

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Published every afternoon except Sunday.
THE NEWS PUBLISHING CO.
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President and General Manager.

Telephone 115.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES	
One year.....	\$5.00
Six months.....	2.50
Three months.....	1.25
One month.....	.45
One week.....	.10

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The Association of American Advertisers has examined and certified the circulation of this publication. The detail report of such examination is on file at the New York office of the Association.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1909.

LET THE PEOPLE ELECT THEIR MAYORS.

At the meeting this evening of the board of aldermen the proposed new city charter will be considered. In a few days the members of the legislature from Mecklenburg will be called upon to pass judgment upon the new code for our city's administration. It is hoped the aldermen and the sub-committee of the committee of one hundred may reach a compromise agreement before they submit the new instrument to the legislators. Those gentlemen who have thus far taken a leading hand in the formulation of the new charter have demonstrated time and again their willingness to give and take, to surrender personal preference where they were convinced the ends in view would best be served; in short, to compromise for the sake of harmony and for the accomplishment of best results. Only with the exercise of such a spirit can best good be achieved.

The News has confidence in the judgment of the men upon whom devolves this important work. And while in some points it differs from the action of the sub-committee of ten it desires herewith to avow clearly its respect for and confidence in their sincerity as well as their ability.

A brief consideration of a few of the issues involved in the new charter, which have attracted chief interest, is not amiss at this time.

If the new charter is adopted it will mean the beginning of a new regime in this city. A change of administrative front is always fraught with danger, and The News urges the utmost caution.

There is one feature of the new bill especially which The News is unable to reconcile with its views of democracy—that which would take the election of mayors from the hands of the people and leave the task with an aldermanic board. This is a step which The News believes should not be taken. It is radical, undemocratic, and it opens up the way for abuses before which the defects in the present system, complained of by the champions of the new order of things, pale into insignificance. It is the earnest hope of this paper that the aldermen refuse to add their approval to this radical provision.

The able champions of the provisions complain that in the past "cheap politics" and "ward politicians" have exerted an unwholesome influence, but The News believes that the panacea offered is anything but an antidote for the evils complained of. There will be just as much "cheap" political activity in the choosing of the seven men who are to name a mayor, as there could be in the choosing of a mayor direct. It is merely a round-about way of doing a thing, and the "cheap" politician is not deterred by a course that is devious.

Good men have been elected to the mayorality in the past and they have emerged from the embroglio of political contests unscathed. There is as much reason to discard our present method of choosing congressmen and governors, on the ground that they must come in contact with cheap politicians, as there is to adopt this new method of electing a mayor. We think the reasons are not sufficient to warrant the taking away from the people the right to choose their officials. By the proposed method, the election of a mayor—the highest office in a city government—will rest with four men—a majority. This is more erratic than the commission

form of government, for under that form of municipal administration a mayor must be passed upon by the people. It places too much authority in the hands of four men, and it opens up the way for manifold dangers outweighing those complained of under the old system.

The News has not yet lost its faith in the fairness and justice of popular rule. It detests the unscrupulous ward-heeler as much as any one can, but it has an abiding confidence in the righteousness of the doctrine of majority rule.

An office so closely affecting the interests of all citizens should be filled by a man whom the majority names. That is democracy, and in spite of evils that sometimes spring up in pursuance of such a policy, it has been successful since the foundation of this republic.

The News earnestly trusts the people may continue to be given a hearing direct in the choosing of the men who are to preside over their affairs.

Most of the provisions are, in our opinion, wise and good, and should be inculcated in the new city charter. Heretofore The News has outlined these provisions, and the public is well informed on this point.

In the matter of street and other improvements, the charter provides that they are hereafter to be made by the abutting or the interested property owners. When a street car is on an improved street or when it later enters on such a street, it is to pay its share. This improvement provision, it is argued, works a hardship on those who have had their streets improved under the present system, the city paying an equal part with the property owners. That it is true but the city now has no money for improvements, not even having near enough for current expenses. This being the case, the only remedy appears to be to let the dead past bury its dead, make a beginning under the new plan and get some vastly needed streets, water mains and sewers.

