

IMPROVEMENT FOR COLLEGE STREET Block in Wholesale District to Receive Permanent Improvement.

SUBMIT AN ESTIMATE

First Step Taken by Executive Board in Granting Request of Wholesalers—Other Matters.

Following a petition which was presented last week by a strong delegation of wholesale merchants, requesting relief from conditions on South College street, it was definitely decided at a meeting of the Executive Board yesterday that immediate steps should be taken, looking to the paving of the block between Second and Third streets with some form of permanent paving material.

City Engineer S. H. Lea yesterday submitted the following estimates upon the prospective cost of the work with three different materials: the estimates including the expense of grading and curbing, figured in each at \$279.40, sheet asphalt, \$1.60 per square yard, \$2,631.40, vitrified brick \$2.45 per square yard, \$3,339.90, and concrete, \$1.32 per square yard, \$2,334.50.

On request of Captain William Anderson, the city engineer will also prepare estimates covering the cost of the construction work in wooden blocks, laid in both concrete and sand.

The permanent paving of another much-used thoroughfare, although of more diminutive proportions, was favorably discussed with regard to the alley-way between East Trade and Fourth streets in the rear of the Central and Buford hotels, which was recently the subject of complaint from abutting property owners.

City Engineer Lea will submit estimates upon this work at next week's meeting, based upon sheet asphalt, vitrified brick, and Belgian block, as prospective materials.

This alleyway, despite its width of 13-12 feet, claims a large volume of traffic seeking ingress from East Trade street to the wholesale district. The main thoroughfare, which was equipped many years ago, has long since been lost beneath a strata of mud which not only prevents its use by pedestrians, but has resulted in a condition which is regarded as unsanitary owing to the numerous ponds of stagnant water which remain as gentle reminders for nearby property owners of the last rainfall.

Because of the fact that the alleyway is situated within the fire district, no ordinance has been passed by the Board of Aldermen in regard to its condition into a permanent improvement district and the Executive Board will be free to enter upon the work as soon as the requested estimates are filed.

The plea of the street department for a new complement of mules to take the place of a half-dozen antiquated specimens which have grown gray in the service of the city, was forwarded by a report from Commissioner J. E. Morris, J. A. Jones, and Erskine R. Smith to the effect that a half dozen specimens had been purchased from the estate of the late Franklin Johnston. The veterans who are supplied by the infusion of new blood will be sold by Mr. J. E. Morris, chairman of the street committee.

Mayor T. L. Kirkpatrick read before the board an invitation from Secretary James R. Kinison of the Chamber of Commerce, inviting the city members to the annual dinner of the commercial organization which will be held February 16 at the Seawall Hotel. The invitation was accepted unconditionally, and with Chief Horace Moore, submitting the quarterly report of the police department, supplemented by a report obtained by the two special sidewalk policemen which the Executive Board recently adopted. It was stated that these two officers had effected 14 arrests since their connection with the local force. Chief Moore took occasion to recommend the purchase of an automobile for the facilitation of the work which he designated as greatly hampered at the present moment through the inability of the men to cover the extensive territory comprised in the suburban districts.

Warmly advocating the purchase of a machine for the use of the men as the necessary financial arrangements could be concluded, the board will attempt to equip the officers with horses as a temporary solution of the difficulty.

CANT TAKE MONEY Mr. J. A. Jones was the proponent of a motion which was unanimously adopted and which will hereafter place a ban upon the receiving of payment by colored drivers in the employ of the health department for the trash removed from their respective wagons. In substance the motion means that trash in the future will be moved only when the citizen or firm tenders the regular ton tickets which are issued and for

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sale by the health department. This will effectually check the present system of allowing the colored drivers to receive the cash substitute for the specific charge of five cents, the ban; with the attendant doubt, as expressed by Mr. Jones, of what proportion ultimately wends its way into the civic coffers.

Temporary work upon a portion of the Stuart's Ferry Road, lying between Severville and within the city limits, was decided upon. Dr. J. A. Austin, foster of the repair work, stated that he had received the assurance of the township trustees that this work will be attempted upon a permanent scale within the next six weeks, but urging the necessity for temporary measures to overcome the practically impassable conditions now in force.

