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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1912. TIME FOR CITIZENS TO ACT. The matter of recommending that the Legislature order an election in Charlotte on the commission form of government did not come to a vote at the aldermanic session last night, the leaders among the advocates for the new form deciding that the best course is to call a mass meeting and thrash the thing out, appointing a capable committee to draw up the charter amendment to be embraced in the call for an election on the matter. This is well. It is probably better that the people of the city generally have a voice in the framing of the plan at this stage to the end that there may be a more nearly unanimous vote for the commission form at the election, which without a doubt will be ordered by the Legislature, either at the recommendation of the board of aldermen after the plan is agreed upon by the people, or at the petition of the voters of the city.

There is no doubt about the fact that sentiment has increased rapidly for the commission form during recent weeks. It has been so clearly shown that the plan has worked well in other cities, where tax rates have been reduced and more efficient, more open and more satisfactory government has resulted, that people who were at first inclined to look with disfavor upon the plan have been interested enough to study it. And studying it they have realized its vast superiority in every respect over the antiquated, cumbersome and wasteful system now in operation. Some politicians has stated that the "working" people of the city are opposed to the commission form. From the best information The Chronicle can secure the "working" people, who by the way comprise by far the larger majority of the people of the live city of Charlotte, are in favor of the commission form by a very safe majority. It is equally certain that the business men of the city, "working" men, too, are in favor of it, for, because of their training, they most readily of all see the advantage of putting business methods into operation in the administration of the municipal government.

The expert who audited the books of the several departments of the city government declares that \$10,000 a year could be saved in clerical work, etc., in the administrative department under a simpler form of government. But this \$10,000 is not a circumstance to what would be saved to the city through increased efficiency in the street, health and other departments of the city. The Chronicle has said, and it confidently reiterates the statement, that the efficiency of the several departments of the city government could be increased from 25 to 50 per cent under a business form of government, where three men accountable directly to the people at any time were responsible for the amount and quality of work done. This means that the taxpayers of the city would be getting full value for their money, instead of 60 to 75 per cent of the full value. It means that they would have better streets and sidewalks outside of the permanently improved districts. It means that the tax-payer would get a square deal.

In the city of Columbia under the old form of government the city spent \$12,289 in repairing 30 city blocks. Under the commission form 166 blocks of the same kind of street, requiring the same sort of repairing, were put in good shape for \$17,426. Here is shown an increase in efficiency such as would be duplicated in Charlotte under the commission form of government. People in Charlotte who live on streets that are sometimes impassable and walk on sidewalks that are covered with an inch or two of mud would have about four chances of improvements under a commission form of government to one under the present circumstances, assuming that the increase in efficiency here is equal to that at Columbia.

"In the day when illiteracy is entirely wiped out will North Carolina begin to fully come into its own," says The Asheville Citizen. An educated, intelligent citizenship is the greatest asset any State or Nation can have. Our people are of the purest American blood. They are endowed with a high order of intellect, but this intellect needs education, which is another word for training, before it can be heard from. Let us educate our children and we will be proud of them and of the State which they will push forward to an extent hardly dreamed of by our present industrial leaders.

Buy those Red Cross Christmas seals today. In South Carolina 27,000 people have been treated during the past year for hookworm. In North Carolina more than 100,000 cases were treated, which shows that North Carolina has more of the afflicted, but that a larger proportion of the afflicted have been treated. North Carolina is well in the lead of the States in the campaign for the eradication of the hookworm.

DUST. On Base avenue yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock a street car could not be seen for a distance of two blocks so dense was the dust. This street, like others that are paved with asphalt or bitulithic, is covered to the extent of a quarter of an inch to an inch with dust and silt, converted into silt and slush when it rains. On this street the grading and paving of the sidewalks have served to keep the street covered with dirt for the past three or four weeks, but it was in bad shape before and it would be in much better shape now if the city would enforce the ordinance forbidding the hauling of dirt over improved streets in wagons with loose plank bottoms.

