

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

IT IS RAISED IN SOLEMN PROTEST.

SATURDAY NIGHT'S MEETING IN THE COURT HOUSE.

A CROWDED HOUSE AND SPLENDID SPEECHES.

Col. A. T. Davidson Chosen Chairman of the People's Meeting—The Railway Company's Proposition—Major Martin Proposes Fairness, but not Five-Cent Fairness—The Resolutions Offered by Capt. T. W. Patton.

It was a genuine success! The "it" in this case being the mass meeting which was held in the court house on Saturday night.

The meeting was called for the purpose of getting a popular expression on the recent action of the Asheville street railway company in putting in operation a ten-cent fare system.

Promptly at 8 o'clock the court house bell began ringing, notifying all within hearing of its tones that a meeting of great importance to the city and its citizens was about to be held.

Then the crowd began pouring in. By twos, by fours, by tens and twenties the people swarmed in, until every seat in the jury box, and inside the railing, and on the benches was occupied.

And it was, taken as a whole, as intelligent a body of men as has ever assembled in a mass meeting in this city. There were laboring men, merchants, lawyers and citizens generally present.

Col. Davidson in assuming the chair stated that the meeting had been called by the people to consider the increase in the rate of fare on the lines of the Asheville street railway company.

Col. Davidson in assuming the chair stated that the meeting had been called by the people to consider the increase in the rate of fare on the lines of the Asheville street railway company.

When the chairman took his seat there were loud calls for Col. Reuben McBrayer. In response to these calls Col. McBrayer said this was a question which had two sides.

Col. McBrayer had said then that the fare should not be raised unless it was absolutely necessary. The best thing to be done, he thought, was to appoint a committee of wise and discreet men.

Solicitor Bug D. Carter followed Col. McBrayer. He said that he had come out to the meeting upon invitation, and was pleased to see the people imbued with such a spirit of fairness.

In the opinion of Capt. Patton the company had violated the letter and the spirit of the charter granted by the aldermen. In what is known as the Parinbolt charter the maximum fare is fixed at ten cents.

"To the chairman and gentlemen of the mass meeting: Believing that the citizens of Asheville wish to act fairly and legally in whatever action they see fit to take in reference to the fare charged on the Asheville street railway, and that they realize that any action that tends to injustice towards the property of corporations, will really injure our city more than the present policy of increasing the fare;

would see that the increase in the fare was an absolute financial necessity; "Knowing that THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN is not disposed to act fairly toward the company, from the fact that notwithstanding on yesterday it showed its editorial that it knew that the expenses of the company had exceeded its receipts by more than \$17,000, up to last January it nevertheless charged that the increase in the fare was a "gouge" and that we knew it to be a "gouge";

"Knowing that on last Tuesday I went to Mr. J. P. Kerr, of THE CITIZEN, and offered to let him examine the books and vouchers of the company, so that he might satisfy both himself and the public that the company was not attempting to impose upon the public, but was acting for what it believed to be the public welfare as well as for the welfare of the stock holders, which proposition and offer he declined to do so because he said that he could not believe that a company which carried as many passengers as the Asheville street railway company could be losing money;

"I respectfully offer: "1. To allow a committee of gentlemen appointed by this meeting to examine the books and vouchers of the company, and report to an adjourned meeting whether the increase in the fare was a gouge or a financial necessity.

"2. That the increase in the fare is as proposed to be illegal in any respect, the Asheville Street railway company will agree upon the facts as they exist and present a case for immediate decision by Judge Merrimon and the supreme court of North Carolina, so that the public may not be imposed on one minute longer than the court say that this action is illegal.

"3. I will get the company to do anything that is fair, reasonable and legal, and will not run it into debt and will secure to the public safe and efficient service.

Respectfully, J. G. Martin, "President and General Manager," "The Citizen's" Stand.

J. P. Kerr arose at the conclusion of the reading of Maj. Martin's letter. He said that he had intended to take no part in the meeting further than that of a looker-on, but the allusions to THE CITIZEN in the letter made it necessary for him to make a statement. Whatever part he said, THE CITIZEN had taken in the matter had been prompted by a sense of the public good.

Mr. Kerr had been informed that the Montford avenue line, a small road, running one car, had paid its owners \$10 net per day since it had been in operation. In it not strange then that the Asheville street railway is not paying? The people want the 5-cent fare. (Cheers.)

W. R. West, jr., made a short speech, saying that he had not been on the car since the fare had been increased. It did look queer that the Asheville street railway, with its enormous traffic could not make money, and yet the new Montford avenue line was making money every day.

Capt. T. W. Patton then arose. Instantly every voice was hushed, listening anxiously for the words of a stockholder in the street car company. They were not left in suspense, for Capt. Patton went at once to the bottom of his subject.

