The Law Deprives the County Commis-sioners of all Authority and Control Over the Convicts—The Commissioners Cannot Furnish the Funds Desired-Willing to Co-Operate With the Road loners, in the Limitations of the

Mr. P. M. Brown, chairman of board of county commissioners, yesterday ad-dressed to Mr. John O. Alexander, hairman of the convict and road com mission, the following communication in reply to the letter address-ed by Chairman Alexander to the board, which was published in yester-

Charlotte, N. C., April 9, 1897.

John O. Alexander, Esq., Chairman of Convict and Road Commission:

Dear Sir: I have before me your com-munication of the 8th instant address-ed to the board of commissioners of Mecklenburg county, informing that Mecklenburg county, informing that lody that you have ascertained from the county treasurer that he has no "special funds" in his hands provided for defraying the expenses of working convicts upon the public roads of this county, and suggesting that it is impossible to carry on this work "without special to the county of t of which I am chairman. You say you are "charged with the duty of providing the necessary funds" for that purpose. I also note that you offer to "co-perate with the board of commission or any manner consistent with the ers in any manner consistent with the duties of both road commissioners and county commissioners, because it was plain to us (you) that without such co-operation and understanding the work

for road making in this county by the onvict system will have to cease, and the convicts returned to prison." In reply permit me to say that, as you ere aware, the board of commissioner is not now in session, and therefore the duty devolves upon me to answer you communication. I first beg to sugges that all of the facts set out in your let-ter were known to you before you made demand upon the board of county commissioners for the possession of the convicts and appliances for the purpose of taking charge of and working the public roads of the county, and the difficulties which have arisen ought to have suggested themselves to your mind before, and not after, you made your demand. The act creating your commission deprives the board of com-

commission deprives the board of commissioners of this county of all authority and control over the convicts and their employment upon the public toads. It provides that your commission shall pay the expenses of working the convicts by drawing upon the special fund in the bands of the county treasurer for that purpose. It has not seemed to the board that they are now "charged by law with the duty of pro-"charged by law with the duty of pro-viding the necessary funds" to defray said expenses, and it does not seem to them proper that they should assume any authority in the matter of work-ing the public roads of the county, in view of the provisions of the act cre-ating your commission. If, therefore, by your suggestion of "co-operation" between your commission and this between your commission and this board you mean to ask that we will assume some such control and responsibility we beg leave to say that we know no law authorizing us, as commissioners, to interfere with or take part in your working of the control victs upon the public roads, and while as citiens, we feel a deep interest in the successful management of the work, we do not feel that interference with it would be promotive of the public good. However, if you are advised by your counsel that it is the duty of the board of county commissioners to proassume some such control and respon your counsel that it is the unity of the board of jointy commissioners to provide the 'ne essary funds' for defraying the expenses of the converts. I ask that you will get from your counsel a statement of their opinion upon this mytter, and furnish me accopy of th

opinion, and accompany it with a west ten definated for such action in the premises as you may be advised that the county commissioners are model to ing to take I will promptly sulm this option and demand is the boxes this opinion and definited to the board which I will call together in special session be consider this unjectant mud-ter and assure you that while the board must, as caused not within the limitations which law preservors an can, of course, do nothing beyong in warrant of the law, they will most ear nestly co-operate with you to secure THE REPERBER Awaiting your further communication

tions, I am. Yours very truly,
P. M. BROWN.
Chairman Board County Coms.
Mr. Brown informs the Observer that
it is, and has been the desire of the
county commissioners all along to do all in their power to assist the roas that on Saturday before the convicts were turned over to the road commission the county commissioners purchas, ed and paid for a month's supplies for the convict camps, in order that time might be had within which to have the act construed in the home that the Seconstrued in the home that the might be had within which to have the act construed, in the hope that the Supreme Court might, in the meantime, point out a way by which the county commissioners might legally come in the assistance of the road commission that no legal steps have yet been taken by the road commission to have the act in appearing construction. act in question construed, but that a soon as any such steps should be taken the county commissioners will do a their power to bring about a speedy decision: that county commissioners will gladly co-operate with the road countries. mission whenever they shall be able t do so without violating the law.

