

FIVE DOLLARS A YEAR.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 2, 1909.

winter weather

FIVE CENTS A COPY.

NEW CHARTER IS COMPLETE

People of the City Are to Pay for Permanent Improvements.

THE MAYOR WILL BE ELECTED BY ALDERMEN

New Charter Adopted With Few Changes, Showing That Committee Has Done a Thorough Piece of Work in Preparing Instrument—Last Night's Meeting Continued for More Than Three Hours—Some Radical Changes Adopted But These Are Necessary, Say Leaders, if City is to Grow and Keep in the Procession.

Harmony and concession on the part of the minority—sometimes, a very small minority—rendered last night's meeting of the charter committee of one hundred productive of highly satisfactory results and the adoption of a new form of charter that is practically the expression of the will of the entire committee, was secured.

The attendance, as had been anticipated, was large, the court room being well filled with members of the committee and outsiders, all of whom took the keenest interest in all that was said or done. The session lasted until near the midnight hour, as there was a large amount of matter to be disposed of and even then it was necessary to pass hurriedly over a part of the charter toward the last, in order to prevent the meeting's running over into the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Important Changes Made.

Some of the more important changes that were incorporated into the new charter last night include the election of the mayor by the board of aldermen, which board shall consist of one man from each of the four wards into which the city is to be divided and three aldermen elected at large, the giving of greatly enlarged powers to the mayor especially appointive powers whereby he will be able to name the heads of most of the departments; the power of five of the board of aldermen to depose the mayor, a clause which will as far as possible take the selection of a mayor out of politics; the decision agreed upon that permanent street improvements shall be paid for by abutting property owners; that water and sewer mains shall be paid for by abutting property owners to the extent to which they are benefited; and many other changes that the committee regards as being characteristic of the up-to-date modern city.

Last Night's Proceedings.

There was some delay in calling the meeting to order as several members of the board of aldermen had expressed a desire to attend. The meeting opened at 8:30 when Chairman M. D. Dowd called the board to order and minutes were read. The mayor entered the room and remained until near the close of the lengthy session that was held.

Mr. Plummer then offered a motion that no member be allowed to speak over five minutes, and Mr. W. F. Dowd offered an amendment that the members of the committee of ten be exempted from the five-minute rule. Mr. Stewart, who he would keep time the speakers would be called down upon Mr. Stewart's holding up his hand.

Charter Taken Up.

The meeting then decided to take up the charter section by section and the chairman called upon Mr. E. L. Keeler to read the various sections, one at a time, and it was agreed that after debate, the question of adopting or not adopting each section would be voted upon.

The first section related to the territorial division of the city into four wards, bounded by the two main streets, north and south, as under the old charter. After slight discussion this was adopted.

The next section of the charter provided for the election of seven aldermen, one from each of the four wards for two years, and three from the city at large for four years. Mr. W. S. Wittkowsky suggested that the word "commissioner" be inserted in place of "aldermen," declaring that the former term had grown quite popular here and that he thought that it would be well to listen to this suggestion and use "this sweet word." The remark occasioned considerable merriment.

After some brief discussion on this subject the question of ten was adopted.

The question of electing the mayor by the people and not by appointment of the board of aldermen, was taken up in the next section and developed into one of the warmest debates of the evening. Mr. Stewart thought that the people had always had good mayors in the past, he saw no reason why they should not believe in retaining this right in the future.

The debate was beginning to grow interesting when Mr. E. T. Canisler was called upon to offer the following on the subject of the election of the mayor by the board of aldermen and not by the people:

"I am only a recent convert to this system," he declared. "When I went into the committee I did not believe in this proposition of the charter, but now I am for it out and out. Something has been wrong. There are certain things known of all men and I need not tell you it is useless for me to close our eyes to these things. We

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TO-DAY IN THE LEGISLATURE

Senate in Midst of Discussion on 8 Per Cent. Legal Rate Bill.

SEVERAL IMPORTANT BILLS PASSED OR INTRODUCED

City of Asheville Figures in Progressive and Industrial Legislation—Charters for Three Power Development Companies—Resolution to Choke Off Bills After the 12th Instant—Grant, Republican, Playing Politics by Introduction of Many Bills.

Chronicle Bureau, Raleigh, Feb. 2.—In the Senate to-day Senators Elliott and Fry introduced resolutions limiting the time for introducing new bills. Elliott would have no new bills after February 15th and would require the joint finance committee to report by February 12th.

