

FREEZE ALMOST PARALYZES CITY

HEAVY DAMAGES WIRES DOWN ALL OVER CHARLOTTE

All of Western Union Wires are Down and Nearly all of Postals, Posts, Cross Arms and Wires are all Over the City in a Tangle Which is Being Unraveled.

Bell Telephone Company is Lightest Sufferer Among Electric Companies. Its Wires are Safe Underground. Street Cars Operated With Difficulty.

Charlotte still is everywhere covered with snow and ice and the situation grows to grow steadily worse. The trees and electric wires—those that have not already broken—are still loaded with heavy masses of ice and threaten every minute to fall.

Business is almost completely paralyzed. Going about from place to place is possible only with difficulty and while street cleaning and other individuals are making good headway in cleaning off the sidewalks, and removing the debris, in many sections of the city the heavy ice overloads threatening to fall makes it dangerous to be abroad. The whole city is fighting the weather. While this city is suffering sufficient occupation for men, women and children.

The damage resulting from the continuance of the excessive wintry weather is just today being really felt. During the early part of last evening the rain intermingled with an abundance of snow began to pour from the heavy overhanging clouds and the prediction was that Charlotte would helplessly be under the spell of a real winter today. The prophecy was not ill-founded nor was the philosophy of the oldest inhabitants a fallacy. For when residents peeped from the doors of their homes this morning a vision unobtainable passed before their gaze. Streets strewn with the fragments of broken trees and telegraph wires was the picture which was presented to Charlotte citizens this morning.

The Western Union Telegraph Company is a heavy loser on account of the destruction which the storm has wrought upon their system. From College street to the railroad on East Trade and from there to Eleventh street every post to which was attached the company's wires are broken and lying across the street. Wires were tangled and retangled until the streets seemed as a background for a series of spider webs. They lie across the railroad from Trade to Eleventh street, where two big chestnut trees checked the pressure of the resistless fury and saved the lines beyond that point. All over the city the marks of the storm are visible. Large trees were stripped of limbs which have been thrown across the street, and other damages of an intricate type are manifest. Struggling to report this morning a workman said it would be a week before the Western Union system could be repaired and put in as good condition as it was previously. The ground is too frozen to attempt the digging of holes and therefore some temporary fixtures will have to be contrived. In many places an entirely new system will have to be installed on account of the very demolished condition of the wires.

The Four C's and the Catawba Power Company and the Western Union Company have workmen clearing away the rubbish and doing what they can today toward the re-building of the lines. Their work is necessarily slow because of the difficulty in handling the tangled wires which are covered with a thick coating of ice. Storm in the County. From all sections of Mecklenburg county the same story is told. The heavy sleet has broken trees and their fragments are scattered here and there. The highways are strewn with the wreckage of many trees, and it will be many days before these are cleared away. The orchards of Mecklenburg had the sleet, but little, the trees being broken and twisted under the weight of the heavy snow.

TO PROTECT PEDESTRIANS. Chief of Police Irwin made a statement this morning to the effect that in times of such danger as is imminent today, on account of the falling live wires, there should be some ordinance whereby the power companies would be enforced to cut off the current, and thus avoid all the perils of electric shocks. The companies have not sufficient forces to clear the streets of the tangled wires when there are such conditions as prevail today.

\$15 BILL PASSED IN SOUTH CAROLINA. Washington, Feb. 9.—The Government has never issued a \$15 bill, but some enterprising counterfeiter made one and passed it. The bill, now in Chief Justice's possession, was made by adding a 1 to a \$5 note. The \$15 bill was generally circulated in South Carolina until it reached a bank, when it was sent on to Washington with inquiries.

ICE HINDERS TRAFFIC. Local Commission Man Receives Orders to Ship via Rail.

"All shipments of goods from your territory to us should be made by rail until further notice. The river at Philadelphia is so blocked with ice that there is little chance to get goods through by water."

The above is the substance of a letter received by Mr. E. B. Dickson, a well known yarn merchant this morning, from buyers of yarns in Philadelphia and other northern centers. The letter adds that water traffic is so blocked that the prospects are that there will be no shipments of goods by water until about the first of March.

This information will be of great interest to the mills in the Carolinas and the South, as thousands of pounds are shipped daily from Southern points to the Northern markets, a large proportion of this amount going by water.

COLLISION ON SQUARE. Two Street Cars Going Slowly, Crash Into Each Other.