One of the supposed advantages of paved streets is the absence of dust. This is not the case in Charlotte, however, under present circumstances. With the exception of a few blocks of street in the center of the city the streets are seldom if ever flushed and even uptown they are in a horrible shape nine-tenths of the time. Who is responsible? To whom can a citizen appeal for relief knowing that his appeal will be given consideration? Under a commission form of government there would be one commissioner who would be solely responsible.

SWEET POTATOES. The Southern Railway and other lines are going to pull off a most excellent stunt tomorrow, the day being designated as sweet potato day on the dining cars of the several roads. The potato will be served free in various styles and the announcement is made that the potato will henceforth have a place upon the menu of the dining cars. Too few people realize the value and the wholesomeness of the sweet potato. Many of the potatoes raised in some sections are dry and tasteless. Some people like them. But almost every man, woman and child who eats a well-cured, juicy Norton yam is a potato convert. This delicious yellow potato is almost the only variety raised in the eastern part of North Carolina and in the sandhills, in both of which sections they grow to perfection. The white potatoes give slightly better yields and for that reason are raised by many farmers in the Piedmont. However, there is a better demand in this section for the yellow yam and a better price is commanded by this variety. Potatoes yield from 100 to 500 bushels to the acre while some varieties on soils well adapted to them and under favorable conditions yield as much as 800 bushels to the acre.

It is gratifying to note that the season tickets for the series of artists' concerts to be given under the auspices of the Charlotte Musical Association are going so well, more than \$1,000 having been disposed of at the end of the first day's sale. The three attractions are the best that could be secured—Broadway has more but none better—and it would be a serious reflection upon Charlotte's culture and musical taste not to accord the series the hearty support they deserve. The three performances will have the support not only of Charlotte but of this entire section, the music lovers here and in the nearby cities and towns being fortunate in being able to attend such attractions without going to New York or Washington or Atlanta.

The argument that was once used that the people of the city should build the country roads because it enabled the farmer to bring their produce to town to sell it to the city people doesn't go. The people of the county do not raise 20 per cent of the vegetables, poultry products and meat consumed in the city. If the people of the city should be expected to build roads for the people of Mecklenburg County, why not expect them to build roads up in Illinois or some other State? The streets of the city are used more by the people of the county than the roads of the county are used by the people of the city. Why not reverse the order and let the people of the city build some streets for us.

Charlotte, with 10,000 more population than any other city in the State, cannot afford to lag behind in the matter of using Red Cross Christmas seals. The seals are on sale in several places in the city, and every holiday letter and package should have from one to a dozen on it. Every seal helps in the fight against tuberculosis, which threatens every person in the community, but which may be stamped out with the proper effort. The seals are going fast in other cities of the State and Charlotte is doing fairly well, but not as well as she should do.

The Asheville aldermen have given a contract for eight ornamental lighting standards such as are to be used on 14 blocks of the uptown district in Charlotte. And The Citizen refers to Asheville's "white way" on the strength of those eight poles. Brother Caine has a special invitation to come to Charlotte to the celebration next May and see a sure enough "Great White Way."

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BY-THE-WAY TALK

Things Seen, Heard and Thought

Christmas has come to mean a period of perplexity for many people. Its dignity and deeper meaning has been lent too liberally to the commercializing spirit that has not left us even the sacred things unscathed of its touch. Christmas is a day of a great celebration when properly interpreted. Marking as it does the introduction to humanity of its greatest gift, it has drifted away from its earlier significance and descended too nearly to the ordinary levels of commerce. The spirit of the occasion has always been its genius. The custom of exchanging gifts with friends and those to whom we are nearest and to whom we owe most; of sending remembrances, no matter how intricately worthless, to those whom we ought to remember; of extending charity to the needy and lending aid to the poor, of exemplifying the Nazarene as near as it is possible for the finite to approximate the infinite—this is a custom that brings out the humanity in men and links neighbor with neighbor and friend with friend in the ordinary duties of life. Christmas does not mean these things as it once did. The genius of the holiday has lost something of its essence in this rapidly-changing civilization. Too often now we choose rather to first put an estimate on the material value of a Christmas gift than to find out from whom it came. If it comes from one who ought to have sent a better thing according to our judgment we are critical and out of humor, failing to appreciate the cardinal virtue of the gift, namely, that it has been bestowed with the perquisites of friendship.

