FIRE IN COLONIAL CLUB

CAUSES A DAMAGE OF $4,000.

Fire, of Only Speculative Origin, Ravishes Interior of Colonial Club at the Corner of Tryon and Fifth Streets at 7 O'clock Yesterday Morning—Gas Pipe Melted and Explosion Thought to Have Occurred, Sending the Flames With Lightning Rapidity Over the Building—Insurance Carried by the Club Was $4,700, Exclusive of Insurance on the Building Proper.

A smothered fire discovered at 6 o'clock yesterday morning in the very heart of the Colonial Club, lasted from its commencements a few moments afterward and became a stupendous foe to the firemen for nearly an hour, working a damage, while it remained at its worst, of about $4,000. This sum is thought to cover the total damage accruing from the actual waste of the flames and the floods of water which were poured upon them. The dancing room in the third story of the club is practically the only portion of the building which was not touched in some way by the enveloping flames.

DISCOVERED BY PORTERS.

The fire was found by two of the colored porters of the club who went to their duties about 6 o'clock. As soon as they opened the front door of the building a volume of smoke rushed out and they perceived at once that a dreadful fire was smouldering somewhere in the club's quarters. The firemen were aroused from their sleep when one of the negroes rushed across the street with the information and almost momentarily they were in lighting clothes. By this time smoke was rolling out of the open places of the building in billowing volumes and a density which was baffling. When the firemen reached the second floor they were confronted with the serious situation of discovering the flame from which all the smoke was arising. Mr. Osmond Barringer rushed through the enveloping billows and toward the rear of the club where he found the fire in a closet. He caught at once the odor of gas and with a pair of tweezers shut off rapidly-escaping fumes from a melted pipe of an inches dimensions.

WENT TO THIRD STORY.

Eating its way through the stairway under which it had originated, the fire burst in wide and furious sheets to other rooms on the second story and then shot upward to the third story where it continued its devastation. The air being surcharged with gas, the fire spread with incredible rapidity just as soon as it escaped from its seclusion under the stairsteps leading from the second to the third story. Unable to reach the seat of the trouble with the chemical appliances, the firemen relied upon their water resources to extinguish the flames. A considerable part of the damage was occasioned by the water which was poured into the building from every available source. After fighting for an half hour or so the firemen reduced the fury of the fire and held it under absolute charge thereafter.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

The fire started, as above stated, under the stairway leading from the second to the third stories and directly in the centre of the building. Various theories are held as to its cause. Some think it started from a rat-and-match combination. In the closet where it was first discovered is the gas meter and an inch-pipe was found to have been melted just as soon as the firemen reached the scene. The escaping gas invited the fire to do its worst. It is held by others that through some defect in the meter and gas appliances, a leakage was sprung through the night or early yesterday morning and that the escaping gas came in contact with the fire in a stove which sits nearby, occasioning an explosion. It is asserted by those who have made a careful study of the situation that an explosion did occur at some moment during the progress of the fire. No matter what the original cause it is beyond doubt that the leaking gas was responsible for the exceptional rapidity with which the flame spread from room to room and the extreme stubbornness which it assumed.

DAMAGE WHICH WAS WROUGHT.

The damage extends now at from top to bottom of the building. It will be necessary to repaint practically the entire interior and to replace a considerable part of it. It will also likely be necessary to replace the furniture in the dancing room completely, for it was drenched in smoke and water. A good deal of carpentering will be essential in that part of the building where the fire started. The stairway will be replaced, as will a large number of doors, windows, etc. Members of the club are positively assured that it will require $4,000 to put the quarters back into shape. The amount of insurance carried by the club was $4,700, while Mr. T. W. Hawkins, owner of the entire structure, carried about $10,000.

Crazy Negro Removed From Jail.

Henry Irving, the negro crazy who was brought to the Mecklenburg jail for safekeeping after he had attempted an assault upon a white woman in a remote section, was removed yesterday to the asylum at the request of Sheriff Walker. The negro became violent shortly after his arrival here and the authorities at Morganton instructed the sheriff of Mecklenburg to remove him. This was done quite recently.

Southern Fined in Two Cases.

