

THE COMMISSION FORM.

It is said that there are some members of the board of aldermen who will oppose the commission form of government. The natural course of the board to pursue and the course the board will not doubt pursue, is to have an amendment to the city charter drawn providing for the commission form as the board may decide it should be adapted to Charlotte, and then have this amendment adopted by the Legislature. If the project is opposed by some members of the board this may make it somewhat difficult to secure the proposed amendment, but it is hardly possible that the opposition will be of sufficient strength to defeat the proposition.

It is true, has always been true and always will be true, that every progressive movement meets with opposition. When the initiative and referendum were first advocated those who brought the new idea forward were regarded as cranks, as dangerous citizens. And yet the initiative and referendum is in successful operation in many States now. The initiative and referendum and recall, which put all authority in the hands of the voters and makes office-holders directly and immediately responsible to the voter, are part and parcel of the commission form of government.

By means of their operation the voter is able to conquer the professional politician. If they make a mistake they can rectify it. If the laws passed by their representatives are not regarded as good they can annul them and make laws that are good.

The professional politician becomes an obstructionist just as soon as he sees the position he will be put in under the commission form of government. His power is annulled, his influence lessened. Demagoguery and bluff will not work for long under the commission form. Business is business and facts are facts and the commission form is based on business methods.

There may be those who oppose the commission form because they think it will not work in Charlotte. It works in Memphis, Birmingham, Galveston, Columbia, Wilmington, Greensboro and numberless other cities which are prospering under it. Why should it not work in Charlotte? Are not our voters as intelligent and as patriotic as those of other cities?

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A writer on etiquette says: "When a lady and gentleman walk together the lady should always be inside the gentleman." Who would have thought it?

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

Representative Charles B. Beaver of Transylvania County has adopted an exceedingly practical idea first proposed by W. E. Brees, Jr., Democratic candidate for the office which Mr. Beaver, Republican, won. Mr. Beaver has been meeting the voters of the several townships of the county at specified places and discussing the legislative needs of the county. At each place delegates have been elected to a final meeting at Brevard to embrace the entire county, when a legislative program will be agreed upon. This is a practical application of the initiative and referendum idea and much good is bound to follow. It is hardly probable that Representative Beaver will attempt to get all of the legislation asked for by all of the voters of the county, but through the several township conferences and the final county meeting it will be easy for him to get an excellent idea of what the majority of the people want. The Chronicle ventures to predict that Mr. Beaver will have one of the best pleased constituencies in the State when the General Assembly has passed into history.

The Chronicle is not at all Socialistically inclined and draws the line at public ownership of many enterprises, but it is glad to see Raleigh and Durham waking to the importance of having their water supply under municipal control. Both cities have suffered in the past from inadequate and unsatisfactory supplies and both are now taking hold of the matter in a manner that portends a good outcome. A town makes an eternal mistake to ever allow a private corporation to establish a municipal water system. When a town becomes large enough to support such a system, it should issue bonds and establish the system itself.

Next May will be a great month for Charlotte. The new electric lighting system will be in operation by that time, and the unsightly wooden poles will have been removed. There will be a great celebration with President-elect Wilson here as the central figure and with unnumbered thousands of visitors. And last, but far from being least, during that month the people of Charlotte will elect the first administration under a commission form of government. With all of these things in prospect we have much to live for.

Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt urges that our forests be protected not only against fire but against hogs and other stock. It is a well known fact that hogs have done hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to the long leaf pine forests of the eastern section of this State. Mecklenburg County and many other progressive counties have stock laws and are little troubled by the ravages of hogs and cattle.

A reader of The Chronicle, in sending his \$3 a year in advance from his present location in Georgia writes: "You are getting out the best penny paper in the South and it is getting better all the time. \* \* \* The Chronicle is a welcome daily visitor from home to me and keeps me neatly in touch with the local and North Carolina happenings."

Don't forget to use Red Cross Christmas seals on your packages and letters during the holiday season. The best way to do is to buy a good supply right away and keep them with you for use on all occasions.

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Subscription Price By Mail. One Year, \$3.00. Six Months, \$1.50. Three Months, .75. One Month, .25.

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Charlotte, N. C.

TELEPHONES. Editor, 3067. Managing Editor, 324. City Editor, 124. Business Office, 78.

The Evening Chronicle is served to the home by our carriers for 6 cents a week.

