to be published.

METAL TARIFF IS AGAIN UNDER FIRE

(Continued from Page One.) ed the present tariff retained on the products of the file and tool industry. During the discussion Mr. Ker advocated a dumping clause to prevent the sending of goods into this country at prices lower than in the country of production. "If we had a dumping clause in this metal schedule," asked Chairman Underwood, "don't you think that the rates fixed in our metal schedule last session would be sufficient?" "I don't think that is so, we don't know as to that yet."

Mr. Underwood asked as to the reasons for the United States Steel Corporation's proposed increase of wages. Mr. Ker said he thought "that the corporation was taking time by the forelock to hold its labor."

Affairs of the Waltham Watch Company, of Waltham, Mass., also were taken up by the committee, which continued its sessions far into the night. E. C. Fitch, of Waltham, Mass., testifying today that the company could manufacture watch dials cheaper than he could buy abroad, said the Waltham Watch Company was originally capitalized at \$5,000,000, and that it reorganized with a capitalization of \$12,000,000.

The witness told of the former existence of a selling agency that handled the Waltham Watch Company products. He said he was one of three partners in the selling agency, each of whom received \$60,000 a year salary. "Don't you compel wholesalers to sell at a certain price to retailers?" asked Representative Rainey. "No, sir, but don't always succeed. In hard times, they almost uniformly fail to keep that price," said Mr. Fitch, who added he "had been pretty strenuous" in trying to prevent the watches sent abroad, where they are sold at cheaper prices, being sent back to this country to compete with domestic products. Mr. Rainey noted the company and a copy of an agreement to regulate the prices to the consumers. The witness said he had a list of "approved jobbers" to whom the companies' watches were sold.

Mr. Rainey tried to bring out that jobbers selling below fixed prices were barred out of the trade. The witness finally said the Elgin, Waltham, Crescent and Keystone Watch Companies, constituted what is known in the industry as the "Big Four," but added that there were other sources of supply.

Mr. Fitch said his company discriminated only against one man, C. A. Keene, of New York, whose transactions, he said, were contrary to the policy of the Waltham company. "Keene," said Mr. Fitch, "came to the Waltham's London agency and said he wanted to sell the watches in Egypt, and they were sold to him with that distinct understanding and were delivered aboard a ship about to sail for Egypt. But before sailing, Mr. Keene removed the watches and let them remain in the United States."

"That was an awful crime," commented Mr. Rainey. "You were willing that the Egyptians camped on the sands of the desert should get your watches at reasonable prices, while you compelled the American consumer to pay perhaps double price." C. A. Keene, of New York, the watch retailer, whom E. C. Fitch, of the Waltham Watch Company, criticized for violating the company's price standards, urged the committee to fix a tariff of 30 per cent ad valorem on watch movements of all grades and with regard to watches brought back from abroad 20 per cent to apply upon the improvements only. He said he found several years ago it was quite profitable to go abroad to buy American watches to sell here. His purchases included a Waltham movement \$3.90 here, foreign list price, \$9.98, which he bought abroad for \$8.00. He asserted the Waltham company now seeks to prevent the reshipment to America of their watches by adding dials to these watches after the latter get abroad, thus making them dutiable.

He said the Waltham company had tried to force him to sell only at that price and that he could not get their watches to handle now.

"If a dealer undersells their price he cannot buy any more," suggested Representative Palmer, of Pennsylvania. "Precisely," he replied.

Four Splendid Pictures Two great Lubins, an Essanay with G. M. Anderson in the title role and a fourth just as good as the Grand Theatre today. (Advertisement.)

HEARD HIS EXPLANATION

After the reading of the telegram Dr. Harris offered the resolution which is given at the opening of this article. It was seconded by Dr. Burbank. Before it was put to a vote Dr. Nesbitt said that perhaps he could save the secretary some trouble by stating this information to the magazine writer referred to was Mr. Frank Stockbridge, of New York, who was the only magazine writer he knew to have been here. He said that he thought a telegram to Mr. Stockbridge would confirm what had been said by Mr. Corey. The resolution was then adopted.

Dr. Akerman asked if it was meant that the secretary should inquire of the author where he got his information or go further back even than that and find out who gave the author's informant the information?