Recorder Smith fined the Southern Railway $10 in each of two cases yesterday morning for not keeping the approaches to the North Graham street bridge in repair. The judgment was ordered to be suspended in the event that the approaches were repaired at once. Mr. D. Parks Hutchison was the chief complainant.

Vesper Service To-Morrow.

The vesper service of the Young Women's Christian Association will be held in the Sunday school room of the First Presbyterian church to-morrow afternoon at 5 o'clock. The speaker of the afternoon will be Rev. George H. Atkinson, of Monroe. There will be special music. It is hoped that there may be a large attendance.

Local Fraternity Meets.

The Phi Alpha Pi fraternity of the Boys' Club of the Young Men's Christian Association met last night and allowed two members to pass through the mysteries of the hot sands. The organization is for older boys and is of a literary nature. The Gideons will meet in the Boys' Club rooms this morning at 10 o'clock.

BRAVE FIRE LADDIES

often receive severe burns, putting out fires, then use Bucklen's Arnica Salve and forget them. It soon drives out pain. For Burns, Scalds, Wounds, Cuts and Bruises its earth's greatest healer. Quickly cures Skin Eruptions, Old Sores, Boils, Ulcers, Felons; best Pile cure made. Relief is instant. 25c. at W. L. Hand & Co.

LODGES INSTALL OFFICERS.

Rathbone, Charlotte, Mecklenburg and Dilworth Pythians Unite in Annual Meeting For Installation of Officers—A Highly Interesting and Pleasant Occasion—Mecklenburg Lodge Hosts.

With the Pythians of the city, last night became memorable by reason of the union of all the lodges of Charlotte in a meeting in Castle Hall for the annual installation of officers. Despite the unfitness of the night, several hundred attended the meeting and an occasion of enjoyment and genuine pleasure resulted. The Rathbone, Charlotte, Mecklenburg and Dilworth lodges came together for this event.

The installation of the officers is always attended by uncommon interest to all Pythians and the idea of a union meeting for this purpose last night met with general favor and brought together an unusually large number. After the ceremonies, which lasted for a few hours, the members directed themselves to the Gem Dining Rooms where a specially prepared supper awaited them.

The list of officers of the several lodges who were inaugurated last night follows:

Mecklenburg Lodge: Rev. Chas. E. Raynal, council commander; E. H. Isenhour, vice commander; Neal R. Graham, prelate; James F. Kelly, master at arms; James A. Cheshire, master of works; A. C. Hutchison, master of finance; Thomas W. Dixon, master of exchequer; F. R. Cates, keeper royal seal; W. C. Wilson, inner guard; L. A. Avant, outer guard.

Rathbone Lodge: W. G. Gaffney, council commander; G. P. Helms, vice commander; T. D. Pasley, prelate; M. M. Wallace, master of works; John F. Yorke, master of exchequer; T. P. Ross, master of finance; A. E. McCausland, keeper royal seal; W. G. Erwin, master of arms; J. D. Woodside, inner guard; J. G. Baird, outer guard.

Charlotte Lodge: Charles R. Crumley, council commander; W. D. Shoemaker, vice commander; H. T. Vernier, prelate; W. T. Rucker, master of works; James T. Porter, master of exchequer; Edward Campbell, master of finance; W. G. Lake, keeper royal seal; C. P. Edwards, master of arms; W. H. Cathey, inner guard; David Rosenbaum, outer guard.

Dilworth Lodge: T. Rowland, council commander; J. M. Hartis, vice commander; Henry Culp, prelate; A. M. Smith, master of works; C. E. Alexander, keeper royal seal; J. P. Kirkpatrick, master of finance; J. D. Campbell, master of exchequer; J. Hackett, master of arms; J. A. Broadnax, inner guard; W. W. Hanks, outer guard.

LOOKS LIKE ELECTRIC WAR.

Inducements of Southern Power Company to Add Patronage to Its Power Favor a Declaration of War With the 4C's, Its Competitors in the Local Field.

What is generally accepted as the first open declaration of war between the Southern Power Company and the Charlotte Consolidated Construction Company, competitors in the local electric light business, is the announcement of the first company of a reduction to all its consumers for the next four months of 25 per cent.