Charlotte subscribers to The Chronicle who fail to get the paper, are asked to phone 2631 and a copy will be sent them at once.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1912.

MODERN LIGHTS ASSURED.

The special committee appointed by the board of aldermen for the purpose of investigating the tentative contract agreement between the city executive board and the Southern Power Company having decided to recommend the system of street-lighting contemplated in the contract, it is pretty safe to assume that modern street lights for Charlotte are assured. There is small chance that the agreement will not be endorsed by the board of aldermen, although, as is the case with every progressive movement considered by the board, there will be some opposition to it.

Changing the street lighting system of the city does not seem to be such a large and important proposition on its face. Not a great deal of money is involved, the cost of the modern lights being only \$4,000 a year more than the present appropriation for lights. Notwithstanding the proposition is small beside many projects handled by the present administration it is tremendously important in its effect. Charlotte wants to make a good impression on every visitor. It wants them to come back again, either to make this city their home or to trade or simply to visit. Our paved streets make a good impression. Our busy stores and artistically decorated show-windows make a good impression. Our general air of activity and business makes a good impression. But when the visitor arrives here at night or goes out upon our principal streets at night, he receives a distinctly bad impression. Other cities he has visited have better lighted streets.

With brilliant lights on ornamental iron posts every 50 feet on every sidewalk uptown and with all of the present unsightly wooden poles removed a very different impression will be given both to the visitor and to the Charlottean. After all it is for the edification and satisfaction and comfort of the folks at home more than an advertisement that the lights will be installed. The lights in all sections of the city will be more than twice as effective as those in use at present.

PROGRESSIVE ROCK HILL.

The Rock Hill Herald yesterday afternoon issued a Christmas and Anniversary edition of 24 pages and a most creditable and comprehensive paper it is. The edition is profusely illustrated, showing a number of the imposing buildings at Winthrop College, the city schools, business buildings of note and street scenes, the latter including a view of Main street showing a part of Rock Hill's "Great White Way," the street being flanked by ornamental lighting posts with tungsten groups just as are proposed for 14 blocks of the uptown district of Charlotte. The paper contains a large amount of useful information about Rock Hill and might be considered a boosting edition almost, so enthusiastically optimistic is its general tone. The Herald did itself proud and the special edition is not only a credit to its publishers but to the live and progressive town of Rock Hill.

The society editor of The Chronicle has well suggested that those who are undecided about Christmas presents select one, two or more season tickets to the three performances of the distinguished artists booked by the Charlotte Musical Association. The suggestion is a happy one. A person giving such a present will not only give something well worth while, something that will bring pleasure and sweet memories to the recipient, but will also be helping in a most meritorious cause. The Charlotte Musical Association has put Charlotte on the musical map of the country and its officers and members deserve the heartiest and most cordial support of the people of the city.

The Chronicle is always glad to publish expressions on public questions of interest, especially upon local matters, from its readers, but communications must be accompanied by the name of their writer to secure any consideration. No communication will be published unless the editor knows its author's name. The name need not necessarily be published, but it must be given as an evidence of good faith and for the satisfaction of any who may be concerned. This is an inviolable rule of all newspapers of standing.

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THE GREENSBORO RECORD.

"Charlotte is making a noise like she was going to have a commission form of government. Not as long as the astute politician is in the saddle. But Charlotte needs a change about as bad as any city in the country."

Well, Colonel, one of the objects of the commission form is to get rid of the baleful influence of the professional politician, as you know. Charlotte people realize this and they are going to take the saddle from under the politician.

The Chronicle is sure that its readers will welcome the Chateleine back today. Those who enjoy bright comedy, wholesome philosophy, and live, interesting narrative written in a style that would do credit to many of the best literary lights of the country—these especially appreciate the Chateleine.

A good looking woman up in New Jersey broke two ribs kissing a Jersey lad. For a kiss from a real man of Tarheeldom there is no telling how many ribs she might have been willing to sacrifice.

PICAYUNES.

(New Orleans Picayune.) Small ideas and big words make a painful combination.

It's curious how affection and confection seem to harmonize.

A peculiarity of some oyster "paties" is that they lack oysters.

A child of genius that does not resemble its parents is quite common.

The man who does nothing but laugh in his sleeve will soon be out at the elbow.

Little things upset the plans of little men, but solid honesty stands solid to the end.

There are some people who think it should be called moonmoon instead of honeymoon.