Dr. Nesbitt suggested that the matter be gone into just as far as possible, as he would like all the facts in two matter to come out.

At the request of Dr. R. Harlee Bellamy a further statement was made by Dr. Nesbitt as to his connection with Stockbridge. Dr. Nesbitt said that Stockbridge was here for several days some weeks ago for the purpose of gathering data for a magazine article, which has not yet been published, but will be within the next few months. He said that he gave the visitor all the information possible, telling him the "whole truth of the situation here," to use Dr. Nesbitt's words, and he let him have his scrap book containing all newspaper references to the local work. Stockbridge saw a number of other persons while here, so he told Dr. Nesbitt, and after a stay of a few days returned to New York carrying with him the scrap book. Asked by Dr. Nesbitt if he made any reference to the magazine writer of the Confederate veterans, Dr. Nesbitt said that he did not.

Continuing, Dr. Nesbitt said that the story published in The Globe and Commercial Advertiser evidently originated from a conversation he had in the office of Stockbridge and Reading at which Corey was present. There was a newspaper man present by the name of Everett, of the Borough of Queens, and also another person, whose name Dr. Nesbitt called, but was not caught by the reporter. Dr. Nesbitt said that he had just spent some time at the Borough of Queens and was discussing conditions there. Everett, who lives there, made some rather unkind remarks of conditions of Queensborough and monopolized the conversation to a large extent. When they had finished with the subject, Corey remarked that it was a good story for him. Dr. Nesbitt said that he told him that he had no story so far as he was concerned; that in the first place his opinion was of no value, and in the second that he would appear to be abusing the hospitality of the Commission of Queensborough should the remarks made in the discussion be published. He said that he made no reference whatever to Wilmington.

After the city editor of The Globe and Commercial Advertiser sent a reporter to Dr. Nesbitt's home to be asking for the name of the Borough of Queens, Dr. Nesbitt said he told the young man that he had nothing for him in the way of an interview, but talked with him a while listening to the reporter's remarks relative to some line of investigation he was carrying on in the metropolis. Dr. Nesbitt explained that he did not take The Globe, which is practically a fiction, and the remainder he did not know of the article until he returned to Wilmington, when a good friend of his in the office of the city clerk and treasurer, informed him about it.

The article, said Dr. Nesbitt, contained many inaccuracies, and he asserted that no member of the Medical Society presented the article any more than he on account of the false light in which it put Wilmington. This ended the matter under consideration for the evening.

Dr. Joseph Akerman, who was superintendent of health just before Dr. Nesbitt came in and who has served several times as superintendent of the James Walker Memorial Hospital, asked permission to take this opportunity to correct what he considered one or two errors in Dr. Nesbitt's annual report, issued a short time ago. First, he took up the matter of control of smallpox by quarantine. He said that as a matter of fact he had never had smallpox epidemic here through vaccination and when he went out of office he arranged over to the new superintendent only one case of smallpox, and this one was in a shanty car on the railroad. Second, he said that he noticed in the printed report of Dr. Nesbitt that he stated that no permits for admission to the James Walker Memorial Hospital were required until March 1st, 1913. He took issue on this both as a former superintendent of the hospital and as a former superintendent of health. He said that he wanted to make a correction as he thought the statements reflected upon the superintendent of health and the superintendent of the hospital. Permits, he said, were required.

Dr. Nesbitt, who said that he had found that quarantine in case of smallpox was a very important matter. The State has abolished quarantine and the city has re-established it for Wilmington. Dr. Nesbitt said that his department had not been able to expand smallpox without quarantine. He remarked that there was a good deal of room for divergence of opinion on the matter of control of smallpox. He said that in his report he was in error in saying that the law relative to quarantine went into effect January 1st, as he had since learned that it was effective from March 1st. As to the permits for the James Walker Memorial Hospital, Dr. Nesbitt said that he had reason to believe that no permits were required from the fact that no request was made at his office for them and that he had a great deal of difficulty in getting physicians to apply for them, showing conclusively to his mind that they had not been in a habit of getting them.

President Murphy called upon Dr. W. C. Galloway for a few remarks. Dr. Galloway said that he did not think it of any use to say anything else, that he had come expecting to see some fun, being fond of it sometimes, but as he had been disappointed and everything had been settled he would move that the meeting adjourn. The motion prevailed.



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