This liberal proposition, succeeds one of like generosity on the part of the same company made less than a week ago when it proposed to furnish free for the next six months electric power to consumers who at present hold no electrical connections, provided they paid for the cost of connections. These inducements are generally taken to mean that the Southern Power Company has made the long-expected move of waging warefare for supremacy in this city.

The company has ample facilities for generating and furnishing electric power by reason of its many developments on the water courses of the Catawba and Broad rivers, and backed by the financial support of the Dukes, unlimited means are laid at its door for any contemplated development that may appear necessary to get rid of competition.

The officials neither of the Southern Power Company or the 4C's desire to talk about the place in prospect, but those acquainted with the intentions of the first named concern are disposed to believe that the first shot has been fired. In the meantime, the people profit.

BIG MACHINERY CONTRACT.

Col. Leroy Springs Contracts With Westinghouse Company For Electrical Appliances For His String of Mills.

A large contract for electrical apparatus was closed here yesterday for the equipment of the Springstein and Eureka Mills of Chester, S. C., and the Lancaster Mills, Nos. 1 and 2, controlled by Col. Leroy Springs. This contract was secured by the local representatives of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, of East Pittsburg, Pa., and covers a large number of electric motors, consisting of about 3,000 horse-power in aggregates of various sizes.

This company has many successful installations of electric motor drive in the various cotton mills of the Carolinas, and this large order is a further mark of confidence which it has gained with the purchasing public. The General Electric Company secured the order for the sub-station equipment which will be necessary to establish in Lancaster.

The Southern Power Company closed contracts some time ago to furnish the power necessary to run the spinning of mills in which Col. Leroy Springs holds a controlling interest.

Mr. White Not Interested in Mill.

The Manufacturers' Record of this week states that Mr. Fred H. White, of this city, is negotiating with the Fortnightly Club, of Fort Worth, Tex., in regard to establishing in that city a $100,000 cotton mill. Inquiries here yesterday revealed the fact that Mr. White is in Texas in the interest of the Saco-Pettee Machine Shops, with which he is identified through the southern agent of that concern, Mr. A. H. Washburn. Mr. White is trying to place some large machinery orders for this house.

Mr. J. F. Justice to Speak.

Mr. J. F. Justice, of the Southern Industrial Institute, will speak at the Boys' Sunday Club of the Young Men's Christian Association to-morrow afternoon at 5 o'clock. He will speak on the subject, "What a Boy Owes to Society." These meetings are growing in interest and they are the kind that boys enjoy. Every boy in the city is invited to become a member of this Sunday organization. Miss Nancy Summerrow will sing.

A Sermon on Miracles.

The subject of the sermon which Rev. Robert L. Patterson, pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran church will preach to-morrow to his congregation will be "The Meaning of Miracles." The discourse will be a straightforward effort to deal with the difficulties presented by miracles to the thoughtful man and woman, and a cordial invitation is extended to any to whom it may be of interest.

RING CASE UP AGAIN.

Suit of Jeweler Against Chief W. S. Orr For Recovery of Diamond Rings, Formerly Stolen Property, Begun Yesterday in Superior Court.

The somewhat notorious suit of Frank K. Gardner against former Chief of Police W. S. Orr, was begun again yesterday in Superior Court, this marking the second attempt through the courts to settle the dispute as to the ownership of two diamond rings, formerly stolen property. The controversy followed the somewhat renowned escapades of former Chief Sanitary Inspector William Clardy, who was alleged to have stolen the rings from a woman in Greenville and sold them here.

Chief W. S. Orr secured the rings while he was acting chief of the police department. They were found in the possession of some of the inmates of the tenderloin section, who alleged that they bought them from Mr. Gardner. It developed that there was nothing irregular in the relation which Mr. Gardner sustained to the matter.

A mistrial resulted in the former hearing, the jury being unable to agree on the facts in the case, hence the renewed trial. The evidence for the plaintiff was concluded yesterday afternoon and the defense will introduce witnesses this morning. All of to-day will likely be consumed with the case.

The jury in the case of R. E. and C. E. Mason against the Southern Railway Company awarded a verdict in the sum of $2,480 yesterday. The plaintiffs claimed that forty bales of cotton belonging to them were burned near Randleman some months ago while in the possession of the defendant company.

THE MEDICAL DEPOSITORY.

An Improvement Over Drug Store Dispensation Declares State Senator Lockhart, of Wadesboro—Mr. W. C. Bivens Speaks.