The good men are continually going wrong. When, Q when, will the bad men commence to go right?

There are lots of ways to start trouble, but the easiest way is to knock a man when his wife is around.

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SPARKLERS.

(Continued.) A jug of cider. And a book. A grate fire. And a cozy nook. A well-filled pipe. Then who would go downtown to lecture. Dance or show?

(Houston Post.) "So the engineer was killed in that wreck, eh?" "I hadn't heard that. Aren't you mistaken?" "I guess not. I see that he has been blamed for the wreck."

(Baltimore American.) "How long did your new cook stay with you?" "Only an hour or so." "She must have left in a hurry." "She did. She poured kerosene on the kitchen fire."

(Judge.) "This is an excellent picture of you," said Cumso, examining a photograph of Howso. "Have you ever been done in oil?" "Not on your life," replied Howso. "I always wear clear of cur-market securities."

(Satire.) The Court—"Why don't you marry Evelyn? Don't you think you could support her?" "Support her! Why, I couldn't even pay for her complexion!"

(Life.) The Hero—His Sister—His nose seems broken. His Flances—And he's lost his front teeth. His Mother—But he didn't drop the ball!

(Punch.) The Nobel Prize—The Stockholm Tidningen announces that the Nobel prize for literature will probably be awarded to M. Anatole France.—Sunday Chronicle. Also ran—Mr. Jack, London.

(Carolyn Wells, in Lippincott's.) A downy, brown butterfly fell in love with a morning glory. He fluttered near, she leaned to hear. As he whispered the old story.

"I love you, love you, little flower; You've won my heart completely. Oh, blossom blue, do you love me, too?" The blossom looked up sweetly.

And, smiling through a tear of dew, She murmured, "Yes, my own." The words fell fair on the Summer air—The butterfly had flown!

One at a Time. (Boston Transcript.) A lecturer was annoyed by a man in the audience who insisted on rising and asking questions. "Sit down, you ass!" said a second man, jumping up. "Sit down, you, too!" cried a third man. "You are both asses."

There seem to be plenty of asses about tonight. In the lecturer's hear one at a time. "All you go on, then," said the first man, resuming his seat.

AFFAIRS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Daily Incidents, Facts And Comment Gathered From The Newspapers Of The State.

MR. SHUFORD HAPPY.

Progressive Citizen of Catawba County Has Many Reasons to Rejoice. (Raleigh Times.) There is a proud and happy man in Raleigh today and he is Mr. W. J. Shuford of the State Board of Agriculture and also the president of the "Catawba County Improvement Association." It is in the latter capacity that his joy comes to him, for he has in his pocket a check for \$1,000, which comes from a Mr. Rosenwald of Chicago and has set apart a million dollars which he is giving to the thousand counties in the United States which comply with his requirements, these requirements being that the farmers shall unite in improvement and development work and shall raise \$1,000 for this practical betterment. Catawba has raised nearly \$4,000 and it will soon have its own agricultural department and a county commissioner giving his entire time to this work. It is thought the right man has been secured. He must be a graduate of agricultural college, wide and varied agricultural experience. The Catawba association has 200 members and will soon have 1,000. Iredell County is working to get one of the \$1,000 prizes and \$4,000. It has a county commissioner in agriculture, and so will Mecklenburg. The Catawba association each week markets its products, including eggs, butter, poultry, sweet potatoes and many other things, even including peach seeds, for it has this season shipped 15,000 bushels of these, carefully selected for planting, at \$2.50 a bushel. It is no wonder Mr. Shuford is happy.

Iredell's Road Account. (Mooreville Enterprise.) It is said the report of the commissioners in regard to the Iredell County bond money has been most satisfactory. It shows that \$100,000 of bond money has been spent, and that 75 miles of excellent road has been built and is now complete. Of this amount \$40,000 is invested in equipment making the road mileage 100 miles. The road mileage is now approximately \$1,737.25. It is also claimed that the sand-clay roads built in Iredell County are among the best roads in the South. It might be stated, also, that this \$1,737.25 includes some very expensive bridges and heavy grading.

A. & M. Farm a Pretty Scene. (Raleigh Times.) The farm of the Agricultural and Mechanical school has certainly never been so carefully tilled as it is at present. The 170 acres in grain and in cover crops are already showing green and will be beautiful by and by. A section of the farm between the dairy and Pullen Park is now in various grasses. The grounds west of the main building have been carefully planted with corn, wheat and grain and the whole appearance is very attractive indeed.

