

REJOICING OVER FIRE.

Destruction of Row of Old Business Houses at Hendersonville Removes Eyesores.

Condemnation of the Observer. Hendersonville, Feb. 16.—The recent fire, in which were consumed almost all the buildings on one square on Main street, not far from the court house, is a matter of rejoicing to the people of Hendersonville.

In one of the stores, burned last Tuesday night, was recently a trunk containing a sum of money taken from the Wheeler Hotel to the Southern depot. This trunk belonged to one of the guests of the Wheeler and contained many beautiful jewels and handsome watches.

Mr. Cloud Brown has recently brought a car-load of horses from Tennessee. These were sold at auction. Another carload will arrive and the sale will be on the seventh of March.

Mr. Joseph Notomus has returned from Cincinnati, where she went to accompany the dead body of her husband. While in that city she married a resident of Cincinnati.

AT THE ACADEMY TO-DAY.

Rev. John E. White the Speaker—He is an Eloquent Speaker. The meeting for men only to be held this afternoon in the Academy of Music, at 5 o'clock, will undoubtedly be one of the greatest of the series that is being promoted by the Young Men's Christian Association.

Dr. White announces the subject of his address to be "The Everlasting Reality of Religion."

No man in Charlotte should miss this opportunity of hearing one of the most eloquent men of the South in an address especially for men.

The meeting will begin promptly at the appointed hour and the doors of the Academy of Music will be thrown open to the public at 4:30 o'clock.

A cordial invitation is extended to all men to attend whether members of the Young Men's Christian Association or not.

TRADE STREET BARRICADED.

A Freight Train Jams Into Some Empty Cars and Shoves a Couple Across the Macadam.

West Trade street was completely barricaded for the space of an hour last night by a freight and a coal car that were pushed off a spur track, 20 feet below the crossing.

Street cars, vehicles and pedestrians were held up while the yard crew removed the barricade. The flanges of the wheels cut a deep rut in the macadam in the macadam from the time the cars left the rails, and the task of getting them back was easy.

\$20,000 Claims Pending Against the City.

Claims aggregating approximately \$20,000 are pending against the Water Commission for machinery shipped the new water works plant. The commission has steadfastly refused to pay them and the matter has been standing in statu quo for the past several months.

Cars Derailed at Franklin Junction. Five cars of a freight train were derailed at Franklin Junction, Va., on the Washington division of the Southern Railway yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock, blocking the track and making it necessary to make up the south-bound trains south of the scene of the accident.

Engines Hauled Rather Than Shipped. Rather than ship three engines by rail from High Shoals to Charlotte for repairs, a prominent manufacturer of this city had the machines hauled by wagon through the country.

Mass Meeting of Dilworth Citizens. The mass meeting of Dilworth citizens will be held in the hall over the Dilworth Drug Store Tuesday night.

OH Refinery Again at Work. The oil refinery at the plant of the Southern Cotton Oil Company, south of the city, which was burned several weeks ago, has been repaired and is now again in the working order.

A Washington Birthday Party. A George Washington birthday party will be given to the children in the Carnegie Library Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

LIVING FIGURES IN THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE METROPOLITAN LIFE.

The yearly compilation of statistics published by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company is never dry reading. A summary of that company's business for the year 1905, just issued, tabulates astounding figures in the concise manner approved by accountants and following the custom of former years, supplements them with a clear and lucid analysis for the benefit of people who are not accountants.

Few persons are sufficiently familiar with great financial operations to grasp immediately the full significance of a balance sheet, in which totals and grand totals are expressed in hundreds of millions, but the purpose of a life insurance statement is doubtless to inform and enlighten its multitude of policyholders, and this purpose the Metropolitan management accomplishes with signal success.

After placing before us a comprehensive statement of the company's general condition and presenting a series of comparative items, the Metropolitan reminds us again that the number of its policyholders (now in excess of more than eight and a half million) equals the combined population of our eight largest cities.

Men now living remember when the whole United States could hardly have supplied so vast a number of insured persons. Even at this day there are twenty-four States and Territories whose combined population does not equal the number of people carrying insurance in this one great company.

We are informed that nineteen thousand persons were in the company's service at the end of 1905. If one adult breadwinner represents five individuals in the total population, we must conclude that nearly a hundred thousand persons draw subsistence from this institution—not in insurance benefits, but in direct payment for service to the company.

This army of nineteen thousand employees evidently includes no drones. During the year just closed it handled a daily average of one and a half million dollars in new business alone. The company issued on the average nearly seven thousand new policies every month.

A single item which illustrates graphically the real meaning and purpose of all this tremendous business is that relating to insurance claims paid during the year. These amounted to more than \$15,000,000. This means that some one received from the Metropolitan Life in benefits one hundred and six dollars every minute of every business year or eight hours throughout the year.

Again, the uncertainty of life and health, and the universal need of life insurance are most impressively emphasized.

F. D. A. U Buy Lot I'll Build U House. (On Boulevard Near Oak Street) Dead E Z for some homeless couple. Price lot \$850.00 (worth \$1,000.00).

Dilworth Floral Gardens. For choice Cut Flowers, for Wedding Flowers, for Floral Designs—everything or anything in Cut Flowers.

Demonstrators. For one week, beginning Monday morning, the public will have the benefit of seeing demonstrations of the wonderful hair preserver, scalp cleanser and dandruff remover.

Local Cotton Figures.

The receipts at the city cotton platform during the last week have been comparatively small, although in excess of the receipts for the corresponding week of last year.

