

DR. NELSON'S FAREWELL

HIS SERMON AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Beloved Pastor Reviews the Church Work During His Pastorate, and Bids His Flock a Feeling Farewell.

As Rev. Dr. W. A. Nelson announced his first hymn at the morning service in the First Baptist church Sunday, it was evident that he would not be able to



REV. W. A. NELSON, D. D. (From a Photograph by Lindsey & Brown.)

preach in his usual vigorous style. He said that he would not attempt to give his congregation a sermon, but would only give his church a farewell talk. He was glad to welcome many of his friends in the audience who had made great sacrifice of personal comfort in going to church through the bitter wind and driving snow storm. The minister said it was but another manifestation of the kindness they had so abundantly shown him before.

Dr. Nelson then announced as the basis of his remarks I Cor. 2:3-5:

"And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling; and my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power; that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

"The first Sunday in February, 1887," said Dr. Nelson, "I preached my first sermon to you as your pastor. On that day I took as my text the verse preceding the verses I have just read, and as my theme a Complete Saviour. I laid down the direction of the Holy Spirit as our guide and the crucified and risen Christ as our Savior and the Savior of all who would trust him. I love the old doctrine of 'Jesus and his love.' I don't love the 'new theology,' but I love the old, old story—not because it is old, but because it is the doctrine of my crucified Redeemer. This doctrine I have kept fresh before you. You remember I told you the object I had and hoped to accomplish in preaching to this people was to lead bad men to become good and good men to become better. I have endeavored to win the wayward for my Master, to lift up the fallen and the weak, to visit the widow and the orphan, to comfort the distressed and to point lost souls to a Savior. At the same time I have not failed to declare to you the whole counsel of God so far as it has been revealed to me by His Word and Holy Spirit. I have proclaimed His gospel to you weekly, as well as in the prayer meetings as from the pulpit.

"The record of my five years' ministry with you is made and is recorded above; God knows I have tried to be faithful to you and to Him. As my text says, 'I was with you in weakness,' etc. I have endeavored to do my duty honestly, without ostentation and in the fear of God. Many think the way to preach the gospel is to show great research and erudition—their chief object is to attract the people; Paul says he did not preach with 'enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.' He did not try to draw the people by classical music or rhetorical phrases or flights of eloquence; Christ was the magnet he held up to the people. 'If he be lifted up I will draw all men unto me,' says Christ. Like Paul when the battle of life is over if I can look back and say with him 'I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,' then I will not have lived in vain. I shall be satisfied.

"Brethren, I have no higher ambition in this world than faithfulness to my Master. But faith that stands in the wisdom of men is not the faith my text requires, but in the power of God, says the apostle, I have tried to teach you to stand in the power of God, otherwise when trouble and sorrow and affliction and distress shall come over you your faith will waver and oh! brethren if your faith cannot stand the conflicts of this world, has it strength for the judgment to come? A religion that will not stand here is not safe to risk at the bar of God. Fortify your souls against sorrow, affliction and adversity by simple faith and honest trust in God. Brethren, I have tried to teach you this faith and trust, I have counseled you to promptness in my master's work. I have enjoyed liberality and honesty and sincerity in all things. Zeal and activity in good work should characterize a Christian's life.

"Constant work for my Lord is my chief joy, and these five years have been the busiest of my life. Since I have been your pastor I have made nearly or quite an average of fifteen hundred visits a year. These I considered necessary. The most of them were to the poor and the afflicted. My heart always goes out to them. It may be a weakness with me, but I love God's poor. Brethren, never close your hand of Christian love and charity against those who need your help. Do no circumscribe your charities with denominational lines; when God calls lead a helping hand. Since I have been with you we have contributed to the poor of Asheville nearly \$500 per year in money besides food and clothing. The visiting I did with the study I was forced to do frequently made me work sixteen hours per day and this has been too great a tax on my constitution, but it was service for the Savior, and God has greatly blessed the labors.

