

THE DAILY FREE PRESS

THE FREE PRESS CO., Publisher-

DANIEL T. EDWARDS, Editor

G. W. FORLAW, Managing Editor

Entered at Postoffice at Kinston, N. C., as second-class mail matter.

MOVEMENT OF TRAINS.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN R. R.		
No. 15	Lv.	5:27 A. M.
No. 8	Lv.	7:50 A. M.
No. 7	Lv.	10:27 A. M.
No. 10	Lv.	3:58 P. M.
No. 9	Lv.	7:36 P. M.
No. 16	Lv.	11:22 P. M.
ATLANTIC COAST LINE R. R.		
No. 58	Lv.	7:10 A. M.
No. 73	Ar.	2:25 P. M.
No. 72	Lv.	4:25 P. M.
No. 59	Ar.	7:40 P. M.
KINSTON CAROLINA R. R.		
No. 1	Lv.	4:00 P. M.
No. 2	Ar.	8:55 A. M.
CAROLINA R. R.		
No. 333	Lv.	4:30 P. M.
No. 332	Ar.	7:35 A. M.

Monday Evening, Feb. 9, 1914.

THE GAS FRANCHISE.

In Saturday's Daily Free Press appeared the amended draft of the proposed gas franchise. The proposed franchise takes the form of an ordinance that will come up before the city council for adoption. It will go on its first reading at the regular meeting in March. The second reading will take place at the regular meeting in April and the third at the regular May meeting, when the ordinance will either pass or be rejected.

Citizens should carefully read the document as printed and study its provisions. There will be very little controversy over the proposition that we need a gas service in Kinston. To us the proposed franchise looks good. In a general way it would appear to be just what we want, though a more careful study might reveal certain particular provisions that might best be changed.

It being granted that a gas service is desirable for the city it is probable that it will be found that only two views exist regarding that service. One party will contend that municipal ownership is the thing and that the city ought to establish its own gas plant and make and sell its gas. Others will contend that private ownership with public regulation is better.

The proposed franchise would give the Southern Gas Improvement Company the right to erect a plant under restriction and operate it for thirty years whereupon the city is given the right to purchase it at an appraised valuation. This would make it incumbent on the company to establish the plant and build up the gas business in the city. After thirty years the city could come in and take over the whole business should it seem desirable to do so.

And at the same time there is a clause in the franchise that would prevent the gas company, by rate cutting, from depreciating the value of the city's electric light plant. It is provided that the company shall sell gas for illuminating purposes for \$1.60 a thousand feet and that without the consent of the city council, the rate shall never be lowered. So that without the consent of the city's governing body the gas company cannot lower its charge for illuminating gas so as to cut the revenues of the city's electric plant.

If the city were in a position to erect a gas plant now it might not be wise to grant the franchise. But there are lots of other things we ought to do and since the city may at a later date, take over a developed plant, after the experimental stage has been passed, it would appear to be wise policy to let private capital take the initiative.

However if there are any Kinston capitalists who would like to enter this field and who will put up a

bond for performance like unto that proposed by the Southern Gas Improvement Company—why, we should say give the Kinston people the preference.

ELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT

On February 17th the trustees of the North Carolina school for the Feeble-minded will elect a superintendent for the institution and presumably take immediate steps for its opening.

We hope that the trustees will make no mistake in the performance of this important task. A large amount of money has been invested in the plant and from its operation the State should receive a large benefit. This benefit it will receive if the trust is administered wisely and beneficently. The good of the institution and its efficiency in serving the State of North Carolina are the considerations that ought to weigh in the election of the superintendent and the shaping of the future course of the institution. With the right man as superintendent and the adoption of a policy of helpfulness the institution will be the leading one of its kind in the South and one of the largest public institutions in the State.

The plant has been erected thus far under the management of the present superintendent, Dr. Ira M. Hardy. Dr. Hardy has devoted much study to the plans and has been careful in his efforts to give the state the very best equipment possible for the purpose proposed. Besides giving the subject much thought he has spent considerable money of his personal funds in informing himself along the lines projected. We would be glad to see him retained as superintendent. His heart is in the work and that will mean much in making it a success. His sympathies have for many years been with the large class of unfortunates for whom the school has been provided and he has given unstintedly of his time and ability to prepare a worthy equipment for them.

It is not only the right, but the duty of the trustees to provide for the best interests of the institution. But we do not believe this can be done more effectively than by returning Dr. Hardy to the superintendency.

THE LYCEUM COURSE.

The Alkalest Lyceum Course that has just closed in this city has been a successful event, and the members of the lyceum committee, headed by Superintendent Underwood, are to be congratulated, and have merited the thanks of the public for their activity in carrying the movement through in such a gratifying manner.

The series was given in the auditorium of the high school building and its purpose as well as its actual effect has been distinctly educative. Superintendent Underwood and the committee chose the attraction largely with that end in view. And it is very important that attention be given to forming in young people a correct standard of judgment in the matter of amusements as in matters of a more serious import. Amusement makes up a large part of life and determines character, embodying within itself the issues of life and death.

We hope that this or similar means of developing this side of the unfolding life may be made a permanent part of our educational effort in this city. The series has not been so largely attended by the school children as would have been desirable. But the influence of the series has been good, and another season will probably see a larger attendance. It costs something in money, time and effort to secure attractions of this kind. But if the practice is consistently followed up results will justify expenditures made.

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NOTICE.

Proposals for the installation of an automatic Fire Alarm System will be received by the City of Kinston, N. C., addressed to W. B. Coleman, clerk, until noon, February 18th, 1914, the said system to consist of the following apparatus and material:

1-2 Circuit Storage Battery Switch board.

18 Positive Non-interfering Fire Alarm Boxes, 50 cells storage Battery.

1 Battery Rack.

1 Automatic Bell Striker.

1 Combined Indicator and Gong.

1-6 Inch Electric Mechanical Gong.

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1 Non-interfering Transmitting Box with 20 whistles and a signal key.

1 Motor Generator.

Approximately seven (7) miles No. 10 best hard drawn, triple insulated line wire, installed on standard iron fixtures.

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The city council reserves the right to reject any and all bids made. This the 6th day of Feb. 1914.

W. B. COLEMAN, Clerk City of Kinston.

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