Asked yesterday as to the operation of the medical depository in Wadesboro, Mr. W. C. Bivens, editor of The Ansonian, of that city, replied that the good people of Wadesboro were more and more pleased daily with the system in vogue there. He was satisfied that a medical depository would work well in Charlotte. An Observer man had a conversation with State Senator James A. Lockhart several days ago in which he declared that the medical depository was a vast improvement upon the system whereby drug stores are permitted to dispense liquors. Mr. Lockhart is not a prohibitionist and his commendation of the medical depository is all the more noteworthy.

TO YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO.

Mr. Ed McDonald to Leave Piqua For Youngstown, O., February 1st—An Experienced Y. M. C. A. Worker.

The many Charlotte friends of Mr. Ed McDonald, Jr., a former resident of this city, will be interested to learn that he has been tendered and has accepted the position of general secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association at Youngstown, Ohio, one of the largest in that State. Mr. McDonald was director of the boys' work here years ago, moving from Charlotte to New York, where he was associated with the West Fifty-seventh Street Association. Two years ago he was tendered the important position of general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. work at Piqua, O., where he has since resided. Mr. McDonald is a Charlotte boy and has many relatives and friends in the city. He will assume charge of his new work February 1st.

Fits Up New Drug Store in Carthage.

Dr. W. R. Wilkins, until recently of Salisbury, now of the Carthage Drug Company, was in the city yesterday purchasing an outfit for his new drug store which will be opened at that place before the 1st of February. His complete stock was bought from John M. Scott & Co. His store will be one of the handsomest for the size of the place in the State. It will be equipped with oak fixtures, a fine new innovation fountain and a completely stocked drug department. This is the second opening sale the local company has made in the last few days.

Dr. W. J. Martin to Men.

Dr. W. J. Martin, professor of chemistry at Davidson College, will be the speaker at the meeting for men at the Young Men's Christian Association to-morrow afternoon at 5 o'clock. Dr. Martin will speak on the subject, "Service."

A feature of the meeting of special interest will be the singing of "Glory to Heaven's Eternal King," by Miss May Oates. The Tenth Avenue Presbyterian church orchestra will be present and will accompany the singing of all hymns. The meeting will take place as usual at 5 o'clock at Hanna Hall. A cordial invitation is extended to all men to attend.

Will Open Office in Charlotte.

Mr. T. C. Williams, traveling freight agent of the Atlanta and West Point Railroad Company, who for the past several years has been covering this territory with headquarters in Chattanooga, Tenn., has come to Charlotte for the purpose of opening an office here and making this his home. Mr. Williams is one of the most affable and experienced railroad men working in this section and his many friends will rejoice to learn of his purpose to remove to Charlotte. No office has yet been secured but several are in sight.

Exceeded the Gallon Limit.

Bob Rea, of color, was the star defendant in the court of the recorder yesterday, suffering the charge of having in his possession more than 2½ gallons, and also for supplying a thirsty soul, John Flynn, with a pint of the same, in consideration of 50 cents. Rea was sent to jail in default of bond, it being testifieed to the recorder that he was the owner of a three-gallon jug of whiskey and had also retailed some of it.

Mr. Jones Attends Convention.

Contractor J. A. Jones has been spending a few days in Greensboro, attending the first annual meeting of the Master Builders' Association of North Carolina. The feature of the meeting was the address by Mr. E. S. Williams, of Scranton, Pa., president of the National Builders' Association. Mr. Jones was chairman of the committee appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws for the association.

Ordinance Relative to Drainage.

The facts in the petition recently started by citizens living on East Fifth street extension in regard to a better system of draining creeks in and around the city were yesterday placed in the hands of City Attorney John A. McRae, who will at once draft an ordinance sufficiently comprehensive to cover this case and others which may come up in the future. The ordinance will be presented to the board of aldermen at its February session, if not at a special meeting between now and that time.

LET US DRY CLEAN THE VEST

Fancy vests are often stained or soiled; white or light colored vests quickly show the marks of wear.

When they do—send them to us.

We'll dry clean them, get them as clean and fresh as when new, without injuring the color or destroying the fit of the vest in any way.

