



COL. C. B. ARMSTRONG

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It is always a pleasure to chronicle the rise of a man from the lowest rung of the ladder to a place far up, especially when the subject is a typical American, who has won his way unaided by influential relatives and friends. The story is an inspiration to the youth of the country, and cannot too often be told. Among the citizens of Gastonia who have always taken an active part in its growth and progress, and have an abiding faith in its future prosperity and greatness, is the Hon.

C. B. Armstrong, former mayor of the city and one of its most solid and substantial business men. The career of Mr. Armstrong is one of the best illustrations of the possibilities that this section offers to the aspiring young man in every walk of life who is industrious, honest, and has a determination to succeed. He has always been an optimist, has always looked on the bright side of things, and a firm believer in the old adage that every road, no matter how long, must turn some times. Born on a farm in the Southern part of the township, Sept. 6, 1861, he

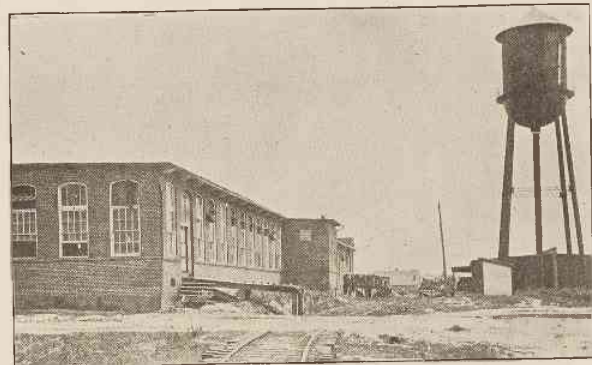
engaged in agricultural pursuits until he reached the age of 23, when he went to Florida, where he remained 3 years. The call of his old home was insistent, however, and in 1887 he returned to Gaston county and settled at Lowell, afterwards removing to Mount Holly, where he was in the general mercantile business until 1890. He then decided to go west, where he remained about two years, traveling from place to place. With a mind broadened by travel, and experiences in various sections of the country, he came to Gastonia in 1892 and embarked in the furniture business, which he conducted successfully until 1900, when he sold out, retaining, however, the undertaking business, under the name of the Armstrong Company, which has since been merged in "The Ford Undertaking Company." He is still interested in the furniture business, being president of the Rankin-Armstrong Company, 129 west Main street. Col. Armstrong has always been interested in the public affairs of his native county, and has taken an active interest in local politics, as all good citizens should. He was sheriff of Gaston for three consecutive terms, dating from 1900, and in May 1906, upon his expiration of his last term as sheriff, was elected mayor of Gastonia. He gave the city a splendid administration, applying business methods to the conduct of municipal affairs and never sparing his time and energy in promoting its upbuilding in every possible manner. He has taken a most active part in the development of the great cotton manufacturing industry which is the backbone of the city's prosperity, and is now president and treasurer of the Clara and Dunn Manufacturing Co.'s and the Monarch Cotton Mills Co., three of the most prosperous mills in this section. He is also a director in other mills. Is interested in a number of other important enterprises, among them being the Gastonia Insurance & Realty Company, and the recently organized Home Building & Loan Association, of which he is president. As we are about to go to press we learn that Col. Armstrong has just established The Armstrong Cotton Mills Co.

## The Clara Manufacturing Company

COL. C. B. ARMSTRONG, President  
W. T. RANKIN, Vice Pres.

A. K. WINGET, Secy. & Treas.  
C. M. DUNN, Supt.

There is not a mill in the country, whether it is located in the great cotton manufacturing section of the south or in the older mill towns of the north that is better equipped and managed than is the Clara, located in the suburbs of Gastonia. Of course there are many much larger and have a great deal more capital, but the Clara comes as near being a model cotton mill as any the writer has ever visited. Located on a commanding eminence, without any buildings nearby, the light and ventilation is all that could be desired, while the equipment is the most complete that ample capital and long experience could assemble. The product is fine yarns only, carded and combed, in skeins, cones and tubes, principally from better cotton. There are 6,364 spindles and about 125 operators and other employees are on the pay rolls of the company, which was established in 1906, with a capital stock of \$100,000.00. The building is of brick, one story in height, and has a frontage of 75 feet extending back a distance of 300 feet, and having a floor space of 21,000 square feet. The residences of the employees near the mill are unusually comfortable and attractive, and the relations between them and their employers is now and always have been of the most amicable character. The officers are: Col. C. B. Armstrong, president and treasurer; W. T. Rankin, vice-president; A. K. Winget, secretary; Charles M. Dunn, superintendent. Col. Armstrong is one of the most substantial business men in the city and is connected with



PLANT OF THE CLARA MANUFACTURING COMPANY

a number of its most important enterprises, taking at the same time an active part in everything that concerns the interests of this section. He is an officer of the Gastonia Insurance & Realty Company, the Home Building & Loan Association, the Dunn Manufacturing Company, the Rankin-Armstrong Furniture Co., and a director in other corporations. Col. Armstrong is a native of Gaston county, of which he was for three terms sheriff, and has also been mayor of the city. Before becoming president of the Clara Manufacturing Company he was its secretary and treasurer. Mr. W. T. Rankin, the vice-president, is a native of Belmont and has been connected with the cotton manufacturing industry in this section for a long time. Mr. Rankin is president of the Gastonia Insurance & Realty Company, one of the most important concerns in this section of

North Carolina and is also connected with other large enterprises. Mr. Dunn is a veteran cotton manufacturer and knows every detail of the business, having been engaged in it for years. He is also superintendent of the Dunn Manufacturing Company. Mr. A. K. Winget, secretary, also holds the same position with Dunn Manufacturing Company, and of the Monarch Cotton Mills Company. Came to Gastonia in 1900. Prior to that he clerked for the firm of Yount, Sons & Company, of Pineville, N. C., where he went to work at the age of 12. After being in their employ two years, he went with Rodman, Heath & Minens, of the same town, as bookkeeper and salesman, and three years later came to Gastonia, and has worked himself up to his present position in the above named mills, in which he is a stockholder.

