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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. Such an organization could unofficially act for the citizenship of the city in working out problems touching upon all plans of the life of the city. A responsible and wide awake civic league is the proper agency for the digesting and developing of ideas worth while to the city.

There are many matters of importance right right now that might best be handled through a civic league. Take the movement for a commission form of government, for instance, A civic league would be the proper organization to take the lead in a such a movement and engineer it to a successful consummation. Take the matter of taxes between the city and county. A civic league should be the organization to give this matter an exhaustive study, make up a report and get action in the General Assembly. Take the matter of the equalization of tax assessments in the city. There are said to be many gross inequalities in the assessments worked out. A civic institution is the proper institution for the work. aid to a good cause.

business of no one in particular and | 600. no one desires to appear to be prethem up vigorously, realizing that single-handed effort would be useless. Many of these matters, as all of those mentioned above, are of vital importance to all of the people of the city, especially to the property-owners, taxpayers and voters. The Chronand there would be much work, but first good things of the New Year for

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. Every person who contemplates using the parcels post should become acquaintuse it in their business should have one or more clerks who are thoroughly posted on it to handle the busshould be exercised not only to assure the delivery of the parcel promptly but to save the postoffice people trouble and inconvenience.

roads and bridges in the county.

TWO BADLY NEEDED AMEND. MENTS.

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, the amendment being designed to allow women to serve on school boards and committees, text-book commissions, boards of health and similar organizations for the duties of which women are peculiarly fitted, and to remedy the present status whereby a man who is a school committeeman, justice of the peace, notary public or other petty officer is prevented from rendering his State, county or city important service in a more responsible position.

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. This ought not to be so, and I believe that all our people would favor an amendment to the Constitution that would secure to the State the services of the best men obtainable on these boards, regardless of whether or not they happen to hold some other of-

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 'iable 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. This is a point which by Mr. Bickett in framing the proposed

#### THE ENORMOUS FIRE LOSS.

The fire loss of the Uhited States and Canada for the month of Novemat present and this matter should be ber, according to The New York Journal of Commerce shows a total of \$16,172,300, while the aggregate for In the matter of public parks and the 11 months of the year reached playgrounds in the city, such an or- the enormous total of 207,353,900. ganization would be of invaluable January had the heaviest losses, with \$35,653,150, February being second Constantly problems are arising with total losses of \$28,601,650. The that demand attention, but do not re- | total fire losses for the last year were ceive attention because they are the \$234,337,250, and for 1910, \$234,470,-

In the State of Maine the fire loss sumptuous, or conspicuous in taking 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 icle does not hesitate to declare that fully 50 per cent by concerted action a civic league is as necessary to the by State and municipal authorities welfare and proper development of and citizens, according to the fire the city as is the Greater Charlotte | marshal of the State. In North Caro-Club, which has already demonstrat- lina last year a loss of \$260,000 by ed its usefulness in many ways. And fire was reported. These figures are since most individuals naturally feel much smaller than for a number of a delicacy in taking the initiative in a years, when there have been a few movement like this it seems to us that large fires to greatly increase the tothe Greater Charlotte Club should tal, but they are still much too large. start the ball to rolling by calling a The State Commissioner of Insurmass meeting for the purpose of or- ance through buletins and other ganizing such a league. There would means, has done much educational be many details regarding the form work regarding fire prevention which of organization, etc., to be worked out is calculated to have lasting effect.

More and more attention is given there are public spirited men of ca- to the prevention of fires as well as pacity in the city who would be glad to the fighting of the flames. The to give their services in the cause, modern fire department not only The people of the city have too long | stands ready to extinguish blazes but delayed forming such an organization. to inspect buildings and premises and They have not realized how valuable give directions for the proper care for it would be. Let this be one of the | the prevention of fires. The State Insurance Commissioner is constantly driving home the statement that a large percentage of fires are preventable and that accumulation of trash, etc., are a menace. The average citizen seems to learn very slowly about these things, however, and the

big fire losses continue. The owners of property burned are not the only losers from fires. Every owner of property who carries life insurance loses by reason of the fact that our fire losses reach such proed fully with the details of the portions. Insurance rates are high; law and all concerns that purpose to | there has been a considerable increase during the past year. As long as fires are as numerous as they are at present, however, there is not likeiness. It will all seem very natural ly to be any reduction in rates. The when the newness wears off, but until People generally must exercise great- with a theatrical traveling company." all are familiar with it, great care er precautions, and our builders must pay more more attention in work to the dangers from fire.