"On the first day of February, 1887, five years ago less one month this church had 288 members. Since I became your

pastor we have received 640 members. This has not been by protracted meetings held by modern great evangelists, but by the quiet unpretentious work of the church led by the Holy Spirit. This I think the better way. The contributions of the church have kept abreast with her other progress until her last letter to the association showed a collection for all purposes including her two mission Sunday schools of over \$13,000. The church supports a city missionary. Too much cannot be said of this meek man of God, Brother W. P. Southern. Consecrated and earnest he has done a great work for his Master. I desire to give public testimony to my appreciation of his consecrated life and his worth and piety as a Christian minister. God has put the seal of his approval upon his ministry and he has been instrumental in the salvation of many souls.

"Since May 1, 1891, we have also been supporting a missionary to China. Brethren, I beg you never let your interest in foreign missions decrease. Support your missionary until your new house is completed and then add another to your work. During the first two years of my pastorate here I preached in the afternoon on Sundays at Biltmore and as a result we have a flourishing church there self-supporting and active. God has blessed our work there also.

"At Academy Hill, in northwest Asheville we have a flourishing Sunday school with Brother Burnham as superintendent. Our weekly prayer meeting and school has been greatly blessed of God and many souls have been saved.

"West End mission has been greatly honored by the Lord. It has a house nearly completed worth \$5,000. This is a very active missionary and Sunday school point and will soon develop into a body of strong Christian workers.

"We have lengthened our cords in every direction until it has become necessary for the mother church to enlarge her dwelling and we began our new house on the corner of College and Spruce streets and when completed will cost nearly \$50,000. We love the memory of dear Brother Melke for his beautiful christian life but in nothing was it more beautiful than in his intense zeal in raising funds and originating plans for this house of the Lord. Brethren, I confess I had a desire to lead you into that beautiful church, but just before we are ready to enter the Lord has had the hand of affliction upon me and the privilege will fall to one more worthy, I trust. It is God's will and I bow humbly. As to my successor, let him come of the Lord, seek counsel of God and his direction will be wise.

"Finally, brethren, in our relation as pastor and people we have much to cause rejoicing. I recognize every member of this church as my personal friend. During my pastorate there has not been a discordant ray within the pale of our church. Harmony, good will, co-operation and brotherly love have characterized our relations. There have been five years of the most active labor of my life, but they have been the happiest. There have been years of pleasure and yet years fraught with the greatest affliction of my life, but when He has made a vacancy in my heart by calling away my loved one He has filled the vacancy with love for Christ. Beside my love for the church I have steadily increased as the years have gone by until today she is dearer to my heart than ever before. I want Asheville to always remain my home. God bless her people and churches; I love them all of whatever name or denomination, but of the First Baptist church I can truthfully say it was God's will I would rather continue as your pastor than be the pastor of any other church on earth. You have done me well, the world has done me well, and therefore I owe my efforts in trying to lead the world to my Savior. May we do all for His honor and glory. Amen."

Dr. and Mrs. Nelson will leave Asheville tomorrow for Aiken, S. C., where they will spend a month or so, if Dr. Nelson's health permits.

JORDAN STONE DEAD.

A Former Editor of "The Citizen" Dies in Los Angeles, Cal.

A letter received from California by Dr. John Hey Williams states that Jordan Stone, a former resident of Asheville, died in Los Angeles on the 26th of December, of pneumonia.

Mr. Stone will be remembered by nearly all of Asheville's citizens. He was a native of Mecklenburg county, Va. He removed to Weldon, N. C., in 1867 and established the Weldon News, remaining there until the year 1872, when he went to Raleigh and started the Raleigh News. Mr. Stone lived in Raleigh until 1876, when he came to Asheville and associated himself with Robert M. Furman, in the conduct of THE CITIZEN. Later Col. John D. Cameron became one of the editors, the firm being Furman, Stone & Cameron.

Mr. Stone left Asheville in December, 1888, going to Los Angeles, where he went into business as a commission merchant, dealing in builders' supplies, which business he successfully conducted until his death.

Mr. Stone was a man of great energy, and was a forcible writer as well. During his residence here he made a host of friends, every one of whom will deeply regret the loss of his life. He was about 48 years of age, and had been married twice, his second wife having been Mrs. Mattie D. Welch, of Talladega, Ala. Mrs. Stone and four children, two sons and two daughters, survive him.

Carolina Club Officers.

