

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB.

There is no one thing that will do more toward advancing the commercial, industrial, social, and as a matter of fact, every interest of a town, as a well supported and progressive association or club of public spirited citizens, bent upon making the com-



E. N. PEGRAM, Secretary.

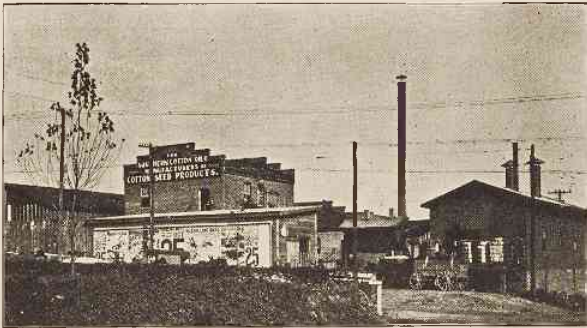
munity in which they live a bigger and a better place in all that the words imply. By the well directed and united efforts of its members such an association can work wonders as has been amply proven in the case of scores of towns that for years slumbered, and are now on the high tide of progress. It was with the object of spreading information about the advantages of the city as a manufacturing and industrial center that the Gastonia Commercial Club was formed at a meeting held in the city hall on the night of February 11, 1905, at which Capt. George F. Bacon presided, and Joseph H. Separk acted as secretary. A week later the committee appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws consisting of A. G. Mangum, a well known attorney, and J. H. Separk, a leading cotton manufacturer, submitted its report which was adopted, and on March 4th, 1905, the Gastonia Commercial Club became an accomplished fact. The first officers elected were A. G. Mangum, president; Joseph H. Separk, first vice-president; W. W. Glenn, secretary-treasurer; and G. W. Wilson,

Rooms were secured on the second floor of the First National Bank building and within six weeks after it was organized the club had handsomely furnished home and a membership which included nearly every public spirited and progressive business and professional man in the city. There is a reading room where the current newspapers and magazines are to be found, a reception hall and commercial room fitted up with well kept pool and billiard tables, checker tables, baths, and a gymnasium is talked about. The social feature has always been a leading characteristic of the club and the rooms are the meeting place of the leading men of this entire section. The present officers are: Messrs. L. L. Hardin, president; D. M. Jones, first vice-president; D. A. Garrison, second vice-president; and E. N. Pegram, secretary and treasurer. The board of managers are: Messrs. M. F. Kirby, Jr., C. I. Loftin, O. F. Mason, L. W. Patrick, George B. Corker, Joseph W. Timberlake, A. G. Myers, J. Lee Robinson, E. G. McLurd and W. T. Rankin, most of whom have been members of the club since its incorporation.

THE SOUTHERN COTTON OIL COMPANY.

Manufacturers Cotton Seed Products and High Grade Fertilizers.

There is absolutely no waste in the cotton plant under modern methods of handling it, and the by-products after the cotton is ginned, are all utilized, and amount in value to millions of dollars every season. There are two gins located here in Gastonia, and a plant for the manufacture of cotton seed oil, cattle feed, and high grade fertilizers, all of them the property of the Southern Cotton Oil Company. Gin No. 1 is near the Loray Mills, and No. 2, including the manufacturing plant on east Main street, at its intersection with the Southern railroad company's tracks. This plant is equipped with the latest improved machinery for extracting the oil which is conveyed to a 25,000 gallon steel tank in the yards of the company, while the residum is ground into fine meal which is, after being mixed with cotton seed oil, been demonstrated to form one of the finest feed for cattle ever placed on the market. It is also used extensively as a fertilizer for corn and cotton as well as in the gar-



PLANT OF THE COTTON OIL COMPANY

den. The local plants which have a capacity of ginning 80 bales of cotton a day, are in charge of Mr. J. F. Bess, as local manager. He has been with the company a number of years, the last three of which have been spent here in Gastonia. Mr. Bess is a native of Cherryville and has made a host of friends since making this city his home.

Wholesale and Retail Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, Hats, Millinery, Notions.