It is a pity that we are getting away from the early spirit of the Christmas. We ought, first of all, remember that it is a great anniversary period and that each year we approach the date, as nearly accurate as chronologists can agree, upon which the Christ-child was given to men. For beyond the fact that through this gift, humanity received its most imperishable present, other essentials came along with it, the essential of friendship, of appreciation of virtue and contempt of vice, the essential of a proper code of ethics in our getting along in the world and with those thrown against us in the rush for wealth and for office and for influence, the essential of love and sentiment and every other essential that has to do with right conduct, with peace of mind, with contentment, with happiness and with personal success, sprang from the first Christmas gift of God. This is the distinguishing genius of the celebration, that it takes our vision across chaotic years and fastens it upon the manger over which angels leaned and sang their hallelujahs of joy.

But we are not thinking about these features of the day. We take Christmas as a very ordinary occasion. Ordinarily, it amounts to little more than the closing of the bank as on the Fourth of July, or the shutting up of shop as on Labor Day. It seems to have an almost entirely human meaning to this generation plus the new feature of giving and receiving princely gifts. A little recreation in the fields with the hound and the muzzle-loader, or a little time around the old hearthstone, an unmolested day in the club parlors—anywhere except in the office or behind the counter, straining over ledger or bending over a keyboard, and there's very little else to the day. We open the morning mail with more curiosity to view what somebody has sent than to find out what friend has written well wishes. We race down stairs to ascertain the gift from parents rather than to meet them with cheery face and wish for them returning Christmas-mass without number. How we are transformed by money either by its direct incentives or by its indirect effect upon the ordinary activities of the people. It has been grinding some men's souls down to dust and wearing away their health, snatching the smile from their faces and the blush from their cheeks and we cursed it as a pestilence. We hid our face from it, ashamed to witness the devastation upon the face of a friend. And coming ourselves to approach this Christmas, we find our lives touched with the same plague and discover that the same blight has been insidiously seeping our sentiment and putting the tinsel of the price upon every sacred thing we touch. Our gifts are spongy and without spirit. They have not been consecrated at the altar of friendship because commerce and the value we have set upon material things, so extreme in some instances and so fictitious, are demanding their exacting tribute. The genius that serves as the guiding star for this generation is not akin to the sentimental instinct and to that pure spirit of love for others that aforetime led our fathers into the shrine of this holiday season. It would erect great temples and build fine houses and wear fine robes. Far too frequently it would shun those lowly and in poverty, those actually crying in the streets, those to whom ordinary conscience and common duty demand that we stop and extend a hand even in this time when friendship should be exhaled in every breath and when humanity should be bundled up and suaged together as one vast child of infinity receiving alms from its God.

AFFAIRS IN NORTH CAROLINA

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

BIG INCREASE IN FARM CROPS.

Some of the Things the Report of Commissioner W. A. Graham Will Show. (Raleigh Times.) Maj. W. A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture, says that six years ago nearly all the first-class apples and that no market in the State could a car load of apples properly packed be purchased. Now, he says, all this has changed and that only a few weeks ago a dozen places were mentioned to an inquirer as to points at which such shipments could be procured. He says that this year many of the North Carolina dealers are handling the apples grown in the State, and that this change has been accomplished by information given as to pruning and spraying demonstrations. The attention of the nation and of foreign countries has been directed to the North Carolina fruits by the exhibits made at the National Horticultural Congress, where for three years they captured the sweepstakes and many other lesser prizes. The State Department of Agriculture is to reduce the cost of serum for vaccination against hog cholera. The sales of the serum since last June aggregated over \$4,000. It is estimated that not less than \$57,000 worth of hogs have been saved by the use of the serum supplied this year. The report of Commissioner Graham gives some remarkable statistics of crop development since 1860. It is shown that 30,000 bushels of corn were raised in 1860, 24,000,000 in 1909 and 50,000,000 in 1911. In cotton the yield in 1860 was 145,885 bales; in 1909, 665,132 bales; in 1911, 1,125,000 bales. The wheat crop in 1860, 743,000 bushels in 1860, 3,827,000 in 1909 and 7,432,000 in 1911. The figures as to farm animals show that in 1860 there were 1,123,252 hogs and in 1911, 1,123,952. The sheep industry shows a big slump, there having been 548,749 sheep in 1860 and only 191,286 in 1911.

