

The Davidsonian

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City Fathers Stand Pat

On School Board Matter. Dog Law Provided. Capt. Burgin Incensed. But His Wrath is Appeased.

At their regular meeting last Monday night the Town Council got through a mass of work that appeared truly appalling at a first glance. The first matter that claimed their attention after the reading of the minutes was the presentation of several small bills by Sec. Ragana. These all having received the official O. K. the matter of the recent election of four school committeemen was brought up. It will be remembered that a rumor spread over town, and was printed in THE DAVIDSONIAN to the effect that there were only two vacancies to be filled, leaving two of the newly-elected gentlemen out in the cold. As the Commissioners rather resent the imputation that they didn't know what they were about, it is only fair to state that THE DAVIDSONIAN got its information from the Secretary of the Board and it was substantially his statement that was published. According to Mayor Myers the case stands as follows: Prof. Haus, principal of the school, is responsible for the statement that the school's charter provides for a board composed as follows: There shall be one member elected for six years, two for four and two for six. Mr. Myers has not seen the charter but it was upon this information that the Board acted. In 1901 Mr. F. S. Lambeth, was elected for the 6-year term, Messrs. A. Johnson and W. C. Harris for four years each, and Messrs. Peter Cates and D. C. Moffit for two years each. In 1906 the Commissioners, presumably ignorant of the terms of the charter, re-elected Messrs. Johnson and Harris for six years each, which was over-stepping their authority in the opinion of the present board. In their recent action this board undertook to rectify the mistake made in 1906—or some of them did, for it is evident they didn't all know what they were about, since, when the uproar arose, at least one of them was as badly befogged as the general public.

The matter of providing a clear, concise ordinance for the abatement of the dog nuisance then came up. The present laws are so complicated, contradictory, and muddled up generally that mortal men cannot enforce them. Two members of the board were appointed a special committee to write a proper dog ordinance, and report Friday night, but at the earnest solicitation of the gentlemen themselves their names are withheld.

This was the regular time for levying taxes. On account of the extra expenses occasioned by the outbreak of smallpox last spring the town is somewhat to the bad financially and an increase in the tax rate was considered. After going carefully over all the arguments, however, the board decided that it would be possible to make ends meet at the present rate—80 cents—so that amount was levied.

Several minor matters were disposed of and a motion had been made to adjourn when Capt. W. O. Burgin, who had just come in, requested its withdrawal as he wished to address the board on a matter of importance. Permission was given him to speak and he proceeded to expatiate on the injustice of taxing ruinously the poor man's amusements. He made an eloquent plea for the young men who have nowhere to go o' nights but the drug-stores and the curb-stones; nothing to do but smoke cigarets and yawn; and he closed up by explaining the occasion of his visit which was that he and his companion, Mr. Ed Pepper, contemplated starting a bowling, or ten-pin alley, not for the gathering of filthy lucre, but solely from philanthropic motives, but the excessively high tax of \$50 deterred them, and he most respectfully requested the board to lower said tax. He very generously offered the board until Friday night to think it over, so that Thomasville's dogs and her young men might be attended to together. The board promised to take the matter under consideration, but informed the enthusiast that the tax on bowling alleys is not fifty but twenty dollars by which information his eloquence was suddenly equisiched.

There being no further business the board adjourned.

Phone Matter Postponed Again.

This Time at the Request of the Bell People. Mr. Speer desires further instructions.

At a special meeting of the board of Aldermen Saturday night the question of granting a franchise to the Southern Bell Telephone Co., was taken up. Alderman Connelle offered an ordinance allowing the Bell to set up and operate ten booths in the town of Thomasville, and Alderman Green moved that it be passed, but at the request of the Bell's representative, Mr. Speer, action on the matter was deferred.