One of the first impressions a customer receives upon entering the Belk Company Department Store is the



BIG STORES OF THE J. M. BELK COMPANY

atmosphere of freshness that pervades the place. Everything seems to be new and seasonable. And the impression is borne out by the facts, for the place could be searched from one end to another and not a piece of old, out-of-date or shop worn goods could be found upon the counters and shelves. Although the store has all the prestige that only years of fair dealing can bring, it is also modern in every detail. The J. M. Belk Company is not of those merchants who carry goods over from season to season, until they are disposed of one way or another. By the end of each season they sell everything, no matter what the sacrifice may be, and with the new season they begin all over with a fresh stock. This is the place where the whole family can be outfitted from grandpa to the latest baby. There is nothing in the line of dry goods for men, women, misses and children, millinery, dress goods, notions, silks, sheetings, ladies petticoats, children's wash suits, muslin underwear, embroideries, toilet articles, and the thousand and one things usually found in a high class store of the kind, that cannot be bought at Belk's. There is not the slightest necessity for the people of Gastonia and this

section to spend their time and care in going to Charlotte, when they can get the same goods at often less prices at this up-to-date store. The discriminating people of this town have long since realized this fact, and every thinking shopper would do well to do so. Belk's millinery department is the most completely equipped in this section. The display of ladies, misses and children's hats is a delight to all lovers of beautiful things, and the prices are made to give every one the chance to get a really good hat. The store here was established eleven years ago, and is one of a chain of splendid establishments whose headquarters is in Charlotte. Their other nine stores are: Belk Brothers, Charlotte, N. C.; W. H. Belk & Bro., Monroe, N. C.; Jno. R. Simpson & Co., Monroe, N. C.; R. J. Belk Co., Wax-

stands higher in the opinion of his superior officers than does he. Coming in contact as he does at some time or another with nearly every one in the city, Mr. Nolan has naturally a host of friends and acquaintances. Always courteous and obliging he has made himself liked by all classes of people. Mr. Nolan is of true Scotch-Irish extraction, and is the son of Rev.



C. M. NOLAN

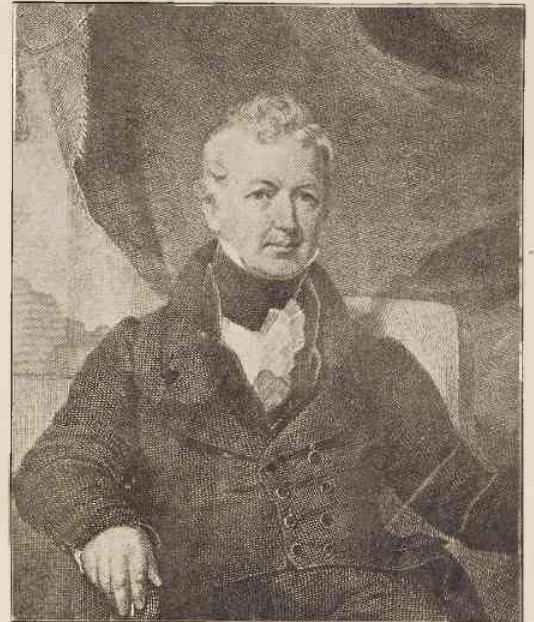
L. M. Nolan, a retired Methodist minister who has reached the age of 82 years. When he went into the employ of the Express company he was stationed at Lowell, where he spent 4 years, 6 years at Kings Mountain, and was then transferred to Gastonia where he has remained continuously for the past 20 years. He takes great interest in fraternal orders and lodges and is a Mason, Past Grand Odd Fellow, and a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Jr. O. U. A. M., and the Heptasophs. Mr. Nolan is assisted in the office by his daughter, Miss Myrtle Nolan, a bright young lady who knows the business thoroughly. Mr. Nolan was joint agent of the Southern railway at both Lowell and King's Mountain, and also at Gastonia up till 1908. He is full of real public spirit and a progressive citizen who is always ready and willing to lend a helping hand to any cause that is for the welfare of Gastonia, his home and the little city in which he has cast his fortune.

GASTON IRON WORKS.