WANT THE HALL Doctor Clement and Thad Tate, prominent colored citizens and pioneer workers in the Colored Reform movement, appeared before the board with a request for the old Presbyterian college auditorium on the evening of March 6, when the "Jubilee Singers," a company of noted colored vocalists and instrumentalists, will appear under the auspices of the reform school.

The petitioners were informed that the granting of the structure was not within the jurisdiction of the board, in view of its present unaccepted status as a civic property. Among the number of reports submitted by the heads of various departments, was the following weekly report from City Engineer Lea:

"The city engineer worked and directed operations as follows: Inspected and measured rough stone furnished to city for crushing at rock yards in Belmont and on grounds of old crematory. Performed office work and made surveys of street lines at various places. Checked maps, assessment lists and notices to property owners for proposed new cement sidewalks. Prepared official reports and estimates, supervised and directed work of street department in maintaining and improving city streets."

BUSY DAYS AT LIBRARY.

Large increase in number of borrowers during the month of January. The month of January witnessed large increases in every department of work at the public library. At the monthly meeting of the board of trustees last night, Miss Palmer, the librarian, reported that 5,935 books were issued, 1,618 being to children. A total gain of 627 was shown in the two reading rooms, 2,618 people called, 170 of these persons having come on the five Sunday afternoons, an average of 34 each day. In the children's department there were 1,070 callers. A total of 149 new borrowers was reported, 92 of these being juveniles. There is a pressing need for more books in the library, especially in the children's department.

May Have City Training School.

At a meeting of the Sunday school workers held in the First Baptist Church on January 25, the chairman was instructed to appoint a committee to consider the establishment of a city training school for Sunday school workers in Charlotte. That committee has already met and is ready to report. Before calling the mass meeting, however, it was deemed advisable to gain the suggestions of all the Sunday school workers. It is to meet in the Y. M. C. A. building Sunday afternoon, February 6, at 7 o'clock to hear the recommendation of the committee, and to discuss the advantages of a city training school. The committee is composed of W. M. Wilcox, Jr., C. W. Bannock, E. C. Carson,

Here's Kinison's Groundhog Story.

Kinison Feb. 3. Several The people, and in a Queen street building here Wednesday thought he had encountered the groundhog himself when he came face to face with a muskrat in the second story. The animal must have come a mile from a swamp somewhere on Neuse River, and ended a flight of stairs besides. Kinison who saw it, said they never heard of a muskrat so far from a pond or stream. A dentist killed the animal with a small rubber club. It was one of the largest specimens ever seen here, weighing seven pounds.

Of every ten people who are planning to buy property, it is safe to assume that nine will read your "ad" in the classified columns.

MAYOR-COLONEL WANTS TO KNOW

Bombards Overman and Webb With Questions Military.

24 INTERROGATIONS

Charlotte's Chief Executive Asks Information Upon Subjects Pertinent to Issue.

Seeking information from Senator Lee S. Overman and Congressman E. Y. Webb, Mayor T. L. Kirkpatrick has propounded 24 questions dealing with "adequate preparedness," which have been forwarded to Washington for the consideration of the North Carolina Senator, and Representative.

Following are the two dozen inquiries advanced by the Charlotte executive: "I am deeply interested and concerned, both as an official and as a private citizen with reference to the question of 'adequate preparedness.' Will you please kindly advise whether or not the following data is true:

"1. Does the Japanese Navy possess 30 per cent more big guns than the United States Navy?" "2. Is it a fact that the captains in the American Navy are not commissioned until they reach the age of 55, while in Japan the average age of such officers is 38?" "3. Is it a fact that the captains in the American Navy have only four and one-half years in this grade, while in the Japanese eight?"

"4. Is it a fact that the American Navy rear admirals are not commissioned until they reach the age of 60, while in Japan officers receive this rank at 45?" "5. Is it a fact that the entire Japanese naval power, including her fleets, her navy yards, docks and arsenals, is situated in the strategic center of the Pacific, while the naval bases and naval resources of the United States are in the Atlantic Ocean, 17,000 miles from the point necessary to protect our Western coast?"

