

WORTHY

The Observer presents here with brief sketches from some of the leading towns of North Carolina, showing in a concise form the progress each has made along industrial lines in the past 12 months. These sketches will be continued from time to time until the feature is completed.

WAKE COUNTY.

Raleigh, Jan. 1.—The capital city made gains during the year along various lines, and yet it must be said, with absolute frankness that not nearly as much was done as ought to have been done, and could have been done, but it seems that the reorganized and the reinvigorated chamber of commerce and the new sector in development, the Industrial Club will be able to do much better showing during the year which is now begun. No new cotton mills have been built, but at the three now here, the Pilot the Carolina and the Raleigh improvements have been made that aggregate something like \$20,000 while other improvements have been made at the Carolina, the Raleigh, the Melrose, Asha and the Martin, aggregating some \$3,000. Three new enterprises, which are promising, were established during the year, one being the Raleigh Lumber Company, capitalized at \$20,000, and which has invested more money than this and has obtained the plant formerly used by the North Carolina Car Company, where it manufactures all kinds of house furnishings including mantels etc. The Capital Concrete Company with \$10,000 capital is owned by W. F. Barrett and Charles Ford and makes all kinds of concrete moldings, detailed drawings, and also manufactures cement brick. W. E. Ross Cement Tile Company with \$20,000 capital, has been organized and is able to make 30 squares of tiles a day. There has been but little development in the way of construction of stores, only three having been built during the year, the one being smaller, the other two larger. The Park Hotel and adjoining property all owned by Howell Cobb, has been remodelled, and this hotel will next autumn be thrown open especially for the northern guests, as by that time a Country Club with golf links and other amusements for northern tourists, will be prepared.

A new bank, the Wake County, has been added to the number here, making the total seven. There has been a considerable increase in the capital stock and the showing during the year is satisfactory. The principal building done was for private residences, about 124 permits having been granted for houses, ranging in value from \$50 to \$6,000. The plans for a high school have been accepted and a site purchased for another high school. The auditorium company has bought a site, \$7 by 185 feet, and the plans for a new auditorium are being made to erect a spacious auditorium to be used for many purposes. Work is actively in progress on a \$15,000 hospital, to be known as the city's new hospital, to be known as the city's new hospital, to be known as the city's new hospital. Arrangements have been made for the construction of the Masonic Temple to cost \$120,000, and the Grand Lodge will lay the cornerstone in the early spring according to the present arrangements. The most ornate and expensive building completed during the year is the new State fair grounds and overlooking the 700-acre farm of the A. and M. College, the cost of this structure being \$60,000. The four-story, four-hundred room hotel at the Central Hotel for the insane, this being a wing for use by female patients. A new fire company was organized in December and has been equipped with the Atlantic, with \$150,000 capital stock. The Buckhorn Lumber Company has been chartered with \$16,000 capital, and will operate a plant in the Southern part of the city. Work is now in progress, so as to make it one of the most complete newspaper offices in the South, the new office building being being John Devereux, John V. Brown has made a contract for the replacing of the wooden buildings now occupied by him as an undertaker, by a brick building, to be known as the new undertaking building. The railway is being extended a mile and a quarter to a new suburb known as Glenwood, formerly the private grounds and residence of the late John Devereux. The mansion and 20 acres of ground here have been purchased by William Fuller, of New York, who will enlarge and remodel this estate into a building. The Glenwood Co. will begin its sale of lots March 1, by which time the railway will be in operation and the water, lighting, and sewerage connections will be fitted. The street railway company has also laid more than a mile of new and much heavier rail, including a new track by the union passenger station and has added a number of cars to equipment. Work is half completed on the \$25,000 home of the Elks, in which will be offices for private use, a motion picture theatre, and a public library.

Plans have been made for the erection of a printing house by William Boyles and Edward M. Uzzell, for use as the public printing and binding establishment, to be known as the Capital Club buildings, the cost to be about \$25,000, the site having been purchased some months ago. Sewer holders have been installed in the water works pumping station and also at the Carolina cotton mills. A new public school, known as the Brooklyn school has been added to the school system of Raleigh township, bringing the total number of schools up to ten. The high school was established in September taking the place of the Raleigh High Academy, the existence of which terminated. The main building at the Soldiers Home was completed so as to afford accommodations for 40 more patients and the conditions there were made much more comfortable. We have added two new enterprises

to our industrial affairs—the Carolina State Company and the North Carolina Pulp Works. The former is a concern financed and controlled by New York capitalists. Mr. J. E. Caughey, of the Francis Leggett Wholesale Grocery Co. is the president. The plant makes but one article—staves for sugar barrels, turning out 50,000 per day. It is equipped with the best machinery that can be procured. The wood pulp mill will begin work about January 15. It is a new and important industry and will add largely to Newbern's increasing industrial reputation. These plants together will employ from 150 to 200 men.

