

"KEEP TO THE RIGHT" AGAIN.

Captain Franklin Differa Widely From Captain Robertson and Mr. Page in Interpretation of the Law About Keeping to the Right—The Customary Executive Session of Safety Board.

After all formal business had been disposed of at the regular meeting of the board of public safety last night an executive session, which is becoming a habitual feature of this commission's duties, was ordered and the newspaper men were those about whom the board has anything of uncommon public interest happened, it was during this secret affair.

Mayor Franklin did take a shot or two at those members of the board, particularly Capt. W. R. Robertson and George A. Page, who have been so ardent in their agitation to enforce the ordinance as to keeping to the right while driving along in an open street. Captain Franklin characterized such a law as nonsensical and absurd. "I have been violating the ordinance ever since it was enacted and I'll be frank enough to tell you that I am going to keep on violating it. It's literally absurd to try to force any such law upon the people of this town."

These remarks were by him submitted after Mr. Page had called the attention of the board to the fact that the ordinance was being disregarded along with the other law about looting on the square. Mayor Franklin said that he and the chief had been conferring and that the ordinance about looting would hereafter be mildly enforced. He didn't think it was practicable to pay much attention to the law about making drivers cut all sort of turning pranks on the square, so to keep to the right. He said the sensible interpretation of that ordinance was in making teams pass each other properly when they met and that no other time was the law meant to be enforced.

Mayor Franklin further said that it looked mighty foolish to him to make teams go at a walk across the square when automobiles were allowed to cross at a gait of 25 miles an hour.

Captain Robertson disagreed with the mayor in his interpretation of the law relative to keeping to the right and declared that in his estimation it meant for drivers to keep on the right while driving along on a road to have uniformity in moving along the thoroughfares, all vehicles going in the same direction being forced to take the same side of the street. Mr. Page thought the same thing. Captain Robertson said this was the way it worked on Broadway, but Mayor Franklin said he had driven in Washington and New York both and had never been requested to obey any such regulation.

The report of the fire department showed five alarms during the month with a total loss of \$130. In the recorder's court 171 cases were tried, \$204.26 was imposed in fines and \$288.27 in costs.

The chairman of the plumbing committee reported that the Y. C. A. wanted \$92 refunded which had been paid for plumbing inspection, but the board thought that this was an unreasonable request as this was not a charitable institution.

An opinion was read by a special committee from City Attorney John A. McRae in which he stated that the request from Mr. W. S. Charles, ex-freeman, for hospital costs, should not be granted. He thought that the city was neither morally nor legally liable for the care of Mr. Charles while in the city, as he had not received during his employment by the city.

The mayor brought a request to the board from Col. C. R. Sikes, asking that he be relieved from certain duties as a patrolman and be sent back to the Southern depot. Mayor Franklin was requested to take this matter up with the city attorney to the city, the railroad and Mr. Sikes.

HIS TALKING WAS NOT CHEAP.

Mr. R. A. Register Sued by Bell Telephone Company For Talking in Excess of Stipulated Time.

Mr. R. A. Register, a traveling man from Baltimore, has good cause to believe that talk is expensive in this city. Judgment for \$31.20 having been secured against him yesterday by the Southern Bell Telephone Company for a conversation he held Thursday afternoon with Baltimore and which lasted 42 minutes. Mr. Register protested against paying the bill when it was presented him, declaring that he engaged the telephone to talk but three minutes and contending that the girl should have notified him when his time was out.

Not so, thought the court, which in this instance was Squire S. H. Hilton. Mr. Register stated in evidence that he asked the price for a three minutes conversation with a friend in Baltimore. He was told that the Bell people would charge him \$2.50 for this privilege and he put the money in the slot and got the conversation. Not being halted when his time was up, he kept a-talking until he had used 42 minutes in point of time and \$31.20 in extent of cash.

The plaintiff company, which was represented by Mr. H. N. Pharr, contended that the telephone girl informed Mr. Register before he entered into the conversation that for every minute after the three he would be charged 75 cents.

The court held that the operator was under no obligation to inform Mr. Register and hence gave judgment in favor of the telephone company.

Mr. F. M. Shannonhouse appeared for Mr. Register.

ONCE WAS HENRY CLAY'S.

Mrs. W. F. Parks, of Augusta, Ga., Has Newspaper Printed On Silk Which Was Presented to Henry Clay—A Valuable Relic.

Mrs. W. F. Parks, of Augusta, Ga., who is spending some time in the city with her son, Mr. J. H. H. Parks, has a treasure in the shape of a newspaper of which she is justly very proud. The paper was printed in Mount Pleasant, Ohio, July 4th, 1844, and the first copy, which was struck off on silk, was presented to Henry Clay, then the nominee of the Whigs for President against James Knox Polk, the Democratic nominee. The paper was known as The Western Mercury and Mount Pleasant Intelligencer and was a staunch advocate of Clay for President. Theodore Frelinghuysen, of New York, Vice-President, and Mordecai Bartley, for Governor of the State of Ohio. Being the first copy, it was presented to the distinguished statesman with the compliments of the editor and it has passed down in direct line to Mrs. Parks. The copy is in splendid state of preservation and the type is as clear as if it had been printed yesterday. It is bordered and sewed with silk thread. The silk on which it was printed was the first piece woven in Ohio.

THEY TAKE THE KINKS OUT. "I have used Dr. King's New Life Pills for many years, with increasing satisfaction. They take the kinks out of stomach, bowels, and nerves, without loss of strength," says N. H. Brown, of Pittsfield, Va. Guaranteed satisfactory at all drug stores.

FLOOD DAMAGE VERY LIGHT.

