

in all walks of life is interested in it, to a greater or lesser extent, but the men who keep their fingers on the pulse of the market with a more certain and intelligent touch than any other class are the cotton brokers who sell the mills their raw material. Among the leading brokers having offices here is the firm of W. L. Balthis & Co., whose offices are located at 231 west Main street. The firm is one of the most extensive buyers and sellers in the market, and has among its patrons most of the leading mills in Gastonia and this section of the big cotton belt. Its facilities for handling the great staple are unsurpassed, and these are backed up by long experience and years of study of the market. A specialty is made by this firm of handling Mississippi bender, extra staples, sea islands and Egyptians. The firm of W. L. Balthis & Company began business in Gastonia in 1905, and has had a most successful career during the seven years of its existence. It is composed of W. L. & L. H. Balthis, two young men and brothers, who are natives of Staunton, Va. They have thoroughly identified themselves with the business and social life of the city, and are progressive and public spirited, being always ready and willing to lend a helping hand to any cause that is for the welfare of Gastonia.

the work done or the accommodations furnished. In these respects comparison with much more expensive institutions is challenged. While cheap enough for the poorest it is good enough for any. All Healing Springs has peculiar and most desirable advantages as a site for a college. The quiet and seclusion afforded and the absence of the distracting influence of town or village, so fatal to all habits of study, the beautiful history all render this a delightful place for study and mental improvement. It is in the famous Piedmont region universally conceded to be one of the healthiest regions in this world, being entirely free from the malaria of the coast and the cold fogs of the higher altitudes. The health record of the school is most remarkable, there never having been in its entire history, a death, or even a dangerous case of illness among the pupils. The medicinal and restorative value of the water of All Healing Springs is attested by some of the leading physicians of the country. It is the aim of those in charge of Linwood Female College to educate young women in the truest sense; and in accomplishing this result the faculty are very much favored by the size of the school. It is not so large as is frequently the case to make it impossible for pupils to know their teachers personally and intimately, and thus the

Latin and French; Miss Janet Alexander, Mathematics; Miss Eunice Helmes, English and Science; Miss Bertha M. Massey, Art and History; Miss Annie Kirk Rowan, Piano; Miss Helen Galloway, Voice and Expression; Miss Sallie Holland, Head Matron. All communications should be addressed to the President, Gastonia, N. C.

JOHN C. RANKIN.

A Leader in the Cotton World and Public Spirited Gentleman.

Among the men of Gaston county few stand higher for personal integrity, sound common sense and untiring progressiveness than John C. Rankin, a gentleman whose name is well and favorably known throughout all this section of North Carolina. He has led a busy life, and is held in the highest respect by all who have the honor of his acquaintance. The reason for this is not far to seek, and illustrates better than anything else what a modest and unassuming man, square and true, imbued with the determination to succeed, and knows no such word as fail, can accomplish in a country like ours. Mr. Rankin is a native of Gaston county, and a member of the prominent family here by that name. He has always been look-

ing always had the greatest confidence in its future. During his career he has seen many changes here, has seen it grow from a slumbering section, with hardly anything but memories of the past, into a live and hustling county with scores of great industries, in many of which he was the prime mover, and at the present time is the head of many of them, and so it can be said without fear of contradiction that no man has done his part better than he has in this great work. Among other things Mr. Rankin is the president and superintendent of the Spencer Mountain Cotton Mills, at which pretty little town he makes his home, he is also president and superintendent of the Lowell Cotton Mills, which were incorporated in 1900 with a paid in capital stock of \$100,000. The equipment of this plant consists of 9,200 spindles and both steam and electricity is the power used. The product is cotton yarns in skeins, warps, cokes and tubes. The works were such a signal success that a second structure known as No. 2 was erected in 1908, and this is one of the model mills of the country, being equipped with the latest improved machinery. There are 12,280 spindles, and the two mills combined have a floor space of 160,000 square feet. About 550 people are employed, who live for the most part in the little village surrounding the mills, and they appear to be a contented and happy lot. Mr. Rankin is also president and superintendent of the Peerless Manufacturing Co. (Mill No. 3), of Lowell, where cotton yarns are made. It was established in 1906, and is located a short distance to the east of Mill No. 1, and has 6,000 spindles. Mr. Rankin is also president and superintendent of the Dorothy Manufacturing Company, of Dallas, and of the McCombs City Mills. So it will be seen by this that he must be a very busy man far out of the ordinary and, one that we may well term our foremost and most beloved citizen.