The meeting was enlivened by several more or less sharp tilts between Mr. Speer and Hon. W. C. Hamner who presented the case of the local company. The reason of the unexpected withdrawal of the Bell is alleged to be a doubt as to the validity of a franchise granted six years ago and later repealed. Mr. Speer claimed that as the Bell accepted the franchise in good faith the repeal was null and void. Messrs Hamner and B. W. Parham, counsel for the local company, insisted that as no work had been done under the old franchise and the conditions of a restricted franchise granted later had been fulfilled it amounted to a tacit acquiescence in the repeal of the old franchise and acceptance of the new one. Mr. Speer stated that this is a legal question and as he is not a lawyer, declined to pass upon it and asked for time to receive further instructions from his company. Mr. Hamner then addressed the board upon the subject of a new franchise. He claimed that it is useless, and therefore foolish, to have two telephone systems in a town of this size. He pointed out that if the local company is not giving satisfactory service they can be compelled to do so by the Corporation Commission. He called attention to the fact that the railroad law does not apply to telephone companies, and therefore they can if they wish grant special rates and favors. He argued that it is dangerous to turn loose a corporation the size of the Bell Telephone Co., when there is no law to prevent their cutting the throat of the local corporation. "I am going to say something that may hurt Mr. Speer's feelings," he exclaimed—"I have heard you say so many things," interposed Mr. Speer, "that I am getting used to it"—but they come here to ruin Mr. Hayden, to kill the local company, and gain control of the telephone business in the town."

Mr. Connelle then offered the ordinance mentioned above, but at the request of Mr. Speer action was deferred until the next regular meeting of the board.

The last tilt of the evening came after this matter had been settled. "I want to make a speech, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen," began Mr. Speer, ("Go ahead sir," said Mayor Myers) "on Mr. Hamner's intimate knowledge of the Southern Bell Telephone Co. He has told us so much—"I haven't told you anything yet, to what I will tell you," broke in Mr. Hamner. Mr. Speer waited a moment until the laughter raised by this sally had ceased and then finished his sentence—"but I'll put it off. Good night gentlemen."

Then it was discovered that the Board had never met at all so no motion was necessary for adjournment, and the much-anticipated telephone fight had ended in a fizzle.

The situation in Texas and Oklahoma is fast becoming serious. Temperatures were very high at most times, which makes the lack of moisture more acute. A good rain immediately would help the crop wonderfully. The fields east of the Mississippi river are now nearly clean and the cotton will be "laid by" in fairly good state of cultivation. The plant is generally small and is now beginning to bloom freely and make bolls. It will be cultivated much later than usual and if the frost date is long delayed and the August and September moisture supply is sufficient to enable the setting of bolls there is yet hope for a good crop. Without a late autumn reports indicate a very moderate out run in the valley and Atlantic States.

Gen. J. S. Carr, will deliver the address at the unveiling of the Confederate monument in Morganton, the event to take place the latter part of this month.

Quite A Stroll, This.

B. F. Pierce Walks from Atlanta to New York and back.

Mr. B. F. Pierce, a long distance walker who recently walked from Atlanta to New York on the National Highway was in town over Sunday on his way back to his starting point. He left Atlanta May 18th last and arrived in New York July 5th. After a two days' rest he left New York on the return trip July 7th and is due in Atlanta Sept. 1st. On this trip he followed the Highway as far as Philadelphia, then walked the Baltimore Pike to Washington, and there took to the railroad track which he has followed since. To prove his record he gets a post-mark at every town. Mr. Pierce, who has a wife and several children, is not doing this for his health; he gets \$600 if he reaches Atlanta by September 1st. He is twelve days ahead of his schedule now so he is not troubled by the time limit. He is a young man, twenty-seven years old and weighs only 135 pounds. His best record for one day is thirty-eight miles, his worst twenty-five, which is walking some!

A Men's Gathering.

