

ELIZABETH CITY WINS FIGHT AGAINST REMOVAL OF DEPOT

Corporation Commission Sustains Position of Business Men Who Protested Against Main Street Site.

The Norfolk Southern Depot will remain indefinitely at its present location.

As a result of the recent hearing held by the corporation commission in Elizabeth City, the Norfolk Southern has abandoned the idea of any intermediate removal of its depot from the present site.

This report reached Mr. J. B. Leigh this week, and it is from him that the Advance reporter gets this information.

Finding that the commission had held adversely to the proposed removal and had specified that the depot be placed on Pennsylvania avenue, the Norfolk Southern requested that the question as to the future location of the depot be left open and that it be understood that no change from the present site will be made without due notice to the commission as to the change in view. The commission granted that request and, as the matter stands now, the Norfolk Southern has not been directed definitely as to where it may place its new depot but has been enjoined from making any change whatever until the matter has been referred to the commission.

This will mean, doubtless, that Elizabeth City will have no new depot for some time to come. It will, perhaps, that some repairs will be made upon the present building. Judging only from the tone of the Norfolk Southern's letter to the commission, it means probably that the new depot, when it is built, will stand on Pennsylvania avenue at the site suggested when this question was first referred to in the columns of the Advance.

This decision will doubtless come as a surprise to those who have maintained that the Norfolk Southern could choose the location of its depot without regard to the interests of Elizabeth City or the wishes of its people.

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

"Shepherd King" rendered Sunday night, January 6th., by the choir of the First Baptist Church assisted by several voices from other choirs was a rare treat to the music lovers of our city.

The opening chorus, "Over the Silent Shadowed Plains" was sung with great feeling and expression, inspiring the hearers with the sense of awe and mystery that attended the Holy Night.

In the magnificent Chorus, "Glory to God in the Highest," the clear soprano voices sweet and thrilling seemed an echo of the golden harps of which they sang. The solos were beautifully rendered. The alto solo, "Sleep sweetly little Child of Mine," touched all hearts.

The Oratorio closed with the triumphant chorus, Hallelujah Amen.

To Mrs. I. M. Meekins, organist of the First Baptist Baptist Church, and Director of the Oratorio, is due the great success of the Entertainment.

The entire performance showed the skill of the leader, and the splendid training those taking part had received at her hands.

"HUMAN HEARTS"

The forthcoming visit of "Human Hearts" will, no doubt, be warmly welcomed by lovers of all that is good in melodrama. "Human Hearts" is beyond question, one of the strongest and most interesting of plays, that has ever visited our city. The author belongs to that all too small group of dramatists who understands how to reach the heart and hold the attention of the audience. In "Human Hearts" he has constructed a play that will never grow old. The principal theme of the play is "Hope", and has not some author written—"Hope springs eternal in the Human breast", "Hope" the one bright ray of sunshine that breaks through and illumines the clouds of despair that almost overwhelm poor "Tom Logan"—the "Hope" of a good, pure woman's love—the "Hope" of brighter days—the "Hope" of an honest man, unjustly accused of crime, that the criminal will be detected and his good name restored. The author has handled this subject with consummate skill and ease that shows the true dramatic instinct. The love interest is all as absorbing. The comedy element is introduced in such a way, that it becomes relevant to the story, and the climaxes are worked out naturally and logically.

"Human Hearts" will be seen at the Alkrama Theatre, Thursday, January 26th. adv.

COSTUME PLAY AT AUDITORIUM

Mr. Herbert Sprague and Mrs. Herbert Sprague will present the popular play, "Esmeralda", in costume at the High School Auditorium on next Friday night, January 17th.

This is an attraction of unusual merit and should be one of the favorites on the Star Course this year. "Esmeralda", a timid little girl of Western North Carolina, Liddy Ann Rogers, Esmeralda's discontented and ambitious mother; "Old man Rogers" and Esmeralda's lover, "Dave"; a cold blooded Parisian adventurer and a New York speculator are the figures in a drama of absorbing interest.

As rewritten for Mr. and Mrs. Sprague, this play introduces on the stage but two persons, each playing several characters in costumes however, so that the effect is that of a large company.

NEW COMMISSION HOUSE.

Mr. R. C. Abbott has leased the old depot of the Suffolk and Carolina railroad and has gone into the commission and forwarding business. The location gives Mr. Abbott exceptional advantages for carrying on his line of business.

Cap't. West of the Pamlico gave a dinner to a party of friends Thursday evening on the Revenue Cutter. After dinner, the guests enjoyed a game of auction bridge.