And we'll press them so carefully into nice shape and fit that they'll appear "new" again in every respect.

Charlotte Steam Laundry

Launderers, Dyers, Cleaners, 219 South Tryon St.

"GET IT AT HAWLEY'S"

QUALITY

counts for as much in Cigars as it does in anything else. In buying Cigars we pay the most particular attention to quality; we don't hold back on the price per thousand.

Get your Sunday Cigars from us to-day.

Hawley's Pharmacy

TRYON AND FIFTH STS.

'Phones 13 and 260.

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Fountain Pen Free

At Kenny's To-Day.

25 pounds Sugar $1.25
20 pounds Sugar $1.00
10 pounds Sugar ..... 50c.
5 pounds Sugar ..... 25c.

Our 38c. Mocha and Java Coffee 3 pounds for $1.00. Our 25c. "Special" Coffee is a cup favorite.

Best Rice 8c., broken grain 5c. 40c. gets a good Tea.

C. D. KENNY COMPANY

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LATEST WONDER

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Miniature Grand

Just think—a wee little grand piano only 5 feet long! A wee little grand piano, so small it requires only a little more space than an upright, yet contains all the tonal beauties and the perfect action of the large grand and a wonderful volume.

Small enough for the smallest parlor; tone enough for the largest parlor.

Costs little more than an upright piano, and within reach of the most economical buyer.

CHAS. M. STIEFF

Manufacturer of the pianos with the sweet tone.

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Startling and most sensational story of four years' war with Thomas W. Lawson. A graphic history of the most memorable of all financial crusades.

50 chapters—515 pages.

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Buy some of these blustery weather sox.

Splendid assortments.

Wear like iron.

Good values at 25c.

Others at 50c.

Still others at $1.00.

Raincoat sale to continue for 10 days.

The Tate-Brown Co.

ANNOUNCEMENT

All the Prizes in our contest were taken the day after Christmas, showing the unusual interest taken in it by our customers. We are refilling our cases with new lines of Cut Glass, China, Silver and Jewelry and will appreciate a visit from all our old as well as new customers.

GARIBALDI, BRUNS & DIXON

Leading Jewelers.

OLD ENGLISH FLOOR WAX

GOES FARTHEST—LASTS LONGEST.

Torrence Paint Co.

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FOR RENT

Those two desirable offices over our store, now occupied by Drs. Russell & Matheson.

Possession February 1st.

J.N. McCausland & Co.

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If you contemplate building see that your architect specifies

CORBIN LOCKS

as they are the best on the market.

If you want Dynamite, we have a car load and can make you attractive prices.

If it is Starrett's Tools, Miller's Falls Tools, or Tools of any description, we keep them.

If you need Silver Tableware, remember that we job "Community" Silverware at the same prices given by the factory.

If you are in a hurry for Hardware of any kind, order from us.

WEDDINGTON HARDWARE CO.

29 East Trade St. CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Odd Trousers

Do you need a pair now? Better investigate our line. We are prepared to fit any man from our immense stock. We carry all kinds, all sizes, and at all prices.

If you are hard to fit in Trousers, come here. We are proud of our innumerable hard-to-fit pleased customers. Are you one?

We have many values in Odd Trousers worthy of your attention. Come now.

Ed Mellon Company

Remember, Mellon's Clothes Fit.

SEVENTY-FIVE

75 -:- HORSES AND MULES -:- 75

On Monday, January 4th, 1909, we will have in our Sales Stables between 75 and 100 good young Tennessee and Indiana Horses and Mules. This is the best lot of Horses and Mules we have shipped in the past several months.

Each Horse or Mule we sell must be as represented.

Terms reasonable.

J. W. WADSWORTH'S SONS CO.

"Vehicles and Harness, Etc."

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LARGEST STOCK IN STATE

We make a specialty of Office Equipments Complete. We control on this market the best office appliances to be had.

Sanitary Office Desks.
Macey Office Appliances.
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All Steel Office Appliances.
Guaranteed Leather Office Furniture.
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Office Carpets and Rugs.
Everything that goes in an office.

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THE MATCHLESS MILTON PIANO

The best Piano for $250.00 that is made. Easy payments if desired. No deviation in the price. Interest at 6 per cent. when time is wanted. See some of the new styles.

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