On last Friday evening, July 29th, in the lecture room of Heidelberg Reformed church, the young men composing the usher's association, entertained about sixty men, who are friends and members of the congregation. There had been a plain but palatable menu of club sandwiches, pickles, cream, and cake prepared, which was served in a most tasteful manner by Messrs Lindsey Clark, Paul Hoover, and Sanford Long, assisted by Mesdames Willard Luther Long. After the men had partaken of the luncheon there was a programme rendered, of which, one of the most enjoyable features was three numbers by a male quartette, composed of Messrs. Green, Thomas, R. and H. Murphy, and in response to the call of the toast master, pastor Woods and Mr. Luther Long responded to the toast, "what of the future" and Mr. Olaf Myers to the toast, "an usher's relation to the life of the church." After which, Hon. C. C. Barnhart, of High Point, was introduced and in a masterful way spoke to the men, on the subject, "Man's natural inclination toward the good."

The evening as a whole was a success in every way, and is but a proof that our men, if given an opportunity, can and will find pleasure in the "Social Christian life."

Judgment Suspended in Black's Case.

Mr. Flavius Black was arraigned in the Mayor's court Monday night to answer to the charge of reckless driving and disorderly conduct in the streets Saturday night. Two policemen testified that Black passed them the night in question, at a gallop, yelling at the top of his voice; Mr. L. A. Martin, counsel for the defendant, introduced four witnesses who swore that Black passed them at about the same hour, going at a reasonable pace and not raising any disturbance of any kind. In view of the contradictory nature of the evidence, and for other reasons, Mayor Myers suspended judgement in the case and discharged the prisoner.

Resolution of Sympathy.

Whereas we learn that our beloved Brother Jno. W. Lambeth has buried his son Sumner, aged seven years;

Resolved, That in High Point Lodge No. 1155 Benevolent Protective Order of Elks being in regular service do hereby tender our brother our most sincere sympathy and ask him in this dark hour of bereavement to remember our love for him, and the love of the Great Ruler of the universe for us all, and may this be a healing balm to his wounded heart is the prayer of all the members of this lodge.

Little Girl Attacked By Bulldog.

June 22, May, a small child of Mr. C. T. Badham, of Newbern, was attacked by a sayage bulldog, the property of Mr. George Riddle, a member of the Second Regiment band of Raleigh, which has been playing in that city this week, and before the animal could be beaten off he had severely bitten the little girl on her shoulders. Mr. Bradham at once had the dog killed and its head shipped to the State laboratory of hygiene. The little girl was resting well at a late hour tonight. *Charlotte Observer.*

How Long Do They Hold Office?

Lawyers Say Man Who Wrote The School Charter Couldn't Interpret It Himself.

As the whole question Monday night of the legality of the recent election of school committeemen turned upon the terms of the School Charter, and as nobody but Mayor Myers seemed to know anything about the charter, and he only by hearsay, a representative of THE DAVIDSONIAN went to Prof. Haus Tuesday morning and asked for a glimpse of the mysterious document. This is what he found:

Sec. 8. The Board of Commissioners of said town may appoint a Graded School Committee of five members, to serve as follows: one member shall serve for six years, two members shall serve for four years, and two members shall serve for two years, and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

This provides clearly and unmistakably for the first election. The question is, was it intended to be followed in other elections? It would hardly seem so, for it says clearly that five members shall be elected because there will not be five vacancies until after twelve years. But there will be five then, and every twelve years a brand-new board must be elected. The most plausible explanation seems to us to be that the framers of the charter wished to make the School Board a comparatively stable institution, and intended to so arrange it that two terms should expire every two years, thus providing against radical changes in the personnel of the board. Their fatal mistake was their failure to expressly state that when a member was re-elected he should serve six years. The Town Council of 1905 evidently interpreted the charter as indicated above for they re-elected Messrs. Johnson and Harris, who were elected for four years in 1901, for terms of 6 years, which would put them out in 1911. But the present board interpret the charter literally and claim that the election of 1905 was illegal as the two gentlemen named were four-year men, and therefore could not be elected for longer than that time; therefore their terms must have run out in 1909, so they went ahead with the election. Altogether it is a pretty complicated affair, depending entirely upon the interpretation of the terms of the charter. The Board of 1905 interpreted it one way, the Board of 1910 another. You can pay your money and take your choice.