The annual election of the Carolina club was held in the club rooms in the Johnston building, court place, last night. The following officers were elected: President, J. A. Campbell; vice-president, D. W. Furman; secretary and treasurer, B. M. Jones; executive committee, A. T. Summey, R. P. Foster, J. W. Schartzle, Dr. C. S. Jordan, J. A. Conant, L. P. McLoud, L. Pulliam and W. R. Patterson. The club is now in a most flourishing condition, there being the names of 135 members enrolled on its books.

At Kenilworth Inn.

The New Year's dinner at the Kenilworth Inn yesterday was enjoyed by seventy-three guests. Maj. W. E. Breese also gave a dinner there yesterday to a party of sixteen friends. Dr. Browning tells THE CITIZEN that there were thirteen arrivals at the Inn yesterday, and that he has over seventy engagements for next week.

THE LEAP YEAR GERMAN

BRILLIANT AFFAIR AT THE BATTERY PARK.

Belles and Beaux Begin Leap Year in a Bewitchingly Beautiful Event Last Night—Some of the Costumes—A Lady's Account

The leap year german given by the Asheville young ladies took place Friday night at the Battery Park hotel. The following report of the elegant affair was sent THE CITIZEN with the request to publish as sent.

Through the courtesy of Mr. McKisick the ladies had the use of the beautiful ball room. It was elaborately decorated for the occasion in pink and white, and a profusion of holly and mistletoe.

The chaperones were, Dr. S. W. Battle, Mr. A. J. Lyman, Mr. Richmond Pearson, C. P. O. W. Budd, Mr. Charles Woolsey and Mr. Charles McNamee. They were very efficient in helping to make the german a success. Their costumes were very handsome. Dr. Battle and Capt. Budd wore button trimmings. Mr. Lyman's neck was cut. Mr. Woolsey's costume was a dream of loveliness. Mr. McNamee's and Mr. Pearson's diamonds were the handsomest in the room.

A fine supper was served at 11 o'clock. After supper the german began, and was successfully led by Miss Annie Williams, assisted by Miss Isabel Matland. All the gentlemen were perfect ladies, and there were no wall flowers. Among the most popular belles of the evening were Messrs. Herbert Child, D. W. Bissell, D. C. Waddell, Jr., Dr. Harry Williams, Robert Bingham, Jr., and Stanley Parker.

Mr. Herbert Child looked sweet in pale blue ribbons and pink rosebud. Blue is known to be Mr. Child's most becoming color. Mr. Bissell was beautifully attired in yellow ribbons, and carried a lovely bouquet of roses. Dr. Harry Williams, in white crepe de chine, was the personification of loveliness. Mr. Arthur Child, the debutante of the evening, charmed all eyes with his graceful dancing and girlish modesty. Mr. Stanley Parker was bewitchingly lovely in pink ribbons, with rosebud of same color. Mr. Bingham, with his large gray eyes, was irresistible. Mr. Waddell looked charming in "V" neck, and, as usual, his dancing was unsurpassed.

Among those present were the following:

Messrs. D. C. Waddell, Jr., Herbert D. Child, Gibson Merrimon, H. S. Williams, Wm. King, R. W. Bingham, Arthur Child, P. S. Parker, E. Tylden Wright, Geo. R. Collins, Captain Berestord Webb, D. W. Bissell, H. A. Caparu, C. W. Murphy, Chas. Pennington, H. A. Kidd, Thomas McBee, Steadman, Duff Merrick, Ben. Jones, W. D. Williams, Clarke, H. Rumbough, W. W. Merrill, Seymour Merril, Thos. Chesbro, McKisick, Oliver Rutledge, Robert Blake, Misses Anne Catherine Williams, L. Isabel Matland, Newton, Maria Brown, Steadman, Williams, Blandy, Mitcull, Glasz, Gregory, Emily Matland, Cortland, Louise Westfield, Lucy Waters, Kidd, Cartmough, Gazzam, McKim, Matland, Rumbough, H. Blake, E. Blake, R. Grant, Allison, Walsh, Erskine, E. B. Pennington.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Pennington, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Pennington, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sluder, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Price, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McLoud, Mr. and Mrs. John Child, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers Grant, Mr. and Mrs. T. Wilson Sharpless, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Hilliard, Mr. and Mrs. Hartshorne, Mr. and Mrs. E. Rumbough, Judge and Mrs. Moore Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Herrick, Mrs. A. J. Lyman, Mrs. O. W. Budd, Mrs. Chas. McNamee, Mrs. Chas. Woolsey, Mrs. Holcombe, Mrs. J. G. Martin and Mrs. S. W. Battle.