Why Not a Health Car? (Twin-City Sentinel.) To run about a vague, far-away thing does not impress one nearly so much as to see the real thing face to face. Hence we have fairs, exhibits, demonstrations, etc. Why not have a health car exhibit a demonstration? It would be kept traveling about through every town and county in the State. Other States have health cars—why not North Carolina?

Another Progressive Educational Step (Monroe Enquirer.) An election on the matter of levying special tax for schools, held in the Johnston Hill district last Saturday, the voters of that district, near this city, have voted in favor of the measure. The splendid new building has just been completed in that district. Mrs. E. E. Fitzgerald gave an acre of land, a splendid location to the school.

The Sample Road Having Its Effect. (Asheboro Courier.) There is much sentiment in Randolph County for good roads, more than at any other time. The highway through the southern part of the county has served already as a demonstration road, and during the three years there will be a first-class highway by way of Mount Airy, Dobson, Elkin, Statesville and Charlotte, which will greatly increase travel and develop the material interests of the country.

North Carolina's Needed Laws. (Southport News.) It is expected that success will result from the determined effort of a few men to get a primary law for North Carolina. National Committee Josephus Daniels is one of the leaders.

It is also hoped that the initiative and referendum law may pass the Legislature in possibly some modified form. It may also be possible to get some modified form of Torrens system for land titles enacted.

Large Shipments of Apples. (Mount Airy Leader.) The Sparger Orchard Company and the Conland Orchard, near this city, have shipped 10,000 bushels of apples this Fall which practically represents the crop of these two young orchards.

CURRENT MAGAZINES.

The Christmas Lippincott's. A strong Yule-tide spirit pervades the pages of the December Lippincott's, and good cheer predominates. There is a complete novel, of course—"The Glimmer Glass," by Augusta Kortrecht, whose recently published book, "A Dixie Rose in Bloom," has made something of a stir. "The Glimmer Glass" is a breezy love story, remarkable not only for the newness of its plot, but for its admirable local color. For its repression, and for its fidelity to life, the scenes are laid in Tranquil Harbor, a quaint village on the New Jersey coast, which gives the author a rare opportunity to display her art in character delineation, of which she takes full advantage.

Short stories that breathe of the holiday season are "A Christmas Blessing," by Harriet Prescott Spofford; "The Woman at the Door," by John Nicholas Belfel; "Two-Tails," by Owen Oliver; and "Mercy's Goodness," by Eliza O. Jones. Lucy Copeland contributes "Gloria's Escape," a funny story of primary school children, while Temple Bailey is responsible for a clever and touching little tale entitled "Grandmother's Secret." "The Third of the Russian series: 'A Long Exile,' by Tolstol. As usual, there is an introduction by the editor, and a most excellent paper is in "Funny American in Paris," by Mrs. John Van Vorst. Paris is a great place for funny Americans. The financial article, by Edward Sherwood Mead, is on "The Public Service Commission and the Investor." Edwin L. Sabin has some interesting things to tell us in his sketch "Merry Christmas" and "L. R. B. pleads for the early doing of Christmas shopping under the title 'By December 16th.'" W. J. Burtscher, Angie Ousley, R. N. Price, and H. E. Ising all contribute bright, original papers.

The late Dr. Furness' many friends will be deeply interested in John Russell Hayes' poetic tribute to him, "Gentle and Kindliest." Among the other verses "Christmas Eve" by Edith M. Thomas, Susie M. Best and Carolina Glitman. Carolyn Wells and Antoinette De Coursey Patterson also have poems in the number.

The Department Investments, conducted by Edward Sherwood Mead, gives good advice to those who have money to set to work. "The Twentieth Century Travel" the motor department is in charge of Churchill Williams. Then to top off with there's "Walnuts and Wine," with its many pages of anecdotes, brand new, laugh-bringing jokes, sayings, and bright verses on fresh themes. Altogether, the December Lippincott's will be found a great promoter of Christmas merriment.

THE OFFENSE YOUR AD IN THE CHRONICLE WILL BRING YOU WILL BE SEEN, AND THE MORE POPULAR YOU ARE THE MORE TRADE YOU GET.

From The Chateleine's Point Of View.

BY J. P. B.