As to the assessment plan of making such improvements, giving the property owner ten years in which to pay for the improvements, if he wishes it so, The News believes that this is a provision in the interest of the poor man, and is not apprehensive that it will work the hardship feared. As improvements may not be made without the assent of one-third of the property owners concerned, it is well-enough safeguarded. Asheville has built her fine streets this way.

Certainly the enlargement of the Recorder's jurisdiction is greatly needed.

As to the imposition of a small franchise tax on the gross earnings of public utility corporations, proposed by the board of aldermen, The News thinks this a fair proposition if it is safeguarded wisely. Whether the maximum of this tax should be as high as ten per cent, as suggested in the resolution presented in the board of aldermen, is open to doubt.

The News hopes that a compromise may be reached whereby the bulk of the charter may be favored by the board of aldermen in exchange for the concession on the part of the Citizen's committee of ten in favor of the election of the mayor by the people. That would seem to afford a fair basis for the give and take spirit to have free course and be glorified.

The chief objections to the new charter is, in the opinion of The News, that provision which would rob the people of a voice in naming their chief official, and it is the hope of this paper that this provision be stricken out, and the present democratic system continued.

Hayward and Clark's Cotton Letter.

New Orleans, La., Feb. 8.—Although spot sales in Liverpool continues small cables from there as well as those direct from Manchester, uniformly speak of improvement in conditions of the manufacturing trade. While so far the raw material has advanced more rapidly in price than yarns and goods. The trade reports in this country so far as cotton is concerned leave nothing to be desired.

Our market to-day had good support from the start. Leading professionals are conspicuous buyers of May and July. It seems that the idea that the reaction is over and an advance may come sooner than expected is the prevailing one. There was hardly any precipitation in the belt over Sunday but there are strong indications to-day of general rains in the next 48 hours to be followed by a severe cold wave. Spot people report a better all round demand. F. o. b. offers from interior are being more readily taken.

Hunger is the best sauce.—Dutch.
If things were done twice, all would be wise.—Spanish.

If your stomach is too weak to digest your food, you cannot wonder at your sickly and rundown condition. Strengthen it at once by the use of the unfailing

HOSTETTER'S
CELEBRATED
STOMACH
BITTER

Rich or poor alike are habitually constipated. It slays its victims by thousands, although some other name goes into the death certificate. Drugs will not cure. Eat daily.

DR. PRICE'S WHEAT FLAKE CEREAL FOOD

which is of a laxative nature. 34
10 cents a package.

For sale by all Grocers

THE FUTURE OF COTTON.

Southern interests are demanding an extension in the uses of cotton. On this subject the Atlanta Constitution says:

"If the county merchant, whose interests lie with the farmer, when he buys a hundred pounds of sugar or some other product, will demand it in cotton bag, he will get it that way without additional expense and, at the same time, contribute to that extent toward increasing the value of cotton by increasing the demand.

"The farmer who needs a rope should call for a cotton one where it will answer the purpose. Cotton twine should be in daily use in every mercantile establishment in the south.

"After all is said and done, it is demanded that is going to do the work. Cotton bagging upon cotton bales must ultimately come, and the producing south should now be working more diligently to that end.

"Decreased tare alone will almost, if not quite, make up for the difference in cost between jute and cotton; added to the increased value of the cotton itself, it will more than do it.

"The new year should witness a determined and vigorous campaign for the more extended uses of cotton.

"The south must get away from the losing policy of selling its greatest crop for the bare price of production.

"This can be done in only one way, which, in last analysis, is the proper regulation of the supply to the demand.

"It is possible to decrease the supply and it is possible, likewise, to increase the demand.

"But there must be proper co-ordination between the two or, through over-production, disaster will come upon the producer.

"The difficulties of holding down the supply are well known; the possibilities in building up the demand are great.

"There is much in the future, if the producer will but reach out and take it.

"But this success is dependent at last largely upon his own energies and his own efforts."

No, Maude dear; a tiller of the soil would hardly do to steer a ship.

Heavy, impure blood makes a muddy, pimply complexion, headaches, nausea, indigestion. Thin blood makes you weak, pale, sickly. Burdock Blood Bitters makes the blood rich, red, pure—restores the perfect health.

