

Caring for the Chronical

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1912.

CIVIC ORGANIZATION NEEDED.

One of the most vital needs of the city of Charlotte at the present stage of its development is a civic organization composed of earnest, capable, public spirited citizens from all classes, trades and professions. A civic league here composed of two or three hundred men could do more to make Charlotte progressive, well governed and beautiful than all other agencies combined.

Constantly problems are arising that demand attention, but do not receive attention because they are the business of no one in particular and no one desires to appear to be presumptuous, or conspicuous in taking them up vigorously, realizing that single-handed effort would be useless.

The parcels post will be operative on January 1. Because of the zones and the different rates for the different weights and also because exclusive parcels post postage stamps must be used on all parcels there is going to be some confusion among the patrons of the system at first.

Mecklenburg County has outstanding only \$300,000 of bonds, issued to assist in the construction of a railroad. These bonds bear 6 per cent interest and two-thirds of that \$18,000 a year comes from the pockets of the taxpayers of the city.

TWO BADLY NEEDED AMENDMENTS.

Attorney General Bickett declares in his report that he will present to the approaching General Assembly constitutional amendments to be passed by that body and voted upon by the people at the next election in the State.

Regarding this latter constitutional provision which prevents the holding of two offices by one man, no matter what those offices are, Mr. Bickett says: "This works great injury to the schools. It is hard to get good men who will do good work on educational, charitable and sanitary boards, and when one is found, and possibly because of his recognized ability and efficiency, is elected to some higher office, under the Constitution as it is written, he is compelled to give up the work he was doing purely for a labor of love."

The importance of the amendments suggested by the Attorney General will be readily recognized. The amendment allowing women to hold some offices for which they are 'able to be peculiarly qualified should be broad. For instance, women should be eligible to appointment as notary public. There are many business women and public stenographers of the feminine persuasion who are constantly being compelled to call in the services of a notary public, when much valuable time, a great amount of inconvenience and numerous fees would be saved if they had authority to administer oaths and acknowledge signatures.

THE ENORMOUS FIRE LOSS.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of November, according to The New York Journal of Commerce shows a total of \$16,172,300, while the aggregate for the 11 months of the year reached the enormous total of 207,353,900. January had the heaviest losses with \$35,653,150, February being second with total losses of \$28,601,650.

In the State of Maine the fire loss amounted to \$3 a year for each member of each family in the State, a large part of which burden could be easily removed according to the insurance commissioner of the State. In the comparatively small State of West Virginia the fire loss reaches \$5,000 a day, which might be reduced fully 50 per cent by concerted action by State and municipal authorities and citizens, according to the fire marshal of the State.

A German scientist declares that every cubic foot of air contains 50,000,000 insects. A traveling man says that if it is a fact, some beds in which he has recently slept must be built entirely of air.

She married for revenge. "For revenge on her husband?" "No, on an old sweetheart." "But if it was revenge she was seeking, why didn't she marry the old sweetheart?"

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During the year now just passing, quite a little stir of sentiment has been created by the necessity of cutting a few trees where their location does not fit the street grade. The loss of a few old trees is not a big proposition at the best, but there is a big proposition involved, to-wit: the acquisition by the city of land to build parks and grow many trees by cultivation, as the best crops are now cultivated. Can't we make the year 1913 a year in which a big wave of sentiment will create a park system? Convert into parks all of the vacant spaces, creek bottoms, and other available territory, and then plant trees galore.

In the annual report of Attorney General Bickett, he points out that the Supreme Court has construed a directorship in any State institution as being an officer of the State, which comes under the prohibition against any man holding two offices at once. The proposition to restrict a man to one office is all right, but we think that a directorship in a State institution with services free should not be construed as a State office to exclude a man from accepting a salaried position without resigning the free and advisory position. We hope that steps will be taken by the next Legislature to correct the difficulty.

That there is widespread interest in the three high class performances to be given in this city by the Charlotte Musical Association is attested by the remark of a visitor to the city a few days ago. "I am going to see Jennie (Gene) dance if I have to walk to Charlotte," declared this admirer of aesthetic motion.

The ladies are gently reminded that there are few more days during this Leap Year and the next opportunity to assume the offensive will be three years hence.

PICAYUNES

(New Orleans Picayune.) The love of a fly for a bald-headed man passeth all understanding.

No one has yet seen a necklace made of the beads of perspiration.

