

The meeting between the boards of aldermen and public service will likely be reconvened at the next meeting of the city fathers, the service board having filed a protest against the appointment of a city purchasing agent, claiming that this prevents the city from making its purchases and asserting that it will not stand for such an encroachment. The board has not been on the friendly side of terms for several weeks on account of the disposition made by the aldermen of the First street matter, after the service board had made certain recommendations.

The protest, which has been filed with Mayor Franklin and the board of aldermen, is as follows: To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Gentlemen:

It has been published that your board proposes to appoint a purchasing agent for the City of Charlotte in behalf of the board of public service. We wish to say that we hope no such action is contemplated, as this board will not acquiesce in the appointment.

The board of public service has at all times endeavored to meet the financial condition of the city by accepting its appropriations in resolutions, instead of asking that it be paid as provided by the charter—in cash. We, therefore, wish to say that this objection is predicated not upon a feeling of jealousy of our authority, but because we think such a course would be violative of the provision of the charter, and would be one step towards destroying the very purpose for which this board was created, namely, to take it out of politics.

This board had administered its affairs economically and has cheerfully invited the board of aldermen to inspect and approve all purchases.

The greatest expense which this board is under now is due to purchases made and ordered by you through your agents before this board was organized, and for which expense the members of this board are not responsible. While we are willing to do all in our power to reduce expenses, it is but our duty to the city that the affairs of this board be directed by its members. You will bear in mind that we have cut down expenses and have almost been forced to quit work, at the instance of the finance committee of your board. Under these circumstances we feel that you ought not to expect any further concessions from us.

Respectfully submitted,
EDWARD L. SARGENT,
Chairman, street committee, board of public service.

W. HAWKINS,
Chairman, finance committee, board of public service.

A MATTER SET STRAIGHT.

The removal of the telephone at the Concord station and the explanation of it.

The Observer some days ago had a complaint from Concord about the removal of the telephone from the local station, and accompanied it with a critical editorial paragraph. There is a satisfactory explanation, and the paper has pleasure in giving publicity to it.

The circumstances regarding the removal of this phone were simply this: It was found that the phone in its location at that time interfered greatly with the business at the station telegraph office between the operators and the trainmen. The local telephone people were requested to remove the phone to another location in the office; there was never any request for the removal of the phone entirely, and later, when the lineman of the telephone company went to the station to make a change, and after taking the phone down he found he was without the necessary equipment to re-establish it. I am sorry to say that the local people at Concord did not endeavor to satisfy themselves as to the permanent removal of the phone before they complained of us; if they had they would have been very promptly informed that the interruption was purely temporary, owing to the change in the location at the office. Concord is a very large and important point on the Southern Railway, and we are at all times most anxious and desirous of extending every accommodation to our patrons not only there but elsewhere.

The Observer is very sure that this explanation, coming as it does from an authoritative source, will prove satisfactory to its Concord friends.

Col. W. E. Holt Pays Over \$11,788.27 In Back Taxes—Oldest Payment in Back Taxes—Oldest Payment in Back Taxes Called Upon—The Fight of a "Chargeback" Upon Delinquent Taxpayers.

Squire F. C. Severa, Mr. Alfred W. Brown and Capt. Thomas Shaw, tax assessors, are hot on the trail of delinquent taxpayers. For the past several months they have been on the warpath and the result is that they have already collected something in the neighborhood of \$25,000 in back taxes. This includes State, city and county taxes which, in some cases, aggregate well up into five figures.

Col. William E. Holt's assessment is the largest to date, amounting to \$11,788.27, which was paid in full yesterday. This includes the State apportionment, \$5,581.25; and the city and county apportionment, \$6,207.02, making the total of \$11,788.27. This is the largest single payment ever made by an individual in Charlotte and is the result of a compromise agreement entered into Tuesday between Colonel Holt and the county commissioners.

The assessors are going about the matter in a systematic manner and are sparing none. A well-known minister of the city, who returned his solvent credits, etc., at \$8,000, was sent for and his total raised to \$12,000, it being shown that he had that amount to his credit which was taxable. It was also learned that the splendid Trust Building had not been listed, as well as others little less imposing. A number of the banks were called upon for balances, among the number being the First National, the Charlotte National and others. Among the well-known citizens contributing for back taxes were Col. H. C. Eccles, \$473.84; Mr. O. P. Heath, \$427.90, and others. The Safford Hotel Company was called upon for \$466.66, and there is more yet to come.

The assessors themselves are not suffering as the result of their efforts. The law gives them 10 per cent. of all back taxes collected and 25 cents on the poll. Estimating on the \$25,000 already garnered, this will give the three assessors \$2,500, or about \$830 each. They receive a per diem also which augments the whole. By filling the coffers of the city, they help themselves, and those only suffer who try to evade the law.

With a View to Protecting Animals From Cruelty.

The movement which is being launched to secure a more wholesome condition of affairs in the city with reference to the treatment of animals is one which will command the co-operation and interest of the best people in the city. Laws have already been enacted which cover the situation more or less thoroughly, yet many people who have observed closely with an eye to such things believe that cruelty which should not be tolerated is being practiced in more ways than one. Perhaps some of these things are not easily within reach of the present laws, and it is to ascertain this as well as to devise any plan which may be defective in bringing about a better state of affairs that the committee was appointed by Mayor Franklin Monday night to investigate.