Stops itching instantly. Cures piles, eczema, salt rheum, tetter, itch, hives, herpes, scabies—Doan's Ointment. At any drug store.

For a mild, easy action of the bowels, a single dose of Doan's Regulents is enough. Treats chronic habitual constipation. 25 cents a box. Ask your druggist for them.

"Dr. Thomas Electric Oil is the best remedy for that often fatal disease—croup. Has been used with success in our family for eight years."—Mrs. L. Whiteacre, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Selection

of a piano is very much like the choice of friends.

The more care exercised in the selection, the more certain we are of lasting friendship; and the greater one's refinement and education, the more judgment is displayed in the choice of friends.

The selection and exclusive use of Steiff Pianos in many of the greatest educational institutions in the United States is a source of gratification to us, and we feel justly proud of the fact that in about two hundred colleges we have more than one thousand Steiff pianos. There must be a reason.

INVESTIGATE!

Chas. M. Stieff

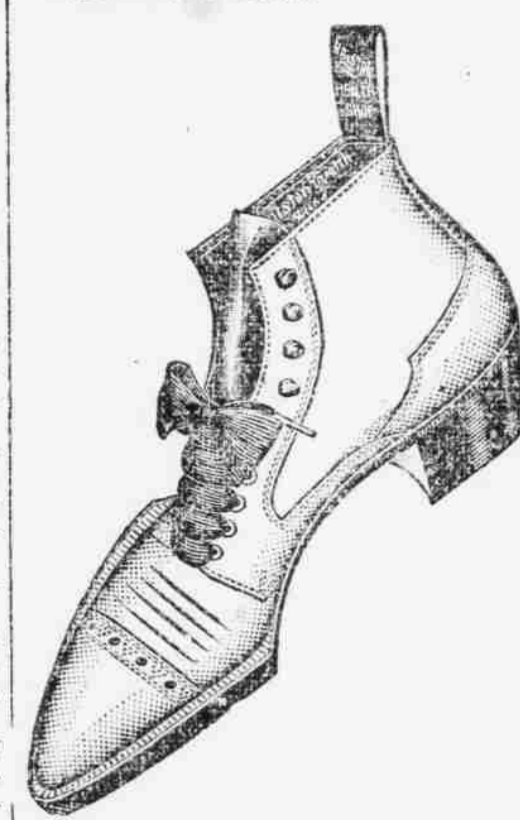
—Manufacturer of—
The Artistic Steiff, Shaw, and Steiff Self-Player Piano.

SOUTHERN WAREHOUSE:

5 West Trade St.
Charlotte, N. C.

C. H. WILMOTH, Manager.

THE RALSTON HEALTH SHOE



A Shoe that not only affords all ordinary protection, but that keeps the foot warm and dry on cold and stormy days. They are trim in fit, easy in use and durable in wear. It is the best Shoe for the price ever worn by mortal man. The stock, shoemaking, shape and everything that goes in it are the very best. The equal of any \$6.00 shoe.



"The Fellowcraft Shoe"

A partner of the "Ralston." Price only \$3.50. Every pair guaranteed to give satisfaction, made in all the different leathers, widths, etc.

"Royal Cross Shoes"

Price \$3.00. Made in the latest styles, all the different leathers. Sells on sight. In Ladies' Shoes we are showing the prettiest line in the city, right up to the minute in style.



Women's Shoes run in price from 75c to \$3.00. To see our Shoe stock, and the customers as they crowd in, you'll rightly decide we are doing the shoe business of this section. No trouble to make a sale, because we can give you any number or style you want. As usual on Saturdays and Mondays we are throwing out a lot of goods in all lines, at prices that no house can match. Specials in Clothing, Gents' Furnishings, Dress Goods, etc.

In Millinery Store

All trimmed to go at 98c, biggest bargain ever offered.

BELK BROS.

11 TO 21 EAST TRADE

We frequently hear a man boasting that he has grown gray in the service, but did you ever hear one boast that he had grown bald?

The fact that a good beginning sometimes makes bad ending influences some people never to begin.

Peroxide Cream

A Mild Skin Bleach, absolutely harmless. Keeps Skin Smooth and Soft.
25 CENTS

JORDAN'S ON THE SQUARE

Retail Agents.