HENDERSON.

Correspondence of The Observer. Henderson, Jan. 1.—The progress of Henderson during the past year has been more in the nature of a steady growth and expansion of its existing interests than of any striking revival of trade or founding of new enterprises. No town can boast of a more substantial and conservative set of business men than Henderson, or of more wholesome conditions of business than at present obtain here. The outlook for the new year is very bright and favorable. The numerous and large enterprises of the town are, perhaps, without exception, in uncommonly healthy and vigorous condition, there is every promise of sturdy growth and expansion, and the future development of Henderson is projected along sane and normal lines. While steady growth is inevitable under these existing conditions, anything like a panic or serious and general economic depression is practically impossible. The town has shared, to the fullest extent, the general prosperity of the country at this time, and has transacted a larger volume of business than ever before in its history. 1905 may be marked by growth and expansion.

Among the new enterprises that have been started within the past year is a survey factory, which, under the same management as the Corbett Buggy Factory, has done a large volume of business. The combined plants being pressed to the utmost to fill orders. The First National Bank of Henderson closes its first year in splendid condition, the record having been one of steady progress and enlargement. Its record has fully vindicated the wisdom of such an institution, and reflects credit upon the management.

At the Henderson Groceries were established in 1905, the Henderson Grocery Company, which bought out the business of Mr. W. S. Parker, having fully sustained the credit of that old and reliable firm, and the new firm, composed of thoroughly experienced members and which is doing a large and increasing business. In addition to these there have been some smaller mercantile businesses begun in the past year. At the same time nearly all the older business houses of the town have improved or enlarged their quarters and in many cases have greatly extended their business.

The past year has been marked by some municipal improvements of great value and importance. A handsome and costly graded school building has been completed and ready for occupancy in a short while. This building will be complete and up-to-date in all particulars, and will be a great credit to the town. A valuable feature of this building is also secured for the colored graded school and thoroughly fitted up for school purposes.

Nothing accomplished during the past year has added more to the appearance and comfort of the town than the improvements of the streets. The main street of the town has been macadamized, stone curbs and drains put in, and the sidewalks of the business streets covered with granolithic pavement. Granolithic pavements have been laid also to the churches, public buildings and many private residences, and pavements of similar brick have been laid on many side streets, an improvement that is to be extended in the near future. All this has added immensely to the looks of the town, as well as to the appearance and comfort of the value of real estate, the latter having constantly increased, building lots advancing from 30 to 40 per cent. in the last three or four years. With the new streets, the sewerage system has been greatly improved, an enlarged, practically extending throughout the entire town and is constantly being introduced into other homes and business houses.

NEWBERN.

Correspondence of The Observer. Newbern, Jan. 1.—Progress in Newbern has been steady rather than remarkable. It has really been gratifying and, despite conditions which were thought would cripple trade, business has shown an appreciable increase. Even the pessimists, who said at the beginning of 1905 that Newbern's being without the aid of revenue derived from saloon licenses would be detrimental to her interests, have to admit that our progress has been as marked as any year. In some respects even greater. Business men generally are well pleased with the volume of trade accomplished and believe prohibition is good for the city. They would not return to the conditions of 1904. We have added two new enterprises

to our industrial affairs—the Carolina State Company and the North Carolina Pulp Works. The former is a concern financed and controlled by New York capitalists. Mr. J. E. Caughey, of the Francis Leggett Wholesale Grocery Co. is the president. The plant makes but one article—staves for sugar barrels, turning out 50,000 per day. It is equipped with the best machinery that can be procured. The wood pulp mill will begin work about January 15. It is a new and important industry and will add largely to Newbern's increasing industrial reputation. These plants together will employ from 150 to 200 men.

The Atlantic & North Carolina ships are continually adding to their equipment and during the past year new machinery to the extent of \$10,000 has been installed there. Sixty men are employed.

The Newbern Iron Works has been enlarged to double its size and capacity. This is a general manufacturing and repairing establishment and, under its new management, has commenced a career which gives it the foremost rank in the town. The machine shops in this part of the State. Fifty men are on the pay roll there.