In a time like this, the speaker said, every man's opinion is public property. He had an opinion on this subject and hoped that the people would listen patiently. He looked at the matter from a double standpoint, as a stockholder and as a citizen of Asheville.

Locke Craig, esq., said a few words against the adoption of the resolution. Major Martin, the attorney said, was willing to submit to an investigation. The people should not do an injustice to Major Martin, the man of indomitable pluck and energy, who had done more than any other man to keep the company going.

On this occasion there are to be speeches by not alone the prominent men of Waynesville, but by men of great reputation from a distance. The barbecue will occur on Tuesday, the first day of the sale. Music for the occasion will be furnished by the Cherokee brass band, thought to be one of the best bands in the west.

Believing that the citizens of Asheville wish to act fairly and legally in whatever action they see fit to take in reference to the fare charged on the Asheville street railway, and that they realize that any action that tends to injustice towards the property of corporations, will really injure our city more than the present policy of increasing the fare;

ed a grant from this city of certain valuable franchises; and WHEREAS, said street railway company had also decided to charge a separate and distinct fare for riding over each of its four subdivisions, instead of a continuous fare from one terminus to another, therefore be it "Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that the action of said street railway company above referred to, is a violation both of the letter and spirit of the contract existing between them and the city of Asheville.

"Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting appoint a committee of seven citizens, two of whom shall be practicing attorneys, with instructions to lay these resolutions before the management of said company, and to request a revocation of this recent action; and in the event that the said company decline to accord such request, the same committee shall appeal to the board of aldermen at their next meeting, to take such action as may be necessary to secure the public rights in the matter, and to tender the assistance of the legal members of the committee to co-operate with the city attorney in deciding what measures are best calculated to attain the object of this meeting.

"Resolved, That in case said committee are unable to secure such revocation or modification of existing rules of said company as will satisfy the public demands, as expressed at this meeting, it shall be the duty of said committee to call another mass meeting of citizens, and to such meeting to present a report of their actions and request such further instructions as said meeting may then decide to give."

Capt. Patton's resolutions brought out a lively discussion. Maj. T. C. Westall favored the 5-cent fare, adding that if the street railway was a failure after it had been run three years, and with its enormous patronage, the board of aldermen should take hold of the matter and tear up the tracks. If the business had been poorly managed it was not the people's lookout.

Capt. Nat. Atkinson was called on, but asked that he be excused for the reason that he was at present in litigation with the company. A motion was then made by J. P. Kerr, seconded by K. J. Stokeler, to adopt the resolutions offered by Capt. Patton.

Hon. H. A. Gudgey said he was in favor of a 5-cent fare, but did not think the resolution should pass as they stood. The finding as a fact that the recent action of the company was a violation of the letter and spirit of the charter should be stricken out. If the committee found that the road could not be run on a 5-cent fare, then the people would not require such sacrifice. The idea must not be sent abroad that a mass meeting tried to regulate the prices of a corporation.

Dr. J. S. Grant offered the following amendment to Capt. Patton's resolution: "Be it further resolved, That it be the duty of the same committee to investigate the books and vouchers of said company and embody in their report a statement as to the profits or loss of the Asheville street railway from the beginning of its operations to the present date."

Solicitor Carter spoke a second time. In his opinion the language of Capt. Patton could not be the voice of the meeting. He read the provision of the charter, and said they were allowed to charge 10 cents if it became necessary. He had looked over the books and stated positively that the road had been operated from its inception at a serious loss. If it was found that they were making money, no one would be quicker to denounce them than he would.

J. P. Kerr insisted upon the adoption of the resolutions as offered. He thought the present arrangement was contrary to the letter and spirit of the charter. If the maximum fare is ten cents then the ten cents must be paid when riding on any one line, having paid which the passenger is entitled to a transfer. As it is now the maximum fare is not ten cents, but five cents, and the company has no right to charge an extra nickel on another line of the same road.

Locke Craig, esq., said a few words against the adoption of the resolution. Major Martin, the attorney said, was willing to submit to an investigation. The people should not do an injustice to Major Martin, the man of indomitable pluck and energy, who had done more than any other man to keep the company going.

Believing that the citizens of Asheville wish to act fairly and legally in whatever action they see fit to take in reference to the fare charged on the Asheville street railway, and that they realize that any action that tends to injustice towards the property of corporations, will really injure our city more than the present policy of increasing the fare;

few dudes who were paid large salaries for riding up and down the streets on the cars? He hoped that the meeting would say in the conservative language of Capt. Patton's resolution, "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther." He paid a very high compliment to Capt. Patton for offering the resolutions, as they were sure to be correct, coming from such a man. He believed that before a week had passed the company would be given a chance to sell out at their own proposition. He wanted the meeting to express itself in words which the company would never forget.