"Dux femina facti" was translated by a Homer (La.) boy to mean: "The fact is, woman is a duck."

The "soul gown" has been introduced in Washington society. It has already caused a "spirited" discussion.

Lightning recently turned a Chicago woman completely around. After thorough inspection it concluded not to tackle her.

Tennyson wrote: "Honor the Light Brigade, honor the charge they made." Gas companies had some souls when the poet was young.

One of the disagreeable features of being nearsighted is that a man is in danger of mistaking his wife for another woman and being polite to her.

"There is nothing impossible to the determined spirit," says a philosopher. Wonder if he ever tried to reach up behind his shoulder to get hold of the end of broken suspender?

A fair correspondent asks: "Will you please send me a receipt for a nice home-made pie?" "Yes, Edith, we will send the receipt in the very first mail after we have received the pie."

In Richmond the monkeys in the zoological garden are given whiskey in the belief that it will make them strong. In other cities strong men have been given whiskey and they became monkeys.

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SPARKLERS

(Chicago Tribune.) The coal man happens in, the white face is merry, quite. But do we like his beaming smile? Not by an anthracite!

(Exchange.) Was Married Himself—Bookkeeper to boss—Mr. G. going to get married. Grouch—Glad to hear it; you won't be so all-fired anxious to get home early.

(Houston Post.) "She married for revenge." "For revenge on her husband?" "No, on an old sweetheart." "But if it was revenge she was seeking, why didn't she marry the old sweetheart?"

(Yonkers Statesman.) "Your trouble is indigestion," said the physician to the new patient who had called at his office. "Now, don't eat too much, and walk a great deal." "Don't eat too much, and walk?" replied the patient. "You don't seem to know who I am, doc. I'm a comedian with a theatrical traveling company."

(Washington Herald.) "Really, Mr. Wombat," declared the tailor, "you must do something to catch up with your account." "I guess I do owe you a good bit," admitted the delinquent one. "Well, I'll tell you what I'll do to catch up. I'll order only one suit this Fall instead of my usual three."

(Boston Transcript.) Well, Why Not?—Mrs. Eke—I understand your daughter, Jessie, has changed her name to "Jessie." Mrs. Wye—Yes, Mrs. Eke—Well, I wish she hadn't. Mrs. Wye put the crazy notion into my girl Bessie's head to call herself "Bessie."

(Life.) A Good Thing Coming—"I tell you, Binks," said the millionaire, with great gusto, "talk about your fun! There's none to equal that of earning a million, dollar by dollar." "By singer!" said little Binks, "what a lot of fun there is ahead of me!"

(Life.) One swallow doesn't make a Summer, but it breaks a New Year's resolution.

AFFAIRS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Daily incidents, facts and comment gathered from the Newspapers of the State

ABOUT HENDERSONVILLE.

Delirious Industry Flourishes in the Mountains of Western North Carolina.

(Spartanburg Herald.) The wealth of this part of the country depends in great measure upon the intelligence with which the soil is cultivated. This is the most productive region of the United States, its soil and climate making a greater variety of products than any other portion of the country; and still we are, in many particulars, far behind other parts of the country in getting out of the soil what there is in it.

The banks of this city and the merchants of this city should be most deeply interested in any movement that has for its purpose the encouragement of the more modern methods of agriculture. The thinning of the one-crop idea is to be desired if the county is to take its rightful place as a farming region of varied and varied crops.

The remarkable success of a creamery at Hendersonville, N. C., and the building up of a sweet potato market in a North Carolina town just north of this city, and just outside the cotton belt, are incidents we have in mind just at this time, showing what can be done in this county that is not done. Better sweet potatoes than those growing in the rest of this county cannot be found anywhere, yet there are not shipped from this town, as is done from the small town in North Carolina, thousands of bushels of sweet potatoes every season. As a matter of fact, this county raises hardly enough potatoes to meet the needs of the people residing in the county.

Lenoir Banks Are Prosperous.

(Lenoir Topic.) The increasing business done by Lenoir's strong banks is indeed highly gratifying. It is an index to the growing prosperity of the community at large. It also indicates that the antiquated practice of keeping money in the home is passing away, and that the people are learning that the safest and most prudent method is to deposit their surplus cash in a reliable bank, where it is absolutely safe and where they can get it on demand. If everybody would follow placing their earnings in a bank and pay their bills by check, they would make a substantial contribution to the prosperity of the county.

A Colossal Mining Deal.