No enterprise is more necessary in a progressive manufacturing city like

Gastonia than a well equipped general machine works and foundry, conducted by expert and experienced mechanics, who thoroughly understand their business in its every detail. This fact was realized many years ago by the founder of the Gaston Iron Works, a Mr. Moffit, of Charlotte, who came here about a quarter of a century ago and started business on a modest scale on Airline avenue, a few hundred yards from the site of the present complete and up-to-date establishment which is one of the most useful institutions of the city. During its existence the works have passed through several hands until in the course of events it fell into those of Mr. B. Frank Norris, the present enterprising, progressive proprietor and general manager, under whose experienced administration it has been more successful than at any time during its long history. Many improvements have been made and the plant is now one of the best equipped in this section of the country, and is turning out the highest class of work. A specialty is made of engine and boiler work and all kinds of aluminum, bronze, brass and iron castings, the facilities for making this kind of work being unsurpassed. New machinery is also designed and built to order at short notice at reasonable prices. The establishment also turns out pipe and fittings, injectors, jet pumps, lubricators, cups, packings, hangers, nuts, bolts, shaftings, couplings, babbitt, steam and water gauges, furnishes mill supplies, does heavy blacksmith work and, in fact, does all kinds of work of this character. Supplied with the most improved machinery and employing a corps of about 25 skilled and experienced mechanics, many of whom have been with the concern for many years. Mr. Norris is in a position to contract for any kind of work that the skilled machinist is capable of doing, including automobile and motorcycle repairing, a branch of work for which he has one of the best equipped departments in this section. The machine shop is located at 232-236 Airline avenue, fronting on that thoroughfare a distance of 40 feet and extending back 80 feet. In the rear is the foundry, 40x70, both shops being equipped with all that is latest in improved machinery. Mr. Norris is a thoroughly practical man, and was at one time the foreman of the plant of which he is now the proprietor. Mr. Norris is a native of Mecklenburg county, but has lived here for many years.

Write Mr. Pegram, Secretary of the Commercial Club, for full information regarding Gastonia.



WILLIAM GASTON, after whom the county was named.

LAURENCE G. JONES.

Cotton Broker.

Located in the center of one of the largest cotton manufacturing centers



L. G. JONES

WINGET Secy & Treas.

in the country, and one that is destined to be much greater, Gastonia is naturally the home of a number of cotton brokers who sell to the surrounding mills. They are among the most intelligent and wide-awake members of the community, and as a class have always been among the first to put their shoulder to the wheel and give the town a boost. Among the leading brokers of the city is Mr. L. G. Jones, whose office is located on the second floor of 115 Main street. During the four years he has been in business here, Mr. Jones

this city and section and has an ever increasing trade. Although born in Charlotte he was raised here and worked as a butcher for Mr. W. N. Davis 13 years. He started in his own account Messrs.



JOHN R. RANKIN, City Clerk (See page 4)



THE CITY HALL

Patronize the merchants and others whose names appear in this issue of The Progress, for they are the ones who have shown a desire to help boost Gastonia.

Gastonia is good enough for me—come and see it, and it will be good enough for you—she is a live one. Gastonia, the Magic City of the old North State.



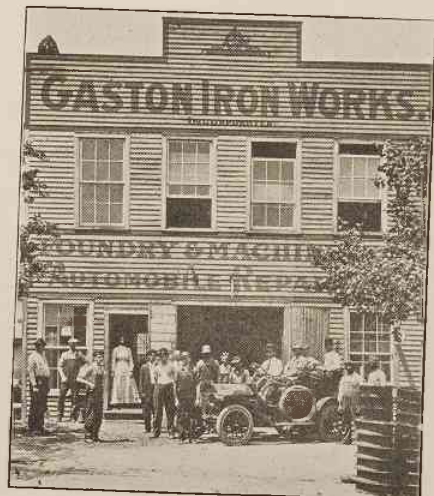
ST. MARK'S P. E. CHURCH

haw, N. C.; Belk-Harry Co., Salisbury, N. C.; Williams-Belk Co., Sanford, N. C.; Kirkpatrick-Belk Co., Yorkville, S. C.; Parks-Belk Co., Concord, N. C.; each of which is the leading emporium in its locality. The great business was established about twenty years ago by two brothers, W. H. and J. M. Belk, who from the very start made a great success. The Gastonia establishment occupies all of two large stores, in which the goods are beautifully arranged. The place is well lighted by day and brightly illuminated by night, and covers about 20,000 square feet of floor space. Mr. J. H. Matthews, the wide awake young manager who is a strong believer in printer's ink and publicity to make a business go, is a native of Providence township, Mecklenburg county, where he was born twenty-eight years ago.

SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY.

C. M. Nolan, Gastonia Agent.

When a man has held a position of trust and responsibility with one company for a period of 30 years, no better evidence could possibly be produced to prove that he is capable and faithful, as well as splendidly equipped to discharge the duties entrusted to him. Mr. C. M. Nolan, the popular agent of the Southern Express Company at Gastonia is one of the veteran employees of that corporation, and no one



THE GASTON IRON WORKS