Hon. H. A. Gudgey again urged the meeting not to adopt the objectionable clause in the resolution. He again said that he was unalterably opposed to the 10-cent fare and hoped the company was wrong, so the old fare could put into operation again.

The speeches then closed, and the vote on the question was called for. The amendment offered by Dr. Grant was voted on and lost, only 17 voting for it. Mr. Carter's motion to strike out the words referring to the "letter and spirit of the charter" was put and suffered the fate of the amendment.

The resolutions as originally offered were then voted upon, and carried by an overwhelming vote and deafening cheers. On motion of Capt. Atkinson the thanks of the meeting were unanimously tendered Capt. Patton for the admirable resolutions.

Chairman Davidson announced that he would appoint the committee on Monday. He heartily thanked the audience for the good order observed throughout the evening, and the meeting adjourned.

Commercial Club's Committee Says He Was. Friday afternoon's session of the board of aldermen was a very interesting one.

There was a little of almost every sort of business considered, from the street railway question down to granting a building permit.

But nothing was said about the ten cent fare on the street car line. The meeting was attended by Aldermen Brevard, Starnes, Reynolds, Gudgey and McDowell. Mayor Blanton presided.

Messrs. J. P. Kerr, W. B. Williamson, J. E. Dickerson, C. T. Rawls and W. W. West, a committee appointed by the Commercial club, submitted some figures in regard to the street paving done by Gen. P. M. B. Young. A synopsis of that committee's work is as follows:

Table with columns: DATE, CASH, NOTES. Rows include May 23, June 6, June 14, July 5, Aug. 30, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Nov. 15, Nov. 15, 1891.

Total cash and notes, \$17,858.90. City engineer's estimate of cost of excavations and paving, 15,839.10. Amount of overpay, \$2,019.80.

The finance committee was given charge of the report of the club's committee, and instructed to examine thoroughly and report at the next meeting of the board.

C. D. Pace Captured at the Depot Yesterday. C. D. Pace, a young white man, working on a section of the Western North Carolina road near Marshall, Sunday became involved in a difficulty with another section hand, and shot him twice, one bullet striking him in the leg and another going through the hat brim.

The shooting occurred in the morning. When the afternoon train came along Pace flagged it down and got on, coming to Asheville. When the train arrived here a passenger informed several officers who were at the depot, of the affair and they searched the cars. While they were looking for Pace he got out of the car and started for the Spartanburg train, standing near, and was caught by Officer Hunter. Pace attempted to draw a pistol, but Officers Goodlake and Collins coming up, he was subdued and brought up town.

Pace was lodged in jail and a telegram was sent to the authorities at Marshall that the man had been arrested.

The Barbecue and Land Sale September 1 and 2. The people of Waynesville are making preparations for a grand time on the occasion of the land sale and barbecue to take place there on September 1 and 2.

DOES THE RAILWAY PAY?

A STATEMENT MADE IN MAY, 1890.

The Receipts Then were Only \$2,561.23, For the Month of April, and Yet They Cleared \$899.57 That Month—The Management Changes and the Expenses Change With It.

The following taken from a pamphlet published by the Asheville street railway in 1890, fully explains itself and will prove very interesting reading to the people of Asheville at this time.

DEAR SIR:—PURSUANT to the call an extraordinary meeting of the stockholders of this company was held at this office on Wednesday, the 7th day of May, at 12 m., a majority of the stock being present or represented.

The superintendent made a statement of the affairs of the company and gave an outline of its prospects and possibilities. The subjoined statement of the earnings and expenses of the company will show its present condition pretty clearly.

There is a well defined scheme to extend the present track of the company to Mr. George Vanderbilt's new station on the Western North Carolina railroad, called Biltmore, at its intersection with the Spartanburg and Asheville railroad company.

It is pleasant to note the perfection of this year. It is a fruit too much neglected by our pomologists, and our climate and soil both invite its larger cultivation.

It is somewhat a reproach to care and intelligence to see our fruit stalls filled with California, Georgia and even with Virginia pears, when the orchards of Buncombe or any of our mountain counties can be made to equal, if not surpass them all.

Returned to Their Homes. J. R. Lowery and Charles Lawry, sons of Col. Marion Lowery, of Sandy Mush, this county, who have been on a visit to their old home, left today for the west.

Life in North Carolina. —Oxford Day: R. S. Ury got two tomatoes from his garden that weighed three and a half pounds each.

—Charlotte News: McDougal, the man who is charged with the murder of his uncle, Simeon Conoly in Robeson county, over two months ago, and who fled and was captured in Oregon, is now back in jail at Lumberton.

—Mrs. Hansley, of Onslow county, had to leave her crawling child for a few minutes alone, and fearing it might fall out doors tied a rope around its waist and to the bed post. When she returned the rope was around the child's neck and it was dead.