Senator Bassett offered petitions from citizens of Rocky Mount and against the bill to prevent garnishing of wages of railroad employes.

A resolution to pay the expenses of the inaugural committee, \$1,050, passed.

A motion by Fry that the resolution to have no new bills after February 15th be put on immediate passage was voted down.

At this hour the Senate is in the midst of long debate on the bill to allow eight per cent. interest in North Carolina under private contract. The sentiment of the members is very generally against the bill.

Among the new bills in the House are:

Grant: For the protection of employes as members of labor unions; to prevent black-listing of employes; to make unlawful the assignment of claims against employes for suits out of the State; to establish free public employment agencies.

These bills passed: To amend the charter of Burlington; to authorize Buncombe to fund its outstanding indebtedness; for regulation and restriction of sale of concentrated stock feeds; to authorize the sale of undesirable portion of the State test farms.

Charlotte Masons May Borrow \$250,000.

The House committee on corporations has passed favorably on the bill to amend the charter of the Charlotte Masonic Temple Association. This was introduced by Senator Pharr and is for the purpose of empowering the corporation to borrow \$250,000 to be expended in the erection of a splendid temple in Charlotte.

Important Bills by Weaver.

The bill by Representative Weaver to incorporate the Asheville and East Tennessee Railroad Company was acted upon favorably by the committee on corporations of the House. Work has already been begun on this road, the track now being laid from Asheville to Weaverville. It has been operating under another charter, and this one will authorize the company to push the work on to Hunteale, where the bill by Mr. Weaver's was passed on with favor by the committee. It is to incorporate the Carolina-Tennessee Power Company to operate in Cherokee county in the development of water power on the Hiwassee river.

The bill to incorporate the Union Power and Transportation Company, of Raleigh, will be reported favorably.

A bill allowing the Western Carolina Power and Transportation Company an extension of two years' time in which to begin operation was reported favorably.

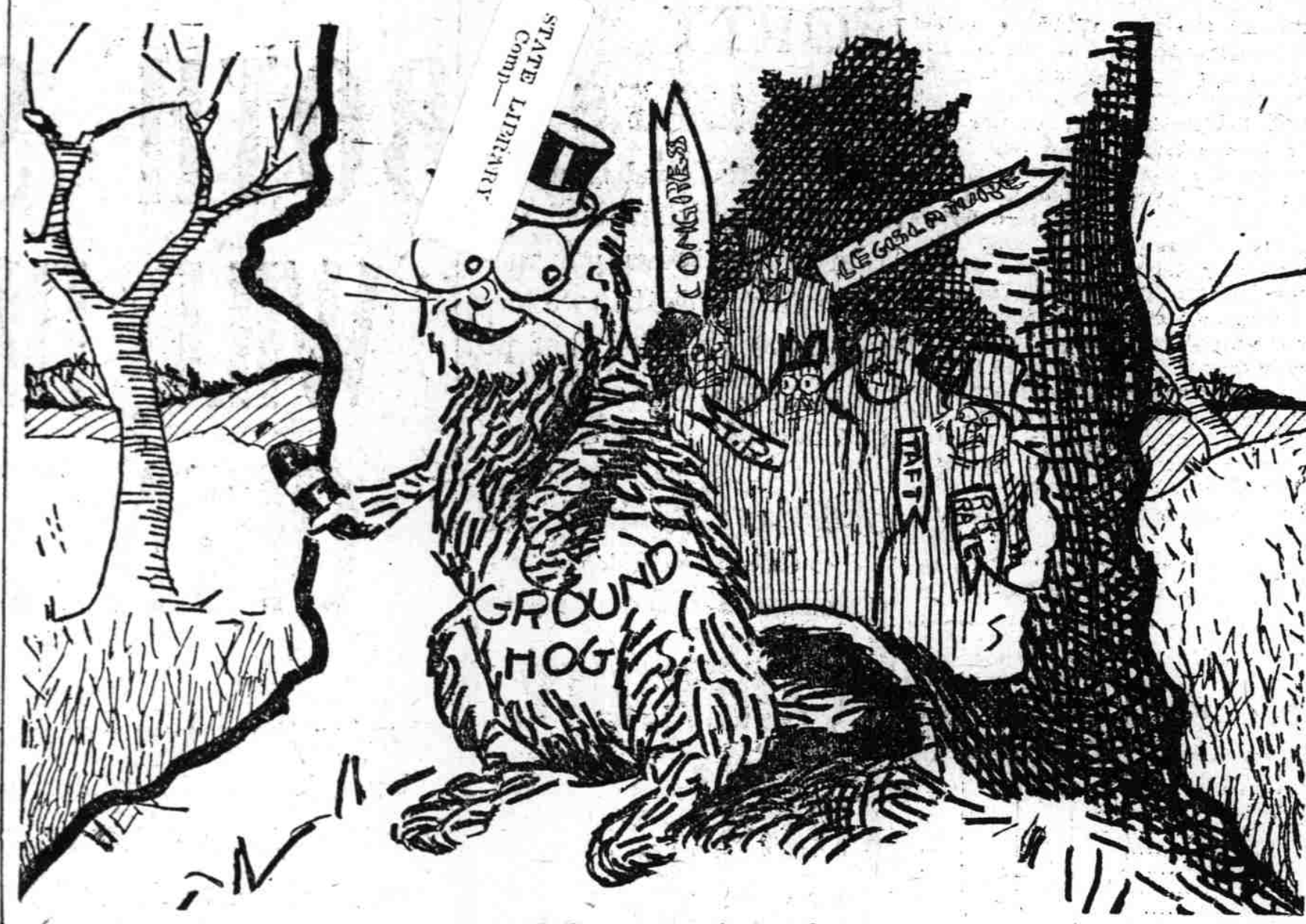
Several Bills to Be Reported Favorably.