The Front Must Come Down. Capt. Ahrens, who has the contract for re-modeling the lower part of the

front of the Burroughs building, Seigle's old stand, discovered yesterday that the whole front would have to come down. The supports are rotten, and the wonder is, he says that it has not collapsed long since. The new front will be an improvement on the old, though it will not be as handsome as the situation deserves, as Mr. Burroughs expects at some future time build a new store, out and out.

A Fake Race at Derita

A number of Charlotte sports went A number of Charlotte sports went up to Mr. James Cochrane's track at Derita yesterday to attend an advertised race. Ther were only two horses in the race. Mr. Cochrane was the owner of one, and the other belonged to a man named Ayers. It was clearly seen that the Cochrane horse was the seen that the Cochrane horse was the better of the two.

After the racing was over it was s plainly in evidence that the whole af-fair was a fake that the Unarlotte peo-ple demanded their money, which was refunded.

Christian Workers.

Two of the most interesting auxil-aries of the foreign mission work of the First Presbyterian church are the Pres-ton Missionary Society and the Willing Workers, each, respectively, composed of the loys and girls of the

sponded to the relicial at their semi-monthly meeting. To-morrow morning the boys and girls will held a joint meeting, when they will be addressed by Dr. Howerton. All boys and girls of the congregation are asked to be present promptly at 10 o'clock.

Burned to Death.

Mr. Bruce Thornburg lives in Berry-hill township. Wednesday his 11-year-old daughter was in the bottom land near the house cutting and burning corn stalks. The wind was blowing hard, and as the girl went close to the fire, her dress ignited, and before help remeded har ber clothing was entirely reached her her clothing was entirely burned from her body and her flesh badly charred She died in a few

Clear Creek Has the Chiuch Bug. The township trustees, of Clear Creek ordered all hands out to work the road the latter part of March, and a great many holes were filled up and improvement generally made to the road.

The chinch bug is doing great harm to the small grain. It is feared that it will attack the corn. The extinct from will attack the corn. The outlook, from that section, is gloomy.

Early Closing in Effect. Beginning last evening the clothing stores will close from now until Oc-tober at 7 o'clock. The firms signing the paper were: The Carolina Clothing Co., Mellon & Sheiton. The Long-Tate Co., Lieberman & Co., and Leslie & YESTERDAY'S CYCLE HANDICAP.

"A Big Crowd for a Free Crowd"—Olivet Won Both Medals—The Bace All Told. "A big crowd for a free crowd," was Warren Roark's remark yesterday, de criptive of the number of persons at he cycle park to see Fitzsimons' freeadmission races. It was a jolly, en-thusiastic crowd, too, and the riders were encouraged by friends galore, to detheir best. It was 6 o'clock when the riders took

heir respective places around the track orun the handicap race for the Pope, and Shell & Harrison medals.

A few minutes after 6 the pistol racked, and the start was made. Fred tiver, Jr., was the only scratch man. Loaded down with an apparently inarmountable handicap, he rode a me by one, winning out in the fast me of 8:43 (eight minutes and fortyhree seconds.)
Lonnie Caldwell rode a wellsustained well-judged race, and was defeated by

nly a few feet, he not being able t espond to Oliver's fast spurt. Caldwell has a start of 400 yards, and looked a winner until Oliver swung round the turn, pedaling swift and strong as a locomotive. Oliver's victory entitles him to both first prizes the Pope medal, for fastest time, and the Shell & Harison medal for first

place. Bob Hartzfield rode well and promis es to make one of Charlotte's crack-a-jacks. He was a close third. James was kept out by business engagements.

The next race will come off on April it will be a five-mile handleap, and entries from Concord and Rock Hill are expected. Many of Charlotte's fast riders were tept out of this race by bad colds. They ill be on deck next time.

Mr. Kyle Located. Mr. C. M. Kyle, of Bramville, West Va., who, with Mr. H. A. Moore, bought out the G. S. Read china store, has ented Mrs. B. Rintels' house on West

ion that he can. We have lately test-ed the matter. Several weeks ago we naugurated the new plan of repairing Il wrist bands and neck bands to shirts recof charge. We are still repairing hem, and every one who has patroned us has been abundantly pleased

HARLOTTE STEAM LAUNDRY

Broke the camel's back, and now of of houses the ladies come tumbling and at

ALEXANDERS

What makes so many minds have some in thought and head direct for the

NOTICE HOUSE NOTICE HOUSE NOTICE HOUSE NOTICE HOUSE

th, that's it. More things than sand ish system and go where all like and pay cash. Then its pleasant sal-sladies. Might mention ther causes, these are enough. To day we announce 36 inch Super-tine Percale, 104; old price, nothing trance in it. Every child is familiar every one of our ten figures: 1, 2, It's not price we emphasize, but ouple quality and price together and fill have the secret.