The First Snow of the Season.

On seeing a headline indicating that Charlotte had been visited by a snow storm, certain cynical persons gifted with an inborn and innate ability to judge the value of a news item, will scornfully say, "Everybody knows that it is something we don't know." Notwithstanding this dictum, the fact remains that the one single thing most distinguished yesterday from all others of the year is that for hours and hours Charlotte people hovered under umbrellas, and huddled up in overcoats and dogged hither and thither to protect themselves from the chilly flakes. No need there was to post a bulletin announcing that "The snow, the snow, the beautiful snow" was falling from earth to heaven below, as one young fellow of literary training was wont to do. But nevertheless the fact is worthy of record.

Real Estate is Not in Danger.

"I don't believe there is any danger that Charlotte dirt will depreciate in value," said Mr. J. E. Murphy, yesterday, speaking of the influence of the money situation on local real estate. "I do not hesitate to say that I am not the least afraid of dirt sinking to any great extent. Of course, there may be a slight decrease in some instances, but the normal condition of the market will not materially suffer." The real estate market is apparently growing more active now after a slight standstill due to the money stringency.

Cotton is Advancing.

Cotton is bringing 11.25 on the local market, which is a considerably higher price than prevailed even a week ago. The general opinion among cotton buyers is that sales will be heavier than the price prevails. Farmers will be satisfied if they can get a price between 11 and 12 cents for the staple, although they would like to get as much as possible. The conditions seem to indicate that the market will continue to show itself strong.

The Holiday Shop Windows.

The holiday decorations are beginning to appear in the various shop windows and exceedingly attractive many of them are. The closest observers are the school children, and these congregate here and there before the windows in groups and admiring the things in their hearts' content, unstinting approval. The designs are all original and expressive of some phase of the holiday season.

All There is to It.

"Seems like there are a lot of city officers resigning for one reason or another," said a Charlotte man yesterday. "Aren't there more than there used to be?"

"The explanation lies in numbers," said his friend. "Think of the more than two score men connected with the various administrative boards and the reason will become patent. Resignations are natural under such circumstances, like deaths in a large army under normal circumstances and no fighting."

Charlotte's Postoffice.

Charlotte people have not yet ceased to hope that relief will be granted by the present Congress from the crowded conditions which have hampered the work of the Charlotte postoffice. The best of work and the most satisfactory of service is nothing short of impossible under the conditions which obtain. The employees are faithful and efficient and do the best they can, but they are fighting against odds which should not be placed in opposition to them.

HERE'S GOOD ADVICE.

O. K. Woelevor, one of the best-known merchants of La Hayville, N. Y., says: "If you are ever troubled with piles, apply Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It cured me in three or four days." It is guaranteed for sore wounds, burns or abrasions. 25c at all drug stores.

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IN THE SUPREME COURT.

State's Highest Tribunal Affirms Several Cases Sent Up From Mecklenburg County.

The Supreme Court yesterday handed down decisions in three important cases sent up from Mecklenburg county, to-wit: Shaw vs. Highland Park Manufacturing Company, no error; Myers vs. City of Charlotte, no error, and Sprinkle vs. Holton, affirmed.

Mr. J. W. Saaw was injured at the Highland Park Mill while engaged in moving the bed plate of a cloth press. He sued the company for \$15,000, and finally secured a verdict for \$5,000. This verdict the highest court in the State has now affirmed, and the cash will go to be forthcoming. Mr. Shaw's attorneys were McKinley & Kirtpatrick and Barwell & Casler. Messrs. Tillet & Guthrie appeared for the Highland Park Company.

The Sprinkle-Holton case related to the title to certain sections of valuable real estate in the city and was of no particular interest to any except those directly concerned.

The Myers case related to the alleged damage which sections of Mr. J. S. Myers' property, south of the city, had sustained by reason of a sewer line which passed through it. He brought suit against the city and was given a verdict for \$5,000. The city appealed and thus lost in the Supreme Court.

POLICE COURT DOINGS.

J. W. Clay is bound to court for indulging in an affray with a deadily weapon. Deserter From the Navy is Cautered Here.

Before Recorder Smith yesterday morning Sarah Connelly was fined \$20 and costs for disorderly conduct, and J. Will Clay was bound to court in \$100 bond for an affray with a deadly weapon.

Sam Allison and Henry Henson were fined \$5 for the violation of a city ordinance. J. T. Pigg, for retelling, was bound over to Superior Court in \$100 bond. Another case against him on the same charge was dismissed, the evidence being insufficient to hold him. He was also fined \$5 and costs for drunkenness. Pigg is the Mint Hill man who was found in a back lot the other day with a quantity of liquor in his possession.

A prisoner in the toms yesterday was A. F. Calvin, a young white boy who enlisted in the navy about six months ago and deserted from Hampton Roads about September 1st. He was arrested here by Officers Youngblood and Farnsworth and is being held for safe-keeping.

The Time of Times For College Folks.

The examination period is fast bearing down upon the youth of the country and the State in the various institutions of learning from kindergarten to university. This is the calm before the storm, when every energy is expended in poring over rusty books and midnight oil is at a premium at the grocery stores, independent of John D.'s gifts to charity and education. In a few weeks, a fortnight in the case of most, the agony will be over and the college youth and maidens will again be parading the streets—telling how the football game was won or by what unlucky "accident" it was lost.

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