

THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

Circulation for 12 months, 1,400
Subscription Price—Five cents per single copy; by mail in Canada \$2.00 per year; to the United States, \$2.50.
Office Hours—9 to 12 M., 1 to 5.30 P.M. Office open on Saturday and Wednesday nights from 7 to 10 P.M.

Whosoever is afraid of submitting any question, civil or religious to the test of free discussion, is more in love with his own opinion than with the Truth—WATSON.

Thursday, September 11, 1930

SHOULD WAKE UP OR RESIGN

During the past few months we have heard more criticism of the Grey County Pensions Board than of almost any other organization in the county. So far as we can learn they have been doing practically nothing and if this is to continue, in the interests of those who are entitled to pensions money, it is high time they should either wake up to the fact that they have an important duty to perform or throw up the job and make way for a board that will take its duties seriously and act accordingly.

The Chronicle has irrefutable evidence that so far as efficiency is concerned the Grey County Pensions Commission might as well never have been appointed, and its lack of appreciation of its importance is causing unnecessary hardships and inconvenience to many who are in need of its services. There have been applications made for pensions consideration that have apparently been pigeon-holed; at any rate the petitioners in many cases have never received any acknowledgement that their applications have been received. These complaints are not a few isolated cases, either, nor are they confined to any one particular section of the county. They are quite general, and the Chronicle has evidence that many applications made as far back as last March and earlier have as yet to have any action taken, and there seems nothing can be done that will wake up the board or its secretary. If this is to continue, then we should suggest the Board place its resignation in the hands of the County Council at its next sitting and get out. The welfare of our old and needy citizens is of too much importance to be made the playtoy of a Board that seems unable to shake itself into life and action.

In a previous reference to this same Board, this newspaper pointed out that any delinquencies should not be charged to the Pensions Commission in Toronto. They are fully aware of the importance of their position, and when some cases in and about Durham were brought to our notice we took the opportunity of interviewing the chairman, Hon. Dr. Jamieson as to why it was there was so much delay in securing for these pensioners that to which they were entitled.

Dr. Jamieson was reluctant to make any accusations, but we finally wormed the information out of him that Grey County was the worst county in Ontario, so far as looking after old age pensions was concerned. This county has given the headquarters Commission more trouble than any other half dozen counties in the province. Not only, apparently, were they not answering letters from applicants and pensioners, but it was extremely difficult for the Commission at Toronto to get the required information.

Dr. Jamieson also told the Chronicle that there was no delay in Toronto. There is a competent staff employed there, and any correspondence received from any County Commission, pensioner or applicant, is invariably answered the same day it is received. But the Ontario Commission can do nothing if the County authorities are lax in their duties.

The Chronicle is not informed as to the personnel of the Grey County Pensions Commission, and cannot be accused of trying to "get back" at anyone. We do not know who they are, but we do know that right here in Durham, and in other sections of the county are applicants for pensions who have filled out the proper forms, some of them months ago, and are still awaiting replies from the local commission.

So far as we can learn the appointment of the County Commissions throughout Ontario has been in the hands of the County Councils, and they have invariably appointed members of that body to act as Commissioners. We do not think this is right and proper. In our opinion the Pensions Committee should be appointed outside the County Councils altogether, and should be composed of men and women who are alive to their duty and are prepared to devote some of their time to this great work, for which they receive five dollars a day and expenses while the Board is sitting.

In any event it is high time the Grey County Commission made up its mind to do something. If it is their intention to continue along the lines pursued so far, then we would suggest that a new Commission be appointed—one that will function properly and give the needy of the County of Grey a square deal.

We can go further and say that if the pension applicants in any other counties in the province are having similar trouble in getting their cases disposed of, the blame lies with the local commissions, and not with the headquarters staff at Queen's Park. The Chronicle may not know everything about this department, and probably does not, but in this particular instance we have the facts before us and know what we are talking about.

EXCEEDING OUR PURCHASING POWER?

"The needs of mankind are being produced in an excess of the purchasing power of its people."

This statement of Sir Philip Gibbs seems to us to come nearer the mark of explaining the present hard times than anything we have yet seen. For the past decade or so everything, especially on the North American continent, has been made on the "production" basis. Not how good, but how much seems to have been the slogan of the manufacturers. For a time all was well, then the purchasing power of the people began to dwindle. To meet this we had the introduction of the "small payment down and so much a month" idea. And now this has failed. The people spent their surplus, then resorted to the installment principle, and now that this has further depleted their cash on hand they are not even able to buy on the so-much-a-month plan.

The inevitable has happened. With the people unable to buy, the manufacturing has got ahead of the market, and with no market, there was nothing else for business to do but go "dead". This condition will not last very long, however. The people still have the good sense to know that all they have to do is to buck up and buy within their means. Then the so-called hard times will disappear.