Those present were, Miss Minnie Leary, Miss Mattie Griffin and Eloise Robinson, Lieut. Walsche, Mr. Will Gaitner, and Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Griffin who chaperoned the party.

THE NEW SCHEDULE.

There has been considerable agitation in Elizabeth City over the matter of changing the Norfolk Southern depot from its present site to the main line. But the new schedule which has gone into effect, robbing Elizabeth City of two trains a day, has been met, it is true, with some complaint, but with no effective protest.

Nevertheless, the Advance believes that this change of schedule will work to Elizabeth City's disadvantage no less than a change of depots.

A large part of Elizabeth City's out of town trade comes from Currituck county. The people of this county have done a big share of their trading in Elizabeth City, and that notwithstanding the fact that they are practically as near Norfolk as they are to this town.

This paper is in close touch with Currituck county and knows that the convenience of the schedule which has been in operation on the Norfolk Southern until last Sunday was the deciding factor which turned the trade of many to Elizabeth City. The Currituck shopper could leave home after breakfast, drive to the nearest railroad station, take the train and get here by half past ten. He would then have until four o'clock in the afternoon to finish his business.

Now, on the other hand the shopper from Currituck does not reach Elizabeth City until half past eleven. In order to get out of town on the same day he must leave at two o'clock in the afternoon. This of course will give little time for the transaction of business. With the exception of a whole day in Norfolk, a man having much business to transact will naturally be more favorably inclined to the depot in the past year than

have been several developments that, unless offset in some way, will retard and finally check altogether the growth of Elizabeth City. The Albemarle and Chesapeake has been made a free canal, though the act is not yet effective, and it is the evident purpose of the government, to shut Elizabeth City off from her cherished expectation of being on the main line of commerce from the eastern to the western shore of our continent through the Panama Canal. The present program of the government gives the Norfolk Southern control of transportation in Northeastern Carolina. The history of the LeRoy Steamboat Company shows just how effective that control is. And the impression prevails that this road has always been willing to discriminate against Elizabeth City and in favor of Norfolk.

Of course the future of the Norfolk Southern Railroad depends upon the development of that section of North Carolina through which it passes and not upon the growth of Norfolk. Of course anything that works to the disadvantage of Elizabeth City will eventually do hurt to the growth of the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Whether the Road realizes or will ever realize that, this paper does not know. But we do know that unless Elizabeth City citizens quit squabbling among themselves, and wasting their efforts in petty and selfish scheming or blighting all progress with jealousies and hates, the day is coming when growth shall fail and progress cease in our midst. Elizabeth City can be a second Edenton if she wants to. But if her only charm, is to be her places of historic interest or the quietness of her shaded streets, she will be second to Edenton as well.

warded Mrs. H. G. Parks. Dainty refreshments were served after the game.

The younger set enjoyed a happy evening with Miss Nell Etheridge at her home on Church street Friday.

The party was given by the young men. Cards and Forty-five were the games of the evening. Tempting refreshments served. Those present were:

Misses Ruth Glover, Elizabeth Dexter, Mattie Bell, Hattie Glover, Margaret Griggs, Nellie Grice, Helen Aydlett, Marie Whitehurst, Nettie White and Marian Barcliff. Messrs. Edward Griffin, Harold Foreman, Vaughn Griffin, Ralph Pool, Victor Overman, Fleetwood Dunston, Ray Toxey, Sinclair Cheson, Bradford Griggs, William Meekins, William Woodley, Bush Leigh, and William Weatherly.

On Friday evening, Miss Mary Bell entertained a party of friends at the home of her grandfather, Mr. Burgess on Main street. Games of various kinds served to amuse the guests.

Tempting refreshments were handed during the evening. Those present were, Misses, Marion Woodley, Isabella Gibbs, Mattie Reid, Ada Burfoot, Fannie McMullan, Ruth Evans, Katharine Harney, Dora Grice, and Bessie White. Messrs. Edwin Aydlett, Edward Griffin, Bertran Culpepper, William Broughton, Noah Burfoot, Willie Overman and Lev. McCabe.

WANTED

POSITION WANTED—Young lady wants position as stenographer—Reference Given. For particulars, Address, MISS MARY BELL SWINDELL, Fairfield, N.C.

ALDERMAN WANT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN CHIEF OF POLICE

Suggest Various Changes in Charter and Do Not Approve Of Election of Chief of Police By The People.

How shall Elizabeth City elect her chief of police?

Shall this, one of the most important offices connected with the administration of our city government be in the hands of the board of aldermen or shall it be the gift of the people?