THE GASTON PROGRESS.

Probably in no other field of human endeavor has a greater advance been made during the last few decades than that occupied by the country press; that is, in papers printed in towns of the size of Gastonia, and in those much smaller. This is true both in an editorial sense and typographically.

ago and the difference is nothing more or less than amazing. But for that matter it is typographically one of the best made up and cleanest papers in the



ODUS L. MOORE, Editor.

country. Modesty would prevent any but a passing reference to its enterprise in printing "all the news that's fit to print," and to its editorial course regarding local as well as State and National questions. It is an independent Democratic newspaper, a believer in true Jeffersonian Democratic principles, and that they are bound to be victorious in the end. The history of The Progress does not take long to record, for its life began in the Fall of 1911, when the Progress Publishing Company was incorporated, with some of the best known bankers, lawyers and business men as its directors. Since its organization the Progress has continued to grow in circulation and influence. It has gained the confidence and support of a loyal constituency of subscribers and advertisers and retains them. This is because it has always stood for high ideals and not mere commercialism like some journals, who sell not only their advertising columns, which are of course for sale, but their news and editorial columns as well. There can be no doubt of the fact that today the clean, incorruptible, well-edited newspaper is a factor for good that it would be almost impossible to overestimate. It is to this class of newspapers that The Progress has conscientiously endeavored to belong, and no effort on the part of the publisher and his staff has been lacking to keep it in the very front rank of

country newspapers. Mr. C. A. Eury the president and general manager of The Progress Publishing Company, is a native of Cabarrus county, N. C., where he was born Oct. 18, 1880. After securing a good education he was employed by W. F. Marshall on the Gazette of this city in 1905, a sketch of which newspaper will be found on another page of this issue. From the Gazette he went to the Charlotte Observer, and from there to the King's Mountain Herald, which he edited and published for several years. At the present time among other things he is the general manager of the Carolina Union Farmer, a bright paper published at Raleigh. Mr. Odus L. Moore, the secretary and treasurer of the company, is a native of Cleveland county, this State, and received the major portion of his education at the Bolling Springs High School, and at



W. DARIUS BEAM, Superintendent of Press Room.

Wake Forest College. Mr. Moore taught school for two years and began his newspaper career in the summer of 1910 at Shelby, N. C., and on the 11th day of March, 1912, became the editor of the Progress. Mr. W. Darius Beam, the superintendent of the press and composing departments, was formerly connected with the Gazette. Notwithstanding that he is quite a young man he has been a printer for 8 years, and is regarded as one of Gastonia's bright and promising citizens.



NEW DORMITORY OF THE LINWOOD FEMALE COLLEGE.

LINWOOD FEMALE COLLEGE.

Excluding its Bible Schools—which are among the best to be found anywhere, Gaston county has but one institute of learning that ranks above them. This is Linwood Female College, located about 6 miles from the city, but what it lacks in number is amply made up for in quality. Linwood College is located at All Healing Springs, and its organization was perfected 29 years ago. Under its present management, however, new life has been infused in the old institution which is the alma mater of so many of the most cultured women of the two Carolinas. Rev. A. T. Lindsay, the president, has been at the head of the faculty for a dozen years, and under his able direction the college is enjoying the most prosperous years in its history. Linwood College is not, as some suppose, a preparatory or high school. It is a college indeed as well as in name, and the advantages offered at a most reasonable cost, will compare most favorably with any of the institutions of the South. It should be distinctly understood that though cheapness is one of its peculiarities, this does not consist in the quality of

ideal of a thorough home school is fully realized, every pupil being a member of the family. The constant contact and intercourse of pupils with educated and refined teachers is often of much more value to them than what they derive from books. The members of the faculty are: Rev. A. T. Lindsay, president, Bible and Psychology; Miss Bessie May Davis, Lady Principal,

and high. and upon as a leader, by reason of the unselfish interest he has taken in the progress of this locality. His success in business, the aid he has always been ready to extend to others less fortunate, and the many attributes that go towards making up the best type of the American citizen. Mr. Rankin has taken the most intense interest in the life of Gaston county, and



A. G. MYERS, One of Gastonia's Most Progressive Men.



C. A. EURY, Editor and Publisher of the Progress.

As regards the latter the advance has, perhaps, been greater than in the former on account of the vast improvements that have been made in printing machinery. Take this issue of The Progress for instance and compare it with a paper issued a decade



HOME OF THE GASTON PROGRESS.