The House committee on counties, cities and towns will report favorably on the bill to aid in the development of Asheville by allowing one per cent. of the city taxes to be expended in advertising the place, the bill to amend the charter of Asheville to allow street improvements, the bill to allow Asheville to purchase the auditorium property, Senator Baringer's bill to amend the charter of Greensboro, to appropriate certain moneys now in the hands of R. Swann, former manager of the Madison county dispensary.

Bill to Amend Constitution.

The long-expected bill to amend the constitution as to the homestead exemption arrives in the House, fathered by Representative Kendrick, of Gaston. It proposes to change Section 1 of Article 10 so as to make the personal property exemption \$500 instead of \$500 with the provision "But no merchant shall be allowed an exemption out of his merchandise or stock in trade; and Sec. 2 by reducing the real property exemption from \$1,000 to \$500, providing "But no real personal property shall be exempt from sale for taxes or for payments of obligations contracted for purchase of the same, nor shall partnership property be exempt from sale of partnership debts." The bill provides that the vote on the proposed amendment be taken at the next general election.

Representative Connor, of Wilson, is the author of the expense allowance of the Governor. It amends the act of two years ago, Chapter 1909, which allows the Chief Executive \$600 an-



Shadowed.

ENGLISH BRIDE FOR WESTINGHOUSE

Will Marry Daughter of Sir Thomas and Lady Brocklebank—Date Not Announced.

Lenox, Mass., Feb. 2.—After a friendship which began when they were little white lawn dresses and a courtship of two years, in which the course of true love was several times threatened with a rude termination, George Westinghouse, Jr., of Lenox and Pittsburg, is to sail for England on Wednesday to claim Miss Evelyn Brocklebank, daughter of Sir Thomas and Lady Brocklebank, as his bride.

The wedding, announced to-day for the first time so far as the public is concerned, is to take place in Holy Trinity Hall chapel some time in February. The date is not fixed, but will likely depend upon how George Westinghouse, Jr., stands a rough winter sea voyage.

WILL PUSH THE PROHIBITION FIGHT

Anti-Saloon League Jubilant Over Success in Six States, Plans to Dry Up the South.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 2.—Jubilant at having driven the "rum demon" from Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee, the workers of the Anti-Saloon League are gathering here to-day for a conference at which they will agree upon plans for carrying the warfare into the remaining "wet" States of Dixie. The Alabama State Anti-Saloon League will hold a jubilee meeting here the latter part of the week.

CONFERRING ON THE NEW WAGE SCALE

Southern Railway Officials Meet Committee of Employes at Washington.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The officers of the Southern Railway and a committee of the employes of the road are holding a conference here relative to the wage scale. The men ask that wages of a certain class of employes be increased and the working hours adjusted. The officers of the road express themselves as confident that an amicable arrangement be reached.