The receipts at the platform yesterday were 55 bales, against 76 for the same day last year. The price yesterday was 11 cents a pound; the price a year ago was 8 cents, advancing half a cent a pound.

Boys' Meeting To-Day. Mr. J. A. McRae will address the Boys' Sunday Club this morning at 10 o'clock, and the subject of his address will be "Without a Compass."

Special Notices

YOU WILL FIND THE CALIFORNIA Navel Oranges that we have just received extra fine. Let us send you a dozen.

IF YOU ARE SUFFERING WITH the headache to-day, inhale Woodall's Peppermint Cure.

FOR RENT 15 N. BREVARD, 3 rooms, \$2.50; 10 S. Myers, 6 rooms, \$5.00; 46 N. Church, 6 rooms, \$3.50.

GET THE EXTRACT THAT CAN BE relied upon—Blue Ribbon Lemon and Vanilla. Absolutely pure. Goes twice as far and gives desserts the "Blue Ribbon Flavor."

TO LET 90 E FIFTH, \$12.50; 912 E. Trade, \$20; suburban cottage, lots of ground, stable, porch, 14 models, etc.

BUISST & FERRY'S GARDEN SEED. Everything you want, at the lowest prices. 114 NORTH DRUG STORE.

OUR WHITE WYANDOTTE WON 18 out of 23 ribbons, all firsts, at Charlotte show. Eggs for sale. Write for booklet.

WOOD AND COAL—YOU CAN ORDER of us any of the above articles and get just what you want.

WE BUILD MACHINERY TO ORDER, overhaul and repair machinery, cut gears, make patterns, 14 models, etc.

SPEND A NICE QUIET TIME AT THE Gem where there is absolute comfort and anything you want set prepared to your taste.

"BUY A HOME IN THE LAND OF the sky." Magnificent home newly erected with out buildings to match.

Fresh car load Melrose FLOUR. We sell to anybody. THE STAR MILLS. Phone 297.

Our Ten Modern Green Houses. Produce Cut Flowers as near perfection as possible.

J. Van Lindley Nursery Co. FOMONA, N. C. Send telegrams to Greensboro.

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R. H. JORDAN & CO. DRUGGISTS. WE NEVER CLOSE.

Scholtz's Green Houses. Fresh Carnations, Cut Flowers, Pot Plants, Floral Designs a specialty. Prompt attention given to in and out-of-town orders.

DEPOSITING BY MAIL. Send your deposits by bank draft or check, by postal or express order, or registered mail.

THE CHARLOTTE REALTY COMPANY OFFERS THE BEST ON THE MARKET IN Homes—Investments—Farms.

NOTICE! The Mechanics' Perpetual Building and Loan Association sends kind greetings to the public with the information that the books are now open for the subscription of shares to the 47th Series.

Do It Now. To subscribe now and get the number of your application assigned. This Association claims the distinctive ability of being able in from 20 to 60 days from the time the Committee on Loans makes its report to meet the Loans; no three, four or six months waiting for us.

The Sweeter Music. The big bass horn makes the louder notes, but the little cornet sings more sweetly.

E. L. KEESLER, Treasurer, PHONE 344. JOHN R. PHARR, President.

The Charlotte Building & Loan Association OPENED ITS 33 SERIES. Applications for loans now being filed. Join the crowd, start an account with the Association of the People and For the People.

51 1-2 ACRE FARM FOR SALE. Situated on Beattie's Ford Macadam road, three miles from city; about fifteen acres in timber; forty young fruit trees; 3-room dwelling and a barn.

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A Bargain for a Quick Purchaser. Here is a Fine Bargain for a Quick Purchaser: Very attractive 9-room dwelling on Elizabeth Heights, on car line.

When In Doubt. About where to place your banking business, settle the question by having a conference with one of the officers of this bank, who will cheerfully give you all the information you require in order to decide upon a bank.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK ORGANIZED 1865. Capital and Surplus, \$500,000.00. DIRECTORS: P. M. BROWN, GEO. W. BRYAN, J. C. BURROUGHS, FRANK GILREATH, J. S. MYERS, F. H. MCDOWELL, H. W. McADAY, W. B. RODMAN, T. W. WADE, CHAS. A. WILLIAMS.

THE National Bank CHARLOTTE, N. C. CAPITAL ASSETS \$200,000.00 \$1,500,000.00. We invite you to open an account with us, promising every courtesy and accommodation consistent with sound banking.

THE CHARLOTTE NATIONAL BANK CHARLOTTE N. C. It is our constant aim to be courteous and accommodating to all classes and make this a bank where those of moderate means shall have the same treatment as those more favorably situated.

Charlotte Trust Company Capital \$100,000.00. This Bank is fully equipped to care for the accounts of banks, individuals, firms and corporations.

ASSETS OVER One Million Dollars. A Progressive Bank For Progressive Customers. BUSINESS SOLICITED. Southern States Trust Co. CAPITAL \$200,000. TRUST BUILDING, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

More Investment Securities. 16 Norwood 101. 10 to 25 Sanford. Bid wanted. 12 Gibson 97. 18 Monarch pref. 94. 10 Henricks 200. 20 Adams 121. 10 Hamer. Bid wanted. 10 to 49 Arcadia 91. 20 Arcade 100. 100 Paeolet 177. 10 Gaffney 91. 20 Elms 7 per cent. pref. 107. 12 White Furniture Co. Bid wanted. 20 to 30 Am. Warehouse. Bid wanted. 14 Barnhart Mfg. Co. 115.