"6. Is it a fact that Japan constructs a 20,000-ton battleship of the new type in two years, and an armored cruiser in less time, while it requires the United States over five years to build a 16,000-ton battleship?"

"7. What ratio does the United States stand to Japan with reference to the dreadnaught types?" "8. Do you regard it necessary to establish a naval base in the Philippine Islands, Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California, in order to maintain our naval supremacy in the Pacific Ocean?"

"9. Do you regard it necessary to maintain our naval supremacy in the Pacific Ocean?" "10. What would be the effect upon our Pacific coast if the Japanese Navy should render ineffective our Pacific squadrons by capturing the main passages of San Jacinto, San Bernardino, San Gabriel and Tehachah, and would this not give them complete possession of the States of Washington, Oregon and California?"

"11. Is it a fact that the Regular Army is now constructed and stationed in the event of war with Japan, a field force of 20,000 men, while it would require 600,000 to prevent invasion?"

"12. Have we a general military staff, an organization of units, a plan for mobilization, both in the practical and technical sense?" "13. Is it a fact that Japan has over 50,000 scientifically trained military officers, while the United States has less than 1,000, and that the United States has 50,000 troops regularly exclusive of fortifications, to Japan's 1,250,000?"

"14. Is it a fact that the United States has only eight American transportable merchant marines, while Japan has 95 capable of carrying 300,000 troops?"

"15. Have we a single American officer who has ever handled, in peace or war, a corps of troops?" "16. Was it a fact that when Mr. Roosevelt sent the 16 American battleships around the world, that they were escorted by 28 vessels flying a foreign flag?"

"17. Would it not be possible for Japanese transport fleets consisting of 100 steamers, ranging from 1,000 to 14,000 tons each, transporting at one time 200,000 men, together with their entire equipment to reach the Philippine Islands in five days, Hawaii in 14; the coast of California in 22 days; the coast of Alaska, Washington and Oregon in less than 20?"

AND FURTHER. "18. Is it a fact that the coast defense of the United States consists of 67 forts, defending 28 harbors, that of the batteries then constructed, 248 are out of commission and 124 in commission?"

"19. Is it a fact that the Regular Army of the United States, inclusive of all branches of the service, is more than 30 per cent below the minimum required by law?" "20. Is it a fact that the grade of second lieutenant is 38 per cent short, and of the coast artillery 30 per cent are without captains and 63 per cent without lieutenants?"

"21. Is it a fact that the United States Government from 1901 to 1907 expended on the Army and Navy over \$140,000,000; a sum exceeding the combined cost to Japan of the Chinese War and the Russian War, as well as the entire maintenance of her forces during the intervening years of peace, and if the above figures are correct, why is it that the United States pos-

sesses no Army commensurate with its needs while the Navy is fourth in size? "22. Is it a fact that the Japanese have 232 heavy guns emplaced on their first-class battleships as against our 104, and does she have 14 armored cruisers as against our 12, armed with 35 heavy guns to our 16? "23. Have we an adequate preparedness sufficient to maintain and advance the material and political interests of the United States and her territorial dominions; to maintain and protect the political sovereignty of the vast regions of Mexico, the West Indies, Central and South America? "24. Do you regard the preservation of the Monroe Doctrine with equal sanctity as that of the Constitution, and is not the maintenance of this doctrine as vital to our civilization? "Thanking you in advance for information on the above facts, and with high personal regard, I am, "Yours sincerely, "T. LEROY KIRKPATRICK."

SOLAR ECLIPSE IS VIEWED BY MANY

Weather Conditions Were Ideal for Observation—Slight Dimming of Brightness.

The solar eclipse yesterday from 10 until 12 o'clock was viewed by nearly everybody in Charlotte and proved an interesting spectacle. The weather conditions were more favorable than anybody had a right to expect for the sky had miraculously cleared and not a cloud was visible. About the time began to creep across the southern disk of the sun, and soon a dent was clearly perceptible to those who viewed the solar sphere through smoked glasses. Those who tried to view it with the naked eye, thinking to take advantage of the weakness of the sun, were soon forced to retire from the field of action with temporarily impaired eyesight. Such persons had forgotten (if they ever knew) that the light of the sun is equal to that of 800,000 full moons, and that even if half of the sun were obscured one might not gaze upon it with impunity.