An accident that might have resulted very seriously to a number of persons occurred yesterday afternoon about five o'clock when a Fourth Ward street car ran into a Piedmont car just as it was crossing the square. The street which had been falling all day became so thickly coated upon the sidewalks as to obstruct all vision from the sides, and neither of the motormen was able to see the other.

RUMOR CAUSED VERY MUCH WORRY TODAY. It Was Reported Over the City Early This Morning That Two School Children Had Met Their Death By Coming in Contact With a Live Electric Wire.

A rumor void of all verity, and as ill-founded as its fountain, reached this office this morning, reporting the death near the new graded school of two of the students who had come in contact with a live wire lying across the street. A reporter was despatched with due haste to the north school to obtain the facts. Sliding under gigantic limbs drooping with the weight of winter, he wended his way toward the seat of learning.

As he approached the building some boys were gliding over the frozen surface and enjoying life to its fullest. If death reigns within, thought the News man, there is no sign of it without. Prof. Harding was called from his duties and Miss Bethune from her class of merry maidens who were rising in their seats to view the searcher for news. "A report comes to our office, Professor, that some children were hurt out here this morning by a live wire," was the reporter's greeting as he tried to assume an air of solemnity mingled with becoming reverence for him who was to be his informant.

"We've heard nothing of it out here," said the Professor. "We're pretty lively out here, but"—added Miss Bethune, who was gazing into the eyes of Mr. Harding with astonished wonder and merriment. Several opinions were ventured from each of the three who were standing under the gaze of a host of children, who looked out with suspicious faces. In his disappointment the reporter was inclined to whisper to himself "All men are liars," but something made him happy that for one time about the seriousness of his quest he was disappointed, inasmuch as some other hearts were saved from the sorrow of death and some homes were spared the pain of the saddest of all separations.

THE FLAGLER MANSION. Is the Scene of Many Social Entertainments at Palm Beach.

Palm Beach, Fla., Feb. 9.—Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Flagler again are among the most lavish entertainers here this season, as in the past. Whitehall, their magnificent villa, is nightly the scene of a large entertainment which brings together all the notable guests at the resort. Mrs. Flagler, who became the wife of the millionaire on August 24, 1901, shortly after the first Mrs. Flagler was divorced on the score of her incurable insanity, is a most gracious hostess, and has become one of the most popular of the younger matrons here. Mrs. Flagler formerly was a Miss Keenan. The circumstances surrounding the divorce of the first wife of Mr. Flagler were the one distressing feature about the romance which ended in the marriage of Mr. Flagler and the handsome woman who now bears his name. Mrs. Ida M. Flagler is living out her days in hopeless insanity at New Rochelle, near New York, where she is surrounded with every luxury that her former husband's wealth can provide, and it is said that the person most solicitous about her is the one who took her place as mistress of Whitehall.

THE CATHOLICS TO BUILD HANDSOME SCHOOL BUILDING. The Property on South Tryon St. Now Used for School Purposes Will be Greatly Improved by the Erection of a Handsome Building.

Contractor Jones of Charlotte Secures the Contract. The Building it is Said, Will Cost \$20,000 and Will be Thoroughly Up-to-Date.

The O'Donohue School Home is the name of a handsome new school building to be erected by the Catholic church of the city on the location now the site of St. Mary's Seminary. The new structure will be one of the best equipped in the state, taking the place of the present school building which will be moved back some distance, the church having secured all of the property fronting on South Tryon street, including the frontage of College street, making a very valuable school property. The contract for the new building has been let to Contractor J. E. Jones, to whom the work was awarded at a meeting held last evening.

The new building will be three stories high, built of brick and having stone trimmings, and will be finished on the interior in the most up-to-date manner by the contractor. The present school building known as St. Mary's School, will be moved farther back and will front on Stonewall and will be used in connection with the new school structure. The Catholics of the city are to be congratulated upon the acquirement of so neat and attractive a new school property that will doubt be the means of bringing a number of students to the city, and will furnish school facilities to a large number of children and older ones in the city.

MIXES BECKHAM IN CASE. Winchester, Ky., Feb. 9.—The most sensational development of the litigation over the Breathitt County foundry cases came today in the deposition of Moses Feltner, a witness, who left Kentucky after having been subpoenaed in the \$100,000 damage suit of Mrs. Abrelia Marcum against Judge James Hargis and others in connection with the killing of J. B. Marcum.

Cecilia Loftus in Hospital. Akron, Ohio, Feb. 9.—The condition of Miss Cecilia Loftus, who fainted on the stage at the Colonial Theatre last night at the beginning of the production of "The Sazo-Come Governess," became worse this afternoon, and she was removed to the City Hospital. The theatrical company left for Youngstown this morning, but Miss Loftus cancelled her engagement there. Dr. George T. Rankin says that Miss Loftus may not be able to appear on the stage for several weeks. She has a severe attack of nervous prostration.