This is the question that is agitating Elizabeth City voters this week—and affording good material for political thunder both to those who favor the matter's being left to the people as it is at present, and to those who desire to see this officer once again appointed by the board of aldermen as was the case up to the last ten or fifteen years.

The matter has grown out of the charter committee authorized at the December meeting of the Board of Aldermen, and whose appointment was left to the discretion of the mayor.

The Advance published at the time, an exclusive report of this action of the board; but when the paper went to press the committee had not been announced. So far as we know there has been no announcement to the public as to who compose the committee.

The motion for the committee's appointment was made by Mr. Robinson. It consists, we have learned this week, of Dr. L. S. Blades, chairman, J. T. McCabe, W. C. Glover, Geo. M. Scott, W. H. Weatherly, L. R. Foreman and Judge George W. Ward. These are working with the city attorney, Walter L. Cohoon.

This committee made its report last Monday night. They recommended a \$200,000 bond issue to be used for the acquisition of a system of electric lights and water works; the putting of the tax collector's office on a salary basis, and the appointment of the chief of police by the board of aldermen instead of by popular vote.

It is also the idea to increase the duties and salary of the city clerk.

Alderman Sawyer offered an amendment to the recommendations of the committee, suggesting that municipal officers be elected by the people, but the amendment failed for lack of a second. Mr. Sawyer has also expressed himself in previous meetings of the board as opposing a \$200,000 bond issue without a referendum to the people.

The board adjourned to meet Monday night of next week, and the committee was continued. The committee held a meeting Tuesday night in the Chamber of Commerce rooms and went over the city charter in a lengthy session. They will reduce their recommendations to the form of amendments to the charter and probably present them in writing at the next meeting of the board. As the aldermen have given the public a special invitation to this meeting, we suggest that a hand bill should be issued, some time previous to the meeting, calling attention to the time and place thereof.

The questions at issue in the proposed amendment to the charter are of first importance. With one hand short in the composing room the editor of the Advance has had to run the cylinder press himself this week and has been strained for time. The issues will be discussed in detail next week.

The fact that Elizabeth City's charter has been changed or amended so often suggests the need for deliberation in matters of

this nature.

The motions for and the results of every change should be looked into closely. If, for instance, the change in the method of electing the chief of police can be shown to have worked to the better enforcement of law in other cities it is worthy of consideration. But if the object of this legislation is merely the removal of a particular officer at this particular time, the proposal is vicious.

It would be well, too, to see why the present method of election was adopted when the method proposed had already been tried.

HOME TALENT OPERA

The Indian Opera, "Pawhatan" will be presented at the High school auditorium on Tuesday night, January 14th, by local talent, under the auspices of St. Catharine's Guild.

W. A. Baker of Chicago has charge of the production. Over one hundred in the cast, the leading parts will be taken by the following well known singers:

- Pawhatan . . . J.C.B. Ehringhaus
- Pocahontas . . . Miss Alice Newcomb
- Laughing Star . . . Mrs. W. P. Duff
- Minnichaha . . . Mrs. Larry E. Skinner
- Winona . . . Mrs. W. C. Twiddy
- Jannita . . . Mrs. Eugene Cook
- Red Feather . . . Miss Annie Lee Cohoon
- White Cloud . . . Miss Mattie Ward
- Fawn Eyes . . . Miss Pauline Beveridge
- Pathfinder . . . Mr. Larry E. Skinner
- Medieme . . . Mr. Will Foreman
- Black Eagle . . . Mr. W. J. Parks
- Tim O'Flannigan . . . Ronald Rollinson
- Larry O'Gaff . . . Bertran Culpepper
- Captain Ralfe . . . John Harney
- John Smith . . . Wm. A. Baker
- Pianist . . . Miss Evelyn Aydlett

Chorus of Indian maidens, warriors, and sailors, specialties between acts.

The play will be a treat to theatre goers and it is hoped the curtain will rise on a full house.

NEW SECRETARY OF CHAMBER COMMERCE

Mr. George J. Spence has been elected secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, to succeed Mr. Lamb. The committee has displayed excellent judgment in selecting Mr. Spence for this position. Energetic and efficient, Mr. Spence will doubtless bring things to pass in his new position.

NEW FURNITURE STORE

Mr. Silverthorn of Washington, N. C. is preparing to open a Furniture Store next door to Melick's on Water Street.

LOST!

Long Leather pocket book between Weeksville and 203 Church street, Elizabeth City, containing a ten dollar bill, a five dollar bill and several one dollar bills and some valuable papers. Finder will return to J. W. WILCOX, 203 Church street and receive liberal reward.

A WHALE

We mean the Sale of Weeks & Sawyer. Look on Page 8.