Some of those who were viewing the sun through smoked glass for the first time were surprised to find it such a tiny body. Dazzled ordinarily by the fulgence that plays about it, they had imagined that its apparent size was much larger than that of a full moon.

There was a perceptible diminution in the brightness of the sun—unless those who think they saw it are unduly imaginative. A few unsuspecting chattering crowds although it must have occurred to them it was about to be a most extraordinarily short day.

On May 28, 1909, there was a solar eclipse which was total in a narrow path that traveled through Wadesboro. That town was the mecca for visitors from all parts of the world. One party of Belgian astronomers made the trip. Before coming, however, they wrote, asking whether it would be necessary for them to bring a body-guard in view of the possibility of being attacked in the famous "black belt" of the South. The letter is now carefully preserved in Wadesboro. The Belgian scientists met with no ill treatment, but there are a number of Americans who would hesitate to go into Belgium just now without a body-guard.

Commander of the Army Department of the East Is En Route to New Orleans. Major General Leonard Wood spent 10 minutes in Charlotte yesterday. The commander of the department of the East, who in the event of war would be in active charge of the entire United States Army, was a passenger on Southern train No. 37 and was on his way southward on a tour of inspection in the eastern department. General Wood was accompanied by his aide, Captain Gordon Johnston, a native of Charlotte. At New Orleans they will inspect the St. Louis barracks, then the defenses at Galveston, then will go to Texas City, Tex., and other places. They will be in the South about two weeks.

When interviewed by Mr. R. H. DeButts, traveling passenger agent of the Southern and others, Major Wood had left the train and was taking a constitutional within the station precincts. His stride, no less than his unusual chest development and absence of rotundity, bore witness to the excellent state of his health. He was attired in civilian clothes and was bareheaded. His skin is bronzed, as becomes a veteran, and he has a thin brown mustache. His eyes are of blue and his gaze is direct and frank; at times sparkling with mirth yet capable of flashing fire. General Wood limps perceptibly but this does not interfere with his freedom of motion.

Captain Johnston, who accompa-

nied him, is related on his mother's side to Gen. A. L. Smith of this city. Recently The Observer published a letter which he wrote to General Smith on the subject of military training in this section. He is a son of Gen. and Mrs. Robert D. Johnston, formerly of Charlotte, and then of Birmingham. As soon as the train stopped he alighted and was anxious to get a glimpse of his native town which he had not visited in years.

"I want you people of the South to keep up your fighting blood," said General Wood to those who talked with him. "We always keep our fighting blood

up down here, General," rejoined a member of the group. "That's right," replied the soldier. "The people of the South have always been patriots and fighters. They are always to be depended upon when they are wanted."

He alluded to the fact that Charlotte was the home of the late Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, and he added that he hoped to be able to visit the city some time in the near future. The conductor's call of "All aboard" cut short the conversation.