Supervisor S. T. Stowe, of the County Roads, Declares that Mecklenburg Roadmen Very Easy From Recent Flood—McAlpine's Creek Bridge Repaired.

The repairs on that section of the double bridge over McAlpine's creek on the Providence road which was twisted out of place by the flood last week, have been finished and the bridge is now as strong or stronger than it was before. Mr. H. C. Little had charge of the work and those who have seen it say that he has made a splendid job of it. The span on the side next to Charlotte was the one twisted from its abutments. It was not lost, however, and the only thing that had to be done was to repair the foundations and set it back in place. The work did not cost more than \$200 or \$300.

Mr. S. T. Stowe, county engineer and supervisor of roads, who is engaged now in erecting a steel bridge over Mallard creek about three miles north of Derita, stated to an Observer man yesterday that McAlpine's creek bridge was the only one located on a macadam road in the county which was damaged by the recent flood. This, he said, was a most excellent showing when the strain and stress to which all were subjected is considered. In addition to this span, which was merely lifted from its abutments there were fourteen smaller bridges on private dirt roads over the county more or less damaged. The injury to most of these consisted of supports knocked out and foundations washed away. There were only four that were carried away in toto. These bridges were on the roads which act as feeders to the macadam highways and are used mostly by the rural mail delivery carriers. No vast sums will be required to repair them. That Mecklenburg escaped light is evidenced by the experience of Cabarrus county, which is said to have lost a many a fine steel bridge in the flood, and Robeson, Montgomery and Stanly counties, which are reported to have suffered even worse. The men engaged in the bridge work in Charlotte are said to have more work to do now than ever before for their work after the flood is of the emergency kind.

The bridge over Mallard creek will be one of the best of its kind in the county when finished. It will have concrete abutments and the bridge will be of steel. The approaches have been graded and everything leveled off so as to facilitate traffic.

FOR A NEW COUNTY JAIL.

County Commissioners Likely to Consider Proposition at Meeting Monday—Extended Jurisdiction For Recorder.

One of the matters likely to be discussed at the meeting Monday of the board of county commissioners will be the proposition of a new jail or jails to be present one. At the last two terms of court the grand jury recommended that a new and more commodious building be erected. In addition to this, there has been much talk along this line on the part of substantial and conservative citizens who believe that now is the time for action. Hence the likelihood of this matter being seriously considered at Monday's meeting.

Chairman W. M. Long expressed himself yesterday in favor of granting added jurisdiction to the recorder in order that so many petty larceny and whiskey cases may be disposed of in the city court instead of being sent up to Superior Court, thus forcing the county not only to support the prisoners in the meantime, but to bear the cost of the trial afterwards. He stated that if such power is granted the recorder—and the magistrates of the county, too, for that matter—that the present jail would be ample for all demands that might be made upon it. He cited the records of the court to show the burden which the limited jurisdiction of the recorder has imposed upon it. Mr. Long is of the opinion that a new jail, such as would have to be erected should the county decide to build one, would cost from \$50,000 to \$100,000. He is ready and willing, as is also the board, for that matter, to do whatever is right and proper and what is really wanted by the people. No statement, however, as to what will develop can be made until the board meets and discusses the matter. The proposition has never yet been considered and hence any declaration of purposes and plans would be out of place. As to the reports that the board had secured options for a site for a new jail accessible to the county court house, Mr. Long declared that there was nothing whatever to them, for the board has never taken any steps in this direction.

G. O. P. CONVENTION TO-DAY.

Republicans Will Equip Their King Arthur and Send Them Into the Lists To-day.

This day has been set apart for the convention of the Republicans of Mecklenburg county and from the movements of the leaders, one is led to believe that the gathering will be of exceptional interest. It is firmly declared that the Republicans will not try to make a clean sweep of county offices this fall, but are determined to wrest from the Democrats some of the slices of pie. Finding, with little trouble, too, that so much dissatisfaction exists in the county over the present public school arrangement, and chiefly the superintendent, the members of the P. O. P. are going to concentrate their forces in order to get representation on the board of education. They believe that many dissatisfied Democrats will join with them in an effort to elect candidates for places on this board.

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State Here For Its Share of Delinquent Taxes.

Mr. W. F. Moody, chief clerk in the office of the State Treasurer, Raleigh, is spending a day or two in the city for the purpose of collecting or arranging to collect the State's share of the amount which Messrs. Alfred Brown and H. C. Severs have secured in delinquent taxes. Mr. Moody is a Charlotte boy who is well and favorably known throughout the county. Messrs. Brown and Severs have secured approximately \$22,000 in back taxes and this amount, less their commission, was turned over to the county treasurer. The State has not been settled with for the share which Mr. Moody claims is due it and hence his visit.

Change in Water Rate of Large Consumers.

At a called meeting of the board of water commissioners held Thursday night it was agreed to extend the sliding scale on the amount of water used over the 3,500,000 gallon mark and hereafter the following rates will be effective: From 2,500,000 gallons to 4,000,000 gallons the charge will be 6 cents per 1,000 gallons. From 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 gallons, 5 cents per 1,000 gallons. From 6,000,000 to 7,500,000 gallons and over the rate will be 4 cents.

Did Not Forget the Watermelons.

Lee Ford, the old dinky who attends to the ferry boat at Wright's ferry, over the Catawba river, was forced to take a tree by the recent freshet. For something like 18 hours Uncle Lee rosted high and called for help but the canoes were all gone and there was no means of rescuing him. Finally his employers made a boat and went after him, reaching there just in time to save him from a watery grave. On the way to land, Uncle Lee said to his rescuer: "Boss, let's go by de patch an' git er load uv watermelons, ef we don't dey'll all wash away."

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