

THE ELKIN TRIBUNE

INDUSTRY
ENTERPRISE

NINETEEN FOURTEEN

ELKIN, - NORTH CAROLINA

INDUSTRIALLY

Elkin's Manufactured Products Cover the Globe—Her Produce Market is the Largest in the State

Elkin is destined to become the largest and best town in North Western North Carolina. With the many natural resources which are yielding so rapidly to the process of development, with the opening up of the section traversed by the Elkin & Alleghany Railroad and the abundance of raw material thus brought within range of the factory, with the greatest market in the state for country produce, with the large and varied manufacturing industries and with the unified and aggressive disposition always in evidence among the citizens of the town, Elkin's intended goal seems almost inevitable.

Elkin is essentially a manufacturing town, all of the thirteen large manufacturing plants, except two, having been established here within the past twenty years. At present there is a sum of \$850,000 invested in the manufacturing plants in the town and each year these plants do a volume of business amounting to \$1,500,000. During the year there are 2,500 car loads of manufactured goods shipped from Elkin to all parts of the United States, Canada and Mexico, many of the products reaching a number of foreign countries. Almost 500 laborers are employed in the factories here, receiving annually \$150,000 in wages and salary. The Chatham Manufacturing Co., Elkin's first manufacturing industry, has the largest woolen mill in the South for the manufacture of blankets exclusively and their fine blankets are to be found even as far as the Pacific islands. The Elkin Shoe Co., with a turnover of 400 pairs of shoes a day, has the largest brogan shoe factory in the South and the famous "Elkin Shoes" are to be found on many thousand feet in half a dozen states. More than 50 per cent of the telegraph and telephone insulator pins and brackets used in the United States and a large per cent of those used in Canada and Mexico are manufactured here by the Elkin Machinery Co., which owns an automatic lathe, invented and patented by Ab Brown, a local man. This machine, the only one of its kind in existence, has a capacity of 40,000 or about a carload of brackets a day and Mr. Brown refused \$26,000 for the patent. The Elkin Canning Co. distributes almost 200,000 gallons of blackberries during the summer of each year and gives employment to 1,500 to 2,000 people who can berries and other fruits and vegetables by contract. The Elkin Furniture Co. ships about 200 car loads of its bed room suits, chiffoniers, filing cases, etc., to northern, southern and Pacific coast states, as well as to Canada and several foreign countries. The Edison canning outfit, a local invention manufactured by the Dixie Hardware and Manufacturing Co., is now in use in 15,000 homes scattered over nine different states and Edison mail boxes cover the same territory. The Elkin Ice & Light Co., with its brick machine having a daily capacity of 25,000 brick and ten ton ice plant, does a volume of business amounting to \$100,000 annually

in supplying this and surrounding towns and country with these products. The Elkin Veneer and Manufacturing Co. ships annually 300 car loads of veneer all over the United States and Canada, the bulk of this product going to New York, Pennsylvania and other Middle Atlantic States. Among the other plants that manufacture and ship large quantities of Elkin products are the following: The Elkin Bottling Co., which has a capacity of 200 dozen bottles of Pepsi-Cola and fruit drinks a day; W. B. Minick & Bro., manufacturers of finished building material, kitchen cabinets, tables, etc.; Elkin Buggy Co., manufacturers of high grade buggies; J. W. Mathis, harness making and repairing; a cotton mill established in 1847; and the Elkin Roller Mills, which supply Elkin and the surrounding country with Diamond Dust flour and other grain products.

Elkin has the distinction of being the largest country produce market in North Carolina, with chickens and eggs as the principal products. The Elkin and Alleghany Produce Co. and the Cash Produce Co. buy and ship to northern markets more than 10,000 coops of chickens, and 8,000 cases, almost three million eggs, annually, making a daily average of about 35 coops of chickens and more than 10,000 eggs. During the season of six months between April 1 and Oct. 1, these firms ship 4,000 coops of spring chickens, each coop averaging 45 pounds and containing 40 chickens. For two months in the spring, 2,500 coops of hens, each coop weighing about 60 pounds, are bought and shipped.