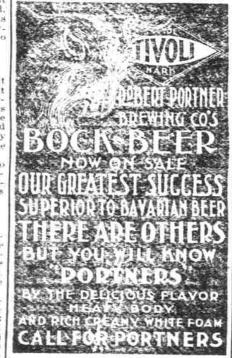
selling Domestics under par

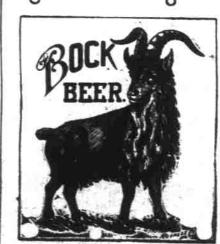
ttor Goods array, and expect to-day are changeable Taffeta Silks. Kid Clove sale is simply overgrown, be keep them coming in the to-day's H. R. & C. CORSETS.

> 13 WEST TRADE STREET 13 WEST TRADE STREET 13 WEST TRADE STREET 13 WEST TRADE STREET

Frank P. Milburn. --- ARCHITECT.--

CITY HALLS AND FINE BESIDENCES Racket Store





ON TAP IN ALL SALOONS.



All wool smooth face cassimere sack suits in checks, plaids and neat mixtures, thoroughly well tailoredsewed with silk and trimmings reliable in every way. These suits surpass anything that has been of-fered in Charlotte for the price. Sizes to fit stout, slim and regular shapes \$7.50. Youths'

sizes, 14 to 19 years, \$6.50. Boys' Knee Pants Suits.

All wool suits in nobby plaids and neat gray mixtures, pants with double seats, double knees and patent waistbands, sizes 5 to 16 years, at BOYS' COMBINATION SUITS, extra pants, extra buttons and golf caps to match, sizes 6 to 16 years, at \$3.50 and \$4.

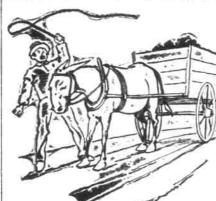
BOYS' SHIRT WAISTS.

Extra quality laundered waists, sizes 5 to 14 years, 50 cents each, regular value \$1. We took all a manufacturer had, and got them at half price.

Umbrella Bargains.

Ladies' and children's Gloria Umbrellas, 24 and 26 inches, 50 cents each. Sample Umbrellas, 26 and 28 inches, plain and sterling silver mounted handles, \$1.25 and \$1.50. Easter Neckwear 50c. See our window. Wilson Bros', \$2 shirts, fancy bosoms, \$1.

HARD TO BEAT! Have You



hat of making selections to furnitur

and marking prices on it that will draw trade-this we know how to do, and do You say prove it." We say just give a chance, by calling when in need

duce the witnesses—our prices. They speak for themselves. We have a full line of all kinds of household and kitchen FURNITURE. STOVES, RANGES, Etc. In fact, we are prepared to furnish your house from Alpha to Omega and the amount we can save you makes it worth your trouble to.

ou makes it worth your trouble to in-estigate our goeds and prices before daring your order. Write for

promptly attend to your needs. We can generally make satisfactory terms or our city customers who no not wish

Piedmont Furniture Co.,

A dollar's worth of goods can only ome through the medium of dollars, t is impossible to get it through the

However, it is none of our business the sells on time, nor who buys. We ave never found it necessary to try to

uild up our business by crying down he goods and wares of anybody. We

ecognize as a fact that people judge or themselves about values, and we rankly say if any one can sell you moods for less money than we can, buy hem. If we can save you money, buy

We have all the advantages we could easibly have in buying and know of nothing undone to master value at the other end of the lane. We are making

ull use of our victories gained in the narkets to forward our interests here. 1.500 pairs men's shoes which we are lesing out on our bargain counter for

the small sum of \$1 per pair. The leather in the shoe cost more money, to say nothing of the making.