In every way the german was one of the most elegant ever given in Asheville. The young ladies who managed it deserve a great deal of credit for its pleasantness. It was a unique affair, and there was nothing but pleasure all around to each and every one.

VOTING CONTEST.

Miss M. Ella Browne and R. P. Foster Get the Pictures.

The contest inaugurated by Edwin L. Brown, Jr., the young merchant doing business on South Main street, closed Thursday. Two very pretty pictures were offered, one to be given to the most popular school teacher and the other to the most elegant ever given in Asheville.

The voting had been lively, and there was a box full of ballots to be counted. This was done on Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The votes were read out by Register J. J. Mackey and the score was kept by Robt. M. Furman, of the Democrat, Clarence F. Kay, of the Morning Gazette, and THE CITIZEN.

The picture for the most popular teacher was given to Miss M. Ella Browne, of the Montford avenue school, she having received 492 votes. Miss Katie Millard, of the Orange street school, was a close second, with 451 votes. Other teachers receiving votes were: Miss Minnie Hallyburton, Miss Porter, Miss Carrie Black, Miss Hatch, Miss Webb, Miss Holman, Mrs. T. W. Branch, Miss Viola Boddie, Miss Cora Drummond, J. D. Eggleston, Miss Mollie Lanier, Miss Annie Allison, Miss Colling, P. P. Claxton, Miss Johnston, Miss Montgomery, Mrs. L. A. Farinbolt, and D. W. Bissell.

The railroad man's picture was won by R. P. Foster, master of trains of the Western North Carolina railroad, his vote being 178. John Fletcher, of the street railway, was second with 55 votes. Others voted for were: Cass Underwood, Wm. Arthur, Wm. Williamson, Clarence W. Murphy, R. R. Bridges, Thos. Murphy, J. Frank Blair, T. H. Bomar and A. H. Baird.

"Twelfth Night" Party.

THE CITIZEN has received the following invitation to be present at the residence of Mrs. R. H. Reeves, No. 35 Spruce street, on Wednesday night, the 6th, to participate in a "Twelfth Night" party: "To ye bold lads and faire lasses, Greeting: Come to ye house of Mistress Reeves, at early candle-lighting, on January sixthe, and join ye merrie companie in ye pastimes and customs of ye Twelfth Night." A very pleasant time is anticipated.

A SHOOTING.

Alderman Reynolds Fires Three Shots at a Colored Man.

About 1:45 p.m. Saturday Alderman W. T. Reynolds fired three shots from a pistol at Charles Connelly, a colored man, on southwest court place.

Friday Mr. Reynolds was in Reynolds & Spears' livery stable on Water street, when Connelly, who was a stable hand, and had been drinking, became enraged over something Mr. Reynolds said, and picking up a brick threatened to knock him in the head.

Mr. Reynolds had just gotten up from a long attack of the grip, and was very weak. Saturday at four o'clock he was on the sidewalk near T. C. Smith & Co.'s drug store. He saw Connelly not far away, and, pulling out a pistol, fired at the colored man. Connelly ran, and Mr. Reynolds fired two more shots after him.

Patrolman Chas. W. Goodlake was standing near by, and running up, caught Mr. Reynolds' hand just after the third shot had been fired. Friends then ran up, and with them Mr. Reynolds went away.

Connelly ran into the alley at Sorrells' bar. One of the bullets struck him in the leg. Dr. R. H. Bryant is attending him.

THE FEAST OF HOGMANAY.

A HAPPY GATHERING ON THURSDAY NIGHT.

The Clans Gather and Make the Celebration by the Scottish Patriotic Society One of the Most Brilliant Ever Held.

The last hours of the dying year '91 brought no more interesting or thoroughly enjoyable event than the six-annual celebration by the Scottish Patriotic society of the feast of Hogmanay, in Assembly hall, Patton avenue, on Thursday night.

These celebrations have for several years past been made a distinct feature by the Scottish residents of Asheville and vicinity, and this last one even outdid any of its pleasant predecessors.