For these poultry products, which are raised at practically no expense, as there is very little scientific poultry raising in this section, the farmers for a radius of ten or fifteen miles around receive almost \$150,000 annually. The chicken and egg business in Elkin has increased about 100 per cent within the past five years. In addition to the poultry products, these companies buy and ship about 750,000 pounds of fruit and 4,000 bushels of peach seed, annually, while the business in bees wax, roots and herbs, furs, green and dry hides and other country products is of no inconsiderable amount.

Two of the biggest wholesale grocery stores in North Carolina, the Atkinson Co. and Helcomb Bros. Co., are located in Elkin and in adjoining buildings. The two stores have a combined floor space of 22,000 square feet and have a volume of business amounting to about \$300,000 annually. They carry a full line of groceries and do a large business in a side line of notions, covering rather thoroughly the counties of Alleghany, Ashe, Iredell, Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin with the goods handled through their stores. These two houses jointly own and conduct the Elkin & Alleghany Produce Co., the business of this company amounting to \$150,000 a year. To provide a home market for

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ELKIN INTERNALLY

Elkin is one of the most desirable places in North Carolina in which to live. Any man, woman or child, who enters the town and shows any inclination to join in the progress and spirit of the citizens, receives a hearty and encouraging welcome.

Elkin is located in the southwestern corner of Surry county within half a mile of the Yadkin and Wilkes county lines. The Yadkin river bounds the southern side of the town, while the Elkin creek runs through it. The elevation is 950 feet above sea level.

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MR. C. G. ARMFIELD
MAYOR OF ELKIN

ELKIN EXTERNALLY

Elkin is surrounded by one of the finest sections of country in the State. The fertile bottom lands along the Yadkin river and Elkin creek are admirably adapted to the growth of corn, while the uplands are very fertile, producing tobacco, corn, wheat, buckwheat, oats, rye, potatoes and other semi-tropical grains and vegetables in great abundance.

The three counties of Surry, Yadkin and Wilkes contain more than three-quarters of a million acres of land, half of which is

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HISTORICALLY

Town of Elkin Was Incorporated 1889—Her History is the History of Sound and Steady Growth

The country surrounding Elkin has gone through practically the same experience that has fallen to the lot of almost every section of the country since the first settlers landed on the coast. Peace and quietness reigned except for the murmur of the Yadkin river and the shouts of the peaceful Indians in pursuit of their game. This section was inhabited by Iroquois Indians at an early date and they have left their traces in the form of stone arrowheads, hatchets, pestles and mortises. They gave the name to the Yadkin river, which in their language means rest.

The name "Elkin" was first applied to the creek which flows through the town into the Yadkin. Tradition tells us that years ago elk wandered down from the mountains and, when chased by hunters, would take to the creek and thus the trail would be lost. The disappointed comment would be "elk-in". Whether these hunters were Indians or white settlers is a matter of speculation. Another version of the tradition is that a hunter shot an elk, which fell into the creek. The hunter's joyous shout was "elk-in". Whether the despondent remark or the victorious shout has come down to us does not differ. It is sufficient to say that the voice still echoes and re-echoes with ever increasing force down the grooves of time, and—the end is not yet.

The earliest authentic record to be found on this section is a grant to a Mr. Shores of 10,000 acres of land on the north side of the Yadkin river, and including the mouth of the creek (Elkin), the only consideration being that he establish an iron forge. Traces of this forge, the depression for the furnace, the rough brick used in the furnace, and lumps of slag, may still be seen on the west edge of the cotton mill pond, a few yards above the dam, although a part of it is covered by the ponded water. He secured this grant about the middle of the eighteenth century and lived here and worked his forge for about twenty years. Resenting the crowding by a settlement in the Brick House neighborhood, eight miles from here in Yadkin county, he, like Daniel Boone, who has also roved these valleys, looked for more elbowroom in the Cady Creek neighborhood.

The next record is of a grant of 360 acres of land on top of the Brushy Mountain, four miles south of Elkin, to Wm. Sparks, Jr. The grant was made by Governor Martin on the 24th day of October, 1782. Evidently there was some trouble later over the title of this land, for on Jan. 17, 1862, Rufus H. Page, then Secretary of State, made a copy of the grant and certified that it was on file in his office. This certificate with a copy of the grant, is among the old papers of Mr. T. L. Gwyn.