It is not a little significant and interesting to note that the Chateleine's return to her point of view was coincident with the recent charming visit to the Old North State? For three weeks it was given her to see once more and linger amid the old haunts and associations that make life worth living. In old Caswell the shadow on the dial moves but slowly, and the tide of life ebbs and flows with the measured, unobtrusive movement of ante-bellum days, but already a note of change and the quickening impulse of progress may be seen in the persistent agitation of the road question and the other equally significant ways. The county whose tobacco fetches 75, 80 and even 90 cents the pound, with an easy average of 80 cents, last like a lag at the rear of the procession and it requires no prophetic eye to see that before another decade shall have passed away the ancient prestige and prosperity of Caswell will return again in greater splendor and more enduring form. Meantime, let those who love Caswell best, advocate with might and main a bond issue for better roads, wearing and tearing and loss of horse flesh on account of our miserable, muddy roads. With good roads we shall stand alongside with the best counties in the State.

Another Feeder for Charlotte. (Elkin Tribune.) Messrs. J. S. Atkinson and J. F. Hendren went over to Statesville this week, accompanied by Mr. S. Howard, where they went before the County Commissioners of Iredell County with a petition signed by the leading citizens of Bucksheads and Knobs Townships. They were given a very respectful hearing, and the commissioners gladly passed a resolution ordering the engineers to make a survey from where the road is now finished to the Yadkin County line, at a point as nearly as possible to the Statesville and Jonesville road. If the people of Yadkin and Surry Counties will do their part, within the next three years there will be a first-class highway by way of Mount Airy, Dobson, Elkin, Statesville and Charlotte, which will greatly increase travel and develop the material interests of the country.

She speaks. It was in the late seventies that she came to North Carolina, a young girl, and her acquaintance with the sedate and dignified old town of Salem and her neighbor, the struggling little village of Winston-Salem, began. Through the marriage of the Chateleine's brother with a clever, gentlemanly and bred Moravian maiden, he had been a trifle gay, perhaps in Virginia's gay and festive life, and his being sent to Salem to become the agent of the new railroad that had recently been completed and brought the old town into touch with the outside world, was the wisest and best thing his kind and considerate kinsman could have done for him. Anyway, it anchored him for all his life to the beautiful home town, and he saw so great and prosperous, never had a more loyal and faithful citizen, a more willing worker, or a more unflinching believer in its great future.

There is a young lady in Wilson who is so very modest that she blushes at the "naked truth," and she positively refused to walk with a young man by some "undressed lumber." A gentleman met us yesterday on Nash street and asked us if we met a gentleman with his coat buttoned to his chin. And he got fearfully mad with us when we asked why he had buttoned his coat to his chin. A young lady remarked this morning that she was annoyed all during the night with a very severe attack of nausea, and a chronic grumbler and irritable old man, who occupied an adjoining room, replied, "Yes, and I was annoyed with the noise-you made."

RADIANT REFLECTIONS.

BY HENRY BLOUNT.

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While our thoughts are upon the ornate and the exquisite and the beautiful, we wish to say just a few words about the brilliant emanations and equipped to handle the most delicate and highly polished minds in the State. We refer to the exquisite and magnificent creations of that animal, the encyclopedia of classical literature, the marshall of finest tropes and similes, and the artistic weaver of the loveliest and most exquisite rhapsodies of the rarest and most luxuriant flowers of rhetoric that ever came from the hands of genius. His literary efforts are attracting close and most qualified attention, and the Wilson will surely win the recognition of being one of the most magnificent writers in America, and his emanations will rival in lustre the most brilliant of the glittering firmament of literature.

That fine lawyer and great financier, the Hon. Sidney A. Woodard, has just issued an invitation to the marriage of his very lovable and accomplished niece, Miss Pauline Woodard, to Mr. George Stronach, a young gentleman of highest integrity and finest business qualifications, and who is worthy of the brilliant jewel he has won. Both are very popular here in Wilson, where their virtues and graces have long been known and admired. The happy occasion will be celebrated in the Methodist church on the evening of the 18th of December.

TOYLAND AT ROBINSON'S.

Bring the little folks to see Santa's display of Toys, Games and Books. There are: Mirrorscopes, Planos, Doll Houses, Doll Trunks, Doll Furniture, Toy Pistols, Masks, Etc.

See our Folding Desks and Chairs. They delight the little folks. Robinson's Book Store 30 W. Trade St.

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