

A PAGE OF GASTONIA HAPPENINGS

EXTENSION OF GASTONIA'S TELEPHONE LINES FOR THE COMING YEAR—QUARTERLY

Dividend of Two Per Cent—Full Stockholders Meeting of Piedmont Telephone & Telegraph Co.—Several From Distant Points.

Special to The Observer.
Gastonia, Feb. 17.—The annual meeting of the stockholders and directors of the Piedmont Telephone and Telegraph Company was held here at its general offices Thursday, the 15th. The following gentlemen are officers and directors of the company: W. T. Love, Gastonia, president; Col. W. T. Gentry, Atlanta, Ga., vice president; Addison Maupin, Atlanta, Ga., secretary and treasurer, and R. B. Babington, Gastonia, assistant treasurer and general manager. The above being directors who are directors of the company were present at this meeting: J. Epps Brown, Atlanta, Ga.; Leland Hume, Nashville, Tenn.; M. B. Speir, Charlotte, W. B. Moore, York, S. C.; J. White Ware, Gastonia. The condition of the company was found to be very satisfactory. A two per cent quarterly dividend was declared on the stock. All the old officers of the company were re-elected. J. T. Sadler, of Gas-

tonia, who heretofore has been assistant auditor, was elected auditor of the company. Quite a lot of new and extensive improvements were authorized for the coming year. The Charlotte-Mount Holly-Denver toll line will be open for commercial business within the next 30 days. This toll line opens up to the commercial world a very valuable part of Gaston and Lincoln Counties, putting Charlotte and other centers in touch with Lucia, Lowesville, Triangle and Denver, who as heretofore have not had these facilities. The Piedmont Telephone and Telegraph Company will open their new common battery exchange at Lincolnton about March 1. This exchange when turned over to the public will be the last word, telephonically speaking, in up-to-date service. It is the latest improved method of switchboards to be purchased. There has only been up to this time one other board of this type installed in the South. The good people of Lincolnton and Lincoln County have something really good opening up for them.

\$3,273,581.09 ASSETS IN GASTONIA'S BANKS

Gastonia, Feb. 17.—The banks of Gastonia have total assets of \$3,273,581.09, and they are increasing every day, was the statement made today to your correspondent by Secretary Robert of the Chamber of Commerce.

ARMINGTON HOTEL FULL EVERY DAY

Gastonia, Feb. 17.—Crown W. Wilson, manager of the Armington Hotel, tells your correspondent that his hotel has been practically filled every day since January 15. Business is growing with this popular hostelry every month.

THE ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL WILL ASK LEGISLATURE FOR APPROPRIATION THIS WEEK

R. B. Babington, President and Representative Citizens of Gastonia, Charlotte, Shelby and Other Towns to Raleigh Wednesday.

Gastonia, Feb. 17.—R. B. Babington, president of the North Carolina Orthopaedic Hospital-School for crippled, deformed, orphaned and indigent children, says that the joint appropriation committees of the General Assembly have agreed to give this institution a hearing in Raleigh Wednesday, the 21st, regarding the modest appropriation asked for. A strong delegation of representative citizens of Charlotte, Gastonia, Shelby and other towns will be in Raleigh for the purpose of appearing before the committee in behalf of the institution to show the State of North Carolina that some aid should be given at this time to help in establishing an institution of this nature to begin, if only in a modest way, to help this worthy but neglected class of orphaned and poor children. There is not a school house nor an orphanage in the State of North Carolina wherein you will find a crippled, deformed, orphaned or poor child of sound mind.

MR. BABINGTON'S MESSAGE TO RALEIGH LEGISLATORS

In Behalf of State Orthopaedic Hospital for Which Appropriation Will Be Asked Next Wednesday.