So far as we can see it, the only thing the matter with this country is that the manufacturers have had their day. They have sold the people to death until the tables have turned. A few years ago the people had the money and the manufacturers the goods; now the people are broke and the manufacturers have both the money and the goods. Unfortunately, it is the people who were responsible for the abnormally good times who are now "broke" and must pay the fiddler. While the manufacturers may have the goods, and business is "bad", these same manufacturers also have the money and can sit back and wait for the turn of the tide.

The funny part of it is that the "big interests" will come in for their share of criticism, while the real facts are that if the people had saved some of their money as they earned it, times would not have been so "tight" as they are now. It is the same old story, what goes up must come down. And Mr. Micawber's definition of success is still as true today as when Dickens made him say it away back in the middle years of the last century.

"GRILED" BY "THE BEAK"

We read in one of our exchanges a few days ago that a "respected farmer" of a district in Southern Ontario "was verbally lashed by the acting magistrate and then threatened with jail in default of payment and costs." This farmer had had trouble with another farmer, whom he had brought before the magistrate for assault. It is said further in the account of the case in the Simcoe Reformer that the acting magistrate took upon himself the duties of prosecuting attorney "and proceeded to cross-examine the plaintiff in such a manner that he was unable to tell his version of what had happened between himself and the defendant."

Great stuff, this, isn't it? A police magistrate sitting on a case and cross-questioning the plaintiff in such a manner that he could not tell his story!

There is getting to be altogether too much of this sort of thing in Ontario courts. What do these magistrates and lawyers think they are, anyway? Surely we are not coming to the time in Ontario when witnesses in court cases have to be subjected to abuse by the bench and the lawyers!

We have seen cases in court when highly respected citizens, persons of undoubted honesty and truthfulness, have been summoned as witnesses, only to be manhandled by the so-called representatives of the law in a manner that was anything but a credit to those conducting the case.

It is bad enough when the legal fraternity resort to this practice, but much worse when the man on the bench, he who is supposed to listen and to judge the case on the evidence submitted, so far forgets himself as to assume the role of prosecuting attorney, and by this action place himself on record as striving for a conviction rather than acting independently of all litigants and seeking to pass judgment on the merits of the case.

A scientist says the human jaw is shrinking. Evidently that fellow never attended a sewing circle.

The Hanover Post came out last week in its new dress. The Post is now eight columns wide, and instead of the usual ten and twelve pages intends issuing generally as an eight-page newspaper.

The press of the country want to know who started the yarn about the child being eaten by a hog, and which upon investigation, proved false. First it occurred in Egremont Township, and then over in Carrick, near Mildmay. We don't know. Perhaps some news reporter got mixed up in reading about the hogs, the husks and the prodigal son, and interpreted the happening in 1930 terms.

Now comes the announcement that Australian oranges are to be placed on the Canadian market. This is as it should be. The British Empire is large enough and her products sufficiently diversified that it is not necessary for one unit of the Empire to demand tariff preferences from any other unit that will militate against the agriculturists or manufacturing interests of that unit.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

What a Difference? Hamilton, Ontario, witnessed a typical example of the administration of Canadian justice the other day. Two men robbed a bank and stole an automobile. Within 24 hours they had been caught with the goods, had been arraigned, had confessed, had been sentenced to receive 30 lashes each and spend six years in the penitentiary, and were on their way to punishment. And that was that, as far as the courts and the public were concerned. In Detroit—but what's the use, we simply don't do things like that in Detroit. We prefer to be robbed and murdered and let the criminals twiddle their fingers at us.—Detroit Free Press.

No Americanism Wanted For ourselves, we prefer Great Britain as she was, with not a trace of America about her from Land's End to John o' Groats. We look forward with no enthusiasm to visiting a "copy-cat" England. We like bishops in gaiters, we like barristers in wigs and gowns, we like "the cry of the curates" though it is a low and plaintive cry, not easily audible; we like British barmalads, and we hurry by with averted faces if we suddenly come upon an American purveyor of soft drinks or an American food shop in the Strand or Fleet street.—Boston Transcript.

Waken Up the Compiler It must be four years at least since Mat Sutcliffe, Clerk of Sullivan and editor of this paper were paid by Sullivan council for writing that township's part of the History of Grey and still nothing has been heard of the date when the manuscript will be printed. When the late Sheriff Wilson, who had charge of collecting the county write-ups, passed away, the work was put in charge of another and up to date the contract of publishing the history has not been let. If the history is not published soon it will be necessary for all the county historians to get together and add an appendix of the last four or five year's happenings of township interest or the history will not be up to date. Waken up the compiler, Warden Lembke.—Chesley Enterprise.

Endurance Contests The spectacular always wins recognition while the humbly meritorious seldom does.