1.000 pairs ladies fine shoes and slip-ers going for To per pair, on a special argain counter. We are crowded for room in our shoe department and in or-der to reduce stock, shall offer many

empting bargains on these two coun-

Neithy lines cents spring hats, just received; all the late shapes and styles at rock bottom prices.

edium of credit.

No. 17 West Trade street.

Agents for the relebrated SIMBALL PIANUS and ORGANS.

placing your order. V

Seen?

If you haven't you ought not delay eing the most novel sonvenir yet got

'The Stonewall Jackson Home Spoon."

Sold at a reasonable figure, and everybody should have one.

Jewelers to the People



You're Thinking

Where to buy that new spring suit you promised yourself. Ask your neighbor about the style, fit and finish of our garments and you will give us a call. We don't deal in the kind of clothes a man buys only once, and wishes he hadn't done it then! Cloth used in our clothing is only of the re-liable kind, put together by expert tailors, sold to you with the saving of the dealer's profit. Come and see our Belmont suit.

It is made of a new fabric, skeleton lined, with best satin trimmings.

\$12.50.

& CO.

Visit our millinery department for an that's new in spring millinery.
See us for the best bargains you ever had offered you in clothing. This is no idle boast, we have the goods and prices ware such as hames, hamestrings, trace chains, curry combs, padlocks, wash boards, well buckets, churns, butter paints, whitewash brushes, strap hinges which it will pay you to see before

buying. Full line crockery, glassware, tinware and lamps always on hand, and prices away down.
Wholesale department complete in all iènes. No end to good values in Carpets, Rugs and matting. Special bargains in gents' furnishing department. New arrivals in neck-wear. The best 50c unlaundered shirt on the market.

House full of goods from cellar to attic, and low prices moving goods with a whirl. Come see us.

Old Racket Store.

DON'T PLACE Your order for printing until you see our stock and get our prices. Observer Printing House.

Florida Vegetables.

We have always had a nice line of Green Groceries, and we make an ear-nest endeavor to please our customers. We expect to receive on to-day's ex-press Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Snap Beans, New Potatoes, Beets, Squashes, Egg Plant, Onions, Lettuce, Radishes, Celery, and Strawberries.

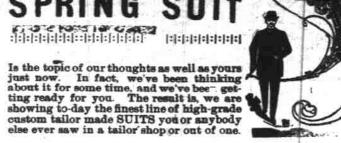
We endeavor to keep up with the market as near as possible. Always get a cost ticket.

MOORE & JONES, 301 N. Tryon St. 'Phone 153.

DILWORTH FLORAL GARDENS. CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Best establishment of its kind in the State. Plants of all kinds at reason-able prices. Orders from a distance are promptly filled. Send for price list. Chrysanthemums a specialty. ERNEST J. BUSCH, Florist.

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It is different from other Clothing. You know what you are get ting when you buy from us. Fine fabrics, choice Patterns, excellent workmanship, up-to-date styles.

MELLON & SHELTON,

SPECIAL

The newest shapes and colors. Band bows, club ties, extra large flowing end, four-in-hands and tecks. You have never seen such values. Don't miss this opportunity.

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We solicit orders from a distance and will send goods on approval by ex-

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200 North Tryon Street.

Finest Quality, Latest Styles, LOWEST PRICES.

KAUFMAN STOCK.

Our Famous Prices will be in force until every suit is sold.

The Carolina Clothing Co.

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The Emporium's -- GREAT --GLOVE SACRIFICE SALE.

For a few days only we offer our \$1.25 Ladies' 4-Button Kid Gloves at

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Headquarters in embroideries.

Good - Advice. ANY TIRE

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-G. & J.-The first cost is more than others, but when you

count the cost of repair-

Is a good tire till something happens to it, and

then you wish you had a

G. & J. is the Most Economical

Ride a RAMBLER and be happy. We sell them at \$80. '97 models at \$60 while they THE SHAW-HOWELL HARNESS C

OUR

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and will continue for the season. We have prepared unusual attractions. Our

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will surpass any Millinery Goods shown in this market.

We are determined to make this

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It Is Conceded

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Is one of the best in the State, and we make prices that catch the trade.

Best makes of furniture bought right for cash and sold with small profits. Carpets in every make and pattern. Large stock to select from. Rugs and curtains of every description; window shades, carpet sweepers.

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