The second settler on this side of the Yadkin, so far as can be ascertained, was Matt. Hughes, who came into possession of the land between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Yadkin river. Hughes was followed by a man

named Hanes. He, like Shores, had a forge in this neighborhood. He put in several dams across the Elkin creek, but had great trouble in getting one to withstand the floods. He made a final supreme effort in building a dam and defied all powers to move it. In less than twenty-four hours this dam also had been carried away. Traces may be seen of his mortises and iron spikes in the rocks of the creek above the cotton mill pond.

These men lived here between the years of 1750 and 1820, at a time when two families within three miles of each other were near neighbors and while Surry county contained all of what is now Alleghany, Iredell, Stokes, Yadkin, and Wilkes counties. The county seat was then located about twelve miles west of Winston-Salem, near Bethania.

Mr. Rich Gwyn, known as "Old Man-Dickie" Gwyn, moved from Wilkes county to Jonesville about the year 1817. He lived in a house where Thompson's store is now located and sold goods in the building just across the street. He was postmaster at Jonesville in 1829 and several years before and after. While there he bought 400 acres of land, including the present I. L. Shungart farm, paying for it "a rifle gun and an old blind gray horse." He also purchased several hundred acres west of Elkin from Hanes and about 600 acres from Dr. Richard Parks. The land between the present Greenwood line and Gwyn's avenue, he bought from Joel Kirby, who at that time lived between Gwyn's avenue and Mr. Rich Chatham's place. Mr. Gwyn lived at Jonesville for about twenty-two years. All of his children, except Mr. T. L. Gwyn, were born there. Mr. Gwyn moved to Elkin about 1840 and built a house on the Parks place, where Senator Franklin's house now stands. He left his store in Jonesville to his sons, James and Richard Gwyn, but James died in 1849 and Richard then moved to Elkin. Mr. T. L. Gwyn was born in 1842 and it appears that Mr. Rich Gwyn retired from active business duties a few years later, leaving his work to his sons, but keeping a general supervision.

Rev. James Minish, the first Methodist minister in this section, and his wife, known as "Granny Polly", with their five children, moved to Elkin in 1845 and occupied a house standing near the C. H. Billings house. At that time Elkin consisted of a blacksmith shop, a grist mill, a sash saw mill, a small house just above where the cotton mill tank now stands and, on the opposite side of the creek, lived Mr. Gwyn with his family and slaves.

Messrs. Richard Gwyn, James Gwyn, R. H. Gwyn, Little Hickeron and Columbus Franklin organized the Elkin Manufacturing Co. in 1847 and built the old cotton mill as it stands today on the east side of the creek. Wm. Gordon of Dobson superintending the construction of the building. Mr.

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ELKIN OFFICERS WHO ARE HUSTLERS.

Standing: (left to right) G. T. Roth, J. S. Atkinson, E. G. Click, C. N. Bodenheimer, Commissioners. Sitting: (left to right) J. F. Hendren, Clerk and Treasurer; C. G. Armfield, Mayor; W. W. Harris, Constable.

THE PEOPLE OF ELKIN DO THINGS

Elkin Found That She Needed a Better School Building. The plans have been drawn, the contract let and the foundation started for a modern \$25,000 brick school building. An election was held on March 20, 1914, to vote bonds for this building.

Not a Single Vote Was Cast Against These Bonds

Elkin Found That She Needed Water Works. The water mains have been laid, the standpipe erected and the filter plant is being installed. An election was held on Jan. 10, 1914, to vote \$33,000 in bonds for water works.

Not a Single Vote Was Cast Against These Bonds

Elkin Found That She Needed a Sewerage System. Sewer pipes are already laid practically all over the town. An election was held on Jan. 10, 1914, to vote on \$7,000 in bonds for sewerage purposes.

Not a Single Vote Was Cast Against These Bonds

Elkin Found That She Needed a Better Lighting Plant. The citizens of the town, formed the Carter Falls Power Co., and, in connection with the town, will construct a dam and install a 150 horse-power dynamo to furnish light and power.

Elkin Found That She Needed Larger Hotel Facilities. By Jan. 1, a \$20,000 brick hotel containing thirty-four rooms and all modern conveniences will be opened.

Elkin Found That She Needed a Home Market for Tobacco. Two large and commodious tobacco warehouses will open this fall with the tobacco season.

BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF ELKIN
"A City Set on a Hill Cannot be Hid"