Special to The Observer.
Gastonia, Feb. 17.—In connection with the delegations of citizens from Gastonia, Shelby and Charlotte and other points that will appear Wednesday next before the legislative committee at Raleigh in behalf of the proposed State orthopaedic hospital, R. B. Babington, of Gastonia, whose heart and hand have worked together for the institution for so many months, handed to your correspondent today these lines by James Whitcomb Riley, trusting that the reading of them may awaken a new sense of obligation towards children that have hitherto been left alone to limp helplessly through the world.
The Happy Little Cripple.
I'm thist a little cripple boy, an' never goin' to grow
An' get a great big man at all—
'Cause Auntie told me so.
When I thist a baby on't, I felled out of the bed
An' got "Curvature of the Spine"—
'at's what the doctor said.
I never had no mother nen—fer my pa runned away
An' dasen't come back here no more—
'cause he was drunk one day
An' stobbed a man in thist-ere town,
an' couldn't pay his fine,
An' nen my Ma she died—an' I got "Curvature of the Spine!"
I'm nine years old; an' you can guess how much I weigh, I bet!
Last birthday I weighed thirty-three!
'an' I weigh thirty yet!
I'm awful little fer my size—I'm purt nigh littler 'nan
Some babies is! an' neighbors calls me "Little Man."
An' Doc one time he laughed an' said: "I spect first thing you know you'll have a little spike-tail coat an' travel with a show!"
An' nen I laughed—till I looked round an' Auntie was a-crying—
Sometimes she acts like that—'cause I got "Curvature of the Spine."
I set—while Auntie's washin'—on my little long-leg stool
An' watch the little boys and girls a-skippin' by to school;
An' I peck on the winder, an' holler out an' say:
"Who wants to fight the 'Little Man' at dares you-all today?"
An' nen the boys climb on the fence, an' little girls peek through
An' they all say: "'Cause you're so big, you think we're 'feared of you'!"
An' nen they yell an' shake their fist at me, like I shake mine—
They're thist in fun, you know, 'cause I got "Curvature of the Spine."
At evening when the ironing's done, an' Auntie fixes the fire,
An' filled an' lit the lamp, an' trimmed the wick an' turned it higher,
An' fetched the wood all in fer night, an' locked the kitchen door,
An' stuffed the ole crack where the wind blows up through the floor
She sets the kettle on the coals, an' biles an' makes the tea.

An' fries the liver an' the mush, an' cooks an egg fer me;
An' sometimes when I cough so hard—her elderberry wine
Don't go so bad fer little boys with "Curvature of the Spine."
But Auntie's all so childish-like, on my account, you see,
I'm 'most afeard she'll be took down—an' 'at's what bothers me!
'Cause e fmy good old Auntie should ever get sick an' die,
I don't know what she'd do in heaven—
—Gill I come by and by—
Fer she's so ust to all my ways, an' ever' thing you know,
An' no one there like me, to nuss an' worry over so!
'Cause all the little children there's so straight an' strong an' fine—
They's nary Angel 'bout the place with "Curvature of the Spine."

A GREAT NEW GARAGE HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Special to The Observer.
Gastonia, Feb. 17.—Among the new establishments that are rapidly taking shape in Gastonia as the Spring approaches, is the Gastonia Garage, just completed. This massive building with its thick, fire-proof brick walls and its full equipment of auto machinery and accessories of every kind, is just completed. It is the hospitable hostelry for the bank-wagons of the world. No matter how disabled and bespattered a distance-weary car may be, it is taken in hand and groomed like a fine horse and with as much care. The pits are there and modern machinery and W. L. Flyler, expert mechanic with his corps of five mechanics. The building is 295 feet long with a frontage of 50 feet and is nearly filled now with a long vista of automobiles from end to end.

\$150,000 GASTON BOND 5 PER CENT SOLD ABOVE PAR FOR STREET IMPROVEMENT

Taken by Strong Western Banking House, Whose Representative Was Pleased With Gastonia's Prosperous Growth.

Special to The Observer.
Gastonia, Feb. 17.—The Spitzer Rorick & Co., of Toledo, Ohio, through their attorney, Ray M. Mann, this week purchased \$150,000 of street improvement bonds of the City of Gastonia, paying a premium of \$1,651 for the bonds. These are 5 per cent 30-year bonds.
On account of the unsettled financial condition of the country due to the war cloud this is an exceptionally high price for bonds.
The Spitzer Rorick & Co., is one of the largest financial houses west of New York City, and have branch offices in many of the principal cities. Mr. Mann was highly pleased with the city of Gastonia and its bright prospects for continued growth and prosperity.

SECOND COTTON MILL FOR 1917.

Gastonia, Feb. 17.—Gastonia organized her second cotton mill for 1917 this past week. This gives Gastonia 26 textile mills and all of a very large size.

353,599 SPINDLES HAVE GASTONIA COTTON MILLS WITH 4,770 OPERATIVES

Its 26 Plants Have a Payroll of \$1,170,200, According to Official Figures Chamber of Commerce.