PIEDMONT TRACTION COMPANY

BETWEEN GASTONIA AND CHARLOTTE

A Long Felt Want That is Receiving a Most Liberal Patronage.

No enterprise is doing more toward the development of the resources of this vicinity than the Piedmont Traction Company whose cars ply hourly from 7:00 a. m. until 10:55 p. m., between Gastonia and Charlotte, a distance of 23 1/2 miles. It is one of our greatest blessings, and all who reside, or have enterprises along its line, are greatly benefited. The policy of the company is one of co-operation with patrons, and is most liberal. The rates are low, the schedule fixed to suit the convenience of the majority of the people, the equipment is the most modern, and the officials earnestly endeavor to remedy any faults in the service that may have escaped their notice, and are brought to their attention. As a result of this policy a very satisfactory service is furnished the public, and it has responded

with a liberal patronage and loyal support. This spirit of mutual assistance is observable in all branches of the service, and a more courteous and obliging corps of conductors and motormen cannot be found on any road in the country. The Piedmont Traction Company is a part of the Piedmont & Northern lines, the great electric system of the South, comprising the Greenville, Spartanburg & Anderson Railway Company, Greenville Traction Company, and the Charlotte Electric Railway Company. The officials are: J. B. Duke, president; W. S. Lee, vice-president; E. Thomson, treasurer and general manager; N. A. Cocke, secretary Piedmont Traction Company; T. F. Hill, secretary G. S. & A. Ry. Company; T. L. Black, auditor; C. V. Palmer, general freight and passenger agent; W. C. Murphy, superintendent;

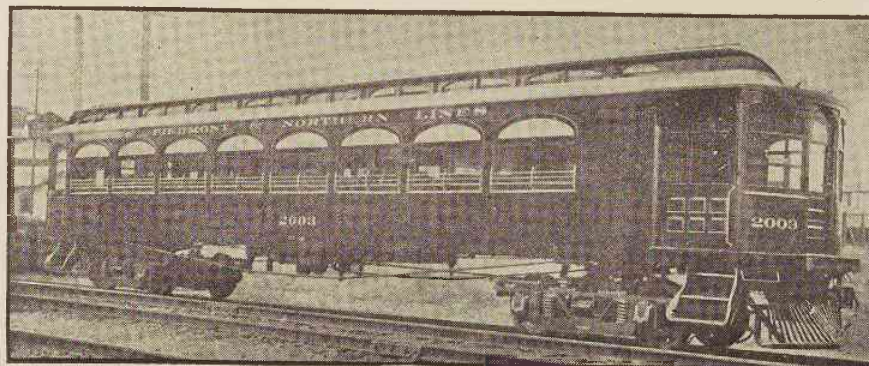
O. J. Copeland, land and industrial agent; W. R. Cornell, purchasing agent. Trains arrive in and depart from Gastonia at the fine new station on Airline avenue, as follows:

Leave Gastonia	Arrive Gastonia
No. 2—7:00 a.m.	No. 1—7:53 a.m.
4—8:15 a.m.	3—9:15 a.m.
6—9:30 a.m.	5—10:15 a.m.
8—10:25 a.m.	7—11:25 a.m.
10—11:50 a.m.	9—12:50 a.m.
12—1:30 p.m.	11—2:30 p.m.
16—3:20 p.m.	15—4:20 p.m.
18—4:40 p.m.	17—5:33 p.m.
20—5:35 p.m.	19—6:28 p.m.
22—6:30 p.m.	21—7:40 p.m.
24—7:50 p.m.	23—8:45 p.m.
26—9:10 p.m.	25—10:10 p.m.
28—10:55 p.m.	27—11:55 p.m.

Connection is made at Mount Holly, N. C., with Seaboard Air Line to the East and West, at Gastonia, N. C., with Southern Railway and Carolina and North-Western Railway. The officials

one and all are public spirited and ever progressive, and to them is due the thanks of the people of this section for the adequate transportation facilities which is so necessary to the

growth and prosperity of every community. Patronize the Piedmont Traction line.



ONE OF THE SPLENDID NEW CARS OF THE PIEDMONT TRACTION COMPANY.