

The Charlotte News

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THE INTERURBAN ASSURED.

Two hundred and twenty-two thousand dollars raised in a few hours, and the interurban railway assured.

That, tersely told, is the story of the meeting last evening of business men with the promoters of the proposed electric railway.

The Dukes, who are backing the interurban propose to raise three-fourths of the amount required to construct the system if local capitalists in the territory to be traversed raise the other fourth.

Prior to their coming to Charlotte yesterday the promoters of this gigantic project had visited Greenville and Anderson and other South Carolina cities to be included in the lines of the system.

It was a question, then, of ascertaining whether or not North Carolina was sufficiently concerned in this tremendous development to take an interest.

The hearty reception accorded the promoters last night, and the liberal financial response speaks eloquently for the public spirit inspiring the actions of our business men.

It was desired to raise in Charlotte \$300,000. At a short meeting of business men last night \$222,000 of the amount was raised.

The subscriptions last night came spontaneously from dozens of men who are vitally concerned in the development promised in the new undertaking.

The vast significance of the city's interests of an interurban railway system, which shall bring into close touch all the towns and cities of the Piedmont, were fully appreciated, and each one was willing to put a shoulder to the scheme and push.

Thus it may be said that the interurban railway is assured, and within less than a month actual work will have commenced on the lines. When completed the system will extend for more than one hundred miles in almost every direction from Charlotte, which will be the hub about which the mighty network of lines will radiate.

GOVERNOR BLEASE.

Unless all signs fail South Carolina is to be treated to a dose of sulphuric acid statesmanship. The inaugural address of Governor Blease is something unique. That any man, elevated to the high office of governor, should not at least try to be large enough to forget personal hatred for erstwhile enemies is almost inconceivable.

We trust that Governor Blease is not quite as bad as he has painted himself. Judging from his first message it is not strange that the ministers and newspapers almost as a unit opposed his election.

Commenting on a portion of his address the Statesville Landmark says: "When Governor Blease, of South Carolina, was a candidate before the primaries last summer he was opposed by nearly all the newspapers of the state and by most of the preachers. In his inaugural address at Columbia Monday the governor paid his respects to the editors and preachers as follows:

"Aligned against me were united daily press and an almost solid weekly press, pouring forth all kinds of falsehoods, vituperation and abuse, receiving the assistance of a number of men who call themselves ministers of the Gospel—God save the mark—who stood behind their pulpits and gave

vent to malice and slanders of the most virulent and malicious nature against me. All of these combined with others, making a set of political character thieves, the meanest and most contemptible people known to men."

Believing that the editors and preachers did not give him a square deal, as the governor unquestionably does believe, his indignation is natural; but a man who is not big enough to rise above this feeling on a state occasion is not big enough to be governor, and his expressions at such a time and place are calculated to make the impression that the opposition of the editors and preachers was well founded."

GRAHAM COUNTY COMING.

There is not a railroad of standard gauge in Graham county today. Two logging roads, narrow gauge, represent the county's transportation assets. But things are not to remain this way long. The fever of progress has infected the county, and just now the Graham County Railroad Company is planning to construct a line from Topton across the mountain to Robbinsville. On February 14th the county will vote \$50,000 in bonds towards the building of this line.

In wealth of timber and mineral resources, Graham county is almost without an equal in the state today. The one drawback has been lack of transportation facilities. The resources were there in abundance, but were of no great value because they were isolated. The railroad will open up the county and usher in a new day of growth.

From Other Sanctums

Whitewashing His Majesty.

Our pious contemporary the Outlook, "Theodore Roosevelt contributing editor," says of the supreme court's decision in the Panama Iblei case against the World: "It decides nothing but that the former attorney general made a mistake in choosing the court before which he brought the criminal proceedings."

All the supreme court decided was that the proceeding was lawless, that there was no authority whatever for such a prosecution, that the case had no standing in the federal courts and should never have been brought by the United States government. That is all the supreme court ever decides when presidents or attorney-generals or congresses undertake to usurp power which does not belong to them.

But we are especially interested in the chivalry of the Outlook in seeking to throw the odium of this reckless prosecution upon Bonaparte, who meekly did what he was commanded to do by his superior, now the Outlook's contributing editor. Bonaparte is to blame because he obeyed orders from the White House. It is a beautiful restatement of the fine old theory that the King can do no wrong—he was led by evil counselors; the Lord shall deal with them.—New York World.

Husbands as Property.

Considerable satisfaction will be felt by mankind generally at the argument advanced by a married woman in a suit involving another woman that "a husband is property to a wife and a family, and to win him away is nothing short of stealing."

So it is the husband and not the wife that is the "human chattel." The admission controverts the theory upheld through generations of feminist protest against the serfdom imposed by man on his domestic partner through unequal marriage laws. The honest confession that the contrary is the case has been secured at last, but at a cost to feminine consistency which may be expected to bring its proper rebuke from every woman's club in the land. The fair plaintiff to secure her own ends has proved false to one of the cherished principles of her sex.

The Sad Case of Standard Oil.

For years the Standard Oil has dragged out its existence with starvation dividends of 36, 40 and 45 per cent. At last the mystery of its distressful condition is revealed. Early in its career it almost ruined itself in secret works of benevolence, and ever since it has been paying the penalty of its tender-heartedness.

As John G. Milburn told the United States supreme court the story of the trust's sad struggle with prosperity his voice broke with emotion, and he brought tears to his own eyes. At tremendous sacrifice in the seventies the Standard Oil had gone to the rescue of the Pennsylvania oil-producers, pledged its credit, strained its resources and almost wrecked itself in building pipelines and increasing its short-age facilities. "By the thought," explained Mr. Milburn, "that it was only a decent thing to do, if a man came to us with a proposition to sell out, to buy his plant at its appraised value. Often it was practically valueless, and we could have permitted it to go to dry-rot on his hands."

It was a tale to wring the heart-strings of the unrighteous who have accused the Rockefeller trust of crime of oppression against its rivals.—New York World.

Birthday of Lee. To the world Lee is a military commander of surpassing genius; to the people of all sections of our country he is one of the great Americans who

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stand in the forefront of our history with Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Jackson and Lincoln, but he represents far more than this to the Southern people. In the terrible days of the Civil War he embodied their hopes, he shared their privations and fears, and with them he tasted the bitterness of defeat. In the trying days that followed he rose above the wreck of the "storm-cradled nation that fell," giving courage and inspiration to millions as they began, in the ashes of desolation, to rebuild the structure that had been destroyed by war.

The celebration of his one hundred and third birthday is enhanced in Baltimore today by the presence of his grandson who bears the name of the Confederate commander. The Daughters of the Confederacy, the Confederate veterans and their sons are performing a sacred duty in keeping the memory alive of the great men of the South, preserving its traditions and exhibiting their pride in its history. Thus may their fame and influence continue from generation unto generation.—Baltimore Sun.

Commander Leonard Appointed. By Associated Press. Washington, Jan. 21.—Commander J. C. Leonard has been appointed commanding officer of the cruiser Des Moines, succeeding Commander John F. Luby, who died on board the vessel while en route from Liberia to the United States. The Des Moines will arrive at Boston on Monday when Commander Leonard will assume his new duties.

The body of Commander will be taken to Annapolis for burial in the cemetery of the naval academy. Time is the image of eternity.—Dio genes Laertius.

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