Special to The Observer.
Gastonia, Feb. 17.—Your correspondent obtained today from C. W. Roberts, secretary of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce, these official figures:
The total number of cotton mills operating and under construction in the city of Gastonia is 26.
The total payroll of cotton mills now operating in Gastonia is \$1,170,200.
The total number of spindles is 353,599.
The total number of operatives working in Gastonia cotton mills is 4,770.

PUT UP OR SHUT UP.

Gastonia, Feb. 17.—"Some cities near Gastonia," said a Gastonia prominent citizen today, "claims a large number of textile mills and publish their claims, but for some reason or other they never publish the names of the large number they claim in their city. Gastonia produces the names and the mills."



The Armington Hotel, Gastonia, N. C.

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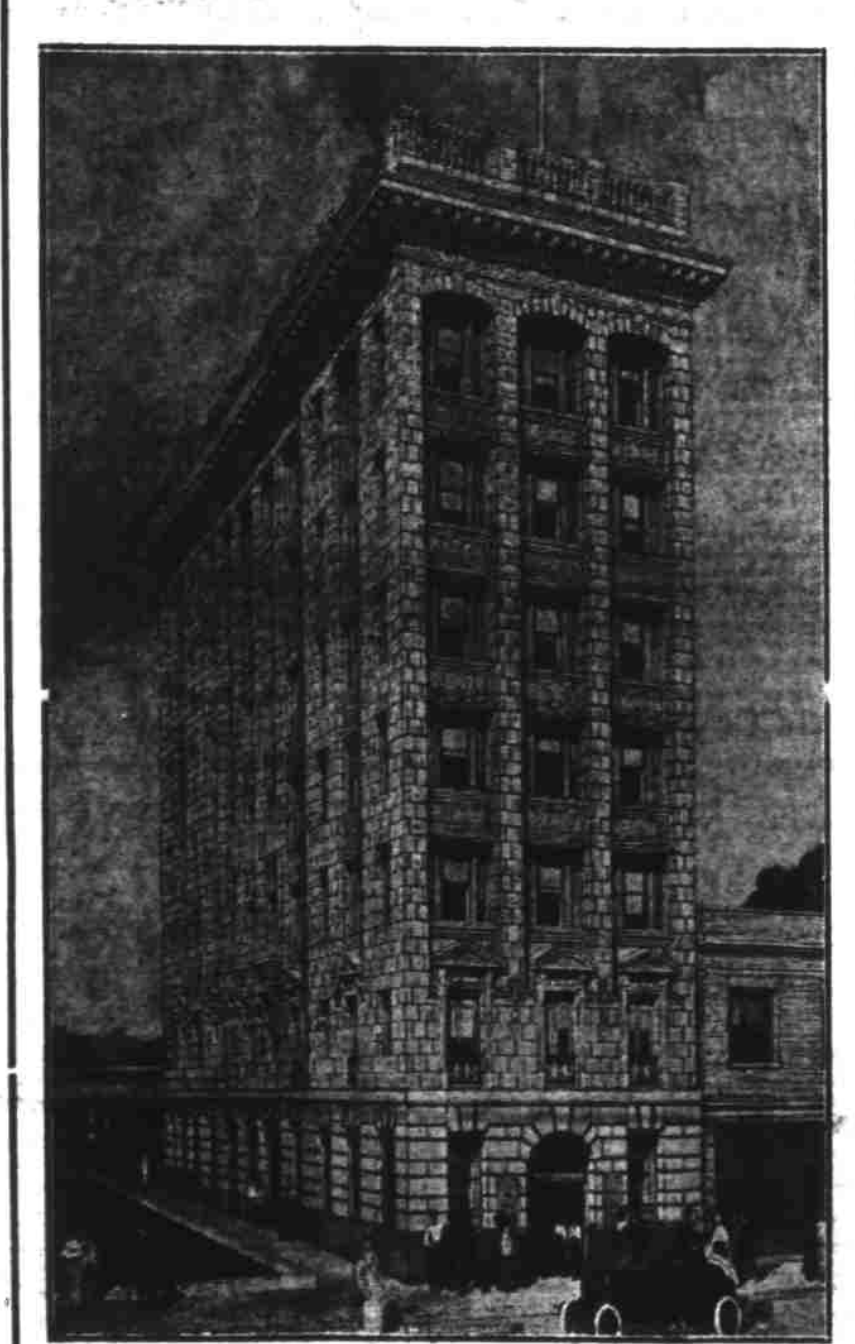
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