MARRIAGE NOT A JOKE THIS TIME

Miss Helen Maloney Has Unique Matrimonial Experience.

Spring Lake, N. J., Feb. 2.—With the full consent of her father and the sanction of the church, Helen Maloney was married this morning to Arthur Herbery Osborne, a young New York broker, with whom she went through marriage ceremony some years ago as a joke and which marriage was annulled by the courts after her marriage to Samuel Clarkson, an Englishman, last year. The affair created a great deal of interest at the time of her marriage with Clarkson.

The marriage to-day was in Catherine Memorial church, built by Mr. Maloney in memory of his oldest daughter.

MR. TAFT IN ROLE OF PEACE-MAKER

At Reception He Brings About Reconciliation Between President of Panama and His Late Rival.

Panama, Feb. 2.—Judge Taft, President Oboldia, of Panama, and the latter's late rival for the office, Senator Arias, met at a dinner and reception to-day tendered by the American minister at Culebra, Herbert V. Squiers said Mr. Taft's efforts were directed towards bringing about a reconciliation between Oboldia and Arias and that he was successful.

CHIEF OF RUSSIAN POLICE A TERRORIST

Examination of Lapukkin May Result in One of the Greatest Political Sensations of Years—Has Knowledge of Many Plots and Organizations.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 2.—One of the biggest political sensations of recent years is threatened to-day in the examination of a Lapukkin, former director of the police in the ministry of the interior, who faces the charge of high treason. As agent both of the secret police and Terrorists Lapukkin is believed to be in possession of evidence which, if made public will cause a historical shaking up of the Russian bureaucracy.

The government has thrown a great guard around the prison where Lapukkin is confined.

The examination of Lapukkin began to-day in the Corress prison. The charge against him is that he informed the Terrorists that Eugene Azeff, one of their leaders, was in reality a spy for the secret service.

Lapukkin's court martial is expected soon, as there is no civil court that has jurisdiction of such a case.

It is believed that Lapukkin has evidence of plots against even the Czar, in which officials are concerned.

Premier Stolypin says Lapukkin can explain many plots that had for their object the overthrow and assassination of government officials and the Czar.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TAFT IS PLEASED

Visits Gatun Dam Afoot—Expresses Satisfaction at Administration of Affairs on the Isthmus.

Panama, Feb. 2.—Walking much of the way, President-elect Taft visited Gatun Dam to-day. He expressed satisfaction over the administrative management in what the engineers told him concerning the progress of the work in that vicinity.

The President-elect also took occasion to-day to express satisfaction over the administration of the affairs of the zone.

SPANIARDS HURT BY OUR NEGLIGENCE

Failure of Fleet to Visit a Spanish Port in the Mediterranean Causes Resentment in Diplomatic Circles in Madrid.

Madrid, Feb. 2.—The failure of any of the American battleships to stop at any Spanish port during the fleet's stay in Mediterranean waters has caused resentment in government circles. For diplomatic reasons the government is not voicing its displeasure.

Ports of France, Turkey, Algiers and other countries were visited, but the Spanish coast towns were ignored.

Spain would have welcomed an opportunity of doing honor to the fleet, seeing in such an event the complete effacement of the last trace of bitterness growing out of the Spanish-American war.

The situation was so delicate, diplomats explain, that Spain could not urge her claims, though it was hoped until the last that the American government would arrange the Mediterranean itinerary of the fleet to include at least one Spanish port.

THE FEUD FEELING PERVADES THE AIR

Attempt to Remove Juror Whitfield from the Cooper-Sharp Jury Stirs Up the Tennesseans—Factional Feeling is Running High.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 2.—The feud feeling is in the air to-day as the result of the attempt to remove Juror James O. Whitworth from the panel in the trial of Colonel Duncan Cooper, Robin Cooper and John D. Sharp, on trial for slaying former Senator Carmack.

Whitworth is known as a "Patterson man." The latter's name is whispered in the case and some have

IS VARNE, SUICIDE, AN ASSUMED NAME OF CHARLOTTEAN?

Man Registering as R. B. Varne, of Virginia, Shoots Himself in Greensboro Hotel--Wore Charlotte Lodge Emblem and Charlotte Clothing.

Special to The Chronicle.