It was 9 o'clock and after (the good old Scots will never hurry things) when the bonnie lassies and laddies, the older people, and the invited guests arrived at the hall, which had been handsomely and tastefully decorated for the festive occasion.

About 10 o'clock the concert began. This part of the program was very attractive. The opening number, "Thou Bonnie Wood o' Craigielea," was sung by the entire audience, and the effect was charming. Mr. William Goudie followed with a song, "Nora, Fride of Kildare." Mrs. A. G. Mansson's rendition of "Mattie's Faith," and "The skipper and his boy," showed a splendid voice, well trained, and the songs were received with much applause. Mr. D. K. McKimmon, in his own happy way, gave a recitation, "Watty and Meg," Miss Mamie Lusk's singing of "Going to Market," was one of the very best things on the program, and all enjoyed it greatly. Accers, Simpson, Goudie and Henderson sang a trio that was catchy, and Mr. Hume's recitation was well done. Mr. H. Petric sang "The Guardship" admirably and fully deserved the plaudits of his listeners.

This closed the first part of the entertainment. Mrs. D. K. McKimmon had been put down for a song, but was suffering from a severe cold, and had to discontinue the audience.

About 10:30 supper was announced. In the front portion of the hall two long tables had been placed, the supper room being separated from the dancing hall by curtains. At these tables the guests, to the number of one hundred more, seated themselves and the feast began. And a rigat roval spread it was! Nothing had been left out that could appeal to the taste, and all partook heartily. The supper was gotten up by Barker, the South Main street caterer.

At 11:30 the dancing began. Music was furnished by the Battery Park orchestra. There were twenty dances on the program, and it is needless to say that the crowd "tripped the light fantastic" until far into the morning hours.

But all these happy occasions, no matter how pleasant, must have an end, and finally the music ceased, and the company gathered together, and lifted up their voices in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Then, when the New Year was yet in its swaddling clothes, the happy Scots returned to their homes, to cherish brightest recollections of this most auspicious occasion.

LUCKY GUESSERS.

Prizes in the Big Candle Contest Awarded.

When the guesses on the Asheville Cigar company's big candle were examined on Saturday afternoon it was found that the first prize had been won by W. A. Dougherty, manager of the clothing store of E. B. Barnum & Co. Mr. Dougherty's guess was 8 days, 17 hours, 30 minutes and 20 seconds, coming within 5 minutes of the correct time. This prize was a \$25 shaving set. The second prize was dressing case, won by A. H. Robinson. The third prize, a handsome cigar box, was won by M. G. Miller. Patrolman W. R. Gudder, of the police force, won the fourth prize, a cigar case.

As a guessist Barnum & Co.'s manager seems to be in it.

Ten Dollar Gold Piece for a Cent.

Sometime ago, a gentleman bet that if he stood at the corner of Broadway and Fourteenth street, New York, and offered good eggs to the passers-by for a cent each, he would find no purchasers. The experiment was tried, and it turned out just as he said. No one would believe that the coins were genuine. It seemed too good to be true. An equally remarkable offer is that made by the proprietors of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, the sovereign cure for consumption. Think of it! restoration to life and health for a mere song. There is not a case of lung-sepsis—in other words, consumption—that will not yield to it, if it is taken in time. It is the greatest blood purifier ever known, and is guaranteed to benefit or cure in all diseases of the throat and lungs, or money refunded. Only extraordinary curative properties could warrant or sustain its makers in selling it thus, on trial!

A THRILLING EXPERIENCE

J. H. BOARDMAN COMES NEAR DROWNING.

Together With a Colored Man, Mr. Boardman Attempts to Cross the Swannanoa, and They Have a Very Close Call.

On Wednesday evening last J. H. Boardman, engineer at the water works, together with a colored man, started to cross the Swannanoa river in a boat, the usual way of crossing. When half way over the boat sank with them. It is supposed that the colored man who seemed to be frightened caused the boat to dip. When they fell in Mr. Boardman—who could not swim—tried to get to the colored man, and begged him to help him.

Mr. Boardman's family—wife and two daughters—were in the house. One of the young ladies heard a cry and ran to the road overlooking the river. Her feelings can be better imagined than described when she saw the heads of two men—one her father—moving slowly down the river.