PULLING FOR 5,000

The News wants within the next 30 days to increase its circulation to 5,000. Its average during January was 4,476. The News wants its friends to help get these 524 new subscribers and it proposes to make them the most liberal proposition it has ever made. Many of its friends use every opportunity to speak a good word for it free of charge. But now it proposes to pay liberally all who will help.

- In order to increase its circulation to 5,000 at once The News makes the following liberal proposition to its subscribers only: During February any subscriber who will send two new subscribers with \$10 cash will be given The News absolutely free for one year. Any subscriber who will send one new subscriber with \$5 cash will be given six months subscription free. Any subscriber who will send a new subscriber with \$2.50 cash will be given three months subscription free. Any subscriber who will send a new subscriber with \$1.25 cash will be given six weeks subscription free. Two subscribers for 6 months each will count the same as one subscriber for 12 months, etc. In no case must The News be offered to any one at less than its regular subscription price. If all its subscribers will do what they can under this proposition The News on March 1st will not only have a larger circulation than any other evening paper in the two Carolinas, but it will also have a larger circulation than any morning paper in these two States. Remember this proposition holds good only until March 1st, and if you want the leading evening daily in this section one year free of cost you have the best opportunity you ever had to get it. Don't put off but begin work today. Sample copies gladly sent on application. Live agents wanted in every community. Send your subscriptions as fast as you get them to NEWS PUBLISHING CO., Charlotte, N. C.

LAWMAKING IS SUSPENDED TODAY

THE WHOLE SOUTH IS SUFFERING FROM THE BLIZZARD AND NEARLY EVERY SOUTHERN CITY IS CUT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

MEMBER OF HOUSE DIES LEGISLATORS MEET AND ADJOURN

Dr. Phitts, of Watuga, Dies Early This Morning. Suitable Resolutions are Passed in Both Houses Several Bills Introduced in Senate. Heads of Educational Institutions Confer With Committee as to What Appropriations They Need. Contest in Case of Election of Col Gardner. (By Telephone to The News.) Raleigh, Feb. 9.—The Senate and House adjourned this morning shortly after convening, out of respect to the memory of Dr. Phitts, the representative from Watuga county who died at an early hour this morning. Both branches of the legislature passed suitable resolutions and a committee composed of two Senators and three members of the House was named to accompany the remains to the home of the deceased. Dr. Phitts was taken suddenly ill Sunday night. He had been suffering for several days with a severe cold, but never suspected any serious turn. Monday morning symptoms of pneumonia developed and death was attributable to this disease. The deceased was a practicing physician of Watuga county, stood well in his profession, and as a legislator, was admired for his honesty of purpose and genuine ability. His sad death is greatly to be deplored. Before the announcement of the death of Dr. Phitts several bills were introduced in the Senate. Senator Webb, of Buncombe, introduced a bill which has for its object the appointment of two magistrates in towns or cities for each 5,000 inhabitants. A bill was introduced by the Senator from Johnston providing that all trains stop at the county seats. It is understood that there will be a contest, the claim being made that Major Flanagan was really elected, that ballot being erroneously ruled out by the chairman. To Increase Salary of Brigadier. The military affairs committee of the Senate has decided to report favorably bills to increase the pay of Brigadier General Armfield, of Statesville, from \$150 to \$500 and raise the rank of the quartermaster from colonel to brigadier general. Both have the endorsement of the North Carolina National Guard. B. and L. Association Bill. Representatives of the building and loan associations are here with the Senate committee on judiciary preparing a substitute for the bill pending introduced by Duls, of Mecklenburg, concerning building a loan associations, and it will be reported as an agreed bill this evening at an adjourned meeting of the committee. The object is to keep out of the State a lot of wild cat unreliable concerns that are seriously affecting the building and loan business. The feature of the bill that provided for a building and loan commission has been eliminated and the associations left under the control of the State insurance commissioner. What Educational Institution Wants. There was a conference this morning between the presidents of the several institutions and the joint finance committee of the General Assembly with the result that announcement is made as to just what demands each institution shall insist on as appropriations by the present legislature. The State University will ask \$50,000 for maintenance and \$50,000 for laboratories; A. & M. College at Raleigh \$35,000 for support and \$30,000 for laboratories; State Normal and Industrial Colleges, Greensboro, \$50,000 annually for support and \$106,000 on account of fire loss; Colored A. & M. College, Greensboro, \$7,500 annually for support and \$10,000 for second dormitory. Increasing Interest Rate. The bill introduced by Representative Ryburn yesterday is an important one. In that it provides that while the legal rate of interest in the state shall remain 6 per cent still by special contract where loans are made for five or more years, the interest and a portion of the principal to be paid annually seven per cent can be charged.