The lumber interests—without question the greatest industry of Newbern—has prospered greatly. One new saw mill has been built. The Newbern Lumber Company is one of the biggest concerns of the kind in the State. Its capacity is 100,000 feet of lumber and its resources are under putative control. It was built on the site of the old Basnight mill and occupies three times as much area. Neighbor to that mill is the Nungler & Bennett Mill, which has also been enlarged, having increased its capacity from 100,000 feet per day to 200,000 feet per day. The Blade Lumber Company has improved one of its plants here to the extent of about \$10,000, it being valued at first at about \$15,000. All Blade's interests (about ten saw mills in the State) are under putative control, but, of course, one plant is larger than that of the Newbern Lumber Company. The Blade's interests are under putative control, but, of course, one plant is larger than that of the Newbern Lumber Company. The Blade's interests are under putative control, but, of course, one plant is larger than that of the Newbern Lumber Company.

There has been some building here and the demand for houses is still being met. The new building, which is larger than the supply. About 150 houses have been erected, ranging in value from \$2,000 to \$7,500. The Centenary Methodist church, costing \$80,000, is the most notable. In addition to the better class of houses that have been erected, a great many small tenement houses have been constructed. Newbern's population is conservatively estimated at 12,500. The steady growth is shown by the great demand for houses for the winter. The business is forward to a year of better results than ever before.

The White-Montgomery building is almost completed, and the first floors are occupied by the Rich Furniture Company. The Patterson store building, two-story brick, is near completion. The Baptist church has been greatly enlarged and partly refurnished. The Methodist church has been newly equipped with furniture and furnace. And the Presbyterian church, having put in a new furnace last year, is now having electric lights and a new organ. The residences erected are substantial additions to the town.

OXFORD.

Correspondence of The Observer. Oxford, Jan. 1.—The progress of Oxford in the past year has been unprecedented in the history of the town, and the improvements made in the past 12 months, probably faster than in the history of the town. Any observant eye, turn which every way it may, will see plainly the signs of growth in the form of new buildings. As many as 15 houses of new buildings have been erected, or are in progress of erection, and quite a number will soon be started.

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The business of the town grows with rapid pace. A furniture store has been added to the list of stores. The town has now pretty nearly all the shops, stores and offices to be found in a live town; market, barber shop, drug store, bank, general merchandise stores, telegraph and express offices, hotel and two manufacturing plants, a cotton mill and a furniture factory, which latter has been completed to make an addition to its stock. The town has now pretty nearly all the shops, stores and offices to be found in a live town; market, barber shop, drug store, bank, general merchandise stores, telegraph and express offices, hotel and two manufacturing plants, a cotton mill and a furniture factory, which latter has been completed to make an addition to its stock.

Two churches, one with a seating capacity of some 300, and a handsome public school building, with an enrollment of 200 or 300 are additions of the year.

The Exchange Hotel has been enlarged and improved and now offers to the traveling public every convenience and comfort. The past year has seen many new buildings erected. The Imperial Tobacco Company has built a large steam laundry, and is planning to build one to handle an increased amount of tobacco. A modern steam plant on the same order has been erected by Dr. E. T. White at a cost of \$20,000. Two large additions to the Oxford Cotton Mills were found necessary for the placing of more machinery and storage of cotton.

A new lumber plant is in operation under the direction of C. D. Ray, owner and operator. Work at the furniture factory continues late at night, to enable them to fill orders. The Taylor Cannery Buggy Co. has made such progress as to justify the organization of another buggy factory under the management of Messrs. King & Brothers and R. E. Lassiter. A buggy body factory has been opened by J. H. Harris & Co. A laundry operated by Mr. Jas. Parham is another convenience to the people.

The Oxford Realty Company has been incorporated, the object being the development of the town and county real estate. The schools have had an increased number of pupils and particularly in the graded school, a flourishing condition under Superintendent D. H. Bland. There is not a vacant house in Oxford and a great number of residences have been erected to supply the demand of the many families who have moved to Oxford, where employment is offered in these many enterprises. An important event in the history of the year, was the dedication of the handsome Methodist church, the resulting indebtedness of \$5,000 having been paid.

GRAHAM.