(Bryson City Times.) It will be gratifying to many people in western North Carolina and

HOBOS NUMEROUS.

Associated Charities Prevents People From Being Impoverished Upon by Professional Beggars and Fakers.

(Raleigh Times.) Hoboes are abroad. Two strapping fellows of this class were here yesterday and were referred to the Associated Charities. The superintendent there asked if they wanted work. They declared they did, and thereupon he sent them with a note to the foreman of the construction gang now at work at the Seaboard Air Line yards. When they got there they said they did not care to work, but that the only thing they wanted to do was to hit a train and get out. There is a moral in all this, and it is just this: Be careful for whom you give money. The professional beggars, the dead beats and the hoboes want to avoid the Associated Charities, which spots them very quickly and always refers to the Associated Charities. There is far too much overlapping charity in Raleigh anyhow. The safe thing to do is to refer the beggar to the Associated Charities.

A white woman here has this week been engaged in the business of "working" the female colleges, and in response to a telephone inquiry about her the response was given that she was unworthy. There are beggars who have been here, separated Raleigh people from their money and then ridiculed them as "soft marks."

Agricultural Progress in Caldwell.

(Lenoir Topic.) The report of Mr. Goforth on his farm demonstration work in Caldwell during the past year is most gratifying and encouraging. It shows that the farmers in every part of the county are making progress in the way of improved agricultural methods, and they are co-operating in the efforts being made to enable them to make at least a hundred per cent more on each acre of land cultivated. Intensive farming is the hope of this section, and the demonstration work is serving as a great stimulus along this very important line of work.

especially in Swain County to learn of the trade that P. P. McLean of Whittier has closed with Nova Scotia and central capitalists on less than half his mining properties in New Mexico, for a consideration of \$2,750,000. From this a commission of \$350,000 goes to New York brokers. This deal is made subject to inspection of the contract. The parties will take it if the ore runs \$2.50 per ton, and so far as it has been tested it runs \$4.50 to \$5.50 per ton.

ODDS AND ENDS

Canary birds are now part of the equipment of every well-regulated mine. If the atmosphere is questionable the birds are carried into it, and they show signs of its effects at once.

A book-holder that an Ohio woman has patented has legs which stand upon a chair seat and cord to suspend it from the shoulders of its user, whose hands are left free.

California was the largest producer of petroleum, asphalt, borax, gems and other minerals in 1911, according to the United States Geological Survey. The State was also the largest producer of gold.

Florida is the leading State of the Union in the production of phosphate rock, according to the United States Geological Survey. In 1911 the phosphate production of the State was 638, compared with \$8,647,774 in 1910.

The loganberry, a hybrid of the blackberry and raspberry, is said to be the most profitable berry crop in the West. Its popularity has been steadily increasing, and the demand now outruns the supply. Western Oregon and Washington are the greatest producers of the new berry.

The invention of a Houston (Tex.) man contemplates the use of nitroglycerine in the production of explosives. The explosive has been used before in schemes like this, usually to the great sorrow of the relatives of the inventor, but the latest nitroglycerine motor is not designed for pure explosive, but for a solution of it in gasoline.

"Thank-y-e-m-a-m's," otherwise known as water-bombs, consisting of ridges of earth built across roads on steep grades, are to be abolished in Pennsylvania as a part of its road improvement measures. These water-breakers were first introduced in England and other parts of the country and are still surviving in many places.

In New York City a large portion of the old horse-drawn apparatus has been converted into electrically driven vehicles. The old fire engines are equipped with an 80-cell, 11-plate battery which will run the engines 20 miles at top speed with a single charge. Battery-driven trucks and chemical engines are also used. The saving in feeding and caring for the horses is an important item in every large city.

Reproving the Hensley Boys.

(From The Saturday Evening Post.) Ople Reed says when he lived in the mountains of East Tennessee a tall old gaunt hillman came down from across the Kentucky border one day, and told him this story: "Son," he said, "I've been having a right smart trouble lately with them dad-fetched Hensley boys. The whole parcel of 'em live right up the creek a little piece above my place, and here lately they tuck a sort of a grudge against me. Every night they come out to feed my stock they'd be hid in the brush fence at the lower end of my horse-lot, and they'd shoot at me."

"I got tired of it. I'm gettin' along in years, and I don't want to aim gun the way I could once, on account of my eyesight; but I jest made up my mind the other night that I'd shoot 'em down. I'm peaceful, but there's a limit to everything; so that night when I went out to feed my old gun along with me, Shorn enough, they was ambushed in the brush fence and they'd cut down on me jest as soon as I come into sight."