Unusual Piano FARE-REFUNDING WEEK Bargains for Look the list over—Select the instrument you want—we make prompt delivery. \$350.00 Steiff Player Piano, plain Mahogany case (used short white) \$300.00 Shaw Player Piano, plain Mahogany case (used short white) \$250.00 Bannet Bretz Player Piano, plain Mahogany case (used short white) \$250.00 Bannet Bretz Player Piano, plain Mahogany case (used several years) \$1,000.00 Wm. Knabe Grand Piano (2d hand) Ebony case (splendid condition) \$250.00 \$500.00 Steiff Upright Piano, Ebony case (used about 18 months) \$325.00 \$450.00 Steiff Upright Piano (used) plain Mahogany case (practically new) \$375.00 \$450.00 Steiff Upright Piano, plain Mahogany case (used about 24 months) \$350.00 \$450.00 Steiff Upright Piano, dark Mahogany case (used several years) \$350.00 \$450.00 Steiff Upright Piano, Mod. Mahogany case (used several years) \$325.00 \$375.00 Shaw Upright Piano, plain Mahogany case (used short white) \$260.00 \$275.00 Kohler & Campbell Upright Piano, plain Mahogany case (used short white) \$185.00 \$450.00 Mason & Hamlin Upright Piano, plain Ebony case (used several years) \$175.00 \$300.00 Harvard Upright Piano, plain Walnut case (used several years) \$175.00 \$350.00 Prince Upright Piano, Fancy Mahogany case (used several years) \$150.00 \$275.00 Tonk Upright Piano, plain Mahogany case (used several years) \$150.00 \$300.00 Greenway Upright Piano, Fancy Mahogany case (used several years) \$150.00 \$200.00 Adah Schaeff Upright Piano, plain Walnut case (used several years) \$160.00 \$200.00 Cabinet Player for upright piano (used several years) \$40.00 \$200.00 Cabinet Player for upright piano (used several years) \$25.00 (12) SQUARE PIANOS—most any make and price from \$10.00 up to \$70.00. Every instrument advertised here has been thoroughly overhauled by experts in our Repair Department and will give long service. To assure you of this unusual opportunity we will allow you what you have paid for any piano in this lot (excepting the players and Steiff uprights) to be applied on the purchase price of a New Steiff Upright, Player or Grand at the regular list price. Why put off the piano purchase—buy now—you'll never regret it. If you do not care to pay cash we will arrange very reasonable terms to suit you. Come in see the instruments for yourself—if you cannot come write or phone. These prices will be withdrawn after Feb. 12th in case any of the above pianos remain unsold. 221 South Tryon St. STIEFF Charlotte, N. C. Fares Refunded According to Schedule on First Page of Bargain Section.

MAJOR GENERAL WOOD PASSES THROUGH Commander of the Army Department of the East Is En Route to New Orleans. Major General Leonard Wood spent 10 minutes in Charlotte yesterday. The commander of the department of the East, who in the event of war would be in active charge of the entire United States Army, was a passenger on Southern train No. 37 and was on his way southward on a tour of inspection in the eastern department. General Wood was accompanied by his aide, Captain Gordon Johnston, a native of Charlotte. At New Orleans they will inspect the St. Louis barracks, then the defenses at Galveston, then will go to Texas City, Tex., and other places. They will be in the South about two weeks. When interviewed by Mr. R. H. DeButts, traveling passenger agent of the Southern and others, Major Wood had left the train and was taking a constitutional within the station precincts. His stride, no less than his unusual chest development and absence of rotundity, bore witness to the excellent state of his health. He was attired in civilian clothes and was bareheaded. His skin is bronzed, as becomes a veteran, and he has a thin brown mustache. His eyes are of blue and his gaze is direct and frank; at times sparkling with mirth yet capable of flashing fire. General Wood limps perceptibly but this does not interfere with his freedom of motion. Captain Johnston, who accompa-

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It Will Pay You To Buy Your Suit and Overcoat At This Store and Buy Them NOW Resident or Nonresident, All Share Alike in These Remarkable Savings. The materially reduced prices prevailing during this February Sale afford a truly exceptional opportunity for money saving, and the economical man will anticipate his needs to take advantage of the special values now available. This sale affects our entire stock of Winter Suits and Overcoats, and represents the most successful styles of the season in all the popular models and materials. We have divided all our Suits into three lots and marked them at these prices: \$11.50 \$14.50 \$18.50 Suits from \$15.00 to \$18.00 now \$11.50 Suits from \$20.00 to \$25.00 now 14.50 Suits from \$27.00 to \$35.00 now 18.50 All Overcoats have been divided into four lots and we have marked them at these four prices: \$11.50 \$14.50 \$18.50 and \$30.00 Overcoats from \$15.00 to \$18.50 now \$11.50 Overcoats from \$20.00 to \$25.00 now 14.50 Overcoats from \$27.00 to \$35.00 now 18.50 Overcoats from \$40.00 to \$50.00 now 30.00 An Event That Saves You Dollars. Alterations Free. Ladies' Coats 1-2 Price. THE TATE BROWN COMPANY Finest Hand Tailored Suits and Overcoats.

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