Republican County Convention.

By a resolution of the Republican County Executive Committee a Convention of the Republicans of Davidson County will be held in the Courthouse at Lexington on Saturday, Aug. 6th, 1910 at 11 o'clock A. M. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the County and Legislative Offices. Also for the purpose of electing delegates to the State, Congressional, Judicial, and Senatorial Conventions to be held later. The Republican voters of the various precincts will meet at the accustomed places unless otherwise directed by the Precinct Executive Committee, on Saturday July 30th, 1910 at one o'clock P. M. Each Township shall select one delegate for every twenty-five Republican votes or fractional part thereof cast in the Precinct at the previous election for the Republican Candidate for Governor. At the same time they will elect their Precinct Executive Committee of three and report the same to the County Convention.

Dated This July 14th, 1910.
J. R. McCRAW, Chairman,
Republican County Ex. Com.
J. H. ALEXANDER, Secretary. j123 3t

The executive committee of the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in session at Raleigh, elected M. E. Sherwin assistant professor of soil, a new department of which Professor Sherwin will be the active head for the next year or two anyway as no full professor for this chair is to be chosen at present. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri and University of California and held instructorship for two years each in these institutions.

STATE NEWS.

In the Firemen's Tournament at Newbern last week two world's records were broken; Spencer lowered the grab reel record to 17 seconds and Salisbury Southside, the hand reel 150 yard dash to 23 1/2 seconds.

Rattlesnakes are becoming numerous and "sassy" in the mountains since The Remedy has become so "scace." The Asheville Citizen tells of the killing of four rattlers in Buncombe county last week.

Mrs. Marion B. Jennings committed suicide at her home in Spartanburg, S. C. Thursday morning, by shooting herself. Ill health and despondency the cause. She belonged to a family of prominence. Her husband and children survive.

W. W. Lee, a cotton mill employe at Monroe, was killed by a Seaboard train Thursday evening. He had gone across the track from his home to feed his hogs and was returning when the train struck him. He was 46 years old and leaves a wife and three children.

The Winston Republican reports that L. J. Reid, of Forsyth county threshed 181 bushels of oats from four acres, an average of 45 1/4 bushels per acre; and that M. M. Angell, of Booneville, Yadkin county, gathered 175 bushels of potatoes from three eighths of an acre.

The Postmaster General has granted leave of absence, not exceeding five days, to all postmasters in North Carolina of the third and fourth classes, to enable them to attend the meeting of the North Carolina State League of Postmasters to be held at Winston-Salem September 23 and 24.

Tommy Hughes, a 14-year-old white boy sank in a lake at Kannapolis Friday, while swimming with a number of companions. Twenty minutes later his body was dragged out but he could not be resuscitated. The doctors are in doubt as to whether he drowned or was seized with a sudden attack of heart failure.

At its annual meeting each year the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the Revolution has the custom of presenting to the state an oil portrait of some prominent citizen of the Revolution period. At the meeting this year November 13, the society will present a portrait of Gov. William R. Davie.

John Holmes, a clerk in the Seaboard railway freight station at Wilmington, has sued Dr. L. H. Love, a physician of Monterey, Cal., for \$20,000, alleging that Dr. Love set his right shoulder improperly ten years ago, and so incapacitated him for the performance of his duties as a freight conductor.

Sam Jones, a farmer of Henderson county, was struck by lightning last Tuesday and instantly killed. He was ploughing with his mule on his farm in Blue Ridge township, when a severe electrical storm came up. Taking refuge beneath a tree from the storm, he and the mule were struck and both killed. Deceased was about 33 years old and unmarried.

Frank Elliott, the young son of Mr. H. F. Elliott, of Hickory, lost the sight of his left eye while attending a moonlight picnic of the Methodist church Baraca class last Tuesday night. Some of the boys lured him off "snipe hunting" and in the dark he tumbled into a ditch, striking his face against a piece of barb-wire fencing. A piece of the wire pierced his eye.