The tree-sitter, the endurance flier or motorist or the marathon dancer makes the front pages of the dailies.

But there are other endurance tests! There is the story of a mother who had been left with a brood of small children on her hands, and with no income, who fought her fight through sickness, through hardship, through obstacles of almost every conceivable kind, until those children were educated and sent out into useful citizenship.

There was another story of a man who cared for an invalid wife through a third of a century of invalidism, standing patiently by until the inevitable end came.

These are only common human experiences in humble and obscure surroundings, but there is no comparison with the so-called endurance tests first mentioned.—Listowel Banner.

T. L. Church Complains "Tommy" Church is evidently sore at his defeat in one of the Toronto ridings. It is rather surprising to read that he blames the enemies of Hydro for his misfortune. This is nonsense since the Hydro policy of the late years has been quite satisfactory to opponents of the policy followed by the late Sir Adam Beck. There would be nothing to be gained by getting the Toronto dema-

rogue out of parliament as he has had absolutely no influence in shaping Hydro's course in the past several years. Of course, it is possible that Mr. Church furnished Robert Gardiner with the information Mr. Gardiner used in exposing the Beauharnois power deal, but the probability is remote and hence Mr. Church's reason for complaint is difficult of perception.—Alliston Herald.

Fine Fits Offense

Folks who like to keep their radio receiving sets going, with the loud speaker working at full capacity, late into the night, can take a warning from what befell a Toronto radio enthusiast. He was charged in police court with creating unnecessary noises between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and was fined \$50 with the alternative of ten days in jail. Perhaps this seems a bit rough on the radio enthusiast, but he kept his loud speaker going late in the night, thus disturbing the rest of his neighbors who were not so keen on radio entertainment as he was. Radio is a wonderful medium of entertainment, but as this case shows, it can be overdone. And when it is overdone, it falls into the class of objectionable noises. And there are many people who will agree with the Toronto bylaw, which made it possible for the distracted neighbors to take action to have this nuisance, for even a radio at times can be a nuisance, terminated.—Alliston Herald.

Blood and Thunder Address

Recently we listened to an address delivered to the Advertising Club in New York City by one of the speakers, who was introduced as being "A real Irishman". In the course of what was apparently considered a very witty address he boasted: "I deserted from the British army in German East Africa during the war; it was a rotten army anyway. If I were flying over London I'd take pleasure in dropping a couple of bombs on the city." The man's name was Captain McGinnis, a noted navigator, and his remarks were widely applauded by the audience. Is this a true expression of the sentiment that prevails among the so-called intelligentsia across the line?—Simcoe Reformer.

EARTH PULSATES LIKE A HUMAN HEART

Startling Theory of Evolution Advanced By Astronomer.—Says Stars Have Life Cycle, Begin As Atoms.

A new theory of the universe was presented to the American Astronomical Society by Professor Benjamin Boss, director of the Dudley Astronomical Observatory at Albany, N.Y.

Prof. Boss, working with scientific observations gathered by astronomers and geophysicists since the beginning of astronomical observations, has placed the entire mechanics of the evolution of the earth into one scheme. The general conclusions he reached are: The earth is constantly pulsating, like the human heart.

In these heart beats are born oceans, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes. The contraction and expansion of the earth's pulsation is caused by the sun's bombardment of the earth with electrons. In the electronic charges come the winds, the storms, northern lights and other natural phenomena.

Ice and tropical ages have been caused by the passage of the sun through a cosmic dust of greater or lesser potential.

The stars have a distinct evolution;

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a life cycle. They begin in the birth of an atom. Atoms form into cosmic dust, which collect into clouds or nebulae. The clouds condense and form giant red stars, which pass on to the yellow giant star, and losing mass through radiation, pass to yellow dwarf stars and from there to the red dwarf stage.

While Prof. Boss has actual observations to support his theories of the mechanics of the earth, he says that his theory of evolution of the universe is somewhat speculative, although a vast field of investigation has been opened by his demonstration of penetrating radiation from the sun.