—The Sherrill brothers of Concord have purchased from Mr. M. K. Gray the subscription books, good will, etc., of the Lexington Observer, and that paper and the Dispatch have been consolidated under the name and title of the Davidson Dispatch.

—Charlotte News: Mr. D. L. Todd, of Paw Creek township has a dogwood walking cane, carved by worms. Mr. Todd found the stick on his farm and was amazed at the beauty of the tracing made by worms. The stick has three raised places like joints in a cane.

—During the summer the North Carolina college of agricultural and mechanic arts has been adorned much to its capacity for doing first-class work. Four new members have been added to its teaching force; two handsome brick dormitories are under construction, the agricultural, horticultural and chemical departments have had liberal appropriations for equipment, and a complete outfit of wood-working machinery has, at a cost of over five thousand dollars been added to the machine shops.

—President Crowell, of Trinity, writes the Charlotte Chronicle: "The architect never condemned materials which President Crowell used in order to urge on the work; on the other hand the building committee, of which I am a member, condemned materials from time to time which both contractor and architect had accepted as fit to go into the building.

WILLIAM BLAIKIE.

William Blaikie, esq., of New York, who will lecture under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, next Monday evening at 8:30 o'clock at the Grand opera house on "How to Get Strong" is himself a magnificent example of physical development and so can show before his audience the effects of what he teaches. His acquaintance with athletes of every kind enables him to illustrate his lecture with telling anecdotes.

The Utica (N. Y.) Daily Press says of him: "His lecture was without question one of the best of the course. He will be heartily welcomed to Utica should he visit the city again."

Mr. Harold Johnston has made THE CITIZEN glad with some of his fine fruit, pleasing both the eye and the palate with specimens of the Flemish Beauty pear, in its most perfect condition, and also delicious samples of the "Stumpie World" and the "Foster" peach as fine in color and high in flavor as the orchards of Georgia can produce.

It is pleasant to note the perfection of this year. It is a fruit too much neglected by our pomologists, and our climate and soil both invite its larger cultivation.

It is somewhat a reproach to care and intelligence to see our fruit stalls filled with California, Georgia and even with Virginia pears, when the orchards of Buncombe or any of our mountain counties can be made to equal, if not surpass them all.

Returned to Their Homes. J. R. Lowery and Charles Lawry, sons of Col. Marion Lowery, of Sandy Mush, this county, who have been on a visit to their old home, left today for the west.

Life in North Carolina. —Oxford Day: R. S. Ury got two tomatoes from his garden that weighed three and a half pounds each.

—Charlotte News: McDougal, the man who is charged with the murder of his uncle, Simeon Conoly in Robeson county, over two months ago, and who fled and was captured in Oregon, is now back in jail at Lumberton.

—Mrs. Hansley, of Onslow county, had to leave her crawling child for a few minutes alone, and fearing it might fall out doors tied a rope around its waist and to the bed post. When she returned the rope was around the child's neck and it was dead.

—The Sherrill brothers of Concord have purchased from Mr. M. K. Gray the subscription books, good will, etc., of the Lexington Observer, and that paper and the Dispatch have been consolidated under the name and title of the Davidson Dispatch.

—Charlotte News: Mr. D. L. Todd, of Paw Creek township has a dogwood walking cane, carved by worms. Mr. Todd found the stick on his farm and was amazed at the beauty of the tracing made by worms. The stick has three raised places like joints in a cane.

—During the summer the North Carolina college of agricultural and mechanic arts has been adorned much to its capacity for doing first-class work. Four new members have been added to its teaching force; two handsome brick dormitories are under construction, the agricultural, horticultural and chemical departments have had liberal appropriations for equipment, and a complete outfit of wood-working machinery has, at a cost of over five thousand dollars been added to the machine shops.

—President Crowell, of Trinity, writes the Charlotte Chronicle: "The architect never condemned materials which President Crowell used in order to urge on the work; on the other hand the building committee, of which I am a member, condemned materials from time to time which both contractor and architect had accepted as fit to go into the building.

—Charlotte News: Mr. D. L. Todd, of Paw Creek township has a dogwood walking cane, carved by worms. Mr. Todd found the stick on his farm and was amazed at the beauty of the tracing made by worms. The stick has three raised places like joints in a cane.

—During the summer the North Carolina college of agricultural and mechanic arts has been adorned much to its capacity for doing first-class work. Four new members have been added to its teaching force; two handsome brick dormitories are under construction, the agricultural, horticultural and chemical departments have had liberal appropriations for equipment, and a complete outfit of wood-working machinery has, at a cost of over five thousand dollars been added to the machine shops.

—President Crowell, of Trinity, writes the Charlotte Chronicle: "The architect never condemned materials which President Crowell used in order to urge on the work; on the other hand the building committee, of which I am a member, condemned materials from time to time which both contractor and architect had accepted as fit to go into the building.