Correspondence of The Observer. Graham, Jan. 1.—This town now offers these advantages to any one seeking a location for business or residence: A growing population, an excellent graded school with nine teachers, a system of water works affording an abundant supply of pure artesian water and fire protection against fire, and a large fire insurance company for insurance, and electric lights; and all this with a tax rate of 70 cents. The water works and electric light systems and the factory have just been completed and are now in operation. The Southern Public Service Corporation, of Washington, D. C. The Graham fire company has been organized and equipped. The Graham Cannock Company, with a capital of \$15,000, is completing a plant with a capacity of over a million cans per season. The Carolina Bottling Works is also a new industry. The Voorhes Manufacturing Company, recently reorganized as the Leeds Cotton Mill Company, with a capital stock of \$30,000; J. H. White, president; W. E. White, vice president, and J. V. Pomeroy, secretary and treasurer. The citizens' bank of Graham has been organized with a capital of \$10,000; J. A. Long, president and C. C. Thompson, cashier. The Bank of Alamance has increased its capital stock to \$6,000, making it now \$25,000. The Second series of the Graham Home Building Company was sold to the amount of \$3,000, and the company has assisted in building about 20 residences during the year. The Graham board of trade recently organized a new market and the majority of the business men. Its officers are J. A. Long, president; J. S. Cook, secretary, and A. M. Hadley, treasurer.

Correspondence of The Observer. Troy, Jan. 1.—Troy's growth during the past year, along all lines, has been steady and healthy. Perhaps no town in the State can boast of a lower death rate or higher birth rate than can the metropolis of old Montgomery. During the past year the town has had many operatives' houses, and the paint brush has been applied more than ever before. To-day there is not a vacant house in town and there is a waiting list for everybody. The Smitherman Cotton Mill has been enlarged, the capacity of J. C. Bruton's Cross Arm Factory has been doubled, while all the merchants are doing a larger business than ever before. A graded school has been established and two new churches, Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal, have been built. Without going into detail, Troy is a town with a bright and promising future. The citizens' bank of Troy has been organized with a capital of \$10,000; J. A. Long, president and C. C. Thompson, cashier. The Bank of Alamance has increased its capital stock to \$6,000, making it now \$25,000. The Second series of the Graham Home Building Company was sold to the amount of \$3,000, and the company has assisted in building about 20 residences during the year.

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MURPHY.

Correspondence of The Observer. Murphy, Jan. 1.—Our town of Murphy is the county seat of one of the counties in North Carolina which The Observer has recently spoken of as "remote." It is supposed that the town is a "remote" town in the sense that it is "remote" from the center of the State. It is a "remote" town in the sense that it is "remote" from the center of the State. It is a "remote" town in the sense that it is "remote" from the center of the State.

Correspondence of The Observer. Mooreville, Jan. 1.—Comparatively speaking, no town in the State has enjoyed greater prosperity than Mooreville during the year 1905. Early in January last the Inter-State Realty Company was organized with S. A. Lowrance as president and E. V. Turlington, secretary and treasurer, with an authorized capital of \$100,000, with \$15,000 paid in. This company now owns 3,000 acres of Virginia timber land in Sampson county and other properties.

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CONCORD.

Correspondence of The Observer. Concord, Jan. 1.—Concord, the county seat of Cabarrus county, is a hustling city of over 30,000 inhabitants. A few years ago it was a village, its growth has been phenomenal, substantial, and is daily increasing. It has a moral, energetic citizenship. It has a large number of cotton mills, a foundry, a large brick plant, a fertilizer factory, a tannery, a paper mill, a distillery, and a score of the handsomest residences and store buildings in the State. Surrounded by a rich and fertile country, this city is a favorite resort of all seekers after industrial expansion in mine, forest or field. Concord, during the past year, paid out for 20,000 bales of cotton, about \$1,000,000, of all this cotton being consumed in its factories and about one-half of this money going to the farmers who produced it in the county. The plow-boy's whistle and milkmaid's song are heard on the streets of looms and hum of spindles in Cabarrus. During the past year we have made great progress.

ASHEBORO.

Correspondence of The Observer. Asheboro, Jan. 1.—The population of Asheboro has increased 35 per cent. during the year 1905. Twenty-five new residences have been built, among the number being some elegant residences completed and occupied by the following: Messrs. W. J. Armfield, C. J. C. Redding, Stanwick Lewis, C. J. C. G. G. Hendricks, Mrs. E. A. Moffitt, John T. Moffitt, A. E. Burns, Rev. Mr. Swain and Presbyterian manse. The Ladies Aid Society has been organized, and is daily increasing. It has a moral, energetic citizenship. It has a large number of cotton mills, a foundry, a large brick plant, a fertilizer factory, a tannery, a paper mill, a distillery, and a score of the handsomest residences and store buildings in the State. Surrounded by a rich and fertile country, this city is a favorite resort of all seekers after industrial expansion in mine, forest or field. Concord, during the past year, paid out for 20,000 bales of cotton, about \$1,000,000, of all this cotton being consumed in its factories and about one-half of this money going to the farmers who produced it in the county. The plow-boy's whistle and milkmaid's song are heard on the streets of looms and hum of spindles in Cabarrus. During the past year we have made great progress.