

MEMBER OPPOSED TO RATE
CHANGES IN PASSENGER RATES.
 One of nearly a dozen leading farmers of Mecklenburg interviewed on reduced passenger rates in North Carolina. Only one farmer, James H. Reid, of the county, who has been interviewed by an Observer man yesterday, only one expressed himself in favor of the reduced passenger rates as passed by the last Legislature. The men were not picked, except as they would represent the farming class in Mecklenburg county, and, therefore, their opinion comes unbiased and without fear of being attacked for being partisans and without the hope of future favor. Their statements are significant and are reproduced for the benefit of the people of North Carolina, who have heard possibly more views from other citizens than from the farmers.

"I think the old tax rate was not excessive," declared Mr. H. K. Reid, of Sharon, one of the oldest farmers in the county and one who is conversant with the State legislation of the past. "I think the reduction in passenger rates and the attitude which has been taken against the railroads throughout the country is responsible in a large degree for the present financial stringency. The farmers don't care anything about reduced passenger rates. They want freight rates adjusted—a matter which vitally affects their interests. They had much rather pay the old rate for the little traveling they do, if it could be possible to secure better freight regulations. This affects every class of industry and the farmer as much as others in many respects."

Mr. S. D. Faulkner, of Sarda, said: "I have never heard a single objection to the old passenger rates on the part of the farmers. They travel so little that they are not interested in this agitation. This is one of the first things that began to hurt in this country and the Legislatures acted without considering how far-reaching in effect their action was. The receipts and net earnings of the railroads have been cut off without a cause and the present money situation was precipitated by this action against the railroads. In my judgment, it is the freight rate that the farmer wants adjusted. He doesn't care anything about passenger rate reduction."

"The old rate may have been excessive," said Mr. C. B. Cross, of Crab Orchard, "but the farmers don't care anything about that. If some adjustment of the freight conditions could have been made, they would have been much more vitally interested and benefited. I am not well enough informed to speak about this matter in a representative capacity, but I have thought for a good while that a medium between the old rate and the new might have been satisfactory both to the people and to the railroads. It is the freight rate that hurts the farmers, and that is the only thing in connection with the agitation in which they are interested."

Mr. W. B. Newell, of Newells, declared that in his opinion the passenger rate agitation in the country had done a great deal toward bringing about the present financial condition. He declared that the farmers he had talked to about this matter were not interested in the reduction as much as they were in some remedying of the freight rates.

"My opinion is that if this matter was put to a popular vote of the agricultural class of North Carolina, every three out of five voters would cast their opinion against the reduction in the passenger rates," said Mr. L. H. Robinson, of Providence, who takes much interest in all State legislation, and who is a very careful observer of conditions. "I have struck only one man in Providence township who favors the present rate, and I believe that at least 90 per cent. of the people of the county would vote to restore the old rate. I look at it this way: Wages for farm labor has increased within the last ten years as much as 40 per cent, and the same increase must apply to the operation of the railroads. They have to employ better and more competent men, and, therefore, pay more in wages. They have got to make more money than they used to just like other folks."

Mr. B. T. Price was the only man who favored the reduction, but admitted in the course of his conversation with The Observer representative that he realized the fact that the reduced passenger rate was not nearly so vital to the farming interests of the State as was some adjustment of freight conditions.

"I think the Legislature made a mistake when it gave so much time and attention to this matter and failed to do anything at all for the freight rate. But personally, I am in favor of the reduced passenger rate," said he.

"My opinion is that this was the biggest fool legislation I ever heard of," remarked Mr. J. C. Reid, one of the best farmers of the county, and one of the best educated men in the State. "It has done more harm than any legislation I remember. I don't mind paying one cent a mile more for riding on the train. It is insignificant. But I do mind paying an exorbitant freight rate on everything I buy. I ride on the train two or three times a year, and the old rate would not cost me much. But when it comes to paying a high price for everything day after day, caused by freight discrimination, that hurts. This was the thing of vital importance to the farmers and the Legislature did nothing toward their relief in this regard. When I do not pretend to venture an expert opinion on the situation, I am inclined to believe that such an agitation throughout this country is directly responsible for the present financial stringency which is making itself felt."

Quize Samuel Herron, one of the leading citizens of Berryhill, said: "The farmers care nothing about the reduced passenger rates. They are more interested in regular and safe trains. So long as we get good prices for our products all is well in the country. Give us a rest on this sort of agitation."

"In all of my rambling and associations with farmers never have I heard one mention the rate bill," said Mr. W. F. Baker, of Sharon, "who want good prices for what we make and to be let alone. That's all."

The gentlemen quoted are among the prominent farmers in the county. They were met by chance on the streets. There is no county in the State that can show more influential farmers than Mecklenburg. It has been said that this and that again,

that there was no desire among the people of the rural districts for any radical changes in passenger rates. The farmer of this county wants to see a fair square deal; he is tired of agitation.

GREATER CHARLOTTE CLUB.
 An Organization That Is Accomplishing Some Good For the City—Every One Should Be Interested in Its Growth and Welfare and Contribute to Its Support.