Few people realize how rapidly the linquent one, "Well, I'll tell you what poultry industry has grown in this Mecklenburg County has outstand- section during the past few years. ing only \$300,000 of bonds, issued to There are quite a number of well opassist in the construction of a rail- erated and successful poultry farms road. These bonds bear 6 per cent near Charlotte and many fanciers are road. These bonds bear 6 per cent near Charlotte and many fanciers are her name to "Jessica." Mrs. Wye-Y's. interest and two-thirds of that \$18,- making excellent money from their Mrs. Exe-Well, I wish she hadn't. 000 a year comes from the pockets stock. As much as \$50 and even \$100 of the taxpayers of the city. There is is frequently received for a single no kick on this, because the city is bird raised by local breeders, while getting its money's worth, but the eggs for setting are in large demand county has a floating indebtedness of at good prices. And then poultry about \$175,000 and the taxpayers of keepers who cater only to the comthe city are paying two-thirds of the mercial trade are doing well also. interest on this. There is the same receiving a bonus for eggs that are kick against this that there is to the guaranteed to be only a few days old use of taxes paid by property owners and selling broilers in the Spring of the city for the construction of from incubator chicks at a handsome

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 Dairying Industry Flourishes in the 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.

General Bickett, he points out that the Supreme Court has construed a directorship in any State institution the country in getting out of the 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 Charby the remark of a visitor to the 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-heade

man passeth all understanding. No one has yet seen a necklac

"Dux femina facti" was translated no means should be overlooked by by a Homer (La.) boy to mean: "The fact is, woman is a duck

made of the beads of perspiration.

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

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

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. vey. The State was also the largest Wonder if he eyer tried to reach up behind his shoulder to get hold of the end of broken suspender?

A fair correspondent asks: "Will ou please send me a receipt for a nice nome-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 goological garden are given whiskey in the belief that it will make them strong. In other cities strong men have been given whiskey and they

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

## SPARKLERS

(Chicago Tribune.)

The coal man happens in, the while His face is merry, quite; But do we like his beaming smile? Not by an anthracite!

(Exchange.)

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

(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

(Yonkers Statesman.) "Your trouble is indigestion," said the physician to the new patient who had called at his office. "Now, don't cat 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

(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 de-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. Exe—I understand your daughter, Jessie, has changed She's put the crazy notion into my girl Bessie's head to call herself Bessica."

(Harper's Weekly.)

A Good Time 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, little Binks, "Willis shead of me!"

(Life.) dollar by dollar." "By ginger!" said little Binks, "what a lot of fun there

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.

Mountains of Western North Caro-

(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 In the annual report of Attorney possibly a greater variety of products than any other portion of the country; and still we are, in many particulars, far behind other parts of 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 elimination of the one-crop idea is to be desired if the county is to take its rightful place as a farming region of varied interests, where the people are prosperous well fed and happy.

The remarkable success of 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 sol! lotte Musical Association is attested of this county cannot be found anywhere, yet there are not shipped from this town, as is done from the city a few days ago. "I am going to 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 cone by Lenoir's two strong banks is indeed highly gratifying, as it is an index to the growing prosperity of the community at large. It also indicates that the antiquated practice of keeping money stored away 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 perity of the country.

A Colossal Mining Deal. (Bryson City Times.) ple in western North Carolina and

ODDS AND ENDS

Canary birds are now part of the

equipment of every well regulated

mine. If the atmosphere is question-

able 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 a cord to sus-

pend it from the shoulders of its user,

California was the largest producer

of petroleum, asphalt. borax, gems

and precious stones, magnesite, quick-

silver and platinum in 1911, according

to the United States Geological Sur-

Florida is the leading State of the

Union in the production of phosphate

rock, according to the United States

phate product was valued at \$9.473,-

638, compared with \$8,647,774 in 1910.

The loganberry, a hybrid of the

blackberry and raspberry, is said to

make the finest of jellies, jams and

ples. Introduced a few years ago in

the West, its popularity has been

steadily increasing, and the demand

now outruns the supply. Western

Oregon and Washington are the great

The invention of a Houston (Tex.)

man contemplates the use of nitro-

glycerine as a power producer. The

explosive has been used before in

schemes like this, usually to the great

sorrew of the relatives of the inventor.

but the latest nitroglycerine motor is

not designed for pure explosive, but

known as waterbreaks, consisting of

ridges of earth built across roads on

steep grades, are to be abolished in

Pennsylvania as a part of its road im-

provement measures. These water

breaks were once a familiar institu-

tion throughout New England and

other parts of the country and are still

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 bat-

tery, which will run the heavy en-

gines 20 miles at top speed with a

single charge. Battery-driven trucks

The saving in feeding and caring for

horses is an important item in every

Reproving the Hensley Boys.

(From The Saturday Evening Post.)

the mountains of East Tennessee a

tall old gaunt hillsman came down

from across the Kentucky border one

"Son," he said, "I've been having

right smart trouble lately with them

assel of 'em live right up the cree!

a little piece above my place, and

here lately they tuck a sort of a grudge ag'inst me. Every night when

be hid in the brush fence at the lower

end of my hoss-lot, and they'd shoot

went out to feed my stock they'd

"I got tired of it. I'm gettin' along

dad-fetched Hensley boys. The whole

day, and told him this story:

Opie Reed says when he lived in.

and chemical engines are also used.

for a solution of it in gasolne.