CHANCES ARE GOOD.

Collector Keith at Port of Wilmington Thinks City Will Get \$350,000 Extra For Customs House. (Wilmington Star.) Mr. B. F. Keith, collector of customs, who, with Joseph W. Little, Esq., representing the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the House building committee in Washington Friday and urged the importance of favorable action on the bill providing for an increased appropriation for the proposed new customs house here, returned to the city yesterday morning. Mr. Little went to Baltimore and Philadelphia on business and is expected to return today. Mr. Keith said that the chances are very favorable for the increased appropriation of \$350,000. He feels more encouraged, he says, than at any time since the bill providing for an additional appropriation was introduced. Chairman Shepard of Texas manifested deep interest in the remarks of the speakers, especially when they spoke of the volume of business through the local port. Senator F. M. Simmons promised Mr. Keith that he would give every assistance to have the appropriation granted. Mr. Keith has written a personal letter to Congressman J. M. Gudgeon of this State, who is a member of the committee, setting forth the need of the extra appropriation. The matter of the additional appropriation for the customs house will be settled definitely at this session of Congress, said Mr. Keith.

Poultry Show and Fair in Shelby.

And still the interest in the Poultry Show and County Fair, December 19, 20 and 21, continues to grow. The sound of the saw and hammer can be heard all the day in the Gidney building. Booths that will be beauties are being erected for the merchants' exhibits. The farmers are daily sending in their exhibits and they are going to surpass even the fondest hopes of the men in charge of the fair. It will be one endless round of wonder, pride and pleasure for those who come next week to see what all Cleveland County is doing. The ladies' department is going to be wonderfully attractive. Displays of various colors and patterns of all kinds of handwork will give this department a fascinating exhibit. Quilts have been entered that are 50 and 60 years old—the kind that our grandmothers made, the art of which belongs to the past.

BOOKLET ON COLONIES.

Religious Settlements and Club Colonies Will Be Described in Southern Railway Publication. (Asheville Gazette-News.) Mr. Winston of the advertising department of the Southern Railway at Asheville, has just arrived in the morning for a conference with Division Passenger Agent J. H. Wood and Col. Sanford H. Cohen, manager of the Greater Western North Carolina Association, about the booklet which the railway is to issue on the religious and club colonies in western North Carolina. This conference was for the purpose of arranging the particulars of the booklet, it having been decided several weeks ago to issue one. This booklet will come from the press about February 1 and will contain valuable reading matter for the public at large concerning the developments of the past that have been made in this section by colonies of various sorts. The religious colonies now existing and proposed for immediate construction at Black Mountain and Ridge Creek are probably the most considerable space, as well as the extensive chaletanque being built at Waynesville. Of equal importance with these will be a review of the club colonies that have been organized within the past few years throughout this section, and the plans for further colonies of this kind will show very conclusively that western North Carolina is an ideal place for them.

The Country Influence Felt.

(Southern Pines Tourist.) Biscoe and Asheboro are hustling and bustling towns. In each town the new order is crowding the old away, not violently but gently, although with a good degree of celerity. All the way along, the development of the country districts is keeping pace with the growth of the towns. Indeed, if the truth be known, it is probable that the development of the country and the adoption of better and more remunerative methods of farming explain the remarkable improvement in town conditions.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Cupid Puts in a Good Year at Greenville. (Greenville Piedmont.) The maidens of Greenville as usual haven't failed to overlook a good or a bad case in some cases, a bad bet. Somebody, years ago, decreed that Leap Year was the one year in four during which it is perfectly good form for the girl in the case not only to direct the game, but even to go so far as popping the question. Just how many swains have been started during the waning year by "Will you marry me?" is not known, but the records of the judge of probate show that Leap Year has produced a good marriage "crop" in this city and county.