"So I upped with my gun and I sort of sprayed them with a few bullets. That seemed to quiet 'em down, and I went on with my night, but in about an hour I felt sort of curious and I walked down to that brush fence and taken a look. And, son, all them Hensley was gone but three!"

PALMETTO NEWS

Clinchfield Has Much in Store For Spartanburg Section.

(Spartanburg Herald.) Foreseeing with the broad vision which has marked all its actions in the management of the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railway, that this farming country in the southern part of the line, with its mild winter climate and other advantages, was destined to be the truck garden which should furnish food supplies for the manufacturing and industrial centers of the Middle West, W. Potter, president of the road, has engaged T. S. Evans of Cheraw, recommended by the president of Clemson College as the best man he knew for the job, to establish offices in Spartanburg, give the Spartanburg County farmers the benefit of his expert advice and, in short, to devote his entire time to the encouragement of the truck farming industry. Mr. Evans formerly attended Wofford College.

Mr. Potter has gone further. He has engaged the services of Joseph E. Edgell of Edgellburg, Va., soil expert and consulting agriculturist, to give the country's foremost authority on various phases of farming.

Canning Industry.

(Edgefield Chronicle.) To show what can be done on the farm with little expense, The Chronicle has a practical illustration in J. H. Bussey, R. F. D. No. 1, Edgell, Edgefield County. Mr. Bussey is a prosperous farmer. He was in Edgell Tuesday last, selling from his wagon all kinds of canned goods raised on his farm. He has a canner with a capacity of 800 cans a day. On Tuesday he was selling canned blackberries, beans, tomatoes, corn, peaches, apples, beets, okra, etc., all of which met with ready sale. Mr. Bussey put up during the past season more than 14,000 cans, of which he sold to Col. F. N. K. Bailey of the S. C. I. upwards of 3,000 cans.

The foregoing is a practical object lesson to our farmers. Mr. Bussey says he can sell all of his output at home, that is, without seeking the city market.

Spare the Birds.

(Pageland Journal.) It will be well for those who go hunting to remember that the law on the side of the landowner and that to hunt without permission is unlawful. When you shoot birds on the property of another without permission you are giving him grounds to enter suit against you. Then there is another reason why you would do better to leave the birds alone. Birds are the farmers' friends and save them thousands of thousands of dollars each year by eating the bugs that harm the crops. When you kill a bird you are taking money out of the pocket of the farmer, to the community and to the country. Loss of this kind is like loss of a spare the birds.

Unnecessary Caution.

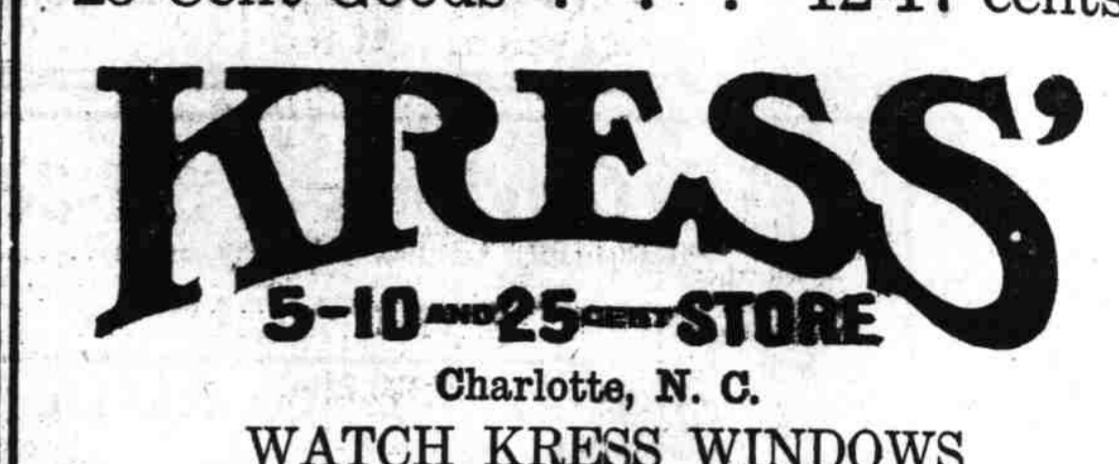
(From The Newark Star.) After midnight on some of the suburban trolley runs the "No smoking" rule is a dead letter. There are no women aboard to object and the conductor winks the other eye. About 1:20 the other morning a gentlemanly stranger got on a car toward the end of the journey. He was smoking a cigar, and said to the conductor: "All right for me to smoke now, isn't it?" "Sorry, Cap," replied the knight of the bollerope, "but you ain't s'posed to. Rules is very strict." "Well," said the traveler, "somebody has been smoking here. I can smell it. And look at those 14,000 and cigarette butts on the floor. Where did they come from?" "I don't know," explained the conductor, "them was left by guys that didn't ask."