Her screams brought the mother and other daughter out. They realized that they could do nothing to save him, for their only means of rescue, the boat, was gone. Then the daughter who was first at the scene rushed frantically down the road, screaming "Help! help! two men are drowning."

Mr. Mark L. Reed heard the screams and jumped on a horse behind another man who was passing his house and went to the rescue.

In the meantime Mr. Boardman, though the water was up to his mouth, never lost his presence of mind. He kept his mouth tightly closed, treading the water and moving the paddle under the water, and was carried by the current down to some driftwood. With one arm around a log in the river he managed to steady himself till he could reach the boat. The water was shallow enough then to touch bottom, so he waded—pulling the boat to the opposite side of the river.

Mr. Boardman's strength was almost gone, but he had determined to save the colored man, who kept pitifully crying: "Oh, Mr. Boardman do save me. My breath is almost gone." Mrs. Boardman sensibly told the man to "shut his mouth and stop yelling and he'd save his breath." But in a few moments, by catching on to the boat, he was landed. Mr. Boardman then, his strength almost gone, shaking with a chill, and to paddle himself across again to get home.

The water works pump had to be stopped till the night helper arrived, as Mr. Boardman was suffering from a chill and overtaxed strength.

THE CITIZEN'S informant points to this narrow escape and says there is urgent need of a bridge at this point, even though it be but a foot bridge. The only man near there is Mr. Boardman, and he cannot swim. The accident is liable to occur again, and the second time may end disastrously. The informant adds: "Cut off from neighbors or help in the time of need, cut off from help from passers by, the only convenience is—the telephone."

ASHEVILLE NOTES.

Hon. Jesse P. Lowry spent New Year's day in the city.

Marriage license has been issued to Robert Jones and Arrie Brown, white, of Buncombe.

Jaier Jamison says the county began the new year with nineteen prisoners in the jail.

Ex-Congressman H. G. Ewart, of Hendersonville, spent Saturday and Sunday in the city.

George Vanderbilt is now at his home near Biltmore. With him are Hon. Ed. Burnett, Richard M. Hunt, the architect, Frederick Law Olmstead, R. H. Hunt and G. Pinchot.

The Knoxville Evening Sentinel says: Mr. Lloyd Freeman, formerly of this city, but now of Asheville, has been visiting here for several days. He is conducting an art studio successfully in Asheville.

J. D. Hambrick, of New York, is in the city. Mr. Hambrick is here for the purpose of putting up the Universal long filler cigarette machine to be used by the Asheville Tobacco works. He will complete his work in a few days.

De Witt Pinson, who has been THE CITIZEN'S correspondent at Bingham school since the opening, writing over the signature of "Foxie," has returned to his home in Atlanta, and will not return to the school.

THE R. & A.

New Developments to Be Looked For Soon.

Frank Reynolds, president of the Rutherfordton and Asheville railroad company, which has a franchise and right of way for either an electric road or a standard gauge railway from Rutherfordton to Asheville, has been in the city for a few days, and informs THE CITIZEN that English capitalists are at present taking considerable interest in this scheme.

There are no differences of opinion as to the importance of this road to both Asheville and Rutherfordton. Should it be built it would traverse one of the most magnificent sections of the American continent for scenery, and will open up a wild and sublime country which would attract tourists from every quarter of the globe.

It is intended to make the road an electric one, if at all possible; but if this should be found impracticable, a standard gauge road will be constructed upon the most modern and substantial plan. There is ample water power along the proposed line of road, about midway between the terminal points, to drive dynamo large enough to generate an electric force of indefinite horse power, and when once the machinery is placed in position the cost of propelling force will be minimized.

Mr. Reynolds was not at liberty to divulge the precise condition of affairs with his company at present, but enough was said to show that he has absolute faith in its success, and with the opening of the spring new developments, and possibly active operations, may be looked for.

TELEGRAPH TOLLS.

What Manager W. G. Peebles Has to Say on the Subject.

In a conversation with W. G. Peebles, manager of the Western Union telegraph office in Asheville, he gave THE CITIZEN some figures of interest, especially since the publication of an item to the effect that the Western Union had put up telegraph rates to points outside the state.