The record at the probate's office tells nothing of the romantic courtships that go on behind the scenes. There is there a little dot or dash to tell who popped the question. The dope of the probate's office simply shows that already during 1912, or Leap Year, there have been 78 marriage licenses issued in Greenville County.

What's in a Name?

(Anderson Mail.) Of course there is nothing in a name, but the following interesting items appear in the Conference appointments: D. R. Roof, from Bath to Travelers Rest. J. W. Shell, to Limestone Street Church. W. V. Dibble, Mt. Pleasant to Cottageville. G. P. Penny to Honey Hill. J. D. Bell, Travelers Rest to Campo Bello (camp of war.) W. P. Inabine, Cottageville to Walnut Hill (garden of the gods.) S. T. Blackman from Fountain Inn to Honea Path. J. D. Holler to Esley. H. B. Hardy, Blackstock to Hickory Grove. J. K. Inabinet, Swan-see to Edgewood. W. A. Fairley to Kingstree. And others too numerous to mention. Much Advertising. (Orangeburg Times and Democrat.) Just now South Carolina is getting much advertising from two sources. The great corn show soon to be held in Columbia is attracting favorable attention, while the

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Start Your Baby With Sound Health

Regular Bowel Movement from Childhood on Forestalls Future Serious Diseases.

We cannot all start life with the advantages of money, but every child born is entitled to the heritage of good health. Through unfortunate ignorance of carelessness in the feeding of a baby its tiny stomach may become deranged. The disorder spreads to the bowels and before the mother realizes it the two chief organs on which the infant's comfort and health depend are causing it great suffering. If the condition is allowed to continue grave ailments often result.

There is, however, no occasion for alarm, and the sensible thing to do—but it should be done instantly—is to give the baby a small dose of a mild laxative-remedy. In fact, in the opinion of a great many people, among them such well-known persons as the parents of Reginald Wayne Danna, 30 Silver street, Atlanta, Ga., and Mr. Edward T. Rohleder, 211 N. Chapel street, Baltimore, Md., the proper remedy is Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. It is a pleasant-tasting laxative, which every person likes. It is mild, non-gripping and contains that most excellent of all digestants, pepsin.

This remedy is especially intended for infants, children, women, old people and all others to whom harsh cathartics, salt waters, pills, etc., are distressing. In fact, in the common disorders of life, such as constipation, liver trouble, indigestion, biliousness, headaches, and the various other disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels nothing is more suitable than this mild laxative-remedy. Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. Two generations of people are using it today, and thousands of families keep it constantly in the house.



REGINALD WAYNE DANNA

For every member of the family can use it. It can be obtained of any druggist at fifty cents or one dollar a bottle, the latter being the size bought by families who already know its value. If no member of your family has ever used Syrup Pepsin and you would like to make a personal trial of it before buying it in the regular way of a druggist, send your address—a postal will go—to Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 414 Washington St., Monticello, Ill., and a free sample bottle will be mailed you. Results are always guaranteed or money will be refunded.

Advertisement for Perfection Heater. "What a Nice, Warm Store" "Yes, that Perfection Heater keeps us cosy and comfortable. We don't lose any business on account of a cold store. I've always had a Perfection at home, so I just applied the idea here." For store or home, the Perfection is the handiest and cheapest heater you can find. STANDARD OIL COMPANY

Advertisement for Davis Baking Powder. DAVIS BAKING POWDER is compounded with the utmost care, under the personal supervision of expert chemists, and always insures uniform quality and best results. 1 lb. 20c.—1/2 lb. 10c.—1/4 lb. 5c. Insist on having it. All good Grocers sell it.

YOU may know a man by the company he keeps, but you are sure to discover his true character by examining the books he has around him. To find your Christmas Gift-Book on another's five-foot shelf is to have the greatest compliment he can pass upon your judgment.

A Hoosier Romance is a beautiful Riley gift book, with illustrations in full color, for only 50 cents.

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J. V. STARNES, President JNO. R. WENTZ, V. Pres. and Gen. Mgr. M. A. COOGAN, Sec. & Treas.

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