WAR ON VICE. Corruption and Vice in Philadelphia Receiving Vigorous Attention.

Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 9.—Following the allegation in the presentation of the grand jury last Thursday that syndicated vice exists in this city and that Director of Public Safety Smith is responsible for the condition, D. Clarence Giboney, secretary of the Law and Order Society, today in a letter to Mayor Weaver made specific charge of official collusion with a disreputable resort. The place was raided by agents of the society early this morning. Mr. Giboney, in his letter to the mayor concerning the place, says: "This place has been protected by your police. On the bureau of the mistress of the house the most conspicuous ornament was a large cabinet photograph of a patrolman of the beat. The house is a house of official protection and syndicated crime." Mayor Weaver in his reply said: "If I can get any evidence that there is any connection with a police official, or any official under my control, protecting vice in any way, shape or form in the city of Philadelphia, he shall not stay in the employ of the city. I shall be glad to have the evidence that you have at the earliest possible moment."

Mr. Giboney will present his evidence to the mayor on a date to be fixed by that official, at which time it is expected a committee of five city councilmen will be present. This clerical committee, of which Archbishop Ryan, of the Roman Catholic Church, and Bishop Mackay-Smith, of the Episcopal Church, are members, held a conference with the mayor today. It was intimated that the mayor would issue a statement concerning the conference, but he has not yet done so. Secretary Giboney will tomorrow send out invitations to fifty prominent clergymen, asking them to attend a meeting at which he proposes to submit to them evidence of police protection of vice.

Today at the weekly meeting of the clergymen of various denominations the subject was discussed. A committee of Methodist ministers was appointed to call on the mayor and discuss the social evil with him. A resolution was adopted calling on Mayor Weaver to investigate the charge contained in the grand jury's presentment. The resolution will be placed before every Methodist Episcopal congregation next Sunday for action.

Amending Raleigh's Charter. The Raleigh Board of Aldermen today finally passed on the charter amendments for the city during the present session of the General Assembly. Some of the most notable changes will be the establishment of a board of audit and finance, a police justice's court to relieve the mayor of court duty and a general revision of the scale of salaries of city officials together with a reduction of the number of aldermen from twelve to eight.

Appointed Special Master. Judge W. A. Montgomery has been appointed by Judge Purnell in the Federal court as a special master to make up a statement of accounts and find out the result of the noted case of the United Cigarette Co. vs. R. R. Wright, of Durham, involving sales of the famous Bonsack cigarette machine by Wright in China, Japan and other foreign countries. It is a case of long standing and involves over \$200,000.

SEABOARD OPPOSITION. The Reorganization Plan Has Safe Majority.

New York, Feb. 8.—Information was given out in Wall Street yesterday that the stockholders of the Seaboard Air Line who are opposing the Ryan-Blair reorganization plan met in Baltimore on Monday night and, representing 59,460 shares, appointed a committee, to which John Skelton Williams, former president of the road, declined a reappointment after expressing his hearty approval of the purpose, which will draw up articles for the pooling of the stock represented in order to conduct negotiations and enter into litigation, if this is necessary, to bring about modifications of the Ryan-Blair plan. The typewritten article setting forth these facts, which was passed around in Wall Street, had this to say regarding Mr. Williams: "Mr. John Skelton Williams expressed a gratification of the present situation and reiterated his belief that it would be impossible for the Ryan-Blair committee to make their proposition effective in the face of the opposition which already exists and which is likely to grow." Members of the Ryan-Blair reorganization committee refused, as they have refused heretofore, to discuss this Baltimore opposition, contenting themselves with the statement that much more than a majority of the stock had already been deposited with them under the plan that securities were still coming in at a rapid rate.

"Pittsburg Phil" Left No Will. Pittsburg, Feb. 9.—The family of George E. Smith, "Pittsburg Phil," have started for New York to settle the estate left by the plunger. William Smith, a brother, said before leaving that his brother had left all his affairs in excellent shape but had not made a will. As a result the family divide the estate. Besides the brothers and sisters who will share the wealth are two children left by a deceased sister. William Smith said he did not know how much money his brother left. Friends here believe the dead man left more than a million.