Iceless Soda Fountain

that is to be placed in our handsome new drug store in the Skyscraper Building, has been shipped from the manufacturers. It is now on the road by fast freight and will soon be installed. This is the fountain that created such a history in the Soda Fountain World this past year. Woodall & Sheppard were the first in this state to purchase one. Ours is a beauty and will serve colder soda than any of the old style fountains. We want you all to come and see what delicious drinks will be served at our new fountain.

Woodall & Sheppard

21 South Tryon St.

Two Months Yet To Use Gas Ranges

Only a few yet in stock. Get one now. You will never regret it. See

4C'S COMPANY

Lawn, Grass, Garden and Flower Seeds

Fresh Stock
Burwell-Dunn
(INCORPORATED)

REGISTERED NURSES' DIRECTORY
(Graduates Only.)
Phones 41 and 300.

MARTIN'S Benzoin Cream

Invaluable for Preventing or Curing Chapped Hands or Face. Is Not Greasy.
25 Cents.

Hamilton-Martin Drug Co.

U. S. Acid-Proof Writing Fluid

This is Not Ordinary Ink. It possesses a combination of qualities never before obtained in any one writing fluid. Its Absolute Permanency and Proof Against Eradicators makes it invaluable for writing Checks, Deeds, Wills, and all books and papers of record. It Preserves the Pen instead of corroding. Its Free Flowing Qualities and Absence of Sediment makes it ideal for Fountain Pens. It protects your books against damage by water in the event of fire. Writes a beautiful blue black. Test it Fairly. You Will Find it Just as Represented.
Quarts 75c; Pints 40c; 2 oz. 5c.

Pound & Moore Co.

Office Outfitters.
205-207 So. Tryon St.
Phone 40.

LADIES

Are you interested in making house-keeping allowance get the most and the Best? Then read this: Walter Baker's Cocoa 20c per box. Chocolate 18c. Best Granulated Sugar 5c per lb. Fine Teas 30c to 50c. A most excellent Coffee 18c, 2 lbs. for 50c. Our "Special" 25c M. & J. is now the most popular drink in town. Our very best 35c, 3 lbs. for the dollar. Best Head Rice 8c. Good broken grain 5c. Phone 1539.

C. D. KENNY CO.

EFIRD'S EMBROIDERY SALE

Friday, Saturday and Today the Greatest Success in the History of the Store

Each day's sales going far ahead of any single day we have ever had before in January or February. The total for the Three Days being almost three times any total Week's sales for the Three Days being almost. The reasons are clear to us. The values, we are advertising and selling are gaining confidence every day.

What we advertise we sell. What we sell advertises us.

Buying and selling goods for Spot Cash we easily undersell other stores. If you are not already paying Cash, try it awhile and see the difference.

GOODS ON APPROVAL, C. O. D.

Special arrangements for sending out on approval. Goods can be sent at any hour you state, and anything being sent from our store at a time not convenient for you to look at and examine, all you have to do is to tell the boy when to bring them back to you. We make a business of sending goods C. O. D., and it is no trouble to us to send back. What we want to do is to make it as convenient for you to shop here, paying cash, as it is to have goods charged.

Galatea Cloth, big range beautiful Stripes, Dots, Dress Patterns, etc., all colors, some Side Borders, some Plain. Regular price everywhere 12 cents, our price 12 1/2 Cents

Mercerized Dress Ginghams, in short lengths, a splendid bargain in Silk Ginghams, big line Colors, lengths up to 10 and 20 yards. 12 1/2 Cents

New Herringbone Stripe Dress Goods, Chevron Stripes, etc., all the good shades, Navy Blue, Brown, Green, Garnet, Black, etc., 41 inches wide, a specially good bargain 50 Cents a yard

New Stripe Mohair, 38 inches wide, all colors. A new cloth made to retail 50 cents a yard. Our price this week 39 Cents

WANTED—A good boy, with wheel, for Special Delivery packages, errands, etc. Apply tomorrow, Tuesday.

Efird's Department Store

Wholesale and Retail
Cor. Trade and College Streets
Stores Also Concord, N. C.