Greensboro, Feb. 2.—A stranger, who had registered at the Clegg Hotel as R. B. Varne, of Virginia, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head last night. He was found in an unconscious condition in his room soon after 10 o'clock and was hurried to St. Leo's Hospital, where he died a few hours later.

The suicide used a .38-calibre revolver, the bullet entering the right temple and passing entirely through the head.

The stranger arrived in Greensboro Sunday and spent all of yesterday in his room.

He left no message of any kind to identify him. He wore a Masonic emblem bearing the words, "Charlotte Chapter, No. 39, R. A. M." His clothing bore the name of the Little-Long Company, of Charlotte.

There is doubt as to the identity of the man and some believe that he is a Charlotte man and registered under an assumed name.

SOUTHERN LIFE CO. SUED FOR \$325,000

Yet Another Sensation in the Sensation-Producing Seminole Securities Company Affair—Receivers Allege Fraud in the Transaction With the North Carolina Corporation.

Chronicle Bureau, Raleigh, Feb. 2.

Alleging that the transaction was conceived and consummated in fraud of rights and interests of the stockholders in the Seminole Securities Company and that the officers of the Southern Life Insurance Company and its agents in the transaction had knowledge of fraud and participated and benefited by it, conspiring and colluding with the officers and agents of the Seminole Securities Company, and did damage to the irreparable

hurt and injury of the Seminole Securities Company, F. G. Thompkins and other as receivers of the Seminole Company have instituted suit in the United States Court here asking that the whole transaction between the Seminole Company and the Southern Life Insurance Company be annulled and the Seminole Company reimbursed the \$325,000 paid to the Southern Life by the Seminole officers in the deal that has stirred sensation after sensation in this State and South Carolina, the home of the Seminole corporation for the past few months.

FLEET OFF COAST OF GIBRALTAR

Visit to English Fortress is Unofficial But Officers and Men Are Being Entertained.

Gibraltar, Feb. 2.—The battleship fleet lay in formation off the coast of Gibraltar this morning. It is touching the last port on its remarkable journey and preparations are rapidly being made for the voyage home.

The visit here is entirely unofficial, but both officers and men are being entertained. Those engaged in coaling have shore leave and engaged in athletic exercises with their English cousins. The run home will be made in record time and the fleet will probably be in Norfolk by February 22d.

PRICE OF EGGS IS BOOSTED AGAIN

Retail at 47 Cents a Dozen and Continued Cold Weather Will Cause Advance.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—Another advance of 2 to 3 cents in the price of all grades of eggs has lifted values far above the high points of recent years. Retailers are charging 45 to 47 cents a dozen, while wholesalers' prices varied around 37 and 38 cents. Prices in the last three days have scored an advance of 8 cents and dealers say that with a continuation of cold weather still higher prices were in sight to-morrow.

POLICE OFFICER GETS "BLACK HAND" LETTER

While Trying to Run Down Members of Gang New York Captain is Warned.

New York, Feb. 2.—Right in the face of plans announced by Commissioner Bingham for the organization of a special black hand in the police force, Frank Morris, a police captain in Harlem, has received a "black hand" letter warning him that he and his men had better cease their activity. The letter written in red ink, said, among other things:

"You are depriving us of our business. Four men are after you. They will shoot many bullets into you, which will come out back of the heart."

Checker Heroes Meet.

Hastings, Neb., Feb. 2.—Gladiators of the checker board from all over Nebraska will take part in the twelfth annual tournament of the State Checker Association, opening here to-morrow. It is probable that a team of crack players will be selected to meet the winners of the recent Kansas State tourney.

Ski Jumpers to Compete.

Eau Claire, Wis., Feb. 2.—Final preparations were completed to-day for the annual tourney of the Ski Association of America, to begin here the latter part of the week. Thirty-five clubs, principally in Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin will be represented, and there will be championship contests for both amateur and professional ski jumpers.

Brown Alumni Meet.

Boston, Feb. 2.—President Charles W. Elliot, of Harvard; President W. H. P. Faunce, of Brown; Dr. William W. Keen, of Philadelphia, and Hon. Richard Olney will be among the speakers at the thirty-sixth annual reunion and dinner of Brown University Alumni, to be held at the American House this evening.

Leavitt Divorce Case.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 2.—Mrs. Ruth Bryan Leavitt's divorce suit against her artist husband will likely come up for final disposition on this month. No contest is expected, and Mrs. Leavitt will undoubtedly be given the custody of her two children.