

# NORTH BADIN

## Timely Topics

### Buying Homes

rejoice to see the men of our beautiful town acting wisely, as they are at this time. I remember quoting Booker T. Washington, in an article to the Buletin some time ago, as follows: "The best right to citizenship of any race is the ownership of their homes." We have, at last, awakened to the fact that the offering of homes to the citizens of Badin by the Tallasse Power Company, on the easy payment plan, is a simple and helpful proposition. The terms were so easy, and the proposition seemed so good in the beginning, that it could not appear to be true to many minds. This one fact alone caused many to hesitate. I have walked among the steps of my people over here, during the early days of the life of this opportunity, and have heard them whisper cautiously to each other, "Boys, you better keep your eyes open; that sounds too good to be 'thoro'"; but since then we have slept, dreamed, and thought about the matter; and the same men have changed opinions, and bought homes. They now see that the proposition is a good one, and the best ever presented to this people; but I believe the deed that we have in our possession now of the property owned by Badin Stock Company is doing more to convince than all the speeches we have been able to make. I spare no chances to have it done. As they see it is absolutely square, and as good as any deed can be made, they are converted. Every time one of our race buys his home, another voice goes out to all our community, saying, "we are casting our vote here, and are making permanent our citizenship, thus establishing our rights." It is but fair to us to have our citizenship denied us until we have done something to establish it, and all we should want is a man's chance. When I say "citizenship," I mean citizenship in the truest sense of the word. I do not mean merely the right to live in any particular section of the country—but I mean the right to live there with equal privileges and rights, and equal public accommodations, equal protection by the law of our lives, liberty, and freedom. This is what we are work-

ing for, and nothing will prove our worthiness of the same better than to say we are citizens by buying and owning our homes. If it is only a two-roomed cabin, be able to say, "it is mine."

### The Stock Company

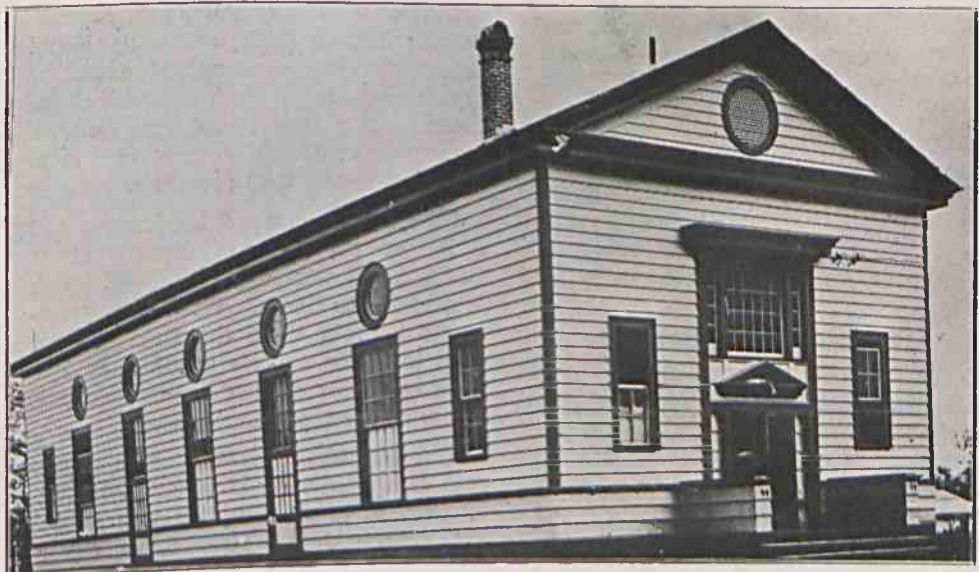
Many of our friends as well as our enemies have asked why the Badin Stock Company has been so slow in its purpose. I may answer, the reason is the same as has been stated above. All were afraid. Few would be convinced that the whole business was not crooked. Many doubted the stability of the Tallasse Power Company, and some doubted my management. Some would not go because they did not originate the plan and organize the Company; others did not go because they could not see where they could get two dollars for one at the start. I would not tell them that we could get rich in two years, for I would have been lying to begin with, so I only suggested to the boys that we put our little money together, and see what we could do. I am still suggesting this. I am pleased now that we are really beginning business, and we must, in time, do "big things." We are succeeding in getting the eyes of some of our business negroes turned Badinward. Now is the chance of our lives. Let's take it. Among the home buyers now, "buy or move" has become the slogan

of the town. And I might say to all men, "you may as well buy, for you never will be able to move your families from Badin." To get one drink of this water settles it with you, and if you do nothing more you saved that much. Saving is our salvation. It is not and will never be what we make that shall determine our value as a race, but that which we save.

### Our Growing School

We are growing, and our demands are being met. Coming to our educational side of Badin life: "We are climbing; all are climbing, the black and white together."

Our superintendent and friends seem to think that our school system and surroundings get better each passing day. Its growth has surpassed our most ardent expectations. We have had to open another house for school work, and it now has three more in it than its seating capacity demands, two other grades have above fifty, each in regular attendance. This means that we shall ask for another house and another teacher very soon. We are never denied by our good official friends when our demands are reasonable. We were fortunate to have the principal of the white school, with three of her teachers, present to judge the exhibits of our school on the bazaar which has just closed in



COMMUNITY BUILDING, WHERE BAZAAR WAS HELD