"Thank-ye-ma'ams,"

surviving in many places.

large city.

est producers of the new berry.

whose hands are left free.

producer of gold.

HOBOES NUMEROUS.

Associated Charities Prevents People From Being Imposed Upon by Pro-fessional Beggars and Fakirs. (Raleigh Times.)

Hoboes are abroad. Two strapping ellows 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 to 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 tries to save the public from imposition. 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 woma nhere 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 Montreal capitalists on less than halyf his mining properties in New Mexico, for a consideration of \$2,-750,000. From this a commission of substantial contribution to the pros- \$350,000 goes to New York brokers. tion, with an agreement that parties will take it if the ore runs \$2.50 per ton, and so far as it has It will be gratifying to many peo- been tested it runs \$4.50 to \$5.50 per

#### PALMETTO NEWS

Clinchfield Has Much in Store For Spartanburg Section. (Spartanburg Herald.)

Foreseeing with the broad vision which has marked all its actions in he management of the Clinchfield & Ohio Railway, that this farming country at the southern end of the line, with its mild Winter climate and other advantages, was destined to be the truck garden which should furnish food supplies to the teeming cities and industrial centers of the Middle West, Mark 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 Geological Survey. In 1911 the phos- his entire time to the encouragement and developing of truck farming. Mr. Evans formerly attended Wofford

Mr. Potter has gone further. He has engaged the services of Joseph E. Wing of Mechanicsburg, O., soit expert and consulting agriculturalist, 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. Chronicle has a practical illustration in J. H. Bussey, R. F. D. No. 1, Modoc, Edgefield County. Mr. Bussey is a prosperous farmer. He was in Edgefield Tuesday last, selling from his wagon all kinds of canned goods, raised on his farm. He has a cannery with a capacity of 800 cane 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 seld to Col. F. N. K. Bailey of the S. C. 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 is 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 abainst 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 and thousands of dollars each year by eating the bugs that harm the crops. When you kill a bird vou are taking money from the pocket of the farmers in the community, which is a dead loss to the individual farmer. to the community and to the co try. Loss of this kind is like loss by fire—does no one any good.
Spare the birds,

> Unnecessary Cantion. (From The Newark Star.

After midnight on some of the subin years and I can't see to aim a gun the way I could once, on account of my eyesight; but I jest made up my mind the other night that I wouldn't stand it no more. I'm 1:20 the other morning a gentlemanly peaceable, but there's a limit to ev- stranger got on a car toward the end

erything; so that night when I went out to feed I taken my old gun along with me. Shorn enough, they was ambushed in the same place, and they cut down on me jest as soon as I come into sight.

"Sorry, Cap," replied the knight of the bellrope, "but you ain't s'posed to. come into sight.

"So I upped with my gun and I Rules is very strict,"
sort of sprayed them with a few bullets. That seemed to quiet em down, body has been smoking.

"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 feedin'; but in about an hour I felt sort of curious and I walked down to that there brush fence and taken a look. And, son, all them Hensley was gone but three!"

"Well," said the traveler, "somebody has been smoking here, I can smell it. And look at those cigar and cigarette butts on the floor. Where did they come from?"

"Aw," explained the conductor, "them was left by guys that didn't ask."

# KRESS STORES INVENTORY 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

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WATCH KRESS WINDOWS

5-10-25 STORE Charlotte, N. C.

## 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 ready to announce the full list."

Preserving Competition.

(Boston Transcript.) One of the recent decisions of the Inited 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 ourpose of stifling competition, a commodity in general use, to a dealer in one place at a less cost than to a lealer in another part of the State. The law is confined to staple articles and only in such cases as can be has been worked in several States and proved to be for the suppression of it has turned out satisfactorily.

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 undisputed. With the initiative and referendum operative in 28 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."

Rural School Needs. (New Orleans Picayune.)

United States Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton takes the stand that the average rural school teacher is changed too often. The average teacher stays at one school from one to three years and then goes to some other school. In one or two years, Mr. Claxton says, the teacher could not know the life history of the school children of the district as a teacher should know it in order to do the best for the child. He also believes that the township should own between 40 and 50 acres of land with every school house, and on this land a house should be erected which would be the home of the teacher for life. During the Summer months he could attend to his crops and raise enough on which to feed himself and family during the whole year. He would also be a part of the community, would have more interest in the community and its people, and would make a much better teacher than un. der the present conditions. This plan

#### What Uncle Sam Owes. (St. Paul Dispatch.)

How many people, otherwise well informed, and who delight 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 note 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 \$376,476,492.16, 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 \$162,-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 inappreciable 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.



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clean, glowing warmth at a minute's notice.

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