"Instead of increasing the rates," said Mr. Peebles, "they have been reduced. For instance, the rate to Middleboro, Ky., which was 50 cents for a ten-word message, is now but 25 cents. Then there are the cities of Atlanta and Augusta, the rate to which formerly was 50 cents, but which is now only 40 cents. The same change applies to Chattanooga and Bristol, Tenn., and Rock Hill, Chester and Winnsboro, S. C.

"The old rate to Spartanburg was 40 cents, but that has been reduced to 25 cents. The same reduction has been made for Greenville and other towns in South Carolina on the Air Line road."

Mr. Peebles said he could name hundreds of cities to which the telegraph rate had been lessened.

THIS IS ENCOURAGING

MORE MONEY FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.

The Apportionment Raised to \$1.50 Each for Every Child of School Age—An Interesting Report from Superintendent Way.

C. B. Way, county superintendent, hands THE CITIZEN the following interesting and valuable report:

"The county board of education held its regular meeting yesterday and today, the full board being present—A. T. Summey, chairman, B. G. Gudger and J. H. Sams. The important feature of this meeting was the apportionment of the county school fund for the year. After a careful estimate of all the sources of revenue available, and deducting lawful expenses for collecting, disbursing, pay of superintendent and board, office expenses, estimated insolvencies, etc., the board concluded that it was safe to declare the apportionment to be \$1.50 each child of school age, and also a special appropriation to a few very weak districts, to bring them up to \$75 each. This is a small and inadequate amount for school purposes, but remember that it is an advance of 20 per cent. on last year. With this aid there are not a half dozen districts in the county which cannot have a six-months' public school this year. I intend to show them how easily it can be done, and ask them to do it.

"Teachers' reports from seventy-two districts (outside of Asheville) show an enrollment of 4532 scholars out of a census of 6629—68 per cent, and an average attendance of 267—40 per cent. This is a very respectable gain over last year; and I hope by the close of the year, (June 30) when all the reports are in, and the full report goes to Raleigh, that it will be increased. Let the friends of public education in Buncombe take courage and redouble their efforts. It is the great cause of liberty and country. There must be no pause in the onward march. Let the teachers in the little mountain school houses feel that they are leaders, men and women of power and consequence, in this war against poverty, pauperism and crime. Let them go out among the fathers and mothers in their districts, and I urge them to send their children to the public school.

"Let those important school officers—the school committeemen—read over the school law and their oaths of office, and resolve to put a little more time and work and heart into the discharge of their duty, and my word for it we will average sixty per cent. in school next year. Will they do it? I appeal to every one of them; let's stand by each other, stand by the cause, and come up to the full measure of duty hereon. I say to them, limited as our public school facilities are, yet, with proper effort, there is no necessity to rear another illiterate child in North Carolina! I say to them, 'come let us reason together,' let's meet in council now, and lay our plans and devise our means for six months free schools, the coming year, in Buncombe.

"As for myself, I don't propose to 'go into winter quarters' in this campaign, but I desire to meet the people, officers and teachers of every district in the county and consult freely and fully in regard to work for the coming year."

THE R. & A.

New Developments to Be Looked For Soon.

Frank Reynolds, president of the Rutherfordton and Asheville railroad company, which has a franchise and right of way for either an electric road or a standard gauge railway from Rutherfordton to Asheville, has been in the city for a few days, and informs THE CITIZEN that English capitalists are at present taking considerable interest in this scheme.

There are no differences of opinion as to the importance of this road to both Asheville and Rutherfordton. Should it be built it would traverse one of the most magnificent sections of the American continent for scenery, and will open up a wild and sublime country which would attract tourists from every quarter of the globe.

It is intended to make the road an electric one, if at all possible; but if this should be found impracticable, a standard gauge road will be constructed upon the most modern and substantial plan. There is ample water power along the proposed line of road, about midway between the terminal points, to drive dynamo large enough to generate an electric force of indefinite horse power, and when once the machinery is placed in position the cost of propelling force will be minimized.

Mr. Reynolds was not at liberty to divulge the precise condition of affairs with his company at present, but enough was said to show that he has absolute faith in its success, and with the opening of the spring new developments, and possibly active operations, may be looked for.