"Your inquiry with regard to the prospects for an increase of members to the Greater Charlotte Club is worthy of consideration; suppose we take the matter up in a few of its phases," said Secretary W. T. Corwith to an Observer man yesterday. "To begin with, it is an easy matter for us to concede without argument the fact that every professional and business man of Charlotte is without doubt to a more or less degree naturally interested in the business welfare of our city, its growth and future prospects.

"The history of the development of all live modern cities discloses the fact that each one is provided with a live business men's organization, the sole object of which is to take an active interest in all considerations bearing directly upon the business affairs of the community.

"The facts supporting an argument in favor of an institution of this character are manifold, and careful thought will easily reveal to the mind of every citizen that he has an individual duty toward his city which should prompt him to contribute to the support of a well-organized and carefully conducted body working along the lines of progression.

"The Greater Charlotte Club stands for that which includes the advancement and betterment of the general business conditions of Charlotte. Its life history covers a period of less than two years, and those who have been active in the work can tell that it has been a matter of considerable difficulty to overcome the many obstacles which have from time to time arisen and were calculated to check the growth and progress of the young organization. It has succeeded only by being alive to the work and by throwing its energies into the right avenues, and has kept entirely free from all factional and political entanglements.

"The progress has been steady and strong, until, to-day, there is existing here an organization that the people of Charlotte may well be proud of. Had it accomplished nothing more than the founding of the Auditorium, for which there has long been such a crying need, it should, in this undertaking alone, find sufficient to recommend it to every man in Charlotte, and should influence him to enter into and give his support to the good work started.

"It is a matter which should make the hearts of the people of Greater Charlotte swell with pride to feel and know that this organization, comprised almost entirely of young men, and having an income of but \$1,600 per year, has done so much for the public good, directing its entire energies to the encouraging of new enterprises, awakening public spirit and stimulating civic pride.

"When the average thinking business man, who has the interests of our progressive city at heart, considers all that the Greater Charlotte Club has accomplished, there is every reason to have confidence that it will require but an invitation to enlist them in active support of the work, and thereby permit the club, now hampered by lack of funds to reach out and enter into enterprises vastly superior and of greater importance than anything as yet attempted, and the doing of which will place the club on the same footing with similar organizations in some of our sister cities.

"What the club most needs now is the support of the entire business aggregation; it needs their thought and energy, a small amount of money from each paid regularly each quarter to place it on a firm footing and give full scope to its usefulness.

"It is not enough that we care for those matters which happen to come to us without any effort through natural channels, but we must look ahead and arrange for the future, and, in this way, aid the growth and direct it into avenues most advantageous to the welfare of Charlotte. In other words, go after what we want rather than take what happens to be handed to us. To be prepared to do this we must have the necessary financial support in the way of larger membership and the consequent permanent income.

"The plan is a simple one and the expense is so divided that it rests heavily on none. Money put into this work is invested every business and professional man in Charlotte to give careful consideration to this important subject, which is of real interest to all, coupled with an urgent request to each one to join the Greater Charlotte Club, and thereby further the laudable effort it is engaged in, will, we are pleased to believe, elicit a generous response and give us at least double our present membership."

AN ELOQUENT TESTIMONIAL
 The following letter is more eloquent in praise of the Artistic Stieff Pianos than any testimonial Mr. Clewell or ourselves could write.

Rev. Mr. Clewell is the head of Salem Academy and College, Winston-Salem, N. C., and shows the high esteem and confidence in which the firm of Chas. M. Stieff is held by one of the best known educators in the South.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sept. 20, 1906.

My Dear Mr. Wilmoth:

Regarding the letter for the Stieff Pianos, please write such a letter as will suit your purpose and sign my name to the letter. Or, if you prefer to do so, write the letter and send to me and I will sign it and return to you. I know that I can endorse anything you claim for your pianos. We have always been well pleased with them.

Very truly yours,
 J. H. CLEWELL,
 Principal.

Chas. M. Stieff
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 C. H. WILMOTH, Mgr.

PROPOSITIONS OF SITES
 For the location of the STONE-WALL JACKSON MANUAL TRAINING AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL for North Carolina will be received up to November 15th, 1907, when the committee will meet to take final action. The donation of not less than 200 acres of good land, with good water and land adapted to the culture of cotton, grain and vegetables is solicited. The gift of land or cash or both will receive consideration by the committee.

The committee will meet in the parlor of the Benbow House, Greensboro, N. C., at 8 p. m. November 15th, 1907. Propositions of donations of sites or cash or both may be made at any time prior to the above date to any member of the committee, which is composed as follows: J. P. Cook, chairman, Concord; Dr. H. A. Roster, secretary, Raleigh; Caesar Cone, Greensboro; J. H. Tucker, Asheville, and Mrs. A. L. Coble, Statesville.

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SO SOON FORGOT
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And so it is with many things in life. We forget our friends; we forget those things which help us. Many a man who last winter swore that he owed his life to GOWAN'S PNEUMONIA CURE has this year forgotten to have a bottle in the house. He knows what it will do, but he forgets. We should always remember our friends and the man or woman who falls to keep always in the house a bottle of Gowan's will live to regret it, provided they live through the next attack of Pneumonia, Croup, Colds, Appendicitis, any Inflammation. External. All druggists. 50c. and \$1 a bottle.

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