KRESS STORES INVENTORY SALE FRIDAY 1 O'CLOCK

This is the one great Sale of the year—to complete the arrangements store will be CLOSED FRIDAY MORNING

No attention paid to costs when marking goods for INVENTORY SALE Odds and ends and broken assortments, including Toys, Crockery, China, Notions, Hardware and Tinware.

HALF PRICES or LESS 5-Cent Goods : : : 1-2-3 cents 10-Cent Goods : : : 4-6-7 cents 25-Cent Goods : : : 12-17 cents



Charlotte, N. C. WATCH KRESS WINDOWS

CURRENT COMMENT

Keeping His Own Counsel. (Springfield Republican.) The Washington correspondent of The Boston Globe is getting near the truth when after learning that several New Jersey politicians, who are extremely close to Governor Wilson, have no inkling whatever as to the makeup of his Cabinet, he reaches the conclusion that "Mr. Wilson will keep his own counsel regarding his Cabinet appointments until he is ready to announce the full list."

Preserving Competition. (Boston Transcript.) One of the recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court, which has hardly attracted the attention which its importance deserves, is that sustaining the law of South Dakota, which makes it a crime to sell for the purpose of stifling competition, a commodity in general use, to a dealer in one place at a less cost than to a dealer in another part of the State. The law is confined to staple articles and only in such cases as can be proved to be for the suppression of competition.

Progress of Initiative and Referendum. (World's Work.) The initiative and referendum are operative in South Dakota, Utah, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Oklahoma, Maine, Missouri, Michigan, Arkansas, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and California—14 States (Ohio has also adopted these measures, making 15 States). In seven more a constitutional amendment providing for the initiative and referendum has been submitted to the people: Washington, Nevada, Nebraska, Idaho, Wyoming, Mississippi and Ohio. In two more States, Wisconsin and North Dakota, one Legislature has approved the initiative and referendum; in each case another Legislature must do so before they go to the people. The prospect of adoption in all these nine States is practically undoubted. With the initiative and referendum operative in 23 States, half the Union, lacking one State, will be under the rule of direct legislation. Such has been the progress of the idea of giving the people more immediate control of their own affairs. The first initiative and referendum law was passed (in South Dakota) in 1896.

What Uncle Sam Owes. (St. Paul Dispatch.) How many people, otherwise well informed, are ignorant in posting themselves upon all subjects connected with the administration of the government, know the character and extent of the National debt? The United States has two classes of obligations, its bonded debt and its outstanding treasury and bank notes bearing no interest, the latter amounting to about one-fourth of the aggregate. On November 1 the interest-bearing debt amounted to \$984,631,630, and the debt bearing no interest was \$76,476,492.16. It was reduced \$16,297,000 during the month of October. Over half of the indebtedness bears two per cent interest and most of the remainder bears three per cent, while some refunding bonds maturing in 1925 and aggregating only \$12,000,000 carry as high as four per cent. A debt of a billion and a third is not very oppressive to a population of nearly a hundred million people with wealth running into the billions. The figures it represents a per capita of less than \$14—really inconsiderable when compared with the per capita indebtedness of the City of St. Paul.

Advertisement for THIS PERFECTION SMOKELESS OIL HEATER. Will Heat Your Spare Room. It means a lot to your guests to find a cosy, well-warmed room awaiting them. A Perfection Smokeless Oil Heater is the very thing to drive away chill and damp in a hurry. No smoke or smell with a Perfection. Just clean, glowing warmth at a minute's notice. A Perfection Heater gives nine hours' comfort on a single gallon of oil. Handsome, yet inexpensive. Dealers everywhere, or write for descriptive circular. Get a Perfection Smokeless Oil Heater now, and be comfortable all the rest of the winter. STANDARD OIL COMPANY (Incorporated in New Jersey) Newark, N. J. Baltimore, Md.