## THE DUNN MANUFACTURING COMPANY

COL. C. B. ARMSTRONG, President  
W. T. RANKIN, Vice Pres.

A. K. WINGET, Secy. & Treas.  
C. M. DUNN, Supt.

*An Industry of which Gastonia may feel justly Proud*



PLANT OF THE DUNN MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Equipped with the latest improved machinery, well lighted and ventilated, and of the most modern construction, the mills of the Dunn Manufacturing Company at Fifth avenue and the tracks of the C. & N. W. railroad, are not surpassed by those of any other concern in the cotton manufacturing belt in completeness. These are among the most recently erected mills in this section, having been erected in 1907, and are engaged solely in the manufacture of yarns in skeins, cones, tubes, combed and carded. Fronting 75 feet they extend back a

distance of 300, providing a floor space of 21,000 square feet. There are 6,364 spindles, and the company has in its employ 125 operators, and other employees who live nearby in neat houses, many of them surrounded by attractive garden spots. The mills of this company are an almost exact duplicate of those of the Clara Manufacturing Company, which are within a stone's throw. The officers are: Col. C. B. Armstrong, president and treasurer; W. T. Rankin, vice-president; A. K. Winget, secretary; C. M. Dunn, superintendent; Col. Arm-

strong is too well known to need any introduction to the people of this city who have watched his rise from a poor farmer's boy to the position of one of the leading men of this section by his own industry and ability. Col. Armstrong is a native of this county and besides being interested in the Clara Manufacturing Company, of which he is president, the Gastonia Insurance & Realty Company, the Rankin-Armstrong Furniture Company, and half a dozen or more enterprises, he has served as mayor of Gastonia and sheriff of the county. Mr. Rankin, the

vice-president, is president of the Gastonia Insurance & Realty Company, a corporation that has done much for the up-building of the city, and is also connected with several other important concerns, among them the Clara Manufacturing Company, of which he is vice-president. Mr. Dunn, the superintendent, is also superintendent of the Clara Mills, and is one of the most experienced cotton manufacturers in the country. Mr. A. K. Winget is the worthy secretary, a sketch of whom will be found in the write-up of the Clara Manufacturing Company.

## The Rankin-Armstrong Furniture Company

*One of Gastonia's Leading Enterprises  
whose March is Onward*



There is no line of business in which a greater advance has been made during the last decade or two than in that of the housefurnishing goods trade, and today on account of the many improvements in the methods of manufacture the man of very moderate income can furnish his home in a manner that would have been impossible to any but the wealthy a quarter of a century ago. Located here in Gastonia is one of the leading dealers in North Carolina, the Rankin-Armstrong Furniture Company, whose place of business on Main street is one of the most attractive and popular in the city. The commodious store is stocked with a magnificent assortment of household furnishings of every grade and price, and the richest as well as the poorest homemaker have long since appreciat-

ed the fact that they will get nothing but the fairest treatment at the hands of the members of the concern. The first impression the visitor receives upon entering the establishment of the Rankin-Armstrong Furniture Company is the freshness of the stock displayed as well as the immense variety of goods from which selections can be made as well as the reasonable prices of everything. There is never any shop worn goods to be found at this store. It is the policy of the firm to keep things constantly on the move, and everything that is latest in furniture can always be found in its spacious and attractive warerooms. The building is three stories in height and has a floor space of over 8,000 square feet in which to display the great and varied stock of furniture, floor coverings,

home and office furnishings, stoves and kitchen utensils, go-carts, and the numerous other articles necessary in the making of a comfortable and artistic home. Every purse can be suited here, the largest or the smallest, and the most satisfactory terms can be made for a large installment as well as cash business is conducted. The Rankin-Armstrong Furniture Company was formed about 18 months ago by the union of the Armstrong Furniture Company and the Rankin Furniture Company, two of the leading concerns of the city. The officers are: E. J. Rankin, president and treasurer; C. B. Armstrong, vice-president; and R. A. Froneberger, secretary. Mr. Rankin started his concern about five years ago and it proved to be an immediate success. Mr. Arm-

strong had been in business for years and is the oldest furniture dealer in this section. Mr. Froneberger, the secretary, has also had an extensive and valuable experience in the business. Mr. Rankin is a native of the county but has lived in town for the past 17 years. Mr. Armstrong is also a county man and although having extensive business connections, has found time to take an active part in public affairs, having filled the offices of both mayor and sheriff with honor to himself and the satisfaction of his fellow citizens. He is largely interested in cotton manufacturing, and is connected with the Clara and Dunn Mills and also the Monarch Mills at Dallas.



FURNITURE HOUSE OF THE RANKIN-ARMSTRONG COMPANY