The same paper (Saturday's) carried last week the story of the burning of the Carolina and North Western's railroad shops, at Chester, S. C.; and an announcement that Hickory, N. C. is taking steps to induce the railroad to rebuild in that town. Fire was discovered in the shops about 4:00 A. M. Friday, and though the firemen were on the scene in a few minutes the conflagration had gained such headway that it was impossible to stop it, and the shops were totally destroyed, entailing a loss of \$75,000 about one fourth covered by insurance. When the news reached Hickory, the mayor of that enterprising town instantly sent a telegram of sympathy to the general manager of the road, and called the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce together. The Board appointed a committee, who were directed to move heaven and earth to get the new shops located at Hickory.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The cotton crop deteriorated during the week in Texas and Oklahoma by reason of drought, but improved elsewhere on an absence of rain.

A negro meeting in Clinton, South Carolina, Sunday, turned into a serious cutting affray in which one negro was almost turned into mince-meat.

President Taft has announced that on account of the pressure of public business, his public speeches hereafter "will be few and far between."

A dispatch from Columbia, printed in Tuesday's *Charlotte Observer* announces that the people of South Carolina are rapidly becoming disgusted with the bitter campaign now being carried on in that State.

A dispatch from Louisville says rains have fallen in that section of Kentucky nearly every day for five weeks and that damage to crops and to railroad tracks is estimated to be in the millions.

Fire broke out in Rock Hill, Sunday night, among some tenant houses, and for a short time threatened the destruction of a considerable section of the city but was finally gotten under control after three houses had been destroyed.

John G. Carlisle, of Kentucky, former Secretary of the Treasury under President Cleveland died in New York Sunday night. Mr. Carlisle recently obtained a bad eminence in North Carolina on account of his connection with Marion Butler and his bond holders.

By a viva voce vote the lower house of the Texas Legislature has passed a bill prohibiting the exhibition of moving pictures of the Jeffries-Johnson fight in that State. An amendment prohibiting pictures showing train robberies and those of similar nature was adopted.

Henry Krantz and Mrs. Elizabeth Fuchs, who live at Oshkosh, Ill., were married a few days ago, the special interest in the marriage being that the bride is the mother of Krantz's former wife, whom he divorced. The man is 75 and the woman 60.

Hawley H. Crippen, an American dentist who is accused of having murdered his wife in London was arrested as his steamer, on which he had fled from England, was entering the St. Lawrence River. Histypist, Miss Ethel Leneve, was arrested with him and the pair will be taken back to England for trial.

For some unknown cause a furious race war broke out in Anderson county, Texas, and raged Saturday and Sunday. Three white men and fifteen or twenty negroes were killed. The State Guard was called out Sunday and the disorder was suppressed. Eight white men have been arrested charged with murder in the first degree.

Fire of an unknown origin Thursday morning at 3 o'clock destroyed the engine room, machine shop, car shop and store room of the Carolina and Northwestern railway at Chester, S. C. A passenger coach and two locomotives were badly damaged. The loss is estimated at \$100,000, partially covered by insurance.

Minnesota Democratic convention, in session at Minneapolis Thursday, nominated John Lind for Governor. All the delegates were for Lind, but as he said he would not accept the nomination some of them wanted to regard his wishes and there was much contention over this point; also a dispute as to a local option plank in the platform.

Independent delegates to the number of 170, representing 52 counties in Pennsylvania, met in Philadelphia last week and nominated a State ticket headed by W. H. Berry for Governor. Berry was formerly State Treasurer, to which office he was elected by the combined Democratic, prohibition and independent votes in the political upheaval of 1905. While in office he uncovered the State capital scandal.

Jack Johnson, the negro pugilist, owns an automobile which he makes a habit of driving at a high rate of speed and he has been frequently arrested for violating the speed laws. A few days ago he made application to enter his high-power car in the September races at Indianapolis motor speedway. The request was refused and then he asked to be allowed to give an exhibition drive. This request was also refused.