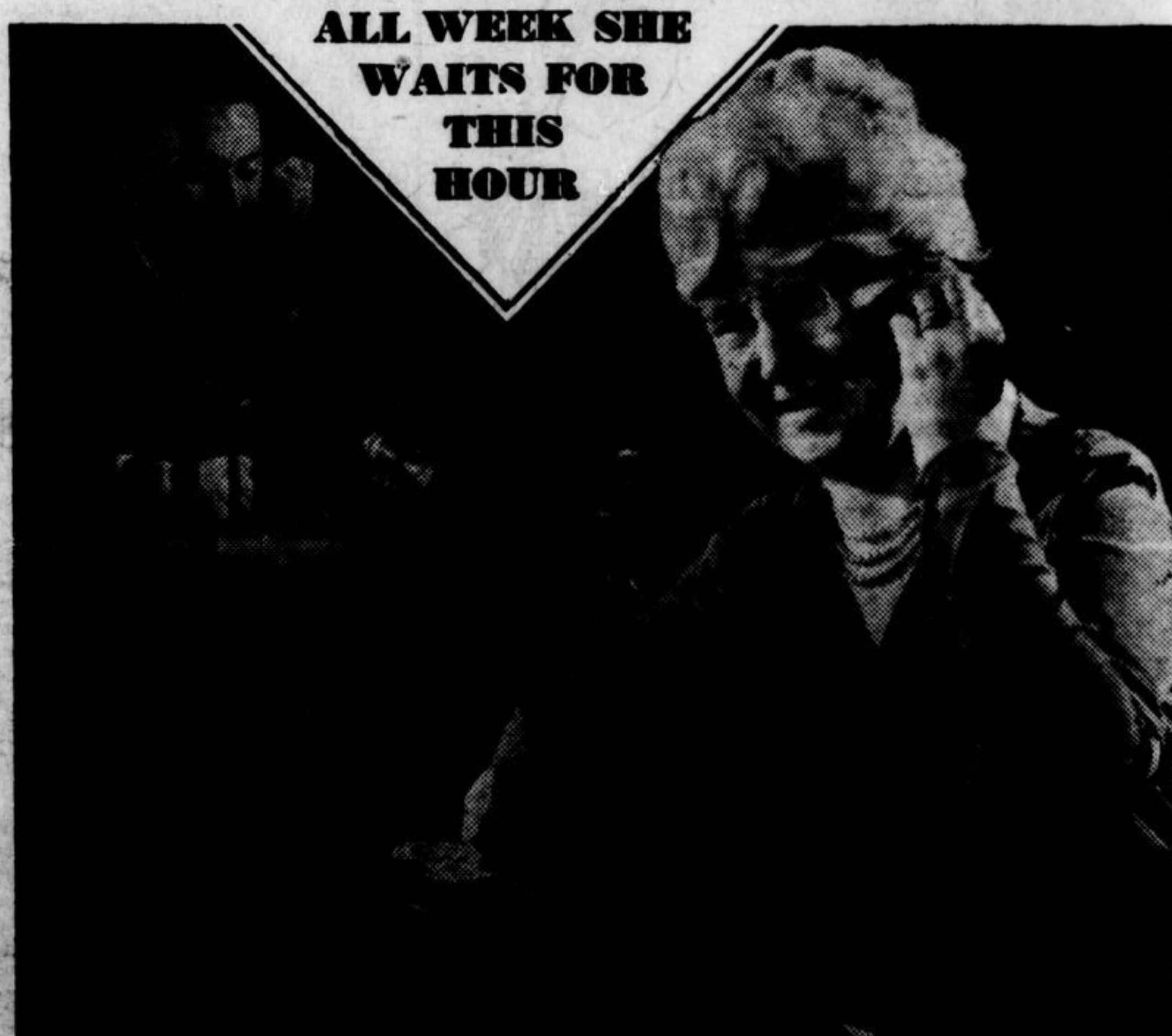
Wrong Station

Father was tuning in the wireless set when suddenly he gave a howl of pain. "What ever's happened?" asked his wife.

"I believe I'm getting lumbago, he replied. His wife smiled contemptuously. "What ever's the use of that?" she replied. "You'll never be able to understand what they are saying"—Answers.

BARGAINS in Used Radios and Phonographs. Westinghouse 5-tube Radio, table model for \$29.00. Crosley Radio, 6-tube, cabinet model \$39.00. Phonograph, cabinet model \$29.00. Orthophonic Victrola, new, Regularly \$115. for \$79.00. Victor Orthophonic Victrola, new regularly \$160. for \$89.00. SALE OF RECORDS THIS WEEK Regular 65c. records, 2 for 59c. The Variety Store R. L. Saunders, Prop. PHONE 4 DURHAM

Chronicle Advt.s--the Panacea for "Slow" Business



ALL WEEK SHE WAITS FOR THIS HOUR

How excited — and how happy — she was the first time she heard her son's voice come over the telephone from a distant city. Talking with him was as easy as though he were in the same room. It was something to remember and to cherish for days afterwards.

And how much happier she has become, because Fred comes home by telephone now every week. He calls her every Sunday evening at eight-thirty. It is an hour she waits for and looks forward to all week long. It brightens days that had become a bit empty and lonely with the family scattered.

Fred is happier, too. For the price of a movie he gets something no money can measure — his mother's voice — a touch of home. It's a fine way to start a new week's work.

Evening rates on "Anytime" (station-to-station) calls now begin at 7 p.m. Night rates begin at 9:30 p.m. Just give "Long Distance" the number you want—it speeds up the service. If you don't know the distant number, "Information" will look it up for you.

